

Preamble:

"Let this coming year be better than all the others. Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do but couldn't find time to...don't abandon your old fashioned principles. They never go out of style." ~ Ann Landers

Over the course of the year, the Staff Advisory Council undertook numerous educational, social, and community outreach programs to promote not just healthy working experience but also to reach out to the Savannah community in which we are part of. Below are some of the highlighted programs organized by the council during the year under review.

Educational

Lunch and Learn

Over the course of the year, a series of educational programs were put together by the Staff development committee through the lunch and learn series to help enrich the experience of our staff member. Topics such as: Food Choices for Healthy Lifestyles, Fiscal Fitness: Getting out of Debt, How You Spend makes a Difference, and even topics like Tips on How To Buy a House were all but few issues that were presented during the series. These topics were well presented and the facilitators were very knowledgeable and helpful.

Scholarships:

The council through our textbooks sales raised enough money thereby awarding 21 staff members' scholarship during the 2009/2010 academic year. Here is the list of individuals that the council was able to support through our textbooks scholarships during the year under review:

Fall 2009

Samuel Guthrie - CIS

Megan Morris - College of Education

Mirna Morrison - CIS

Cammie Ramos - CIS

Spring 2010

Santonio Johnson - Campus Police

Anne Marie Grayson - Business Office
Craig Wymer - Housing
Jessica Tuttle - Admissions
Joseph Peny - Campus Police
Roquiah Francis - Financial Aid
Vanessa Martinez - Financial Aid
Shannon Newman - Admissions
Charita Hardy – Admissions
Megan Feasel - Recreation and Wellness

Summer 2010

Pamela Magliulo - Registrar
Cynthia DeVoe - Dental Hygiene
Thomas Gorman - Police Department
Dennis Moore - Plant Operations
Megan Morris - College of Education
Michael Carr - Plant Operations

Community Outreach

March of Dimes

This was also another opportunity that the Council grabbed to raise awareness on improving the life of babies and support the prevention of birth defects. Over a \$1,000 dollars was raised for this program and the campus took part in the March of Dime walk which was held in March at the Daffin Park. Big thanks to Laura Harris, Corine Ackerson-Jones and Tracey Dunn (All Council members) and also the local chair of March of Dimes Mr. Cliff McCurry, who is also an alumnus of AASU.

Toys for Tots

The primary goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a shiny new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to needy youngsters that will motivate them to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders. This is the reason why the Staff Advisory Council joined hands with Toys for Tots to give during the holiday season. In all, we put together over 6 boxes with over 400 toys across the campus and plus \$500 check donated

it to the Marine Corps which was nicely presented them at the Armstrong Center in December of 2009.

Makin' Maroon Green

The Council hosted one of our biggest events on campus with the collaboration with Georgia Power, Savannah Recycle, and the City of Savannah by giving out free educational information on environmental sustainability and energy conservation. Over 2000 free compatible light bulbs were given to the campus community. Other free stuff such as stickers and informational brochure were given away.

Union Mission:

The council also presented few boxes of good, toiletries and other non perishable items to the Union Mission Savannah to support their effort and making Savannah a better place to live.

“Furlough Fun Packs”

Due to the state cutbacks in the university system, our staff, faculty, and administrators were required to take six (6) unpaid furlough days between October 2009 and May of 2010. In response to this, the Special Events Committee of the Staff Advisory Council put together “Furlough Fun Packages” in an attempt to strengthen morale within the Armstrong Atlantic community. These packages consisted of prizes and gift certificates donated by local businesses. To encourage participation at campus events, one Furlough Fun Pack was to be given away per scheduled Furlough Day via a drawing.

Items solicited:

Sodexo coffee mug with complimentary coffee, lunch and Milky Way bar.

Free organic martini — courtesy of SEED Eco Lounge

Regal Cinema movie passes

\$5 Off Carwash — courtesy of H&S Family Detailing

\$25 gift certificate — courtesy of Rancho Alegre Cuban Restaurant

Social Programs

AASU Talent Showcase

In collaboration with the Office of Student Activities (CUB), the council hosted the first ever AASU talents showcase at the Memorial College Center. This event was a great success. Students were given the opportunity to showcase their talents through music, recitals, and other acts in front of their peers. The council was able to use this event to also create a sense of community across the campus as over 250 members of the AASU community gathered to cheer on individuals who participated in the show. We also collaborated with Regal Cinema who donated 4 big bags of popcorn for the event. 10 student performances/acts participated in the showcase.

Staff Potluck:

The theme of this year's Staff Potluck luncheon was Denim and Diamonds Hoedown with a lot of country western theme dishes. A \$10 gift cards courtesy of Kroger and Publix and items donated from the bookstore were given out as prizes for Best Entrée, Best Dessert, Best Side Dish, and Best Chef with a \$5 budget, Best Chili (Chili Cook-off)

Activities at Potluck included Corn Hole, Musical Chairs, Hula Hoop Game, Line Dancing, Lasso Toss etc. This event gave the staff the chance to get together and interact with others from different offices across the campus. Sweet Tea/Unsweet Tea/Water provided by the Staff Advisory Council. \$82 spent on decorations, supplies (cups, plates, napkins, silverware, etc), and beverages

Celebrate AASU/Staff Textbooks sales

During the year under review the council was very active in the campus-wide program, Celebrate AASU day. The council collected used books, CDs, DVDs and VHS tapes and sold them to the campus community to raise money for the staff textbooks scholarship.

The council raised \$643.28 towards the textbook scholarship that day. In all, during the year under review, 21 staff members received scholarship money from the council totaling \$1,050.00. We currently have \$1,006.23 (for scholarship) and \$440.24 (discretionary)

Appreciation:

On a personal note, I'm very blessed that I had the honor to serve as the chair of this amazing body. The fun events, the challenges and all the experiences throughout the year will be forever cherished. I wish the upcoming council the best of everything and it's my hope that they take this council to higher places.

I will like to my deepest gratitude to all the members I had the pleasure of working with, who in part made this journey the best experience. As Isaac Newton once said, "*if I have seen further than others, it is because I was standing on the shoulders of giants.*" If I was able to do most of the thing I did or accomplish anything as the chair of this council; it was because I had the help of all the council members and individual staff members who constantly volunteered their time, energy and resources to support the council's mission.

I will also like to thank the Office of the President Dr. Linda Bleicken and Peggy Witherow who have always been there when we needed help and for providing the support throughout the year. Mrs. Rebecca Carroll for providing insight and being there for us when we needs her, and lastly the Armstrong community for not given up on my constant demand and requests whether it was asking for donations, volunteers or individual skills/talents, they were willing to provide. For all that, I thank you all for an amazing year.

Conclusion:

As interest and participation of the staff body continues to increase, the Staff Advisory Council will continue to have a strong presence on our campus community. Over the course of the year, the council maintained a great working relationship with faculty and senior administration and it's very appreciative of that. It's my hope that the council will continue to take advantage of these programs and use them as a tool to development our staff professionally and also to foster a strong relationship among them. The council's goal of programming is create and provide the best experience both in and outside the office for our staff as they continue to work hard and promote the activities of our dear institution. We want our staff to experience Armstrong instead of "just working" at Armstrong.

I came to learn that sometimes the best thing to do is to step outside one's self to discover what's important to someone else. I was able to put to use what Dale Carnegie said in his book 'The Leader in you' saying, *"There is nothing more rewarding than showing a genuine interest in other people."*

Humbly submitted by:

Frank Twum-Barimah
Council Chair
2009-2010