



Staff CometConnection

*A monthly newsletter for Mayville State Staff
Provided by MaSU Staff Senate*

NOVEMBER 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 2

Mayville State's 130th
Birthday

NOVEMBER 4-7

Flu shots at Mayville
State | Berg Hall 105

NOVEMBER 4-8

National Distance
Learning Week (see
details on page 5)

NOVEMBER 5

Registration for spring
2020 begins

NOVEMBER 7

Office of Extended
Learning Open House |
9am – noon | OM 104

NOVEMBER 14

Advising Webinar |
12:30-2pm | Heritage



APPLE CRUNCH OFF:

Thank you to the staff, faculty, students, and children from CDP who participated in the Apple Crunch Off on October 16th. We had 164 “crunches” at Mayville State University that day! As a Crunch Off participant, you joined other students, teachers, farmers, parents, community members, and local food enthusiasts in celebrating the wonderful produce the Mountain Plains Region has to offer. Your crunch efforts encourage healthy eating and support local agriculture.

WELCOME TO THE MAYVILLE STATE FAMILY:

Dean Burdette – Heating Plant Operator

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

7 Michelle Bye

11 Alyson Beckman, Kristi Lentz

12 Deni Winsand

13 Mallory Angen

14 Stacy Buchl

16 Darren Tighe

21 Jeff Larson

28 Stacy McGill

RECOMMENDED PODCASTS & BOOKS

There was a suggestion on the Staff Senate Survey to provide recommendations for podcasts and books each month. Have a favorite book or podcast? Please share it in the [Staff Senate Survey](#).



SPOOKTACULAR STAFF



Above: Members of MSU Staff Senate in their Halloween costumes



Left: Staff and faculty members posed for a Halloween picture in front of Campus Center

COMET KUDOS AWARD


The first ever monthly Comet Kudos Award was given out at the Fall Staff Association meeting on October 28th. There were 10 staff members nominated. The winner was Susan Cordahl, who had 3 separate nominations. Congratulations, Susan!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The award was created to recognize staff members for their outstanding contributions to Mayville State. The nominations for the monthly winners will come from staff and faculty members and are due by the 20th of each month. Once nominations have been gathered, a small sub-committee will vote for the winner. This sub-committee is made up of 3 staff senators, 1 faculty member, 1 division chair, and 1 cabinet member.

Please nominate a **staff member** that you feel should be recognized using the following link:

[Comet Kudos Nomination Form](#)



STAFF SENATE WELCOMES IDEAS AND QUESTIONS! TO SUBMIT A SUGGESTION, PLEASE FILL OUT THE [STAFF SENATE SURVEY](#).

FALL STAFF ASSOCIATION RECAP

We had our staff association meeting on Monday, October 30th. They were approximately 40 attendees with 6 of them being Cabinet members.

Cabinet Updates:

- Open Enrollment for Aflac and ASI Flex Accounts Nov 1-30
- New Wellness Program Policy-see Sarah Gasevic for more details
- Climate Survey COMING SOON!! (completely confidential)
- Check the MSU Calendar for upcoming Holiday Events hosted by the Foundation

Staff Senate Updates:

- Staff Senate spot open in the 3000 broadband! Want to get involved? Talk to either Susan or Alissa!
- Friday, Dec 20- Holiday Potluck-Theme TBD

Current Topics that are being discussed (not implemented) statewide:

- A possible attempt at making Friday after Thanksgiving a holiday. Stay tuned for updates.
- A policy for sick/vacation leave and whether or not it must be used concurrently with FMLA, such as during maternity leave. Watch for updates.

We had great participation in our “Walkabout Activity.” On the next page of the newsletter (page 4), you will see some of the input that was gathered from the staff members that were present at the Fall Staff Association meeting. If you were unable to attend, please complete an anonymous survey to make sure your voice is heard. We hope to learn what is important to you as a staff member, help improve campus environment for staff, and better serve Mayville State University’s staff. Click the following link to access the survey: [Staff Association Walkabout Survey](#)

MEET YOUR STAFF SENATORS

Each month we will feature one of your Staff Senators so you can get to know who represents you!



HEATHER JOHNSON

Heather is a 2012 graduate from Metropolitan State University. She is currently pursuing her MPA through University of Mary. She lives in Mayville with her significant other, Jake and their 5 month old daughter, Eloise who lights up mommy and daddy’s life with her constant smiles and happy personality. Jake also has an 8 year old son, Brayden, who brings lots of energy and joy into the household on the weekends. On her spare time, she enjoys spending time with the kids, cooking, kayaking and getting dirty in the stands at the racetrack in the summertime! Heather has been in the Financial Aid department for the past 6 months and thoroughly enjoys it! She is a Staff Senator, where she is on the Public Relations & Event Planning committees. Heather is also one of the editors for the Staff CometConnection newsletter. “Being a part of the MaSU community has been a great transition. I enjoy being involved and helping out. There is always something to do, whether it is helping a student or working with staff to improve our students’ college experience. I have searched for a workplace where I not only was able to give to others, but to feel a part of something, I have truly found it at Mayville State.”

STAFF ASSOCIATION

WALKABOUT FALL 2019

WHAT MAKES ME FEEL VALUED AS A MASU STAFF MEMBER?

1. Campus Kudos!
2. My colleagues
3. Relationships, sharing knowledge in a non-judgmental zone [feel like this is dependent upon boss]
4. Getting a warm fuzzy once in a while
5. Being able to work from home with a sick child or bad weather
6. The new wellness policy
7. Paid health insurance
8. The effort put in by others to stay so & foster that kind of environment
9. Family-oriented campus
10. Having my family's needs respected

WHAT ACTIVITIES OR ISSUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MASU STAFF SENATE TACKLE THIS YEAR?

1. Staff Strategies-Anything
2. Kudos to Staff Senate - I like the fun activities you are planning [Yay!]
3. Real work/life balance

MY FAVORITE PARTS OF BEING A MASU STAFF MEMBER ARE:

1. I think I could make a difference here
2. Really having a chance to get to know my coworkers
3. Interacting w/students and working w/fellow staff [Ditto]
4. Enjoying who I work with staff & students/work environment is EVERYTHING
5. Great co-workers, flexibility
6. Enjoy my team
7. Getting paid
8. Knowing people in every dept
9. Flexibility/family oriented
10. Relationships [I second this!]
11. Family oriented

IF YOU COULD SNAP YOUR FINGERS AND CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT MASU WHAT WOULD IT BE? (I.E. WHAT'S ON YOUR DREAM LIST?)

1. Campus Calendar
2. Improved communication skills
3. Timely Cabinet transparency
4. More openings @ CDP [for children]
5. More enclosed offices
6. Coffee shop on campus!
7. Privacy
8. The fact that the rain gutters pour water across the sidewalk
9. Office space
10. Office space upgrades
11. Ice machine in Old Main! [Yes!] [And other places]
12. Holiday lights in front of Old Main
13. More positions in offices so people aren't overworked
14. To pay our employees what they are worth
15. Purchase equipment/furniture and update
16. More holiday - Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve
17. Pave west parking lot - so muddy & icky
18. Large cafeteria, catering area

WHAT CONCERNS OR FRUSTRATIONS DO YOU HAVE AS A MASU STAFF MEMBER?

1. Concerns to leadership fall on deaf ears
2. Budgeting changes are no longer transparent
3. If you're good at something, you get punished w/more work
4. It feels like Students & Faculty > Staff
5. Actual accountability
6. It takes too long to call a snow day off [getting better though!]
7. Shady contract language changes and implications for "some staff"
8. Lack of cross-training
9. The condition of the SW corner of OM (outside)
10. Finding out about policies after I have broke the rules
11. Snow removal issues, such as snow being piled up along the parking lot ropes and fence in playground @ CDP
12. Snow around the state fleet!
13. Fleet vehicles
14. Lack of training as a general employee, not just in your dept
15. So many spreadsheets - hard to keep track sometimes
16. When things are made harder than they need to be
17. Lack of communication ... so many "Secrets"
18. Different policies in different divisions
19. Compare our salaries to other campuses in ND and do better or at least equal
20. Hearing staff be shamed for not wanting to drive in unsafe weather

NATIONAL DISTANCE LEARNING WEEK 2019

NOVEMBER 4TH – 8TH

The Office of Extended Learning will celebrate the week by honoring Mayville State's distance and online students as well as the staff and faculty who support them. Staff and faculty can participate in three ways:

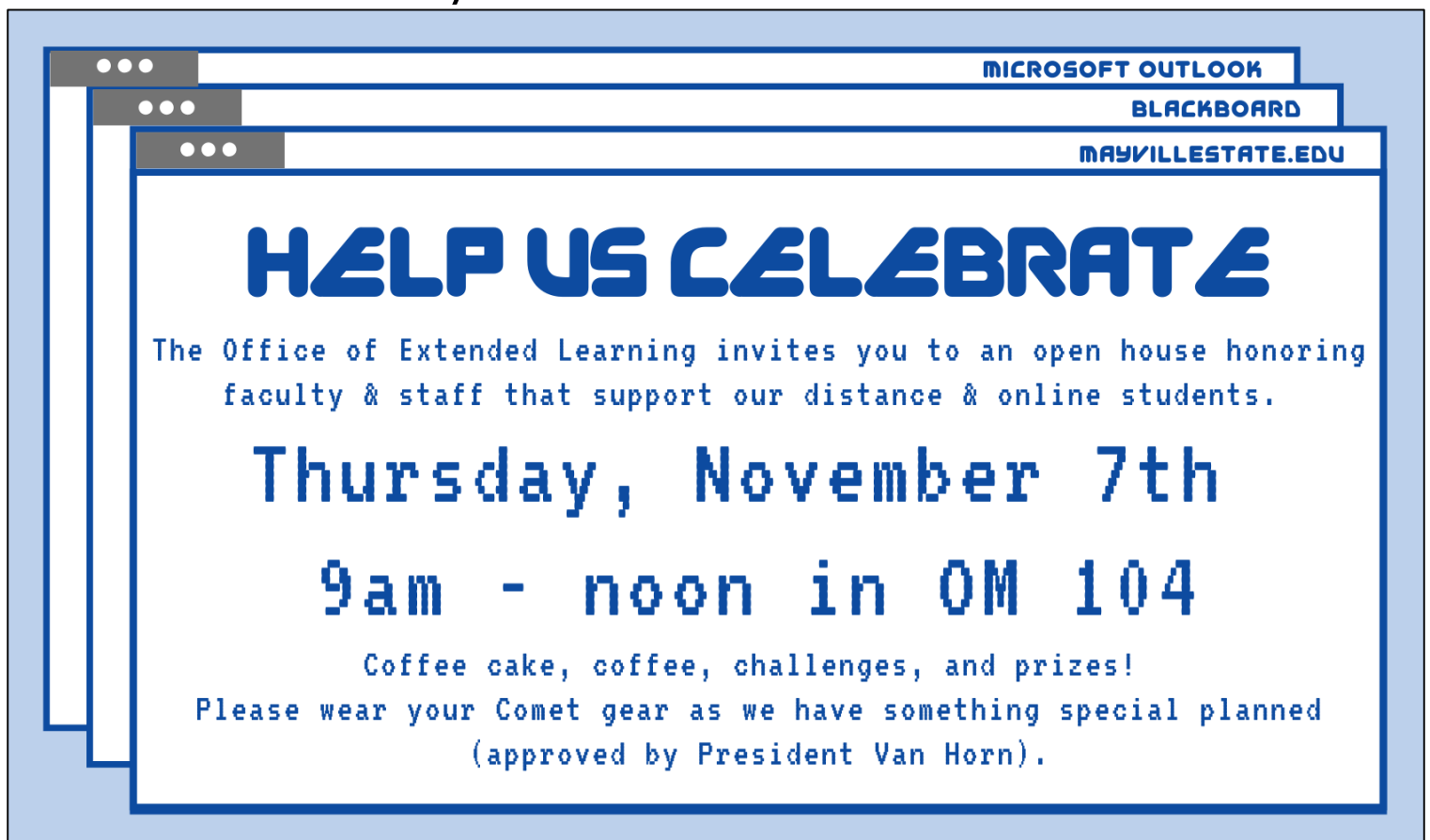
1. WIN GIFT CARDS:

Like the Mayville State University – Extended Learning [Facebook page](#). Each day during NDLW there will be a new question for you to answer. All you have to do is answer the question to get entered to win a Target or Amazon gift card!

2. ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN NDLW EVENTS:

- Students may participate in the daily Facebook giveaways
- On-campus students can stop by the Office of Extended Learning on Monday, November 4th anytime between 8:30am-4:30 for mini cheesecake, brownies, and Jenga!
- Online/distance students can join us for a “virtual open house” on Monday, November 4th from 1:00-4:00pm. They should RSVP to Alissa.perkins@mayvillestate.edu to get the link to join.

3. ATTEND THE STAFF/FACULTY OPEN HOUSE:



HELP US CELEBRATE

The Office of Extended Learning invites you to an open house honoring faculty & staff that support our distance & online students.

Thursday, November 7th

9am - noon in OM 104

Coffee cake, coffee, challenges, and prizes!

Please wear your Comet gear as we have something special planned (approved by President Van Horn).