

NDSU STAFF SENATE MESSENGER

MLK Day
January 21

Join us on
January 9th for
readings in his
honor (see Staff
Senate Meetings)



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www.ndsu.edu/staff_senate

Winter 2007

...visions of Valentines danced in their heads...

by Vance Olson, Facilities Management

Valentine's Day will be celebrated on campus this year with a special event planned by an enthusiastic group of staff, students and faculty.

Saturday, February 9, NDSU Staff Senate will host its first annual Valentine's Day Ball in the Memorial Union Great Plains Ballroom. The time is set for 7:30 pm to midnight. Dress is formal/semi-formal.

Staff, students and faculty are invited to attend. Even for those who don't dance, it will be a great opportunity to socialize and have fun!

Some of the planned activities include door prizes, a speed-dating room and a kissing booth which is being coordinated as a fund raiser for the American Heart Association.

A variety of music will be played to satisfy all tastes. Big Band music will be played by NDSU students. A DJ will be present to play Hip Hop,

Funk and other requests. Assorted beverages, hors d'oeuvres and deserts will be catered by Dining Services.

Tickets will be sold in advance of the event to staff, faculty and alumni for \$10 per person. Student prices are \$5 per person or \$8 per couple. As the event draws near, more information will be made available on the Staff Senate Web site at www.ndsu.nodak.edu/staff_senate/

Anyone wanting to help plan this event should contact Vance Olson at vance.olson@ndsu.edu or 1-9661.



Staff Senate Meetings

9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

All staff members are welcome!

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|-------------|---|
| January 9 | Memorial Union Prairie Rose Room <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Pre-meeting: Readings in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.</i>• <i>Program: Jane Vangsness, AOD Prevention Coordinator, will present a film on alcohol awareness.</i> |
| February 13 | Memorial Union Great Room <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Pre-meeting: Sheree Kornkven, Specialized ITS multi-media services for depts</i>• <i>Program: Prakash Mathew, VP Student Affairs</i> |

Annual Staff Development Workshop

by Lorna Olsen, ITS

Mark your calendars! The Staff Development Committee is finalizing details for its annual workshop to be held Wednesday, February 6, 2008 in the Memorial Union.

This year, we are continuing with the "Discover U" theme established last year. Spend the day with us and see what you can DISCOVER about U! You will be able to attend several different breakout sessions in the morning, afternoon or all day. Please check with your supervisor regarding work release time. Event details and registration information will be available soon on the Staff

(Workshop continued on page 4)



staff Spotlight

The Bison Connection Team

*Story by Gretchen Bromley,
Natural Resources Management*

*Photos by Lori Sholts,
Ag & Biosystems Engineering*

A team of broadly skilled, dedicated, upbeat staff is helping NDSU students discover that “being a student has never been easier!”

“This is a good bunch of folks,” says Wendy Clarin, Manager of Bison Connection, NDSU’s newest one-stop service center located on the main level of the Memorial Union. “We’re very lucky,” adds Wendy.

These seven friendly faces come to this unique student service team from a variety of on- and off-campus backgrounds. “I really enjoy the family atmosphere here at NDSU,” says Tanie Boeddeker, a recent NDSU graduate. “No day is the same,” observes Linda Murphy. She and Kari Fischer moved over from Customer Account Services. “We get to see a lot of students,” adds Kari.

Five weeks prior to the beginning of the fall semester, the team members were cross-trained in three student service areas: Registration and Records, Student Financial Services and Customer Account Services. As frontline staff committed to one-on-one personal service, they assist students with a long list of items including major changes, filing the FAFSA and processing withdrawals.



Pictured: (front row, left to right) Eileen Appel, Tanie Boeddeker; (back row) Kari Fischer, Brandon Hall, Wendy Clarin, Linda Murphy, Bethany Vincent.

Spring 2008 will be the team’s first full semester in the Memorial Union location. The site currently offers four permanent stations, two express stations and a student self-serve kiosk. Hours are Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, noon to 4:00 pm. In addition, a 24-hour online service is available at www.ndsu.edu/bisonconnection.

The concept for the Bison Connection started with former Vice President for Student Affairs George Wallman. A task force was formed to explore functions and physical designs, resulting in ideas modeled after University of Minnesota, Mankato and University of Minnesota (Twin Cities).

Bison Connection staff members encourage departmental units to direct students to the Bison Connection as the first point of contact for services.

The campus community is invited to the Grand Opening/ Open House January 30-31. A ribbon cutting ceremony, refreshments and door prizes will be held at 3:00 pm on Wednesday.



CAMPUS KUDOS!

Campus Kudos is a certificate of appreciation for student workers, staff and faculty. Staff Senate sponsors this program to encourage NDSU employees to recognize co-workers when they exhibit one or more of the following valued behaviors: customer service, continuous improvement, teamwork, integrity and quality. Campus Kudos recipients receive \$5.00 in gift certificates, which may be redeemed at either the Minard Hall or Memorial Union Coffee Carts (sponsored by President Chapman). Campus Kudos recipient photos are displayed in the FLC corridor of the Memorial Union. Submit nominations via the Staff Senate Web site, or contact the Campus Kudos Coordinator, Lori Sholts, at 1-7261.



Steve Schwandt
Auto Service Worker
Facilities Management

“Steve always has a smile on his face and is willing to help someone out at a moments notice. He is well liked by many people on and off campus. He teaches a class on automotive care for students on campus in conjunction with the Memorial Union Recreation and Outing Center. Steve also helps out in the winter with snow removal.”



Shelly Swandal
Info Systems & Student
Services Coordinator
Agribusiness & Applied Econ

“During the past several years, Shelly has stepped up to perform services and otherwise contributed in ways far beyond her responsibilities. She responds to student emails on the weekend and when she is on vacation regarding their technology issues. I could not offer our students the level of instruction online that we provide without her. She is such an important part of this campus!”



Marc Wallman
Director, IT Infrastructure
Information Tech Services

“Marc Wallman took the time to call in a telephone pole that was rotten and in serious jeopardy of falling over on a windy day. He took the time when other people had already walked by. It was on a Friday that was very windy and it was very noticeable. Thanks to Marc because this power pole would have fallen onto pedestrians, cars and buildings.”



Nathan Nerenz
Student

“Nathan is the computer support person in our college. I was having a problem with my computer which was difficult to fix, but Nathan didn’t give up until it was resolved. He came to my desk at least four times and spent several hours trying to solve and fix the problem. He was friendly, courteous and I appreciate all of his help. I know from talking to others, his friendly manner and attitude is extended to everyone. He is an asset to our college.”

Make A Difference Day Successful Service Project

by Bonnie Cooper, Graduate School

During the week of October 22-26, the Staff Senate Public Relations Committee and NDSU’s chapter of Golden Key International Honour Society collected supplies for two local agencies: YWCA Shelter (an organization providing emergency shelter to women and children) and Churches United for the Homeless (an organization providing food and shelter to those in need).

This project was done in connection with Make A Difference Day, a national day of service sponsored by USA Weekend.

Over 54 hours of community service were logged by participants, and there were 1770 items collected. We showed how much NDSU cares for the Fargo-Moorhead



Emily Hagemeister (left, Golden Key’s VP of Outreach) and MacKenzie McCormick (Sullivan Middle School) prepare items for delivery to F-M area agencies.

community by having a very successful collection drive for these two agencies. Thank you for helping to make a difference in the Fargo-Moorhead area!

Sustainability Task Force Initiated

by Gretchen Bromley, Natural Resources Management

“What is ‘sustainability,’ and what does it mean for NDSU?” This past fall, Staff Senate initiated a campus-wide task force to look into what it means to be a sustainable campus and to develop a list of action recommendations to present to President Chapman.

An invitation to participate on the task force was extended to staff via email, to students through Student Government and to faculty through University Senate. Forty-five staff, students and faculty have joined.

The first meeting was held December 7. Al Brewer, who works closely with the MSUM Sustainability Campus Initiative, was the guest speaker.

Sustainability has often been defined as

“meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brundtland_Commission).

Sustainability takes into consideration environmental, social justice and economic concerns. It asks basic questions about collective human impact on the ecological systems and services on which we depend for our existence, and the rights of future generations to those same systems and services.

Information about the task force and its work will be posted on the Staff Senate Web site at www.ndsu.nodak.edu/staff_senate. There will also be opportunities in the near future for the campus community to provide input into the process. For more information about the task force, contact Gretchen Bromley at 1-5619.

Holiday Tree & Gift Cards Donated

by Barb Geeslin, College of Business

The State Employee Recognition Week (SERW) Committee would like to thank NDSU employees for their generous donations totaling \$200 which were used to purchase a holiday gift card for a local F-M area family in need.

In addition to the gift card, the family received a holiday tree decorated by members of the SERW Committee and a plaque listing names of contributors. The tree was made possible through Fraser, Ltd.’s annual Festival of Trees and was on display at Innovis Hospital before being given to the family.



The SERW Committee is part of the Council of State Employees (COSE) and represents all state agencies in the Fargo area. For more information about COSE, visit its Web site at www.state.nd.us/cose/

Workshop *(continued from page 1)*

Senate Web site at www.ndsu.nodak.edu/staff_senate/

For additional information about the workshop, contact Staff Development Committee Co-Chair Jean Hagen at 1-8186.

The NDSU Staff Senate Staff Development Committee identifies programs and activities that provide personal and professional growth opportunities for university staff. In identifying programs, the committee assesses the needs and wants of staff through questionnaires and surveys.

THE MESSENGER

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Editor: Gretchen Bromley

NDSU Staff Senate Mission:

NDSU Staff Senate addresses the needs and aspirations of university staff by promoting a progressive campus environment.

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www.ndsu.edu/staff_senate

Front cover photo: Martin Luther King, Jr. from Nobelprize.org.



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