President’s Corner

Greetings NIU Operating Staff!

Effective January 1, 2006 we received a 1% salary increment and many operating staff received a 2% supplemental increment. Unfortunately, this is by no means indicative that things are financially sound at the state level. Underfunding of the state pension systems remains an important issue for all state employees. Senate Bill 27 (Public Act 94-0004) diverted $1.2 billion in state contributions to the pension systems this fiscal year and will divert another $1.1 billion next fiscal year. The state will continue to divert funds from the system over the next ten years for a total of approximately $4.85 billion. The effects of the pension underfunding could result in raising pension contributions and healthcare premiums, as well as cutting healthcare benefits of current employees, and changing benefits for new hires…or worse. It is in the best interests of all NIU and state employees to be informed regarding the status of funding for the state pension system and be alert to possible implications for the future. Also, please share your thoughts and concerns about funding for the pension system with your local legislators.

35th District, State Senator
Bradley Burzynski
505 DeKalb Avenue, PO Box 348
Sycamore, IL 60178
(815) 895-6318
info@senatorbrad.com

70th District, State Representative
Robert Pritchard
2600 DeKalb Ave., Suite C
Sycamore, IL 60178
(815) 748-3494
70thdist@pritchardstaterep.com

Employees hired on or before March 31, 1986 may be eligible for optional election of Medicare coverage due to Public Act 94-0415. Those eligible for election of Medicare (approximately 300 NIU employees) should be receiving a letter regarding an upcoming informational meeting which will be presented by SURS and Social Security on Monday, March 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the Carl Sandburg auditorium. Election of Medicare should be determined on a case by case basis, depending on your individual circumstances. For questions about the election of Medicare, contact Debbie Haliczer in Human Resource Services at 753-6039 or dhaliczer@niu.edu.

Stop by and visit the OSC table at the Wellness Fair on March 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend Operating Staff Council meetings. OSC meets the second Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m., in HSC 406. If you have a particular issue you would like the OSC to address you can contact one of our 16 members. We usually have the agenda posted in HSC and on our website (www.niu.edu/osc) a week before meetings. The website also lists OSC member contact information.

Rachel Turner, President
Operating Staff Council 2005-2006
UNIV 101/201 Instructors

First-Year Connections is looking for prospective UNIV 101/201 instructors for fall 2006. UNIV 101 is a one-credit, 12-week course designed to assist freshman in developing the necessary academic and social skills to make the most of their experience at NIU. UNIV 201 is a similar course designed to meet the specific needs of transfer students.

Teaching UNIV 101/201 offers the opportunity to impact new students as they adjust to life at NIU. Instructors also have the option to work with a peer instructor: a volunteer upperclass student trained to assist in the classroom as an additional resource.

Instructors must be current or retired members of the NIU faculty, staff or administration; have completed at minimum a master’s degree; and have prior experience teaching at the college level.

Interested candidates who do not meet the last two criteria may have the opportunity to co-instruct. Typically, UNIV instructors receive a stipend of $1,000 for teaching a single section or $500 for co-instructing. All instructors must attend the required workshops and department meetings.

Contact firstconn@niu.edu or visit http://www.orientation.niu.edu/orientation/FYC/InstructorApplications.htm for more information.
Changes and Promotions

- Marcia Bradlee to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Karen Brint to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Neil Burtness to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Ruth Carlson to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Nellie Davis to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Marcia Dick to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Luann Dreska to Secretary IV—Kinesiology and Physical Education
- Wanda Enburg to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Dawn Erickson to Library Operations Associate—University Libraries
- Deborah Evans to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Jane Farmer to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Elizabeth Fenwick to Library Operations Associate—University Libraries
- Jane Ferro to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Lisa Fisher to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- James Gable to Environmental Health and Safety Technician III—Environmental Health and Safety
- Patricia Galvan to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Craig Gilbertson to Library Specialist—College of Law Library
- Clifford Golden to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- David Groat to Library Specialist—College of Law Library
- Linda Groat to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Mark Hamilton to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Cheryl Hauptman to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Bonnie Hines to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Teresa Jacobson to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Kenneth Kamm to Library Clerk—University Libraries
- Susan Kapost to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Annamaria Katona to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Mary Krasula to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Mark Mattson to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Catina Maxwell to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Larry Metcalf to Storekeeper II—Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Joan Metzger to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Mitra Mohabbat to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Jo Ellen Montavon to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Elaine Murray to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Christine Myroth to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Sandra Neering to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Madelyn Nelson to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Linne Nevitt to Administrative Assistant I—Vice President Research and Dean of Graduate School
- Sherry Patterson to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Elizabeth Pottenger to Library Clerk—University Libraries
- Catherine Prothero to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Ginger Prothero-Schwersen to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Debra Reynolds to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Ismail Said to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Pamela Sampson to Library Assistant—College of Law Library
- Patrick Sanchez to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Angela Schroeder to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Peggy Simonds to Business Manager I—Alumni Services
- Charlene Smith toAccount Technician II—Art
- Lynne Smith to Library Specialist—College of Law Library
- Cynthia Snyder to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Barbara Sullivan to Library Assistant—College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Deborah Turner to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- James Tyne to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Sophia Varcados to Graphic Designer III—Media Services
- Maria Wilk-Siuba to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Ruthann Yeaton to Library Assistant—University Libraries

Name Change

- Erika Tavizon to Erika Cerventes, Secretary IV—Mathematical Sciences

Retirements

- Todd Adee, Medical Radiography Specialist—Health Services
- Judy Contreras, Building Service Worker—Building Services

Separations

- Lynette Abell, Bookstore Department Supervisor—Holmes Student Center
- Russell Hill, Kitchen Helper—Housing and Dining
- Judith Krajewski, Publicity Promotion Specialist—Northern Public Radio
- Laurie Kramer; Cashier II—Holmes Student Center
- Paul Slobodnik, Building Service Worker—NIU Outreach Naperville
- Vishnuwardhan Thatikonda, Microcomputer Support Specialist II—Media Services

Death

- John Thompson, Building Service Foreman—Holmes Student Center

Welcome New Employees

- Leslie Meier, Library Assistant—University Libraries

Changes and Promotions

- Dennis Abbott to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Margaret Abbott to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Nancy Adams to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Patricia Arne to Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Sharon Barry to Library Clerk—College of Law Library
- Ronald Barshinger to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
- Dale Benson to Communications Network Specialist III—NIUTEL-Telecomm Services
- Stacey Bivens to Library Assistant—University Libraries
- Cheryl Smith to IT Technical Associate—Registration and Records
- Evelyn Smith to Ambulatory Care Supervisor—Communicative Disorders
- Richard Stefinsky to Maintenance Repair Worker—Lorado Taft
- Kenneth Whitney to Food Service Chef—Housing and Dining

December 2005
Retirements
Cecilia Brennan, Secretary IV—Literacy Education
Alfonso Contreras, Plant Stationary Engineer Lead—Physical Plant
Mona Hamilton, Medical Assistant—Health Services
Charnelle Lewis, Secretary IV—Media Services
Deborah Pettit, Police Lieutenant—Public Safety
Richard Skinner, Building Services Superintendent—Building Services
Thomas Spillman, Stationary Engineer—Physical Plant
Patricia Venners, Housing Representative—Housing and Dining
James Wheatley, Stationary Fireman—Physical Plant

Separation
Gregory Nenia, Building Service Worker—Building Services

Service Awards:

December 2005
5 year Award
Charles Boehning—Holmes Student Center Custodial
Danielle Harrolle—Nursing
Matthew Lewis—Kinesiology and Physical Education
Ann Nelson—Counseling and Student Development

15 year Award
Dorthy Bierman—Housing and Dining
Debbie Cullison—Information Services

20 year Award
Karen Grubb—Communication
Sue Saari—Vice Provost

January 2006
5 year Award
Luanne Davison—Holmes Student Center Food Service
Takako Day—Payroll and Compensation
Rosamond Esary—NIUTEL—Telecomm Services
Denise Frakes—Holmes Student Center Bookstore

15 year Award
James Boyes—Carpenter Shop
Diane Nece—Student Involvement and Leadership Development

25 year Award
Joyce Chaney—Student Affairs
Suman Krishan—Neptune Central Food
Thomas Miller—Procurement Services
Dedrie Rudolph—Holmes Student Center Bookstore

35 year Award
Lisa Parts—College of Health and Human Sciences

25 year Award
Joyce Chaney—Student Affairs
Suman Krishan—Neptune Central Food
Thomas Miller—Procurement Services
Dedrie Rudolph—Holmes Student Center Bookstore

35 year Award
Lisa Parts—College of Health and Human Sciences