



The News from *Your* Staff Senate

Volume 6, Issue 1, October 2011

Staff Senate seeks to promote dialogue and works to complement all faculty, staff, and student senates and councils in an effort to influence positive and progressive change to the Western Oregon University community.

Upcoming Public Events:

Public Meeting - Thursday, October 6th, 2011, 3:30pm in Hamersly Library 107

On the agenda: **Staff Senate Bylaws, New Staff Welcome Planning**



[Click here to add the Public Meeting to your Google Calendar](#)

Professional Development - Wednesday, October 19th, 2:00pm in Summit - Werner University Center

This month's presenter and topic: **Luis Rosa, "The Work of the Diversity Committee on Western's Campus"**

Hosted by Staff Senate and Administrative Support Council (ASC)



[Click here to add this Professional Development to your Google Calendar](#)

The President's Corner:

As the calendar page turns, it's the beginning of another great year at Western. Welcome to all of our new Staff, Students, and Faculty. Your 2011-2012 Staff Senate is looking forward to working for you over these next 12 months.

I know that, for me personally, it is staggering to consider all the roles that must be played to run this campus for a single day, much less for 24-hours per day, year after year. Staff is responsible for everything from teaching to taking out the trash. Sometimes, the same person does both (I know I have). The diversity of roles that Staff plays is truly astounding, and to thank everyone would make this newsletter quite long, so how about we just focus on the first few weeks of this year?

Everyone knows that Staff "keeps the lights on" and "files the important paperwork", but who could

have predicted that worn and corroded electrical lines would have left the newest building on campus, the Health and Wellness Center, without power for over a week? Well, Staff “keeps the lights on”, and a diesel generator was quickly brought in. While the old power lines were being repaired, offices were still open and groups of WOU students still played games and worked out. Thank you, Rip and the rest of the Health and Wellness Center Staff. Thank you, Tom and the Rest of the Physical Plant Staff.

And, then, the new students arrived. Student Leadership and Activities Staff, along with the gracious support of Staff, Students, and Faculty volunteers, made sure that New Student Week provided seven days packed with educational and social programming. University Housing provided comfortable rooms and more programming. Werner University Center and many other Building Staff provided facilities and left each as spotless as they were before hundreds of students passed through. Campus Dining kept everyone fed. Academic Advising helped students plan last minute schedule changes while the Registrar’s Office headed a never-ending line making those changes a reality. Everyone provided outstanding service: Public Safety, Academic Department Staffing, Financial Aid, University Computing Services...the list goes on and on. Thank you all.

And, it is with humility that I say, after 15 years of working and living in colleges and universities, there are certainly still Staff functions that I’m unaware of: integral departments, without whom this great university would grind to a halt. Over the next Academic year, your Staff Senate is making it their responsibility to discover and celebrate the work that we all do, and we need your help.

Each month, you can “Get to Know Your Staff”. This month, we feature the photos of your Staff Senate representatives, as well as a brief personal statement so that you might get to know these individuals a little better. With each subsequent monthly newsletter, we would like to feature staff members from across campus. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone you appreciate here at WOU, please go to the following link and give us their information. We’ll take care of the rest.

Don’t be shy, here is the link to nomination form: <http://goo.gl/zILQm>

Thanks again, and we’ll see you around campus.



Marshall Guthrie
2011-12 Staff Senate President

Get to Know Your Staff (Senate):

In future, this space will be dedicated to highlighting various staff members in our many roles around campus. If you or someone you know should be featured, please submit your/their information here: <http://goo.gl/zILQm>



Paul Allen

- Bilingual Financial Aid Counselor, Financial Aid Office
- Representing Academic Support Services, Unclassified
- 2 years at WOU

Paul uses his language skills to help our students plan the financing of their Western Oregon education. He also enjoys spending time with his children, cycling, running, and reading.



Ann Barton-Brown

- Admin Support & Pub Design Specialist, University Housing
- Representing Student Support Services, Classified

Ann produces all printed publications and forms for University Housing, as well as maintaining the Housing and RHA website. She keeps everything accurate and up-to-date, making sure students always have the correct info. In her spare time, she can often be found walking her dog, Gemma, around town, and enjoys making silver-clay jewelry (once molded and fired, the clay melts away to leave pure silver; pretty cool!).



Beverly Beck-Boersma

- Accountant/Instructor, Physical Plant
- Representing Administrative Support Services, Classified
- 14 years at WOU (1997)

Beverly has the responsibility of keeping all the finances for our fantastic physical plant in order. As if that weren't enough to keep her busy, she also helps raise 300 certified organic heifers for New Season Grocery, in addition to 100 beef cows.




Justin Collins


- Area Coordinator - Quad/Apartments, University Housing
- Representing Student Support Services, Unclassified
- 2 years at WOU

Justin is in his 2nd year here at WOU as the Quad and Apartments Area Coordinator with University


Housing. After graduating from WOU in 2007, he moved to Missouri for 3 years before making his way back. Justin enjoys playing board games, staying active with sports, and spending time with friends and his awesome staff.

	<p>Sue DeNoyer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire Service/Interdisciplinary Studies• Representing Academic Support Services, Classified• 18 years at WOU
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Sue works with Fire Services and Interdisciplinary Studies degree programs helping students stay on track with their degrees. Away from work she enjoys travel, hiking, live theater, movies, racquetball, and family/friends time.

	<p>James Goulding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office Coordinator, The Vice President for Student Affairs• Staff Senate Vice President / Representing Student Support Services, Classified• 4 years at WOU
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James coordinates the activities of our student government, ASWOU. He enjoys travel and videography.

	<p>Marshall Guthrie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educational Advisor, The Student Enrichment Program• Staff Senate President / Representing Student Support Services, Unclassified• 1+ years at WOU (February, 2010)
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A native Iowan, Marshall is a relative newcomer to campus, having most recently worked at Bard College in New York. When he's not advising SEP (TRiO) Students, teaching Financial Literacy, or serving on campus committees, Marshall can be found riding his recumbent bikes, home-brewing beer, and playing guitar.



Bill Hamlin

- Graduate Program Assistant, Teacher Education Division
- Representing Academic Support Services, Unclassified
- 1+ years at WOU (February, 2010)

Here is a bit about Bill. He's been working here at WOU as the graduate programs advisor for the division of teacher education since February 2010. Having completed his undergraduate and graduate programs here at WOU, he was very excited to continue on as an advisor and instructor. He enjoys music, movies, and traveling with his wife Alli and daughter Nora.



Mark Lane

- Bookstore Manager, WOU Bookstore
- Representing Administrative Support Services, Unclassified
- 4 years at WOU

Mark oversees all the operation of our WOU Book Store, including our new textbook rental program (Faculty: are your books available for rent?). He likes reading, playing with his children, and learning new things; he has recently taken up unicycling. Good luck Mark!



Heather Mercer

- Benefits Officer, Human Resources
- Representing Administrative Support Services, Classified
- 1 year at WOU (November, 2010)


Heather is the Benefit Officer in the Human Resources Office, primarily working with Employee Benefits, FMLA, and SAIF. Away from WOU, Heather enjoys reading, baking, and spending time with friends.



Mario Torres-Mora

- Office Specialist 1, Western Oregon University
- Representing Academic Support Services, Classified
- 1 year at WOU (May, 2011)

Mario, a graduate of WOU, is an Office Specialist with the Division of Extended Programs, He works with students taking online and non-credit courses. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his wife and two boys as well as running, hiking, and other outdoor activities.

 A head-and-shoulders portrait of Denise Visuano, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue top. She is smiling at the camera.	<p>Denise Visuano</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director, Public Relations• Representing Administrative Support Services, Unclassified• 12 years at WOU (1999)
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Denise, a Western graduate, not only leads all of WOU's Public Relations, but she's also the head graphic designer. In her spare time, she's working on her masters right here at WOU in the Info Tech program. Denise enjoys reading, needlework, and playing with her grandson. She hopes to catch up on sleep sometime in the future.

You can find the minutes from last month's meeting at: <http://www.wou.edu/president/staffsenate/minutes.php>

Questions, comments, or concerns? Contact your Staff Senate President: guthriem@wou.edu