WE’RE HALFWAY THROUGH THE SEMESTER!

Spring is (hopefully) just around the corner, which means us NIU Huskies can shed our winter coats and exchange them for lighter apparel! Don’t forget – the change in season also means a change in time. Daylight Savings beings on March 8, so be sure to “spring” forward one hour!

YAY SPRING BREAK!

If you are lucky enough to go somewhere special, we envy you! If you are homebound like the rest of us, spring break can be a rewarding time to catch up with those most important to you, friends and family and also get some much needed sleep!

If you are staying in the DeKalb area for spring break, get out and explore. DeKalb has a lot to offer, and people actually live here that aren’t related to NIU. I know surprising! There are beautiful houses, trails and restaurants. You can have your own staycation.

If you haven’t found time to complete your taxes, be sure to take advantage of the free tax prep services offered by Goodwill. Assistance will be available from 2-6 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays at the DeKalb Goodwill Resource Room, 1037 S. Annie Glidden Road. All individuals and families with income less than $56,000 are eligible. For more information or to schedule an appointment online, go to goodwillni.org/good-taxes or call 815-987-6200.
APARTMENT TIPS

The end of the school year will be here before you know it. Are you moving out of your apartment? Are you looking to find new roommates? There are a lot of options and plenty of things to consider. Do they spend money wisely? Will they be clean or messy? Do you have the same study and lifestyles? If you answered no to any of these, you should consider your lifestyle before you choose a roommate or an apartment.

For instance, there are a few apartment companies that allow for pets, but do they have a single pet deposit and the more important questions...is it refundable. There are companies that charge pet fees to move the pet into the property and are NOT refundable upon leaving. This may sway your opinion. Do you have to pay an extra fee every month for your pet?

What happens if you decide to be brave and adventurous and want to spend the semester studying abroad? Are you able to sublease? Keep in mind that even if you sublease you are still on the lease so you need to find a responsible person to rent that won’t crash your security deposit. This may sound stressful, but think of all the great memories and adventures study abroad will give. (here is a great opportunity to bike around South America!) Planning rids anxiety, so the sooner you plan the more exciting your year will be!

If you do decide to move out of your apartment at the end of this semester make sure to contact your property manager and request the itemized list of what will be inspected upon move out. No one wants to be blindsided because they didn’t use magic eraser on the walls scuffs!

GREAT MOVE OUT TIPS!

1). Start with the simple stuff! You can start packing things that are not a necessity and getting them ready to transport to your new rental. This could include decorations, old books, etc.

2). Start looking at your apartment with a critical eye, have you ever clean your ceiling fan blades? Depending on how long you lived at your current rental, you may have some serious deep cleaning to do.

3). This may be the grossest information, but I previously heard that people never vacuum, vacuum people! Winter gets dirty! (But not late at night, or first thing in the morning, you still want your neighbors to like you)

4). Clean that fridge, yes, top to bottom and take the drawers out. So many times people don’t clean behind the drawers and then get charged BY THE HOUR to clean simple crumbs! Hint: a vacuum will help you here too!

5). Thaw the freezer with all that freezer burn and throw out that old food.

6). Start using magic eraser on the walls, I once got charged for fingerprints. Need I say more!?

7). Before you patch your nail holes, check with the property manager.

FEATURED EMPLOYER:

AT&T

AT&T is on a mission to hire the best talent. You can even search by Military Occupation Specialty Code or near military installations.

“Here, we see beyond just your service. We know that your skills are going to launch a civilian career that could change everything. And we want you to do that here. With our mission to hire 20,000 veterans by 2020, you’ve found a place where servicemembers make a difference.

“It’s no secret – veterans and military spouses make great employees. Their commitment, adaptability, and sense of pride is unlike any other – which is why we have remained dedicated to supporting veterans and their families for more than 70 years. Between our Joining Forces veteran hiring initiative, Veteran Employee Resource Group (ERG) and top ratings on G.I. Job’s and DiversityInc’s military friendly company lists, we make it easy for veterans and their families to have successful careers.”
RECRUITING FOR OUR VETS4VETS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Do you have an interest in working with new military students get acclimated to NIU and the college lifestyle? Our office would love to have you sign up to be a mentor for the 2020-2021 academic year. This new program is open to all veterans. We are still looking for mentors. Beginning with April orientation sessions through August, we will be offering every new student we meet the opportunity to have a mentor for the fall semester. We hope you will join us! For more information, email either Marissa Dordick or Chris Robinson. You can also swing by CLB 160 on Monday and Wednesday if you would like to speak with them in person.

Vets4Vets

What is Vets4Vets?

- A mentorship program designed to connect new student veterans to other student veterans to ease the transition and assist in the college process.

Goals for Mentors.

- We ask that you have some sort of contact with your mentee once a week. (Text, Call, Email, Meet up, etc)
- Aim to meet with your mentee 2 times a month
- Submit weekly progress reports
- Attend at least one event a semester with your mentee
  - Don’t be afraid to apply to be a mentor if you’re afraid you won’t be able to meet up this often.

What do I need to be a mentor?

- Completed 2 semesters at NIU
- Served in the military
- GPA 2.5 or higher
- Attend new mentor orientation (September 2020)

How do I become a mentor?

Go to the qualify survey to fill out the application. http://go.niu.edu/gbc4zu.

- It will ask you questions such as major, branch served, and goals and interests so we can use this information to best match you up with a mentee.
- If you meet the requirements, you will be asked to come talk to us in person so we can meet you, discuss your responsibility, and have a better idea of who to match you with.
I don’t lose any sleep at night over the potential for failure. I cannot even spell the word."

‘I spent 30 years getting ready for that decision that took 30 seconds.’

‘By reading, you learn through others’ experiences, generally a better way to do business.’

‘Engage your brain before you engage your weapon.’

‘Be the hunter, not the hunted.’

‘It’s very hard to live with yourself if you don’t stick with your moral code.’

‘The most important six inches on the battlefield is between your ears.’

‘Thanks to my reading, I have never been caught flat-footed by any situation, never at a loss for how any problem has been addressed. ... It doesn’t give me all the answers, but it lights what is often a dark path ahead.’

‘You cannot allow any of your people to avoid the brutal facts. If they start living in a dream world, it’s going to be bad.’

‘Fight with a happy heart and strong spirit.’
Seven Unique Spring Break Destinations

- Yellowstone National Park
  Stay at one of the nine lodges at the park or get primitive and camp out at one of the campgrounds. Here you can see all kinds of wildlife including buffalo, bears, birds and more. You can also witness Old Faithful erupting! There are plenty of activities and things to do and see while visiting the park.

- Crystal River, Florida
  Crystal River is the perfect way to experience the great outdoors. Here you can swim and snorkel with manatees, take an air boat tour, paddle board and kayak and learn about the local ecosystem. There are a handful of hotels and bed and breakfast options only a short drive from the river.

- Great Sand Dunes National Park, Colorado
  The tallest dunes in America, this sandy desert stands out in a diverse Colorado landscape. Here you can camp, hike, bike, sand sled or sand board, and swim in Medano Creek. This is a great destination for photographers, professional or amateur, especially at night.

- Austin, Texas
  Austin is a funky town oasis in Texas. Parks everywhere you look, great live music, local food, hiking and fishing nearby, it is a great place to spend your spring break. Here you can kayak right in the city center and lounge in Zilker park, where all the locals take their furry friends to play.

- Savannah, Georgia
  Savannah is full of deep southern roots and traditions while also turning into an artsy up-and-coming area. Here you can take one of the many ghost tours and learn about the rich history of the area. You can also take a short drive out to Tybee Island and spend some time at the beach. There are always festivals and live music on the river front.

- Zion National Park, Utah
  Located in Utah, this park offers everything you could dream of for an outdoor enthusiast. Here you can camp or stay in the lodge, hike, bike, climb, tube the river, ride on the 4×4 trails, tune up your photography skills, fish and just enjoy the great outdoors.

- New York City, New York
  New York City is beautiful in the spring. All the flowers are in bloom, the sun is setting later, the weather is warming up and taking a walk through central park sounds dreamy. You can also enjoy one of the many Broadway shows being put on, visit the Statue of Liberty or Ground Zero, and explore the ever entertaining times square.

Looking for other plans?
These may interest you!

- Ollie’s Frozen Custard
  Stop by this local favorite with friends and enjoy a variety of sweets! Check their calendar for flavors.

- Tails Humane Society
  Get a furry friend or just enjoy spending time with them! Take it one step further by volunteering.

- Nearby State Parks
  - Castle Rock
  - Franklin Creek
  - Lowden
  - Moraine Hills
  - Rock Cut
  - Silver Springs
  - White Pines

- Music at the House Café
  Located in Downtown DeKalb, the House Café is a venue for many performers. Check their calendar for more info.

- Skateboard Sessions
  You know you’ve always wanted to learn how to skateboard. Here is your chance!