



Northern Illinois University

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NIU Golf League

Spring is finally here and golf season is right around the corner! Did you know NIU has a golf league? Don't worry, we welcome both novices and seasoned veterans alike, and it's a great way to enjoy fresh air, exercise and get to know more of your NIU colleagues. You can create your own team of 3-5 players, or join individually and we will place you on a team. This is a full handicap league, so any team can win, and many weeks there will be prizes for particular accomplishments designed to reward all skill levels.

We play at Buena Vista Golf Course in DeKalb. Reserve a time and play any day of the week, or join us during the set of reserved league tee times on Tuesdays, 5-5:30 p.m. All scores must be in the NIU Box located at BV golf course by Sunday each week.

League play begins the first week of May and runs through the last week of August. Cost is \$30 per player with all proceeds going toward league prizes. Contact Jeff Sherman at niugolfleague@gmail.com for a golf league form or more information.

Northern Staff News

MARCH 2019

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President's Corner



Recently I had the honor of co-chairing the committee charged with revising the university's vision, mission and values statements. It was a highly collaborative and fulfilling experience.

In our work, we felt it was important for the statements to be memorable, concise and to speak to those things that differentiate NIU from other institutions. We looked to statements from President Freeman; NIU college-level vision, mission and values statements; the university's value proposition and brand guidelines; and we benchmarked against peer institutions. We were sure to carefully consider each piece of feedback sent by the university community and incorporate what we could.

We approached the vision with a very aspirational outlook. The idea is to tell the world, and adopt within ourselves, who we want to be as a university. The mission reflects our day-to-day work toward fulfilling our vision. Our values are the ideals we uphold as we live out our vision and mission — these ideals should be infused in everything we do.

It's important to note that these statements aren't meant to imply that we currently do all of these things perfectly. However, at the end of the day, our vision, mission and values define us and taken as a whole are what make us unique. We need to have these in writing so as strategic planning is conducted, as policies are formed, as hiring and onboarding continue, we get closer and closer to our goal of truly living out these values.

You can see our new vision, mission and values statements at niu.edu/mission.

Holly Nicholson, president
Operating Staff Council, 2018-2019

NIU Gears Up for 125th Anniversary Observance

A 125-member committee has been hard at work creating the outline for a year-long observance of NIU's 125th anniversary. Now the entire university community is invited to participate by submitting ideas, applying for grants, and branding both new and existing events as 125th celebrations.

NIU's 125th (also known as a quasiquicentennial) officially kicks off in January 2020, a century-and-a-quarter after the university was founded in 1895.

"Significant anniversaries like this one provide opportunities that should not be missed," said NIU President Lisa Freeman. "This is an ideal time to ask people to think about why their work matters, identify the historic trends that help us anticipate new challenges and to unify around those moments that bring us pride."

The committee is co-chaired by Chief of Staff Matt Streb and Alumni Association Director Reggie Bustinza, and includes faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members. Together, they have outlined a series of central events that leave plenty of room for individuals and units to supplement with their own ideas.

Let's Go Bowling!

The NIU Operating Staff Council invites you to bring your family bowling and get to know other NIU employees and their families. The event will be held at the popular Mardi Gras Bowling Alley, located at 1730 Sycamore Road on Thursday, April 4, from 5-8 p.m. The cost is \$7.50 per person and will pay for two games and shoe rental. Drinks and food are also available for purchase. RSVPs are requested, but not required. RSVP to rkerwin@niu.edu.



Huskie History

Possibly one of the lesser well-known buildings on the NIU DeKalb campus is McMurray Hall, yet it was the second building ever constructed on campus when trustees broke ground in 1909, and the building played a pivotal role in early NIU history.



Charles A.
McMurry



Lida Brown
McMurry

From a previous Huskie History article about Williston Hall, readers may recall that Williston Hall was named after the first university president, John Williston Cook, who served from 1899-1919 and “secured the training method for teachers based on the educational philosophy of Charles A. McMurry.” It is after Charles A. McMurry, and his sister-in-law Lida Brown McMurry, that McMurray Hall was named.

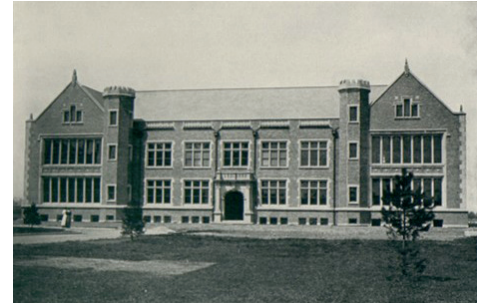
When McMurray Hall opened in September 1911, the institution was still known as the Northern Illinois State Normal School (hence, the school seal engrained into the floor of Founders Memorial Library and its replica in the foyer of Altgeld Hall read “N.I.S.N.S. 1899”). As a teachers’ school, the institution was responsible for educating teachers. To that end, as explained by Glen A. Gildemeister in his book *Castle on a Hill*, starting in 1911, the training school housed in McMurray Hall accepted local elementary school students who learned from both NIU faculty and student teachers.

According to then-director of Media and Public Relations Paul Palian, as quoted in an article by Olivia Willoughby in the April 8, 2012, issue of the *Northern Star*, “Charles was the director [of the practice school] as well as a professor of pedagogy.” Charles McMurry also authored several books.

McMurray Hall was also unique for being the only building on campus named after two people — until the 2001-2002 school year — when the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center and Barsema Hall were named after Dennis and Stacey Barsema. McMurry’s sister-in-law Lida was instrumental in creating the “first college YWCA chapter” at another teacher’s school, Illinois State Normal University, which most people recognize today as Illinois State University (ISU). Lida also joined her brother-in-law as a faculty member at NIU.

By 1958, the practice school had closed and McMurray Hall became the home of NIU’s College of Business until Wirtz Hall opened in 1964. The College of Business then moved to Barsema Hall in 2002. According to the NIU website, McMurray Hall currently houses “classrooms and facilities for the College of Health and Human Sciences.” The humble red brick building constructed in the shadow of Altgeld Hall “for a modest \$78,000” (according to Gildemeister) has changed the lives of many in its 110-year tenure at NIU.

Note: Vintage photos of McMurray Hall and its namesakes used for this article are courtesy of the 1911 volume of the NIU yearbook, *The Norther*. Interested readers can view the 1911 yearbook and others online at go.niu.edu/yearbooks. Thank you to Bill Montgomery for pointing out the existence of this online yearbook collection, and thank you to our Regional History Center for making them available in digital form.



McMurray Hall then



McMurray Hall now

“Awesome Workday” Questionnaire Results

Several months ago in this newsletter, we asked for feedback on how your office celebrates each other, or ways you (or your department) have created to enhance your work environment. We are excited to report that we have received several responses. We will begin sharing these responses in each issue of the newsletter. More feedback is welcome, so please keep your stories and ideas coming.

This issue spotlights the Department of Registration Services:

Jeanne Burau shares that Registration Services works as a team to celebrate special occasions and to make everyone feel appreciated. They occasionally meet for lunch outside the office and have monthly meetings where they talk about more than just office items. Bagels and donuts are often available for staff in the office.

They celebrate birthdays and holidays with potluck food lunches. They decorate the office and the staff collaborate to provide a gift card for team member birthdays. Other staff members in the building who work closely with Registration Services are also invited. For holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas, they decorate their doors and hallways with a different theme each year.

They have found that keeping the office decorated, going out to lunch together and occasionally playing pranks on each other all help staff to get through stressful times and stay motivated.



Employment Changes

JANUARY 2019

Welcome New Employees

Peter Biletzky, Manager — Vice President Research and Innovative Partnerships
Margaret Burnham, Dietician Nutritionist — University Recreation and Wellness
Janet Foster, Culinary Worker I — Campus Dining Services
Justin Horner, Grounds Worker — Grounds
Emily Huerta, Child Development Supervisor — Child Development and Family Center
Christopher Ilsley, Program Adviser — Student Athletic Academic Support Services
Andrew Lira, Radio Television Producer Announcer I — Integrated Media Technologies
Christopher Mitchell, Program Coordinator — Center for Black Studies
Brian Morrison, Grounds Worker — Grounds
Karla Neal, Program Adviser — Center for Latino and Latino American Studies
Junco Newman, Accounting Associate — Controller
Daniel Papuga, Food Service Manager — Campus Dining Services
Dahlia Roman, Program Services Specialist — Child Development and Family Center
Kevin Shirley, Food Service Manager — Campus Dining Services
Sim Tissa, Program Director — International Training Office

Retirement

Russell Andres, Maintenance Equipment Operator — Grounds
April Davis, Office Manager — Political Science
David Diaz, Laboratory Mechanic — College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
Rebecca Suman Gupta, Institutional Research Data Coordinator — Institutional Research
Veris Hawkins-Smith, Human Resource Officer — Human Resource Services
Roger Hayes, Route Driver — Materials Management
Deanne King, Building Service Worker — Building Services
Lois Latimer, Staff Nurse I — Health Services
Phyllis Livingston, Building Service Worker — Building Services
Ronald Peterson, Grounds Equipment Mechanic — Grounds
Gayle Rosenwinkel, Program Administrative Assistant — Procurement and Strategic Sourcing
Joseph Safranek, Building Service Foreman — Building Services
Rhonda Shafer, Clerk — Campus Dining Services
Karen Smith, Culinary Worker I — Dining Services
Thomas Wroblewski, Architect III — Architectural/Engineering Services

Separations

Rugiatu Bah, Pharmacist — Health Services
Vanessa Charles, Transportation Clerk — Transportation

Michelle Luster, Building Service Worker — Building Services
Nicholas Maentanis, Intramural and Recreation Coordinator — University Recreation and Wellness
Cody Moses, IT Technical Associate — Infrastructure Services
Emilie Nkangu, Residence hall Attendant — Public Safety
Nicole Tischhauser, Building Service Worker — Building Services
Ameetkumar Upadhyay, IT Technical Associate — Report Cards
Leatha Williams, Building Service Worker — Building Services

FEBRUARY 2019

Welcome New Employees

Tiffany Branter, Office Support Specialist — Nursing
Reid Bruce, IT Support Associate — Operation Services
Deyundra Conway, Cahier IV — Parking
Susana Das Neves, Program Director — P-20 Center
Todd Fletcher, Electronics Technician II — College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Rita Lesniewski, Program Coordinator — Nursing
Kaitlin Miles, Program Adviser — College of Health and Human Sciences
Katherine Mosher, Office Support Associate — Computer Science
Robert Piercy Jr., Program Coordinator — Faculty Development
Shirley Portegys, Office Support Specialist — Curriculum and Instruction
Liberty Turner, Architect II — Architectural/Engineering Services
Carrie Zack, Program Director — Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation

Separations

Jaraiya Morris, Residence Hall Attendant — Public Safety
Irasema Silva, Educational Program Evaluation Coordinator — Family Violence and Sexual Assault

Service Awards

JANUARY 2019

5 Years

Scott Conwell — Heating Plant
Michael Corson — Heating Plant
Terry Dobson — Materials Management
Lorry Ekstrom — Campus Dining Services
Eric Fox — CHANCE Program
Curtis Grimes — Housing and Residential Services
Lisa Johnson — Campus Dining Services
Cody Moses — Infrastructure Services
Trenton Sexton — Heating Plant

Jill Vodden — Vice President International Affairs
Carrie Weeks Kinowski — University Legal Services

10 Years

Charles Anderson — Campus Dining Services
Michelle Anderson — Public Safety
Barbara Hancock — Housing and Residential Services
Gail Myers — Special and Early Education
Charlotte Rangel — Public Safety

15 Years

Lucinda Brunner — Public Safety
Jason John — Public Safety
Andrew Karp — Campus Dining Services
Brian Niles — Building Services

20 Years

John Anderson — Materials Management
Michael Ford — Application Services
Steven Seldal — Campus Dining Services
Sandra Stockwell — Conferences Event Management
Anthony Van Slyke — Integrated Media Technologies
Maya Wilk-Siuba — Human Resource Services

25 Years

Lynn Slater — Music

30 Years

Mark Hamilton — University Libraries

35 Years

Nancy Adams — University Libraries
Cindy Barnes — Sponsored Programs Administration

40 Years

Carol Holdridge — Admissions Systems and Processing

FEBRUARY 2019

5 Years

Carrie Aldrich — Disability Research Center
Alicia Anderson — College of Education
Laverne Boyle — College of Health and Human Sciences
Nadine Covalsky — Registration and Records
Jane Legorreta — Family and Consumer Sciences

10 Years

Samantha Pastorik — Building Services

15 Years

Lakeisha Jackson — Graduate School

20 Years

Jennifer Withers — Chief Diversity Officer

25 Years

Elizabeth Mehren — Registration and records

30 Years

Renee Kerwin — University Libraries

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

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Printed by authority of the State of Illinois.

www.niu.edu 3/19 103948



Northern Illinois University

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DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2828

You've Got Mail!

The progressive increase in electronic mail has led to a drastic reduction in the amount of mail the institution receives from the U.S. Postal Service. Because of this, the Materials Management team is transitioning to a three-day-a-week mail delivery system for several departments around campus as part of the ongoing efforts in the Division of Administration and Finance to enhance efficiencies in service delivery.

Beginning Monday, May 6, departments that are not strategically involved in enrollment, recruitment and financial operations, as well as those which do not receive a significant amount of daily mail, will receive mail on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Departments located in Adams Hall, Altgeld Hall, Founders Memorial Library, Human Resources, Illinois Association of School Business Officials/Public Administration, Lowden Hall, Monat, Neptune, Swen Parson and Williston Hall will not be impacted by the change and will continue to receive mail five days per week.

Deliveries for departments in other buildings will transition to the three-day delivery schedule. Express Mail and Certified Mail will still be delivered to all departments, daily.

"There has been a huge reduction in the amount of mail that is received through the U.S. Postal Service at NIU over the past 15 years," Laura Lundelius, director of Campus Services and Materials

Management, said. "This transition will allow our Materials Management team to streamline our delivery services, and free up time for us to assist with other duties, such as assisting with surplus deliveries and pick-ups."

Those who are associated with impacted departments may still pick up incoming mail, and drop off outgoing mail, Monday through Friday in the Dorland Building between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. They may also request the Materials Management team pick up large mailings, when necessary. The new mail delivery process will be re-evaluated periodically to ensure its efficiency and overall effectiveness.

To learn more, visit go.niu.edu/campus-mail.

NIU PD Helps Buckle Up the Littlest Passengers

Purchasing a car seat can be costly, but the safety of little ones when they are in traveling in the car is priceless.

Overall safety is the NIU Police Department and Public Safety's top priority and that's especially true of the community's littlest passengers. Through a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, the police department has purchased a number of convertible car seats that are available at no charge to the public.

"Child safety seats add a layer of protection while you drive," Chief Tom Phillips said. "It's not only important that children always ride in a child seat, but it's critical that the seat is properly installed to ensure they get the full protection."

The car seats – which can be used as both rear-facing and forward facing – accommodate children up to 65 pounds. They are available for pick up at the station and will be installed while you wait.

"We have several employees who are certified child safety seat installers and they will take the time to install your seat correctly," Phillips said. "You can rest assured that your child will have the best possible protection the safety seat can offer."



To receive a free car seat and arrange your appointment for pick up and installation of the seat, please complete the Child Safety Seat Request Form. Recipients should bring a copy of the child's birth certificate and their photo ID at time of pick up and allow about 30 minutes for the delivery and installation process which will include instruction and tips to optimize safety.

Seats will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis and are limited to one car seat per household. For more information, visit www.niu.edu/publicsafety.