Welcome back everyone! Hopefully you all had a great summer. I hope that those of you who work through the summer had a chance to take some vacation time. My family and I took a trip to Louisville, Kentucky late this summer. One day, we decided to take a quick meal through a McDonald’s drive through. We ordered, paid and had moved ahead in the long line when I heard someone yelling at me from the window I just left. I leaned out the car window to see what was wrong. The manager was leaning out the drive-thru window and she yelled, “Did you go to NIU?” I told her yes and that I worked there, too. She was so excited because she had seen my Huskie paw magnet* on my rear fender and had seen my NIU license plate. The manager was an NIU graduate and her school spirit was still strong!

There are many things facing our campus family this fall. First, and best of all, as you should all know by now, the Operating Staff will be receiving a 2% across the board raise retroactive to July 1, 2008. Because of difficult economic times for our state, this raise is being funded by NIU internal monies. These raises will be received in our October 31 paychecks. We also will be working on raising the base salaries for a number of classifications.

Second, in the next few weeks we will be receiving information on the second benefits choice period for insurance. That period will run October 27 through November 14. We don’t know the exact extent of changes at this point.

Third, we are approaching our annual Ethics Training. Those dates will be October 16 through November 14. We’ve not received word yet as to how the training will be administered. That information will be coming out in the near future after our coordinators attend their training.

Last, I want to mention the call for a vote for a constitutional convention in Illinois. This vote will be on the November 4 ballot. According to the provisions of the 1970 constitution, every twenty years, the voters have a chance to convene a constitutional convention. A convention means that any feature of the constitution may be abandoned or rewritten. Those who would like to see particular additions or changes are excited by this opportunity because it means that, at least in theory, the constitutional protections for pensions could be affected.

Some of us have received a brochure in the U.S. mail from the Secretary of State which includes explanation of the proposed call, arguments in favor of holding convention, arguments against holding a convention, and a sample ballot. Those who have not received this document can access it on line at: www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/index/conconenglish.pdf I can’t tell you how to vote, but it is important that you be informed of the implications of a constitutional convention.

As we start the new academic year, my hope is that everyone will have the same continued enthusiasm and pride in NIU as the above former graduate that I encountered in Kentucky still had over 30 years after graduation. There are so many ways to show our Huskie pride! Keep an eye out for the Huskies of Huskies on Parade popping up around the community. Have a great school year!

Forward, Together Forward.

Jay Monteiro, President
Operating Staff Council 2008-2009

*For more information on how to get a Huskie paw magnet, please contact Kathy Smith of DeKalb Noon Lions Club 753-3601.
Your Pension, Your Benefits, and You

Who is looking out for your pension and retirement benefits? The NIU Annuitants’ Association (NIUAA) and the State University Annuitants’ Association (SUAA) are actively involved in making sure your pension and retirement benefits are protected and expanded.

Your membership in NIUAA automatically includes membership in SUAA. Please consider joining over 1700 NIU currently employed and retired faculty and staff, and their spouses and survivors who now belong to NIUAA. Your joint membership in SUAA means you become one of over 14,000 members statewide, thus providing a meaningful political presence.

A vital function of NIUAA and SUAA is to monitor state funding for the SURS pension program and State Health Insurance Plan and to lobby to maintain and enhance our benefits. In the past, our lobbying efforts have resulted in improved benefits, and we can and need to continue to be effective now. In these times of never-ending fiscal crises, it is even more important to protect our benefits. Extensive lobbying by the SUAA and grassroots efforts by the local affiliates continues to be needed.

Three critical areas of retirement benefits are not guaranteed in the State Constitution; and, therefore, are open to attack. These are:

• Our invaluable, funded health insurance,
• Our annual three percent cost of living adjustment,
• Our exception from State income tax on annuity payouts (another three percent benefit).

Annual dues are $24.00. Of this amount, $21.00 is paid to SUAA to support its intensive activities on our behalf, and $3.00 is retained locally for printing, mailing, and other chapter expenses.

In addition, NIUAA members have access to:

• The NIUAA newsletter (NIU Annuitant),
• A holiday luncheon held in early December,
• A business meeting and buffet hosted by the NIU President held in June,
• Listing of member’s names and address in the NIU telephone book and February issue of our newsletter, the NIU Annuitant,
• After retirement, the continuing privilege of using NIU’s computer and e-mail systems, and
• A variety of social events.

Two dues payment options are available to current employees:

• Payroll deduction ($1.00 per pay period for those paid twice monthly or $2.00 per pay period for those paid monthly), or
• Direct annual payment of $24.00.

Payroll deduction is the preferred method since it provides for an automatic annual renewal. Membership application and dues payment forms may be downloaded from the NIUAA website: www.niu.edu/annuitants/

Please consider joining NIUAA today! To join, complete and return the appropriate forms. If you have questions, you may call Lee Ann Henry of the Office of University Advancement at 753-7406.

Gary Greshold
Membership Chair
NIUAA

Wellness Fair 50/50 Winner

The 50/50 winner from the Wellness Fair this past spring was Dale Benson, IT Support Associate in NIUTEL - Telecommunications. Pictured here is Jay Monteiro, OSC President presenting the prize. Dale won $75 and that put $75 in our Staff Dependent Award Scholarship fund. Congratulations Dale!

StaffFest 50/50 Winner

The 50/50 winner from StaffFest was Jim Garman, Stationary Engineer in the East Heating Plant. Pictured here is LaRonda Thuestad, StaffFest Chair presenting the prize. Jim won $244 and our Staff Dependent Award Scholarship fund is $244 richer too. Congratulations Jim!

Operating Staff Dependent Scholarship

The Operating Staff Dependent Scholarship provides direct financial assistance to children of current NIU Operating Staff and retirees. The award is for one academic year, in the amount of $250 each semester (up to $500 per academic year). Award recipients are chosen by the Dependent Scholarship Committee. For more information, visit the Operating Staff Council website: www.niu.edu/osc or contact Sara Clayton at (815) 753-9526 or by e-mail at sclayton@niu.edu.
EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

May 2008

Welcome New Employees
Lindsay Andrews, Office Support Associate — Recreation Services
Sarah Ansell, Program Coordinator Assistant — International Programs
John Barnes, IT Technical Associate — Information Services
Jacque Brown, Storekeeper I — Holmes Student Center
Corra Gaines, Clerk — NIU Outreach Naperville
Sarah Ninis, Child Development Supervisor — Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences
Carol Sacco, Staff Nurse I — Health Services

Changes
Dale Benson to IT Support Associate — NIUTEL-Telecommunication Services
Janice Binz-Madsen to Business Manager I — Holmes Student Center
Louise Calderone to Administrative Aide — Psychology
Bonnie Caswell to Budget Analyst II — Finance and Facilities Operations
Stanley Erlien to IT Support Associate — NIUTEL-Telecommunication Services
Steven Farmer to IT Support Associate — NIUTEL-Telecommunication Services
Denise Frakes to Bookstore Manager Assistant — Holmes Student Center
Nathan Johnson to IT Support Associate — NIUTEL-Telecommunication Services
Ruth Kaus to Bookstore Manager Assistant — Holmes Student Center
Stephanie Kruizenga to Human Resource Assistant — Human Resource Services
Ruth Murphy to Business/Administrative Associate — Holmes Student Center
Jack Timmann to IT Support Associate — NIUTEL-Telecommunication Services
Kenneth Whitney to Food Service Administrator IV — Housing and Dining

Name Changes
Linda Novotny to Linda Novatny Roth, Chief Clerk — Housing and Dining

Retirements
Mary Howe, Test Specialist — Testing Services
Rodney Jacobson, Copy Center Operator II — Mathematical Services
Diane Schlosser, Bookstore Department Supervisor — Holmes Student Center
Jonnie Slater, Building Service Foreman — Building Services
Linda Timm, Comptroller Assistant — Controller

Separations
Theresa Kinniry, Office Support Specialist — Holmes Student Center
Michael Krizsanitz, Police Telecommunicator — Public Safety
Dorian Robinson, Office Support Associate — Giorgi Law Clinic
Jennifer Saam, Police Officer — Public Safety
Loretta Schairer, Speech Pathologist I — Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
Debra Walter, Human Resource Representative — Human Resource Services

June 2008

Welcome New Employees
Brian Daniels, Police Officer — Public Safety
Karen Eaton, Office Support Associate — Admissions
Clifton Heard, Police Officer — Public Safety
Beatrice Kookan, Office Support Specialist — Research Evaluation and Policy Studies
Marjorie Lee, Graphic Designer II — Publications
Jason McCauley, Police Officer — Public Safety
Frances Mitchell, Office Manager — Economics
Ali Muhiddin, Police Officer — Public Safety
Habideen Olaniran, Police Officer — Public Safety
Bryan Pilot, Police Officer — Public Safety
Jose Rios, Police Officer — Public Safety
Menelek Shaw, Police Officer — Public Safety
Brandi Shelton, Police Officer — Public Safety
Elizabeth Slouka, Police Officer — Public Safety
Colleen Stinson, Office Support Associate — Conference Services
Reneka Turner, Graduate Placement Officer — Career Services
Marcus Ward, IT Support Associate — Customer Support Services

Changes
Cheryl Alliston to Office Manager — Controller
Donna Arne to IT Support Associate — Bursar
Justin Douglas to Police Officer — Public Safety
R. Dan Halstead to IT Manager/ Administrative Coordinator — NIUTEL-Telecommunications
Lin Keeler to Development Officer — Northern Public Radio
Catina Maxwell to Library Specialist — University Libraries
Charles Schumann, Jr. to IT Manager/ Administrative Coordinator — Customer Support Services
Jacob Waddle to Account Technician II — Development Operations
Maria Wilk-Siuba to Benefits Counselor II — Human Resource Services
Carrie Williams to Office Manager — College of Education

Change in Department
Barbara Coulter, Office Support Associate to NIU Outreach Credentialing Program

Change to New Department
Susan Lovell, Office Support Specialist to Partnership Office
Peggy Williams, Office Support Specialist to Partnership Office

Department Name Changes
Ombudsman to General Administration
Miscellaneous
Enterprise Systems Support to Information Security and Operations
Public Services to Community Relations

Name Change
Sara Henry to Sara Warford, Parking Services Agent I — Public Safety

New Departments
Center for Child Welfare and Education

Retirement
Bonnie Anderson, Office Support Specialist — English
Ben Dewey, Laboratory Manager — Physics
Ronald Johnson, Storekeeper II — Physical Plant
Diane Nece, Office Support Specialist — Finance and Facilities Operations
Cheryl Stack, Manager — Information Services
Kevin Vines, Chief Plant Operating Engineer — Physical Plant
Gary Zell, Route Driver — Materials Management

Separations
Trosev Batteast, Jr., Police Telecommunicator — Public Safety
Laura Bomar, Office Support Specialist — CHANCE Program
Elliot Cook, IT Support Associate — College of Business
Susan Ebert, IT Technical Associate — Information Services
Valerie Hall, Office Support Specialist — Political Science
Gregory Hunt, Printing Production Coordinator — Document Services
Karrie Kirk, Program Administrative Assistant — Intercollegiate Athletics
Amber Wirtz, Child Development Supervisor — Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences
Welcome New Employees
Mary Enser, Account Technician II—Holmes Student Center
Ellen Hamrick, Budget Analyst I—Finance and Facilities Operations
Katherine Hageland, Office Support Associate—Family, Consumer and Nutrition
Susie Hill, Office Support Specialist—Teaching and Learning
Vanessa Kermashek, Accountant I—Development Administration
Tina Vierig, Office Support Specialist—Music
Sara Wenberg, Office Support Associate—Registration and Contract Services
Michael Zack, Financial Adviser I—Student Financial Aid

Changes
Kenneth Erickson to IT Manager/Administrative Coordinator—Information Services
Maranda Graybeal to Events Administrator—Convocation Center
Jane Schroeder to Test Specialist—Testing Services
Sandra Sosnowski to Health Care Administrator I—Health Services

Changes in Department
Colleen Bowers, Office Manager to Physics
Angelina Dybas, Office Support Specialist to English
Katherine Hageland, Office Manager to Student Affairs
Sarah Lindell, Office Manager to Political Science
Linda Lucek, Scientific Programming Manager to Information Services

Name Changes
Anne Ortscheid to Anne Arne, Admissions/Records Specialist I—Vice President Research and Dean of Graduate School
Wendi White to Wendi Hintzsche, Office Support Specialist—Partnership Office
Donna Mathesius to Donna Jarman, Administrative Assistant I—University Council
Elizabeth Slouka to E.B. Slouka, Police Officer—Public Safety

Retirements
Sharoda Adonis, Hearing Impaired Program Coordinator—Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
Judith Anderson, Locksmith—Physical Plant
George Brown, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Dena McKnight, Food Service Administrator II—Housing and Dining
Carol Moland, Clerk—Registration and Records
Margaret Schest, Nurse Practitioner—Health Services
Jack Timm, IT Support Associate—NIU/TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES
Dawn Vaughn, Admissions/Records Specialist II—Vice President Research and Dean of Graduate School
Allan Vest, Hearing Impaired Program Director—Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
Susan Whitaker, Building Service Worker—Building Services

Separations
Katie Birkett, Accountant I—Development Administration
Jacqueline Lopez, Office Support Specialist—Mathematical Sciences
Bryan Pilat, Police Officer—Public Safety
Dora Pineda, Mailing Equipment Operator/Expeditor II—Materials Management
Stephanie Roach, Account Technician II—Materials Management
Connie Rumer, Office Manager—Economics
Christian Schock, Police Officer—Public Safety
Brandi Shelton, Police Officer—Public Safety
Marc Turnes, Office Support Associate—Office of Scholarship Coordination

August 2008
Welcome New Employees
Patricia Atwell, Motor Vehicle Operator/Mechanic—Transportation
Debra Brust, Office Support Specialist—CHANCE program
Janice Clausen, Account Technician II—Art
Deborah Gutierrez, Office Manager—Sociology
Kate Hartman, Library Assistant—University Libraries
Janice King, Food Service Administrator II—Housing and Dining
Kimberly Lamansky, Office Support Associate—Office of Support and Advocacy
Linda Leveille, Library Assistant—University Libraries
Latoya Marz, Police Telecommunicator—Public Safety
Hyder, Mohammed, Police Officer—Public Safety
Danielle Mosley, Office Support Associate—Finance and Facilities
Penny Napora, Housekeeper—Conference Services
Daniel Pennington, Security Guard—Public Safety
Katherine Reo, Clerk—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Changes
Benjamin Gardner to IT Support Associate—Testing Services
Jason Geils to Police Telecommunicator—Public Safety
Jason Wright to Police Sergeant—Public Safety

Name Changes
Kathryn Cregier to Kathryn Coffman, Child Development Supervisor—Campus Child Care
Jeanne Phelps to Jeanne Jennings, Clerk—Registration and Records

Death
Brian Fuchs, Building Service Foreman—Building Services

Retirement
Richard Alms, Route Driver—Materials Management
Terry Danner, Copy Center Operator II—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Penelope McCabe, Office Manager—Publications
James McLain, Building Service Worker—Building Services

Separations
Nancy Beisel, Staff Nurse I—Health Services
Kathleen Christiansen, Clerk—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Leslie Eberly, Kitchen Helper—Housing and Dining
George Ekeledo, Securities Specialist—Treasury Operations
Joshua Pincombe, Stationary Fireman Helper—Physical Plant
Raul Valdivia, Parking Services Agent I—Public Safety

Service Awards
May 2008
5 Years
Shaun Allshouse—University Press
James Bollenbach—Media Services
Samuel Denton—Public Safety
Corey Kreider—Public Safety

10 Years
Patricia Bernhardt—Customer Support Services
Ronald Harvey—Document Services
Judy Hendrickson—History
Tatitka Kaus—College of Law
Larry Metcalf—Chemistry and Biochemistry
Jay Monteiro—Human Resource Service Center
August 2008

5 Years
Laura Boyles—Intercollegiate Athletics
Mike DeFauw—Intercollegiate Athletics
Eddie DeSpain—Building Services
Debbie Dohlen—Health Services
Elizabeth Espe—Campus Parking
Jameson Russie—Housing and Dining
Lise Schlosser—Women’s Studies
Carol Schroeder—Campus Child Care

10 Years
Clare Andres—Student Affairs
Gary Bauer—Building Services
David Entyre—Housing and Dining
William Frazier—Building Services
Paul Frye—Building Services
Leland Hoffman—Building Services
Diane Keding—Psychology
Dale Knudson—Building Services
Lois Latimer—Health Services
Rebecca Leneau—School of Business Mgmt.
– IASBO
Patricia Liberty-Baczek—LGBT Resource Center
Eena Lundberg—Housing and Dining
Donna Lynn—Statistics
Terri Mann-Lamb—Family, Consumer and Nutrition
Wayne Matteson—Building Services
Lisa O’Donnell—Housing and Dining
Javier Vargas—Campus Parking
Laura Weber—Access-Ability Resources
Brian Young—Building Services

20 Years
Guy Bays—Grounds
Patricia Boesche—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Phillip Nelson—Physical Plant
Kendra Plesa—Communication
Gayle Rosenwinkel—Procurement Services
Carol Sibley—Health Services
Karola Smith—Art

30 Years
Scott Marshall—Customer Support Services
Deborah Sanderson—Philosophy
David Tripp—Physical Plant

Register Cell Phones for NIU Alerts

In the event of a campus emergency, a text message can be sent to your cell phone. This system will be used only in the event of an imminent and verifiable danger or threat affecting the general campus population. Sign up now at www.niu.edu/alert.

New OSC E-Mail Address

Have a question, comment or concern? Contact the Council at OSC@niu.edu.