



WINTER LUNCHEON



The Winter Gathering is an annual event that brings the division together to foster a sense of community. It's a time to celebrate staff achievements through award ceremonies, strengthen team bonds, and boost employee morale. The event often features catered food, winter-themed decorating contests, raffle prizes, and a variety of fun games. ABA also typically uses this occasion to recognize Years of Service milestones. Overall, it's a festive and meaningful celebration that highlights ABA's collective achievements and reminds everyone that ABA knows how to work hard—and have a good time while doing it.



"My favorite part has to be the gingerbread team-building contest—it's hilarious to see everyone's creative (and sometimes wacky) designs. These fun moments really show the awesome camaraderie we have in our organization."
-May Xiong, Facilities Management

"The winter luncheon was so much fun! It's not every day that I can dance with my colleagues at work. Being a part of the MPP flash mob was a great way to get to know my MPP peers in a fun way (Jennifer was serious about our dance rehearsals...ha). It was also nice to surprise our other colleagues and make them laugh. Most importantly, the food was delicious!"
-Mellonie Richardson, Human Resources



"When I joined the ABA crew, this event helped me recognize all the great departments and fun colleagues across the division. Even if you're not a social butterfly, it's always a fun event to take a break from the usual pace and see people away from their jobs."
-Cheri Acton, Auditing & Consulting Services



SUMMER SOCIAL

The ABA Summer Social is typically held each year following the spring semester. It's a chance to celebrate the great work accomplished across ABA over the past few months. Past events have included a mix of friendly competitions like watermelon eating contests, cook-offs, and bake-offs. There's also been catered food, outdoor games such as The event also includes our Staff Recognition award ceremony, making it both a fun and meaningful way to wrap up the semester.



"This event gives staff time to be silly and hang out together. It helps us see all the work ABA does. It really brings us together."

-Tabitha Leeds, Accounting Services



"The Summer Social is a fantastic event that embodies ABA's culture of community and collaboration. I love being part of the planning and setup process, as it allows me to volunteer and work alongside some of the greatest ABA staff members. Seeing the smiles on attendees' faces as they enjoy the food, team bonding activities, and game giveaways makes all the effort worthwhile."

-May Xiong, Facilities Management

"The BBQ cook-off had been a long standing tradition and it was always fun to see the friendly competition. As a baker, I was thrilled when they added a Bake-Off to the competition as well. It's so fun to see what people make and how creative they are with presentation. (Winning a category was pretty fun too!) Both options allowed us to see different sides of our peers and engage in friendly competition."

-Laura Lockett, University Print & Mail



STAFF RECOGNITION PR★GRAM

The ABA Staff Recognition Program is a long-standing, staff-run initiative that celebrates the dedication and contributions of ABA employees. It recognizes those whose leadership, service, professionalism, and performance embody ABA's core values and support the university's success.



The program is divided into two parts: Peer to Peer Awards and Admin Awards. Peer to Peer categories include Creativity, Customer Engagement, Positive Attitude, Subject Matter Expert, and Team Player, with winners selected by a committee of past recipients. Admin Awards categories are Excellence in Action-Staff, Excellence in Action-MPP, and the Team Award, and are chosen by the ABA Admin Council.

All award categories reflect ABA's strategic values: Leading by Example, Raising the Bar, Being Value-Additive, and Staying Curious. Winners are typically announced each year during the ABA Summer Social. This program not only fosters a culture of appreciation but also reinforces the values that make ABA a vibrant community.



I love the peer recognition opportunity. This helps me learn about the folks I may not have an opportunity to interact with but who are doing incredible work in our division for the campus community - including each other!

-Cheri Acton, Auditing & Consulting Services

I love using the Staff Recognition Program to highlight all the positives that my co-workers bring to their job on a daily basis. It's a great way to lift each other up for a job well-done.

-Michelle Adams, Accounts Payable & Travel

YEARS ⌚ OF SERVICE

The ABA Years of Service program is an important tradition that honors individuals who have reached significant milestones in their careers. It's a meaningful opportunity to recognize and thank them for their valuable contributions—not only to the ABA Department but to the campus community as a whole. Employees are typically celebrated for completing 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service. The recognition ceremony is usually held each year during the ABA Winter Luncheon.



COFFEE & CONVERSATION

"This is such an important mechanism for voicing and hearing each other's concerns in a place where they are most likely to be appropriately addressed. I like the relaxed atmosphere and that it feels like a safe space to say what our concerns are to the VP - and to get feedback about those concerns."

-Cheri Acton, Auditing & Consulting

Coffee & Conversation is a long-standing ABA tradition that fosters open, honest dialogue between the Vice President/CFO and non-managerial staff. Held once each semester, with a session in the morning and afternoon, this informal gathering provides an opportunity for the VP/CFO to hear concerns directly from staff in a relaxed setting over coffee and refreshments. To create a safe space for candid discussion, managerial staff are not permitted to attend.

A representative from the Office of the Vice President/CFO is present to take anonymous notes during the meeting. These notes allow the VP/CFO to follow up on concerns, questions, or suggestions after the event, ensuring that staff voices are heard and that appropriate actions are considered and taken when possible. This event plays a vital role in strengthening communication across ABA and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to listening and improving together.



DECORATING CONTESTS

"We love this. It is a great way to get teams together to do something fun and provide a break from the stress of the seasons and jobs."
-Tabitha Leeds, Accounting Services



ABA hosts seasonal decorating contests that bring creativity and fun to the workplace throughout the year. Highlights include the Winter Door Decorating Contest, the Fall Decor Contest, and Spirit Week. In all competitions, employees are encouraged to work independently or together to create unique, award-winning decorations. Prizes can range from a trophy to Sac State swag, and the timeless reward of bragging rights. ABA also joins in on campus-wide events such as the Halloween Decorating Contest and Golf Cart Parade. These activities encourage team spirit, showcase creativity, and foster friendly competition among departments.



-Cheri Acton, Auditing & Consulting

"Who knew so many otherwise quiet, workaholics could be so competitive?! I love that we can take a break a couple times a year to do something festive for the joy of it and for epic bragging rights - not to mention how much delight the campus community gets out of it."



"Decorating doors and other spaces makes the workplace feel so much more fun and festive. Plus it's a great opportunity to have fun and make memories with people we spend so much of our time working with."
-Michelle Adams, Accounts Payable & Travel

