President’s Highlights

Spring is in the Air

By Donna Bess Myers

For a number of weeks, we have experienced record high temperatures—yet spring didn’t officially begin until March 20. Now that spring has sprung, it is time to celebrate the beginning of longer days, nicer weather, and the brilliant colors of gardens and green grass. At Saint Louis University, spring is also the time the Women’s Commission pauses to celebrate exceptional Saint Louis University women who are committed to making our campus community and her personal community a better place. Each April, the Women’s Commission has the distinguished honor of recognizing five SLU women of excellence at this signature event. This year’s Women of the Year Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2012. To find out who will be honored as this year’s luncheon, please read the body of this newsletter or go online to http://www.slu.edu/x39827.xml.

A special thanks to Mary Krieg, Awards Chair, and the members of the committee for all of their hard work. In addition, thanks to all of the SLU community members, including deans, faculty, staff and students who nominated this year’s recipients. We also appreciate the efforts of those who were nominated. Details concerning luncheon reservations can be found in the body of this newsletter or online at http://www.slu.edu/x39827.xml. Be sure to reserve your seat early as tables fill up quickly!

I would like to extend my congratulations to the 2012 Women of the Year awardees, and I look forward to celebrating these remarkable women and their extraordinary accomplishments with you on April 25th.

Receiving a Warm Welcome

Due to the success of the fall’s program, the Women’s Commission sponsored yet another successful New Employee Welcome Reception to welcome new women faculty and staff to SLU. The Reception was held in Pere Marquette on March 20th and had over thirty attendees including four employees at the management level.

The attendees were welcomed by Donna Bess Myers, President of the Women’s Commission. In addition to receiving a warm welcome, the attendees engaged in networking and learned of the opportunities and programs provided through the Women’s Commission.
The 35th annual Women of the Year recognition program will take place at a Noon luncheon at BSC Wool Ballroom on Wednesday, April 25th. An informal reception for the honorees will start at 11:30 a.m. A traditional springtime event since 1977, it is co-sponsored by the Women’s Commission and the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action. Five Saint Louis University women will be honored as Women of the Year. They were selected by the Awards Committee of the Women’s Commission from nominations submitted by members of the University community. They represent a cross-section of the administration, faculty, staff and students.

Five outstanding women who were nominated for the honor of being named Woman of the Year will be recognized individually at the program:

Laura Geiser, Assistant Vice President, Marketing & Communications. Laura joined SLU in 1993 as a Publications Editor and in 2011 was promoted to Assistant Vice President in the Office of Marketing and Communications. In her current role, Laura oversees the activities and efforts of four areas: University Marketing, Publications and Graphic Design, SLUCare Marketing and Web Services.

Marilyn Maxwell, M.D., Professor, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, School of Medicine. Dr. Maxwell is a graduate of SLU’s undergraduate program and medical school. Dr. Maxwell joined the full-time faculty of SLU in 1985. She has consistently been named in “Best Doctors in American” and has received the “Osler Award”, give by Internal Medicine residents to faculty that best exemplify qualities of outstanding teachers. Dr. Maxwell has a strong commitment to service.

Carol Murphy, Administrative Assistant, College of Arts and Sciences. Carol maintains the Dean’s complex schedule, handles a massive amount of correspondence and manages the interpersonal and interoffice relationship that the Dean’s office maintains. It is not only the volume of work and competence which she carries out that are important, but also the attitude she manifests.

Darina Sargeant, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, Doisy College of Allied Health Sciences. Darina consistently earns the respect and acknowledgement of her peers. In 2008 she was nominated to receive the YWCA Leadership Award. In 2010 she was inducted an honorary member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit Honor Society. She was selected as a participant in an invitation-only national symposium on spirituality and health professions. She goes out of her way to serve others and especially to mentor SLU women. Darina has served SLU throughout her years of service on many committees for Campus Ministry, Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence and on the President’s Diversity Council.

Kripa Sreepada, Junior, School of Public Health, Student Government Association. A native of Springfield, Missouri and a Presidential Scholar, Kripa has accomplished much in her three years. She is serving as the SGA Vice President of Diversity and Social Justice and is the student representative on the President’s Diversity Council.

Special Thanks to the Women’s Commission 2011-2012 Committees

Awards
Mary Krieg, Chair
Debbie Barbeau
LaTanya Buck
Kate Durso
Cathy Rodgers
Irma Ruebling
Cathy Zimmer

Programs
Gwendolyn Gibbs, Chair
Tammi Mooshegian
Kate Wacker

Communications
Audra Frick
Miriam Hallazgo
Jamaica Harris
Kathy Yepez

Arrangements
Connie Tillman, Chair

Issues
Jessica Perolio, Chair

Congratulations to the WC Executive Board for a busy and fruitful year!
On February 8th, the Saint Louis University Women’s Commission kicked off its spring 2012 program series with “Posture and Good Health through Exercise”, a lecture presented by Ray Vollmer, MBS, CRT. Program participants were taught the best ways to avoid back injuries and were given an overview of the risk factors involving associated with back injuries. Attendees also reviewed the anatomy of the human neck and back through 3-D glasses provided to the group during the presentation. Tammi Mooshegian, CME Program Director, also offered several suggestions and helped in coordinating this event that took place in Young Hall. There were over fifty women across campus registered for the event. Those who attended the event earned Vitality Points for their attendance.

The second successful program for the spring semester was “Cooking Yourself Thin” a program co-sponsored by the Women’s Commission and the Nutrition and Dietetics staff and Fresh Gatherings Café. The program was held in the Allied Health Building on March 21st and was attended by forty-six women and men across campus. Attendees received a $5 meal voucher to use at the Fresh Gatherings Café and then moved upstairs to the Multipurpose Room for a live cooking demonstration by Erin Szopiak. Ms. Szopiak is a SLU graduate of the Nutrition program and Dietetic intern and shared tips on cooking yourself to a healthier lifestyle and provided food samples and recipe cards for those in attendance. Following the demonstration, attendees were also given an optional tour of the Fresh Gatherings Garden along with a complimentary potted herb at the conclusion of the tour. Vitality Points were also given for those in attendance. Special thanks to Jeanne Young, CPS and Mildred Mattfeldt-Beman, PHD, RD of the Nutrition and Dietetics Department for their involvement and coordination of the event.