

# eNEWS

STUDENT AFFAIRS & ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

ISSUE | 12  
FALL 2011



Dear Colleagues,

As we embark upon yet another academic year, one sure to be filled with learning, laughter, hard work, and focused attention on our students, I want to help set the tone for the Division by challenging you to re-acquaint yourself with our core ideology and commit to taking student engagement to a new level. As a Division, we believe in the following values: Student-centered service; partnerships focused on student learning; establishing an inclusive community; and actively building collaborative relationships. How do we embody these values? How do we use them in our work? It is important to consider how our core values shape and guide our everyday practice.

In August, thousands of students and their families descended upon campus for Move-In Day. Next, we experienced Academic Convocation, the induction of our incoming class to their academic career. While we are living in a world that is shifting and changing in many ways, there are fundamental trends and issues that we know our students will deal with while in college. This time of year is a pivotal, and somewhat emotional, time for those of us who work day to day with students. Often, memories come flooding back and we recall our own first days on campus as students or employees—the nervousness, the stress and confusion. We can empathize with the vulnerability and excitement that our students and families are feeling.

What I challenge you to consider as you approach your work this year is this: How does your life experience imPACT your work? Find ways to connect with students through meaningful dialogue that fosters growth and development, so that they will be better-equipped to change in ways they will come to understand and value. The benefit of this approach is that it will keep you energized and motivated to support our students. For every student with whom you interact, ask yourself what the primary message is that you hope to convey. In turn, what do you hope to take away from the encounter? I urge you not to lose sight of who you are and how that can aid you in your interactions with our students.

While this year has already been filled with renovating and constructing campus facilities, revealing a new University logo and brand, and bringing President Peters' Vision 2020 initiative to life, the work is just beginning. So, it is my hope that you will take some time to peruse this edition of the Student Affairs & Enrollment Management eNewsletter. Inside, you will find evidence of campus collaboration, care, commitment, celebration, and progress. From the Women's Resource Center's victim advocacy services to the Scholarship Office's report and key initiatives, this newsletter serves as further evidence of the great work that is occurring across the campus and throughout the Division. To rise to the challenge of our President, for NIU to become "the most student-centered public research university in the Midwest," we must transcend the level of engagement we committed to previously. Therefore, we must engage with our students in a way we never have done before—and this begins with us, the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management!

Forward, together forward...

Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

## *A Report from the Scholarship Office*

**2** 010-2011 was a year of significant change for the Scholarship Office.

We were excited to introduce new scholarship programs such as the Out-of-State Scholarship, the DeKalb County Scholarship, the Northern PACT Scholarship, and the NIU Transfer Scholarship. The Out-of-State Scholarship is available to new students from Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin. The DeKalb County Scholarship is offered to students who graduated from a DeKalb County high school and serves to increase opportunities in our own community. The Northern PACT Scholarship is based on the Northern PACT principles and is awarded to students who exhibit a commitment to service and community. The NIU Transfer Scholarship is for high-achieving transfer students.

One of the goals of the Scholarship Office is to create and distribute scholarship awards to impact students' college choice. During summer 2010, the Scholarship Office staff collaborated with ITS colleagues to develop comprehensive, electronic scholarship applications for new and current NIU students. We also used available technology to automatically award many scholarships to new students, especially those funds awarded solely on academic credentials. This change in our traditional process allowed us to get scholarship awards to students much earlier in their college search process.



In addition, we designed a comprehensive scholarship presentation to further positively impact student choice. Working with campus partners, we created an attractive package that included a certificate of recognition and information about the University Honors Program, Research Opportunities, Themed Learning Communities, Living Learning Communities, and/or First Year Connections. This approach provided an opportunity to showcase NIU's value-added programs that are especially attractive to high-achieving students.

Scholarships provide students with both recognition and financial support. We know that scholarships can make a difference to students in the college search process. Over 1,670 new students enrolled for fall 2011 with an NIU merit-based scholarship. These important changes to our programs and process provide a foundation for making additional enhancements and creating more opportunities to support recruitment of new students to NIU.

SCHOLARSHIP  OFFICE

Anne Hardy  
Director, Scholarship Office



## Renovation & Reopening of Grant Tower C

Through the reopening of the renovated Grant Tower C, NIU has completed the first milestone on its journey towards realizing the New | Northern *LifeStyle*, a long-range initiative to update and renovate several campus buildings. The plan also includes the addition of a new residence hall to open next fall.

On August 18th, incoming students were greeted by cheers from Team NIU and NIGuide student volunteers as they unloaded their belongings and prepared to see the newly renovated Grant Tower C for the first time. Though the exterior of the tower is largely unchanged, it hides the widespread and extensive improvements within. Students had seen architects' drawings on the New | Northern *LifeStyle* website, but did not view actual rooms until Opening Day.

The elevators, with interiors still covered by protective drop cloths to prevent the new brushed steel finish from being damaged during Opening Day, shuttled students to and from the ground floor. Tapping their access card against a lit up square on the control panel in the elevator car, volunteers demonstrated the new proximity sensors to students and their parents, eliciting a few impressed whistles. Besides residence hall floor access in the elevators, the new sensors (which are keyed to students' NIU OneCards) grant a student access to his or her room. In conjunction with a keypad and commensurate PIN, the new setup ensures increased security in the halls.

"It's so spacious," exclaimed Tiffany Nguyen, a Pre-Nursing student moving into Grant Tower C, "and everything is brand new."

The floor plans have been reconfigured to create larger double rooms and an increased number of single-occupant rooms. Many students expressed their amazement at the increase in room size. Even students who were unaware of the scale of completed renovations admitted to being impressed with the quality of the new rooms.

"It doesn't even look like Grant anymore," commented Dan Bickel, a Computer Sciences major. "It looks so much nicer." Dan and his new roommate then returned to their conversation over which of the new lofted beds they would claim.

Alongside increased comfort, the new renovations have also added wireless Internet connectivity throughout the tower, moveable furniture, student lounges with flat-panel televisions, and locking closets. All of these features were requested by students when surveyed about the improvements they would like to see in the renovated residence hall.

Grant Tower C is just the first step along the path set down in President Peters' vision of a residential renaissance at NIU, but it is an important one. This renovation shows students that the New | Northern *LifeStyle* vision is an imminent reality and that progress is being made every day. Signs of the New | Northern *LifeStyle* plan continue to unfold as students walk past the construction sites for the new residence hall and the renovated Cole Hall. With Grant Tower D, Gilbert Hall, and Holmes Student Center slated for renovation within the next few years, it will not be long before all students at NIU will be enjoying the New | Northern *LifeStyle* vision. Check out the New | Northern *LifeStyle* website at [newnorthern.niu.edu](http://newnorthern.niu.edu) for updates, photographs, video, and project timelines.



*Welcome Home to Grant C Tower!*



This is the... **LifeStyle**

Lindsey M. Myers  
Assistant Director of Marketing & PR,  
Housing & Dining

## *Victim Advocacy Services at NIU*

In fall 2010, the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women awarded NIU's Women's Resource Center a grant to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on a college campus. This award enabled the creation of Victim Advocacy Services (VAS).

The grant provided an opportunity for NIU to strengthen effective responses to violence against women and allowed the hiring of a full-time Victim Advocacy Coordinator and a graduate assistant to provide advocacy and support to **all** students who have been imPACTed and/or victimized by such crimes.

Victim Advocacy Services provides survivor-centered services through enhancing awareness within the NIU community and presenting prevention and education programs to increase knowledge of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In addition, Victim Advocacy Services strives to strengthen security and investigation strategies to prevent and respond to these crimes on campus. Awareness of these topics will assist in creating a culture and community that is open and willing to take a stand against domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

### **What does this mean for NIU students?**

Through confidential, free, and individualized attention, Victim Advocacy Services provides survivors with referral services and assistance that are coordinated to fit their needs. VAS assists survivors to ensure that they are supported to continue their educational journey. VAS provides collaborative opportunities with many on- and off-campus agencies and departments to give support and assistance to help students navigate through the reporting process if they choose to report the incident. VAS is the primary contact for students who are seeking advocacy and support. Additionally, as a DeKalb community partner of the grant, the local rape crisis center, Safe Passage, provides a 24-hour crisis hotline and medical and legal advocacy for the DeKalb County community, which includes NIU students. Safe Passage can be contacted at 815-756-5228.

### **Where can students find Victim Advocacy Services?**

Victim Advocacy Services is located in the Women's Resource Center at the corner of Normal Road and Lincoln Highway. Students seeking assistance can call 815-753-0320 to speak with the Victim Advocacy Coordinator.

Carrie Williams  
Assistant Director, Women's Resource Center



## *Save the Date – Student Involvement & Leadership Development Fall Events*

**T**he staff members of Student Involvement & Leadership Development (SILD) are excited to invite you to engage in our fall programs and services and to encourage your students to participate! Please save the date for the programs highlighted in this article.

**Fraternity and Sorority Life:** Looking for ways to engage in fraternity and sorority life? Send your students our way. Students can go through formal sorority recruitment, which occurs Thursday, September 22, through Sunday, September 25. For more information, visit our website at [http://www.niu.edu/studentinvolvement/fraternity\\_sorority\\_life/](http://www.niu.edu/studentinvolvement/fraternity_sorority_life/)

**Huskie Family Connections:** There are many ways for family members of our students to get involved on campus as well. SILD and Huskie Family Connections staff are hosting our annual Fall Family Weekend, Friday, September 23, through Sunday, September 25. Please join us as we celebrate our extended Huskie community and support our students. For a detailed schedule of events, please visit the following website: <http://niu.edu/hfc/events/>

**Homecoming:** Be sure to save the date for Homecoming 2011! The week of events is Sunday, October 9, through Saturday, October 15. Event highlights include Yell Like Hell, bonfire and fireworks display, fashion show, 5k race, homecoming parade, football game, dances, and much more! Visit the following website for more information: <http://www.niu.edu/studentinvolvement/homecoming/>



**Leadership:** The Leadership Academy staff members are proud to announce the calendar of events for the Fall 2011 Leadership Workshops. The workshops include a presentation, roundtable discussion, and time to enjoy refreshments courtesy of the Campus Activities Board (CAB)! These workshops are a great way to expand your knowledge and understanding of leadership concepts, meet other students who are interested in leadership, and engage in thought-provoking conversations. The following workshops topics are scheduled for this semester: “Challenge the Process,” “Enable Others to Act,” and “Develop, Maintain, and Grow Relationships.” For detailed information about these workshops, please visit <http://www.niu.edu/studentinvolvement/Leadership/academy.shtml>

Finally, the LEAD NIU Summit is right around the corner and will be held Friday, November 4, through Saturday, November 5, 2011. This two-day leadership seminar provides opportunities for NIU students to garner valuable knowledge from regional and national leadership experts. Small networking teams provide for targeted discussions and focused team exercises on leadership topics. By the end of the Summit, participants gain new understandings and approaches to their own personal leadership development, and strategies for implementing positive change in organizations they are involved with now and in the future. Help us spread the word about this wonderful opportunity! For further information, contact Karla Neal at 815-753-6511 or [kneal@niu.edu](mailto:kneal@niu.edu)

SILD staff members are happy to connect you to our department; please let us know how we can help you. We are located in Campus Life Building 150. Please visit us, e-mail us at [studentinvolvement@niu.edu](mailto:studentinvolvement@niu.edu), or call us at 815-753-1421. We are happy to answer your questions and get you connected.

Happy fall semester!

Jill Zambito  
Director, Student Involvement & Leadership Development

## *Campus Recreation – Serving the NIU Campus Community*

According to Exercise Science Professor Steven Aldana at Brigham Young University, regular cardio exercise can increase fitness levels and reduce the risk of developing heart disease, some types of cancers, and help prevent weight gain. The American Heart Association reports that regular aerobic exercise can strengthen your heart and help improve its efficiency, thus assisting in preventing heart disease and strokes. A 2002 study published in the *American Journal of Nutrition* found evidence that regular physical activity helps prevent cancer of the colon, breast, and prostate. Dr. Walter Willett of the Harvard School of Public Health says that regular exercise can help relieve symptoms of depression and anxiety and may even improve mood. Also, according to a 2004 study published in the *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, exercise improves self-esteem and cognitive functioning. The American College of Sports Medicine has found that regular aerobic exercise is an important factor in sustaining significant weight loss and preventing weight gain.



**RECREATION SERVICES** is now...

**Recreation** Campus

When we take care of ourselves, we are better prepared to take care of our students and colleagues at NIU. Also, you can serve as a positive role model for our students when you pursue a healthy lifestyle. Student Affairs & Enrollment Management offers an Employee Fitness Program to all Division employees! A semester membership costs only \$40, or \$95 for an annual membership. You can sign up for a payroll deduction so that it only costs you a little each month. Your membership benefits include:

- Access to all Campus Recreation facilities during Open Recreation hours (over 100 hours per week) – Student Recreation Center, Chick Evans Field House, Gabel Pool, and Anderson Pool
- One orientation with a Certified Personal Trainer
- One nutrition consultation
- Access to all Group Fitness classes (except Water Fitness classes)

Register at [www.stuaff.niu.edu/stuaff/division\\_employee\\_resources/fitness/](http://www.stuaff.niu.edu/stuaff/division_employee_resources/fitness/)

If you prefer to exercise with your family, they are eligible to purchase a membership. Go to the Campus Recreation website to learn more about family membership ([www.niu.edu/recservices/membership/](http://www.niu.edu/recservices/membership/)).

This year, I am working towards a healthier me...I challenge you to take time for yourself!

Sandi Carlisle  
Director, Campus Recreation