

## Chair's Corner



It is time for Staff Senate Elections again. They will be held April 13-16. We

have a large field of candidates so I highly encourage everyone to vote, vote, vote.

Along with a new group of Senators, the election will bring a new Chair to the Senate as I have reached my term limit per our bylaws. I have enjoyed my time as Chair and hope to continue to play an active role on the Senate going forward.

The work of the Senate continues though and next month we will host a new and improved Staff Appreciation Day (see page 2) and award the Spring Semester's Outstanding Supervisor Awards to two deserving candidates.

Lastly, while our budget woes are real, help from the Federal stimulus package will avert mandatory furloughs or layoffs. Restructuring on the departmental level might lead to that in isolated instances, but this should not be widespread across the University.

Thanks to all....

- Michelle Carr  
Staff Senate Chair

### Staff Senate

SUB I, Room 352B, MSN 2A4  
Phone: 703-993-4141  
Fax: 703-993-4150  
Email: staffsenate@gmu.edu

## Richard Wood and Susan Ridley are Outstanding Supervisors

The Staff Senate recently announced the winners of the Spring 2009 Outstanding Supervisor Award. They are **Richard Wood**, General Manager/Executive Producer of GMU-TV and **Susan Ridley**, Office Manager of the Psychology Department.

There were two winners this semester because the Senate received an unprecedented 32 nominations and there were so many strong candidates, the selection committee felt they could not pick just one.

"In the three years I have been doing this I have never seen this kind of response. It is wonderful to see that during these tough times people are willing to go out of their way to appreciate those around them," said Denise Napoiello, Chair of the Communications and Outreach Committee. "Even more impressive was the number and thoughtfulness of the letters. Many groups submitted well beyond the required three letters; one even submitted 26 pages of support letters."

The committee is planning on revising the nomination and selection process before next fall's award. The goal is to try make the process more objective and less daunting for the men and women who have the difficult task of reading scores of letter and selecting a winner from so many wonderful supervisors. If you have any suggestions, send them to [sknapp@gmu.edu](mailto:sknapp@gmu.edu) or [dnapolie@gmu.edu](mailto:dnapolie@gmu.edu).

Richard and Susan will be honored at the May 7th Outstanding Achievement Awards ceremony. Please join the Senate in congratulating Richard and Susan and all of the nominees (See page 3 for a complete list of nominees).

## Employees of the Month



### March: Robyn Madar

The March Employee of the Month Award went to Robyn Madar, Human Resources Trainer. Robyn has been at Mason for three years and her responsibilities include orientation for new classified employees, electronic approvals training, and the Lunch and Learn Program. Robyn is also a non-degree student in the graduate English program and recently began teaching customer services classes at the Arlington Campus.

To learn more about Robyn, visit <http://gazette.gmu.edu/articles/13255/>.



### April: Kathy Jayne

Fiscal Services' Kathy Jayne is April's Employee of the Month. Kathy is the executive assistant to the controller and helps Controller Beth Brock run an efficient and successful Fiscal Services Department. A Mason employee since 2005, Kathy told the Gazette that what she enjoys about working at Mason is the warm nature of her co-workers and the benefits and recognition Mason offers its employees.

To learn more about Kathy, visit <http://gazette.gmu.edu/articles/13415/>.

## Constituent Concern Update: Performance Evaluations and Recognition

The Staff Senate recently received concerns from staff members regarding departments not completing performance evaluations this year. This is of particular concern in departments where this is the only opportunity for feedback or recognition.

While these concerns were submitted anonymously, the importance of these issues lead the Staff Senate to opened a dialogue with Human Resources. We are working together to ensure that all supervisors complete the mandatory performance evaluations for their employees. Also, we are brainstorming ways we can educate supervisors on the importance of recognizing employees' hard work and encouraging them to take advantage of the variety of recognition programs Human Resources offers.

We welcome all staff questions or concerns and want everyone to know that confidentiality is a top priority of the Staff Senate. We will never release the names of staff members who submit concerns if that is their wish.

If you have a concern, please submit the form on page 6 of this newsletter or send us an email us at [staffsenate@gmu.edu](mailto:staffsenate@gmu.edu).

## Staff Senate Unveils New Plans for Staff Appreciation Day

### Mason Dining to co-sponsor buffet lunch for staff members at Fairfax, Arlington and Prince William

Each year the Staff Senate hosts an event called Staff Appreciation Day to recognize the efforts of Mason staff members and to say thank you for all your hard work. This year, the Senate reached out to Mason Dining to see if they could help make the event better than ever. To our delight, Mason Dining generously offered to co-sponsor the event and offer a buffet lunch at the three largest campuses. In addition, the Staff Senators have collected a wide variety of door prizes from tickets to Mason athletic events to a free semester of parking!!!

The new arrangement will allow Senators to mingle with our staff members to hear suggestions as well as concerns. In addition, Mason Dining Managers will also be on hand to listen to ideas and talk to staff members about dining on all the campuses.

The new (and improved) Staff Appreciation Days will be held on Tuesday, May 19, at the Arlington campus' Café; Wednesday, May 20, at the Bistro on the Fairfax campus; and Thursday, May 21, at Prince William's Randall's Café. Because of the limited seating available at each venue, staff members will be required to register in advance for the time they plan to attend.

Registration will be available on the Staff Senate's website beginning on April 27 and ending on May 8. The seatings for each campus will be as follows:



### Arlington

Tuesday, May 19  
12:00 p.m.  
12:45 p.m.



### Fairfax

Wednesday, May 20  
11:00 a.m.  
11:45 a.m.  
12:30 p.m.  
1:15 p.m.  
2:00 p.m.



### Prince William

Thursday, May 21  
11:30 a.m.  
12:15 p.m.  
1:00 p.m.

Staff members who work at other locations are welcome to join us at the campus of your choice. However, staff members at other locations who cannot attend the lunch will receive a small thank you gift certificate from the Senate.

Stay tuned for more details as the event approaches. We look forward to seeing you.

## Outstanding Supervisor Award Nominees

While there has to be a winner (or winners) being nominated is a tribute to each supervisor's leadership skills and dedication to his or her employees. To honor that achievement, we would also like to take a moment to recognize all the nominees. They are:

- **Pamela Allen** - Assistant Dean of Academic & Career Services, School of Management
- **Cindy Beck** - Undergrad Coordinator/Associate Chair/Term Associate Professor, Molecular and Microbiology
- **Supriya Bhatnagar** - Publications Manager, Association of Writers & Writing Programs
- **John Blacksten** – Director, Office of Media & Public Relations
- **Lori Cohen** - Director, Arlington University Life
- **Ed Daniels** - Assoc. Director of Personnel and Administration, Facilities
- **Jingxiao Feng** – Manager of Data Mart Support, TSD
- **Angela Franklin** - Director of Recruitment & Admissions, R.A.K.
- **David Ganley** - Sergeant, University Police
- **Karen Gardner** – Manager of Server Support Group, TSD
- **Karen Gentemann** - Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness
- **Cindy George** - Conversion Specialist, Kellar Inst. for Human disAbilities
- **Joseph Hart** – Locksmith, Facilities Management
- **Jennifer Korjus** – Director, DoIT - Learning Support Services
- **Michael Laskofski** – Director, Office of Sponsored Programs
- **Jeannie Brown Leonard** - Director, BIS
- **Lauren Long** – Director, Office of Student Activities
- **Jose Lopez** – Supervisor of General Maintenance, Facilities Management
- **William Miller, Jr.** - Assistant Director of Building Code Compliance, Facilities Management
- **Chris Nayeri** - Manager of Network Operations, TSD
- **John O'Connor** – Director, Higher Education Program
- **Mike Perini** - Circulation Supervisor, Arlington Campus Library
- **Daniel Robb** - Assistant Dean, Admissions
- **Julie Shedd** - Associate Director of Administration, ICAR
- **Marlys Shoup** – Manager of LSS Training, TOPS
- **Korey Singleton** – Manager of Assistive Technology Initiative, Equity and Diversity Services
- **Kris Smith** - Associate Provost for Institutional Research & Reporting
- **Lenna Storm** - University Sustainability Coordinator, Facilities
- **Maureen Strauch** – Director of Fiscal Policy and Communications, Fiscal Services
- **Kathy Van Doren** - Communications Officer, University Police

### Staff Senate Elections Will Be Held April 13-16

The Staff Senate will host its annual general election from April 13-16 to fill nine open seats in Fairfax, one in Prince William and one at-large seat. There are many qualified candidates seeking a term as well as some seeking reelection.

Please take the time to vote by downloading a ballot between April 13 and 16 from <http://www.gmu.edu/senate/staff/> and following the instructions.

**IF YOU SEE  
SOMETHING  
UNSAFE ON  
CAMPUS CALL  
3-2525.**

If you ever come across something on campus that you feel is a safety hazard, whether it is an icy walkway or a loose brick, be sure to report it to Facilities Management by calling 3-2525. With such a large campus, they depend on us to let them know about these issues.

**DON'T BE OUT  
OF THE LOOP;  
READ E-FILES,  
THE GAZETTE  
AND TODAY @  
MASON.**

There is so much going on at Mason every week and these outlets are how the University communicates with its faculty, staff and students. Whether it is important procedural changes, exciting University developments or great cultural and educational opportunities, E-Files, The Gazette and Today @ Mason is how you stay in the know.

**Tuition Testimonial**

**Michelle Carr**  
Administrative Manager  
Cultural Studies Program

Soon after I was hired, I learned that the employee tuition waiver was available with no restriction requiring we take classes related to our jobs.

I spent several months deciding whether to pursue something close to my professional life or something I had the desire to learn. Also, having been out of the classroom for over 20 years made striking out on an academic adventure rather scary. So I started as a non-degree student because there was no financial pressure or expectation for grades.

Eventually I applied to the Masters in History program. It's taken five years from my first class in 2004, but I'll graduate this May 2009. I'm not sure how I'm going to use the combination of a Bachelor's degree in business with a History Masters, but I will find a way.

I would advise every employee who can manage it to take a class or two at Mason. The benefit is worth it, and remember - if you don't use it, you're not going to get the cash instead.

*Michelle joined Mason in 2003 and describes her job responsibilities as "everything but teaching."*

**13th Annual Health and Fitness Expo a Great Success**

With close to 100 community and on-campus vendors, there was something for everyone at the Health and Fitness Expo at the Fairfax Campus on March 26.

A sampling of activities at the Expo included (pictured counter-clockwise starting on the top right): vision screenings by School of Nursing students; a dance fitness demonstration; cheese samples from Cabot Creamery; massage therapy demonstrations; and health cooking demonstrations by Mason Dining.



## Staff Senators

First Name	Last Name	Phone	Email	Department	Location	MSN
Carol	Ardon-McCullough	33696	sardon	CEHD	Fairfax	4B3
Norman	Barnes	32819	nbarne1	University Police	At-Large	3D3
Sharon	Bloomquist	1248	sbloomqu	History & Art History	Fairfax	3G1
Joanna	Bosik	2094	jbosik	CEHD	Fairfax	4B4
Joey	Carls	32089	jcarls	Fiscal Services	Fairfax	4B2
Michelle	Carr	32851	mcarr	Cultural Studies	Fairfax	5E4
Jennifer	Coratolo	9777	jcoratol	CEHD	Fairfax	4B4
Kyle	Ganley	38370	kganle2	University Police	Prince William	4E2
Rachel	Harrison	33147	rharrisg	Student Centers	Fairfax	5A3
Gail	Hodges	64044	ghodges	College of Science	Fairfax	6A3
Shannon	Hogya	38364	shogya1	Mercer Library	Prince William	4E6
Rick	Holt	34576	rholt2	HR & Payroll	Fairfax	3C3
Edwin	Mattox	32497	emattox	Purchasing	Fairfax	3C5
Laura	McCloskey	2092	lmcclosk	History & Art History	Fairfax	3G1
Ashley	Morgan	38070	amorgan4	University Police	Arlington	2G4
Denise	Napoliello	32171	dnapolie	Robinson Professors	Fairfax	1D6
Erin	Ogilvie	9683	eogilvie	ICAR	Arlington	4D3
Meaghan	O'Malley	2231	momalle2	Fenwick Library	Fairfax	2FL
Lori	Petterson	31410	lpeters	Public & Intern. Affairs	Fairfax	3F4
George	Sokol	34567	gsokol	DoIT - Classroom Support	Prince William	4F6
Whitney	Sublett	3515	wsublett	ITU	Fairfax	5G1
Kim	Taylor	9764	ktaylor8	University Police	Fairfax	3D3

## Staff Senate Mission Statement

The Senate will remain open to all staff comments and recommendations. The Senate will not serve as a substitute for the formal grievance procedures of the University.

The Staff Senate will represent all classified and non-student wage employees by supporting the diverse, multi-campus staff of George Mason University, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, or sexual orientation at all three campuses (Fairfax, Prince William and Arlington).

The Staff Senate will promote honest and open communication between the administration and staff.

The Staff Senate will function, in an advisory capacity, in the governance of the University, by encouraging actions that address the current and future needs of the entire University community.

### Let Your Senator Know

The Staff Senate invites you to tell us your ideas, suggestions and comments regarding issues that affect George Mason University classified and non-student wage employees. The information you provide will remain confidential. If you wish to remain anonymous, you may do so. Please remember that we may not be able to act on comments regarding certain issues if contact information is not provided.

Comments:

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Do you wish to be contacted by a Staff Senator?      Yes      No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Extension: \_\_\_\_\_

MSN: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer to be contacted by: Phone   Email   Campus Mail

Return this form to SUB I, Room 352B, MSN 2A4 or email [staffsenate@gmu.edu](mailto:staffsenate@gmu.edu)