Message from the Chair

Colleagues,

Who is done with the cold weather? You know it was a rough winter when we are rejoicing at the thought of 40 degrees. I think we can all agree that we have been long overdue for the season’s turning.

Spring is always a busy period for NUSAC. We just completed our application period to recruit new members for the upcoming year, and in May, we will be interviewing candidates for open positions on the Council. While it’s always bittersweet to lose colleagues who have committed 3 and even 6 years to NUSAC, it’s invigorating to bring in new staff who are as passionate as the current Council members about making Northwestern a better place to work and learn.

May also brings the annual Staff Service Recognition Luncheon. During winter, staff members from across all campuses nominated colleagues who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make Northwestern the incredible place that it is, and from that pool, a new Employee of the Year will be named on May 13. We also celebrate those bedrocks of our staff community who have been with the University for 20, 30, 40, and even 50 years.

As you all have heard, our Senior Vice President for Business and Finance, Eugene Sunshine, announced his retirement and a search committee comprised of NU faculty members, staff, and students has been working diligently to find a replacement as soon as possible. I have had the great privilege as Chair of NUSAC to work with Gene on a regular basis, and although I am very sad to see him go, I congratulate him on his 17 years of excellent service to the Northwestern community, and am excited...
for what the next chapter of life brings him and his family.

Finally, you may have noticed an extra boost of purple around campus March 14. Northwestern publicly kicked off its $3.75B Capital Campaign - "WE WILL" - aimed at wide ranging infrastructure and programmatic improvements that closely align with Northwestern’s Strategic Plan. I hope you'll take the time to attend either session of this year’s Conversations with President Schapiro on April 17 (EV) or April 23 (CH) to hear more about it. Change is exciting, and the vision put forth by Senior Administration is bold and transformative. In alignment with this next phase, NUSAC will remain laser-focused on serving as an advisory voice and change-agent for Northwestern staff. Together, "we will" continue to make Northwestern the best that it can be.

I continue to encourage you to visit the NUSAC website or to contact us at nusac@northwestern.edu to learn more about how we can support you.

On behalf of the Council, I wish you a wonderful spring. (May it last longer than 8 weeks!)

Apryl Schlueter
NUSAC Chair

Conversations with President Schapiro

Join fellow staff, faculty and students in a conversation with President Morton Schapiro on the state of the University. This 90-minute forum includes opportunities to ask questions.

Both events will be webcast live; send questions before or during the events to nusac@northwestern.edu if you are unable to attend.

Dates:

Thursday, April 17, 2014
10-11:30 a.m.
McCormick Tribune Center
1870 Campus Drive
Evanston Campus (EV)

Wednesday, April 23, 2014
10-11:30 a.m.
Hughes Auditorium
303 E. Superior St.
Chicago Campus (CH)

You can test your webcast connection and join the Conversation on either date at: http://www.northwestern.edu/president/speeches/conversations-with-the-president.html.

Conversations with President Schapiro is a collaborative event co-sponsored by NUSAC, the Office of the President, and the Faculty Senate.

Celebrate the 44th Earth Week at Northwestern

Earth Week is just around the corner, taking place from April 20 through April 26. Stay tuned and check out the sustainNU website throughout April for more details on events, speakers, and activities!

Celebrate the 20th Annual ”Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day” at Northwestern

Join the Northwestern community in celebrating the 20th annual “Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day”. This year's educational event is themed: "Plant a Seed, Grow a Future." The daylong event is open to youth ages 8-16, who are relatives and friends of Northwestern faculty and staff members. Participating youth will have the opportunity to take part in a
variety of informative and engaging sessions on both the Chicago and Evanston campuses.

Questions can be directed to Renee Redd, 1-2733 (EV campus chair) and Alecia Wartowski, 3-3401 or Njoki Kamau, 1-2734 (CH campus chairs).

Sponsored by the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, the Association of Northwestern University Women (ANUW), the Office of Human Resources (Work/Life), and the Women’s Center.

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**Lunch on the Lake**

Get ready for the warm weather!

Wednesdays in the summer, from 12 - 1 p.m. on the Norris South Lawn, grab a tasty BBQ lunch and eat it outside while listening to talented musicians play acoustic music on the shores of Lake Michigan. The food is affordable and the concert is free. Complete schedule to be released soon via the [Center for Student Involvement at Norris](http://www.northwestern.edu/).

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**NU Staff Fair (Coming Soon)**

Are you a staff member looking to get involved in an NU organization? Do you desire more engagement with the NU community outside your job? Do you have a special interest and wonder if a club exists that supports it?

If you answered YES to any of the above, NUSAC has good news for you!

We are organizing the first-ever NU Staff Fair slated to occur this summer on both Evanston and Chicago campuses. Part of NUSAC’s mission is to encourage staff engagement and involvement within the NU community. We regularly hear from staff members like you who want to be better connected to their colleagues and peers across departments, units and campuses and are looking for an NU organization that supports their personal and professional interests and goals. If you’re already a part of an organization that encourages staff engagement and would like to participate in the event, or if you know of an organization open to staff that we should reach out to, please send us an email at [nusac@northwestern.edu](mailto:nusac@northwestern.edu); we would love to hear from you. The fair is in the early stages of planning so dates and locations have yet to be determined, but watch for announcements with more details in the coming weeks!

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**NU Cares Awareness Drive Results**

The NUSAC Benefits Committee would like to thank all of those who participated in the NU Cares Awareness Drive this past winter! In 6 weeks, the fund received 52 donations totaling $2,831, nearly doubling our goal of $1,500! Equally exciting is that 30 donations were set up as monthly recurring contributions, so the fund will take in more than $2,500 annually in new gifts.

We are thrilled that NU staff and faculty members have graciously supported this cause, as it directly impacts colleagues in need. In fact, during the drive, four new awards were distributed to colleagues. The need is ongoing, so we hope that you'll continue to spread awareness of this fund for those in crisis. As a reminder, visit [http://www.northwestern.edu/nusac/nucares/](http://www.northwestern.edu/nusac/nucares/) to view fund balance or to contribute.

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**Cats Helping Cats Drive Results**

The NUSAC Outreach Committee has just wrapped up its first ‘Cats Helping Cats’ drive, benefiting [Tree House Humane Society](http://www.treehousehumanesociety.org/) and our community's pets and owners. Tree House is a cageless, no kill humane organization specializing in the rescue and rehabilitation of sick and injured stray cats, providing:

- A pet food pantry and low-cost spay/neuter clinic for cats (AND dogs), serving low income pet owners;
- Counseling and education for pet owners and the community;
- Management of feral cat colonies to reduce the homeless cat population; and
Thanks, from a fellow wildcat

Two cageless, no-kill cat adoption facilities

To date, members of the Northwestern community have made contributions of over $500.

Questions or inquiries about other ways to donate/contribute can be directed to Susan Held at semorris@northwestern.edu or 1-7341. You can also follow Tree House on Facebook.

February HR Brown Bag Recap

In late February, NUSAC and the Office of Human Resources hosted Chicago and Evanston Brown Bag sessions to talk about the new Staff Handbook released earlier in the month. The event was well received with attendees totaling almost 150 between both campuses.

The Handbook was revised and redesigned with a new look and format. It includes an index to find specific contents easily and embedded hyperlinks that provide more information on topics such as how to find and apply for open positions, the Performance Excellence process, and learning and development courses. Updated policy and program information are also included in the new Handbook. A few noteworthy policy changes include:

- An extension of the reinstatement period for staff that leave NU to 90-days.
- An increase in bereavement leave days, plus addition of familial relationships covered under the bereavement leave policy

If you were unable to attend the event and have questions regarding the new Handbook and/or policy changes, we encourage you to talk to your HR Consultant or call Human Resources at 1-7507 (EV) or 3-8481 (CH). You can also find more information about the handbook at http://www.northwestern.edu/hr/policies-forms/policies-procedures/staffhandbook.html.

Green Office Certification

Green Office Certification is currently being piloted in the University Library. Green Office Certification provides an opportunity for faculty and staff to help build community and create a healthier and more sustainable workplace. The program is broken down into seven different topics including; energy, waste, purchasing, water, travel, meetings and events, and engagement. For more information, email sustainability@northwestern.edu.

And, be on the lookout for a NUSAC Brown Bag, in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability, later in the spring!

New NUSAC Website Coming Soon

Spring cleaning this year includes an overhaul of the NUSAC site infrastructure. Updates to the user interface, organization of key data for the Northwestern staff community, and a well-designed calendar of upcoming events are among many upgrades. Expect to hear more in the coming months - we think you'll like what you see!

NUSAC in Social Media: LinkedIn and Facebook

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

The LinkedIn and Facebook groups are called “Northwestern University Staff.” Both can be used for networking and communications purposes with colleagues, and for promotion of social and professional activities to employees of
Northwestern University Staff Advisory Council

Contact NUSAC:
Web site: www.northwestern.edu/nusac
E-mail: nusac@northwestern.edu

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