



NORTHERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

Northern Staff

April 2007

News

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Operating
Staff
Council

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Oops! We Goofed!

Following are corrections to the February 2007 issue of Northern Staff News. We regret these errors.

Sarah Lindell, Physics, was accidentally listed as having a 5 year anniversary in January. It is later in the year.

Terri Mann-Lamb, Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences, was changed to Food Service Administrator II, not a Food Service Area Supervisor as listed.

Operating Staff Names Outstanding Service Award Winners

Four members of NIU's Operating Staff have been chosen to receive the Outstanding Service Award for 2007.

The recipients are Margie Foshe from the Office of the Provost, Varsie Geisler from the School of Allied Health Professions, Diana Grace from the College of Law and George Tarbay from Media Services. They will be honored Thursday, May 10, at the Operating Staff Service Awards Banquet.



Margie Foshe

NIU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is home to half of the university's faculty, half of its instructors, three-fourths of its principal investigators with grants and several members of the Operating and Supportive Professional staffs.

Yet only one person processed all this personnel paperwork: Margie Foshe.

"Despite the high volume of work and the aggravating fluidity of our appointments, Margie's paperwork is always done properly, done accurately and done on time," said Joseph Grush, acting dean of NIU's largest college.

A 30-year employee now working in the Provost's Office, Foshe is known for her efficiency, effectiveness, sense of humor and creative solutions to novel problems.

She created the college's comprehensive personnel handbook for department chairs and head secretaries, developed training workshops for secretaries and designed spreadsheets to assist with merit-based salary calculations.

"Margie stands head and shoulders above others in her never-ending effort to make everyone else better," Grush said.

Off campus, Foshe served 10 years on the village board in Lee, where she helped to organize the town's 125th anniversary celebration and launch "Bingo in Lee," and where she volunteers for a friend in need.

"An Outstanding Service Award wouldn't come close to recognizing and rewarding her for all she does for this university," said David J. Buller, chair of the Department of Philosophy, "but it would be a good start."



Varsie Geisler

Varsie Geisler is a compassionate, selfless person with a kind, gentle soul.

Ask the members of the Parent-Teacher Association at Jefferson School, where she assisted in organizing classroom gatherings and community outings as well as annual book fairs and fundraisers.

Ask the congregation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where she sings in the choir; substitutes as a Sunday School teacher; coordinates processing of orders and distribution of tickets for the annual lobster boil and ministers to people in crisis.

Ask the faculty and staff in the School of Allied Health Professions, where she is secretary to and problem-solver for the Public Health and Health Education programs, home to 500 students.

"Students come to make appointments with an adviser; to find where a moved class is meeting; to determine the office hours of their instructor; to learn how to get into a class; to leave an assignment and a thousand other matters that I cannot begin to fathom," said Ellen Parham, former interim chair.

"Studies of student retention tell us that students who stick it out are the ones that find someone who pays attention and cares," Parham added. "For many, that is Varsie."

An eight-year employee, Geisler was a founding inductee of Phi Beta Delta (an honor society for international scholars) and has received two awards from the Center for Access-Ability Resources.

(continued on next page)

Operating Staff Names Outstanding Service Award Winners (continued)



Diana Grace

The DeKalb Post Office supervisor had a crisis.

A customer used a debit card to purchase a \$2,300 money order but left unaware that the clerk had failed to

complete the transaction and was now on the hook for \$2,300 from her own pocket. The only clue: The customer was an NIU law student.

Enter Diana Grace, secretary in the law school's Office of Budget and Records and a 20-year NIU employee who is considered the "go to" person when problems occur.

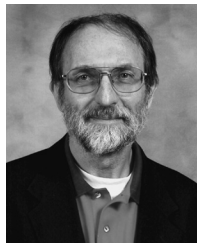
With little information, Grace contacted several offices on the trail of the student who she later found in a classroom.

"I am not nominating Diana for this award based on her duties," said Robert Snow, assistant to the dean, "but the manner in which she fulfills her responsibilities."

To many, Grace is the "human face" of the College of Law.

She handles the registration of the college's more than 300 students, the maintenance and tracking of their enrollment status, the processing of employment and payment authorizations, and other documents unique to the college, such as state bar certifications.

Grace is active in her church's choir and prayer chain. She also is steeped in fairness: her administration of the lottery for seats in a popular skills training class, and her maintenance of the subsequent waiting lists, yields no criticism from busy law students.



George Tarbay

For 30 years, George Tarbay has enjoyed the camera eye's view of NIU.

The Media Services photographer is a staple at events, shooting images that will appear in print in university publications, department brochures and local newspapers and in frames throughout campus hallways and offices.

His work has won more than 30 awards, and he recently was the featured photographer in the University Photographers Association of America's publication, "Contact Sheet."

"George's even temperament and cool composure under extremely tight deadlines and in difficult and stressful situations are one of the keys to his high degree of success over his long career," said Jay Orbik, director of Media Services. "Professors, chairs, deans and presidents have sought out George's expertise because they know that George Tarbay always produces outstanding results."

Abigail Dean, assistant director of donor relations for the NIU Foundation, said Tarbay "leaves no detail unfinished."

"George is very cordial and welcoming to our guests," Dean said. "He knows that as one who wanders the crowd asking for photographs of guests, he is very much a public face of the university."

Tarbay teaches T'ai Chi through Kishwaukee College, has served on the DeKalb Cornfest Race committee for 21 years and is a sought-after judge for local photo competitions. He also donates framed photographs for auction on behalf of the DeKalb Family Service Agency.

2007 NIU Faculty/ Staff Golf League Now Forming

Want to join your colleagues for some fun after work? Put together a team of four to five players. If you don't have a team, the league commissioner will assign you a team. It is a full handicap league so any team can win. The reserved league tee times will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:00 to 6:00pm at Buena Vista Golf Course in DeKalb. League play begins the week of May 7th and runs through the week of August 27th. Cost is \$30 per player which will all go toward league prizes. Return list of team players with team name and \$30 per player (Payable to NIU Golf League) to:

Joe Koch
416 Regal Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115

or

Jeff Strohm
Office of Publications
B105 Gilbert Hall

Please have all information in by May 3rd.

Wellness Fair 50/50 Raffle Winner



The 50/50 winner from the Wellness Fair was Gay Campbell, Finance and Facilities. Gilbert Sebenste, meteorologist from the Physical Plant, did the honors of drawing the winner. Pictured here is Sara Clayton, OSC President. Gay won \$94 and our Operating Staff Dependent Award Scholarship fund is \$94 richer too. Congratulations Gay!

Registration Begins for Huskie Pup Summer Camp

Registration for Huskie Pup Summer Camp continues until all weekly sessions are filled. This camp is designed for children ages 6 to 12.

For more information, contact Recreation Services at (815) 753-0231 or visit the summer camp online at www.stuaff.niu.edu/rs/pupcamp.shtml.

Employment Changes

February 2007

Welcome New Employees:

Lori Beck, Community Affairs Specialist—
NIU Outreach Regional Development
Institute

Lisa Harvel, Printing Production Assistant—
Document Services

Wendy Ippel, Cashier III—Bursar

Philip Lindner, Food Service Stores Laborer—
Housing and Dining

Shante Lubemba, Accountant Statistician—
Finance and Facilities

Scot Ostrander, Food Service Administrator—
Housing and Dining

Stacey Roberson, Secretary III—NIU
Outreach Naperville

Lelonie Sanders, Secretary IV—
Communicative Disorders

Monique Shaw, Kitchen Helper—Housing
and Dining

Changes:

Terry Albright to Administrative Assistant I—
University Legal Services

Gwendolyn Campbell to Administrative
Assistant I—Finance and Facilities
Operations

Elizabeth Cook to Chief Clerk—
Development Operations

Deborah Kern to Accountant III—
Controller

Grace Lewandowski to Account Technician
II—Controller

Change in Department:

Richard Mathesius to Route Driver—
Materials Management

Retirements:

Bernadine Meier, Cooks Helper—Holmes
Student Center

Mary Lou Rempfer, Food Service
Administrator II—Holmes Student
Center

Separations:

Cesare Caldarelli III, Food Service
Administrator I—Housing and Dining

Annamaria Katona, Library Specialist—
University Libraries

Julia Sober, Radiation Safety Officer—
Environmental Health and Safety

Steven Stanfa, Cooks Helper—Housing and
Dining

Justin VerHalen, Operations Support
Services Specialist I—Registration and
Records

Christina Yocum, Secretary III—Health
Services

March 2007

Welcome New Employees:

Susan Burton, Building Service Worker—
Building Services

Angela Flourmory, Building Service
Worker—Building Services

Thelma Holderness, Building Service
Worker—Building Services

John Holmes, Building Service Worker—
Building Services

Lynn Ingram, Building Service Worker—
Building Services

Merilee Kurbis, Kitchen Helper—Housing
and Dining

Sara Matthies-Long, Secretary IV—
University Honors Program

Katie Mayberry, Human Resource Assistant
—Human Resource Services

Terry McCallister, Building Service Worker—
Building Services

Evelyn Newell, Building Service Worker—
Building Services

Holly Nicholson, Graphic Designer I—
Media Services

Darla Roach, Building Service Worker—
Building Services

Tracey Ward, Routing Supervisor—Housing
and Dining

Changes:

Jeffrey Anderson to Stationary Fireman—
Physical Plant

Julie Aspera to Cashier III—Campus Parking

Diane Edwards to Secretary IV—Family,
Consumer and Nutrition Science

Ann Nelson to Secretary IV—Counseling
and Student Development

Sherry Patterson to Library Specialist—
University Libraries

Cheryl Ross to Administrative Assistant II
—Finance and Facilities

Barbara Whitesel to Grants and Contracts
Administrator I—Controller

Change in Department:

Eddie DeSpain to Building Service Worker
—Building Services

Kathy Gibbs to Secretary IV—Alumni
Services

Susan Kwosek to Chief Clerk—Information
Services

Daniel Lindeen to Building Service Worker
—Building Services

Alexander McConachie, Jr. to Clerical
Assistant—Information Services

Change in Title:

Terrie Beck to IT Support Associate—
Enterprise Systems Support

Cheryl Douell to IT Support Associate—
Enterprise Systems Support

Douglas Fisher to IT Support Associate—
Enterprise Systems Support

Ruby Foreman to IT Support Associate—
Enterprise Systems Support

Susan Freeman to IT Support Associate—
Enterprise Systems Support

Janet Irving to IT Support Associate—
Registration and Records

Joseph Masson to IT Support Associate—
Enterprise Systems Support

Ernest Moore, Jr. to IT Support Associate—
Enterprise Systems Support

Vance Moore to IT Support Associate—
Enterprise Systems Support

Susan Mossholder to IT Support Associate
—Enterprise Systems Support

Joanne O'Donnell to IT Support Associate
—Enterprise Systems Support

Bernard Schuneman to IT Support
Associate—Enterprise Systems Support

Retirements:

Janaan Coman, Building Service Worker—
Building Services

Doris Hoecherl, Kitchen Helper—Housing
and Dining

John Kreutziger, Police Sergeant—
Public Safety

Ellen Sundstrom, Accountant I—Controller

Separations:

Lena Hanson, Ambulatory Care Aide II
—Health Services

Matthew Kiederlen, Police Lieutenant—
Public Safety

Keunte Mallett, Police Officer—Public Safety

Michael Moore, Police Officer—Public
Safety

Thamra Pollard, Events Administrator—
Convocation Center

Service Awards

February 2007

5 year Award

Tammy Arneson – NIUTEL—Telecomm
Services

Tracy Burchard—Health Services

Lorraine Greffe—College of Law

Heike Hofstetter—Chemistry and
Biochemistry

Sonia Martinez—VP Research and Dean of
Grad School

Northern Staff News is published by the Operating Staff Council of Northern Illinois University.

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Design: Kathie Dempsey

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Printed by authority of the State of Illinois.

www.niu.edu 4/07 38507



Operating Staff Council
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 601 15-2854

10 year Award

Crispus Bowen—Neptune Central Food
Sandra Little—Gift Planning
Judy Rourke—Bursar
Gwendolyn Spence—Learning Center

15 year Award

Ernest Moore Jr.—Enterprise Systems Support

20 year Award

Jeanne Burtzos—VP Research and Dean of Grad School
Betty DuMont—Document Services
Carol Engel—Registration & Records
Timothy Kelly—Architecture and Engineering
Donna Rapp—Neptune Central Food

25 year Award

John Lovell—Public Safety
Nancy Ludwig—Accounting
Virginia Seymour—Publications

30 year Award

Thomas Burkart—Holmes Center Food Service

March 2007

5 year Award

Lisa Fisher—University Libraries
Stella Glen—Neptune Central Food
Cathy Kubasiak—Educational Technology, Research and Assessment
Marianne Spring—College of Law

10 year Award

Richard Finnstad—Building Services
Amy Flavin—Holmes Center Guest Rooms
Karen Villano—Holmes Center Food Service
Susan Zahm—Materials Management

15 year Award

Diane Edwards—Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences
Mary Hamell—Accountancy
Sandra Scott—Holmes Center Food Service

20 year Award

Michael Ackerman—Heating Plant
Lori Benesh—Lorado Taft
Jeffrey Chandler—Holmes Center Food Service
Roger Finnan—Materials Management
Mary Kerbel—Presidents Office
Ruth Maher—Holmes Center Food Service
Rita Withrow—International Programs

25 year Award

Cynthia Allen—Building Services
Beatrice Bocklund—Accounting

Benefits Choice Fair Scheduled

The second annual Benefits Choice Fair will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, May 3, in the Regency Room of the Holmes Student Center. This event is co-sponsored by Human Resource Services and the Operating Staff and Supportive Professional Staff councils.

Employees will have the opportunity to talk with representatives from Human Resource Services and from the various benefits vendors in preparation for making benefit choices and changes during the annual Benefits Choice Period in May.

Representatives of SURS, Social Security, Deferred Compensation (403b), Health Plans and various campus resources will be present with current information on questions including health coverage, sick leave bank, insurance and other benefits. Operating Staff Council will sell raffle tickets in support of the Operating Staff Dependent Scholarship.

The Benefits Choice Fair is a university-sponsored event and supervisors are encouraged to provide employees with the opportunity to participate. For more information, contact Employee Relations at (815) 753-6039 or Eric Smith at (815) 753-2345.