



Dean's Office Staff Receive USF's Top Award

Karen Grigsby and Stefan Phekoo are recipients of the 2010 USF Outstanding Staff Award. The award is the university's most prestigious recognition available for staff and administrative employees. They were presented their award by Provost Wilcox and President Genshaft at the Outstanding Staff Award ceremony held in the new Music Building on Wednesday, September 21, 2011.

Karen Grigsby *Academic Program Specialist*

A Tampa native, Karen Grigsby began her career at USF in December 1976. Karen has served in various positions over the last 35 years, with increasing levels of responsibility, but all have been related to student records. When she started, she had no clue what "tenure" or "declaration of major" meant but her positions evolved and for the last several years she has been a veteran staff member considered an expert in undergraduate student services and has the primary responsibility of certifying the college's undergraduates for graduation.



Karen's track record speaks for itself with regard to professionalism and hard work. However, her willingness to volunteer to assist with the pilot testing of the new DegreeWorks student degree audit over the past year is what led to her nomination this year. To paraphrase her letters of recommendation;

"Karen exemplifies collaboration...her knowledge base facilitated the programming of degree requirements for her college... she is consistently willing to work with other departments on campus to enhance the university's level of service. Her dedication to excellence has contributed to the implementation of essential functions of the degree audit system..."

"She does not sacrifice or subordinate the goals and objectives of others to her own. Rather, she understands the importance of meeting expectations, serving needs, and achieving high standards."

Stefan Phekoo *Building & Security Assistant*

Stefan Phekoo has worked for the College of Behavioral & Community Sciences for 3 years. He supervises a group responsible for providing classroom set up and AV needs of the faculty, managing space scheduling, and assisting with building security. Additionally, Mr. Phekoo oversees staff scheduling and daily tasks as well as, the coordination of office/department relocation projects. Often, these projects entail a great deal of decision making regarding excess furniture and computer equipment which Stefan handles well. He is also our day-to-day liaison with the Physical Plant and Housekeeping.



Mr. Phekoo is someone who makes things happen, who takes on extra chores with enthusiasm, and who can be counted on when something is needed on short notice. When our building manager took a medical leave of absence, Mr. Phekoo was assigned her responsibilities, along with all his other duties as Building & Security Assistant. He has been simply amazing in how he has handled the additional duties, and his recent coordination of faculty moves is an excellent example. The moves required emptying some of the offices, cleaning and painting them, moving people into them, cleaning and painting the offices they vacated, moving a few more people, cleaning those offices, etc. Furniture, boxes, computers, file cabinets, etc. were moved through an intricate ballet choreographed by Mr. Phekoo. In one case a room had to be rid of a rodent and roach problem in the midst of the move. No matter what came up, Mr. Phekoo handled it with good cheer, making the faculty feel very well taken care of.