President’s Corner

Thank you to Barb Rice and the Human Resource Services planning committee for coordinating the 37th Annual Operating Staff Awards Banquet on May 5. It was a wonderful evening of celebration and recognition for those who have served NIU over the years. Also thanks to the Outstanding Service Award Committee for their efforts in selecting this year’s award recipients. Again, congratulations to all who were honored for your years of service and excellence.

Based on decisions for higher education funding in Springfield, NIU should be receiving a 1.2% increase to the base budget for FY07. The majority of these funds will be directed toward salary adjustments if approved by the administration and Board of Trustees. NIU Operating Staff employees will see a 3% across-the-board salary increase effective July 1, 2006.

Despite NIU receiving some state funding for the upcoming year; the budget at NIU and statewide is still in a recovery period. Given the current fiscal environment, evaluation of healthcare benefit costs, pension plans, and 403b contributions is all the more critical. Hopefully you were able to address some of these issues by attending the first ever Benefits Choice Fair held on May 11. Thanks to the University Benefits Committee, Human Resource Services, Operating Staff Council, Supportive Professional Staff Council, and all the vendors and attendees for making the Benefits Choice Fair a success!

The Seventh Annual StaffFest will be held on August 3 in the Holmes Student Center Duke Ellington Ballroom from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with food being served from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. This event, sponsored by the NIU Administration, is an important recognition event for all Operating Staff employees and a great time to catch up with your colleagues. For additional information, see the article in this issue.

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 the 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
August Volunteers Sought to Welcome Students

Plans are under way to welcome NIU’s new and returning students for Fall 2006. The continued and valued support of the NIU family and DeKalb community is critical to transitioning this year’s incoming students and their families into the Huskie family.

Michael J. Coakley, assistant vice president for Student Life, invites the university community to participate in this year’s Welcome Days, from Thursday, Aug. 24, through Tuesday, Aug. 29. Volunteers are needed to help the Division of Student Affairs at three events: Opening Day, Huskies Helping Huskies and House Calls. Volunteer for one, two, or all three activities. Any effort is appreciated.

Opening Day volunteers will assist students and their families, Thursday, Aug. 24, by driving golf carts loaded with student belongings from the family car to the residence hall. Student volunteers will help move students’ possessions inside to their residence hall rooms. As a thank you, each volunteer will receive a free T-shirt and a $5 discount for the annual Huskie Bash that evening.

Huskies Helping Huskies volunteers will be stationed at kiosks across campus Monday, Aug. 28, or Tuesday, Aug. 29, to answer students’ questions or direct them to a particular destination on campus.

House Calls volunteers will greet first-year students at assigned residence hall floors the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 29. Volunteers will welcome these students to campus and answer any questions. Because college is the first time many students are away from home, these house calls serve to calm any lingering fears these students might have.

Huskies Helping Huskies and House Calls volunteers each will receive a $5 discount for the Huskie Bash.

Those who are able to join the Division of Student Affairs as it rolls out a red-carpet welcome for our new students should complete the volunteer registration. www.niu.edu/Housing/openday/volfacstaff.shtml

Volunteers will be contacted over the summer with further details. Members of the NIU Operating Staff who wish to participate can request release from their normal duties. Staff participation is subject to supervisory approval and should not interfere with the normal operational needs of the university.

“Welcome Days are exciting, exhilarating and a little bit scary for new students and families,” Coakley said. “Thank you for considering joining our efforts to provide a warm welcome and a smooth transition to the NIU community.”

For more information, contact Linda Odom at (815) 753-9611 or lodom@niu.edu.

First-Year Connections Seeks Mentors for Student-Faculty Links

Student-Faculty Links, a component of NIU’s First-Year Connections Program, is recruiting faculty and staff who want to make a difference in the lives of new students during their first semester on campus.

Mentors are asked to complete a short questionnaire, which helps the Orientation Office match new students and mentors based on common academic and/or extracurricular interests. Matches are made in early August, after early orientation sessions when new students can express interest in the program.

Mentors and students are invited to an informal reception during Welcome Days in August. After the initial meeting, the pair determines how frequently they will meet and communicate. Most matches continue at least through the first semester and many extend beyond.

For more information, call (815) 753-0028 or e-mail firstconn@niu.edu.

Know Your Operating Staff Council

Name: Andy Small
NIU Position: Laboratory Manager, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Came to NIU in: 1989
From: Kansas; born in Iowa

Years on Council: 15
Offices Held (include committee chairs): Public Relations chair; Vice President (2), President (2)
Community associations: Kishwaukee Kiwanis, Wehring Center Board, Kishwaukee Community Hospital Fund Raising Committee, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, First United Methodist Church, President District 428 Board of Education.
Family: Wife, Lisa; Daughters, Shelby (11) and Elizabeth (8); Son, James (5)

Proudest achievements, personal and/or professional: My children and my wife make me very proud when they do well. I’m proud of myself when I have been able to make our community a better place.

Hobbies, interests: Fishing, basketball, theater, singing, chess, golf, working around the house, exploring nature.

Nobody knows that I: I’m not sure there is something nobody knows. I’m generally a pretty open person.

Favorite task or activity: Playing with the kids, basketball, working around the house.

I would do anything to avoid: heights
Favorite play, movie or book: Movie—a good old Western; Book—biography about someone from the West; Play—a good musical.
Favorite entertainer(s): Clint Eastwood, John Wayne, Dean Martin

I am or have been most inspired by: People who have been able to make a positive difference in the lives of others.
Employment Changes

March 2006

Welcome New Employees

Jeremy Benson, Food Services Stores Laborer—Housing and Dining
Mary Cherry, Collections Specialist II—Bursar
Margaret Gardner, Secretary III—Computer Science
Kenneth George, Jr., Electrical Construction Superintendent—Architecture and Engineering
Jesse Hastings, IT Support Associate—Customer Support Services
Patricia Koca, Secretary IV—Teaching and Learning
Sheetal Kumar, Admissions/Records Specialist I—Registration and Records
Grace Lewandowski, Account Technician I—Controller
Beth McCarroll, Ambulatory Care Aide II—Communicative Disorders
Gerardo Rangel, Electrician—Physical Plant
Jennifer Wisser, Account Technician I—Development Operations

Changes

Clare Andres to Administrative Aide—Student Affairs
Robert Banke to Digital Imaging Specialist II—Media Services
Kay Billings to Staff Secretary—Admissions
Beth Bjorneby to Staff Secretary—Center for Burma Studies
Wade Duerkes to Digital Imaging Specialist II—Media Services
Judy Flores to Human Resource Assistant—Human Resource Services
Gregory Hunt to Printing Production Coordinator—Document Services
Adam Kuhn to IT Support Associate—Enterprise Systems Support
Shirley Mashare to Secretary IV— Diversity and Equity
Damaris Reid to Admissions/Records Specialist I—Vice President Research and Dean of Graduate School
Krystal Bamba to Stationary Engineer—Physical Plant
Randy Skinner to Stationary Fireman—Physical Plant

Name Change

Diane Garcia to Diane Faber; Cashier III—Campus Parking

Retirements

Scott Banish, Electrical Foreman—Physical Plant

Michael Berger, Instructional Communication Technical Operator II—Media Services
William Boies, Carpenter—Physical Plant
Maureen Erickson, Staff Clerk—NIU Outreach Administration
Janet McCarthy, Clerk—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Separations

Cheryl Brickman, Secretary III—Mathematical Sciences
Tracie Davis, Secretary III—Motorcycle Safety
Thomas Lesniak, Automotive Technician—Transportation
Christina Sepeda, Financial Advisor I—Student Financial Aid

April 2006

Welcome New Employees

Beth Blum, Financial Aid Advisor I—Student Financial Aid
Julia Buie, Clerk—Registration and Records
Elliott Cook, IT Support Associate—College of Business
Craig Diefendorfer, Police Officer—Public Safety
Grant Erickson, Police Officer—Public Safety
Nancy Graff, Chief Clerk—College of Health and Human Sciences
Misty Holmes, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Marianne McIntyre, Admissions/Records Specialist I—Registration and Records
Ricky Nelson, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Teri Orsted, Secretary III—Theatre and Dance
Sandra Overton, Clerk—Registration and Records
Linda Schneider, Radiation Therapist I—NIU Outreach and Regional Development
Tennise Shipman, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Evelyn Simpson, Admissions/Records Specialist I—Registration and Records
Allison Skinner, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Jigisha Thakkar, IT Technical Associate—Information Services
Rhonda Thomas, Catering Supervisor—Holmes Student Center Catering
Sandra Woodson,Human Resource Assistant—Human Resource Services

Changes

Suzanne Altenburg to Secretary IV—Statistics
Mark Beard to Inventory Specialist—Materials Management

Lorelli Carlson to Admissions/Records Specialist I—Registration and Records
Joyce Chaney to Business/ Administrative Associate—Student Affairs
Mia Hannon to Business Manager II—College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
Karyn Higgs to Secretary IV—Assessment Services
Krista Kennedy to Admissions/Records Officer I—Registration and Records
Renee Kerwin to Staff Secretary—History
Monica Litterer to Staff Secretary—College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
Donna Lynn to Staff Secretary—Statistics
Linda McElhaney to Account Technician I—Intercollegiate Athletics
Beth Metzler to Program Coordinator—Illinois Council on Economic Education
Gary Olsen to Construction Project Coordinator II—Materials Management
Stephanie Roach to Account Technician II—Materials Management

Change in Department Name

Christine Andorf, Radiation Therapist I—NIU Outreach and Regional Development
Beverly Arison, Secretary IV—NIU Outreach Administration
Mark Austin, Biomedical Engineer Technician II—NIU Outreach and Regional Development
Cheryl Beckman, Account Technician II—NIU Outreach Administration
Paulette Bowman, Staff Secretary—NIU Outreach Administration
Barbara Coulter, Secretary III—NIU Outreach Administration
Gregory Hulmes, University Network Specialist II—NIU Outreach Administration
Susan Kwosek to Chief Clerk—NIU Outreach Administration
Valerie Lorusso, Secretary IV—NIU Outreach Administration
Doneva Malm, Secretary IV—NIU Outreach Administration
Marilynn Russell, Secretary IV—NIU Outreach Administration
Jeanne Sixa, Research Nurse—NIU Outreach and Regional Development
Rachel Turner, Graphic Design Supervisor—NIU Outreach Administration
Theresa Wessel, Business Manager II—NIU Outreach Administration
Iotha Wilson, Clerk—NIU Outreach Administration

Name Changes

Barbara Thompson to Barbara Coulter; Secretary III—NIU Outreach and Regional Development
Susan Todd to Susan Dalen, Building Service Worker—Building Services
Kristen Hilleson to Kristen Hickey, Locksmith—Physical Plant
Andrea Davey to Andrea Hicks, Ambulatory Care Aide II—Health Services
Lesly Meier to Lesly Schoo, Library Assistant—University Libraries
Dawn Ragan to Dawn Taylor, Building Service Worker—Building Services

Retirements
Elaine Bennett, Graphic Design Supervisor—Publications
Bonnie Langley, Cooks Helper—Housing and Dining
Linda Lewis, Kitchen Helper—Housing and Dining
Marcia Smith, Administrative Aide—Physical Plant
Carolyn Vitkus, Secretary IV—Retention Programs

Separations
Kimberly Isaacs, Secretary IV—Sociology
Adam MacCabe, Cook—Housing and Dining

Doreen Mace—Literacy Education
Julie Mahoney—Zeke Giorgi Law Clinic
James McCabe—Building Services
Shirley Naponia—NIU Outreach Naperville
Christian Riddle—Holmes Student Guest Rooms
Robert Rourke—Holmes Center Bookstore
Douglas Schnorr—Building Services

10 year Award
James Kronkow—Physical Plant
Charlotte Lampson—Holmes Center Info Desk
Vickie Tilley—Holmes Center Custodial

15 year Award
Jonie Barshinger—Philosophy
Manette Cook—Student Financial Aid
James Deforest—Housing and Dining
Virgil Hill—Northern Public Radio
Jeff Yarger—Housing and Dining

20 year Award
Gregory Montgomery—Grounds
Nancy Sakalauski—College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

25 year Award
Jeanette Biava—College of Business
Steven Thiel—NIUTEL – Telecomm Services

James Gable – Environmental Health and Safety
Alice Hall—College of Business
Ronald Razniewski—Document Services
Andrew Reiss—Housing and Dining
Krzysztof Siuba—Heating Plant
Rhonda Vardman—Health Services

10 year Award
Robert Gahlbeck—Building Services
Susan Hawkins—Campus Parking
Rodney Jacobson—Mathematical Sciences
Kathleen Jones—Procurement Services
Brent Macleod—Procurement Services
Mary Wyizard—Customer Support Services

15 year Award
Susan Barkman—Child Welfare and Education
Dann Becker—Physical Plant
Fred Bond—Physical Plant

25 year Award
Jill Cutts—Health Services
Al Gorski—Transportation

30 year Award
Patricia Dalen—VP Research & Dean of Graduate School
Linda Groat—University Libraries

Service Awards

April 2006
5 year Award
Jo Alsup—Building Services
Ruth Kaus—Holmes Center Bookstore
Adam Klassen—Building Services
Lauren Kurpius—Student Financial Aid
Randy Lindquist—Physical Plant

May 2006
5 year Award
Mark Beaird—Materials Management
Lorelli Carlson—Registration and Records
Dawn Crawford—Convocation Center
William Fritsch—Physical Plant