

## **Staff Senate Constituency Report to Virginia Tech Board of Visitors**

**November 11, 2007**

### **Judy Alford, Staff Senate President**

Rector Lutz, members of the Board of Visitors, President Steger, administrators and guests. It is an honor and privilege to speak to you about Virginia Tech's Staff Senate.

During the past few months, Staff Senate has worked towards accomplishing our goals for this year. Diversity awareness is an important goal for the senate and in keeping with this; Dr. Kevin McDonald was the speaker for the senate meeting in September.

- Dr. McDonald mentioned the book, The Inclusion Breakthrough: Unleashing The Real Power of Diversity by Frederick A. Miller and Judith H. Katz that discusses diversity inclusion in the workplace. The Office of Multicultural Affairs purchased the book for senators that were interested in reading and participating in a book discussion. Currently, we have 25 senators participating in the program. The book discussion will be held later this week.
- Dean Karen DePauw also attended the September Staff Senate meeting to discuss the VT-ENGAGE program. Currently, we have several projects proposed and will make a decision soon as to the project that we will work on this year.
- Mr. James Hyatt was the speaker for our October meeting. Mr. Hyatt gave an overview of the report that he gave to the Board of Visitors in August concerning security on campus.
- The Staff Policies and Affairs commission is working closely with the Higher Education Restructuring Employee Advisory Committee and will be bringing forth policy recommendations regarding the design of the university human resources system for the senate to approve. Additionally, the committee is working on the staff emeritus award and a staff leadership award.
- We are continually improving communication by working to make staff aware of programs and activities that reinforce the importance of being involved in governance. In January we are hosting "bring a guest" to senate day. The program will include valuable information on the staff senate.
- We have a new staff association representing the Provost's office, Outreach, and International Affairs offices. We are in the process of working with two more groups to form staff associations.

- The employee benefits fair was a huge success. We had many staff members stop by our table to discuss the senate.
- The McComas Leadership Seminar committee has begun planning the seminar which will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

At this time, I would like to hi-light staff employees at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine is a two-state - three-campus professional school operated by Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland at College Park and employees 210 staff members.

The College has approximately 65 administrative and support personnel that include a wide range of career opportunities. Fiscal technicians are responsible for purchasing, accounts payable, accounts receivable, grants coordination, and budget coordination. The IT department includes help desk technicians, computer programmers, web designers, and one very unique position to veterinary medicine called a medical illustrator. The medical illustrator is a graphic designer who concentrates his efforts on illustrating and detailing medical procedures for teaching purposes. Other administrative support departments include staff in public relations, human resources, facilities maintenance, medical records, admissions, and administration.

Approximately one-third of the staff is dedicated to providing support in laboratories, including research, medical, and teaching laboratories. The research technicians support research faculty who are internationally known for developing breakthroughs in veterinary and translational medicine. Medical technicians who specialize in histopathology, parasitology, and bacteriology work in the diagnostic laboratories in the hospital. The multi-disciplinary laboratory technicians provide support to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students by setting up the labs and teaching students on proper techniques. Another very unique position to veterinary medicine is an anatomical preparator, who prepares and maintains the gross anatomical and pathological specimen collection for support of instructional programs of the College and provides technical support in gross morphological sciences. The College also has a large number of animal care technicians who provide general husbandry and health care to the research animals in the College and the patients in both hospitals.

There are over 30 licensed veterinary technicians who work in both the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia. Licensed veterinary technician's support specialized services such as anesthesia, intensive care, and surgery. Certified radiologic technicians operate MRI's in both facilities and also perform diagnostic procedures with ultrasound, nuclear medicine, and X-ray equipment. Other

specialized staff positions in the hospitals include pharmacy technicians and pharmacists, and special procedures technicians who provide services in specialized areas such as cardiology, dermatology, orthopedics, and ophthalmology. The majority of staff positions in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital are comparable to positions in human medicine hospital facilities, and some of our staff members have prior experience in human medicine.

We are very excited to have such a talented group on staff on board in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Thank you,

Judy Alford