

5-15-2018

## Independent - May 15, 2018

Robin Bridges

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# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT

Student-run newspaper since 1960

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

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Volume 37 Issue 15

## 'I am proud... I got my degree from NEIU'

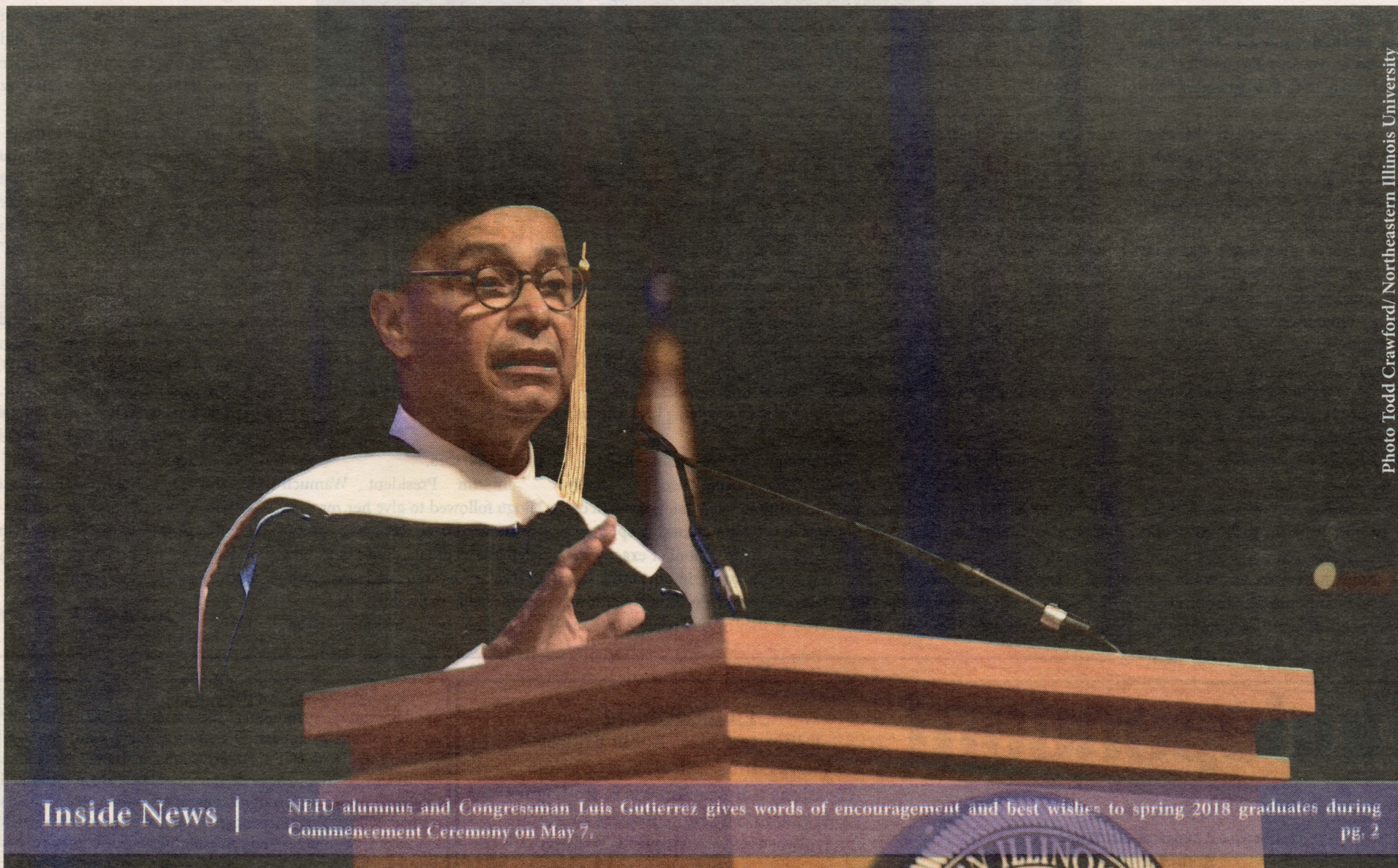


Photo Todd Crawford/ Northeastern Illinois University

### Inside News |

NEIU alumnus and Congressman Luis Guterres gives words of encouragement and best wishes to spring 2018 graduates during Commencement Ceremony on May 7. pg. 2

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### Got News? Tell Us

Stop by our office located in e-049, or send us an email at [theneiuIndependent@gmail.com](mailto:theneiuIndependent@gmail.com)  
Next Issue is out on July 17!



# NEWS

## NEIU graduation ceremony honors students

Nicole F. Anderson

There were 931 undergraduate and graduate students dressed in blue and black gowns who marched into UIC's Pavilion with pride to receive their diplomas on May 7.

The Chair of Mathematics and Faculty Senate, Lidia Filus, called the ceremony to order and was followed by vocalist Emma Oberdick who sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Carlos M. Azcoitia, the chair of the Board of Trustees, greeted the crowd and said, "Was the tassel worth the hassle? You have made it – congratulations!"

Azcoitia continued and said, "We are all bound and connected by Northeastern's experience. Always remember: I am who I am because we are. And we are Northeastern."

He reminded the graduates to remember the people whom have helped them reach this moment: family, friends, teachers, advisors, etc.

Azcoitia said, "So, learn in the city and lead through the world, aprendemos en nuestras ciudad y somos lideres en el mundo. The world is your new classroom, go out there, all of you. Congratulations,

Photo courtesy of Robyn Bridges



Congressman Luis Gutierrez receiving his honorary graduate degree

class of 2018. Felicidades."

NEIU student Su Oh took the mic to give the student speech. She congratulated her fellow classmates and said, "We made it!" Oh told a story from when she was a freshman at NEIU when she asked an upperclassman what advice he

could give his freshman self.

"There were two that really stood out to me. First, he said, in order to get a good parking spot, you need to get to school at exactly the right time. More importantly, stay passionate and do things you love, even if they're not related to your

major," Oh said.

Interim President Wamucii Njogu followed to give her remarks to the graduates. Njogu congratulated the students. She asked how everyone was doing and said, "Jambo," or hello, in Swahili.

"Like many of us in here today,

I am also a person who speaks another language or two. So, I am very much at home with our diversity population," Njogu said.

Njogu introduced a short video to the audience that congratulated the graduates.

Afterward, Njogu introduced Congressman Luis Gutierrez and gave him a Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa. Gutierrez showed the crowd his honorary degree and thanked NEIU for the degree, "Whoever decided to give me an honorary degree today, I want to say thank you. I am proud, once again, to say I got my degree from Northeastern Illinois University," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez talked about not having solid plans after graduating and how it's okay and used himself as an example. He graduated from NEIU, worked odd jobs, married his wife, became a congressman and is now going to retire and help rebuild Puerto Rico.

The congressman spoke about NEIU's diversity and remembering the people who fought tooth and nail to create an opportunity for people of color, women, work-

**JUMP AHEAD/ page 8**

## Independent

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# Former NEIU Alumnus Luis Gutierrez Honored

“ The doors to the schoolhouse and college classrooms did not open by themselves to the Latino community, to women, to African Americans, or working-class Americans. Someone had to push them open. And at every turn throughout history, someone had to fight to open that door. Whether it was women who demanded an education or the right to vote, or African Americans and Native Americans, Latino forefather and foremothers; all of us owe a huge debt and gratitude to them, because they were finally heard. You are graduating today. They opened those doors.

*- Luis Gutierrez, Congressman/Alumnus*



Photo Courtesy of Robyn Bridges



Photo Courtesy of Robyn Bridges

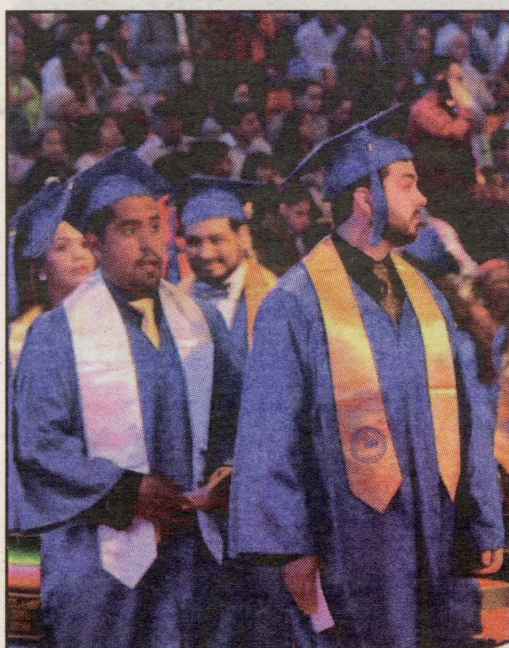
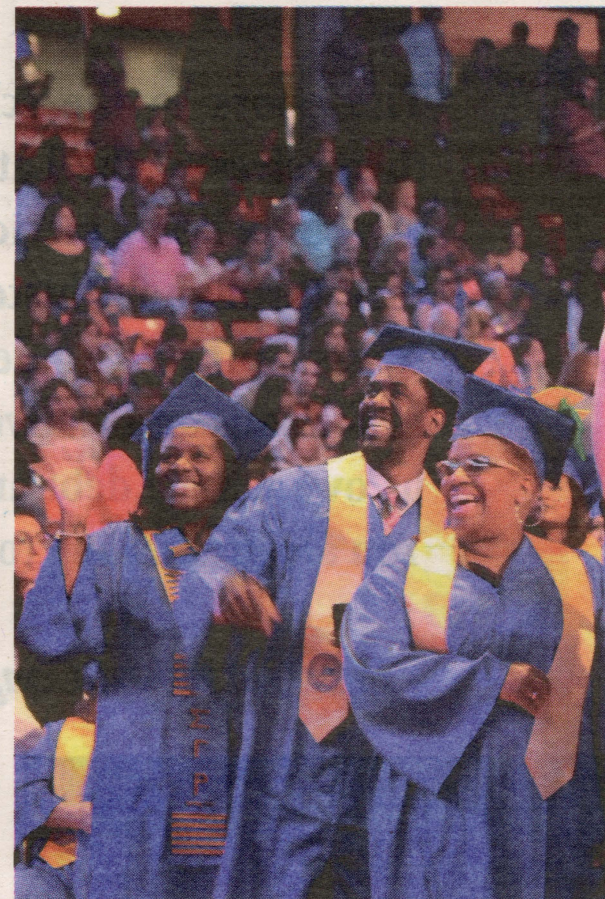


# Congratulations

Photos courtesy of Robyn Bridges



2018 Wilson Media Award winner  
and  
former Independent News Editor  
Sarahy Lopez





# Class of 2018



Photos Courtesy of  
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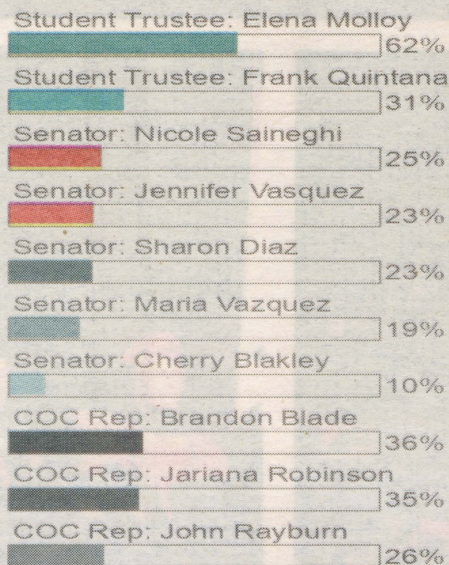
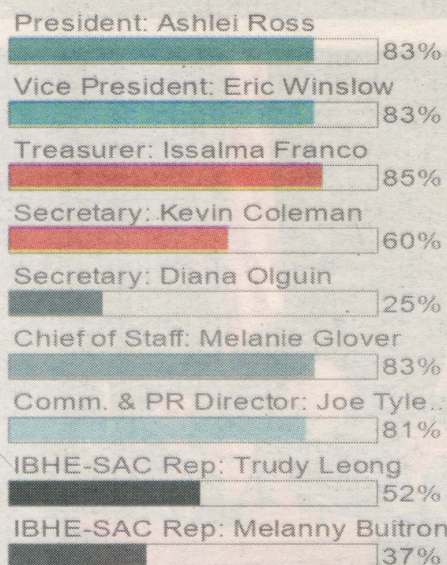




## NEWS

## SGA Election Final Count

Nicole F. Anderson



Out of the total 8,051 student enrolled for the spring 2018 semester, 302 students went online to vote in the student government association (SGA) election. The votes have been counted and the results for the 2018 SGA election are in.

The executive board will be the following: President, Ashlei Ross; Vice President, Eric Winslow; Treasurer, Issalma Franco; Secretary, Kevin Coleman; Chief of Staff, Melanie Glover; Communication and Public Relations Director, Joe Tyler Gerber; Illinois Board of Higher Education – Student Advisory Committee (IBHE-SAC), Trudy Leong; and Student Trustee, Elena Molloy.

SGA's purpose is to "lead with integrity, embracing our diversity to promote a cohesive and unified student body." NEIU's SGA is composed of the Council of Clubs (COC), senate, justices and executive board.

The COC Representatives will be Brandon Blade, Jariana Robinson, John Rayburn with 13 more to be appointed.

The COC is composed of 16 members and advocates for the creating and funding of campus organizations. Members serve on the promotions and appointments committee, on the charter rules and regulation committee. They have the power to ratify, reject, and revoke university charters and organizations, and allocate appropriate money to university charters and organizations.

The senators will be Nicole Saineghi, Jennifer Vasquez, Sharon Diaz, Cherry Blakley with 11 more to be appointed

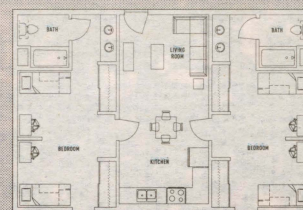
The senate is composed of 16 members. They advocate on behalf of the student body and serve on the student life committee and the academic affairs committee. They have the power to create and pass (SGA) legislation, determine and provide rules and procedures. The Senate also can fire and expel a member of SGA, enact, amend and repeal the SGA bylaws and ratify SGA elections within 30 days of the election.

They also can initiate a referendum, override the SGA president's veto, approve appointments, create positions within SGA and more.

The justices are composed of five members: chief justice, associate justice and three justices are appointed by the SGA president with senate approval. They have the power to hold all SGA members or members associated directly with SGA accountable. If found to be unconstitutional or in violation of the SGA bylaws or acts, the justices can declare the person in question "invalid."

Those COC, justices and senate are governed by the Executive board, which consists of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, IBHE-SAC representative and the student trustee.

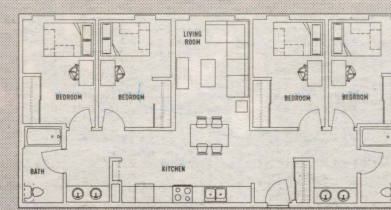
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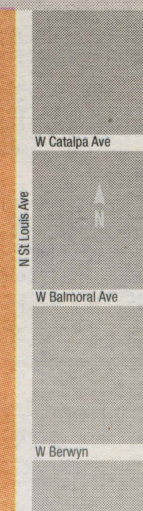
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# Japanese Redress Collection Digitized by NEIU Library

Gierdre Antanaitis-Rudawski

NEIU's Ronald Williams Library released a digital collection of the Japanese American Redress documents that focused on the the Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) hearings. The CWRIC hearings took place on NEIU's main campus on September 22-23, 1981.

On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. This order forcibly detained 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry because they were considered a national security threat. Two-thirds of the people detained were American citizens and none of them were ever charged with espionage or sabotage.

The people whom were detained were held in the internment camps for an averaged three years. Many of these camps in poor conditions and sometimes hundreds of miles from their homes.

The project to digitalized the documents was first proposed by former NEIU archivist Dario Villa in 2014 in order to make them more accessible to the public.

In 2016, NEIU's The Archives, Government Information and Periodicals librarian Hanna Ahn and El Centro Library Coordinator Geoff Brown began cataloguing the 823-paged transcript of the Chicago hearings into an online database to make the information more easily accessible for the public.

The collection contains the hearings, testimonies and individual accounts that were held in the internment camps; these hearings were held to investigate the ethical and constitutional objections of Executive Order 9066.

It would be several years before anybody would try to address this government-sanctioned racial injustice. This was attempted in the form of the Japanese redress hearings that took place in several cities, Chicago being one of them.

In Hiroshi Kadokura's transcribed hearing, he recalled his 18-year-old self in the internment camp.

"The mess hall in which I was assigned to eat was frequently running out of butter and sugar and the portions of meat being served on my plate were getting skimpier and less

frequent," Kadokura said.

It turned out several white stewards were stealing the food and when confronted by the inmates, the military personnel defended the stewards.

Ahn said, "Imagine having your life uprooted because of how you look. You are told by the government to pack your entire life into a suitcase and move into a horse stall. You have no privacy. You are stripped of your civil rights and surrounded by armed soldiers."

Asked why helping to create the database was important, Ahn said, "The internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II should be remembered so that this kind of tragedy does not happen again. It is also good to remember that the evacuation and internment happened because a racist idea was implemented in a very systematic way.

"One person, President Roosevelt, issued the order that authorized the internment—Executive Order 9066—but it was implemented by various government entities and supported by many people, elected officials and citizens alike."

The digitized accounts of some, of the many, people affected by the Japanese internments camps are accessible to the public so that generations to come may not forget what happened in the past.

The database can be found at: [http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/nei\\_japan](http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/nei_japan)



Photo by Ronald Reagan Presidential Library via wikicommons

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## NEWS

## NEIU 2018 Graduation Forward 150 Program

Continued from page 2

working class and LGBTQ+ folks to attend school, hold higher positioned jobs and run for congress.

"The doors to the schoolhouse and college classrooms did not open by themselves to the Latino community, to women, to African Americans, or working-class Americans. Someone had to push them open and at every turn throughout history, someone had to fight to open that door. Whether it was women who demanded an education or the right to vote. Or African Americans and Native Americans and Latino forefather and foremothers, all of us owe a huge debt and gratitude to them because they were finally heard. You are graduating today. They opened those doors," Gutierrez said.

The graduates proceed to receive their degrees and wave to their loved ones in the crowd. NEIU graduate Stephanie Velez said, "I did it for my grandma; It's an accomplishment."

Commencement planning began in January of this year. The Office of Student Union and Event and Conference Services are the lead departments in planning commencement ceremony. They take care things such as the venue contract, audio, video and lighting production, balloons and confetti cannons.

The Commencement Planning Committee has 15-20 people each semester from Student Union, Event and Conference Services, Enrollment Services, the President's Office, the Provost's Office, Marketing and Public Relations, Office of Student Affairs, etc.

Chair of the Commencement Planning Committee Kyle Burke said "It is also important to note that it takes a village of people to make everything work on the day of the ceremony. For this past ceremony we had 87 volunteers from all areas of the university (President's Office, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Finance and Administration, Marketing and Communications, and Institutional Advancement) working in various capacities, such as checking-in and lining-up the graduates, to make the ceremony run smoothly."

The committee members plan different parts of the ceremony such as the commencement program book, compiling the ceremony script and handle the Salute to Graduate events which is where graduates pick up their tickets, regalia and have their photo taken. The committee also deals with the communication with the graduates which includes website updates, newsletters, regalia information and ticket distribution.

In an email to the Independent, Burke said that NEIU's statement to the graduates would be, "CONGRATULATIONS.... YOU MADE IT! We hope that we have created a memorable event that celebrates your achievements and serves as an exciting send-off as you enter the next chapter in your lives!"



Nicole F. Anderson

The Forward 150 Program Prioritization committees and tasks forces met to discuss the upcoming deadlines and timeline on April 26 2018. This program was proposed by former Interim President Richard Helldobler in an effort to prepare NEIU for the Illinois budget deficit and academic funding.

Earlier this month, the Steering Committee received the Task Force reports on their recommendations for their programs. On May 5, the Steering Committee posted the first draft of their recommendations and requested NEIU community feedback by May 12.

The NEIU community includes faculty, staff and students.

The second draft of recommendations will be posted on their website on May 15 and asks for community feedback by May 21. It is available on the Forward 150 Program Prioritization steering committee page on the right-hand side under "Steering Committee Draft 1 and Task Force Reports."

There are two ways to submit feedback to the Forward 150 steering committee: using the online form <https://neiui.edu/about/university-feedback-form> or by sending an email to [forward150@neiui.edu](mailto:forward150@neiui.edu).

After the feedback from the NEIU community is in, a final draft will be prepared and given to Gloria J. Gibson, NEIU's newest president.

In an email to NEIU President Gloria J. Gibson said, "I know the University Community is in the advanced stages of Forward 150, which I learned about during my on-campus interviews and in the past week. I believe that the program prioritization and budget model-

ing processes are important ones, and I look forward to reviewing the recommendations. So, please continue your support and hard work on Forward 150."

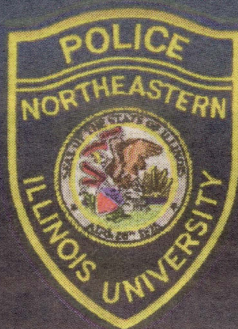
The Task Force is made up five different task forces: academic programs, other administrative offices, student life resources, data and communications. The goal of the task force is to improve NEIU by determining how effective programs and departments are working.

The Academic Task Force reports answered questions such as: "What is important for the University to know about the program (include if you have accreditation and requirements)? How can your program offer Creative Growth, Innovation, and/or Collaboration at the University at large (e.g. curriculum, human resources, teaching, facilities, etc.)? How can the program save money without affecting instruction and student learning?"

The Other Administrative Offices Task Force reports answered questions such as: "Which primary population of the University does the unit serve? Is the size of the unit sufficient to meet the needs of the population it serves?"

The Student Life Resources task force answered questions such as: "How does the unit benefit NEIU students in terms of their understanding of self, others, culture, and the value of diversity; and/or their ability to get a job or further their education? What impact does the unit have on student success and retention? Could the unit be outsourced?"

All of the submitted reports are available for review on the Forward 150 Program Prioritization website: <https://neiulibrary.libguides.com/F150PP>

Check out our interactive police blotter

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[neiuiindependent.org](http://neiuiindependent.org)



# OPINIONS

## Taking the boy out of boy scouts

Amaris Rodriguez

When The Boy Scouts of America, BSA, announced earlier this month that it would be changing its Boy Scouts program name to Scouts BSA starting February 2019 as girls are now able to join the programs, controversy arose throughout the nation as many people believed it was unnecessary.

The news became a nationwide topic and prompted its own Snapchat story with reactions of primarily young adults. Reactions seemed to be split between people who believe the change is unnecessary and others who see it as long overdue.

Since only a name change was revealed earlier this month and so much controversy was sparked, it was crucial for me to understand why there would be outrage over girls joining in the first place.

The decision to let girls join was announced in October 2017 and was highly opposed by many groups, including the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Girl Scouts of USA addressed the decision by commenting to ABC News that, "The Boy Scouts' house is on fire. Instead of addressing systemic issues of continuing sexual assault, financial mismanagement and deficient programming, BSA's senior management wants to add an accelerant to the house fire by recruiting girls."

A big issue that has come up in the debate, and one that the Girl Scouts of USA addresses, is the idea of a single-gender environment.

"Girl Scouts is the best girl leadership organization in the world, created with and for girls," said the organization on their blog post. "We believe strongly in the importance of the all-girl, girl-led, and girl-friendly environment that Girl Scouts provides, which creates a free space for girls to learn and thrive. The benefit of the single-gender environment has been well-documented by educators,

scholars, other girl- and youth-serving organizations, and Girl Scouts and their families. Girl Scouts offers a one-of-a-kind experience for girls with a program tailored specifically to their unique developmental needs."

A part of me agrees that it is important to have single-gender environments. However if a scout's needs are being fulfilled better in a particular organization, I see no harm for them in joining the other.

Sydney Ireland, a sixteen-year-old from Manhattan, had been petitioning the Boy Scout organization to allow her, and other girls, to join and earn their badges. Ireland created a movement using national letters and even a Change.org petition for her cause, gaining the support of the National Organization for Women.

"I just want to see a change," Ireland said. "Right now they're discriminating against girls, and I'm just calling it as it is," she said.

As the BSA announce the name change to their Boy Scouts program, many argued that Girl Scouts already existed so there was no need for girls to want to join Boy Scouts. With this argument, it is important to keep in mind that the programs are not the same and they do not offer the same experiences.

"No, we're not meant to be the girl equivalent of the Boy Scouts," said Andrea Bastiani Archibald, who serves as the "Chief Girl Expert" at Girl Scouts of the USA.

If the Girl Scouts are able to recognize that they are not the equivalent of the Boy Scouts, that they do not offer the same activities and experiences, there should be no reason for either boys or girls to not be able to participate in the opposite group.

The decision was made after the Boy Scouts had received many requests from families and girls asking them to change their regulations to allow girls to fully join their programs. The Boy Scouts also

address this decision as a way to try to reach out and include more minorities, such as Hispanics and Asian communities, who they believe are "currently underserved" and "prefer to participate in activities as a family."

This was a great call on behalf of the Boy Scouts. I do believe that the Hispanic community is highly under represented in programs such as the Boy Scouts and even the Girl Scouts. They are organizations that do not perform much outreach into Hispanic communities, making it hard for parents to enroll their children in these programs that can be greatly beneficial in developing leadership skills from a young age. Allowing for the Boy Scouts to be an activity that families are able to do together would allow for growth within the Hispanic community.

The controversy surrounding this decision, and the more recent name change, is frankly ridiculous as I believe children should be allowed to join whichever group they want without it being a nationwide scandal. Unfortunately it seems to be only catching more fire as the Mormon Church has ended their 105 year partnership with the Boy Scouts in order to create their own programs that maintain boys and girls separate as the church has no scouting programs for girls.

While the Mormon church continues to preach inequality, as their church-based programs for girls are centered around cooking, grooming and making handcrafts, I am pleased that other girls will be able to earn badges in whatever skills they seek to learn.

The Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts had unofficially maintained an idea of separate but equal, which should not have been tolerated. As girls are able to join the newly named Scouts BSA program, I only hope that the Girl Scouts jump onboard and work with the BSA to form a union.



Graphic by Brandi Nevarez



# ARTS & LIFE

## CHILDREN OF BLOOD AND BONE REVIEW

Robert Kukla

"Children of Blood and Bone" by Tomi Adeyemi has been gaining recognition for the way it weaves African folklore and mythology into an epic fantasy.

It tells the story of Zelie, who is sent on a journey to bring magic back to the world of Orisha. Magic has been gone from the land for years after the evil king eradicated it. During this time the people of Orisha have suffered under the king's rule and Zelie learns that she has the power to liberate them.

This novel is the beginning of what is expected to be an epic fantasy series and has already gained wide acclaim.

Before its publication date, the film rights were already purchased. All the praise is well deserved.

All the characters in the novel are ex-

tremely well developed. Zelie is a feisty, strong independent woman who doesn't accept being bullied and doesn't hold back from sticking up for herself.

Inan, the crown prince, goes from being determined on finding Zelie and killing her before she has the chance to bring magic back to realizing that Zelie isn't the problem and works with her to accomplish her mission.

All the characters are balanced, have great qualities but also realize their flaws, which is an amazing thing to accomplish in a debut novel.

The pacing of the novel is well executed, especially for being over 500 pages. There aren't moments where the story feels as if dragging and Adeyemi does a great job of world building and giving the reader the right amount of detail to understand, but without feeling like the description is just there to fill

the pages.

The thing I really loved about the book was the way it gives young readers an allegory of police brutality and the slaughtering of unarmed African Americans. In her author's note, Adeyemi talks about how the story was inspired by news stories and she was determined to write something that makes people aware of what is happening to people of color.

She definitely accomplishes this in the way that the themes of oppression, the mistreatment of marginalized groups and standing up for yourself no matter the obstacles you will face are woven within her story.

This novel blew me away. I'm so happy young readers are being exposed to stories that are relevant and reflective of the world we live in. I can't wait to read the rest of the series as it comes out and I highly encourage everyone to pick this book up.

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## In The Neighborhood

Roine Dryer

Charcoal Delights, a family owned restaurant located at 3139 W. Foster Avenue, is actually more of an institution than a local restaurant. They have been cooking great eats that are both healthy and indulgent for 55 years.

The operation is well-seasoned when it comes to making your food right and serving it promptly with a smile. They're open Saturday through Thursday from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. and on Friday from 5 a.m. to 12 a.m.

They keep their look up-to-date and clean. It's a nice place to hang out and eat with

friends, conduct an informal meeting or take the family for a quick and easy meal.

If you want to catch a homemade breakfast before class, they have several varieties of three egg omelets, crispy hash browns, french toast and pancakes, with a side of sausage or bacon.

If you are looking for a student-style bargain they have an egg sandwich on toast for only \$1.99!

You can dine in, carryout or have it delivered. If you are looking for a healthy choice, pick the Greek salad with charcoal broiled chicken breast. The chicken is juicy.

The salad has fresh lettuce, cucumbers,

tomato, bell pepper, red onion, kalamata olives and feta cheese. It is topped with a Greek dressing and served with warm pita bread.

When you are famished, a couple good options to choose are either the half pound charcoal broiled cheeseburger special or the broasted (deep fried) chicken dinner which comes with broasted potato wedges, coleslaw and fries. Either way, your appetite will be satiated.

They also have a convenient drive-thru option as well.

They had about eight non-meat choices posted thoughtfully for those with restricted religious diets during the Catholic Lent sea-

son. The fried fish dinner was amazing!

They have party pricing and catering options, too.

When you want to treat yourself, keep in mind they have scrumptious slabs of barbecue ribs, grilled chicken and an amazing New York strip steak, all made on their charcoal grill.

Their whole menu is available on their website: [www.charcoaldelights.com](http://www.charcoaldelights.com).

Whether you're looking for something as simple as a bowl of hot oatmeal, a steamy cup of soup, a piece of pecan pie, or anything in between, you will find a great selection of satisfying meals at Charcoal Delights.





# SEEDS 2018 Edition has launched

Nicole F. Anderson

NEIU's literary arts journal SEEDS 2018 edition premiered at the launch party in the Golden Eagles room on May 3rd. The launch party was open to the public and sent out invites via email to the contributors.

Editor-in-Chief Airam Velasquez could not attend; however, Jenn Lee, managing editor, took the floor. Lee opened the launch party by introducing the SEEDS staff and talking about this year's journal.

The 122-page journal features short stories, poetry, photography and artwork by NEIU students and faculty. The journal's photography and artwork are in color and printed in high-resolution. The subjects of all the work submitted is across the board; from traveling, coping with mental illness, heartbreak, love, and substance abuse.

After introductions, Lee opened the floor for contributors to read their work, explain their photography or artwork if they wished.

Writer Vanessa Macias read her poem titled, "Rest-er, c'est exister. Mais voyager, c'est vivre." Macias said the French title means "to stay is to exist, but to travel is to live," and said her love of traveling inspired her to write that poem. The poem is from a series of voy-

age inspired poems and Macias said she hopes to travel more in the future.

Artist Alfredo Mirando took the floor by reciting quotes from famous philosophers and writers to explain his painting on page 101, which uses religious imagery and contrasting colors. His work is found throughout the journal.

Writer Katharina Losacco read her poem titled, "Let's Sit & Talk." Losacco's poem intertwined a joke within the topic of therapy. The line, "I say she's the most expensive friend I have," received a few chuckles from the crowd.

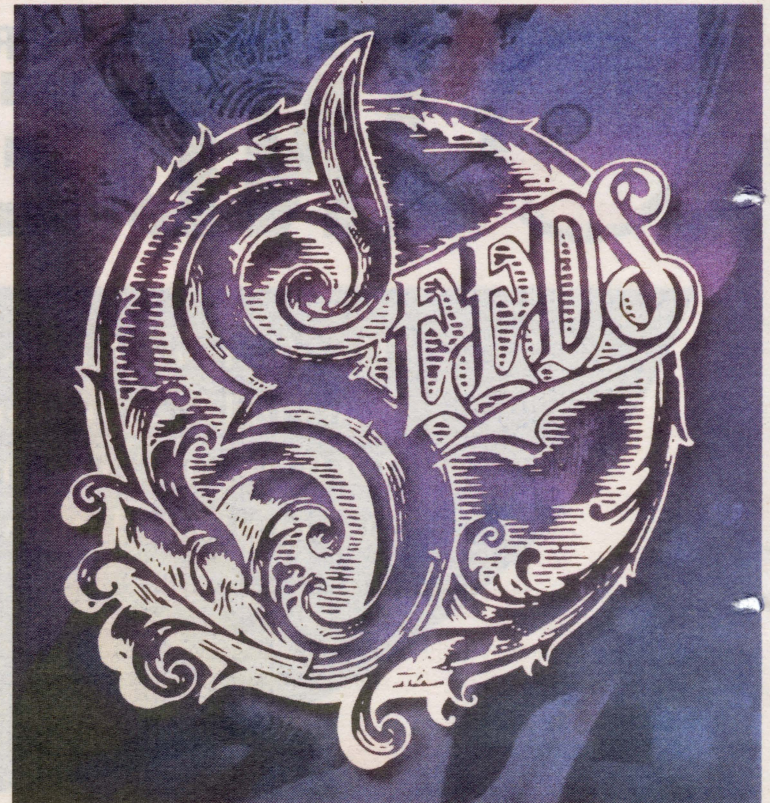
The journals handed out at the launch party were from a small-batched run. There will be many more printed and ready to be picked up soon and can be found around campus.

Nicole F. Anderson is a SEEDS contributor.

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