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# F&ED

## BULLETIN

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SPRING 2019

The logo for The University of Texas at Dallas, featuring the letters 'UTD' in a stylized, white, serif font inside a white circle with a thin border. The background of the circle is orange.

UTD

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



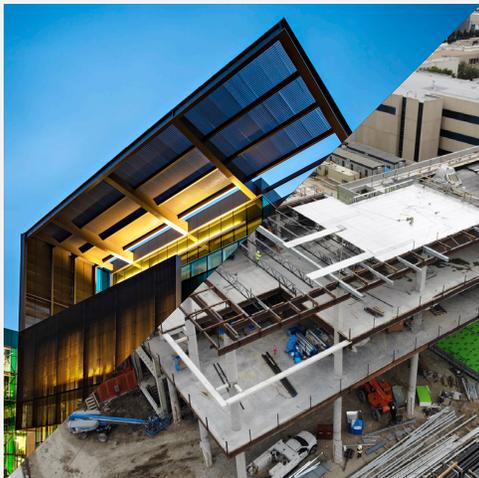
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Published by the  
Office of Facilities  
& Economic Development

ON THE COVER

**Front:** A nighttime view of Engineering & Computer Science West.

**Back:** Construction continues on our new Science Building.



**E**conomic development is defined as the process by which a nation improves the economic, political, and social well-being of its people.

I'm here to tell you that at UT Dallas, economic development is just about a daily occurrence. Take our latest construction project, the Science Building. Its entire reason for existing is to improve the well-being of its people —students, faculty, staff and guests of UT Dallas. The global community as a whole someday will benefit from the research and discoveries taking place

within its walls.

A great many things happening on our campus —the majority, in fact— aim to improve the well-being of as many people as is humanly possible. From the greening of the UT Dallas campus to making our streets, sidewalks and buildings accessible, our ultimate goal always centers on improving well-being.

This campus recently was designated a Bee Campus USA for its measures to help pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, flourish by providing healthy habitats rich in native plants for them to feed on and reproduce in. Pollinators are responsible for about one-third of the food we eat —fruits and vegetables. By helping them, we are helping ourselves.

And speaking of helping, our campus is outfitted with automatic doors and ramps on each building; 21 accessible gender-neutral restrooms distributed throughout the main campus; more than 300 curb cuts in sidewalks and street corners in and surrounding campus; and 370 parking spaces reserved for mobility impaired students, faculty, staff and guests. Our facilities management team always has its eye on doing more to make getting around, in, out and through campus as painless as can be.

In this edition, we celebrate the work and legacy of Associate Vice President Rick Dempsey, who retired in February after more than 12 years of service. We also profile our senior plumber who's worked here the last 33-plus years and shows no signs of slowing down. And we show you some of the bang you get from your buck when you pay your transit fees.

Last month our office invited members of the community —homeowners from the neighborhoods that ring campus— to come to the Activity Center and cheer on our men's and women's basketball teams. In between the women's and men's games, each homeowners' association was recognized and given a small token of appreciation for their support of UT Dallas.

We believe that through service, we can help improve the well-being of everyone on this campus —and beyond. Because service is not what we do, it's who we are!

*Dr. Calvin D. Jamison,  
Vice President for Facilities & Economic Development*

On February 9, the Office of Facilities & Economic Development hosted its annual Community Appreciation Day. Residents from the neighborhoods bordering UT Dallas were invited to watch the Comets compete against UT Tyler as well as a complimentary luncheon. During a break between games, the Vice President for Facilities & Economic Development Calvin Jamison, the Mayor of Richardson Paul Voelker, University President Richard Benson and Vice President for Public Affairs Amanda Rockow presented tokens of appreciation to representatives of the various homeowners' associations.



Spectators were largely made up of guests from neighboring communities, including dancers from Richland Community College. Cheered on by local support, the women's basketball team defeated UT-Tyler, 64-45.

Pictured playing for the Comets in their white home jerseys are, from left, Amber Terry (number 12), Shannon Mathis (2), Victoria Pena (14) and Tyra Banks (5).



Between quarters in the mens' game, Calvin Jamison, vice president for Facilities & Economic Development, welcomed members of UT Dallas' first men's basketball team, who helped light the path for Comets today and into the future.

That unforgettable '98-'99 team included Corey Swan, Jeremy Prasatik, Chad Martinez, Raymond Lee, George Khalil, Brent Harrolle, Byron Harrison, William Hagans, Greg Foster, Christopher Dowling, Andrew Collinworth, Matt Brunson and Chad Bagnell.



After the break, the Comets men's basketball team continued their victory streak and beat UT Tyler, 91-78.

Pictured playing for the Comets are, from left, Jordan Castillo (number 20) and Kolton Pruitt (33).



# Did You Know?

## What You Get for Your Transportation Fee:

- R**epair and maintenance of our existing parking lots, which includes everything from regular sweeping to yearly re-stripping.
- R**ecent construction of two 750-space parking garages and one 1,160-space parking garage (including payment of debt service on those garages), plus new parking lots and the new Campus Transit Center, to keep up with our growing population.
- O**perating the 20+ Comet Cabs that shuttle over 200,000 riders a year around campus.
- U**TD's portion of the funding for DART Route 883, the Comet Cruiser, our neighborhood bus service to campus.
- P**aying our portion of setting up new services such as Booster Fuels, V-Bikes and Zipcar.
- T**echnological improvements such as security cameras in our garages, GPS tracking for our Comet Cabs and new electronic parking meters.
- W**ages for the 125 student workers we hire on average every semester, who serve as everything from cashiers to Comet Cab drivers.
- R**unning transit-related operations, which includes electricity for our parking garages, lighting for all parking areas, printing and shipping parking permits, and staff salaries.



## Science Building Beam Signing

On December 17 and 18, the UT Dallas community and our construction partners celebrated an important milestone in the construction of the new Science Building by signing the final roof beam before it was set in place. Once the construction is completed in the spring of 2020, this facility will house the Departments of Physics and Mathematics. Additionally, it will provide space to carry out teaching, advising and research activities.

Photographed signing the beam are (front to back) President and Eugene McDermott Distinguished University Chair of Leadership, Dr. Richard C. Benson, Dr. Inga Musselman, vice president for academic affairs and provost, Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, executive vice president, and Dr. Calvin D. Jamison, vice president for facilities & economic development.



## New Housing Operations Building

The clock is ticking on construction of headquarters for the University's Housing Operations.

The general contractor for the project, Hill & Wilkinson, said the building is set to be completed and open late September. Construction is slated to begin in late March or early April.

The location for the project, near the corner of Waterview Parkway and Synergy Park Boulevard, has been fenced off but soon will be abuzz with activity. Architectural firm Vai, in charge of the building's design, plans a one-story facility that will serve as housing operations headquarters with storage and workshop areas.

## Renovation and Expansion of Athletics Concession Stand

In anticipation of hosting larger outdoor sports events at UT Dallas, the 1,650 sq.ft. concession stand near Lot U is being renovated and partially repurposed. The facility is being expanded to include approximately 1,500 sq.ft. of restrooms, a larger concession space, an outdoor seating area, storage and an athletic office. A new drive lane by the building will create a space for dropping off players, relieving game-day traffic congestion. These improvements should be completed by the end of August 2019.



## Accessibility at UT Dallas

**W**hen it comes to equal access for all, UT Dallas always aims to level the playing field.

“As far as accessibility is concerned, never let great get in the way of better”, said Kelly Kinnard, assistant vice president for Facilities Management, “There’s always something that can be done better to improve accessibility. That said, I think we have a really good recipe here at UTD, and we are much better off than most schools due to our young age and strong commitment to accessibility”.

“There are very stringent codes relative to accessibility. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), along with Texas Accessibility Standards, govern how we build. They set minimum standards that have to be followed. Things like the configuration and number of accessible parking spaces, rail and counter heights, ramps, width of doors, et cetera”, Kinnard said.

The fact that UT Dallas has such a young campus has helped us be more accessible. More than half the buildings on campus are less than 10 years old and were built to comply with newer, tougher codes and standards.

“There are things UTD does as an internal practice that is above and beyond what state and federal codes require. We do it because it is right thing to do and we need to do it”, he said, “These are not required by code but have been adopted by Facilities Management as a campus standard”.

## Accessibility on Campus

There are 300+ curb cuts in the street corners and sidewalks on or surrounding our main campus, and we make sure all our sidewalks are ADA-compliant.



## Accessibility in Transportation

There are 370 accessible parking spaces on our main campus.

A fleet of Comet Cabs are available to shuttle students around campus during the school day.

Our Accessible Cart service allows students to schedule a Comet Cab with a wheelchair ramp.



## Accessibility in Our Buildings

All 55 buildings of our main campus have at least one access ramp and one set of sliding or automatic doors.

21 accessible gender-neutral restrooms are distributed throughout our main campus.



## Q&amp;A

**Joe Jennings, Plumber II**

**Haywood McNeill (Interviewer):** How long have you worked for the University?

**Joe Jennings:** 33½ years.

**HM:** Who are your coworkers? Who are your clients?

**JJ:** On the plumbing crew we have three Texas-licensed plumbers and two apprentice plumbers. Our client is anyone who turns in a work request.

**HM:** What your job was like earlier on compared what it's been like lately?

**JJ:** We were general maintenance then. I did everything —roof repairs, changing lights, painting, plumbing, moving furniture and changing air filters on the HVAC. Today I work on everything concerning water: all campus restrooms, restaurants and utilities for campus dorms, to name a few. This includes all the sewage drains, storm systems and pumps as well.

**HM:** How has UT Dallas changed from when you first starting working here?

**JJ:** We had one safety officer, Bill Blake, who gave fire-extinguisher training. You would get your parking decal in the basement of Founders North from one person. Taking a 10:00 am break at the Student Union, there'd be no one else in there.

**HM:** What motivates you each day?

**JJ:** Knowing that my skills are needed, and being able to help others.

**HM:** Is there no end in sight for you with regards to work?

**JJ:** Today is all I have. One day I will wake up and know that I have had enough.

**HM:** What would you say is special about UTD?

**JJ:** Its friendliness and caring people.

## Bike Donations

Like Santa’s elves, some very handy members of Facilities Management have been helping bring joy to local children for years. They collect abandoned bikes, repair any damage and make them look new again. Then during the holidays, those bicycles are donated to children’s charities. “Usually there are a few bikes left over from the semiannual surplus bike sale that the guys in Inventory and Surplus add to what we recover,” said David Epps, irrigation technician. Pictured from left are Garry Rhymes, groundskeeper, and David Epps, two of the bicycle repair crew, getting another bike back in shape.



## Tree Campus USA

The Arbor Day Foundation recognized The University of Texas at Dallas for its commitment to effective urban forest management by honoring our university with the Tree Campus USA designation in 2018. Beyond the management of the approximately 7,000 trees in our local environment, this honor recognized UTD’s engagement of staff and students in conservation efforts.

## Farewell to Rick Dempsey

Rick Dempsey, associate vice president for facilities management, retired from UT Dallas on February 4 after more than a dozen years of service to the University and over twenty with UT System. Since 2006, he oversaw dozens of construction projects, which added more than 4 million gross square feet of facilities to support the ever-expanding population of our campus. One of Dempsey’s final contributions was his work on the latest update to the Campus Master Plan, which creates a road map for campus growth into the far future.



## Welcome Our New Employees!

### Facilities Management

- Celso Arevalo Vazquez
- Jayvee Garceron
- Jorge Alberto
- Navidad Diaz
- Jovanny Franco
- Michael Bean
- Michael Festaiuti
- Sidney Douglas
- Stephan Moore



## Bee Campus USA

Our university was recently awarded the Bee Campus USA designation for providing bees and butterflies with a healthy habitat, rich in varied native plants.

Key to winning this special designation was Scott Rippel, a senior lecturer in biological sciences at UT Dallas, who helped establish bee hives on campus in 2011.

These apiaries give students firsthand experience with pollinators that are essential to our food supply.

Pollinators such as bees and monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) transfer pollen from one flower to another to fertilize plants, helping them grow and produce fruits and seeds, important components of a healthy diet.

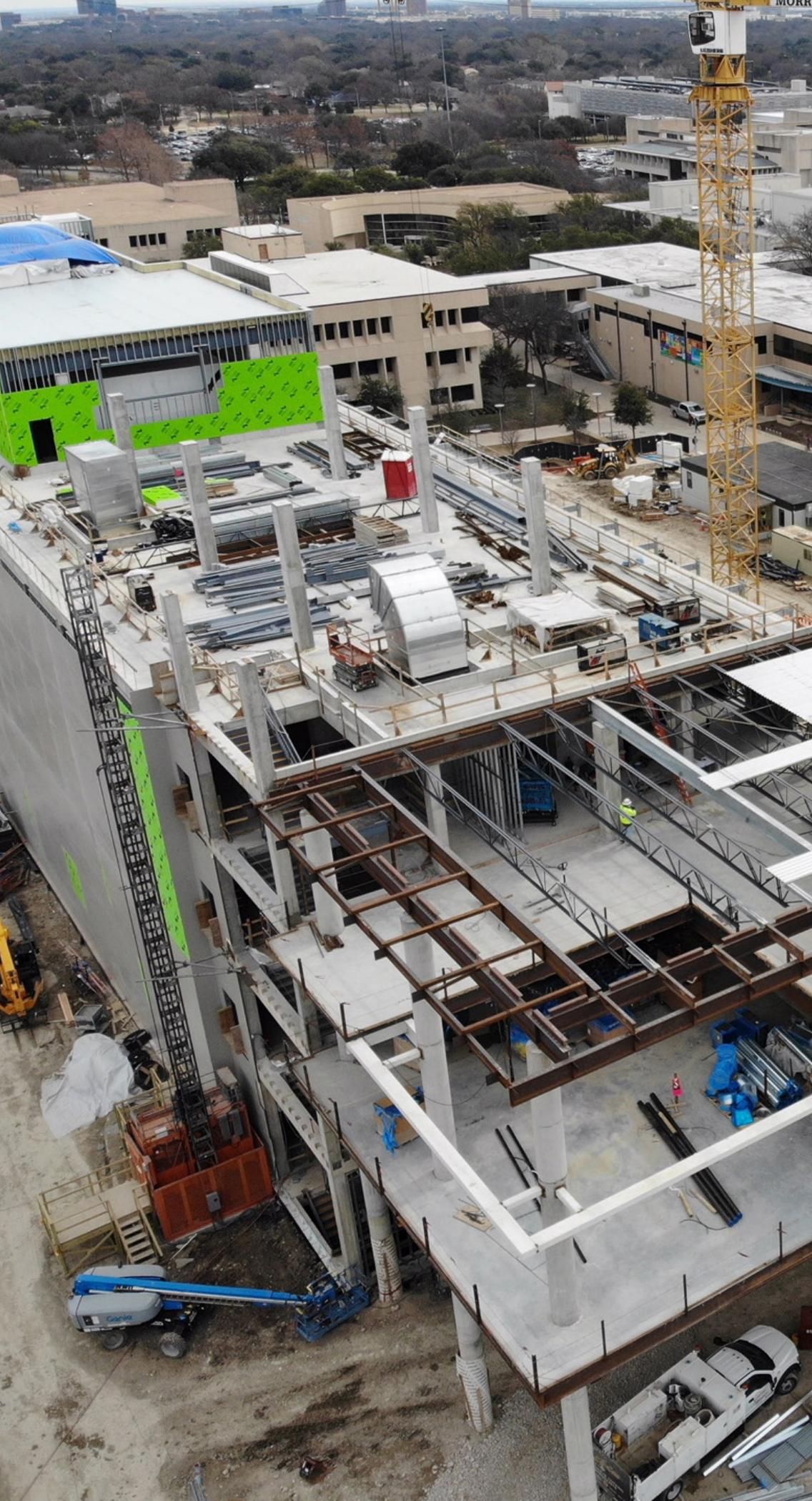
When one considers that nearly one-third of the food humans consume—including most fruits and many vegetables—is dependent upon pollination, the mission becomes clear: Save the bees to help save our planet!





### New Year Holiday Event

**S**taff in the Office of Facilities & Economic Development took a pause from preparing our campus for the spring semester to celebrate the New Year on January 8. Between games and a brunch, past accomplishments were celebrated, hard work was recognized, and many expressed their gratitude for the dedication of their fellow staff members. In the spirit of the New Year, the event ended with a balloon drop.



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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
AT DALLAS

**OFFICE OF FACILITIES  
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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