Happy Holidays from Your Operating Staff Council

Front row left to right: Rebekka Ayres; Jay Monteiro, vice president; Cindy Kozumplik, parliamentarian; Pat Wielert, treasurer; Stacey Bivens, secretary; Jeffry Royce, president; Angie Gutierrez-Vargas.


Important Dates

End of Fall Semester: December 15, 2019
Administrative Closures: December 23, 30, 31, 2019
Floating Holidays: December 24, 26, 27, 2019
Holiday: January 1, 2020
The Giving Project: Crafting for a Cause

The Giving Project continues to produce handmade gifts to help fill the needs of Northern Illinois University students and other members of the community. They have added “Crafting for a Cause” to their name because they can do more than just knit and crochet.

Aline Click, director of eLearning Services and the Digital Convergence Lab, coordinates The Giving Project: Crafting for a Cause, which meets every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. in Founders Memorial Library, Room 338.

They have expanded their outreach but still continue to make hats, scarves, blankets, shawls and cotton dishcloths for students who frequent the Huskie Food Pantry or stop by the NIU Police Department.

In addition to helping NIU students, they are expanding their outreach to include women and children at Safe Passage. They are also making items that fit the needs of others in the community.

“I have had a request from a local shelter to make hammocks for rescued ferrets. I like the idea of expanding our reach. This kind of fits in with the other initiative we have on campus to get a release day to spend volunteering — we are becoming a community that cares for our community and that is wonderful,” says Click.

Last year they participated at the STEM Fest Maker Faire, and a number of girl scouts received badges for learning how to make a chain for a bracelet.

If you’d like to attend The Giving Project: Crafting for a Cause but can’t make it every week, that’s fine — just stop by when you can. For those who don’t know how to knit or crochet but would like to learn, there is always someone there who is happy to teach you. Alternatively, items can be made that don’t require the ability to knit or crochet, like simple felt hats.

Other ways the NIU community can help are to donate yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks. Also, the NIU Police Department usually has scarves, hats and mittens available, but their supply has dwindled with the unexpected cold spell DeKalb experienced. You may want to help replenish their supply.

Everyone is welcome to attend The Giving Project — NIU staff, faculty, students and retirees. The Giving Project is sponsored by the Operating Staff Council.

If interested in attending, or if you can’t attend the meetings but want to create items for students, contact Aline Click at aclick@niu.edu. The events are listed on the NIU calendar https://calendar.niu.edu, and you can read more at www.niu.edu/osc.

Confessions of a Rookie

Rookie: Susan Swegle

Training and Development Specialist, hire date: August, 2015

In this episode of Confessions of a Rookie, we meet up with Susan Swegle, a training and development specialist with NIU’s Employee Assistance Program. Susan transitioned into her current role as she was previously doing HR’s in-person ethics training. How did you come to work at NIU, Susan?

I completed my master’s degree in Higher Education and Adult Learning because I wanted to be a trainer/instructor. A friend told me about an opening for just such a position and the rest is history. Yay for us you’re here! Working in the EAP, do people have misconceptions about what you do? Yes — people think the EAP is only for people who are having problems. However, my position specifically assists those who are new to NIU and/or those wanting information on expanding their career opportunities or furthering their education. So why do you like it? What’s the cool thing about what you’re doing now?

Developing and implementing the L.E.T.S. (Leading Employees to Success) New Employee Program. I love helping people acclimate to a new job and find their true potential, and this program helps new NIU employees do just that.

With all the work demands, is there anywhere else you want to be besides at work? Lake of the Clouds in the Porcupine Mountains in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Summer or winter, it’s beautiful and peaceful. In the mountains where you can soar like an eagle, huh? Well, I have been to two Eagles concerts (before the untimely death of Glenn Frey) and they were both amazing. Lucky you! Any other amazing things in your life? Yes! My son recently proposed to his girlfriend (and she said yes!), but the surprise was he showed us the ring about three weeks earlier. We thought he was never going to do it! Wow! That must have been really cool. Before we let you go, tell me the best compliment you’ve ever received?

People telling me what great kids my husband and I have raised. I sometimes don’t know how we did it, but they have turned into really terrific adults.

Good job, Susan!

If you would like to be in a future installment of Confessions of a Rookie, please email Rave at RMeyer@niu.edu with your name, title and hire date.
## Employment Changes

### September 2019

#### Welcome New Employees:

- **Austin Alibert**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety
- **Kathleen Binns**, Office Support Specialist – Housing and Residential Services
- **Brigid Crawford**, Program Assistant – Music
- **Elizabeth Denius**, Public Information Associate – Center for Southeast Asian Studies
- **John Freevalt**, Food Service Manager – Campus Dining Services
- **Rene Fuqua**, Program Coordinator – Student Involvement and Leadership Development
- **Ann Galletta**, Assistant Food Service Manager – Campus Dining Services
- **Joseph Garcia**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services
- **Brandon Goff**, Office Support Specialist – Housing and Residential Services
- **Tressman Goode**, Program Coordinator – Admissions Tours and Events
- **Austin Harding**, Culinary Worker II – Campus Dining Services
- **Dawn Harter**, Human Resource Assistant – Human Resource Services
- **Christina Jeralds**, Food Court/ Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Services
- **Jameria Kerns**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services
- **Sarah Kolb**, Maid – Holmes Student Center
- **Jaraia Morris**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services
- **Rachel Ortiz**, Office Support Associate – Campus Dining Services
- **Kayla Peterson**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services
- **Juanita Rabelo**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services
- **Jonathan Sall**, Multimedia Communications Associate – Office of Institutional Communications
- **Veronica Tegus**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services
- **Spencer Tritt**, Radio Television Producer Announcer II – Northern Public Radio
- **Jacqueyln Valdes**, Food Court/ Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Services
- **Shaelyn West**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services

### Retirements:

- **Janet Gianfrancesco**, Office Manager – Geography
- **Becky Jarman**, Medical Radiographer Technician II – Health Services
- **William Kenney**, Building Service Worker – Building Services

### Separations:

- **Kathleen Binns**, Office Support Specialist – Housing and Residential Services
- **Nelina Crawford**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services
- **Matthew Hoffman**, Business Manager II – Northern Public Radio
- **Teanna Lewis**, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- **Jalissa Murray**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety
- **Brooke Patrick**, Office Manager – Music
- **Justice Sylvester**, Resident Hall Attendant – Public Safety

---

### October 2019

#### Welcome New Employees:

- **Asante Alveraz**, University Union Night Supervisor – Holmes Student Center
- **Marcus Applewhite**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety
- **Marisol Barajas**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety
- **Diane Biggs**, Office Administrator – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- **Tamara Boston**, Program Coordinator – Diversity and Equity
- **Cornell Cox Jr.**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety
- **Christopher Ebert**, Steam and Power Plant I – Heating Plant
- **Tracy Ann England**, Office Support Specialist – Electrical Engineering
- **Tessa Gallentine**, Office Support Specialist – Campus Parking
- **Silva Ginting**, Program Coordinator – Faculty Development
- **Nathaniel Grawlin**, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- **Megan Holt**, Program Coordinator – Faculty Development
- **Robert Kerschke Jr.**, Food Service Manager – Campus Dining Services

### Retirements:

- **Ashley Lupton**, Account Technician II – Bursar
- **Keilene McCants**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety
- **Emily McRedmond**, Administrative Aide – Center for Child Welfare and Education
- **Shelley Mikkelson**, Office Support Associate – Conferences Event Management
- **Kassandra Neuberg**, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Services
- **Lyndell Newman**, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- **Mark Schader**, Program Adviser – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Emma Smith**, Police Telecommunicator – Public Safety
- **Mary Soesbe**, Office Support Associate – Counseling, Adult and Higher Education
- **Niti Srivastava**, IT Technical Associate – Report Cards
- **Avion Sterling**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety
- **Frank Tornabene Jr.**, Locksmith – Physical Plant
- **Katharine Whitelaw**, IT Technical Associate – Ethics and Compliance
- **Rheyece Williams**, Security Guard – Public Safety

### Death:

- **David Fraser**, Police Officer – Public Safety
- **Carl Nelson**, Media Writer/Producer/Announcer II – Northern Public Radio

### Separations:

- **Austin Alibert**, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety
- **Michael Bertolani**, Information Technology Associate Director – Office of Information Security
- **Daniel Cardinell**, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- **Leah Freeman**, Office Support Associate – Admissions Tours and Events
- **Sarah Kolb**, Maid – Holmes Student Center
- **Katherine Lenkart**, Admissions/Records Representative
- **Abigail Mogge**, Office Support Associate – Northern Public Radio
- **Isabelle Osborn**, Building Service Worker – Building Services
Become a UNIV 101 or UNIV 201 Educator

Orientation and First Year Programs is looking for faculty and staff to teach UNIV 101 and UNIV 201 for the fall 2020 semester. UNIV 101 is a one-credit university experience seminar focused on helping first-year students develop the essential skills needed to make an enjoyable and successful transition to NIU. UNIV 201 is a similar course designed specifically for transfer students.

The application for fall 2020 UNIV 101 and 201 educators is now open. All applications are due Feb. 7, 2020.

Prospective educators must:
• be a current member of the NIU faculty, staff, or administration.
• hold a bachelor's degree, although a master's degree is preferred.
• have prior college-level teaching experience.
• obtain supervisor's approval to be a UNIV 101/201 educator.

If you have questions, please email fsye@niu.edu or call 815-753-0028.

Educators typically receive a stipend of $2,000 for teaching the 16-week course. Once hired, all educators are required to attend training workshops, department meetings and participate in course feedback through email correspondence and surveys.

Service Awards

September 2019

5 Years
Ching Kit Elvin Chan – Accounts Payable and Travel
Tamara Cochran – Human Resource Services
Benjamin Engh – Physical Plant
Jeremy Falk – Graduate School
Jeffry Royce – Holmes Student Center
Julianne Snow – Public Safety
Michael Tweed – Constituent Resource Management

10 Years
Sim Tissa – International Training Office

15 years
Robert Botts – Bursar
Donnis Briscoe – Center for Child Welfare and Education
Janean Koebbe – Campus Dining Services
Kristina Ross – Accountancy

20 Years
Barbara Amberg – Special and Early Education
Sandy Carey – Campus Dining Services
Jerome Cole – Building Services
Lesley Gilbert – Human Resource Services
Joshua Klassen – Building Services
Richard Scott – Public Safety
Marzena Szmydt – Student Involvement and Leadership Development
Dale Thurman – Operation Services

25 Years
Samuel Collin – Building Services
Renee Page – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

30 Years
Dave Detert – Campus Dining Services

October 2019

5 Years
Margaret Burnham – University Recreation and Wellness
Lucille Galpin – Giorgi Law Clinic
Stefan Groebel – Budget Office
Rachel Jurs-Lauderdale – Dolt-Admin-Business-Finance

10 Years
Jared Lash – Application Services
Joseph Lifshitz – Holmes Student Center
Steven Squier – Registration and Records

15 years
Scott Betts – Heating Plant
Howard Burgett – Building Services
Hussul Greer – Building Services
Terry Halsey – Building Services
Elizabeth Harvey – Building Services
Alissa Leifheit – Building Services
Andrew Pecarelli – Building Services

20 Years
Karen Euhus – Lorado Taft Operations
Irene Sanderson – Application Services

25 Years
Kimberly McCaslin – Building Services
Carolyn VanEtten – Building Services