Here’s to a New Year!

Welcome to the fall semester! I would like to start the newsletter by saying how excited I am to be working for Military and Post-Traditional Student Services! I am expecting this upcoming year to be a great one! There are many upcoming events and possibilities to get involved with on campus.

Thank you to all of you who attended our August weekend events to kick off the school year. The Military Students Open House was a hit. It was great to reunite with returning students and become acquainted with new faces. Thank you for your service, and if there is anything we can do to help you, just stop by the Campus Life Building Room 240 and the VA benefits counselors will do their best to answer any questions you may have. You can also come visit us at the MPTSS Lounge in the basement of the Holmes Student Center. It is a great place to work, relax and prep food before class.

The BBQ was as fun as ever! Thank you to all that helped make that day special. I hope everyone made connections and friends while they enjoyed the delicious food.

Some of the upcoming events include our Facts and Snacks Workshops held on September 5 and 21 of this month at 11 a.m. We will be learning more about time management as well as study skills. Those are held in the Campus Life Building Room 100. Also take time to check out the Leadership Academy Workshop held at the same location on Sept. 6, at 3 p.m.

We have a few new Graduate Assistants this year. You can read about our additions on page two! Everyone is looking forward to working with you to enhance your educational experience!
Our Newest Members

Fermin Luna is completing his masters in Business Administration. He is from Hanover Park, Ill. Some of his favorite things to do include hockey, soccer, traveling and exploring scenic places, but most importantly spending time with family and friends. Fermin is in charge of our Workshop Series, Facts and Snacks, which is held twice a month at the Campus Life Center Room 100.

Lori Korth is currently a masters student completing NIU’s Adult and Higher Education program. She is born and raised in Lee, Ill. Her future plans include working with first generation and nontraditional students. She likes hiking, catching up on recent movies and traveling. Recently Lori adopted a lovely Chihuahua named Remy. Lori works with the Leadership Academy and the Breaking Barriers - NIU’s First Generation Support Group.

Angelia Faller completed her undergraduate degree from NIU majoring in Art and Psychology and is currently working towards her master’s in school counseling. She is from Polo, Ill. but has lived all over the country at various Army Posts. She enjoys hiking, trail running, kayaking, cooking and traveling. Angelia is the editor of the Huskie Foxtrot.

As soon as we started working together we knew it was going to be a blast sharing an office and working on projects. We are all friendly and would love to help if you need anything!

Some of the common interests we all share are hiking and travel.

Local Parks We Love to Hike:
• Starved Rock
• Shabbona State Park
• White Pines State Park
• Starved Rock State Park
• Castle Rock State park
• Illinois Parks

Parks We Love Nation Wide:
• Garden of the Gods, Colo.
• Hanging Rock State park, N.C.
• Pocahontas State Park, Va.
• Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska
• Angel Rocks, Alaska
NIU Calendar Events

Jobs Plus Event: Understanding Your Time Management Personality & Etiquette Dinner

• 6-8:30 p.m. Fatty's Pub and Grille Tuesday, September 26, 2017

All students will complete the Culture Index Assessment prior to the workshop, which is a five-minute assessment that shows your individual personality traits. This will help you identify which time management personality you are. The assessment will be sent to students by e-mail after they register and must be completed no later than Sunday, Sept. 24.

Advanced registration for Jobs PLUS events is required. Attendees must be able to arrive by the event start time and remain until the end of the event.

Outdoor Adventures: Outdoor Climbing at Devil’s Lake State Park

• 7:30 a.m.– 8 p.m. Saturday, September 23, 2017

Climbing? Climb on! Head up to Devil’s Lake State park and spend the day outdoor rock climbing with Outdoor Adventures. Enjoy the gorgeous scenery and learn new skills. Instruction is provided and the trip is open to beginners and experienced climbers alike. Registration includes climbing equipment (harness and shoes), as well as, transportation and picnic lunch.

Early Registration cost and deadline: NIU Student $45, Faculty/Staff/Community $60 by Sept. 13.

Regular registration cost and deadline: NIU Student $50, Faculty/Staff/Community $65 by Sept. 20.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, September 30, 2017

Get out on National Public Lands Day and make a difference while enjoying our local park, Shabbona Lake State Park only 25 minutes southwest of DeKalb! Canoe and clean up trash as you paddle the more than 300-acre lake. Take a hike and explore miles of trails and sections of restored native prairie. Celebrate with a BBQ and outdoor games like bags and volleyball. This is a day of fun, relaxation and an opportunity to do some good for our local environment. Included in the registration is a OA custom t-shirt for your volunteerism, BBQ picnic lunch, canoe rental, transportation and leadership.

Early registration cost and deadline: NIU Student $30

Faculty/Staff/Community $35 by Sept. 20.

Regular registration cost and deadline: NIU Student $35, Faculty/Staff/Community $40 by Sept. 27.

*All of these events and more can be found at NIU’s website.
Top Veteran Employers

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)

SAIC is a great company that works directly with veterans who are coming from active duty and the reserves. They understand the benefits of hiring those who have served our country and take care to use the skills learned through their experiences and relate that to civilian jobs. They work directly with the military, which makes it more beneficial to hire veterans who are already familiar with the military way of conducting business. SAIC has featured career opportunities at military bases. Some of the great benefits include worldwide employment, educational resources, and immediate benefits upon hire.

Educational Resources

+ Tuition reimbursement available to full-time employees and based upon management approval.
+ Relationships with academic institutions to earn undergraduate or graduate degrees.
+ Onsite graduate degree programs in business and systems engineering.
+ SAIC University whose features include degree program curriculum, online book libraries and a full range of training resources and programs.
+ Onsite learning centers where topics involve key company functions and the critical skills and knowledge needed at varying points in your career.
+ e-Learning lets you work on certifications, academic degrees, or needed skills for current and future job success.
The Office of Military and Post-Traditional Student Services

is hiring for the position of

Veteran’s Affairs (VA) Benefits Counselor

MPTSS has an employment opportunity for a VA work-study/VA benefits counselor with experience in student services, technical support, and project work. Working under the supervision of the Director, the benefits counselor will provide service to military and veteran students using any state or federal military education benefits. Occasional assistance with department student events is needed.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be currently receiving veteran federal education benefit (GI Bill)
- Must be enrolled in NIU courses AT LEAST 3/4 time (6.75-9 credit hours) during semesters they are contracted to work
- May not work anywhere else while employed
- Hours worked may not exceed 25 hrs./wk. (550 hours per semester)

If you are interested, please contact Terri Gibble at (815) 753-0940.

*We will be accepting applications until September 8.

- Work between the days and hours of M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (schedule is flexible and based upon the benefit counselor’s semester schedule)
Dogs in the Military

Working dogs go as far back as the Revolutionary War. World War II increased the use of military dogs to the deployment of 10,000 dogs! Today military work dogs are used to sniff out explosives and as an extra security measure here in the States as well as abroad.

In Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, there are as many as 2,300 learning working dogs. They are deployed with all branches of the military and are sent all over the world. Our canine friends have the sense of smell 10 times that of humans which is why it is so beneficial to have them by our side and keep our military and civilians from danger. They are also used as “force Multipliers” as most people are more willing to back down to a dog then even an armed security officer. (Miles, 2016)

You may wonder what happens to these heroes after they serve, and their fate was not always so bright. However, starting in 2000, the dogs that are bred at Lackland and don’t make it through training and those who retire are put up for adoption. Of course, the handlers get first dibs. As Collen McGee, trainer at Lackland states, “I think we owe them at least through retirement a happy loving home so that they get to be a dog,” (Epatka, 2012).