

2003

Insights- April 2003

Erika Malek

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Message from the Desk of Salme H. Steinberg

On March 20, I sent a memo to the university community about the budgetary challenges facing Northeastern Illinois University. I want to take this opportunity to update the campus com-

munity on the budget situation for our current fiscal year and to share with you the governor's proposals for fiscal year 2004.

The Remainder of this Fiscal Year

We have reason to be optimistic despite reductions in appropriated funding. Our student enrollment continues to be strong and our efforts to strengthen NEIU's academic and student support programs are successful. As I wrote in March, we do not anticipate the need to lay off staff. We will reduce staffing levels through attrition and holding open vacant positions.

We will, however, reduce state expenditures by \$1.167 million in the current fiscal year that ends June 30th and have taken a number of steps to meet that goal.

Several expenditure controls are in place that will help address our current fiscal challenges and ensure that our students continue to have access to the high

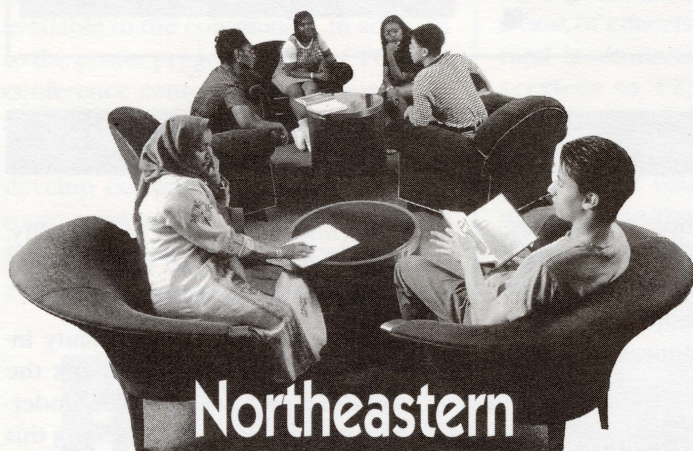
quality and affordable education that we provide.

Except in extraordinary circumstances, we will not approve expenditures for equipment, out-of-state travel, catering, contract services (including professional and artistic contracts), professional association dues, and professional development activities. The vice presidents and I will review exceptions on a case by case basis.

Except for previously approved faculty positions, the university vice presidents and I will review all requests for new or replacement status positions, regardless of source of funds. Our goal is to address a significant portion of the budget shortfall through attrition. In order to achieve this goal, we will carefully examine staffing options and reallocations before making new personnel commitments.

With these steps, I believe we will end the current fiscal year within budget.

Continued on page 2



Northeastern
is the Most Ethnically Diverse University
in the Midwest According to
U.S. News and World Report

Northeastern has again been ranked the most ethnically diverse university in the Midwest by U.S. News and World Report's yearly edition of best colleges. Northeastern has held the number one spot since the magazine started ranking this category in 1997.

The data for the rankings were drawn from each institution's 2001-2002 enrollment numbers. According to *U.S. News and World Report*, the groups forming the basis for the diversity ranking calculations were Native-Americans, Asian-Americans, African-Americans who are non-Hispanic, whites who are non-Hispanic, and Hispanics. Northeastern reported its undergraduate student body as 43 percent white, 28 percent Hispanic, 13 percent African-American, and 12 percent Asian-American.

"Northeastern graduates are prepared for life in a global economy," said President Steinberg. "Now more than ever, students believe in the value of studying with people from different backgrounds. Students attending NEIU are at an advantage because they have already been an active part of a diverse community." ■



Helie Lee

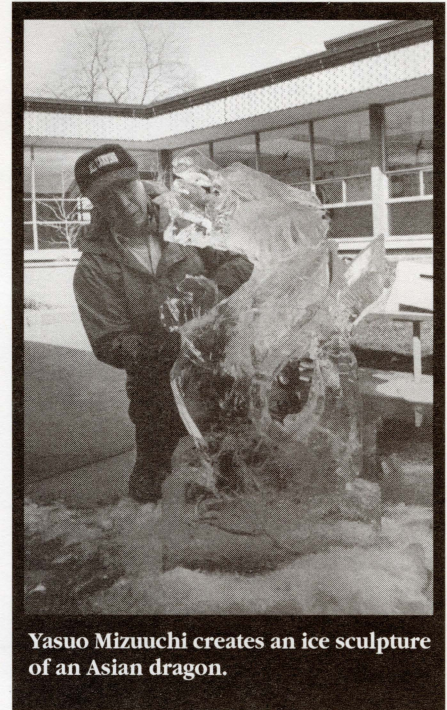
Celebrating Asian Culture at the Eighth Annual Asian-American Heritage Program

Korean-American author Helie Lee was the keynote speaker at Northeastern's Eighth Annual Asian-American Heritage Program held March 31 through April 2. Lee, who lectures nationwide, discussed her most recent book "In the Absence of Sun," a true story of a rescue mission undertaken by a young woman and her family. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Lee grew up in Los Angeles, where she now lives near her family.

At another session, Korean-American scholar Dr. Hesung Chun Koh spoke about East Asian values. Koh has devoted her professional life to bridging cultural understanding between East and West Asia through research, publications, teaching, and educational and cultural programs at Boston University, Yale University, Albertus Magnus College and East Rock Institute both in New Haven, Connecticut. She has recently been a visiting professor at the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka and at the International Research Center for Japanese Culture in Kyoto, Japan.

In addition to lecture sessions, students enjoyed an Asian jazz night with guest Tatsu Aoki, one of the most recorded Asian-American bassists in U.S. jazz history. Aoki transformed Northeastern's Village Square into an Asian jazz nightclub. He is the founder and artistic director of the Chicago Asian-American Jazz Festival, which debuted in October 1996.

Dean of Academic Development Murrell Duster said, "Diverse programming provides the opportunity to broaden our understanding of the human experience and contributes to enhancing the educational environment for students, faculty, staff, and the community." ■



Yasuo Mizuuchi creates an ice sculpture of an Asian dragon.

Message from the President

Continued from page 1

FY 2004

Last week, Governor Blagojevich presented his budget address to the legislature including his proposed FY 2004 appropriation to higher education. It will be at least several weeks before the General Assembly makes decisions on the FY2004 budget.

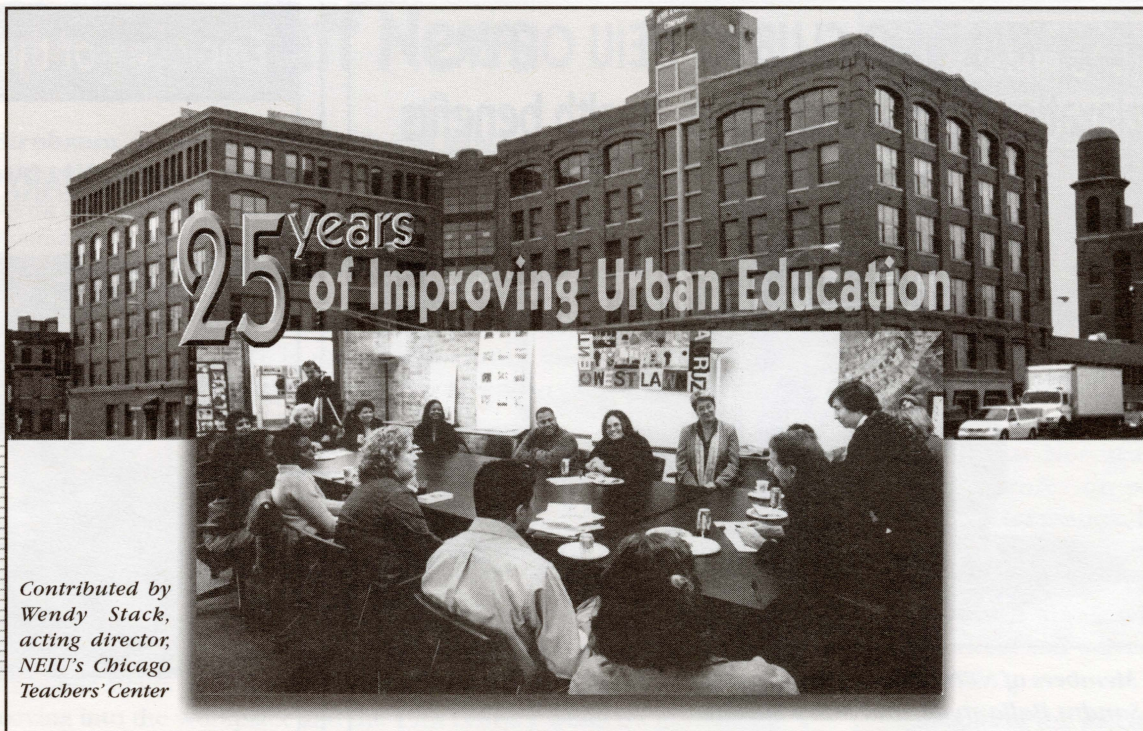
While we may be faced with a budget that will contain 8.2% less state funding than FY 2003, we plan to address the

fiscal year 2004 reduction without layoffs or reductions in instructional programs. We will continue to hold some positions vacant, eliminate less critical non-personnel expenditures, and consider reducing some non-instructional services, such as hours of operation.

In addition, the steps we have taken this year to reduce state spending will continue into fiscal year 2004. We are optimistic that the cost reduction measures coupled with strong enrollment and planned tuition increase will allow

NEIU to continue to offer high quality, affordable education and maintain our commitments to our faculty and staff.

I will keep the campus community informed as we learn more. I thank the university faculty and staff for understanding and patience in addressing this challenging situation. More than ever, your hard work and commitment mean a great deal to the current and future students of Northeastern Illinois University. ■



*Contributed by
Wendy Stack,
acting director,
NEIU's Chicago
Teachers' Center*

It seems only a short time ago that NEIU's Chicago Teachers' Center (CTC) had a staff of five and worked out of rooms rented from a local parochial school. Twenty-five years later, located on the fourth floor of a loft office space in the west loop, CTC has over 200 staff members. Through collaborative partnerships with K-12 schools, community agencies, unions, and businesses, the center has focused on finding ways to help Chicago-area parents, teachers and administrators develop as leaders in solving the problems of public schools.

CTC has a wide array of resources available to the community. In addition to the center program offices, CTC has a conference center; a teacher/parent resource center that provides a library, project materials and a workspace to develop curriculum aids for the classroom; a distance learning classroom; and several on-going displays of student work.

The center's experience as the facilita-

tor of school improvement proves that successful schools result from the combined efforts of teachers, parents and communities. Over the last 25 years, the center has gained a great deal of experience in bringing these stakeholders together to focus on the education of the children in our schools.

CTC's annual budget comes primarily from state and federal grants. The national GEAR UP grant is the largest program currently working through the center. CTC is the lead institution in the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance which is an unprecedented partnership among a host of educational, business and cultural institutions. CTC provides direct services to 12,000 students in 46 elementary and high schools across the city. Additionally, GEAR UP works with parents and teachers, engaging them more fully in this coordinated effort to ensure that more Chicago public school students graduate from high school and

attend college.

While CTC focuses much of its efforts with teachers to transform educational practices, the center also works to build learning communities and networks of schools that reflect shared goals on the part of all stakeholders and to create educational opportunities for parents and youth both within and outside of the regular school day. When the center was first founded it took a while to create awareness about its services. Now, CTC estimates that about 500 educators from the city and suburbs use the facilities monthly, which are open to the public and free of charge.

After 25 years of dedication to education, the center continues service by proactively reaching out to schools and working with all constituencies involved. With our future looking bright, the center will continue to challenge the educational system to better serve the needs of teachers, parents and students. ■

CTC has generated change in Chicago-area schools by:

- **Creating a supportive environment within the school community for teachers and learners**
- **Building learning communities that reflect shared goals on the part of all stakeholders**
- **Developing instructional methods that address learning issues within specific school communities**
- **Providing high quality professional development for teachers**
- **Increasing educational opportunities for parents and youth**
- **Collaborating with teachers in the field on program development and research**
- **Strengthening community capacity and leadership through parent and family workshops**

FITNESS WALKING CLUB AT NEIU OFFERS fun- relaxation- stress reduction- health benefits



(From L-R) Members of NEIU's Fitness Walking Club - Tony Bedoe, Linnea Janik, Ty Cooper, Sandra Ballantyne, and Mary Susong.

Participants meet every Monday and Thursday at noon in the Student Union to plan their itinerary for a lunchtime fitness walk. Wilma Sutton, assistant to the president, collaborated with intramurals and recreations to map out routes for both indoor (in case of inclement weather) and outdoor walks. The walk lasts anywhere from one-half mile to up to three miles. Ty Cooper, certified group exercise director, leads the walkers. The roster indicates 30 original participants.

Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to join. For information, call Tracy Deberge, associate director of recreation, at ext. 4181.



NEIU Students Travel to the University of Montana to Participate in a Summer Science Research Program

Five NEIU science students will participate in a National Science Foundation Experimental Program at the University of Montana in Missoula from June 5 - August 7. This Summer Diversity Research Program is designed to stimulate interest in competitive research.

The science students, Jose Diaz, Sheetal Patel, Ingrid Leal, Lillian Molina, and Michael Adamski, will be actively involved with scientific or technological research while at the university. Participants in the program were recruited from universities with ethnically diverse student bodies who have had few opportunities to work in a laboratory or field research setting.

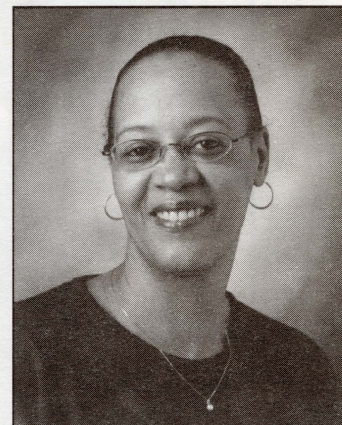
The ten-week program is designed to expose them to research opportunities and to experience the "Big Sky Country" at its finest. They will do research in their areas of interest and each will be matched with a University of Montana faculty member.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to broaden their horizons," said Pratibha Varma-Nelson, professor and chair, chemistry, earth science and physics.

Laura Sanders, professor, earth science, and Varma-Nelson will attend the end of the program, when the students present their research results. ■

Employee of the Month

FEBRUARY



Lena Brown, a graduation evaluations supervisor (admissions and records officer II) in the office of admissions and records, was selected as the February Employee of the Month. Lena's area is responsible for both graduation eligibility and academic honors status.

Burt Ferrini, director of university events, noted: "Lena is not only extremely well informed and accurate. She also always maintains a professional and pleasant disposition in her dealings with students." He added, "She continually supplies timely, accurate information to our office and is on site during commencements and honors receptions to assist should an immediate determination be required. This makes her a delight to work with and an excellent candidate for employee of the month."

Alice Medenwald, graduation evaluations supervisor, commented, "Lena is very deserving of this award. Her dedication to serving students is well known throughout the university."

Faculty and Staff News

Barry W. Birnbaum, assistant professor, special education, and **Effie Papoutsis Kritikos**, assistant professor, special education, have been invited to present a paper titled, "Changing Careers: Training Non-Educators To Work with Children with Disabilities: A Roadmap for Success" at the Athens Institute for Education and Research. The conference will be held in Athens, Greece this May.

Ana Fraiman, associate professor, chemistry, and **Yoriel Marcano**, student, chemistry, presented "Implementation of PLTL in sophomore organic chemistry at Northeastern Illinois University" in New Orleans at the 225 American Chemistry Society National Meeting in March.

Kathleen Kardaras, coordinator, university honors program, will assume the duties of secretary-treasurer of the Honors Council of the Illinois Region (HCIR). She was installed at the Spring Student Symposium and Conference at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. HCIR represents colleges and universities in Illinois that offer honors programs to its undergraduates.

Nancy Matthews, associate professor, justice studies and women's studies, appeared on WCIU-TV's public affairs program "26 N. Halsted" where she discussed the history of women moving into the workplace and the 19th century women's movement.

Sharon McNeely, professor, educational leadership and development, was presented with a plaque for receiving the "Distinguished Service Award" from the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality at its annual meeting in Montreal. This award, initiated in 1985, is granted in recognition of outstanding service to the organization. McNeely has also written two books that have been published in 2003, one on case studies for pre-service teachers, and one (co-authored) about conceptual statistics.

Yasmin A. Ranney, assistant to the dean of academic development, presented a paper titled "Institutional Review Board Standards & Comparative/Cross-Cultural Research: An Ethical Dilemma" at the fifth Ethnography 2003 Conference at DePaul University in March. The theme for this year's program was "Politics, Ethics and Ethnography." For more information on the presentations, visit <http://condor.depaul.edu/~soc/ethnography/>.

Among the judges at the 52nd Annual CPS City Science Fair, held in March at the Museum of Science and Industry, were faculty and staff from NEIU that included **Paul Dolan**, professor, physics, and director of Science Fair Central, **Robert Stehman**, professor, physics, **Joseph Hermanek**, lab manager, physics, and **Don Mason**, professor emeritus, chemistry. Students entered in the science fair are eligible to win a number of prizes, primarily scholarships, including one to NEIU. ■

A Meeting of the Minds

Northeastern Hosts Physics Meeting

The Chicago section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (CSAAPT) held its spring meeting in March at Northeastern. **Paul Dolan**, professor, physics, and **Joseph Hermanek**, lab manager, physics, hosted the event which was attended by NEIU students and alumni along with over 50 high school and university physics teachers.

Highlights of the meeting included two talks: one by Bernhard Beck-Winchatz, assistant professor, Scientific Data Analysis and Visualization Program at DePaul University, on "Touching the Universe" (teaching astronomy to the blind), and afternoon events included a workshop on "Using Polymers in Physics Class," by Jonathan Stoltze, NEIU alumnus and instructor in NEIU's gifted program, along with presentations by seven students.

NEIU participants included physics department faculty Paul Dolan, Mahmoud Khalili, Robert Stehman, and Professor Emeritus Mitchel Sweig. Among NEIU students making presentations were John Fenley, Joel L. Baum, Barbara Gordon, Denisa S. Melichian, Romeo Ibrahim, John T. Loftus, and Todd Abramson.

The CSAAPT is the local section of the national American Association of Physics Teachers. The section meets twice yearly, at various institutions in the greater Chicago area. Additional information can be obtained from the new CSAAPT website: <http://www.neiu.edu/~pidolan/CSAAPT.html>.



The university community officially opened the newly renovated Building B with a ribbon cutting ceremony April 10. Pictured are President Salme H. Steinberg, Vice President for Finance and Administration Mark Wilcockson, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management Joseph Kish, along with student ambassadors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM HUTCHINGS

NAMED THE 2002 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Gary Hamburg, director of human resources, and Provost Lawrence Frank present Tom Hutchings with the Employee of the Year Award.

Tom Hutchings, purchasing assistant II, procurement services, was selected NEIU'S 2002 Employee of the Year by the employee excellence selection committee. The honor was announced at the annual civil service ceremony acknowledging staff members that have given years of service to the university.

Hutchings began his career at NEIU in accounts payable, transferred to the admissions office, and has worked in purchasing for the past four years. He is known on campus for his support and dedication. His expert knowledge of computers and printers is extremely helpful to employees who contact him for advice about new equipment.

Buff Rosen Boyd, grants and contracts administrator, noted, "Tom is always courteous, helpful and knowledgeable. He will always go 'the extra mile.'" She added, "He is the point person for ordering computer equipment and goes well beyond the parameters of his position to fill a need on campus."

Selina Mushi, assistant professor, teacher education, required a certain type of digital video camera for a research project in Tanzania. Mushi noted, "Tom searched Web sites, compared prices, called different companies, and worked after hours to help me. I was very grateful." Mary Hay Verne, administrative assistant in the College of Arts and Sciences said, "Tom is a team player and is always ready to assist. Employees like Tom Hutchings are an asset to the university." ■

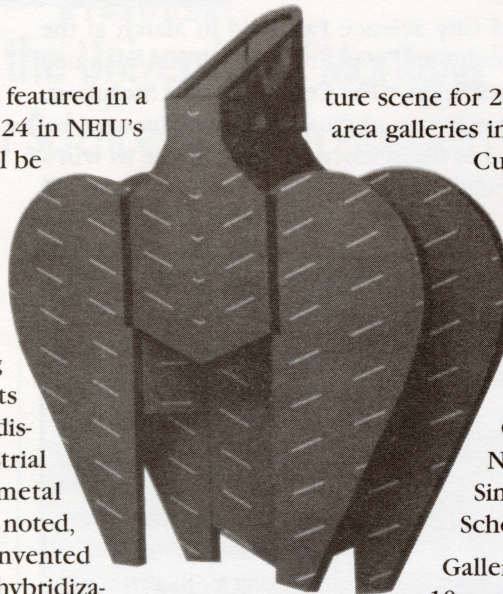
Transforming Women's Clothing into Architectural Forms

NEIU Fine Arts Center Gallery Features Artist Diane Simpson

Chicago-based artist Diane Simpson is featured in a one-person show that opened March 24 in NEIU's Fine Arts Center Gallery. Her work will be on exhibit through April 25.

Simpson, a visiting artist at NEIU for spring 2003, is using this show as a teaching tool. Preparatory drawings and sculptures that reveal her process of transforming women's clothing patterns and other utilitarian objects into evocative structures will be on display. Simpson uses a variety of industrial and everyday materials including metal grids, faux fur and braided cord. She noted, "The initial form, developed and reinvented through revised drawings, becomes a hybridization of many of the sources, resulting in a variety of readings."

Simpson has been a major contributor to the Chicago sculp-



ture scene for 20 years, exhibiting at numerous Chicago-area galleries including the Fassbender Gallery, Chicago Cultural Center, Dart Gallery, and the Phyllis Kind Gallery. She is included in prestigious group exhibitions such as "Art in Chicago, 1945-1995" at the Museum of Contemporary Art, and "Art and Uncommon Threads" at Cornell University.

She has been awarded four Illinois Arts Council Fellowships and an Arts Midwest/NEA Regional Visual Arts Fellowship. Simpson earned her B.F.A and M.F.A from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago.

Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.; and Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, call ext. 4944. ■

Calendar Notes



All events are free unless otherwise noted.

APRIL

Spring Concert. The NEIU Concert Band, R. Shayne Cofer, director, and the NEIU Chorus, Michael Melton, director, perform together on Wednesday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Northside College Preparatory High School, 5501 N. Kedzie Avenue, Chicago.

NEIU String Orchestra, under the direction of Josef Glymph, visiting lecturer, performs on Thursday, April 24 at 1:40 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall.

Stage Center Theatre. NEIU's Stage Center Theatre presents the winner of the annual Ronald William's Playwright Competition, "Isaac, I Am," by Mary Steelsmith, directed by John Ross. Thursday through Saturday, April 24-26 at 7:30 p.m. NEIU students, faculty and staff admitted free with I.D. General admission \$10, seniors/students \$8, children \$6. For information call ext. 4274.

TRANSFORMATIONS. Venetia Stifler, director, presents a dance concert on Friday, April 25 at 8 p.m. at the Ruth Page Center Auditorium, 1016 N. Dearborn Parkway, Chicago. TRANSFORMATIONS is a project by the Ruth Page Dance Series in collaboration with NEIU celebrating four decades of dance at Northeastern by honoring five artists who have come through the NEIU Dance Program and exemplify artistic excellence.

The dancers honored are Joel Hall, Ron De Jesus, Jorge Perez, Irma Suarez Ruiz, and James Morrow. Tickets are \$20 Main Floor; \$18.50 Balcony; \$15 Students/Seniors/Groups over 10. For information call 312-337-6543.

Mostly Music at NEIU.

Pilgrim Chamber Players on April 27 at 2 p.m. at the Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette.

MAY

Mostly Music at NEIU.

- Quintet Attacca on Sunday, May 4 at 4 p.m. in a Hyde Park residence.
- Haydn By The Lake on Sunday, May 11 at 4 p.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2120 Lincoln Street, Evanston

Tickets for Mostly Music at NEIU concerts are \$20. For information call ext. 4978.

Jewel Box Series. Faculty artist Brian Torosian, performs "Diabolus in Musica" (The Devil in Music) on Friday, May 9, 8 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. General admission: \$25. NEIU faculty, staff, alumni, and seniors: \$12.50, NEIU students: \$10. For information call 773-442-INFO.

CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

JEWEL BOX SERIES



May 9, 8 p.m.

Fine Arts Center Recital Hall

"The Devil in Music" - Brian Torosian, NEIU faculty artist, performs in the Jewel Box Series on Friday, May 9, exploring the darker side of the guitar and lute repertoire. His program includes *Tarantella* by Joseph Kaspar Mertz, *Usber Waltz* by Nikita Koshkin (after Edgar Allen Poe), *Capriccio Diabolico* by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, and *Scene and Waltz of a Witches Sabbath* by M.A. Zani de Ferranti.

Torosian is an active soloist and chamber musician on guitar, lute and mandolin. He has performed in concerts throughout North America and Italy and has appeared locally with a number of ensembles, including the Waller and Maxwell Guitar duo and the Chicago Chamber Musicians. He has been in recital including WFMT's *Live from Studio One*, and has appeared at the Dame Myra Hess Memorial concerts. A member of the department faculty at NEIU and DePaul University, Torosian also directs the guitar programs at McHenry County College.

General admission: \$25. NEIU faculty, staff, alumni and seniors: \$12.50, NEIU students: \$10. For information call 773-442-INFO.

MOSTLY MUSIC AT NEIU



May 4, 4 p.m.

Hyde Park Neighborhood Series - Private Residence

The Carl Turner Young Award Winners Concert presents Quintet Attacca, grand prize winner of the 2002 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. They will be performing music by Cambini, Hindemith, Paquito D'Rivera, Ligeti, and Ravel.



May 11, 4 p.m.

North Shore Neighborhood Series - St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2120 Lincoln Street, Evanston

Haydn By The Lake, a chamber group performing on period instruments. The musicians specialize in music of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and their contemporaries.

Tickets for Mostly Music at NEIU concerts are \$20. For information call 773-442-4978

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