

A Message from The Staff Senate President

Another academic year has almost come to a close. As president of the Staff Senate during 2005-2006, I would like to thank all who helped to make this year successful. I have had the opportunity to meet and work with staff and faculty that I may not have otherwise. Since this was my first year as President, I feel very fortunate to have a number of past presidents to work with who are very knowledgeable and have been gracious enough to share their wisdom and expertise with me. All of the senators have represented the staff well and when presented with ideas they have forwarded them to the executive council for discussion and action if applicable.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Mr. David Burdette for his dedication and support to the Staff Senate over the past nine years. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with him. His leadership and support as our designated administrator will be greatly missed. I wish him the best at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. I know he will make great strides on their campus.

This year has proved to be exciting and memorable. Working with President Kyle and her administration during her first year as Presi-



dent at RU has been one that I will never forget. With the new Provost and Vice President of Finance selections to be made, I am sure next year will continue to be exciting and rewarding as the university continues to move forward in its mission. As a member of the senate as well as the immediate Staff Senate president, a RU employee and an alumnus, I pledge my continued support to the future of this university. *"RU is the smart choice!"*

I encourage everyone to take time to visit our website, attend our monthly meetings, and take an active part in the Staff Senate. Our Senators are dedicated to the goal of making RU the best possible place to live and work. Therefore, if we can be of further service please do not hesitate to contact one us. It is our endeavor to serve and represent you with a spirit of excellence. Thank you for allowing me to serve as the senate president this year.

Connie Phillips
Staff Senate President

Inside this issue:

Good News Corner
-Summer Schedule 2
-Spirit Day
-Staff Picnic

2005 Scholarship Recipient 3

Farewell from Mr. David Burdette 3

VGEA Meeting 4

Meeting Registration 5

Staff and Community Relations 6

Meeting Dates 7

Special points of interest:

- Radford University Staff Senate was created in 1995.
- Created to give support staff a voice in the governance of the University
- Next meeting—April 20, 2006, Heth Lounge B, 9:00 a.m.
- Let your voice be heard

Good News Corner

Summer Work Schedule



As approved by President Kyle, beginning May 8 through August 11, 2006 you may elect to observe alternate summer hours which will be 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. unless the services provided to students and/or the public by your department require that your office stay open until 5:00 p.m. or later. After 4:00 p.m., staffing can be the minimal necessary to provide the required services with the responsibility for working these hours rotated among the office staff. The entire university will not close at 4:00 p.m. Therefore, any office that will be observing the alternate summer work schedule is expected to record a message on employees' voice mail to indicate that their office is observing the alternate schedule and specify the hours of operation. The lunch break will be one-half hour between noon and 12:30 p.m., unless business reasons dictate a different time. Areas that do not normally adhere to an 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. work schedule will not be affected by this change. Department heads are expected to communicate to their employees whether or not their area will observe the summer work schedule in advance. An employee may request an exception to this work schedule from his/her department head in cases of extenuating circumstances.

Every Friday Will Be "Spirit Day"



During the period in which the alternate work schedule is observed, each Friday will be a "Spirit Day." Employees can dress casually, but should dress neatly and appropriately for their jobs. Employees may wear clothing with the RU logo and/or university colors. Department heads are expected to communicate to their employees any dates of exceptions to casual dress. Department heads should also communicate and monitor the standard for casual dress for their departments so employees have a clear understanding of what is appropriate.

Staff Picnic Set for May 12

Food, fun, and games will be in plentiful supply at the annual staff picnic on Friday, May 12th. Lunch will be served from noon to 1:30 at the River's edge (Dedmon Center, in case of rain), and the events will go on until 3 pm.





2005 Radford University Staff Senate Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations!

The recipient of the 2005 Staff Senate Scholarship is Ashley Dawn Litchfield, daughter of RU employee, James S. Litchfield (Housekeeping). Ashley is a pre-nursing major, and is a member of the National Student Nurses' Association. She is also involved with the RU chapter of the American Red Cross, having participated in two blood drives on campus.

Ashley is a member of New

River Baptist Temple, where she is quite active. She serves as the church's secretary, which involves accounting and payroll duties. She is in the youth choir which sings for area hospitals, rest homes, and homebound church members who are ill. Her participation in Blue Ridge Seedline has resulted in the interpretation of the Gospel of John and the Book of Romans in several languages to send to missionaries around the world for ministering to native cultures. Ashley is a Teen Leader in Proteens, a devotional study group in which teens memorize devotions and Bible verses to earn 'points', and test each other in order to better understand the

Bible. She is an assistant Sunday School teacher. As Ashley said, "My church is the most important place and area of my life through which most of my community service and leadership comes through since it is where I spend most of my time"; this is definitely evidenced in her involvement in church activities.

Ashley is a most deserving recipient of this year's Staff Senate Scholarship.



Farewell Note from Vice-President for Business Affairs, Mr. David Burdette

Having now had some time to reflect upon the past several years of my service to Radford University, one of my best memories will be of working with the Staff Senate leadership and support staff from throughout the campus to improve campus issues, and also to improve working conditions for employees as we go about our individual work efforts.



So, to the Staff Senate leadership and membership at RU, the work you do every day is so important to the overall successes of students, faculty and other staff. For that I thank you for the privilege of working along side of you, helping where I could, and (yes, I have to say it) being your chief cheerleader where appropriate. Keep up your individual and collective good work. RU is a great place to work; you can measure your success in the success of our students as they change from starting out as freshmen to confident graduating seniors. This is what we do-so keep going, keep in touch, and know that I will always have special memories of what we accomplished together at RU. *Go RU! David*

**VGEA 2006 Annual Membership Meeting**

April 28-29, 2006

The Crowne Plaza Hotel

Richmond, VA

Seminar Schedule

Friday, April 28, 2006

7:00 PM Kick Off Banquet

Saturday, April 29, 2006

8:00 AM Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM **Welcome & Introduction** by Peter Van Acker, VGEA President9:30 AM **Panel Discussion on Critical Issues for State Employees***A panel of state policy makers will discuss critical issues for state employees, such as compensation, retiree benefits, healthcare, workplace practices and more.*

Moderator: William P. Elwood, VGEA Executive Director

Members on the Panel:

Sara R. Wilson, Director of the Department of Human Resource Management

Robert P. Schultze, Director of the Virginia Retirement System

Craig M. Burns, House Appropriations Committee Legislative Fiscal Analyst for Compensation and Retirement

William Echelberger, Senate Finance Committee Legislative Analyst for Compensation and Retirement

Glen Pond, VGEA Lobbyist

10:45 AM Break

11:00 AM **How to Handle Employment Related Conflicts:** Presented by: The Dept. of Employment Dispute Resolution

12:00 PM Lunch

1:30 PM **Membership Meeting****Registration Process**

All registrations are due to the VGEA office by Wednesday, April 19, 2006. Space is limited and may sell out quickly. Your registration will only be confirmed when VGEA has received your registration fee. The registration fee for VGEA members is \$75 per person and covers all materials, seminars, the Friday evening dinner, and continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday. The guest registration fee for Friday's dinner is \$35. The guest registration fee for Saturday's luncheon is \$25 per person. Make your check payable to VGEA and mail it with a completed registration form to VGEA, 1011 East Main Street, Suite 400, Richmond, VA 23219.

Cancellation Policy

A cancellation received by Wednesday, April 19, 2006 will receive a 50% refund. No refund will be available to no shows. However, you may send someone else in your place.

Contact

Please contact the VGEA office at (888) 323-3373 if you have any questions.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Hotel Accommodations: Crowne Plaza, 555 E. Canal Street, Richmond, VA 23219, 1-800-227-6963, 804-798-0900

To make your room reservation for Friday, you must call the hotel directly at 1-800-227-6963 and tell them you are registering for the VGEA conference. VGEA room rate is \$109 per night.

Staff and Community Relations – submitted by Jo Thomas

Our committee will be meeting to determine how the Staff Senate can better serve both staff and our local community. One idea under consideration is a *Who's Who at RU*. We want to spotlight an RU staff member. I suspect we will find some very interesting characters amongst us! If you would like to be spotlighted or know of someone, please let me know. And, don't be surprised if you receive a call requesting an interview, along with photos.

Our outstanding efforts in the community, lead by Carolyn Sutphin and Cheryl Myers is evidenced by their continuing support and coordination of donations to local charities and events. These ladies do a tremendous job representing the true spirit of staff at RU!

RU's own Holly Shannon serves on the Board of Director's for Virginia Governmental Employee's Association (VGEA). Since being elected Holly has been a strong voice for RU faculty and staff. In this capacity, she is able to obtain and disseminate issues concerning state employees, thereby enabling us to contact our state legislators to encourage their support of proposed legislation. VGEA is the only organization that lobbies for raises, health care, mileage increases, retiree benefits, etc. If you are not already a member of VGEA, I strongly encourage you to join. For more details on the advantages of membership you may contact Holly at extension 6374, or go to the VGEA website at www.vgea.org.

The Spirit Committee is gearing up for activities at RU's annual picnic scheduled for May 12. Competition in past years has been fierce. The RU Spirit Committees perpetual plaques list the following winners who captured the RU Spirit Cup.

Housekeeping – 2002

Housekeeping – 2003

Admissions – 2004

Accounting Services – 2005

Accounting Services - 2005 Bea Covington Award

So, get ready --- encourage your co-workers to join with you and participate in the Spirit Competitions.

A change is being made to the judging process, as a result of a recent staff survey, instead of the crowd judging the competitions; this will become the sole responsibility of the Spirit Committee. (Spirit committee members are not eligible to compete).

If you or your department can donate prizes for the spirit competitions, door prizes, bingo, etc. please do so. We rely solely on RU donations for these events. You never know – you may be a winner!

If you have questions concerning the Staff and Community Relations activities or this year's spirit competitions you may contact me at extension 6106 or email jthomas@radford.edu

We're on the Web

http://www.radford.edu/~st_sen

Find information on our website regarding: the Staff Senate Constitution, ByLaws, Meeting Dates, Important Links, Committee Members, and of course our newsletter. Your input is important to us, contact the [Web-master](#) for suggestions and comments.

Staff Senate Meeting Schedule 2005-2006

Date	Location
July 21, 2005	LOUNGE B – HETH HALL
August 18, 2005	NO MEETING
September 15, 2005	LOUNGE B – HETH HALL
October 20, 2005	Selu Conservancy
November 17, 2005	LOUNGE B – HETH HALL
December 15, 2005	NO MEETING
January 19, 2006	LOUNGE B- HETH HALL
February 23, 2006	LOUNGE B – HETH HALL
March 16, 2006	Lounge A - Heth Hall
April 20, 2006	LOUNGE B – HETH HALL
May 18, 2006	LOUNGE B – HETH HALL
June 15, 2006	Hurlburt Combo 249/250 2:00 p.m.