President’s Corner

Greetings Operating Staff!

Congratulations to the students who graduated last month – and to each and every one of you who played an integral role in their success. You all continue to do the highest quality of work and put students first, even in these challenging times, and that is to be commended.

As we begin another year of budgetary uncertainty, I just want to remind you of the confidential and valuable resources available to help staff navigate change and other employment issues. Our ombudsperson, Sarah Klaper (ombuds@niu.edu), the operating staff personnel advisor, John Hulseberg (ospa@niu.edu), your union steward, and the Employee Assistance Program (EmployeeAssistance@niu.edu) are here to assist you; and more partnerships to benefit staff are being discussed as well.

In May, staff councils had the opportunity to participate in a retreat with President Baker, which included a very productive brainstorming session about recruiting efforts. We will keep you updated on the action items that will follow. More events like this are being planned in the future; please consider getting involved with Operating Staff Council so you, too, can help us represent the staff perspective.

Also, please remember to contact your legislators as they are not hearing enough about the impact of the budget impasse on higher education.

Have a wonderful summer!

Holly Nicholson, President
Operating Staff Council 2016–2017

Operating Staff Outstanding Service Awards

Four members of the Operating Staff were chosen to receive this year’s Outstanding Service Award. Each are described by colleagues as employees who go above and beyond in ways big and small to make the university and the community a better place. Combined, they have more than 84 years of experience at NIU. Recipients are Nancy Brown, building services worker, Building Services; Jay Monteiro, assistant to the dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts; Leslie Pergament-Nenia, office support specialist, Department of Curriculum and Instruction; and Lynn Retherford, coordinator of teacher certification, School of Music. Of the approximately 1500 employees in the Civil Service staff, four are selected by a committee of peers to receive a plaque and a $1,500 award.

Nancy Brown

The hallways of Swen Parson Hall are brighter in every way because of Nancy Brown. The building services worker is known not only for her dedicated service and unmatched work ethic, but also for her signature smile and the caring, warm way she greets and encourages everyone she comes across. Brown’s service work in the community is truly remarkable. She has served as the youth director for the United Church of Sandwich for 10 years, has volunteered for Hesed House, Open Door, Feed’em Soup, Safe Passage, Hope Haven and plans annual Habitat for Humanity week-long mission trips. She has also volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for seven years. In addition, she serves as finance commissioner for the village of Leland.

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It would be hard to find an employee more connected, service-oriented or dedicated than Jay Monteiro. During his more than 19 years of employment at NIU, Monteiro’s work has touched nearly every area of the university, and colleagues say NIU is better off because of his dedication. Monteiro recently took on a new role at NIU, as Assistant to the Dean for Marketing, Affairs and Events in the College of Visual & Performing Arts, but he was nominated by his colleagues during his time in his role as Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management for Human Resources. In that role, he oversaw human resource functions for 22 departments. In the community, Monteiro is a highly accomplished musician who plays with local ensembles, for the Kishwaukee Area Concert Band and Jazz in Progress. He is also involved with the DeKalb Municipal Band, Stagecoach Players, Waterman Community Choir and Celebration Chorale. Monteiro also works as a freelance florist and has decorated the grand staircase in Altgeld Hall for the holidays for the last decade.

For the past five years, Leslie Pergament-Nenia has worked as the office support specialist for the Jerry L. Johns Literacy Clinic in the NIU College of Education’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction. In this role and in various others where she has served at NIU during her more than 28 years of employment, colleagues say she has earned a reputation for going above and beyond. As the only full-time employee of the Jerry L. Johns Literacy Clinic, Pergament-Nenia has established herself as an ambassador of the clinic, a proactive leader and a quick study. Pergament-Nenia has given much to her community over the years as well, especially through her volunteering and leadership for the local Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Sometimes she even gives of herself quite literally: Over the years, she has donated 10 gallons of blood to the Heartland Blood Bank of DeKalb.

Colleagues describe Lynn Retherford as persistent and uncompromising in advocating for students in the School of Music and across the university. That dedication and her friendly nature mean that Retherford is considered a go-to person and friend for professional and personal guidance. Her job duties require Retherford to wear many hats in the School of Music, from supporting faculty and administration to providing assistance to all music majors in a variety of ways. A typical week will find Retherford juggling tasks such as processing scholarships for incoming and current international and domestic students, maintaining and updating databases, assisting alumni and current students by processing licensure entitlements and posting opportunities for job searches and employment. She regularly volunteers to represent the School of Music beyond campus, perhaps most notably in her volunteer work as a Fine Arts liaison with the Rockford Public Schools and at regional and state conferences.

**Employment Changes**

**MARCH 2017**

**Welcome New Employees**

Melissa Burlingame, Program Adviser—Environmental Studies

Donald Coffman, Pipefitter—Physical Plant

Jeffrey Cowles, Safety Officer II—Environmental Health & Safety

Noca Ervin, Administrative Assistant—College of Business

Leah Freeman, Office Support Associate—Admissions

MaryJayne Holley, Administrative Assistant—Alumni Services

Krysten Jones, Child Development Supervisor—Family and Consumer Sciences

Kaitlin Miles, Office Support Associate—Economics

Julie O’Brien, Accountant III—Controller

Demetrea Smith, Office Support Associate—Center for Black Studies

Jeffrey Spanasil, Accountant III—Controller

Rita Veron, Study Abroad Advisor—Vice President International Affairs

**Changes**

Janet Gianfrancesco to Program Assistant—School of Art and Design

Travis Reidl to Assistant Print Shop Superintendent—Integrated Media Technologies

Robin Sims-Quick to Office Administrator—Admissions

Phillip Torgerson to Assistant Print Shop Superintendent—Integrated Media Technologies

Adam West to IT Technical Associate—Infrastructure Services

Debra Woolbright to Office Manager—Economics

**Deaths**

Joan Anderson, Office Support Specialist—Center for Child Welfare & Education

Pamela Metcalf, Culinary Worker I—Campus Dining Services

**Department Changes**

Christina Atherton, Administrative Assistant to Human Resource Services

Lynn Montag, Office Manager to Sponsored Programs Administration

Jay Monteiro, Business/Administrative Associate to College of Visual and Performing Arts

Kadie Threlfoff, Office Manager to Gender & Sexuality Resource Center

**Retirements**

Daniel Dirker, Building Service Worker—Building Services

Ronald Harvey, Jr., Press Technician—Integrated Media Technologies

Martha Moore, Admissions/Records Specialist I—Registration & Records

**Separations**

Joseph Cabo, Residence Hall Attendant—Public Safety

Dora Irions-Welch, Collections Specialist—Bursar

Deanna Lamesch, Police Telecommunicator—Public Safety

Weyni Langdon, Police Officer—Public Safety

Eric Massey, Clerk — Public Safety

Daniel Mazea, Police Officer—Public Safety

Kaitlin Miles, Office Support Specialist—Economics

Julianna Orellana, House Attendant/Housekeeper—Conference Services

Anthony Sperkowski—Procurement Officer Specialist—Procurement & Strategic Sourcing

Wade Stone, IT Support Associate—Operation Services

**APRIL 2017**

**Welcome New Employees**

Robert Brienne, Jr., IT Technical Associate—Application Services

Cameron Clinton-Earl, Program Adviser—Student Athletic Academic Support Services

Catherine Dancey, Office Support Specialist—First & Second Year Experience
Operating Staff Council Profiles

Leah Davis
NIU Position/Building: Office Support Specialist/Anderson Hall
Came to NIU in: August 2012
Hometown: Lee
Proudest Achievement: My son, Ian just turned 21
Hobby/Interest: Hiking, painting, spending time with my dogs, cooking, horseback riding, go carts, archery; and spending time on or around water.
No One Knows That I: Can sing, act, and I wanted to be a professional dancer/actor on Broadway
Favorite Movie, Play or Book: Favorite Movie – Braveheart, Play – The Nutcracker, Book – The Bible
Inspired By: my grandmother

Carlos Raices Sr.
NIU Position/Building: Foreman
Came to NIU in: 2001
Hometown: Aurora, Il.
Proudest Achievement: My children. One is a Gunnery Sgt. in the Marine Corps, one is a tattoo artist in Chicago, one is a nail tech for Mario Tricocci and one is an event planner.
Hobby/Interest: Bass fishing, playing guitar and art
No One Knows That I: I am a retired (I stress retired) magician
Favorite Movie, Play or Book: I have too many favorites to list.
Inspired By: My children inspire me. I live vicariously through them.

Mary Wyzard
NIU Position/Building: Classroom & Media Technologist, Williston B12
Came to NIU in: May 1996
Hometown: Nokomis, IL
Proudest Achievement: 40 years of marriage and raising our two sons
Hobby/Interest: Cooking, Cruising and Reading
Inspired By: My Baby Sister Bonnie, because of all the Strength, Courage, Love, & Faith that shined through her during her battle with cancer. Miss her greatly!

Service Awards

MARCH 2017
5 Years
Robert Allen—Human Resource Services
Emily Cavazos—Public Safety
Barbara Lauger—College of Engineering & Engineering Technology
Matthew Lave—Public Safety
John Quillman—Public Safety
Karyn Smith—Application Services

10 Years
John Holmes—Building Services
Merilee Kurbis—Campus Dining Services
Katie Mayberry—Human Resource Services
Holly Nicholson—Web & Internal Communications
Susan Phelps—Building Services
Darla Roach—Building Services
Jocelyn Santana—Diversity & Equity
Tracey Ward—Physical Plant

15 Years
Cathy Kubasiak—College of Education
Marianne Spring—Office of Institutional Communication

20 Years
Susan Cagle—Materials Management
Amy DeRose—Holmes Student Center

Changes
Shaye Bowman to Office Support Specialist—College of Health & Human Sciences
Janice Clausen to Accountant I—Physical Plant
Lucille Galpin to Office Manager—Giorgi Law Clinic
Shelley Harold to Office Administrator—School of Art and Design
Vicki Wronkowski to Assistant Human Resource Manager—Human Resource Services

Department Changes
Ryan Smith, IT Technical Associate to Campus Dining Services

Retirements
Claudia Bank, Office Support Specialist—Leadership, Educational Psychology & Foundations
Denise Garay, Office Support Specialist—First & Second Year Experience
Deborah Gutierrez, Office Administrator—College of Engineering & Engineering Technology
Mona Strausberger, Account Technician II—University Libraries

Separations
Matthew Kacskos, IT Technical Associate—Application Services
Sheetal Kumar, Admissions/Records Officer—Admissions
Jason O’Quin, Senior Events Administrator—Convocation Center
Jeffrey Riddle, Police Sergeant—Public Safety

Kangni Mombou, Grants and Contracts
Associate—Sponsored Programs
Administration
Jessica Totz, Cashier IV—Campus Parking
Kevin Weber, IT Support Associate—Infrastructure Services

25 Years
Mary Hammel—College of Business

30 Years
Lori Benesh—Lorado Taft
Jeffrey Chandler—Holmes Student Center

APRIL 2017
5 Years
Jon Chapman—Physical Plant
Kristine Coffin—Public Safety
Amy Hernandez—Registration & Records
Sara Le Duc—Public Safety
Amy Schmidt—Intercollegiate Athletics
Ashleigh Sorenson—College of Engineering & Engineering Technology
Lisa Stocksdale—Intercollegiate Athletics

10 Years
Robert Bergman—Heating Plant
Gerald Bonnell—Materials Management
Mark Diedrich—Physical Plant
George Fredholm—Heating Plant
Roger Hayes—Materials Management
Tammy Lexa—Human Resource Services
Maureen Oxnevad—Testing Services
Kristine Sipe—Application Services
Linda Wilker—Operation Services

15 Years
Joseph Przybyla—Public Safety
Tabitha Sims—Graduate School

30 Years
Maria Krull—Northern Star

40 Years
Jodi Tyrrell—President’s Office
Operating Staff Council
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2828

Operating Staff Employees Sought for University Committees

Have a voice. Join a committee. NIU’s Operating Staff Council (OSC) is seeking civil service employees interested in serving on campus committees for the 2017-2018 academic year. Representatives are needed for the:

- Athletic Board (one representative for a three-year term)
- Campus Parking Committee (two representatives for a three-year term)
- Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee (one representative for a two-year term)
- Parking Appeals Committee (one representative for a three-year term)
- Student Conduct Advisory Board (one representative for a three-year term)
- Student Conduct Board (one representative for a three-year term)
- Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (one representative for a two-year term)
- University Benefits Committee (one representative for a three-year term)

More information on the openings and the “interest form” is available on the OSC website www.niu.edu/osc/committees/

In addition, the Office of the President invites nominations of faculty, staff, and students for appointment to the five presidential commissions for academic year 2017-2018. Self-nominations are welcome.

- Presidential Commission on Interfaith Initiatives
- Presidential Commission on Persons with Disabilities
- Presidential Commission on the Status of Minorities
- Presidential Commission on the Status of Women
- Presidential Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Forward nominations, including name, classification (Faculty, Supportive Professional Staff, Operating Staff, Student), address, e-mail, telephone number, and a brief statement summarizing your qualification and desire to serve to Pat Erickson, Office of the University Council, at pje@niu.edu. Detailed descriptions of University Committees can be found at www.niu.edu/u_council/

The Giving Project
Thanks You!

We had fun and created many beautiful and useful items for students in need over this past academic year. Both students and staff participated. Plastic reusable tote bags, winter scarves, baby blankets, wash cloths and other items were made and given to The Huskie Food Pantry to give to students.

We’re taking a hiatus over the summer – flex scheduling, vacations, etc – but will return in the Fall! http://go.niu.edu/ihlc1

If you are a crafter and want to continue making items, please take them directly to the Huskie Food Pantry on the evenings they are open (every other week on Thursdays starting June 1 through August 24). http://go.niu.edu/mdl0v

A special thank you to Pam Roesner and Stacy Morse who started this worthy project and put in a lot of time and effort to bring needed items to NIU students!

OSC Dependent Scholarship Winners

Kaitlin Allen (right) with her mother, Andrea

Jenee Carlson (center) with her parents Lorelli and Tim

Donald Giebel