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SUCSS Website

The State Universities Civil Service System (SUCSS) has enhanced their website. Included at this site are helpful tips to prepare for an examination, a practice typing test using the new typing program and some practice “clerical questions”. These new features can be accessed by clicking on the “Employment/Test Tips” section of the SUCSS website at the following address: www.sucss.state.il.us.

For additional information, please feel free to contact Rose Miller, Supervisor of Civil Service Testing, at 753-6033.

Your Pension, Your Benefits, and You

Who is looking out for your pension and retirement benefits? The NIU Annuitants’ Association (NIUAA) and the State University Annuitants’ Association (SUAA) are actively involved in making sure your pension and retirement benefits are protected and expanded through their lobbying and political involvement.

Your membership in NIUAA automatically includes membership in SUAA. Please consider joining over 1,600 NIU currently employed and retired faculty and staff, and their spouses and survivors who now belong to NIUAA. Your joint membership in SUAA means you become one of over 14,000 members statewide, thus providing a meaningful political presence.

A vital function of NIUAA and SUAA is to monitor state funding for the SURS pension program and State Health Insurance Plan and to lobby to maintain and enhance our benefits. In the past, our lobbying efforts have resulted in improved benefits, and we can be effective now. At these times of never-ending fiscal crises, it is even more important to protect our benefits from “legislature nullification.” Extensive lobbying by the SUAA and grassroots efforts by the local affiliates continues to be needed.

Three critical areas of retirement benefits are not guaranteed in the State Constitution; and, therefore, are open to attack. These are:

- Our invaluable, funded health insurance,
- Our annual three percent cost of living adjustment,
- Our exception from State income tax on annuity payouts (another three percent benefit).

Continued on page 2
Sarah Burke is a French Language and Literature major. She expects to graduate in Spring 2008 after which she plans to become a high school French teacher. She would like to bring a photo ID. Payroll deduction is the preferred method since it provides for an automatic annual renewal. Membership application and dues payment forms may be downloaded from the NIUAA website: www.niu.edu/annuitants/

Please consider joining NIUAA today to help us protect your pension and benefits. To join, complete and return the appropriate forms. If you have questions, you may call Lee Ann Henry of the Office of University Advancement at 753-7406.

Operating Staff Dependent Award Winners

Sarah Burke is a French Language and Literature major. She expects to graduate in Spring 2008 after which she plans to become a high school French teacher. She would also like to continue her education to a Ph.D. in French language and become a professor. Sarah is in the NIU Honors Program and is a member of Phi Eta Sigma honors society. Sarah is the daughter of Jack and Juanita Burke. Jack is a storekeeper in Materials Management.

Stephen Clark is a 1999 graduate of DeKalb High School. After high school, Stephen attended Northwestern University where he was a Cum Laude graduate with a degree in Communications Studies. Stephen is currently attending NIU’s School of Law and plans to enter the United States Marine Corps Judge Advocate Program. Stephen is a member of a number of professional and collegiate organizations. Stephen is the son of Lon Clark from Media Services and Kathleen Clark from the Internal Audit department.

Human Resource Services Blood Drive

On Wednesday, December 13th, Human Resource Services will be hosting their annual Blood Drive. It will be held in Rooms HR166 and HR178 of the Affirmative Action and Diversity Resources section of the HR building. The blood drive will run from 9:00am until 1:00pm. Average time for blood donation is 45 minutes.

The Blood Drive will be conducted by the Heartland Blood Centers. HBC is a community blood center that is open 24 hours a day seven days a week. They provide and deliver all blood products to local hospitals for total patient care. HBC works toward collecting more than 100,000 units of blood annually. At least 1900 donors are needed each week to meet this need. One blood donation can save up to three people since the pint is broken down into three distinct components – plasma, platelets and red blood cells.

Appointments can be made by calling 753-6000. Walk-ins are welcome too. Please remember to bring a photo ID.

Know Your Operating Staff Council

Name: Dorothy Razniewski
NIU position: Financial Aid Advisor/ Scholarship Coordinator
Came to NIU in: 1985 as an Account technician, left in 1986 and came back in 1987 to present position. Originally from Chicago.
Years on Council: Just completed my third month
Office Held: March of Dimes committee chair for the past five years. Former President of University Women’s Club. Former committee member of League of Women’s Voters (DeKalb Chapter).
Community associations: Team Captain for NIU Sparklers past 18 years. Volunteered as a judge for the 2006 Regional History Fair and will volunteer again this year.
Family: Ron my Husband retired from NIU in May 2006 from Document Services. My daughter Dawn and grand-daughter Dominique reside in Riverside, California.
Proudest achievements: Received my Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies in 2001 while working full time. Only took me a short 12 years and enjoyed every class. Received recognition as an NIU Outstanding Woman in 2001. The following year I was fortunate to visit my dad’s place of birth – Poland
Hobbies, interests: Enjoy decorating and creating silk floral pieces. Keeping fit and eating right is first on my list and I have taught classes on fitness.

Nobody Know That I: Like to save things and get lost easily unless you give me good directions. Now everybody knows!
Favorite task or activity: Long bike rides, Karaoke, working in the garden, horseback riding, hot air balloon rides.
I would do anything to avoid: Camping – those days are over!
Favorite play, movie, or book: Cat’s the Musical was one of my favorites. The Diary of Anne Frank both the movie and the book.
Favorite entertainers: Dick Contino, Tony Bennett, Josh Grobin, Brett Midler, Cher, Celine Dion, Carol Burnet, Yanni and Elvis still.
I am, or have been most inspired by: The dedication shown toward our country by the troops that have been deployed to Iraq. I’m proud to be an American!
Employment Changes

Welcome New Employees:
Kerig Anthenat, Kitchen Helper—Housing and Dining
Kathleen Cain, Staff Nurse I—Health Services
Jaycen Curran, IT Technical Associate—Information Services
Charvette Ellis, Building Service Worker—NIU Outreach Naperville
Lemonia Lekkas, Kitchen Helper—Housing and Dining
Sean Noplos, Cook—Housing and Dining
Anne Ortscheid, Admissions/Records Specialist I—Vice President Research and Dean of Graduate School
Marsha Rotamal, Kitchen Helper—Housing and Dining
Janet Smith, Secretary IV—Student Involvement and Leadership Development
Debra Walter, Human Resource Representative—Human Resource Services
Daniel Williams, Kitchen Helper—Housing and Dining
Terry Williams, Police Officer—Public Safety

Employee Changes:
Judy Andres to Secretary IV—Retention Programs
Patricia Arne to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
Debra Benson to Administrative Secretary—Presidents Office
Stacey Bivens to Library Specialist—University Libraries
Lorraine Greffe to Secretary IV—College of Law
Rebecca Hughes to Secretary III—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Steven Imler to Data Processing Equipment Technician III—Customer Support Services
Patricia Koca to Staff Secretary—History
Tamera Lawson to Printing Estimator—Document Services
Rebecca May to Purchasing Officer IV—Procurement Services
James McCabe to Building Service Sub-Foreman—Building Services
Carlos Raices to Building Service Sub-Foreman—Holmes Student Center
Catherine Stoddard to Survey Interview Supervisor—Public Opinion Lab
Jessica Tyrrell to Account Technician I—Controller
Christine Welch to Administrative Assistant II—Executive Vice President and Provost
Barbara Willert to Catering Supervisor—NIU Outreach Naperville
Ruthann Yeaton to Secretary IV—Student Involvement and Leadership Development

Name Changes:
Lisa Allison to Lisa Gambino, Secretary IV—Registration and Records

Separations:
Patrick Camardo, Police Officer—Public Safety
Beth Faivre, Human Resource Assistant—Human Resource Services
Stephen Freels, Instructional Media System Technologist—Media Services
Michael Marshall, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Joseph Matteis, Assistant Facilities Manager—NIU Outreach Hoffman Estates

October 2006

Welcome New Employees:
Anthony Canady, Security Guard—Public Safety
Justin Douglas, Security Guard—Public Safety
Patricia Guilfoyle, Secretary IV—Chemistry and Biochemistry
Noreen Hudspeth, Cook—Holmes Student Center
Laura Keyes, Secretary III—College of Law
George King, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Jennifer Ridge, Secretary IV—Asian American Resource Center

Change in Title:
Ann Clark to Admissions/Records Officer—Registration and Records
Erin Corwin-Surwilto to Admissions/Records Representative—VP Research and Dean of Graduate School
Ilene Covert to Admissions/Records Officer—Registration and Records
Patricia Dalen to Admissions/Records Officer—VP Research and Dean of Graduate School
Sammie Doty to Admissions/Records Officer—Registration and Records
Rita Finucane to Admissions/Records Representative—CHANCE Program
Phyllis Fitzgerald to Admissions/Records Representative—VP Research and Dean of Graduate School
Daniel Gross to Admissions/Records Officer—VP Research and Dean of Graduate School
Anne Hardy to Admissions/Records Supervisor—Registration and Records
Courtney Harms to Admissions/Records Officer—Registration and Records
Jillian Hector to Admissions/Records Officer—Registration and Records
Lakeisha Jackson to Admissions/Records Representative—Registration and Records
Krista Kennedy to Admissions/Records Representative—Registration and Records
Laura Mabel to Admissions/Records Officer—Registration and Records
Elizabeth Mehren to Admissions/Records Officer—VP Research and Dean of Graduate School
Tabitha Sims to Admissions/Records Officer—VP Research and Dean of Graduate School
Michele Stieren to Admissions/Records Representative—Registration and Records
Dawn Vaught to Admissions/Records Specialist II—VP Research and Dean of Graduate School
Judy Waterfield to Admissions/Records Supervisor—Registration and Records

Changes:
Ieva Engel to Secretary IV—Marketing
Diane Faber to Cashier III—Bursar
Valerie Hall to Secretary IV—Student Athletic Academic Support Services
Vickie Hueramo to Human Resource Assistant—Human Resource Services
Mark Matteson to Senior Library Specialist—University Libraries
Michael Moore to Police Officer—Public Safety
Patricia Morton to Secretary IV—Teaching and Learning
Frances Vincent to Cooks Helper—Housing and Dining

Death:
Joanna Wood, Secretary III—Biological Sciences

Retirement:
Paul Shipman, Stationary Fireman—Physical Plant

Separations:
Danielle Jordan, Child Development Supervisor—Family Consumer and Nutrition
Sean Noplos, Cook—Housing and Dining
Service Awards

October 2006

5 Years
Cheryl Beckman—NIU Outreach and Regional Development
Theresa Brown—Public Opinion Lab
Darla Diem—Building Services
Richard Garden—Holmes Center Administration
Philip Holden—Holmes Center Custodial
Caroline Kosmel—Career Services
Matthew Marcus—Building Services
Rhonda Shafer—Housing and Dining

10 Years
Robert Bartel—Physical Plant
Marlene Bryant—Human Resource Services
Earl Slayton—Physical Plant

15 Years
John Boudin, Jr.—Physical Plant
Elizabeth Ebert-Board—Housing and Dining
Mark Howland—Geology and Environmental Geosciences
Charlotte Marx—Physical Plant
Elaine Pannell—Physical Plant
Sandra Pardridge—Public Safety

20 Years
Donald Askins, Jr.—Building Services
Kathleen Carey—Student Affairs
Randy Darling—Housing and Dining
Thomas Folwell—Convocation Center
Theresa Halverson—Bursar
Gary Olsen—Physical Plant
Ronald Schabacker—Building Services
Mark Wisdom—Physical Plant

25 Years
Jean Benson—Housing and Dining
Henry Brooks—Architecture and Engineering
Larry Gregersen—Chemistry and Biochemistry
Susan Mossholder—Enterprise Systems Support

30 Years
Donna Arne—Bursar

November 2006

5 Years
Vicki Blevins—OneCard ID Office
Karen Carey—Information Technology Services
Jodine Harris—Housing and Dining
Laurel Kilmer—Holmes Student Center
Susan Kwosek—NIU Outreach and Regional Development
Ellen Wilson—Health Services

10 Years
Theresa Allen—Holmes Student Center
James Fredricksen—Physical Plant
Sofia Komitas—Housing and Dining
Jodi Long—Illinois Council on Economic Education
Mollie Montgomery—Executive Vice President and Provost

15 Years
Patricia Arne—University Libraries
Vicki Thompson—Housing and Dining

20 Years
Merwin Plapp—Grounds
Diana Ramp—College of Law
Anne Seitzinger—International Programs

25 Years
Judith Glover—Public Safety
Ronald Leifheit—Nursing

35 Years
Judy Knutson—Enterprise Systems Support