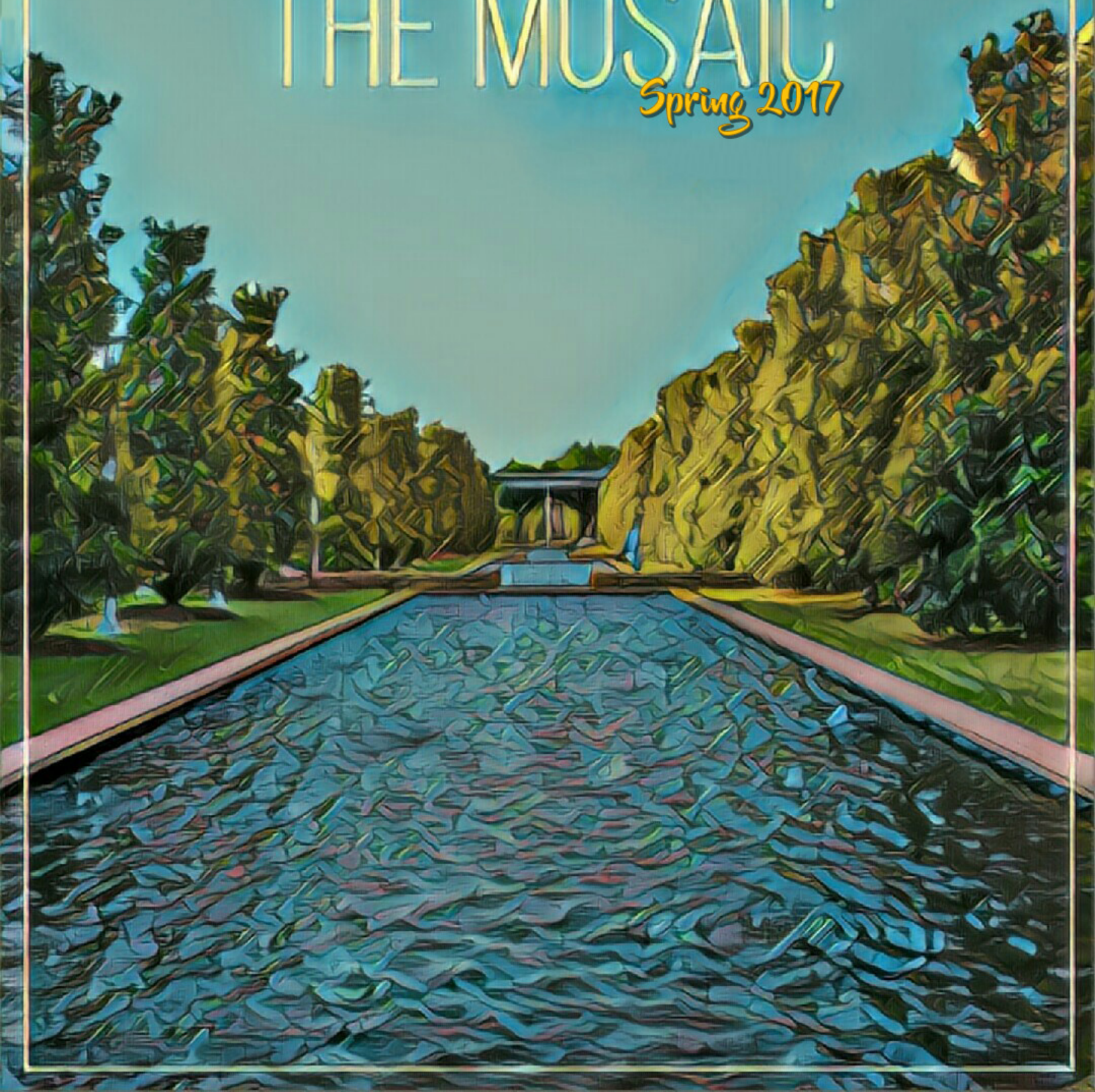


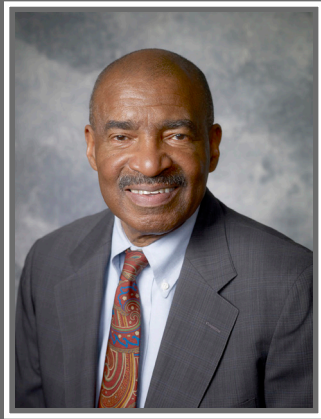
# THE MOSAIC

*Spring 2017*





# About Us



**Dr. George Fair**  
*Vice President for Diversity &  
Community Engagement  
Dean,  
School of Interdisciplinary Studies*

## Our Mission

The Office of Diversity and Community Engagement strives to accomplish the fulfillment of the UT Dallas commitment to embrace, enhance and celebrate diversity at all levels of the University and our community through the efforts of faculty, staff, students, the executive leadership and community partnerships. UT Dallas aspires to be a leader in promoting diversity to reach the highest levels of excellence.



**James Dockery**  
*Associate Vice  
President & Title  
IX Coordinator,  
Institutional Equity  
and Compliance*



**Arthur Gregg**  
*Assistant VP for  
Multicultural Affairs  
Director,  
Multicultural Center*

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**Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance**



**Community Engagement**



**Multicultural Center**

## Contact Us

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**Galerstein Women's Center**



**Institutional Diversity Initiatives**



# Institutional Equity and Compliance

## Sexual Assault Awareness

The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance partnered with the Department of Athletics and Student Affairs to dedicate the January 21st basketball games to Sexual Assault Awareness. They hosted a table outside of the gym with giveaways and information for guests regarding sexual assault prevention and awareness. It was an afternoon of fun and interactive activities. There were two games vs. Louisiana College, the Women's at 1:00 p.m. and the Men's at 3:00 p.m.



The goal was to showcase the University's commitment to ending sexual violence. All players wore t-shirts that stated "UTD United" on the front, and on the back: "Stop Sexual Assault, One is too many!" Additionally, the cheerleaders, power dancers and Tmoc got into the action. The Student Wellness Center and Comet Voice also partnered in this joint effort designed to educate our community about the importance of preventing sexual assaults for truly – "One is too many."



There was lots of positive feedback after the games. One alumna even tweeted "I'm an alumna & was glad to see this message being sent on campus. Never the norm or acceptable for assault to happen. Definitely continue promoting this and spreading this important message. Proud to be a Comet!"

A very special thanks to Valerie Hoops for her leadership in designing an outstanding program the half-time entertainment. The event was well received and will be an annual event.



# Galerstein Gender Center



## Lavender Graduation



### Lavender Graduation – May 9th, 2017

Lavender Graduation is an annual event held by the Galerstein Gender Center to celebrate the accomplishments of LGBT+ students and allies who have contributed to the community. Lav Grad, as it is affectionately known, allows students to invite supportive faculty, staff, family, friends or partners to attend, and seeks to acknowledge the difficulties and extra significance graduation has for the LGBT+ community. In our fifth year of honoring LGBT+ graduates, the GGC honored fifteen students and hosted keynote speaker J. Waylon Tate, a local entrepreneur, LGBT+ figure and UT Dallas alum.



# Multicultural Center

## Cornel Walton

*When he first came to UT Dallas, Cornel Walton kept to himself.*



“I was in my own zone, just going to school, going to work and back to the dorm,” Walton said.

That changed when he started working for the Multicultural Center. He became a Multicultural Peer Advocate (MPA),

coordinating campus events for the center. His work put him in touch with student organizations. One thing kept leading to another.

Walton, who will graduate this week with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing, took on leadership roles in the Black Student Alliance. He won first place in the Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference’s (SBSLC) Charles E. Williams II Advanced Leadership Institute annual Oratorical Contest two years in a row.

He also discovered a passion for filmmaking. Walton created videos for the Multicultural Center and other organizations, including the Dallas Holocaust Museum. His video for Black History Month in 2015, “100 Years: Where Do We Go from Here,” won an award at UT Dallas’ Cosmic Film Festival.

“The Multicultural Center opened me up to so many different opportunities,” Walton said. “They opened my eyes to see how much more involved I could be on campus.”

Arthur Gregg, assistant vice president for Multicultural

Affairs and the director of the Multicultural Center said he was impressed from the start with the student from Wylie, Texas, that his barber had asked him to look out for at UT Dallas. “This kid, who was a leader in his church and did all these wonderful things, found himself in a situation where he was a small fish in big pond,” Gregg said. “He was a little shy at first. We just kept talking to him.

“He started taking pictures, and it evolved to film,” Gregg said. “When he created a film for Black History Month, everybody was wowed.”

Monica Williamson, assistant director of Student Success and Outreach, encouraged Walton to enter the SBSLC’s oratorical contest. She said that Walton’s preparation and detailed research gave him an edge.

**“The Multicultural Center opened me up to so many different opportunities. They opened my eyes to see how much more involved I could be on campus.”**

“Cornel would meet in the Multicultural Center to practice in front of our staff to gain feedback on ways to improve. He would also utilize the other student leaders attending SBSLC to hear him practice and to welcome their feedback,” Williamson said. “He welcomed all of us into his competition, and in doing so he has encouraged other students to challenge themselves as he did.”

After graduation, Walton will finish an internship at Copart, where he is gaining experience in search engine optimization, social media, budgeting and reporting. He also wants to study film in graduate school.

Gregg said it’s “bittersweet” to see Walton graduate. “This kid who came in and was really trying to find his voice and his place is now the voice of his peers. He represents the best of UTD to me.”



# Community Engagement



## Diversity Scholars Students Travel Near and Far

From study abroad experiences in Estonia to Alternative Spring Break service projects in San Antonio, the Diversity Scholars kept busy this academic year, gaining knowledge outside of class. These great opportunities create memorable life experiences for students in the scholarship program and teach students practical skills that will help them for years after they graduate. Here is a small sample of some of the experiential learning opportunities our scholars experienced this year.



## Hira Saleem

*Business Administration & Finance Major,  
Senior*

Last summer, I was selected to participate in the Texas Legislative Internship Program (TLIP) through the Collegium V Honors College at UT Dallas. Since the Texas Legislature is only in session every two years, the spring 2017 semester would have been my last opportunity to intern there before I graduate. Dr. Edward Harpham, Director of UTD TLIP, requested that I consider the program because he knew of my political activism and that in the past I had volunteered for Wendy Davis's gubernatorial campaign, so I had some knowledge of statewide politics.

From January to mid-May, I interned for State Representative Chris Turner, who represents parts of Arlington and Grand Prairie in the Texas House of Representatives. Soon after I joined the team, Rep. Turner was elected the Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, meaning he would now be in charge of coordinating all efforts among the 55 Democrats in the Texas House.

As part of Team Turner, I had several responsibilities. My most vital role was staffing him for his Higher Education Committee. As staffer for the committee, I analyzed all bills impacting Texas colleges and universities that were referred to the committee. This meant reading the bills, meeting with stakeholders, analyzing the background, briefing the Representative and then recommending a vote for or against. Although Higher Education seems noncontroversial, we saw the committee room get very heated at times on particular issues such as the Hazlewood tuition benefit for veterans.

The other primary role I had was staffing Rep. Turner for more than a dozen bills he filed. Working on proposed legislation was a great experience that expanded my knowledge. Leading the bill process on my 14 assigned pieces of legislation meant that I would request the hearing, draft talking points and prepare for the committee hearing where he would lay out the bill, gathering witnesses to testify in support and managing the process in order to move the bill along.

My other duties included helping run his social media - from Facebook posts to live tweeting his town halls to creating and running the staff Instagram.

Although I had to push my graduation by one semester, I am so glad that I did this internship. This experience was invaluable, and I'm glad TLIP gave me the opportunity to try something so new, where I truly felt like my effort was a testament to what I believe in. It is very easy to share articles and news stories on social media to raise awareness, but participating and working in the actual legislative process itself was an undeniably cool experience.



## Cintia Martinez

*Psychology & Child Development Major – Junior*

This March, I traveled to San Antonio with the Fraternity Sorority Life Alternative Spring Break team. My experience was wonderful. It was a great way to spend the week and, although we completed 40 hours of community service, it never felt like a lot of work. Our group volunteered at the Texas Food Bank and at a church's afterschool program. During the week, we packed 1200 boxes of food for senior citizens in need. These 33,600 pounds of food were the equivalent of 26,467 meals. We also had the opportunity to bond with the rest of the members in our group and the children we served. It was even greater when we showed up the second day to the afterschool program to see the kids' faces light up and run to hug us. That week really made me proud to have participated in a program in which the little things matter to the people we served. I really hope to be a part of the group next year too.

## Vlad Wallace

*Global Business Major – Sophomore*

Over the past year, the Diversity Scholars Program has come to teach me to proactively get involved in my community, whether it be through volunteer work or scholarly events. The program prides itself, as do I, in its belief that a mutual understanding amongst diverse cultures and various socioeconomic backgrounds is imperative in today's society. These values have always been stressed to me prior to my induction into the program. This emphasis has taken a positive toll on me by allowing me to visualize the positive implications that come hand-in-hand when we as a community stress the importance of cross-cultural, community engagement.

Fast forward to this summer, and I have had to apply the same set of stressed values to my new environment here in Tallinn, Estonia. After having accepted the opportunity to pursue an internship with Youth for Understanding's Office of Administration Department (YFU) I will be working with a non-profit in their communications department. Specifically, I am working on a project that is putting together a special event for the Estonian National Fair.

I have been required to adapt to a new environment, much like I did a year ago starting at UT Dallas. Rather than simply allow this foreign environment to instill a sense of fear and discomfort within me, I have been able to tackle any unforeseen reservations I might have had, all because the Diversity Scholars Program has equipped me with the proper set of skills needed to flourish in any new community. I have been engaging with the Estonian community not only through everyday interactions and local events but through my interest for the language as well. In hopes of demonstrating my respect for the country's culture and customs, I have taken on the task of independently learning the Estonian language.

I look forward to seeing how the rest of the summer will play out and what new challenges await me in the near future.



*The Department of Community Engagement and the Multicultural Center manage the Diversity Scholars Program. Eighty students are currently in the program and receive a \$5,000 scholarship award that is renewable for up to four years of study at UT Dallas. The students receive support from a scholarship adviser and participate in diversity, leadership, academic success, and professional development programming. For more information about how you can support the program, please contact the Department of Community Engagement at (972) 83-4546 or e-mail [community@utdallas.edu](mailto:community@utdallas.edu).*



# Institutional Diversity Initiatives

## DIVERSITY AWARDS

### *Ceremony and Soirée*



UT Dallas honored student, faculty, staff and community leaders for their commitment to diversity at the eighth annual Diversity Awards Ceremony and Soirée this spring. The ceremony was in the Davidson Auditorium in the Jindal School. The event was free and was open to the public.

The event featured musical, dance and poetry selections and a video tribute celebrating 10 years of service through the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement (ODCE). Dr. Matt Polze, associate dean of undergraduate programs and accounting senior lecturer in the Naveen Jindal School of Management, served as master of ceremonies.

“UT Dallas is committed to becoming a nationally competitive, prominent research University. As part of this development, a commitment to enhancing diversity and community engagement is vital,” said Dr. George Fair, vice president for Diversity and Community Engagement and dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

**“We are concerned with recruiting a diverse faculty, staff and student body, and we recognize that this can be accomplished only if we build significant partnerships with the diverse populations we serve.” -Dr. George Fair**

The event benefits the University’s Diversity Scholarship Program, which was created in 2010 to increase the diversity of students enrolling at the University. Performances included the UT Dallas Chamber singers, winners of the Diversity Poetry Competition and the Bangladesh Student Association Dancers. The event also featured food from various cultural regions of the world.

Dr. Melissa Hernandez-Katz, who teaches communications in the School of Arts, Technology and Emerging Communication, received the Inclusive Excellence and Intercultural Engagement Teaching Award. She said she was honored and humbled to be recognized.

“I love being on a campus with such diversity. I love learning from the students,” Hernandez-Katz said. “I take this love and passion to the classroom where I create an environment where students will feel comfortable sharing their personal stories as well as asking questions. This helps others to understand and gain a better understanding of those around them, which creates a more comfortable, respected and inclusive environment.”

The University established the ODCE in 2007 to provide leadership for diversity initiatives. Dr. Magaly Spector, professor in practice and assistant to the provost, served as the first vice president for Diversity and Community Engagement. Dr. Fair was appointed to the position in 2014 after Spector stepped into a new role.

The ODCE oversees a range of programs to promote diversity, including the Galerstein Gender Center, the Multicultural Center and the Department of Community Engagement. UT Dallas has been named as one of the top 25 most ethnically diverse student populations in the country, according to U.S. News & World Report.





**Student Diversity Award**  
Jessica Munoz,  
marketing senior



**Inclusive Excellence and Intercultural Teaching Award**  
Melissa Hernandez-Katz, PhD



**Staff Diversity Award**  
Jazmyne Brown,  
advisor, Enrollment Services



**Diversity Slam Poetry Competition**  
Stephanie Ngo, biology senior, and  
Jane Gu, biology senior



**Corporate Diversity Award**  
Deloitte



**Student Organization Diversity Award**  
Hallyu



**Community Champion of Diversity Award**  
Dallas Jewish Community Foundation



**Edd Phillippine Dance Company**



**Chao Phra Ya - Thai Dance**



**Mariachi Michoacan**



**Bangladesh Student Organization**



**Theta Nu Sigma Step Team-Garland High School**



# ODCE Student Diversity Advisory Council

## Purpose

The purpose of the advisory council is to provide the students' perspective, input and advice to the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement. The council addresses the elements of student diversity, concerns, activities and programs to increase awareness and understanding of each other, and to move beyond simple tolerance to embrace and celebrate the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual.

## Goals

- To provide student perspectives on key school issues.
- To highlight major institutional diversity achievements and concerns at UT Dallas.
- To support new diversity programs, initiatives and projects.
- To improve public perception of diversity at UT Dallas.
- To create effective communication with the multiple campus organizations at UT Dallas.



**In spring 2017, The ODCE Student Diversity Advisory Council elected Ayesha Ahmad as President and Stefanie Polderman as Vice President.**

## Community Service Project

The Student Diversity Advisory Council hosted a fundraiser for the Dallas ISD Homeless Education program at which they accepted monetary donations as well as hygiene items for homeless students in DISD. The council believes that by equipping the young students of DISD with these basic necessities, they are investing in the future of UTD and of Dallas.

The Student Diversity Advisory Council seeks to give back not only to this University, but to the greater Dallas community. Their aim is to serve the community and address issues of discrimination and unjust treatment. The group embraces the principle that diversity is essential to reaching higher levels of excellence in the multicultural, multi-ethnic and diverse character of the United States in the 21st century.

For more information, interested persons should contact Jasmine Johnson at [jsx062000@utdallas.edu](mailto:jsx062000@utdallas.edu).



**Ayesha Ahmad**  
*President*

Ayesha Ahmad is a biochemistry major and psychology minor in the UTD graduating class of 2019. Her main pastimes are research and organizational work. Besides the SDAC, she is involved in service and awareness based organizations such as UNICEF and She's the First at UTD. She loves participating in on campus events. Ahmad is a Dallas-area local who has enjoyed the experiences UTD has to offer and is looking forward to the future of the University through working with the SDAC and being an engaged member of the community. Besides school work, she enjoys reading, bingeing TV shows, spending time with her family and doing mehndi (henna) in her free time.

*Presentation of sanitary supplies to Harrell Budd Elementary. Left to Right: Jasmine Johnson (ODCE program coordinator), Ms. Rosemonde Francois (Harrell Budd's nurse), Ayesha Ahmad (SDAC President) and Anita Barnes (Harrell Budd principal)*



**Stefanie Polderman**  
*Vice-President*

Stefanie Polderman is a biochemistry major at UT Dallas in the graduating class of 2018. She is part of the softball team, a PLTL leader, Community Service Chair on the Student Athletic Advisory Committee and Vice President of Public Health Initiative. As an international student from Canada, she has loved her experience at UT Dallas. After joining the SDAC her sophomore year and seeing its progress thus far, Stefanie is very excited to assist in broadening its involvement with various clubs on campus.





# Contact Information

## The Office of Diversity and Community Engagement

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## The Department of Community Engagement

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community-engagement/](http://www.utdallas.edu/diversity/departments/community-engagement/)

## The Multicultural Center

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Fax: 972-883-6101

Office: SSB 2.400

[www.utdallas.edu/multicultural/](http://www.utdallas.edu/multicultural/)

## The Galerstein Gender Center

800 W. Campbell Road, SSB41  
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Office: SSB 4.300

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## The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance

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For more information contact Rosie Peterson at  
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The University of Texas at Dallas is an Equal Opportunity/  
Affirmative Action University. Individuals who need special  
accommodations to attend, please call The Office of Diversity  
and Community Engagement at 972-883-4566.

Texas Relay Operation: 1-800-RELAYTX.





# Save the Date

*THE 9TH ANNUAL*

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## **DIVERSITY AWARDS CEREMONY AND SOIRÉE**

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April 19, 2018  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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The Davidson-Gundy  
Alumni Center