**Valentine’s Day will be celebrated on campus this year with a special event planned by an enthusiastic group of staff, students and faculty.**

Saturday, February 9, NDSU Staff Senate will host its first annual Valentine’s Day Ball in the Memorial Union Great Plains Ballroom. The time is set for 7:30 pm to midnight. Dress is formal/semi-formal.

Staff, students and faculty are invited to attend. Even for those who don’t dance, it will be a great opportunity to socialize and have fun!

Some of the planned activities include door prizes, a speed-dating room and a kissing booth which is being coordinated as a fund raiser for the American Heart Association.

A variety of music will be played to satisfy all tastes. Big Band music will be played by NDSU students. A DJ will be present to play Hip Hop, Funk and other requests. Assorted beverages, hors d’oeuvres and deserts will be catered by Dining Services.

Tickets will be sold in advance of the event to staff, faculty and alumni for $10 per person. Student prices are $5 per person or $8 per couple. As the event draws near, more information will be made available on the Staff Senate Web site at www.ndsu.nodak.edu/staff_senate/

Anyone wanting to help plan this event should contact Vance Olson at vance.olson@ndsu.edu or 1-9661.

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**Staff Senate Meetings**

9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.
All staff members are welcome!

**January 9**

Memorial Union Prairie Rose Room
- Pre-meeting: Readings in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Program: Jane Vangsness, AOD Prevention Coordinator, will present a film on alcohol awareness.

**February 13**

Memorial Union Great Room
- Pre-meeting: Sheree Kornkven, Specialized ITS multi-media services for depts
- Program: Prakash Mathew, VP Student Affairs

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**Annual Staff Development Workshop**

by Lorna Olsen, ITS

Mark your calendars! The Staff Development Committee is finalizing details for its annual workshop to be held Wednesday, February 6, 2008 in the Memorial Union.

This year, we are continuing with the "Discover U" theme established last year. Spend the day with us and see what you can DISCOVER about U! You will be able to attend several different breakout sessions in the morning, afternoon or all day. Please check with your supervisor regarding work release time. Event details and registration information will be available soon on the Staff

(Workshop continued on page 4)
A team of broadly skilled, dedicated, upbeat staff is helping NDSU students discover that “being a student has never been easier!”

“This is a good bunch of folks,” says Wendy Clarin, Manager of Bison Connection, NDSU’s newest one-stop service center located on the main level of the Memorial Union. “We’re very lucky,” adds Wendy.

These seven friendly faces come to this unique student service team from a variety of on- and off-campus backgrounds. “I really enjoy the family atmosphere here at NDSU,” says Tanie Boeddeker, a recent NDSU graduate. “No day is the same,” observes Linda Murphy. She and Kari Fischer moved over from Customer Account Services. “We get to see a lot of students,” adds Kari.

Five weeks prior to the beginning of the fall semester, the team members were cross-trained in three student service areas: Registration and Records, Student Financial Services and Customer Account Services. As frontline staff committed to one-on-one personal service, they assist students with a long list of items including major changes, filing the FAFSA and processing withdrawals.

Spring 2008 will be the team’s first full semester in the Memorial Union location. The site currently offers four permanent stations, two express stations and a student self-serve kiosk. Hours are Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, noon to 4:00 pm. In addition, a 24-hour online service is available at www.ndsu.edu/bisonconnection.

The concept for the Bison Connection started with former Vice President for Student Affairs George Wallman. A task force was formed to explore functions and physical designs, resulting in ideas modeled after University of Minnesota, Mankato and University of Minnesota (Twin Cities).

Bison Connection staff members encourage departmental units to direct students to the Bison Connection as the first point of contact for services.

The campus community is invited to the Grand Opening/Open House January 30-31. A ribbon cutting ceremony, refreshments and door prizes will be held at 3:00 pm on Wednesday.
Make A Difference Day Successful Service Project

by Bonnie Cooper, Graduate School

During the week of October 22-26, the Staff Senate Public Relations Committee and NDSU’s chapter of Golden Key International Honour Society collected supplies for two local agencies: YWCA Shelter (an organization providing emergency shelter to women and children) and Churches United for the Homeless (an organization providing food and shelter to those in need).

This project was done in connection with Make A Difference Day, a national day of service sponsored by USA Weekend.

Over 54 hours of community service were logged by participants, and there were 1770 items collected. We showed how much NDSU cares for the Fargo-Moorhead community by having a very successful collection drive for these two agencies. Thank you for helping to make a difference in the Fargo-Moorhead area!
Sustainability Task Force Initiated
by Gretchen Bromley, Natural Resources Management

“What is ‘sustainability,’ and what does it mean for NDSU?” This past fall, Staff Senate initiated a campus-wide task force to look into what it means to be a sustainable campus and to develop a list of action recommendations to present to President Chapman.

An invitation to participate on the task force was extended to staff via email, to students through Student Government and to faculty through University Senate. Forty-five staff, students and faculty have joined.

The first meeting was held December 7. Al Brewer, who works closely with the MSUM Sustainability Campus Initiative, was the guest speaker.

Sustainability has often been defined as...

Holiday Tree & Gift Cards Donated
by Barb Geeslin, College of Business

The State Employee Recognition Week (SERW) Committee would like to thank NDSU employees for their generous donations totaling $200 which were used to purchase a holiday gift card for a local F-M area family in need.

In addition to the gift card, the family received a holiday tree decorated by members of the SERW Committee and a plaque listing names of contributors. The tree was made possible through Fraser, Ltd.’s annual Festival of Trees and was on display at Innovis Hospital before being given to the family.

The SERW Committee is part of the Council of State Employees (COSE) and represents all state agencies in the Fargo area. For more information about COSE, visit its Web site at www.state.nd.us/cose/

Workshop (continued from page 1)

Senate Web site at www.ndsu.nodak.edu/staff_senate/

For additional information about the workshop, contact Staff Development Committee Co-Chair Jean Hagen at 1-8186.

The NDSU Staff Senate Staff Development Committee identifies programs and activities that provide personal and professional growth opportunities for university staff. In identifying programs, the committee assesses the needs and wants of staff through questionnaires and surveys.

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Editor: Gretchen Bromley

NSDU Staff Senate Mission:
NSDU Staff Senate addresses the needs and aspirations of university staff by promoting a progressive campus environment.

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www.ndsu.edu/staff_senate

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