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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

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Volume 42 Issue 7

University Administration Addresses Problems at the Nest

By: Scott Andrews (Writer) and Dan Maurer (Writer)

Students that live at NEIU's on campus residential community are concerned about their living conditions and problems with the third party company that manages The Nest. Scott Andrews from The Independent interviewed Dr. Terry Mena, Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Affairs at NEIU about these serious issues.

Dr. Mena took responsibility for some of the unsanitary, equipment and technological issues reported by students and confirmed that the internet is slow, and that the laundry and trash rooms are sometimes dirty.

He said, "That is accurate, and why is that? So, we have a full building of close to 389 residents, which is the first time in the history of the building and is a huge testament to Dr. Gibson's leadership and my being her designee. With more people, you have these things occur. More trash, maintenance issues, more internet usage, and an increase in multiple needs."

Dr. Mena said due to the increase of The Nest residency at peak times; the internet service is reportedly slower, usually in the mornings and evenings, for 14% of students, and for these students, connectivity was the issue 35% of the time.

New equipment has been ordered, but due to the pandemic-related microchip shortage, supply chain issues and contractual obligations with the vendor, a date has yet to be secured to re-

net issues on the resident portal app or call the help center

number listed on the display screens located on each floor of The Nest.

The Nest is managed by

There are many complaints about ACC on the Better Business Bureau regarding the living conditions for students living in communities owned by the company. These include sanitation

the laundry and trash rooms are unsanitary because some students are not taking responsibility and are not putting garbage in the proper receptacles.

The problem usually occurs on the weekends, he acknowledged. To address the problem, Dr. Mena said American Campus Communities is hiring additional part-time staff for the weekend to clean the laundry and trash rooms as needed.

The University is working with the Student Government Association to educate students better about following the rules and taking care of their residential community. Dr. Mena stated he might consider installing cameras and holding students accountable if garbage is not disposed of appropriately.

Students Expressed Frustration with Rules at The Nest

Students expressed their frustration with the rules in place at The Nest regarding visitors and apartment occupancy limits. For example, all visitors must register with the receptionist, and only eight people are allowed in an apartment at one time.



place the networking equipment.

According to Dr. Mena, no confirmation whether new networking upgrades can be installed by Spring 2023. Students with internet problems can report inter-

American Campus Communities Inc (ACC), a large national publicly traded company with revenue totaling \$245.7 million in the second quarter of 2022 with a net profit of \$4.4 million.

Photo Credits: Cecilia G. Hernandez
Issues, environmental concerns, maintenance and billing issues. Additional complaints are on Yelp from students and their families around the country.

According to Dr. Mena,

Article continues on page 4

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Mission Statement:

The Independent's mission is to gather and report on important and relevant information to the university and its surrounding communities, as well as to be a creative and critical outlet for community members to express their views and concerns and to offer examples of potential solutions to ongoing problems.

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NEIU Board of Trustees Members Doubt Commitment, Competence of Students

Comments by Stein and Serrano aired during an Oct. 24 Board of Trustees meeting

By: Erwin Lopez Rada, News Editor

NEIU Board of Trustees member Jonathan Stein criticized NEIU students saying that we have a "dual responsibility" in the decline of enrollment at school because students drop out due to a lack of academic level and commitment.

The comments flared out as Board member Charles Serrano was discussing a recommendation for a 2.5 percent tuition increase for new students and those not protected by NEIU admission programs during an Oct. 24 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting.

The Board of Trustees at NEIU operates, manages, controls and maintains the university since it was established in 1996 by the State of Illinois. Stein and Serrano had been board members since 2011 and since 2019 respectively.

After trustee Serrano expressed his frustration for the low rate of student retention that NEIU had with the NEIU One program, 43 percent of students allegedly dropped out, he said he did not understand why the school is not retaining students and that in those circumstances he could not consider a tuition rise.

Stein interjected and said, "are they truly prepared for college-level work? Maybe they should have gone to a community college first. Do they have financial responsibilities with family etc.? Our students tend to be older, we are not the classic [school with] 18 to 22-year-old

students [with] parents paying for they've got to do their own education. Are they fully committed to do the work? You know, there's a dual responsibility. Yes, Northeastern has a responsibility but there's a dual responsibility here with the students."

Serrano added immediately to Stein's comment, saying "If we're just recruiting for the sake of recruit[ing] anyone that really and we convince them because they need or we convince them they should want to go to college. It's our problem that we're not testing them, briefing them by doing what you're just saying." A climate study ordered by Gibson's administration in Spring 2020 found that students consider leaving NEIU because of a "lack of a sense of belonging, affordability, lack of class options, and lack of support services and resources for students."

Edwin Medina, NEIU's Student Government Association president, said regarding the comments, "Students at NEIU do not drop out due to a lack of academic preparation. They leave because we lack the means to bring them where they need to be."

City Colleges of Chicago Truman College, for example, has a sprawling writing and reading center that freshmen and communications students must visit as a requirement to successfully submit assignments for English classes. We do not have those kinds of systems of support at NEIU.

Overall, Latinos and African Americans, which compose 47.9 percent of NEIU's student body for Fall 2022, have a graduation rate of less than 30 percent per the Pew Research Center.

Roughly half of Latinos and African Americans said to Pew Research Center that they could not afford to go to college because they need to work to support their families.

The NEIU's climate study reported that 53 percent of NEIU students manifested financial hardships with 74 percent of them saying that they were struggling to pay for school. In these kinds of situations, it is difficult to focus on reading and completing assignments, let alone to think of signing up again for classes.

The fact that half of the students in a special enrollment plan ended up dropping out obeys more to a historical trend than to a lack of commitment "to do the work."

At some moment after trustees Serrano and Stein spoke, President Gibson said to the committee: "The majority of our students come from high schools that are the least funded in the city. Those are the students that we serve, and that I as President proudly serve, do we need to do a better job with retention? You are absolutely right, we do." Then she added, "this is also an equity issue as well. Because when we look at those students who we are losing, they are black and brown students, right? And it is

not always because of the classes that they take, the professors that they have, the experience that they have at NEIU, our students have many challenges, they have many challenges."

Medina added that the comments by these board of trustees members show the disconnection between the board members and the NEIU student population, he said, "I want every board member to consider what they have done to engage with students" because "you cannot connect to students by reading a report or attending a meeting."

POLICE BLOTTER

These incidents occurred on NEIU campus property between the dates of 10/28/2022 and 11/10/2022.

10/28/22 - FOSTER/CENTRAL PARK

WHILE RESPONDING TO DISTURBANCE CALL, OFFICER MADE CONTACT WITH SUBJECT WHO HAD WALKED AWAY FROM HOSPITAL. AFTER SPEAKING TO SUBJECT AND HER FAMILY, SUBJECT VOLUNTARILY AGREED TO RETURN TO HOSPITAL

10/28/22 - THE NEST

AT THE REQUESTS OF STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES, OFFICERS CONDUCTED WELL-BEING CHECK ON RESIDENT WHO WISHES TO VOLUNTARILY BE ADMITTED FOR EVALUATION. AMBULANCE TRANSPORTED RESIDENT TO HOSPITAL

10/31/22 - OFF-CAMPUS

STUDENT REPORTS SHE BELIEVES A DARK COLORED VEHICLE MAY BE FOLLOWING HER ON EXPRESSWAY AND NEAR CAMPUS. WAS PROVIDED INFO ON TITLE IX OFFICER AND NOTIFIED OF ESCORT SERVICE BUT DECLINED AT THIS TIME

11/03/22 - ST. LOUIS AVENUE

STAFF REPORTS OFFENSIVE SIGNS POSTED ON STREET. QR CODE ON SIGNS TAKE YOU TO A VIRTUAL ART GALLERY OF A LOCAL ARTIST OPENING AN ART EXHIBIT. PICTURES TAKEN AND INVENTORIED AND ALL SIGNS WERE REMOVED.

11/04/22 - THE NEST

OFFICERS RESPONDED TO DISTURBANCE CALL BETWEEN ROOMMATES. AFTER SPEAKING TO ALL PARTIES INVOLVED, BOTH EXPRESSED DESIRE TO BE RELOCATED AWAY FROM EACH OTHER.

NEST STAFF WILL WORK ON IT. DEAN OF STUDENTS NOTIFIED.

11/07/22 - OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT WANTS SOMEONE TO ALLOW HER TO EXPRESS CONCERNS AND FRUSTRATIONS AFTER RELAYING HISTORY OF SEX ASSAULT OFF CAMPUS (REPORTED TO AUTHORITIES) AFFECTING HER CURRENT ACADEMIC ISSUES. SUPPORT OFFERED

11/08/22 - PARKING LOT-F

STAFF MEMBER REPORTS THEFT OF CATALYTIC CONVERTER OFF HIS CAR WHILE PARKED IN LOT-F

11/08/22 - PARKING LOT-H

STUDENT REPORTS THEFT OF CATALYTIC CONVERTER OFF HER CAR WHILE PARKED IN LOT-H

11/09/22 - 3700 W. FOSTER AVENUE

WHILE CANVASSING STREETS FOR SPEEDING VEHICLE, OFFICER ENCOUNTERED A CAR ON SIDEWALK, DRIVER REPORTS BEING STRUCK FROM BEHIND AND HER CAR PUSHED ONTO SIDEWALK. NO INJURIES REPORTED

11/10/22 - THE NEST POLICE RESPONDED TO AN ANONYMOUS TIP REPORTING A POSSIBLE DOMESTIC INCIDENT. OFFICERS MADE CONTACT WITH RESIDENT WHO SHOWED NO PHYSICAL HARM AND SAID EVERYTHING IS WELL

11/10/22 - LECH WALES HALL

STUDENT REPORTS SUSPICIOUS MALE WHO FOLLOWED HER INTO THIRD FLOOR WOMEN'S WASHROOM AND ATTEMPTED TO FILM HER WITH CELLPHONE. SUBJECT LEFT WHEN CONFRONTED AND WHEN

THIRD PERSON EXITED STALL

The NEIU police blotter is requested from our campus police for every issue of NEIU Independent because this publication exercises its right to do so, courtesy of the Clery Act. The Clery Act is a federal statute requiring all higher education establishments that participate in federal financial aid programs to maintain records of campus crime and campus security information. Any case that is considered ongoing may not be listed in the blotter. For this reason, there may be updated reports published retroactively once those cases are closed. For more information about the Clery Act, visit the NEIU police department's webpage.

Continued from front page

University Administration Addresses Problems at the Nest

By: Scott Andrews (Writer) and Dan Maurer (Writer)

Dr. Mena explains this is not to restrict students, but solely to ensure the safety of all residents and their guests, he said "Our contract mirror is no different than any other residential complex contract in Chicago or Cook County. They have rules and restrictions. We are no different. I am, in fact, concerned with the guest policy at NEIU. I think it's too lenient and puts us at risk. We have had two reports already about the safety of our students. I and the University have a responsibility to keep our students safe."

Dr. Mena acknowledged a policy breakdown with the key security access cards at the beginning of the Fall semester. The doors were not locked securely.

Once University Administration learned of the problem, an abundance of additional cards were immediately ordered, so the problem does not occur in the future.

Dr. Mena discussed the situation at the State of the University Address, where he had to apologize to the eight students who were affected during move-in by unsatisfactory room cleanliness.

He said this problem occurred for two reasons. First, an unexpected amount of requests to the university came in for residential accommodations at the beginning of the Fall semester; to prevent further issues there will be a cut-off date of June 1, 2023 for priority applications for The Nest.

The second problem was that The Nest's capacity went from 187 students during the Summer semester to 389 students for the Fall semester. There was an unexpected breakdown of the process, according to Dr. Mena.

"We are looking at Summer housing needs," explained Dr. Mena. The Nest may need to be closed for the second half of the Summer Semester to perform a deep cleaning and for routine maintenance in the future.

Dr. Mena said he is looking at alternatives, but there

is a current housing crisis nationwide with educational institutions.

Brianna Hernandez, Media relations representative for ACC, sent via email a statement from Fred Dillard, Director of Housing & Residence Life, that read: "The health and safety of our residents is our top priority and we remain committed to maintaining an environment where students enjoy living, as evident by our 97% satisfaction rate among The Nest's community. We will continue to collaborate with the University and respond to work order requests in a timely manner."

The Independent's Dan Maurer spoke briefly with NEIU President Dr. Gloria J. Gibson about the issues at The Nest, as well. When asked what was being done to address those issues, she said that The Nest was under the purview of Dr. Mena, and that there needed to be policies and protocols in place to ensure these things don't happen again. She also said that she and Dr. Mena deeply regret what happened with the messes as students moved in at the beginning of the semester.

Students living at The Nest reported various sanitary, maintenance, technological and management issues with the facility. These include: The laundry and trash rooms are dirty, with litter on the floor and garbage overflowing in the recep-



tacles. Maintenance issues such as some bathtub drains were clogged or problems with equipment like window blinds being defective or broken.

Residents experienced repeated problems with Internet service and bandwidth issues.

Many students believe the rules are too restrictive for adults, such as having visitors for only a specific amount of time and registration requirements for all visitors. Also, only eight people are allowed in an apartment at one time. If rules are broken, students could face eviction.

Photo Credits: Olivia Perlow



Photo Credits:
Mariana Silva Lindner

The NEST – You’ve Never Lived Like This!

An International Insider’s Look

By: Mariana Silva Lindner, Arts and Life Editor

Inside the NEST, Friday morning, 10 a.m.. Absorbed in thoughts, I’m just about to get on with my day’s work when a blaring alarm jolts me out of my ruminations. A loud, raspy voice rings out, “TEST. TEST. It’s a fire drill!!!! TEST. TEST.” The loud alarm is accompanied by a glaring, epilepsy-inducing flashlight. “This will be over very soon,” I said to myself. But I was wrong. (Almost an hour is taken up until this audiovisual assault comes to an end.) It became even more absurd when two service employees banged furiously on my door. What’s going on now? All the commotion was just to see “if the alarm really works”. Without a word, I closed the door. Needless to say, working in all the pandemonium was now an impossible endeavor. “Well, that’s a bit of an inconvenience, but otherwise it’s no big deal, right?” some of you may be thinking now. Heck, let me tell you, there is a lot to say about living in the NEST and this little “incident” is by no means the only issue.

First, I would like to make it clear in advance: I know that the employees are trying to fix problems. A positive aspect is the opinion poll for residents, which has been sent out recently. However, the following points of criticism have been made for quite some time and remain unresolved. This is why, in all honesty, such a price for rent cannot be justified in my opinion.

So, for all of you who are wondering what the NEST is all about: The NEST is located right on campus. It’s a private company – American Campus Communities Inc – which operates US wide and provides housing for students. What stands out at first when hearing about this company is probably the name for the NEIU dormitories. According to Merriam Webster, a nest can also be defined as “a place of rest, retreat, or lodging.” Sounds lovely, but can this company actually fit the name’s definition?

I first came across the NEST when I, an exchange student from Germany,

started looking for accommodation for my semester abroad here at NEIU. I quickly realized that it is quite challenging to find housing in Chicago for less than a year. That’s why I was put in contact with the NEST. The first negative thing I noticed was the immense pressure which was put on us exchange students to sign the contract as soon as possible. Allegedly, the rooms fill up very quickly, therefore, we have to make an instantaneous decision. In retrospect, I wish they had given us more time to think about it, because this choice comes with a hefty price tag: \$4800 per semester (or \$1200 a month). Thanks to the dollar-euro parity, this is not exactly a bargain for us Europeans. So, after all the things I’ve seen and heard, it’s mind-boggling to me how such a price comes about.

A major criticism shared by various residents is the cleanliness. I am far from being a neat freak, however, even the following issues make my skin crawl. For example, there were incidents of cockroaches and other insects (both alive and dead) in the closets and bedrooms. Not the kind of roommate you’d hope for, huh? Comment of an affected NEST resident who wants to remain anonymous: “Finally, I got used to catching them. I never planned and wanted to do such a thing.” But not only the bodies of the cockroaches were found, also other “remains” which I do not want to specify any further (in order to avoid graphic pictures in your mind). There were remnants from former tenants, stains, dirty mattresses and broken mirrors.

One story is also worth mentioning: the same afore-mentioned resident found stains and “grease” on her mattress when she moved in. Despite immediate notification, it took the NEST a week to replace the mattress. As it turned out, the previous resident bred rabbits in the room, therefore, it is assumed that the stains were caused by the animals.

If you look at the NEST’s website, you’ll see the following popping up in big

letters: “Get the lifestyle you want with our fully furnished Northeastern Illinois University dorms.” Fully furnished? if you mean just a bed and desk in your room, for sure. And don’t get me wrong, I am well aware that it’s often the case in student dormitories that you have to acquire all furniture and other miscellaneous household items by yourself. However, residents pay a hefty rent for the dorms, so at least a blanket and a pillow would have been nice.

The second night in the NEST came with a little surprise: my blinds said goodbye and fell onto me. Well, you can imagine where they probably saved their money (speaking of the blinds: they are so translucent that they shouldn’t have even been bothered with buying them in the first place). Since the repair service was busy with more urgent cases, I slept the first couple of nights with my towels which I clamped to the window frame and which, funnily enough, were more light-repellent than the substitute blinds.

Furthermore, a frequent issue is the problem of the clogged toilets and showers. Taking a shower in the sewage of the roommate, who was in the bathroom before, is not exactly appealing. It even happened to one resident that the clogged toilet even flooded the whole bathroom (it seems as if at least the NEST residents finally got a NEIU campus pool).

Even though there is further critique to be made, I think I was able to make my point clear. And again, I would also like to emphasize that there are definitely positive aspects about the NEST. For instance, I do like some of the amenities such as the gym. I, and other internationals, very much enjoyed and appreciated the NEST’s Welcome Week which allowed us to meet new people and feel welcomed. Furthermore, there are also employees (desk staff, RAs, as well as maintenance staff), who always try to help out and are very friendly.

Nevertheless, I think it is important to finally address the real issues. The

website’s statement “you’ve never lived like this” should be implemented in the positive, and not in the negative.

You want to know more about the NEST? Check out our other article, which contains more in-depth information!

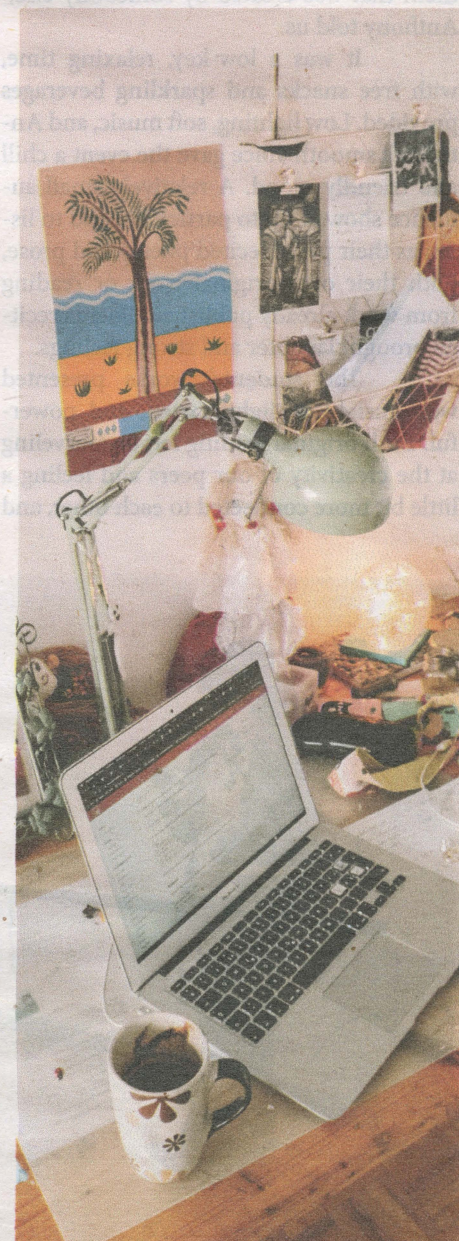


Photo Credits: Theo on Pexels

First Poetry Flex a Relaxing Success

By: Dan Maurer, Writer

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022, the Student Media Board's own Events Director, Anthony Gunderson hosted the first Poetry Flex in the Pedroso Center. The purpose of the event was to "give a platform to other students to maybe express their own original works or a poem that resonated within them that was created by somebody else," Anthony told us.

It was a low-key, relaxing time, with free snacks and sparkling beverages provided. Low lighting, soft music, and Anthony's smooth voice gave the event a chill and friendly mood. A relatively small audience showed up to participate and to listen as their peers recited poetry and prose, both their own original work or reading from work already published. Poems recited brought laughter and strong feelings.

The students' works presented were insightful, lighthearted, and powerful. Each original reading left us marveling at the creativity of our peers and feeling a little bit more connected to each other, and



I would like to lie
hip locked with you
until the dusk crickets
and the drunk roosters roar

Photo Credits: Thought Catalog

presentations of other works, such as by Robert Frost and Shel Silverstein, brought

back memories of childhood and spoke to us as classics always have. Anthony hopes to host another Poetry Flex in the future, and that these events can gain momentum with more participation and attendance going forward.

The Pedroso Center itself is a beautiful place, located in Building B. It is a friendly place for all students to come and study. It's equipped with a kitchen and refrigerator for students to use. Student organizations are welcome to host events there, and lectures and heritage month events, as well as film screenings, are frequently held as well.

This is also where you will find the offices of the Student Leadership Development for those who would like to get involved on campus. Its purpose is also to provide a safe space for students and the Multicultural Center provides educational materials, resources, and events highlighting and celebrating the diverse communities that make up the students at NEIU.



Leslie Lozada is reading Robert Frost's "The Road not Taken."

Photo Credits: Dan Maurer



The Host, Anthony Gunderson

Photo Credits: Dan Maurer

CALL FOR DESIGNERS!

NEIU STUDENT MEDIA BOARD

NEIU Student Media is now looking for more designers to add to our team!

If you're interested in:

- Editorial Layouts
- Photography
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Videography

NEIU's Media Design Team is the place to be!

Send an email to:

pindpnews@neiu.edu if interested!

Meetings are every Thursday at 3:00pm in room E-049. (Lower level near Student Lounge and down the hall from NEIU Student Health Services) or join virtually!

meet.google.com/tzc-wmbb-xcg



Campus Events

By: Leslie Lozada, (Campus Life Editor) and Dan Maurer (Writer)

School isn't just for classes. Here at NEIU, we have a lot of events from different departments that are around different campuses. From clubs, frats, and university wide events, here are some events that are coming up:

Clubs Going-ons:

The International Club

Every Wednesday, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., LWH 1001

Expect to learn a lot from different cultures, travel around Chicago and see things from a new perspective.

Club events:

Pinoy Club

Every other Tuesday

2 - 3 p.m., Main Campus, LWH 1001

Undocumented, Resilient and Organized (URO)

Every other Monday

1 - 2 p.m., Main Campus, SU 216 or via Zoom
Club events: There is an Organization workshop on Sept 21, from 2:30 - 4 p.m. and a Sip and Paint on the 22th in the Quad from 3 - 4 p.m.

NEIU Asian American Intervarsity

3:45 - 4:45 p.m. Wednesdays

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 3 - 4 p.m. Thursdays

A safe space for Asian Americans to explore faith in Jesus. There are three different meeting times; there are Bible study Wednesdays, Holy Spirit on Campus Thursdays, and Asian American Small group Thursdays.

The Independent

Every Tuesday

3 - 4 p.m., Main Campus, E-049

Club events:

The meeting on Tuesday Nov. 22, will be the pitch meeting, interested people can give ideas as to what articles they could write/ take pictures or take up any open pitches. The deadline for receiving articles is the following Tuesday, Sept. 29, which is the date for the production meeting.

Seeds

Every other Friday

6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Main Campus, E-041

The meeting time is subject to change. For more information about how to join seeds, you can contact the Editor in Chief's email, Clay Cofre, at c-cofre@neiu.edu

Que Ondee Sola (QOS)

Every Monday, starting on Sept. 26

1 - 2 p.m., Main Campus, E-041

For more information about becoming a member for QOS, you can contact this email: quondeesolamag@gmail.com

Club Crossover Events

Friendsgiving

Nov. 22

7 - 9 p.m. Main Campus, Alumni Hall

Come check out this collaboration event with the Pinoy Club, Student Media Board, and more clubs organizations!

Music Corner

WZRD 88.7

Every Thursday at 10:00 p.m.

11/17 - Muddle- Post Hardcore/Emo

11/22 - Ruinous Time Blade - Heavy Metal

Repeatables

"The Revolutionists" by Lauren Gunderson

7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday
Nov. 16 - 18 in person

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Friday
Nov. 19 in livestream

Main Campus, Stage Center Theater, Building F

Stage Center Theatre presents "The Revolutionists," a new play about four very real women who lived boldly in France during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror. A comedic-drama centered around Paris, 1793 Directed by CMT faculty member John Bliss.

Tickets are free for current NEIU students, faculty and staff with valid NEIU

ID at the Welcome Desk on the Main Campus or at tix.com.

Fine Arts Center Gallery: Selva Aparicio: "Ex Voto"

Nov. 16-25 (through the 25th)

Monday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tuesday: 12 - 5 p.m.

Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday: 12 - 5 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Aparicio's work invites viewers to look at the endurance of memory related to the space in which they grow from their environment. The installation presents a tapestry of flowers and decorations collected from the garbage of cemeteries.

University Wide Events

Wednesday Nov. 16

Native American Peoples Heritage Month: Indigenous Perspective in Science: Billie Warren (Pokagon Potawatomi)

6 - 8 p.m., Main Campus, Room BBH 102

Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs hosts Billie Warren, who will talk about how opening up your perspectives in science from an Indigenous lens. This is open to the public.

CCAS CenterSpace Day of the Dead Workshop Series: Nopales Tote Bag

6:30 - 8:30 p.m., El Centro

Northeastern Illinois University's Center for College Access and Success (CCAS) CenterSpace hosts their annual Day of the Dead workshop series. Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a celebration of life and death. While the holiday originated in Mexico, it is celebrated all over Latin America.

The Jean Burke Carlson and Diane Berger Ehrlich Memorial Lectureship: Dr. Moogega Cooper

7 - 9 p.m., Main Campus, Alumni Hall and Golden Eagles Room

The Daniel L. Goodwin College of Educa-

tion (GCOE) hosts the Annual Jean Burke Carlson and Diane Berger Ehrlich Memorial Lectureship. This year's lecture will be given by Dr. Moogega Cooper, who is a part of the famous Jet Propulsion Laboratory team. A reception will immediately follow. The event is free and open to the public.

Chicago Film Society: "Take a Letter, Darling"

7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Main Campus, Auditorium

Directed by Mitchell Leisen. This film was made in 1942, film used 35mm from Universal. The tickets are at \$5 with a Northeastern ID; \$10 for the public.

Graduate Lecture Recital: Nils Higdon, Percussion

7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Main Campus, Fine Arts Center 160A - Recital Hall

NEIU Music student Nils Higdon presents his lecture recital on percussion.

Stage Center Theatre Presents "The Revolutionists" by Lauren Gunderson

7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Main Campus, Stage Center Theatre, Building F

Stage Center Theatre presents "The Revolutionists," a new play about four very real women who lived boldly in France during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror. Directed by Communication, Media and Theatre faculty member John Bliss.

Tickets are free for current NEIU students, faculty and staff with valid NEIU ID at the Welcome Desk on the Main Campus or at tix.com.

Thursday, Nov 17

Board of Trustees Meeting

1:00 p.m. CCICS, Donn F. Bailey Legacy Hall
Public comments must be submitted in writing to Karl Voigt at public-comment@neiu.edu by 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov 16.

Request must include:

the name and contact information of the person wishing to speak
the name of the group represented
a summary of the presentation

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Eagle Fest

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Main Campus, Alumni Hall

Celebrating spring enrollment. Open to all undergraduate students registered for the Spring 2023 semester. Chance to win t-shirts, prizes, an Apple Watch, and \$100 Amazon gift card.

NEIU Jazz Combo

3:05 - 4:05 p.m., Main Campus, Recital Hall
The NEIU Jazz Combo, under the direction of Steve Duncan, presents an afternoon performance of jazz from a variety of eras.

Native American Peoples Heritage Month: Advancing Native Political Leadership on and off Reservations

6 - 7:30 p.m., Main Campus, Pedroso Center
The Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs hosts a talk addressing the need for increased Native American representation in elected and appointed offices throughout the country. Speaker Anthony Tamez-Pochel (First Nations Ojibwe/Cree/Black) is the National Program and Digital Associate for Advance Native Political Leadership. Open to the public.

Bronzeville History Writing Workshops at CCICS

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. CCICS
Delve into the rich history of the Bronzeville Neighborhood. Topics include arts, history, stories, and family history of the area to be preserved in the CCICS Library.

NEIU Orchestra

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Building E 106A - Auditorium
The NEIU Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Firer, presents an event program of works for symphonic orchestra.

Stage Center Theatre Presents "The Revolutionists" by Lauren Gunderson

7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Main Campus, Stage Center Theatre, Building F

Friday Nov. 18**Stage Center Theatre Presents "The Revolutionists" by Lauren Gunderson**

7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Main Campus, Stage Center

Theatre, Building F

Jewel Box Series: Pablo Estigarribia

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Main Campus, Recital Hall
Pablo Estigarribia is a Latin Grammy nominee and world-renowned tango pianist, arranger and composer.

The Jewel Box Series brings local, national and international artists to NEIU's 175-seat Recital Hall or 425-seat Auditorium. The Jewel Box Series is recognized for quality, diversity, innovation and collaboration among the campus and community. Tickets: \$10; \$18.50; \$26
Saturday Nov. 19

Bronzeville History Writing Workshops at CCICS

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CCICS
Delve into the rich history of the Bronzeville Neighborhood. Topics include arts, history, stories, and family history of the area to be preserved in the CCICS Library.

Stage Center Theatre Presents "The Revolutionists" by Lauren Gunderson

2 - 4 p.m., Main Campus, Stage Center Theatre, Building F

Monday Nov. 21**Native American Peoples Heritage Month: The Role of Libraries & Collections in Cultural Revitalization**

12 - 1:30 p.m., Online, Via Zoom
This was postponed from Nov. 7. The Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs hosts a brown bag lunch discussion that will focus on accountability and action and the role(s) of libraries and collections in cultural revitalization. Speaker Analú Lopez (Guachichil/Xi'úi), is the Ayer Librarian and Assistant Curator of American Indian and Indigenous Studies for the Newberry Library. This is open to the public.

Graduate Lecture Recital: Gerardo Martinez, Violin

5 - 6 p.m. Main Campus, Fine Arts Center 160A - Recital Hall
NEIU graduate student Gerardo Martinez presents their lecture recital on violin.

Voice Studios Showcase

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Main Campus, Fine Arts

Center 160A - Recital Hall

NEIU vocal students present an evening showcase of works for solo singers.

Tuesday Nov. 22**Songwriters Showcase**

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Main Campus, Auditorium
NEIU Music students, under the direction of Dr. Nelson Mandrell, present an evening of original works, composed during the Fall 2022 semester.

Wednesday Nov. 23**Chicago Film Society: "It's a Gift"**

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Main Campus, Auditorium
Directed by Norman Z. McLeod • 1934 • 35mm from Universal
Northeastern Illinois University's Department of Communication, Media and Theatre has partnered with the Chicago Film Society (CFS) to make NEIU the institutional home for the CFS screenings of rare and classic 35mm film prints. View the complete Fall 2022 schedule.

Purchase tickets at the door: \$5 with a Northeastern ID; \$10 for the general public. Audience members are encouraged to wear a face mask and be socially-distanced while seated.

Monday Nov. 28**Native American Peoples Heritage Month: Native 101**

5 - 7 p.m. Main Campus, Pedroso Center Room B 159) north lobby
To conclude Native American Peoples Heritage month, join Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs Coordinator Fawn Pochel (Saulteaux) for a Native 101 presentation. Participants will learn some basic history and terminology in relation to Native Peoples of the United States and Canada while examining the legacy of settler colonialism on Indigenous populations, and also explore how stereotypes, cultural appropriation, ethnic fraud and the media impact tribal peoples.

Tuesday Nov. 29**Percussion Studio Showcase**

3:05 - 4:05 p.m. Main Campus, Fine Arts

Center 160A - Recital Hall

The NEIU Percussion Studio and NEIU Percussion Ensemble, under the direction of Tina Laughlin, present an afternoon recital of works for solo and chamber percussion ensembles in NEIU's Recital Hall.

NEIU Wind Ensemble

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Main Campus, Auditorium
The NEIU Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Travis Heath, presents an evening of music for wind ensemble, including a transcription of Modest Mussorgsky's iconic "Pictures at an Exhibition."

Wednesday Nov. 30**String Studios Showcase**

3 - 4 p.m. Main Campus, Fine Arts Center 160A - Recital Hall
NEIU string students present an afternoon recital of solo and chamber works for violin, viola, cello, and double bass.

Brass Studios Showcase

5 - 6:30 p.m. Main Campus, Fine Arts Center 160A - Recital Hall
NEIU brass students present an afternoon recital of solo and chamber works for French horn, trumpet, trombone, and tuba.

CCAS CenterSpace Day of the Dead Workshop Series at El Centro

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. El Centro
Paint and Sip*: Llama or Loteria
\$6 workshop fee
*Coffee, hot chocolate and tea will be provided.

Off-Campus Events**Latin Dance Class: Cha - Cha - Cha and more!**

December 3, 10, and 17, 2022
1605 N Troy, Humboldt Park, Chicago
Over three weeks, Humboldt Park local and NEIU student, Wilfredo Camacho, will teach you the basics steps for Salsa, Cha-Cha, Bachata, Merengue, and Cumbia. As the class progresses you will also learn intricate turns and the different dance styles for each. Free, but limited to 10 participants each class. You can register with the Chicago Public Library or in person.

Diwali Celebration with Indian Student Association

By: Leslie Lozada (Campus Life Editor) and Dan Maurer (Writer)

One of the first events from the NEIU's Indian Student Association, the Diwali event was something of a marvel. Organized with Dharmik, the president of the club, Sufiyaan and Fazan, the Diwali celebration was hosted by the Indian Student Association, and attended by several students around campus. There was even an appearance from NEIU President Gloria J. Gibson. President Gibson expressed her gratitude for the ISA and for their invitation to the event, saying, "the university and any educational facility is about is learning from each other." She said that she was "grateful to the Indian Student Association... for this invitation and for this celebration."

There was a table set out in Village Square in order to paint your own diya clay pots, as organized by several people in the ISA. All the items were provided by the Association, including the pots, paints and brushes. The water was provided by the school's own water fountain.

The food that they had for the event was from Maharaj, an Indian Grill from downtown Chicago. There was Biryani, a type of rice, Garlic Naan, Paneer, drenched in a type of seasoned sauce, and Raita, a yogurt dressing mixed with some herbs. The food was slightly spicy for a person with a mild spice tolerance, but there were plenty of plates filled to the brim with catered food.

The Independent managed to reach out to Sufiyaan, one of the students involved with the event, he told us that Diwali is the festival of light. It is a celebration of good conquering evil, and of spreading the light, awareness and happiness around the world. We also managed to speak to Dharmik, the president of the ISA. He told us that the purpose of the ISA is to promote Indian culture and to support internation-

al students from India as a community to help make a home here, to advocate for them and give them the support they need to thrive at NEIU. Dharmik himself restarted the Indian Student Association just this semester. It had been defunct for a few years now, but upon realizing that there was no community for Indian students at NEIU, Dharmik brought the ISA back to life. The ISA will be planning more events in the future, so stay tuned for more from this vibrant and active student organization.



A student made diya cup
Photo Credits: Dan Maurer



Photo Credits: Ishaque Syed

Babel Book Review

By: Bella Cardoza, Writer

Do you like Dark academia? Are you an avid historian? Do you also love dystopian settings? If you answered yes, then read *Babel* by R.F. Kuang. *Babel* is about a young boy whose life was taken by Cholera and on the way, a professor takes him to China. Later on, he is taken to Oxford, England in 1828 and is thrown into a crazy adventure while getting some lessons in language so that he can join the prestigious royal institute of translation that is known as Babel.

Whenever I'm about to read or watch something, I always have an instinct which is to try it out before you judge. But when reading *Babel* the story takes too long to get to the point, while I stopped at chapter 3, it takes a little too long to read and drags for a while. But on the other hand, I did like how it tackles themes like colonialism and racism that affects the main characters. Even though I stopped at Chapter 3 I'll probably give it another chance and look at what I'm missing throughout the book so I can understand it better.

If anyone wants to read *Babel* they can go ahead and read it, but for me, personally, I thought it dragged on for a while. I thought the plot looked interesting because people on Tik Tok were calling it an amazing and beautiful book but I personally did not like it because it kept on dragging and it was all repetitive. Maybe if I read more of it, it can change my mind? Who knows? Overall, if you are a fan of dystopian and/or Dark academia literature, then you will for sure love *Babel* because that is the whole theme of the book.

Heck, if I could describe it anyway, it would be Harry Potter meets dead poet's society in a higher academic dystopian fantasy setting. If you enjoy these types of themes, or if you want to be transported to a fictional universe, then *Babel* is the book for you because you're most likely going to feel like you're inside the story, so happy reading!



Photo by Thomas Kelley on Unsplash

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