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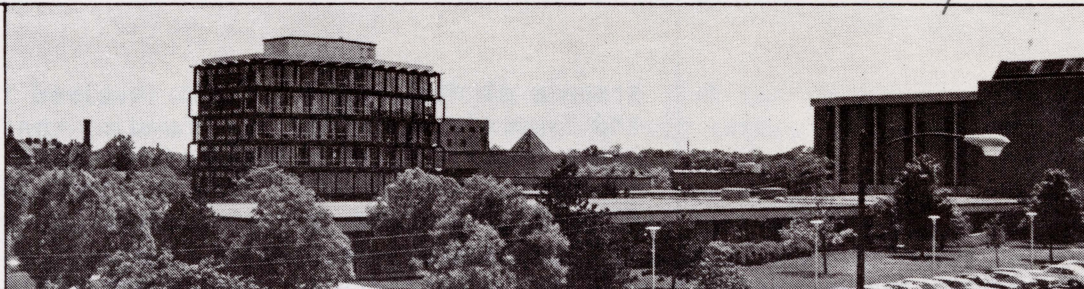
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION



April 16, 1984

FYI is published by University Relations, Northeastern Illinois University, for university faculty and staff members. Please send information to Terry Katz, University Relations, C-437.

WOMEN'S STUDIES
CELEBRATES TENTH
YEAR

The Women's Studies Program recently celebrated its 10th year at Northeastern Illinois University during Women's History Week.

As one of the pioneer programs in the nation, Northeastern's Women's Studies Program was established to encourage and coordinate research and teaching throughout the university on subjects relating to women. The long-range goal of the Women's Studies Program is to integrate new knowledge about women into the academic curriculum and incorporate a non-sexist orientation toward women into all areas of the university.

"The past 10 years have brought about some significant changes in the program," said Blanche Hersh, coordinator of the Women's Studies Program. "There are over 50 courses offered regularly with 30 faculty members in 14 departments teaching them. Despite recent setbacks for the Equal Rights Amendment, interest in women's issues is growing."

Women's studies courses have a primary focus on women or gender-related subjects. They are offered through the regular departments and approved for cross-listing by the Women's Studies Program. The current spring/summer listing of courses is the largest in the history of the program. Between 35 and 45 courses are offered each year. Enrollments have either remained stable or increased.

An interdisciplinary women's studies minor was approved in 1977. Last year, there were 11 women and one man who graduated from this curriculum. This year there will be eight students completing the minor.

Students are often prompted to take women's studies courses to fulfill a university requirement. Northeastern also allows people to participate in some courses without paying tuition or getting college credit. For some, the experience proves to be so satisfying that it has led to enrollment in the minor. Popularity in the program also stems from the fact that each student enrolled at Northeastern must now have a minor course of study in order to graduate.

In addition to regular course offerings, women's studies provides a number of special interest programs for the university community. Brown Bag Seminars are held regularly. Even though these programs often deal with women's issues, men are encouraged to participate.

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Women's studies has also been involved in several conferences and symposia including the founding conference for the Great Lakes Women's Studies Association which is the regional branch of the National Women's Association. In addition, the university has co-hosted several conferences with other universities in the Chicago area.

One of the major contributions of women's studies has been the creation of a volunteer advisory board made up of students, civil service staff, and faculty. The board is an extension of the women's studies office. Members work diligently to raise the consciousness of the university and the community on women's issues and promote social change that will mean greater equality, freedom, and fuller lives for women and men. This year for the first time since its establishment, the Women's Studies Board will achieve a major goal of ethnic diversity among its members. Both Black and Hispanic women are now part of this decision-making body.

EINSTEIN'S BASIC ASSUMPTIONS MAY BE TESTED

Charles Nissim-Sabat, professor of physics, has demonstrated in the current issue of the British Journal for the Philosophy of Science that one of Albert Einstein's basic assumptions when he formulated his Theory of Relativity in 1905 may, at least in principle, be proven false.

The assumption is that light and all other electromagnetic waves travel at the same speed in all directions. Einstein was aware there was no proof for this assumption.

Fundamental to Einstein's theory was the concept that the speed of light and other electromagnetic waves (such as radio) is the maximum speed that any object can attain and is the fundamental quantity in terms of which the laws of nature are to be formulated.

Nissim-Sabat offers the following illustration to make his point: Einstein proposed that if two clocks, one in Chicago and one in New York, are to be perfectly synchronized, one would determine the half-way point (Youngstown, Ohio), have a radio signal emitted in all directions from Youngstown, and start each clock the moment the radio signal is received in Chicago and New York. Of course, this assumes that the speed of light from Youngstown to Chicago is the same as the speed from Youngstown to New York.

Since 1905, many philosophers of science have argued that, in principle, these one-way speeds cannot be measured and there is no way to ascertain that the clocks are perfectly synchronized. All that could be measured was that the round trip speed of a radio signal beamed from Youngstown to Chicago and back again was the same as the round trip speed of the signal beamed from Youngstown to New York and back again.

The round trip speed measurements require only one clock, located in Youngstown, while the one-way measurement would

require clocks in both Chicago and New York and it was thought these could not be perfectly synchronized without using light or radio signals.

Nissim-Sabat points out that all measurements of the speed of light made so far are in fact round trip measurements. But he has demonstrated that it is possible to synchronize two clocks at one location, transport them in identical cars at identical speeds (as measured by the cars' speedometers) and still maintain their synchronization. Once this is done, one can measure the speed of light on one-way trips.

"Of course such experiments must be conducted in a specially designed physics laboratory and not between cities," Nissim-Sabat said. "If it were to be discovered that light does not travel at the same speed in all directions, there would be much agitation in the world of physics even though much of the present structure of the Theory of Relativity could still be maintained."

SAVINGS BOND CAMPAIGN

The annual United States Savings Bond Campaign will be conducted from April 15 through May 15. This annual campaign offers faculty and staff information and the opportunity to sign up for the Payroll Savings Plan for United States Savings Bonds. If you are already enrolled, you can increase your rate of saving.

With the Payroll Savings Plan, saving is regular, automatic, and simple. Savings bonds now earn 85 percent of Treasury Market rates when held at least five years and there is no limit to what a person can earn. The market based interest rate for Series EE Bonds issued between November 1, 1983, and April 30, 1984, is 9.38 percent for the first semiannual interest period. Older bonds will also receive this rate. The average yield will change periodically. If bonds are held for five years or more, the minimum guaranteed yield is 7.5 percent.

During the next few weeks, a fellow employee will contact you about contributing to this Payroll Savings Plan. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Howe, assistant director, personnel office, at extension 8318.

IN THE MEDIA

According to ALYCE CLAERBAUT, assistant coordinator of field and continuing education, there has been an increase in demand for learning Japanese and Arabic at Northeastern. In an article in the Lerner Newspapers, Wednesday, March 14, she stated that college-age youths and adults who plan to travel to Japan or learn more about their heritage, account for a majority of the students in the non-credit classes.

HUBERT DOLEZAL, associate professor of psychology, was featured in a Wall Street Journal article on Wednesday, April 4, on preventives and cures of motion sickness - a problem that affects 80 percent of the American people and our astronauts during space travel. To help alleviate this problem, Dolezal has

invented a pair of reverse-prism glasses that could overcome the effects of space sickness. "Prisms could be used to train astronauts to adapt to the unsettling effects of somersaulting and hanging upside-down inside the gravity-free capsule of their space ships," Dolezal said.

Dolezal also discussed his prism glasses on KCBS News Radio in San Francisco, on Wednesday, April 4. Kurt Casselman was the host of the talk show.

JUNE SOCHEN, professor of history, commented on the history of women's studies and the role that Northeastern has played in the area for the last 10 years in an article she wrote for the Chicago Sun-Times, Wednesday, March 14.

ROBERT STARKS, associate professor of inner city studies, was interviewed by Carolyn Grisko of "Morning Edition" on WBEZ-FM (91.5) on Thursday, April 5. He discussed a third party coalition of blacks, independents, and other minorities within the Democratic Party.

Even though Hispanic college enrollment has tripled in the last 10 years, college counselors and other school personnel describe an alarming dropout rate among Hispanic students, reported The Chicago Reporter in the April 1984 issue. According to MAXIMINO TORRES, counselor in Proyecto Pa'lante, specialized programs were specifically designed to assist Hispanic students at Northeastern. The article commented further that the university has become one of the Midwest's leading centers of Hispanic higher education. From 1970 to 1983, the university increased its Hispanic enrollment from 97 students to 1,064.

HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

MAURICE GUYSENIER, professor of secondary education, presented a slide/tape program on "The Roaring Twenties" at B'nai Zion Synagogue on Monday, April 9.

AARON HORNE, professor of music, presented a lecture/recital of music of black composers on Sunday, March 18, at New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church in Phoenix.

Prentice-Hall, Inc. has published the fourth edition of C. JERIEL HOWARD's book CONTACT: A Textbook in Applied Communications. Howard is associate professor of English.

RICHARD KATSCHKE, director of university relations, presented a workshop on "Basic Public Relations Skills and Strategy" at the Publicity Club of Chicago's "Practical Publicity and Public Relations Course for 1984" on Friday, March 9, at the Americana Congress Hotel.

GEORGE LESMES, coordinator of the human performance laboratory, was one of the speakers at the Second Annual Heart to Heart Seminar at Maine North High School in Des Plaines. The topic of his speech was "Why Exercise."