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University Relations Staff

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Northeastern INSIGHTS

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Worth Repeating

The President's State of the University Address

In her talk, President Steinberg, who was a member of a select group of American educators visiting South Africa, said she was impressed with the changes occurring in South African society and higher education and the potential for partnerships between Northeastern and universities there. Northeastern and South Africa "share deeply" in commitments to diversity, academic excellence, and community outreach, Steinberg believes. She also pointed out the growing number of NEIU students studying abroad, as well as of students from abroad studying here.

Cardinal George sees the university As a shaper of culture

In his NEIU Presidential Seminar Series lecture to about 500 people, Archbishop Francis Cardinal George said a university education "gives us access to a critical point from which we can put our culture into perspective." Human intelligence, he notes, is "liberating, and always critical." Ultimately, a university education allows us to move beyond our culture, into other realms.

"Jazz in the Afternoon" Raises Money, Lifts Spirits

NEIU's benefit to raise funds for student scholarships and faculty research honored three outstanding Chicago music educators and featured some great performances by members of the NEIU Jazz Ensemble and several jazz headliners.

Author Oscar Hijuelos reads from his soon-to-be published next novel.

An SRO crowd listened as Oscar Hijuelos read from his next, yet to be published, novel, *Empress of the Splendid Season*, and responded to people's questions.

Faculty & Staff NEWS

Robert F. Betz, professor emeritus, Biology, was honored recently when the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

named its oldest restored prairie "Betz Circle." Betz, an expert in prairie ecology, is widely recognized as the driving force behind prairie restoration at Fermi and throughout northern Illinois.

Michael E. Carl, dean, College of Education, was recently elected President-Elect of the Illinois Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, and President of the Illinois Association of Deans of Public Colleges of Education.

Murrell J. Duster, dean, Academic Development, was a panelist at the recent World Future Society Conference held in Chicago.

Charles F. Falk, dean, College of Business and Management, was selected by Bain & Company to serve on the Judging Panel for the company's annual Award for Strategy Excellence competition.

Tom Hoberg, professor, English, was a featured speaker September 11 at the Jane Austen Society of Australia in Sydney. His topic was "Parenting and God-Parenting in Jane Austen's Novels."

Margaret Richek, professor, Reading, was recently awarded the 1998 Illinois Reading Council Hall of Fame Award in recognition for her outstanding work in reading education and for editing the *Illinois Reading Council Journal*.

Sheila Shapiro, associate professor, Reading, has accepted an appointment to participate in the Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking Project of the International Reading Association and the Open Society Institute of New York. Shapiro will work with educators in Bulgaria to seek ways to promote (Continued on page 2)

CALENDAR NOTES

Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater

NEIU's Ensemble Español celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with "Ritmos Unidos," performing dance and music of Spain, Mexico, Colombia, Bolivia; Friday, Saturday, October 16, 17 at 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. For information, call 773/583-4050, ext.3015.

Equity in Action Affirmative Action Issues

With the theme "Continuing the Call for Enlightened Leadership: A Choice or Echo," Northeastern hosts its fourth annual "Equity in Action" program, Monday and Tuesday, October 19, 20. Keynote speaker Achy Obejas of the *Chicago Tribune*, will speak on the role of the press and media in affirmative action issues, Monday, 10:00 a.m., Golden Eagles Room. NEIU faculty and staff and guest panelists and speakers will be featured in the two-day seminar. All programs are free and open to the public.

Fall Open House for Prospective Students
NEIU's Fall 1998 Open House welcomes prospective undergraduate students and their parents on Thursday, October 22, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Physical Education Complex (Central Park/Foster Avenues). Students can obtain admission, grant and scholarship information and meet informally with faculty and staff.

NEIU Theater Presents *The Front Page*

NEIU's Stage Center Theatre offers their production of *The Front Page* by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur. October 22-24, 29-31 and November 5-7, 7:30 p.m., (Continued on page 2)

Doing the Trans-Siberian Express

by Edward F. Stuart, professor, Economics (and his mom, Grace O. Stuart, MSW); the last part of a four-part tale of their recent visit to a land of special memories for many NEIU faculty and staff.

We reached Ekaterinburg and were met by some of my former students from the Pedagogical University. We were treated to a performance of *Il Trovatore* and dinner with some students studying English with one of my former students. As is true everywhere here, a huge demand for English language knowledge thrives, especially American and Business English. The students were all young, and most were already working for some western firm or joint-venture company.

Our last train, the "Ural," was the best of our good trains. The car attendant was very friendly and professional. The dining car had very good food (even though they insisted upon loading my borscht with sour cream) and pleasant company. In the compartment next to ours were a grandfather and his two granddaughters, also Moscow bound. Viktor was a civil judge in Moscow who had grown up in Ekaterinburg. His daughter still lived in Ekaterinburg and he was taking his granddaughters, Natasha and Julia, to Moscow to spend the summer. Viktor was very friendly and talkative and even though the only English phrases he knew were "Thank you," "very good," and "kiss me, please" (which he was teaching to his granddaughters), we had many conversations about American culture, the necessary changes in Russian jurisprudence, and the upcoming World Cup. Natasha, nine years old, was shy and

inconspicuous. Julia was five and the impress of all that she surveyed. We saw her often; she treated us to long explanations, in Russian, of course, of her vacation plans, the stories of her dolls, what she liked and did not like to eat, and many other subjects in which she obviously considered herself quite knowledgeable.

We arrived in Moscow too soon. We were still enjoying train travel and the special pleasure of seeing the world through a moving window. We had also grown very fond of Natasha, Julia, and Viktor.

Moscow proved to be even more lively, rich, and hectic than it had been on my last visit in May 1996. This was my fifth visit and it is truly becoming a world-class city. My mother and I travelled almost exclusively by the Metro and never felt the slightest danger or discomfort. The current local and national governments are making Moscow into a Russian, not a Soviet capital. The new Cathedral of Our Saviour, the new monument to Peter the Great, and the new memorial to the Russian victory in World War II are all designed to project a Russian national consciousness. The contrast between the Moscow of my first visit in 1985 and the Moscow of 1998 is more than remarkable. Moscow today is colorful and commercial. Its people move with a purpose and nervous energy so unlike the Soviet Muscovites walking as if there were liter-

al chains on their feet. The sense of freedom so palpable now in Russia is the most positive aspect in a country still plagued by many serious problems, most of which are the legacy of a miserable past. □

(Calendar Notes, cont. from page 1)
Stage Center Theatre. For information, call 773/794-6652.

Mazon Creek Open House

The NEIU Mazon Creek Project holds its Open House on Saturday, October 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Science Building. Admission is free. There will be an open discussion on Mazon Creek collecting opportunities, a movie geared to youngsters, refreshments, and door and raffle prizes. For more information call 773/794-6263.

Alumni Business Panel: "If I knew then...."

A panel of alumni from NEIU's College of Business and Management talk about "If I knew then what I know now"; Thursday, October 29, 1:40 p.m., CLS-3109. □

(Faculty/Staff News, cont. from page 1)
the process of democratization through classroom instruction.

Melvin C. Terrell, vice president, Student Affairs, and **Barbara Bales**, assistant professor and counselor, were recently honored by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators for their dedication, commitment, and service to the organization's Minority Undergraduate Fellows Program (MUFP). Plaques were presented to Terrell and Bales at the annual MUFP Summer Leadership Institute held at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. □

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