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January 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I recently traveled back to Denver to visit some dear friends who reside in an assisted living facility. As I attempted conversation over the phone while looking through the window of their room, I was reminded of the critical importance of relationships and connections. Every fiber of my being wanted to be inside with them to tell them how much I love them and to hug them before I returned to Connecticut. But the pandemic makes that impossible, so we did the best we could through the glass.

I'm generally not someone who shares much about my personal life at work, but I share this small tidbit of my life with you to simply say that I'm so very grateful for the relationships and connections that I have with my HR team and for other members of the Wesleyan community who have become important to me. I also share to remind each of us to cherish our connections and to never lose an opportunity to tell someone that they are appreciated and valued.

The workplace can often be overlooked as a place where connection matters.....but I'm here to tell you that it does matter. Whether you are a Public

Safety Officer who is making the rounds to ensure our buildings are secure, or a Bon Appetite employee preparing Grab and Go meals for our students, or a Physical Plant employee repairing broken pipes, or the President of the University, hearing that you are valued and important makes a tremendous difference when work gets hard....and even in those moments when it's not so hard, but especially when it's hard. So, today....I encourage you to take a moment to thank a colleague for all that they do to make Wesleyan a place where we all matter.

Stay Wesleyan Strong!

Lisa

Talent Acquisition and Employment



Employees on the Move

Human Resources welcomed four new staff members to the university since November 1, 2020. For a full list of new staff and departures from November and December 2020, visit [Employees on the Move](#).

New Onboarding Program for Staff

One of the HR Priorities for 2021 is to improve the new employee experience. We are excited to announce we have rolled out the initial phases of a new staff onboarding program. This includes streamlined communication to new staff, a pre-employment information packet and a monthly orientation session.

The orientation pilot held virtually on January 19th, included presentations from HR, Payroll, Public Safety, Equity and Inclusion and ITS. New supervisors were given a brief overview on items related to supervision of staff. Nine new staff and 11 colleagues from different departments participated in the event. Our thanks to our colleagues and new staff who attended and provided us with valuable feedback on the program!



Recognition



Twelve employees celebrated a Wesleyan anniversary in November and December. A complete list of this year's employee anniversaries can be found at [Employee Service Recognition](#).

Cardinal Achievement Award Recognition Program

This program provides Wesleyan faculty and staff the opportunity to recognize colleagues who have demonstrated extraordinary initiative or service that advances the mission of the University. [Eligibility requirements and instructions](#) are located on the Human Resources website.

Congratulations to the following employees who were presented with awards in November and December.

- Darrell Lawrence, Analyst Programmer, ITS
- Sherri Condon, Administrative Assistant IV, Romance Languages and Literature
- Maria Higuera Palacio, Web Application/PeopleSoft Programmer, ITS
- Paul H. Turenne, Systems Analyst, ITS
- Victoriano Diaz, Operations Project Coordinator, Physical Plant



New Wesleyan University Retirement Plan Portal

Beginning March 15, 2021, participants will have access to the new Retirement@Work® portal. This new portal is designed to be a “one stop” site for TIAA and Fidelity plan participants to enroll in and manage certain retirement transactions.

seniorvaccine@middletownct.gov.

The state has posted an [approximate timeline](#) for the vaccine rollout, which indicates that residents between the ages of 65 and 74 will be in the next group to be vaccinated, likely beginning in February.

As more information becomes available, we will keep you informed.

Tom McLarney, MD

COVID Testing Reminders

Throughout January, testing is limited only to those positions designated as essential personnel (Facilities and Public Safety) and to those positions that directly support students on campus. Testing for other employees will resume on February 8. Please direct any questions to your supervisor. More information on testing is available on the [Keep Wes Safe](#) website.

Please note the testing schedule for the next couple weeks:

- Thursday, January 28, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Thursday, February 4, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Please remember to [book testing appointments](#) online in advance to avoid unnecessary crowding inside Beckham Hall.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness or believe you may have been exposed to COVID, please stay home and contact your personal healthcare provider or get tested at a local drugstore or urgent care center. **Do not come to the Wesleyan test site to be tested if you are ill, believe you have been exposed, or are experiencing any COVID-like symptoms.**

Adult Fitness

The Winter Session began January 11th and runs through March 19th. The [schedule](#) includes the Zoom link to each class. [Sign up](#) today! Questions? Email wellness@wesleyan.edu.

Success  at Wes

Spring 2021 programs are on the Success at WES webpage. For a full list of course offerings and to register, please visit [Success at Wes](#). Any questions can be directed to Lauren Stumpf at lstumpf@wesleyan.edu.

Wesleyan Employee Spotlight

On Saturday morning, November 21, 2020, Sherri Condon was jogging by 1 Vine Street, a Wesleyan Student Residence. “I could smell the gas from the sidewalk,” Sherri said. “I opened the door and the smell was worse so I closed it and called Public Safety.” The Middletown Fire Department discovered a large amount of natural gas trapped in the laundry room and later a cracked gas line was found in the mechanical room. Thanks to Sherri for her quick thinking and for taking action!

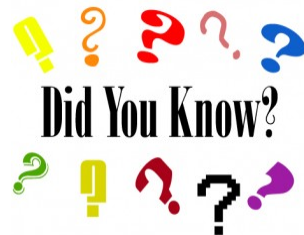


Olga Bookas recently accepted the nomination for a volunteer position on the National Board of The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc. “I have been nominated to serve on this duly accredited national women’s philanthropic society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America,” said Olga. “It is my great honor to serve and I believe that Wesleyan University has offered me this opportunity to excel at this national level.” Olga’s term runs through 2022.





Staff who would like to submit accomplishments or special life events such as marriages or births should submit a brief description (4-5 sentences) to Cheryl-Ann Tubby (ctubby@wesleyan.edu). Photos are welcome.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at Wesleyan four times?

According to the Small Collections and Archives blog, he spoke here on January 14, 1962; October 20-21, 1963; June 7, 1964 (the baccalaureate address); and November 20, 1966. Photos and articles documenting these visits are in the Special Collections & Archives.



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