Congratulations to the seven staff members of the Department of English, the second quarter winner of SAC Salutes: Jessie Becker, Sharon Black, Sharon Fisher, Dottie Long, Mary Moore, Victoria "Vickie" Thorp, Matthew Wells.

These seven people take care of the more than one hundred graduate students, about five-hundred undergraduate majors and nearly nearly fifty tenured and tenure-track faculty. In addition to their normal duties, the staff took on primary responsibility for moving the department in the Fall of 2009. Pat Okker, the chair of the department says, they “deserve special attention for their role in moving the ENTIRE English Department from Tate Hall to McReynolds--in the middle of the semester--so that renovation of Tate Hall could begin in a timely fashion. From what I understand, moving a department mid-semester has never been done before, and the English Department is one of the largest departments on campus. This move was an incredible accomplishment and while I am very grateful to the many staff members in other units who assisted us, I believe the seven staff members in English deserve special recognition. [It] was an amazing feat!”

The department got its start when “English literature” was named as a discipline in one of the original five departments at the founding of the University in 1839. Named a department in its own right in 1859, the Department of English has a long tradition of providing one of the fundamentals to a well-rounded education. This tradition could not continue without the extraordinary efforts of the current staff. Thank you Jessie, Sharon, Sharon, Dottie, Mary, Vickie and Matthew for all you do.