



UUSAC Staff News

A University of Utah Staff Advisory Council Publication

Spring 2002

President's Message

The University of Utah staff is world class! The Olympics and Paralympics were a tremendous success. A big THANK YOU to everyone on the staff who helped showcase the University and the state!

Spring is in the air and it is always a busy season for UUSAC. We continue to hold our monthly UUSAC meetings and receive feedback from committee members and staff. Staff participation is the key.

Our SWAB (Salaries, Wages, and Benefits) Committee, with the help of Loretta Harper, VP of Human Resources, put in a request to President Machen for an increase in the Presidential Staff Award. We are very happy to report that President Machen increased the staff award from \$1,000 to \$3,000. If you have a co-worker you would like to nominate, please log on to www.med.utah.edu/hr or contact Terri Crow at 5-0928. Please send your nominations to me by April 19.

We are pleased to spotlight three dedicated and loyal University employees in this issue and would like to thank Esther, Gene, Barbara, and the entire University staff for the valuable service you continue give to the University of Utah.

*Bill Johnson
President, UUSAC*

133 Years of Excellence

Esther Radinger, Barbara Ralphs and Gene Pack have dedicated a combined 133 years of service and excellence to the U. family! The University of Utah would like to thank Esther, Barbara and Gene for all of the hard work and dedication that they have given throughout their careers!



Esther Radinger- Guiding the Honors Program

On March 26, 2002, Esther Radinger, described as the "bastion" of the Honors Program, begins her 47th year of employment at the U. Esther was born in Basel, Switzerland, grew up in Vienna and was educated in Austria and Germany. She moved to Utah in 1950, followed a year later by her parents and two younger brothers.

In 1955, Esther learned of a job in the language department at the U. The position required typing skills that Esther didn't have. Esther wasn't going to let a minor obstacle get in her way and she went to the LDS Business College, signed up for a typing class, rented a typewriter and took a crash course in typing. When she went back to the language department, Dr. McKay asked her if she could type. She replied that she thought she could. He hired her on the spot, informed her that he had another commitment, and asked if she would teach his German class. As a result, in addition to her administrative

duties, she taught German for 11 years.

In 1968, her friend and then presidential secretary, Lillian Ence, steered her towards the Honors Program. She has served five Honors Program directors, five University presidents and thousands of students. When asked to describe what she likes best about her job, Esther thoughtfully declared, "my interaction with the students, faculty and staff."

Esther is extremely proud of the Honors Program, and equally proud of the University, describing it as "a great institution of higher learning, comparable to some of the best ones in the country."

Esther, who describes herself as educationally spoiled, gratefully acknowledges her wonderful family and the rich educational and cultural opportunities they provided her. Esther feels that commitment and respect are the key ingredients to a successful career.

What's next for Esther? "Continuing to work with students and their families, and taking time to travel and enjoy cultural activities." Though she is currently on phased-retirement status, she does not plan to retire any time soon.

- Nancy Christensen, UUSAC

Presidential Staff Award- Call For Nominations

Deadline: Friday, April 19th

Four \$3000 Awards

Two Exempt • Two Non-Exempt

• UUSAC Staff News •



Barbara Ralphs—Experiencing the U.

In her forty-fourth year at the University of Utah, Barbara Ralphs has nothing but great memories that she is more than willing to share. You see, Barbara didn't even join the U. staff until she was in her forties. Believe me when I say—the U. family is glad she did!

When Barbara first joined the University staff in 1957, the College of Nursing was based in the old army barracks located in Fort Douglas. The campus was in a developmental stage as the OSH and Social and Behavioral Science buildings were being built. Her job title was administrative assistant to the dean of nursing. Her duties included typing or as she puts it, “being as close to perfect as possible. You couldn't make a mistake when you were typing the multiple forms because you would have to start over,” laughs Barbara. Never did she imagine corrective tape or a far-off invention called the computer.

Despite enjoying the nursing department very much, Barbara transferred to the music department in 1972 for a change in scenery. She became the music department's administrative assistant to the department chair. Barbara considers herself very fortunate to have worked 23 years with Dr. Ed Thompson, an extraordinary individual, both personally and professionally.

“The music department has such a great collegiality among the faculty, staff and students. I think that is quite unique,” says Barbara. “We have small classes and can offer one-on-one instruction between teachers and students. The best part is that most of the teachers are first-chair symphony players or are equivalent in experience, and I've made friendships with most of them.”

Barbara's fondest memories are those of Gardner Hall. “I've seen this building in its best and worst times. It was so beautiful when I was going to school at the U. “Everyone came to the dances in tuxes and formal wear. We danced to the music, which was big band, and experienced the building in its glory days.”

Through time, the building badly deteriorated. But, three years ago, Gardner Hall was renovated and rejuvenated to its beautiful self. “One of the most pleasing things I've experienced is the life cycle of Gardner Hall.”

A charming woman, who is loved by her co-workers, Barbara admits the friendships she has made within her department and throughout the university are the most meaningful to her. Another bonus she feels the university has presented her is the opportunity to continually learn.

When you meet Barbara, you simply put aside the fact that she has forty-four years of experience over you. Her pleasant personality and smile are a delight, and her memories make you realize you work for a great place where the people do make a difference. Thank you, Barbara, for being one of those people.

- Melissa Hall, UUSAC

The “S” in UUSAC stands for Staff and Service

UUSAC members remain committed to the concept that service is a key element in meeting its responsibility to the University and the greater Salt Lake community.

During the last quarter of 2001, UUSAC Communications/Publications and Service Committee members organized a fund drive to benefit the Utah Food Bank and participated with the Bennion Center to collect personal hygiene items and children's books to be distributed to local aid programs. Thanks to a generous contribution from the University of Utah Credit Union, UUSAC President Bill Johnson, and Communications Committee members Sheri Gordon and Nancy Christensen presented a check for \$750 to the Utah Food Bank. The Guadalupe School and Traveler's Aid society were the recipients of a great collection of children's books and personal care items generously donated by the U of U Community. We truly appreciated your support!

Spring 2002 Student Affairs Award for Service Excellence



L to R: Kris Hale, child care coordinator; SuAnn Johansen, associate director of admissions; Evelina Day, administrative assistant for Campus Recreation.



Going the Extra Mile!

Judy Parker received the Dean's Award from the Graduate School of Social Work. Congratulations!



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Gene Pack -Behind the Scenes at KUER 90.1 FM

To learn about the history of KUER, one does not have to look very far. Just ask Gene Pack. He has been with the station even before it went on the air in 1960 and has been on campus for 42 years. He first started with the University of Utah working as a cameraman for KUED while finishing his bachelor's degree in broadcasting. During the spring of 1960 he became involved with KUER as a student volunteer to help set-up the station's studio in the basement of Kingsbury Hall. His experience and talents earned him the position of production director in 1960.



As the University grew, Gene Pack remained with KUER in various different capacities. He eventually became the morning host of KUER's classical music program in the early 1970s. He was a member of a club called the University Broadcasters who transmitted by wire from the studio in Kingsbury Hall a daily three-hour program that included classical music for Dr. Engar. When the classical music director position opened, Gene was naturally asked to host the morning program. For nearly three decades, Gene's voice resonated on the air until last March when the program was cancelled. "It was hard. Wherever I go, people come up to me and tell me how much they miss the program." Gene has moved on to become the station's arts and cultural producer reporting on the arts and producing materials for the news programs which have now replaced classical music.

Aside from his radio career, Gene also enjoys acting. Last year he played the role of Sigmund Freud in a local production of *Hysteria*. He has also been seen on the big screen in the movie *Footloose* and has a small role on the television series *Touched by an Angel* in an upcoming episode called, "The Banquet."

Gene Pack is a great role model for longevity, not only for his many years of service to the University of Utah, but also for his strong commitment to KUER and radio.

- Thuy Nguyen, UUSAC

Human Resources Is Moving!

This spring, with the exception of OEO and the vice president's office, HR employees at the annex and 421 Wakara Way will move to a new location at 420 Wakara Way in Research Park. The new facility will include classrooms for training and orientation as well as several small conference rooms for meetings. Employees will be able to meet with HR representatives for all their HR needs under one roof. Human Resources is expected to begin moving sometime in April.

SWAB Committee Report

The SWAB (Salaries, Wages and Benefits) committee's current focus is on health and wellness. We first defined the five areas of health and wellness which are: physical, social, mental, emotional and spiritual.

We are now gathering information from all areas on campus. Our goal is to create one web site to host all the options we have here on campus regarding health and wellness. Please contact Tami Garff (Tgarff@socwk.utah.edu or 581-4962) with any suggestions/concerns for SWAB to discuss. We are very happy about the recent approval of the Presidential Staff Awards!

Legislative Committee Report

We saw legislators make difficult decisions about budget cuts due to revenue shortfalls during the 2002 Utah State Legislative Session.

As members of UUSAC, we hope everyone was able to become involved with the caucus meetings held on Monday, March 25th. This grass roots level of involvement is where the greatest impact for the future can be had. For those who attended these meetings and were elected as delegates to county and state conventions, we hope you enjoyed your experience and thank you for your service. For more information on becoming a legislative advocate, please call Mike Winder at 585-9911.

University-Wide Blood Drive

UUSAC and ARUP are teaming up! Come join our team and support our Blood Drive on April 11, 2002, at the Olpin Union Bldg. (East Ballroom), from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. It only takes a few minutes to give the precious gift of life. Please call Sheri Gordon at 587-9619 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.



People
taking care of people

A publication of
U of U Staff Advisory Council

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If you have story ideas or comments regarding information in this publication, please contact Nanette Richard at 581-3708 or nrichard@alumni.utah.edu.

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