



Northern Illinois
University

Northern Staff News

January 2021

niu.edu/operating-staff-council | osc@niu.edu

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President's Corner



Happy New Year!

As we say goodbye to 2020, I hope you all were able to enjoy the holidays and a well-deserved break. Hello 2021... as we begin the journey of a new year, let us look at all the opportunities this year will bring.

My, oh my, how the weather has changed...it's beginning to look a lot like winter. With many of us working from home, the weather should not be an issue, but for those of us who are

working on campus, if you must go out in this weather be sure to bundle up and consider keeping **[emergency supplies](#)** in your car.

The Operating Staff Council is looking forward to working with the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) on creating some professional development opportunities for staff. We understand that budgets are still tight, so we are getting creative in how we think about professional development and we want your input. Please take the time to **[complete this survey](#)**, so we can know what types of professional development will best meet your needs.

I encourage you to attend our upcoming OSC meetings on Feb. 4, March 4 and April 1. Our meetings are on the first Thursday of every month and start at 9 a.m. The presenters will be Sarah Chinniah, Thomas Phillips and John Heckmann, respectively. This is a great time to ask any questions that you may have for any of them. All the meetings are currently virtual, so it makes it easier than ever to listen in.

May 2021 be the year of great opportunities and may we seize the moment to be better than we ever have been before. Wishing you all a successful start to spring. Don't forget to wash your hands, wear your mask and watch your distance to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Stronger Together,

Natasha Johnson

President, Operating Staff Council 2020-2021

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Operating Staff Dependent Scholarship

Time to apply is running out!

MyScholarships makes applying for the Operating Staff Dependent Scholarship easy. All students need to do is complete and submit the general application and then answer an additional question to be considered for this scholarship. The system will be open in mid-November through January 2021. Hurry — time is running out!

For **[more information on the scholarship](#)** go to the OSC website.

To apply, dependent students should go to the **[Scholarship Office website](#)**.

'Where Have You' Contest Winners

Last edition we asked several questions regarding where you have worked remotely that was funny, interesting or unusual. A few responded they were still working on campus and we adjusted the questions to include those employees. We definitely did not want or mean to exclude anyone and were very happy someone brought it to our attention.

We were also very excited with the number of employees who entered the contest. Picking a winner in each category was difficult. The following winners each won a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Have an idea for another contest? Shoot us an email at osc@niu.edu. We love hearing your ideas and suggestions.

Most Interesting/Unusual: Theresa LaRocco

My most unusual location was Naples, Florida, during a hurricane ETA (Nov. 2020). Being able to work during the torrential downpours and the 65-70 m.p.h. winds helped keep my mind off what was happening outside.

Funniest: Rebecca Rahe

After getting locked out, in a parking garage waiting with a friend's bored and shoeless 10-year-old.

Funniest Thing: Melissa Burlingame

The first time my students heard my cat snoring while we were in class. My Gina is 15 years old and loves to nap in my at-home office area. The students love seeing my cats.

Confessions of a Rookie

Rookie: Daniel Tamayo

Office of Undergraduate Admissions

Hire date: March 4, 2019

Hello, fellow Huskies! Welcome to this edition of Confessions of a Rookie. We have with us today Daniel Tamayo, an events, tours and customer service facilitator in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Good morning, Daniel. Are you ready to jump right into this? Let's start off with a goodie — if you could be any animal, what would you be and why?

One of my cats. I feel like they have it easy. They have a human who works to bring them food; all they do is sleep and eat with their occasional need for cuddles. Sleeping, eating and cuddling sounds like the dream life.

I would have to agree that being a housecat in a loving home would be fabulous. Given that you would like to be a cat, where or what is your favorite place in the world?

Teotihuacan, Mexico.

Oh, they like cats... good choice.

Being in the presence of the Pyramids of the Sun, Moon and the Temple of Quetzalcoatl has been an experience I will never forget. It was a very positive sensation, and my hope is to continue visiting pre-Hispanic temples and old cities of the Aztecs and Maya.

That does sound amazing! Do you know what else is amazing? Superheroes. Do you have a least favorite?

I am not a big fan of Iron Man, not sure why. I just never really cared for the character. It may be the arrogance of Tony Stark. I just like my superheroes to be overall good guys and in some way, he doesn't fit that.

Well, you certainly sound like an all-around good guy. Do you have a secret talent no one knows about?

My ability to cook. Not everyone knows I am actually a decent cook and that I really enjoy cooking. I like cooking meals that I have already received positive remarks on, but I really enjoy cooking new recipes and changing some of those up to better fit my profile and style of cooking. I usually take a few recipes of the same meal and create my own version of that meal.

I don't know about our readers, but I'm certainly hoping for an amazing Mexican dinner complete with plenty of cat cuddles! Maybe we can have reruns of "The Office" on in the background. Let's say you should plan for around 500 for dinner, Daniel.

Well, that was this edition of Confessions of a Rookie. We hope you join in on the fun by emailing Rave at RMeyer@niu.edu if you want to participate!

Employment Changes

November 2020

Welcome New Employees:

Tori Artman, Business Administrative/Associate – Vice Provost

Daniel Curtis, Human Resource Assistant – Human Resource Services

Carmen Killingsworth, Program Coordinator – Center for Child Welfare and Education

Angelo Sebastiano, Program Assistant – Intercollegiate Athletics

Dorothea Stipetic, Office Administrator – Public Administration

Katie Thielk, Grants and Contracts Associate – Sponsored Programs Administration

Retirements:

Martha Keyes, Events Administrator Associate – Conferences Event Management

Penny Napora, House Attendant/Housekeeper – Conferences Event Management

Marcus Roccaforte, Police Officer – Public Safety

Separations:

Justin Donahue, Police Officer – Public Safety

Nathan Foster, Test Specialist – Testing Services

Hope Hammond, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety

Austin Harding, Culinary Worker II – Residential Dining Service

Bhuwaneshwari Iyer, IT Technical Associate – Report Cards

Keilene McCants, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety

Pushp Sagar, Culinary Worker I – Residential Dining Service

Cynthia Serrano, Maid – Holmes Student Center

December 2020

Welcome New Employees:

Robert Kazlauskis, Program Services Specialist – Center for Child Welfare and Education

Samantha McKee, Child Development Supervisor – Child Development and Family Center

Andrew Sotomayor, Police Officer – Public Safety

Victoria Wells, Child Development Supervisor – Child Development and Family Center

Retirements:

Daniel Anthenat, Steam and Power Plant III – Heating Plant

Separations:

Michelle Anderson, Police Officer – Public Safety

Kourtney Bert, Residence Hall Attendant – Public Safety

Marcia Brown, Office Administrator – University Honors Program

Emilly Huerta, Child Development Supervisor – Child Development and Family Center

Veronica Klaus, Office Manager – Student Legal Assistance

Service Awards

November 2020

5 Years

Maureen Brady – Student-Athlete Academic Support Services

Anthony Guzzaldo – Office of Student Engagement

Peggy Hayes – Student Involvement and Leadership Development

Michelle Lewis – Building Services

Nicole Lewis – Building Services

Kelly Olson – Student Affairs Central

Kerry Ralls – Report Cards

Kimberly Schauer – Building Services
Carol Scott-Von Behren – Holmes Student Center

Jason Shirar – Psychology

Kathleen West – Psychology

10 Years

David Flavin – Heating Plant

Patricia Gingrich – Holmes Student Center

Amy Hoard – Public Safety

Kazim Mohammed – Report Cards

15 Years

Abraham Cotto – Infrastructure Services

Angela Johansson – Development Administration

Andrew Kopecky – Regional Center Operations

Margie Little – Libraries

Brandon Welch – Libraries

20 Years

Daniel Ihm – Application Services

Vidya Sagar – Residential Dining Service

Jesse Tellez – Heating Plant

25 Years

Deanna Kristen – Application Services

M. Eugene Massey – Associate Vice President of Finance

December 2020

5 Years

Jennifer Beasley – Public Safety

Linda Carlson – Sponsored Programs Administration

Coraima Beltran – Public Safety

Nicole Folz – Public Safety

Krysten Jones – Child Development and Family Center

Dillan Smith – Grounds

Michael Tweed – Grounds

10 Years

Andrew Pemberton – Web and Internal Communications

Jeremy Reid – Intercollegiate Athletics

Charles Almburg – Building Services

15 Years

Susan Horton – Operations Management and Information Systems

25 Years

Timothy Webster – Development Operations

30 Years

Debbie Cullison – Application Services

Looking Ahead to Committee Openings for 2021-22

OSC will be looking for operating staff employees who would be interested in serving on several committees for FY22. [Committee interest forms](#) are available on the OSC website. A detailed [description of all committees](#) can be found on the University Council website. Please consider being an operating staff representative for one of these important committees. For more information, contact Jay Monteiro at jmonteiro@niu.edu.

Beginning **July 1, 2021**, we will have the following openings:

Campus Parking Committee: Three openings: two are three-year terms and one is currently open now with two years left on the term.

Duties of the committee:

- To act as the standing advisory body to the associate vice president of Facilities Management and Campus Services, the vice president of Administration and Finance and the president pertaining to parking and traffic problems.
- To review and make recommendations regarding the parking fees required through the year. The business manager will periodically update the committee.
- To review, recommend changes to and develop parking and traffic regulations pertaining to all vehicles as used by students, faculty, staff and visitors. Such regulations are promulgated by the president under authority granted by the board of trustees.

Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee: One opening for a two-year term.

Duties of the committee:

The Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee meets on a regular basis and advises the president, or their designee, on matters involving the security (including personal and property security) of the university community and protecting and enhancing the interior and exterior quality and security of the campus environment.

Parking Appeals Committee: One opening for a three-year term.

Duties of the committee:

To review and to adjudicate all appeals for parking violations as may be presented in writing or in person.

University Benefits Committee: One opening for a three-year term.

Duties of the committee:

- To act as an advisory body to the president on any and all employee benefits pertaining to faculty, operating staff and supportive professional staff.
- To review present benefit plans and proposals received from the University Council, the Operating Staff Council, Supportive Professional Staff Council and the committee itself.
- To make recommendations to the president concerning employee benefits.

Nominations Sought for 2021 Civil Service Outstanding Service Awards

Do you know an employee who goes above and beyond the call of duty? Please consider nominating these individuals for the OSC Outstanding Service Award.

This award is presented each year to recognize individual civil service operating staff who make contributions to the university beyond a narrow reading of their job descriptions and also serve the community in which they live. Up to four individuals will be selected annually to receive the award, which includes \$1,500 (considered taxable wages) and a plaque. The awards will be presented in the spring. Eligible employees must be full- or part-time status civil service employees who have been continuously employed at NIU since Feb. 1, 2014 or before.

The deadline for nominations is **4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021**.

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