In today’s world, good communication is just about the most important thing there is. What we say and how we say it often can determine whether we succeed or fail. We see it all around us these days as our country is experiencing some extremely trying times related to communication challenges.

As a division, communication is front and center of everything we do, from informing students about activities to keeping parents updated to sharing our successes with each other and with other divisions and departments on campus. If we don’t communicate well, then not only will our students suffer, but our own staff will as well. Many of you participated in a 360 review exercise last spring designed to obtain feedback about our division. One of the results of that survey indicated that we have some communication challenges both internally and externally. Given the importance and the timing, it makes sense that we, as a division, focus on improving our communication.

Efforts have already begun to emphasize improvement in this area. Communication was the topic of our annual retreat in August, and the feedback you provided will be instrumental in enhancing our communication efforts both within the division and to our external audiences. I will be meeting with each department this semester and hope to continue the conversations we started at...
the retreat. With your help, I hope to launch new communication initiatives that will assist us in our mission of cultivating student success.

Additionally, to help us create and implement a communication plan and to begin strategically communicating better to our internal and external constituencies, a communications specialist position was created and hired. Ray Willhoft began his duties in early August and has hit the ground running in leading this effort. You will see the results of his efforts soon as we launch new communications.

I value every member of the Student Affairs team and want us all to work together to provide the best experience possible for our students.

Thank you again for all that you do. I hope everyone has a fantastic year. Go Mean Green!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth With, Ed.D.

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**Successes and Achievements**

**Environmental Protection Agency Recognizes UNT Among Nation's Leading Green Power Users**

This summer the [University of North Texas](https://www.unt.edu) ranked 11th on the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](https://www.epa.gov)'s Top 30 College and University list of the largest green power users from the Green Power Partnership. The ranking marked the school's first appearance in the top 11 spots.

The EPA awarded the ranking after UNT enrolled in Denton Municipal Electric’s GreenSense Renewable Electricity Program this past spring. The university uses more than 107 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power annually,
which covers 100 percent of its total power needs. UNT also generates green power from on-site solar and wind energy systems, helping expand the market for renewable electricity and increase the amount of clean, renewable electricity flowing to the grid.

According to the EPA, UNT’s green power use is equivalent to the electricity use of nearly 10,000 average American homes annually. The university also ranks No. 72 on the agency’s National Top 100 list of green power users.

Read full story [here](#).

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**Summer Send-Off Parties Answer Questions and Ease Minds**

Orientation and Transition Programs hosted 12 **Summer Send-Off Parties** this year for incoming UNT students and their families, with attendance more than doubling last year’s efforts. The parties were held in Frisco, McAllen, Tulsa, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston/Katy, Austin, Arlington, El Paso, Dallas, Longview and Lubbock, and scholarships and other giveaways were offered to generate excitement.

Summer Send-Off Parties are designed for new students and their families to have the opportunity to meet others in the area who will be attending UNT and to get their last-minute questions answered by a staff member. Common questions asked at the parties related to **First Flight Week**, what to expect for **Mean Green Move-in Weekend** and parking and tuition payment processes. Staff from Student Affairs
and Admissions were present to facilitate the “passing of the torch” from the recruitment process to these students becoming North Texans.

The response to the parties was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees noting how great it was that UNT traveled across the state to host these events and help students and their families prior to this big transition in their lives.

As one parent commented, “It is more valuable for new parents to know about the level of support that is given prior to attending (orientation), and the amount of ease and seamlessness that you feel as a result of the support from the administration and staff at UNT is incredible. I am so at peace with my child attending UNT and being six hours away.”

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**North Texas Dancers and North Texas Cheerleaders Learn and Score at Summer Camp**

The North Texas Dancers (NTD) and North Texas Cheerleaders (NTC) participated in the National Dance Alliance (NDA) and National Cheerleading Association (NCA) camp July 22 – 24 at SMU. The North Texas Dancers attended several master’s classes on various dance styles and spirit raising techniques. They also learned several routines that they were evaluated on throughout the camp.

NTD placed second and received a superior rating in the D1A Team Performance Division, which also included SMU and UT. NTD also had four members nominated for the All-American Individual Dancer Award, given to dancers who encompass Leadership, Showmanship, Technique, and Spirit. Dancers are nominated by the NDA staff instructors and must go through an audition process in front of the entire camp.
“For our first time back at NDA Dance Camp in more than seven years, our program was very excited to have the opportunity to represent UNT on such a huge platform,” said Brittani Richards, UNT dance coach. “We faired very well throughout camp and loved having the opportunity to learn and work closely with nationally ranked teams. Attending dance camp allows our program to be challenged in different genres of dance which helped us continue building our bond as a team and work towards our goal for the season.”

The North Texas Cheerleaders attended classes that included game day cheers, chants, stunts, pyramids and basket tosses. They also participated in two major competitions that included a Game Day routine and a Rally Routine. The Game Day routine is a 45-second cheer and chant competition that focuses on crowd involvement. The Rally Routine is a mini Daytona National’s routine that combines crowd involvement, technical skills, motions, tumbling, partner stunting and pyramids.

NTC won first place in the Rally Routine, which they have never won before, and the NCA's Most Spirited Award. Most Spirited is only given to one team at camp and is decided on by a combination of the NCA staff and each individual cheer team’s vote. NTC competed in the large D1A division against Oklahoma State and University of Texas at San Antonio. NTC also received a superior rating and a perfect 10 score for their Game Day routine.

For their hard work, NTC received a silver paid bid to Nationals, and NTD received a bronze paid bid.

“There is a brand new division for Daytona Nationals, called the Game Day division, and this is where NTC will really shine,” said Tracy Frier, assistant director for spirit/traditions and risk management. “This new division will include NTC, but also NTD and some of the drumline members from the Green Brigade.”
Marching Band. This is a really exciting division where NTC hopes to bring home a National Championship win for UNT!

Scrappy Wins Mid-Major Madness Mascot Melee Championship

Scrappy, UNT’s beloved eagle mascot, won the 2017 Mid-Major Madness Mascot Melee Championship by beating Magnus from Cleveland State in a nail biter that went down to the final seconds of voting.

When asked about his win, he had this to say, "I'd like to thank all of the Mean Green fans who have supported me on this journey for the last few weeks. There were some close matches, and they always pulled through for me. I dedicate this win to the fans, for without them, none of this would have been possible. Coming in as a 15 seed, I was determined to show everyone that I was a true contender in the mascot world. Finally, I'd like to thank Mid-Major Madness for including me in the tournament, as well as all of my competitors for clean campaigns. Go Mean Green! Caw!"

On his way to the finals, Scrappy beat Izzy from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in the first round; Blaze from UT Arlington in the second round; the Lumberjack from Stephen F. Austin in the Sweet 16; Thunder from Grand Canyon University in the Elite 8; and Sammy C. Hawk from UNC-Wilmington in the Final 4. After the three-week-long tournament, he can now rest easily, knowing he's top bird.

UNT Receives DIFFA/Dallas Grant to Increase Awareness about HIV
The Meadows Center for Health Resources received a $10,000 grant from the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA/Dallas) to assist with its mission of preventing the spread of HIV. The funding will be used for a performing arts event and free HIV testing that will take place on December 1, which is World AIDS Day.

"We want to provide a fun experience to break down the barriers for getting tested," said Israel Chavarria, coordinator of the Meadows Center. "Knowing your status is an important step in decreasing the spread of this disease."

DIFFA/Dallas raises funds for organizations that aid in the fight against HIV/AIDS by providing preventative education programs, treatment and direct care services for people living with/impacted by HIV/AIDS. The Meadows Center and DIFFA/Dallas also have a partnership in which UNT volunteers assist with several of their events.

The Meadows Center is the health education office of the Student Health and Wellness Center. At the center, students are able to ask health questions in a welcoming and educational environment. Staff are trained to discuss a variety of health issues with students and make appropriate referrals to Health Center clinical staff or other resources.

The Meadows Center provides several other services as well, including: Condom Club program, Conversation Peer Health Educators, discounted massage therapy services, Mean Green Screen (free HIV screening program) and other health education programs.

**UNT Awarded Other Victim Assistance Grant**

For the third year in a row, UNT was awarded a $24,000 Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG) for fiscal year 2018 (September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018) from the Office of the Attorney General. The grant will be used to fund a graduate assistant who will help Renée LeClaire McNamara, assistant director for student advocacy, crisis intervention and violence prevention within the Dean of Students office, with providing support to students impacted by sexual violence, intimate partner violence and stalking.

“I am excited to receive this grant because we'll be able to provide more support to take care of our students who have been impacted by violence,” said
The purpose of the OVAG Program is to provide funds, using a competitive allocation method, to programs that address the unmet needs of victims by maintaining or increasing their access to quality services.

For more information on student advocacy, contact Renée LeClaire McNamara at 940.369.6027.

Student Veteran Services Recognized by UNT Army ROTC

Student Veteran Services was recognized by outgoing UNT Army ROTC Captain Harold Burke with a plaque for its support and dedicated service to the UNT Army ROTC.

“I was leaving and wanted to express my appreciation for Director Jim Davenport and his office for all they have done for the UNT Army ROTC,” said Burke. “They introduced me to many influential people and helped boost our enrollment.”

It was work that Student Veteran Services Director Jim Davenport was happy to do since his partnership with the UNT ROTCs has led to great success.

“Being retired from the Army, both the UNT Army and Airforce ROTCs were some of my first outreaches,” said Davenport. “Both ROTCs assisted us with our annual Veterans Day program last fall. The Army ROTC also helped our department restore the Veteran Plaques during Spring Break 2017 on the Veterans Wall in the Union. We are all in the same military family and try to
support and invite each other to all of our events.”

Davenport went on to comment, “We lost a great captain with Harold Burke leaving, but we also gained a great one with Captain Burgin who succeeded him.”

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**DSA Staff Graduate from the Supervisory Building Blocks Certificate Program**

Seven DSA staff graduated from the [Supervisory Building Blocks certificate program](#) on August 21. The graduates were:

- Mark Bowen, University Union
- Israel Chavarria, Student Health and Wellness Center
- Stephanie Knight, Career and Leadership
- Molly Orr, University Union
- Desiree Padron, TRIO Programs
- Sophilia Thompson, TRIO Programs
- Phyllis Vaughn, University Union

The program is designed to strengthen and develop the skills of new and existing supervisors. Sessions address multiple aspects of supervision and provide attendees with an opportunity to learn collaboratively with supervisors from across the campus.

More than 200 graduates have completed the program since its creation.

DSA participants found the experience helpful and recommend it to others.

“Student Affairs staff members that are just starting to supervise other staff as well as those that have been supervising for a number of years can benefit from
spending some time thinking about their role and how it impacts the day to day work of employees within their area,” noted Stephanie Knight, director of the Center for Leadership and Service.

“I have found myself pulling down my binder a couple of times to review information I received at the session to assist me while supervising my staff,” said Molly Orr, associate director of programming and arts for the University Union. “It was also a great opportunity to connect with colleagues from the division and other areas of the university as many sessions had group activities.”

Supervisory Building Blocks sessions are currently in rotation at UNT, UNT Dallas and UNT Health Science Center. System supervisors may sign-up and attend sessions at a location most convenient for them. Team members who complete a total of 30 hours of training, including all foundation sessions and six hours of elective sessions, will earn a certificate of achievement.

For more information on the SBB Program or to enroll, click here.

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**Student Money Management Center Educates Others On and Off Campus**

The Student Money Management Center (SMMC) continued to educate both the UNT campus and other campuses while gearing up for the new academic year.

A team of SMMC peer mentors accompanied Director Paul Goebel to a regional programming summit at Sam Houston State University in May. The summit provides campuses with financial literacy/wellness programs to share ideas and best practices. Peer mentor and finance major Rebecca Boyle provided an overview of the center’s Financial Intelligence Training (FIT) Program to the audience. The summit is sponsored by the Texas Association of Collegiate Financial Education Professionals (TACFEP), of which the SMMC is a founding member.

“I liked all of the creativity and that everyone shared ideas,” said outreach peer mentor and business law and marketing major Stephen Lewis. “All of the campuses’ student bodies are different, but they all possess similar characteristics.”
In addition, Tania Wen, SMMC peer mentor and accounting major, was invited back for a second year to participate in a special First Flight Week event sponsored by the College of Business. Wen was asked to share her experiences and insights as an accounting major to encourage and inspire incoming freshmen and transfer students.

“I was so honored to be invited back a second year,” said Wen. “I always enjoy sharing my love of accounting with others.”

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**Student and Staff Services**

**UNT Food Pantry Combats Hunger on Campus**

**UNT** is continuing to take action to address food insecurity among its students with the Food Pantry, a collaborative initiative led by the Dean of Students office. There have been more than 2,617 student visits to the Food Pantry since it opened in January 2015, and the need continues to grow.

In fall 2015, the Discovery Park Food Pantry opened within the Engineering Library, offering the same level of convenience and confidentiality as the main campus Food Pantry. In spring 2017, DOS partnered with the Frisco campus to open a satellite pantry to serve students taking classes at the New College at Frisco.

Students who visit the Food Pantry can also request to meet with DOS staff to discuss the difficulties they are facing. When appropriate, referrals to campus and/or community resources will be made.

All three Food Pantries are in continuous need of donations, which are accepted M – F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the University Union Room 409.
Seeking Options and Solutions Program Provides Assistance to Students

Have you ever had a student frustrated by the runaround? At times, students share their frustrations and often don’t know where to start looking for help when facing difficult issues.

That’s where the Seeking Options and Solutions (SOS) program comes in to assist. One of the primary goals of the Dean of Students office is to help students resolve university-related issues. Through the SOS program, the office assists students and their families in navigating a variety of diverse concerns: most frequently medical, financial and enrollment questions.

Having a point person to assist with university processes or simply directing the student in the most efficient way can impact the student’s experience in a very positive way. Ultimately, a primary goal of the program is to assist in university retention efforts through direct, personal contact.

In the 2015 – 2016 academic year, 1,261 students were assisted through the SOS program, and more than 1,300 students were helped in the 2016 – 2017 academic year.

Student referrals to the SOS program should be directed to the Dean of Students office.

Off-Campus Student Services Announces Open House and Child Care Solutions

Off-Campus Student Services (OCSS) is hosting the Campus Services Open House on Wednesday, September 20, from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Library Forum, to
better serve the hectic schedules of students. This event will be held in a college fair style.

If you would like to send a representative to answer questions on behalf of your department, please RSVP by Sunday, September 10, at 11 p.m. Additional details will be sent closer to the event date.

**Child Care Solutions**

With fall classes beginning, are you:

- Struggling to find child care near your home or UNT?
- Wondering if you’re paying too much?
- Need a program for your school-age kids while you’re in class/at work?

UNT has formed a partnership - free of charge to UNT students, faculty and staff - with Camp Fire First Texas' Child Care Network (CCN) to provide customized child care solutions.

Camp Fire has a database of more than 2,000 regulated child care (infant through school-age) programs, day camps, summer camps and programs for children with special needs. Camp Fire also identifies resources to help address other life issues, including respite care, tutoring and summer care.

If your child care needs have changed or arisen, or if you would like to see what options you have for child care or programming, then sign up here for more information or contact OCSS.

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**Career Center Launches Program and Seeks Volunteers**

The Career Center's new career services management platform, Eagle Careers powered by Handshake, is now live. Students can log into the site by going to my.unt.edu and clicking on the link under “Jobs.” If you used the old system to hire student employees, please be sure to save any documents, applications, resumes, job descriptions, etc. by August 31. Please post any jobs into the new system moving forward.

**Volunteers Needed for JCPenney Suit Up Event**
The Career Center has partnered with JCPenney to offer a College Suit-Up event for UNT students and staff to purchase professional clothing at a discounted price. The event will be held on Sunday, September 10, from 6:30 – 10 p.m. at the JCPenney Denton store. Bring your UNT ID—staff and faculty are invited to partake in the shopping as well.

2017 – 2018 Events

For a complete list of all Career Center events for 2017 – 2018, click [here](#). Students will also find updated events and workshops listed on their Eagle Careers powered by Handshake account, which can be found on [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu) under “Jobs.”

For more information on Career Center programs and events, call 940-565-2105 or email careercenter@unt.edu.

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**Recreational Sports Informs and Invites New Student, Faculty and Staff Members**

Recreational Sports welcomed 1,420 students, faculty and staff for its annual Rec Sports Extravaganza at the [Pohl Recreation Center](#) during First Flight Week. Guests were treated to pizza from TJ’s Pizza and live music from local band (and UNT alumni) OG Garden, along with a No Limit Texas Hold ‘Em tournament, kayaking in the pool, free climbing, Zumba and a Sport Club resource fair.

In addition, more than 650 freshmen made their way to the Rec Center to participate in some of the 22 sessions offered during First Flight Week. Session topics included a Q&A panel with student staff about working for Rec Sports, an Outdoor Pursuits gear exhibit, a session helping students better understand common health stats and how to focus workouts and even a game of bingo that explored how exercise and mental health affect each other. Sessions on how to make the most of a membership, identifying free and special events and touring...
the Rec Center were also offered, in addition to free climbing and free group exercise classes all week long.

Being a **Rec Center member** means you can take part in any of the 70 different programs offered this semester alone, ranging from outdoor trips to fitness special programs, or any of the 49 group exercise classes offered each week. From one-on-one instruction like private swim lessons and personal training, to family events and programs like Kids Learn to Swim and Family Climb at the climbing wall, being a part of the Rec Sports family is a great way to stay healthy and engaged in the UNT Community as well.

For more information, click [here](#) or call 940-565-2275.

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**Student Spotlight**

New SGA President Barrett Cole Makes History and Gives a Voice to Students

Serving as [UNT Student Government Association](#) (SGA) president is a tough job, but 2017 - 2018 President Barrett Cole is up for the challenge. As the first female SGA president in 20 years, and as a part of the first winning dual female ticket along with Vice President Lisa Umeh, Cole is resolute in her mission of improving the lives of all students.

Cole, a Dallas native and an [integrative studies](#) major with focuses on international studies, College of Information and leadership studies, transferred to UNT her sophomore year specifically for the integrative studies
“After taking a gap year and working for AmeriCorps running a K through fifth grade literacy center at a Title 1 elementary school in Dallas, my passion for education policy reform was further solidified,” said Cole. “With my parents both being UNT alumni, I knew the university would be a great fit for me.”

Cole’s brother, a current UNT student himself, is also keeping the family tradition going.

Not knowing anyone on campus prompted Cole to get involved with student organizations, starting with serving on the Athletic Council, through SGA, and eventually leading to the Student Senate and then Vice President of SGA, in addition to participating in Greek Life and other campus organizations.

“I’m not a political person, but serving in SGA provided me with a greater understanding of how higher education works and fueled my desire to give a voice to students who feel they don’t have one,” said Cole. “I felt I could continue to do that as SGA president.”

One of Cole’s top goals is to make SGA more relatable and approachable for students so that they too will be motivated to get involved.

“Most students want to be heard, but they don’t understand what SGA does,” Cole noted. “We are working to educate them about how SGA can help them and the opportunities that are available for them to serve and make a difference themselves.”

Other items on Cole’s presidential agenda include addressing issues with parking and transportation, campus safety and diversity and inclusion.

“UNT is a welcoming campus with students from all walks of life, and our diversity is one of the things that makes us great,” Cole said. “I want to make sure all students continue to feel that they are included on campus, have a voice and are proud to be members of the Mean Green family.”

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Housing Staff's Title Changes Reflect New Focus

In an effort to re-focus its approach to serving students, Housing and Residential Life’s Hall Directors and Assistant Hall Directors were recently retitled Community Directors and Assistant Community Directors. The new emphasis is the facilitation of community through intentional relationship building. This is accomplished through Student Success Meetings where staff meet with all FTIC and transfer students in the communities, the B.A.S.I.C community building model and an updated programming model.

Also, as more of the Community Directors have their master’s degrees, by the fall 2018 semester, all of the Assistant Community Director positions will become graduate assistantships, supporting Student Affairs, Counseling and other related programs.

Name the DSA Newsletter and Win Cool
Prizes
The DSA Newsletter will soon be undergoing some changes, including receiving a new name, and we need your help. Please send your name suggestions to Ray Willhoft by September 5. The submitter of the selected name will receive a $50 credit on his or her UNT card and a Student Affairs jacket, so put your thinking caps on and send in your ideas today!

Staff Accolades
After seven years of service to UNT and the construction of the University Union, Union Executive Director Zane Reif has accepted a position at Purdue University. His last day will be September 6. Reif has been an outstanding member of the Student Affairs team and has developed a program that recently won multiple national awards. He was instrumental in the design of the new Union and the transition period while under construction.

“Concerts, events, meetings, art series, conferences, technology, sales and marketing are all a component of the work that Zane and his team have accomplished,” said Danny Armitage, associate vice president for student affairs. “His team continues to exceed expectations and engage our students. Zane’s leadership will be missed.”

Welcome, New DSA Staff:

- Charles Ashford, Assistant Director, Dining Services
- Lawain Brooks, Residence Hall Director, Housing and Residential Life
- Brady Burns, Marketing Specialist, DSA Marketing
- Brenda Finau, Food Service Manager, Dining Services
- Antonio King, Marketing Specialist, University Union
- Roman May, Student Services Coordinator, University Union
- William Milam, Student Services Specialist, Recreational Sports
- Cheltzie Miller-Bailey, Student Services Coordinator, Student Affairs
- Haley Myers, Administrative Specialist, Housing and Residential Life
- Nikki Ortiz, Student Services Coordinator, Career Center
- Ray Willhoft, Communications Specialist, Student Affairs

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Upcoming Events

**September**

**Trivia Night @ Mulberry Street Cantina**
September 7 at 8 p.m.
Location: 110 W. Mulberry St.,
Denton, TX 76201

**Division of Student Affairs New Employee Orientation**
September 13 at 10:30 a.m.
Location: Rec Center 205
RSVP by September 8

**State of the University**
September 21 at 3 p.m.
Location: Murchison Performing Arts Center

**DSA Kick-Off Breakfast and State of the Division Presentation**
September 22 at 8 a.m.
Location: Union Ballroom

**Family Weekend**
September 22 – 24
More information here

**October**

**The Don A. Buchholz Lecture**
Diversity and Divergence: Getting Beyond Enrollment to Bolster Educational Equity
Featuring Eboni M. Zamani-Gallaher
October 12 at 2 p.m.
Location: Gateway Center Ballroom
RSVP by October 6

**Haunted History Tour**
October 13 at 7:45 p.m.
111 W. Hickory St.
Denton, TX 76201
Purchase tickets here

**Yoga on the Square @ Greater Denton Arts Council**
October 30 at 6 p.m.
400 E. Oak St., Denton, TX 76201
(bring your own mat)

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**Workshop Wednesdays**

**September 6, 1 - 2 p.m.**
Rec Center Workshop @ Pohl Recreation

**October 4, 1 - 2 p.m.**
Student Health & Wellness

**Training Thursdays**

**September 14, 1 - 2 p.m.**
“Selecting Professional Organizations to Achieve Your Goals”
Danny Armitage @ Union 332
Workshop @ Union 339
November 1, 1 - 2 p.m.
Center for Leadership & Service Workshop @ Union 339

December 6, 1 - 2 p.m.
Housing Workshop @ Union 339

October 12, 10 - 11 a.m.
“EEO/Title IX”
Inya Baiye @ Union 332

November 16, 10 - 11 a.m.
“Dealing with Difficult People”
Jerr Robertson @ Union 339

We would love to hear from you!
We are always looking for new stories and feedback. If you have anything to share, please send it to Ray Willhoft or call 940-565-2464.