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Extraordinary Service to the University (2010)

J.J. Brown

Beauvais Lyons

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J.J. Brown has been part of the UT family for more than 20 years as a undergraduate, graduate student, staff member, and administrator. Since his graduation in 1993, Brown has held numerous positions within the Division of Student Affairs. He has served as assistant to the dean of students, co-director of the TeamVOLS program, director of the Office of Student Orientation and Leadership Development (SOLD), and, for the past eight years, as associate dean of students.

Brown oversees several departments with student affairs including RecSports, student publications, and SOLD. He also works closely with the Case Management Team and Threat Assessment Task Force, UTPD, and the Office of Student Judicial Affairs to resolve serious student issues. One of his major roles is co-advisor to the Student Government Association. He coordinates the student election process and works tirelessly with the elected students throughout the year.

Brown's philosophy is to be an advocate for programs and opportunities that promote student growth and success. This mindset has led him to earn the respect of students and faculty alike, and he has been named Administrator of the Year twice.
Beauvais Lyons, professor of art, has been at UT for 25 years. In that time, he has established himself as an internationally known artist and scholar, and has devoted himself to creating a positive atmosphere for students and faculty. His contributions to the Faculty Senate and University Faculty Council quite possibly exceed the efforts of any other single faculty member—ever.

As senate president in 2003-04, Lyons guided the process for adopting the new faculty handbook and worked with other faculty presidents and Governor Phil Bredesen to assist in reforming the university’s presidential search process. He also led the senate to pass a resolution to reform the university’s nondiscrimination statement to include sexual orientation. Since then, he has remained on the Senate Executive Council and served as campus representative to the University System Faculty Council, addressing the need for a system-wide diversity plan and improvements in information technology.