Message from the Staff Council President

As the semester comes to a close we all start thinking about the winter break, taking time off and planning for the New Year. As we as a campus start looking at next year there will be many challenges that we face. The budget for all of North Carolina does not look good. Along with budget cuts the state welcomes a new governor into office. The percent amount that must be cut is still a moving target. As I write we are at 4% and this will only go higher. The Administration has been busy looking at all ways to save money without laying employees off. As you continue to work hard each day, take time to look around you and find ways that can save money.

Budgets are not the only talk on campus, the Master Plan for the University and the town of Boone has become a reality. Peggy Eller, Staff Council Representative will be serving as the Master Plan Advising Committee. Good luck Peggy! November brought Staff Council eleven new members. I will speak for all members in saying Welcome and we look forward to working with you. The Staff Appreciation breakfast made history. Food Services and Senior Administration served over 800 people and it was the first time EPA-Non Teaching staff were recognized. Thanks to Human Resources and all others who made this event possible. One could not mention the Appreciation Breakfast without saying a special thank you to Wanda Dages for 40 years of service!

Again this year the children shopping spree committee plans to take 84 Watauga County school children shopping for the holidays. Thanks to each of you for helping raise over $15,000 for this cause.

Remember each of you are invited to attend any of our Staff Council meetings. They are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:30, in the Linville Falls room.

Thanks for all you do!

Our quote for the year is:
“Nothing changes until something moves.”—Mac Anderson.
Now that the election is behind us, the elected officials for our area remain unchanged. Both Representative Tarleton and Senator Goss were strong supporters of the University in getting full enrollment growth funding, full funding for the new College of Education Building and planning money for a new College of Health Sciences and Allied Professions. The long session of the North Carolina General Assembly is set to convene January 28th. In preparation for a new budget, the University of North Carolina has a procedure whereby all UNC system universities submit requests for budget expansions on a biennial basis. Appalachian has submitted its requests for funding which include seven items to be approved by the UNC Board of Governors and then these items are submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly for their consideration. We submitted requests to provide necessary funding: 1) for personnel for a new College of Health Sciences 2) to support research equipment for a variety of energy initiatives, 3) to strengthen the Hickory Higher Education Partnership, 4) to develop Science and Math Outreach Programs, 5) to establish a Rural Entrepreneurship Program, 6) for applied lifespan research, and 7) for a Center for Mountain Grown Wines. In addition to the expansion budget, ASU has submitted five policy items which are recommendations that would benefit the University or any of its constituent or affiliated institutions, but are not part of the normal budget process. We are working on four federal agenda items due to General Administration during the month of November. These research initiatives include proposals to establish the North Carolina Aging Population Exercise Program, Appalachian Atmospheric Interdisciplinary Research Program, Rural Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program, and the Ashe County Rural Health Clinic Project.

As you know, the economic forecast is not bright for the State of North Carolina, and undoubtedly this next year will be a tough budget year for the UNC System as a whole. At present time, the UNC System budget cut is somewhere between 5-6%. We will need your help as Appalachian works to address these cuts. As we approach this holiday season, senior leadership wishes all of its staff members a safe and memorable time with their families and friends. Chancellor Peacock will also be hosting his annual “open house” on December 10, 2008 in the Solarium. You will receive more information via e-mail at a later time and I encourage you to attend.

Sincerely,

Lorin Baumhover
Chief of Staff

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Do you ever feel you are juggling so many balls at work and at home that one of them might fall?

Counseling for Faculty and Staff (CFS) is a free, confidential service provided by ASU. Employees and members of their immediate families may talk to a licensed professional or attend a workshop on topics that include career satisfaction, stress, interpersonal conflict, or even depression, anxiety, grief, alcohol or drugs. Supervisors may recommend CFS for an individual employee, coworkers or seek counseling for themselves.

CFS is a division of the Institute for Health and Human Services is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm and is located in University Hall. For more information, call Ingrid Kraus at 828-262-4951 or visit us at: www.cfs.appstate.edu.
Staff Profile

Kelley Wolcott, office manager, Office of International Education and Development, has an impressive history working with children and adults with mental, physical, and emotional disabilities. She grew up in a small town south of Albany, New York, and was a child advocate for the New York public school system prior to relocating to Mountain City, Tennessee, three years ago with her family. She has been working for the OIED since April 2008. Kelley is eager to help students and her co-workers. She enjoys interacting with students who visit the office and learning about different cultures. She assisted in managing the logistical arrangements and leisure time activities for Egyptian and Pakistan educators who were visiting the campus over the summer. She served as a tour guide and chauffeur enabling these visitors to experience the splendor of the High Country. In her spare time, Kelley makes jewelry and does acrylic painting.

Kelly Wolcott (on left) who is working with student Ashma Bhandany of Nepal in the office of International Studies.

Staff Assembly

On October 9 and 10, Stacy Sears, Marlena Van Vliet, and Charlie Walling ventured to Chapel Hill to attend the semester meeting at the General Administration. President Bowles discussed the budget asking each university to cut at least 4% from their current budget. President Bowles and Andy Willis (Legislative Liaison) encouraged everyone to support the current State Health Plan to ensure that we do not have to pay for our health insurance coverage. Moreover, the possibility of salary increases is bleak. The Human Resource Committee is analyzing the Educational Benefits Survey and will be drafting recommendations to transfer tuition waivers to employees’ family members. Plans to implement the Distinguish Staff Mentors Program is underway. Pilot institutions are being recruited to participate wherein long-time employees will mentor other staff members so that there is no lapse in programs or services when someone retires. Moreover, this committee is drafting a report on flex time work schedules. Staff Assembly attendees were invited to President Bowles’ home at the conclusion of the two day event.

Staff Council’s ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff Council Meeting Dates –
I.G. Greer Hall (Room 224) – 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
(2nd Tuesday of the Month)

January 13, 2009 –Linville Falls
February 10, 2009 – Linville Falls
March 10, 2009 – 421 Belk
April 14, 2009 – 421 Belk
May 12, 2009 – 421 Belk

In addition to the installation of new recycling containers and updated signage across campus, ASU Recycles, in collaboration with several other campus departments developed and implemented the Recycle At The Rock program this football season. On game days, tailgaters were asked to utilize green recyclable bags to collect their bottles, cans, and clean cardboard from their tailgating site. Once full, these were left behind and ASU staff collected them from the tailgate lots to be recycled. Volunteers assisted ASU Recycles staff with the distribution of these bags. In addition, over 50 recycling bins were placed throughout the stadium area on game days. As of November 12th, we diverted over 12,000 pounds from the landfill. On behalf of the ASU Recycles staff, we would like to give a special thanks to all staff, students, and faculty who assisted us in making this program a huge success! Thanks for your commitment to waste reduction and recycling! For more information please contact Jennifer Maxwell at 828-262-3190 ext. 108 or maxwelljb@appstate.edu.
NEW EMPLOYEES
Rickey Brown  Facility Maintenance Technician - Mechanical Trades
Benjamin Caviness  Food Service Technician
Diana Donovan  Early Childhood Development Practitioner
Christine Fitzgerald  Administrative Support Associate
Lori Isaacs  Food Service Technician
Danna Lyons  Administrative Support Specialist
Jamey Page  Facility Maintenance Technician - Mechanical Trades
Russell Paige  University Library Technician
James Pendleton, II  Food Service Supervisor
Charles Perkins  Print/Document Services Technician
Mitch Rattler  Public Safety Officer
David Travis  University Library Technician
Candice Ward  Food Service Technician
Jacqueline Ward  Administrative Support Specialist
Kerri Wolfe  Accounting Technician

Resignation
Daniel Carter  Food Service Technician

2008-2009 Staff Council

2008 -2009 ASU Staff Council
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Katherine Alford, chair
Dawn Boyter
Lou Ann Church
Kay Clark
Sali Gill-Johnson
Tony Grant
Eddie Hyle
Kim Jones
Loretta Link
Chris Popoola
Amy Sanders
Krystal Stewart
Vicki Young