Brown Bag Explains Financial Crisis

In late October, NUSAC sponsored a Brown Bag lunch hour presentation titled “The Banking Crisis: How it Impacts You,” given by Deborah Lucas, The Donald C. Clark/HSBC Professor of Consumer Finance, and Robert McDonald, the Erwin P. Nemmers Professor of Finance and Co-Director of the Financial Institutions and Markets Research Center – both from the Kellogg School of Management. The presentation gave a big picture historical overview of how the economy has gotten to its current state and helped explain how some financial processes work. There were also representatives on hand from TIAA-CREF to answer individual investment questions after the presentation.

The fact that the U.S. is currently experiencing the worst economic crisis since the depression in the 1930s is precisely the reason nearly 100 campus staff members attended both the Chicago and Evanston events. NUSAC provided pizza on a first come, first served basis, making it even easier to attend over lunch.

In November, approximately 1/3 of the attendees responded to a post Brown Bag survey expressing their appreciation for a fresh sense of economic awareness and insight that they had gained from the event. While the news itself was not necessarily uplifting, more than 90 percent of the attendees who responded found the information useful, informative and thought that the presenters were very knowledgeable.

Thanks to the Kellogg School of Management for providing both the space for the Evanston event (Jacobs Center) and the faculty presenters. Thanks to the Law School for giving NUSAC access to the Rubloff building for the Chicago luncheon.

Next NUSAC Brown Bag: How the New HR Can Help You & Your Career

In these difficult economic times, are there still opportunities to move to new positions or to positions of higher responsibility at the University? You bet! Come join Eva Erskine (director of HR services) and Donnie Wynn (HR staffing manager) as they discuss the new infrastructure of HR Services, the changes and enhancement to the staffing process, and the focus on customer service.

Join the Northwestern University Staff Advisory Council (NUSAC) and Human Resources for this informative Brown Bag.

**Chicago Campus**
April 14, noon to 1 p.m.
Wieboldt Hall, Rm 309
(339 E. Chicago)

**Evanston Campus**
April 15, noon to 1 p.m.
Jacobs Center 2245
NUSAC would like to acknowledge the contributions of unsung staff at Northwestern. With that in mind, we will be interviewing individual staff for the newsletter to introduce you to some of your fellow dedicated employees at the university that you might not have the pleasure to work with.

Shelia Prachand is currently a research lab manager for the Department of MED-Hematology Oncology. She has over 38 years of dedicated service to the Northwestern community. She is known for her willingness to help others with all facets of research and if she is unable, she assists in finding someone who can.

**When did you start at Northwestern and describe a typical day?**
I started working in Microbiology for Dr. Perry for about four years. I took a year off when the grant ended coming back in April 1974 in Endocrinology. I worked there for two years before transferring to Hematology-Oncology where I have worked ever since. From 1980 on, I have worked continuously with Dr. Leo Gordon. There is no typical day when doing research. Some days are lab work; routine tissue culture, planning and performing experiments, analyzing results. Other days involve teaching summer students the fundamentals of performing experiments so they can work independently.

**What do you like best about your job?**
I enjoy the challenge of working out new assays and finding out how they all come together in determining how some drugs act.

**Why do you think Northwestern is a good place to work?**
It gave me an opportunity to keep on learning in science and also in interacting with various people.

**How have you taken advantage of the other benefits/events/organizations here?**
Two of my children have been able to complete their undergraduate studies because of the tuition discount. I also enjoyed the free exercise classes that the university offered during lunch.

**What do you think would benefit staff either in your school or university-wide?**
Encouragement from your boss and the chance to be flexible.

**What is one of the most challenging situations you have faced and how did you overcome it?**
Dealing with difficult people and situations has taught me how to respond in a calm manner.

**Has anyone here been especially beneficial to you as a mentor, an inspiration, or a colleague? How?**
All the investigators that I have worked for were very helpful. Dr. Gordon encouraged me to challenge myself by attending seminars, Dr. Kathy Rundell allowed me to attend Virology classes, and Dr. Nancy Krett from Dr. Steve Rosen’s lab helped me when we did not have the resources for our experiments.

**Do you have a motto or words of inspiration for the Northwestern Community?**
I have found that kindness and helpfulness makes it easy in all fields of life.

**When you are not at the University, what do you do for fun and relaxation (hobbies etc)?**
I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren, gardening and music.

**Where do you like to go with your co-workers to lunch?**
I usually bring my lunch, occasionally eating in the hospital cafeteria or visiting the restaurants around the campus with my coworkers.

If you know an “unsung” staff member that you think deserves recognition, please send us contact information at nusac@northwestern.edu to nominate them for an interview.
2008 was the first annual “Give the Gift of Giving This Holiday Season,” sponsored by NUSAC. In the face of this wallet-clenching economic time, NUSAC is proud to say that the Northwestern community — staff as well as faculty and students — did a magnificent job of making the holiday season a little brighter for those who needed an extra hand. Two community organizations from Chicago and two from Evanston participated. In Evanston, the 45 children who reside at the Rice Child and Family Center (1101 Washington St. at Ridge Ave), along with 61 families who reached out to Family Focus (2010 Dewey Ave.) for help, will always remember what a special gift they received this year. The Chicago campus really made a difference for the 50 adults and 16 children who are homeless and reach out to the Inspiration Corporation (4554 N. Broadway). And the 70 children whose parent(s) are incarcerated and depend on Project Angel Tree (Prison Fellowship® P.O. Box 11057, 60611) benefitted from 10 huge boxes of generosity.

From our Northwestern community, approximately 152 individuals and 26 departments/institutes signed up to contribute gifts. This was about more than simply shopping, wrapping, and contributing generously – it was about love. Instead of trying to figure out what more to get for yourselves and your families, you made the decision to do something special for someone else – which is the greatest gift of all! The NU Staff Advisory Council would like to thank everyone who not only opened their wallets but also their hearts in order to make someone smile.

On January 19, 2009, Northwestern staff, faculty and students honored and celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. NUSAC co-sponsored a “Coffee Break” with the Northwestern MLK Organizers. The event was held at the Ditmar Gallery located in the Norris University Center. Approximately 40 people attended the coffee break and enjoyed lively conversation along with a continental breakfast. On a cold day when all classes were cancelled, this was a very good opportunity for the Northwestern community to come together, enjoy meeting new people and get a break from the frigid weather before attending the MLK observance in Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, which featured the legendary soul and gospel singer, Mavis Staples.

On January 21, 2009, an appreciation luncheon was held in Evanston to honor 47 university staff members, from both the Chicago and Evanston campuses. These staff members had received commendations for providing exceptional service from January 1 through December 31, 2008. University President Henry Bienen and Pamela Beemer, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, commended the staff members for their commitment to delivering outstanding service in their jobs. The Service Excellence Program is one way to recognize staff members that have gone beyond their regular job responsibilities to assist a student, faculty or staff member, a customer, or to complete a project or goal.

We congratulate the Service Excellence Awards winners: Patricia Adamson, Emily Agosto, Kimberly Amesquita, Rachael Basnett, Cindee Bath, Catherine Berardi, Carol Berry, Joanna Bobolewska, Christine Borchers, Adam Cebulska, Alden Chang, Kyle Delaney (NUSAC member), Ruthy Delgado, Jean Deven, Mary Pat Doyle, Mary Dworak, Earlyn Felix, Kevin Gleeson, Andrea Hall, Thomas Hancko, Muriel Handy, Lucy He, Lena Henderson, Will Higgins, Gwen Hoffman, Zoran Ilic, Anthony Jackson, Joanna Janzenvereicz, Herb Kleisch, Paul Kulhavy, Lysa Lei, Heidi Levin, Ann LoPrieno, Diana Marek, Luanne McMillen, Kathy Mustea, Colleen Neilsen, Maureen O’Toole, Alan Paberzs, Carol Prokop, Joseph Simonetti, Allen Streicker, Mary Tobin, Joan Trimuel, Latonia Trimuel, Anne Vanosdol, Eileen Yates

The Service Excellence Nomination form can be found at www.northwestern.edu/hr/training/servrec.html

Would you like to be part of a diverse volunteer group focused on promoting a positive work environment and serving as an advocate for staff? Are you a regular full or part-time staff member with at least two years of continuous service interested in learning how the University works and networking across both campuses?

NUSAC is recruiting for 2009-2010 with interviews to take place in June/July 2009. If you are interested in joining NUSAC, fill out an application by May 29, 2009. Applications can be found on our website: http://www.northwestern.edu/nusac/aboutnusac/join.html
Correction

In the December 2008 “NUSAC In Action” Facilities Management was referenced as the contact for recycling computers and peripherals, but this is not the case. University Services offers a computer recycling, or “eCycling” program. Please see www.northwestern.edu/uservices/office/computer for specifics.

State of the University

President Henry S. Bienen gave his final State of the University address on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, to a packed house at the McCormick Tribune Center Forum at Medill. The address was simulcast to Baldwin Auditorium in Chicago and also available on the web, where the online audience increased for the 3rd year in a row to a total of more than 500 viewers.

Bienen was joined by a panel of key central administration personnel who helped answer questions after the address:

- Dan Linzer, Provost
- Gene Sunshine, Senior Vice President for Business and Finance
- Pamela Beemer, Associate Vice President for Human Resources
- Ingrid Stafford, Associate Vice President for Financial Operations & Treasurer
- Ron Nayler, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management
- Jason Schober, Director of Financial Management System Project, Project Café

The President spoke of the many successes of the past year which included: fundraising commitments exceeded the year’s goal by $20 million; new programs were started in the Kellogg School of Business, the Bienen School of Music, and the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; applications are up across the board, building and renovation continues across both campuses, and Northwestern opened their first international degree granting campus in Doha, Qatar.

One thing on everyone’s minds was the troubled economy, which Bienen discussed extensively both in his address and in the question and answer period. Steps will be taken to ensure that Northwestern continues to be financially stable including a three percent cut to operating expenses and limited endowment spending. At this time no personnel cuts are planned and we have remained in a relatively good fiscal position.

A full transcript of the address can be found at: http://www.northwestern.edu/president/addresses/09state.html

The annual address is sponsored by Northwestern University Staff Advisory Council and the Office of the President.