As 2010 begins, we all have the perfect opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year. One of my personal pleasures has been serving as the president of Saint Louis University’s Women’s Commission. The role has given me the opportunity to meet, celebrate and collaborate with some outstanding women working at SLU. From the Women of Worth dinner celebrating Mary Bruemmer and Cordie Reese to the YWCA Women of Achievement luncheon honoring SLU’s at-work leaders to the members of the Women’s Commission Board who meet monthly, I feel honored to have the opportunity to work with such unique and wonderful women.

Kudos to Mary Pat McGinnis for the outstanding programs that have taken place in the past few months. Both the November program, “Taking Care of Our Spiritual Selves” with Anne Hensley, and December’s “Taking Care of Our Creative Selves,” with a guest appearance by former commission president Vicki Wroblewski, were standing room only. Despite the packed rooms, Donna Bess Myers provided warm hospitality – and plenty of cookies and coffee. I know we can look forward to the same high-quality programming in February with “Taking Care of Our Financial Health” and in March with “Spring Cleaning Our Lives – Getting Rid of Destructive Influences” before our season finale, the Women of the Year awards luncheon in April.

On that note, I urge everyone to be thinking of whom the Women’s Commission should honor as this year’s Women of the Year. This annual event recognizing outstanding female faculty, staff, administration and students is fast approaching; information on the nomination process can be found in this issue.

In the new year, the Women’s Commission is taking on a project to serve the women of the SLU community. After a productive conversation between Interim Provost Manoj Patankar and Women’s Commission President-Elect Mary Rose Grant, Secretary Deb Misuraca and myself, we will be developing a single directory of all of the women’s organizations at SLU. Our goal is to provide a one-stop-shop – or webpage – for women in any role at SLU to find the organization best suited to their needs and interests. As a prelude to this project, I invite the leadership or members of any such organizations at SLU to contact me with basic information about their organization (such as name, web address, contact name and number) to assist in the development of a template.

At the risk of sounding repetitious, a good gig, this Women’s Commission presidency – at least it has been so far. Happy New Year!
Standing Room Only at Annual Holiday Craft Program

Standing Room Only at Annual Holiday Craft Program

T
ough the weather outside was frightful, it was standing room only in BSC Room 251 on Dec. 1 when the Women’s Commission held its annual holiday craft program. We were delighted to welcome back former commission president Vicki Wroblewski, who led the group in getting their creative juices flowing and guiding them in making a beautiful glass holiday craft. Women from across both campuses mingled and laughed as they got in the holiday spirit and let their creative energy run wild. Fun was had by all. Let’s hope we can convince Vicki to join us next year!

Seeking Nominations for 2010
SLU Women of the Year Luncheon

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It is time once again for a SLU tradition and one that the Women’s Commission is particularly proud to host. The Women of the Year Luncheon is a traditional springtime event since 1977, co-sponsored by the Women’s Commission and the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action.

Five Saint Louis University women are selected by the Awards Committee of the Women’s Commission from nominations submitted by members of the University community and honored at the luncheon. They represent a cross-section of the administration, faculty, staff and students.

The luncheon this year will take place on April 21. We would like to encourage everyone to submit a letter of nomination for a woman whose life and work reflect the motto of the Women’s Commission: Education, Enrichment and Empowerment. In the nomination letter, we ask that you include the reasons you feel the nominee deserves the honor of being a 2010 Women of the Year. Current faculty, staff and students are eligible for this honor.

Criterion for Selection

• Commitment to Saint Louis University’s philosophy, measured by the quality and diversity of her service
• Recognition she has received or evidence of significant contributions she has made in her major field or areas of her life.
• Sensitivity and dedication to increasing cultural diversity at all levels of the University and in the metropolitan St. Louis community
• Service to others within or around the Saint Louis University campus

Guidelines

• The typed letter of nomination should follow the criteria for selection specified above and should not exceed two pages in length
• The nomination must be signed, or may be sent as an attachment to an e-mail message sent from the nominator’s SLU e-mail account
• To nominate more than one woman, it is necessary to submit a separate letter on behalf of each individual nominee
• The number of nominations for a single individual is not necessarily a factor in the selection process
• Anyone in the University community may submit a nomination
• A faculty or staff nominee must be a female who has been employed at the University for at least three years.
• A student nominee may be an undergraduate, a graduate or a professional student

Previous honorees can be found here and current members of the Awards Committee of the Women’s Commission are not eligible for nomination.

Nominations should be received by 5 p.m., Feb. 26, 2010. Send nomination letters to Michelle Hyde, DuBourg Hall, 341-A, or by e-mail to mhyde4@slu.edu. Please allow ample time when sending nomination letters. Nominations received after the posted date and time will not be considered by the Women’s Commission Awards Committee.

Please contact Michelle Hyde at (314) 977-5530 with any questions.
Find Your Financial Footing in February

In keeping with the “Women’s Wellness – Taking Care of Ourselves” theme for the 2009-2010 year, first program in 2010 will be “Taking Care of Our Financial Health,” from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16 in BSC rooms 253 B and C. Have you looked at your retirement package lately? Are you and your loved ones adequately insured should something happen to you? We’ll have a panel of financial experts to address these and other financial issues unique to women. You don’t want to miss this important program.

Drinks and dessert will be provided. Reservations recommended no later than Feb. 11. Please click here to RSVP.

Upcoming Women’s Commission Programs

February 16
11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
BSC 253B/C
Taking Care of Our Financial Health

March 16
11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
BSC 253B/C
Spring Cleaning Our Lives – Getting Rid Of Destructive Influences in Our Lives

April 21
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
BSC 170/171
Women of the Year Awards*

*Please note that this program will have a separate RSVP process beginning in March.

YWCA Honors SLU Employees at Annual Leader Luncheon

Since 1984, Saint Louis University has nominated a select group of women of achievement in the university community, and honored their contributions by inviting them to participate in the annual YWCA Leader Luncheon. This event celebrates leaders in the workplace from all over the city of St. Louis.

The 2009 Leader Luncheon was held Dec. 3 at the Millennium Hotel in Downtown St. Louis. SLU participated in the program by honoring eight women from across the University who have contributed to the growth and enrichment of the University community as well as the greater community.

The 2009 honorees are:

Laurel Boone, J.D.,
Associate Professor, John Cook School of Business
Sister Jeannine DeClue, O.P.
Campus Minister, Mission and Ministry
Susan Fanale
Director of Undergraduate Initiatives, Student Development
Sharon Frey, M.D.
Infectious Diseases, School of Medicine
Jenine Harris
Assistant Professor, School of Public Health
Teri Murray, Ph.D
Dean, School of Nursing
Kim Reitter, Ed.D
Director of Career Services, Student Development
Jamie Schmid
Librarian, Pius XII Library

From left to right: Teri Murray, Ph.D, Sharon Frey, M.D., Kim Reitter, Ed.D, Jamie Schmid, Susan Fanale, Sister Jeannine DeClue, OP
Seeking New Executive Board Members

The Women's Commission is seeking nominations for its 2010-2011 executive board. Offices to be filled are president-elect, secretary, treasurer, programs chair, awards chair, issues chair, publicity co-chairs (3), and arrangements chair. The executive board meets monthly, in addition to attending Women's Commission programs.

Please submit the name, title and contact information of the nominee(s), along with a sentence describing why you think she would be a strong candidate for the Women's Commission board, to Women's Commission past-president Kathy Day at dayka@slu.edu at your earliest convenience. The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. Feb. 26.

New board members will be announced at the Women's Commission “Women of the Year” luncheon on April 21.

Spotlight On: Mary Krieg

Each issue, we highlight a woman who attended a Women's Commission event recently. This issue's subject is Mary Krieg, an administrative assistant in the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action, who attended the annual holiday craft program, “Taking Care of Our Creative Side.”

What does your work entail?
General administrative duties; [I] assist the director with government reports. I do faculty postings. [I also] serve as interim secretary to the Rank and Tenure Committee.

Have you ever attended a Women's Commission luncheon or event before “Taking Care of Our Creative Side”?
Yes. I attend meetings occasionally. I [also] assist with the Women’s Commission Women of the Year luncheon.

What did you think of the event?
I have always enjoyed the Christmas meeting. Christmas is special, but all the meetings are enjoyable.

Who is your favorite singer/band?
Mary Chapin Carpenter is my favorite singer; her lyrics are great. I enjoy anything by her.

Growing up, did you have a role model? If so, who?
My mother was my role model. She was such a wonderful person, never spoke ill of anyone, friendly and helpful to all.

What do you hope for in 2010?
I hope for a year of higher employment for our country, a year in which our country helps its citizens have better health insurance [that is] affordable to more people, that the world recognizes that ignorance is what allows hate and intolerance to flourish and that we find a way to bring education and a higher standard of living to raise everyone up so that peace would endure.

Guest speaker Anne Hensley, LPC, started the “Taking Care of Our Spiritual Selves” program by leading attendees in a relaxing meditation exercise.

Attendees of the event learn about the dangers of negative self-talk and the power of positive thinking.