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## Independent - Sep. 11, 2018

Cecilia G Hernandez

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# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT

Student-run newspaper since 1962

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## JOURNALIST SHARES LIFE AFTER COLLEGE



PHOTO BY ANGELICA SANCHEZ

### INSIDE NEWS

Chicago's Jen Sabella highlights the importance of student media and shares insight on her journalism career during NEIU's annual Meet the Media Night on Sept. 6.

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ILLINOIS GRANTS AND NEIU SERVICES CAN  
HELP FINANCE COLLEGE TUITION

Nic F. Anderson

The academic school year may have just started but it's never too late to think about financing higher education.

**"(CCICS) WILL  
HOST SEVERAL  
FAFSA WORKSHOPS  
DURING THE MONTH  
OF OCTOBER."**

- Nic F. Anderson, Editor

The following are some of the many state-funded grants:

The Monetary Award Program (MAP) is a program in which Illinois residents who demonstrate financial need and attend one of the approved Illinois colleges will receive grant money to pay for their tuition.

In late August, Governor Bruce Rauner signed AIM HIGH into law. The AIM HIGH grant is a pilot program in which the state of Illinois provides \$25 million in financial aid and universities then match that amount for a total sum of \$50 million.

The Federal Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) grant was made for current and prospective teachers to pay for their education.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission states: "Recipients of this grant must sign an agreement to meet specific teaching requirements within eight years after completing the program for which the grant was received. If the teaching requirement is not fulfilled, the grant must be repaid

as an unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan."

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) is a need-based grant available to undergraduate students. Students who complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be considered for SEOG; however, students who receive the Federal Pell Grant will have first priority.

The Federal Pell Grant is a need-based grant and can go towards any educational expenses, including room and board. Students who complete and submit their FAFSA will be considered for this grant.

The financial aid office on NEIU's main campus is located inside the Enrollment Services office in building D. Students can go and ask for help on filling

out FAFSA applications. Eligible students are able to fill out their FAFSA applications starting Oct. 1 at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov).

In the financial aid office, Director of Scholarships Michelle Morrow is a resource whom students can connect with to become more informed on NEIU-based scholarship opportunities available to them.

Most NEIU-based scholarships do not require students to be U.S. citizens.

Luvia Moreno, director of undocumented student resources, is another person whom students can connect with if they are looking for ways to pay for their tuition. Students who are not eligible to receive FAFSA due to their citizenship status should contact Moreno for assistance. Her

office is located in the Angelina Pedrosa Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs and students can make an appointment to see her via email: [Lu-Moreno@neiu.edu](mailto:Lu-Moreno@neiu.edu)

NEIU's south side location Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) will host several FAFSA workshops during the month of October: freshman on Oct. 3; sophomores on Oct. 10; juniors on Oct. 17; seniors on Oct. 24; and graduate students on Oct. 31.

The workshops require prior online registration, the link can be found in the NEIU Target Announcement titled, "FAFSA workshops at the Carruthers Center in October."

For more information email Lorene Foggs via email at [L-Foggs@neiu.edu](mailto:L-Foggs@neiu.edu).



PHOTO BY CECILIA G. HERNANDEZ

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# JOURNALIST SHARES LIFE AFTER COLLEGE

Nic F. Anderson

Prominent Chicago journalist Jen Sabella was the guest speaker at NEIU's annual "Meet the Media Night" on Sept. 6. Sabella told memories of her student media experience and shared wisdom on her career in journalism.

This was the ninth Meet the Media night at NEIU. The student media organizations (the Independent, WZRD, Seeds and Que Ondee Sola) spoke to the NEIU community on student media importance and why they should join.

All of the student media organizations on campus are completely student-run. The Independent is the bi-weekly newspaper, WZRD the free-form radio station, Seeds is the literary and visual arts journal and Que Ondee Sola is the Puerto Rican and Latinx quarterly magazine.

Following the student media organizations, NEIU Media Adviser Travis Truitt introduced guest speaker Jen Sabella.

Sabella has roots in several Chicago news organizations, starting at the Columbia Chronicle, Columbia College Chicago's student-run newspaper. After graduating, Sabella freelanced on the side and waitressed to pay the bills.

Not too long after, Sabella was hired at the Sun Times as a breaking news crime reporter. She explained that before the Sun-Times, she wanted to be a music writer but after covering the crime beat, she was hooked and never looked back.

After the Sun Times, Sabella heard about a position at the Chicago branch of the Huffington Post covering Illinois politics, which she applied for and landed the job. At Huffington Post she learned about aggregation and



PHOTO BY ANGELICA SANCHEZ

**Jen Sabella (middle) poses with Nic F. Anderson, Amaris E. Rodriguez, Cecilia G. Hernandez and Robert Kukla in the student lounge after the Meet the Media Night session ended on Sept. 6.**

using technology with journalism. She said, "At the time, it was a great experience for me and I learned a lot."

Sabella went on to explain the importance of networking during her college student-media days, "I got a call and it was this guy, who I kind of knew, his wife taught at Columbia. Again, the networking; it's ridiculous from school media."

"But he was like, 'Hey, so we're starting a hyper-local news operation and it's called DNAinfo' and I was just like, 'Goodbye, I'm not leaving my job at the Huffington Post to work for some stupidly named hyperlocal website, while Patch is like going up in flames,'" Sabella said.

She continued, "I was like, 'No,' and then he told me how much it would pay, and I was like, 'Yup, yup, I'm in.' It was like, yeah, you people in New York don't know how much people in Chicago get paid."

Sabella was at DNAinfo Chicago, a hyperlocal news organization that had

reporters "embedded" into the neighborhoods, until their owner Joe Ricketts decided to shut down DNAinfo and the Gothamist networks because it wasn't generating enough income.

Ricketts wrote in a Nov. 2017 statement, "DNAinfo is, at the end of the day, a business, and businesses need to be economically successful if they are to endure."

"When I left the Columbia Chronicle, I was like 'I'm never going to have this again. This is my family, these are my people. We all go out together, we do everything together, we live and breathe this news and DNAinfo was even more so like that."

"I would always say like we're a cult. We all were so obsessed with the work and so obsessed with each other and so supportive of each other and coming from these other newsrooms, it was something that I never experienced. And I do think that was part of building something from nothing that made it that special," Sabella said.

However, DNAinfo Chicago wasn't the end of Sabella's hyperlocal news writing, it was only the beginning. Three months after DNAinfo was shut down, a new hyperlocal nonprofit news site arose from the ashes: Block Club Chicago.

Sabella, along with former DNAinfo editors Shamus Toomey and Stephanie Lulay announced they were going to launch Block Club Chicago, a similar concept to DNAinfo.

"As soon as DNA shut down, all these people started coming out of the woodwork wanting to help put it back together..." "People realized pretty quickly how much of a void there was after we left," Sabella said to Heidi Stevens a Chicago Tribune reporter on Feb. 6.

She explained during "Meet the Media Night" that Block Club Chicago is a team effort, "I have a title, but we all do everything."

In addition to Block Club Chicago, Sabella also co-hosts a monthly show with Erika Wozniak

called "The Girl Talk." The show is every fourth Tuesday of the month at The Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia.

Sabella and Wozniak have a new guest or panel of guests every month. They have interviewed women such as Martha Scott, Toni Preckwinkle, Kim Foxx and Lori Lightfoot.

They also have a podcast, which right now, according to Sabella is "really raw," but they have plans to expand it.

Afterward Sabella gave the audience chance to ask questions. Several students asked about how to put themselves out there, how to pitch an editor, inquired about internships and asked for journalism tips.

Sabella then explained that sometime in the future, Block Club Chicago will have internships available for college students but they need to have their ducks in a row first.

NEIU student Tee Murray said "Meet the Media Night" can help students "know what's out there."

"It was a great way of introducing the students [to student media] to help them figure out," Murray said. "Maybe they didn't know how to go about it."

The Independent newspaper meets every Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in E-049. The Independent's main email is [theneuiindependent@gmail.com](mailto:theneuiindependent@gmail.com).

Que Ondee Sola's office hours are from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. QOS's email is [QueOndeeSolaMag@gmail.com](mailto:QueOndeeSolaMag@gmail.com).

WZRD doesn't have set meeting times but ask students to email the Program Director Katie Versteegh via email at [programdirector@WZRDChicago.org](mailto:programdirector@WZRDChicago.org).

SEEDS have monthly meetings. For more information about SEEDS, please email them at: [seeds.NEIUjournal@gmail.com](mailto:seeds.NEIUjournal@gmail.com).



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## FREE TUITION AT UIUC

Amaris E. Rodriguez

On Aug. 27, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) announced it would provide free tuition and campus fees for in-state students whose family income is below \$61,000 per year.

**"GETTING RID OF STUDENT DEBT IS A BIG REASON WHY MANY PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS MIGHT RECONSIDER UIUC"**

- Amaris E. Rodriguez

This move is in hopes of retaining college students in-state, as many are going to out-of-state colleges due to lower tuition prices.

For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, Illinois' average annual in-state tuition was \$17,371, making it the tenth most expensive state to attend college in.

With college being so expensive, UIUC hopes that by offering free tuition, students would be encouraged to attend.

In the state of Illinois, undergraduate student debt increased 21 percent from 2013 to 2017.

Getting rid of student debt is a big reason why many prospective students might reconsider UIUC.

Amundsen High School school counselor, David Tucker, realizes the big impact a free tuition program might have on prospective students.

"We worked with students with low to moderate income communities and the opportunity to have free tuition at UIUC will really incentivize kids to remain in Illinois," Tucker said.

NEIU hasn't released any statements on offering free tuition. NEIU was impacted by the lack of Illinois' budget for two years and was forced to cut expenses.

Faculty members were forced to take one furlough day, and NEIU laid-off nearly 180 employees.

UIUC has the resources to take on a project like the "Illinois Commitment."

The money to fund the free tuition program is set to be paid for through the university's revenue, which would see them through four years.

However, the program is not going to be applicable for every UIUC student.

In order to qualify for the free tuition, students must meet the following requirements: Be an Illinois resident (parents of FAFSA must be Illinois residents as well), family income of \$61,000 or less, family assets are less than \$50,000, admitted as new freshman or transfer students, and must be under 24-years-old.

The financial aid package is aimed to cover most expenses but students will still have to pay for some out of their pocket.

The program does not cover certain fees relating to individual courses, summer and winter classes or any books needed for classes.

Study abroad programs are also not covered under the Illinois Commitment and would have to be paid for by the student through other means.

Applying students will be eligible to receive further financial aid in the form of merit-based scholarships, outside scholarships, loans and student employment in order to pay for any costs not covered by the Illinois Commitment.

The university has also promised the Illinois Commitment program would cover the tuition cost for any of their programs, as they vary from college and majors.

The program will also only be aimed at full-time undergraduate students pursuing their first bachelor's degree.

The program hopes to provide university students a reason to pursue an education in Illinois and become a contributing part of the economy.

Robert J. Jones, the chancellor for UIUC said, "We think it's going to be critically important in keeping folks here so they can graduate and be part of the economy that helps drive the economic vitality in years ahead."

The Illinois Commitment program is set to take effect Fall 2019.



# NO ACTION, FEW COMMENTS ON LECH WALESA CONTROVERSY

Cecilia G. Hernandez

Since President Gibson sent out a very brief email announcing her decision to take down the art installation in Lech Walesa Hall on Aug. 17, she has made no further comment.

"At this time, the president doesn't have anything more to add," Director of Strategic Communications Mike Hines said to the Independent via email on Sept. 5.

**"WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE PROCESS ON HOW TO APPROACH THIS SITUATION, BUT AS OF RIGHT NOW, SGA AND MYSELF DO NOT HAVE A COMMENT."**

- Ashlei Ross, SGA president

During a Student Government Association (SGA) meeting on Sept. 4, the Lech Walesa controversy was not on the agenda. The Independent highlighted the situation to SGA during the audience participation portion, which was at the end of the hour-and-a-half meeting.

After the Independent asked if SGA could take any action concerning the controversy, SGA President Ashlei Ross said, "We are looking into the process on how to approach this situation, but as of right now, SGA and myself do not have a comment."

Ross continued to offer an explanation for Gibson's decision to shut down the art installation.

"The reason, I think, the art installation was taken down was because the first thing students would see when entering that building is his (Lech Walesa's) quote that minorities belong 'behind a wall,'" Ross said. "So it was an unwelcoming and hurtful message to some students and faculty."

The art installation was a slideshow portraying the various forms of art created by the NEIU community. Students expressed how they felt after hearing Lech Walesa's comments against the LGBTQ+ community and minority groups in different forms of art.

The art installation was placed into the University's archives.

"The art installation was seen as a compromise situation. We would keep the name but show the controversy surrounding it (Lech Walesa) at the same time," English Professor and First-Year Writing Coordinator Vicky Byard said in an article by the Independent called, "President Gibson: Art Installation in Lech Walesa Hall has now 'run its course.'"

"Changing the name of that building (Lech Walesa Hal) is above President Gibson's pay grade," Ross said. "The Board of Trustees decide on that."

The Independent emailed the Board of Trustees regarding the Lech Walesa Hall controversy on Sept. 4.

"I will share it with the Chair and get back with you once I hear back from him," Karl Voigt, assistant secretary to the Board of Trustees, said via email to the Independent on Sept. 5.

"We are working on this issue," Ross said via email to the Independent after the SGA meeting on Sept. 4. "(We) will be meeting with Dr. Gibson and working on a presentation to the Board of Trustees."

Look out for the follow-up article on the Lech Walesa controversy on Sept. 25.

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PHOTO BY CECILIA G. HERNANDEZ



# DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES DEBATE ON POLITICAL REALIGNMENT AT NEIU

Joanna Valkin

Four people with varying political perspectives sat at the same table. In today's day and age, four people with varying political perspectives sitting at the same table as each other sounds like a set up for disaster, but NEIU's event, "Differing Perspectives," on Aug. 30 proved that discussions of different political beliefs can be informative and important to have.

Similar to previous "Between Past and Future" events, the "Differing Perspectives" discussion gave experienced panelists an opportunity to discuss the changes within the political parties and their belief platforms.

The night was hosted by Ed Remus, the social sciences librarian at NEIU. He gave four panelists the opportunity to speak about their thoughts on the changes in the Republican and Democratic parties.

Elizabeth Tandy Shermer, a progressive historian and teacher at Loyola University Chicago; Daniel McCarthy, the editor of the news media company Modern Age: A Conservative Review; Deirdre McCloskey, a libertarian economist and teacher at the University of Illinois at Chicago; and Marco Torres, a social historian were the four panelists.

Each panelist had around 15 minutes to present their opening remarks and thoughts on the direction the parties are going.

Shermer filled their remarks with elements of historical information, others spoke on controversial ideas.

Torres shared his disagreement that comes from the common belief that the American people "didn't deserve Barack Obama."

McCloskey shared that she had changed her political view many times throughout her

lifetime based on ever-changing perspectives she has held in her life; a common experience that many students have had.

NEIU student Daniel Roldan said that the shifting of political parties is "seen constantly in history as voters will change political support if they feel unrepresented or if they feel the government is not doing enough."

The panelists all mentioned that history is an effective way of looking towards the future.

McCarthy mentioned that many people, particularly liberals, make the mistake of "imagining a blank slate" when looking at how the government can make its changes.

As the long line formed for questions from the audience, everyone attending the event was either engaged, excited, or impatient to continue the conversation.

The discussion was thought-provoking for the panelists, students and staff.

It gave room for the audience to ask questions about the history and future of politics.

Politics is a part of the human experienced, and panelist Shermer strengthen that idea by saying that when people decide their own personal political inclination, they must first and foremost ask themselves, "what are the three things we believe in?"

**"POLITICS IS A PART OF  
THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE,  
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THEMSELVES, 'WHAT ARE  
THE THREE THINGS WE  
BELIEVE IN?'"**

**- ELIZABETH SHERMER,  
GUEST SPEAKER**

The organized discussion was part of the "Between Past and Future" event series hosted at NEIU's Ronald Williams Library in room 022.

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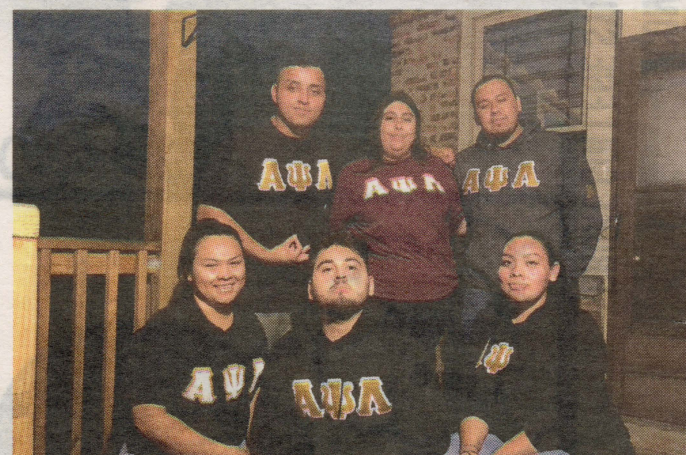
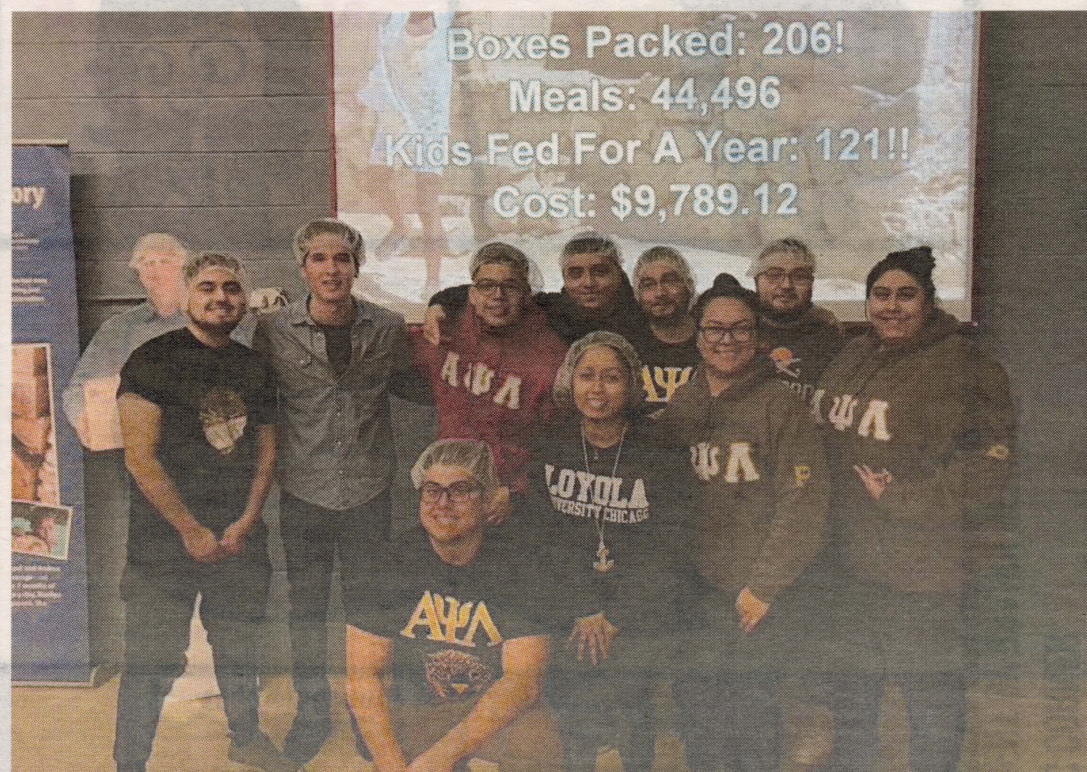
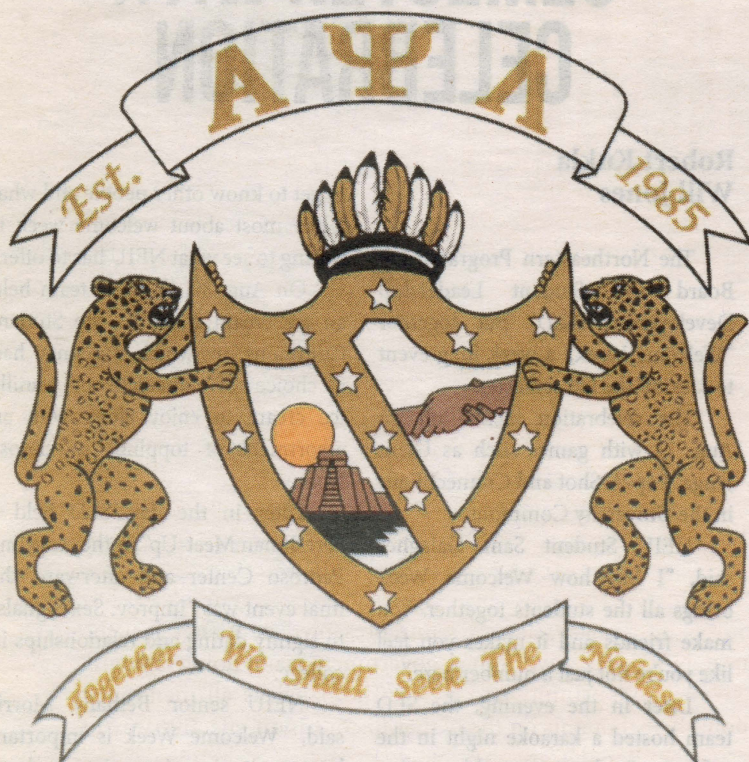


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# MEET THE GREEKS: ALPHA PSI LAMBDA

Transcribed by the Independent



Since the Alpha Psi Lambda National Inc. NEIU chapter was established in May 2005, there have been 114 members who have crossed.

NEIU junior and Alpha Psi Lambda member Angel Salgado said, "I joined Alpha Psi Lambda-Rho Chapter because of their values: familia, culture, academics, service and leadership...I joined this great organization because of the diversity."

Alpha Psi Lambda is the United States' first and largest co-ed Latinx based fraternity. Salgado continued, "But [the fraternity is] definitely not exclusive. We are a very diverse group with members from different racial backgrounds. I love the aspect that the fraternity is co-ed as both men and women get to interact and work with each other."

The Alpha Psi Lambda members are passionate about academics,

community service and leadership. The basic GPA requirement is a 2.5 out of a 4.0 GPA and enrolled in at least six credit hours.

According to the fraternity, Alpha Psi Lambda was brought to NEIU because of the "potential the school has; not only to serve as resource to the students but to also serve the Northeastern community by hosting student events, giving scholarships and community service."

Alpha Psi members said that as a co-ed Fraternity, "we give an opportunity for men and women to work together as one... We offer a once in a lifetime opportunity to enhance their college experience, by making a positive impact to the community, learn leadership skills, expand communication skills throughout the campus and out and most importantly strive for success in education."

The fraternity gives out two scholarships to two individuals every spring semester. Alpha Psi said, "We know the importance of education and sometimes it's hard to pay for tuition and what better way than to help students financially when it's possible?"

"Although we are Latino Based, we welcome everybody regardless of gender, sex orientation, or ethnicity," said Alpha Psi.

ALL PHOTOS USED WITH PERMISSION FROM ALPHA PSI LAMBDA



COMIC CORNER  
BROKE COLLEGE STUDENT BY BRANDI NEVAREZ

# KICKING OFF FALL SEMESTER WITH CELEBRATION

Robert Kukla  
Will Jones

The Northeastern Programming Board and Student Leadership Development (SLD) put together "Welcome Week," a week-long event to kick off the fall semester.

The celebration kicked off on Aug. 27 with games such as Giant Jenga, Pop-A-Shot and Connect Four in the University Commons.

NEIU Student Sam Gallagher said, "I like how Welcome Week brings all the students together. You make friends and it makes you feel like you're not just a number here."

Later in the evening, the SLD team hosted a karaoke night in the cafeteria. Students were able to sing their favorite songs and mingle with each other.

On Aug. 28, SLD provided a walking taco station where they served bags of Frito-Lay corn chips with beans, beef or both along with different taco fixings such as salsa, lettuce, cheese, etc. There was also a tie-dye station for students to make their own tie-dye t-shirts.

In the evening, the SLD team hosted a bingo and Loteria night in which students competed for various prizes.

On Aug. 29, the SLD team offered some Spin Art and a "Pizza and Trivia" night in the evening at Alumni Hall South.

NEIU German-exchange student Nima Ahm said, "It's very important

to get to know other people and what I like most about welcome week is getting to see what NEIU has to offer."

On Aug. 30, the SLD team held an ice cream social in the Student Commons in which students had a choice of chocolate or vanilla ice cream to enjoy along with an assortment of toppings to choose from.

Later in the day, SLD held a "Freshman Meet-Up" in the Angelina Pedroso Center and afterward the final event was "Improv: Sex Signals" to signify dating and relationships in college.

NEIU senior Bethany Morris said, "Welcome Week is important because it gives incoming students the opportunity to feel welcome to meet new people, and to find out about different things that happen on campus."

According to the SLD section on the NEIU website: "Student Leadership Development strives to enhance students' college experience through student engagement. We nurture students as they emerge on campus. We guide them as they advance through their collegiate career. We support them as they develop transferable skills."

SLD is located within the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs. The Pedroso Center is in Building B, room 159.

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# NIKE JUST DID IT: A RESPONSE TO NIKE'S 'BELIEVE IN SOMETHING' COMMERCIAL

**Amaris E. Rodriguez**

Nike announced on Sept. 3 that Colin Kaepernick, the free agent quarterback who caused major controversy due to protesting during the national anthem at football games, will be one of the faces in their 30th anniversary "Just Do It" campaign.

**"THE REALITY IS THAT IT IS NOT EASY TO LOVE A COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT LOVE YOU."**

- Amaris E. Rodriguez, Editor

Kaepernick is seen in a black and white face-shot with the tagline "Believe in something. Even if it means losing everything."

The tagline perfectly describes what Kaepernick endured since his protest against racial inequality and police brutality towards African-Americans. He began kneeling during the national anthem at football games in 2016, which sparked other NFL players to do the same.

His protest received President Trump's attention in May of this year. Trump said, "You have to stand proudly for the National Anthem or you shouldn't be playing. You shouldn't be there. Maybe you shouldn't be in the country."

Since Nike's announcement, the debate is on again in full-swing. This move is also controversial because Nike is signed to make all NFL uniforms until 2028.

Some people reacted to Nike's announcement by burning their

expensive Nike shoes and cutting off logos from the infamous tube socks. At the same time, many have praised the company for its brave move. I am one of them.

I am and will remain Team Kaepernick. While I believe he can take his position and do more to spread the message besides just kneeling, it was at least a start.

As a minority, I have witnessed first-hand the sad reality.

I was pulled over last summer while driving in Tennessee and the first thing the cop said when he approached the vehicle was, "Do you have drugs in the car? Whose car is this? Is it stolen?"

A month ago, I was once again pulled over by a white cop without any explanation. I was too scared to ask for one as there was no one else on the road at that time, so I remained quiet.

Racism is a big issue in this country.

Kneeling during the national anthem does not equal disrespect for me. People who haven't experienced the racism minorities face see an easy solution to the problem: Stop kneeling during the flag and "act like an American." Chants of how great America is are continuously screamed from those who believe we are all treated equally. We are not.

Kaepernick recognized this injustice and used his platform to draw attention to an issue that plagues underrepresented groups of people across the country. His form of peaceful protest started a movement, a movement Nike is supporting.

For privileged white people, it is

PHOTO BY ABC NEWS VIA CREATIVE COMMONS



**Nike's first "Just Do It" ad aired on Sept. 6 during Thursday night's NFL season opener.**

very simple to tell minorities to love the United States. The reality is that it is not easy to love a country that does not love you.

It is not easy to stand behind a country who voted for a president who calls anyone who looks like me a murderer, rapist and criminal.

I believe the brave men and

women who fought for our country fought for our right to freedom of speech and for us to have the ability to protest injustices and advocate for social change.

Martin Fernandez, NEIU student and Marine veteran, said he doesn't take offense to Kaepernick kneeling during the anthem

personally or as a soldier.

"I don't believe he kneels in spite of service members," Fernandez said. "He's protesting the lack of action taken by local and federal authorities for greater social issues."

However, there is still the belief that Kaepernick can use the attention he received and do more for the cause than just kneeling during the anthem.

"By kneeling, he creates more separation," Fernandez said. "More angst. More divisiveness without a solution."

While Kaepernick is not offering up a clear solution to the issue, I believe he started and continued the conversation. That's what is important.

Kaepernick's protest might not be conducted in the best way for some people, but racism and race injustices shouldn't be conducted at all. That is the real issue. It is not about a highly overpaid athlete deciding to kneel during a song that was written in 1814.

It is not about football players, it is not about burning shoes. It is about the racism that still plagues this country. If we put half the effort we put into arguing over whether or not you will purchase from Nike into having open discussions about race, we might actually make a positive change.

Naseeb Bhangal, assistant director specializing in race and ethnicity education, is a resource NEIU students should connect with to further more discussions on race and ethnicity. Her office is located in the Angelina Pedrosa Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs (B-159).



## ARTS &amp; LIFE

# 'TELL ME HOW IT ENDS' REFLECTS ON DAUNTING EFFECTS OF PARENT DEPORTATION ON CHILDREN

Robert Kukla

As someone who primarily reads fiction, I was trying to get into reading more nonfiction and I came to the conclusion that nonfiction that tackles social justice issues has become my cup of tea.

In Valeria Luiselli's book "Tell Me How It Ends," she discusses her work as a translator for Latinx children being interviewed after their parents were either deported or placed under investigation. They are being interviewed to determine whether or not they should be allowed to remain in the country.

**"IT SHOULDN'T BE A CRIME TO STRIVE FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY. AS A SOCIETY, WE NEED TO HAVE MORE COMPASSION AND BE EMPATHETIC TOWARDS IMMIGRANTS."**

- Robert Kukla, Editor

The way the process works, according to Luiselli, is the children are asked 40 questions designed to "help" them by determining if they come from unsafe conditions such as a violent home or if they were abused, etc. Their answers are used to determine whether or not they should be allowed to remain in the United States. Luiselli reveals a system that is actually designed to kick these children out of the United States.

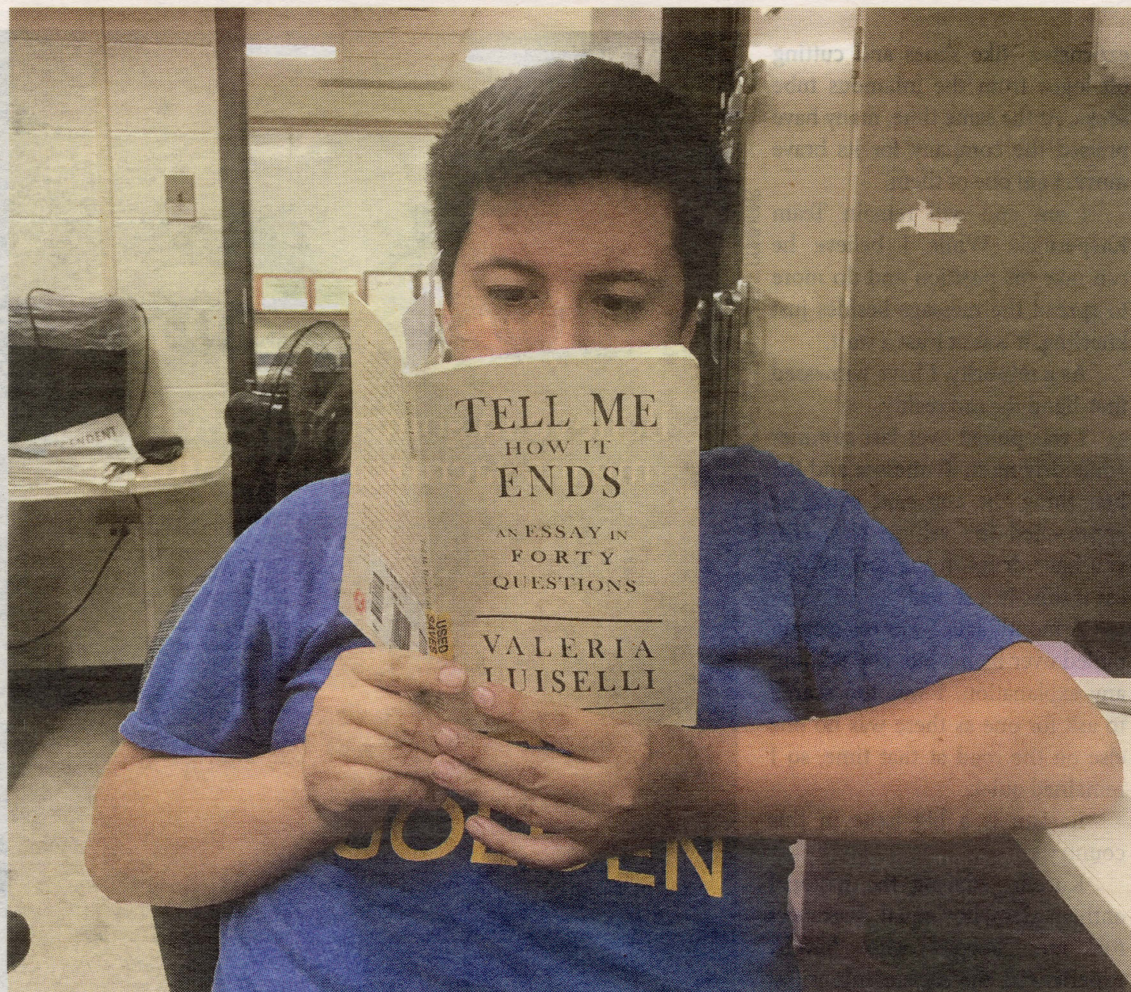


PHOTO BY CECILIA G. HERNANDEZ

Arts and Life Editor Robert Kukla bought his copy of "Tell Me How It Ends" on Amazon for \$11.66, but there are cheaper alternatives like a Kindle version for about \$7.80 on Amazon.

The book does an excellent job of giving the reader an inside perspective of someone who is working in the immigration system and uses that insider knowledge to express why the treatment of these children is a problem.

Luiselli definitely doesn't hold back when criticizing the White-American perspective on immigration. She says in one chapter, "In varying degrees, some papers

and webpages announce the arrival of undocumented children like a biblical plague... These menacing coffee-colored boys and girls, with their obsidian hair and slant eyes. They will fall from the skies, on our cars, on our green lawns... They will make a racket, they will bring their chaos, their sickness, their dirt, their brownness."

She writes this passage to demonstrate the absurdity and

illogical thinking that stigmatizes immigrants. She does this throughout the book and it had a powerful impact on me.

The tone of the book is another aspect that I found very powerful. Reading it, I kept feeling angry about the immigration system and the way it currently operates. I kept being reminded that the way people view immigrants is similar to the way our current president views them.

While reading, I was reminded of the horrific events that took place over the summer with the separation of immigrant families, and children being kept in cages. Though the book is written in 2017, I couldn't stop thinking that the way the system is set in place for these children eventually led up to Trump's child prison camps.

It shouldn't be a crime to strive for a better life for yourself and your family. As a society, we need to have more compassion and be empathetic towards immigrants.

People argue with me all the time about my views. The most common statement I hear is, "Well it wouldn't be a problem if these people did things the right way."

When talking about the children in cases, I usually hear many people say, "It wouldn't happen if the parents didn't cross the border."

My response always comes down to pointing out how they are missing the point. No one, especially children, deserve to be kept in a cage like they're animals.

Luiselli's book brought out so many thoughts and emotions, and I personally feel that is precisely the point. She wants the reader to feel angry and outraged, to think about the reality of the immigration system.

"Tell Me How It Ends" is relevant, poignant and important. I strongly urge people to pick it up. I bought my copy on Amazon but it is readily available at most major book stores.

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# 'ASTROWORLD:' THE ROLLER COASTER RIDE OF A LIFETIME

Will Jones

Before pressing play, keep your head, hands, arms and legs inside the ride at all times. Be prepared to hang on for dear life because this album will knock you right out of your shoes!

The long anticipated release of Travis Scott's new album titled "ASTROWORLD" has heart stopping drops and exciting loop-de-loops within every single track. Every song on the album is capitalized.

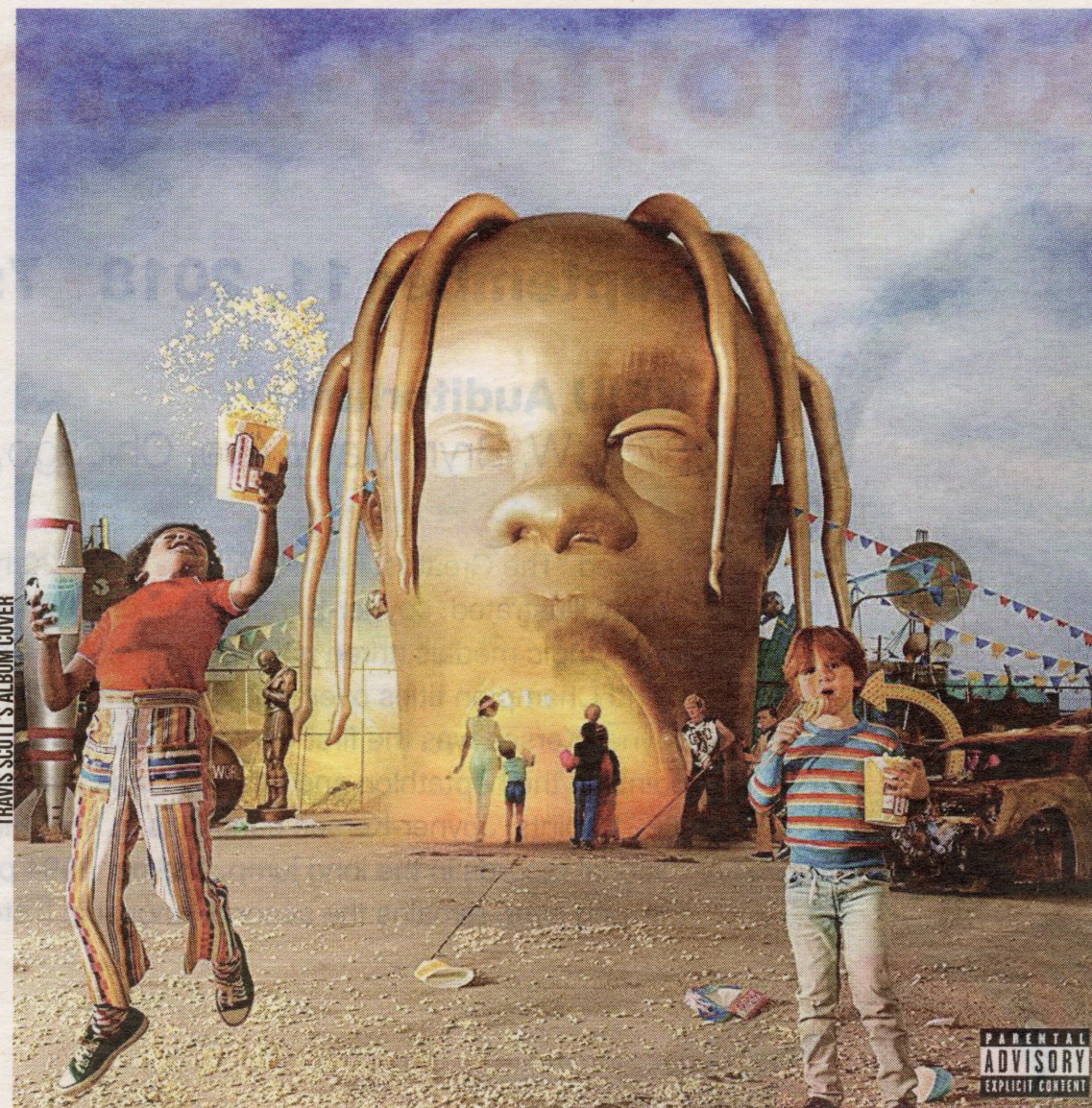
**"TRAVIS (SCOTT) PROCEEDS TO TAKE YOU INTO HIS HIDEAWAY WITH 'YOSEMITE;' THE SOUND PUT MY MIND INTO A STATE OF RELAXATION AND RESTORATION."**

- Will Jones, writer

Right from the get-go, Scott hits you with a melodic beginning on "STARGAZING" that transforms midway through into a club banger that would shake any street corner in the world.

On Apple Music, the features on the album aren't there. It serves as a surprise to consumers. I was delighted to hear Frank Ocean's angelic sound on "CAROUSEL" and Drake's distinctive lyrics on "SICKO MODE." The beat changes on "SICKO MODE" are similar to switching gears in a Lamborghini proceeding to hit 200 miles-per hour.

"R.I.P. SCREW" serves as a celebration and remembrance of the late Houston music legend, DJ Screw. Most rappers who come from Texas tend to give thanks to DJ Screw because he pioneered the overall uniqueness of Houston rap.



TRAVIS SCOTT'S ALBUM COVER

DJ Screw's sound is still heard across platforms of rap music.

"STOP TRYING TO BE GOD" is my downright favorite song. The harmonic hums of Kid Cudi and the sample of Stevie Wonder's harmonica could warm the coldest soul. Artists James Blake and Philip Bailey also chip in their two cents to create a beautiful chorus and bridge.

On "NO BYSTANDERS," Travis enlists Chicago's very own up-and-coming star Juice WRLD and the musician Sheck Wes to create a song that would destroy the dance floor of every club in this country. Travis then

pumps his breaks with the following tracks "SKELETONS" and "WAKE UP."

After all of those deathly drops and sharp turns, Travis lets his audience catch their breath until the next big drop. Pharrell Williams and Tame Impala use their talents to create a wonderful earthy vibe on "SKELETONS." Artist the Weeknd plays a role on both tracks and on "WAKE UP." He delivers a vibe of the wonderful feeling of staying in bed.

Travis then switches back into fifth gear with "5% TINT." It pays homage to another Houston rap

legend Slim Thug on his hit song "Still Tippin." I would advise to listen to this song in a car with subwoofers because it feels like being in a massage chair.

On track "NC-17," Travis teams up with the rapper 21 Savage to deliver hard-hitting verses and prolific punchlines. One of my favorite punchlines is in the very beginning of the song: "Don't do playgrounds, we just swing sets. Shawty got the K, don't entertain threats."

The song "ASTROTHUNDER" has an atmospheric and space-like sound to it that had myself daydreaming until it ended. Travis

proceeds to take you into his hideaway with "YOSEMITE;" the sound put my mind into a state of relaxation and restoration. "CAN'T SAY" brings forth a memorable chorus that my thirteen year old cousin even echos!

**"I WOULD ADVISE TO LISTEN TO 'STILL TRIPPIN' IN A CAR WITH SUBWOOFERS BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE BEING IN A MASSAGE CHAIR."**

- Will Jones, writer

Along with the help of Migos members, Quavo and Takeoff, Travis takes "WHO WHAT" to the next level of what it means to be "lit." They hit the trifecta with this track!

Many Travis Scott fans were happy to see "BUTTERFLY EFFECT" on the last leg of the album. The thrills of the roller coaster are still there, but it's obvious the album is coming to an end.

The hard-hitting sound of the hi-hats, which is a percussion instrument, on "HOUSTONFORNICATION" dishes out a magnificent sound that represents the last big drop on this space themed ride.

Travis wraps up the album nicely with a mellow feel with "COFFEE BEAN." As the song nears its end, fans are preparing to arrive back to the entrance of "ASTROWORLD" to get off the ride and head on home.

Travis Scott hits a grand slam with this project. There used to be a Six Flags AstroWorld in Houston, but it was shut down back in 2005.

Travis Scott's album fulfills a resurrection of this theme park that will have your adrenaline pumping after it's conclusion. I highly advise everyone to listen to this album no matter what your music taste is!



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Dubbed "The Greatest Female Athlete of the 20th Century" by Sports Illustrated, Joyner-Kersey is second to none. She won six Olympic medals (three gold, one silver, two bronze) and four World Champion titles over four consecutive Olympic Games. Joyner-Kersey was the first woman to earn more than 7,000 points in the heptathlon and she still holds the world record of 7,291 points. Joyner-Kersey continues to hold the Olympic and national records in the long jump, and her 1994 performance in the long jump remains the second-longest in history.

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