Message from the Staff Council President

What a great time to be a part of the Appalachian Family! There is a lot happening on campus and in the state and I am excited to see so many people taking an active role in shaping the future of our university. During the last Staff Council meeting, a number of new members were introduced; Chancellor Peacock spoke to the membership, and introduced some important events happening on campus this fall. I want to personally thank all of our members – both continued and new. It is truly exciting and rewarding to see people answer the call to service. As always, if there is anything I can do to help you get more connected to the work of Staff Council, please let me know.

Chancellor Peacock spoke about the projected growth of the university, the forthcoming planning efforts to meet increased enrollments, challenges with the Career Banding program, and the appointment of the new Director of Human Resources. In addition, Chancellor Peacock asked us to provide input on the new smoking policy and a task force is being formed to investigate this further. Since the September meeting, I have had the opportunity to sit in on the Board of Trustees meeting where four new members were sworn in. Updates were given on the stadium addition, the new General College, and the Campus Diversity Task Force.

Staff Council was excited to be a part of Staff Appreciation Day which occurred on October 16th. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success and to all of you who attended. Our next big event will be the Staff Appreciation Football game which takes place on November 17th. I encourage everyone to get your tickets now as they will surely go fast! Please join us at our regular monthly meetings which occur the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in room 224 IG Greer Hall.

QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

Staff Council works toward “ensuring that staff employees work in a positive, respectful atmosphere with opportunities for their own professional and personal growth.” All staff should have received a survey via email which the Quality of Life Committee designed to collect feedback to identify needs and address areas of concern. Particular departments have been approved to take the survey via paper method as an alternative and the committee will contact those departments. Employees will have 2-3 weeks to complete the survey. All feedback will be anonymous and no attempt will be made to identify who said what.

“We hope a lot of people take the survey”, said Cathy Ziegler, committee chair. “The more feedback we get, the more valid our results will be and that will send a clear message about what needs to be done. We have a great opportunity here to listen to what people have to say and actually do something about improving their work environment.” Other committee members agreed: Alyson Ebaugh, Peggy Eller, Sali Gill-Johnson, Kristin Hyle, Loretta Link, and Shelley Wainscott-Wallin all participated on the committee and helped design the survey.
On October 3, President Erskine Bowles and the UNC Tomorrow Commission held a Listening Forum at the Hickory Metro Convention Center. This event was attended by approximately 450 people including regional and local leaders and citizens of the area. These listening forums have been held across the State in order to provide UNC leadership feedback on what the State needs and wants in regards to higher education. If you desire additional information please contact: http://www.nctomorrow.org/

As you have recently seen and heard on campus lately, the legislature passed two bills this past session prohibiting smoking in buildings owned, leased, or occupied by any unit of North Carolina State government and to regulate smoking on the grounds of UNC System institutions. A task force lead by myself will be seeking information from faculty, staff and students on how to best implement these laws at Appalachian and I welcome your input.

The legislature will not reconvene until May 13, 2008 but Appalachian State University is beginning to prepare State and Federal Agenda items, capital appropriation requests, and non-budget legislative items to prepare for the “short session”. Again, I welcome any suggestions you might have.

As we approach this holiday season, the Chancellor’s Office wishes all staff members a safe and memorable time with their families and friends. Chancellor Peacock will be hosting his annual “open house” on December 5, 2007 and we encourage you to attend. You will receive more information regarding this event at a later time.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at baumhoverla@appstate.edu.

Lorin Baumhover, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff
262-2040
baumhoverla@appstate.edu

On Friday, Dec. 7 (snow date Friday, Dec. 14), Staff Council will sponsor the 27th annual Children's Shopping Spree. Eighty-eight children from Watauga County Schools will be chosen, based on financial need, by the administration of each school. Appalachian employees, using donated money, volunteer to be assigned to a child to help shop for essential clothing and other needed items.

The 2007 goal is to raise $15,000, allowing each child a minimum of $150 and all proceeds, which are tax deductible, directly benefit the children.

Envelopes have been circulated to all departments to give faculty and staff an opportunity to donate toward this worthwhile event. Checks are payable to: ASU Staff Council, c/o Judy Cerighino, Family and Consumer Sciences (LS Dougherty) by Monday, December 3. Contributions will be taken through December 7.

If you wish to volunteer as a driver (takes one hour to pick up a group of children from school that morning) and/or shopper (all-day mentor with a child or youth), contact Janice Voss by email at vossjf@appstate.edu. With you, we can help make a difference! We appreciate your participation in this worthwhile project and for your support of Staff Council and the children of Watauga County.

For additional information, contact:
Cathy Ziegler, x4090 zieglercc@appstate.edu or
Ezell Williams, x2083 williamsep@appstate.edu.

Appalachian State University Staff Council does not discriminate against students on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age or disability.

Human Resource Services would like to offer assistance to any ASU employee interested in completing an online employment application via AppState/jobs. Only one application needs to be submitted into the system and this will allow you to apply for multiple postings.

If you would like to set up an appointment or if you have questions, please contact:

Human Resource Services Employment
262-3186 employment@appstate.edu

How do I complete an application? How do I apply for other ASU jobs?

AppState Jobs

“Get REEL About Your Health!”
2007 Employee Health & Benefits Fair

Friday, November 16, 2007
10:00 am - 2:30 pm
Grandfather Mountain Ballroom & Roan Mountain Room
Plemmons Student Union

SPECIAL FEATURES:

FLU VACCINES
By Appointment ONLY!
10:00 am - 3:30 pm

PHOTO OP

BENEFITS VENDORS

MOVIE TRIVIA

REFRESHMENTS
Ms. Joyce Creed initially worked at ASU from 1981 to 1995. After working for the Watauga County School system, she returned to Appalachian in 2005. Joyce currently is a Student Services Assistant in the Records Department within the Registrar’s Office, located in the John E. Thomas Building, which is under the Division of Academic Affairs. There are 30 employees who work in the Registrar’s Office. Joyce’s co-workers include Martha Wilson (Associate Registrar), Bertha Wilson (Student Services Representative), Cindy McKethan (Student Services Representative), Selena Dollar (Records Manager), and Marilyn Wright (Imaging Specialist).

Joyce has lived in Watauga County all her life. She enjoys running, bicycling, and playing racquetball. She is a member of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She has taken classes periodically at ASU.

Joyce has two daughters, Kelli Sherwood and Katelyn Creed. Joyce commented during the Staff Profile interview, that ASU is a great place to work and she feels we have a beautiful campus. Joyce intends to retire within the next five years and would like to volunteer in the school system upon retirement.

All new employees now have two options for completing the required Orientation Training: Classroom Orientation training will be held the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm in Founders Hall Training Room (1st floor), or Online Orientation training (including benefits enrollment) may be completed any time within 30 days of employment.

This added option will enable new employees to review this information from the convenience of their home, at their own pace, and with input from their significant other. It is vital for supervisors to ensure that new employees complete one of the two orientation options within 30 days of employment; any delay could result in deferred benefit eligibility start dates. New employees who choose to attend the classroom orientation, should notify Janice Jackson in Human Resource Services at 262-3188 or jacksonjg@appstate.edu

To access the new on-line orientation feature: Visit www.hrs.appstate.edu click Benefits, click New Employee Orientation, password = SPA

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Staff Assembly: Your Voice with President Bowles

Stacy Sears, Chris Popoola, and Charlie Wallin ventured to General Administration in Chapel Hill on September 25th and 26th for our semester meeting of the Staff Assembly. The primary purpose of the fall meeting is the election of officers according to the bylaws. It is with great pleasure that I get to share with you that our own Stacy Sears was elected as Vice Chair of the Assembly. She will serve a one year term and will be a member of the Executive Committee. Congratulations Stacy! We know that you will make us proud and serve us well.

In other business, we received a report from the task force created by President Bowles in response to Senate Bill 1353. This bill is to investigate the SPA and EPA Act of the Office of State Personnel and to make recommendations on three things:

1. Improve the ability of the University to attract, reward, and retain high quality employees
2. Enable the University to better meet the needs of its employees
3. Improve the efficiency of UNC personnel operations

Our very own Chancellor Peacock is a member of this task force made up of 21 members; five of whom are staff. It is good to know he will be at the table representing our needs. It is important to note that the idea of doing away with the classification SPA is not on the table. I know that many staff where concerned about this and I hope this puts you at ease.

Other items discussed at the Assembly were the 5 year plan and UNC Tomorrow. I encourage everyone to go to the UNC General Administration website if you would like further information. The web address is www.ga.unc.edu and the web address for staff assembly is www.uncstaffassembly.northcarolina.edu

The next meeting of the Staff Assembly will be May 1st and 2nd at Appalachian State University. We look forward to hosting our colleagues from the other institutions.

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Appalachian’s Department of Athletics

2007 Hall of Fame Selections

Two outstanding ASU athletes and one soccer coach have been inducted into Appalachian State University Athletics’ Hall of Fame. Baseball all-American Pete Hardee (1981-84), seven-time Southern Conference track and field champion Leigh Hawkins (1985-89), and longtime men’s soccer coach Art Rex (1981-97) comprise the Hall of Fame’s 2007 class. The trio was honored at Appalachian Athletics’ Annual Hall of Fame Induction Breakfast on September 8, 2007.

A right-handed pitcher, Pete Hardee still ranks among Appalachian’s all-time leaders in wins, earned run average and strikeouts. Leigh Hawkins won 11 individual SoCon titles in the shot put, discus weight and hammer throws during his four-year career. He was named the SoCon Championships’ MVP three times. One of Appalachian’s all-time “winning” coaches, regardless of sport, Art Rex led ASU’s men’s soccer to 147 victories in 17 seasons.
Ms. Joy Osborne, Administrative Assistant of Curriculum and Instruction/Teaching Fellows Program: “Ms. Osborne excels in dedication and service to the College of Education through her interactions with other campus programs and hundreds of students. The relationship that she holds with others is amazing and the bond she builds with Teaching Fellows students continues beyond their years at ASU,” Nominating Committee.

Ms. Lynn Secreast, Associate Director of Information Technology Services: “Ms. Secreast has been the technical person making sure that electronic systems for students, staff and faculty have been working at the highest level possible,” Nominating Committee.

Mr. Ben Winebarger, Shops’ Senior Supervisor of the Physical Plant: “Mr. Winebarger is very supportive of all events for the student body, athletics and staff; ensuring that all requirements are met on time and above expectations,” Nominating Committee.