Quick Takes

Don’t Get Crazy, Get Smart! – Dealing With Yourself and Difficult People
Join us for this workshop, conducted by Perspectives. The session will highlight strategies for effectively dealing with your emotions and modifying your behavior to better deal with difficult people in conflict-oriented situations. The workshop will focus on work related situations.

Chicago Campus
Wednesday, May 29, 2002
Terry Building, 16th floor, Prince Faculty Commons
12:30–2:30 p.m.
JOIN US for this spring Brownbag event! Bring a lunch, and we’ll provide coffee and cookies.

New Support Network for the NU Community
NUSAC would like to make staff aware of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Support Network. They are a group providing support and information on LGBT issues.

Spotlight on NUSAC – Meet Carolyn Wharton
Carolyn is the Vice Chair of NUSAC and has been on the council for five years. She has worked at Northwestern for 21 years.

What is your job?
Housing Assistant for Graduate Housing

Why did you join NUSAC?
It is a group of people who are interested in making changes for the betterment of the university and the staff. NUSAC is the voice of the staff members. And it is a voice that does get heard. It is not a committee that has been formed to just meet to meet. Every meeting is of importance. We have been successful in being able to assist in the decision making process on issues that will effect each staff member. It makes you feel really good knowing that upward administration does depend on what we have to say.

What do you like best about being on NUSAC?
To take advantage of all the opportunities that are available to you. There are friendships that you are able to make. It is a learning opportunity. You gain a lot of knowledge about benefits issues and Human Resource information that you are able to help other staff members with.

What advice would you give to anyone who is a new employee of NU?
There are friendships that you are able to make. It is a learning opportunity. You gain a lot of knowledge about benefits issues and Human Resource information that you are able to help other staff members with.

Let us know what you would like to see in the next NUSAC newsletter.
Send your ideas to nusac@northwestern.edu
Staff Issues Discussed during State of University Address

This year, President Bienen’s State of the University Address was webcast for the first time, and thanks to the webcast, was viewed by more members of the University community than ever before. About 140 people attended in person at Thorne Hall on the Chicago Campus on February 27th. Another 60 viewed the event in Hardin Hall and McCormick Auditorium in Evanston, and groups gathered in both the library and McCormick Engineering School in Evanston to view the broadcast on public monitors. In addition, about 180 people watched the webcast from their desktop computers. The event was co-sponsored by NUSAC, the Office of the President and NU Information Technology.

The text of the President’s address was published in the NU Observer and can be viewed online at http://www.northwestern.edu/university_relations/observer/stories/03_07_02/bienen.html. You can listen to an audio recording of the address online at http://www.northwestern.edu/president/addresses/.

Following his State of the University Address, audience members participated in a question and answer session with President Bienen. With the help of members of the IT staff, those viewing the address at Hardin Hall and McCormick Auditorium were able to ask questions via the web. Other questions from members of the NU faculty and staff were submitted in advance via e-mail and were asked by the President’s Rican responses.

Here is a sampling of some of the questions asked at the State of the University Address and President Bienen’s Rican responses.

Questions:

What can you do to protect your electronic privacy at Northwestern?

Results of NUSAC Survey on Staff Childcare Needs

As you may recall, during January, NUSAC sent a broadcast e-mail to solicit your input on issues that should be addressed in the current childcare situation and make recommendations for improvement. Several of your suggestions and concerns were reflected in specific recommendations made by the Task Force in its’ recent report to the Provost and Senior Vice-President for Business and Finance. At this point, members of senior administration are actively engaging the Task Force in discussions on the report and as we learn more we will keep you updated.

Meanwhile, we thought we would summarize your responses to the childcare questionnaire:

- 2/3 of the 300 or so respondents indicated a need for childcare now or in the near future. Of the remaining 1/3 who either do not need improved childcare benefits, about 40% expressed support for improved childcare benefits.

- The majority of those who need childcare are aware of the services provided by the Office of Child and Family Resources and the FSA pre-tax savings program. But most do not utilize these services, primarily because the benefits do not match their needs, or because they do not understand the extent of benefits these programs might provide.

- In terms of the need for improved childcare benefits, the staff response focused primarily on enhancing financial benefits, such as increasing the match level for the FSA Dependent Care Program and raising the cap for receiving a matching.

- Close to 2/3 of those who need childcare responded that they would prefer center-based care near work. Most of these said they would be interested in on-site or near-site child-care, but only if it was affordable to them.

The input we received on childcare was invaluable in reflecting the staff perspective to the Task Force. Thanks again to all who took the time to respond. If you would like more specific information on the results of the childcare questionnaire, please contact Suneetha Vaitheswaran at 7-2970, or by e-mail at suneetha@northwestern.edu.

Childcare is just the first of a broad range of topics on which NUSAC plans to ask for staff input. Watch your e-mail for other short NUSAC surveys on a variety of employment and benefits related topics. We encourage all staff to share their ideas with us.

[Image 623x217 to 730x377]

Notables

University Honors Staff at Drake Hotel Luncheon

On April 17, 2002, 93 NU staff members were honored at the annual Employee of the Year Luncheon, held at the Drake Hotel. This annual event honors the commitment and service of NU staff who have dedicated 20 or more years to the university. NUSAC co-sponsored the event and encouraged all staff members to attend.

Each of the finalists received a $100 savings bond.

Did You Know?

Did you know that information in your PH record is available to people off campus? Security in PH will be upgraded in May, but take the time to make sure that only information you want available is available.

The easiest way to protect your privacy is to check your PH record. Just go to: http:///gateit.northwestern.edu/ph/query-ph/queryph.cgi and check out what is displayed. You can change the information people see by editing your PH record. Go to https://gateit.northwestern.edu/ph/edit-ph/editph.cgi. Enter your netid and password (you can find your netid in your PH record). Once you’re in, you can edit your record to include or remove any information you wish. If you don’t want people off campus to see any information, put NO in the field marked off campus. If you set this to FULL, off-campus users will see all of your information. Set it to PARTIAL, and they will see a few selected pieces of information: Name, Email Address, Office Phone Number. Partial is going to be the default beginning this May. When you are through, put YES in the no update field. This will prevent the record from being changed by anyone but you.

Another way to protect your privacy is to be very careful when sharing your personal information online. For example, when you go to websites that ask for your address, even just your e-mail address, ask yourself if you really want to establish a relationship with them. Always check the site’s privacy policy. Look for sites with policies that guarantee not to share your information with others. If you’re comfortable with the site’s privacy policy, give your information. If you are not comfortable with the site’s privacy policy, then either don’t share your e-mail address, or make up an address so that your request will be processed. And if you do make up an address, don’t use something like president@whitehouse.gov. Make sure you use something really obvious like no@email.please.com.

On April 17 at the Employee of the Year Luncheon, Kathleen Harris and Ethel King were named Employee of the Year for Chicago and Evanston, respectively, and each received savings bonds in the amount of $1000.

On April 17 at the Employee of the Year Luncheon, Kathleen Harris and Ethel King were named Employee of the Year for Chicago and Evanston, respectively, and each received $1000. NUSAC would like to congratulate all the nominees for Employee of the Year, the finalists, and Kathleen Harris and Ethel King, the 2002 Employees of the Year.