

Feb. 2011

HUSKIE CONNECTION

OFF-CAMPUS & NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Campus Childcare Center

On many college campuses, securing affordable and reliable daycare can be difficult for student parents. One of the resources available to NIU families with children is the Campus Childcare Center (CCC). This center offers quality care to children ages eight weeks to five years. The center also has a program for children six to eight years old that takes place during the summer. Many NIU students, staff, and faculty choose to register their children at CCC while they attend class or work. Students majoring in Early Childhood Education or Family Consumer Sciences make up a large portion of the support staff at CCC. These students can receive supervised, on-the-job training hours required for their academic programs.



Parents can choose to enroll their children part or full-time according to their school and work schedules. CCC currently does not offer drop-in or sick care. Student families are billed in four installments throughout the semester during which their child is enrolled.

CCC accepts childcare subsidy payments, for families who cannot afford to pay the full tuition amount out of pocket, if they meet certain income eligibility requirements. To find out more about childcare subsidy services in the DeKalb area, please visit the Community Coordinated Childcare website at <http://www.four-c.org/>

NIU established a scholarship in 2000 to provide assistance to NIU families paying for on-campus childcare expenses. The Anne Kaplan fund can provide up to \$1,000 per academic year to eligible students. Contact CCC for more information about the Anne Kaplan Scholarship fund. All of the above information and more can be found on CCC's website at <http://www.niu.edu/ccf/>

Kristney Vault
Graduate Assistant

Student Support Services: A Resource You Need to Know

As a non-traditional and/or off-campus student, you may not have the time to look into different opportunities NIU has to offer. To provide you with more information about an important resource on campus, I talked to Assistant Director and Transfer liaison Frankie Benson from the office of Student Support Services (SSS). Student Support Services is comprised of three groups: Trio Scholars, College Parents Group, and Mentoring Valuable Peers. The goal of SSS is to help students stay in college and graduate.

TRIO Scholars is an organization that provides students the opportunity to attend workshops on networking, financial aid, and graduate school. TRIO Scholars can also fundraise for various events such as leadership conferences or trips to Washington, D.C. College Parents Group is a support group for student parents. This organization can also help student parents locate valuable resources such as childcare and various community resources. Finally, the Mentoring Valuable Peers group (also known as MVP) is a mentoring program focused on helping students to become better leaders. Students in this program can take a three-credit-hour leadership class to learn how to advance their leadership skills. They can also take part in a mentoring program in which upperclassmen act as mentors to freshman and sophomore students.

SSS also provides a computer lab for SSS students, career and academic counseling, and among other services. To become an SSS student, you must be a low-income student, first generation student, or a student with a disability. These requirements are mandated by the United States Department of Education. For more information on SSS, call 815-753-1142 or visit www.niu.edu/sss. You can also visit their office in Adams Hall 419.

Arturo Jimenez
Student Coordinator

Office of Support and Advocacy: Transformation into Military Student Services

Military Student Services is a relatively new office at NIU. This office was previously called Office of Support and Advocacy. The new office opened this fall and has expanded its services and resources to provide all-inclusive student support beginning in January 2011. Director Scott Peska was pleased to find that feedback regarding the change of the office name and its services has been positive. Military students are also glad to have a "one-stop-shop" to help them with their basic needs, including obtaining information regarding financial, academic, and counseling and mental health resources.

The new location of the office is Gilbert Hall, room B111. The office has a lounge space available for students looking to relax between classes or meet other military students. All Veteran Assistance benefits are now processed at the new location versus the previous window counter at the Financial Aid Office in Swen Parson. Military Student Services will also have a licensed clinical mental health counselor on staff to assess mental health issues and provide referrals to campus and community resources.

Additionally, the office staff members are looking at providing more social and educational programming for students that will include a mentoring program slated to begin in fall 2011. This program will match military students new to NIU with a current NIU military student in order to help the new student navigate the university and military policies and procedures as these relate to their student status. Many students may not be aware of the benefits available to them or of university policies that may work in their favor in a situation where a military student is called to active duty.

Interested students can find more information, review university forms and applications, and contact Military Student Services' staff by visiting <http://www.niu.edu/fa/vetresources/index.shtml> or by calling 815-753-0691.

Antoinette Schrader
Student Coordinator

MILITARY
STUDENT SERVICES 

Garrett Wolfe: One of NIU's Notable Alums

While it's important to learn about notable students who currently attend NIU, some NIU students are often unaware of the notable alumni who attended this institution in the past. One of notable NIU alumnus is Garrett Wolfe. Wolfe, a former NIU star running back for the 2004-2006 seasons, now plays for the Chicago Bears.

Garrett Wolfe began his football career as a star in high school. During his junior and senior years, while attending Holy Cross High School, he rushed for 4,311 yards, made 56 touchdowns, and broke 11 school records! As a freshman in college, he spent the better part of the season on the bench. He became a starter during his sophomore season, showing the skill he had displayed in his high school years to a greater degree. Wolfe started the 2004, 2005, and 2006 seasons for NIU, but was plagued with injuries midway through his time at NIU. In the 2005 season, he sustained a knee injury that caused him to miss three games. He came back during the 2006 season, however, and his total of 1,976 yards rushing made him the top ranked player in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Wolfe was drafted by the Chicago Bears in the 2007 NFL in the third round with a 93rd overall pick. Since then, his stardom has faded. He has had a few breakout plays while with the Bears, but nothing compared to his days at NIU. We look forward to his being great again and to reigniting the fire that blazed across campus as it did when he attended NIU.

Jody Danna-Hoehne
Student Coordinator



Someone You Should Know

Each month, Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services highlights a student we feel is important for you to know. This month we are featuring **Randall House**, a non-traditional and commuter student.

Where do you commute from?

Batavia, IL, where I live with my wife and three wonderful children.

What makes you a non-traditional student?

I used to own my own company and had a successful business. At this point in my life, I decided to come back to school to get my engineering degree.

What is it like to be a non-traditional student at NIU? Do you feel any different from any of the other students?

I feel that being a non-traditional student is just as good as being a traditional student. I feel there is a great support group for non-traditional students here at NIU through the Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services office, amongst various others, which allows for a smooth transition back into school. I strongly believe in helping others and that everyone deserves a second chance. Non-traditional students wear a lot of hats. We manage family, school, and work responsibilities. I think NIU does a good job in recognizing this and trying to help and accommodate us.

What do you see yourself doing in the next couple of years?

I plan to go to law school; helping people is one of my passions. Currently, I work for NIU's Department of Police and Public Safety where I am a special event security staff member.

What else are you involved in outside of class?

I have been doing martial arts since 1987. I am a black belt master instructor and teach four to five classes a week for children. It is a huge stress relief for me and it shows me what it takes to run a school for martial arts. I also go to church where I find my inner strength and peace.

What are some of your hobbies?

I am in a band called The Other Guys in which I am the lead singer. I have played a few local coffee shop shows in DeKalb. I can also play guitar and drums. In the past, I bought a building and completely remodeled and operated my own detective agency out of it.



Who inspires you?

My children. They have unconditional love for me which keeps me grounded. I feel that when people grow older, they lose that unconditional love and can become jaded. Also, my wife has inspired me through her commitment to me. Along with them is the man who taught me martial arts, Dr./ Grand Master Kyung Ho Park, who is a simple and unselfish man. I hope to take a little bit from each one of these people and become a great person.

Why did you choose to come to NIU?

When you go to a big university like NIU, there are lots of things to take away from it. NIU provides so much more than just an education; it makes you a well-rounded person.

What drives you to be the person you are today?

I am still reinventing myself. I hope to use all the experiences that I have gained and make the most of those experiences. I have learned that even if I am not the best at something, I can still be good enough to actually do it. Perseverance helps you get where you want to be—do not take no for an answer.

Audrey Barsanti Gonzalez
Student Coordinator

Knit Wits!

A Fun Craft for Kids

Looking for a fun craft that your kids could complete during the long winter months? Try a Knit Wit! This craft is courtesy of Familyfun.com

Materials

- Knit glove
- Needle
- Thread
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Rubber ball
- Buttons
- Mini pom-pom
- Rice



Total Time Needed: 1 Hour

Instructions

1. Tuck the ring finger of the glove into the palm and stitch the hole closed.
2. Fill the glove (all but the cuff) with rice and tie it off tightly with a piece of yarn.
3. For the doll's head, fit a small rubber ball (or a Ping-Pong ball) into the cuff. Then, sew the glove closed to hold the ball inside.
4. Make a wig by loosely wrapping yarn around your hand about fifty times to create a thick hank.
5. Tie the strands together at one end of the hank, and then cut the loop opposite the tie.
6. Stitch the tied portion to the top of the doll's head.
7. Finish up by stitching on button eyes and a tiny pom-pom nose.

For more ideas on crafts, visit the Family Fun website at <http://familyfun.go.com/>

Destiny Riley
Graduate Assistant

Important Dates to Remember

Throughout the semester, students are expected to know many important dates pertaining to class schedules and registration deadlines. We want to make sure you stay up to date, so we compiled a list of the most important dates of the semester.

- February 1: Last day for undergraduates to change a full-semester course from credit to audit or from audit to credit
- February 4: Last day to change a first-half-semester course from credit to audit or from audit to credit
- February 11: Last day to withdraw from a first-half-semester course; last day to appeal a fall 2010 grade
- March 11: Last day for an undergraduate to withdraw from a full-semester course
- March 12: End of the first half of semester
- March 13: Beginning of spring break
- March 21: Resumption of classes and beginning of second half of semester
- March 27: Last day for undergraduates to add or drop a second-half-semester course via self-service in MyNIU
- March 28: Last day for undergraduates to add or drop a second-half-semester course with approval of major college
- April 8: Last day for undergraduates to change a second-half-semester course from credit to audit or from audit to credit
- April 15: Last day for undergraduates to withdraw from a second-half-semester course, or from the university
- April 22: Last day to change or declare a major for the spring semester
- May 1: Last day to apply for summer 2011 graduation via self-service in MyNIU
- May 6: Reading Day
- May 7, 9-13: Final examinations
- May 14: End of spring semester; undergraduate spring commencement

If you want more information on these dates, visit <http://catalog.niu.edu/content.php?catoid=14&navoid=402>

Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services Calendar of Events, Spring 2011

February 2011

(Tuesdays) 1st, 8th, 15th, 23rd: Soup Du Jour, 11:30 am, Holmes Student Center Basement
Come to our office and enjoy a free cup of warm soup on a cold day!

10th: Commuter Cocoa, 9:00 am, Holmes Student Center Basement
Grab a cup of cocoa before your morning classes!

March 2011

(Wednesdays) 2nd, 9th: Soup Du Jour, 11:30 am, Holmes Student Center Basement
Come to our office and enjoy a free cup of warm soup on a cold day!

28th-31st: Appreciation Week, Various Times and Locations

Our office will host a week of appreciation for off-campus and non-traditional students. Various events will be held each day of the week. More details to come.

April 2011

1st: Huskies Den Extravaganza, 7:30 pm, Huskies Den

This event is the culmination of our Appreciation Week. This is a family-friendly free event for all to enjoy!

16th: Bunny Brunch, 9:00 am, Northern View Community Center

Visit the Northern View Community Center for a spring celebration! Enjoy free food and activities at this family-friendly event.

May 2011

3rd: Study Break, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, Holmes Student Center Basement

Take a break from studying for finals to enjoy a free lunch and sign up for a free ten-minute seated massage.

Join our Listserv!

Interested in what Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services has to offer? Join our weekly listserv! As an off-campus and/or non-traditional student, it is important to stay connected and informed about issues that directly affect you. Joining our listserv will allow you to receive weekly updates with the programs and services we provide, along with other important dates and events both on and off campus. Come by our office (located on the lower level of the Holmes Student Center, Room 023K) to give us your name and e-mail to sign up for the program, or simply e-mail us at commnontrad@niu.edu and request to be on our listserv!

Ideas? Suggestions? Let Us Know!

If you have any program ideas, suggestions for improving our services, or anything else you wish to share, do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail at commnontrad@niu.edu or call our office at 815-753-9999.

Feb. 2011

HUSKIE CONNECTION

Contact the Staff

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Office Information

Location: Holmes Student Center, Lower Level, 023J and 023K

E-mail: commnontrad@niu.edu

Website: www.niu.edu/comnontrad/

Facebook Group: NIU Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services

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OFF-CAMPUS &
NON-TRADITIONAL
STUDENT SERVICES

NIU NORTHERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
& ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

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