

2000

Insights- May 2000

University Relations Staff

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Recommended Citation

Staff, University Relations, "Insights- May 2000" (2000). *Insights*. 29.
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/insights/29>

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Message from the Desk of Salme H. Steinberg



This spring, as part of the FY2002 budget request cycle, I presented a concept statement describing a proposed Education Building to the University Budgetary Council and then to the NEIU Board of Trustees at the April meeting.

There was a wonderful spirit of enthusiasm in response to the proposal. After the Board of Trustees takes action in June, we will form a committee to name an architect who will work with university and

College of Education faculty, staff and students to design the new Education Building. That program statement and the proposed budget will be part of the FY 2002 capital request.

The new building is needed to house a College of Education that is rapidly growing and successfully meeting the demands of 21st century education. Our faculty and staff are actively engaged in the national dialogue about preparation of teachers. The college has the largest Educational Leadership master's program in the state of Illinois. And we are one of the

top producers of education degrees and careers in the state. NEIU graduates the highest number of Hispanic education degrees in the state, and we are ranked 13th in the nation for undergraduate education degrees to Hispanics and 28th nationally for undergraduate education degrees to Asians.

In addition, the building will permit new synergy among a number of partners. By moving the Chicago Teachers' Center to the Education Building, money now spent on leased space can be reallocated. Bringing the center to campus will also permit NEIU faculty to be engaged more completely with the initiatives of the center. The new building also promises to facilitate closer links with the community, including the Chicago public schools, by providing space for model grade school classrooms. We also have an opportunity to address campus parking concerns by incorporating additional parking spaces into the plan.

There is so much exhilaration and anticipation campus-wide for this proposal. I will keep you informed on the next steps.

Mentor's Eye View of NEIU 8th Annual Student Research & Creative Activities Symposium

(Insights asked participating faculty and staff members for their comments on this year's symposium, an event that has quickly become part of NEIU academic tradition. The following article is fashioned from their responses.)

The Eighth Annual NEIU Student Research & Creative Activities Symposium was held Friday morning, April 14. What set it apart from previous years? As Ricki Shine, symposium coordinator, notes: The symposia "vary year to year; each year is unique. Some years it's heavier in science, but this year there were many papers on women and women's issues, there were more papers from the College of Business and Management, and there was a big increase in the use of technology. Last year one student, this year 12 or 13 presenters used Power Point or other similar computer programs."

What was the same? "I was impressed **again** this year with the interesting research that students are doing," said David Leaman, assistant professor, Political Science, a discussant in one of the sections. As always, so many students, inspired by the findings and possibilities of original research and creative activity, offered the work they have so scrupulously developed to an attentive audience of faculty, staff, and fellow students.

This year almost 60 presentations, divided into six sections and delivered over three hours and 20 minutes,

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NEIU Selected for National Diversity Issues Project

A six-member team from Northeastern was selected by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) as one of the 40 colleges and universities to participate in its two-year project, "Boundaries and Borderlands III: The Search for Recognition and Community in America." The NEIU group will attend the project's ten-day institute at Brown University on July 13-23. At the institute, the team will attend seminars and workshops, study the latest research on diversity, examine curricular models from other institutions, and network with other teams.

The team leader is Hoda Mahmoudi, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The other members are: Shelley Bannister, acting associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Yvonne Gulli, coordinator, Academic Advising and Tutoring; Charles Pastors, professor, Political Science; Laura Sanders, coordinator, Earth Science Program; and Esther Santana, assistant professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Supported by a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, "Boundaries and Borderlands III" continues earlier AAC&U work in diversity and faculty capacity building. The association has created a series of widely used diversity resources, including a website, Diversity Web (www.diversityweb.org), a quarterly newsletter, *Diversity Digest*, and numerous publications.

In an interview with team leader Dr. Hoda Mahmoudi, *Insights* asked whether NEIU, known for its diversity, needed improvement. "Yes, I think we have to become **more intentional**. Boundaries and Borderlines III is asking these 40 institutions that were selected to re-think what they are doing on campus, based on the model or guidelines that this project is promoting. How can we develop skills among our students that foster inter-group dialogue, inter-group learning. In other words, not just how to tolerate one another – certainly, an important first step – but **how can we make this diversity of viewpoints and ideas work for us**, how can we take skills learned here into the workplace, to work with others as members of a democratic society, rather than go up against others."

Another reason for going, however, was to share what Northeastern does have with the other teams. Mahmoudi wanted NEIU participation because it has such a **"unique, marvelous environment here in terms of its diversity of all kinds. Very few American institutions of higher learning are like Northeastern. It would be a mistake for a key institution like ours not to participate."**

It became evident in her discussion that Mahmoudi sees diversity as an opportunity and as a considerable



NEIU team leader, Dean Hoda Mahmoudi

challenge. America itself continues to become a more diverse society. Getting our students to learn, understand, accept, and creatively interact with each other becomes a key factor in making our democracy really work.

"One population that this institution and others should be concerned with," Mahmoudi said, "are those immigrants who have come to this country from every corner of the world and intend on making this their home. **And it is extremely important that these populations be constantly educated and integrated into the democracy.** Otherwise our democratic process has a major chance of eroding further. The role of democracy ideally is participation by all, or representation at least. And if you alienate or marginalize groups of people – they come here and can't get integrated into or don't understand the system – then it becomes very difficult to make democracy work.

"The other part of this project that I think is worthwhile to us," Mahmoudi continued, "is that **every citizen should understand that if democracy is to work, it should be able to resolve social issues**, rather than create barriers. I'm not so sure that we understand that. I think students should at least learn that **the system does have potential for helping citizens to understand their role.** I don't think we spend enough time with that."

Finally, Mahmoudi hoped for a successful institute, "that we will come away with something even more unique for Northeastern ... and that other institutions can learn a lot from us."

Campus Construction Update

NEIU campus construction projects for 2000 and beyond, as described to *Insights* by Joseph Kish, assistant vice president, Facilities Management, involve major changes to buildings B, E, and the Auditorium. The summer's projected timetable includes the completion of Fine Arts Center work, readying B and the E mezzanine for construction, and the start of construction in the Auditorium.

Fine Arts Center. A ventilation problem in the ceramics, metals/jewelry, and photography labs has delayed the end of construction in the Fine Arts Center. Kish has been working with the designer and contractor to resolve the problems and get the labs ready for the fall semester.

Building B. During the summer, Building B will be readied for construction, which is expected to start in early September. The old "B Wing" is being redesigned and slightly expanded as the new Building B and will accommodate the Graduate College, International Programs, University Honors Program, Non-traditional Degree Programs, Academic Computing, the Placement Office, and the Dean of Students offices. Also included will be a major computing lab, three general purpose classrooms, student informal gathering places, and such common spaces as a conference room, duplicating facilities, and restrooms.

The building itself will keep the current overhangs over the breezeways on the north and south sides but will be built out to the column line on the east side for additional interior space.

"The university is making it easier," Kish said, "for first time visitors to locate assistance and information and to bring the heart of campus farther south. Right now, so many people and offices are in the Classroom Building. With this new constellation of offices and facilities in Building B next to the Science Building, Library, Student Union, and Building D, the campus will have major services and facilities more centrally located."

E Mezzanine. The Building E Mezzanine, the space above the bookstore, is the former home of the Office of Student Activities. It is being prepared for construction, which is scheduled, like B, to begin in early September. Its new occupants will be the Controller's Office and Payroll.

Auditorium. The remodeled Auditorium will have an orchestra pit, an expandable stage, a state of the art sound system, and improved sight lines for attendees. The asbestos removal phase of this renovation project has already been completed. Bids will be opened in June and construction will start later in the summer. The first results that the university community might notice will be an expanded loading dock, visible from the entry to campus just south of Public Safety.

Bucky's Rattle

by the NEIU Health Service Staff

Meningitis can be very scary, but it is also very rare and more difficult to get than the common cold. Recent outbreaks, however, seem to be prevalent in the college population and this has prompted some concerned discussions in the college health community. The term *meningitis* describes a condition in which the meninges (or tissues that cover the brain and spinal cord) become inflamed. There are two classifications of causative organisms: viral and bacterial. The viral form is a mild disease that is most commonly spread by direct contact with the saliva or sputum of an infected person. The incubation period (or time from infection to onset of symptoms) is between three to seven days. The disease runs its course in seven to ten days during which time there is no specific treatment but rest and management of symptoms. Exposed people do not need to receive medication.

The bacterial form is the more dangerous of the two. Symptoms can quickly become life threatening and prompt treatment with antibiotics is required. This form of the disease usually occurs in outbreaks (or

clusters of cases confined to a particular area) in late winter or early spring. Transmission of the bacterial form and the incubation period are similar to the viral form. However, exposed persons in this case should be treated with preventive antibiotics. Symptoms for both forms are similar and can include stiff neck, fever, headache, vomiting, and confusion.

The diagnosis is made through microscopic examination of spinal fluid. The presence of bacteria indicate bacterial meningitis; the absence of bacteria but presence of blood cells and appropriate symptoms indicate viral meningitis. There is a vaccine available for the bacterial form; it is only effective against certain strains of the most common causative bacteria and does not confer lifetime immunity. And, remember, studies indicate, as we noted in last month's column, that the most "at risk" group in the college population are freshmen living in dormitories.

Our e-mail address for any questions is: health-science@neiu.098.edu or leave questions in either of the black boxes located in the Student Lounge and outside Health Service's door (B-117). Answers will be printed in this column in future issues of *Insights*.

Joe Accardi, Academic Computing, presented a program entitled "Trends in Technology: Building a Strategy" at the Reaching Forward Conference for Library Staff held at the Rosemont Convention Center on April 14. (More info about the conference programs can be found at: www.reachingforward.org/programs.html)

John Beckwith, associate professor, Educational Leadership and Development; **Clyde Bradley**, associate professor, Educational Leadership and Development; and **Alfred Price**, consultant, presented a paper recently at the annual meeting of the American Education Finance Association. The paper "Are Illinois Boards of Education Losing Authority?" focused on recent Illinois legislative action in the areas of local school district governance, academic growth and finance, and the corresponding impact on the authority of local boards of education and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Janet Bercik, professor, Teacher Education, and coordinator, Clinical Experiences and Student Teaching, presented a breakout session at the conference Successful Transitions: Helping Illinois Teachers Move from Novice to Expert in Champaign, Illinois, on April 10. Bercik's session showed how new teachers are supported by their school district in conjunction with university collaboration. Conference participants included district administrators and teachers, regional office and intermediate agency staff, university faculty, and teacher organization leaders. The conference was sponsored by the Regional Office of Education in Champaign with support from the state Board of Education.

Netiva Caftori, associate professor, Computer Science and Women's Studies, and midwest regional director of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility (CPSR), addressed the Chicago chapter of CPSR at the Loyola University downtown campus on April 11. Her topic was the proposed UCITA law (Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act) and why software consumers should oppose it. On April 24 Caftori talked at a meeting of the Round Lake School District 116 on the impact of computers on society as it relates to their Wellness and Team Building Inservice Day and CPSR's expert professionals program.

Paul Dolan, associate professor, Physics, presented the paper "Enhanced Inelastic Scattering in Chemically Treated Niobium Point Contacts" at the March meeting of the American Physical Society in Minneapolis, on March 20-24. The paper was co-authored by Professor Charles W. Smith and Dr. Eugene Slobodzian of the University of Maine. Dolan will be

pursuing this work in more detail during his sabbatical at the University of Maine next year.

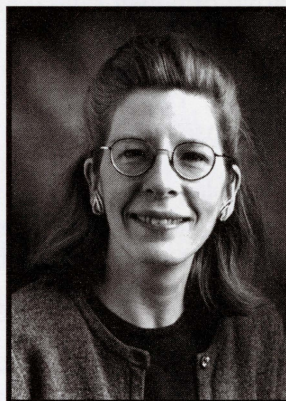
Bernard Headley, professor, Criminal Justice, has been awarded his second Senior Fulbright Scholar Award in six years. The grant will enable him to lecture and conduct research at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, from August to January 2001. Headley will teach a course in Comparative Criminology while beginning a two-year research project on restorative justice.

Ron Panzer, Biology, is the subject of an article "Scientist embarks on a bug's life" in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, March 12, 2000, by Gary Wisby, environment reporter. "Buoyed by a new grant," awarded by Chicago Wilderness, and support from the Nature Conservancy, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Northeastern, Panzer, the article notes, "plans to identify at least 95 percent of the insects that inhabit six prairie or woodland preserves between southeastern Wisconsin and northwestern Indiana, in what is known as the Chicago Lake Plain. . . . So far Panzer has turned up more than 300 species that live only in protected natural areas in Illinois. Two species are Panzer discoveries, found nowhere else in the world: the tall grass Papapiema moth and . . . the Lake Plain leafhopper, known to exist only at Illinois Beach State Park near Zion."

Kyu Young Park, coordinator, Asian Programs, attended the Association for Asian Studies Conference, March 8-12, in San Diego. Representing NEIU, Park talked about her experience in Vietnam where she and NEIU's David Leaman participated in a project in the summer of 1999, under a Fulbright-Hays grant, to introduce Asian studies into their curriculums.

Employee of the Month

April



Paula Gabbert
Staff Secretary
Computer
Science

Calendar Notes

May

Academic Honors Reception, Thursday, May 11, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Alumni Hall.

Chamber Music Concert featuring faculty artist Brian Torosian, guitar. Thursday, May 11, 1:00 p.m., Fine Arts Center Recital Hall.

Annual Juried Student Exhibition, Monday, May 15-Friday, June 16, NEIU Art Gallery.

NEIU Faculty Concert: Allen Anderson, piano; Sylvia Myintoo, violin; Michael Duggan, cello, perform the final concert in the university's *Discover Northeastern: Celebration of the Arts* Inaugural Concert Series on Friday, May 19, 8:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. The program includes Mozart's *Trio in G major, K. 564*; Shostakovich's *Piano Trio in E minor, Op. 67*; and Schubert's *Piano Trio in B-flat major, Op. 99, D. 898*. Gen. adm. \$20, NEIU students \$10. The concert will be broadcast live on 98.7 WFMT.

The NEIU May 2000 Commencement will take place Sunday, May 21, in the Physical Education Complex, starting at 10:00 a.m. The commencement presentation schedule: Graduate College, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business and Management, College of Education, Non-Traditional Degree Program.

Learning Showcase, sponsored by the Illinois Professional Learners Partnership, features a variety of presentations such as Writing Across the Curriculum, ESL, Math and Cooperative Learning with Gifted Students, and other activities highlighting faculty members of the College of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences. Monday, May 22, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Student Union. For more information contact Harry Hild, ext. 2936, or Ellen Fiedler, ext. 2814.

Brass Quintet Concert, Tuesday, May 30, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center Recital Hall.

The Bill Porter Combo performs Swing, pop, Latin in a Coffeehouse appearance sponsored by the Northeastern Programming Board (NPB), on Wednesday, May 31, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

Most events are free to NEIU students, faculty, and staff with valid ID.

June

The NEIU Classical Guitar Series presents Jacob Heringman performing on the Renaissance lute Monday, June 12, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. Gen. adm. \$10. Heringman conducts a Master Class at 2:00 p.m. For information: 773/794-3008.

The 2000 Civil Service Awards/Employee of the Year Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall. This event is designed to recognize those employees who have completed service to the university in five-year increments as of December 31, 1999. More than 45 employees will receive service awards. The employee of the year for 1999 will also be announced. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

The Ecuador Inkas, an instrumental group from the Andes, makes another Coffeehouse appearance on Tuesday, June 13, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Cafeteria.

The NPB presents a Summer Special Event, "Chill Zone," with pool tables and Karaoke in the Cafeteria Meeting Room, SU003, and a DJ and a caricaturist in the Cafeteria, Monday, June 19, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Graduating students...



planning to participate in the May 2000 Commencement on Sunday, May 21, at 10:00 a.m.



must R.S.V.P. to the University Events office at ext. 4658 by Friday, May 12.

Mentor's Eye View

Continued from page 1

informed and entertained the hundreds who came to listen.

Student-Centered Learning

The sense of mutual participation was captured by another of the discussants, Timothy Scherman, associate professor, English and Women's Studies. This symposium "has been a model of student-centered learning, where the professor is a beneficiary along with both the university community audience and the student-authors themselves."

Thorough and Challenging

Valerie Simms, professor, Political Science and Women's Studies, presided over Section 2 and gives this assessment. "An attentive audience (or, rather, several of them) saw a thorough discussion of contemporary issues in criminal justice as three separate students led us through difficult theoretical and empirical perspectives. One student developed her own inventive application of psychoanalytic theory to a novel...another considered Christian missionary influence in Melanesia...another used Power Point to demonstrate a research project on the delivery of social services in Mexico and Chicago. A textual analysis of the religious belief of John Locke led us into conflicting

interpretations. As one can see, students ranged over a variety of issues using a variety of presentations."

Shelley Bannister, acting associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences, was impressed with the nature of the several papers presented on women's issues in Section 1. "These students were brave," Bannister said, "in challenging the status quo on women and women's education issues, digging deep and extending what we know about women in the mid-19th century. They highlighted how women, who had little access to institutions of higher education, still became accomplished writers and intellectuals."

Students Teaching Faculty

It is true that "the symposium helps students discover their hidden research skills under the guidance and supervision of a research-oriented faculty," as faculty discussant Ana Gil Serafin, assistant professor, Educational Leadership and Development, states. And faculty members are also ready to learn from the students' findings and observations.

Commenting on four specific student presentations she heard as a discussant in her section on teaching/learning issues, Effie Kritikos, assistant professor, Special Education, observes: "Their vocabulary

and reading strategies were very practical and useful - strategies that could be incorporated into the classroom."

David Leaman notes that Jeanette Hernandez' presentation "Ending the Debt" "provided me with an improved lens for my understanding of the issues behind the current campaign for 'forgiveness' of 'Third World debt'." And Timothy Scherman assures us that "all three of the papers [presented by students he sponsored] I know will become part of my own presentations on similar subjects in my courses."

Other Horizons

For many NEIU students participation in the symposium is an introduction to independent research and presentation, or, sometimes to the career they are looking for. Professor Scherman encouraged one of the students he sponsored to get his paper published. Many faculty sponsors urge students to find other outlets for their research. Two students Professor Serafin sponsored have submitted their papers to the Midwestern Research Association conference to be held in Chicago in October. Two of her students who presented in the NEIU symposium in 1999 submitted their paper for a conference in Lima, Peru. "The paper was accepted and both traveled to Peru to deliver their research paper to an audience of 60 teachers representing different Latin American countries."

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