

Support Staff Conference

The Third Annual Support Staff Conference was held on Tuesday, August 4, at Collis Common Ground. Nearly 100 individuals attended the day-long event. This year's theme was *Diversity Awareness and Enrichment: Appreciation of Differences*. The conference's agenda stated the following focus: "Support Staff will share ideas and learn how our differences affect our relationships in our professional as well as personal lives."

Jim Platt, Director of F/EAP, delivered the keynote address, on the topic of difficult relationships (both personal and professional). His animated style often used humor to challenge the audience, who responded enthusiastically. He spoke at length about the importance of trust and expectation in a relationship. Difficulties can occur particularly when there are misperceptions regarding rewards and costs, he said. In his energetic, hour-long address, Platt discussed moving from conflict to collaboration, from fear to fascination, and from complaining about differences to appreciating the relationship. He concluded by stating that "a better relationship begins with you!"



Photo: James Burger

More information on the conference, including photos and presenter texts, is available at www.dartmouth.edu/~hrs/news/staff_conference05.html.

Many thanks to the Conference Committee and to the offices who so generously supported the event!

Conference Committee Members

Susan Aubuchon
Marijane Barber
Connie Bellavance
Cindy Kendall
Tom Kenyon
DeeDee Samuels

Funding Offices

Dean of the Faculty
Office of Human Resources
Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity
Office of Pluralism and Leadership
Office of the Provost
Office of Student Life