

# Staff Council

Newsletter Summer 2013 Issue

## Staff Council Members

*Chair*

Kerry McCullough-Vondrak  
Chemistry

*Secretary*

Sara Mattson  
ANDRILL

Tom Danaher  
Mathematics

Patricia Fleek  
Physics & Astronomy

Shawn Langan  
Physics & Astronomy

Alycia Libolt  
Dean's Office

Jamie Longwell  
Psychology

Donelle Moormeier  
Communication Studies

Mark Nelson  
A&S Advising Center

Denise Poehlman  
English

Helen Sexton  
Political Science

Shea Svoboda  
Computer Science & Engineering

JaMel Ways  
Chemistry

Alecia Kimbrough  
Dean's Office  
Ex-Officio Adviser



Nothing says summer like the annual Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Deans Office and put on by the Arts and Sciences Staff Council. It was a huge success with a record crowd screaming for ice cream! This tasty treat enjoyed by all was provided by our very own Dairy Store. The ice cream was served by A & S Staff, Staff Council and Interim Dean Steve Goddard. We hope to see you all next year for more beat the heat fun.



## SPARK

Spark was an eight week series of five articles and three TED videos devoted to staff sharing and discussing ideas. We usually had ten to fifteen people show up, and we covered a variety of areas including problem solving, motivation, and the power of introverts! Thanks to those who facilitated. More information to come from the Professional Development committee about how this series will continue!

## *In This Issue:*

- ★ Ice Cream Social
- ★ SPARK!
- ★ Meet Your NEW Council Members



# College of Arts & Sciences *Staff Council*

## Meet your New Council Members!



*Pictured from left front: Alecia Kimbrough, Kerry McCullough-Vondrak, Alycia Libolt, Sara Mattson, JaMel Ways.*

*Pictured from left back: Mark Nelson, Helen Sexton, Shea Svoboda, Denis Poehlman, Shawn Langan, Patty Fleek, Donelle Moormeier.*

*To introduce themselves, we asked our Staff Council members to answer five questions:*

- 1. What department do you work in, and what is your position?*
- 2. What is your favorite guilty pleasure movie (that you're embarrassed for us to know)?*
- 3. Do you have a vacation horror story?*
- 4. Candy Corn – Love it or toilet paper the house of the person who gave it to you?*
- 5. What do you want to do on Staff Council?*

### ***Tom Danaher***

**Area and Title:** Mathematics, Administrative Assistant

**Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie:** I have always enjoyed watching Steel Magnolias and since my son was diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes – it has had extra special meaning to me.

**Vacation Horror Story:** About 5 years ago – I had travel to Palm Springs CA in late October. There was a connection through Dallas and this flight was delayed due to an early snow storm in Colorado. The plane arrived an hour late and we were finally able to board. We were told that our flight was # 31 in line to take off. There were storms in the Dallas area and so we sat on the tarmac due to this. Once the weather cleared – the pilot came on to tell us that we needed to move to the other end of the airport since there had been a wind shift. We were now # 37 to take off. Over 2 hours later – we finally departed. The rest of the trip was great!

**Candy Corn?** Love candy corn! Even better with peanuts mixed in!

**Why Staff Council?** My main purpose for joining Staff Council was to make connections with other people within the College who I do not associate with on a professional level on a regular basis. Since the Council is represented by more than financial staff members, it allows me to network with other areas that are represented. Plus – I'd like to do my part to try to make working within the College of Arts and Sciences a better place to work. I hope in some way I can do my part.



## Patty Fleek

**Area and Title:** Business Manager for both Physics & Astronomy and Center for Materials and Nanoscience  
**Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie:** Bambi - I love animated children's movies

**Vacation Horror Story:** None.

**Candy Corn?** Love candy corn, just mix it with cashews and it's YUMMY. Sweet and salty.

**Why Staff Council?** to be part of a team and more involved in the College.

## Shawn Langan

**Area and Title:** Intro Teaching Lab Manager and night course instructor, Physics & Astronomy

**Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie:** I may seem like a rockem, sockem, hardcore sci-fi fan (and I am!) but one of my favorite movies is *Twilight*. I've seen them all and read all the books. Please don't tell my vampir friends!

**Vacation Horror Story:** As an undergrad, I tried to drive a rental car from Lincoln, NE to central Mexico. Turns out that is sort-of illegal. I had to rent two more cars and take a short flight to get to Mexico City and back. I had no mobile phone at the time, so out of the blue, my parents received an email from me, asking for \$1000 and telling them that I would be several days



late returning. They were more understanding than I expected.

**Candy Corn?** Candy corn is the opiate of the masses, which causes the masses to gain more mass. Hence, I like candy corn a little TOO much, and therefore I would TP the house of a person that gave it to me.

**Why Staff Council?** While on the staff council, I want to be useful. Sounds overly simple, but I really enjoy doing a variety of things. If I can help organize an event, propose some ideas for improvement/change, or simply carry stuff from one place to another, then I will feel that I have contributed. I like to keep busy and to give back to the college, in any way that I can.

## Alycia Libolt

**Area and Title:** Budget Analyst, Dean's Office

**Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie:** Overboard

**Vacation Horror Story:** I don't think I have a horror story.

**Candy Corn?** I like candy corn, but not so much that I couldn't live without it.

**Why Staff Council?** I wanted to join staff council to become more involved and meet new people in the A&S family.

## Jamie Longwell

**Area and Title:** Graduate Program Assistant, Psychology

**Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie:** *Bring it On!* and the sequels

**Vacation Horror Story:** None.

**Candy Corn?** Hate, hate, hate, candy corn.

**Why Staff Council?** have fun and meet people.

## Kerry McCollough-Vondrak

**Area and Title:** Graduate Recruiter and Communications Coordinator, Chemistry

**Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie:** *Gone with the Wind* - I saw it at least 6 times as a child. Loved the costumes in that movie!

**Vacation Horror Story:** Every time I vacation with my in-laws I want to run away screaming. The wise people that organized our last trip (my husband and brother-in-law) decided to save money and have all 10 of us share a cabin and one van for a week. Tooooooo much togetherness.

**Candy Corn?** I can't stress enough how much I hate it. I put it under the category of "Cruddy Candy." As a kid if I knew you gave out candy corn for Halloween, I would avoid your house like the plague. People who like candy corn need to be evaluated for mental wellness. Just kidding, but yes I HATE it!

**Why Staff Council?** This is my second year on staff council, and I have met some amazing people and learned a great deal, and I look forward to what this new year will bring.

# College of Arts & Sciences *Staff Council*

## **Sara Mattson**

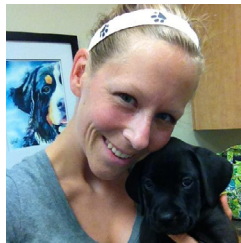
**Area and Title:** Subawards Associate for ANDRILL

**Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie:** I have no shame! I like any of the dance movies.

**Vacation Horror Story:** None.

**Candy Corn?** TP the person's house.

**Why Staff Council?** I am heading up the Networking and Event Planning committee this year. I think the opportunity to engage staff from areas other than yours is a great privilege. It allows us to have more input when making decisions, and can help make our college a more effective and efficient operation.



## **Denise Poehlman**

**Area and Title:** Assistant in English

**Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie:** I hate to "gush", but I have many guilty pleasure movies...the one that came to mind first is a western called Lonesome Dove...and the embarrassment factor is the sheer number of times I have watched it, for which I will not divulge! It has everything. Watch it.

**Vacation Horror Story:** Yes, I have a vacation horror story. Do you have three hours? Better yet, I'll write a novel. This stuff should be published. We can have a review of the book, and I'll take your questions at a Staff Council meeting TBA.

**Candy Corn?** Candy corn is okay but I wouldn't trash your castle or car over it. It's just okay. If you ever have a notion to buy me some, save your chunk of change, though. I will eat one and pitch the rest.

**Why Staff Council?** I want to spread goodwill on Staff Council. I THINK I would like to promote staff appreciation, but I will give anything a whirl. *It's all about spreading goodwill.*

Visit our website at [www.unl.edu/cas-staff-council](http://www.unl.edu/cas-staff-council) to find contact information for all of our members, as well as to join a subcommittee!

## **Mark Nelson**

**Area and Title:** Academic Advisor, CAS Advising

**Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie:** I'm a sucker for Disney (don't judge me). Faves would be a tossup between the *101 Dalmatians* and the *Jungle Book*.

**Vacation Horror Story:** I was traveling to Dallas, Texas for a conference during my college years. It was my very first professional conference. I had 3 different suits packed with all my shirts and nice clothes. This was 2006, post 9/11, so the terror level was still high and TSA performed random bag screenings for baggage checked at check-in. When I got to the hotel, I opened my bag to find a note saying "your bag was randomly screened by TSA...if there are any questions, please call...". Well, I was immediately alarmed because all of my clothes were covered in Old Spice body wash. I was livid! Thankfully, the hotel had an overnight dry cleaning service. The attendant said it was the best smelling mess she had ever cleaned. Moral of the story: Never pack a full bottle of body wash when flying. The results may be soapy.

**Candy Corn?** I'm a fan of candy corn especially Chocolate candy corn; send some my way!

**Why Staff Council?** What I would like to do on Staff Council – Overall, I want to learn as much as I can and further develop relationships with other staff members in the College!



# College of Arts & Sciences *Staff Council*

## *Helen Sexton*

**Area and Title:** Staff Assistant in Political Science



**Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie:** *Harry Potter*

**Vacation Horror Story:** We were camping. I had made dinner. One of the sides was creamed corn but I accidentally left it uncovered. It was dark when I served dinner. Everyone complimented me on dinner but wanted to know what was in the cream corn that made it “crunchy.” Answer: June Bugs. YUCK!

**Candy Corn?** I love candy corn

**Why Staff Council?** I want to learn more about the college/colleagues. The subcommittees that I am interested in are 1) professional development and 2) staff recognition.

## *Shea Svoboda*

**Area and Title:** Instructional Computing Specialist in the Computer Science & Engineering

**Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie:** I’ll watch almost any genre of movie and rarely dislike any of them unless they are unnecessarily long.

**Candy Corn?** I love candy corn

**Why Staff Council?** I want to learn more about the college/colleagues. The subcommittees that I am interested in are 1) professional development and 2) staff recognition.

## *JaMel Ways*

**Area and Title:** Chemistry, Assistant to the Chair

**Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie:** *Grease*

**Vacation Horror Story:** I stayed with a friend and her apartment was infested with cockroaches that were about 2 inches long. You could hear them walking...tap dancing and they were pointing and laughing at us. Thankfully, they did not appear until the last night my son and I were visiting. And just as I had held my son as a baby – he held me through the night to protect me from those roaches! It was HORRIBLE!

**Candy Corn?** Love it – and eat the colors separately.

**Why Staff Council?** make people laugh :) and then keep networking with others and doing fun things around campus!

*Answers edited for clarity and space.*

## **Applause** *The Perfect Thank You*

The Applause program honors college employees who perform their jobs extraordinarily well.

Nominations may be sent anytime by anyone to acknowledge the efforts of any permanent college employee. Whether you are faculty, staff, student or otherwise, your nomination can make a difference.

If someone in your area has done an extraordinary job for you, be sure to nominate them today at:

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

## **Ovation** *The Perfect Thank You... for Student Employees*

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. To learn more, visit the Ovation website at

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

