



Staff Congress Newsletter



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March 20

Tidbits from Congress:

- Nearly half of the Staff Effectiveness Surveys have been returned. Thanks to all who supported this initiative. It's not too late to send in your comments. Please let Human Resources know if you did not receive a survey.
- The Staff Regent Election will be held in April. Nomination forms will be mailed soon, and need to be returned by March 31, 2000. Full time staff with at least 3 consecutive years of employment at NKU and no immediate relatives working on campus are eligible to run (Full details are on the nomination form). Open Forum to meet the candidates will be April 19, at 11: a.m. and April 20, at 2:30, in the University Center Theatre. Ballots will then be mailed out on April 24, and need to be returned by April 28th. The Ballots will be counted on May 1st. The candidate will need to acquire 50% plus 1 of the votes in order to win. If that doesn't happen, there will be a run off vote. The goal is to have a new Regent by the end of the semester.
- **Peg Goodrich is retiring with her last day being March 17 (St. Patty's Day). Peg introduced Merlyn Jefferson as her replacement. She was formerly with the Covington Independent Public School Systems for six years. She graduates next month from Southern Ohio Business College with a Business Management degree and plans on continuing her education here at NKU this fall. Welcome Merlyn!**
- The Parking Garage will open March 20, 2000. There will not be any charge for a week or two. So have a look and try it out. Eventually it will cost Faculty/Staff/Students 50 cents with proper ID and visitors \$1.00 with a visitor's parking pass. Sidewalks for the Terraced lot will be put in this summer.
- Guest speaker Ms Sara Sidebottom, Legal Services, addressed the need for expanding the language of the Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures in the Student Handbook. She presented a draft which Staff Congress approved. She expressed a wish to update the same issues in the Staff Grievance Policy.
- The Board of Regents traveled to Frankfort and met with Governor Patton, the Budget Committee and our local legislators. This was the first time a University Board of Regents met at the Capitol, and they received a warm welcome.
- Human Resources is investigating a "Long Term Care Insurance" group policy which NKU employees could choose to purchase through payroll deduction. It's still too early for details but we will keep you informed.
- Staff Congress members were asked if they would support the Faculty in the addition of a Guest Pass for the Health Center. We support further investigation of the matter.
- Staff Congress members were asked if they would support the Faculty in asking NKU to explore the option of offering a cafeteria style benefits program to all employees. We support further investigation of the matter.

Important dates to mark on your calendar:

August 29, 2000 -- Faculty/Staff Picnic on the Plaza followed by the P&G Pops Concert in the Park.

September 16, 2000 -- Community Care Day.



Farewell



Peg Goodrich, Faculty Senate/Staff Congress, Retirement Coffee is March 27, 2000. We all thank you Peg for your friendship and many years of dedicated service to Staff Congress. You will be missed.



New Arrivals



Peg Adams, Student Support Services, and **Dale Adams**, Disabilities Services, are the proud parents of a new baby boy. **Aubrey Archer Adams** was born on February 23, 2000. He weighed in at 9 lbs. and 3ozs, and was 21 inches long.

Applications are available for Staff Congress Scholarships! ! !

The 2000-2001 academic year application forms and the eligibility requirements are available at the Staff Congress Office AC105, from Secretary Merlyn Jefferson. Applicants for the A. D. Albright Staff Congress Scholarship must be a son or daughter of a permanent staff employee. Staff Congress Award applicants may be a spouse, son, or daughter of a permanent staff employee. These scholarships are funded by the NKU Foundation. The NKU Administration is providing two \$250 awards for books and supplies to the runners-up for the Staff Congress Scholarships. All applicants must be full-time undergraduate students in a degree program during the 2000-2001 academic year. Applications must be completed and returned to the Staff Congress Office by **April 3, 2000**.

An interesting story

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class was walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd." I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friend in the afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on. As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes. My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him and as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, "Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives." He looked at me and said, "Hey thanks!" There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude. I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school before now. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play football on Saturday with me and my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him. And my friends thought the same of him. Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Damn boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!" He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football

scholarship. Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak. Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I did and all the girls loved him! Boy, sometimes I was jealous. Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll be great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. "Thanks," he said. As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began. "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years, your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach... but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story." I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable." I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize its' depth. Never underestimate the power of your actions. For better or for worse, with one small gesture you can change a person's life. —Anonymous