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OSC Meetings and Minutes can be found on the [OSC website](#).

President’s Corner



Greetings Operating Staff,

It’s always exciting to have our students back on campus. There’s nothing like seeing our campus full of students. For me, it is a reminder that just a few years ago, things seemed uncertain. But here we are today, thriving and looking forward to the future.

Looking back, Week of Welcome was amazing. I personally attended several events, but the bonfire was my personal favorite. There were hundreds (I have been told close to 500) students in attendance. Everyone was having a good time connecting, laughing, eating s’mores, taking pictures, dancing and so much more. These events are reminders of why we do what we do — with a smile.

I want to remind everyone about our Civil Service Emergency Fund. This fund is used to assist operating staff employees who are in a financial crisis. While we have received many donations in the past, the fund is almost depleted and we need your help to assist more employees who may be experiencing financial difficulties at this time. Thank you in advance for your willingness to donate. There is no amount too big or small; all donations are appreciated and welcomed. Here are a few ways you can donate: Online at go.niu.edu/civil-service-donation (choose Civil Service Emergency Fund under available designations), or send a check with “Civil Service Emergency Fund” written on the memo line, to:

Northern Illinois University Foundation
Altgeld Hall 135
DeKalb, IL 60115-288

In the last newsletter, I wrote that for the Operating Staff Council to help in the areas that matter most to you, we need to hear from **all** of you. Many have completed the [2023-2024 OSC Priorities survey](#). But we want to give an opportunity to get more staff to take the survey, so the survey is open now until Oct. 30, 2023.

Natasha Johnson
President, OSC 2023-2025
Njohnson11@niu.edu

Department Name Change

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and Training has undergone a name change. We're now [Employee Well-being](#). Our new name reflects the robust services we offer to campus employees to address your wellness needs. We still offer a wide range of services and resources to support you and your family members as you encounter difficult life situations. We also remain focused on your personal and professional success.

We continue to provide support in response to crises on campus or in your department. Our career development offerings include coaching, résumé assistance or review, mentoring and helping new employees transition into their roles on campus.

Our Learning Opportunities (training sessions and other wellness activities) also remain part of our commitment to you. Our learning opportunities can help you achieve personal well-being and provide you with information to assist you in your career. Remember, we may be able to provide your department with customized, soft-skills development. Just contact our office for more information at 815-753-9191 or email us at employeewellbeing@niu.edu.

Flu Vaccines at NIU

NIU flu vaccine clinics are scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 20 and Tuesday, Oct. 17 in the Holmes Student Center Ballroom. Registration is required, and a client form needs to be completed. You may use your personal email address or your NIU email address to register. Please be sure to read the information provided on the website. You can register and download the client form on the [2023 Flu Clinic Registration and Information](#) webpage.

2023 Fall Learning Opportunities

The office of Employee Well-being is pleased to announce our fall 2023 Learning Opportunities series is now posted and open to registration. In addition to offering virtual Teams training sessions, we will provide some in-person training and an in-person **Expressive Arts Self-discovery Group** for those seeking more personal interaction with fellow colleagues. For full descriptions about all our learning opportunities for this fall, please visit our website at [Employee Well-being Learning Opportunities and Events](#) Register online or call us at 815-753-9191.

For our in-person events, we ask participants to be mindful of your fellow Huskies. If you are feeling sick or have COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and let us know if you need to move an in-person attendance to a virtual one. Help us to keep each other healthy and well.

Additional events may be scheduled and will be [updated on our website](#), so please check back periodically.

Confessions of a Rookie

Rookie: Bethany Grim
Department: Public Administration
Title: Office Administrator
Hire Date: Sept. 6, 2022

Good day faithful readers, and welcome to today's edition of "Confessions of a Rookie." We have with us a real rookie, Bethany Grim from Public Administration. She's not been a year at NIU yet but already she's up for the challenge of answering our devilishly clever questions. So, let's get straight to it.

Why did you want to work at NIU?

NIU was my mom's dream school that she never got to attend. She talked about it frequently throughout my childhood. When I first stepped foot on campus in 2014 as an undergraduate student, I found myself in a community that felt like being wrapped in a blanket fresh out of the dryer. After graduating with my bachelor's, I watched the job postings at NIU a little too closely until I decided to apply for my current position. And now, here I am working for the university that has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember.

Well, that certainly sounds like a “snaps” moment, doesn’t it? (Wait, was that too much “Legally Blonde”? Sorry.) OK then, you’ve always wanted to work here. Lucky for us! There must have been setbacks. Tell us, how do you overcome setbacks?

As a former “gifted kid,” it took me a while to realize that not everything had to be perfect, that I couldn’t excel at everything, and that it wasn’t healthy to expect that of myself. When I experience setbacks, I do my best to take a deep breath, take a minute or two to clear my head. Then, if I can’t figure it out on my own, I reach out to those around me for support and assistance.

That sounds like a healthy way to look at things. What makes you laugh?

Currently, having dance parties with my 3-year-old son. He will dance even if there is no music. It’s adorable.

OK. I guess adorable can be substituted for laughing. Let’s try another one. What’s the coolest thing you’re working on right now?

I am a huge reader. I have a voracious appetite for reading and I try to read at least one book a week, though it’s usually been two or three. This has led to me making an attempt to write my own book. It’s not going much of anywhere right now, but it’s fun to map out.

Chocolate or vanilla?

Vanilla.

Ahhh! Someone after my own heart! Here is the final and most important question though: Is a hotdog a sandwich?

Hear me out, it’s like a taco... you have the carb-sides of the shell with the meat and toppings in the middle.

OK. Well, there you have it, folks. A hotdog is now a taco. Many thanks to Bethany for playing along!

For those of you reading along, if you want to be the next rookie or seasoned Huskie, email RMeyer@niu.edu. We are always looking for interesting people.

Surplus Item Store

Property Control retains usable office furniture and equipment for redistribution within the university. These items are available to be seen by appointment only. You may submit a request to Property Control for surplus items you are looking for. Please email requests to property_control@niu.edu. We will monitor surplus to see if we can fulfill your request.

Civil Service Celebration Update



The Operating Staff Council had to take a four-year hiatus from hosting the Civil Service Celebration due to the pandemic and for safety precautions. On Tuesday, July 25, 2023, we were once again able to host this special event in an effort to celebrate and thank NIU’s Civil Service Employees.

The event consisted of a buffet-style lunch catered by Qdoba-Holmes Student Center. We had stations set up for games and activities including big wheels, virtual reality and cake walks with six winners of some very delicious cakes. Over 350 employees were in attendance and had a wonderful time. We also had a “Guess how many in the candy jar?” activity, and as you can see, our grand winner was Dean Coyle of Field Services, who guessed the exact match of 84 pieces of candy. The Operating Staff Council and

Civil Service Celebration Planning Committee would like to thank you for your attendance and participation, as well as all the wonderful volunteers who made this event such a success.

If you have any suggestions, recommendations or feedback, please contact Cindy Kozumplik, event chair, ckozumplik@niu.edu. We would love to hear of ways to make this even more enjoyable in the future.

Parking Lot Updates

After conducting extensive lot utilization surveys over the past year and considering additional factors such as remote working, hybrid/online courses and the need for additional short-term parking options, Parking Services made changes over the summer. Given the more regular use of remote working for some faculty and staff, select lots are being merged to allow both faculty/staff and commuter student access on a first-come, first-served basis. This change is expected to increase parking options for commuter students.

Lot Name	Lot Location	Changes Being Implemented
Lot 3	South of Jack Arends and the Music Building	Will allow blue and yellow virtual permits. AIMS Mobile Pay (AMP) will also be added to this lot for those who need short-term parking.
Lot 5	Peters Campus Life Building	This lot will be split into two parking areas. Lot 5A will be for blue virtual permits and is the smaller portion of the lot directly north of the building. Lot 5 will be the large portion on the east side of the building and will allow blue and yellow virtual permits.
Lot 12	East Lagoon/Montgomery Hall	Will allow blue and yellow virtual permits. AMP will be replacing the coin meters for those who need short-term parking.
Lots 20/C	Large lot East of Chick Evans Fieldhouse	Lots 20 and C will be merged to create one lot renamed lot C. It will allow blue and yellow virtual permits.
Lots 38/S	South of the Childcare Center	Lots 38 and S will be merged to create one lot renamed lot S. It will allow blue and yellow virtual permits.
Lots 40/A	East of the Engineering Building	Lots 40 and A will be merged to create one lot renamed lot A. It will allow blue and yellow virtual permits. AMP will be added for those who need short-term parking.
Lot 44	North of Barsema Hall (College of Business)	Will allow blue and yellow virtual permits. AMP will be added for those who need short-term parking.

As a reminder, faculty/staff are eligible for blue permits, and commuter students are eligible for yellow permits. Lots that are designated on the map and on signage as striped blue and yellow indicate that the lot is mixed, allowing both permit types to park in any regular parking space throughout the lot. As always, please be mindful of signage when parking.

Permit amounts remain the same. Student permits are \$92 annually, and faculty/staff permits are \$135 annually. There are approximately 14,364 students (spring 2023) and 5,400 faculty/staff. No wonder everyone calls them “hunting permits.”

These changes are being implemented for the 2023-2024 school year.

Employment Changes

July 2023

Welcome New Employees

- Sarah Adams, Immigration Specialist – International Student and Scholarship Services
- Adriana Aumann-Weyenberg, Customer Services Assistant – Human Resource Services
- Federico Bassetti, Program Coordinator – Innovation
- Ryan Doe, Route Driver – Materials Management
- Elliot East, IT Support Associate – Libraries
- Pernevlon Ellis Jr., Program Coordinator – Family and Consumer Sciences
- Ian Findley, Office Support Specialist – Psychology
- Kevin Harris Jr., Program Coordinator – Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
- Alexander Hinton, Program Adviser – Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
- Emmalynn Hoyt, IT Technical Associate – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Tracy Jones, Program Adviser – Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
- Teslin Kerley, Administrative Aide – Huskie Academic Support Center
- Lauren Lett, Alumni Relations Assistant Director – University Advancement and NIU Foundation CEO
- Sarah Lowry, Administrative Assistant – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Larry Madlock, Business/Administrative Associate – College of Law
- Ahmed Olagunju, Program Coordinator – Continuing and Professional Education
- Michael Panagouleas, Steam and Power Plant I – Heating Plant
- Taryn Sarto, Office Support Associate – College of Visual and Performing Arts
- Paige Shinberg, Program Coordinator – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Jason Vong, Information Technology Assistant Manager – Bursar

Retirements

- Ann Apple, Business/Administrative Associate – College of Law
- LeAnn Baie, Office Manager – College of Law
- Patricia Gingrich, Administrative Assistant – Office of the Ombudsperson
- Gail Jacky, Program Director – Huskie Academic Support Center
- John Norris, Automotive Technician – Transportation
- David Scharenberg Jr, Safety/Environmental Compliance Associate – Environmental Health and Safety
- Krzysztof Siuba, Steam and Power Plant III – Heating Plant

Separations

- Austin D'Amore, Program Adviser – Student Support Service
- Amber Davis, Medical Education Program Coordinator – Nursing
- James DeForest, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Andrea Drott, Program Director – Counseling and Consultation Services
- Karyn Drott, Main Desk Attendant – Holmes Student Center
- Pernevlon Ellis Jr., Program Coordinator – Family and Consumer Sciences
- Timothy Klagues, Program Adviser – Special and Early Education
- Crispin Prebys, Graphic Designer – University Marketing
- Sadia Qamar, Program Assistant – Asian American Resource Center
- Noah Rhea, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Stephanie Robinson, Police Telecommunicator – Public Safety
- Anthony Solorio, Auditorium Technical Assistant Director – Holmes Student Center

August 2023

Welcome New Employees

- Sayantani Adhikari, IT Support Associate – VP Research and Innovation Partnerships
- Magaly Avila Rodriguez, Program Assistant – P-20 Center
- Megan Becker, Program Coordinator – Family and Consumer Sciences
- Sean Briner, Main Desk Attendant – Holmes Student Center
- April Buckley, Administrative Aide – University Honors Program
- Melissa Burin, Dietitian Nutritionist – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Keonte Caldwell, Police Officer – Public Safety
- Dylan Cranden, Assistant Transportation Manager – Transportation
- Travis de Oliveira, Food Service Sanitation Laborer – Residential Dining Service
- Nikolas DiGiulio, Events Coordinator – Holmes Student Center
- Noah Dosier, Human Resource Officer – Human Resource Services
- Elana Fleshman, Child Development Associate – Child Development and Family Center
- Prashanth Gurralla, IT Technical Associate – Application Services
- Christopher Hoffmann, Police Officer – Public Safety
- Jeanette Johnson, Office Manager – Family and Consumer Sciences
- Raymond Kimmons Jr., Distribution clerk – Campus Dining Service
- Gregory Lumzy, Police Officer – Public Safety
- Dawn Macheck, Office Support Specialist – Mathematical Sciences
- Ashley McVady, Office Manager – College of Law
- Joshua Pethoud, Sports Facilities Manager – Intercollegiate Athletics
- Krishna Rayanapati, IT Technical Associate – Report Cards
- Isaiah Rivera, Human Resource Officer – Human Resource Services
- Jamie Stigall, Program Adviser – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Ladu Suliman, Police Officer – Public Safety
- Anna Walker, Snack Bar Attendant – Campus Dining Service

Retirements

- Cindy Thompson, Office Manager – Finance
- Mary Willimas, Collection Manager – Bursar

Separations

- Oliver Camacho, Program Adviser – CHANCE Program
- Linda Condon, Program Adviser – University Honors Program
- Jacob Ellis, Food Service Sanitation Laborer – Residential Dining Service
- Nicole Greenlee, Accounting Officer – Holmes Student Center
- Joshua Hetland, Distribution Clerk – Campus Dining Service
- Christopher Hoffmann, Police Officer – Public Safety
- Caryl Johnson, Admissions and Records Associate – Registration and Records
- Malia Jones, Food Service Area Supervisor – Residential Dining Service
- Justin Klecka, Building Service Worker – Building Services
- Elizabeth Kravcik, Office Administrator – College of Health and Human Sciences
- Xanthe Kuhn, Program Assistant – Orientation and Family Connections
- John Quillman, Security Guard – Public Safety
- Juanpablo Ramirez, Radio TV Producer Announcer I – Northern Public Radio
- Dahlia Roman, Program Coordinator – Family and Consumer Sciences
- Marissa Shaver, Anthropology Curator – Anthropology
- Dana Williams, Food Court/Snack Bar Supervisor – Campus Dining Service
- Sharetta Young, Human Resource Representative – Human Resource Services

Service Awards

July 2023

5 Years

- Robert Carlson – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Pamela Clark Reidenbach – Northern Illinois Center for Non-Profit Excellence
- Elbia Del Llano Menendez – Latino Resource Center
- Robin Greer-Jogun – Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault
- Christopher Janes – Infrastructure Services
- Amanda Lepic – College of Business
- Matthew McCue – Human Resource Services
- Ariel Owens – Diversity and Equity
- Nisha Patel – Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault
- Michael Peet – Building Services
- Bruce Reid – CHANCE Program
- Marissa Wolfe – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

10 Years

- Rachel Evitt – Physical Plant
- Lianne Mace – Illinois Board of Examiners

15 Years

- Cecelia Bolles – Procurement Services and Contract Management
- Ellen Hamrick – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Deyci Ramirez – CHANE Program
- Erin Reid – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Tina Zenzemi – Music

20 Years

- Patricia Fisher – Student Affairs Central
- Mildred Tyne – Allied Health and Communicative Disorders

25 Years

- Susan Armbrust – Office of Information Security
- Crystal Garvey – Admissions Systems and Processing
- Henry Schwab – Office of Information Security

August 2023

5 Years

- Vincent Cioni – Grounds
- Eisa Garcia – Child Development and Family Center
- Savannah Guerrero – Application Services
- Christine Holloway – Graduate School
- Beth Reiter – Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Cindy Robinson – Campus Dining Services
- Sarah Senechalle – Sponsored Programs Administration
- Darek Willimas – University Legal Services
- Pamela Wixom – Disability Resource Center

10 Years

- Xiao Bao – Institutional Research
- Petia Borissova – Continuing and Professional Education
- Meredith Eskoff – College of Business
- Yvonne Johnson – Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
- Kyle Tichy – Financial Aid and Scholarship Office

15 Years

- Kate Hartman – College of Law Library

20 Years

- Emily Reilly – Office of Student Engagement
- Lise Schlosser – Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

25 Years

- Rebecca Leneau – College of Law
- Terri Mann-Lamb – Residential Dining Service
- Javier Vargas – Building Services
- Laura Weber – Sociology
- Brian Young – Building Services

30 Years

- Victoria Peel – Accounts Payable and Travel

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