Hello Operating Staff,

Change. The only thing that will be constant in the near future will be change. We know that change is never easy, but we can all imagine a new NIU with all of the positive changes that are taking place. We are Huskies. We have been through change before, and subsequent generations of Huskies will be through change in the future. The wave of recent retirements will cause all of us to rethink, redo and reorganize. The opportunity will allow many of us to better our situation. I believe that future generations of Huskies will be able to look back at this time and be proud of the fact that we were a part of these changes for the betterment of NIU!

On a personal note, change will also affect me as I will be stepping down as the president of your Operating Staff Council, and this will be my last newsletter. I want to thank everyone for their support for these past three years as I tried to represent the staff in these changing times.

I send all of you my best regards,

Andy Small, President
Operating Staff Council 2013–2014

Volunteers Needed for Aug. 22 Opening Day

NIU is seeking volunteers to help welcome students to the residence halls for the fall semester on opening day, Friday, Aug. 22.

The volunteers that comprise Team NIU offer their time and team spirit to give new Huskies and their families the best possible first impression of what makes NIU special.

"Each summer the NIU campus community gears up for opening day, when students, student organizations, alumni, faculty members, staff and community volunteers demonstrate their Huskie Pride by welcoming NIU students to the residence halls," says Erin Sherrill, a graduate assistant volunteer coordinator with NIU Housing & Dining.

"With over 3,000 students moving into the residence halls on opening day, Team NIU plays a critical role in making the day a success."

Team NIU volunteers will spend the day helping incoming students move into their new home-away-from-home within the residences halls. This could include unloading vehicles, carrying student belongings upstairs and pushing carts. Team NIU volunteers should keep in mind that some heavy lifting could be involved.

All individual volunteers and group/organization volunteers must register to be allowed at move-in locations on opening day. Only those volunteers wearing the official Team NIU T-shirts will be allowed to assist students with move-in.

While Housing & Dining will attempt to accommodate volunteer preferences in hall assignments, final hall placements will be determined based on the need for volunteers at each hall.

Individuals and organizations interested in participating in opening day activities can contact Sherrill at (815) 753-7462 or esherrill1@niu.edu.
Operating Staff Announces Outstanding Service Award Recipients

Four members of NIU’s Operating Staff have been chosen to receive the Outstanding Service Award for 2014. The recipients are Lisa Clark, Routing Supervisor, Physical Plant; Amy Deegan, Office Support Specialist, Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center; Patricia Lee, Office Support Specialist, Campus Recreation; and Liz Wright, Administrative Assistant in the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships.

About 1,650 employees make up the Civil Service staff. Each year, four are selected by a committee of their peers to receive the award of plaques and $1,500. They were honored at a Thursday, May 8, banquet.

Here is a closer look at the recipients.

Lisa Clark
Routing Supervisor
Physical Plant

Whether the trouble is inaccessible restrooms in Altgeld Hall, a deteriorating stairwell in Graham Hall or other urgent jobs for carpenters, electricians or plumbers, NIU staff know how to dial the maintenance equivalent of “911.”

Quick! Get Lisa Clark on the phone!

“When our facilities are in need, we call 753-1471 and hear the calm, clear voice of Lisa Clark on the other end,” says Tita Kaus, administrator in the Office of the Dean in the NIU College of Law.

“Maintaining our facilities for the comfort and safety of our students, faculty and staff is of the utmost importance. Learning and productivity is enhanced when students and staff are comfortable,” Kaus adds. “Lisa Clark is vital and pivotal to the team that delivers those services.”

Called “conscientious,” “friendly” and a “valuable resource,” the 30-year employee is praised for patience, kindness, an uncommon level of professionalism and a “can-do” attitude. Her responsiveness on the Physical Plant’s work order desk is “immediate.”

“She is truly a role model for NIU employees,” says Betsy Hull, assistant to the dean in the College of Education. “If her attitude and work ethic could be duplicated in every employee, our NIU community would be a much different environment.”

Away from work, Clark serves St. Mary’s Catholic Church and St. Mary’s School in DeKalb as a classroom volunteer, fundraiser and Eucharistic minister who soon will take communion to parishioners who are unable to attend mass. She and her husband also help prepare and deliver meals to Hope Haven.

Amy Deegan
Office Support Specialist
Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center

Mention Amy Deegan’s name, and for those who know her, it’s hard not to immediately think of her profound love for dogs—Newfoundlands, especially.

She supports animal rescue groups, meets regularly with other Newfoundland owners and was among those who assisted the therapy dogs on campus after Feb. 14, 2008, and their return in 2009.

That passion for four- and two-legged friends is equaled by her devotion to the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center, where she has worked since 2000.

Beyond her single-handed management of all routine office tasks, Deegan handles registration for the center’s frequent training programs that enroll thousands of participants annually—numbers that have quadrupled since her arrival.

Annual training for new faculty and graduate assistants puts Deegan on the welcoming committee, always giving a friendly impression of campus. On days of major programs, she comes in early, works through lunch and leaves late.

Colleagues and clients applaud her “infectious enthusiasm and excitement” as she patiently answers questions and provides more information on workshops or other center functions.

She happily goes “above and beyond,” even if it means climbing the three flights of stairs back to her office after she’s already begun the afternoon walk to her car.

“Amy has received numerous offers from other units at NIU,” says boss Murali Krishnamurthi, associate provost for Academic Technologies and Faculty Development, “but she declined those offers to remain in her current position because of her loyalty to Faculty Development and her enthusiasm for helping faculty, staff and teaching assistants.”

Patricia Lee
Office Support Specialist
Campus Recreation

When it comes to operations in Campus Recreation, Patricia Lee wrote the book. Literally.

“Patty’s written instructions and manuals are precise, detailed and, most importantly, easy to understand.”

Lee also plays an active and integral role in the creation and implementation of new processes, such as the online registration for Rec members.

“Patty took the time to learn the system and brought up issues as she discovered them,” says Director of Campus Recreation Sandi Carlisle. “Not only did Ms. Lee identify problems, but she worked with the Information Technology staff to create solutions.”

An NIU employee for 13 years—the first eight with Housing & Dining—Lee is a hard-working role model and mentor who is “kind, big-hearted, professional, knowledgeable, service-oriented and fun.”

She trains Rec employees in procedures and later offers “honest and tactful” suggestions on making positive changes while she challenges herself to grow professionally. Lee also cheerfully helps her department with extra activities, including RecFest and the Homecoming 5K.

Off the job, she teaches Sunday school at First Baptist Church of Genoa and volunteers with the church’s Awana program.
Liz Wright
Administrative Assistant
Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships

NIU can thank Liz Wright for Lisa Freeman’s decision to join as vice president for research.

“Within minutes of meeting Liz Wright, it was evident to me that her positive energy, her can-do attitude and her infectious enthusiasm generate the positive workplace culture in the division,” Freeman says.

“Liz leads by example and also inspires others to strive for excellence. She works hard but is never too busy to support a colleague or to assist a student. Liz smiles and rolls up her sleeves where others might just grimace and wring their hands.”

The interim provost has only improved her first impression of Wright, known to colleagues as a “diamond” shining with workplace passion and generosity: “Liz’s optimism, creativity and willingness to go above and beyond have allowed the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships to expand its service.”

An employee for nine years, Wright launched development and implementation of a paperless process for submission and review of NIU’s Research and Artistry Grants.

Wright coordinates the Presidential Research Professors selection process and, over the last several months, played a significant role organizing and executing the Bold Futures workshops.

“She fully understands why we are here,” says Ron Walters, strategic initiatives adviser in the Office of the President, “why the future of each student and the institution itself depends on our eagerness to embrace and lead change.”

Away from work, Wright volunteers for the Cathedral of Praise Youth Group, the We Care Pregnancy Clinic and her daughter’s Sycamore Fury girls’ basketball team.

Employment Changes

APRIL 2014

Welcome New Employees
Amanda Berkes, Space Administrator I—Facilities Planning & Operations
Kenneth Greenawalt, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Suzanne Krause, Housekeeper—Conference Services
Joshua Kroesch, IT Support Associate—Customer Support Services
Trudy Powelson, Laboratory Animal Care Supervisor—Biological Sciences
Sandra Stegmann, Office Support Specialist—Special and Early Education

Changes
Lisa Anderson to IT Technical Associate—Registration & Records
Andrew Benson to IT Support Associate—Network & Communication Services
Gerald Bonnell to Carpenter Foreman—Materials Management
Audrey Maxey to Food Service Administrator III—Housing & Dining
Dawn Montgomery to Chief Clerk—Housing & Dining
John Sherman to Broadcasting Engineer—Media Services
Jason Stiegman to Grounds Worker—Grounds
Paula Vasko to Chief Clerk—Housing & Dining
Michael Verbic to Broadcasting Engineer—Media Services
Shelli Vogeler to Chief Clerk—Housing & Dining

Department Changes
Ann Nelson, Office Support Specialist to Center for Latino & Latin American Studies
Diane Rich, Office Manager to Nursing & Health Studies

Retirement
Thomas Folowell, Building Services Superintendent—Convocation Center

Dale Guerrettaz, Painter—Physical Plant
Michael Lowery, Press Technician—Document Services

Separations
Nancy Abraham, Police Officer—Public Safety
George Bahramis, Police Telecommunicator—Public Safety
Michael Campuzano, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Tara Farrell, Accountant I—Controller & Accounting
Lynn Ingram, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Donna Lynn, Office Administrator—Executive Vice President and Provost
Travis McKeon, Building Automation Technician I—Physical Plant
Henry Ritzert, IT Technical Associate—Information Security Operations
Leroy Timmerman, Motor Vehicle Operator/ Mechanic—Transportation

MAY 2014

Welcome New Employees
Donald Kames, Jr. Motorcycle Safety Specialist—Motorcycle Safety

Changes
John Alamia to Bindery Worker—Document Services
Patricia Arndt to Business Manager II—College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Joseph Hoiness to Steam & Power Plant III—Physical Plant
Julie Lorang to Office Manager—Physics
Pamela Roeser to Administrative Aide—Human Resource Services
Christopher Samples to Business/ Administrative Associate—Development Administration

Department Changes
Joshua Kroesch, IT Support Associate to Network & Communication Services

Jennifer Seymore, Survey Interview Supervisor to Center for Governmental Studies
Tracey Ward, Routing Supervisor to Physical Plant

Death
Michael Vancleave, Building Service Worker—Building Services

Retirement
Joseph Alberti, Central Stores Manager I—Materials Management
C. Sue Brammerlo Dirker, Office Support Associate—College of Education
Carolyn Gradduck, Administrative Assistant—Executive Vice President and Provost
Richard Finnestad, Building Service Worker—Building Services
David Groat, Library Specialist—College of Law Library
Lenita Hepker, Administrative Assistant—College of Business
Steven Johnston, Instructional Media System Technologist—Media Services
Barbara Manning, Office Manager—College of Law
Douglas Marsh, Athletic Turf Specialist—Grounds
Rebecca May, Purchasing Officer V—Procurement Services
Reid McAllister, Motor Vehicle Operator/ Mechanic—Transportation

Janaa Mickey, Administrative Aide—Intercollegiate Athletics
Sandra Petit, Administrative Aide—Center for Governmental Studies
Mitchell Saari, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Norma Shaw, Mailing Equipment Operator/ Expediter II—Materials Management
David Snigokchi, Steam & Power Plant III—Physical Plant
Brad Strever, Brickmason Foreman—Physical Plant
Karen Villano, Business/Administrative Associate—Holmes Student Center
Charles Walker, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Janet Weinreich, Accountant II—Controller & Accounting

Separations
Angela Burke, Office Support Associate—Kinesiology & Physical Education
Anthony Chase, Storekeeper II—Materials Management
Takako Day, Payroll Specialist II—Human Resource Services
Phyllis Fitzgerald, IT Technical Associate—Graduate School
Richard Garden, Multi Media Technician—Holmes Student Center
Jenna Hanson, Office Support Specialist—Admissions
Linda Holderman, Senior Application Analyst—Information Security & Operations
Christina Piling, Administrative Aide—Development Operations
Elizabeth Prescott, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Evelyn Simpson, Admissions/Records Specialist I—Graduate School
Jaboa Smith, Residence Hall Attendant—Public Safety
Latoya Stampley, IT Support Associate—Housing & Dining
Sarah Warzecha, Admissions/Records Representative—CHANCE Program

Annemarie Oelschlager—University Libraries
Marsha White—Housing & Dining

10 Years
Debra Brust—CHANCE Program

15 Years
Ronald Bislinghoff—Media Services
Diane Faber—Holmes Student Center
Danell Nixon—Document Services
Judy Waterfield—Registration & Records

20 Years
Jeffrey Montgomery—Physical Plant

25 Years
Robert Besonen—Information Services
Susan Carter—College of Visual & Performing Arts
Karen Clifton—Public Safety
Andrew Small—Chemistry & Biochemistry
Stanley Turner—Holmes Student Center

30 Years
Mitchell Saari—Building Services
Janice Vander Meer—English

Operating Staff Council
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2828

20 Years
Julie Bowen—Human Resource Services
Neil Colwell—Web Communications
Timothy Heitter—Psychology
Nathan Johnson—Network & Communication Services
James Latimer—Grounds

25 Years
Dean Cornell—Physical Plant
Rebecca Ehrhart—Student Financial Aid
Kenneth Kamm—University Libraries
Elizabeth Zarek—Holmes Student Center

30 Years
Rebecca May—Procurement Services

Election Results for OSC Representatives
Congratulations to those elected for three-year terms starting July 2014 and ending June 2017:
• Barbara Andree, Chief Clerk—College of Health & Human Sciences
• John Hulseberg, Painter—Physical Plant
• Patricia Liberty-Baczek, Graduate Placement Officer—Gender & Sexuality Resource Center (re-elected)
• Holly Nicholson, Webmaster—Web Communications
• Carlos Raices, Building Service Foreman—Holmes Student Center

Thank you to Don Butler, Rachel Pierce, and Pam Roesner for their years of service and dedication as they complete their terms on the Operating Staff Council.