From the Leader of the Pack
Dr. Michael Huerkamp, Director

There are a series of contemporary commercials featuring Capital One credit cards that serve to remind me of a vital strategic planning angle. I imagine many of us are familiar with many of these “What’s in your wallet?” spots. Although I find them the most entertaining, I am not referring to the 30 second features with the swarming and rampaging hordes of Huns stopped dead in their tracks and forced to embrace career changes when they encounter consumers armed with a Capital One credit card. The ones that remind me of strategic planning are those featuring David Spade, the smart aleck actor of “Saturday Night Live” fame. He plays the “No” Guy finding new and inventive ways to deny service to his customers and to be, well, less than helpful to a coworker. Because the DAR has limited resources and our relatively small group has focused duties, we sometimes find ourselves saying “no” to our customers in circumstances where we either don’t have the wherewithal to meet their need or have higher priorities demanding our attention. It does not help that we are also in a highly regulated business where the federal animal welfare law, accreditation standards, and our own IACUC may demand of us to inflexibly say “no”. If we are strategic thinkers, however, every time we find ourselves in situations where we must say “no”, we should also envision what it would take in time, people, talent and resources to be able to say “yes”. If we do this, we will truly create situations where we can picture and implement positive change, remain true to our mission statement, and, unlike those Huns, we will remain an unstoppable force.

On another note, the November into January holiday season is one in which we give thanks for our blessings, accord greater consideration to each other, and look forward with optimism to the future. It is a time personally for me to be thankful for each person in the DAR and the quiet ways in which each of you achieve success here in the vital support of research. From Agnes to Yi, from Abraham to Wyche-Alha-De, and everyone in between, thank you for your efforts and may your holidays be filled with joy and goodwill. I look forward in the New Year to working with you to foresee and take advantage of our opportunities.
**Birthdays**

- Ann Griffith 12/3
- Kendall Smith 12/9
- Tanaya Johnson 12/11
- Cesca Caudle 12/23
- Thomas Jackson 12/24
- Karen Strait 12/24
- Michelle Mistletoe 12/24
- Darlene Wyche-Alma-De 12/26
- Claire Bush 12/28
- Calvin Dinkely 12/31
- Gordonolated 1/4
- Kathy McCormack 1/6
- Sabrena Harvey 1/10
- Joanna Landers 1/22
- Sonji Weiss 1/31

**Milestones**

- Congratulations to Carol Weckford for passing her CAT6 exam. Way to go!
- Congratulations to Darlene Wyche-Alma-De on her reclassification to Senior Accountant.
- Congratulations to Kim Benjamin for passing her CATG exam. Good job!
- Congratulations to Marsha Howard on her 20th year of service here at DAR.

**Anniversaries**

- Marsha Howard 12/31 (9)
- Rasheda Ayers 12/31 (2)
- Samawanda Smith 12/31 (3)
- Michelle Boway 1/10 (1)
- Michelle Whitehead 1/20 (9)

**Welcome**

Welcome to the new faces here at DAR:
- Natalie Nelson—Welfare Study for Russell West
- Casey Ramsfield—Vet Tech
- Joanna Landers—Welfare Study for Kendall Smith—Vet Tech
Under the Scope

Name: Kim Benjamin
Position: Animal Health Quality Assurance Manager
Longevity: 7 years
Personal Background:
grew up in a small town in South Carolina, went to college in another small town in South Carolina and then moved to the big city of Atlanta 10 years ago. I am the mother of a beautiful daughter named Isabella Marlee and also 2 cats and one dog.

Most Rewarding Aspect of your Job:
The most rewarding part of my job is the variety. I really love getting to try my hands at different tasks.
If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go:
I have always wanted to go to Africa ever since I was a young child. To me it is the biggest Zoo in the world and I would love to see all of the animals especially chimps and gorillas.
If you could have any luxury item in the world, what would you get:
I would like to have my own personal jet to take me all over the world. Could I also throw in a lifetime free hotel pass.
In your free time, what do you enjoy doing:
Before this summer, I used to love to watch independent movies, volunteer all over Atlanta, hang out with friends, and travel. But now that I have my daughter I don't have much time to do those type of things.

ALAT
1: Reproductively, sheep cycle primarily in the __________.
2: When tattooing dark colored breeds of rabbits, what color ink is normally used? ______
3: The fundamental unit of matter is ________

LAT
1: The state in which no living organisms are present is termed ________.
2: All mammals have a _______ chambered heart.
3: The primary granting agency through which the United States conducts and supports biomedical research is ________________________

LATG
1: The Gaussian curve is centered on _______________ of the population.
2: The first attempts at producing gnotobiots animals used the ______ as the model.
3: Inhalant anesthetics are primarily passed out of the body via the __________
Safety Escort Available

In late October, a notice went out to Emory University community about an assault that occurred in Euclid Park. As a follow-up, I wanted to send information to all of you from Chief Watson from the Emory Campus Police Department.

I wanted to take the opportunity to remind [those] in your area to take advantage of the security escort service we offer during the hours of darkness. Please feel free to call us directly (727-5008) anytime you would like an escort to your car or other location on campus during the evening hours. We will be glad to dispatch a security officer or police officer to escort you to your destination.

Chief Watson went on to say that the Emory Police Department has staff available to provide Crime Prevention and Personal Safety presentations upon request. Departments, divisions, or other groups of faculty, students, and staff can arrange a presentation through Chief Watson.

Happy New Year!

Happy Martin Luther King Day!

BENEFITS

Vendor Contact Information

Vendor
Aetna US Health Care
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Cigna
Dental Access
Dental Choice (Aetna)
Traditional Dental (Aetna)
United Behavioral Health
EBS (Flexible Spending Accounts)
Caremark Prescription Drugs
Inq
UNUM LTC
Short Term Disability Claims
Hyatt Legal
Met - Renters/Auto/Home Owners

Website
www.aetnaushc.com
www.bcbseg.com
www.cigna.com

www.aetnaushc.com:
www.aetnaushc.com
www.liveandworkwell.com/default.aspx?ProgramPIN=11370
www.ehsbenefits.com
www.caremark.com/clininfo
www.unum.com
www.unum.com

Contact
1-877-719-3993
1-800-441-2273
1-800-251-0670
1-888-879-9131
1-877-238-6200
1-877-238-6200
1-877-237-8575
1-800-229-7683
1-866-768-4258
1-800-409-9880
1-800-227-4165
1-800-227-4165
1-800-GET-MET8
1-800-GET-MET1
Kudos

Kudos to Russell Neal for taking over the security card issues! Watch out for this power-freak... LOL ~ Tina Engle

Kudos to Sonji Webb from Jennifer Pullium, thank you for helping out with the Csete mice at the last minute.

Kudos to Joseph Amankwah from LaShay Cobb for always helping me and being such a good team player.

Kudos to Cisco Calderon and Gary Roesinger from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for always getting me the monthly warehouse inventory on or before the due date. You Rock!

A great big KUDOS to Jennifer Pullium from Kim Benjamin. Thank you for all that you have taught me over the past 7 years. It has been a pleasure working with you and I will miss you greatly. Good luck with your future and don't forget about us southerners. :)

Kudos to our workstudies from Tina Engle for all the good work! We're lucky to have Claire Bush, Gail Bush, Natalie Nason, & Jeanna Landeck with us in the front office...you guys are great!

Kudos to Greg Kable from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for always being willing to take time out of his busy schedule to assist me with any computer or P-card issue.

Kudos to the Whitehead crew from Ann Griffey and Neville Whitehead for taking on added responsibilities.

Kudos to Joseph Amankwah from Carol Westbury for working extra hard to keep up with his work at Winship while helping out at Whitehead.

Kudos to Beatrice Salako from Karen Lieber for always being a good friend and confidant.

Kudos to the P-card users (especially Wes Thompson, Greg Kable and Dr. Mike Huerkamp) from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for ensuring their purchase receipts and peach sheets are given to me in a timely manner.

Kudos to Russell Neal from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for his pleasant and helpful attitude, and for keeping us in good humor. You bring a breath of fresh air to the front office.

Kudos to Sonji Webb from Kim Benjamin for helping me out with all of my time off. I am glad that I can count on you. :)

Kudos to everyone in all the facilities and in the office from Tina Engle for staying on top of their timecards, especially the back-to-back Pre- & Post-Thanksgiving batches! Thanks for all your help! You're done with timecards for the year! Happy Holidays!!!

Kudos to Kevin Quin (KJQ) and Greg Kable from Neville Whitehead for reprogramming the automated bedding system so quickly despite having to scroll through 100s of pages of instructions and translating from Swedish to English. The cage wash crew at WBRB are very happy that Oscar and Felix are working again.

Kudos to all the animal care techs from other facilities from Ann Griffey and Neville Whitehead for helping out at Whitehead during our severe staff shortage. Rashidat Ayantunji, Gary Menefee, and Joseph Amankwah.

Kudos to Cisco Calderon and Gary Roesinger from Kasie Moore for all your dedication to help out with the Faber pigs. You guys are awesome!

Kudos to Wesley Coggins from Kim Benjamin for helping to train my new work study. You have been such a big help to me. Keep up the good work!

Kudos to Carol Westbury from Winship Crew for being such a cool supervisor and for always sharing your popcorn with us.

Kudos to the earlybirds on Oct. C/A

Timecards: Beatrice Salako, Russell Neal, Darlene Wyche-Alha-De, Kathy McCormack, Kasie Moore, Sharmyn Gipsn, Karen Strait, Cisco Calderon, Gary Roesinger, Dr. Mike Huerkamp. Thanks! Tina Engle

Kudos to Kasie Moore from Tina Engle for all the cool art and articles in every issue of the DAR Dispatch!

Kudos to the WMRB crew from Dr. Huerkamp for an impeccably flawless IACUC inspection. This achievement was all the more remarkable given the physical plant and space limitations the staff must deal with. Great job!

Kudos to Meredith Mintz from Karen Lieber for making our lovely new phone cards!

Kudos to Casey Brinsfield from Dr. Huerkamp for showing the initiative, not to mention the humanity, to attend to the office aquarium.

Kudos to Kendall Smith from Kasie Moore for your immediate impact to the surgery area. Your doing a great job!

Kudos to Karen Strait from the vet techs for doing a great job with Wilbur!
Meet Me in St. Louie!!

by: Marsha Howard

The day we arrived the weather was unseasonably warm, which was great since one of my fears was that I would freeze the whole time I was there, and I hate the cold weather! The Harian vans were there to cart everybody off to their respective hotels with plenty of "goodie bags" for everyone.

My first trip to a national had been in 2002 in San Antonio. I was an animal care technician and unsure of what courses to take, what lectures to attend, etc; but with one conference under my belt, I entered the arena with my own personal agenda!

I was eager to obtain as much knowledge as possible on physical plant maintenance and operation, in my goal to increase my overall managerial skills.

I attended a workshop on "Designing Your Animal Facility", to learn about what goes into choosing everything from flooring and plumbing to HVAC and equipment. For a start-up facility and Wes and I brushed up on our knowledge of husbandry care for Xenopus Laevis! At the beginning of one lecture on noise reduction in the facility, they opened with a "just released" recording of a mouse vocalization, and it sounded like the mouse was singing!

In the vendor display area there were tons of people and products, and loads of candies and cute plush toys to catch your eye and persuade you to stop by a booth so the vendors could promote their wares!

I enjoyed my trip and ran into lots of people I had met at the last National I attended or folks through SEAALAS. All in all it was a fantastic Conference!

Geraldine Anuku

by Dr. Michael Huerkamp

Many of us have been saddened to learn of the passing last month of a former co-worker, friend and colleague, Geraldine Anuku. Geraldine had recently returned to her home in Africa and her death was unexpected. For those of us that are grieving, shocked by this happening, or just missing Geraldine, there will be a memorial service for her next Tuesday (December 13) at noon in the Cannon Chapel and DAR employees are encouraged to attend providing properly excused from duties.

Geraldine Anuku was hired by the DAR in 1996 and left the division for a research position in the Department of Surgery in 2003. I will always remember Geraldine for her quiet demeanor, friendliness, and the inspirational example of her religious faith. Most of the time, as with most of us, Geraldine’s efforts could be characterized as being the quiet successes of day-to-day care of animals. It is in the management of cage flooding, however, that Geraldine made a unique and lasting contribution and I share an account. Through her initiative, adept skills of observation, sound powers of deductive reasoning, she was able to determine that some flooding in mouse cages with automated watering systems was due to mice perching on the lixit and could be prevented by relocating feeders. This exemplary effort has benefitted the DAR to this day. I am certain that many of us have memories of Geraldine that are more meaningful and deeper than these I disclose and I encourage you to share them in proper tribute at her memorial.

Unpredictable events such as the loss of a member of the DAR family serve to remind us that life is a precious gift from our Creator and should inspire us to live every minute and give every effort as though there were no tomorrow.
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SIGN UP BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2006

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- On the website, Enter “Employer Code” 11332 in the Login box and click GO.
- Enter your Social Security number (without dashes).
- Enter your PIN, which is the last four digits of your Social Security number plus your month of birth and the last two digits of your birth year; for example, if your Social Security number is 414495731 and your birth date is July 1972, your PIN would be 57310772.
- The next screen is an option – Pin Reset Enrollment, if you enroll the system will give you the option to reset your pin &/or receive an email with your pin number if you forget your pin. This process will require an email address.
- Select Consent for Online Delivery.
- Read the disclosure and Click on Test Now
- A sample W2 will show on your computer. If the sample W2 screen shows on your computer you will be able to access your W2 online from that computer. If the sample does not show then contact your local support to check your Adobe Acrobat Reader.
- Close the sample file and Click on “I saw the test W-2, read all of the important information above, and want to receive my original W-2 statement online” Complete the consent form with your primary (and secondary) email address, your mailing address, and your home/work number. Select “Continue”
- A verification screen will show if correct select “confirm”

Note: Your original W-2 will be mailed to your home address if you do not use the online service.

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- Emory employees can get a 15% discount on TurboTax software. Visit www.w2express.com. Log in. Click on the TurboTax logo. Follow the online instructions. If you have questions, contact Payroll at 404-727-6100.