Winter 2015 Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- Message from the Chair
- NU Cares Awareness Drive
- NUSAC Staff Event: Men’s Basketball Game vs. Penn State
- NUSAC Recruitment
- NUSAC Holiday Drive Recap
- University Circle Scholarship
- Rewarding Those Who Go Above and Beyond to Sustain NU
- One Book One Northwestern Brownbags
- Smoking Policy

Message from the Chair

Happy winter, Northwestern staff!

The fall quarter flew by, and although we have been experiencing winter temperatures since October, at least we finally have some snow on the ground to more appropriately represent the season. I am optimistic that the great happenings on campus will help the season pass quickly!

As we approach the mid-point of the academic year, schools and units will start planning goals for the upcoming year. NUSAC follows suit, and as we start to think about what “FY16” looks like for us, we keep in mind our current council makeup and prepare for recruitment of new members. The recruitment process begins in February when we identify upcoming vacancies and strategize about how to fill those spots. In March, applications are collected, and interviews are conducted with the entire Council in May. The summer is spent transitioning roles. Concurrently, NUSAC committees are actively working toward fulfilling their goals, supporting initiatives for staff. Working as a member of this group is nothing short of hard work, but extremely rewarding. If you are approaching two years of service at Northwestern, I encourage you to apply, and if you have any questions, please feel free to visit our website or contact any of our members to learn more about NUSAC and what council members do.

Though we are almost halfway through the academic year, we have just begun the new calendar year, and many (including me) create resolutions for a fresh start, of which “living a healthier lifestyle” is a common theme. I have personally made a goal this year to help inspire people who are trying to achieve this more balanced life, whether it is working out more consistently, eating healthier, or just taking a chance to step back from the craziness of life and learning to appreciate the world that surrounds them. We have some exciting things in the works through NUSAC in alignment with health and wellness, so stay tuned over the months to come.

Thank you all for everything you do for Northwestern. The staff community keeps this institution running as well as it does, and I am proud to be working with all of you.

Apryl Schlueter
NUSAC Chair
NU Cares Awareness Drive

The NUSAC Benefits Committee is looking to raise awareness about NU Cares, the employee-to-employee assistance fund that helps colleagues during a time of crisis. The awareness drive is being held between January 21 and February 21, 2015 to increase knowledge about NU Cares and raise monthly contributions to the fund. Since it's inception in 2010, the fund has raised over $42,000 to support our fellow staff members. Stay tuned for more information about the drive in the coming weeks!

While NU Cares welcomes donations to the fund by cash or check, the most effective means of contribution is by direct payroll deduction. Recurring contributions provide predictable revenue streams that enable the NU Cares Application Review Committee to more effectively distribute the maximum allowable funding. Please consider a payroll contribution of $1, $5 or $10 per paycheck; collective action quickly multiplies! Help your colleagues today by clicking the link below - you won't regret it!

Donate to NU Cares

Over the past four years, NU Cares has provided support for 48 staff or faculty members during a time of great need, ranging from medical bills to family emergencies. NU Cares is jointly supported by the Northwestern University Staff Advisory Council (NUSAC), the Office of the President, the Faculty Senate, and the Office of Work/Life Resources.

NUSAC Staff Event: Men's Basketball Game vs. Penn State

NUSAC has partnered with NU Athletics for another NUSAC faculty/staff event, which will be held on February 21, 2015 at 2 p.m. Come join your colleagues and their families as we watch the Wildcat Men's Basketball team take on the Penn State Nittany Lions at Welsh-Ryan Arena! Tickets are just $20 and you will receive entry to this Big Ten Conference game, PLUS a free concession voucher which includes a hot dog and beverage. Click HERE and enter the promotional code "NUSAC" to purchase your tickets now! Questions? Contact the Athletic Ticket Office at 888-467-8775.

NUSAC Recruitment

The Northwestern University Staff Advisory Council (NUSAC) will be recruiting new council members starting in March 2015. 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
- Expand your network throughout the University

Membership Eligibility
- Applicants must be regular full- or part-time staff members with at least two years of continuous service at the University.
- 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 on projects on behalf of NUSAC.

To learn more about the council, please check out the [NUSAC website](http://www.northwestern.edu/university-circle/index.html). More information will be forthcoming in mid-February.

---

**NUSAC Holiday Drive Recap**

We would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who supported NUSAC’s annual Holiday Drive! Our collaboration with the NU Veterans Working Group was a major success and over 100 children in our community received gifts for the holidays through the Marine Corp Toys for Tots Drive. Marillac Social Center was also very pleased with the donations they received via their food pantry and Amazon wish list. The generosity of the Northwestern Staff was overwhelming and they are very thankful for our continued support.

Lastly, we were able to provide Christmas gifts to over 60 families in the Chicagoland area through our work with Family Focus, Heartland Alliance and Infant Welfare Society. Again, our sincerest thanks for all of your contributions and we hope that your new year is off to a great start!

---

**University Circle Scholarship**

Are you a School of Professional Studies (SPS) student AND a full- or part-time employee of Northwestern University? The University Circle scholarship could help you succeed. Scholarships are available from Northwestern University Circle, an organization of university women with a history of service to our community.

You must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program and be a student in good standing. University Circle will consider more than one award of $1,000 - $1,500 to qualified applicants. Winners have come from departments all across the University and have been earning degrees or certificates from diverse SPS programs.

To obtain an application and additional information, please click here.

[http://www.northwestern.edu/university-circle/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/university-circle/index.html)

Questions? Please contact Vanessa Carpenter at v-carpenter@northwestern.edu

---

**Rewarding Those Who Go Above and Beyond to Sustain NU**

The Office of Sustainability and the Office of Human Resources - Employee Recognition have created two new staff recognition awards.

As Northwestern pursues its commitment to leadership in sustainability, these two new awards will recognize staff, faculty, and students who go above and beyond in greening our campuses and curriculum.

The Faculty and Staff Excellence in Sustainability Award will be given to those who have displayed outstanding leadership and dedication through their involvement in NU’s sustainability movement. In their teaching, research, daily activities, or an innovative and empowering initiative; this member of the NU community has enhanced sustainability at Northwestern as well as our local and global community.

The Green Office Excellence Award is for staff and faculty members who are part of an office or department participating in
NU's Green Office Certification program. We want to recognize those NU community members who have identified innovative initiatives to reduce energy, water, waste or engaged their fellow employees in greening their physical environment.

Any member of the University community may nominate an employee for the Faculty and Staff Excellence in Sustainability Award or the Green Office Excellence Award at any time. The Office of Sustainability will facilitate a small group consisting of faculty and staff to review the nominations and make a final selection.

Visit the Office of Sustainability website to learn more about the awards and nomination process.

Visit the Employee Recognition website for more information about Service Excellence awards and other awards for staff members.

---

**One Book One Northwestern Brownbags**

One Book One Northwestern welcomes acclaimed social psychologist, Claude Steele, Ph.D. for a One Book brownbag about his book.

*Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do*

Chicago Campus
Tuesday, February 3, 2015
12 p.m. -1 p.m.
Hughes Auditorium

Evanston Campus
Wednesday, February 4, 2015
4:30 p.m.
Harris Hall room 107

*Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do* by social psychologist Claude Steele, is the 2014-2015 One Book One Northwestern book selection. In *Whistling Vivaldi*, Steele looks back on his 30-year career investigating the impact of social biases and prejudices on everyday life. Finding that stereotypes can influence behavior and affect performance, he shares important strategies that may prove helpful in lessening their negative effects.

Dr. Steele is the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost at the University of California, Berkeley, and previously was the I. James Quillen Dean for the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University. He is also Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychology at Stanford.

---

**Smoking Policy - Proximity to Buildings**

Northwestern community members are reminded that smoking is prohibited in University buildings and within 25 feet of building entrances, as well as in designated outdoor facilities.

In addition, Human Resources also recommends that employees who wish to smoke outside try to stay clear of pedestrian pathways close to buildings so non-smokers are not affected by secondhand smoke as they walk through the area.