

Nov. 09

HUSKIE CONNECTION

OFF-CAMPUS & NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Getting Involved as a Transfer Student

As the semester progresses, our office hopes you are enjoying your time at Northern Illinois University. NIU is a great university that has many different resources and activities available for students. As a former transfer student, it took time for me to explore all of what NIU has to offer. I found that discovering resources at a new university is almost like a journey. I soon realized that NIU's resources and activities are here for you, and you just need to take the time to look for them. Once I found my niche at NIU, I was very happy I transferred here. I am sure once you embark on your journey, you will feel the same way.

I know when I first transferred it would have been beneficial to me to find pertinent information in one place. Because of this, I put together a few bits of information especially for transfer students. There is much more information available on the NIU web site (<http://www.niu.edu>), especially on the A-Z index. I hope this information assists you in your transition as a student here at NIU. Go Huskies!

Student organizations:

-Joining a student organization is one of the best ways to make new friends and feel like you are a part of NIU. There are over 200 student organizations on campus. For more information about these organizations, visit <http://www.niu.edu/sa/organizations/alpha.shtml>

Campus Activities Board (CAB):

The Campus Activities Board is one of the largest organizations on campus and is responsible for a variety of activities such as Homecoming events, Fall Fest, and concerts. You can join one of their nine committees to get involved with events held on campus. For more information, visit CAB's web site at <http://www.niu.edu/cab/>

Tips/Resources:

-Look at the flyers posted around campus. Student organizations hold events on campus often, and it's a great way to learn about what they have to offer. Special events and organizations won't come to you, you have to go to them!

-Visit NIU's web site. The NIU main page is overflowing with information. The web site can also direct you to other pertinent NIU links.

-Visit the Recreation Center. Located just west of Annie Glidden Road on Lucinda Avenue, the Recreation Center has six courts for basketball and tennis, a heavy weight room, a cardio machine room with weight machines, sauna rooms, and offers exercise classes ranging from hip hop dance classes to total body conditioning. Any student who pays fees can access these great resources. For more information, visit: <http://www.niu.edu/recservices/>

-Watch a NIU sporting event. All NIU sporting events are free to NIU students, and tickets for events are available at the NIU Ticket Office in the Convocation Center. You can contact them by calling (815) 753-6800. To view team schedules, visit: <http://www.niuhuskies.com/>

-Visit Career Services. Career Services is one of the best resources available at NIU. They have counselors that can help you with your career goals, review your resume, schedule mock interviews, and hold job and internship fairs to help you prepare for your career after NIU. These services are great during hard economic times because they are free to students! Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.niu.edu/CareerServices/>

-There are many different counseling resources available to students on campus. Professional counselors are willing to help out anyone who wishes to make an appointment, and all records of appointments are strictly confidential. Please visit Counseling Services under the A-Z index on the main NIU web site or call (815) 753-1206 to learn more.

-Justine Cramsey
Student Coordinator

Getting Involved as a Non-Traditional Student

Many non-traditional students juggle a variety of responsibilities in addition to maintaining their academic work. Many students work full-time jobs, maintain a household, raise children, and struggle to find the time to simply relax. These responsibilities can leave many non-traditional students wondering exactly how they can find their place on such a large campus.

Fortunately, there are opportunities for non-traditional students to get involved on campus and find peers in similar situations. There are organizations with alternatives to weekly meetings or being heavily obligated to commit additional time on campus.

If you are a student parent, you can get involved in the College Parents Group. The College Parents Group is a support group for students with dependants. This group meets Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Northern View Community Center. Childcare is provided. The group provides speakers, outings, camaraderie, food, and fun! NIU also has a Veterans Club for students looking to ease the transition between military service and going back to school. The club states, "Our purpose is the advancement of student veterans, their rights, and their benefits through an environment of camaraderie, social activity, and service to the community."

NIU boasts over 200 clubs and organizations to choose from, and all it takes is the initiative to find out what NIU has to offer. Students definitely benefit from these organizations by having the opportunity to network, be a part of a social group with like-minded individuals, and be able to be creative and give back to the community. There's something for everyone at NIU, even for non-traditional students. If you take that first step, you'll get farther than you ever expected.

-Antoinette Williams
Student Coordinator

The Huskie Bus Line: Your Answer to Transportation On and Off Campus

Need a solution to traffic jams and parking headaches? Try the Huskie Bus Line! As someone who uses the bus on a regular basis, I can't begin to tell you how I have come to depend on the Huskie Bus Line for my everyday transportation needs to and from campus. There are many people living around campus who use the bus service and appreciate being able to commute without the worry of driving to and from campus.

When fall and winter classes are in full swing, ridership and total number of running busses is at its peak. Here's what the Huskie Bus Line has to say about its NIU service from their web site (<http://www.huskie-line.com>):

"DeKalb-We began our first year of service for Northern Illinois University as the Huskie Line in January of 1971. The initial fleet of 6 buses has grown to 18. Approximately 2 million students, staff and residents of the City of DeKalb ride the Huskie Line during the 34,000 hours of service annually. The system is funded 100% from student fees and fare box revenues. An extensive fare free area exists that includes the Northern Illinois University campus and parts of the City of DeKalb. Huskie line has an impeccable average for this service of only 5 complaints per 100,000 passengers."

According to the Huskie Bus web site, "The Huskie Line bus system along with the Freedom Mobile and Late Night Ride comprise one of the largest student-run transit systems in the country." The Student Association is responsible for bringing this service to you as part of the student fees paid to NIU, so there is no cost to ride the bus if you are a student and present your NIU OneCard.

The Huskie Bus stops at Wal-Mart, Target, Game Stop, Kishwaukee Hospital, Jewel, Schnuck's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Egg Haven, Applebees, and a variety of other places. Want to go to downtown Chicago for the weekend or make your way home via the Metra? The Huskie Bus can make this possible by providing transportation to the Elburn train station. If you're on campus, the bus is ready to take you where you want to go. If you're off-campus, you may reside by the bus line. Need a bus route booklet? Come to Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services in the Holmes Student Center, Room 023K.

-Dennis Hill
Graduate Assistant



Someone You Should Know

Each month, Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services highlights a student we feel is important to know. This month we are featuring Marko Bajic, an off-campus student who frequents our office on a daily basis.



Name: Marko Bajic

Type of student:
Off-Campus Student
(commutes from
Schaumburg)

Age: 23, Senior

Major: Physical Therapy

Future career plans: Marko wants to practice physical therapy in a private company rather than in a hospital setting. Someday he hopes to own and operate his own clinic.

What do you like best about the Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services lounge?

"The lounge area is a definite home-away-from-home experience. It has everything a person who commutes needs... a fridge, microwave, couches to sleep on. All it needs is a sink!"

NIU organizations/groups he is involved in or would like to become involved in: Marko does not have the time to be involved this semester, but he would like to look into getting involved in a physical therapy club.

Hobbies or interests: Enjoys lifting weights, playing guitar, and listening to music.

Greatest accomplishment: Body building

Person who inspires him: Jimmy Hendrix

Interesting fact: Marko is talented at playing Trivial Pursuit

-Audrey Barsanti Gonzalez
Student Coordinator

The Legend of Olive-Goyle

Many students have walked past the headless statue that sits in the garden on the east side of Altgeld Hall. Have you ever wondered why NIU has a headless statue? This statue is called Olive-Goyle by NIU students. Olive-Goyle was once like all the other grotesque statues that are seen on top of Altgeld, but this was short-lived. Legend has it that on the first NIU graduation, back when NIU was called Northern Illinois State Normal School, everyone was gathered for graduation at the lagoon. It started out as a nice, calm day, but soon clouds began rolling in and a thunderstorm soon emerged. Olive was struck by lightning and fell to the ground next to Altgeld. Because Olive remained intact, the administration thought she could simply be put back at the top of Altgeld.



The legend continues that one year later, at the second NIU graduation, a nice day once again turned into a rough thunderstorm. As fate would have it, Olive was struck by lightning again. Once again she fell to the ground and still remained intact. After Olive took her second fall, NIU officials decided it was obvious that Olive wanted to be closer to the students and placed her in the garden where she now resides. After surviving two lightning strikes and two falls to the ground, it is hard to imagine how Olive could not have lost her head. It turns out that pranksters did what nature and gravity could not: students stole the head! Many students continue to place unusual objects in place of Olive's head. The mystery of the missing head remains unsolved to this day, yet the legend of Olive-Goyle remains alive and well.

-Mike Nordstrom
Student Coordinator

Join Our Listserv!

Interested in what Off-Campus & Non-Traditional 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 that we provide along with other important dates and events on and off campus. Come by our office (located in the basement of the Holmes Student Center, room 023J) to provide us with your name and email to sign up for the program, or simply email us at comnontrad@niu.edu and request to be on our listserv!

Paula Deen's Apple Butter Pumpkin Pie

Looking to impress your family this holiday season? Try Paula Deen's Apple Butter Pumpkin Pie! This recipe has received rave reviews, is incredibly simple to make, and can be found on www.foodnetwork.com. Enjoy!

Cook Time: 40 minutes

Serves 6 people

Ingredients:

- 1 cup apple butter
- 1 cup canned or fresh pumpkin
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoons brown cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/8 ground ginger
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 3/4 cup evaporated milk
- 1 unbaked 9 inch pie shell
- Sweetened whipped cream for the garnish

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees
2. Combine apple butter, pumpkin, sugar, salt, and spices in a bowl
3. Stir in eggs
4. Gradually add milk and mix well
5. Pour into pie shell
6. Bake for about 40 minutes or until set

Cook's Notes:

If the crust begins to burn, place tinfoil around the crust and lower the temperature of the oven. A tasty topping for this pie is praline pecans.

For more recipes like this one, visit www.foodnetwork.com.
Happy Holidays!

-Audrey Barsanti Gonzalez -Kelli Bradley
Student Coordinator Graduate Assistant

Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services Calendar

Fall 2009

November 2009

11th: Veteran's Day Ribbon Campaign

December 2009

1st: Study Break, 11:30am-1:30pm, 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.

Important Dates to Remember

As the semester progresses, there are many important dates pertaining to class schedules and registration deadlines that you need to know. We want to make sure that you stay up to date, so we compiled a list of the most important dates for the remainder of the semester.

November 20: Last day to change or declare a major for fall semester

November 24: Last day for students to make up mark of Incomplete from spring semester

November 25: Beginning of Thanksgiving Break

November 30: Classes resume

December 1: Last day to apply for spring 2010 graduation

December 5: Last day of classes

December 7-12: Final examinations

December 13: Undergraduate commencement

If you want more information on these dates, please access this web site: <http://catalog.niu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=319>.

Ideas? Suggestions? Let Us Know!

If you have any program ideas, suggestions for improving our services, or anything else that you wish to share, do not hesitate to contact us via email at comnontrad@niu.edu or call our office at (815)753-9999. We also have a suggestion box on the bulletin board outside our office (Holmes Student Center, Room 023J).

Contact The Staff

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Office Information

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