I am very excited and honored to serve as your President for the upcoming year. When asked to write an article for the Staff Happens Newsletter I had two options 1) write about myself or 2) talk about Staff Senate and the hard working Senators representing you. First off, I would like to welcome all the New Senators who are either serving their first and/or second term on Staff Senate. We need you and your exciting new ideas! This Senate does not succeed without people like you!

Staff Senate was established in 1998 to foster a spirit of unity, pride and cooperation by being recognized equally with the University Senate and Student Senate as participants in advising University administration. Staff Senate is a 50 seat elected body that represents each job category. Currently, we have 49 Senators who are dedicated, hardworking and who substantially have an impact in making specific recommendations for change. Feel free to visit our website at http://und.edu/staff-senate/ and leave your thoughts and concerns in the Suggestion Box or reach out to one of your Senators.

Lastly, I want to extend a BIG thank you to all the outgoing Staff Senators who have given so much of their time and talents to help make Staff Senate a success. We wish you all the best in your next endeavor, you will surely be missed!!

I look forward to continuing the work of Staff Senate and its great tradition at UND.

Sharley Kurtz
Staff Senate President

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**Denim Day Report**

The Denim Day committee sponsored four special Denim Days this spring for the following organizations:

- Feed My Starving Children: $616
- National Disaster Relief Efforts – Salvation Army: $393
- American Heart Association: $325
- March of Dimes: $430

**New and Returning Senators**

Congratulations on those recently elected to serve on Staff Senate: Patty Dorsher, Registrar’s Office; Lacey Dahlen, Health & Wellness; Sue Sholes, Admissions; Patricia Hodny, School of Law; Dennis Stangl, TRIO; Laura Look, School of Graduate Studies; Lani Moen, Social Work; Arlene Brown, RAIN; Lisa Moore, Grants & Contracts; Brandon Wallace, Memorial Union; Tina Monette, Aerospace; Bree Melicher, College of Arts & Sciences; Katrina Kriewall, College of Business & Public Administration; Mara Boppre, Memorial Union; Beth Moe, School of Law; Nancy Garcia, Dining Services; Del Smith, Flight Support Services; Arlyn Pearson, Journey Plumber; Christina Johnston Loh, Student Financial Aid, Jeffrey Kaul, Flight Support Services; Angela Holkesvig, Bureau of Educational Research; and Tammy Anderson, Flight Support Services; Don Rasmuson, UND Department of Public Safety; and Molly Christianson, Dining Services.

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**Suggestions**

Staff Senate welcomes questions and ideas, and offers a Suggestion Box at the bottom of our webpage.

http://und.edu/staff-senate/

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**Save the Date**

October 17th at the Gorecki Alumni Center – Staff and Faculty Celebration (open to all UND Employees) with silent auction proceeds benefitting Seeds for Staff Success…
UND faculty, staff, students and the general public are encouraged to nominate and recognize that special someone who they believe did something extraordinary. Staff Senate wants to recognize that person who has gone out of their way to help someone else without the expectation of a reward.

This award is presented monthly to a UND staff member who went out of his or her way to make UND a better place. The winner receives a certificate, $50, and a small token of appreciation. An annual award of $250.00 is presented at the annual Staff Recognition Luncheon in May. Winners are unaware of their win until the award is presented during “special department meetings” or other gatherings.

This is the fourth year of what we consider a successful program that recognizes outstanding UND staff employees. This award is presented every month by the Staff Senate president to a UND staff member. The winner receives a certificate and a gift of $50. An annual Award of $250.00 is presented at the annual Staff Recognition/Meritorious Award Luncheon in May. Winners are unaware of their win until the award is presented during “special department meetings” or other gatherings. The Annual winner was Curt Foerster – EERC. This award was presented during the Staff Recognition/Meritorious Award Luncheon held on May 13, 2014.

The annual U-Shine Award winner for 2013-2014 is very well deserved. This employee noticed an elderly gentleman wandering in a busy parking lot asking people for help and no one seemed to be paying attention to him. The gentleman approached this employee and explained something was wrong with his wife and he needed help. The gentleman showed where his elderly wife was unresponsive in the passenger seat. This employee had received CPR and First Aid training on the job and said once he realized it was an emergency he jumped into action. He checked her vital signs and called 911 for help. Then he monitored the woman’s breathing and remained on the scene until the ambulance arrived and he was sure he was not able to help anymore.

Congratulations Curt Foerster, Staff Senate thinks you shine!

Thank You Outgoing Senators

A BIG Thank You to Outgoing Staff Senate Senators who have given so much of their time and talents to make Staff Senate a success for all UND staff. You will surely be missed!!

- Kristi Bruggeman, Dean’s Office Arts & Sciences
- Chad Bushy, CILT
- Katie Douthit, Human Resources and Payroll
- Aaron Flynn (1 year temp), Memorial Union
- Nancy Krom, Institutional Research
- Darin Lee, Mailing Services
- Lynn Lee, UND Career Services
- Marsha Nelson, Memorial Union
- Kelli Puckett (1 year temp), Flight Support Services
- Dale Spicer, Facilities Total
- Derek Stinchfield, Academic Support Services
- Trish Young, Office of Extended Learning.

Congratulations Shannon Medina

The Staff Senator of the Year Award was developed by the Staff Recognition Committee to recognize a Staff Senator who promotes a spirit of unity and pride and represents Staff Senate in an exemplary manner through their vision, enthusiasm, dedication and willingness to volunteer.

Our award winner was Shannon Medina who was presented with a Desk Clock and perpetual plaque that will hang in Staff Senate’s display case at the Memorial Union.

Hello Senators,
I wanted to give a big shout out and THANK YOU to everyone for making the past year a great experience! You worked hard for Staff Senate and Staff at UND and I think we had a great year. I appreciate the help from everyone and I could not have done it without each and every one of you! Thank you again,

Diane
Get to Know Our New Senators

Christina A. Johnston Loh

Christina A. Johnston Loh is the SFA Advisor, for aviation students at the University of North Dakota. She has been in the SFA department since July 2008. In her current position, Christina is responsible for roughly 1,200 students and she is housed in Odegard Hall in the Student Services department of aviation. She studied Sociology as an undergraduate and holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of North Dakota. She resides in Grand Forks, ND with her husband and three wonderful children.

Tammy Anderson

Tammy Anderson has been at UND for 33 years plus (she worked on campus as a student–that’s a lot of years)! She started with Continuing Education and then moved to the John D Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences. She has been part of that wonderful family for over 30 years, holding many positions: receptionist, Helpdesk, Laptop Manager and now out at Flight Support Line. She has been married to her awesome husband for those same 33 years (he was a pressman at UND Printing Center for over 33 years as well). They enjoy spending time antiquing and summer weekends at their cabin on Cass Lake! They have two great kids and their first grandchild will be born this summer–Tammy is already being called Grammy Tammy. She is very excited to be part of Staff Senate and looks forward to meeting and working with people on campus.

Molly Christianson

Molly Christianson is a graduate of St. Francis High School in St. Francis, Minnesota. Molly also graduated from Le Cordon Bleu in Mendota Heights, Minnesota; there she graduated with an Applied Associates Degree in Science. During her externship she worked in Big Sky, Montana. She has worked in culinary arts her whole career, starting at a small hometown restaurant to the Excel Energy Center catering for the Minnesota Wild. In 2008 Molly moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota, and for her first year in Grand Forks, she ran the kitchen at a daycare. In 2009, Molly took a bakery position at the University of North Dakota. Shortly after, she accepted the Kitchen Manager position at Squires Dining Center. Wanting to further her culinary career, she accepted the Sous Chef position at Wilkerson Dining Center. Since becoming Sous Chef, Molly has had the opportunity to travel to UMass for a culinary conference where her team competed in the “Iron Chef” battle, ultimately taking silver. They were also awarded with the “Campbell’s Golden Ladle Award,” for incorporating Campbell’s soup products into their menu. In just a few short weeks, Molly will travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota for the Regional NACUFS conference to further her knowledge in the human resources aspect of dining services. Molly’s life goal is to start her own bakery and eventually start a small school within the bakery teaching basic bakery skills.

Patty Dorsher

Patty is a UND graduate and began working at UND in 1990 starting at the UND Bookstore. When the store was leased to Barnes and Noble, she became a B&N employee but returned to UND in 2002 to work in the Financial Aid department. She can now be found in the Office of the Registrar.

Jeff Kaul

Jeff has been at UND for a little over an year and enjoys his work. He works in UND Aerospace on the Flight Support Line. He’s a proud father to two girls who are 8 and 2. He enjoys being outdoors and playing with his daughters. He is excited to be part of Staff Senate and looks forward to meeting and working with all the other members.

Christina A. Johnston Loh

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Bree Melicher

Bree has worked at UND since 2009. She spent her first year in Housing and then became part of an awesome team in the Dean’s office at the College of Arts & Sciences. She is also a busy mom of 4 beautiful children that range in age from 3 to 16 years old. She is looking forward to working with everyone on Staff Senate and seeing new and innovative ideas come to light at UND.
Spring Fling was held on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at the Memorial Union Ballroom. This year we served pulled pork sandwiches, veggie burgers, potato salad, chips, pickles, fruit, lemonade, and water. There were approximately 300 employees that attended this event. Tables were set up for free will offering and/or non-perishable food items to donate to local food shelves. Two hundred and thirty nine pounds of food was donated to St Josephs along with $281.00. A Staff Senate slide show ran throughout the event.

Spring Fling Breakfast
Spring Fling for Overnight BST’s was held Thursday, May 1, 2013 at the Terrace Cafeteria where breakfast was served to about 78 staff members. This nice event is always appreciated.

Get to Know Our New Senators

Lani Moen
Lani has been an academic advisor in the Social Work Department for about 2 ½ years, working mostly with prospective students and Pre-Social Work majors. She assists the department with assessment of both undergraduate and graduate programs. She graduated from UND in 2011 with a Master’s Degree in Social Work and feels like she never really left! She is originally from Larimore, ND, but now lives in Grand Forks with her husband Matt. She looks forward to being a part of Staff Senate in the upcoming years, and getting involved in all the great work that the organization does.

Tina Monette
Tina has worked at UND on and off since 1991, having been both a staff member and a student. For the last five years, she has worked at UND Aerospace as an HR Assistant. She has two boys, one who just started high school and the other graduating from high school this year. She spends most of her time chasing around after their different hockey and/or baseball events, but also enjoys volunteering, spending time with friends and family, and hanging out at the lake. She joined Staff Senate to become more involved on campus and is looking forward to the opportunity.

Don Rasmuson
Don has been with UPD since September of 1980 and has been a Lieutenant/Shift Supervisor since 1985. Hon has a Bravery Award from the North Dakota Peace Officer Association, a Peacemaker of the year award from CVIC, a recipient of the Ken and Toby Baker Meritorious Service Award and was recently awarded the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award from our local VFW. He is on several committees with CVIC, and is on UND’s Sexual Violence Prevention Committee. He also does presentations for several professors in their classes.

Sue Sholes
Sue has been at UND for six years this August as the Assistant Director of Admissions. She graduated from UND with a BSSW and most recently (May 2014) graduated with a MS in Education. She is married, has four children, and four grandchildren all under the age of three!! She is excited to be a part of the Staff Senate and looks forward to working with everyone across campus.

Deldrick Smith
Deldrick Smith is native of Grand Forks, where his father was stationed at Grand Forks AFB from 1980-1998. He has been a Line Service Supervisor at UND Aerospace Flight Operations at the Grand Forks Airport for the last four years. Before UND, Deldrick served in the Army as a Military Police Officer (1994-1999) and a Line Technician at Signature Flight Support Minneapolis (1999-2010). Deldrick currently lives in Grand Forks with his wife Lonamalia, who is a UND Alumni, and their 3 children Jasimine (21), Dominick (17) and Lawrence (4).

Brandon Wallace
Brandon has been the Account Technician at the Memorial Union for a little over a year. He is originally from Dickinson, ND and, after coming to Grand Forks after high school to attend UND, never left. He transitioned from student to UND Bookstore employee to Memorial Union staff. He is excited to explore new opportunities and adventures within Staff Senate and to have the ability to become more involved with the campus community.