



---

---

## South Central District Newsletter

### June 2004

#### **NOTE FROM STARLA :**

Well, half of my year as president is already over and it's been great so far. We are working to find a location to host the state meeting before we can appoint committees to take care of the other details of the state meeting. HOpefully, by the fall meeting, we will be able to discuss possible locations and make a decision. Hope everyone has a terrific summer!!

Starla Harwood  
President  
NCCESA, South Central District

---

#### **NEWS FROM BLADEN COUNTY:**

Devona Beard was the winner of the \$500 in professional development funds from a drawing comprised of the 2003 Pride of the Wolfpack recipients. Ms. Devona Beard, Secretary in the Bladen County CooperaitveExtension office was the recipient of this award level. Devona's name was selected from among those 20 drawn from the 2003 winners who received the tier two level awards, their choice of a college shirt. These winners were recognized as a part of the College Awards luncheon held April 7 at the University Club

Also, Devona Beard has been selected to participate in the Pathways Leadership Development Program 2004-2005. The Development Program, is a year-long leadership development program that links professional development to university business needs. Pathways is designed to increase the skills to follow the five fundamental practices of leadership: to effectively challenge processes, to inspire a shared vision, to enable others act, to model leadership behaviors, and to encourage the heart of others.

Devona is also assisting in keeping positions filled with Cooperative Extension. Her youngest daughter, Kristin, started in April as Vance Countie's 4-H Agent. Another daughter, Bridget Kirk, has been the 4-H Agent in Dublin County for two years.

#### **NEWS FROM CHATHAM COUNTY:**

Susan Graham, Chatham County Administrative Secretary, is Staff Senate Representative from District 14 and describes the Staff Senate for those unfamiliar with what they do:

Maybe you've heard of the Staff Senate. Maybe you haven't. In fact, I wasn't very familiar with the Staff Senate until a couple of years ago. Then, last spring, I received an email saying that I had been nominated to be a Staff Senator for District 14 (CALs). I did some further research into the Senate, checked with my County Director about the time and efforts required, and accepted the nomination. But to be perfectly honest with you, I still didn't

really know what the Staff Senate was all about until I went to my first meeting. I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about the Senate.

The Staff Senate is an advisory body to the University Chancellor. In fulfilling this role, the Senate:

initiates the review of policies and/or procedures and make recommendations regarding interest/concerns that affect staff members; receives proposed policies or policy changes from the Chancellor for review and recommendations; assists in the communication of issues and activities affecting staff members; promotes and facilitates staff participation in the University community; and encourages a sense of community among all University employees.

"Okay, so what does that mean to me?" you ask. I've been a Staff Senator for about a year now and I can honestly tell you that issues brought before the Senate are heard, considered, and acted upon. Of course, there are some matters that even the Senate can't fix - like the lack of raises, health care benefit concerns, the State budget, etc. But the Staff Senators take their responsibility very seriously. The University does too! The Staff Senate is fully supported by the Chancellor and is the only Staff Senate in the University system with a formal budget.

There are six standing committees in the Staff Senate: Governance, Resource and Environment, Public Relations, Diversity, Human Resources, and Legislative Liaison. Ad Hoc committees may be appointed as special needs arise and are disbanded when its purpose has been served. Duties of this committee are to accept the business assigned by the Executive Committee and to deal with the item in a responsible and timely manner; to make progress reports on its activities to the Senate, as well as a final report.

The Staff Senate produces a quarterly newsletter, The Voice, which is distributed to SPA staff.. This year Laura Massengil (Soil Science), Chair Elect, has designated a Staff Senator/Alternate for each Extension district to promote timely communication between the Staff Senate and constituents.

The Staff Senate is very aware that the University has 101 "departments" outside the Campus community in the form of county Extension offices and is currently addressing issues specific to these offices and their staffs. Some issues currently being discussed that directly affect county employees include WolfPerks from local businesses, computer loan program, textbook loan program, and campus ID's for county staff.

Press releases and minutes from past meetings are posted on the Staff Senate website. There is also a directory of all Staff Senators and Alternates. I encourage you to visit the Staff Senate website, [http://www.ncsu.edu/staff\\_senate/](http://www.ncsu.edu/staff_senate/) for more information. And please contact a Staff Senate member at any time you have a concern or issue you would like presented to the Senate.

## **NEWS FROM CUMBERLAND COUNTY:**

Kristen Johnson, daughter of Susan Johnson, Cumberland County, graduated May 8, 2004 with a BS Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from East Carolina University. While attending East Carolina, Kristen was a student athlete, completing 4 years in the softball program. Kristen was also awarded the East Carolina Pirate Leadership and Community Service Award, which is a \$3000 scholarship for graduate studies. Kristen will be attending graduate school at East Carolina.

## **NEWS FROM LEE COUNTY:**

Leanne Morton, daughter of Donald and Kay Morton of Sanford, graduated Valadorian of the class of 2004 from Lee County High School May 28, 2004. She will be attending NC State University's School of Engineering in the fall.

Leanne is also a 2004 North Carolina Extension and Community Association State Scholarship winner.

Way to go Leanne!