Dear members of the operating staff at NIU:
This will be my last letter to you since I am planning my retirement June 30. I enjoy working here, but have an 8-year-old granddaughter in Wisconsin and want to more closely share her growing up. I love my job and this university and it will be tough to leave. We’ve come a long way toward better visibility, influence and shared governance and I hope that this will continue. There are so many ways to be involved on a larger scale on campus and our voices need to be heard. Acting President Freeman and many others, including faculty and students, want us to be involved in committees, commissions and searches. We have a depth of experience, perspective and wisdom that is invaluable to keeping NIU on track and moving forward.

I, personally, thank all of you who’ve supported, encouraged and criticized me along the way. All of this feedback has helped, and a lot of it has been passed along to those who need to hear it. Please do not be afraid to speak up, get involved and help to change our workplace into the best that it can be.

I’m happy to report that the AFSCME Local 1890 (which encompasses about 600 of the operating staff) recently ratified their first initial bargaining agreement. It was approved by the Board of Trustees at their May 10 meeting, and became effective immediately. It was an uphill climb, a battle at times, but this is a solid foundation to move forward into the future. This unit will never again go seven years without a wage increase.

Forward, my fellow Huskies, into summer enjoyment and relaxation! All the best to you in future years as well.

Barb Andree, President
bandree@niu.edu
Operating Staff Council 2017–2018

Operating Staff Council Election Results
Please join us in welcoming our newly elected members and alternates to Operating Staff Council! We appreciate your willingness to serve. Thanks also to all who participated in the elections.

**Newly elected (or re-elected) OSC members**
David Berg
Stacey Bivens
Natasha Johnson
Renee Kerwin
Jay Monteiro
Nancy Skelley
Karen Smith
Debbie Williams

**Newly elected OSC alternate members**
Rebekka Ayres
Rave Meyer
Jesse Tellez
Health and Wellness Fair Held March 28
The Operating Staff Council again had a table at the 2018 Health and Wellness Fair in the Ellington Ballroom. We raffled off a number of items and told attendees about how they could keep our OSC Dependent Scholarship healthy by payroll or automatic account deductions. We also gave out yummy apples (to keep the doctor away).

These are the winners and their prizes:
- Red and Black Golf Umbrella – Mary Schlagel, Safety Officer II, Environmental Health and Safety
- Stadium Chair – Debbie Evans, Library Specialist, University Libraries
- Gordon Flesch Portfolio/Binder – Ashley Grazutis, Student
- Huskie Blanket - Bridgett Davis – Benefits Officer, Human Resource Services
- Bountiful Blessings Farm gift certificate – Liz Mehren, Admissions/Records Officer, Registration and Records

If you would like information on contributing to the OSC Dependent Scholarship, please contact Jay Monteiro at 753-1676 or email jmonteiro@niu.edu.

Presidential Commissions Accepting Membership Nominations
The Office of the President invites nominations of faculty, staff and students for appointment to presidential commissions for terms to begin fall 2018. Self nominations are welcome. Forward nominations, including name, title classification (faculty, instructor, supportive professional staff, operating staff, undergraduate student, graduate student), campus address, email, telephone number and a brief statement summarizing your qualifications and desire to serve to Pat Erickson, Office of University Council, at pje@niu.edu. Commission appointments will be made during the summer.

Descriptions of the commissions:

**Presidential Commission on the Status of Minorities**
The Presidential Commission on the Status of Minorities (PCSM) advises the president on the status of minority students, faculty and staff and makes recommendations to improve the quality of life and opportunities for minorities at NIU.

**Presidential Commission on Interfaith Initiatives**
The Presidential Commission on Interfaith Initiatives (PCII) advises the president on issues and concerns related to the diversity of belief systems represented at NIU. Its members also recommend research and actions needed to advance these matters.

**Presidential Commission on the Status of Women**
The NIU Presidential Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) advises the president on issues and concerns related to the status of women at NIU.

**Presidential Commission on Persons with Disabilities**
The Presidential Commission on Persons with Disabilities (PCPD) advises the president regarding issues and concerns related to people who have disabilities with an emphasis on promoting issues of physical, virtual and attitudinal accessibility. The commission collaborates with others on campus to improve the campus climate, advocate for accessibility and increase the university community’s awareness of issues concerning individuals with disabilities.

**Presidential Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**
The Presidential Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (PCSOGI) is the primary channel by which advice is given to the president of NIU on issues and concerns affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals at the university. The commission makes recommendations on actions needed in areas including academic programs, student services, workplace matters, university policies and the general campus environment.

2018 Outstanding Service Awards
The Outstanding Service Award is presented each year to up to four NIU civil service employees. The objective of this award program is to recognize individual civil service employees who have demonstrated outstanding service and have made significant contributions to the university community. A $1,500 award and a plaque were presented to each recipient of the award at the Annual Operating Staff Service Awards Banquet May 3.

**2018 Recipients**
- Kathryn Buffington
- Cathy Cradduck
- Julie Miller
- Debra Rempfer

NIU Golf League
Now that spring has finally found northern Illinois, hearts and minds wander to the thought of … golf! Did you know there is an NIU golf league? Don’t worry, they welcome both novices and seasoned veterans alike and it’s a great way to enjoy fresh air, exercise and get to know more of your NIU colleagues. You can create your own team of 3-5 players, or join individually and they will place you on a team. This is a full handicap league, so any team can win, and many weeks there will be prizes for particular accomplishments designed to reward all skill levels.

They play at Buena Vista Golf Course in DeKalb. Reserve a time and play any day of the week or join us during the set of reserved league tee times on Tuesdays, 5-5:30 p.m. All scores must be in the NIU Box located at BV golf course by Sunday each week.

League play begins the first week of June and runs to the week that begins Aug. 27, 2018 (ending Sept. 2). Cost is $30 per player with all proceeds to go toward league prizes. Get your registration in soon and start playing to establish your handicap for the start of league play.

Contact Mike Stang, 753-6170; mstang@niu.edu for more information and a form to complete with your team (if desired). Please submit information as quickly as possible.
Employment Changes

**MARCH 2018**

**Welcome New Employees**
Jessica Cima, Administrative Aide—Development Administration
Michael Haase, Assistant Athletic Communication Director—Intercollegiate Athletics
Brian Haynes, Senior Event Administrator—Convocation Center
Katelyn Heinekamp, Program Adviser—Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality
Jared James, Police Telecommunicator—Public Safety
Kevin Lam, Procurement Officer—Procurement and Strategic Sourcing
Brittany Lawrence-Cockrell, Program Adviser—Orientation and Family Connections
Jennifer McAdams, Office Support Associate—Military Science
Manoj Mukkamala, IT Technical Associate—NIU Outreach P-20
Jorie O’Brien, Financial Aid Adviser Coordinator—Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
Ashley Palmer, Office Manager—Asian American Resource Center
Jessica Seipp, Human Resource Associate—Human Resource Services
Bradford Thacker, Catering Supervisor—Conference Services
Dale Thurman, Manager—Operation Services
Mandy Wesott, Program Adviser—College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
Passion Williamson, Program Adviser—Nursing
Allyson Woith, Interpreter Hearing Impaired—Disability Resource Center

**Changes**
Jason Bolles to Housing Officer—Housing and Residential Services
Mary Ensor to Accountant I—Holmes Student Center
Scott Galto to Steam and Power Plant III—Heating Plant
Barbara Hancock to Business Manager II—Housing and Residential Services
Kathryn Minick to IT Technical Associate—Operation Services
Shari Snell-Drilling to Office Administrator—Mathematical Sciences

**Department Changes**
Douglas Ball, Assistant Chief Instructional Media Systems Engineer to Outreach and Engagement Administration

**Retirements**
Robert Bergman, Steam and Power Plant III—Heating Plant
John Kirk, Manager—Application Services

**Separations**
Sherri Barber, Publicity Promotion Specialist—DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance
Karen Benson, Office Support Specialist—Nursing
Angela Bergstrand, Food Service Administrator III—Campus Dining Services
Daniel Cardinell, Food Service Sanitation Laborer—Campus Dining Services
Jonathan Cassidy, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Andrew Collins, Auditorium Technical Director—Convocation Center
Jeffrey Cowles, Safety Officer II—Environmental Health and Safety
Tomas Cuizon, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Charles Dailey, Grounds Work—Grounds
Jerry Dobson, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Samantha Gaul, Program Assistant—University Honors Program
Robin Kenney, Business/Administrative Associate—Development Administration
Patrick Lahaie, Financial Aid Adviser Coordinator—Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
Yessica Martinez, Security Guard—Public Safety
Brian Mihalik, IT Support Associate—Operation Services
Cordelia Parham, Office Support Specialist—Statistics
David Pottinger, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Steven Sarver, Administrative Assistant—Development Operations
Thomas Shannon, Mailing Equipment Operator/Expediting I—Materials Management
Elizabeth Slouka, Police Officer—Public Safety
Tiffany Varnell, Office Support Specialist—University Recreation and Wellness
Darlene Wilson, Culinary Worker I—Campus Dining Services
Hsin-Ju Yu, Admissions/Records Specialist I—Admissions Tours and Events

**APRIL 2018**

**Welcome New Employees**
Omobola Balogun, Business/Administrative Associate—Development Administration
Spencer Blank-Jones, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Sarah Carli, Image Processing Technician I—Integrated Media Technologies
Renee Comeford, Medical Records Technician—Health Services
Evan Forbes, Multimedia Supervisor—Holmes Student Center
Mark Kalal, Mailing Equipment Operator/Expediting I—Materials Management
Veronica Klaus, Office Manager—Student Legal Assistance
Jami Kunzer, Editorial Writer—Office of Institutional Communication
Michael Montavon, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Jaclyn Ohlerich, Office Manager—Political Science
Lorraine Propheter, Public Information Specialist—Web and Internal Communication
Jeniece Smith, Public Information Coordinator—Office of Creative Services
Ameetkumar Upadhyay, IT Technical Associate—NIU Outreach P-20

**Changes**
Michael Ford to Application Support Specialist I—Application Services
Douglas Rapp to Steam and Power Plant III—Heating Plant

**Death**
Barbara Coulter, Office Support Specialist—Center for Governmental Studies

**Department Changes**
Jeannine East, IT Manager/Administrative Coordinator to Outreach and Engagement Administration
Timothy Meyers, Storekeeper I to Materials Management
Jeremy Shearon, Storekeeper II to Materials Management

**Retirements**
Merilee Kurbis, Culinary Worker I—Campus Dining Service
Carlos Raices, Building Service Foreman—Building Services
Brandt Zies, Building Service Worker—Building Services

**Separations**
Magdalene Barringer, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Maria Burciaga, Human Resource Representative—Human Resource Services
Matthew Drew, Electrician—Physical Plant
Jeannette Glaude, Office Manager—Industrial and Systems Engineering
Troy Harness, Security Guard—Public Safety
Veodiles Jones, Jr., Food Service Stores Laborer—Campus Dining Services
Ian Tancun, Office Support Specialist—Geography
Service Awards

MARCH 2018

5 Years
Aaron Bloyd—Grounds
Jeff Fairless—Physical Plant
Diane Hill—University Advancement and NIU Foundation CEO
Josiah Hooker—Grounds
Jake Hutchins—Grounds
Joanne King—Grounds
Joanna Kulma—University Libraries
Alan Mullenbach—Physical Plant
David Pedersen—Integrated Media Technologies
Connie Rolon—Holmes Student Center
Ryan Smith—Campus Dining Services
Bradford Smith—Transportation

10 Years
Michael Engelman—Holmes Student Center
Dennis Grant—Public Safety
Logan Halstead—Building Services
Daniel Leifker—Public Safety

15 Years
Ann Apple—College of Law

20 Years
Yvette Lubbers—Campus Parking
Kathryn Minick—Operation Services
Hope Montavon—Admissions Systems and Processing

APRIL 2018

5 Years
David Diaz—College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
Jeremy Hernandez—Operation Services
Cheryl Lubbers—College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
Belinda Roller—Architectural/Engineering Services
David Smith—Integrated Media Technologies

10 Years
John Barnett—Public Safety
Melissa Burlingame—Environmental Studies
Abigail Mogge—Northern Public Radio
Judith Stecker—Holmes Student Center

15 Years
Tammie Hada—Psychology

20 Years
Gwendolyn Campbell—Office of the Ombudsperson
Mark Fagerstrom—Grounds
David Holliday—Grounds
Catina Maxwell—University Libraries
Patricia Yenerich—University Press

25 Years
Tammy Shelton—DoIT-Admin-Business-Finance

30 Years
Julie Miller—Sponsored Programs Administration
Joanne O’Donnell—Operation Services

Changes Coming to Campus

Please note that there are big changes coming to Holmes Student Center and an addition of Einstein Bagels/Caribou Coffee in the Founders Memorial Library. The lower level will be closed in May, including the Blackhawk Café, Bookstore, Subway and the OneCard office. Here are the details https://www.niu.edu/hsc/renovation/index.shtml

Einstein Bagels and an updated café in the library have already been opened. Here are more details: go.niu.edu/librarybagelscoffee