Welcome to your first issue of the First-Year Experience Newsletter! You’ll be receiving more of these throughout the rest of your first year. These newsletters are a useful tool to help you learn about available campus opportunities and resources. Please read on to learn about what’s happening next at NIU!

This is YOUR College Experience – How Will You Make the Most of it?

Welcome new Huskie! We hope that your first semester of college is going well and that you’re starting to make new memories and moments that count on campus. Take time to be proud of your accomplishments so far, surviving move-in, navigating campus and waking up for those dreaded early classes. Reflect on these accomplishments, begin setting goals for the rest of the semester and think about ways to be even more successful. Ask yourself these questions and think about ways you can enhance your academics. Are there any organizations you want to join? Are your classes going well? Have you reached out to any resources yet for anything you might be struggling with? Getting involved is a great way to make friends and build your network, which can be vital to your success at NIU.

With all of these new experiences, you may be feeling overwhelmed and a tad bit homesick. You have more responsibility. Being away from family, friends and home can be hard. Or maybe you just aren’t used to being on your own. As you adjust to college life, remember that you’re not alone! All of these experiences will help you grow, and are a natural part of the college process. Most first-year students experience at least one of these struggles, but it does get better and you’ll find NIU to be your home away from home sooner than you think!

We hope that you find this newsletter helpful and encouraging, that you utilize the resources provided or attend an event that looks fun and find ways to step out of your comfort zone and try new things! By keeping up with your academics and using these tips, your first year of college can be a successful one!
How Do I Make NIU My Home?

Get involved!
Joining an organization on campus can help you build connections with other students and faculty across NIU and the surrounding communities.

Huskies Get Connected
Meet with a peer who will help you discover opportunities on campus that are personally meaningful to you.

HuskieLink
Sign in at HuskieLink with your Z-ID and LINK yourself to a variety of events and organizations that interest you! View all of our 320+ student organizations!

University Calendar
Visit NIU Calendar to see what events are happening each day on campus.

Succeed in classes!

Talk to Professors
Your professors are a great resource to help you get connected. Visit their office hours to discuss important opportunities within your career field.

Tutoring Centers
Tutoring on campus is free and is a great way to get the grade you want in that difficult class! Check out ACCESS Tutoring.

University Writing Center
Getting help with your writing is more accessible than you think. Appointments may be made on the University Writing Center.
- Stevenson South: By appointment.
- McMurry 106: Walk-in sessions and workshops.

Study Groups
Sometimes the best way to get through a difficult class is by connecting with your peers and forming study groups. Chances are you’re not the only one in that class who’s looking for support. Try to ask a few people if they’d like to study together.

Pay for college!
Financing your education can be stressful, but using these NIU resources can make it easier. From finding scholarships to getting a job, NIU has the resource for you!

Student Employment Office
The Student Employment Office works with you to help find employment opportunities on campus. Drop by for a visit in Williston 406.

HR Website
The HR website is a great tool for searching for on-campus employment opportunities. Utilize this resource at any time!

Financial Aid and Scholarship Office (Swen Parson Hall, Room 245)
Visit the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office if you have any questions regarding how to afford college. Get guidance with financial aid, learn about available scholarship opportunities and payment plans. The sooner you visit, the better!

Bursar’s Office (Swen Parson Hall, Room 235)
For questions regarding your NIU bill and paying for your education, contact the Bursar.
Gear up for Homecoming!

NIU homecoming is almost here! View some of the events below. Check out all of the events happening during this action packed week!

- **Paint the Town**
  Sunday, October 1
- **Powder Puff**
  Sunday, October 1
- **NIU Women’s Soccer vs. Bowling Green**
  Sunday, October 1
- **Homecoming Kickoff Rally**
  Monday, October 2
- **‘Dec’ Out the Campus Judging**
  Tuesday, October 3
- **Recycled Boat Race**
  Tuesday, October 3
- **NIU Men’s Soccer vs. Valparaiso**
  Tuesday, October 3
- **Homecoming Court Elections**
  Wednesday, October 4
- **Yell Like Hell**
  Wednesday, October 4
- **Homecoming Blood Drive**
  Thursday, October 5
- **NIU Women’s Soccer vs. Miami**
  Thursday, October 5
- **2017 Northern Lights Homecoming Parade**
  Thursday, October 5
- **Lip Sync Competition**
  Thursday, October 5
- **Coronation Cookout**
  Friday, October 6
- **CAB and NPHC Concert**
  Friday, October 6
- **Alumni Village**
  Saturday, October 7
- **NIU Football vs Kent State**
  Saturday, October 7
- **8th Annual Rep Yo’ Step**
  Saturday, October 7
- **NPHC Dance**
  Saturday, October 7
This year’s Common Reading Experience is *Make Your Home Among Strangers* by Jennine Capó Crucet. The story follows Lizet, a first-generation Cuban-American and daughter of Cuban immigrants, through her challenging journey as she navigates the all-encompassing process of becoming a college student. Though the book is a work of fiction, it’s riddled with themes from the author’s own personal life as a first-generation Cuban-American student. If you’re interested in discussing the content and themes of this year’s Common Reading Experience book, check out the CRE events webpage for this and other happenings.

Jennine Capó Crucet is coming to campus!

Do you have questions or topics to discuss about this year’s Common Reading Experience book that only the author can answer? Now is your chance! Jennine Capó Crucet, author of *Make Your Home Among Strangers*, is coming to NIU to discuss the book and answer YOUR questions!

When: Tuesday, Oct. 17  
Where: Holmes Student Center, Carl Sandburg Auditorium

There will be a presentation by author Jennine Capó Crucet at 6:30 p.m., with a question and answer session and book signing to follow.

The NIU Common Reading Experience

University Libraries has placed copies and one CD audio book version of this year’s Common Reading Experience selection, *Make Your Home Among Strangers*, on reserve in Founders Memorial Library. The paper copies can be checked out for two hours at a time. The CD version is available for 24 hours at a time. To borrow any of these materials, please proceed to the Reserves Desk on the first floor of Founders and bring your OneCard. Stop by the FSYE office to get a copy for free! We have 12 copies available on a first-come, first-served basis.
First- and Second-Year Success Series

This series includes a variety of workshops to assist with your transition to college and connect you with other students and members of the NIU community. The program also connects you with the information you need to find key resource areas and people. The purpose of this program is to assist you with questions that you may have about NIU, whether they’re about residential hall life, finding a job on campus or ways to get involved.

Find a full list of events

Common Reading Experience Events

At NIU, you can strengthen relationships with fellow students and other community members by attending events associated with our Common Reading Experience Book, *Make Your Home Among Strangers* by Jennine Capó Crucet. Each event covers themes of navigating family life, first-generation college students and immigration.

Find a full list of events
At Northern Illinois University, you have a unique opportunity to customize your college experience and stand out with future employers or graduate programs through **NIU PLUS**. You can participate in three ways.

**Academics PLUS**
Customize your general education courses into a pathway focus. You can choose to discover or strengthen your major through themed pathways exploring topics such as sustainability or creativity.

**Engage PLUS**
Apply knowledge and skills gained in the classroom through hands-on learning and have these experiences documented on your academic transcript.

**Jobs PLUS**
Earn and learn by attending essential career skills workshops.

We hope you will gain the NIU advantage through **NIU PLUS!**

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What does it mean to be a Huskie for the rest of your life? The **Northern Pact** explains it all. Now that you’ve gotten through your first month at NIU, take time to reflect on the following statements about what it truly means to be a Huskie.

- I will be PURPOSEFUL in my education.
- I will be JUST in my actions and relationships.
- I will be CARING in my interactions with others.
- I will be OPEN to new opportunities, ideas and diverse perspectives.
- I will be DISCIPLINED in my education and my attitude.
- I will be CELEBRATIVE about my university, my classmates and my life.

The Northern Pact was formed to help strengthen our community by asking each individual to make a commitment to uphold these six principles. Your journey may not always be easy and you may have already encountered some bumps in the road. The most important thing to remember is that we are all part of the pack. You are a unique and valued Huskie. There are dedicated faculty and staff members who are here to help support you on your road to success, remind you of the **Northern Pact principles** when needed and celebrate with you.

We are excited that you are a Huskie!
Campus Events

Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) Lecture Series

Lunch with us! Feed body and mind at the weekly CSEAS brownbag lecture series

- Each Friday at noon in Campus Life Building, Room 100.
- All lectures are free and open to the public (no registration required).

Upcoming lectures:

**September 22**, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Barsema Alumni and Visitor Center.
Special address by governors of North Kalimantan and South Sumatra, Indonesia; light appetizers provided.

**September 29**: “Heritage Conservation: Collaborating with Myanmar Universities”—Catherine Raymond, Director, NIU Center for Burma Studies, with graduate students Carmin Berchiolly and Markie Striegel.

**October 6**: “The Impact of Sewage on Water Quality in Cambodia”—Melissa Lenczewski, Director, Environmental Studies, Northern Illinois University.


**October 20**: “Preah Vihear UNESCO World Heritage Site”—Kim Sedara, National Preah Vihear Authority, Cambodia.

**October 27**: “Archaeology and the Underpinnings of Ancient Vietnam”—Nam C. Kim, Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Huskie Food Pantry

The Huskie Food Pantry provides free food to NIU students who have found themselves in a circumstance where access to healthy food, or food in general, is inconsistent. Their motto is “take what you need.” To be eligible to use the Huskie Food Pantry, you must be an NIU student without an NIU meal plan. All students must bring their NIU OneCard.

- Every Thursday, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
  Chick Evans Fieldhouse
Community Postings

Campus Parking Services
NIU now has five Zipcars available for students and staff! You can complete a brief application form. Once you become a Zipcar member, you can find spaces in Lot D, north of Neptune West along Lucinda Avenue, two located on the northeast side of the Student Recreation Center parking lot, facing Lucinda and one in Lot X, north of the New Residence Hall, facing Annie Glidden Road. The Borrow-a-Bike program provides currently-enrolled students, faculty and staff with a FREE and environmentally-friendly alternative mode of transportation for getting around campus. All you need to do is complete the Borrow-a-Bike safety course application form, take the safety quiz and bring your NIU OneCard to Parking Service to get a bike during scheduled check out times, at a first-come, first-served basis. There is also an electric vehicle (EV) charging station located on the west side of the parking garage drive-up ramp off Carol Avenue. The first four hours are billed at $1 per hour, and $5 per hour after four hours.

DeKalb County 211 service offers help to NIU students, community
Local residents, including NIU students, can now receive free, nonemergency help and referral for a wide range of services via the county's new 211 program. You can dial 211 from any phone and be connected with a trained operator who will connect you with any of a number of different social services. Rent or utility assistance, mental health services, day care, disability resources and drug/alcohol rehabilitation are just a few of the resources available. 211 lines available 24/7 and online. There is no fee for the service, and all inquiries remain strictly confidential. Operators are trained and certified for coordinated program referrals and disaster recovery. They provide help for the homeless, those in abusive relationships, people battling addiction and those seeking information about transportation, education and job training options. Anyone needing any type of help can receive guidance and referrals from the 211 staff. The 211 program is coordinated by the Kishwaukee United Way and funded by grants from area institutions and foundations, including NIU. For more information, contact Dawn Littlefield at the United Way, (815) 756-7522.

Resources from ACCESS
ACCESS/PAL maintains three tutoring centers located in Founders Library 302, Grant South lower level and New Hall West basement. Hours and course availability vary and are on the website. All Centers are walk-in, so no appointment is required. Appointment tutoring can provide students with a tutor that can meet their schedule for up to three hours per week per course. Students can request a 1-on-1 tutor online. Supplemental Instruction (SI) provides enhanced group tutoring support in designated courses. Currently it serves MATH 108, MATH 109, CHEM 110, CHEM 210, ACCY 206 and ACCY 207. If a student is in these courses, the SI Leader (tutor) will have mentioned the service in class. It is open to anyone in these courses. Schedules for group tutoring for the course are available online. For more information on SI call 815-753-1141. The A+ Program provides professional reading specialists to work with students who have issues with textbook reading, test anxiety, time management and other academic issues. Through a method of “academic coaching” the reading specialists work on a regular basis with students to keep them on track. For more information, check the ACCESS website, or call 815-753-1141. Reading specialists also provide group and individual support for students who have had issues with passing the TAP test for admission into Education measures. They also have groups for Pre-Nursing students who need to complete the ACCUPLACER Reading test as a requirement for admission to the Nursing Program. For further information on these services, call Karol Clark at 815-753-3870.
Connect with Us

First- and Second-Year Experience
Email: fsye@niu.edu
Call: 815-753-0028
Visit: Altgeld Hall, Room 100

Do you want to learn more about what is going on in our office and around the NIU community? Connect with us!

For office updates, “Takeover Tuesdays,” live event recordings and more: Follow us on Snapchat at niufsye

For updates on upcoming events and other important information: facebook.com/NIUFSYE

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