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APAC Elects a New Senator



Congratulations to Agnes Herget! Agnes was elected as a UIC Academic Professional (AP) Senator, one of three representing Academic Professionals in the UIC Senate. She emerged as the winner in the general AP election in April of this year, succeeding William S. Bike, who retired from UIC. Agnes will serve a three-year term in this role, which began on September 25. The UIC Senate considers matters of educational policy, honorary degree candidates, changes to statutes, and more. Agnes currently serves as the Executive Assistant Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Agnes Herget Biography

Agnes joined UIC in September of 2003 and has held several positions. She has been working in the Dean's Office of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for almost nine years.

Agnes considers herself privileged that she was a part of the first class of the University of Illinois System-wide initiative, the Academic Professional Leadership Program (APLP), which started last year. "This opportunity inspired me to become more involved with my peers at UIC," said Agnes.

Concerning her being elected a Senator to represent Academic Professionals in the UIC Senate, she said, "I was excited that my Senate membership automatically also made me a member of APAC."

She believes that APAC has the ability to elevate the contributions that staff make to UIC's mission and to support the professional needs of APs.

Full of expectations concerning APAC, Agnes is looking forward to learning from colleagues around campus and to see how APAC can leverage its combined expertise into something that can benefit other staff members at UIC.

Regarding her educational/professional background, she said, "I was born and raised in Germany and completed my entire education there. My graduate degree is in Applied Linguistics with concentrations in English, Russian, and Economics. When I started working at UIC, I worked in the Study Abroad Office for several years, then in the School of Literatures, Cultural Studies, and Linguistics, and now in the Dean's Office in Liberal Arts and Sciences.

In my current role, I am part of the Dean's management team and participate in the strategic planning and decision-making for the College. I wear many different hats and deal with issues ranging from faculty affairs and budgetary decision-making to hiring, faculty research, advancement, and student academic affairs.

"I also lead the College's 'Online Pathways' initiative with the goal of increasing online learning opportunities for UIC students and for external audiences." She volunteered as an ESL tutor for several years through Oakton Community College's free English as a Second Language program.

Agnes' hobbies are traveling and spending time with friends and family—and her dog.

APAC Tree Walk Connects Aps and Nature



APAC conducted its first Tree Walk event on campus on June 11. The event was led by APAC member Kate Yoshida. A total of 33 participants joined the event for a short walk to notice and appreciate the many campus trees. Highlights of the event included:

A short introduction to how the campus cares for its tree “residents” and the benefits of trees by UIC Grounds Superintendent Carly Rizor.

Thirty minutes on the Tree Walk guided by a campus arborist from Bartlett Tree Expert, who help keep the campus’s “forest” healthy.

A conclusion in the grove area by the Science and Engineering Offices for 15 minutes to relax and enjoy the space on the provided seating.

Kate summed up the event as very successful, and said that the arborist was a “virtual encyclopedia about tree care.”

Please watch for information about upcoming events for APAC’s second tree Walk next summer.

APAC Election Report



Academic Professionals participated in the APAC-organized general election for an open Academic Professional seat in the University Senate. Agnes Herget was elected to this position – see profile above. The voting method was on-line from April 8 through 15, 2019.

An overview of the election process is as follows:

- Eligible voters are APs holding a permanent appointment of 50% or more at UIC.
- Election was through online voting system.
- A total number of 369 AP ballots were cast.
- APAC incorporated electronic ballots and notified the electorate about the procedure to cast votes electronically.
- To validate the credentials and eligibility of voters, each voter logged into the APAC website or designated online voting platform to view candidate information and vote.
- Voting choices remained anonymous and each voter could only vote once
- Each ballot box had one secure voting key making votes to be auditable and verifiable.

Thank you to Daniel Wesley, formerly of the UIC Purchasing Office, who helped develop the online voting ballot. Daniel is currently the Contracts & Procurement Manager at the UIC John Marshall Law School.

APAC Plans to Update Its Bylaws



Reviewing bylaws is a basic part of the duties of the APAC Subcommittee on Bylaws. APAC is planning to update its bylaws to effectively ensure the presence of sound governance practices. The proposed revision will include provisions on election procedures for AP representatives to the UIC Senate. They will also include new descriptions and roles of certain subcommittees. “A well-drafted set of bylaws will signal a well-governed organization,” noted Nester Komolafe, Chair of the Bylaws Subcommittee.

APAC Retirement—Bill Bike and Julie Kong

Longtime APAC Members Williams S. Bike and Julie Kong have retired from UIC



William S. Bike (second from right) with College of Dentistry colleagues Mark J. Valentino, Janette Guzman, and Ana Lisa Ogbac.

Bill Bike, longtime APAC member, AP Senator, and APAC Communications Chair, has retired from UIC after 24 years of service. He had been Director of Advancement Communications for the UIC College of Dentistry.

When the University Senate created three seats for AP Senators in 2006, Bill was one of the first AP Senators elected, along with Jacqueline Berger and Hugo Teruel, and served until his retirement this year. By virtue of his AP Senate seat, Bike automatically became a member of APAC. "The original idea was that the three of us would participate in APAC only by giving reports on Senate activities, but we quickly decided that we wanted to be fully active in APAC, and APAC welcomed us," Bill recalled.

As chair of the APAC Communications Subcommittee from 2006 to 2019, Bill was the editor of and major writer for APAC News. "The publication started out covering soft news like promotions for ice cream socials and similar activities, but when there were budget crises and conversions of APs to Civil Service, it quickly became more of a hard news labor and employee publication," Bill noted.

Through APAC, Bike also served as Chair of the Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) Committee from 2010 to 2012. "CAPE recognizes the work of outstanding Academic Professionals, and I was honored that APAC chose me to lead that effort for three years," Bill said.

As a Senator, Bill served on the University Senate Subcommittee on External Relations and Public Service from 2006 to 2018, and was Chair from 2015 to 2018. "I'm very proud that during my time on the subcommittee we strongly publicized the honorary degree process, resulting in more nominations and more honorary degrees awarded," Bill said.

He also led three executive sessions of the Senate, 2016-2018. Executive sessions are closed to the public because of the sensitive information being discussed. "That was a great honor for an AP," Bill said. In his role as an AP and a Senator, Bill also served on the Provost Search Committee in 2011.

At the College of Dentistry, Bill was the editor of several print and online publications and was part of the Office of Advancement, which raised tens of millions of dollars for the College during his tenure. He wrote funding proposals and grant proposals and a book about the history of the College called *Celebrating a Proud Past*. He also served on the College's Alumni Board for 24 years.

"I truly loved being a member of APAC, of the Senate, and of the College of Dentistry," Bill said. "I served with great, dedicated people who were not only colleagues but good friends."

In retirement, Bike continues his affiliation with UIC by writing freelance articles for UIC Magazine, the University's alumni magazine. "I've written two already, and hope to write more," Bill said. To contact Bill, email billbike@anbcommunications.com.



Julie Kong, MED, RDN, CRA, Director of Re-

Julie Kong at her retirement party at UIC SPH.

search Services, retired at the end of June 2019. Julie managed the School of Public Health's pre-awards research office for 20 years, and had been at UIC for over 30 years, starting as an undergraduate dietetics student and working previously as a clinical nutrition instructor in the College of Applied Health Sciences and Administrative Director of the original UIC Cancer Center.

The SPH Office of Research Services (ORS), under Julie's leadership, has been instrumental in building the SPH research portfolio by helping faculty obtain grants from federal agencies like NIH, CDC, HRSA, and HUD and foundations such as American Cancer Society, and Susan B. Komen Foundation.

During her tenure in SPH, she was also involved in developing and presenting grant writing workshops; developed publications for the College; supervised events such as the SPH Research and Awards Day; and served as a liaison with the Vice Chancellor of Research. Among her professional accomplishments, Julie was the recipient of the Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) Award in 2007, received three teaching awards, and is a certified research administrator.

Among her University public service activities, Julie served as an active member of APAC's Professional Development Subcommittee for seven years because she wanted to be an advocate for Academic Professionals in their personal and professional development. As Co-Chair of the Professional Development Subcommittee, Julie and her Subcommittee members organized many popular presentations that attracted up to 100 attendees per event. Last year, the Subcommittee initiated the successful Academic Professional Development Program, which provides professional development funds for Academic Professionals twice a year.

As Julie reflected on her time in APAC, she stated, "Being a member of APAC has been extremely rewarding as I have gotten to meet so many dedicated, hard-working academic professional staff, and it made me proud to be one of them."

In 2014, Julie was profiled in APAC News. The article on Julie can be found at <http://uicapac.blogspot.com/2014/08/apac-profile.html>



Four New Members Join APAC:

Anne Burkhart, Aginah Muhammad, Hugo Trevino, and Michael Wesbecher. Their biographies follow.

Anne Burkhart Biography

Anne joined UIC April 16, 2018, as a Senior Patent Coordinator in the Office of Technology Management. "I write, file and manage patents, trademarks and copyrights for UIC staff and faculty creators from campus offices or colleges," Anne said.



She joined APAC in August of 2019 to support APAC's professional development initiative for the needs of the AP community. "I was nominated to APAC by my work colleagues to represent them at APAC committee meetings and to serve the needs of the academic professional community," Anne said. She hopes to gain a better understanding of leadership functions and initiatives at the University where she can contribute her talents.

As a Physics degree graduate from the University of Cincinnati, Anne began her career at the University of Chicago, where she worked for the Neurology department and the Franklin McLean Memorial Research Institute. She also graduated from the UIC John Marshall Law School and subsequently admitted to the State of Illinois Bar, and registered as a U.S. patent attorney at the USPTO. Before she joined UIC, Anne had worked as outside counsel for international large-entity corporations and also as in-house counsel at a global medical device company, where she worked closely with the marketing, engineering, and executive leadership teams to protect the IP rights of the company across the globe.

Anne volunteered to serve on the campus beautification committee and student government in college. She also served as a volunteer for the Save the Abandoned Babies Foundation. "I was a member of the dinner committee for the Patent Law Association of Chicago for a number of years, and chaired the 100th Annual Dinner in honor of the Federal Judiciary, which was attended by Justice Stevens," Anne said. Anne was a former member of the Board of Directors of the Women's Bar Foundation.

Her Hobbies include gardening, cooking, and hiking.



Aginah Muhammad Biography



UIC role: "I joined UIC May 20, 2013, as an Undergraduate Program Development Specialist in the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs," Aginah said. "I am currently serving in the role of the Executive Director of the Council on Teacher Education. I have served in this capacity since December 2015." She was appointed as an AP Senator to represent Academic Professionals in the UIC Senate, replacing Kathleen Stauffer, who resigned from the Senate.

APAC role: "I joined APAC in August of 2019," Aginah said. "I joined APAC because I wanted to become involved in the campus on a broader scale, particularly as it relates to advocating for Academic Professionals on our campus. After participating in the first cohort of the Academic Professional Leadership Program, I was inspired to take a more active role on UIC's campus. I found that APAC was a great group to join."

Educational/professional background: "I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Master's Degree in Education with a concentration in Leadership and Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago," Aginah explained. "I also earned my PhD in Organizational Leadership from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. My professional career has always been in the public sector. Prior to joining UIC, I held several administrative roles with the Chicago Public Schools, the Cook County Sheriff's Department, and the City of Chicago. I also taught at South Suburban College."

Previous volunteering positions: "I have volunteered with both professional and community based organizations," Aginah explained. "I am currently serving my second, three-year term on the Executive Board of the IACTE (Illinois Association for Colleges of Teacher Education). I currently serve as a member of the Homewood Flossmoor Parent Association and the Homewood Flossmoor Principal's Parent Advisory Council. I have also served as the President of the Parent Teacher Organization in Elementary School District 159."

Hobbies: "I love to travel and spend time with family and friends," Aginah said. "I recently published my first book and enjoy speaking to working moms, in particular, about balancing career and family, as well as maximizing their potential."

Hugo Trevino Biography

APAC and UIC role:

Hugo joined APAC on August 29, 2019. He is a Disability Services Specialist at the Disability Resource Center (DRC). As an academic advisor for students with disabilities, Hugo



has had the privilege of serving the entire student population. Having or acquiring a disability makes one a member of a minority group that anyone can join no matter what their ethnic, cultural, sexual, gender, or socioeconomic background.

Hugo is excited to join APAC because he hopes to impact not only students with disabilities, LGBTQIA students, Latinx students, and other racial and ethnic minorities but any student who may be facing barriers. As an APAC member,

Expectations of APAC: Hugo hopes to bring his ideas of universal design to APAC to truly reach and impact all Academic Professionals and make them aware that they play a huge part in making UIC accessible to all. "Increasing accessibility is a great opportunity for UIC to be more innovative as an institution," Hugo said. "UIC has been at the forefront of creating one of the first Disability and Human Development studies program as well as a Disability Cultural Center." As an APAC member, Hugo hopes to be able to help all UIC employees elevate UIC to be ranked nationally as an institution that goes above and beyond to assist all staff, students, and guests, who have a disability.

Educational/professional background: Hugo is a first-generation Mexican American, who graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2014, and Loyola University Chicago in 2018 with a master of education degree. Hugo's history involves advocating for Latinxs, LGBTQIA, and People with Disabilities' right to education, healthcare, and self-advocacy. Hugo's passion led him to student's rights, to equal access, to higher education at UIC.

Volunteering: Hugo has a history of volunteering for such organizations such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Cure SMA, and Thumbuddy Special. He loves volunteering and mentoring younger persons whenever possible.

Abilities and hobbies: Hugo has a physical disability called spinal muscular atrophy, which requires him to use a power wheelchair. As someone from the community of people with disabilities, he is excited to learn from his students as everyone experiences having a disability differently. He loves learning languages, is fluent in English and Spanish, and currently is learning Portuguese and Italian. When at home he loves to de-stress with a good book, game night, catching up with friends over food, going to the movies, or seeing a Broadway-type show.

Michael Wesbecher Biography



UIC role: "I originally joined UIC in March of 2008," Michael said. Currently, I'm the Director of Communications and Events with the UIC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs."

Date joining APAC and reasons for joining: "I joined APAC earlier this year, September 2019," Michael explained. "I joined to get more involved with other AP colleagues across campus. This felt like a great opportunity to challenge myself to learn about other roles and areas of UIC, but also to engage the AP community across campus with one another - to hopefully learn from one another." Mike is the current Vice Chairman of APAC.

Expectations of APAC: "I expect APAC to advise on behalf of all APs appropriately, and to provide a structure for growth and development for APs across campus," Michael noted.

Educational/professional background: "I received a bachelor's degree in communication from Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio, and my master's in public health (MPH) from UIC," Michael explained. "Prior to working at UIC, I worked in advancement/alumni relations for my alma mater, Wittenberg University, and was an English as Second Language (ESL) instructor in Seoul, South Korea. Upon joining the UIC community, I worked for ten years for the College of Medicine as an advancement/communication professional serving in various roles during my tenure in Medicine before joining OVCHA."

Hobbies: Biking, tennis, reading, and travel.

