Message from the President

I am honored to be serving as your Staff Council President. I could not do this job without a lot of support. I would like to introduce you to your Staff Council officers for the year; Chris Popoola, President Elect; Denise Marsh, Vice President; Janice Voss, Secretary; Judy Cereghino, Treasurer; Charlie Wallin, Past President. I invite you to contact us with any concerns, issues or suggestions on how to make Staff Council more effective. Remember, we are working for you.

Here are a few important changes that have occurred within Staff Council this year:

1. The by-laws have been updated to include non-teaching EPA staff members as individuals of Staff Council. President Bowles and Chancellor Peacock realized these individuals did not have a voice on our campus and approved this change. We are looking forward to having several new faces at the discussion table and working together on staff issues.

2. Representatives of Staff Council are now chosen within departments instead of by building, with the hope that the lines of communications will improve. Each department has been sent a letter asking for a representative. If your department has not received a letter or if you are interested in serving on Staff Council, please contact Denise Marsh, Membership Chair.

3. The Staff Council web site has been updated with a new look.

4. The Staff Update has a new look. We hope to have some standard features to keep all staff informed of upcoming events. Some standard articles will be the staff profile, staff assembly, and updates from Loren Baumhover, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor. If you have articles that you would like published, please contact Tim Zacher (zachertm), Communications Chair.

5. Finally, the membership committee has sent a personal letter inviting every SPA and EPA non faculty employee to join Staff Council. You are invited to attend meetings and participate in the decision making process.

These are exciting times at Appalachian State University and in Chapel Hill. For the first time in the history of the UNC system, staff members have the opportunity to meet with President Bowles to discuss issues and provide our perspective. For the first time in ASU’s history EPA non faculty employees have a voice and can sit at the table with Chancellor Peacock. I invite each of you to help us this year in making positive changes at Appalachian.

Here are my commitments to all staff:

1. I am willing to meet with any of you to discuss how we can work together to get our issues heard.

2. I am willing to speak on your behalf at any event I am invited to.

3. I am dedicated to each of you for this year.

4. I will give you my all.

As your president, I am dedicated to each of you. I need you to be committed to me and Staff Council. I need each of you to become involved, speak up—your voice does matter and can make a difference, and to bring forth your ideas. Remember that it takes a lot of bricks to build a house, and a lot of hands make for lighter work. We need your help!

Ask yourself? IF NOT YOU….WHO IF NOT NOW….WHEN

I hope to see you at our monthly Staff Council meeting, held the second Tuesday of each month in room 224 IG Greer at 1:30pm.

Stacy Sears, President

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) |
|---|---|---|
| October 9, 2007 | November 13, 2007 | December 11, 2007* |
| January 8, 2008 | February 12, 2008 | March 11, 2008 |
| April 8, 2008 | May 13, 2008 | June 10, 2008 |
| July 8, 2008 | | *(Holiday Party)* |
The University of North Carolina System had one of the most successful legislative sessions in the country this year. The General Assembly fully funded enrollment growth dollars, provided a healthy repair and renovation budget (ASU will receive $3.2 million this year), and salary increases for faculty (5%) and staff (4%). The UNC System received $6 billion out of a total State budget of $20 billion. Appalachian received $34 million for a much-needed College of Education building. The legislature also passed two bills this 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 these public institutions. This fall, the University will be involving Staff Council, Faculty Senate, Student Government Association and other groups of interest in developing our final implementation plan regarding the new smoking laws. Senator Steve Goss and Representative Cullie Tarleton deserve our thanks for their strong support of Appalachian and higher education in the State of North Carolina.

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

Health Promotion’s September Faculty/Staff Blood Drive will be in conjunction with the Homecoming Service Project 2007 — LICENSE TO GIVE! This will be a 500-PINT GOAL BLOOD DRIVE! The drive will be held on Thursday, September 27 from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm in the Holmes Convocation Center. Individuals can start signing up NOW at www.specialevents.appstate.edu. You must sign up for a timeslot via website and MUST CONFIRM registration via email within one hour. If you do not confirm by email, you will lose your appointment!! Register for a 15-minute registration window, but please allow 60-70 minutes in your schedule to move through the blood donation process. When registering online, type in Faculty/Staff under “Organization”.

Counseling for Faculty and Staff (CFS) provides free, confidential counseling to ASU staff, faculty, and their immediate families for concerns that impact work. We also offer consultation to staff supervisors. This fall, we will hold stress management workshops, available in your department or work unit at a supervisor’s request. When we are unable to provide direct service, we refer to appropriate community resources.

Staff members may seek counseling with our highly qualified staff for wide-ranging concerns including stress, anxiety, depression, problems with personal or work relationships, anger management, grief, substance abuse, trauma, parenting, and other issues. Supervisors may seek consultations with us for critical incidents, such as trauma, death or illness, that affect members of their department or work unit; for information on when and how to refer employees; and for trainings on requested topics.

You may contact us through our Office Assistant, Mary Pearson, pearsonml@appstate.edu, 262-4951, or through our new Interim Director, Ingrid Kraus, krausiw@appstate.edu, 262-6151. CFS is a division of ASU’s Institute for Health and Human Services. We are located in the Hubbard Center in the Old Belk Library. Our office hours are Monday-Friday 8 am to 5 pm. Please visit our website www.cfs.appstate.edu for more information.
Tung Ong is a familiar and friendly face to many at ASU where he has been employed for nearly 17 years—having worked in Physical Plant (telecommunications), Instructional Technology Center, and Student Development (Electronic Student Services). Tung’s most recent job is as technology support specialist in the Walker College of Business in Raley Hall. In this capacity, he works in the dean’s office with approximately fourteen other faculty and staff members and reports to Assistant Dean Heather Hulburt. This position is challenging and demanding and requires a broad understanding of technologies to effectively support the computing needs of faculty and staff within the Walker College of Business.

Tung observes that keeping up with the latest technology is like anything else—interest promotes knowledge in any particular subject and he also noted that the challenge of “what might break today” and having to troubleshoot “on the fly” are, at the same time, the best and worst part of his job. But in any event, it is something different each day and that keeps him challenged. Tung especially enjoys the quality of life in Watauga County—the friendliness of the people and the fact that the campus and community are small enough to make one feel part of a family.

Tung grew up in Boone and attended Hardin Park and Watauga High schools and earned his bachelor and master’s degrees from Appalachian. However, his life story prior to these accomplishments is especially notable. He was born in Vietnam and he left the country in 1978 at age 11, with his parents who were seeking a better life for their children. The family was among 380 other “boat people” who had already turned back once due to a storm, then spent seven long days lost at sea—everyone made it through and finally ending up in southern Indonesia where they spent eight months in a refugee camp without electricity or running water to drink.

Through an aunt and uncle living in the area and with the sponsorship of the Boone United Methodist Church, the family traveled directly from Indonesia to Boone in late August 1979—where Tung remembers his first reaction to the summer climate in Boone “it was so cold!” He and his parents and sister (none of whom spoke English at the time) were also somewhat surprised that Boone lacked the tall buildings that they were expecting to find in America and they marvelled at all of the modern conveniences they encountered in Boone.

His parents are now retired and live in the area. For many years they commuted to Marion where they worked in pharmaceutical plants. Two years ago Tung married. His wife, Sun, who works for a local ophthalmology office. He plans to stay in the area to be close to his parents and hopes to retire one day from ASU. In the meantime, he intends to keep his skills sharp and continue to challenge himself. Having traveled to China and Thailand several years ago with a Thai student and friend he met here, Tung enjoys traveling and learning about other cultures.
Move In Day 2007 was a huge success due to the combined efforts of students, staff, community members, parents, alumni, and faculty. In total, over 950 people volunteered their time, their enthusiasm, and in many cases their strong backs to make the new freshmen at Appalachian feel welcome. This was surely a prime example of what is best about the Appalachian Family. Thank you for making this happen!