Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Bill Kuestner, UW’s Employee of the Quarter for the Second Quarter. Kuestner is a master technician in the UW Department of Atmospheric Science at the UW Flight Center, and is known for producing high-quality custom products in an efficient manner. He has worked at the University for more than 18 years.

To read more about the award and nominate a staff member for Employee of the Quarter, click here.

Ask A Question: Computer Access

Got a question about the University of Wyoming or your employment here? Ask away at: staffsen@uwyo.edu.

QUESTION: “Are UW staff members who do not work on a computer during the work day allowed to access campus computers to check email, read UW news, and complete online training during the work day?”

ANSWER:

There is no UW policy that prohibits employees from accessing computers on campus. UW employees who do not have access to a computer during their workday can access lab computers and other public computers on campus that have been made available for that purpose in order to access their UW email and employment documents, read UW news and calendar items, and complete online trainings. If staff members are asked to complete mandatory trainings or other required work activities outside of their regular work hours, they should contact Human Resources.

Points to Ponder: Committees on Campus

Staff Senate has been exploring the possibility of bringing an ombuds program to the UW campus. Staff Senate representatives will continue to discuss the issue with members of the administration and Human Resources and will keep you updated.

The search process for a new Associate Vice President of Administration and Director of Human Resources is currently underway. Staff Senate representatives will be meeting with the candidates in August.
Staff Senate also has representatives on the Financial Crisis Advisory Committee, the Revenue Enhancement Subcommittee, and the Presidential Inauguration Committee. The Financial Crisis Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Committee meeting times, locations, and materials can be found here. If you have any question, comments, or concerns, please share them with us at staffsen@uwyo.edu.

Know Your Senators

Senator Allen Tanner is a Computer Support Specialist Senior and Web Coordinator for the Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute. Allen has a B.A. in Broadcasting from the University of Wyoming. As an IT specialist he is a seasoned UW employee with 33 years of experience on campus, in Wyoming, the USA, and around the world. He has traveled many of the world’s uncharted highways in Scandinavia, Europe, Antarctica and Russia while a key member of the Geology/Geophysics Seismic Research team. He also has campus experience on the UW Staff Senate, having served as a previous Staff Senate President. Allen enjoys many friends across campus. He has been married 40 years this August and has a daughter in Denver.

Allen’s goals for Staff Senate include being visible, vocal, and involved in the campus environment, serving on campus committees and in meeting with faculty and administration, and supporting the Student Senate. Allen notes that staff are a strong third leg of that support stool that keeps this campus functioning and moving forward. He would like to see Staff Senate continue to grow, mature, and be proactive for staff and for the campus community as a whole.

If you have questions or comments for Staff Senate, send an email to staffsen@uwyo.edu or call 766-5300.

Did You Know?

UW employees and retirees did not pay premiums for health, dental, life, and dependent life insurance on the July payroll for August coverage. This rate holiday was mandated by the state of Wyoming Employees’ Group Insurance (EGI). EGI maintains reserve accounts to cover costs, and there are limits placed on these accounts. EGI is required to make adjustments to maintain an appropriate amount in reserve accounts. For this reason, from time to time EGI may decide to spend down some of the money in their reserve account by not collecting premiums for a month.

Staff Senators participate in service activities throughout the year. One of our service activities is highway cleanup. Staff Senate has adopted a portion of highway 230 just outside of Laramie. We would like to extend an invitation to all staff members to join us for Highway Cleanup 2016. Stay tuned for information, and we hope to see you there!

Policy Corner

How will the upcoming FLSA changes impact UW employees?

Staff Senate has requested information concerning the upcoming changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act that will impact many employees at UW. While we do not have any specific answers to the questions yet, we want you to be aware of the issues and know that we are working to find the answers. The questions we have raised include:

• With the FLSA changes coming in December 2016 we know that some employees who are currently exempt will become non-exempt. Will those employees who are transitioning continue to accrue vacation at their current accrual rate?
• How will the new guidelines for timekeeping and FLSA requirements for comp time and overtime be communicated to those supervisors who have employees transitioning from exempt to non-exempt?
• Is there a reason why we are currently hiring into positions that are classified as exempt but will need to be transitioned to non-exempt in December?

As soon as we receive answers to these questions we will share with all UW staff.