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Northeastern Illinois University's
Chicago, IL

INDEPENDENT

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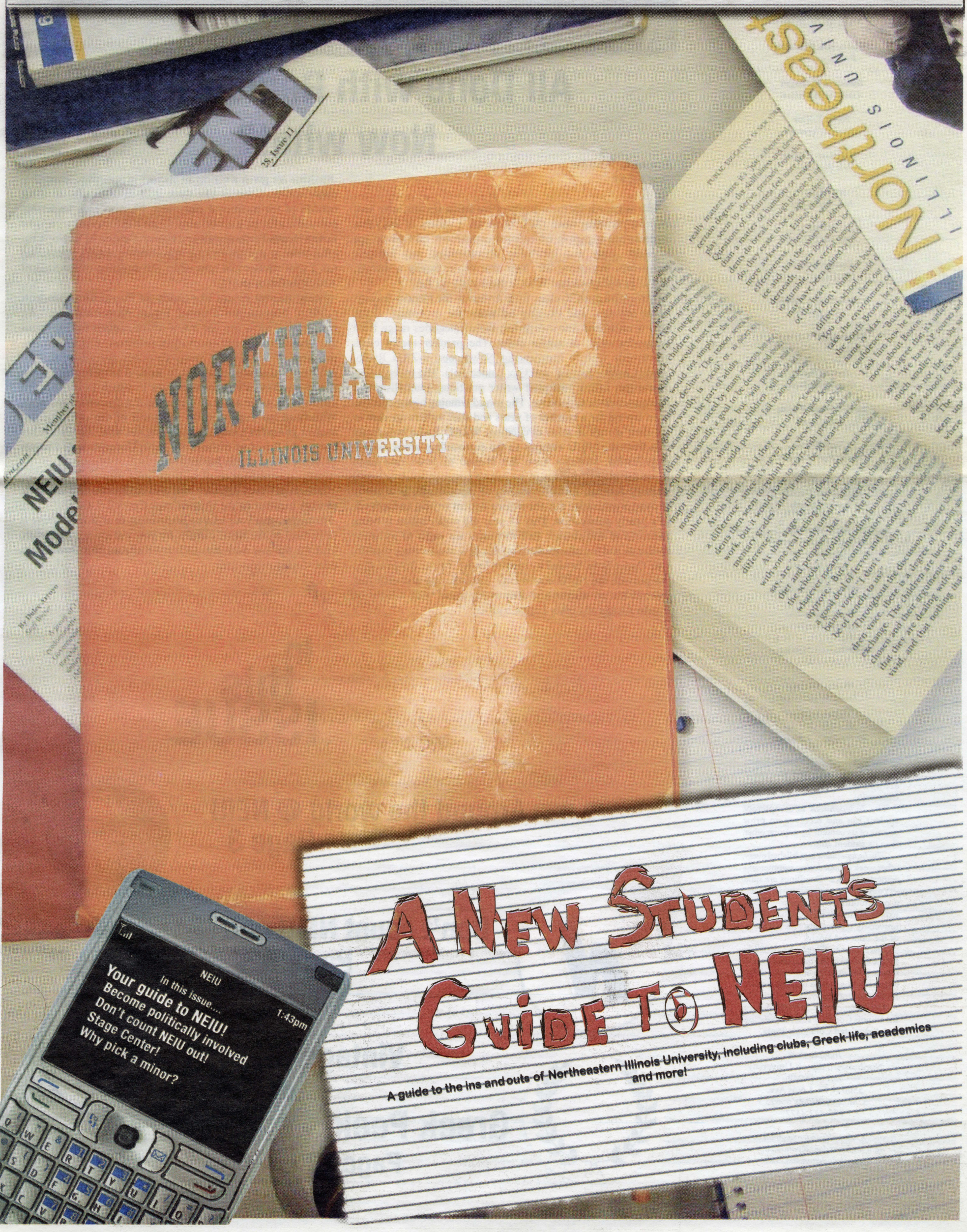

A New Student's Guide to NEIU

A guide to the ins and outs of Northeastern Illinois University, including clubs, Greek life, academics and more!

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The *Independent* is a public forum for the community and university around Northeastern Illinois University.

The *Independent* is completely student run and receives no prior review of its content by anyone other than its student editors.

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The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for the content of the *Independent,* and views presented do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or students.

The *Independent* is a member of the Illinois College Press Association and Associated Collegiate Press.

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Photo credit by Tracey Washington

All Done with Registration. Now what?

Janean L. Watkins
Staff Writer

NEIU is known for the many positive attributes that have kept students enrolling since 1867. There are a variety of ways that students can engage in educational enrichment, take advantage of work study and internship opportunities, and immerse themselves in campus life. Now that you're finally a student, you're probably asking: What is there to do for fun?

NEIU offers over 70 clubs from Anime to the Honors Society. There are fun, and exciting activities for everyone! Each club is organized into categories; those categories range from pre-professional, to media clubs. The premier media clubs on campus include Independent Newspaper, WZRD Radio, Seeds Literary Journal, and Que Ondee Sola. The Independent Newspaper offers paid staff writer positions, journalism and photojournalism experience. The award winning newspaper has been around for a number of years and staff writers are sure to see their stories in mass circulation. WZRD Radio broadcasts live from the NEIU campus to the surrounding areas. In this organization, students have the chance to learn first hand about the inner-workings of broadcast communications. Seeds Literary Journal, formerly known as Apocalypse, is a newly revived organization that showcases student writing and artwork in a yearly publication. This 15 year old organization is being restructured and current staff members are eager to welcome freshmen and transfer students on this new and exciting venture. Que Ondee Sola, headed by student leader Xavier Burgos, aims "to provide the NEIU community with relevant and engaging information on student and community issues with a focus on Puerto Ricans and other Latina/o groups."

Students are given a variety of choices in regards to leadership opportunities. Chances like these give students time to shine outside of the traditional classroom, because each leadership position is a learning opportunity. Clubs that focus on careers like Future Health Professionals and Human Resource Development offer training and networking opportunities. Each organization has a staff advisor and runs under the direction of the Student Activities Office (SAO).

Special Interest groups like Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), Movimiento Cultural Latino Americano (MCLA), and Black Caucus are just a few of the campus organizations that speak to the experiences of its members. Ella Whitehead, president of the Black Caucus describes the group as, "the collaboration of advocates whose work is to recruit and retain Black students; it's an organization in which Black students can feel a positive sense of identity and inclusion on campus." Whitehead has expressed the sentiment of the unification of student groups as a means of carrying out what she feels is her duty as the President of the Pretty Pi Nu Undergraduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Greek organizations on campus are quite organized and active. Members of Greek organizations also collaborate and take time to work together on the United Greek Council (UGC).

No matter what your interest, experience or skill level, there is something on the NEIU campus for you. For more information, visit the Student Activities Office website at: http://www.neiu.edu/~deptsao/index.htm

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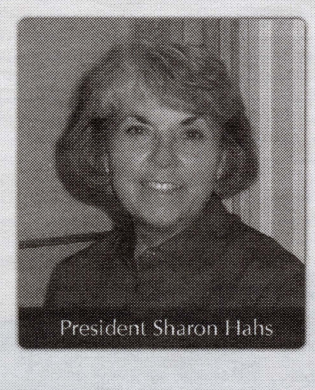

President Sharon Hahs

We are almost there! Recently I announced the naming of our upcoming cultural center as the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs. Dr. Pedroso, a beloved faculty member, served Northeastern for forty-four years helping students succeed. Facility renovations will take place over the summer (in Building B) with the opening in the fall. It seems like it has taken a long time, although in the life of the University it is not so long.

I began thinking about the importance of a multicultural center when I interviewed for the position of president at NEIU in the fall of 2006. As an institution we are deeply proud of the cultural and ethnic diversity of our students, staff and faculty. Our goal is to celebrate this and to balance the unique identity of various groups with common membership in our University community. A cultural center is an important component of this.

This importance has been reinforced over these years by students of Que Ondee Sola and the Union of Puerto Rican Students who have supported both the multicultural center and especially the Latino section of the center. They have been an active voice and were represented on both the Steering Committee for the strategic planning initiative and the Program Committee for the center.

In 2007 and 2008 we launched the University's strategic planning initiative. During that process we explored questions of a shared understanding of what Diversity means at Northeastern, as well as what it means for Northeastern to be an Hispanic Serving Institution.

In the Fall of 2008 we completed the Strategic Plan. Within Goal 5 there is specific reference to the creation of the cultural center. In my State of the University Address that fall, I stated that we will create a multicultural center that will be ". . . an overarching, all encompassing unit that will link to programs and initiatives throughout the University in all its locations. [It] will include a Latino Resource Center, an Africana Resource Center, perhaps an Asian American Resource Center, to be followed with more programs, initiatives, centers and activities as the project evolved. . . ."

This was followed by the creation of the cultural center Program Committee of faculty, staff and students representing many cultures and ethnicities. Co-Chaired by Sharron Evans and Daniel Lopez, the members worked diligently and creatively to outline the mission, program, space, and staffing. They completed their report in early spring 2009. We thank all of the members for their excellent work. As I reported in my 2009 State of the University Address, the Vice Presidents, the Co-Chairs, and I have worked to address the report's recommendations and to overcome the space limitations. We have all worked with members of our Student Life staff, outside consultants, and the President's Council to develop workable programming, financing and space.

Along the way we also visited with various members of the Latino Legislative Caucus who expressed support for our project. State Senator Iris Martinez was able to secure a special capital appropriation to support space renovations. We thank her and her colleagues for their interest and support.

In the fall of 2009, the College of Business and Management moved into its new space in Building A, creating the opportunity to rearrange other spaces on campus. The Graduate College has been moved to the former location of the College of Business and Management, and the Pedroso Center will have its home in the former location of the Graduate College. We are particularly excited about this location since the necessary renovations to this space are relatively minor.

Two weeks ago Dean Murrell Duster was named the founding head of the Pedroso Center. Dean Duster has served Northeastern with distinction for thirty years, demonstrating her significant service as well as her keen appreciation of and commitment to all cultures. With her leadership we will launch the Pedroso Cnter and let it evolve to match the needs of our Northeastern community.

Indeed, there is work yet to be done. I want to express the gratitude of the entire University community to every group and individual who has contributed their ideas, time and hard work, and to those who will do so. I thank you. We are almost there!

Editor's note: The ideas and opinions expressed in this column are only those of President Hahs and are in no way associated with the ideas and opinions of the staff of the Independent.

International programs @NEIU

By Zac Schon
Staff Writer

An education at NEIU is an experience that runs parallel with most schools in the nation. Just as these schools expand beyond the limits of their campus, NEIU offers students the chance to have education beyond Bryn Mawr Ave. The opportunities at NEIU for travel and to study abroad are immense and very generous.

One of the first pieces that must be mentioned is the fieldwork assignments for students. In anthropology alone the chance to work on Mayan ruins in Belize is a highlight of the program. This fieldwork is six credit hours and features a low price compared to a similar trip at other schools.

The other travel opportunity offered through the anthropology department is fieldwork in Accra, Ghana. Fieldwork is available in many of the departments at many locations throughout the globe. These trips usually yield credit hours and are a life changing experience for many students who took the opportunity.

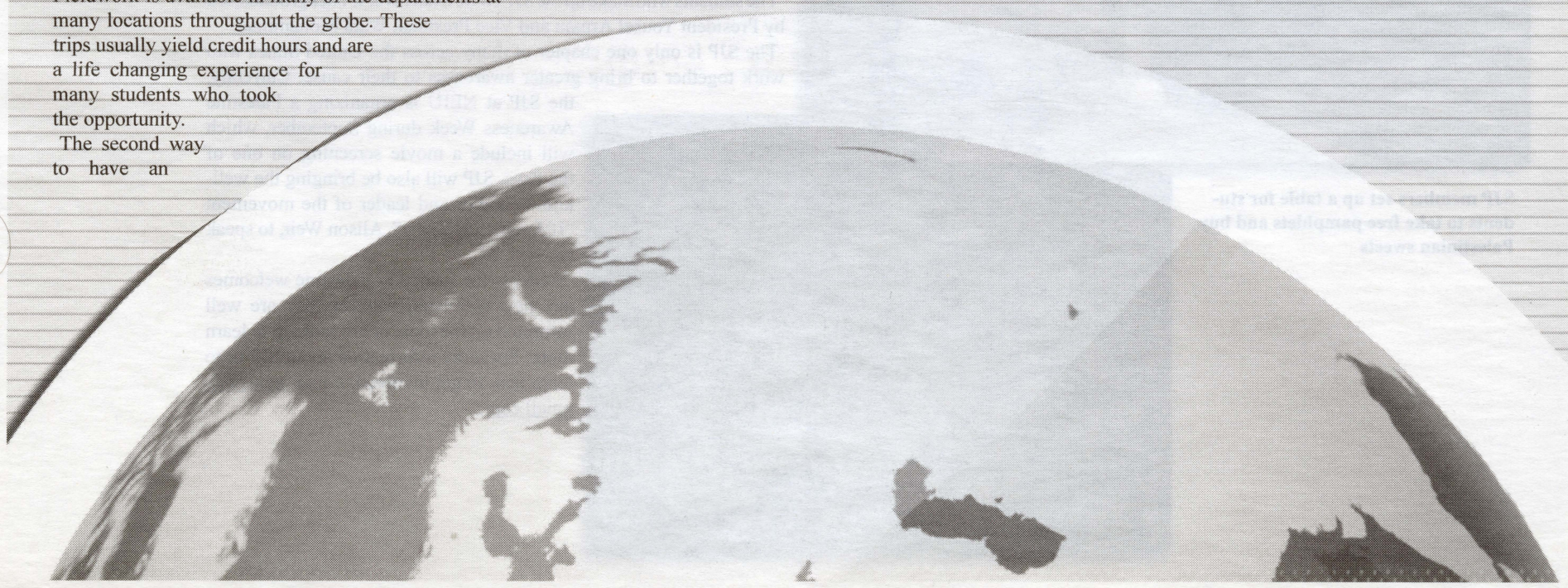
The second way to have an international experience at NEIU is to attend one of the school's sister schools. For the same price of tuition at NEIU, students can study abroad for classes relevant to their degree program and experience a new culture with its own system of education.

The following educational institutions are partnered with NEIU to further enrich the student's academic experience; Marangu Teachers College in Marangu, Tanzania; Lanzhou University of Technology in Lanzhou, China; Northeastern University in Shenyang, China; Institute of Public Enterprise and Osmania University in Hyderabad, India; Kongju Communication Arts College in Chungcheongnam, Korea; and Myongji University in Seoul, Korea.

For those students with the curiosity and taste for Europe, NEIU also has sister schools in Europe. Burgundy School of Business in Dijon, France; Universite d'Auvergne in Clermont-Ferrand, France; University of Limerick in Limerick, Ireland; and Giedroyc College of Communication & Media, University of Warsaw, and Warschool of Economics in Warsaw, Poland.

For students looking to go to school in Latin American NEIU offers programs with The University of Guanajuato in Guanajuato, Mexico and works with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. This Association teams up with 450 colleges in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, Spain, and Portugal for the benefit of Hispanic students.

No matter which route your education takes you at Northeastern Illinois, if one feels the urge to look outside of Chicago, or even further than the boundaries of this country, NEIU has the resources and relationships for this opportunity.



Become an agent of change, BECOME POLITCALLY INVOLVED

By Cathleen Schandelmeier
Staff Writer

At 18, freshman college students have the right to vote, and are empowered to have their voices heard and be acted upon. This was successfully proven last year when NEIU students, faculty and staff successfully advocated for the MAP grant funding from our Illinois legislators.

Miguel Parra, an undocumented Mexican immigrant is a stunning example of a successful college student whose voice has been heard as his dream of earning his Master's Degree in bilingual education is realized.

The struggle of supporting a family while attending college is one that few college students undertake, and Parra's story is all the more poignant for his spirit and courage in the face of fire as he is an undocumented university student who immigrated here from Mexico at the age of eleven.

Parra is a NEIU alumni with his Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education and Spanish who is currently working on his Master's Degree in Bilingual education. Not only did he earn a 4.0 GPA during his 187 hours of college education here, but he was also President of Kappa Delta Pi (an Educational National Honor Society), all the while working full-time and to help support his parents and their family of seven.

Parra immigrated to Chicago from Mexico when he was eleven years old. Despite his excellent grades and service to the world of education, Miguel cannot get a teaching job anywhere, because of his undocumented status. He was motivated to go to NEIU and become an educator because of his teacher, Timothy Stark who believed in him.

Parra's desire to fight for the rights of immigrants gained new strength after his participation in the Coming out of the Shadows manifestation in Chicago on March 10, 2010, when hundreds of students marched to reform a broken immigration system that denies hard-working students, individuals, and their families of basic human rights.

Parra recently had the opportunity to prove his commitment to immigrant rights when the bus (funded by Jimenez food and Carnicerias and La Que Buena Radio Station) he was scheduled to take with 54 other individuals to Washington DC for the March 21st immigrants rights march broke down before his group had a chance to leave Wheeling, their point of departure.

Rather than meekly accept engine failure as an excuse for not pursuing their goal of immigrant rights, with the help of Jimenez Foods, Parra and his group not only rented five vans, but Parra also drove 12 hours straight to Washington DC, just in time to attend this historic event.

"Political activism is the avenue for the change we need in this country. We have a broken immigration system that is denying millions of hard working inviduals the opportunity to contribute to this great country of ours," said Parra. "There are hundreds of thousands of talented students who are left behind and whose talents are being wasted because they do not have legal status. It is time to unite our voices to say enough is enough."

Through his honest hard work and perseverance, Parra is proving that he can make a difference in the world for the better. Why not you, too?

Photo by Cathleen Schandelmeir-Bartels

Students for justice in Palestine

Neda Jarad
Staff Writer

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) is a relatively new group on campus. Formed in the Spring of 2010, SJP consists of a group of students dedicated to making other students more aware of the plight of the Palestinians under the Israeli occupation.

The students who make up the SJP come from diverse backgrounds, led by President Yousef Arman and Vice President Wafa Mohammad.

The SJP is only one chapter of many across the United States who work together to bring greater awareness to their cause. Currently, the SJP at NEIU is organizing a Palestine Awareness Week during September, which will include a movie screening on one of the days. SJP will also be bringing the well-known author and leader of the movement "If Americans Knew", Alison Weir, to speak on Sept. 24.

Students for Justice in Palestine welcomes any new members, whether they are well informed on the topic or are looking to learn more. For more information about SJP or to learn how to get involved, e-mail neiusjp@gmail.com.

Photos contributed from Students for Justice in Palestine

SJP members set up a table for students to take free pamphlets and buy Palestinian sweets

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Commentary

Editorial

Welcome new students!

As a new student and stranger to the NEIU campus, it can be quite intimidating to walk through NEIU's various buildings and hallways. To some students familiarizing themselves with NEIU has been an easy task, as they find a club to join or a job as a NEIU student aide or worker.

Getting to know the different opportunities that NEIU offers its students is fundamental for your future educational career. This rule should apply to all students, whether your role as a student at NEIU is to complete a four-year degree or to "hang out" until you get accepted to a different university.

Hopefully, with this new student issue, prospective students can have an idea of what to expect from NEIU. The heavy emphasis on club involvement is present in this issue because of the rich opportunities clubs and organizations at NEIU offer its students. Besides being present for organizing events at NEIU for other students, clubs and organizations serve as a support system for the student to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

It is no wonder that students that are involved around campus in clubs tend to have a deeper connection to NEIU, both academically and personally. In order to have a college experience, one does not need to be involved in school beyond the classroom, but to fully enjoy your college experience many active students around campus will tell you that joining an organization at NEIU is pivotal.

By looking at the different Greek organizations around NEIU (besides the fact that they are growing at an exponential rate), one clearly gets an idea at how the NEIU community has been evolving. Through this growth, NEIU has seen a rise in *something* past and current students say our university lacks that other large universities have: school pride.

Sure, NEIU lacks official sports teams, but we do have a growing interest in intramural sports, as our new sports section for the upcoming fall semester will demonstrate. The pride that our students show in being part of the NEIU community can be seen through NEIU's Greek organizations, clubs and intramural sports. One only has to look at past issues of *The Independent* to realize the evolutionary process NEIU pride has gone through.

The challenge to new students is to become involved in an organization at NEIU. It is easy to complain about the school you attend because it does not "cater" to your wants and needs. By becoming involved, you can help familiarize yourself with NEIU and to help shape the way NEIU functions. Remember, it is *our* tuition money that pays the administration, faculty and staff of NEIU.

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor must be signed with an address and telephone number for verification. Submissions must not exceed 250 words. Letters are subject to editing for space and style at editor's discretion. The editor reserves the right to omit any work submitted. Letters are on a first-come first-served basis.

Send letters to: Independent, E-049, 5550 N. St Louis Ave., Chicago, IL. 60625 or to

feedback.neiuindependent@gmail.com

Is this land really made for you and me?

Arizona's new immigration law sparks heated debate.

By Dulce Arroyo
Staff Writer

"As I went walking that ribbon of highway, I saw above me that endless skyway; I saw below me that golden valley. This land was made for you and me," are the lyrics to one of America's most famous folk songs, which was chosen by the Library of Congress to be put into the National Recording Registry as a song that "historically reflects life in the United States."

But lately, it seems like this land can only belong to people who have forgotten it was founded by others escaping persecution and in search for a better life.

Arizona's immigration law, SB 1070, allows a police officer to ask for papers of documentation upon lawful contact with someone if the officer has "reasonable suspicion" that he or she is illegally in the U.S. Additionally, SB 1070 makes it a misdemeanor for not carrying immigration papers, and allows people to sue their local government if they think that federal or state immigration law is not being imposed.

The original bill was sponsored by Senator Russell Pearce, who believes that just by living in Arizona, the half-million illegal immigrants (mostly Mexican) are breaking the law; according to the National Public Radio, Pearce has been known to say all he wants to do is help "take back America, one state at a time."

SB 1070, therefore, attacks human dignity. People have compared it to the time in Nazi Germany when the SS demanded to see papers from Jews. Some find this an extreme analogy, but consider the millions of families that will be separated, just to carry out the law. Illegals are people working hard and living here, so who are we to make their very presence a crime and kick them out?

Like other supporters, Pearce claims that the law's main objective is to "rid the state of illegal immigrants and discourage others from coming" because they ride free on welfare, evade taxes and fill up schools and jails, therefore causing Arizona to go broke.

Consider this: if all the illegal immigrants were taken out of Arizona, the state would actually lose $26.4 billion in economic activity, $11.7 billion in gross state product, and about 140, 324 jobs (these statistics were based on calculations made by a Texas economic firm called the Perryman Group). The law itself will not be cheap to carry out; the prices to arrest, detain, process, and transport illegal immigrants out of Arizona will only cause the state to lose money, as well as force local taxpayers to pay for necessary extensive court hearings.

This law is nothing more than a means to legalize racial profiling, because nowhere in the bill does it prohibit police to rely on race or ethnicity when investigating legality. If a Latino and a non-Latino are both pulled over for a traffic violation, who will most likely be asked to show some papers that say it is legal for them to be here?

Let's face it, illegals take on grueling jobs that citizens do not want. If these people were to suddenly disappear, would Americans instantly jump at the opportunity to take hard labor jobs in the workforce? Illegals work to simply put food on the table for their families, not to steal jobs from anyone.

Since the crime, weapon, and drug rate is highest in Arizona out of all the states, Governor Jan Brewer felt compelled to sign the law in order to fix a problem that the federal government has not solved, but illegal immigrants coming from the border are in no way a state or national threat. They do not come into the U.S. ready to terrorize its cities; individuals affiliated with gangs or drug cartels represent themselves—not the entire country they come from.

Besides its costs, let's take one final look at the bill's practicality (or lack thereof): walking in Arizona without documents that show you are a citizen is a crime now, but having important papers, like your SS card in your wallet, put you at high risk of facing identity theft. SB 1070 would just make it a hassle for cops and individuals alike on the streets of Arizona.

Until President Obama and Congress reform border security and come up with a better visa program to help families, along with the millions of illegals living in the U.S., SB 1070 will destroy everything we know about humanity if put into effect in August. We must fight against discrimination we thought was a thing of the past in order to defeat this law and remember why America is so culturally beautiful and diverse.

Don't count NEIU out!

By Zac Schon
Staff Writer

As I retreated up to my bedroom in July 2008, disappointment was clearly on my face. For the past two months I had been looking for apartments in Honolulu and had memorized the Google map of the island, my dream was slowly fading away. It became clear that I could not afford to live on the island, work full time, and most importantly, attend school full time. My four month construction of escaping the Midwest and living in tropical paradise had consumed my every thought and I was going through my "last" few months in Illinois as if they were my last.

I put in my application to NEIU and heard back relatively soon. I didn't wait by the mailbox to get my acceptance letter like I did for Hawaii's Pacific University. I knew I got in, because everyone gets into NEIU. When the letter arrived at my parent's house, it sat on the counter for a week before I opened it. It seemed at that time that anything was more important than opening that letter.

When I finally opened the letter and saw that I was accepted, there was no relief. This had become my last resort due to time constraints. NEIU was my last resort as I moved boxes up 2 flights of stairs into my tiny apartment in Lincoln Park. NEIU was my last resort as I signed up for education classes. NEIU was my last resort when I was talking to students from other colleges at parties throughout this great city. NEIU was my last resort as I dropped a large chunk of classes and I was trying to figure out what to do with my life.

Eventually, I found a major that worked for me. My other friends complained about their schools. Northwestern didn't give their students the time of day according to some students. DePaul didn't provide anything other than a $25,000 a year mediocre education. Loyola consumed all of their life and they took nothing out of it. The list goes on with every campus in Chicago and the rest of the United States. There was something always bad about whatever school.

Then, things started to come around as I put energy into what I wanted to do. My grades went up, my teachers told me of how I was improving, and I was learning the material and understanding it far better than before. As I sat in my class of roughly 25 and chatted on Facebook with a student at another school sitting in a 500 person lecture hall, I raised my hand and asked a question and got an answer directed towards me. The teacher spent time to address my issue. Other students responded with help and their issues also. The classroom was functional and taught by a teacher, not a teacher's aide. When I followed up with my question on the way out the door to my teacher, they were able to talk with me afterwards. This is a luxury not obtainable in other colleges where talking to a professor after class will result in annoying them and finally making enough of an impact on them that they remember your name (with annoyance.)

As my thesis fieldwork began, I noticed there were two types of students at this school. The first student was me when I first came here. They are less than pleased to be at NEIU. They make up excuses. They tote the cheap price of tuition as their primary excuse for attending. They tell of not being able to get into UIC or another school. They are just not pleased to be here and their poor attitude is bringing them down.

The second student is making their future. They have their drive to succeed. They tote the price of tuition here as not an excuse, but a bonus. Nowhere can one get this much attention from teachers, this well educated of staff, the boundless opportunities to explore different aspects of student life, for just this amount of money. These students know that what they put into their time at NEIU is what they will reap in the future. I would like to see myself at this point in time as one of these students. Every day I come to school I realize how lucky I am to be able to pursue a future and to have help along the way.

So, when a fellow student tells me of their dismay in going here as opposed to a large campus university, I understand that their dreams didn't come true just like mine. However, what they are getting is not a last resort. Their energy invested in themselves at NEIU will show in the end and along their life's journey, just as my investment is starting to show its dividends.

Student Organization Meeting Times

**Student Organizations have selected these times for their meetings.
Please consider this when planning your class schedule.**

Student Organization	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Anime Club		1:40–2:40pm		1:40–2:40pm
Alliance of Student Social Workers		1:40–2:40pm		
Black Caucus Club	1:00–1:50pm		1:00–1:50pm	
CMENC (Collegiate Music Educators National Conference)				1:40–2:40pm
Black Heritage Gospel Choir		3:05–4:05pm		3:05–4:05pm
Future Health Professionals				3:05–4:05pm
GLBTA				3:05–4:05pm
Green Cycle Group		3:05–4:05pm		
Honors Society		3:05–4:05pm	1:00–1:50pm	1:40–2:40pm 3:05–4:05pm
Improv Club				3:05–4:05pm
Independent Newspaper		3:05–4:05pm		
Justice Studies Club		1:40–2:40pm		
Life Catholic Student		1:40–2:40pm		
Model Illinois Government			1:00–1:50pm	1:40–2:40pm
NEPSA (Polish Club)		1:40–2:40pm		
Pre-Law Society		3:05–4:05pm		
Que Onde Sola (Puerto Rican / Latino Magazine)		1:40–2:40pm		1:40–2:40pm
Seeds (Literary Arts Magazine)				3:05–4:05pm
Student Council for Exceptional Children		3:05–4:05pm		3:05–4:05pm
SGA Senate		1:40–2:40pm		
SGA Academic Student Life Committee				1:40–2:40pm
Sociology Club				3:05–4:05pm
TrueVine University Bible Fellowship	1:00–1:50pm	3:05–4:05pm		1:40–2:40pm 3:05–4:05pm
Union for Puerto Rican Students		1:40–2:40pm		1:40–2:40pm
Urban Sankofa		1:40–2:40pm		1:40–2:40pm
Veterans Club		1:40–2:40pm		
WZRD Radio	1:00–1:50pm	1:40–2:40pm 3:05–4:05pm	1:00–1:50pm	1:40–2:40pm 3:05–4:05pm

For a list of student clubs, please visit the Student Activites website: *www.neiu.edu/~deptsao*

ADVERTISEMENT

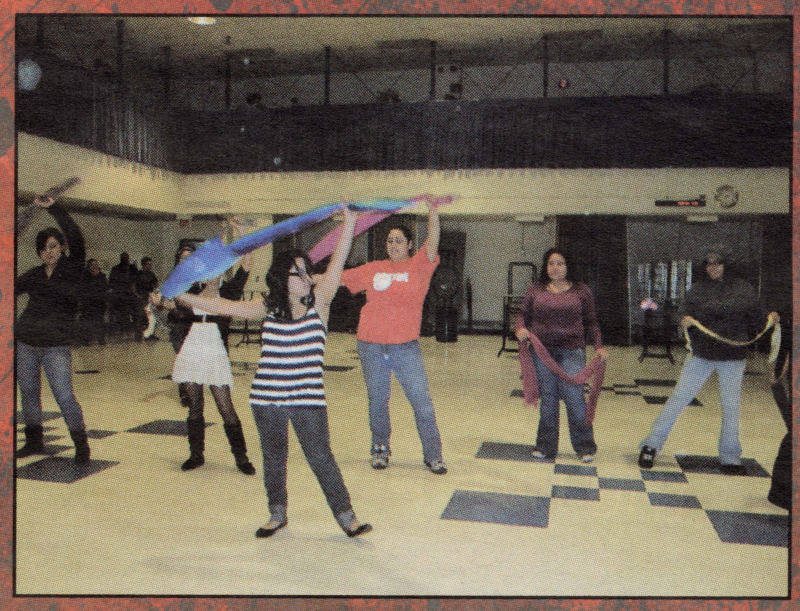
Rumba
Spotlight

By Davra Franklin
Staff Writer

The Rumba club is a dance club at NEIU that is run by and for students. The club was founded by advisor, Esmeralda Guerrero and its Vice President Frances Ortiz in the spring of 2009. After moving to Chicago and becoming employed at NEIU, Guerrero noticed that NEIU lacked a dance organization and became interested in starting a dance club. Her interest was piqued even more upon learning that there were students, including the club's future VP, that had an interest in starting a dance club at NEIU as well. After learning about Ortiz's interest ,Guerrero began meeting with him, and shortly afterward the Rumba club was started.

Guerrero says "We open it to anybody. Everyone's welcome. I feel that it is important for us to have that support for everyone. Within this club. You can dance and perform or teach and if you aren't experienced there are still different elements in this group that you can contribute to within this club."

The Rumba Club consists of six dance groups, Calle Ocho, Low Key, Smooth Krew, Ryhthm Fusion, Tum Bao, and Vivia la Cumbia."All of theses dance groups have their own styles and their own close knit family," Guerrero said. During the fall semester the rumba club will also include belly dancing.



The club also works with non-profit organizations and performs outside of NEIU and often attracts the interest of students who are attending other colleges. "We recently went and performed at Oakland Community College and in return they came to NEIU and because of that one of their students said that she was happy that we invited them to the school and said that she actually planned to transfer to NEIU. So, in a way with us going out there and performing, we are marketing NEIU in a positive light. This really engages the students and motivates them," Guerrero said.

Guerrero likes what the Rumba Club has brought to NEIU. "I feel that the Rumba Club has brought a different feel to NEIU in the sense that we collaborate with all organizations. I am hoping that through dance we will engage students to become leaders and prepare others to be the leaders that I know that they can be," Guerrero said.

Northeastern Illinois University

INDEPENDENT

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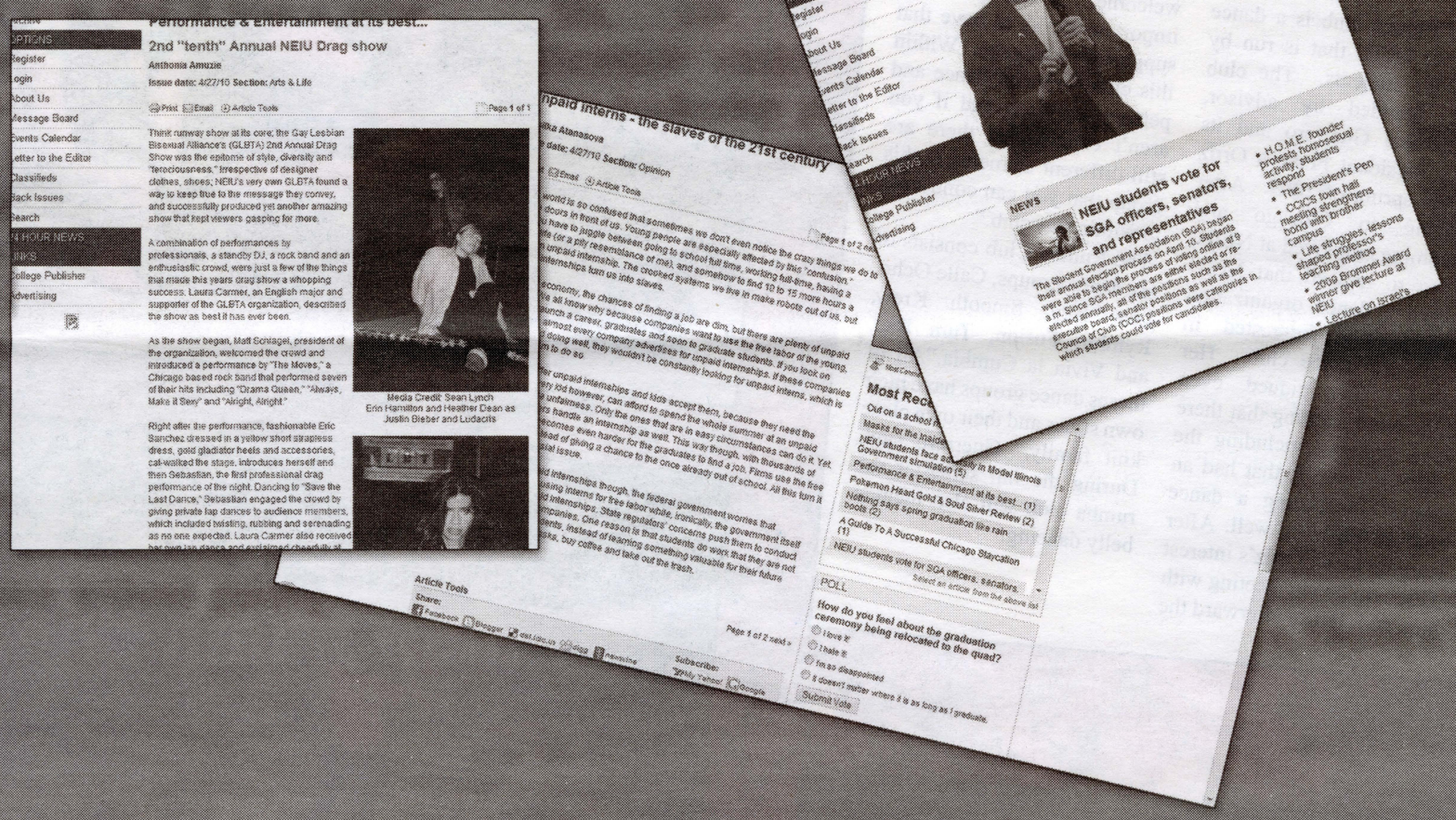

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ADVERTISMENT

Bringing back an old favorite

By Trista Gunderman
Staff Writer

So, you have a great idea for a new and hip club. This club will be like no other before it, yet it is what the Northeastern Illinois University campus needs. Armed with an idea for a new club, you begin to pitch it around campus… until an older student mentions that he was in the exact same club about five years ago. They just disbanded back in 2005 when the old members graduated. This club, your dream, was done before. And worse than that, it was abandoned.

It seems like a tragedy, but this scenario can be a blessing in disguise. Normally, people who start up a new club or organization have to create everything from scratch. They have to write a constitution, get the required signatures and mission statement. For those who want to revive an old club, they usually don't need to worry about creating those things. This is because there might be information left in the Student Activities Office (SAO) database. For example, the Hip Hop Organization still has a page on the SAO website, complete with mission statement and previous advisor. This club disbanded more recently than say, the cheer club, but many previous organizations still have some information left.

If the contact information for the previous advisor is still available, then contacting that person should be the first step in renewing the charter. The previous advisor might have some of the information, or at least some suggestions on how the club was previously run.

Depending on how long the club was inactive for, reviving the club could be as easy as submitting a charter renewal form. For other clubs, like the cheer club, who haven't been around in a few decades, they might need to have all the paperwork resubmitted. However, if the organization is part of an official network (like a fraternity or national organization) then the national office for that organization needs to be contacted regardless.

Once the club is approved for renewal, the focus should be on gaining, and retaining, members so that it does not fade into obscurity once again. However, if the organization is not approved yet, ask about what advertisement is allowed based on your organization. For non-affiliated ones, the rules might be more lenient than those for Greek Organizations (which need to be approved before they can advertise.)

When going through this process, remember that every club needs a leader. If you are doing all this hard work in hopes that someone else will step up to the Presidential plate, don't count on it. Unless you have people who are guaranteed to be officers once the club is chartered, be prepared to take on an officer position, even if only temporary because of your previous knowledge of the club. Good luck and see you at the Fall Organization Fair.

Stage Center Theatre: The Perfect Way to Express Yourself

By Ivan Favelevic
Arts Editor

Located at the heart of NEIU, the Stage Center Theatre provides students from all colleges a chance to get involved in the making of a play. From starring in the leading role to working the well-oiled machine that is stage crew, the Stage Center Theatre gives people from all walks of life the opportunity to be involved in a cultural movement. Even if your interests don't particularly lie with theatre, Stage Center allows students to develop skills valuable throughout their life.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about the Stage Center Theatre is that theatre majors or minors create nearly all of the productions. Everyone involved, from the director to the set designer, will always be students. This makes joining a production so much easier. There is a notable benevolence present in the casting sessions, something not always found in your average stage production.

Currently, the Stage Center Theatre is preparing for their debut of Joseph A. Fields and Jerome Chodorov's "My Sister Eileen." The show will run from June 10-12,17-19, and 24-26 at 7:30pm. It will be followed by "Hay Fever," a side-splitting comedy by Noel Coward set to run on July 22-24 and 29-31, with it's final weekend landing on August 5-7. These fabulous plays will join an impressive repertoire which includes such classics as "The Importance of Being Earnest," "A Midsummer's Night Dream," and "A Tale of Two Cities."

If you have even a slight inclination towards theatre, then do not hesitate to audition for the Stage Center Theatre. Professional level productions coupled with NEIU's unshakable charisma makes for an experience any theatre junkie would be insane to pass up.

An Inspector Calls, from the Fall of 2009

Lucky Stiff, from the Fall of 2009

NEIU Green Fee Committee

By Syed Ahad Hussain
Senior Staff Writer

The Green Fee Committee was formed in the Fall of 2008, a year after the NEIU Board of Trustees approved the Student Tuition and Fee Schedule of Fall 2007. In the meeting, Green Cycle Group proposed the implementation of a $3.00 fee a semester per student.

According to the NEIU Green Fee Committee charter the money was to be utilized to, «…fund implementation of clean and renewable energy technologies and improvement of campus energy efficiency at Northeastern Illinois University.»

The NEIU Campus Green Fee Committee is comprised from the Green Cycle Group's two student representatives, two representatives of Student Government Association (SGA), and one student appointed by the Chairperson of the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies (GES).

Faculty members include the faculty advisor of the Green Cycle Group and one NEIU faculty member appointed by the Chairperson of GES. Two employees of NEIU Facilities Management are appointed by the Vice President for Facilities Management.

Students are encouraged to join committee and are allowed to work as an intern after the approval of GES, the intern has the power to vote in committee elections.

The Green Fee Committee's target is to generate $80,000 to $85,000 annually, and according to the website, Bike racks have been installed south of the B-wing and under the Lech Walesa Hall (LWH) on both sides of the north overhang. The committee also paid for 48 new bicycle racks, surrounding LWH and between the Science Building and B-wing.

Around $8,819.30 was allocated to the committee on Sept. 16, 2008 to fund the installation of motion sensors for rentrooms and basement hallways on campus. Currently there are 10 sensors in the Fine Arts rentrooms, 10 in LWH rentrooms, and 2 in Auditorium rentrooms, and 11 in the campus tunnels.

The Green Fee committee collaborated with the Facilities Management department to pay $7,000 for the purchase and installation of the sensors. The sensor installation allows the university to save $1,631 of operating expenses and to reduce the usage of carbon.

Current members of the committee include faculty members Abhijit Banerjee; GES, GCG advisor, Vice Chair Joel Olfelt; appointed by chair, GES, student representatives Scott Garfinkel, Committee Chair, Nick Magrisso, Secretary, elected and appointed members Jason Dubeau, Mark Kenseth, Nick Brandt, David Rubin and Nancy Medina from the Facilities Management and Building Maintenance and Grounds, respectively.

The committee's future projects includes green roof plans for the B building and are in talks with some firms which are interested in collaborating. Students are welcome and encouraged to join and participate in the organization.

Why pick a minor?

By Trista Gunderman
Staff Writer

At NEIU students have the ability to opt out of choosing a minor. However, just because minors are optional does not mean that students should not consider getting one. Sometimes having a minor can put an edge on your degree.

If you try to get into a masters or doctorate degree program at another school there might be limited seats in the program. Some of these programs have an intensive admissions process, where they have to cut down the number of people to almost ten percent of those that apply. Having a minor that compliments the end degree would help the school choose who is "more suited" for the program. For example, if someone is hoping to gain entry into a program that lets them specialize in social service law, they might want to consider a minor in social work or sociology.

Perhaps further education is not on the agenda. Maybe a degree and then a job is the desired path. Choosing a minor can still be helpful. For these purposes, you should consider what would best "compliment" your degree. Lets say you have a degree in accounting, then something revolving around business management would be good to consider.

Adding a minor is also beneficial if you have a lot of credits in one specific area, but do not want to major in that subject. Even if the subjects are in two completely different areas it will still make you appear more well-rounded and not be a waste of effort on those previous credits.

Most minors only require seven to ten classes in a specific area, which means that minors act as sort of a "safety net" for students who change their mind partway through the program. There is no limit to how many minors one can have. However, for simplicity's sake, it should be limited to three or four at the most.

If you want a minor, but are not sure what to pick, there are some general rules to follow. Pick a minor that you will enjoy doing the coursework for. Just choosing a minor because it "looks good" can lead to eventually dropping it.

Picking a minor in an area of weakness you might possess is another good idea; for example, a business major that has difficulties with leadership skills could consider a minor in public administration. Choosing a foreign language as a minor always adds to versatility on your resume. But beware, learning a new language for class can be hard to do.

Image courtesy of www.sxc.hu

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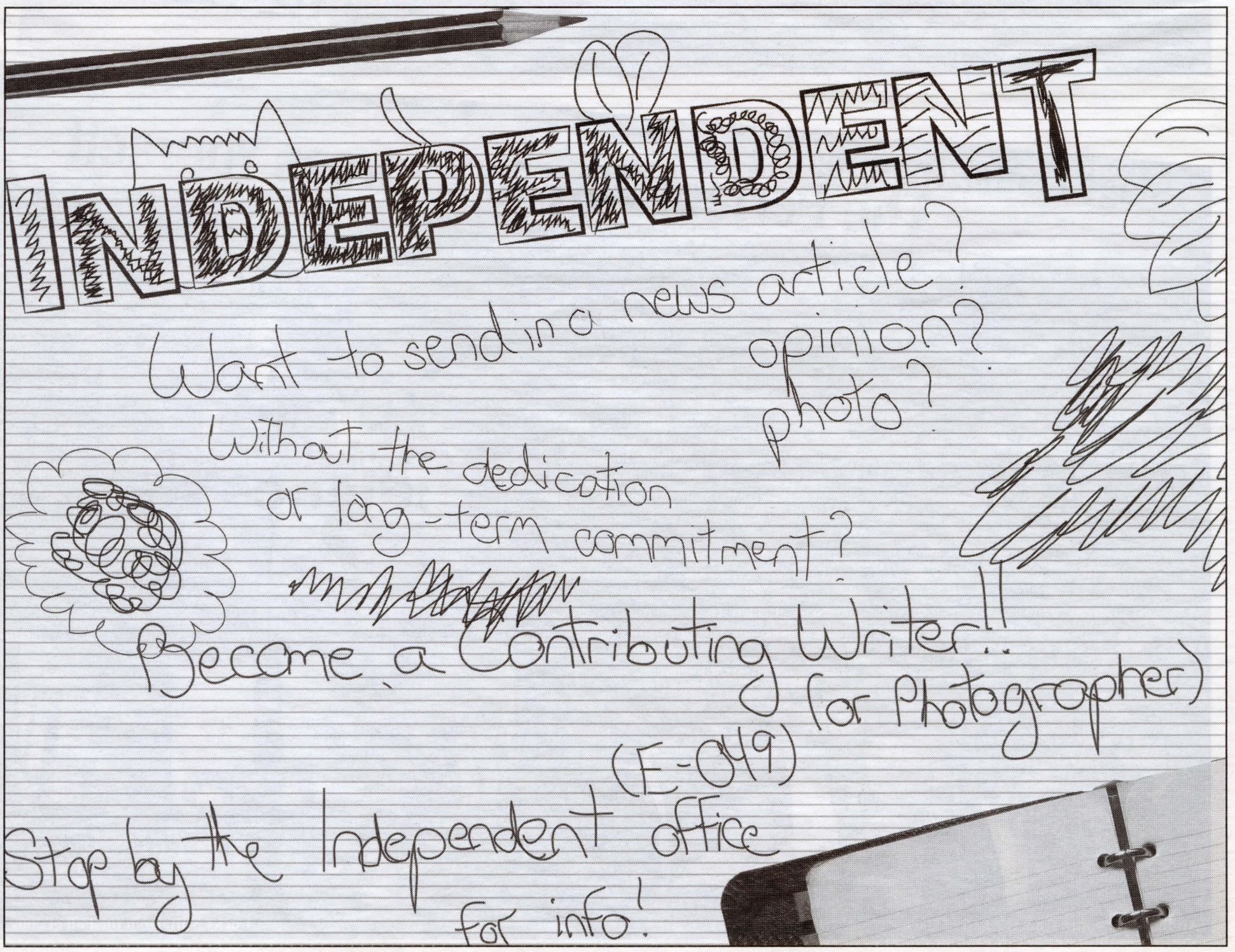


Anthropology department spotlight

By Zac Schon
Staff Writer

Anthropology is the study of humanity in all of its forms. This definition opens up the science to look in many directions with a great multi-field perspective and a diversity of people to define the science.

When one signs up for a class in any of the three fields of anthropology, the student will be getting more than just an education on a specific topic. The benefit of anthropology is its holistic perspective and the ability to open the mind of its students to a new understanding of diversity that counters many long held stereotypes.

The first field in the NEIU anthropology department is cultural anthropology. Cultural anthropology deals with how cultures work in all areas. These areas may include how gender is constructed, knowledge is gained, and a list of endless parts of culture. The teachers for this field are Dr. Russell Zanca and Dr. Tracy Luedke.

Professor Zanca's teachings focus on Central Asia; post-Soviet economies, collective farming; oral history of rural life; Islam and Muslim societies; culinary traditions and cookery; Eurasian labor migration and globalization. Zanca teaches Culinary Anthropology, Anthropology of Islam, Peoples of Central Asia, and more.

Professor Luedke has a focus on medical anthropology; intersections between healing, religion, and politics; gender and the body; Mozambique. Luedke teaches Medical Anthropology, Anthropology of Globalization, Anthropology of Gender, Sexuality and the Body, and conducts the fieldwork trip to Ghana.

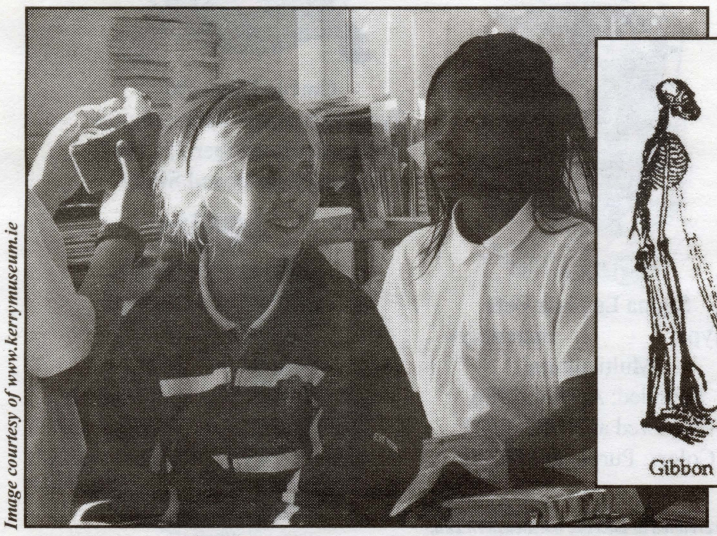
The second field of anthropology is Biological (or Physical) Anthropology. This field looks to explain how humans came to be human, why humans adapted to their environment the way they did, and it also looks at the behavior of our primate cousins. Dr. Lesa Davis and Dr. Holly Dunsworth are the instructors in this part of the department.

Professor Davis is a primatologist who is also a Research Associate at the Field Museum, and has done multiple field assignments in Montana and Wyoming collecting early primate fossils. Professor Davis teaches Primate Behavior, Primate Biology, Forensic Anthropology and more.

Professor Dunsworth is a paleoanthropologist with a focus on human and non-human primate evolution, reconstruction of behavior from fossils, and her field work in Rusinga and Mfangano Islands in Kenya. Professor Dunsworth teaches Human Variation, Paleoanthropology: The Fossil Record of Human Evolution, The Biology of Behavior as well as many other classes.

The third field offered at NEIU is archeology. Archaeology is the study of past human societies by looking at what they left behind. The science of archaeology explains who, what and why things happened at certain places in the past. Some research in this field looks to explain how humans originally came to America, burial practices and meanings and history of peoples who had no writing.

The professor for archeology is Dr. Jon Hageman. Professor Hageman teaches Anthropology of Death, North American Archaeology, The Maya, and leads the summer fieldwork on Mayan Ruins in Belize.



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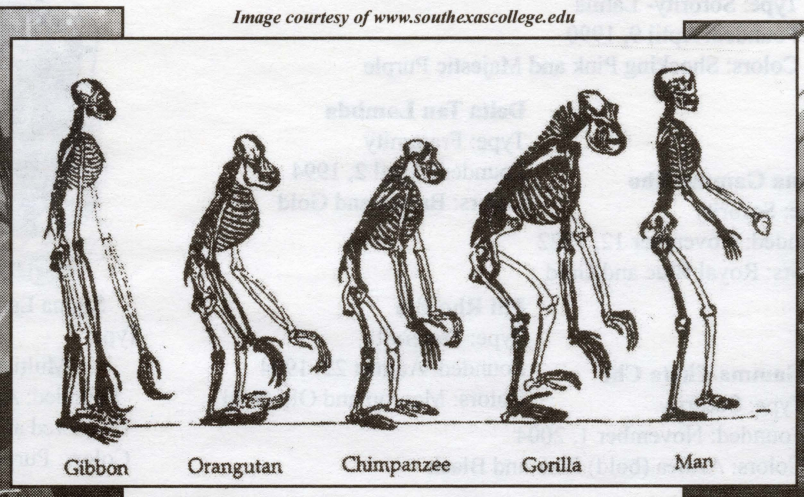

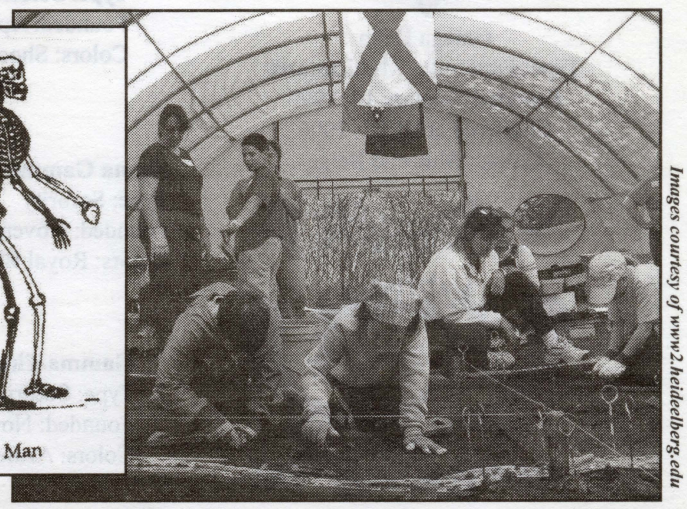

Images courtesy of www2.heidelberg.edu

When combining the cultural, biological and archaeological fields of anthropology, a wealth of knowledge on humanity itself is unlocked to the student.

Anthropology Teacher Spotlight

By Zac Schon
Staff Writer

Dr. Holly Dunsworth is a paleoanthropologist at NEIU and one of the professors looking to focus on the community at NEIU. When not pondering the different routes of evolution and the development of human variation, she is known for her running.

She recently competed in the Golden Eagle 5K run on campus and placed second in her age group (it is not polite to ask what age group a lady places in). Dunsworth is also a big sports fan and will often feature athletes in her PowerPoints. Her sports alliances are in Pittsburgh, but not in Ben Roethlisberger.

Dunsworth completed her PhD at Penn State in 2006 and did her dissertation work on the extinct Proconsul - a primitive ape that inhabited East Africa 18 million years ago. She currently returns to her site on Rusinga to collect fossils every summer and does studies with the gorillas at Lincoln Park Zoo. Her essay on ThisIBelieve.org (an NPR show) is the fifth most viewed article on the site, topping Einstein's piece on the site.

Dunsworth is also an avid fan of pizza and Lolcats. She has much to say on the topic of pizza. She is also known for viewing her students as astronauts - something that she explains at the beginning of each course. When looking to take a class in the field of anthropology, Dunsworth is one of the distinct personalities of the department.

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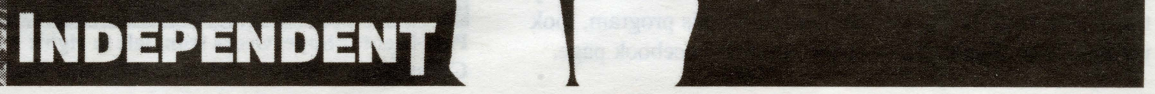
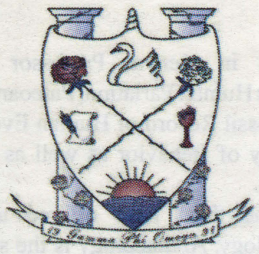


Greek Peek

By Trista Gunderman
Staff Writer

At Northeastern Illinois University, there are a variety of Greek Organizations to choose from. Joining a Greek Organization at a commuter school is a different experience than being in one at a school with dorms. However, there still are the lifelong friendships that result from being in a Greek Organization. Aside from the friendships, Greek Organizations look great on a resume and provide connections that most other students do not have. Before joining a Greek Organization, it is important to consider the time commitment that will continue until graduation, if not longer.

Many people do not realize that Northeastern Illinois University has a Greek system, but there is one. Just keep an eye out for fliers at the beginning of each semester and stop by the Greek Organization Fair at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. Only a few organizations decide to recruit during the summer, but if you have an organization in mind, contact them and see when they are recruiting.



Gamma Phi Omega
Type: Sorority- Latina
Founded: April 17, 1991
Chartered at NEIU: 2003
Colors: Maroon and Navy

Omega Delta
Type: Fraternity- Multicultural
Founded: January 19, 1997
Chartered at NEIU: 2006
Colors: Blue and Beige

Omega Phi Beta
Type: Sorority
Founded: March 15, 1989
Colors: Black, Forest Green and Gold

Possible Future Groups

Sigma Lambda Gamma
Type: Sorority- Latina
Founded: Aptil 9, 1990
Colors: Shocking Pink and Majestic Purple

Sigma Gamma Rho
Type: Sorority
Founded: November 12, 1922
Colors: Royal Blue and Gold

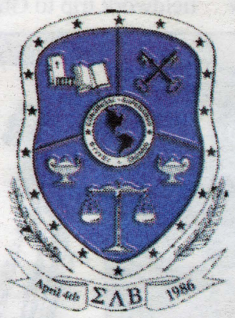
Delta Tau Lambda
Type: Fraternity
Founded: April 2, 1994
Colors: Brown and Gold

Phi Rho Eta
Type: Fraternity
Founded: August 22, 1994
Colors: Maroon and Old Gold

Gamma Theta Chi
Type: Sorority
Founded: November 1, 2004
Colors: Azalea (bold) Pink and Black

Beta Phi Pi
Type: Fraternity
Founded: April 6, 1986
Colors: Black Onix and White Pearl

Eta Xi Nu
Type: Sorority
Founded: November 15, 2008
Colors: Columbia Blue and Violet



Sigma Lambda Beta
Type: Fraternity- Multicultural
Founded: April 4, 1986
Chartered at NEIU: 2002
Colors: Purple and White

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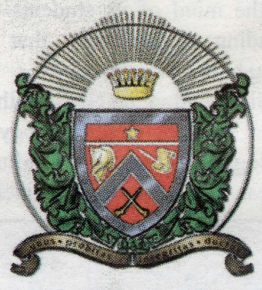
Images edited by Frank Nieto

Alpha Psi Lambda
Type: Co-Ed Fraternity- Latino
Founded: 1985
Chartered at NEIU: 2005
Colors: Gold and White



Omega Delta Phi
Type: Fraternity- Multicultural
Founded: November 25, 1987
Colors: Scarlet and Silver

Alpha Kappa Alpha
Type: Sorority- African American
Founded: January 15, 1908
Chartered at NEIU: 1992
Colors: Salmon Pink and Apple Green

FYE for transfer students

By Trista Gunderman
Staff Writer

While the incoming freshmen are guided through their first year here with the First Year Experience (FYE) program, transfer students are pretty much on their own during this time. This article will help direct incoming transfer students through a few crucial steps in their first year at Northeastern Illinois University.

Hopefully at this point all the proper application papers have been filled out; the transfer criteria looked at and met and all financial planning finished. If acceptance is pending, most Northeastern Illinois University advisors will not meet with transfer students. If this is the case, it is best to meet with the previous school's transfer adviser for guidance.

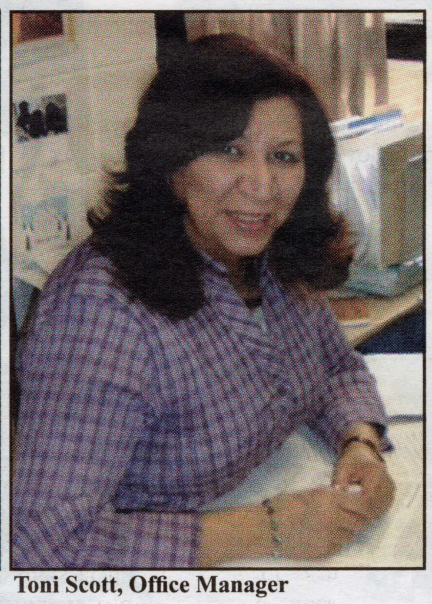
Once accepted, transfer students should make an appointment with the Academic Advising Center. If there is a specific major in mind, then make an appointment with the discipline's pre-major adviser. If still undecided, then ask for the current transfer adviser or the adviser for undeclared students (which one depends on how many credits were transferred.)

There are student orientation programs for transfer students. These usually consist of orientation sessions. More information about these sessions can be found out through the Dean of Students Office. The office can be reached at (773) 442-4610. If the transfer student sessions do not fit in your schedule, then freshman orientations might be an option.

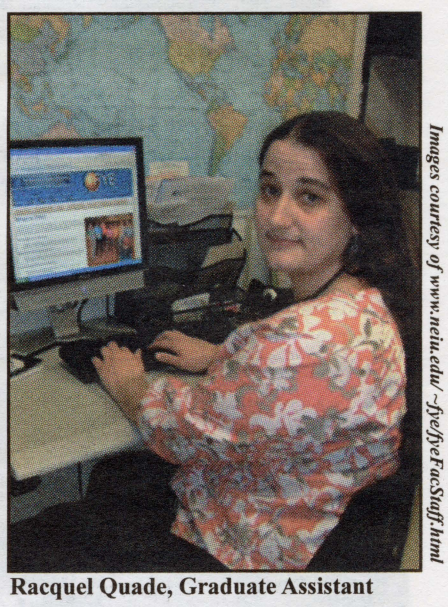
There is also an orientation website available. According to this website, there are transfer orientation dates on June 17, July 19, July 31 and August 12. However, students still need to register for these sessions.

If more guidance is needed, there is the Adult and Women Student Program (AWSP.) While it is geared toward older, returning students, they provide valuable information for any transfer student. For more information on this program, look up their page at neiu.edu or check out their Facebook page.

Barbara A. Sherry, Program Coordinator



Toni Scott, Office Manager



Racquel Quade, Graduate Assistant

Images courtesy of www.neiu.edu/~fye/fyeFacStaff.html

Peer Mentor Supervisors from left to right: Katherine Gleiss-Monar, Shellie Coleman, Michelle Morrow

Top row-left to right: Shahil Chand, Amanda Ilic, Brian Dix, Melina Rodriguez, Maria Ocasio