

JUSTIN DART, JR.
CENTER FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

CSD NEWS

Spring/Summer,
2008

Notes from the Director

Justin's Legacy



The Center for Students with DisABILITIES (CSD) Building is named after Justin Dart, Jr. You may have wondered who Justin Dart, Jr. was, and why the Center was named after him.

Most campus buildings are named after people who have made significant financial contributions to the university, college, program, etc. Justin Dart, Jr. made a tremendous contribution to UH, but it wasn't money that he gave. The gift he gave to all of us was much greater.

One of Justin's gifts was forming a student organization, called the "Integration Club." This was the first student organization committed to promoting **diversity** at UH. At the time-- the early 1950's-- UH was predominately a white male college. According to Justin's widow Yoshiko, his initial goal in forming this student organization was to integrate students from different ethnic backgrounds and females into the university.

Yoshiko told me that several students showed up for the first Integration Club meeting. More than one of the students used a wheelchair, as did Justin. Yoshiko relayed that Justin was very surprised by this, as he hadn't thought about students who had disabilities in terms of "integration," or having equal rights! This was very enlightening for Justin. From that point on students who had disabilities were included in the Integration Club.

The University of Houston is now the second most ethnically diverse major research university in the United States. We can include Justin Dart, Jr. in the list of people to thank for this.

Examples of the multitude of other gifts Justin bestowed upon us include championing the Americans with Disabilities Act, and serving as an advocate for the civil rights of oppressed people in America and around the world for nearly 40 years.

A little more about Justin...

Justin Dart, Jr. contracted Polio at the age of 18. Having been told that he had less than three days to live, he was admitted to the Seventh Day Adventist Medical University in Los Angeles. He was "not nice" to those who tried to help him-- but they helped him anyway. In one of his many writings

Justin describes this experience-- “for the first time in my life I was surrounded by people who were openly expressing love for each other, and for me, even though I was hostile to them. And so I started smiling at people, and saying nice things to them. And they responded, treating me even better. It felt so good!”

Justin never forgot this lesson. Polio limited his ability to walk, but he didn't look at this negatively. He is quoted as saying that this experience—contracting Polio and being in the hospital-- was not a negative experience. It saved his life and made it worthwhile.

Prior to contracting Polio, Justin described himself as a “Super Loser” in a family of “Super Winners.” He was born into a wealthy Chicago family. His father was President of Dart Industries. His grandfather was the founder of the Walgreen's Drugstore chain. Justin attended seven high schools and didn't graduate from any of them. He broke Humphrey Bogart's record of the highest number of demerits earned by a student at the prestigious Andover Preparatory School. Justin didn't like himself, and people didn't like him either.

Justin attended UH from 1951-1954, earning a bachelors and masters degree in History and Political Science. He wanted to major in Education and become a teacher, but this was denied by the Department of Education at the time because he was disabled.

Following graduation, Justin became a very successful businessman, building several companies in Mexico and Japan. In 1963 he took over Japan Tupperware with three employees. By 1965 it had increased to approximately 25,000 employees—primarily women and people who had disabilities. Justin also organized one of Japan's first wheelchair basketball teams, and met his wife, Yoshiko.

The Darts visited Vietnam in 1966, to investigate the status of rehabilitation in this war-torn country. They visited an institution for children who had polio. What they found were squalid conditions where disabled children were lying on concrete floors, starving. One young child who was lying before him took his hand and looked into his eyes. Justin later wrote, “That scene is burned forever in my soul. For the first time in my life I understood the reality of evil, and that I was a part of that reality.”

After this experience the Darts terminated their business involvements and lived in a dilapidated old farmhouse for several years for a period of meditation. It became clear to them that their life's mission needed to be to dedicate their lives to the cause of human and disability rights.

Justin received the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the nation's highest civilian award—in 1998. (This award and a photo of President Clinton giving the award to Justin are in a glass encasement in the CSD lobby.) He never took credit for his accomplishments. Rather, he always recognized the hundreds of others who helped him to achieve the successes that he achieved. In one of his writings, Justin said “There is nothing I have achieved, and no addiction I have overcome, without the love and support of specific individuals who reached out to empower me... There is nothing I have accomplished without reaching out to empower others.”

Mr. Dart was appointed to lead the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in 1986. This agency had oversight over numerous programs for people who have disabilities. Justin requested radical changes, to include **involving people who had disabilities in every aspect of programming**. This was not approved, and Justin testified before Congress that the RSA was a “vast, inflexible Federal system which, like the society it represents, still contains a significant

portion of individuals who have not yet overcome obsolete, paternalistic attitudes about disability.” Dart was subsequently asked to resign from his position.

Justin liked to hang signs, and had them everywhere. He believed in visual reminders of important messages. Some of his messages and quotes are hanging in the CSD Building. Some examples of Justin’s quotes are:

- “I am with you. I love you. Lead on.”
- “You have the Power. You have the responsibility. I believe in you. And I love you.”
- “The notion that any one person is the single cause of any significant social change—that Abraham Lincoln alone freed the slaves—is a devastating stereotype which robs individuals of responsibility and credit, and actually inhibits social change.”
- “You have the Power. Live the Dream.”

Justin Dart, Jr. will always be remembered at the Dart Center. We hope you will think of his messages and apply them as well.

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Spotlight On...University Career Services (UCS)

Are You Ready for Your Job Search?

Are you getting ready to graduate? Want to know the first secret in landing your first job? Read on!

Before you go out and search for a job, you have to know where you are going. How do you answer the question, “what are you looking for?” If your answer is, “whatever I can find,” then you are probably not ready for the job search. Think about it, you wouldn’t go on a trip without a map, right? The same is true with the job search. Job postings may receive hundreds or more applicants. Employers know how to screen applicants and identify those with a clear sense of direction and those who are taking a “shotgun” job search approach, applying to every position that might be a possibility. Obviously, employers are looking for a candidate that can state with confidence, “this position is just what I am looking for!” So, the key is first developing a career focus or goal. This is what is referred to as career exploration. When you can state with confidence, “I know what I am looking for and let me tell you why,” then you are ready for the job search.

How do I develop my career goal if I have no experience?

1. Know yourself. What are your skills, interests, values, and personality characteristics? This is important for several reasons: it helps you target the type of job, organization, or industry you are looking for and provides you with a tool for selling yourself to the employer once you land an interview! This is the first, and probably most important, step in identifying your goals.
2. Explore options. UCS has several resources available to help you clarify your options, which a counselor can discuss with you. One of the best resources is to speak to professionals

already working in fields you are interested in. Through the University Career Advisory Network (UCAN), available through the UCS website you can contact professionals and ask specific questions such as, “what skills are required in this field, what do you enjoy about this work, and what characteristics make a successful applicant in this industry?”

3. Gain experience. Having practical knowledge in a field demonstrates to an employer that you know what to expect in a work environment (and you are still interested) and also provides you with examples of your proven success in the field. There are a number of ways to build this type of experience, notably internships, summer work, and volunteer experience. This might even mean taking a job with less pay (or none in the case of volunteer work), in exchange for valuable experience as well as direct contacts in your industry. In the long run this is an investment that will more than pay itself off with the higher salary you will be able to command due to your commitment to your goals.
4. Develop a job search strategy to achieve your goals! Once you have completed steps 1-3, you are ready to begin your job search. Having clarified your goals, you are in a great position to develop a targeted resume, expand on the contacts you have developed, and take an active job search approach.

Moving from being a career explorer to a job searcher is not difficult, but just like any developmental process in life, it will take time and effort. There is a way to get “there” from “here.” You’ve put a lot of hard work into your education, so why not put some preparation into your job search as well?

If you aren’t sure of your career direction, schedule an appointment with a career counselor to get started on establishing your goals!

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WHAT’S NEW?

NOTES ON INFLUENZA AND PNEUMONIA

There are three types of Influenza viruses: A, B, and C. Type C is rare. For practical purposes, only Influenza A and B are of clinical importance at this time. Influenza A is responsible for the pandemics of 1918, 1957 (Asian- H2N2), 1968 (Hong Kong– H3N2), and 1976 (swine). Inactivated trivalent vaccines for annual immunizations consist of two Influenza A subtypes and one Influenza B subtype. World surveillance data determines which subtypes are chosen. These subtypes are selected in January and mid- February by WHO for the Northern Hemisphere and late August or early September for the Southern Hemisphere. Eighty million doses are produced by the combined Pharmaceutical companies. The predicted accuracy is around 90%.

Tamiflu is an oral antiviral drug which is used if the Flu symptoms are less than two days old. Tamiflu has been shown to decrease the severity and morbidity when used in a dose of 75mg., twice daily for five days.

The Pneumonia vaccine is indicated in persons less than two years old or older than 65, those with

compromised immune systems, HIV, heart or lung disease, alcoholism, kidney failure, or diabetes. It protects against 23 types of pneumonia.

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Financial Aid 101

The secret to a smooth financial aid experience is to apply early, monitor your “To Do” list, and respond to requests for documentation immediately. Then, once you are awarded, accept your awards at www.my.uh.edu. Our goal is to process your application as quickly as possible, but we need your help to be successful. If you have not yet submitted your 2008-2009 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), this needs to be done today at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you are missing documents in your “To Do” list, please submit them immediately. August is just around the corner!

Another way you can assist us is by keeping your email address current at www.my.uh.edu. Our ability to process your financial aid depends on our ability to communicate with you. This is not only true for Scholarships and Financial Aid, but also for all of Enrollment Services.

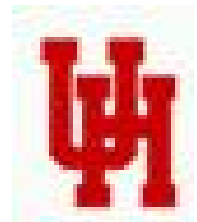
We understand that the financial aid process can be complicated at times, and we want you to know that we are here to help. Financial aid advisors are available by appointment, as well as on a walk-in basis for your convenience. Please visit us in the Welcome Center any time you have a question – we truly want to be of service to you.

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OPPORTUNITIES . . .



THE ERIC P. ALEXANDER MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP



The University of Houston Center for Students with DisABILITIES (CSD) is proud to offer the Eric P. Alexander Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is given in loving memory of a young man who had a disability.

The purpose of this scholarship program is to encourage UH students who have learning disabilities to pursue their educational and career objectives. Scholarship recipients will be awarded up to \$1000 for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

- Applicant must be a UH student who has a learning disability as defined by CSD guidelines.
- Applicant must be eligible for financial aid through the University of Houston for the academic year he/she applies for the scholarship.
- Applicant must be a sophomore, junior, or senior full-time or full-time equivalent degree-seeking student.
- Applicant must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Applicants must submit a complete original application packet plus six (6) copies to CSD on or before **August 8, 2008**.

Criteria for Selection

The Eric P. Alexander Selection Committee will select the scholarship recipients, based on merit and financial need. Recipient selection will be based upon information received from the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, transcripts, evaluation forms/letters of recommendation, and the applicant's essay. All decisions of the Committee are final.

Have a safe and happy summer!



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