

**Campus Update**  
**March 2009**

**Thank Goodness for Staff**

We are excitedly planning the UC Davis centennial year TGFS Picnic for May 13th! This year's TGFS picnic will be held on Hutchison Field, which is a new venue for the event. We hope to reduce the carbon footprint for the event by shortening travel time and reducing the number of buses needed. We are anticipating 5000 staff to participate this year. We are asking for \$60K in core funding, and for departments and deans to purchase tickets for their staff at \$2.00 each and for their student employees at \$9.75 each. We are planning several sports for staff to participate in, including a fun run/walk, volleyball, golf, tennis, bowling, and a summer softball league. We request that our senior administrators volunteer to serve food and beverages to staff every year. This is the first year we will charge for vendor tables at the Picnic, and we are anticipating over \$4000 in vendor contributions to offset the cost of the Picnic. Website: <http://staff.ucdavis.edu/tgfs>

**Staff and Staff Dependent Scholarships**

We are now accepting applications for our Staff Scholarship and Staff Dependent Scholarship Programs. We are hoping to increase the number of applicants to our program this year through advertising efforts. Staff Scholarships are funded by an endowment created in 1981 as a memorial for Margene Orzalli. Staff recipients are able to attend any higher education institution or program as long as they remain career staff during the award period. Last year we gave three Staff Scholarships for \$500 each, and we hope to give the same amount this year. The Staff Dependent Scholarship, in its third year, awards scholarships to staff dependents to attend UC Davis and are funded through fund raising efforts. We have a program where local businesses become scholarship partners and donate directly to the Staff Dependent Scholarship fund, and our profits from the sale of Staff Pins also support the program. The amount given to staff dependents varies yearly based on funds raised, and last year we awarded one \$1000 and one \$750 scholarship. Staff Assembly believes this program emphasizes the importance of educating staff and their dependents, given that we work in an educational institution. Recipients will be announced at our annual TGFS Picnic. Website: <http://staff.ucdavis.edu/staff-incentives-1/scholarships>

**Citation for Excellence**

We are currently taking nominations for the [Citations for Excellence Awards](#). The UC Davis Staff Assembly recognizes staff employees and employee teams who have shown outstanding achievement in general contributions, campus service, and/or supervision through the Citations for Excellence Program. Individuals and teams awarded the Citations for Excellence will be recognized at TGFS and at a special ceremony at the Chancellor's Residence on May 18<sup>th</sup>. This year we have a new aspect of the program where we will choose one outstanding individual to receive the honor of *Distinguished* Citation for Excellence, and his or her name will be engraved on the perpetual plaque at the Alumni Center next to other excellence awards for faculty, students, and alumni.

**Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day (TODS)**

The Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day (TODS) committee is seeking volunteers to assist with this year's activities. TODS '09 is Thursday, April 23. TODS returned to campus several years ago and has been steadily growing ever since. The day encourages 8-12 year olds to learn more about campus, higher education, and the general working world. The TODS theme for this year "Building Partnerships to Educate and Empower" could not be a better fit for a public institution of higher education with "Outreach" as one of its missions. Since the UC Davis Worklife Program has lost much of its funding, Staff Assembly is taking on a larger role this year in helping to organize this event. Our Childcare Administrative Advisory Representative has taken a lead in organizing, and our coordinator will also help with the strategic planning. We feel that TODS is a wonderful activity for staff to motivate their kids for success. Website: [http://www.hr.ucdavis.edu/Work\\_Life/tods-1](http://www.hr.ucdavis.edu/Work_Life/tods-1)

**Chancellor Selection Process**

UC Davis is in the process of selecting a new Chancellor for our campus, as Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef is retiring at the end of June. Our Staff Assembly Chair is on the selection committee, and staff input from both UCD and UCDHS has been included via the Chair's participation in the selection process. [Click here for the latest news article.](#)

**Staff Winter Event was a Success, Pin-Holder Event was Held Recently**

Our UC Davis Day with the Sacramento Kings on January 11<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. We sold 130 tickets, and The Kings won against Dallas. This event allowed staff to get together outside of work and was a great morale building and appreciation event. We had a special event for staff on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> where Staff Pin Holders enjoyed a discounted price of \$8 for a [Wednesday Night Wine Flight](#) at the new campus eatery, Gunrock Pub. This event helped us to create incentive for buying a pin and also helped us with pin sales, which contribute directly to our Staff Dependent Scholarship funds.

**Budget News**

Staff Assembly is participating in an active dialogue as the staff voice on how the budget crisis is affecting staff. We anticipate more lay-offs as an impact of budget cuts. Administration encourages departments to use the [Special Transfer Opportunity Program \(STOP\)](#) to match laid off individuals with open positions. [Five sub committees](#) have been created to deal with budget issues, and staff are represented on each. Our Staff Assembly Chair is on one of the committees. Staff Assembly gave a survey to staff to gain feedback on how the budget shortfalls are affecting them, which we reported to administration. Website for budget news: <http://budgetnews.ucdavis.edu/>