

The University of Georgia Staff Council offers our congratulations to Ryan Nesbit our new Vice President for Finance and Administration. We look forward to hearing from Ryan at our May meeting and working with Finance and Administration on future projects..

Staff Council's April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting is important, as we will be holding elections for officers. We will be voting on the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, and Coordinator. This meeting will be held in the Miller Learning Center room 207 from 2:30-3:30. All are welcome to attend.

I am sure that everyone here recognizes the importance of shared governance at UGA. I want to ask that you both encourage and support staff members from your areas participation in Staff Representative Groups and Staff Council. I strongly urge every unit that is currently without a Staff Representative Group to form one now, in time to have your unit's representative seated on next year's Staff Council in July. The current council will be very happy to assist you with your SRG. Why would a unit want staff members volunteering to participate in Staff Council? For several good reasons.

Service is part of the University motto. To teach, to serve, and to inquire into the nature of things

In my personal experience, over the last few years with Staff Council, I have gained institutional knowledge of the inner workings of UGA, professional contacts, personal contacts, and some good friends both on and off campus. Now I generally know who does what and whom to call if I need help or advice; something that was gained entirely through my Staff Council service. This has proven invaluable to both Staff Council and my job in the Department of Mathematics.

To see how volunteerism positively affects the employee, one need look no further than our own Dr. Jessica Rodell at the Terry College of Business, who published a paper entitled "[Finding meaning through volunteering: Why do employees volunteer and what does it mean for their jobs?](#)" published in the *Academy of Management Journal* in 2013.

Dr. Rodell stated, "Results suggested that volunteering was associated with both volunteer and job meaningfulness, and that the pull of meaningful volunteer work was even stronger when employees had less meaning in their jobs. The results further revealed benefits of volunteering for employers. Volunteering was related to job absorption but not job interference, and it was therefore associated with better job performance."

In short, participation in Staff Council makes staff members see their jobs as more meaningful; they are more productive, and bring the learned skills and contacts back to their jobs. There is no better reason to encourage staff members to be engaged in Staff Council or other volunteerism.

Thank you for your time today and your continued support for the staff at UGA.