Winter 2014 Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

Colleagues,

The last few months have flown by, and I can’t believe 2014 is already here! I hope everyone had a nice and restful holiday, and is ready for a new quarter.

As you will read in this edition of the newsletter, NUSAC has been making significant progress on its goals, and I’m extremely proud of the work that our Council has accomplished in three short months. The HR and Benefits committees continue to address a steady stream of staff inquiries while partnering with the Office of Human Resources to provide great programming, highlighting topics of most interest to NU staff. The Outreach committee has successfully completed the Holiday Drive and is gearing up to provide more opportunities for staff to help those in need. The Communications committee has been diligently working to make sure staff members know who we are, what we do, and how we can provide support to our colleagues.

I want to highlight one significant event held last quarter. The NUSAC 40th Anniversary Luncheon, held in mid-October, celebrated and honored those who have served on NUSAC over the past 40 years. Over 80 people, both current and former NUSAC members, as well as senior administrators were in attendance. It was amazing to share past experiences and reflect on what NUSAC has accomplished since 1973. Those conversations with NUSAC alums have provided much inspiration, insight and perspective for the current council members, particularly as we continue our work this year. I want to thank all previous NUSAC members and acknowledge all that they have done on behalf of NU staff and in laying the groundwork for today’s council. We would not be where we are today without our NUSAC alumni. Your efforts have impacted staff in so many ways. We, all 7,000+ colleagues, truly appreciate you.

There is still much to do! The winter quarter schedule includes a focus on NU Cares and preparing for recruitment of our 2014-2015 NUSAC members. I encourage you to visit our website or to contact us at nusac@northwestern.edu to learn more, and stay tuned for more good things to come!

Happy New Year!

Apryl Schlueter
NUSAC Chair
Writing Compelling Employee of the Year Nominations - Workshop

HRD545 Writing Compelling Employee of the Year Nominations

Is there someone in your department who goes above and beyond his or her normal duties, is dedicated and effective, and deserves to be recognized? Has he or she worked full time at Northwestern for three or more consecutive years? If you’ve answered yes to both of those questions, then this class is for you. In one lunch time session, you will learn how to write an Employee of the Year Nomination that is both specific and meaningful. By the end of the class, you will be able to:

- Make sure your candidate is qualified
- Identify what makes a successful submission
- Use concrete examples to make your case
- Write a clear, concise, and compelling submission

Tuesday, January 7, 2014—11:45am-1:15pm Rubloff, 9th Floor Lakeshore Conference Room (Chicago)

Thursday, January 16, 2014—11:45am-1:15pm Norris, Lake Room 203 (Evanston)

Click here to register

NU Cares Awareness Drive and Basketball Event

The NUSAC Benefits Committee is looking to raise awareness about NU Cares! NUSAC is holding a drive from January 20 through February 28, 2014 to increase knowledge about NU Cares and raise monthly contributions to the fund, which has already raised over $28,000 to support our fellow staff members during times of unforeseen crisis. Stay tuned for more information about the drive in the coming weeks!

In addition, NUSAC has partnered with NU Athletics for another staff event, which will be held on February 8, 2014 at 12:00pm. Come join your fellow staff colleagues and their families as we watch the Wildcat Men’s Basketball team take on the Nebraska Cornhuskers at Welsh-Ryan Arena! Tickets are $20 and you will receive entry to this Big10 game, PLUS a free concession voucher which includes a hot dog, chips and beverage.

Click here and enter the promo code “NUSAC” to purchase your tickets now!

Over the past three years, NU Cares has provided support for 32 staff or faculty members during a time of great need, ranging from medical bills to family emergencies. NU Cares is an employee to employee assistance fund, jointly supported by the Northwestern University Staff Advisory Council (NUSAC), the Faculty Senate, and the Office of Work/Life Resources.

NUSAC Recruitment

The Northwestern University Staff Advisory Council (NUSAC) will be recruiting new council members starting in March 2014. Please consider joining fellow staff members in serving as a voice and change-agent for Northwestern Staff.

Why Apply?

- Join a diverse staff volunteer group focused on promoting a positive work environment
- Help communicate staff concerns and feedback to the attention of the University administrators
- Take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about the University’s current issues and strategic plan
- Increase your networking connections throughout the University

Membership Eligibility

- Applicants must be a regular full- or part-time staff member with at least two years of continuous service at the University
- Supervisor approval - applicants and members must have an agreement with their supervisors that some of their work time will be spent attending NUSAC meetings, participating in NUSAC-related events, and working
Anita Chase

Executive Assistant for Dr. Bill Lowe, Vice Dean of Academic Affairs, Feinberg School of Medicine

To learn more about the council, please check out the NUSAC website. More information will be forthcoming in mid-February.

Unsung Staff Hero - Anita Chase

Highlights?
Anita works at the Feinberg School of Medicine as an Executive Assistant for Dr. Bill Lowe, Vice Dean of Academic Affairs, including staffing both the Medical Faculty Council (MFC) and Women Faculty Organization (WFO), as well as works as part of a close knit team that keeps Dean's Administration running smoothly. In addition, she also assists FSM Communications with posting on-line content ranging from daily stories to a quarterly magazine, as well as helping assemble and disseminate Northwestern Medicine media coverage.

Where are you from originally?
Wichita, Kansas

What drew you to Northwestern University?
I moved to Chicago in pursuit of a music career. When I finally decided I had to get a day job too, I remembered how much I had enjoyed working as a student at my alma mater, Wichita State University. I was considering going back to school, as well as wanting to work at a place that valued new ideas and creativity, so I started applying for jobs at universities in Chicago. The more I learned about the quality of the Northwestern University education, the more I wanted to get a job here. Visiting the Evanston campus for my first interview sealed the deal that this was the place!

When did you start at Northwestern University? Describe a typical day.
In June 2004, I started out in the Office of Budget and Planning in Evanston. I moved to the Feinberg School of Medicine Dean's Administration about a year and a half later. A typical day involves posting a daily story on the FSM home page and going through the NU press releases to pull out all of the ones related to the medical school, while answering the phone and scheduling meetings for Dr. Lowe. Tasks throughout the day range from posting for on-line FSM publications, to meetings and events related to the Medical Faculty Council and Women Faculty. Every day is different!

What is the most interesting part of your job?
I would have to say seeing what kind of research and events are going on at FSM, as I prepare the stories and media coverage for posting is fascinating. I frequently tell friends and family, "I want to let you know about a new study I read about today!" I also find it very interesting to work with such a diverse, talented group of staff and faculty, who have their own stories to share!

When you are not at work what do you do for fun?
When I am not at work, most of my time is spent playing guitar, singing, and working with my two bands, ½ Mad Poet (www.halfmadpoet.com) and The Lost Brigade (http://www.reverbnation.com/thelostbrigade). In any other time I have left, I enjoy reading, being outdoors, and going places I've never been before.

What is your favorite quote or words of wisdom?
My new favorite quote is from local artist/ musician, Kevin Lahvic, who said someone once told him, "Complaining about circumstances you don’t like is a waste of time. It just adds an irritating noise to an already stressful situation." I try to carry that as a mental post-it note!

Are you a Cubs or a White Sox fan?
I don't watch baseball, so I am not sure how to answer, although I have lived on the north side since I've been in Chicago. Does that make me a Cubs fan by default? However, I am a Bears fan!

Unsung Staff Hero - Jennifer Prior

Highlights
Jennifer works for the Mental Health Services and Policy Program, part of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in Feinberg, where she is part of a team that helps the Department of Child and Family Services to use data to support decisions on policy, program development, and case management. She assists with the implementation and utilization of
Jennifer Prior
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Feinberg School of Medicine

Toys for needy families

the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment, a decision-support and outcome-monitoring tool completed on children in care.

Where are you from originally?
I am from the Chicago area. I was born in Evanston and my family moved around to a few different suburbs when I was young. I eventually moved to Northbrook, which is where I spent most of my childhood.

What drew you to Northwestern University?
I graduated from the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern in 2008. I loved my time in college, and after I spent a few years in Boston following graduation, Northwestern was on the top of my list of places to look for a job! I love academia and always wanted to work in an environment that facilitated continued learning throughout my career. My background in counseling and psychology fits perfectly with my position where I provide training, evaluation, and technical assistance to users of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool.

When did you start at Northwestern University? Describe a typical day.
I started at Northwestern in August 2011. It’s really difficult to describe a typical day since each and every day is so different! The only “typical” part of my day is my morning cup of coffee while checking my e-mail, and from there, my day can go anywhere: providing one-on-one support to those using the CANS, creating reports about youth in child welfare based on CANS data, or developing curriculums to support CANS use in DCFS on a wider scale.

What is the most interesting part of your job?
In my work, I get to interact with people at DCFS on all levels, from caseworkers to higher-level administrators. I have the opportunity to see how policy decisions are made and how those decisions affect people at every level. I also regularly hear inspiring first-hand accounts of the positive impact child welfare has had on Illinois children and families.

When you are not at work what do you do for fun?
I really enjoy cooking and baking and I am constantly testing out new recipes. If you have any good recipes, please send them my way! I also really enjoy running and most weekends you can find me on the lake front training for a 5k or half-marathon. I even like running in the cold weather, much to the chagrin of my running partners, my husband Jack and my dog Baxter.

What is your favorite quote or words of wisdom?
“Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

Are you a Cubs or a White Sox fan?
Although I grew up on the North Side, I am a White Sox fan! My dad is a Detroit Tigers fan so my family would usually make the trek to Comiskey Park to see the Tigers when they were playing the Sox, and I ended up adopting the Sox as my team.

NUSAC Holiday Gift Drive Recap

Thanks to everyone that supported the holiday gift drive this year! We were able to adopt over 50 families from The Infant Welfare Society and Family Focus and fulfill their holiday wishes. In addition, Northwestern University donated over $600 dollars to the Marillac Social Center, which will help feed many families this holiday season. Finally, many gifts from the Amazon wish list were bought as well. This was all done thanks to those of you that took the time to participate in the holiday drive. We truly appreciate the support and all of the organizations – Family Focus, Infant Welfare Society and Marillac Social Center – send their thanks as well.

Special thanks to Bruce Critelli for helping us transport the Chicago Campus gifts to Family Focus! He was kind enough to make two trips which helped us in immeasurable ways.

We look forward to working with everyone in the future to continue our goal of giving back to those, both in the Northwestern community and the Chicago and Evanston communities at large.
Onward & Upward: NU Staff Talk Career Development

On November 19th and 21st, Northwestern University Staff Advisory Council (NUSAC) and the Office of Human Resources hosted a workshop for staff on career development. Interest in the event was phenomenal; there were over 100 participants in attendance. The workshop provided a unique opportunity for staff to talk with Human Resources staff in a small-group setting about issues related to career growth and job satisfaction at Northwestern.

Roundtable discussions covered a range of topics from conducting internal job searches, to identifying the best professional development resources, to using social media effectively and appropriately for career advancement. To read more about the event and to access some of the workshop materials, please check out the NUSAC event page.

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.

Northwestern University Staff Advisory Council

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

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