Hello Operating Staff  
What a great day to be a HUSKIE!  
I wanted to take a moment to update you on a recent development for myself and one that I believe will benefit us all.  
At the January meeting of the Employee Advisory Committee of the State Universities Civil Service System, I had the distinct honor of being elected chair of the committee. With this honor comes the privilege of representing all Illinois state university civil service employees by functioning in an advisory capacity to the Merit Board on “all matters pertaining to the University System.” It will be our mission to develop, maintain and administer a comprehensive and efficient program of human resource administration for the higher education community. I look forward to this new challenge and representing you.  
On a local note: Can you feel the excitement on campus? The searches are finalizing for a new provost, a new chief financial officer and a new chief information officer. With these new positions being filled, we are setting the direction of our campus community for years to come and repositioning ourselves to continue to be the great Northern Illinois University!  
Now if we can just do something about this weather.  
Best Regards,  
Andy Small, President  
Operating Staff Council 2013–2014

Oops!  
In the last newsletter we listed the following people as reaching a 30 year milestone in November when they actually reached 25.  
Ronald Castenson—Housing & Dining  
Marjorie Holiday—Psychology  
Donald Kozlowski—Housing & Dining  
Donna Reid—Northern Public Radio  
Michael Sheehan—Building Services  
Alan Tody—Network & Communication Services  
It was also reported that Kristin Bigelow, who had 10 years of service in October, works in Public Safety. She in fact works in Controller & Accounting. Our apologies.

2014 Patricia S. Siebrasse Administrative Professional Award for Excellence  
The Administrative Professionals Advisory Council is now accepting nominations for the 2014 Patricia S. Siebrasse Administrative Professional Award for Excellence. For additional information and to download the nomination form, visit the following website link: http://www.niu.edu/apac/Award/index.shtml. The award will recognize the outstanding performance of an Administrative Professional at NIU who demonstrates continued commitment to their field, operational efficiency within the organization and provide meaningful contributions to NIU.  
Nomination deadline: Friday, February 28, 2014. Submit electronic nominations at apac@niu.edu or via campus mail to: Human Resources, Patricia Siebrasse Award
**Nominations Sought for Outstanding Service Award**

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 plaque is presented to each recipient of the award at the Annual Operating Staff Awards Banquet in Spring and a $1,500 award, which is considered taxable wages and subject to payroll deductions, will be received by the Outstanding Staff Award recipients shortly thereafter. Deadline for nominations is Friday, February 28, 2014. Show the Civil Service employees in your area who go the extra mile that they do make a difference, and are greatly appreciated for that.

For more information and the nomination forms please visit [www.niu.edu/osc/serviceaward/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/osc/serviceaward/index.shtml)

**Nominations Invited for Ally Awards**

The NIU LGBT & Women’s Resource Center is now accepting Ally Award nominations for its annual Ally Awards recognition ceremony, scheduled Wednesday, April 9.

Ally Awards are a way to recognize individuals, departments, and groups who have done something positive for the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning) community. The event is co-sponsored by the Presidential Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and the LGBT Studies Program.

Individuals are encouraged to nominate those who have shown their support for LGBTQ people and the community during the school year.

Nominees can be recognized for contributing to campus awareness about LGBTQ issues through a program or event, providing support to LGBTQ organizations on campus, taking actions that help improve the university climate for LGBTQ people and more.

The nomination form is available online at [http://www.niu.edu/lgbt/resourcecenter/events/allyprogram/allyawards_nomination.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/lgbt/resourcecenter/events/allyprogram/allyawards_nomination.shtml). Nominations are due by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28.

For more information, contact Molly Holmes, director of the LGBT & Women’s Resource Center, at (815) 753-5428 or lgbt@niu.edu.

**LGBT Studies Sets “Third Thursday” Topics**

Each academic year, the LGBT Studies Program sponsors a series of brown-bag lunch presentations featuring LGBT research or scholarship by NIU faculty members or graduate students.

All events begin at noon in the Blackhawk Annex of Holmes Student Center. For more information, call 815-753-1038 or email kmyers@niu.edu.

**March 20**

“Queering a Human Rights Issue: LGBT on a Global Scale”

Trude Jacobsen, associate professor of history and assistant director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies

In some countries, homosexuality is not only illegal but considered an offense punishable by death. Jacobsen will offer an enlightening presentation that will consider the state of LGBT rights across the globe.

**April 17**

“The Power and Shame of Coming Out”

Romeo Jackson, coordinator of the LGBT Resource Center's Straight Talk Speakers Bureau

Coming out has been a powerful tool to create social change. Many attribute the rapid rate in the shift for marriage equality to the viability of Lesbian Gay Bisexual (LGB) folks on TV and in our families. The queer movement was built around the power of coming out; for this reason, we rarely examine the coming out narrative for fear of offending. When we hear the national narrative on coming out, rarely do we see the experiences of trans* and asexual folks represented. Often, these experiences are looked over. Because of this, the coming out process experienced by trans* and asexual people are often neglected or more problematically belittled.

**Faculty, SPS Invited to Teach UNIV 101/201**

Interested in helping first-year students learn how to succeed at NIU? Apply to become a UNIV 101/201 instructor for fall 2014.

UNIV 101 is a one-credit, 12-week course focused on helping first-year students develop the essential academic and social skills needed to make an enjoyable and successful transition to NIU. UNIV 201 is a similar course designed specifically for transfer students.

In fall 2013, 91 sections of UNIV 101/201 were offered and 1,643 first-year NIU students enrolled.

As a UNIV 101/201 instructor, you can impact the experiences of these new students and provide them with resources to help them adjust to life at NIU.

Instructors must:
- be current or retired members of the NIU faculty, staff or administration;
- hold master’s degrees;
- have prior teaching experience.

Candidates who do not meet the last two criteria can be paired with teaching coaches.

It is highly recommended that new instructors attend one of three overview meetings to learn more about the position from First-Year Connections staff and experienced UNIV instructors. RSVP to firstconn@niu.edu with the date you plan to attend. Those who are unable to attend because of prior commitments should contact Kelly Smith at firstconn@niu.edu.

Instructor overview session:

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 3 p.m. in HSC Illinois Room

UNIV 101/201 instructors typically receive a stipend of $1,000 for teaching an individual section or $500 for co-instructing. Once hired, all instructors are required to attend training workshops, department meetings and participate in course feedback through email correspondence and surveys.

Applications are due Friday, March 21. Priority is given to applications received by Friday, Feb. 28.

For more information, call (815) 753-0028 or email firstconn@niu.edu.
Say What?!
Monthly ‘Diversity Discussions’ to explore topics that impact campus
Say What?! Diversity Discussions are monthly events that provide individuals with the opportunity to discuss topics of diversity that impact NIU campus culture. Join NIU Housing and Dining for an hour-long discussion each month on varying topics as faculty, staff and students explore the depths of these themes.
For more information, call (815) 753-1525 or email housingdining@niu.edu.
TRUE LIFE: I Am A Student Parent
7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, Northern View Community Center MPR
Being a student can be tough, but can you imagine what it is like with additional responsibilities? What would the added responsibilities of being a parent look like in your day-to-day schedule? Come learn about non-traditional student parents on campus and explore your own ability to manage time through a fun activity.
TWISTED LANGUAGE
7 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, Stevenson Hall Meeting Room 103
Ever said something you regret? Ever been surprised by what someone else has said? Come and have a discussion about the power of language.
THE DIVERSE LEARNER: Does Spelling Madder?
7 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, New Hall Dining Swing Space
Come explore the experiences of individuals with hidden disabilities. Understand their journey and what support systems on campus can help them achieve their educational goals. Please join us to learn about hidden disabilities, share your journey, learn more about the NIU Disability Resource Center, and hear from others who have opened up about their journeys.

Employment Changes

December 2013
Welcome New Employees
Maurice Bailey, Route Driver—Materials Management
Matthew Hoffman, Business/ Administrative Associate—Illinois Board of Examiners
Jason Stieger, Route Driver—Materials Management
Sheila Wagner, Account Technician II—Intercollegiate Athletics
Tracy Wescott, Office Support Specialist—Intercollegiate Athletics

Changes
Kelli Bradley to Assistant Program Director—Student Involvement & Leadership Development
Bradley Crocker to Steam Power Plant II—Physical Plant
Susan Foose to Staff Nurse II—Health Services
Lauren Kuprius to Financial Aid Adviser Coordinator—Student Financial Aid
Paul Lethby to Central Stores Manager I—Materials Management
Virginia Meo to Business/Administrative Associate—Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

Department Changes
Jeanne Essex, Office Manager to Family, Consumer & Nutrition
Susie Hill, Office Manager to Art
Mollie Montgomery, Administrative Assistant to Executive Vice President and Provost
Terri Smialek, Accountant II to Physical Plant

Retirements
Becky Haselton, IT Technical Associate—Housing & Dining
Stuart Roach, Route Driver—Materials Management

Separations
Thomas Boken, Jr, Cashier III—Campus Parking
Pamela Wood, Cooks Helper—Housing & Dining

January 2014
Welcome New Employees
Ronald Allison, Residence Hall Attendant—Public Safety
George Bahramis, Police Telecommunicator—Public Safety
Milo Barsanti-Gonzalez, Multimedia Communications Associate—Alumni Services
Lee Clark, Medical Assistant—Health Services
Scott Conwell, Steam & Power Plant I—Physical Plant
Michael Corson, Steam & Power Plant I—Physical Plant
Jamie Daniel, Kitchen Helper—Housing & Dining
Terry Dobson, Cook—Housing & Dining
Lorry Ekstrom, Kitchen Helper—Housing & Dining
Curtis Grimes, IT Technical Associate—Housing & Dining
Mitchell Hake, Kitchen Helper—Housing & Dining
Pamela Harris, Office Support Specialist—Educational Technology Research and Assessment
Lisa Johnson, Kitchen Helper—Housing & Dining
Evan Klepec, Sports Equipment Supervisor—Intercollegiate Athletics
Rafael Lopez, Security Guard—Public Safety
Kerianne Mahoney, Program Coordinator—President International Affairs
Kyla Matheson, Clerk—College of Engineering & Engineering Technology
Cody Moses, IT Technical Associate—Network & Communication Services
Bruce Osterle, Kitchen Helper—Housing & Dining
Sharon Rubo, Kitchen Helper—Housing & Dining
Kathleen Scott, Residence Hall Attendant—Public Safety
Trenton Sexton, Steam & Power Plant I—Physical Plant
Nycol Velez, Kitchen Helper—Housing & Dining
Jill Vodden, Program Coordinator—Vice President International Affairs
Chad Vonderheide, Cook—Housing & Dining
John Wayman, Assistant Equal Opportunity Officer—Human Resource Services
Carrie Weeks Knowski, Paralegal Assistant—University Legal Services

Changes
Jo Boling to Cook—Housing & Dining
Elizabeth Chilton to Account Technician II—Intercollegiate Athletics
Sonia Fagan to Office Support Specialist—President’s Office
Jay Monteiro to Human Resource Associate—Human Resource Services
Patrick Sheridan to Food Service Sanitation Lab—Housing & Dining

Department Changes
Jodi Tyrrell, Clerical Assistant to President’s Office

Retirements
Mary Bernardino, Graduate Placement Officer—Career Services
Jaye Danekas, Steam & Power Plant III—Physical Plant
Ward Hearn, Maintenance Equipment Operator—Grounds
Albert Lundgren, Biomedical Engineering Technician III—Psychology
Ruth Maher, Office Support Specialist—Holmes Student Center
Service Awards

**DECEMBER 2013**

**5 Years**
- Johnathon Foster—Physical Plant
- Melissa Schultz—Human Resource Services
- Paul Wrezinski—Housing & Dining

**10 Years**
- Douglas Moore—Building Services
- Gerald Phillips—Building Services
- Barbara Willert—Conference Services

**15 Years**
- Varsenig Geisler—Nursing & Health Studies
- Linda Korth—Human Resource Services

**20 Years**
- Benjamin Thomas—Housing & Dining

**25 Years**
- Barbara Jones—Human Resource Services

**30 Years**
- Paula Ruff—Student Financial Aid

**JANUARY 2014**

**5 Years**
- Charles Anderson—Housing & Dining
- Michelle Anderson—Public Safety
- Jason Gordon—Chemistry & Biochemistry
- Barbara Hancock—Art
- Karrie Kirk—Development Operations
- Mia Lenon—Public Safety
- Gail Myers—Special and Early Education
- Charlotte Rangel—Public Safety

**10 Years**
- Lucinda Brunner—Public Safety
- Cynthia Freidinger—Housing & Dining
- Jason John—Public Safety
- Andrew Karp—Housing & Dining
- Brian Niles—Building Services

**15 Years**
- John Anderson—Materials Management
- Ray Contreras—Building Services
- Michael Ford—Network & Communication Services
- Miguel Pasillas—Housing & Dining
- Steven Seldal—Housing & Dining
- James Smith—Building Services
- Sandra Stockwell—Conference Services
- Terri Stover—Psychology
- Anthony Van Slyke—Document Services
- Maria Wilk-Siuba—Human Resource Services

**20 Years**
- Lynn Slater—Music
- Peggy Williams—Literacy Education

**25 Years**
- Mark Hamilton—University Libraries
- Leslie Pergament-Nenia—Literacy Education

**30 Years**
- Nancy Adams—University Libraries
- Cindy Barnes—Controller & Accounting
- Nancy Schuneman—Center for South East Asian Studies

**35 Years**
- Carol Holdridge—Admissions

**45 Years**
- Antonio Martinez—Building Services