HOLMES STUDENT CENTER RENOVATION

An exciting new look is coming to the heart of NIU’s campus with the plans to renovate the iconic Holmes Student Center (HSC).

The university is expecting to invest approximately $20 million dollars for the renovation which will focus primarily on the ground floor of the HSC.

The following are some of the implementations expected after the renovation:

- A new glass entryway with an exterior tiered plaza opening from the ground floor to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Commons.
- Open and inviting lounge space featuring more natural lighting.
- New and exciting dining options.
- A relocated and revitalized bookstore-retail outlet.
- Relocation of NIU’s Campus Activities Board, Student Association and Office of Student Involvement & Leadership Development to the HSC.
- Expanded entertainment and event space connecting the ground floor to the Huskie Den.

The massive overhaul project is expected to begin following finals this semester and to be completed by the fall of 2019. Updates on the renovation can be found at the HSC’s website.

Since the HSC is a major gathering place for individuals within the community; the renovation seeks to make this central hub more attractive and intends to enhance their experience throughout their visits. The goal is to make the place a memorable hub for not only the current generations of Huskies but also for the future ones to come.
Each month Assistant Director Jeff Salmon shares insights and thoughts with Post-Trads.

Three weeks in the books and 13 more to go! How is everyone’s start to the spring semester been? Hopefully everyone has been able to find their comfort zone with their new class schedules.

We’ve had our first Facts & Snacks Workshop. We’ve welcomed Lounge users with food spreads on a couple of separate occasions. We have also started planning a couple of our signature events, including our March 8 Off-Campus Housing Fair.

I’m looking forward to a fun February. Super Bowl Sunday always is a good start to the month. Hopefully it’s a close game, perhaps a few commercials make me laugh and we get some new glimpses of this summer’s blockbuster movies. I’ve got a few family birthdays this month as well and I continue to work on my March NASPA Conference presentation.

If I can be of any help come visit me in the HSC!

THE FISH HOOK

2018 OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING FAIR

The office of Military and Post-Traditional Students Services will host its ninth annual Off-Campus Housing Fair on Thursday, March 8, in the Capitol Room of the HSC from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. All current NIU and incoming students are welcome to join us.

The Housing Fair will offer students the opportunity to speak with properties from the DeKalb/Sycamore area and plan ahead for the 2018-19 academic year.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to speak with NIU Students’ Legal about leasing agreements and members of NIU Police and Public Safety about any off-campus concerns.

Food will be provided by NIUPads.com. Students will also have the ability to connect with MPTSS staff about roommates or sublease assistance.

SWAN TAKES OFF

Looking for a way to connect with other post-traditional students? One of Northern Illinois University’s longer active student organizations is Students Who Are Non-Traditional - SWAN.

SWAN traditionally has been made up students who are commuters, living off-campus, adults, transfers and parents. The origins of our office formerly known as Off-Campus and Non-Traditional Students Services comes from the activism of students who represented SWAN.

SWAN has an E-Board of graduating seniors. The group would like to recruit the next generation of leaders to take the reigns this semester. Previously, the group met once a month in the MPTSS Lounge to plan different events. The positions would be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The group is recognized by the Student Association. New E-Board members would have to register on Huskie Link.

For more information please e-mail long-time advisor and MPTSS Assistant Director Jeffrey Salmon or drop by his office in room 23K of the Holmes Student Center - one floor below the bookstore.
MEET HUSKIE FACULTY MEMBER: DR. VIRGIL STOIA

Dr. Stoia completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan and graduated with a major in experimental biology. He then went into the workforce and rose to management but felt he needed to pursue his doctorate. Stoia completed his doctorate at the National University of Health Service at the University of Chicago. Stoia has been teaching at NIU for five years now and has experience teaching higher education at several schools including Waubonsee Community College, College of DuPage, Kaplan University, Moraine Valley Community College and Nazarene University. He enjoys getting to know each student by name, but NIU is a large university and Stoia recommends that students reach out and form relationships with their professors that way when it comes time to ask for recommendations your professor can give you a more personal review other than just your grade. As for your grade, have a mature outlook about college classes and recognize that a bad grade will stay on your transcript even if the class was not interesting to you and you may have to explain it to future schools or employees.

Dr. Stoia says his favorite part about his classes is telling stories that apply biology to real life situations. Many of his students take biology as a requirement, so he wants people to get the most out of what he can teach them.

Advice for students is to get involved. Many students say they do not have the time because they commute, however, he says make the most of the 10-15 minutes before class to get to know your classmates. Your friends from college can easily become life-long friends. Hobbies include reading (excluding science fiction), going out to dinner with his wife, model railroading and enjoying time with his dog, Red.

MEET HUSKIE POST-TRADITIONAL STUDENT: LIDIA SONTHIPANYA

Lidia Sonthipanya is a commuter, student parent, an adult learner and transfer student from Harold Washington College. Before arriving at NIU, she worked for 20 years in the early childhood education field. She is working towards getting her Bachelor’s in Science in Child Development. She wants to have a higher paying career to help better provide for her family. The degree she is seeking will help further her career. Currently, she works as a consultant for an early child education organization and works part-time in retail. As you can imagine, she is super busy!

Lidia lives in Aurora, Ill. She chose NIU because of the close distance. More importantly, NIU was highly recommended by a friend. Lidia saw her friend’s posts about her NIU experience. Her friend recommended NIU because it was the best financial choice, distance was good and knew other people who have attended NIU. NIU has a good reputation among Lidia’s network of friends and family. She appreciated that the application process was streamlined and the faculty and staff were welcoming.

Her advice to post-traditional students is to get to know people. Say hi to her! The first step to succeed at NIU is to say hello. Students need to network to learn about events, to seek help, find resources and create the social support necessary to succeed. For example, if you miss class you can text the student you sat next to in your class because you have already introduced one to the other. She also advises commuters is to arrive early to campus and use the resources available for commuters. The commuter lounge is perfect to come to in between classes to relax, eat or print class assignments. Lidia says Jeff is there if you need help. He either knows the answer or knows who to ask. Lidia loves reading, Harry Potter, running and spending time with her family.

Fun Fact: Passionate about immigration and minority issues. Used to be a Zumba instructor in Chicago.
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Forward Together Forward Remembering**  
(February 1-14, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.)  
Place: Holmes Student Center, Gallery Lounge

**Study Abroad Workshop**  
(February 8, 3:30 p.m.)  
Place: Williston Hall  
Study Abroad Office Room 417

**Have a Heart Bake Sale**  
(February 1, 11 a.m.)  
Place: Founders Memorial Library

**Spring Internship and Job Fair**  
(February 20, 10 a.m.)  
Place: Convocation Center

**Men’s Basketball Game vs Toledo**  
(February 27, 7 p.m.)  
Place: Convocation Center

**De Mujer a Mujer Meeting**  
(February 21, 5 p.m.)  
Place: Latino Resource Center  
Room: 121

**NIU School of Art and Design Faculty Exhibition**  
(February 14, 12 – 7 p.m.)  
Place: NIU Art Museum

**Engineering Job and Internship Fair**  
(February 22, 10:30 a.m.)  
Place: Holmes Student Center  
Duke Ellington Ballroom

**Facts & Snacks Workshop**  
(February 6, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.)  
Place: Campus Life Building  
Room: 100

**RecWell Games**  
(February 22, 5:30 p.m.)  
Place: NIU Recreation and Wellness Center

**Breaking Barriers Meeting**  
(February 7, 4 p.m.)  
Place: Campus Life Building  
Room: 100