

College of Arts & Sciences

Staff Council

Newsletter Spring 2015

Arts & Sciences

Staff Council Members

JaMel Ways – President

Chemistry

Lori Byrne – Vice President

Psychology

Beth Whitaker – Secretary

Biological Sciences

Alecia Kimbrough

Ex-Officio Adviser

Dean's Office

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Mathematics

Patricia Fleek

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UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES



Get to know Dean Francisco!

You may know that the Dean
loves to give hugs! But what
else didn't you know?
Check out some fun facts!

- ◆ Are you a cat or a dog person?
I'm a dog person...well wait. When I was younger I had 13 dogs, 2 cats, 20 chickens, 2 rabbits, and 2 pigeons!
- ◆ What is the last movie you watched?
Into the Woods
- ◆ What is your favorite color? *Blue*
- ◆ If you could only drink one liquid for the rest of your life, what would you choose? *Orange Juice*
- ◆ What is your favorite snack? *Dark Chocolate*
- ◆ What is your favorite season? *Fall – I love the colors!*
- ◆ What do you like most about UNL? *The people!*
- ◆ Do you still enjoy cartoons? *Yes*
- ◆ Favorite game to play? *Tennis*
- ◆ Have you ever ridden a motorcycle? *Yes I have!*



Staff Highlight



We often see our co-workers as we pass them in the hall way or in a meeting. How well do we really know them?

The A&S Staff Council newsletter likes to take the time to do feature stories about staff. After all, we spend more time with our co-workers than with most of our families.

Let us introduce you to Lori Byrne. Lori has been the Business Manager in Psychology since July 2013 but has worked in various departments at UNL since 1997.

Lori was born and raised on a farm north of Newman Grove, Nebraska. Her family raised cattle, chickens and occasionally pigs, with crops of soy beans and corn.

When she was 11 years old her Grandma Bee gave her a Kodak Instamatic 110mm camera for Christmas and her love for photography was born. In high school, Lori saved up her money and bought herself her first 35mm camera. She went with her high school science teacher to Midland College where she took a workshop on how to roll and develop film. She then took her knowledge back to school and set up the first darkroom and trained her classmates in techniques to develop prints. She received an honorable mention in the Norfolk Daily News Photography contest for a “wintertime rising moon through a cottonwood tree” picture.

Lori left the farm when she was 18 and has lived in southeast Nebraska ever since.

Education is very important to Lori. She went to school and worked full time. She went to Southeast Community College and received an associates degree in Business Administration. She then went on to earn her bachelors degree from Doane College, with a double major in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing and in Human Relations, which was a psychology based program. She then went on for her masters degree in Management. She aspires to get her doctorate in Leadership here at UNL.

Lori’s second job is working on their multiple rental properties. Her and her husband Steve do all of the construction themselves. Lori is a “Jill of all trades”. She does roofing, plumbing and electrical work and for fun they rebuild old vehicles. Their most recent purchase being a 1985 Volkswagen Westfalia Vanagon. They are hoping to travel to the pacific northwest in it this summer for their honeymoon. Steve and Lori have three grown children, and are hoping it will be another five to eight years before they become grandparents!

Staff Council

College of Arts & Sciences



Brace Lab Tours

Tim Suhr awaited anxious College of Arts and Science staff with a smile on his face. He knew that they would be impressed by what awaited them on a tour of the newly revamped Brace Laboratory. The tour began with an introduction to the updated technology available to Life 121 students. From touchscreen to live data feeds for classroom activities, Brace Lab has it all! Fellow staff members recalled learning everything in college by struggling at late night cram sessions with hastily scribed notes from a Professors overly rushed lecture nearly a month previous. Not so for students these days! After a quick visit with the various wildlife flourishing in, and maybe around?, Brace Lab, it was on to the next part of the tour with Dr. Nathan Wakefield of the Math Department. Great strides, and successes, have been made to upgrade the introductory mathematics courses. Students are now involved in an “Active Learning” method, where the homework is done in the classroom, with teaching assistants immediately available for assistance. Such methods and efforts made by the math department have increased the passing rate of intro math students by 10-20%! Lastly, the tour ended with yet another innovative use of Brace Lab. Bradley Severa of the Office of Information Technology Services finished the tour by showing staff members the NEXT generation of college classrooms. Apple TV’s for instructors, ipads for every student, and chairs which beg for comfort and convenience are the norm for the next generation of college students. And such comforts are being tested and tried in courses currently offered at UNL. The Office of Information Technology Services also has testing stations in their main area on the third floor of Brace Lab, where instructors may test a new technology, convert old slides to updated media, and much more! Such innovation is the norm at Brace Lab, a century old building paving the way to the future for students and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences.





Brace Lab Studies



Dean Francisco Wants YOU!



Dean Francisco wants you to apply for a professional development fund from the college of arts and sciences. All CAS staff that have permanent employment in an Arts & Sciences department, center, program, or support services unit are eligible to apply with chair/director approval.

More information can be found here:

http://cas.unl.edu/docs/Staff_Development_Program_12-12-14.docx

And an application form can be downloaded here:

<http://cas.unl.edu/docs/CASProfDevApp.pdf>

Applause

The Perfect Thank You

Our Applause for October goes out to Lindsay Augustyn, Outreach and Communications Coordinator in the Center for Science, Math & Computer Education! As her nominators say:



Lindsay Augustyn

Outreach and Communications Coordinator in the
Center for Science, Math & Computer Education

October 2014



“Lindsay is a rare combination of smarts, talent and personality. She can juggle multiple projects at once without losing her cool. Her skills are many and varied, ranging from technical to artistic to organizational to managerial. Whatever needs done, she can do it remaining pleasant throughout the most hectic of days. For these reasons and more, Lindsay is more than deserving of an Applause!”

“I’m not sure I will be able to find the right words that convey what an outstanding employee Lindsay is. She has an incredibly diverse and high-level skill set: she is an excellent writer and has a fantastic artistic sense when putting together brochures, pamphlets, programs, and newsletters. She is incredibly organized and efficient, and everything she does is of the highest quality. And, she does all of it with a bright, upbeat, positive attitude that is infectious to those around her. We are extremely fortunate to have her working in our College!”

“Lindsay provides absolutely amazing staff support to CSMCE and also to the math department in many ways. Among the contributions that she has made, she has provided very high level professional support during the past several years for the math department’s efforts to produce an annual newsletter. Our efforts to produce this newsletter had overwhelmed the available staff and faculty resources in the department until Lindsay stepped in. With relatively minimal faculty oversight, Lindsay took over the job of constructing our newsletter. She interviews faculty and alumni, writes most of the articles for the newsletter, arranges layout, photographs, all aspects of the newsletter and has turned it into an annual professional publication that reaches hundreds of alumni and friends of the department. Like everything else she does, she manages this with great professionalism, efficiency and expertise. Lindsay is a truly outstanding staff member and fully deserves our recognition and applause!”

“Lindsay is the Outreach and Communications Coordinator in our department, but that doesn’t begin to describe all that she does. She keeps track of almost everything that goes on in our department. She helps oversee the classes that we have each summer, visits the classrooms, and knows the participants by name, spends a lot of time planning and preparing for events (there isn’t room to list all of these!), and travels to conferences. The communications part of her job includes writing articles for, and putting together, all of our newsletters, preparing our advertising, posters, etc., helping to update and make changes on our Web page, and she takes pictures of our events and classes. How she does all of this is amazing! We all enjoy working with her, and Lindsay truly deserves an Applause!”

Applause

The Perfect Thank You



Casandra Siefkes

Graduate Secretary in the Department
of Modern Languages and Literatures

November 2014



Our Applause for November goes out to Casandra Siefkes, Graduate Secretary in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures! As her nominators say:

“Starting out as the graduate secretary, Casandra has moved beyond sending notifications to grad students and organizing application paperwork and exam schedules. She has become an equal partner to the graduate committee, tracking/developing the budget, organizing recruiting events, becoming an unofficial ‘advisor’ to students, and has assumed complete responsibility for developing successful proposals to the Fulbright Foundation for the department to receive a funded foreign language teaching assistant, one in Arabic, and one in Portuguese. Perhaps the most important task she was assigned was to take the lead in developing a proposal to the college and Academic Affairs to reinvent the department language lab as a global classroom and interactive learning environment for students. It was Casandra who investigated the best, cutting-edge equipment that could be used to greatest effect by students, and Casandra who worked closely with the dean’s office and University facilities to keep things on track. The new lab is a great hit among both faculty and students! She is now the department liaison to the GTA in charge of lab activity and global classroom scheduling, and also the person who reviews requests for new materials. For this, and all of her work, please recognize her with an applause!”

“Casandra is a tireless, hard worker. She is quick, efficient and smart. No matter the task, she will do it, and if she can’t, she will learn how and do it anyway. But that is just how she works and I am not nominating her for that. I want to nominate her because she will do all this hard, tiring work with a smile. Because she treats us all kindly. Because she makes us, graduate students, feel welcomed and appreciated. Because she helps us in anything we need, even if it isn’t exactly her job or responsibility. Please recognize her with this award!”

“My success as German Coordinator is greatly dependent on effective support by the main office. In the midst of our stressful and hectic work environment, Casandra is always reliably kind, utterly professional, extremely competent and always willing to help way beyond the parameters of her job description. She approaches her work with amazing intelligence (thinking along with me on projects and anticipating problems), innovative thinking (figuring out technical solutions that often resolve difficulties) and common sense, and gives all employees in this large department the confidence that their project is in very capable hands. She has designed programs that make everyone’s job easier (art for important recruiting, graduate student tracking etc.) and makes UNL as a whole look better to the outside world. She deserves an Applause!”

Applause

The Perfect Thank You

Our Applause for January goes out to JaMel Ways, Assistant to the Chair in the Chemistry Department! As her nominators say:

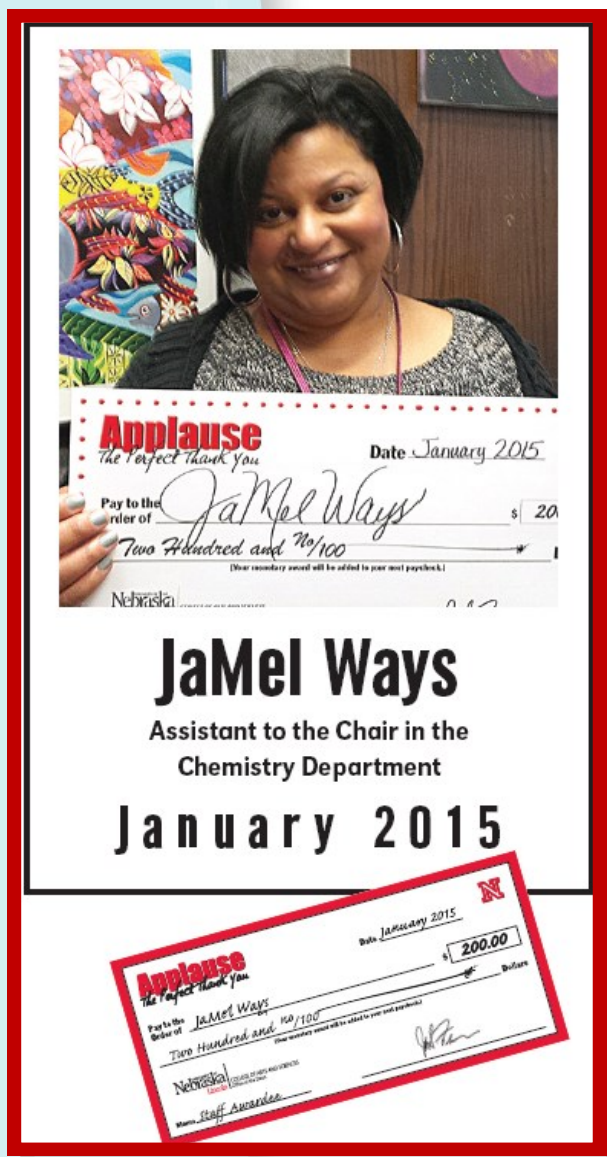
“As the Assistant to the Chair, JaMel is the face of the Department for all who call upon Chemistry both within the University and around the country. She takes pride in representing Chemistry professionally to all. JaMel also is a real leader in organizing major events in which the Department takes a lead. She does this with a great degree of independence and has a real flair for creativity. It is not surprising that she now also leads the CAS Staff Council; her sense of team pride is ever present, as is the smile on her face.

“JaMel definitely deserves the Applause award. Not only does she run the Chair’s office in a friendly and efficient manner, she takes time to bring staff together with her ‘staff board’. This is usually a monthly inquiry into ‘fun facts’ about the staff that she collects and then posts for us to see. It’s always fun to see how others have responded to the topics she sends out. AND she is the current president of the staff council. She always has a smile on her face, a great sense of humor and something nice to say. She’s ready help with any project that may arise and is just a joy to be around!”

“If ever a department needed a breath of fresh air, it was Chemistry. We didn’t get just a breath of fresh air with JaMel, we got a full blown tornado. JaMel is happy, vibrant and it is a pleasure to work with her day to day. She always has her nose to the grindstone but makes it appear effortless to those around her. She tells people how she loves her job and that is evident in her positive attitude. I think JaMel emulates the type of employee we should honor with an Applause award. She is energetic, vivacious and dedicated to the University. It is my pleasure to nominate her for the Applause award!”

“As a former chair of the Chemistry Department, I wholeheartedly suppose the nomination of JaMel Ways for Applause. During my term, I found that two days in the chair’s office were rarely the same, but JaMel was always the same. She has a can-do, unflappable spirit that rules the day no matter how crazy things get ... and they did get crazy from time to time. I could always count on the fact that JaMel would show the patience of a saint, the determination of a bulldog and a calm demeanor that projected, “it’s all in a day’s work and we’ll get it done”. An Applause award is richly deserved for the countless contributions she makes to the Department!”

“JaMel Ways works hard at increasing the morale of our department by creating fun activities for all staff to enjoy. You always see JaMel with a smile and she is always so encouraging of others. When you need cheered up you can always count on her. I truly enjoy working with her. The department wouldn’t be the same without her!”





SPARK SESSIONS

March 25th Total Body Toning

55 Campus Recreation

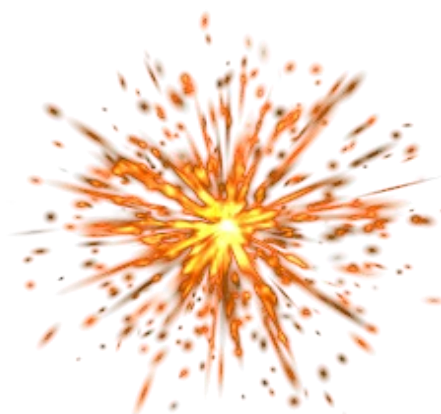
April: TBD

May 5th Non-verbal Communication

Dr. Charles Braithwaite

UNL Speaker's Bureau

Location TBD



Just for fun

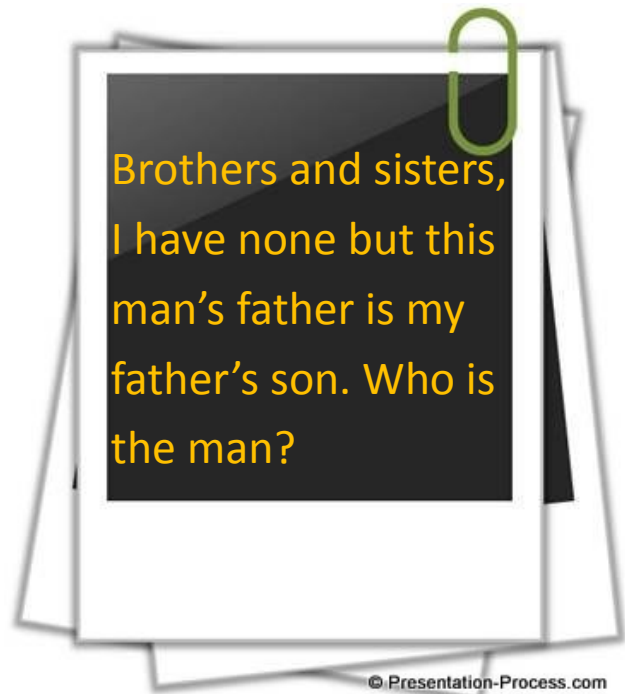


Ingredients:

- 1 cup of mango
- 1 ½ cup of strawberries
- 1/2 cup of plain Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup of orange juice
- 1 cup of ice

Blend together and serve!

Smile! It's SPRING!



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THE FIRST FOUR WORDS YOU SEE DESCRIBE YOU

