Fall 2013 Newsletter

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Message from the Incoming Chair

Colleagues,

With the students back on campus and fall quarter in full swing, there's excitement in the air. I hope everyone was able to take vacation sometime over the summer, and is feeling rested and ready to start the new academic year.

NUSAC had a busy summer preparing for the new year, transitioning roles for those joining the Executive Committee and those completing their terms on the Council. Last year's efforts to recruit members two months earlier afforded us the opportunity to onboard our six new members and provided ample time for all members to settle into their 2013-2014 roles. We also took some time during our annual retreat, held in late July, to look ahead to what we want to accomplish this year. With the help of Paul Corona, Director of Learning and Organization Development in Human Resources, we were able to craft four goals for the council over the next 12 months:

1. Increase staff community engagement and recognition.
2. Increase staff awareness and understanding about the NUSAC brand and our mission.
3. Identify, evaluate, and prioritize current staff concerns.
4. Continuously evaluate and assess NUSAC's operational structure, programming, events, and services for efficiency and effectiveness.

Each committee (Human Resources, Benefits, Communications, Outreach) created their own goals aligned with these council goals, and outlined an action plan for the year that would allow us to measure our success. We have so many exciting things planned for the year, and already so many great successes. I am extremely excited for what's to come.

We have a diverse group of members on the council this year, representing six schools and nine different central units. We have a good balance of membership between the Chicago and Evanston campuses, and varying types of positions across the University. There is a great energy on the council, and each member is motivated and dedicated to improving the staff experience at Northwestern. I am honored to be Chair and excited to be working with a wonderful group of people this year. I thank them for all the extra time they are devoting to NUSAC, above and beyond their regular day-to-day work in their positions. I hope that the hard work we intend to accomplish this year results in great experiences for all staff across the
University.

It's hard to believe NUSAC has reached its 40th Anniversary at Northwestern. With so many accomplishments working with the President and the Office of Human Resources to address staff matters over the years, we intend to continue the trend and pave the way for the future. That said, as NUSAC represents the 7,000+ staff across all campuses at NU, we would love to hear any feedback you have so that we can be more effective in achieving our mission. I encourage you to attend our events, check out our website, get in touch with us via email, and apply for membership if you are interested! Also, please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions, ideas, or concerns.

Cheers to a great year! Enjoy the fall months while they last!

Apryl Schlueter
NUSAC Chair

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**Advancing Your Career at NU**

Are you looking to advance your career at Northwestern University? Do you know about job families, transfer procedures and resume building? Northwestern works hard to employ and retain a dynamic and diverse staff composed of lifelong learners; career development and advancement are important parts of meeting both university and individual goals. On Tuesday (11/19/13) on the Chicago campus and Thursday (11/21/13) on the Evanston campus, the Northwestern University Staff Advisory Council (NUSAC) and the Office of Human Resources are hosting a workshop for staff on career development. The event will begin with a presentation by Anniese Lemond, Director of Compensation, on career families at NU and will be followed by roundtable discussions with Human Resources staff members on the following topics:

- Internal Job Searches, Transfer Policies & Promotions
- Resume & Cover Letter Writing
- Effective Interviews
- Social Media as a Job Search Tool & Avoiding Potential Pitfalls
- The Best Career Development Resources (including NU professional development opportunities & most effective job search resources)

The workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. To register, complete the online registration form at [https://nusac.wufoo.com/forms/nu-career-development-workshop/](https://nusac.wufoo.com/forms/nu-career-development-workshop/). For additional details about the event, watch your email inbox, check the [NUSAC Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/NUSAC.Northwestern), the [NUSAC LinkedIn group](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/528659), or go to [PlanIt Purple](https://planitpurple.northwestern.edu). Seats are limited, so register today! Questions? E-mail nusac@northwestern.edu.

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**Health and Benefits Fair**

This coming Thursday (10/17/13) on the Chicago campus and next Tuesday (10/22/13) on the Evanston campus, NUSAC will be staffing a table at the annual Health & Benefits Fair. Staff planning to attend can learn more about NUSAC programs, ask questions to Council members, provide feedback on existing programs and initiatives, and receive free NUSAC merchandise.

Stop by and submit your name for great raffle prizes: a copy of this year's "One Book, One Northwestern" book, *The Last Hunger Season: A Year in an African Farm Community on the Brink of Change* by Roger Thurow and invitations to a "Coffee with the President". At the "Coffee with the President" events, staff members have the chance to meet with President Schapiro to discuss current events, issues that directly affect staff on campus, or other topics that staff feel are important.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

**Chicago Health & Benefits Fair**
Thursday, October 17th
Noon - 3:00 p.m.
Lurie Research Center, Ryan Family Atrium

**Evanston Health & Benefits Fair**
Tuesday, October 22nd
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Norris University Center, Louis Room
NUSAC 40th Anniversary Staff Mixer

Chartered by Northwestern University's president in 1973, NUSAC participates, assists and advises in the decision-making processes affecting staff. In celebration of NUSAC's 40th Anniversary, over 150 staff, their families and friends came together to watch the Wildcat football team take on Western Michigan on Saturday, September 14, 2013 at 8pm.

The event gave staff the opportunity to purchase tickets on the Randy Walker Terrace, giving them an excellent view of a big 'Cats victory! Before the event, staff received NU hats and were treated to a tailgate style buffet (complete with hot dogs, burgers, brats and sides). The Northwestern WildPride Spirit Squad, Willie the Wildcat, and President Schapiro each made a pre-game appearance, and during the game, a face painter arrived much to the delight of the children in attendance.

The weather was perfect - staff and their families mingled and enjoyed a great game. The event could not have been more successful! NUSAC would like to thank the Office of Human Resources and the Department of Athletics for their generous support of the event.

Unsung Staff Hero - Mike Curtis

Where are you from originally?
I was raised and lived in Glenwood, IL, (far south suburb in Cook County, near the Indiana line) until moving 45 miles north to work at Northwestern. My co-workers often claim (jokingly) that I'm from Indiana since I was technically born there and worked at Purdue University Calumet (PUC) for 7 years.

What drew you to Northwestern University?
It was an interesting sequence of events that ended up bringing me to NU. A group from NUIT Academic and Research Technologies was investigating AV technology, some of which we had at PUC. Their visit and subsequent contact helped quite a bit in the opportunity to work at NU. The quality of the institution, the wide array of technologies that existed and the level of expected services were far above what I had experienced at PUC. It felt like the right 'next step' in my career despite how challenging it would be. I still feel I was extremely fortunate to have had that opportunity.

When did you start at Northwestern University? Describe a typical day.
I started in July 2006. The typical day is far from typical and can range from all-day live streaming events, meetings with clients and staff, responding to faculty requests for support on NU Lecture Capture (MediaSite) or Adobe Connect, to walking through a building under construction to examine the AV infrastructure in place for the classrooms and performance spaces. Like most people, a day could easily be consumed by email and phone calls as well.

What is the most interesting part of your job?
This is a difficult question to answer because I find the majority of what I do each day to be interesting. It's why I like working here so much. I can take the easy and honest way out and say that I find everything interesting, however, being able to work with and support leading researchers here at Northwestern is what I find to be the most interesting. Seeing their accomplishments in publications, on websites and in the news makes my work with them the most interesting.

When you are not at work what do you do for fun?
I'm a home theater guy, so I have the HD projector, a really nice sound system where the low frequencies from the action scenes will shake your pant leg. It's pretty awesome when that happens. I enjoy playing most sports (golf, bowling, basketball) and in the summers I spend each weekend in Michigan at the family cottage where we'll be out on the boat being pulled on this thing called the Manta Ray (google it) and we fly across the water around 20-25' high. Anything we do is usually pushing the limits to nearly getting injured, even at this age.
What is your favorite quote or words of wisdom?
Work like you don't need the money and live like there's no tomorrow. Just have fun and enjoy yourself.

Are you a Cubs or a White Sox fan?
I don't understand Cub fans at all, and because of that I don't care for the Cubs. I'm more of an anti Cub (fan) than a White Sox fan. I've not been inside Wrigley Field to see the Cubs play. The only time I've seen them play live was when they were playing the White Sox at US Cellular field.

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**Unsung Staff Hero - Chris Wych**

Where are you from originally?
I am originally from Naperville, IL. I did my undergrad at Illinois State University and got my Masters of Fine Art from Indiana University.

What drew you to Northwestern University?
Northwestern has a pretty solid reputation and I was excited about being someplace that I could do what I love, theatre, and pass some of that info onto students.

When did you start at Northwestern University? Describe a typical day.
I started in November 2008. My typical day includes coming into work and checking email. When rehearsals start for shows at the Theatre and Interpretation Center, there is always a handful of emails that I have to go through and respond to before I start any other work. I then check in with my staff and see how their projects are going. Sometimes we have to talk about changes to the project based on last night's rehearsal or we start figuring out what the next step or project will be. Most mornings are quiet compared to the afternoon. After lunch there are various lab classes that work alongside me and the staff. Sometimes I am working with the students showing them how to use the power tools or helping them with the prop they are building. If I am not doing that, I am planning, budgeting and purchasing things for the next shows.

What is the most interesting part of your job?
Every day there is a new challenge. Sometimes it's figuring out how to get a rare antique looking chair onstage for under $100, or sometimes it's figuring out how to make a mini Ferris wheel rotate and light up onstage. There are very few problems in the job, just lots of challenges and that's what makes it exciting.

When you are not at work what do you do for fun?
I enjoy cooking and relaxing in front of the TV. I am a big fan of home improvement shows.

What is your favorite quote or words of wisdom?
"Don't worry about the future. Or worry, but know that worrying is as effective as trying to solve an algebra equation by chewing bubblegum." -Mary Schmich or Baz Luhrmann

Are you a Cubs or a White Sox fan?
Cubs fan even with my parents being diehard Sox fans.

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**Coffee with the President**

Have you, or any of your colleagues, had a chance to attend a Coffee with the President? NUSAC works with the Office of Human Resources to randomly select a handful of current Northwestern staff to participate in these fun events. Each Coffee is an opportunity for a small number of staff to meet with President Schapiro in an informal setting to discuss anything from current events to staff challenges and concerns. It's a chance to network, get to know other NU staff, get to know President Schapiro, and learn more about how Northwestern operates.

The first Coffee of the new academic year will take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 on the Evanston campus. There will be 5 additional Coffee dates between now and June 2014, on both the Chicago and Evanston campuses. If you'd like to learn more about the Coffee with the President events, or would like to attend a future event, please contact NUSAC via email at nusac@northwestern.edu.
School Supply Drive

The staff School Supply Drive, which was extended two additional weeks, was a great success! In addition to helping several of our own Northwestern families, your generous donations were able to help the Marillac Social Center stock up on some items that students will need in the upcoming year. NUSAC is proud of the amazing response from the Northwestern community. Marillac received many donations from the ask list. Marillac is very appreciative of our work on their behalf and have already expressed their thanks multiple times. Thanks to each of you that contributed, Marillac will have an abundance of supplies to help needy families.

Marillac has been supporting families on the west side of Chicago since 1914, and it is our honor to be able to assist them in this worthy endeavor. For more information about Marillac, please visit their website http://www.marillachouse.org/. Thanks to everyone for supporting NUSAC and Marillac Social Center!

Holiday Gift Drive

Can you believe it's that time of year again? The NUSAC Holiday Gift Drive is quickly approaching! We are proud of the generosity shown by the Northwestern University community in past years, and we hope that you'll be inspired to participate again this year. The goal for this year's drive is to help make the holidays a bit brighter for as many families as possible.

In the past, we have worked with Marillac Social Center, Family Focus, Heartland Alliance, The Rice Child & Family Center and the Infant Welfare Society. Please help Northwestern give back this holiday season by adopting a child, adult or family. More information about the drive will be sent in the coming months, so please watch out for the announcement!

NUSAC in Social Media: LinkedIn and Facebook

NUSAC has created staff groups on social media sites Facebook and LinkedIn to encourage all Northwestern staff to communicate and network with each other. Northwestern staff members do not need to be a member of NUSAC to participate in these groups.

Both groups are called "Northwestern University Staff". Northwestern staff may use both sites to network and communicate with colleagues, and to promote their social and professional activities that might be of interest to fellow employees.

Access the groups by clicking on the Facebook and LinkedIn icons below.

Open Enrollment Reminder

Open enrollment 2013 will be held October 21 through November 8.