President’s Corner

Hello Operating Staff,

The FY14 year is quickly coming to a close, and another group of NIU graduates are getting ready to embark to their successful careers. The winter was brutal, and I know that we are ready for spring and new life to come to campus.

I hope that most of us have taken advantage of the opportunity to become involved in **Bold Futures** workshops. In them, we learned of the opportunities that are presenting themselves in these changing times. With declines in state funding and enrollment and an unprecedented retirement rate brought on by pension reform, we will need to change.

Change is never easy. There will be stress and anxiety for the foreseeable future. But there is an opportunity for a transformation to become better. To become strong. To become a new NIU.

Now is a time that we must work together as never before—to make sure that we thank the person who works with us, who is on the other end of the phone or text, who is feeling the pains of change as we are. Now is the time that we must be the help and resource that makes our students feel the opportunity of change.

So to that end, I thank each of you for your part in becoming the change that will make us stronger, make us better, and make us NIU!

Thank You,

Andy Small, President
Operating Staff Council 2013–2014

How May I Help You?

When was the last time you heard those words? Operating Staff Services (OSS) is ready, willing, and able to help you reach your employment goals. Did you know that current staff can test for any Civil Service position at any time, provided the minimum qualifications established by SUCSS (State Universities Civil Service System) have been met? It’s not necessary to wait for a position to be posted – why not take that Civil Service test now? All you need to do is submit a completed Request to Test form (www.hr.niu.edu/Resources/File.cfm?ID=13800) to Human Resources. If you don’t currently meet the minimum qualifications, OSS staff can tell you what’s missing or provide suggestions for alternatives. If you meet the qualifications, the HR Testing Office will contact you to schedule a time to take the test. Several of the tests don’t even require you to come in – you simply provide an up-to-date resume. If you’re not sure what tests you might like to take, Employment Coordinators are also available to review your resume and discuss options with you. You can find the Request to Test form on the HR web site, under Forms & Documents, or contact HR at 753-6000 to schedule a time to meet with an Employment Coordinator. Please don’t forget to check the HR web site for posted vacancies as well.
NIU Celebrating Excellence Event to Begin Saturday, April 12

Northern Illinois University’s second-annual Celebrating Excellence event—which begins Saturday, April 12, and runs through May 1—has more than tripled in terms of the number of functions highlighting the many accomplishments and contributions of NIU students, faculty and staff to the university’s mission during the academic year. Last year’s event included 16 different activities.

“We invite the community to join us in celebrating the many students, faculty, staff and alumni who provide excellent examples of what can be accomplished when we embrace the concept of student career success in fulfilling our mission,” said NIU President Doug Baker, noting most events are free and open to the public.

Although a few functions have already taken place, the official event kicks off Saturday, April 12, with NIU Cares Day and presentations from Nancy Lublin, the founder of Dress for Success and CEO of DoSomething.org. In addition to speaking to NIU Cares Day volunteers and students in the University Honors Program, she will present “Finding your inner entrepreneur” at 3:30 p.m. in the Holmes Student Center’s Carl Sandburg Auditorium, with a reception to follow in the Gallery Lounge. Both events are free and open to the public.

“We are pleased with the expansion upon our first-year efforts to make Celebrating Excellence at NIU more inclusive of university-wide events in various disciplines,” says Julia Spears, director of the NIU Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning. “We believe that by integrating all of these previously unrelated events under one umbrella, we can enhance the recognition of those honored.”

During this annual observance, many events will take place including presentation of the university’s most prestigious faculty awards, presentations of outstanding research by graduate and undergraduate students, recognition of outstanding alumni and lectures by top faculty and visitors.

Additional highlights of the three-week-long celebration include the following and more:

• Honors Day, Sunday, April 13;
• Dawn Dekle, president of American University of Iraq-Sulaimani, will lead several open forums April 14-15, including a public lecture in the Altgeld Hall Auditorium at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 14;
• NIU Student Association Student Choice Awards, 7 p.m. April 14;
• Supportive Professional Staff Awards Ceremony & Reception, April 15 at 2 p.m.;
• Undergraduate Research & Artistry Day and Outstanding Graduate Student Recognition Reception on Wednesday, April 22;
• The April 24 Annual Faculty Awards Ceremony and Reception;
• Alumni Awards Banquet on Friday, April 25;
• Kevin D. Knight Leadership Awards Ceremony, Tuesday, April 27; and
• The Victors—an ESPN-style program celebrating the athletic, academic and community successes of NIU’s student-athletes—Monday evening, April 28, at the Egyptian Theater, 135 N. Second St. in DeKalb.

To be included as a Celebrating Excellence activity, an event must reward, honor or recognize excellence in research, artistry or service on campus; highlight a university-wide or multi-disciplinary activity or award; and/or honor contributions to the academic excellence of the institution.

“It is important to recognize the achievements of NIU’s students, faculty and staff, and generating greater awareness for the wonderful things happening here at NIU,” said Bradley Bond, dean of the NIU Graduate School and associate vice president for graduate studies.

A comprehensive schedule of events is available online at www.niu.edu/excellence, and in a program distributed in the Northern Star student newspaper and at most activities.

Operating Staff Employees Sought to Represent Employee Council on Six University Committees

Have a voice. Join a committee. NIU’s Operating Staff Council is seeking employees interested in serving on campus committees.

Representatives are needed for the:

• Affirmative Action and Diversity Resources Advisory Committee (one representative for a two-year term)
• Athletic Board (one representative for a three year term)
• Campus Parking Committee (two representatives for a three year term)
• Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee (one representative for a two-year term)
• Community Standards & Student Conduct Advisory Board (one representative for a three-year term)
• University Council (one ex-officio member and one alternate for a one-year term)

More information on the openings and an “interest form” are available online on the OSC website. Detailed descriptions on University Committees can be found at http://www.niu.edu/u_council/committees/2013-14/INDEX.shtml.

Council members expect to fill the vacancies during their Thursday, June 5, 2014 meeting.

In addition, The Office of the President invites nominations of faculty, staff and students for appointment to the four presidential commissions for academic year 2014-2015. Self-nominations are welcome.

• Presidential Commission on Persons with Disabilities
• Presidential Commission on the Status of Minorities
• Presidential Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
• Presidential Commission on the Status of Women

Forward nominations, including name, classification (faculty, Supportive Professional Staff, Operating Staff, student), address, email, telephone number and a brief statement summarizing your qualifications and desire to serve to Pat Erickson, Office of the University Council, at pje@niu.edu.

For more information, call (815) 753-6865 or email hhofst@niu.edu.
Employment Changes

**FEBRUARY 2014**

**Welcome New Employees**
Carrie Aldrich, Hearing Impaired Interpreter — Disability Resource Center
Alicia Anderson, Business/Administrative Associate — Controller & Accounting
Laverne Boyle, Office Support Associate — College of Health & Human Sciences
Nadine Covalsky, Admissions/Records Specialist I — Registration & Records
Sylvia Flowers, Financial Aid Adviser — Student Financial Aid
Matthew Kacskos, IT Technical Associate — Information Services
Jane Legorreta, Food Service Administrator II — Family, Consumer & Nutrition
Jennifer Manning, Housing Administrator — Housing & Dining
Caress Moss, Kitchen Helper — Housing & Dining
Kristin Rinehart, Program Coordinator — College of Education

**Changes**
Zachary Bohn to Office Manager — Nursing & Health Studies
Anthony Carter to Steam and Power Plant II — Physical Plant
Wade Duerkes to Senior Photographer — Media Services
Cindy Kubasiak to Office Manager — Finance
Heather Meyer to Account Technician II — Development Operations
Anthony Wedick to Graphic Designer — VP Marketing & Communications
Ashleen Woods to Office Support Specialist — Nursing & Health Studies

**Department Changes**
Patricia Bernhardt, IT Support Associate to Information Technology Services
Terry Dobson, Mailing Equipment Operator/Expediter to Materials Management
Pamela Harris, Human Resource Assistant to Human Resource Services
Karen Mishler, Administrative Assistant to VP Research

**Separations**
Theresa Braun, IT Technical Associate — Information Services
Jacob Bresson, Storekeeper II — Physical Plant
Jayenta Chowdhury, Program Assistant — Visual & Performing Arts External Programming
Lee Clark, Medical Assistant — Health Services
Jaseman Hatcher, Telephone Operator II — Customer Support Services
Travis Jennings, Equipment Service Worker — Building Services
Mary Jo Martin, Office Support Associate — Theatre & Dance
Justin Tatro, Route Driver — Materials Management

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**MARCH 2014**

**Welcome New Employees**
Trent Busse, Building Service Worker — Building Services
Jerry Dobson, Building Service Worker — Building Services
David Dodson, Building Service Worker — Building Services
Dina Fowler, Office Support Specialist — Educational Technology Resource & Assessment
Jordan Habenschuss, Office Support Associate — Nursing & Health Studies
Amanda Harms, Staff Nurse II — Health Services
Christine Horn, Kitchen Helper — Housing & Dining
Suzanne Jourdain, Office Support Associate — Theatre & Dance
Arezou Kashani, Program Adviser — International Student & Faculty Office
Joseph Kauzlarich, Clerk — College of Engineering & Engineering Technology
Tracy Mereness, Office Support Specialist — Industrial & Systems Engineering
Michael Mosolino, Building Service Worker — Building Services
Kerry Perrella, Office Support Specialist — Architecture & Engineering
Barbara Sanford, Chief Clerk — Motorcycle Safety
Crystal Slaughter, Office Support Specialist — Scholarship Office
David Snow, Program Adviser — Leadership, Educational Psychology & Foundations
Theresa Stack, Special Events Facilitator — Holmes Student Center
Shelby Tolleriv, Building Service Worker — Building Services
Penelope Turgeon, Library Assistant — University Libraries
Sarah Warzecha, Admissions/Records Representative — CHANCE Program
Jessica Williams, Office Support Associate — College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Zachary Wood, Building Service Worker — Building Services

**Changes**
Delia Briggs to Account Technician II — College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Stephanie Brown to Immigration Specialist — International Student & Faculty Office
Diane Garman to Admissions/Records Supervisor — Registration & Records
Suzanne Kohler to Office Support Specialist — College of Health & Human Sciences
Charlotte Rangel to Police Telecommunicator Supervisor — Public Safety

**Department Changes**
Angela Camp, Office Support Specialist to Educational Technology Research & Assessment
Diane Drake, Administrative Assistant to Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
Tina Haile, Financial Aid Adviser to Student Financial Aid
Jessica Quinn, IT Support Associate to Customer Support Services
Heidi Rudolph, Administrative Assistant to Materials Management
Charisma Turner, Building Service Worker to Building Services
Katharine Ubik, Admissions/Records Specialist I to Registration & Records

**Death**
Gary Ferris, Building Service Worker — Building Services

**Retirement**
Carol Engel, Admissions/Records Specialist I — Admissions

**Separations**
Erika Cervantes, Office Support Specialist — Mathematical Sciences
Barbara Daker, Administrative Aide — NIU Outreach Non-Credit Program
Margaret Deberge, Office Support Specialist — Educational Technology Research & Assessment
Jason Gordon, Glass Blower — Chemistry & Biochemistry
Susan Kwosek, IT Support Associate — Information Services
Jennifer Pietrandrea, Account Technician — Intercollegiate Athletics
Jamaria Purdis, Residence Hall Attendant — Public Safety
Anne Quinlan, Program Adviser — University Honors Program
Rayshawna Thomas, Residence Hall Attendant — Public Safety
Kwame Williams, Residence Hall Attendant — Public Safety

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**Service Awards**

**FEBRUARY 2014**

**5 Years**
Samantha Pastorik — Building Services
Jennifer Pietrandrea — Intercollegiate Athletics

**10 Years**
Lakeisha Jackson — Graduate School

**15 Years**
Bonnie Seebach — Campus Parking
Peggy Simonds — Alumni Services
Jennifer Withers — Electrical Engineering

**20 Years**
Robert Banke — Media Services
Jeffery Glass — Northern Public Radio
Douglas Marsh — Grounds
Elizabeth Mehrnen — Registration & Records
Billy Roberson — Holmes Student Center
25 Years
James Brown—Housing & Dining
Renee Kerwin—Foreign Language & Literature
Sherri Metsker—Human Resource Services

30 Years
Beth Bjorneby—Center for Burma Studies

March 2014
5 Years
Maria Christiansen—Public Safety
William Covert—Health Services
Michael Elmendorf—Lorado Taft
Nicholas Lowery—Psychology

10 Years
Mary Jane Allen—Management
Andrew Collins—Convocation Center
Edward Dawson—Convocation Center
Jacqueline Miller—Psychology
Judy Rosenbaum—Health Services
Brian Schneider—Housing & Dining
Vicky Trotter—Development Administration
Jennifer Young—Campus Child Care

15 Years
Judy Flores Sender—Human Resource Services
Thomas Harris—Holmes Student Center
William Nixon—Document Services
Gary Parquette—Housing & Dining
Jane Schroeder—Testing Services
Peter Suffield—Building Services
Christine Wilhelm—Building Services
Hope Willrett—Controller & Accounting

20 Years
Marian Swenson—Information Services

25 Years
Clifford Golden—University Libraries

30 Years
Jill Draves—Special & Early Education
Jeffrey Sherman—Bursar

Wellness Fair 50/50 Winner
The 50/50 winner for the Wellness Fair was Christine Lagattolla, Assistant Director - Campus Recreation. Christine won $94.00 and our Staff Dependent Scholarship fund is $94.00 richer too! Congratulations Christine!

Monday Morning Email Digest of Announcements to Begin April 14
Beginning Monday, April 14, all NIU students and employees will receive a mass email digest of announcements.

To streamline the number of university announcements being sent to niu.edu email boxes, notices intended for the entire campus audience – employees and students – will be distributed as a digest email Monday mornings. These notices also will be posted in NIU Today on the Announcements page.

Announcements to smaller, targeted groups of employees and students will continue to go out on demand as long as they are submitted with three business days of lead time and earn administrative approval.

Announcement requests will now be processed through the Marketing & Communications Clearinghouse form. Messages should be submitted for the review and approval process by 4:30 p.m. Thursday to be included in the following Monday’s digest.

For more information, email announcements@niu.edu.