

January 2010

THE ASSN NEWS

Mini Version!

From Dean O'Brien



Dear Arts and Science
Staff Members:

I hope you had a great holiday season. I know the weather did not exactly cooperate with everyone's travel plans, but that's nothing new in mid-Missouri in early winter.

From my perspective, the semester has started well, but that's easy for me to say. I'm not the one who has to face the crush of returning students, each of whom seems to have her or his unique issue that needs your immediate attention, or returning faculty, each of whom has a crisis of the day for you to try and solve. But you always manage to get through whatever it is you're faced with and to do it with style and grace. Thank you very much for that.

I know I'll see many of you before then, but remember that once again we'll have the A&S staff luncheon in the spring. I hope you look forward to that as much as I do. In all the years I've gone to the luncheon, I've never won a door prize. Finally winning one is my modest goal for this semester -- that and trying to keep this large academic ship afloat in the financial maelstrom that surrounds us. So far, so good.

I hope each one of you has a truly great semester. And as always, please let me hear from you on any issue that is important to you.

Mike O'Brien

From the ASSN Chair...Patty Eggleston

The Holiday Luncheon was a wonderful success with an attendance of 29 staff members. Jonathan Weng and Susan Worstell did a wonderful job singing and playing the keyboard. The Pinnacle Brass Ensemble entertained everyone with a variety of Christmas music. Kristy Crim did an awesome job involving members in a game of "Kamikaze Carols". The winner of the table centerpiece was the Dean's Office and they received a bagel & donut breakfast for 10 donated by Hy-Vee. Other departments who brought centerpieces to be judged were Art, History and Mathematics. Thanks to everyone who participated.

The committee is working hard on upcoming events and more information on all of these events will be forthcoming:

February 19: Bowling

March: "What's Up on Campus". Come along and take a tour of the Museum of Anthropology.

April 5 - 23: "Spring Into Summer" A charity drive involving both international and local agencies.

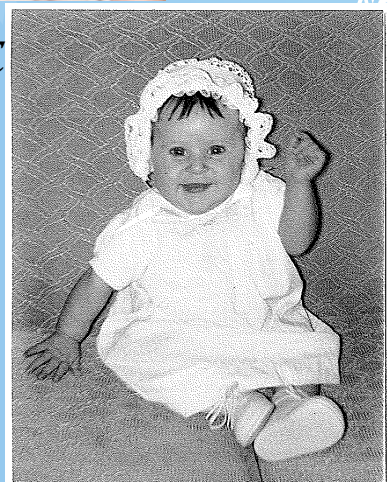
April 21- 22: Book/Bake Sale. If you or your faculty would like to donate books or baked goods for this event, please contact Liz Schulte at 882-4409.

May 19: The Board is gearing up for the staff luncheon which will be held from 11:30 am -1:30 pm at the Memorial Union in Stotler Lounge. This year's theme is "The World's Fair". We hope all of you will be able to attend.

Your ASSN Board members hope that you can participate in the upcoming events because we would love to meet you. The College of Arts & Science has 30 departments with almost 200 staff members. We are trying to get the information to everyone so that we can all network together.

Patty Eggleston

GUESS WHO - Baby Contest

A*B**C**D**E*

You have before you five baby pictures. Aren't they cute!

Your job is to figure out which baby picture belongs to which board member (there are 11 of us and only 5 baby pictures).

The babies are listed A-E and the current board members are located on the ASSN web page <http://assn.missouri.edu/boardmembers>. Match them up correctly and win a gift. The first person to respond with the correct answers will win a \$20.00 gift certificate to the University Bookstore; Second place 2 Double Butterburger Cheese value baskets from Culvers and Third place a medium pizza from Papa Johns.

Get your thinking caps on, the deadline is February 12th. Send your answers to Linda Garrison at garrisonlk@missouri.edu. Good Luck!

People you should know...

Mike Watson, Associate Director, Computer Services

First, I find it humbling to be someone that you want to know more about, thank you, so let me start by telling you all about myself. I am a pretty straightforward and hopefully normal guy. I like to fly fish and hike, both of which I try to fit in a couple of times a year in Colorado. There is nothing quite like hiking into the backcountry and spending the day fishing. I also like to spend a lot of time with family and friends camping, hunting, fishing and basically enjoying the outdoors. I am married to a wonderful woman whom I met in Schurz hall in 1986 when I started as a student here at MU. We have two kids, my 14-year-old son entered West Junior High this year and my daughter who is 12 attends Heritage Academy. They are both active in sports and I like to help coach or cheer them on. I also spend a lot of time working with junior and senior high school students with our church youth group, that's how I get one of those trips to Colorado in each year, and we have the occasional foster baby we care for as a family a few times a year. And finally, I spend too much time playing video games.

I started in the Information Technology area in 1991 in California. I was a technician and later ran my own retail computer store with a partner. We built our own custom systems for distribution in the Sacramento area. I moved back to Missouri in 1995 and started at the University then. I began in the Chemistry department as an Electronics Technician. I then moved into a split position with the A&S Dean's Office after a few years as a Programmer/Analyst. My primary duties for the first few years were to keep computers up and running and manage the growing server infrastructure in the Department and College. In 2001 I took over as the Associate Director, Computing Services for the College of Arts & Science and in that role I have really come to love the College and the people in it. While I serve on a number of campus and system committees by far my favorite part of the job is working with A&S staff and faculty to solve their technology issues. They are truly a great group of people and make the job interesting and engaging. As always if you have any questions you would like answered or just want to talk give me a call.

**Donna Monnig, ASSN Board Member**

In addition to being on the ASSN Board, I am an advisor with the Student Success Center, working with the Undecided, Pre-Journalism and Pre-Communication student population. I also advise students in transition from one program to another. I am the liaison for the Recruit Back program, which encourages A&S and CAFNR students who have left the university to return to complete their degree. My new favorite extreme is zip-lining and I will immediately stop channel surfing if anything football-related appears on TV.

I believe that a smile goes a long way and that you are more likely to regret the things you've never done.