Holding Up Half the Sky

Cindy Helfrich

The concept of holding up half the sky invokes thoughts of courage, persistence, and, if you know her, Joyce Sprague. Joyce, who is a steadfast advocate for women, her loving God, and dōTERRA essential oils, will retire on August 10, 2018.

Born and raised in North Carolina, Joyce moved to the Gettysburg area in 1982 with her husband Walt and daughters Shannon and Kim. Her first position at the College in 1984 was in what was then called Career Services. Two years later, she became an administrative assistant in History/Philosophy/Classics, and a student. A Native American Art History class inspired her to participate in a 1993 service-learning project in Arizona, living and working with the Hopi for two weeks.

In 1989, Joyce got in on the ground floor with the brand new Women’s Studies Program. At first, WS shared her time with African American Studies. But when AAS went its own way, she continued to work for WS as well as a variety of rising programs such as Japanese Studies and Italian Studies. She coordinated the Summer Seminars Program, three days of pre-orientation classes for incoming students, in the early 1990’s. Now she supports Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and the Events Planning and Coordinating Committee.

While she gives her all to everything she does, Joyce’s passion has always been building WGS alongside faculty who have become her dear friends. A member of the WGS Academic Steering Committee, she contributes her insights to all programmatic decisions.

Over the years, as WS transitioned to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Joyce moved forward personally. For seventeen years she took classes to earn her degree in Classical Studies, with a minor in Religion; in 2003 she graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

In her late 30’s, Joyce survived an aggressive form of breast cancer and has since published memoirs of her experiences. Forced to advocate for herself during the ordeal, she now serves as a Reach to Recovery Volunteer for the American Cancer Society.

Joyce and others campaigned for the creation of the Support Staff Council to give us a voice within Human Resources. She compiled the first guide for new administrative assistants, served on two President’s Commissions on Women and on Diversity, and is a trained mediation and conflict coach. She has served for several years as an editor and writer of the Support Staff Newsletter. Barbara Herman, a friend and retiree from the Provost’s Office, commented that Joyce has a wonderful sense of humor, warm personality, and the willingness to lend help to whomever might need it.

Joyce speaks proudly of the successful daughters (“and a husband!”) she raised. She looks forward to more time with them, and more time for pursuing her hobbies at the home that she and Walt designed and built together in the mountains above Cashtown.

A joint retirement party for Joyce and Temma Berg, Professor of English, will be held on Tuesday, May 1, from 3:30—5:30 pm in Weidensall Lobby.
President’s Post
Janet Morgan Riggs

You are no doubt aware of a very large building project that is currently underway at the center of our campus! It’s been exciting to see the progress on the addition to the College Union Building, and I appreciate everyone’s patience with the inconveniences that such a project entails. This addition is on schedule to open with the fall semester and will house a new and improved Bullet Hole, space for student activities, our Garthwait Leadership Center, and much needed space for our Center for Career Development. Some improvements to the old part of the building will also be completed this summer. After the Bullet Hole moves out of its temporary location, we will convert that space into a catering dining room that will be available for lunchtime use by employees, as well as for a variety of special events.

Some other significant facilities projects have recently been completed or are nearing completion. Thanks to a gift from Geoff Jackson ’91 and his wife, Gretchen, the Fourjay Welcome Center at the Eisenhower House is up and running. We’ll have an official dedication of this beautiful space at our next Board of Trustees meeting in May.

In addition, our staff has recently completed a beautiful renovation to a home on Stevens St. that was given to the College, transforming it into our new Office of Religious and Spiritual Life. Please feel free to visit this warm and welcoming space!

Finally, we are very pleased that the new Mosaic House, located in a former fraternity house on campus near Brua Hall, is now home to our Office of Multicultural Engagement. In addition to office space, this facility includes social space, a classroom, and residential accommodations for 12 students.

All of these projects support important initiatives of the College, and I am sure they will be well-used by our community. I very much appreciate all of those who have been involved in the successful completion of these projects, including those who have been patient with the accompanying moves and displacements and those who have helped our visitors navigate around these construction projects.

I also want to inform you that given our recent experience with mold in Hanson Hall, we will be reviewing all of our residential facilities this summer and developing a plan to respond to any issues that we discover. In the meantime, I ask any of you who notice problems in any of our facilities, particularly those that pose health or safety concerns, to report them directly to our Facilities department so that we can attend to them. Thank you for your assistance!

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All-Campus PICNIC

Tuesday, June 5
To be held in Bream Gym

VOTING FOR COUNCIL POSITIONS DURING PICNIC.
Watch for time and additional details to appear in the digest.
President’s Dinner for Support Staff 2018
January 13, 2018

Click here to view additional dinner photos on Flickr.

Support Staff Council

ROW 1: Janey Breighner, Kathy Ambrose, Carol Coon, Sid Williams.

ROW 2: Sue Holz, President Riggs, Jesse Mains, Amy Smith.

Not present: Rebecca Barth, Graham Larkin, Mike Redding, Kristi Waybright.
Retirees
John Archer
Guy Bowling
Lillian Chapman
Anne Laughlin
Judy Musser
George Neely
Debra Shockey
Nelda Woodward

Retirees
ROW 1: Lee Chapman, Anne Laughlin, Mickie Woodward.
ROW 2: John Archer, President Riggs, George Neely.
5 Years
Faith Biesecker
Rebecca Biesecker
Anthony Bordner
Daniel Eisenhart
Richard Faloon
Jacob Godman
Kimberly McMaster
Ricky Pearce
Maria Shellenhamer
Samantha Stambaugh
Regina Tyree
Sid Williams

10 Years
Ronald Parr
Anjelina Perez
Sally Roelke
Mark Rosensteel
Carrie Small
Karla Swinn
Walter Tustin

10 Years continued
Michael Arendt
Rebecca Barth
Paulette Blount
Christine Clabaugh
Brian Derr
Derek Frank
Betsy Gulden
Troy Hahn
Audrey Hatcher
Yafei Liu
Jeffrey Marker

15 Years
Erann Bear
James Beck
Tammy Hoff
Colleen Lopes
Mary Ann Mehaffey

20 Years
Timothy Dewberry
Joseph Sieck

25 Years
Nancy Costella
Sharon Reever

35 Years
Jim Orner
Ted Rosenberger

5 Years continued
ROW 1: Anthony Bordner, Faith Biesecker, Rebecca Biesecker, Samantha Stambaugh, Rich Faloon, Amanda Whitcomb.
ROW 2: Kim McMaster, Jacob Godman, President Riggs, Regina Tyree, Sid Williams.

5 Years
ROW 1: Anthony Bordner, Faith Biesecker, Rebecca Biesecker, Samantha Stambaugh, Rich Faloon, Amanda Whitcomb.
ROW 2: Kim McMaster, Jacob Godman, President Riggs, Regina Tyree, Sid Williams.

15 Years
Erann Bear, President Riggs, Colleen Lopes.
Outside there will be tables, chairs, and (perhaps the most exciting feature) a fire pit. It will be a communal space for everyone to hang out. This will give The Bullet Hole a chance to host events, concerts, and guests. It is going to be the new space on campus where everyone wants to be.

The Bullet Hole will be bringing back popular go-to menu items along with new favorites. Mike Bishop, College Union Food Services Manager, said, “We have the opportunity to change and grow, so you are going to see a lot of different items from us throughout the year. That’s what excites us the most about this renovation.” Online ordering will be available for you to grab and go. Some of the changes will happen gradually to ensure high quality. The goal will be to produce quality meals from ingredients that are trending, but keep comfort foods that people hold dear.

Gearing up
With less than four months to go, employees are getting ready for the big move. Bullet will close the day after graduation and will reside at the Dive for the summer, as will the Commons’ coffee machines. The Commons will be slightly relocated in the CUB. The location as we currently know it will become a game room with a pool table, TV, and gaming corner.

Once construction concludes, The Bullet Hole will finally return to its rightful home. We invite you all to come see us in our new home!
New Support Staff Hires

since October 2017

- Tela Ambris  Department of Public Safety
- Aaron Berda  HVAC Services
- Lea Czar  Chemistry Department
- Lynn Garskof  Human Resources
- Dustin Hall  Dining Services
- Jessica Rudy  Majestic Theater
- David Schanck  College Life
- Denay Shreve  Dining Services
- Cullin Taylor  Department of Public Safety
- Michael Troxell  Custodial Services
- Denise Wood  East Asian Studies

Staff Transfer to Administrative Position

since October 2017

- Jennifer Coale  Majestic Theater to Conference Services

Support Staff Retirees

since January 2018

- Jane Cookson  Dining Services
- Jan Pasco  College Life
- Deb Small  Grounds Crew

Compiled by Niamate Leeper and Linda Miller