Greetings Operating Staff,

I am looking forward to new beginnings. We are almost to the finish line — the end of the fiscal year 2021. Many of you have asked when will we be able to start hiring again? We know many of the staff are doing the work of two, three or even four people due to people being promoted, retiring or just moving on. And, due to the restrictions of the hiring chill, many have not been able to refill much-needed positions.

But, we ask you to hang in there because there is light at the end of the tunnel. Due to the intentional restrictions, we have been able to continue operations without the need for additional measures that other institutions of our size have had to take and I am grateful for that.

As we work through the many challenges of this pandemic, we are able to identify multiple areas where we can be more efficient. These measures will help us save both time and resources, which overall will save the university money. The university also has a work group task force underway that will reimagine the additional ways we can do the work, that some of us learned we can do from home.

Last month we had the opportunity to congratulate both the Dependent Scholarship winners and the Outstanding Service Award winners in a virtual Zoom award ceremony. The 2021 Dependent Scholarship award winners are Halle Beverley and Samuel Hancock.

Halle Beverley is the daughter of Barb Beverley from Housing and Residential Services. Halle is a marketing major. Ever since Halle was little, she could not wait to attend a college where she could truly experience diversity. That is why she chose to come to NIU. Halle said, “When I saw all the different skin tones, backgrounds and ways of life, I just knew I would fit in here.” Halle looks forward to making a difference in the world through advertisement.

Samuel Hancock is the son of Barb Hancock from Housing and Residential Services. Samuel is a marketing major. Ever since Halle was little, she could not wait to attend a college where she could truly experience diversity. That is why she chose to come to NIU. Halle said, “When I saw all the different skin tones, backgrounds and ways of life, I just knew I would fit in here.” Halle looks forward to making a difference in the world through advertisement.

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Samuel Hancock is the son of Barb Hancock from Housing and Residential Services. Samuel is currently a junior and is majoring in the biomedical engineering program. He currently has two jobs during school and three jobs over breaks. He is paying his way through school all while living independently. Since attending NIU, Samuel has made the dean’s list and joined the University Honors Program. He is currently the secretary of Northern Illinois University Biomedical Engineering Society.

We wish Halle and Samuel all the best with their studies at NIU. We also thank all the excellent candidates that applied for scholarships this year.

We also proudly recognize our operating staff colleagues who won this year’s Outstanding Service Award. They are Jonie Barshinger from the Graduate School, Robert Botts from the Office of the Bursar, Angie Flannery from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Ellen Hamrick from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Stronger together,

Natasha Johnson
President, Operating Staff Council 2020-2021
njohnson11@niu.edu | osc@niu.edu
Good morning dear readers! Today we have a down and dirty, short and sweet interview for you. It is none other than Heidi Carlson from Conference and Event Services — you know, the people you contact when you want to rent out the castle. (And if you didn’t know you could do that, please give her a call.)

So, Heidi, what shall we discuss today? I know! Tell me what was the last book you read?

“Firefly Lane,” by Kristin Hannah.

Oh, isn’t that the coming-of-age story of two girls who drank Boone’s Farm and listened to Abba? I bet you listened to Abba and Fleetwood Mac, right? Tell me, what was the best concert you’ve ever attended?

Grateful Dead’s ‘Fare Thee Well’ Tour in 2015.

Woah! That’s not Abba. Maybe you weren’t a Boone’s Farm kind of gal after all.

Is that a compliment? Being ‘not a Boone’s Farm kind of girl?’ I will have to think on that one. In the meantime, what was the best compliment you ever received?

“Firefly Lane,” by Kristin Hannah.

How sweet! That does sound like an awesome compliment! It sounds like you’re more of the quiet, family-type of individual. Therefore I’ve got to ask: What’s your favorite family tradition?

Sunday family dinners with my kids.

Oh how utterly sweet. You are a breath of fresh air!

Let’s wrap this up with something exciting, shall we? What’s the coolest thing you’re working on right now?

I crochet all kinds of things. I just finished my first granny square blanket for a dear friend.

Huh! Less exciting, and more sweet. I didn’t see that one coming.

OK, folks. That’s a wrap on this edition of Confessions of a Rookie. If you or someone you know has worked at NIU fewer than five years and wants to be the next rookie, please contact Rave at RMeyer@niu.edu. We are always looking for new and exciting victims rookies to play along!
By request, we are providing links to things to do on and off campus with events, places to visit and learning opportunities. These links may not be all inclusive, so we recommend that you always check the NIU calendar to see what current events are happening.

**Seminars, Groups and Events**
- Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: [go.niu.edu/sjeregistration](go.niu.edu/sjeregistration)
- Alumni Association: 10th Annual Golf Outing and other events: [www.myniu.com/events.html](www.myniu.com/events.html)
- Annuitants Association: [www.niu.edu/annuitants](www.niu.edu/annuitants)
- Asian American Resource Center: [www.niu.edu/aac/events](www.niu.edu/aac/events)
- Athletics Calendar: [niuhuskies.com/calendar](niuhuskies.com/calendar)
- College of Business: [cob.niu.edu](cob.niu.edu)
- Gender Resource Support Groups and Events: [www.niu.edu/gsrc/programs](www.niu.edu/gsrc/programs)
- Geology and Environmental Geosciences Virtual Seminars: [www.niu.edu/geology](www.niu.edu/geology)
- Kaltura Captioning: [go.niu.edu/kaltura-captioning](go.niu.edu/kaltura-captioning)
- NIU Greenhouse: [go.niu.edu/biology-events](go.niu.edu/biology-events)
- NIU Steam: [go.niu.edu/steam-events](go.niu.edu/steam-events)
- Summer Camps: [www.niu.edu/summercamps](www.niu.edu/summercamps)
- Zoom Training (recorded or live webinar): [go.niu.edu/zoom](go.niu.edu/zoom)

**Places of Interest to Visit On Campus**
- Art Museum: [go.niu.edu/wellbeingevents](go.niu.edu/wellbeingevents)
- Blackwell History of Education Museum: [go.niu.edu/blackwell](go.niu.edu/blackwell)
- Pick Museum of Anthropology: [www.niu.edu/pick-museum](www.niu.edu/pick-museum)
- Observatory: [www.niu.edu/physics/observatory](www.niu.edu/physics/observatory) (currently closed)
- NIU Greenhouse: [go.niu.edu/biology-events](go.niu.edu/biology-events)

**Cultural Events**
- Community School of the Arts Calendar: [go.niu.edu/csacalendar](go.niu.edu/csacalendar)
- Music Events: [go.niu.edu/concerts](go.niu.edu/concerts)
- RealityBytes Film Festival: [realitybytes.niu.edu](realitybytes.niu.edu)
- Theatre and Dance: [go.niu.edu/theatre](go.niu.edu/theatre)

**Get Involved**
- Association of Campus Religious Organizations: [go.niu.edu/acro](go.niu.edu/acro)
- Communiversity Gardens: [go.niu.edu/garden-volunteering](go.niu.edu/garden-volunteering)
- Huskie Food Pantry: [www.niu.edu/food-pantry](www.niu.edu/food-pantry)

**Stay Informed**
- Board of Trustees Calendar: [go.niu.edu/bot-calendar](go.niu.edu/bot-calendar)
- Business Procedures Directory: [niu.edu/procedures](niu.edu/procedures)
- Bursar's Office – How-To guides: [go.niu.edu/bursar-training](go.niu.edu/bursar-training)
- Campus Safety Notifications: [go.niu.edu/sb](go.niu.edu/sb)
- Policy Library: [niu.edu/policies](niu.edu/policies)
- Weather Updates: [go.niu.edu/weather](go.niu.edu/weather)

**Educational Opportunities**
- Human Resource Services: Tuition Waivers for educational credit or non-credit: [go.niu.edu/tuition-waivers](go.niu.edu/tuition-waivers)
- Lifelong Learning: [go.niu.edu/LLI](go.niu.edu/LLI)
- Teaching and Learning Workshops (in-person and online): [go.niu.edu/teaching-workshops](go.niu.edu/teaching-workshops)
- World Languages and Cultures: [www.niu.edu/world-languages](www.niu.edu/world-languages)
- Northern Illinois Digital Library: [go.niu.edu/digital-library](go.niu.edu/digital-library)

**Physical Wellness**
- FitWELL: [go.niu.edu/FitWell](go.niu.edu/FitWell)
- Recreation: [www.niu.edu/recreation](www.niu.edu/recreation)

**Training Opportunities**
- Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning: [go.niu.edu/citl-events](go.niu.edu/citl-events)
- Financial Training Modules: [53.everfi-next.net/welcome/MA](53.everfi-next.net/welcome/MA)
- EAP Health Presentations and Training: [go.niu.edu/eap-training](go.niu.edu/eap-training)
- Kaltura Support: [calendar.niu.edu/citl](calendar.niu.edu/citl)
- LinkedIn Learning: [go.niu.edu/linkedin-learning](go.niu.edu/linkedin-learning)
- Writing Across the Curriculum Workshops: [go.niu.edu/writing-workshops](go.niu.edu/writing-workshops)
- Technology training: [www.niu.edu/doit/training](www.niu.edu/doit/training)

**NIU Calendar**
- Upcoming Events listed on NIU home page: [calendar.niu.edu](calendar.niu.edu)

**Community Events**
- DeKalb Chamber of Commerce: [web.dekalb.org/events](web.dekalb.org/events)
- WNIJ/WNIU Community Events Calendar: [go.niu.edu/public-radio-events](go.niu.edu/public-radio-events)
March 2021

Welcome New Employees:
- Chad Bradford, Payroll Specialist II – Human Resource Services
- Collin Bruning, Ticket Sales Supervisor – Convocation Center
- Christy Cunningham-Watson, Program Advisor – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Lisa Shover, Account Technician I – Intercollegiate Athletics

Retirements:
- Phillip Davis, Library Specialist – Libraries
- David Pevonka, Building Service Worker – Building Services

Separations:
- Troy Beisch, Food Service Sanitation Laborer – Residential Dining Service
- Nicole Bradford, Senior Events Coordinator – Conferences Event Management
- Mohammed Faridi, IT Technical Associate – Report Cards
- Brian Glick, Student Conduct Advisor – Student Conduct
- Regina Jahn, Grants and Contracts Associate – Sponsored Programs Administration
- Shawn Kennedy, Food Service Sanitation Laborer – Residential Dining Service
- Kimberly Schauer, Building Service Worker – Building Services

Death:
- Robert Pecherek, Steam and Power Plant IV – Heating Plant

April 2021

Separations:
- Sandra Gonzalez, Program Advisor – Student Support Service
- Isaac Smith, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Trent Busse, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Spencer Blank-Jones, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Mark Andres, Steam and Power Plant I – Heating Plant
- Alexander Savitt, IT Support Associate – Operation Services
- Kathryn Dombek, Program Advisor – Curriculum and Instruction
- Benjamin Gardner, IT Technical Associate – Human Resource Services
- Scott Fleming, Graphic Designer – Alumni Services
- Chase Cavanaugh, Broadcast News Specialist – Northern Public Radio

Holmes Student Center (HSC) and Founders Memorial Library Dining Options for Summer 2021

Whether you are looking for a quick morning pick-me-up like a cappuccino from Starbucks or are craving a juicy burger for lunch from the Grill at the Huskie Den, Campus Dining has you covered. This summer both locations will be open. That is right!

Conveniently located in the heart of campus in the HSC, Starbucks will be open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the Grill at the Huskie Den will be open 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For those who have faculty/staff meal plans (FSMP) with Dining Dollars, great news — those plans do not expire. Meal exchange will not be available, but FSMP Dining Dollars are always welcome at all campus dining locations. To purchase an FSMP, please visit go.niu.edu/facultystaffmealplan. For hours of operations and payment types accepted, visit go.niu.edu/eat.

Einstein’s Bagels in Founders Memorial Library, as well as Qdoba and The Depot in the HSC, are closed for the summer.

SUAA Foundation Announces 2021 Scholarship and Professional Development Grant Programs

To All SUAA Members: The State Universities Annuitants Association Foundation is ready to accept candidates for the 2021 scholarships.

There are up to six $1,000 scholarships available. In addition, there are two $1,000 Professional Development Grants available. Please take a look at the possibilities for you or your family members.

Foundation 2021 Scholarship and Professional Development Programs: www.suaa.org/foundation_scholarship_program
Service Awards

March 2021

5 Years

Jennifer Klassen – Building Services
Douglas Pulak – Building Services
Joseph Floress – Building Services
Abeer Elshamy – Conferences Event Management
Brian Tallitsch – Convocation Center
Kristine Radtke – Family and Consumer Sciences
Susan Kerschke – Human Resource Services
Steffen Scharmacher – Libraries
Chase Cavanaugh – Northern Public Radio
Lori York – Public Safety
Charles Bockman – Residential Dining Services

10 Years

Tanya Cervantes – Registration and Records
Alexandra Chapman – College of Law
Jeffrey Donohue Jr. – Libraries
Cynthia Paralejas – Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
Shaunda Wilson – Public Safety

15 Years

Kenneth George Jr. – Physical Plant
Muqeet Mohammed Abdul – Report Cards
Gerardo Rangel – Physical Plant
Christine Gould – Operation Services
Mary Williams – Bursar

20 Years

Terry Carpenter – Infrastructure Services
Steven Farmer – Infrastructure Services
Angie Flannery – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

April 2021

5 Years

Robin Boyko – University Marketing
Jacob Gingrich – Building Services
Marietto Jeffries – Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
Greg Kleinprinz – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
Kerri Lanum – Regional Technology Services
Keith Zard – Operation Services

10 Years

Keenan Buckle – Building Services
Wayne Cliffe – Residential Dining Service
Bradley Crocker – Heating Plant
Nathan Girton – Building Services
Christina Hawk – Building Services
Carrie Holmes – Building Services
Andrew Johnson – Infrastructure Services
Timothy Kovalik – Infrastructure Services
Lauren Mock – Vice President of International Affairs
Gehrman Radtke III – Building Services
Rebecca Rebe – Registration and Records
Brady Smith – Heating Plant
Douglas Travestad – Building Services
Corey Twombly – Building Services

15 Years

Ricky Nelson – Building Services
Misty Rains – Building Services

20 Years

Jo Alsup – Building Services
Susana Das Naves – P-20 Center
Adam Klassen – Building Services
Lauren Kurpius – Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
Julie Mahoney-Krzyzek – College of Law
Linda Yates – Biological Sciences

30 Years

Jonie Barshinger – Graduate School

Become a Part of Mission’s Pet Pack

It is no secret that Northern Illinois University’s favorite mascot Mission is universally loved among NIU alumni, friends, family and beyond. Now, your very own pets can get in on the Huskie fun, as the NIU Alumni Association has announced the formation and launch of Mission’s Pet Pack: [www.niualumnigear.com](http://www.niualumnigear.com).

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