



## Olson’s keynote struck a powerful chord with grads

**Eric Olson, Ph.D.**, world-renowned scientist and Chair of Molecular Biology at UT Southwestern, did more than deliver a keynote at the 2026 commencement for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences – he turned it into a performance.

Nearly 20 years after forming The Transactivators rock band with UTSW colleagues, Dr. Olson wrote and performed an original song, “Find Your Way,” as an inspirational sendoff – a first for him in a commencement setting. A seasoned performer who has played alongside Willie Nelson, he took the stage with an acoustic guitar and harmonica. The performance echoed the theme of his speech, encouraging graduates to embrace uncertainty and seize the moment.

When Dr. Olson’s nearly three-minute song ended, the Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium filled with applause from students, families, friends, and faculty – a fitting response to a keynote that ended on a memorable note.

[Watch Dr. Olson’s performance](#)



## UT SOUTHWESTERN EMPLOYEE ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Get involved, and nominate for the EAC!

Want to make a meaningful difference for those who work at UT Southwestern? Consider nominating yourself or a colleague to serve on the Employee Advisory Council (EAC), a peer-elected group of employees designed to enhance employee communication and build community. Council members represent five districts across UTSW to include a wide spectrum of voices.

[Submit nominations](#) for your district by July 10. Please be sure your entries are complete, because once you click “Submit,” you won’t be able to make any revisions or nominate anyone else. Voting runs Aug. 10- 21. The EAC is seeking council members from all districts.

For more information, check out the [membership and nomination criteria](#) on the Employee Advisory Council SharePoint site.

[Submit your nomination today!](#)



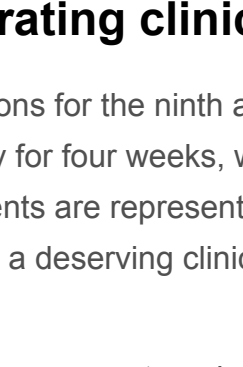
## New technology ISAC request process launches

A faster, simpler way to request new technology is now available.

The updated intake process uses a single, centralized form in ServiceNow that’s quick to complete and reduces the effort required to make a request. Information Resources (IR) will partner with requesters throughout the process, handling steps that previously required more manual input and providing updates along the way. In some cases, the [Information Systems Acquisition Committee](#) (ISAC) will review the request.

[Email IR](#) with questions about the new process or to share feedback.

[ServiceNow IT Intake Request Form](#)



## Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards

## Celebrating clinical excellence starts with you

Nominations for the ninth annual [Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards](#) have been underway for four weeks, with just two weeks remaining. To ensure all clinical departments are represented in the candidate pool, everyone is encouraged to nominate a deserving clinical faculty member before the **July 13 deadline**.

There are seven categories to choose from, including our highest clinical care honor, the Patricia and William L. Watson Jr., M.D. Award for Excellence in Clinical Medicine.

The Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards are a wonderful opportunity to recognize our standout clinical faculty who practice across all our sites of service, including at our affiliated partners, Parkland Health, Children’s Health, the VA North Texas Health Care System, and Scottish Rite for Children.

Learn more about candidate eligibility and awards categories and submit your nominations on the [Clinical Faculty Awards website](#).

[Nominate by July 13](#)



## Hot and spicy wing-eating contest returns

Think you’ve got what it takes to handle the heat?

You’re invited to participate in the fifth annual Hot & Spicy Chicken Wing Eating contest at **noon on Wednesday, July 1**, at Southside Dining. Chef Jason from the Auxiliary Restaurant Group is bringing the heat from around the globe with wings inspired by six different regions, each packing its own bold flavor.

Participants must finish all six wings in this sizzling, spice-filled challenge. **Contestants must sign a waiver to participate.**

Beyond bragging rights, winners will earn a ribbon and complimentary prizes: lunch for first place; breakfast for second; and a coffee beverage for third.

[Sign up](#)

## Insider Guide

|    | Jan      | Feb      | Mar      | Apr      | May      | Jun      |
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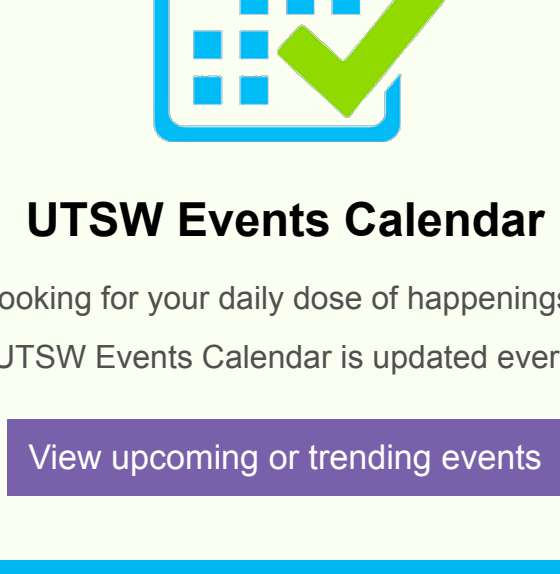
### Microsoft Excel accessibility training

**1-2 p.m., June 30**

**Virtual**

This session covers MS Excel accessibility basics, including table structure, headers, organization, charts, color, and built-in tools to help identify and fix issues for more usable, inclusive spreadsheets.

[Sign up to attend](#)



### Campus Events Calendar (Localist) admin training

**On demand, July 1**

**Virtual**

Whether you are a first-time user or just refreshing your skills, this training covers branding and accessibility requirements, content and image best practices, and how to update and promote events. The 15-minute course is available in Taleo Learn.

[Get the details](#)



## UTSW Events Calendar

Looking for your daily dose of happenings?

The UTSW Events Calendar is updated every day.

[View upcoming or trending events](#)

Share your *Insider* suggestions by sending them to [utswinsider@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:utswinsider@utsouthwestern.edu). Looking for an item in a past edition of this newsletter? Check out our [Insider archive](#).

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