Greetings Operating Staff,

I am humbled, excited and grateful to have been selected by the Operating Staff Council (OSC) to serve as president this year. Joining me on the executive committee this year are Jay Monteiro (Procurement Services and Contract Management), vice president; Stacey Bivens (University Libraries), secretary; Linda Yates (Biological Sciences), treasurer; and Cindy Kozumplik (Application Services), parliamentarian. Please feel free to reach out to us with any comments, concerns or to say hi.

My Huskie journey began years ago when I earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a minor in marketing as well as a master’s degree in management information systems. I will also be graduating this December, with an MBA, from NIU as well. If you have not heard, as retired and full-time staff, we can take up to 20 credit hours a year for practically free. (Please note: If your tuition waiver for graduate and law level classes exceeds $5,250 in a calendar year, it is subject to employment taxes, so almost free.) I encourage you to take advantage of the fantastic benefits NIU offers its employees/teammates.

To say we have faced many challenges over the last few months would be an understatement. However, I am grateful that we have a plan to re-open and cannot wait to see staff and students back on campus (socially distanced, of course). During this challenging time, we are going to need all hands on deck. Please do whatever you can to help.

If you are interested in shared governance at NIU, be sure to watch the Monday Morning Announcements for information on university committees that need civil service employee representation. You can also join an Operating Staff Council subcommittee, attend one of our monthly public meetings and run for OSC membership in the spring.

I encourage you to check the lens you use to view a situation. It could be the difference between seeing the glass half empty or the glass half full. I genuinely believe that as a university, we are stronger together, and with unity, nothing is impossible.

I hope you had a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing you all again when it is safe to do so.

Thanks,

Natasha Johnson
President, Operating Staff Council 2020-2021

njohnson11@niu.edu | osc@niu.edu
Good morning, Nick. How're things shaking in Health and Safety?

Haha, not really. My son and I are building a pontoon boat from scratch, though.

Oh! I think I know where your weekends will be spent once you complete that. Tell me, why did you want to work for NIU?

Wanting to work at NIU was an easy decision. Experiencing NIU’s culture as a current student has been amazing and rewarding. It makes sense to work for NIU.

I attempted and played in two seasons of hockey for the NIU D3 ice hockey team when I was 36. My Chiropractor simultaneously loved and hated me.

I bet you have a calm side, too, then?

Yeah, every night at dinner, we go around the table and everyone shares what their favorite part of the day was.

Aww, how sweet!

Yeah, they are the most important people in my life—my wife, son and daughter. And we all love pizza!

And there you have it folks — this edition’s Confessions of a Rookie. . . Looks like pizza and pontoon boats next summer, just contact Nick!

If you've been at NIU fewer than five years and want to be the next rookie, email Rave Meyer at RMeyer@niu.edu. Also, if you have suggestions of candidates, please have them reach out to me.
Employment Changes

July 2020

Welcome New Employees:

Ashton Calvin Dsouza, IT Technical Associate – Testing Services
David Tallacken, Broadcasting Chief Engineer – Northern Public Radio
Jon Butler, Food Court/ Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Service

Death:

Vicky Rippberger, Administrative Assistant – Administration and Finance

Retirements:

David Breed, Laboratory Mechanic Assistant – Biological Sciences
Judy Burgess, Office Support Specialist – Environmental Health and Safety
Richard Casey, Instructional Development Specialist – College of Education
Jerome Cole, Building Service Foreman – Building Services
Elizabeth Ebert-Board, Culinary Worker III – Residential Dining Service
Julie Edwards, Office Support Specialist – University Legal Services
Diane Faber, Cashier III – Campus Parking
Larry Fay, Maintenance Repair Worker – Lorado Taft Operations
Denise Frakes, Cashier III – Campus Parking
Brenda Hodges, Educational Program Evaluation Coordinator – Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
Diane Lash, IT Support Associate – Operation Services
Beverly McCall, Program Adviser – Academic Advising Center
Barbara Meredith, Culinary Worker I – Residential Dining Service
August Milz, Library Assistant – Regional Center Operations
Sally Nieman, Culinary Worker I – Residential Dining Service
Maureen Oxnevad, Office Support Specialist – Testing Services
Judith Polominy, Program Coordinator – English
Wendy Rodriguez, Office Administrator – Architectural/Engineering Services
Teresa Rogers, Staff Nurse I – Lorado Taft Operations
Amy Simon, Administrative Assistant – Diversity and Equity
Matt Volk, Program Director – Registration Services
Donald Williams, Food Service Administrator II – Residential Dining Service
Ruthann Yeaton, Office Manager – Anthropology

Separations:

Chloe Board, Office Support Associate – Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations
Lori Bottermann, Publicity Promotion Associate – College of Health and Human Sciences

August 2020

Welcome New Employees:

Rhonda Chinn, Program Adviser – College of Health and Human Sciences
Bryan Flower, Program director – Innovation
Swarup Garnaik, IT Technical Associate – Report Cards
Shawnda Harris, Maid – Holmes Student Center
Darius Jackson, Program Assistant – Center for Latinos and Latin American Students
Cristina Loza, Events Coordinator – Conferences and Event Management
Sree Murva, IT Technical Associate – Report Cards

Retirements:

Margret Abbott, Senior Library Specialist – Libraries
Nancy Adams, Senior Library Specialist – Libraries
Patricia Adams, Program Administrative Assistant – DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance
Marcia Bradlee, Senior Library Specialist – Libraries
Kathryn Buffington, Program Assistant – College of Business

Ellen Cabrera, Office Manager – Public Administration
Mary Chepulis, Program Services Specialist – Center for Child Welfare and Education
Dave Detert, Food Service Sanitation Laborer – Residential Dining Service
Judith Doyle, Program Coordinator – Registration and Records
Noca Ervin, Administrative Assistant – College of Business
Karen Eubus, Office Support Specialist – Lorado Taft Operations
Carolyn Graywa, Medical Office Associate – Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
John Highland, IT Technical Associate – Application Services
Deborah Hill, IT Assistant Manager – DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance
Marcy Kalvelage, Customer Service Assistant – Bursar
Patricia Kee, Administrative Aide – Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations
Renée Kerwin, Administrative Aide – Libraries
Janean Koebe, Culinary Worker II – Residential Dining Service
Barbara Lauger, Administrative Assistant – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
Jodi Long, Office Support Specialist – English
Lisa March, Office Support Specialist – Public Administration
Vance Moore, Manager – Application Services
Susan Mossholder, Manger – Operations Services
Patricia Myers, Program Assistant – College of Business
Mike Phelps, IT Technical Associate – Infrastructure Services
Lisa Reynolds, Office Support Specialist – Music
Jeffrey Rhodes, Steam and Power Plant IV – Heating Plant
Connie Rolon, Events Coordinator – Holmes Student Center
Pamela Sampson, Library Assistant – College of Law Library
Jill Secor, Huma Resource Assistant Manager – Human Resource Services
Steven Seldal, Culinary Worker II – Residential Dining Service
Leslie Shive, Program Assistant – International Training Office
April Spivey, Office Support Specialist – Registration and Records
Jeffrey Strohm, Marketing Associate – University Marketing
Alan Tody, Information Technology Director – Infrastructure Services
Kimberly Whalen, IT Assistant Manager – Vice Provost
Patricia Widert, Administrative Assistant – College of Education
Linda Willer, IT Support Associate – Operations Services

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**Service Awards**

### July 2020

**5 Years**
- **Charles Cherry** – Housing and Residential Services
- **David Dosier** – Nursing
- **Candice Olagunju** – College of Business
- **Alexander Scott** – Grounds
- **Danielle Young** – Housing and Residential Services

**10 Years**
- **Joseph Hoiness** – Heating Plant
- **Laurie Johnson** – Human Resource Services

**15 Years**
- **Arlecia Brown** – Center for Child Welfare and Education
- **Carrie Zack** – Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation

**20 Years**
- **Angela Bross** – Testing Services
- **Wade Duerkes** – Office of Institutional Communications
- **Jeffrey Farley** – Physical Plant
- **Thomas Finn** – Building Services

**25 Years**
- **Christina Doe** – Human Resource Services

### August 2020

**10 Years**
- **Nicole Bradford** – Conferences and Event Management
- **Lester Flaherty III** – Lorado Taft Operations
- **Tifarah Jackson** – College of Health and Human Sciences
- **Milan Nelson** – Public Safety
- **Alyssa Parker** – Lorado Taft Operations
- **Caroline Petersen** – Admissions Systems and Processing
- **Christina Riebel** – College of Health and Human Sciences
- **Hillary Rosher** – Child Development and Family Center
- **Vyrthandi Voss** – Admissions Systems and Processing
- **Brianna Wicker** – Child Development and Family Center
- **Cheryl Wieczorek** – Development Operations

**15 Years**
- **Danuta Portscheller** – NIU Outreach Operations
- **Jose Rangel** – Physical Plant
- **Steven Scott** – Customer Support Services
- **David Seymour** – CHANCE Program

**20 Years**
- **Kellie Fuss** – Child Development and Family Center
- **Colette Maher** – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- **Doneva Malm** – Registration Services
- **Diane Mathison** – Child Development and Family Center
- **Brian McCarthy** – Residential Dining Service
- **Brian Pillsbury** – Career Services
- **Jean Williams** – Bursar

**25 Years**
- **Deborah Evans** – Libraries
- **Chad Folowell** – Building Services
- **Steven Greer** – Heating Plant
- **Anne Hoag** – Building Services
- **Kathy Hodgkinson** – Student Conduct
- **Debbie Malcolm** – Residential Dining Service
- **Colene Pottinger** – Building Services
- **Danielle Schultz** – Internal Audit
- **Kay Shelton** – Housing and Residential Services
- **Timothy Trottier** – Housing and Residential Services
- **Curtis Young** – Public Safety

**Separations:**
- Jazmin Acosta, Child Development Supervisor – Child Development and Family Center
- Michelle Crayton, Procurement Officer – Procurement Services and Contract Management
- Sebastian Gingrich, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Silvia Ginting, Program Coordinator – Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
- Noreen Hudspeth, Culinary Worker III – Retail Food Operations
- Jazmin Acosta, Child Development Supervisor – Child Development and Family Center
- Michelle Crayton, Procurement Officer – Procurement Services and Contract Management
- Sebastian Gingrich, Building Service Worker – Building Services
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Huskie History

Many people consider fall the perfect time to enjoy a walk outdoors. Fall and Halloween also sometimes prove to be an enticing time to visit local cemeteries. While some think of cemeteries as spooky or even haunted, they are also places filled with history and are designed to be serene, park-like settings.

As the eternal home to all four of the institution’s founders, at least three of NIU’s original 16 faculty members, one former president, and dozens of administrators, professors, and civil service employees, Fairview Cemetery, located south of campus at the corner of First Street and Fairview Drive in DeKalb, would be a perfect location to host an NIU-themed Cemetery Walk. Since we continue to focus on activities that offer physical distancing, taking a walk through your local cemetery can provide a safe and scenic escape from the indoors. If you live in or near DeKalb and want to connect with some important figures from NIU history, consider taking a self-guided tour of Fairview Cemetery.

Each person affiliated with NIU during these first 125 years has had unique and interesting experiences from which we could learn, and each has helped to shape the school NIU has grown into.

Just a few of the never-to-be-forgotten Huskies buried at Fairview Cemetery include:

1. **William P. Froom** (1913-2003) served NIU as associate director and later director of public relations. His obituary indicates that Dr. Froom was the oldest living Evans Scholar, which is a well-known scholarship awarded to golf caddies.

2. **Colonel Isaac Ellwood** (1833-1910) was one of NIU’s four founders. Originally from New York, Ellwood joined his brothers in DeKalb in 1855. He eventually collaborated with Joseph Glidden to patent barbed wire and became wealthy. This wealth and influence enabled him to help entice lawmakers to select DeKalb as the new location of the Normal School in 1895, and paid for the building of President Cook’s and Professor McMurry’s homes. Ellwood’s own home now serves as the Ellwood House Museum, which is a well-known DeKalb landmark.

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3. **Clinton Rosette** (1850-1909) was one of NIU’s founders. According to Earl Hayter’s Education in Transition, Rosette was “a local boy who ... taught school as a young man, and had risen from apprentice in the town print shop to become editor of the [DeKalb] Chronicle” (20). In 1893, Governor John Peter Altgeld appointed Rosette to the Illinois Board of Education, where Rosette realized the need for a normal school in northern Illinois. He created friendships with prominent educators such as John Williston Cook, and won support from Ellwood, Glidden, and Jacob Haish to make the Northern Illinois State Normal School a reality.

4. **Jacob Haish** (1826-1926) served DeKalb as an inventor, manufacturer, financier and philanthropist. He invented a successful design for barbed wire, donated money to purchase books for NIU’s first library and bequeathed money for the DeKalb Public Library built after he died.

5. **Joseph Farwell Glidden** (1813-1906) originally hailed from New Hampshire but eventually settled in DeKalb. He collaborated with Colonel Isaac Ellwood on a patent for barbed wire, and together they opened a barbed wire factory and became wealthy. Glidden was also publisher of the DeKalb Chronicle. DeKalb named Lucinda Avenue, on the north side of the NIU campus, for his second wife Lucinda, whose hairpins inspired Glidden’s barbed wire design. DeKalb also named Annie Glidden Road for his niece who rests in the family’s mausoleum at Fairview. The Joseph F. Glidden Family Homestead and Historical Center is located on Lincoln Highway within walking distance of campus.

6. **Edgar Berton Still** (1870-1932) owned a pharmacy in DeKalb and served on the Illinois Board of Education. He worked tirelessly on the state board to advance projects that would be beneficial to NIU. In gratitude, NIU named Still Hall and Still Gym in his honor in 1928.

7. **Swen Franklin Parson** (1861-1945) was one of the original 16 faculty at NISNS and served as a math teacher from 1899 to 1935. He helped write a history of NIU for the 25th anniversary, served as acting president after third NIU President J. Clifton Brown resigned, and was an avid angler. Swen Parson Hall, named in his honor, housed NIU’s second library before becoming home to the Law School.

8. **Alice Cary Patten** (1873-1904) was another member of the original 16 faculty members who taught at NISNS when the school opened in 1899. According to the 1900 Norther, Miss Patten was born in DeKalb County and studied at the Illinois State Normal School and the University of Michigan, graduating from the latter in 1897. She served as head of the Latin department at Bloomington High School for two years before coming to NISNS to teach Latin and German. She rests in her family’s plot at Fairview, where Swen Parson is her neighbor.

9. **Edward Carlton Page** (1863-1929) was another member of the NISNS original faculty. He earned degrees in history and literature from Northwestern and Chicago University and taught history at NIU from 1899 until his sudden death in 1929.

10. **Robert J. Brigham Sr.** (1924-2014) served on several submarines in World War II, graduated with NIU’s class of 1949 and later worked at NIU from 1957 to 2001, serving as coach, athletic director and special assistant to the president. He oversaw NIU’s acceptance into the Mid-American Conference (MAC) in 1973 and multiple teams qualified for NCAA championship competition during his time at NIU. He retired in 2001, and in 2003, NIU named the playing surface at Huskie Stadium “Brigham Field” in his honor. Brigham must have been especially proud of the honor since he included a reference to it on the back of his headstone.

11. **Karl L. Adams** (1888-1948) came to DeKalb from St. Cloud, Minnesota, to serve as NIU’s fourth president. From 1929 to 1948, Adams led NIU through the Depression and World War II. He helped NIU achieve North Central accreditation in 1935 and established NIU’s first Faculty Administrative Council. Adams died suddenly Sept. 5, 1948, yet for reasons unknown, his memorial marker indicates that he passed away in 1950. In 1949, NIU named its second dormitory Adams Hall in his honor.

This is just a partial list of the rich Huskie history represented at Fairview Cemetery.

To search a list of people buried at your local cemetery, visit findagrave.com. Volunteers add new memorials to the site all the time, so at most cemeteries the site does not list every grave but it is a great place to start your search.