

2015 May Spotlight

by Carla Kologie, Chair

If you're in the mood for a celebration, the month of May is full of good reasons to kick up your heels and get your party on.

May has holidays: May Day (5/1), Star Wars Day (5/4 – May the 4th ... be with you), Cinco de Mayo (5/5), VE Day, WWII (5/8), Mother's Day (5/10), Armed Forces Day (5/16), Memorial Day (5/25/). In addition, there are graduations, weddings and days to honor teachers, nurses, police and military spouses. If you're really serious, apparently, you can commemorate Mother Goose, oysters, hoagies, tubas, frog jumping and tap dancing. And, not to be overshadowed, there was Lehigh's annual Appreciation Dinner.

For the first time since the creation of its Distinguished Service Award, ERAC had the privilege of honoring two outstanding staff members. Last year, ERAC conducted several focus group sessions. Based on feedback suggesting the need for more recognition and the acknowledgment that the contributions of nonexempt and exempt staff are equally valuable, ERAC recognized **Julie Scheller** and **Jeanne Monnot**.

Among the 35 nominations we received, Julie and Jeanne received enthusiastic support from multiple colleagues around the campus community.

Julie is a graphic designer and pre-production manager in Printing and Mailing Services. According to one nominator, Julie epitomizes the Lehigh team spirit with a commitment to excellence in every product she touches. Another said that Julie's personality shines through her work, and her creativity continuously impacts the entire university in positive ways.

Julie's fan base includes colleagues in various areas who all consider her to be part of their teams. They appreciate her vision, her ability to pull through on tight, ever-changing deadlines, and her commitment to excellence regardless of the task.

In addition, several nominators knew of Julie's dedication to her neighborhood. One noted that she lives on a street in Bethlehem with several residents who are elderly or physically challenged. She regularly helps with shoveling and shopping in the winter and checks in when temperatures become dangerous in the summer. When you hear the television reporters suggesting to check on your elderly or shut-in neighbors, chances are, Julie already has done so. She is the kind of neighbor we all should aspire to be.

Jeanne is the coordinator of the Perella Department of Finance and received nominations from faculty, students and alumni.

As one of her nominators explained, Jeanne's organizational skills allow her to manage a department of more than 20 faculty and about 200 finance majors in a kind, professional manner. "At times, I have seen her working on a project when a faculty member interrupts her to do something 'quick' followed by another faculty member's second 'quick' request and then two or three students walk in to the office needing her assistance. Somehow, she is able to satisfy everyone without missing a beat."

A faculty member added, “Quite frankly, her efforts are indispensable in my efforts to engage the finance community. In fact, I would not even attempt some activities if I could not rely on her administrative and interpersonal talents which are very important, as she is the front person for many of our constituencies.”

Congratulations, Julie and Jeanne! You are excellent examples of staff members who make Lehigh a great place to work!

ERAC's Fill the Trailer!

As the year winds down, ERAC continues to look for ways to engage staff through its events and programming. We are pleased to announce an outreach project to benefit Broughal Middle School, one of Lehigh University's community schools.

ERAC will be collecting the specific items approved for the Backpack Pals program which provides nutritious, easy-to-make meals for students over extended weekends. Click on the link for more information. Please bring only the items listed. If you cannot bring items on the collection days, please contact **Glenn Strause** or **Carla Kologie** to make other arrangements.

PPL Center Discount Code

ERAC reminds all Lehigh staff, faculty and students that the PPL Center has created a special offer code for use on future arena events. When you visit www.pplcenter.com/discounts and use the code LEHIGHU, you will be able to purchase tickets at a discounted rate for any of the shows or events listed. The list will change, so check the site often to see what's available. There are no minimum purchases and no limits. Discounts typically end two days prior to a show. To purchase 10 or more tickets, please reach out to **Nick Kuhn**, group sales manager, at (484) 263-4463 or nkuhn@global-spectrum.com.

Finally, if you want to keep your party going into June, ERAC invites you to the annual Iron Pigs event on June 20. For \$10 per ticket, you can take the whole family out to the ballpark and get a jump on celebrating Father's Day. Order your tickets here [ERAC @ Iron Pigs](#).

Do you have suggestions for events/programming? Please visit the ERAC website and share your ideas because for ERAC, Staff Matters.

Upcoming Events

- May 14: ERAC's Fill the Trailer collection
- June 10: ERAC meeting
- June 20: Iron Pigs, 6:35 p.m. game

For more information, contact Glenn Strause, ERAC events chair, at ghs2@lehigh.edu.