



*Professional Staff Organization
Of the University of Washington*

NEWS

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April 2006

From the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

As I wind down my time as Chair of the PSO, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our committee chairs and members for the work they've done this year.

Suzanne St Peter, Chair of the Scholarships and Grants Committee, and her members (Marilyn Gray, Ethan Allen, Anne Doherty) met each quarter and had the fun task of giving away money to other professional staff members who are pursuing their career goals and to units who are seeking funding for wide-ranging projects. You can read how to get involved or apply for a scholarship in this newsletter.

The Special Events Committee (Alyssa Robbins, Lucia Wisdom, Leslie Anderson, Suzette Ashby-Larrabee, Ann Guss, and Marilyn Gray) planned our all-campus meetings, first during autumn quarter with members of the LCVI Steering Committee and this quarter with Steve Charvat, Director of Emergency Management, who will join us on April 26. You can read more about his presentation and our spring meeting in this issue.

I'd like to add my congratulations to Cris Mesling, PSO Board member and Chair of the Special Events Committee, who recently stepped down to take on a more important role as a new mom!

Read about us at:

<http://depts.washington.edu/psoweb/>

Contact Board Members at:

psoboard@u.washington.edu

Email List:

To subscribe or remove yourself from the PSO list, go to <http://mailman.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/prostaff>

Professional Staff Organization ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Wednesday, April 26, 2006



**Kane Hall
Walker-Ames Room
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**



**Keynote Speaker:
Steve Charvat
Director of Emergency Management**

See page four for further details

Thanks also go to Nancy Bradshaw, Chair of the Legislative Committee, and her members (Robert Corbett, Rebecca Deardorff, Robin Ballard, Dana Robinson Slote, Bob Roseth, Naomi Wilson, Don Berg, Mary Fetterly, Meera Roy, Kimberly Mishra, Gary Peterson, and Chad Mishra) for the work they've done this year in setting the groundwork for next year's legislative session. You'll be getting more frequent updates from them in the coming months.

Spring elections for the Board of Directors are coming up. If you are interested in running for a Board position or if you'd like to recommend one of your colleagues, please contact Carrie Perrin at cyoung@u.washington.edu. You'll find more information in the article on page four.

As you can see, there are a variety of ways for you to get involved in the PSO. I encourage you to consider joining a committee or running for a position on the Board of Directors. It's a great way to use your skills and meet other staff members in units across the campus.

~Alicia Palacio, PSO Chair

What Is the PSO?

The Professional Staff Organization (PSO) represents the issues and concerns of professional staff to the university administration, the campus, and our local community. All professional staff are members of the PSO.

Established in 1990, over the years the PSO has provided information to legislators, represented professional staff on faculty councils and committees, and worked to improve communication and build camaraderie among the professional staff throughout the university system. The PSO also collaborates with the UW administration on other issues relevant to professional staff.

We host meetings in autumn and spring quarters, provide funding for professional development through various scholarships and grants, and publish a biannual newsletter.

Check out our Web site at <http://depts.washington.edu/psoweb/> to learn more about the PSO and the various opportunities to get involved.

Legislative Update



The 2006 Legislative session has ended. A final summary of the session can be found at <http://www.washington.edu/about/staterel/>.

The Legislative Committee advises the PSO Board on legislative issues affecting professional staff and higher education in general. It coordinates with and receives information from the UW State Relations Office and coordinates visits with state legislators. In the months to come, the legislative committee will be creating a short “white paper” to distribute to legislators in their home offices.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Nancy Bradshaw, Committee Chair, at bradsn@u.washington.edu.

PSO Provides

Scholarships and Grants for Professional Development: Be Sure to Apply!



The PSO provides two funding opportunities for individuals, the *Professional Development Scholarship* and the *Greg Stark Memorial Scholarship*. Each provides up to \$250 annually per professional staff member for professional development activities.

These scholarships assist with registration, tuition, and travel-related costs associated with professional development and career-related workshops, classes, conferences, and other learning opportunities. The Greg Stark Memorial Scholarship specifically promotes staff *team-building* and *collaborative leadership skills* and provides funds for individuals pursuing these goals.

Formal and informal professional staff groups and associations can apply for up to \$500 via the *Professional Development Grant Program*. These grants support activities such as classes, programs, or speakers that have a broad appeal throughout the University and contribute to the professional and career development of professional staff members.

Mark your calendar with the following quarterly application deadlines and be sure to apply:

Autumn:	August 5
Winter:	December 2
Spring:	March 4
Summer:	May 6

Visit the PSO Web site for additional information, instructions, and application forms: <http://depts.washington.edu/psoweb/>.

2006 Distinguished Staff Awards

Four individual staff members and one team of two will receive this year’s Distinguished Staff award. The PSO originated the recognition program in May 1991. UW Administration formalized the recognition awards in 1997 as the Distinguished Staff Awards. This year’s team award will go to the English in the Workplace team of Alison Stevens, educational outreach and PSO Board member; and Karen Long, financial management. Individual award recipients include MaryEllen Anderson, art history; Alysun Deckert, food & nutrition services; Kathryn Leonard, UW libraries; and Gary Pedersen, chemistry. Congratulations to everyone!



Board Member Biographies

*The following are brief biographies of current PSO Board Members.
More detailed biographies can be found on the PSO Web site at <http://depts.washington.edu/psoweb/>.*

Suzette Ashby-Larrabee has worked in Financial Management, Division of Management Accounting and Analysis, for 10 years. She received a BA from Barnard College in Government and an MA in International Affairs from George Washington University.

Nancy Bradshaw is the Assistant to the Chair of the Faculty Senate. She has worked in a range of areas during her 17 years in higher education, all of which have been in academic affairs.

Elizabeth Campbell has been with the University since the late 1980s. For the past year, she has been working with the Professional Staff Program Review Committee and was so impressed by the energy and work by the team, she decided to run for a position on the Board. Elizabeth volunteers for the Northwest Organization for Animal Help.

Robert Corbett is Coordinator of New Programs, and currently works with the Faculty Council on Academic Standards on issues of university-wide academic policy. Robert has been at the UW for 11 years.

Ronald Eng has been Geology Collections Manager at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture since 1991. He has worked at a university museum for the past 26 years. Ron has a BA in Biology from Boston University and an MS in Invertebrate Zoology with a minor in Ecology from Northeastern University. Ron was first elected to the PSO Board of Directors in 2001, was Vice Chair in 2002, Chair in 2002-2003, and is currently the PSO Board Seattle Campus Representative.

Marilyn Gray has worked at UW Seattle since 1978. She served as PSO chair in 2003-04 and has worked on the strategic plan and the review of the professional staff program. Marilyn is secretary of the PSO board.

Michelle Hall has been a staff member at the UW since 2000 with the Program on the Environment. Michelle holds an MA in English.

Bryce Hanson has worked in the Information Technology Department for Housing and Food Services as Technical Supervisor since March 2004. Bryce has a BA in English from Western Washington University.

Alicia Palacio has worked at the UW on and off since the late 1970s. She is Assistant to the Executive Vice Provost. Alicia is Chair of the PSO board.

Carrie Perrin has been a professional staff member for nearly all of her 17 years at UW Seattle. She is currently Director of Academic Services.

Bob Roseth was the first president of PSO. He has been at the UW since 1977 and is the director of the Office of News and Information. Bob has a BS from MIT (political science) and an MA from the University of Missouri (journalism).

Suzanne St Peter is the Co-Director for the Council on Social Work Education National Center for Gerontological Social Work Education, or Gero-Ed Center. Suzanne received an MSW from Washington University in St. Louis in 1999.

Mark Schoen is Assistant Director of Finance with the Department of Student Activities and Union Facilities. He has 17 years of experience with the university. Mark earned BA at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MA in public accounting at the University of Washington. Mark is treasurer of the PSO board.

Alison Stevens is Director of Program Development with International Outreach Programs, where she has been employed since 1993. Alison is also a recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Staff award.

Judith Yarrow is Managing Editor of *Northwest Public Health*, a biannual journal of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine. She has been with the School since 2001. Judith is Vice Chair of the PSO board.

Call for Nominations to PSO Board



The Professional Staff Organization is now accepting nominations for individuals to serve on the Board of Directors. This is a fantastic opportunity to get to know colleagues representing a variety of professions within the UW professional staff community.

The PSO Board works to represent the issues and concerns of professional staff across the three campuses, often acting as a conduit for information between staff and the UW administration. Recent PSO Board activities include the development of a comprehensive strategic plan, streamlining of communication with members, a complete overhaul of the PSO Web site, and initiation of and participation with UW Human Resources in a revision of the *Professional Staff Program*.

Future directions include a focus on outreach and membership building and increased activity related to state legislative issues. In addition to attending monthly

meetings, Board Directors generally participate in standing committees or work groups, and may serve as professional staff representatives on Faculty Senate councils and committees. All UW professional staff members are eligible to run.

You may nominate yourself or someone else (with their permission). Directors serve two-year terms, with the 2006-08 term of office beginning on June 1, 2006. Several positions are currently open.

Nominations must be received by April 21, 2006. If you are interested in running, please contact Carrie Perrin, at cyoung@u.washington.edu. Include a short bio with your background and a statement about why you want to become a Board Director.

Guest Speaker Discusses Emergency Management at the UW



Please join us for our spring membership meeting on April 26th. Light refreshments will be served at 11:30 a.m., and the program will begin at 12:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Steve Charvat, director of Emergency Management. His interactive presentation will provide PSO members and guests with a general overview of the UW's new Office of Emergency Management. He will be talking about the worst case scenario and what PSO members need to know in case of a regional disaster.

Steve's presentation will provide some recent case-studies of how last year's Triple-Threat hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, affected higher education institutions along the Gulf Coast. He will also share practical tips and hints on how to better prepare our families and ourselves for the types of catastrophes that can affect the Puget Sound area.

Bothell & Tacoma Looking For PSO Reps

The PSO Board currently has a vacancy in our Bothell and Tacoma Campus positions. If you are a professional staff member at the Bothell campus, either full- or part-time and want to represent your campus and help build a bigger and better professional staff organization, please contact **Alicia Palacio**, PSO Chair, at (206) 221-3958 or amp@u.washington.edu.



Parting Words



You can't do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth.

~Evan Escar



Contribution Agreement

Thank you for your interest in the payroll deduction contribution program. To participate in the program, you must be a permanent or temporary employee of the University of Washington and appointed as Professional Staff.

Please complete this form and mail to the PSO Treasurer, Mark Schoen, Box 352230. Lump sum contributions may also be mailed directly to the treasurer.

LAST NAME FIRST NAME MI UW I.D. NUMBER

POSITION TITLE DEPT. NAME MAIL STOP CAMPUS PHONE

TRANSACTION TYPE: BEGIN MY DEDUCTION CHANGE MY DEDUCTION STOP MY DEDUCTION

AMOUNT OF DEDUCTION PER PAY PERIOD (See PSO brochure or website for suggested amount based on annual salary.)

\$1.50 (MIN) \$2.00 \$2.50 \$3.00 \$3.50 \$_____ OTHER (\$.50 INCREMENTS)

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

By my signature, I hereby request and authorize the University of Washington to deduct the amount specified from my salary. I understand this deduction will start on the first pay period after the authorization is processed and continue for the duration of my employment, unless I elect to change the deduction amount or stop the deduction by notifying the Professional Staff Organization in writing.