Spring is here! I hope a lot of you were able to get to the Wellness Fair and learn about all the services available on campus and in the surrounding community. I hope you also stopped by the Operating Staff Council booth to learn more about us. Our meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m., in HSC 406. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings. 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. OSC members are listed at the website as well.

On March 14, I gave testimony at the legislative summit held at Kishwaukee Community College, hosted by Representative Robert Pritchard. Senator Brad Burzynski was in attendance along with staff from the offices of Governor Blagojevich and Speaker Madigan. I would like to thank Kathy Buettner and Ken Zehnder from External Affairs and Economic Development for inviting the presidents of the councils and senates at NIU and giving us advice on testifying before legislators.

If there is a legislative issue you feel strongly about, our elected officials should hear from you. Addresses for key people to contact are included here as are ways to get the names and addresses for other lawmakers. Another great resource is the NIU Annuitants Association. For those of you with Internet access, their website is www.niu.edu/annuitants/index.shtml. Keep in mind, it is unethical to use university phones, computers, fax machines, and letterhead to contact your representatives.

**President’s Corner**

President George W. Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500
Phone: 202-456-1414
Fax: 202-456-2461

Senator Richard J. Durbin
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1304
Phone: 202-224-2152
Fax: 202-228-0400

Senator Barack Obama
40b Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1305
Phone: 202-224-2854
Fax: 202-228-5417

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217-782-0244
Fax: 217-524-4049

You can get names and addresses of your congressional representatives by calling 202-224-3121 or go to www.house.gov/.

You also have a voice in the Operating Staff Council elections. Be on the lookout for ballots and vote! Also, information is being mailed about vacancies on university committees and the presidential commissions. It’s time to get involved!

**Donna Smith, President**

Operating Staff Council 2004-2005
Cash, money orders, and personal checks are acceptable forms of payment. Documents can be found on the Secretary of State’s website at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. Appropriate identification for a new, lost, or stolen license or ID is required. A list of these dates is as follows: 18, May 9 and 23, June 27, July 25, August 15 and 29, September 12 and 26, October 11 and 24, November 7 and 21, and December 5 and 19.

The mini facility will be open for business in Diversions from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on April 18, May 9 and 23, June 27, July 25, August 15 and 29, September 12 and 26, October 11 and 24, November 7 and 21, and December 5 and 19.

Appropriate identification for a new, lost, or stolen license or ID is required. A list of these documents can be found on the Secretary of State’s website at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. Cash, money orders, and personal checks are acceptable forms of payment.

Know Your Operating Staff Council

Name: Marcia Dick
NIU position: Library Technical Assistant II, Reference unit in Founders Memorial Library; Also library Coordinator for Services for Persons with Disabilities
Came to NIU: September 15, 1986
Years on council: Six, I intend to run again for another 3 year term this summer.
Offices held: No offices. I have served on the OSC Benefits Committee for the past 5/6 Years.
Community associations: Member St. Mary’s Church DeKalb; Stage Coach Theater season ticket holder; Huskie Athletic Association and Hoop Troop; Barb City Manor Friends
Family: Husband Thomas, recently retired from NIU, daughter Darcy Knha in LaGrange, son Robby Dick in Crystal Lake and eight grandchildren (4 granddaughters and 4 grandsons – a good balance)
Proudest achievements, personal and professional: Having two children who have become great loving parents themselves, and having a husband who is happy in retirement. On the job I’ve had four upgrades in the 16 years I’ve been in the library, and the newer technology has really changed the focus of what I do. I also received the Clogston Spirit Award in 2000 for advocacy for persons with disabilities, a nice honor bestowed by the Presidential Commission on Persons with Disabilities, and now I sit on that commission. (My first two years on campus I was a Middle Cook at Stevenson)
Hobbies, interests: Flower gardening with a few vegetables, following most Huskie sports teams, reading and trying to keep current with the “grands” ages 1-10
Nobody knows that: I was the Stockton High School Homecoming Queen in the fall of 1965. We lost the game, but I did date the quarterback, not Tom; although he was QB of his team, also SHS 1955-58.
Favorite task or activity: My flowers, they bring me and others a lot of enjoyment. I also enjoy coming into work everyday and kidding around with my friends.
I would do anything to avoid: Cleaning for company, and grocery shopping. Thank goodness my darling husband does that now!
Favorite play, movie or book: I never tire of watching the Godfather series and the Star Wars films. Any play that stage Coach Theater does is good, and I did enjoy reading the Jan Karon Mitford series of books, very light, easy reading. I am trying to read through the Harry Potter series of books now, so I can discuss them with my grandchildren.
Favorite entertainer(s): Andrea Bocelli, Beach Boys, Beatles, Roy Orbison, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye, Supremes, the do-wop groups, Josh Groban and Charlotte Church. I like Hilary Swank, Meg Ryan, Meryl Streep, Joan Allen, Halle Berry, Tom Hanks, Dustin Hoffman, Al Pacino, John Travolta, Robin Williams and Denzel Washington films.
I am or have been most inspired by: I am inspired by my mother; who turns 90 this summer. She is very independent and very caring, and she’s taught me to always trust my instincts as they will never fail me. She also believes there is good in every person, sometimes we just need to look for it.

Holmes Student Center Offers Mobile Driver’s License Facility

NIU students, faculty and staff can now renew their driver’s license, get new or duplicate driver’s licenses or state IDs as well as renew their annual vehicle license plate sticker on campus. The program will bring the Secretary of State’s Mobil Unit to NIU on a monthly basis.

The mini facility will be open for business in Diversions from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on April 18, May 9 and 23, June 27, July 25, August 15 and 29, September 12 and 26, October 11 and 24, November 7 and 21, and December 5 and 19.

Appropriate identification for a new, lost, or stolen license or ID is required. A list of these documents can be found on the Secretary of State’s website at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. Cash, money orders, and personal checks are acceptable forms of payment.

StaffFest 2005

StaffFest 2005 is quickly approaching. Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 11, 2005 for another opportunity to interact with coworkers, get acquainted with new people, have another delicious lunch and perhaps win a door prize at StaffFest 05 in the Holmes Student Center Ballroom.

This year’s event is a “Salute to the Operating Staff”

For our salute, we would like to have one picture of each department on campus. Hopefully each department can submit a digital photo to Rachel Turner of Outreach Services at rxt@niu.edu. If you have any questions on what dpi, how or when, Rachel can be reached at 753-1385 or through Groupwise. If you do not have a digital camera and would like to have a picture taken, give Rachel or any Council member a call. We will see that someone arranges a photo shoot. If there happens to be someone in your building that has a digital camera and would be so kind as to shoot one or several departments in your building, it would be greatly appreciated. We would like all photos to be submitted by July 15, 2005. If you have a regular photo and would like to send it to Rachel to scan, you can do that also. When submitting any photo, please include the name of the department, contact person and phone number.

Do you have a business, or know someone with a business that would like to donate a door prize to our event? Donations will be accepted (with approval of the StaffFest Committee) by calling LaRonda Thuested at 753-1576.

This event is open to all current operating staff, retired operating staff and current extra help personnel and is made possible thanks to the generosity of our NIU Administration. Invitations will be mailed out soon with the deadline to reply by July 21, 2005 to receive your free ticket and be entered into the door prize drawing.

If you have any questions, please call LaRonda, or send an email to lthuesta@niu.edu.
Employment Changes:

January 2005

Welcome New Employees:
- Tiffany Adams, Clerk—Orientation and Campus Information
- Patrick Camardo, Police Officer—Public Safety
- Glynecie Cornwell, Kitchen Helper—Housing and Dining
- Nadine Cruz-Saubert, Child Development Supervisor—Campus Child Care
- Valerie Hall, Secretary III—Communicative Disorders
- Celina Ismail, Parking Services Agent I—Public Safety
- Ronald Klock, Building Service Worker—Holmes Student Center
- Guadalupe Lopez, Child Development Supervisor—Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences
- Jeanne Meyer, Police Officer—Public Safety
- Jose Ocana, Catering Supervisor—NIU Hoffman Estates
- Daksha Patel, Account Technician I—Intercollegiate Athletics
- Theresa Perkins, Secretary III—Admissions
- Gregory Reed, Police Officer—Public Safety
- Jeanne Sixta, Research Nurse—Vice President Research and Dean of Graduate School
- Alan Smith, Jr., Police Officer—Public Safety

Changes and Promotions:
- Patricia Arndt to Accountant I—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Amber Bates to Library Technical Assistant I—University Libraries
- Lorell Carlso to Clerk—Registration and Records
- Clare Foust to Program Administrative Assistant—International Programs
- Stephanie Kruizenga to Secretary IV—Student Affairs
- Christine Myroth to Library Technical Assistant II—University Libraries
- Margaret Russell to Staff Secretary—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Patrick Sanchez to Library Technical Assistant I—University Libraries
- Charles Schumann, Jr. to University Network Coordinator—Customer Support Services
- Gina Unger to Secretary IV—English
- Maria Wilk-Siuba to Library Technical Assistant II—University Libraries
- Maria Winclawski to Staff Secretary—College of Business

Name Changes:
- Jodi Harlan to Jodi Heitkamp, Cartographer—Geography
- Rachel Schroeder to Rachael Muszynski, Police Officer—Public Safety
- Heidi Bornkassel to Heidi Rudolph, Staff Secretary—College of Business
- Sara Holtapp to Sara Tomlinson, Secretary III—Counseling and Student Development
- Jennifer Wessel to Jennifer Young, Child Development Supervisor—Campus Child Care

Retirements:
- Darla Brantley, Administrative Aide—Executive Vice President and Provost
- Catherine Delaforet, Building Service Worker—Building Services
- Barbara Falk, Staff Nurse II—Health Services
- Joseph Hon, Food Service Administrator III—Housing and Dining
- Wayne Kersten, Building Service Worker—Holmes Student Center
- Dennis Lewis, Kitchen Laborer—Housing and Dining
- Theodore McLean, Building Service Worker—Building Services
- Richard Townsend, Sports Equipment Supervisor—Intercollegiate Athletics

Separations:
- Terrance Black, LAN Administrator—Registration and Records
- Shelly Hamlin-Roderick, Library Technical Assistant I—University Libraries
- Madeline Hatcher, Research Nurse—Vice President Research and Dean of Graduate School
- Nakiia Matthews, Parking Services Agent I—Public Safety
- Jana Osmani, Library Technical Assistant I—University Libraries
- Judith Prena, Audiologist—Communicative Disorders
- Gleneal Smith, Secretary IV—Nursing

Death:
- Randal Roller, Building Services Superintendent Assistant—Finance and Facilities Operations

February 2005

Welcome New Employees:
- Janet Brown, Cook—Housing and Dining
- Kim Fannon, Building Service Worker—Building Services
- Cathleen Finnan, Cook—Housing and Dining
- Denise Franklin, Cook—Housing and Dining
- Cheryl Fuller, Secretary IV—Art

Changes and Promotions:
- Robin Andersen to Staff Secretary—Finance and Facilities
- Paula Behrends to Chief Clerk—Registration and Records
- Dayle Burgess to Staff Nurse II—Health Services
- Amy Deegan to Secretary IV—Faculty Development
- Rodolfo Galindo to Food Service Administrator II—Housing and Dining
- Mark Gregory to Food Service Administrator III—Housing and Dining
- Deborah Gutierrez to Secretary IV—College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Thomas Kapraun to Chief Clerk—Visual and Performing Arts External Programming
- Ninfa Nieto to Clerk—Document Services
- Tammy Stevens to Grants and Contracts Administrator I—Controller
- Sandra Stockwell to Food Service Area Supervisor—NIU Rockford

Name Change:
- M. Cristine Henry to M. Cristine Black, Secretary IV—Finance and Facilities

Retirements:
- Kathy JessendaL, Admissions/Records Specialist I—Registration and Records
- Kenneth Mundy, Payroll Manager—Human Resource Services
- Mary Perry, Secretary IV—College of Education
- William Welch, Purchasing Officer III—Procurement Services

Separations:
- Jessica Lanning, Admissions/Records Specialist I—Registration and Records
- Penny Moser, Maintenance Repair Worker—Lorado Taft
- Lethika Panicker, IT Technical Associate—Enterprise Systems Support
- Patrick Schneider, Police Officer—Public Safety
Camyle Tate, Secretary III—Student Support Services
Shawn Wolff, Building Service Worker—NIU Naperville

Service Awards:

February 2005

5 Year Award
Christopher Baker—Biological Sciences
George Brown—Building Services
Michael Crase—Building Services
Clare Foust—International Programs
Linda Gahlbeck—Building Services
James Kunkel—Customer Support Services
Joseph Pasteris—Housing and Dining
Tammie Pulak—Building Services
Rhonda Richards—Building Services

10 Year Award
Patricia Adams—Document Services
Terry Albright—University Legal Services
Nancy Ondera—College of Engineering and Engineering Technology

15 Year Award
Raymond Becker—Heating Plant
Elizabeth Sloan—Registration and Records
Tammy Stevens—Controller
Laura Wagner—Holmes Center Food Service

20 Year Award
Neil Burtness—University Libraries
Ronald Fuller—Heating Plant
Arthur Lundgren—Refrigerator and Air Conditioning

25 Year Award
Betty Baugh—Women’s Resource Center

30 Year Award
Sally Kerbel—Housing and Dining

March, 2005

5 Year Award
Jeffrey Anderson—Building Services
Christine Berg—Health Services
Deirdre Davis—Building Maintenance
Gregg Fieffer—Finance and Facilities
Tara Holler—Affirmative Action and Diversity Resources
Terri Humes—University Libraries
Jeffrey Lang—Building Services
Dawn Ragan—Holmes Center Custodial
Patrick Sanchez—University Libraries
Charles Statler—Building Services
David Strozewski—Building Services
Lori Viereckl—Building Services

10 Year Award
Victoria Ortega—Holmes Center Custodial
Mary Perry—College of Education
Freddie Pugh—VP Research and Dean of Graduate School

15 Year Award
Charles Mossberg—Materials Management
Joseph Safranek—Building Services
Debra Thompson—Counseling, Adult and Higher Education

20 Year Award
C. Sue Brammerlo—Teaching and Learning
Susan Manlove—History
G. Morris—Holmes Center Administration
LaRonda Thuestad—Controller

25 Year Award
Mary Lou Raih—Holmes Center Food Service
Freyja Rasmussen-Johns—Biological Sciences
Karen Schweitzer—Political Science

Week of the Young Child

The Week of the Young Child (April 3–9, 2005) is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation’s largest organization of early childhood professionals, with more than 100,000 members. The purpose of this week is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to support the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

This year’s WOYC theme is Children’s Opportunities – Our Responsibilities.

Childhood is a time of enormous opportunities – a time when children grow, learn, strive, dream and build the foundations for their futures. Every moment of a young child’s life is a chance to learn more about the world, to develop social skills, and to gain critical knowledge and abilities. These early experiences lay the groundwork for all later learning, and help children succeed in school and beyond.

As parents, teachers, policymakers, community leaders, and concerned adults, we all share responsibility for making sure young children get the most out of those opportunities. It’s up to all of us to make the early years count.