

College of Arts & Sciences

Staff Council

Newsletter Fall 2013

Chair

Kerry McCullough-
Vondrak
Chemistry

Vice Chair

Mark Nelson
A&S Advising Center

Secretary

Shea Svoboda
Computer Science

Tom Danaher
Mathematics

Patricia Fleek
Physics and Astronomy

Shawn Langan
Physics and Astronomy

Alycia Libolt
Dean's Office

Jamie Longwell
Psychology

Sara Mattson
Oldfather Business
Cooperative

Donelle Moormeier
Communication Studies

Denise Pohlman
English

Helen Sexton
Political Science

JaMel Ways
Chemistry

Ex-Officio Adviser
Alecia Kimbrough



Staff Council would like to invite you to the annual Arts and Sciences Holiday Celebration December 3rd from 4 to 5pm at the Hewit Place building. As part of the festivities, we will be announcing this year's annual Applause winner. All of our monthly Applause winners and those who were nominated are eligible to win this prestigious award.

Join us in helping recognize our outstanding employees!

Monthly winners can be seen online at
<http://cas.unl.edu/applause.aspx>.



College of Arts & Sciences *Staff Council*

Often at work we only see the professional side of our co-workers, but like a prism we are multifaceted individuals. So we thought you would like to get to know one of your peers a little better.

Can you guess who this is?

AT THE AGE OF 9 SHE LEARNED HOW TO drive a tractor. Now as an adult, for the last 10 years, she has worked alongside her husband Ron and son Troy to restore antique tractors that are broken down and dismissed as a rust bucket. All of them are mechanically inclined, and she was born and raised on a farm, so this hobby is second nature to her. They do every part of the restoration process from the ground up -- the mechanical work, sand blasting, and painting.



This love affair all started when she inherited her father's Farmall Super H. After they restored that tractor their interest and fascination with tractors grew. When we asked her if she has a favorite tractor she likes to restore, she replied, "Mainly Farmall/International (red). However, as Ron would say,

it does not matter if they are purple with pink polka dots as long as you are saving old iron, all is good!"

However, among the tractors they own, they do have their favorites -- mainly due to sentimental reasons. "Three of them are extra special -- A Farmall Super H that was originally my father's, a Farmall M that was originally my husband's grandfather's, and a Farmall 806. The 806 was given to my husband as a Christmas present in 1966 by his father. His dad suddenly passed away in 1972 at the age of 46. The 806 worked on our farm until about four years ago when we retired her, fixed all her leaks, and gave her a paint job. Ron's dad was a Seabee in the Marine's during WWII and his nickname was Duck, so we have a Seabee emblem with 'in memory of Duck' on the fenders. As far as we are concerned these three tractors are priceless."

Although restoring tractors is hard work, displaying their finished product and seeing people's reactions has its own rewards. For the last two years they have participated in the Tractor Relay Across Nebraska which is sponsored by the Nebraska Antique Farming Association. This past year their journey started

College of Arts & Sciences *Staff Council*

in June in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, and ended in Missouri Valley, Iowa, following Hwy 30, the Lincoln High. On average they drove 45-92 miles a day depending on route with scheduled stops for food, places to tour, and accommodations for the evening arranged for them. In all, 200 tractors were registered for last year's ride, some only drive a portion of the route, and only five other tractors completed the whole journey!

She thoroughly enjoys the ride and the scenery, but one aspect of the event is most memorable: the people she meets along the way. "Meeting people that you have a common interest in is the best part of this drive. Each year we meet new people who have become friends that we will cherish for the rest of our lives. Sometimes it is hard to remember names, but we always remember the faces!"

And with any truly epic journey there are the challenges that are told and retold for years to come. "The challenge of course is the weather – you need to make sure you are prepared for all kinds, wind, rain, heat, cold. Haven't run into snow yet, but you never know! The first year I was about the only female on the drive so needless to say, they learned their lesson to make sure you stop at places with facilities! I am a farm girl, but the first week of June the corn just isn't quite high enough yet!"

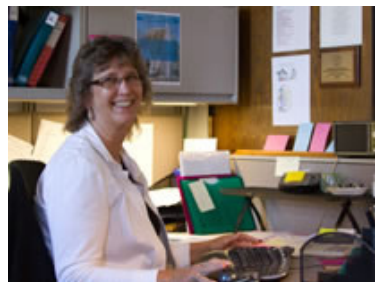
In addition to the ride across Nebraska, she also

exhibits her tractors at their home town in Cortland; Homestead Days in Beatrice; Camp Creek in Waverly; Gage County Fair in Beatrice; Czech Parade in Wilber; Deer Creek Sod Busters in Sterling; Platte Valley Antique Tractor Show in Ayr; Old Trusty's in Clay Center; Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island; Filley Stone Barn in Filley; and Keg Creek show in Glenwood, Iowa.

They also belong to the Platte Valley Antique Tractor Club, the Blue Valley Antique Tractor Club, and the Nebraska Antique Farming Association (NAFA), and she is on the board of directors for the NAFA.

Have you figured out who this fellow Arts and Sciences staff member is? She has served as president of UNOPA and served as an Arts and Sciences staff council member. Some consider her to be the "administrative heart of the Department of Communication Studies." Who is she?

If you guessed Donelle Moormeier give yourself a pat on the back. Thanks Donelle for sharing this very fascinating part of your life with the rest of us!





Sharing and Discussing Ideas for Professional Development!

Our monthly Spark discussion group continues!

December: Lori Byrne leads a discussion about emotional intelligence.

January: Lindsay Augustyn leads a discussion about Relational Dialectics.

Spark is a series started by the Professional Development committee about sharing and discussing ideas from books, articles, videos, and more.

If you have an idea for a discussion and/or would like to lead a discussion, please let your Staff Council know!



The Applause program honors college employees who perform their jobs extraordinarily well. Nominate any permanent college employee anytime!

<http://cas.unl.edu/applause.aspx>



The Ovation award honors an exceptional student worker. This is a great way to show your appreciation for the dedication and assistance students provide to our college!

<http://cas.unl.edu/ovation.aspx>

