

6-2-2009

Independent- Jun. 2, 2009

Lenny Ocasio

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INDEPENDENT

www.neiuindependent.com

Member of the Associated Collegiate Press

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Vol. 24, Issue 34

Welcome, New Students Your journey starts here



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for
Freshmen**

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NEIUport

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**Your journey
starts here**

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To the arts!

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A cloudy morning to a dim tomorrow

by Nick Vracar
Staff Writer

Good ideas are contagious. Forward thinking is contagious. The sky is falling. Don't be look up. The world is a dangerous place these days. This is the worst recession since the great depression. Beware the swine flu. These are just a few of the messages that were left to the graduating class during the morning ceremony of the 2009 May Commencement.

The formal graduation was divided into two segments. The morning ceremony was to congratulate graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences and nontraditional degrees. The afternoon ceremony was to congratulate graduates from the College of Business and Management and the College of Education.

The morning ceremony began promptly at 10 a.m. with the traditional processional, played by the NEIU Brass Ensemble conducted by Travis Heath. The graduates, dressed in cap and gown, filed into their seats in the center of a very crowded gymnasium. President Sharon Hahs greeted the graduating class and their guests and presented the first major speaker of the day.

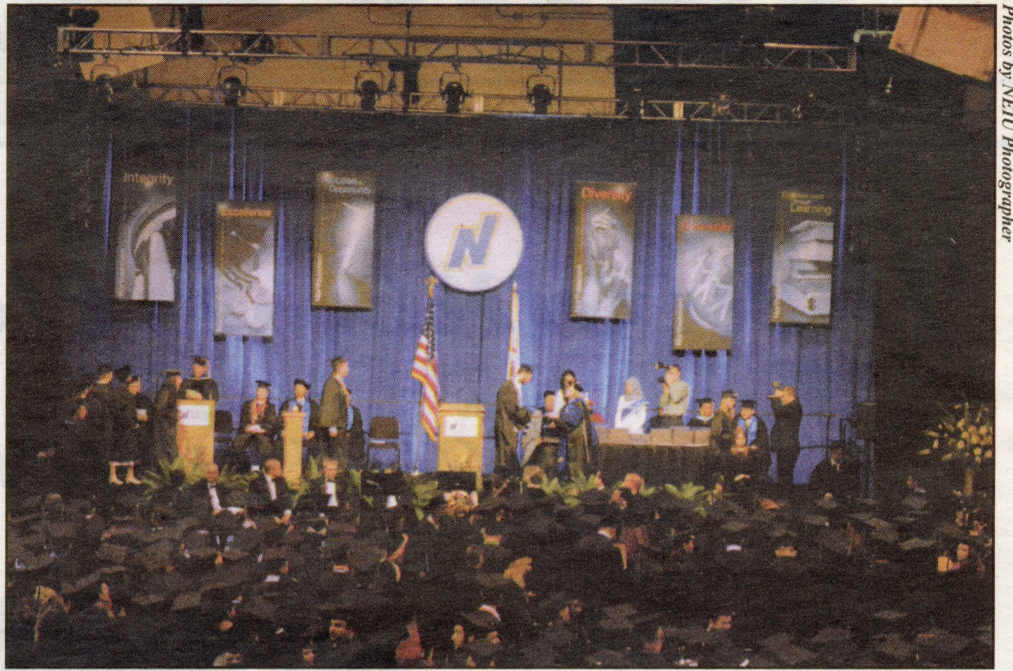
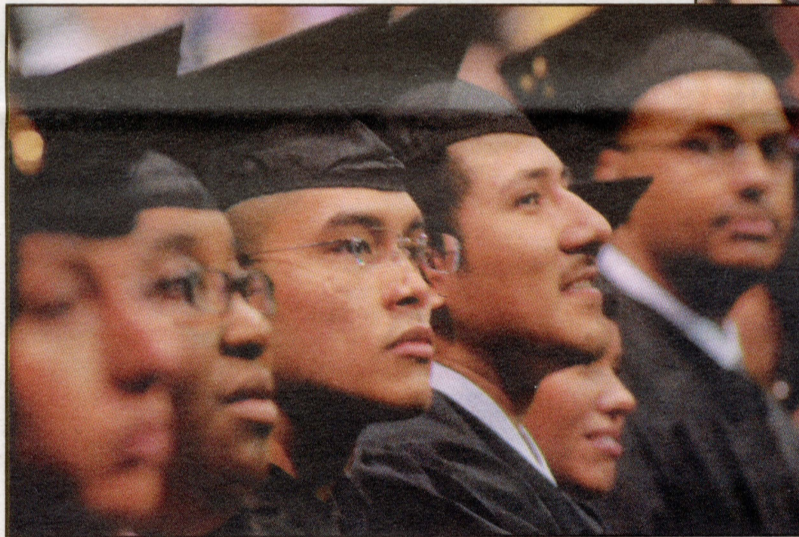
Omar Duque of the NEIU Board of Trustees was the first speaker. His message to the graduating class was brief and to the point. He gave his congratulations and praise for their noteworthy achievement. He was also the first to comment on the economic state of



affairs.

He quickly followed that up with encouragements for success, and to remain optimistic, even in these desperate times.

The student remarks were presented by John Dubeansky, a political science major and honors scholar, graduating summa cum laude. He spoke



Photos by NEIU Photographer

for longer than both Duque and Hahs. He seconded Omar's comments on the economy, calling the situation dangerous. His answer to this economic downturn was in the form of

awards and celebrations that weren't related specifically to the graduating class. The Bernard J. Brommel Distinguished Research Professor Award was presented, along with

the Emeritus Scrolls. The donations from the graduating class were handed to President Hahs via a giant check.

Finally it was time for the graduating class to receive their diplomas. The tassels were set to the left side of their caps. The



positive thinking and actions which, in his words, were contagious.

Hahs was the third and final speaker, and she admitted to repeating some of the ideas from John's speech. She told the graduating class that they were going head-on into a tough economic situation. She urged the new graduates to push forward and meet their new challenge, as tough as it may be.

Then there were a few

candidates for graduate degrees stepped forward first, followed by the candidates for undergraduate degrees and the nontraditional degrees. They were all conferred by the presentation of their degree, along with a nod and a smile from President Hahs. The nod and the smile replaced the formal handshake due to recent health concerns.

Once the degrees were handed out the NEIU brass ensemble proceeded with the recessional. The graduated filed back out the way they came, their fates in the real world waiting just outside.

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neiu.fma@gmail.com Search for 'NEIU FMA' <http://www.neiu.edu/fma>

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The Center for Academic Writing to open Fall 2009

by Michelle Jacobson
News Co-Editor

At the beginning of fall 2009, the Center for Academic Writing will be opening its doors to the NEIU community. The center will provide peer tutoring for students in cross-disciplinary writing intensive classes and resources for academic departments and faculty in the development of these courses.

Located on the fourth floor of the Ronald Williams Library, the Center for Academic Writing will serve as the home of the Writing Intensive Program. The center consists of one large study area with traditional tables and chairs, and also some less-traditional armchairs and round tables. Everything in the center is on wheels and can be moved around and adjusted. This is to ensure that when students come to meet with tutors, they can work in the most comfortable environment possible. There are also two smaller meeting rooms in the center that can be utilized by groups of students who share a tutor or for faculty workshops. Instead

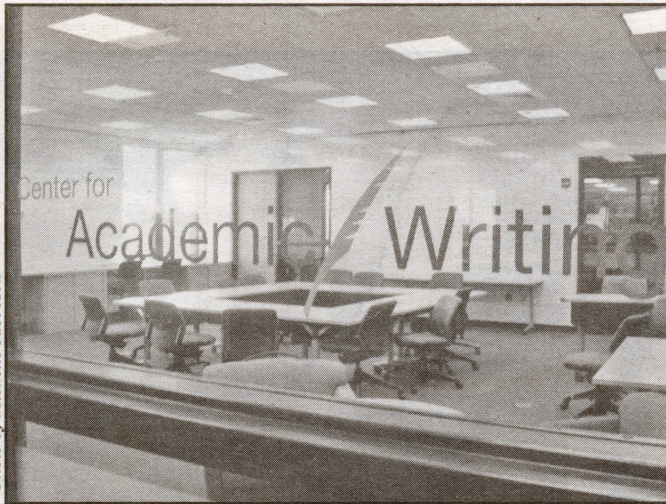


Photo by Michelle Jacobson

of desktop computers, the Center for Academic Writing will provide laptops that can be checked out at the front desk.

The development of the Center for Academic Writing is just one part of the "Improving Retention through Academic Literacy" project. Other projects include the

establishment of writing intensive courses within every academic major and the redesign of English 101 to better prepare students for their writing intensive courses.

The projects are funded by a five-year, \$2.8 million Title V grant that the U.S. Department of Education awarded to Northeastern Illinois University as part of on Sept. 28, 2007 as part of the Higher Education Act. The grant is awarded to schools designated as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), a designation given to schools with a Hispanic full-time student population of 25 percent or more.

The projects are aimed at improving writing across all disciplines throughout a student's career at NEIU.

"The idea is to look at writing from the beginning to the end," said Kate Hahn, Director of the Center for Academic Writing. "It would be helpful to have writing practice occur across the time that you're here and not just early in your education."



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Office Hours
Monday - Friday
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

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

The Independent is published every other week except during summer and semester breaks. Deadlines are nine (9) days prior to the issue in which a contribution is to appear. Views expressed in letters are those of the university community and not those of the Editorial Board.

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

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

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Advice for freshmen

by LaTasha Williams
Staff Writer

Here is some important information upcoming freshmen need to know about their college experience. First of all, stay focused and study hard. College is only hard when you make it hard for yourself. Take it from me- study, study, study and study some more. Develop skills in note-taking, study skills and time management. You don't want to fail any classes, especially classes in your major.

Every January you have to reapply for financial aid and make sure you do that early as possible. You don't want wait until the last minute and not get the grants or loans that you need. Always search for scholarships. There are so many different scholarships to apply for. Two websites that I think are helpful for students are www.fastweb.com

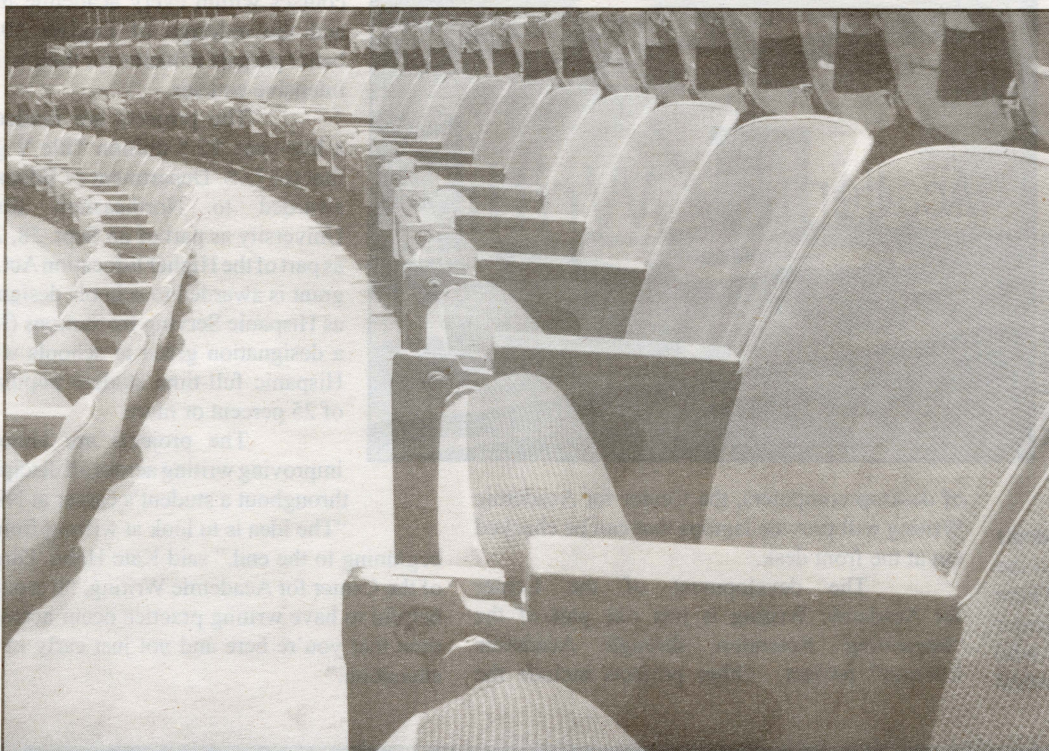


Photo by Marchesa So

and www.scholarships.com. NEIU has scholarships for students as well.

College is a great way to meet new people and make friends by joining organizations. NEIU has the *Independent* newspaper, student government, UTATU, Greek Organizations, WZRD radio 88.3 AM, Campus Recreation and many more organizations.

NEIU has several other campuses like Jacob Carruthers Center for Inner City, El Centro and Chicago Teacher's Center for students to take classes. The most important thing students need to know is to stay focused and study. Stay focused on graduating from college and becoming successful. After a Bachelor's degree students should stay in school and receive Master's and a Ph.D. Further your education and become a leader in your community for the youth.

NEIU's Four Campuses

by Theresa Celmer
Staff Writer

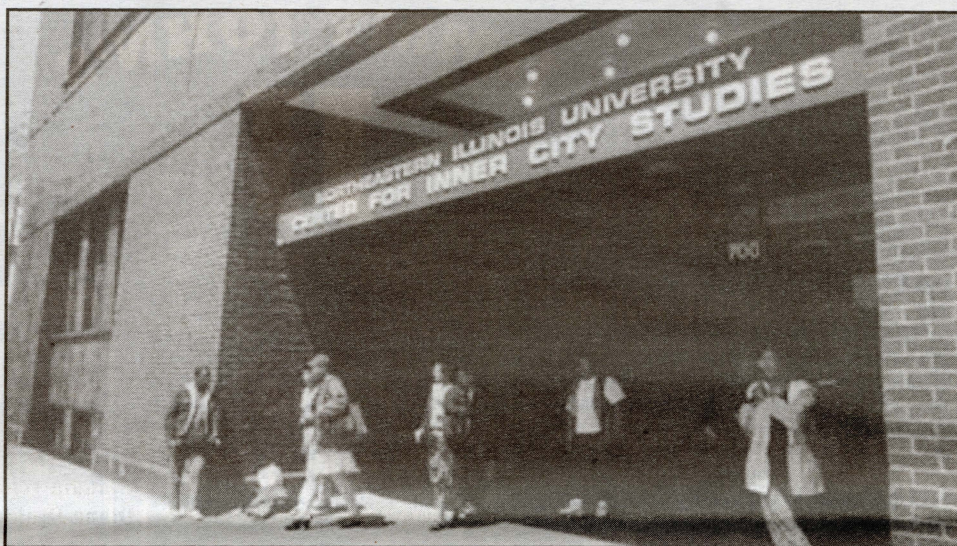
There are a total of four campuses that foster Northeastern Illinois University's learning experience. The main campus is the one that most of us go to at 5500 N. St. Louis Ave. The other three campuses are located further in the city.

One is called El Centro, located at 3119 N. Pulaski Rd., and it provides education primarily to the Latino community. It is mainly for students who are interested in taking evening classes or classes on the weekends. Most of the courses offered are for the educational leadership program with an Illinois type 75 certificates for educators working in bilingual schools.

The other campus is called the Jacob Caruthers Center for Inner City Studies and it is located at the south side of Chicago at 700 E. Oakwood Ave. This Southside campus meets the needs of the inner city communities. Studies at this campus focus on social sciences and humanities with a focus on racial issues, which they apply to basic urban studies. They

keep connected to the main campus with a live interactive television, which provides the campus' many educational opportunities.

The fourth campus is called the Chicago Teacher's Center and is located at 770 N. Halsted St. in suite 420. It helps develop programs to improve education and challenges the educational system to serve more diverse populations. It offers parent, teacher and student workshops for all of us to become better educated.



Northeastern Illinois University Jacob Caruthers Center for Inner City Studies campus



Northeastern Illinois University Science Building at the main campus

Placement Testing: Requirements and Procedure

by Syed Ahad Hussain
Staff Writer

All new undergraduate students must attempt placement tests to fulfill the General Education Program requirement and to determine the students' eligibility for taking English 101 (Writing I) and their college math requirement.

Students are placed in class levels according to the results of their tests. Students should meet the academic advisor assigned to them at the Academic Advising Center

(building D, room 130), so the students can discuss their current academic level in terms of the English and mathematics courses taken.

The English Competency Exam, which includes both reading and writing, includes vocabulary, grammar questions and a portion for reading comprehension. All sections of the test consist of multiple choice questions. This test is similar to the earlier English language tests students have taken back in high school. The math placement test consists of basic algebra and quantitative methods and also

has multiple choice questions.

Students with a score of three or higher on the Advance Placement (AP) calculus test or transfer students with a grade of 'C' or better in any intermediate algebra equivalent are exempted from the math placement test.

Results can be obtained from the Assessment and Testing Center (located in the classroom building room 3026) 15 days after the test date. Students should consult the English and Mathematics departments who will provide guidance about class placements and schedules.

Student Organizations: Your Connection to NEIU

Photos by Michelle Jacobson

WZRD's Program Director Rachel Dennis and Erick Von Alroth.



Ruigi Ge, Lingyan Pan and Yubo Wu hand out free popcorn at the Northeastern Programming Board table.



Balfre Huicochea, Bianca Cote, Michael McNelly and Sokhom Cheng represent the GLBTA



Claudia Telles, Jovan Armstrong, Gabriela Coronel and Diana Djukic try to recruit new members for Omega Phi Alpha Psi.

by Michelle Jacobson
News Co-Editor

At a commuter school like Northeastern Illinois University, it is not always easy for students to feel connected to campus life. Many students come and go without doing much more than attending class.

For students who want to get more out of their college experience, the Student Organization Fair is the best opportunity to get involved. The Student Organization Fair for the fall 2009 semester will take place September 16 and 17 during the annual Fall Into Fun week.

The organizations at the fair range from ethnic clubs like the Chinese Students Club, to social clubs like Students Against War (SAW). From Greek organizations like the Omega Phi Alpha Psi co-ed fraternity, to career-oriented clubs like the Accounting Associates Club, the different types of clubs reflect the diversity of NEIU.

"It's such a diverse campus with all different

kinds of languages," says Heather Dean, President of GLBTA. "There are so many different types of people that I think we really need as many clubs to represent the student body as possible."

Many club members and officers stress the importance of student organizations at a school like NEIU.

"I think it's really important, for Northeastern in particular because it is a commuter school, to have more organizations," says Gabriela Coronel, a member of Omega Phi Alpha Psi. "The more organizations that are out there, the more students will be involved."

Veronica Rodriguez, Assistant Director of Student Activities, also points out the importance of students getting involved on a commuter campus in order to feel connected to their school.

"Students that are more connected to the university are more likely to stay. They're more likely to graduate and they're more likely to do better in school," says Rodriguez. "It's very important that we give as many opportunities for them to find a place where they feel like they can connect."

Students can gain even more than a stronger connection to NEIU by joining an organization, however. According to Rodriguez, the benefits of getting involved extend to life outside the university as well.

"Being involved in student organizations are very important when you go into the workforce," says Rodriguez. "A lot of graduate programs, a lot of employers are looking for the fact that you've been involved in leadership, that you know how to work on a team, that you know how to interact with different people."

GO GREEK AT NEIU!

Although the campus of Northeastern Illinois University is not your traditional college campus due to the fact there is no on-campus housing, there is one college tradition that holds strong in the NEIU community, and that is the tradition of Greek Life.

Joining a fraternity or sorority at NEIU is a great way to make lifelong friendships and participate in community service. It is also a great way to build leadership skills, and many of NEIU's outstanding student leaders are involved with a fraternity or sorority.

Here's a look at the fraternities and sororities at NEIU. This information can also be found on the Student Activities Office website at <http://www.neiu.edu/~deptsao/greeklife/>.

Alpha Kappa Alpha

Chapter: Pi Nu
National Founding Date: January 15, 1908
Year Chartered at NEIU: 1992
Colors: Salmon Pink and Apple Green
Mascot: None
Motto: "By Merit and By Culture"
Web: www.aka1908.com
Email: prtypinu@yahoo.com
We are women of high academic, ethical and moral standards who lend service to all mankind. We are the first and the finest

African American Sorority, second to none. We promote unity and friendship among college women.

Gamma Phi Omega

Chapter: Nu
National Founding Date: April 17, 1991
Year Chartered at NEIU: 2003
Colors: Primary- Maroon and Navy, Secondary- Teal and Gold
Mascot: Swan
Motto: "Unity and Sisterhood, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable"
Web: www.gammaphiomega.org
Email: neiugphio@yahoo.com
Gamma Phi Omega is a Latina-oriented sorority that strives to be a support system not only for our members but for our communities. Our goal is not to grow quickly, but to grow strong. As we do expand, we are inspired by the perseverance of our founders and the goals that we continue to uphold for Gamma Phi Omega.

Sigma Lambda Beta

Chapter: Tau Beta
National Founding Date: April 4, 1986
Year Chartered at NEIU: 2002
Colors: Purple and White
Mascot: Purple Stallion with Purple Eyes
Motto: "Opportunity for Wisdom, Wisdom for Culture"

Web: www.sigmalambdabeta.com

Email: central@sigmalambdabeta.com

Brotherhood for Life, Coast to Coast Largest Latino Fraternity.

Alpha Psi Lambda

Chapter: R.I.G.H.T.E.O.U.S. Rho
National Founding Date: 1985
Year Chartered at NEIU: 2005
Colors: Gold and White
Mascot: Jaguar
Motto: "Together we shall seek the Noblest"
Web: www.neiu.edu/~apsirho
Email: aspinbod@yahoo.com
Alpha Psi Lambda is the nation's first and largest co-ed fraternity. The Latino culture is very strongly rooted in family and support, which allows Alpha Psi Lambda to provide those same roots to our fraternity. Alpha Psi Lambda, to its members, is more than just a fraternity. It creates that true family support, brotherhood and sisterhood.

Theta Chi Omega

NEIU Colony
National Founding Date: October 8, 1999
Year Chartered at NEIU: 2004
Colors: Navy Blue and Ivory
Mascot: Panda
Motto: "Strength Through Unity, Love Through Individuality"

Web: www.thetachiometa.bravehost.com

Email: neiu_thetas@yahoo.com

The belief of Theta Chi Omega is to encourage a sisterhood filled with trust and belief in oneself and fellow sister. Our endeavor is to assemble ladies of great quality through love, respect, trust, and individuality! Theta Chi Omega encourages friendships diverse in nature and allows women to grow with multicultural relationships, leadership abilities, and respect for all.

Omega Delta

Chapter: Zeta
National Founding Date: January 19, 1997
Year Chartered at NEIU: 2006
Colors: Blue and Beige
Mascot: Eagle
Motto: "Building Brotherhood through Professionalism"
Web: www.omegadelta.org
Email: t-okosun@neiu.edu
Omega Delta is dedicated to building Men of Principle and Leadership. Our brotherhood aids the individual, builds the Fraternity and strengthens the host academic institution through lifelong devotion to intellectual excellence, high standards of moral conduct and responsible citizenship. As individuals, we strive for professionalism in character as we continue our pursuit of knowledge and meaning.

Fitness at P.E. Complex

by Lenny Ocasio
Editor in Chief

Isolated from the rest of the campus, the Physical Education Complex (PE Complex) stands like a fortress. Many new students, and some not-so-new ones, do not even know that Northeastern has a recreational facility. Use of the PE Complex is covered by student tuition but few students actually know what Campus Recreation has to offer.

Campus Recreation is divided into six major programs: aquatics, fitness and wellness, intramural sports, club sports, outdoor adventure, and informal recreation.

It also employs the largest number of students on campus. Various employment possibilities are available in each of the six different programs.

The Aquatics program offers many different activities to tempt water lovers of any kind. There are open and lap swimming times in an eight-lane, 25-yard lap swimming area with a diving well.

Campus Recreation also offers lifeguard, first aid, and CPR training. Additionally, they offer private swim lessons to students, members, and non-members.

There are also swimming and diving lessons and the Neptune program for children age five and up. All information is available at the aquatics office in the PE Complex.

Fitness and wellness has everything to help you stay in shape. There is a weight room, various fitness machines, a running track, basketball courts, and four racquetball courts. Numerous fitness classes are also available free of charge.

The Mind and Body classes like yoga and pilates are available to everyone for a small fee. Members and non-members can also sign up for a personal trainer for a fee.

The Intramural Sports program has competitions in sports such as basketball, flag football, volleyball, dodge ball, and cross-country running. Every semester the intramural staff plans different student competitions depending on the season.

Current clubs that are open for everyone to join are Aikido, men's soccer, women's volleyball, men's baseball, women's soccer, boxing, mixed martial arts, and tennis. Anyone can form a club if they follow the rules posted on the Campus Recreation website which can be linked to from the NEIUport homepage (<http://neiuport.neiu.edu>) under the "Campus Life" tab.

To sign up for Intramural activities or find out information about Club Sports, visit the intramural office.

Informal recreation means just coming into the PE



Photo provided by Mitchell Jacobson

The P.E. complex has a lot to offer students including an indoor swimming pool, a fitness room, raquet ball courts, two gyms and an assortment of different organizations promoting healthy living.

Complex and trying out everything there is to offer. There is the main gym, with its basketball courts, and the auxiliary gym with its high ropes course, now open for the student body, and the climbing wall.

The locker rooms have showers and built-in steam rooms. There are two fitness studios with a daily schedule of various activities and fitness and wellness classes are also available near the four racquetball and handball courts.

The weight room, fitness equipment, swimming pool, and the four outdoor tennis courts are also available during the open times that are posted in the Campus Recreation schedule.

All throughout fall 2007, professors and trainers passed out surveys to everyone who entered the PE Complex.

These surveys were written to get the opinions on various aspects of the PE Complex.

From these surveys, a new schedule was created to serve the community better. The new hours for Campus Recreation are Monday and Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information on the above programs and services and for information about family recreation hours stop by the PE Complex. Or, access the NEIUport homepage (<http://neiuport.neiu.edu>), click the "Campus Life" tab, scroll down to the "Mind Body Connection" portal and click the "Campus Recreation link," or call Campus Recreation at 773-442-4135.

Transport NEI(yo)U!

by Cathleen Schandelmeier
Staff Writer

Northeastern Illinois University is notorious for being a "commuter school". Students transport themselves to school via cars, CTA, bicycles and (fortunate few) by walking.

For those of you who are transferring from a city college, please don't be discouraged by the fact that NEIU does not offer the U-Pass.

There are two primary roads that access Northeastern- Foster on the south and Bryn Mawr on the north. The access road connects the two and runs between the university and the cemetery. Last fall, when the city was devastated by flooding, many students couldn't make it to class because they were not aware that they also could have gotten to school via the north entrance on Bryn Mawr.

When parking, check out the maps (available for free in the parking office or online) which clearly delineate the areas where those with "Level 1" or "Level 2" parking may keep their vehicles. Level 1 is the expensive parking permit (\$370 and going up in September!). With Level 1, you can park and dash to class with ease. Level 2 is the standard student parking permit. At first, I thought that level 2 parking meant that I had to park on the second level of the parking garage - not so! Level 2 means that any student (faculty and staff as well) may park in

the designated areas for level 2 parking. This is basically any lot, excluding the A (on the north side of Campus) and C lots (on the east by the Beehive Building). When parking in the parking garage, pay attention! I can't tell you how many times I've been so focused on my studies and getting to class on time that I have totally forgotten where I parked!

The buses which get closest to NEIU are the Kimball/Homan bus (#82) which runs north and south and the Foster Bus (#92) which runs east and west. If you take the red line, exit at the Berwyn stop, and then board the #92 Foster bus, which starts right outside of the Berwyn station. If you are coming from the west, take the Blue Line to the Jefferson Park Station, then take the #92 Foster bus. If you are taking the Brown line, exit at Kimball and take the #82 Kimball bus north. Once, I had only a \$2.25 ticket and no money for a transfer, I walked from Northeastern to the Kimball line. It's not really that far - 1.07 blocks, but it was pouring down buckets of rain, and I was drenched by the time I reached my destination.

Bicycling is the most earth friendly and economical way to get to school, and I have often rode my bicycle to school, taking advantage of the new bike racks that have been installed throughout university grounds, courtesy of our student green fee. I hope that your transportation worries are few, and that your educational experience at school is deeply rewarding.

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For more information, please call T.C. Chung, business manager, at 773-442-4585.

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from Student Computing Services

by Marchesa So
Production Editor

To all incoming freshmen, congratulations and welcome to Northeastern Illinois University, your next step to a higher-education. We would like to introduce to you one of NEIU's departments, Student Computing Services.

Student Computing Services is one of the many departments here at NEIU that can assist you during your attendance at the university. The department is mainly in charge of the student computer labs and other student-related computer problems. There are two main computer labs that students, and other patrons, can utilize. One is located at the Building B, room B103 and the other is located at the basement of the Classroom Building. Both computer

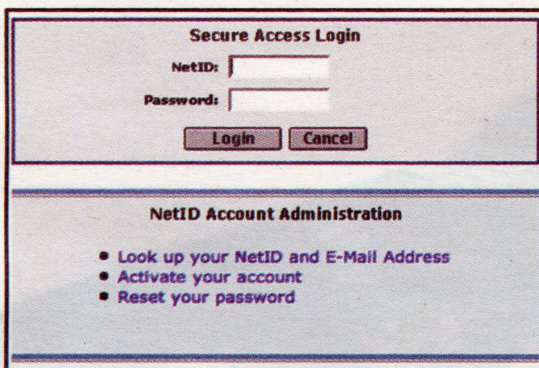
labs are equipped with both Pc's and Mac computers, several printers, and scanners. Located in the second floor of the Classroom Building is the atrium where you can also find computers available for internet browsing or if you just simply need to type a paper. There are no printing or scanning equipment at the atrium.

In B-103, there are also two smaller labs within the bigger lab that are used for class instructions. However, it can be utilized just as a regular lab when there are no on-going classes. There are student lab assistants always on-duty to assist you with the different programs or softwares that are installed in all the computers. If you need any further assistance, Student Computing Services have Client Specialists and technicians at their main office located at the Building B, room B-107. For further information about the different labs, lab hours, and other student resources available please visit the department homepage at www.neiu.edu/~scs.

Images courtesy of neiuport.neiu.edu and www.neiu.edu/~scs

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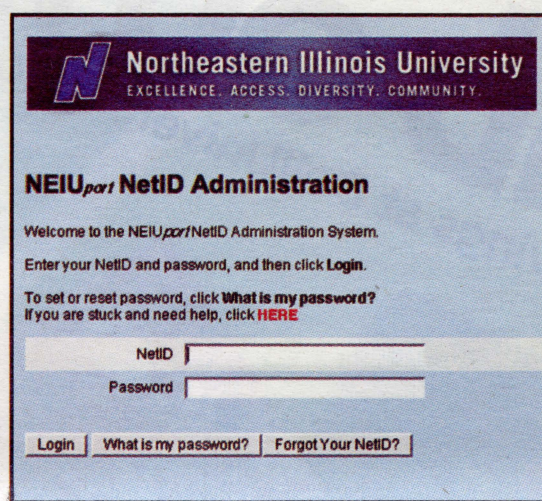
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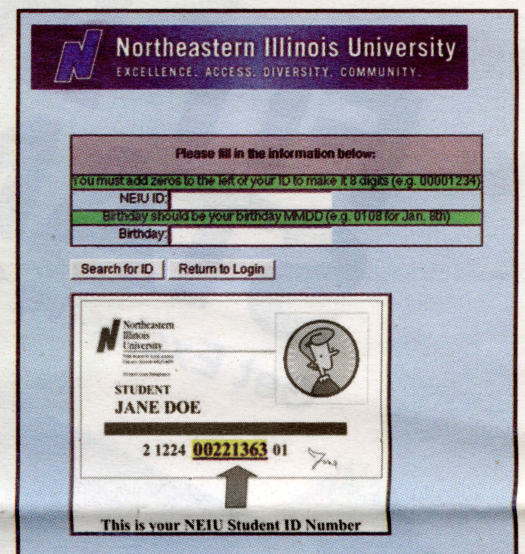
1) Click "Activate your account"

NEIUport is your access to all of your student accounts. It is where you also register for classes, pay tuition, download or submit documents for financial aid, etc. It is very important that you activate your NEIUport

immediately. NEIU has a printing policy based on quota and the username and password for your NEIUport is the same information you need to be able to print at the computer labs. Access NEIUport at any computer by typing <http://neiuport.neiu.edu>.



2) Click "Forgot Your NetID"

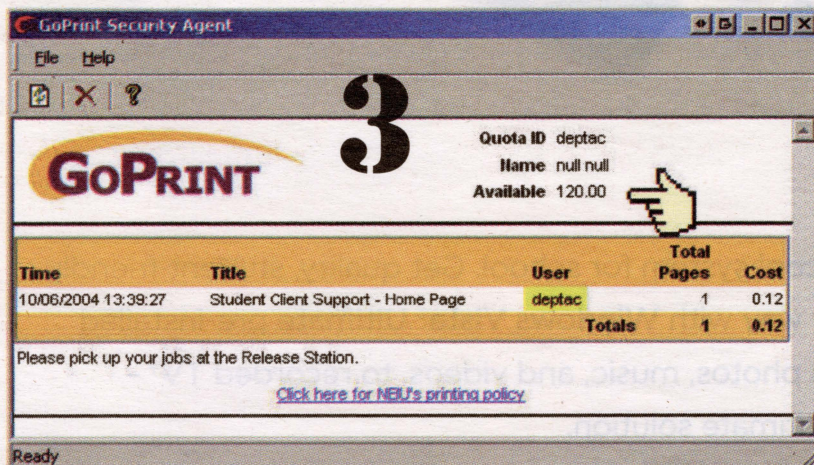
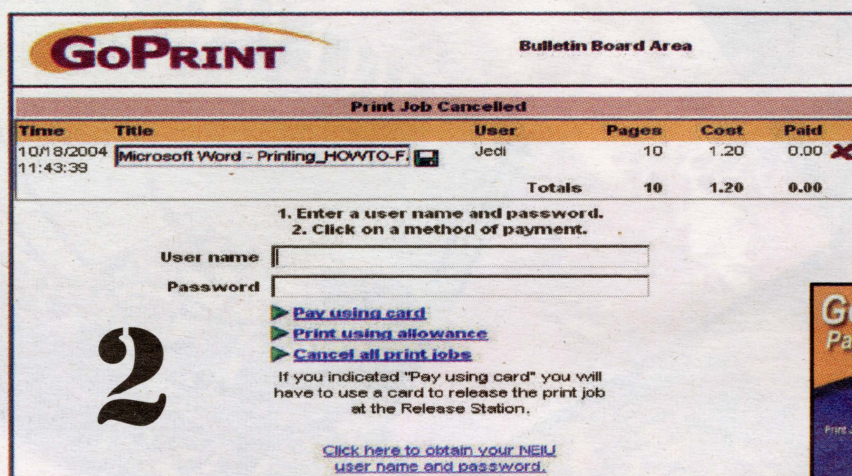


Printing at NEIU

1) Click print, to print document, presentation, etc.

2) The GoPrint screen will pop-up and you must provide your username and password. This is also your NEIUport NetID and password.

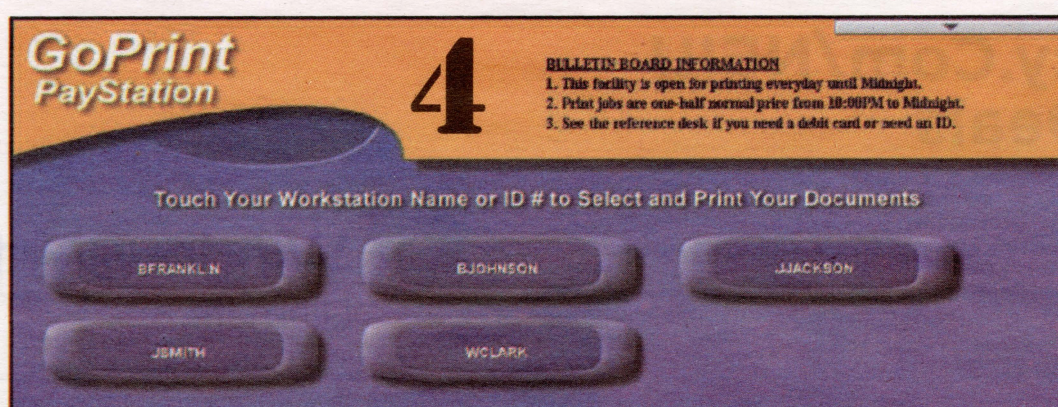
3) If you are a current student, select "Print using quota", if not, select "Pay using card". Your userID, print-quota, and documents set to print will appear afterwards.



4) Proceed to a GoPrint station and select or click on your username type your password. Select "sign-in".
5) Click all documents in the print-queue. A yellow arrow pointing down indicates that you have more documents. Click the arrow to go to the next set of documents and click to all the ones you would like to print.



6) Click or select "Click here to Accept the Charge and Start Printing" to print you documents.



All current students are provided with a print-quota so there is no additional fee to pay to print. If a student runs out of the printing quota, you then would have to purchase a print card to print.



Meet David Helfand, career counselor

by Theresa Celmer
Staff Writer

Have you ever had trouble deciding on a major, or knowing what career path you wanted to take? I know I have! I also know that it can be a very difficult and confusing time. I changed my major three times before I found what I liked to do. Many students do not know that there is career counseling available here at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). One student says that she has heard of it, but she's never been there. She said, "I think if they can help you out, it's a great idea." The career counseling Office can be found in room D-024. David Helfand counsels students who are unsure about their major, as well as students who have decided on a major, but are unsure about what job to pursue.

Helfand mentioned that more than half of his clients are seniors and those who have more than 120 hours. Most of them do not end up graduating, since they switched their major so late. Helfand says that if students are still unsure about what they want to major in by sophomore year, they should stop by the counseling office. First, they will go through a process of finding what is right for them by identifying interests and related characteristics, and from those results they generate ideas of jobs and careers that will fit the student best. The student will then research the specific career on a web site such as Google, and then they will, hopefully, be able to have informational interviews with professionals in that field. Once a direction is established, Helfand will assist students in preparing a resume for networking purposes. Also, when employers hire graduates, some of the skills that they look for in their

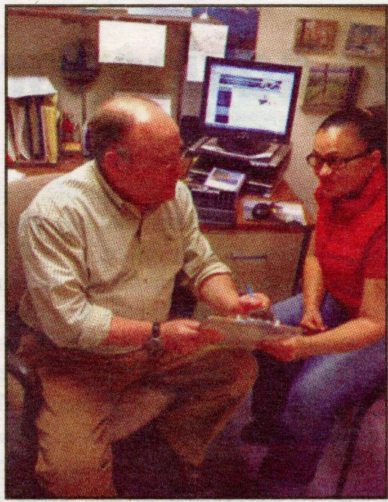


Photo by David Mitchell

employees are: Do you have the skills to solve the problem? Can you get along with other people? They also look at one's grade point average (GPA). A website that is good for checking out careers is called the Occupational Outlook Handbook which can be found at bls.gov/oco/

The Career Counseling Office's phone number is (773) 442-4650 and campus extension is 4650. Their Web site is www.neiu.edu/~CounOff. Mr. Helfand's hours to meet with students are Monday- Thursday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and he's unavailable on Fridays. The hours for the Counseling Office during normal semester periods are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you are having trouble deciding on a career or your major, hopefully you will stop by the Career Counseling Office for assistance and they will be able to help you so you can be on your way to doing something in your life that you feel is worthwhile and which makes you happy.

"Partners for Success" celebrates 20th anniversary

By Cathleen Schandelmeier
Staff Writer

"Partners For Success" Minority Student Mentoring Program is an innovative program using the ancient model of mentoring for newly admitted freshmen to gain assistance for success in the university classroom. Run with the personal oversight of Flora Llacuna, coordinator of this program since its inception in 1989, "Partners For Success" randomly matches up minority students, namely African American, Hispanic, Asian American, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders, with a mentor -either faculty or staff- from Northeastern Illinois University who helps the student better understand university policy and the rules of the classroom: both written and unwritten. Llacuna explained, "We capriciously put two people to work together. Many of these freshmen are first generation college students, few have role models for the college arena, many are raised completely differently from what is considered "normal" here in America. Students from culturally diverse backgrounds need all the help they can get, and our program provides another door that they can knock on for assistance."

There are three main events that provide structure for the program: the first is the Kick-off Reception in September when students and mentors meet.

"It is like a blind date," said Llacuna. "They eat some food, meet each other and there you go!"

The second event is the Holiday Reception in December. Llacuna calls all the mentors and students personally to ensure their attendance. She is, she confesses, the "mentor behind the mentors." The final event is the Appreciation Luncheon when

each of the participating students receives a Certificate of Appreciation.

The success of this program cannot be measured in dollars and cents, but in the lives touched and influenced by it. Llacuna gave an example of a Puerto Rican student whose traditional grandmother wanted her home immediately after classes. Her mentor had to take the time to explain to the grandmother the importance of such out of classroom activities as library study and extracurricular activities to the development of the student. Thus the student was able to obtain the freedom she needed in order to succeed at the university level.

Another example cited by Llacuna was a story about the two completely different reactions she encountered when she needed photographs for the program's brochure. The mentor resisted having a photograph taken, claiming, "I did nothing." Llacuna was astounded by the reaction of student who had been working with this same humble mentor. The student went out of her way to have a photograph taken for the brochure, saying that her mentor had influenced her life profoundly by telling her about the Honors Program.

This year three deserving students received scholarships from the program for \$100 each. This is the first year that kindhearted souls invested in the program by donating their personal resources to provide much-needed scholarship funds. Llacuna hopes one day to win the Mega-lottery (which she plays regularly) so she can provide an endowment for this vital program and keep her legacy of love for learning growing. To participate in "The Partners for Success" minority freshmen may contact Llacuna directly at (773) 442-4616 or via e-mail at f-llacuna@neiu.edu.

What it means to be a HSI

by Farhia Abdi
Staff Writer

The federal government defines Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) as accredited and degree granting public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education with at least 25 percent or more total undergraduate Hispanic full-time equivalent student enrollment. NEIU is a federally designated HSI, meaning it has at least 25 percent Latino students. This is a newer category of institution, characterized by enrollment ratios rather than by institutional mission. Nationally, six percent of the higher education institutions enroll approximately five percent of the Latino students. NEIU has about 3,000 Latino students.

NEIU is one of only 30 universities nationwide to receive a HSI Initiative grant awards program this year. According to NEIU's website, the Academic and Support Program Advisory Group received 71 proposals totaling over \$2.3 million. The money was used to fund 20 proposals, among them:

- Professional Development for Latino/Latina Upper Division Sociology Majors (\$6,400)
Susan Stall, Department of Sociology
- Mexicayotl: Reclaiming Our Minds and Our Bodies (\$2,000)
Juana Montoya, student
- Latin(o) American Cultural Series (\$12,000)
Paul Schroeder-Rodriguez, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
- Improving assessment of Spanish learning at NEIU (\$13,400)
Paul Schroeder-Rodriguez, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
- Alternative Spring Break Immersion Trip (\$10,000)
Sharron Evans and Veronica Rodriguez, Student Activities

This spring break a group of NEIU students visited the U.S-Mexico tour on the immersion trip courtesy of the initiative. The students learned a lot about the lives of the Latino communities living in the border area.

The 71 proposals were reviewed by the HSI advisory committee among them: The members Christina López: Sociology, Co-Chair, Paul A. Schroeder Rodríguez: Foreign Languages and Literatures, Co-Chair, Teresita Díaz: Proyecto Pa'Lante, María Luna Duarte: El Centro, Jason García: President, Student Government, Claudia Mercado: Enrollment Services, Kendy Olaguez: Graduate Assistant and ENLACE Fellow, Víctor Ortiz: Latino and Latin American Studies and Evelyn Rivera Swint: Graduate assistant and ENLACE Fellow.

NEIU is also a long-time member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and the recipient of the national 2007 Outstanding HACU Member Institution Award to recognize and honor extraordinary efforts and success in advancing the mission and goals of HACU. Nine percent of NEIU's tenured and tenure-track faculty is Hispanic.

The most recent 6-year graduation rate for full-time students entering NEIU as freshmen is 18.5 percent; this figure is 18 percent for Latino students.

The El Centro campus provides a special focus on service to the large, diverse and growing Latino community. NEIU's curriculum includes a minor in Latino and Latin American Studies.

NEIU is the most diverse university in Midwest- with not only 25 percent Latino students, but also 10 percent African-American students, 10 percent Asian-American students, 0.3 percent Native American students, 47 percent white students, and 7 percent non-resident and other students.

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Commentary

Letter to incoming Freshman

Your journey starts here

Whether you are fresh out of high school or coming from another college, you have somehow wound up on the doorstep of Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). Perhaps you have done so because you live close by. Maybe someone at your high school told you NEIU would be a good place for you. Maybe you just partied too hard at your last school and decided it was time for a change. Or, maybe you're here because NEIU is one of the most affordable universities in Chicago. Whatever your reason may be, you are now a student at a very unique place.

We could list a bunch of things NEIU doesn't offer, a U-Pass, housing, and Big Ten sports being the things that easily come to mind, but let's not be negative here. What NEIU does offer, however, is a college culture unlike any other.

For starters, NEIU has been ranked the most ethnically diverse university in the Midwest by U.S. News and World Report's yearly edition of best colleges for every single year since 1997. This means that at NEIU, you have the opportunity to meet and collaborate with people from all sorts of backgrounds. This exposure to diversity will prepare you to work with anyone, wherever you go after college.

Another thing NEIU has to offer is an exciting extracurricular environment. There are numerous student organizations on campus that provide great opportunities for fun and friendship. Despite the fact that NEIU is a commuter campus, many students stick around long after class to participate in various organizations.

Probably the best thing NEIU has to offer, however, is the opportunity to lead, and to get recognized for it. At just under 12,000 students, our campus's small size makes it easier to recognize the accomplishments of students who work hard. Think of it as a big fish in a small pond type of scenario. NEIU students have gone on to many leadership roles after graduating, and it is through leadership experience here that you, too, can gain the experience necessary to become a leader.

"Learn in the city, lead in the world." Chances are you've seen this phrase on buses, bridges and billboards throughout Chicago. Not only does it make for good advertising, it also truly reflects what you can get out of your experience at NEIU. Your college experience will be what you make of it, and we hope that you'll take advantage of what NEIU has to offer and make the most of it. After you graduate, the possibilities are endless, but that journey has to start somewhere, and we're glad that it's here.

- The staff of the *Independent*

A little academic advice for the Freshmen

by Gregg Christie
Opinions Editor

I am 43 years old and have been in and out of school for half of my adult life. A lifelong student? No, I just changed my mind a lot, and life often got in the way of my studies. Why am I telling you this? Because I feel that I am in a unique position to give all of you young students a little advice.

Yes, you are young, and yes, there is still time to change your course of study. There is no overwhelming pressure to graduate by the age of twenty-two and throw yourself headlong into life. Breathe deep and relax, because you are not required to have a reverse mortgage, 2.3 kids and two brand-new SUVs in the garage by the time you hit thirty.

I have found that people who put themselves on a strict timetable are often disappointed. I can tell you from experience that sometimes life can be chaotic, and that the more you try to plan your future right down to the letter, the more likely you are to be let down. Sometimes "stuff" just happens, so you need to be flexible in order to respond maturely to the curve balls that are sometimes thrown in your direction.

Having said that, however, I am here to tell you that you are enrolled in a four-year university now, and that although this place is not the University of Chicago or Harvard, it is still a serious institution. More to the point, this is not Vegas, so what happens at Northeastern doesn't stay at Northeastern. What, you might ask, is this man raving about?

Your academic transcript, silly! That is what I am raving about. Not taking your classes seriously will result in either low grades or a withdrawal. While it may not seem very important to you at this particular moment, those Cs, Ds and Ws will stay on

your transcript for the rest of your life. Build up enough of these mistakes, and you will do some serious harm to your future.

Why is this important? Because if you are someone who wants to excel in life, or simply succeed in America's highly competitive career market, then you need to prove to others that you are special. You need to demonstrate that you are a winner, not someone who only does a mediocre job. Unfortunately, succeeding at this game all too often also means graduate school, and for many employers, that often hinges on a name.

My point is that you will not be admitted into the kind of school that would pique such an employer's interest if your junior or senior year's academic transcript is full of C, D or W grades. To repeat myself, those letters don't go away; they stay with you forever. If graduate school isn't necessary to your future, your grades still are. That desirable company will not hire you straight out of college with a 2.5 grade point average, because those with a 3.5 or higher are lined up around the block, all competing for the same jobs.

It is not the end of the world if you get a C, or if you have to drop an entire semester worth of classes. Employers and graduate schools understand that life is indeed unpredictable. The problems arise when you consistently screw up, when there are three or four semesters where you dropped two or more classes, or your college transcript holds more than a few Cs or Ds. People will see that, and all too often your application will then be rejected.

So the question becomes, how to avoid such a scenario. The answer is simple; take your academic journey seriously. If you are having trouble keeping up in school, take some time off. Like I said, you have plenty of

time, so taking a semester or even longer off from school is not going to hurt your future. It is certainly better than low grades or a high withdrawal rate.

It is also very important to do your work, and to hand it in on time. I cannot stress the importance of this factor enough. College is relatively easy when you show up and do your work. If the teacher asks you for a five-page paper, then you give it to them. If you have to turn it in late, then ask them for an extension. Teachers are usually willing to work with students when they have a good reason.

Also, if they grade on attendance, then don't skip class. I have seen this affect many people's grades, and all they do is whine and complain after the fact. If they had shown up to class in the first place, then they wouldn't have encountered this problem.

For some people, their social life tends to come first, and they would prefer to have another pint of beer with their friends and take their chances in skipping class the next day. I can tell you from personal experience that this is a mistake. Remember what I said before, that your grades will become a part of your permanent record. Keep this in mind when you decide to go out on a Tuesday night and have class at 10 a.m. the next morning.

Unless you are sick, always come to class. Try your hardest to turn in your work on time, and to do the best that you can on each assignment. Don't drop a class unless it is absolutely necessary. Take time off from school if you really have to, and do so guilt free, because this is the wisest thing that you can do in some cases. School shouldn't have to be any more stressful than it already is, so just keep up. If you cannot keep up, just hit the pause button. It is really that simple. Stick to the plan, and you will surely come out on top.

Finding self

by Theresa Celmer
Staff Writer

When I was little I always knew what I wanted to do with my life. I wanted to be a teacher and help children learn. Sounds simple right?? Think again. Flash forward to sophomore year of college after observing first graders at a local elementary school, I realized maybe teaching isn't what I wanted to do after all. So there I was, after wanting to be a teacher ever since I could remember, not knowing what to do next.

I always liked to write; I started writing television fanfiction and creating my own stories at the age of twelve. At first I always thought of it as a cool hobby and never imagined that I could get paid for something like a hobby, but once I realized that I could, I really started to warm up to the idea. I decided that I wanted to become a writer, so then I switched my major to English and it didn't turn out quite like I expected it to. Instead of writing and using my creative skills I now sat in front of a textbook trying

to interpret what the story meant instead of just reading and writing about what I thought about it, which some students might find interesting but it was not for me.

I realized that I enjoyed learning about media and learning how to write the correct grammar for media writing. As the old saying goes, third times the charm and

struggling with either choosing a major for the first time or thinking about changing a major, I know that it can be a confusing and possibly stressful experience because it changes and shapes the rest of your life. But there are people who can help including teachers, parents and close friends. It is always great to talk to some one when you are confused about the fact that you are unsure of what career path you want to take for the rest of your life. I think that one helpful tip to get students through these confusing times is to ask yourself if you are happy with what you are studying in your classes. Will you possibly enjoy what you are learning and enjoy it as a career in the future? If the answer is yes to then you probably made the right choice for yourself and if not, that is ok too. Just remember that it is your life that you are living and that asking yourself questions and having a great support system including friends and family will lead you to the road you have always wanted to follow or perhaps like myself you will choose the road less traveled.

It is always great to talk to some one when you are confused about the fact that you are unsure of what career path you want to take for the rest of your life.

Around that time I started taking media classes for my minor in media and I even decided to join the newspaper as a staff writer. It was then that

I am now pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Communications, Media, and Theater with a minor in Media.

So for those who are

Shut your trap!

by Jonathan Gronli
Entertainment Editor

Recently, I was in a class where the professor got so fed up with people distracting other students during his lecture, that finally he gave the problematic students an ultimatum: Either be quiet and sit separately from your friends, or don't come to class at all.

Honestly, I love the fact that the teacher finally stood his ground. For the next five minutes the students complained that the teacher had called them out on the fact that their cross talk was distracting. Then again, the cross talk has been a daily occurrence almost since the semester began. Since we're all adults, you'd think that people would know better. Even if they didn't know better, you'd think they'd learn after the second or third time that they were essentially being told to shut up.

If you're like me, you pay for tuition yourself and work on the side just to break even. In my case, outside of the newspaper I'm working three other freelance writing jobs to break even, but that's if I'm lucky. Some students, however, do get money through scholarships, waivers, loans or their parents.

Regardless of where the money comes from, we're here to learn.

If you're not paying attention because of a side conversation you're engaging in, there's a bit of a problem. You are not learning, and you are distracting other people from learning. Sure, the professor is still getting paid

regardless of whether people are learning or not, while in some high schools, teachers could care less. In college, however, even the burned out teachers actually care about what they're doing.

I wouldn't want anyone to be deprived of their knowledge because I was the one being a distraction.

The fact of the matter is, if you are taking a class and are there to learn, you should be paying attention, regardless of how boring the material might be. If you're not in college to learn, then you're wasting your own money. Also, if you prove to be a distraction to others, then you're also wasting

the money of other students. There are other options.

Go to a trade school if you're not learning something that you're interested in. At least then you are learning to be useful in life, and you will have to pay attention. Otherwise, try to join the work force and drop out of college. At least then you're being productive and useful rather than proving yourself to be a distraction to others.

Sure, I'm not the perfect student. In fact I'm nowhere near that status. However, I'm not here to waste my money or the money of anyone else by distracting them from their studies. I have dealt with problems like that in high school and knew I wouldn't want anyone to be deprived of their knowledge because I was the one being a distraction.

I'll be damned if anyone's going to waste my precious money on an education by distracting me. Oh wait. That's already happening so I guess I am damned.

I'm also not here to waste the teacher's time because, quite frankly, we validate our teachers' existence through learning. If no one pays attention, does the job of a teacher even matter? Our minds give teachers a purpose, even if some of them aren't paid well enough to do the job.

So think about who you are distracting while you're in class. If you don't want to waste your money or the money of those around you, and if you are truly here to learn, then shut your trap. Keep your mouth shut, don't cross talk, and only speak if you have something constructive to say regarding the course material.

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

Who is "NEIUport"?

by Marchesa So
Production Editor

I came in at noon to work my shift at the B103 computer lab on May 13, 2009. A minute after clocking-in, I had an outpour of complaints from students about NEIUport. Some were saying they couldn't access their portal and see their grades, some said they couldn't see their bill/charges; some said they couldn't see their financial aid status. I checked my own NEIUport account and looked for myself. Of course, just as the students said, there was something very wrong with the portal. None of the windows/modules displayed the normal contents. Instead, it displayed an error and no other information. Just like normal protocol, I called our main office and spoke to a supervisor and asked his advice on the situation and whether he had any further information. I was told that there was an announcement posted on the main page of NEIUport informing students about the error and approximately when it will be resolved. The announcement stated that the issue will be fixed in a few hours. In a few hours? How vague. Students wanted to see their grades, their financial aid status, register for classes or

pay for classes. These are things that students check as a routine in their portals. However much of a routine it is, these things are some of the most important in a student's attendance here at Northeastern. So yes, a vague "in a few hours" won't cut it. Those few hours, for some students, could be the only time they can pay their tuition and if not their classes get dropped. That time may also have been the last chance for somebody to be able to get into a much needed class. Obviously, this issue has been resolved, but trust me, it was not in a "few hours".

During a recent casual discussion at work, this incident came up and I decided to ask more about what happened that day. I was informed that necessary people were spoken to and certain departments that we felt may have more knowledge of the situation were contacted. Unfortunately, all the ones that were contacted were aware of what happened but did not know how to resolve the issue or they merely said they were not responsible. If there happened to be missing buttons in your portal, then who do you ask to put it back on? If all of a sudden you do not see your classes in your portal or you do not see your grades, then just who is it that can make these

things re-appear in your portal again? Do you get my drift?

As a computer science major I know that NEIUport was developed by a group of people called the Software Development team, or at least that was what I was taught in my software engineering class. If NEIUport is for NEIU, then someone at NEIU must know about it, right? Or at least somebody would have been told that if anything, ANYTHING, goes wrong with it you can call Mr. this or Ms. that. But for some odd reason, the identity of these responsible individuals seems so elusive. After implementing what seems to be an all inclusive web application for students and their accounts, I'm sure the decision to have this developed was to make it easier for the students. This makes it all the more important for the portal to run as streamlined as possible. It was a fantastic idea and a huge upgrade for NEIU, if you ask me. With one set of log-in information, every student was a click away from being able to view every account and being able to view all information they have regarding their attendance here at NEIU. However, with upgrades come downfalls. Just like the Ghostbusters movie, "Who you gonna call?" Unfortunately, no

one in this university seems to own up to NEIUport. There should be somebody, whether it is a department or group, that is in charge of NEIUport and will be able to answer anything and everything about it. Student Computing Services is available to assist the students, yes. But the department was not given the responsibility for maintenance of NEIUport. However, the department gets the mother load of complaints whenever something goes wrong with NEIUport from students that are given the impression that the department is the one in charge. Wait, I swear I have heard of the so-called "NEIUport Helpdesk". Yes. There is, in fact, such a thing as a "Help Desk" located in the Classroom Building room 0004, extension 4357. When you are locked out of your portal, they are the ones that can reset your account. So when asked whether they are in charge of NEIUport, the answer is no. If this is the case, then why call yourself "NEIUport Helpdesk"? I know this may just be a label, but as a student who recently had problems with NEIUport, if I hear of a "NEIUport Helpdesk" the logical step would be to approach this department and ask them. The label seems to go hand-in-

hand with my problem, right? NEIUport problems + NEIUport Helpdesk = Issue Resolved; a very valid equation logically speaking. However, this is not always the case.

I am not trying to bad mouth our Technology Helpdesk department. This is just an example to show you how there is a lack of support system for one of the most important systems NEIU has. Without NEIUport, students are lost. There is no other way to register for classes. Yes, you can pay in person or even ask financial aid the status of your application, etc. There are plans of doing more NEIUport integration; adding more modules, more items; items that, if NEIUport starts to act funny again, you may not have any access to anyway.

So, as a student who pays tuition, who lives and breathes NEIUport to see my account progress, register for classes, check financial aid status, and view my grades, if I can't see any of this, who do I look for? Who do I ask? Because I'm tired of being bounced around and transferred from one department to another and I'm sure other students are too. Who am I going to call? I don't think Ghostbusters will be able to help.

ENTERTAINMENT

An amazing theatre season at NEIU

compiled by Cheryl Lyman
Business Manager

Fall 2009 Main Stage

An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestly
October 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 2009

A young girl in an English industrial city commits suicide. An inspector calls to interrogate her highly respected family, and during the course of the inquiry, all family members are implicated to some degree in the girl's death. A formerly close knit group turns inside out as the evening progresses. The inspector is not actually who he purports to be, but rather a mysterious individual with inside knowledge of each individual's connection with the death. After the false inspector has been revealed, the proceedings unfold in unpredictable fashion, tying in strangely with the original event.

Lucky Stiff
Book by Lynn Ahrens, Music by Stephen Flaherty, Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Based on *The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo* by Michael Butterworth
November 19-21, Dec. 3-5, 10-12, 2009

This zany and offbeat musical murder mystery tells the story of an unassuming English shoe salesman who is forced to take the corpse of his recently murdered uncle, who was an Atlantic City croupier, on a week long vacation to Monte Carlo. If he is successful, the nephew stands to inherit \$6,000,000. If he is discovered, the money will go to the Universal Dog Home of Brooklyn.

Spring 2010 Main Stage

Vaudeville America!
February 18-20, 25-27, March 4-6, 2010
Vaudeville was all-American variety entertainment presented for the whole family on stages throughout the country beginning in the 1880s. Vaudeville lasted well into the twentieth century and didn't truly fade into history until Ed Sullivan broadcast his last show on television in 1971. Vaudeville was true variety theatre. It included stand up comedy, short comic playlets, music, acrobatics, juggling, animal acts, comic speeches, and eccentric acts. *Vaudeville America!* recreates an old-time vaudeville show using authentic scripts, music and jokes from the first half of the twentieth century to create a theatre experience from the days of W.C. Fields and Al Jolson.

A Tale of Two Cities
adapted by Mark Fitzgibbons from the classic tale written by Charles Dickens
April 15-17, 22-24, 29-May 1

This unique adaptation uses an English inn yard in the mid-nineteenth century as its setting to address the challenge of presenting the many locations in this tale of London and Paris. The use of four narrators, who are innkeepers, are utilized to bring this story to life. It follows the premise and characters of the classic Dickens novel, such as Lucie and Jarvis Lorry, Sydney Carton, the DeFarges, the tribunal and the guillotines, the riots and the reunions. This inventive treatment of one of the greatest literary works is not to be missed.

There are so many wonderful shows coming to Stage Center Theatre over the next year! If you are a performer of any sort, prefer to have a hammer in your hand or like to sew and/or design costumes, there is bound to be something in the coming seasons to strike your fancy. No need to be a communications, media, theatre major/minor, Stage Center Theatre loves working with all departments at the school.

Auditions for Fall 2009 & Spring 2010

are on the first Tue & Wed of the semester: Tue 1:30 pm -3:00 p.m. & T/W 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Contact Anna Antaramian for an audition time slot at 773-442-5975.

To work behind the scenes

e-mail John Rodriguez at J-Rodriguezm@neiu.edu or Jessica Kuehnau at J-Kuehnau@neiu.edu or contact the department at 773-442-5950

To reserve seats for any performance

call the box office at 773-442-4274.
All performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

Summer 2009 Theatre

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare
June 4-6, 11-13, 18-20 - 2009

The wedding of Theseus, Duke of Athens, to the amazon Hippolyta is fast approaching. In the nearby woods, Oberon and Titania, the king and queen of the fairies, are quarreling and stand in stubborn opposition to each other. A group of tormented young lovers traipse through the forest while a band of bumbling but earnest working class actors practice a play. Worlds collide as Oberon's trusty sprite, Puck, uses his fairy mischief to intertwine their lives with hilarious effect. Join us for an evening full of royalty and rustics, of determined romantics and whimsical spirits, and of the magic of love in this poetic and unforgettable tale told through the beauty of Shakespeare's language.

Arms and the Man by George Bernard Shaw
July 16-18, 23-25, 30-Aug. 1 - 2009

The year is 1885 and the action is set against the backdrop of the Serbo-Bulgarian war. George Bernard Shaw's satire on love and war centers on the Petkoff family in Bulgaria. There is the proud and protective Catherine, her good-natured but sometimes daffy husband Major Petkoff, and their romantic, idealistic daughter Raina. Raina is engaged to the cynical and philandering Major Sergius Saranoff. Sergius has made advances toward the Petkoff's coy and defiant maid Louka, who is loved by the hard working and noble servant Nicola. In the midst of this is the comical Captain Bluntschli, the Swiss soldier who prefers chocolates to pistols. This wonderful play takes a humorous look at matters of the heart and of the state in Shaw's inimitable fashion.

Fall 2009 Studio Theatre F-109

Living Out by Lisa Loomer
October 12-14, 19-21

Living Out tells the moving story about the relationship between a Salvadoran nanny and her employer, an Anglo lawyer. Both women are smart, hard-working and want better lives for their children. This play examines the common humanity shared between the women, and takes a look at racial and class differences, as well as the situation of illegal work status in America. We learn about the cost of sacrificing the care of one's own child in order to care for another, and about the pressures women often feel to "have it all", and the consequences of making these choices. This is a funny and tragic tale that explores these often painful choices.

Spring 2010 Studio Theatre F-109

Wine in the Wilderness by Alice Childress
February 22-24, March 1-3

Wine in the Wilderness is set against the backdrop of the race riots in Harlem. An artist is working on a triptych, a set of paintings which he has titled *Wine in the Wilderness*. His first painting has as its subject a young African American girl, representing childhood innocence; the second painting represents his ideal woman, an "African queen", and his third painting is one that he would like to compose using as its subject a woman he thinks is down on her luck, the ugly product of what society has made of African American women. What he learns about true beauty and the strength of women is a revelation. The characters and issues in this play are truly unforgettable.

Summer 2010 Theatre

My Sister Eileen by Joseph A Fields and Jerome Chodorov
June 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, 2010

My Sister Eileen is the delightful story about two sisters and their adventures as roommates in a Greenwich Village basement apartment. Eileen is a beautiful aspiring actress and her sister Ruth is a self-reliant young woman who dreams of becoming a great writer. This wonderful comedy paints an indelible portrait of life in the big city while existing under less than ideal living conditions. Follow Eileen, Ruth, and a parade of colorful, unforgettable characters through their hilarious escapades.

Hay Fever by Noel Coward
July 22-24, 29-31, August 5-7, 2010

This side-splitting comedy by Noel Coward gives us the Bliss family, who is bohemian to the extreme. The mother is an actress who has left the stage cut continues to wring melodrama out of every situation. The father is a novelist who is conducting research. Their son and daughter are beautiful but have less than ideal manners. Each family member invites a guest for the weekend, but hilarity ensues when all end up pairing off with another's guest. This is nothing out of the ordinary to the family, but the guests have no idea what has just hit them.

Images courtesy of wallstation.com



Achievement unlocked: zombicidal maniac

by David Mosher
Online Editor

Valve, the creator of *Left 4 Dead*, is known for quality games. A game stamped with Valve generally means a game of promise, a promise of quality, fun, and stability. And sometimes perhaps a bit of originality, which happens to be *Left 4 Dead's* best feature.

Left 4 Dead's premise is simple. It's the zombie apocalypse (again – how often does this occur?) and you play as one of four survivors. The survivors are somehow inexplicably immune to the zombie virus and must battle the hordes of zombies to survive.

The game itself is relatively short. There are four different campaigns that each start with the same premise. The four survivors start in one area with health packs and guns and must make their way through the level to the next safe house, a place where they can rest and recover

before venturing out once more. At the end of each campaign there is a finale where the survivors are finally rescued. Of course, there are plenty of zombies in between.

The zombies are more than the brainless brain-eating buffoons that are showcased in many survival horror films. They are fast, sprinting, climbing, and zig-zagging humans of death bent on taking a chunk of your leg home as a souvenir.

In addition to these regular zombies, there are also a variety of special zombies that can incapacitate survivors so that you must rely on your friends to save you. Each has its own special ability, whether it's pouncing you so you cannot move, dragging you off a cliff, or killing in a single hit.

And now, the originality comes into play. *Left 4 Dead* is a game best played with friends. While there is a single player game where the other three survivors can

be controlled by artificial intelligence (bots), the most fun is had playing online headsets and friends. It blurs the line between a single player and a multiplayer game to great effect. Each campaign can be run with any combination of human players and bots. In addition, there is an online only versus mode available, where the fun really shines.

In versus, it's four vs. four; four survivors that battle through each campaign while being attacked by four players playing special zombies. At the end of each round the tables turn, and the survivors become zombies and vice versa.

Real, human-played zombies are something that'll give a survivor nightmares if played properly. They set traps, attack together, and are generally vicious little creatures. Besides, there is something oddly compelling about pouncing one of your buddies as a zombie, attempting to tear him or her

limb from limb.

No campaign is quite like the one before it. Zombies are placed in different areas in different densities that attack at different times. An artificial intelligence director controls all of this. The AI director fine-tunes the game in real time. If the survivors are hurt badly, there may be fewer zombies. If they are doing well, an extra special zombie may come into play. All of this is designed so the survivors will barely make it into the next safe area.

Graphically, the game shines. The added film grain and special lighting makes it seem like you're playing a movie. And while the game is based on the aging Source engine, this adds more to the game than it detracts. Sure, it doesn't look like *Crysis*, but it'll also run on a much wider scale of computers.

Overall, it's well worth your money, as long as you have a few friends to enjoy it with.

Food off campus that feels good

by D. Gordon Macnab
Special Contributor

We all love to eat, and we have to in order to stay alive. The cafeteria is the closest place to fuel the creative student in you. If you feel, however, that a cafeteria reminds you too much of high school, then the following list of eateries will be helpful in appeasing your appetite, as well as keep your wallets from feeling too empty.

Quickies

Subway (Corner of Foster and Pulaski, across the street from the Shell Station on Foster and Kimball) – Great food and healthy to make your inner "Jared" come out. The Sweet Onion Teriyaki sandwich is very good, especially with Southwest Chipotle sauce and Honey Mustard. Try it with the Jalapeño chips, sounds weird, but try it.

Jimmy John's (A Block and half east of Kimball and Foster) – Not as a varied selection as subway, but very fast

service.

McDonald's (Corner of Foster and Kedzie) – Cheap and convenient food.

Greasy Spoons

CV's (Corner of Bryn Mawr and Kimball) – Your typical diner where the only thing missing is the tableside jukebox playing oldies. Gyros are very good and the hot dogs won't disappoint either. Open 24 hours for all those late night studies.

Charcoal Grill (Corner of Foster and Kedzie) – Best Gyros around, period. The rest of their food is also good with a wide variety to choose from AND you get free fries with all sandwiches.

Asian/Middle Eastern/Mediterranean

Hunan Wok (On Bryn Mawr just west of Kimball) – They have a lunch special buffet.

Mayflower (Corner of Foster and Pulaski) – The Crab Rangoon is rather tasty. It may be slower than Hunan Wok, but is still really good Asian food.

Ugly

Hookah

(On Bryn Mawr next to Hunan Wok) – Great falafel and hummus. Some times slow service but great tasting food. Plus for all you smokers out there you can smoke hookah, and they have student deals.

Mexican

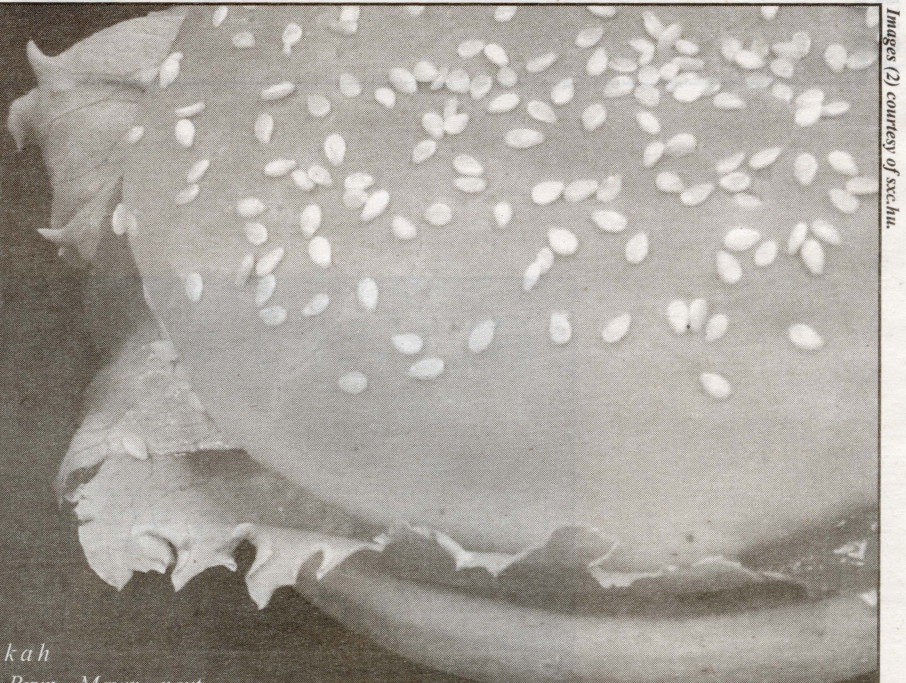
Sergio's (On Bryn Mawr east of the Hollywood Tavern) – Combination Mexican and other food, you can get a pizza or a burrito.

A Gem

Tre Kronor (On Foster, half way between the Subway and McDonald's) –

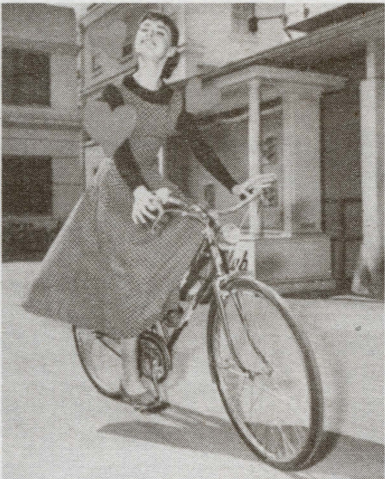
More expensive but if you're looking for class and like Swedish food, this is place for you. Their quiche is incredible, as is their salmon.

There are many more places out there, but as in college, what is listed here and what you learn is just the tip of the iceberg. The rest are up to you to find on your own. Happy eating.



Images (2) courtesy of sxc.hu

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Summer 2009

- Since 2009

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Rumba Dance Club focuses on modern Latin dances such as Salsa, Bachata, Cumbia, Merengue, Reggaeton and Rueda. We are students who have a passion for dancing and enjoy introducing club members to one of our favorite activities. We will have class every Thursday 6-9 pm in the Student Union cafeteria, starting June 11, 2009. For more information please email Esmeralda at neurumba@yahoo.com



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To the arts!

by Jonathon Gronli
Entertainment Editor

Many may wonder what NEIU has to offer in terms of entertainment, both in art and performance. This school is as rich in the arts as it is in ethnicity.

For you art and sculpture junkies, there are always things to check out. Whether it is the sculpture by Ruth Duckworth between Building B and the Science Building, or other art displays

around campus, you can always find something to satisfy the artist in you. If you want to showcase your own piece of work in any of the student art displays throughout the semester, just find a professor in the art department for more information.

For those who love the theater, the new auditorium occasionally holds large-scale plays. They are rare, but if you keep your eyes open, you'll be able to find one. There is also the Stage Center Theater in Building F (in between the Classroom and

Fine Arts Buildings) where the majority of the plays here are held. For those of you who peruse the Chicago Reader, this name will be familiar. Also, you aspiring actors can audition for roles in these plays.

The majority of what goes on at Northeastern is musical. Our school is rich with the art of musical performance. We have student ensembles in dance, including NEIU's renowned Ensemble Español, classical music and jazz. Any student with enough experience (and time

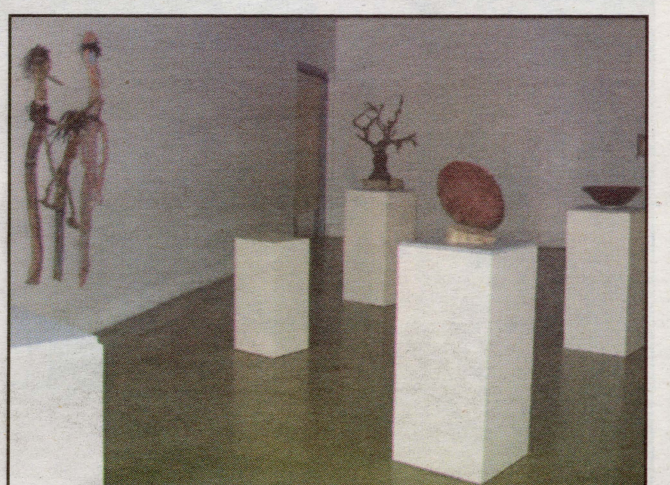
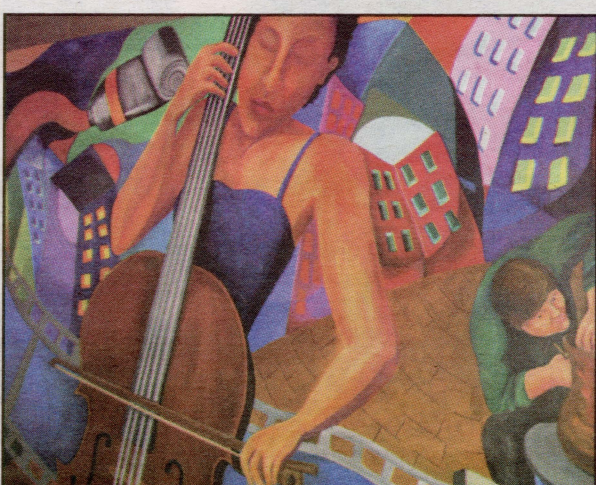
management skills) can participate in the student ensembles.

In addition to the student ensembles, the school invites classically trained musicians and dance troupes who are fairly well known. Northeastern has brought in musicians Paquito D'Rivera and the Assad Brothers, among others.

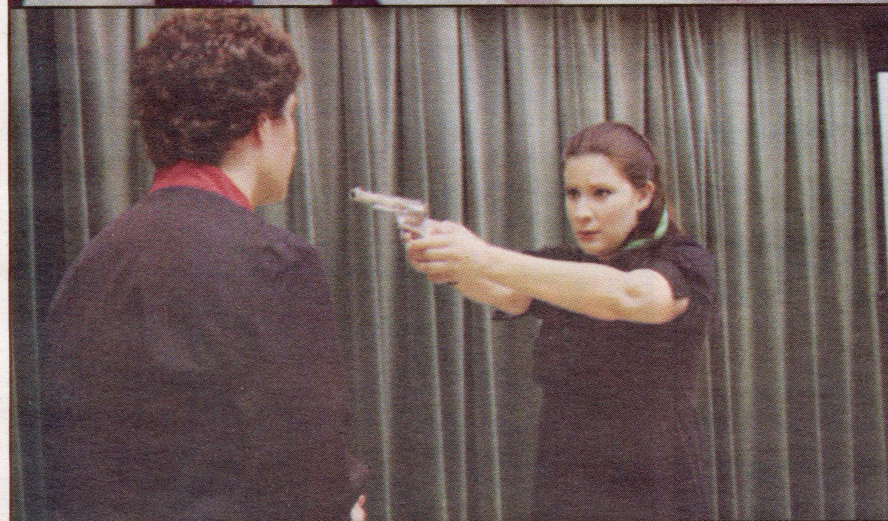
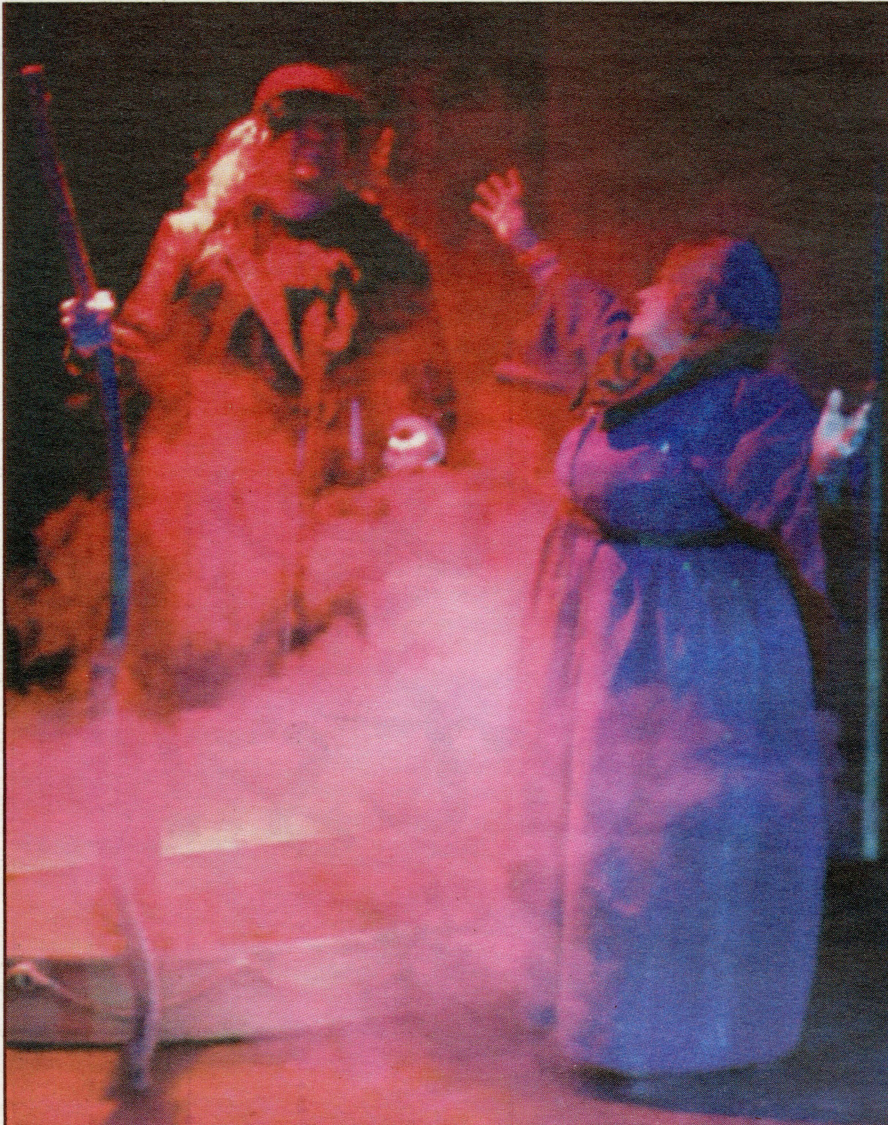
Freshmen, whatever you do, just be aware of what is going on around you. There is a world of art open to you and opportunities to enjoy if you look.



In art NEIU trusts!



Multiple opportunities at NEIU's theater



by Joe Hertel
Special Contributor

How many times have we vicariously placed ourselves in the role of a character we had seen in the movies? Well, NEIU's theater program not only gives students a chance to perform a role in one of their current plays, standard or children's, but also affords opportunities to work behind the scenes in production, design and construction.

Even if Communications, Media and Theater (CMT) is not your major or minor, you can partake in several classes offered for credit which allow you to experience what working in a theater is like. It is an opportunity to learn people skills; whether you are performing in front of the lights or working them on the console, it will give you experience in group activity, problem solving, and test your creative abilities.

Through Stage Center Theater, there are hands-on opportunities to learn set construction, lighting and sound by actively participating in a group learning how to build and paint sets, make costumes, apply makeup, and even scout for props and work publicity.

Courses such as Stagecraft, taught by John Rodriguez, M.F.A., will teach you how to build flats and sets, use tools, read a ruler, hang lights, scumble (a style of painting) and other behind the scenes construction opportunities.

Children's theater provides a wonderful opportunity to perform before an audience of young people, introducing them to live theater. You don't have to be a gifted actor to do this, just dedicated. To perform as a clown or prince/princess, and hear the squeals of delight coming from the audience of children, is an experience you will not forget. Being mentored by experienced instructors in theater like Professors Anna Antaramian, Rodney Higginbotham, Daniel Wirth, and others, will bring out talent you didn't even know you possessed.

You will develop and hone skills that will help you in dealing with people that you just can't get without group participation and responsibility in this theater setting.

And, you may even surprise yourself as to what you can accomplish, especially with support and encouragement from the faculty and students participating in the experience of producing a play from start to strike.

Don't be shy! Give it a try. You might be bitten by the acting bug! If you are still a bit skeptical, attend a performance of the Stage Center Theater located in Building F or, go to www.neiu.edu/~stagectr/ and visit their webpage to find out more about how you can participate and benefit by being a part of NEIU's theater program.

After all, Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage." So why not get in on it right here at NEIU!

Scenes from
Stage Center Theatre
2008-2009

Counterclockwise from
top:

Spring 2009:
The Illusion

Fall 2008:
Charlie's Aunt

Fall 2008:
An Evening with Chekov

Fall 2008: Electra

Spring 2009:
Queer Strindberg

Spring 2009:
Lettice and Lovage