Winter Break is Almost Here!

Commuting is not easy, but you have survived fall semester! Good Job! With that said, I would like to post some commuter habits so you can have a good laugh and recognize how motivated and great you are.

You May Be a Commuter when...

*You automatically reach to your passenger seat when you make a turn while driving so nothing falls to the floor.
*You keep blankets in your car.
*You have more granola bar wrappers in your car than spare change.

Ways to Boost Your Commute!

- make a daily playlist
- listen to books on tape
- keep candy in your car

*Every time you drive through an I-Pass in the morning you calculate the coffee equivalent.
*The majority of the exercise you get is running from the parking garage to class. Get those steps in!
*You sleep in your backseat in between classes.
*Every time you look down you are low on gas.
*You live in your car

In This Issue...

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**Job Interests**

**White Shark and Marine Research**

Students looking for potential honors, dissertation or masters projects can also submit possible project proposals for consideration. Oceans hosts a number of students looking for field work and data sets for these types of projects. Contact for more information.

The renowned Oceans Research Internship offers a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ opportunity for students to gain hands on practical training in conducting research on South Africa’s marine mega-fauna, including the great white shark. Interns join our scientists daily on their research expeditions to conduct groundbreaking research and experiments involving Mossel Bay’s sharks and marine mammals. Become part of a team that is currently conducting unprecedented research on the ocean’s predators.

The Oceans Research program is a great opportunity for students to participate in real life research projects with species, including white sharks, whales, dolphins and more. All of these research projects have been established based on gaps in knowledge for species, as well as pertinent conservation issues. Students are out every day participating in our projects are designed to give students experience in various data collection methods, behavioral observing techniques and more. It is a great idea to come for two months for the program if you are looking to really gain a deep understanding of the research projects and methods.

**Wildlife and Adventure Photography Program**

Students learn how to capture the iconic wildlife of Africa on camera and also how to interact with wild animals. We help interns to develop skills in adventure photography and also how to photograph the people of Africa—thereby giving them a practical “slice-of-life” as a photographer assisting them to make career decisions. Our interns all leave with a portfolio of Africa.

Produce your own professional photographic portfolio and join a highly motivated team specializing in the collection, production and sale of wildlife and adventure photographic media. This program gives aspiring wildlife photographers an opportunity to receive practical photography training and enhance their career opportunities. Participants develop their skills from enthusiastic amateurs to professional photographer.

**Location:** Mossel Bay, South Africa

**Division:** Recruitment

**Desired Major(s):** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences/Journalism (U), College of Visual and Performing Arts/Art (G)/Studio Art (G), College of Visual and Performing Arts/Studio Art (U)/Studio (U)

**Salary Level:** Unpaid Internship
Huskie Military Spotlight

Chief Thomas R. Phillips, Sr.

Northern Illinois University’s chief of police is a motivated individual who has spent his life taking challenges and turning them into accomplishments. Phillips is from Flint Mich., where he was raised by his single mother. During high school, he watched his mother work very hard to support her children so he dropped out of school to join the work force. He then saw a recruitment advertisement on television for the Army. Due to his lack of GRE, he was able to qualify through testing and achieved his GRE within a year of basic training. From there, he became a military police officer and was stationed in Panama. During his time in Panama, he became fluent in Spanish.

The most important part of Phillip’s life is his family. Phillips has a lovely wife, two sons and a daughter. He described parenting as the most important and rewarding job he has ever had which is why he can relate to our non-traditional veteran students. Using his educational benefits, Phillips achieved his undergraduate and graduate degree while balancing work and parenting which is no easy task. He mentioned that one day he heard on the radio that if you graduate from college the chance of your children graduating from college raises drastically, which is why he has led by example.

Phillips has achieved many great accomplishments such as the completing the FBI academy, competing in the Chicago Marathon and graduating as valedictorian of the Chicago Police Academy. He believes he learned leadership from the military and for that he is thankful. The best way to get ahead is by doing things right, paying attention and expect high standards because people will live up the expectations you place on them.

Advice he would like to give students is that you never leave a job until you have a job. Throughout his life, he has never been unemployed excluding the 30-day transition from the military to a civilian job in Chicago.

Our chief of police believes in empowering others. You can get where you want to go if you put your mind to it.

Habits of Highly Successful People

Here are a few tips as found in the article by Craig Harper.

1). They look for and find opportunities where others see nothing.

2). They find a lesson while others only see a problem.

3). They are solution focused.

4). They are fearful like everyone else, but they are not controlled or limited by fear.

5). They rarely complain (waste of energy). All complaining does is put the complainer in a negative and unproductive state.

6). While they are not necessarily more talented than the majority, they always find a way to maximize their potential. They get more out of themselves. They use what they have more effectively.
Harry W. Colmery Education Act of 2017

As you may know, VA benefits are changing, so here is some information e-mailed from Curtis L. Coy the Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity Veterans Benefits Administration in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs from Washington, DC 20420 about how it is changing and how you are affected.

The 15-year time limitation for using Post-9/11 GI Bill - The 15-year limitation to use benefits is removed for Veterans who left active duty on or after January 1, 2013, children who became eligible for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) on or after January 1, 2013, and all Fry Scholarship eligible spouses.

There is no action you need to take; if eligible, the limitation is simply removed for you.

Restoration of Benefits due to School Closure - We are now authorized to restore benefits and provide relief to Veterans affected by school closures or disapprovals.

If you attended courses or programs discontinued from January 1, 2015, to August 16, 2017, and attended an accredited institution of higher learning, and did not transfer any credits to a comparable program, entitlement will not be charged for the entire period of your enrollment. The law also provides separate criteria for partial benefit restoration for school closures after January 1, 2015.

To apply for restoration, we will develop a web page with instructions, information, and a form to complete and return. I will update you when this page is available, and we’ll post an announcement on our main GI Bill page and social media sites.

Independent study programs at career and technical education schools covered by GI Bill - This allows anyone eligible for GI Bill to use their benefits at an accredited independent study program at an area career and technical school, or a postsecondary vocational school providing postsecondary level education. A bit of background on this provision: before the passage of this law, most non-college degree programs weren’t approvable if any portion of it was online. This change allows those programs to be considered for approval even if some or all of the instruction is online/not in a classroom.
Calendar Events to Check Out

Food for Fines at NIU Libraries

Starting November 1 and running through December 16, the Library is having a Food Drive to benefit the Huskie Food Pantry, which directly supports NIU students.

Donated items can count toward library fines and fees*! Just bring your unopened, unexpired, non-perishable items into the Main Library - it’s that easy! We’ll credit donations anywhere from $2 (for smaller items) to $10 (for larger items). Please see a detailed list of most needed items. Donation credit will be processed within two business days at the Library.

* Your Vu-Find account may show that you owe fines, even if they have already been paid. Library Billing will determine if you have a balance due and credit your account for the donation. Library staff will determine the value of your donation.

Tuesday, November 14 at 12:01 a.m. - 11:59 p.m.
More dates through December 16, 2017

Founders Memorial Library, Circulation Counter
217 Normal Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115

RecWell Group Fitness Free Week - Stress Relief!

End-of-semester projects and studying have your mind in a fog? We have a solution! Join your friends and fellow Huskies for a week of group fitness classes on us! From December 4 - December 9, attend our group fitness classes for free at the Campus Recreation Center. Classes are subject to maximum capacities, so arrive early!

Monday, December 4 at 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
More dates through December 9, 2017

Tuesday, December 5 at 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday, December 6 at 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday, December 7 at 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, December 8 at 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, December 9 at 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Manage Your Life

To register for this workshop, contact hrtraining@niu.edu or call 753-9191. Stress is a normal part of everyone’s life and can have both negative and positive effects. This training provides a quick orientation to stress, what it is, how to recognize it in yourself and how to manage it both short term and long term. Presented by: Savili Ngovo Williams, Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and Training Center

Tuesday, December 5 at 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Holmes Student Center, 100
600 Lucinda Ave, DeKalb, IL 60115
NOTE FROM OUR STAFF

We want to thank all of you from MPTSS for such a wonderful and successful semester. It was truly a joy to see you in the lounge, office, on-campus and especially at our events. To all those who are new, it has been nice to get to know each and every one of you. To those who are graduating, it was a pleasure to have you around and we wish you success with your life and career. We will miss you!

ENJOY BREAK!!!