President’s Corner

Holiday Greetings!

Is it really the end of the semester? I am pretty sure that I am not ready for this year to be over, but I guess we don’t have a choice. In this time of being thankful, I am thankful for the staff at NIU. I am firmly convinced that we, the staff, are the people who are going to move this university forward. So I encourage you to take the time to thank your co-workers for ways that they make your life better and NIU a better place to work and learn. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of the next generation of our youth, and that my friends, is why we are here.

Thank You!

Andy Small, President
Operating Staff Council 2013–2014

Season’s Greetings
From Your Operating Staff Council

Front Row: Heike Hofstetter, Vice President; Stacey Bivens, Secretary; Andy Small, President; Elizabeth Buck, Treasurer.
Second Row: Yvette Lubbers, Rachel Pierce - Parliamentarian, Gina Shannon, Jay Monteiro, Amy Polzin.
Puppy Love: Furry Football Friend Finds Fame

Since Mission was introduced on national television last week, the popularity of the new NIU Huskie mascot has exploded.

So far, his introduction video, produced by the NIU Alumni Association, has received more than 35,000 views on vimeo.com. USA Today, Sports Illustrated and other news services have shared the video, making Mission a celebrity before he has even officially represented NIU.

“Given that the Huskies football program continues to climb in national prominence, we wanted to put a champion next to our NIU champions. Mission is that dog,” said John McKearn, an NIU Foundation board member.

McKearn and his wife, Cassandra, both NIU donors and alumni, are sponsoring the 2-year-old Siberian husky. Mission will follow in the footsteps of Diesel, NIU’s retiring husky, who received media fame recently when he gave a high-five at a football game.

Mission is owned by Shiver Siberians and will be raised in Marengo, Ill. During games, he will be handled by the NIU ROTC staff. The McKearns chose ROTC because of the corps’ exemplary participation and representation at sports programs, especially home football games. They also liked the idea of involving ROTC because both of their fathers were in the military.

ROTC cadets are known for doing pushups when a touchdown is scored. To follow that tradition, Lisa Monge, Mission’s owner and trainer in Sycamore, is teaching him how to do a modified pushup. He is also learning how to pull a wagon, shake hands and give a “low five.”

“Every time I’ve had the opportunity to work with him and train him,” Monge said, “he just always wants more.”

Monge is teaching him to have good manners and become comfortable with sounds and crowds. She has exposed him to Huskie hats, winter clothing and other outfits so he feels comfortable with different crowds. To get him accustomed to loud noises, she has taken him to a construction area, middle school and busy downtown area.

She views him as being an ideal symbol of NIU because of his athletic look. Mission has already taken to football and is learning the game.

“NIU gave him this little foam football with the school’s logo on it,” Monge said, “and he’s learning to go long and catch it on a pass.”

“The first time I saw him on the field, all he could concentrate on was the snow beneath his paws. The only thing that drew his attention away from the snow was his foam football,” said Milo Barsanti-Gonzalez, the NIU student who co-produced the video.

“Even during last week’s game, I could see him playing with that football.”

When Mission was introduced on campus last week, people noticed the intensity and fierce look in his blue eyes.

“He’s super-intense, but underneath that intensity is this gentle little dog,” said Monge, who also manages Raven’s Husky Haven and Rescue. “He’s just a sweetheart and he’s such a gentleman.”

During the video, viewers see Mission’s serious side as he scans through books on a library shelf and his fun side as he romps on the NIU football field. “He loves the camera actually. He’s quite the little ham,” said Angela Johannson, director of marketing and communications for the NIU Foundation. “I feel like he’s a perfect mascot because he loves the attention, people love him, and he’s just so gorgeous.”

For more information on NIU football and Huskie athletics, visit www.niuhuskies.com.

NIU Seeks Public Comment

Northern Illinois University is seeking comments from the public about the University in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The University will host a visit March 3-5, 2014, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Northern Illinois University has been accredited by the Commission since 1915. The team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet the Commission’s Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the University:

Public Comment on Northern Illinois University
The Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission’s Web site at www.ncahlc.org. Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing.

All comments must be received by February 1, 2014.
Employment Changes

**October 2013**

**Welcome New Employees**

- Jacob Bresson, Storekeeper II—Physical Plant
- Edgar Dionisio, Assistant Manager Internal Auditor—Internal Auditor
- Dexter Henry, Residence Hall Attendant—Public Safety
- James Kunkel, IT Support Associate—College of Education
- Colleen Leonard, Publicity Promotion Specialist—Alumni Services
- Shawn McGinn, Electrician—Physical Plant
- Naicia Miner, Office Support Associate—Counseling & Student Development
- Lora Oberg, Assistant Comptroller—Development Administration
- Belinda Waite, Special Events Facilitator—College of Business
- William Swineheart, Storekeeper I—Materials Management
- Christopher Samples, Accountant II to Development Administration
- Tammy Wilkerson, Greenhouse Gardener—Biological Sciences

**Changes**

- Adam Baie to Steam & Power Plant II—Physical Plant
- Kelli Bradley to Assistant Program Director—Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
- Bridget Chase to Cashier III—Bursar
- Eiclal Scaife, Child Development Supervisor—Family, Consumer & Nutrition
- Melissa Swartzbaugh, Office Support Specialist—Allied Health & Communicative Disorders
- William Swineheart, Storekeeper I—Materials Management
- Belinda Waite, Special Events Facilitator—College of Business
- Richard White, Carpenter—Physical Plant
- Jane Boardman—Development Administration
- Katherine Braser—College of Education
- Craig Fritz—Information Services
- Donald Mullins—Building Services
- John Alamia—Document Services

**Departments Changes**

- Sheetal Kumar to Admissions/Records Representative—Admissions
- Steven Peerboom to Steam & Power Plant II—Physical Plant
- Diane Rich to Office Manager—College of Business
- Phillip Torgerson to Print Shop Superintendent—Document Services
- Carlos Raices—Holmes Student Center

**Separations**

- Joshua Caputo, Building Service Worker—Building Services
- Lee Clark, Police Telecommunicator—Public Safety
- Jacklyn EgoI, Library Specialist—NIU Outreach Naperville
- Emily Harrison, Police Officer—Public Safety
- Christopher Kostelec, Senior Events Administrator—Convocation Center
- Rachel Ortiz, Financial Aid Advisor—Student Financial Aid
- Stacy Parilli, Chief Clerk—Housing & Dining
- Shannon Silver, Admissions/Records Representative—CHANGE Program
- Kelshonda Williamson, Police Officer—Public Safety

**November 2013**

**Changes**

- Tanya Cervantes to IT Technical Associate—Registration & Records
- Robert Allen to Human Resource Representative—Human Resource Services
- Ann Kenney to IT Technical Associate—Human Resource Services
- Cynthia McCord to Office Manager—Media Services
- Abigail Moss to Office Support Specialist—Family, Consumer & Nutrition

**Department Changes**

- Susan Edwards, Office Support Specialist to English

**Retirements**

- Susan Nelson, Medical Transcriptionist II—Regional Development Institute
- James Odom, Route Driver—Materials Management

**Departments Changes**

- Christopher Samples, Accountant II to Development Administration
- Tom Noon—Grounds
- Roger Jones—Holmes Student Center

**Separations**

- Joshua Kerwin, Parking Services Agent I—Campus Parking
- Lori Swedberg, Office Manager—CHANGE Program
- Shaun Rangel, Office Support Associate—President’s Office

**Service Awards**

**October 2013**

**5 Years**
- Norma Laino—Econ Illinois
- Julie Lorang—Engineering Technology

**10 Years**
- Kristin Bigelow—Public Safety
- Alan Smith—Public Safety

**15 Years**
- Sammie Doty—Registration & Records
- Debra Sander—University Libraries

**20 Years**
- Phyllis Livingston—Building Services
- Rodney Neace—University Libraries

**25 Years**
- April Spivey—Registration & Records
- Paulette Magnuson—Physics
- Jean Ann Thomas—Procurement Services
- Barbara Voga—Geography

**30 Years**
- Jack Nooner—Grounds
Important Reminder

The Payroll Office would like to remind all faculty and staff to review their mailing address in preparation for printing on the W-2 forms.

To update your address, complete the Personal Data – Name Address Form found on the HR Website under Forms & Documents and return the signed form to Human Resources. W-2s will also be available on-line again this year and employees may choose to retrieve the W-2 electronically rather than printed.

Bridal Expo Coming to HSC Ballroom

NIU will host its annual Bridal Expo from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, January 12, at the Holmes Student Center’s Duke Ellington Ballroom. The show features more than 55 exhibitors, a groom’s room, and a professional fashion show.

Parking is available in the visitor’s parking lot, located just south and west of the student center on Carroll Avenue, or in the Campus Life Building parking lot, located on the northeast corner of Normal Road and Lucinda Avenue.

Admission is free and includes a free taste-testing from the HSC’s fine catering department. Call (815) 753-6389 for more information.

Nominations Sought for Outstanding Service Award

The Outstanding Service Award is presented each year to up to four NIU Civil Service employees. The objective of this award program is to recognize individual Civil Service employees who have demonstrated outstanding service and have made significant contributions to the university community. A plaque is presented to each recipient of the award at the Annual Operating Staff Awards Banquet in spring and a $1,500 award, which is considered taxable wages and subject to payroll deductions, will be received by the Outstanding Staff Award recipients shortly thereafter. Deadline for nominations is Friday, February 28, 2014. Show the Civil Service employees in your area who go the extra mile that they do make a difference, and are greatly appreciated for that.

For more information and the nomination forms please visit www.niu.edu/osc/serviceaward/index.shtml