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OSC Meetings and Minutes can be found on the OSC website.

President's Corner



Greetings Operating Staff,

In this season of celebrating accomplishments, awards and other recognitions, I want to express my gratitude for you all. I can't imagine a better group of colleagues, and I'm inspired by the work you do.

There are a few matters I want to bring to your attention. First is our Civil Service Emergency Fund. To date, we've given out almost \$4,000 in awards. Thank

you for all those who have donated — you are truly making a difference in the lives of your colleagues. Unfortunately, the fund is back to a very low balance, so please consider donating. You can even set up a small payroll deduction through the NIU Foundation. Learn more at go.niu.edu/cs-emergency-fund.

For those who find yourselves in a difficult situation, a comprehensive list of resources in DeKalb County can be found on that page as well. If you are outside of DeKalb County, it's likely your community has an online listing of resources that can help you.

Speaking of your generous support, the purchase of Pride with Purpose shirts — a new tradition that started during our 2022 Homecoming — helps support our general scholarship fund. Each year, our NIU community votes on a design that will be produced in limited quantities and be available for purchase for one year. Learn more and purchase at go.niu.edu/pride-with-purpose.

As we celebrate colleagues through years of service awards and the newly reconfigured staff awards (congratulations, by the way, to all of our nominees and awardees), be sure to celebrate yourself by filling out a Huskie Spotlight Q&A. You can also nominate someone else you know to fill one out. Every Huskie has a story to tell.

Finally, save the date for our 2023 staff celebration event. This year the event is Tuesday, July 25 from 11 a.m. to 2p.m. Hope to see you there.

Holly Nicholson
President, OSC 2021-2023
hnicolson@niu.edu

Operating Staff Dependent Scholarship Winners Named

The Dependent Scholarship provides financial assistance to NIU students who are the children of NIU operating staff (civil service) employees. The scholarship is made possible by the fundraising activities of civil service employees.

This year, the Operating Staff Council awarded scholarships to four deserving students:

- **Ale Vargas**
Parent: Angie Gutierrez-Vargas, Student Financial Advising Services
- **Samantha Schumacher**
Parent: Jaime Schumacher, University Libraries
- **Jack Mizgalski**
Parent: Susan Mizgalski, College of Education
- **Darby McGowan**
Parent: Mark McGowan, Institutional Communications

If you would like to help the scholarship fund, there are several ways to donate: [online via the NIU Foundation](#), by utilizing a payroll deduction or by calling 1-877-488-2648 or 815-753-1652. How can your student apply to receive a scholarship? Visit the [OSC Dependent Scholarship Awards](#) webpage for more information.

Inspiration of the Month

“Sometimes self-care is exercise and eating right. Sometimes it’s spending time with loved ones or taking a nap. And sometimes it’s watching an entire season of TV in one weekend while you lounge around in your pajamas. Whatever soothes your soul.”

— Nanea Hoffman

OSC Civil Service Emergency Fund Needs Donations

The Operating Staff Council’s Civil Service Emergency Fund is set up to assist civil service employees who are facing an economic crisis. We are always in need of donations, and it’s easy to donate by payroll deduction.

Please consider helping your fellow Huskies. You can also give online on the NIU Foundation website by selecting the Civil Service Emergency Fund in the “available designations” dropdown. Alternately, you can contribute by sending a check, with **Civil Service Emergency Fund** written on the memo line, to:

Northern Illinois University Foundation
Altgeld Hall 135
DeKalb, IL 60115-2882

Learn more about the [Civil Service Emergency Fund](#) or contact cs-fund@niu.edu with questions.

Confessions of a... Rookie?

Rookie: Rob Kerschke

Department: Retail Dining Manager

Hire Date: Oct. 28, 2019

Good day everyone, and welcome to this edition of Confessions of a Rookie.

First, let's get some notices out of the way.

Beginning with the May/June newsletter, Confessions of a Rookie is expanding to include **Seasoned Huskies**.

No, not spicy hot dogs! A "Seasoned Huskie" is any employee with five-plus years of employment at NIU.

We've also updated our questions; some specific just to rookies, some specific to the seasoned NIU Huskie.

So again, if you want to play along – email Rave.

Now, on to our latest ~~victim~~, er, rookie.

How are you doing today, Rob? Everything good? Great! Let's get to the nitty gritty. Why did you want to work at NIU?

NIU offers great benefits and bonus, it was close to home.

Very true. NIU does have great benefits for the most part. Like great food in the Holmes Student Center. Tell our readers, what is your favorite thing about your current position?

The people I work with and meeting the students.

Coworkers are awesome, aren't they? And the students make everything worthwhile. Remember way back when we were students? Woah! I'm not sure I can count back that far. Can you? Maybe instead, let's ask you, what advice would you give your past self?

To live life to the fullest, and do not take anything for granted.

Ever try telling a kid that? Yeah, doesn't go over so well. You should think about telling your "10 years ago" past self...no, I'm not saying you're old.... just go with me here, m'kay? Then again, since we are talking about past selves...living or dead, what three individuals would you like to share a meal with, and what would you eat?

Jesus, Abraham Lincoln and Jennifer Anniston. We would have prime rib, crab legs, baked potato, asparagus, baked French onion soup and salad.

I think I'd like to be a fly on the wall of that dinner date. Let's move on to something a bit more fun. What fictional place would you most like to visit?

Hogwarts.

What a fabulous answer! Can we try out the quidditch field on our broomsticks? I'm game. OK, so let's wrap this up and tell us what the one important work skill is everyone should have?

Patience combined with a sense of urgency.

Huh! I'm not quite sure those two things go together. Maybe next time we'll ask for examples.

Well folks, that's all for this edition of Confessions of a Rookie. Join us next time when we speak with, well, who am I kidding? I'm not going to tell you. You'll have to wait to find out. Will it be a rookie? Or will it be a seasoned Huskie?

And if **you** want to be the next Rookie or **seasoned** Huskie, please contact Rave Meyer at RMeyer@niu.edu.

Operating Staff and Faculty Take to the Lanes

The Operating Staff Council joined teams from last fall's existing league to form a Spring Bowling League. Several teams from across the university with varied staff and faculty members are vying for first place. OSC, HRS and faculty all joining together for a roaring good time. The only rules? Have a good time and don't talk about work!

While this season's league has already begun, you can always roll on down to the Huskie Den and bowl on your own or contact one of the existing teams to become their substitute player.



Scholarship reminders from Student Financial Advising Services (SFAS)

NIU's campuswide scholarship application system still has some available scholarships for currently enrolled students. Please direct students inquiring about scholarships to [MyScholarships](#). You can also encourage students to check with their academic department to see if there are any other opportunities not found in the MyScholarships system.

You may receive inquiries from students wondering when they will hear if they were selected. Please remind them to monitor their NIU student email account as all recipients will be notified via that email before the end of the semester. If a student was not selected, they may not receive a notification as not all departments are able to notify those students. Most scholarship awards will be for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Another resource to direct students to is the [outside scholarships](#) resource webpage, where they can find tips, resources and links for available scholarships. For further assistance, scholarships@niu.edu or go.niu.edu/financial-advising.

Colleges, Schools, Departments and Tuition Waivers

NIU has [42 schools and departments within seven colleges](#) which provide you with amazing learning opportunities in over 100 fields of study.

Eligible employees can take an NIU course (check out utilizing a [tuition waiver](#)) for up to 20 credit hours of courses (retired or full-time employee), 15 credit hours (nine-month employee), or 10 credit hours (six-month employee).

Civil service, supportive professional staff, faculty members and retirees can fill out a [Faculty and Staff Tuition Waiver Application \(XLS\)](#) for classes taken at NIU.

Civil service employees can also apply for tuition waivers for classes taken at certain other institutions by filling out an [Interinstitutional Tuition Waiver Application \(XLS\)](#). If you are taking classes at another university, you may not be eligible for 20 credit hours per academic year. We encourage you to reach out to that institution to determine your benefit amount.

Work-Life Balance

There are many places to take a break on campus. When you need a break, have your lunch or meet up with someone, here are some great ideas:

- Walk around the [lagoon](#).
- Stop for coffee or a bite to eat at one of many [campus dining locations](#).
- Walk around the [greenhouse](#) or [communiversity gardens](#).
- Visit the [Art Museum](#) or [Pick Museum of Anthropology](#).
- Take a fountain tour – can you find all the fountains on campus?
- Get some exercise through [NIU Recreation](#).
- Browse the selection at [Huskie Books and Gear](#).
- Find NIU mascot [Mission](#) on campus on a #MissionMonday during the academic year.
- Visit Watson Creek near the [Psychology/Computer Science building](#), take in some scenery at the flower beds by [Altgeld Hall](#) or read a book in the shade by the [Davis Hall](#) fountains.

There are many places outside but what about inside? There are discussions beginning about designating a lunch/break room in each building. We will keep you informed as things progress.

Employment Changes

January 2023

Welcome New Employees:

- Christine Buckner, Program Services Specialist – Family and Consumer Sciences
- Kaitlyn Butler, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Peter Challand, Office Support Specialist – History
- Cheryl Czajka, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Kevin Davis, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Michaela Dudek, Program Coordinator – Continuing and Professional Education
- Marcos Garcia Gabriel, Business/Administrative Associate – Development Administration
- Gary Heller, Administrative Aide – College of Education
- Requiya Hill, Main Desk Attendant – Holmes Student Center
- Rebecca Hursar, Program Coordinator – College of Business
- Natalya Jarvis, Program Assistant – First and Second Year Experience
- Xanthe Kuhn, Program Assistant – Orientation and Family Connections
- Sommer Laws, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Janeta Likov, Graphic Designer – Continuing and Professional Education
- Marilyn Lorch, Program Adviser – Academic Advising Center
- James Lowe, Culinary Worker II – Residential Dining Service
- Latosha McCarthy, Assistant Food Service Manager – Residential Dining
- Angela Oplt, Human Resource Officer – Human Resource Services
- Emily Reilly, Program Coordinator – Office of Student Engagement
- Jacob Sandborn, Senior Business Manager – Convocation Center
- Laurie Slater, Office Support Specialist – Music
- Catherine Van Fleet, Police Telecommunicator – Public Safety
- Aimee Walker, Human Resource Representative – Human Resource Services
- John Whale, Administrative Aide – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Andrew Wojcik, Police Officer – Public Safety
- Jessica Zinck, Program Services Aide – Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault

Retirement:

- John Anderson, Inventory Specialist – Materials Management
- Jonie Barshinger, Administrative Assistant – Graduate School
- Daniel Edwards, Carpenter – Physical Plant
- James Fitzpatrick, IT Technical Associate – Infrastructure Services
- Michele French, Locksmith Foreman – Physical Plant
- Nadine Ibsen, Admissions and Records Assistant – Registration and Records
- Patricia Lee, Administrative Aide, University Honors Program
- Rolf Oxnevad, Painter Foreman – Physical Plant
- Steven Searls, IT Technical Associate – Infrastructure Services
- Pamela Stangley, Medial Insurance Assistant Manager – Health Services
- Pamela Yockey, Child Development Supervisor – Child Development and Family Center

Separations:

- William Bowers, Distribution Clerk – Campus Dining Service
- Andrew Digate, Program Director – Nursing
- Anne Edwards, Program Director – Center for Black Studies
- Jeff Fairless, Plumber Foreman – Physical Plant
- Darby Fisher, Police Telecommunicator – Public Safety
- Jason Goode, Program Coordinator – University Honors Program
- Megan Junk, Program Director – Student Affairs Central
- Sarah Korinek, Snack Bar Attendant – Residential Dining Service
- Kyle Murray, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Service
- Lucas Ortegel, Emergency Management Coordinator – Public Safety
- J Pappas, Program Coordinator – Diversity and Equity
- Katherine Ray, Senior Library Specialist – Libraries
- Jaiden Steele, Police Telecommunicator – Public Safety

February 2023

Welcome New Employees:

- Jeremy Benson, Laboratory Manager – Physics
- Dillon Cathro, Program Director – Chief Diversity Officer
- Neil Daly, Office Administrator – Curriculum and Instruction
- Austin D'Amore, Program Adviser – Student Support Services
- Weston Eaton, Sports Facilities Manager – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Fern Evins, Snack Bar Attendant – Residential Dining Service
- George Jett, IT Support Associate – Regional Center Operations
- Ryan Mai-Do, Marketing Associate – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Colton Russell, Maintenance Repair Worker – Lorado Taft Operations
- Jennifer Schroll, Office Administrator – Mathematical Sciences
- Jacob Smith, Office Support Specialist – Foreign Languages and Literature
- Kevin Wright, Office Manager – Nonprofit and Nongovernmental Organization Studies

Death:

- Cheryl Korth, Office Support Specialist – Mathematical Sciences

Retirement:

- Gaylen Parker, Pipefitter – Physical Plant

Separations:

- Coraima Beltran, Police Officer – Public Safety
- Trevor Bollech, IT Support Associate – Operation Services
- Damien Doninger, Facilities Operations Specialist – Regional Center Operations
- Sarah Kakkuri, Child Development Associate – Child Development and Family Center
- Shawn Kennedy, Food Service Sanitation Laborer – Residential Dining Service
- Crystal Lanan, Office Manager – Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
- Qiang Mei, Grants and Contracts Associate – Sponsored Programs Administration
- Xitlaly Serrato, Senior Library Specialist – Libraries
- Maria Thompson, Accounting Officer – Accounts Payable and Travel

Service Awards

January 2023

5 Years

- Tamara Anderson – Illinois Board of Examiners
- Amanda Baum – College of Education
- Edward Bowie – Public Safety
- Karen Campbell – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Anna Forba – Counseling and Consultation Services
- Jingjin Yu – Controller

10 Years

- Joshua Byrd – Building Services
- Cathleen Donohue – Special and Early Education
- Glenn Essex Jr. – Grounds
- Mason Martinez – Building Services
- Maria Nihei – Sponsored Programs Administration
- Shelli Solfisburg – P-20 Center
- Timothy Wotruba – Building Services

15 Years

- Douglas Freeman – Grounds
- Keith Hearn – Grounds
- Frances Mitchell – University Council
- Randi Napientek – Student Athlete Academic Support Services
- Haider Thahab – Infrastructure Services

20 Years

- Ann Kenney – Human Resource Services
- Angela Listy – College of Business
- Daniel Nolan – Physical Plant
- Olga Urban – Infrastructure Services

25 Years

- LeAnn Baie – College of Law
- Kent Flewellin – Grounds
- Kelly Williams – Lorado Taft Operations

February 2023

5 Years

- Nathan Blake – Admissions Systems and Processing
- Tara Frost – DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance
- Michael Rhode – Human Resource Services
- Stephen Samuels – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Roberta Schwarz – Public Safety
- Jason Williams – Residential Dining Service

10 Years

- Michaela Holtz – Student Affairs Central
- Seth Kruiuzenga – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

15 Years

- Raghuraj Mahida – Development Operations

20 Years

- Lesslie Erickson – Geology and Environmental Geosciences
- Rachel Geske – Residential Dining Service
- Lori Judkins – Biological Sciences
- Kevin Meyer – Integrated Media Technologies
- Rebecca Wehmeyer – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

25 Years

- Wendy Thompson – DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance

30 Years

- Justin Bend – Heating Plant

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

Editor: Rave Meyer.

Contributors: Jay Monteiro, Holly Nicholson, Jason Reed, Karen Smith, Philip Terry, Angie G. Vargas, Tracey Ward.

Graphic Design: Holly Nicholson.

Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. Printed by authority of the state of Illinois.
niu.edu 4/23.