

Niara Party

Welcome to what I hope will become an annual event...

A time for those of us fighting the wars in Academic Affairs to get together to relax a bit...to celebrate getting through another year.

There is little doubt that Academic Affairs is the

pressure point in this University...the place where all concerns and complaints eventually come to rest!

Bob Holbrook:

"Why is it that everyone always writes us 'off the wall' memos...and we never get a chance to respond..."

Tonight we can take solice in the fact that we are

really always right...but we have to bear our wisdom in silence. And perhaps we can regard tonight as the "eye of the hurricane"

Tonight is important for a second reason...Niara

This evening is also an opportunity to thank, congratulation, and convey our best wishes to Niara in her new position as President of Lincoln University.

Over the course of the past several months the University has found many opportunities to recognize Niara's Superb contributions as a faculty member
As a leader and administrator

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the critical role she has played as Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs across a number of fronts:

Academic policy

Minority programs

Strategic planning

Wide range of activities facing our office...

She has addressed these issues with intelligence, courage, and class!

And we will miss her...

But onward and upward to a new role as Chief Executive...

And in this role, I am sure you will take with you an excellent perspective of how downtrodden and persecuted Academic Affairs is at your institution...and perhaps even encourage them to write a nasty letter in reply, now and then!

Let me conclude with just two final comments:

i) Best wishes to Niara for what I know will be an exciting and successful tenure

ii) And thanks to all of you ... particularly spouses...

for enduring the pressures and demands of Academic Affairs in such a superb fashion.

The University owes you all a great deal!