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## Independent - Apr. 9, 2019

Robin Bridges

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S

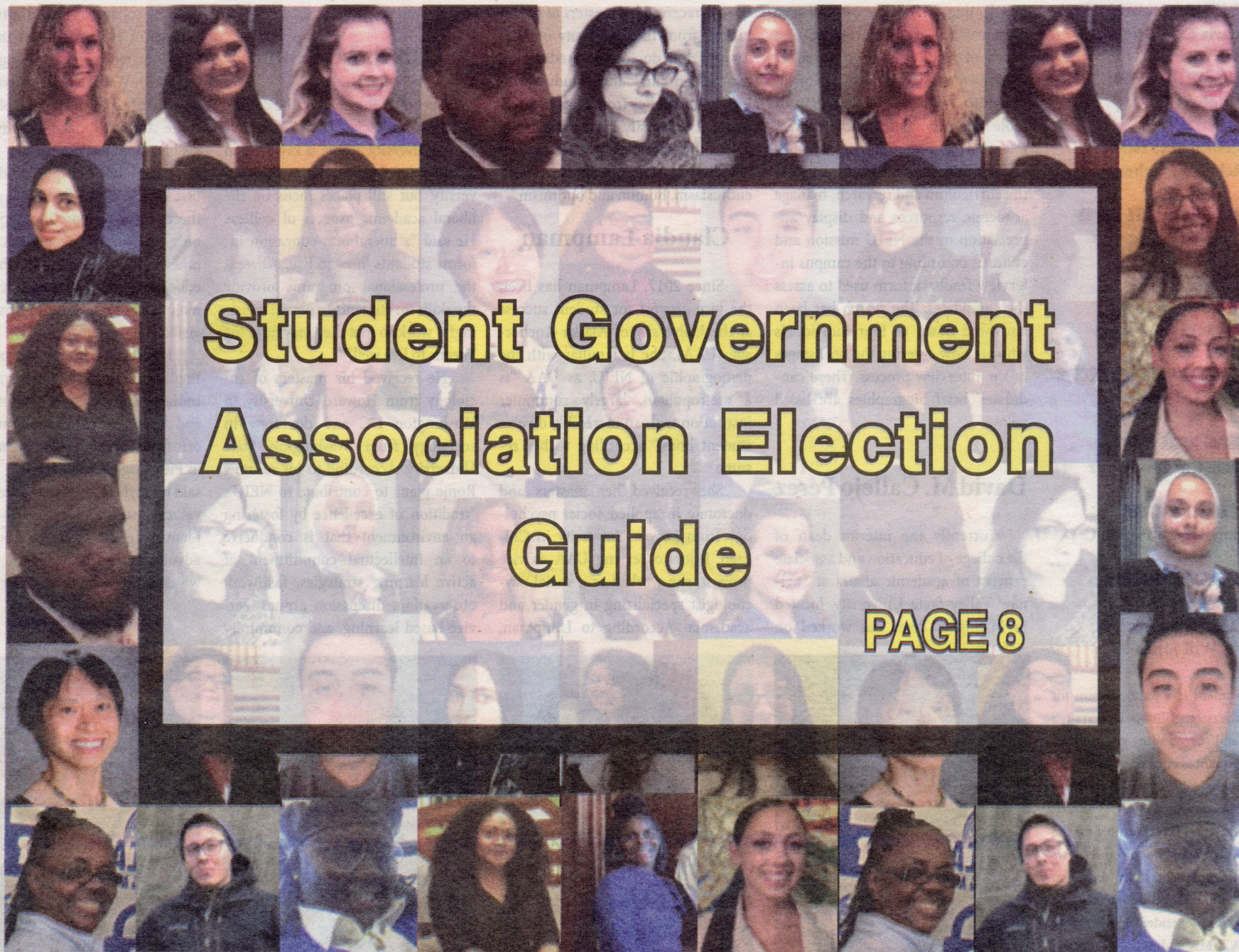
# INDEPENDENT

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019

WWW.NEIUIINDEPENDENT.ORG

Student-run newspaper since 1962

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 15



## Student Government Association Election Guide

PAGE 8

### NEWS

CS department partners  
with Google.

SEE PG. 3

### OPINIONS

Is stranger danger out the  
window?

SEE PG. 13

### ARTS AND LIFE

Beware your doppelganger  
in "Us".

SEE PG. 20

### POLICE BLOTTER

Check out the newest  
version of the police blotter.

SEE PG. 4

### LET US KNOW!

NEXT ISSUE IS OUT APRIL 23.  
Our office is located in  
E-049 at the main campus.



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The Independent is a public forum for all of Northeastern Illinois University's campuses and surrounding community. The Independent is entirely student-run and is published bi-weekly, except during summer and semester breaks. The editor-in-chief is responsible for the content of the Independent, and views presented do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty and students. The Independent is a member of the ICPA, CMA and ACP.

For further details email:  
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# NEIU provost search continues

**Rebecca Denhem**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR  
NEIUNewsEditor@gmail.com

NEIU is currently in the process of selecting a new provost and vice president for academic affairs. The board of faculty assigned to select the new provost are looking for an individual with an, "ability to promote diversity and equity, address retention and enrollment, advance student interests and needs, support the curriculum and research, manage academic resources and display appreciation of the NEIU mission and culture," according to the campus interview feedback form used to assess the candidates. The search has been narrowed down to four individuals who are now entering the final stages of the interview process. These candidates' brief biographies are listed below.

## David M. Callejo Pérez

Currently the interim dean of the college of education and associate provost of academic affairs at Saginaw Valley State University, located in Michigan, Pérez has worked on

"recent residency agreements that include professional development, leadership, and student placement in Flint and Saginaw public schools," according to his resume.

He received his masters of arts in history from the University of Mississippi and doctorate in education focused on curriculum studies with history and policy from Florida International University. Perez has a strong belief "that success is best fostered by blending passion, openness, respect, enthusiasm, humor, and optimism."

## Claudia Lampman

Since 2017, Lampman has been the vice provost for student success at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). She is familiar with the demographic of NEIU, as UAA "is a metropolitan, largely commuter institution with an incredibly diverse student body," according to her resume.

She received her masters and doctorate in applied social psychology from Loyola University in Chicago. Prior to serving UAA as vice provost, she worked as a social psychologist specializing in gender and academia. According to Lampman,

"the first step to a university becoming student-centered is a re-framing among all who work there. We all work hard. But that is not enough for student success. We must ever adapt to serve our students."

## Dennis M. Rome

Currently the dean of the college of letters and sciences at Columbus State University, Rome is involved in STEM related programs at the university, but still places focus on the liberal academic aspects of college. He said "a liberal arts education informs students 'how to live,' whereas the professional programs provide the skills for students to obtain meaningful work so that they may have the 'means to live well.'"

He received his masters of sociology from Howard University in Washington DC and doctorate in sociology from Washington State University. According to his resume, Rome plans to contribute to NEIU's "tradition of excellence by fostering an environment that is conducive to an intellectual commitment of active learning strategies, fieldwork observation, discussion groups, service-based learning, and community

action research."

## David L. Wallace

Presently in his seventh year as dean of college of liberal arts at the College of Liberal Arts at the California State University Long Beach (CSULB), Wallace has also published an article "exploring the use of unwelcome stories to make identity issues visible in higher education settings as well as a book chapter on the rhetoric of the closet that explores how the concept of closeting applies not only to LGBTQI people but also to other marginalized groups in higher education whose differences from the majority are not always immediately visible."

He received his masters of arts in English, rhetoric and linguistics from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and doctorate in philosophy and rhetoric from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. On leadership, Wallace said his style is "driven by several core values: substantive collaboration, identifying and fostering talent, and advocating for the academic units in which I have served."



Photo of David M. Callejo Pérez via SVSU.edu.



Photo of Claudia Lampman via Green and Gold News.

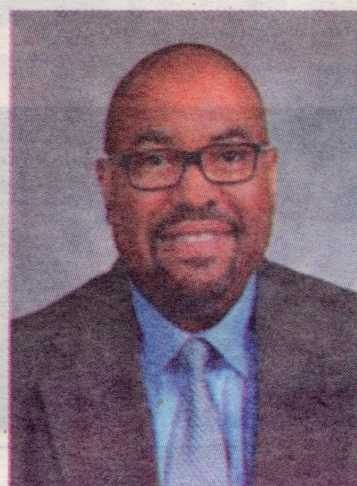


Photo of Dennis M. Rome via LinkedIn.

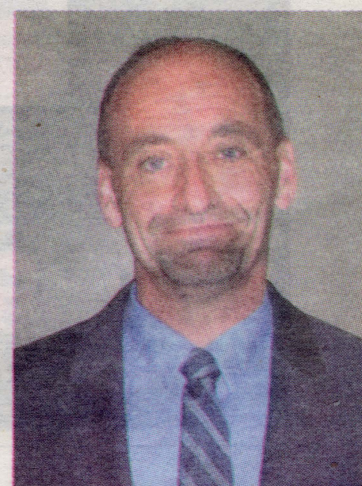


Photo of David L. Wallace via Signal Tribune.



# Masters of social work has achieved full accreditation

**Luísa Soares**  
WRITER

The Council on Accreditation and the Council on Social Work Education granted initial accredi-

tation to Northeastern Illinois University's (NEIU) Master of Social Work (MSW) program on March 11. The program, which started in fall of 2016, has had 32 students

graduate in its first class last May and is expected to have 50 more graduate in the same period of this year.

Achieving this means that grad-

uates in the MSW program are eligible to obtain licensure from the State of Illinois once the program meets the standards proposed by the Illinois Department of Professional Regulations. During the four years that NEIU was preparing to award it, six faculty members were hired, and the curriculum, syllabus and field components, were designed and updated.

"We have been working on that for the last years, so it's a great moment for us because we just got our initial accreditation, which means that we are recognized for four years, so we are very excited," the Director of the MSW program and associate professor Troy Harden said.

According to the Department of Social Work Chair, Jade Stanley, the social work area is growing and it is necessary to study it. Stanley recalled that when she first came to NEIU in 1993 there were about 43 undergraduates.

Today, the program has almost 420 students and the MSW has achieved about 100 during its first three years.

"Most of them were going to graduate schools after that, so we decided that we should find a way to operate this Master here, which we did," Stanley said.

She also stated that, in the beginning, students were a little ner-

vous about applying for the program because it wasn't accredited and the faculty couldn't guarantee that it would be.

"Today, we are very thankful for them, who were willing to take a chance and had confidence that everything was going to work out. I believe that now, with our new achievement, we will attract even more interests because people are assured that they are getting the most updated knowledge, skills, and techniques," Stanley said.

In order to celebrate the initial accreditation and the work that everybody has done, MSW department is celebrating with "food, fun and games" on May 10th at LaBagh Woods, from 3 - 7 p.m. and is open to the NEIU community.

The MSW may be completed full or part-time, prepares social work practitioners to serve vulnerable populations and contribute to the functioning and well-being of underserved communities. This degree can lead to careers in areas such as mental health and substance abuse, medical and public health, child, family, and school social work and social work with rural and aging populations.

If you are interested in the program or have any questions, contact the social work department at (773) 442-4760.



Social work mural located in front of 3077 in Lech Walesa Hall | Luísa Soares

# Google, meet NEIU: a new partnership

**Luísa Soares**  
WRITER

During this summer, future computer science students who are seniors in high school and have been admitted into the fall 2019 semester at Northeastern Illinois University can participate in the Computer Science Summer Institute

Extension Program (CSSI-Extension), which is a pilot partnership between Google and NEIU. This experience that starts on July 22 and goes till Aug. 9 is happening on weekdays, between 8:30 a.m - 6 pm, at the El Centro Campus. As one of nine colleges and universities

around the U.S. and the only one in the Midwest to host this program, NEIU expects to teach relevant soft skills for academic and real-world applications in an interactive three-week introduction course. The other participating institutions in this program are California State Uni-

versity (CSU) Chico; CSU Dominguez Hills; CSU Monterey Bay; CSU San Marcos; Loyola Marymount University; Medgar Evers College (CUNY); Queens College (CUNY) and University of Bridgeport.

The main goal of the experience is to increase the number of

women, underrepresented ethnic minority students, first-generation and low-income college students in the field of computer science. Through CSSI-Extension, Google is trying to improve and diversify its



## POLICE BLOTTER

### March 23 - Home Gallery:

The fire department responded to smoke coming from an NEIU-owned property and cleared the scene.

### March 25 - NEIU:

A staff member reported that an unknown person has been "fraudulently" signing him up for magazine subscriptions without his consent.

### March 27 - Student Union:

During an after-hours patrol, officers observed subjects being let into buildings without signing in with the police. Everyone involved was reminded of the sign-in policy.

### March 27 - Parking Lot C:

An unknown person struck and damaged a person's car while parked.

### March 29 - Parking Lot J:

A student reported accidentally striking and scratching a parked car while attempting to park their car. The car owner of the damaged car was notified and given a copy of the non-injury traffic report.

### March 31 - P.E. Building:

Police responded to multiple fights between spectators after a soccer match; however, after the police officers "restored peace," everyone involved refused medical attention and to pressing charges.

### March 31 - LWH:

After being found in LWH after being asked to leave another building by police, a subject was verbally warned and will be given a written warning if they're found not complying again.

## Upcoming dates of note for NEIU students

**Now and on-going:**  
summer and fall semester registration.

**April 10:**  
Graduate open house (6 - 8 p.m. in Alumni Hall).

**April 11:**  
Eagle Fest (2 - 6 p.m. in Alumni Hall).

**April 12:**  
Last day to borrow Direct Loans.

**April 29:**  
Last day of classes.

**April 30 - May 4:**  
Final examinations.

**May 1:**  
One Stop Enrollment Express (10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at main campus in Golden Eagles and Alumni Hall).

**May 3:**  
Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) Graduation Ceremony Celebration (6 - 8 p.m. at CCIC in lower level conference room).

**May 6:**  
Commencement Ceremony (4 - 7 p.m. at Credit Union 1 Area, 525 S. Racine).

**May 7:**  
Grades due at 11:59 p.m.

**May 17:**  
First summer semester begins.

For more events, please visit our online calendar or by scanning the QR code below.



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NEIU faculty, staff and community members peruse the recently published work of faculty members in Alumni Hall. | Amaranta Cuesta

## NEIU faculty celebrate each other and their work

Victoria Hong  
WRITER

The gentle guitar music played in the background by Dr. Brian Torosian, the director of the NEIU guitar ensemble, as NEIU faculty members and community members mingled around the circular tables placed around the room. The annual Faculty Publications and Creative Works Reception kicked off on March 28 for NEIU faculty and staff to come together to celebrate and honor their peers who produced scholarly material and creative works in 2018. Refreshments such as meats, cheese, fruits, vegetables, pita bread, pastries, coffee and even champagne.

Lisa Wallis, Acting Dean; Ronald Williams Library; Bonnie Pfeiffelman, Library Administrative Assistant; and the Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business and Man-

agement, and the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education helped organize the event.

Pfeiffelman made the extensive list of publications and creative works available for faculty and staff to browse and recognize.

Dr. Gloria Gibson gave a speech recognizing all the time and hard work faculty and staff have put into producing publications and creative works.

Gibson said, "I'm so happy to be here this afternoon to help celebrate, celebrate, celebrate. So many times we're just so busy, busy, busy. We don't take a minute to say thank you. Thank you to each and every one of you for the work that you have done over the last year. It takes a lot of work to produce a manuscript; to produce an article; to produce a creative work. ... But it takes time, it takes energy, and it takes having

a mind that is creative and innovative. You know, I don't know about you, but sometimes in the evening, all I want to do is just plop on the couch for a few minutes. So after having a busy day, then you know you are putting on your creative hats, and really thinking about not only regional issues, but global issues as well in all of our disciplines."

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reported that during the 2015-2016 academic year 18% of teachers in the United States reported income from other jobs other than their teaching job. The teachers in the midwest and the northeast region had the highest percentage of teachers with second jobs.

Gibson said, "I'm so proud of the work that you do each and every day and I'm sure some of those works are in other universities; faculty are using

them in their classes, they're in our libraries, they're in research institutions, and they bring great prestige to the institution. So thank you for the work that you're doing."

As Gibson closed off her speech, she encouraged everybody to raise their glasses, celebrate everybody's hard work and said, "I will say to the continued success of our faculty and our staff and to Northeastern Illinois university."

Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Tim Libretti; Associate Dean of College of Business and Management, Nont Dhiensiri; and Dean of the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education, Sandra Beyda-Lorie gave their own speeches. They thanked and recognized the many works by the faculty in their college.

Psychology professor specializing in gerontology, Dr. Masami Takahashi,

said, "This is a very good event to see faculties from different departments publications. You rarely see and know about these publications. So once a year, we get together. And food and alcohol helps."

Beyda-Lorie said, "This is a nice way to honor and recognize people's scholarship."

Vice-President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel and Juris Doctor, Melissa Reardon Henry, said, "It is always a delight to celebrate the accomplishments of our faculty."

Vice-President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Northeastern Illinois University Foundation, Liesl Downey said, "I really enjoy coming to this event every year to see the breadth and depth of expertise that our faculty produce and add to the academy. It's just it's inspiring."



## Google

Continued from page 3.

workforce representation. The company is also focused on hiring, development, progression and retention of talents. According to El Centro Director, Maria Luna-Duarte, who is spearheading this initiative, and Associate Professor of Computer Science, Graciela Perera, who has also collaborated on this project, it is important to offer the program to these minorities, because they have been historically underrepresented in the technology sector. "Also, it is well known that Tech industry needs

more diversity. Exposing these groups as early as possible to Tech is an effective practice," said Graciela.

As stated by Student Development Specialist at Google, Ray Sawyer, in a public relations story posted by NEIU, the company is excited about the opportunity to build confidence and support who have historically been underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers fields.

Google is providing the curriculum, which covers HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Python and Google App Engine to help

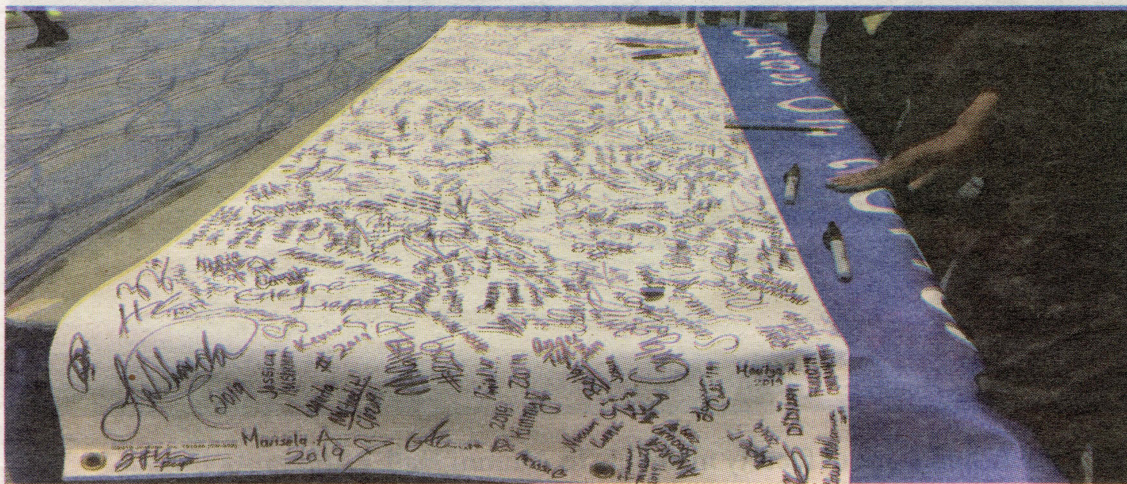
preparing students for their first year of computer science. It also includes field trips to local Google offices, opportunities to interact directly with Google engineers and experts, exposures and insights into Google's internship programs and technical career opportunities. There is no cost to participate in this program and the equipment and materials will be provided by NEIU.

To participate, students need to complete an online application at [neiu.edu/googlesummer](http://neiu.edu/googlesummer), be interested in computer science, software engineering, and/or another closely-related sub-



Google headquarter's on 320 N. Morgan. | Luisa Soares.

ject and able to attend every day of the course. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Luna-Duarte at [m-duarte@neiu.edu](mailto:m-duarte@neiu.edu) or Graciela Perera at [gperera@neiu.edu](mailto:gperera@neiu.edu).



Students signing the class of 2019 banner. | Nicole F. Anderson



Pedroso employee Miguel Marino Castillo, and students Melanny Buitron and Staci Root pose with Goldie. | Melanny Buitron.

# SALUTE TO GRADS

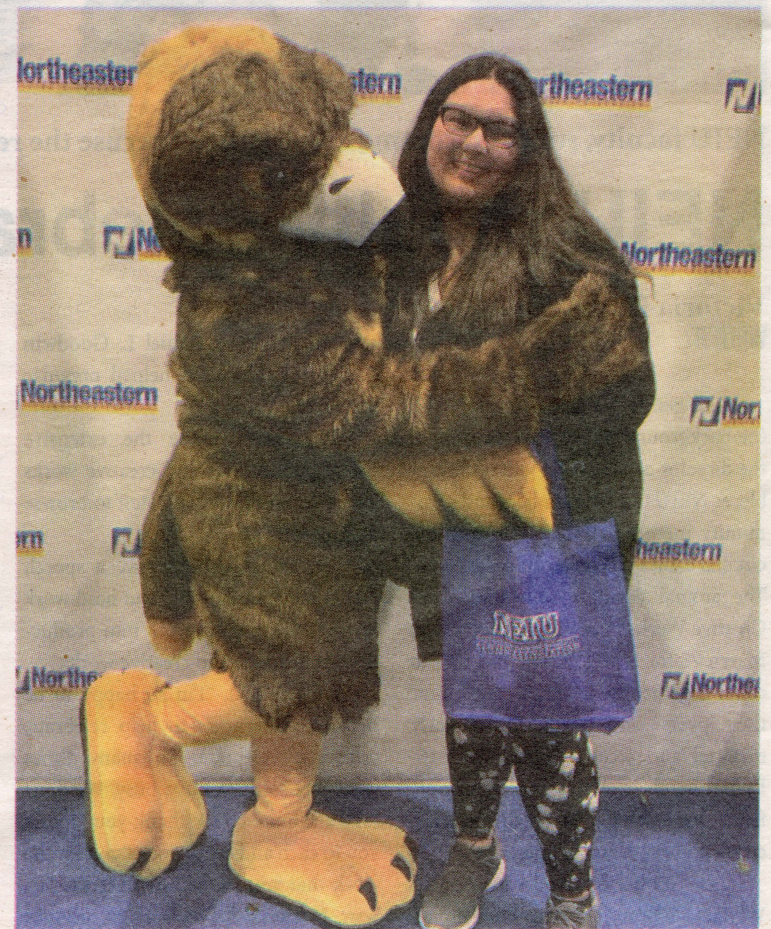
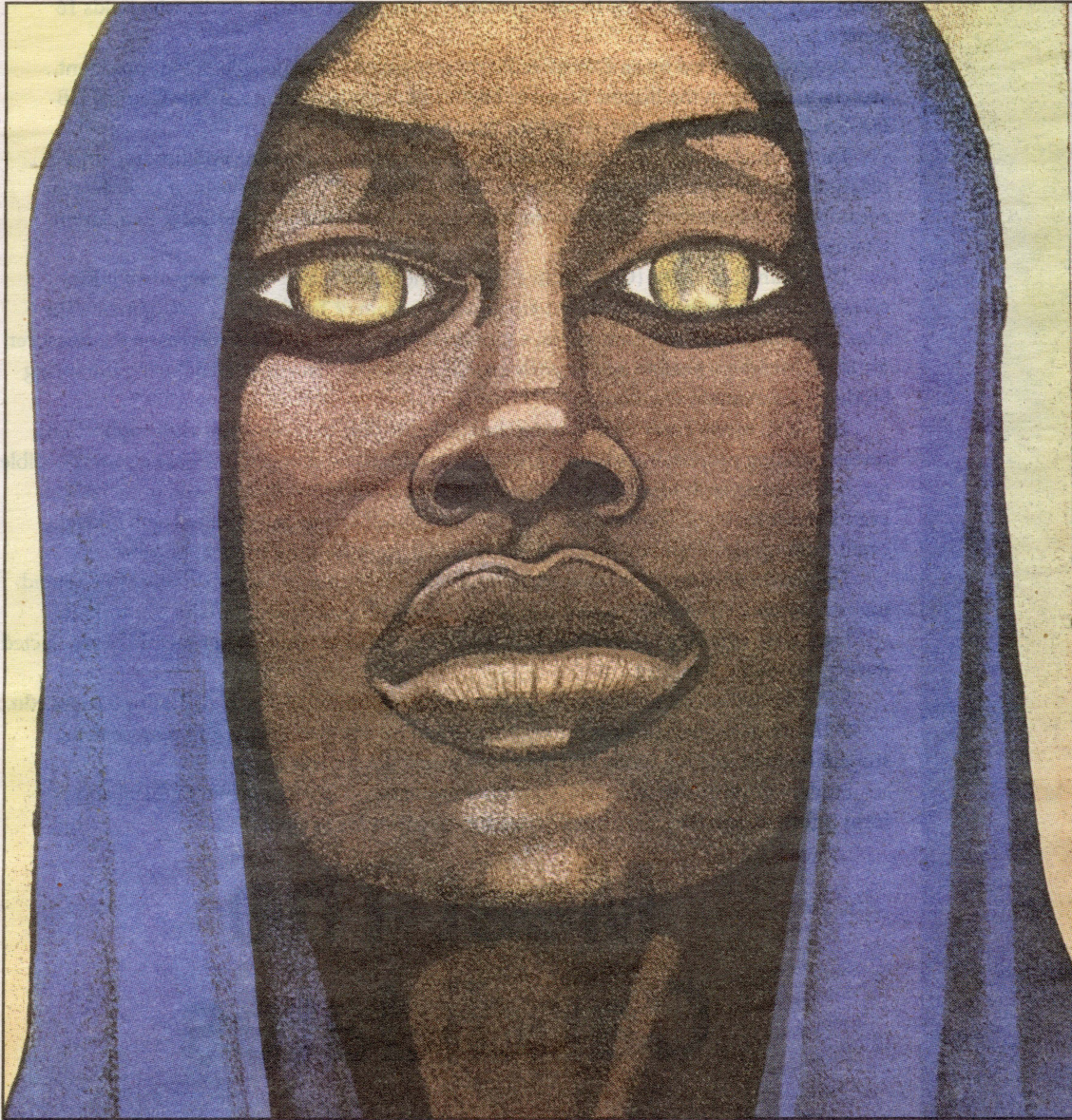


Photo via @HaleToHannah on Instagram under the #neigrad hashtag.





"Sarraounia" by Michael Maura

## Up close & personal:

*extreme close-ups of artwork from NEIU's  
Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition*



"Irresponsible Consumption" by Rabia Tayyabi



"Madame Diva" by Keith Kearney



"Joong Boo" by Brandi Nevarez



# Student Government Association Voters' Guide

NEIU Student Government Association (SGA) is composed of three bodies that all work together to form the governing body for the student body at NEIU. SGA is made up of the Council of Club, which holds 16 representatives, five justices and a senate, who holds 16 senators.

The groups are led by an Executive Board composed of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisor Council (IBHE-SAC) student representative and the trustee.

The Council of clubs is the main body that advocates for creating and funding organizations on campus. The representatives in the Council of Clubs serve on one of the two committees: Promotions & Appointments committee or the Charter Rules & Regulation Committee.

The Council of Clubs (COC) is in charge of the funding and chartering of all NEIU student clubs and organizations that are under the Student Leadership Development. The Council consist of 15 representatives, a vice chair and a chair who also serves as the treasurer for SGA. Members need to be currently enrolled students that are elected during the spring Student Government Elections.

The COC meets every week during the academic year to review new club applications, review funding proposals and club constitutions and bylaw changes. They are also responsible for distributing the Student Activity Fee that has been allocated for club and organization events and initiatives. They allocate the following funding: annually funded club budgets, event funding, development fund, and COC merit grant funding when applicable.

The senate advocates for the student body. Their senators will serve on one of two standing committees: either the Student Life Committee or the Academic Affairs Committee.

Justice are appointed directly by the president of SGA while all other members are elected during the spring semester.

For information on joining COC please contact Alfredo Palafox at A-Palafox1@neiu.edu.

SGA hopes to give students the opportunity to interact with peers and represent the student body in making important decisions that effect student life at NIEU.

Student government and COC candidates were asked to provide biographical and platform information. They have been edited for space not for content.

## Meet The Candidates

<b>Hector Estrada</b>	Chief of Staff	<b>Destiny Davis</b>	Secretary
<b>Gabriel Salceda</b>	COC Rep	<b>Karen Fraid</b>	Secretary
<b>Jessica Marie Beltran</b>	COC Rep	<b>Trace Chase</b>	Secretary
<b>Mariah Ford</b>	COC Rep	<b>Anjell Williams</b>	Senator
<b>Sara Galvan Orozco</b>	COC Rep	<b>Devin K. Foster</b>	Senator
<b>Tierra Tucker</b>	COC Rep	<b>Isaac Espinoza</b>	Senator
<b>John Rayburn</b>	Communication and Public Relations Director	<b>Magdelene Thebaud</b>	Senator
<b>Kinza Kha</b>	Communication and Public Relations Director	<b>Natalia Borowska</b>	Senator
<b>Marion Tellez</b>	IBHE-SAC Rep	<b>Nida Kidwai</b>	Senator
<b>Trudy Leong</b>	IBHE-SAC Rep	<b>Ashlei Ross</b>	Student Trustee
<b>Melanie Glover</b>	President	<b>Fatima Siddiqua</b>	Student Trustee
		<b>Issalma Franco</b>	Treasurer
		<b>Eric Winslow</b>	Vice President



# Candidate Biographies



**Position**  
President

**Year in school**  
Graduate Student

**Past experience**  
I am currently the Chief of Staff for Student Government

**Melanie Glover**

Association, I have been a Senator and Chief Justice for Student Government Association, I have been the Anti-Basileus, parliamentarian, chaplain, and Anti-Grammateus for Sigma Eta chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., I have been the Treasurer for Black Caucus, the Vice President of Justice Studies Club and a member of Black Heritage Committee.

**What would be your first action once in office?**

My first plan would be to hold a rally for students, administration, faculty, and staff. This rally would be like one big cook out.



**Position**  
Vice-President

**Year in school**  
Senior

**Past experience**  
Student government association: vice president Black Caucus:

**Eric Winslow**

President

**What would be your first action once in office?**

My first action in office would be to make sure as SGA we continue whatever legislation that been work on in the pass for the benefit of the students.



**Position**  
Council of Clubs Representative

**Year in school**  
Freshman

**Past experience**  
Freshman Navigator at NEIU

**Gabriel Salceda**

Treasurer and fundraiser chair for Omega Delta Phi Fraternity Beta Alpha chapter Council of Clubs Rep Vice President for my high school Orchestra

**What would be your first action once in office?**

As COC rep I suppose the first action would be to get together with my fellow reps and discuss a way to be fair to every organization that request funding and to have a distinct guideline for events in campus, out of campus, and conferences.



**Position**  
Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advocacy Council

**Year in school**  
Senior

**Past experience**

I have had opportunities that have helped build my leadership. I have had the opportunity to serve at Triton Community College as the President of Latin American Student Organization (L.A.S.O.) During my term as President in L.A.S.O. we advocated and challenged the institution to better serve our minority students and undocumented student population to provide more academic resources and better structure their advising and admissions.

**Marion Tellez**



**Position**  
Senator

**Year in school**  
Senior

**Past experience**  
SGA Chair for CCICS, Peer coach for women in recovery, men-

**Anjell Williams**

toring youth, role model, Honor student, mother of three, grandmother of eight.

**What would be your first action once in office?**

Reach out to the SGA as a whole reach out to people in authority to see what needs to be done to put these programs into play during enrollment.



**Position**  
Student Trustee

**Year in school**  
Junior

**Past experience**  
Leadership is setting a vision and cultivating an environment

**Fatima Siddiqua**

where people are encouraged to share their ideas. As a Peer Mentor in the First Year Experience program, I guide students in taking personal leadership and advocating for themselves. I am also a Senator in Student Government Association where I sit on the Charter Oversight and Regulations Committee. I am also a Pedroso Center intern; I am involved in the planning or administering of our events -- and most importantly, conveying the interests of the student body.



**Position**  
Treasurer

**Year in school**  
Senior

**Past experience**  
SGA COC representative SGA Treasurer Vice President of

**Issalma Franco**

Gamma Phi Omega

**What would be your first action once in office?**

My first action would be creating workshops to teach those clubs that do not know how to request for funding. In addition, to helping bring more student life involvement in campus.



**Position**  
Senator

**Year in school**  
Junior

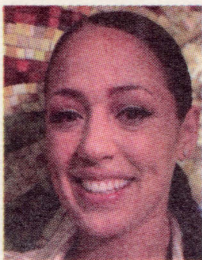
**Past experience**  
My contribution to the community thus far has been

**Magdelene Thebaud**

volunteering experience in the transitional housing unit, A Safe Haven Foundation and as an ESL tutor at Albany Park Community Center. My first year at NEIU has prepared me to become a participant in the McNair Scholars Program, Order of Omega and the Honors Program. I believe these programs give me the characteristics of a more qualified candidate as Senator of Student Government Association.

Voting began online Saturday, April 6 through Friday, April 12 at 4 p.m.





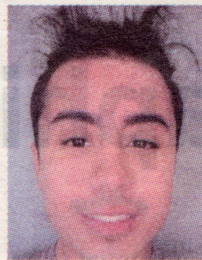
**Position**  
Council of Clubs  
Representative

**Year in school**  
Senior

**Past experience**  
I usually find myself  
being the leader of

group projects within my school and community. I have been a summer recreational leader for Chicago Park Districts. I also hold the head position of female fighters in my mma gym, Hybrid Martial Arts and Fitness. This involves motivating and drawing in more females to mixed martial arts and Muay Thai. I have been a nanny for the last 5 years and have gotten to know the neighborhood kids pretty well. Usually in the summertime organize group activities and games for like 15-10 kids at the park. They look to me as a mentor and a fun young adult.

**Jessica Beltran**



**Position**  
Senator

**Year in school**  
Junior

**Past experience**  
I volunteered to be a  
team leader for multiple  
group projects,  
and I'm glad to be able to  
say for each team I've led  
we've succeeded.

**Isaac Espinoza**

**What would be your first action once in office?**

I will promote student events that will allow students to mingle. I want to connect different social circles with one another so the unity of the student body can grow.



**Position**  
Secretary

**Year in school**  
Senior

**Past experience**  
I have served in many  
leadership capacities in my  
lifetime. I

currently chair a CPS Local School Council, and am serving my 4th term. I have experience as a Girl Scout and Cub Scout Leader, Project Manager at work, PTA President and Treasurer, and I volunteer as a fine arts teacher with students of all ages and abilities. At Northeastern, I serve as one of the Vice Presidents of the University Honors Program Student Advisory Board.

**Karen Fraid**



**Position**  
Chief of Staff

**Year in school**  
Junior

**Past experience**  
I am currently serving as a  
Senator in the Student Government

Association and a part of the Freshman Action Committee (Chair), Transfer Committee (Chair), and Student Life Committee.

**What would be your first action once in office?**

My first action if elected is to hear as many student voices as I possibly can because my role is to represent the students through town halls or written suggestions or via email. Representing the students is the job description and in order for me to carry out my role I would need to hear the students concerns and the direction they would like to see their education taken.

**Hector Estrada**



**Scan this code for online voting. Sign in with your NEIU username & password.**



**Position**  
Senator

**Year in school**  
Sophomore

**Past experience**  
Since my time at  
Northeastern, I have  
been very fortunate to

be selected as a FYE Peer Mentor for the university's freshmen students. I have also been elected to serve as the Sophomore representative for the University Honors Program Student Advisory Board.

**Natalia Borowska**



**Position**  
Senator  
**Year in school**  
Junior

**Past experience**  
SGA Senator in Spring  
2019, Band Leader,  
Bass Instructor,  
and former Baseball

**Devin Foster**

Coach

**What would be your first action once in office?**

Dialogue with different students and fellow representatives about what actions should be taken that would positively affect student life, and concurrently begin meetings to address financial issues faced by students and the school



**Position**  
Council of Clubs  
Representative

**Year in school**  
Senior

**Past experience**  
President of Chi-  
MexLA, EIC of

QOS Magazine First Year Experience Peer Mentor, Co-Chair of Council of Clubs, URO Member

**Sara Galvan Orozco**

**What would be your first action once in office?**

I will make sure that COC representatives are well informed and trained to ask questions and fund events.



**Position**  
Student Trustee  
**Year in school**  
Senior

**Past experience**  
SGA: President 2  
years President Justice  
Studies, President  
Pre Law Founding

**Ashlei Ross**

President National Council of Negro Women Secretary of ASW Vice President of UGC Vice President of order of omega

**What would be your first action once in office?**

Trying to push the retention rate back to excellent standing.





**Position**  
IBHE-SAC Illinois  
Board of Higher  
Education-Student  
Advisory Committee  
Representative

**Year in school**  
Masters in Political  
Science

**Trudy Leong**

**Past experience**  
IBHE-SAC (Illinois Board of Higher  
Education-Student Advisory Committee)  
Northeastern Illinois University Representa-  
tive Northeastern Illinois University Student  
Trustee,  
2017-2018  
Rogers Park Chamber of Commerce Senior  
Assistant  
President SLAM Open Mic Poetry Club  
Acting President Rotaract (Rotary Interna-  
tional for Youth) Club of NEIU  
Acting President Beta Gamma Sigma Honor  
Society  
Secretary NEIU Collegiate Entrepreneurs'  
Organization



**Position**  
Secretary

**Year in school**  
Senior

**Past experience**  
During high school, I  
was voted Captain of  
the Varsity Volleyball

**Trace Chase**

& Basketball teams because of the way I was  
able to lead our teams through communi-  
cation with my coaches, teammates, and  
officials as well as create a schedule for team  
dinners and bringing snack bags on the bus  
to away games. During my time at NEIU,  
I was elected secretary of H&PE Student  
Organization. In this role my ability to lead  
our student body is through communica-  
tion, networking, and promotion of classes,  
fundraisers, and events.

# Ashlei Ross



**SGA Candidate  
Student Trustee**

**Integrity**

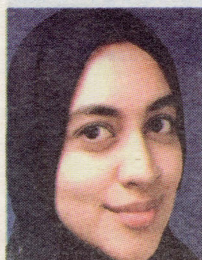
**Transparent Leader**

**Experienced**

**Persistent**

**Advocate for students**

PAID FOR BY THE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION.



**Senator**

**Nida Kidwai**



**Kinza Kha**

**Communication  
and  
Public Relations  
Director**



**Council of Clubs  
Representative**

**Tierra Tucker**



**John Rayburn**

**Communication  
and  
Public Relations  
Director**



**Secretary**

**Destiny Davis**



**Mariah Ford**

**Council of Clubs  
Representative**

THE NEIU SOCIETY OF PHYSICS  
STUDENTS AND THE HISTORY  
DEPARTMENT PRESENT:

## FIRST MAN

THURS. APRIL 18, 2019 - 6:30 PM  
BBH LECTURE HALL S-102

50 YEARS SINCE THE  
FIRST MOON LANDING:

A historical lecture,

a free public viewing, some physics concepts,  
and food (first come, first served)! Open to all  
NEIU students, as well as the general public!



**Join us for our STAR  
PARTIES this semester!**

We set up our telescopes on the NEIU  
parking garage, and look at the stars and  
planets. Sometimes there's food.

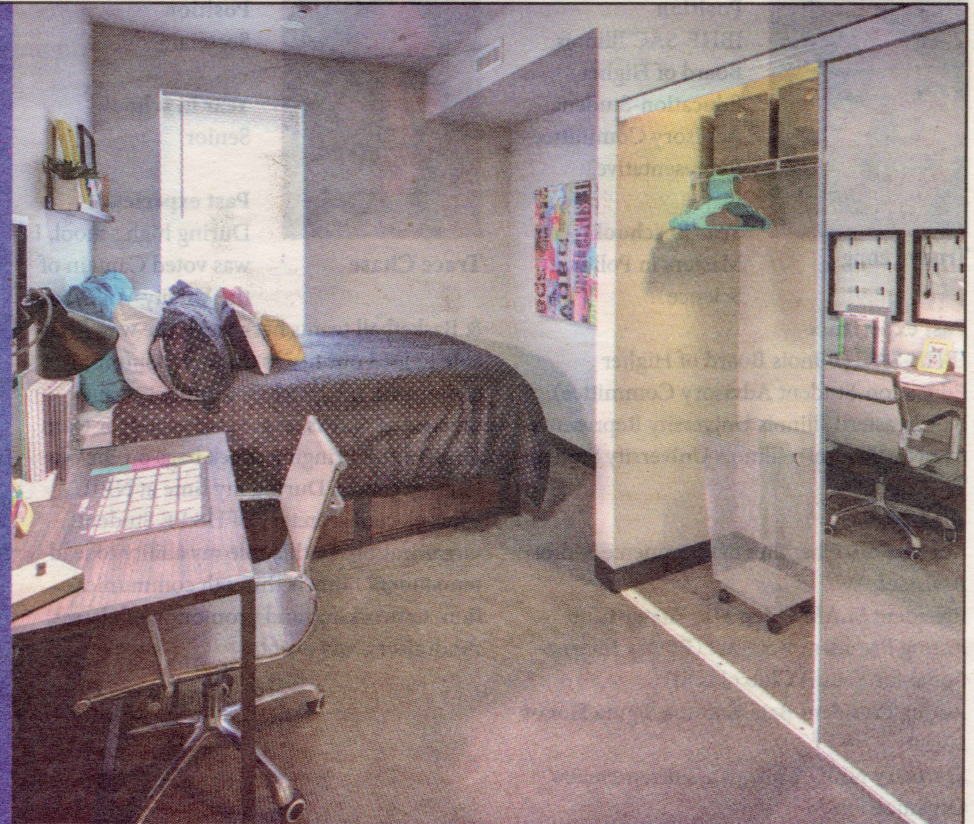
Keep an eye out for our posters, or email [jmjurcza@neiu.edu](mailto:jmjurcza@neiu.edu) for details!





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# Why your parents don't like Uber: Ride-share safety

**Amaris E. Rodriguez**  
OPINIONS EDITOR & CO-MANAGING EDITOR  
NEIUopseditor@gmail.com

This past week a 21-year-old college student Samantha Josephson, from the University of South Carolina, got into the wrong Uber after leaving a bar. She was found dead the next afternoon.

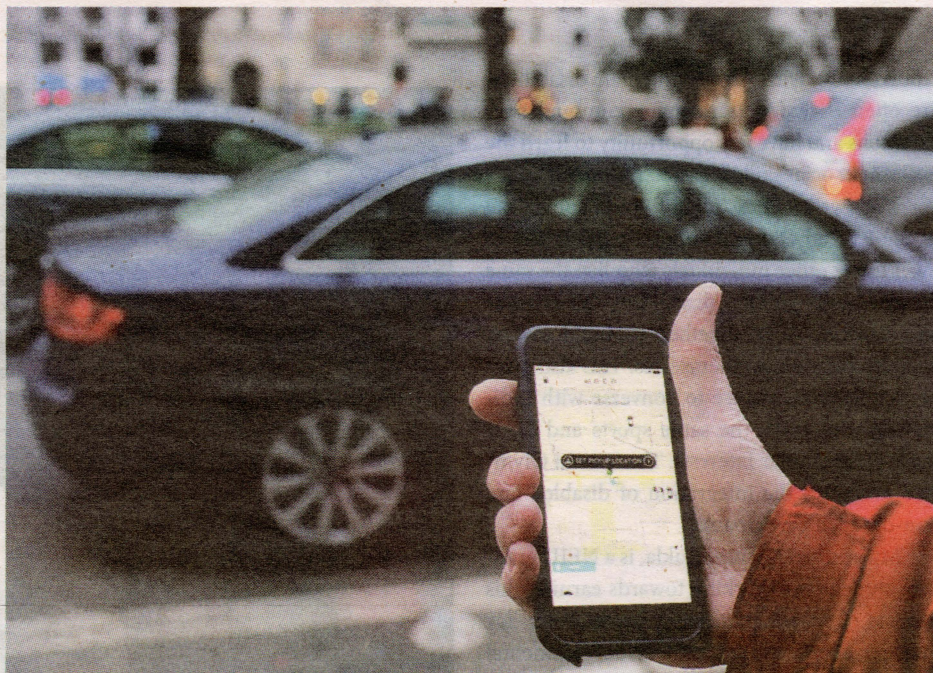
Her murder has sparked conversation regarding the safety of the popular ride-sharing apps, such as Uber and Lyft.

Ride-sharing was not a thing when I was growing up, actually, quite the opposite. Parents highly warned us about talking to strangers so I can't imagine how that generation feels that we are now actively getting into strangers' cars.

I personally don't use apps like Uber or Lyft often as I tend to just prefer to drive myself to my destination; however, there have been times when a ride-share was needed. To be honest, it makes me anxious. The idea of getting into a stranger's car is nerve-racking and I am curious as to how these apps got so popular. Somewhere between generations we have lost our sense of "stranger danger."

Josephson's death isn't the first ride-share death that has occurred. Take Uber for example. The company has seen multiple incidents where their drivers have been assaulted or killed while driving. In 2017, a Chicago teenager was accused of killing her Uber driver with a machete she allegedly stole from Walmart.

On both ends of the ride-sharing business, there is apparent danger. Josephson's murder has sparked conversation regarding how to



Ride-share application regulations questioned after student's death. | Creative Commons.

increase safety when getting into a stranger's car. South Carolina Legislature has introduced a bill that would require Uber and Lyft drivers to display an illuminated sign on their window. The "Samantha L. Josephson Ride sharing Safety Act" calls for drivers to "possess and display certain illuminated signage at all time when the TNC (transportation network companies) driver is active."

Until bills like the one proposed pass, it is important to take it upon yourself to stay safe

if you are using apps such as Uber and Lyft. College students are amongst the highest demographic groups that use ride-share apps, as many don't have cars. On their blog, Uber specifically targets college students saying, "Uber is here for the college student on the go."

Here are some tips for staying safe while riding with ride-shares:

When you order a ride, either through Uber or Lyft, the app will send you information on the driver, the make and model of the car, as well

as the color. Check this. I can't begin to tell you how many times I have seen people just walk up to a stranger's car and almost get in thinking it's their ride-share.

The couple of times I have taken an Uber, I am that person who walks to both ends of the car, phone in hand, checking that the license plate matches.

The driver is aware of who they are picking up. Ask them and don't say your name first. If they say a name that is not yours, it is not your car. Don't get in.

If possible, wait inside for your ride and avoid waiting on dark streets or places that are unlit. Also try to stay in contact with someone throughout your ride. Let a friend or family member know your estimated time of arrival or the route that your driver is taking. Having someone know your whereabouts is never a bad thing.

When you get in the car, check the doors. Glance to make sure the child safety lock is not turned on. You should be able to easily exit the car at any point should you feel unsafe or in danger.

Josephson's death is extremely sad to read about but hopefully it serves as a cautionary tale for the new generations that are comfortable with getting in strangers' cars. We shouldn't wait for another college student to be killed until we pay attention to how to keep ourselves safe. We all need to be more cautious about it. There is a reason why our parents taught us "stranger danger."

## What would you rather read about in our next issue?

- Sex & Dating Feature
- LGBTQ+ Lifestyle Feature

Vote on our Facebook page: NEIU Independent



# Funding cuts are insulting to special needs students

**Robert Kukla**

ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

neiuartslifeeditor@gmail.com

Last week, it was reported by many news outlets that the Department of Education, led by Secretary Betsy DeVos, proposed a budget that would eliminate millions of dollars in funding for programs that benefit students with special needs. The biggest program being affected is Special Olympics.

According to an article from CNN, DeVos herself didn't propose the budget cuts, but the department had a difficult time fitting the \$18 million in funding for the program within the White House's budget plans and was continuously rejected by the department of management and budget.

DeVos testified before Congress defending the cuts and faced an enormous amount of backlash for the administration's actions.

One lawmaker, Democratic Representative Rosa DeLauro, said it best; in an article written by the Chicago Tribune, DeLauro said, "I believe this budget is cruel, and I believe it is reckless."

I agree with this statement wholeheartedly. We have seen the numerous attacks the Trump administration has unleashed toward a wide range of people, largely targeting immigrants.

However, it seems as though the attacks have now shifted towards special needs students. This budget cut is all to support the funding of his highly talked about and controversial border wall.

I don't think DeVos and the Trump administration realize the damage they are causing students with special needs around the country. Special Olympics is the world's largest sport organization for children and adults with disabilities, both intellectual and physical.

Special Olympics give these people a chance to feel like they belong. The programs they are offered give them an equal opportunity to succeed along with their other peers and it is unfair and dehumanizing that DeVos just feels it is okay to push them aside.

GT Independence is an organization dedicated to helping individuals with different disabilities live independent lives.

GT Independence also advocates for people with disabilities to lead lives that they want to live. According to the GT Independence website, they list several benefits of being able to participate in Special Olympics and wrote,

"Individuals with developmental disabilities are often excluded from many common peer situations and have less opportunity to learn the necessary social skills for effective interaction."

They wrote, "Practicing for and competing in the Special Olympics allows participants to meet many other individuals who live the same lifestyle with similar disabilities. Teammates and coaches work together to build lasting friendships amongst themselves. This also gives participants the chance to converse with individuals who enjoy the same sports and likely share other similar interests. The Special Olympics promotes the integration of disabled and non-disabled participants."

My brother, Michael Kukla, is a NEIU graduate student and working towards earning his masters of school counseling, works every day to help take care of students with developmental disabilities.

I see the smiles on the participants faces that he works with at the Special Olympics every year. They are excited at the opportunity to not only have fun, but surround themselves with their fellow classmates as they are cheered on in every event. To think that someone wants to take that away from them is atrocious.

Special Olympics allows these students to interact with other kids of a similar background and students without special needs are able to befriend and offer their support for their special needs classmates. This integration of students is essential to allowing special needs students the ability to feel like there is nothing wrong with who they are.

Amidst all the backlash, on Thursday, March 28, Trump told reporters that he had overridden DeVos and Special Olympics will be funded after all. This just goes to show that with a strong body of Congress we can take control and fight back against the atrocities of this administration.

We only have a year to go, hopefully, so I hope Congress continues to challenge this administration's ideas and does their part to help the citizens of this country, especially the ones who need it the most.



A participant and a volunteer running in a Special Olympics race. | Via Creative Commons

**Do you have a different opinion on the special education funding cuts? Stop by the newsroom on Tuesdays to talk about writing about it.**



# Bigger bodies in Hollywood are here, but is it too late?

**Nicole F. Anderson**  
NEWS EDITOR & CO-MANAGING EDITOR  
NEIUNewsEditor@gmail.com

Growing up in the 2000s as a thick girl was tough. Low cut jeans, midribs and tiny two-piece swimsuits were in. Being thick was not. I grew up watching tall, thin, fair skinned white women on TV.

There wasn't any other representation other than the aforementioned. If there was, it wasn't for teenagers. I recently began re-watching "America's Next Top Model" on Hulu. It shocked me to see Janice Dickinson scream at thin framed and average sized women on the show for being "too fat."

I'm happy the body positivity movement is here but it came too late for me. I spent years hating myself and my body. My pre-teen and teenage years were spent counting calories for fad diets, scrounging together babysitting money for diet pills and damaging my body with an eating disorder.

Eating Disorder Hope statistics reported that 50% of female teenagers and 30% of male teenagers will skip meals, fast, smoke cigarettes, purge and take diet pills or laxatives to control their weight.

The same report also states that 10 million female adults and one million male adults suffer from eating disorders in the United States and four out of 10 people will either have experienced an eating disorder or know someone who did.

However, 2019 is different than the early 2000s. I went to therapy, love myself now and being thick is no longer the end of the world. It's a great time to be a "thick chick," but that doesn't mean mass media isn't still affecting us and distorting our thoughts on how someone should look like and present themselves.

National Eating Disorders Associations (NEDA) reported that gay and bisexual men, specifically black and latinx men, are more

likely to have eating disorders than their heterosexual counterparts. The Emily Program reported that transgender youth are four times more likely to have an eating disorder.

TV shows such as "Shrill," "The Mindy Project," "Orange is the New Black," "Empire" and "This is Us" with plus-sized and thick women living their lives are the shows I needed growing up. I needed to see people on TV who looked like me. Sure, there were women of average size, but they were dieting and exercising to lose the weight.

Take "Shrill," for example, the main character, Annie, is a plus-sized woman looking to spruce up her life and jump-start her career. She's faced with many obstacles such as her boss being blatantly discriminatory because of her size, people comparing her to pigs and even an exercise fanatic hounding her to lose weight. But she pushes through and continues to love herself for who she is.

While the women in Orange is the New Black" are incarcerated, actresses Uzo Aduba (Suzanne), Danielle Brooks (Taystee), Dascha Polanco (Daya) and Adrienne C. Moore (Cindy), are all full-figured women whose characters aren't obsessed with losing weight.

Even in their personal lives and on their social media pages, they're all vocal about loving their bodies as they are. Sure, they work out and eat healthy, as most people should, but they're not obsessed with being supermodel thin. There's nothing wrong with being skinny nor is there anything wrong with being bigger or even in-between. But when bigger people are conditioned their whole lives to equate fatness with ugliness, that's a problem.

The damage of pushing the supermodel skinny agenda has been done, but with TV shows and movies casting plus-sized people, there's hope for a positive change with the future generation of young people and their relationship with body image.



Painting titled, "Love Yourself," by Nicole F. Anderson

How are you responding to the body positive movement?  
Share that and other opinions with us at [neiupseditor@gmail.com](mailto:neiupseditor@gmail.com)



## New Stage Center play: 'The Pillowman' opens Thursday

Amaris E. Rodriguez

Ops Editor

NEIUOpsEditor@gmail.com

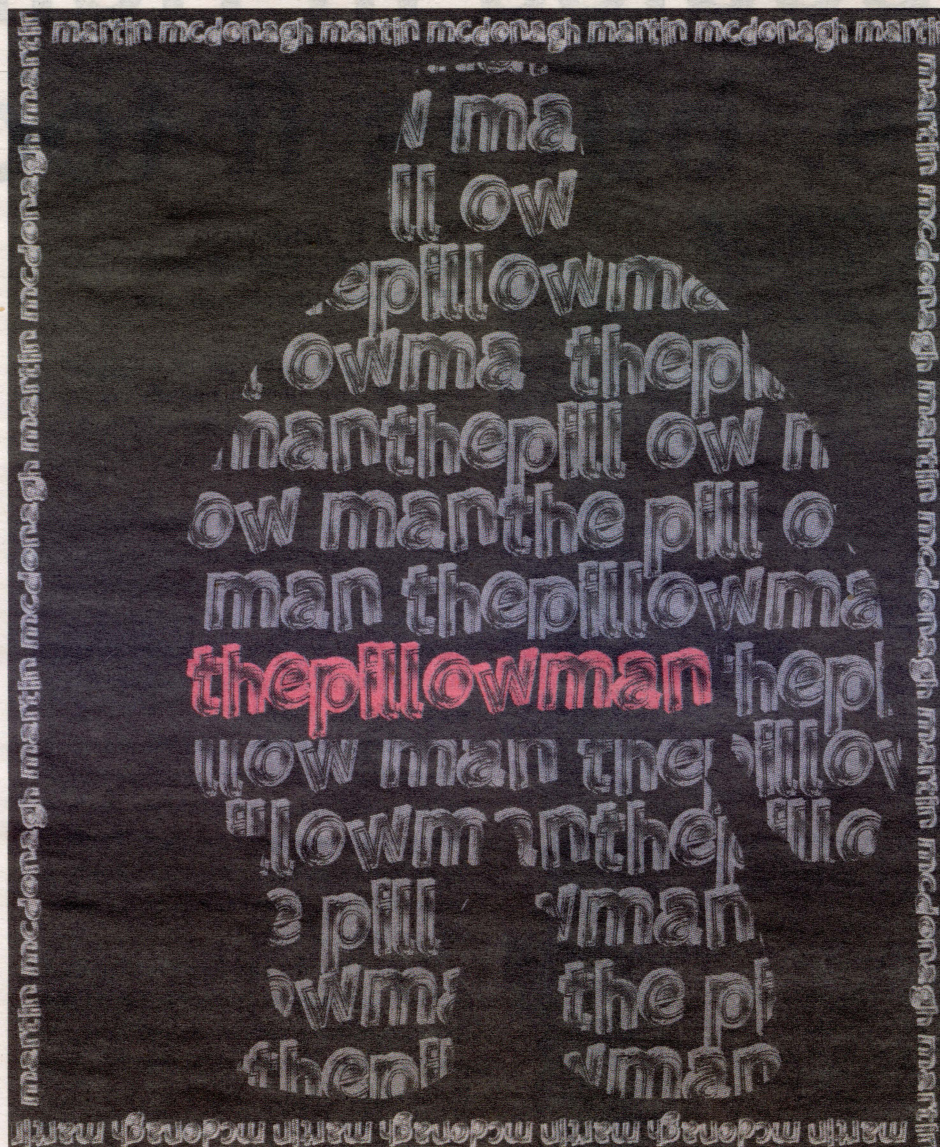
NEIU's Stage Center is currently working on a new play, "The Pillowman," which will have its opening day on Thursday, April 11 at the Stage Center Theatre on campus.

The play centers on a writer, played by Nathan Baltudis, in a totalitarian state. The writer is being interrogated about the content of his stories and the similarities to a series of child murders that have been occurring.

Leslie Hull, director, says that play fits in with the overall theme of the season, which is "Truth and Lies," as the story explores a wide range of topics dealing with truth, perception and secrets. The play was nominated for the 2004 Evening Standard Award for the "Best New Play." It has also received rave reviews and won "2004 Olivier Award for Best New Play" and two Tony Awards for production.

The cast of "The Pillowman" have put in hours of work into rehearsals, which has been Hull's favorite part.

She said, "My favorite part has been watching the students tackle this massive play. We had a conversation early on about really taking time to consider whether or not they felt they could navigate the amount of text, the subject matter, the responsibility - and each of them, after careful consideration said yes. It has been inspiring to watch how focused they have been and the attention they've given to the work."



"Rehearsals are ultimately my favorite part of a show," said Hull.

Stage Center has been working towards producing plays that will attract more of the NEIU student body and appeal to students on a realistic level. Stage Manager Ata Younan believes that the play is reflective of the student body and what they want to see. Younan says, "It's a playwright that is alive. It is language that we understand. It is about more modern plays. What do modern plays look like? The characters speak in a language that we understand, they have issues that we can relate to and they also look like us."

NEIU's Stage Center hopes to encourage students to attend more productions and engage with the theatre. Hull said, "We get a lot of students coming through saying, 'I didn't know there was a theatre here!' Well, there IS and there's always something new to see or do! If you can't make it out to the show, consider taking a class or even coming by the CMT department to learn about what we do."

All currently enrolled NEIU students can attend all Stage Center Theatre productions for free. Tickets can be reserved by visiting the box office in Stage Center (building F), the information desk in Student Union, the CMT website or by visiting: <http://www.neiu.edu/sct>.

"The Pillowman" performance dates are as follow: Thursday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 13 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m.

What are you currently bingeing on  
Netflix, Hulu or Amazon Prime?  
Write a review for the Independent!



# Seeds Corner: Various Artists

**heritage**

*L. O'Keefe*  
my mother is all  
fire, and i am  
nothin but stone

my mother tosses  
all night while i  
sleep heavy,  
rocklike

my mother opens her  
mouth + my pebbles  
trickle out

when i open mine my  
mother's fire floods

the heat of my  
mother turns my  
skin molten makes  
my core iron

the heat of my  
mother forges me  
into not just a stone  
but a pulsing  
climbing vine of  
magma + perfume

**washed**

*L. O'Keefe*

"I thought I knew it all...before," I said. "Me too," he said. He took another drag from his cigarette. "I thought I knew you," I said, "and I thought I knew me." "Right," he said. "I always thought...I thought you were the sea," I said. "I know," he said. "And I thought I...I was the sand," I said. He turned his head. I saw he had headphones on. He took out his phone, and hit a big red button. "Sorry," he said. "It was my mom. What were you saying?"

**Two Minutes**

*Victoria Williams*

Have you ever seen someone walking pass and thought they were nice looking or you could see God's light shining on them? Have you ever been talking to a friend about a particular person and your positive thoughts about them change because the person you are talking to is saying negative things about that particular person? How is it okay to judge someone based off what you hear about him or her?

Think about how you would feel if you were the person being talked negatively about. How would it affect your life mentally if you were the person in everyone's jokes? People's lives change everyday in two minutes. It is funny how people say they want to uplift and stop the hate, but within two minutes they have belittled someone. It is funny how people claim to care or even love others, but tear them down two minutes after talking to them.

What happened to the days when people came together instead of bullying someone on social media? Always remember you do not know that person's back story, or who they really are. It only takes two minutes for someone to be judged, abused, raped, molested, attacked, killed, belittled, bullied, and mistreated. So please be careful with how you treat people because you could be the reason they are taking their last breath in two minutes.

**Ballet**

*Luke Kwansy*

A small boy borrowed a VHS tape from the library.  
A documentary about sharks.

He watched one slender gray body twine around  
Another, and, from the depths, he heard a voice:

*The courtship ballet of these whitetips*  
*Is a rare sight.*

He didn't quite understand what he was looking at;  
He didn't quite understand what the word *courtship* meant;

But he understood the word ballet, more clear,  
More profound, than anything he'd understood before.

*Ballet.* It shimmered and rippled in his mind.  
And he understood, for the first time in his universe,

The supernatural power of language. The word;  
A philosopher's stone for turning killers into dancers.

The possibilities stretched beyond the horizon,  
As deep, as wide, as magnificent, as the dancefloor.

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CLUB PRESENTS

**LISEN STROMBERG**

Partner+COO of The 3% Movement.  
Author. Journalist. Speaker. Consultant.

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and insightful dialogue  
with President Gibson  
and our class president  
Ashlei Ross.



**WORK  
PAUSE  
THRIVE**

How to Pause for Parenthood  
Without Killing Your Career

LISEN STROMBERG



**MAY 2, 2019  
11:00 AM**

**STUDENT  
UNION**



## Moxie by Jennifer Mathieu: A feminist anthem for young readers

**Robert Kukla**

Arts & Life Editor

NEIUArtsLifeEditor@gmail.com

Moxie tells the story of Vivian, a high school sophomore, who is tired of the sexist behavior from her high school's football team and the school officials turning a blind eye. Inspired by her mother's punk rock days, Vivian decides to take a stand and begins distributing zines anonymously as a call to action. Eventually, the zines take off and with the help of a rising number of female classmates who are also tired of the sexism, develop a powerful resistance against the school's toxic masculinity.

Mathieu's writing is powerful throughout this novel. With every sentence, the reader is left with wanting to throw their fist in the air and stand in solidarity with Vivian and the other female classmates in her school.

She does an excellent job of portraying how sexist high school can be and how, in many cases, the school officials blame female students for the bad behavior of boys. There were so many moments where Mitchel, the main male antagonist, would do something that infuriated the reader; that anger is further fueled by the lack of action from the school administrators. For example, in one scene, Mitchel attempts to rape Vivian's best friend Claudia. When Claudia reports the event to the principal, he tells Claudia that perhaps she should take the advance as a compliment and think about it over spring break. The novel is filled with several moments like this and each time, you as

a reader develop an alliance with the girls taking a stand.

One thing that was unexpected was the subplot involving a relationship between Vivian and Seth Acosta, a transfer student at the high school. The relationship feels authentic and leaves you swooning over their budding romance.

Furthermore, Seth becomes educated and develops a stronger feminist identity himself. By doing so, Mathieu shows readers that young boys can also be feminists and stand in solidarity against the mistreatment of women.

The character development Vivian goes through by the end of the book is one of tremendous craftsmanship that Mathieu exemplifies as a great writer. We see Vivian struggle with finding her voice and the courage to speak out publicly outside of her zines. With the help of her classmates, she finally comes forward and demands a change; in doing so, she causes a feminist revolution that is much needed in her environment.

Overall, Moxie will leave you passionate about feminism. The novel sends a great message to young female readers, which is to fight for your rights and to not tolerate any gendered mistreatment. It is an anthem that will leave you wanting to join the Moxie resistance along with Vivian and her classmates.



# SAVE THE DATE

## Education and Human Services Career Fair

**Tuesday, April 23, 2019**  
12 - 6 p.m. • Alumni Hall  
[neiu.edu/career](http://neiu.edu/career)

Career Development  
(773) 442-4680 • B 119





## Elephants don't forget: but 'Dumbo' is not worth remembering

**Alejandro Marroquin**  
WRITER

Admittedly, Disney's live action renditions of their animated classics have not left a foul taste in my mouth; however, none of them have left a lasting impact. When Tim Burton was announced to direct 'Dumbo,' I was skeptical, since his aesthetic did not seem the right choice for the flying elephant. While the film does a few things right, it manages to take its fair share of missteps.

Holt Farrier (Collin Farrell) is an amputated World War I veteran, returning from service to his traveling circus, where he rides horses. Coming home to his dis-

tant children, whom have recently lost their mother, he struggles to communicate with them. Upon finding out ring-leader Max Medici (Danny DeVito) sold his horses, the Farriers are left to care for an elephant that gives birth to the big-eared, flying Dumbo. Becoming an instant attraction, Dumbo's fame manages to attract the attention of the villainous entrepreneur V.A. Vandevere (Michael Keaton), who wishes to tear the traveling circus up.

This film is more about the Holt family, than it is about the title character. I do not believe that remakes should be beat by beat copies of the original, but it felt as

if this film was stretched thin or didn't rely on the source material at certain points. I appreciate that Burton tackled this classic story in a different matter, but it ended up feeling flat. At times, it felt that the film forgot its own set of rules, where Dumbo suddenly became an intelligent animal and a superhero.

Colin Farrell's performance is instantly forgettable and makes me wonder why his character was created. Whatever character development he had, felt lacking and uninspired. Michael Keaton feels like he's just there to be there, he is a cheap villain who's evil for the sake of being evil, but I

cannot place blame on an actor's performance, as it is the director's job to bring the best performance out of his actors. Though Farrell is billed as the leading man, his on screen offspring, portrayed by Nico Parker and Finley Hobbins, steal the show.

The kids were one of my favorite parts of the film, they showed a lot of heart and drove the story. Dumbo, fully CGI, is an incredibly adorable character that was instantly compatible with the children. Whatever scene Dumbo was in, it just felt so joyful and I felt like I didn't get enough. What Burton is able to accomplish here is establish a juxtaposition

between Dumbo and the children, who are both without a mother. Though Eva Green doesn't show up until halfway through the film, I actually enjoyed her performance as a mystifying high flyer. Though the cinematography isn't that great, there are some shots that really caught my eye.

Overall, the film is average at best, as it is noticeable that Burton stretched what he could from the animated classic. Visual and musical cues should be enough to satisfy fans of the original, as it brought me back to being a kid, watching the original 'Dumbo' on VHS.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### EVENTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING BY COG SINCE MARCH 28

**GANU**  
Maid Cafe  
\$290.97

**Green Conservative Club**  
Conference  
\$2,333.75

**ASSW**  
Advocacy Day  
\$1,366.20

**Phi Iota Alpha**  
Afro-Latinidad  
\$855

**Gamma Phi Omega**  
Mr. GPHIO 2019  
\$904.94

**Gamma Phi Omega**  
Mr. OdPhi Cutie Pie  
\$634.89

### UNITED GREEK COUNCIL

**THURS, APRIL 18**  
UGC Awards  
Alumni Hall • 3pm-4pm

**WED, APRIL 24TH**  
Long Night Against Procrastination  
Pedroso Center • 8pm-1am

### NORTHEASTERN PROGRAMMING BOARD

**WED, APRIL 17**  
NPB Movie Night:  
**Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse**  
Alumni Hall • 7:30pm

**TUES, APRIL 23RD**  
Late Night Breakfast  
Cafeteria • 8pm

### EVENTS FUNDED BY STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE FOR THE WEEKS OF APRIL 9TH - APRIL 23RD

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH**  
Omega Delta Phi Cutie Pie  
Alumni Hall • 3pm-4pm

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH**  
Computer Science Alumni Panel  
SU 214 • 3pm-4pm

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH**  
GANU Maid Cafe  
Student Lounge • 3pm

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH**  
Society for Physics Movie Night:  
"First Man" • BBH S102 • 6:30pm

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH**  
Yesika Salgado  
LWH 1001 • 6pm

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH**  
Accounting Association for Jumpstart • 10am-4pm  
111 S. Wacker Drive  
29th Floor Conference Center

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD**  
Final Freshmen Meet Up  
Pedroso Center • 3pm

**APRIL 22ND - APRIL 25TH**  
\*\*\*\*\*SENIOR WEEK\*\*\*\*\*

**MONDAY, APRIL 22ND**  
Toast to the Graduates  
Alumni Hall • 4pm

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD**  
Decorate Your Graduation Cap  
Pedroso Center • 11am-2pm

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24TH**  
Life Catholic Mass • 4pm • Interfaith Blessing of the Graduates • 5pm  
Pedroso Center

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH**  
Senior Rooftop Party  
J Parker Hotel • 8:30pm

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH**  
Senior Week: Final Thoughts  
2:30pm

### SLD CONTINUED...

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH**  
LEAD Awards  
Alumni Hall • 5:30pm

### SGA/SENATE UPDATES

#### ANNOUNCING SGA ELECTIONS FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Online voting begins Saturday April 6th at 8:00am and polls close Friday April 12th at 4:00pm

Visit [neiu.edu/sld](http://neiu.edu/sld) and go to the elections tab to vote online.

Student Government Association members are part of various committees aimed to better NEIU. If you have any concerns or issues please visit the SGA offices located in the lower level of the E building near Health Services.



If you need accommodations to attend these or any University event, please contact Student Disability Services within 48 hours of the time of the event at (773) 442-4595 or SDS@neiu.edu.



# The chilling images in Jordan Peele's 'Us'

Will Jones  
Writer

\*SPOILERS! READ AT YOUR OWN RISK\*

Watching the movie "Us" is like peeling layers off of a remarkably smelly onion. For the first time in my life, I left the movie theater thinking: "It was a great movie, but what the hell?" This film is filled to the brim with figurative devices, namely symbols and metaphors.

At first, I thought that the Wilsons were the only family being hunted by their feral copies. I was shocked to find out that everyone in America was being hunted and killed in order for their copies to take their places. Directed by Jordan Peele, he blends humor, thrills and creepiness all into one film.

At the end, we are left with the grim realization that all of the people that thrived on the surface are now dead. The clones are now unified by holding hands across the nation.

A good starting point is to look at the main character, Adelaide Wilson. For the entire time, I thought that she was the one that was running from the clone, Red, whom she had seen on that rainy and gloomy night. By the end of the film, Peele throws a pristine curveball at the audience and we now know that Red actually strangled and took the place of Adelaide.

I came to that conclusion because she is the only one that could verbally communicate amongst the

feral clones. Even with the end, the audience is left with an image of the people in red jumpsuits linking arms across the nation. That is the last image young Adelaide sees before she is forced to live underground. Another point of confusion is the reaction that Red has when she kills her original self. That maniacal laugh and haunting look on her face mirrors how the feral copies act.

Now let's turn the attention to her son, Jason Wilson, the way that him and his mother lock eyes in the end is extremely sinister. Through a conversation with a friend, I was able to draw my own conclusion: Adelaide did claim that the clones had no souls. Red took the place of Adelaide because she wanted a

perfect life above the surface. She meets the perfect husband, but gives birth to a deformed monster. I remember Adelaide said that she was raped by Gabé's brute clone. There is a moment towards the end where Jason was able to control his copy, Pluto, by puppeteering him into a ball of fire. The clones were made as a mind control experiment by the government, so there is no way that the original Jason could control Pluto without there being some event that happened in between.

Overall, this was an extremely well-rounded film. This film offers a deeper meaning than "Get Out" and I think there is one main metaphor that Peele is trying to broadcast. In a sense, he is critiquing the way our

society is structured.

The line between the haves and have nots is a dangerous line to cross. Peele is trying to broadcast that in order to obtain more financial freedom, a better life or access to resources; you have to harm someone in order to obtain that freedom. Red harmed Adelaide in order to obtain a life above ground.

She knew that her original self would come back to haunt her and her stolen family. This is merely my interpretation. Please, feel free to draw your own conclusion when watching this film. Let's sit down and talk about it!



April 10 & 11, 2019  
11:00AM-4:00PM  
@ Village Square

For only \$5 you can leave a graduation shoutout message to anyone and we will print it on our next issue on April 23rd!

NEIU

We will also be at El Centro and CCIS next week! You may also e-mail [NEIUIndependentAdvertising@gmail.com](mailto:NEIUIndependentAdvertising@gmail.com) or stop by the newsroom at E-049.