

Summer 2003

## NEIU Magazine- Summer 2003

NEIU Magazine Staff

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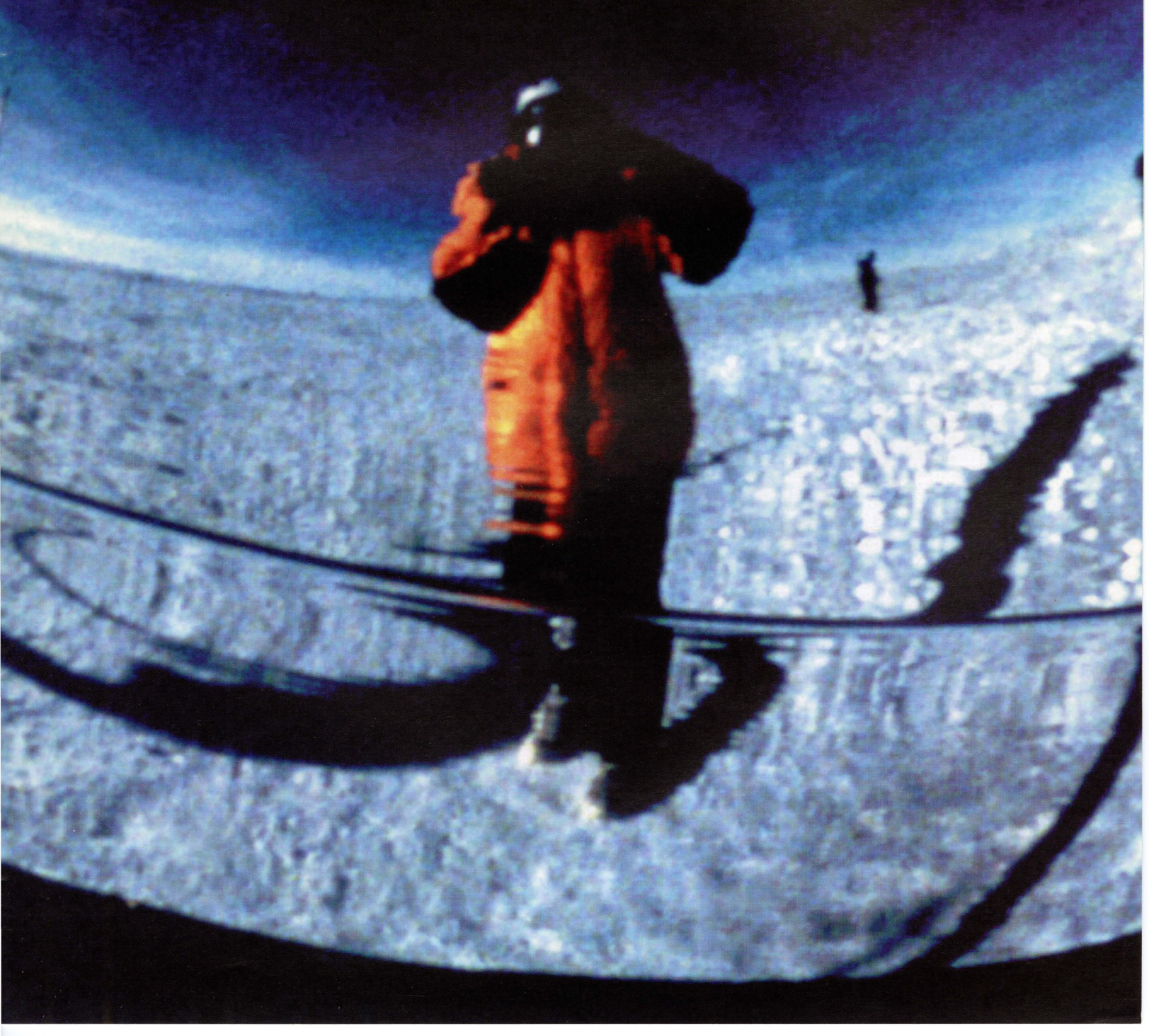
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SUMMER 2003

**N**

**NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

**M A G A Z I N E**



# NEIU SCRAPBOOK

## Take The Alumni Quiz!

**1** What is the total number of NEIU alumni?  
a. 37,982  
b. 43,891  
c. 54,456

**7** How old is the oldest living alum?  
a. 72  
b. 82  
c. 92

**2** How many alumni have earned more than one degree from NEIU?  
a. 764  
b. 2,092  
c. 3,722

**8** How many aldermen in the Chicago City Council are alumni?  
a. 2  
b. 7  
c. None

**3** How many alumni live in Chicago?  
a. 10,902  
b. 15,653  
c. 29,431

**9** Which television anchor graduated from Northeastern?  
a. Warner Saunders, WMAQ, Channel 5  
b. Robert Jordan, WGN, Channel 9  
c. Both

**4** Which Chicago suburb has the most alumni?  
a. Arlington Heights  
b. Des Plaines  
c. Evanston

**10** Match the Total Number of Graduates to Each College

A. College of Arts and Sciences	12,085
B. College of Business and Management	14,560
C. College of Education	18,588
D. Graduate College	4,309

**5** What state outside of Illinois has the most NEIU grads living there?  
a. Florida  
b. California  
c. Wisconsin

**6** Which country does *not* have an NEIU alum living there?  
a. Scotland  
b. Korea  
c. Colombia

*You are much more than a statistic!  
Let us know about your most recent educational,  
professional and personal accomplishments  
by e-mailing [alumni@neiu.edu](mailto:alumni@neiu.edu)*

*Please include your full name, current address,  
phone number and e-mail address when sending updates.*

**Answers:**  
1. (c); 2. (c); 3. (b); 4. (a); 5. (b); 6. (a);  
7. (c); 8. (b) see class notes; 9. (c); 10. A. (18,588)  
B. (4,309) C. (14,560) D. (12,085)



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**Terry Katz,**  
B.A. '80 and M.A. '85,  
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**Erika M. Malek,**  
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**Graphic Design:**

**Brian Harms,**  
Supervisor of Graphic Design

**Joe Davis,**  
Photographer

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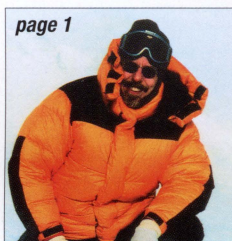
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**NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
MAGAZINE**

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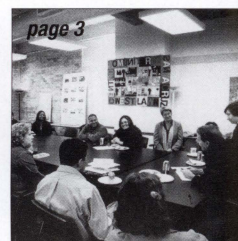
**NEIU Alum on Top and Bottom  
of the World \_\_\_\_\_ 1**

*Paul Sipiera goes to the ends of the earth searching for meteorites.*



**Building Learning Communities to  
Improve Urban Education \_\_\_\_\_ 3**

*The Chicago Teachers' Center has been generating change in Chicago-area schools for over 25 years.*



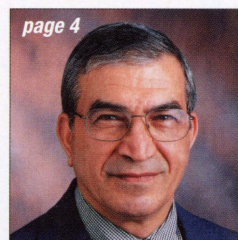
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*Professor Ed Odisho discusses Iraq: past, present and future.*

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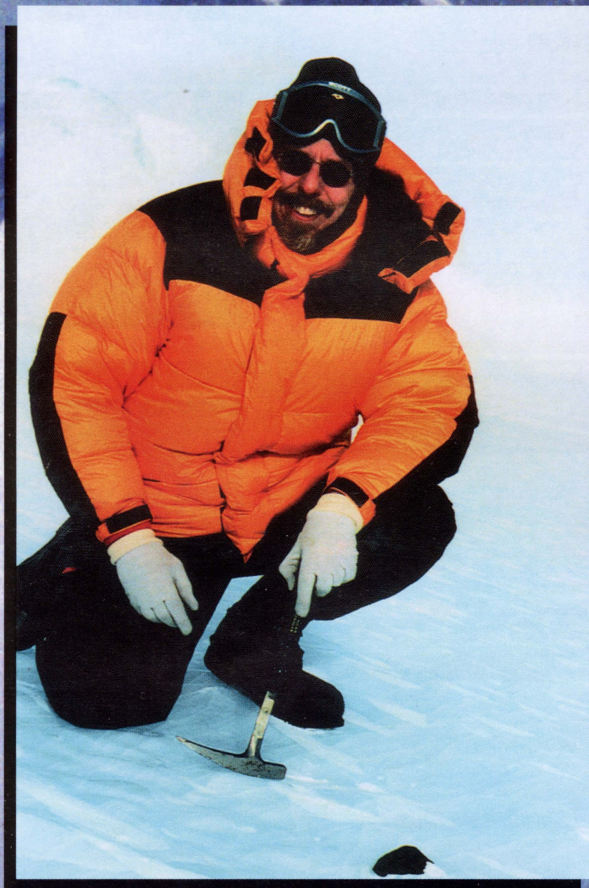
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*\* On the cover - self portrait of Paul Sipiera at the South Pole*

# NEIU Alum on **TOP** and **BOTTOM** of the World

BY **TERRY M. BUSH**, *Executive Director of Marketing and Communications*



**Meteorite hunter  
Paul Sipiera**

"A meteorite," explains Paul Sipiera, Northeastern Illinois University alumnus and professor of geology and astronomy at Harper College, Palatine, "is a small object from space that you can hold in your hands."

Sipiera (B.A. '71 History, M.S. '75 Earth Science) has been fascinated by space since he saw the first satellites circle the Earth in 1960. He vowed early in his life to go anywhere in search of meteorites.

Since 1983, his search has led him to Antarctica seven times. The three expeditions that he has led have found over 50 meteorite samples. While proud of the expeditions' success, Sipiera believes that his greatest accomplishment as expedition leader is that "I got everyone in and out alive." That is no small feat.

An Antarctic expedition usually includes 10 to 14 people. Half are there because of their specialty, such as biologists, geologists or Arctic mountain guides. The others are adventure tourists. They are people who have previous experience with very dangerous travel, such as mountain climbing, and who can help defray the cost of the expedition, which reaches \$500,000.

To reach Antarctica, the explorers fly from Chicago to Punta Arenas, Chile, which is about the last outpost of civilization at the southern tip of South America. From there, a C-130 or Russian Il'yushin 76 transport plane flies them to a base camp known as Patriot Hills, a tent city that exists only during the Antarctic summer from October through February. From there, the expedition travels over ice to the Pecora Escarpment, a mere 9,000 miles from home. The team hauls in (and out) everything it needs for the 10 days it will spend in the field.

During the Antarctic summer, the high temperature at Patriot Hills will be around 20 degrees Fahrenheit, with a 20 mile per hour wind creating a wind chill around zero. At the escarpment, the temperature ranges between zero and -20. The accompanying 30 mile per hour wind creates wind chills in the -55 to -60 range. Exposed skin will be frostbitten in five minutes.

This inhospitable place, 98 percent ice and the rest barren rock, is an ideal environment to preserve pieces of interplanetary flotsam that have fallen to Earth over billions of years. The remote site that Sipiera has chosen to work is very productive, due to a number of factors. First, the Antarctic ice in that area is moving toward a nearby mountain range, helping concentrate whatever might be in the ice. Second, the constant winds remove the snow and ice, exposing meteorites that were buried long ago, shortly after impact. The meteorites tend to accumulate near the base of the mountains, providing excellent opportunities for the hunters to find them. Specimens found are recorded, bagged and stored for study when the expedition returns to the U.S. The meteorites are examined in many ways and for many reasons.

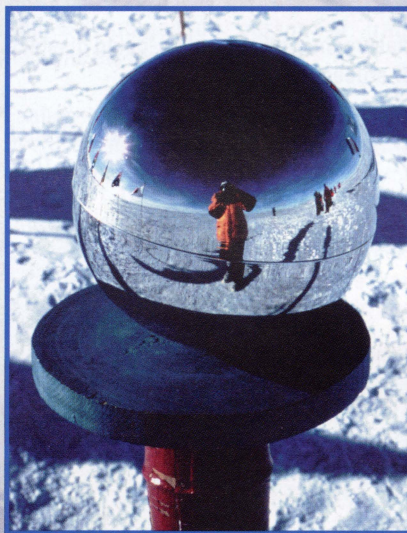
A prime reason to study them is to determine the history and origin of their parent bodies. Several meteorites found in Antarctica since 1981 have conclusively been shown to have originated from the moon, based on compositional matches of lunar rocks brought back by the Apollo missions of 1969-1972.

Others match the chemical signature of the asteroid Vesta, a chunk of rock slightly smaller than Arizona that bears remarkable similarity to the Earth and Mars. Images from the Hubble space telescope show a diverse world with ancient lava flows and a gigantic impact basin that is so deep that it exposes the asteroid's subsurface. Sipiera's expeditions have found fragments of Vesta that are roughly 4.5 billion years old.

But a second – and even more fascinating – reason to study meteorites is that they offer clues to the origins of life. Meteorites have been found that contain amino and fatty acids, two substances that are among the basic building blocks of life. These carbonaceous chondrites

may actually contain fossils of the cyanobacteria, a life form very common on Earth.

The oldest known fossils on this planet are cyanobacteria found in rocks in Western Australia. The fossils date to 3.5 billion years ago. The oldest rocks on our planet are 3.8 billion years old. The cyanobacteria were here soon after (in cosmic terms) the creation of the Earth.



*Scenes from an expedition*

“Richard Hoover, who found an interesting specimen on the 2000 expedition, put a photo of the bacteria fossil found in a meteorite next to a photo of one found on Earth. I am not a biologist but I could not tell which was which,” Sipiera said. “These are tantalizing hints that life developed in space. Perhaps meteorites seeded the Earth?”

Sipiera's next expedition will be headed toward the North Pole rather than the South.

In April 2004, he will lead a group to Devon Island in the Arctic region of Canada. April is the only month a plane can land at the North Pole. It is the only time of the year when there is enough sunlight to land safely and ice thick enough to support the weight of the plane.

Devon Island is the largest unpopulated island on Earth. It is home to the Haughton Impact Crater, a 12 mile diameter crater formed by a meteor strike some 12 million years ago. It is the only crater known to lie in a polar desert environment, where limited erosion processes tend to preserve the crater, bits of the meteorite and the material ejected on impact.

The geology of Devon Island is so strikingly similar to the frozen deserts of Mars, particularly in and around the impact crater, that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has established a center there to study the formations and deposits and test scientific gear that might someday be used in further exploration of the red planet.

Sipiera's expedition will, of course, keep their eyes open for meteorites. But the group's primary objective is the study of extremeophiles.

Extremeophiles are life forms that thrive in an extreme environment – one that is extremely hot (above 100° C), or cold (below 0° C), or is at a high altitude, is very windy, has high pressure (as in deep sea), no pressure (as in space, though no known organisms live there), or is dry, dark, oil-slicked, polluted, or just plain inhospitable in other extreme ways. These life forms have shown us that even sunlight, once thought to be essential to life, is unnecessary.

“It is believed,” Sipiera explained, “that these organisms probably exist on other worlds in space. We hope to document the microorganisms found in the polar ice and in the Haughton Crater environment. Dr. Birgit Sattler,

a microbiologist from the University of Innsbruck, will be in charge of this aspect of the expedition.”

“A little extra appeal of this mission is the side trip we plan to take,” Sipiera added. “We will stand at the North Pole.” By doing so, Paul Sipiera will be one of the few people on Earth who have stood at both the North and South Poles.



## **Building Learning Communities to Improve Urban Education**

BY **WENDY STACK**, *Director of the Chicago Teachers' Center*

It seems only a short time ago that NEIU's Chicago Teachers' Center (CTC) had a staff of five and worked out of rooms rented from a local parochial school. Now, 25 years later, located on the fourth floor of a loft office space in the West Loop, CTC has over 200 staff members. Through collaborative partnerships with K-12 schools, community agencies, unions, and businesses, the center has focused on finding ways to help Chicago-area parents, teachers and administrators develop as leaders in solving the problems of public schools.

The center originated from a grant awarded to Northeastern by the U.S. Department of Education in 1978. The creation of the center was a way to re-establish ties that existed between Northeastern and the Chicago educational system for many years. Northeastern was chosen for this grant specifically because of its historical commitment to bettering the pre-service and in-service programs of the University and the public and private schools of Chicago.

In continuing with that commitment, CTC provides a wide array of resources to educators and the public. In addition to the program offices, CTC has a conference center; a teacher/parent resource center that provides a library, project materials and a workspace to develop curriculum aids for the classroom; a distance learning

classroom; and several on-going displays of student work.

The center's experience as the facilitator of school improvement proves that successful schools result from the combined efforts of teachers, parents and communities. Over the last 25 years, the center has gained a great deal of

NEIU is the lead institution of the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance, which is an unprecedented partnership among a host of educational, business and cultural institutions. CTC provides direct services to 12,000 students in 46 elementary and high schools across the city. Additionally, GEAR UP works with parents and teachers, engaging them more fully in this coordinated effort to ensure that

more Chicago public school students graduate from high school and attend college.

While CTC focuses much of its effort on teachers to transform educational practices, the center also works to build learning communities and networks of schools that reflect shared goals on the part of all stakeholders and to create educational opportunities for parents and youth both within and outside of the regular school day. CTC estimates that about 500 educators from the city and suburbs use the facilities monthly, which are open to the public free of charge.

After 25 years of dedication to education, the center continues proactively reaching out to schools and working with all constituencies involved. With its future looking bright, the center will continue to challenge the educational system to better serve the needs of teachers, parents and students.

### **CTC has generated change in Chicago-area schools by:**

- Creating a supportive environment within the school community for teachers and learners
- Building learning communities that reflect shared goals on the part of all stakeholders
- Developing instructional methods that address learning issues within specific school communities
- Providing high quality professional development for teachers
- Increasing educational opportunities for parents and youth
- Collaborating with teachers in the field on program development and research
- Strengthening community capacity and leadership through parent and family workshops

experience in bringing these stakeholders together to focus on the education of the children in our schools.

CTC's annual budget comes primarily from state and federal grants. The federal GEAR UP grant is the largest program currently working through the center.

**To learn more about CTC and its programs, visit [www.neiu.edu/~ctc](http://www.neiu.edu/~ctc)**

# A Perspective on IRAQ

BY CHUCK STANLEY, *Special to NEIU Magazine*

Saddam Hussein's Iraq is the country that most Americans know. It is not the Iraq where Dr. Edward Odisho grew up. It is not the Iraq he loves.

Odisho, 65, is a native of Kirkuk, Iraq. He had taught in Iraq for 20 years before Saddam Hussein took power. He fled the country soon after, as he and his family became the targets of discrimination and harassment.

"The tragedy that Iraq was exposed to was a brutal dictatorship that was a blending of Stalinism, tribalism and, perhaps, pathological disorder," said Odisho. "It is difficult to describe, really. As a dictatorship it was very different. It was like 23 million people were the prisoners of one family."

Odisho first found himself in trouble when he avoided joining Hussein's Ba-athist Party. "My mail and phone were censored completely," he recalled. "There was severe harassment by members of the party and from the student union where I was working."

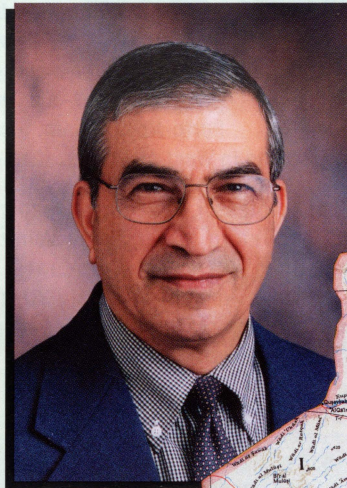
A second cause of harassment was that Odisho's family is Assyrian, one of the world's oldest Christian communities and the last population to speak Aramaic, the ancient language that Jesus spoke. They are, in short, quite different from the majority Shiite and Sunni Muslims and, consequently, are among the most often discriminated against non-Arab minorities in Iraq.

Then, during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, Odisho was designated as someone of Iranian descent, a dangerous classification during wartime. "It meant they could execute you, or, at a minimum, put you on a truck and dump you at the Iranian border. It also

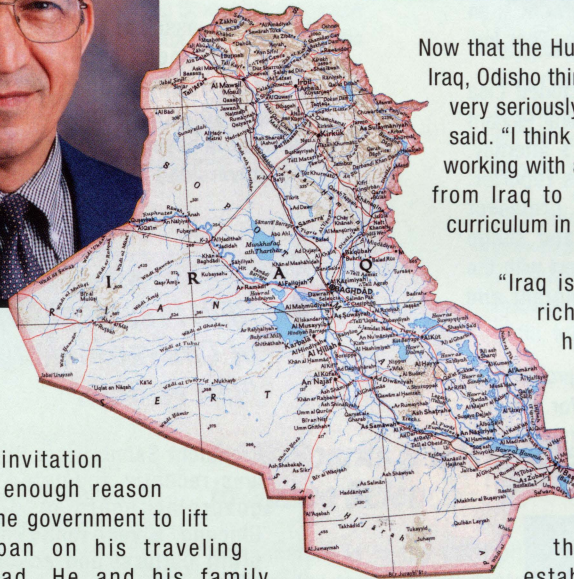
was a personal indignity. To me, as a native and an indigenous person of Iraq, that was the biggest insult ever."

Feeling he could no longer tolerate the threats, Odisho arranged to be invited to take a sabbatical at a California university.

not returned since. They traveled first to England, where Odisho earned his master's and doctorate in phonetic sciences at University of Leeds. He came to the United States to teach at Loyola University and in 1990 joined the NEIU faculty.



**Ed Odisho is a professor of teacher education, working with bilingual and bicultural programs.**



Now that the Hussein regime is gone from Iraq, Odisho thinks about returning. "I am very seriously contemplating it," Odisho said. "I think I can help." He already is working with a small group of educators from Iraq to revamp the educational curriculum in that country at every level.

The invitation was enough reason for the government to lift its ban on his traveling abroad. He and his family packed to flee Iraq but encountered one final problem.

"I was stopped at the last minute before leaving because my name was still on the list of those banned from travel. I managed to look at the soldier's papers and I could see that written next to my name in pencil it said the ban was lifted. So I said to the soldier, 'read this, the ban has been lifted.'"

Odisho, his wife Wardia, and son Fred, then a year old, left the country and have

"Iraq is a mini-United States in richness and its people are highly educated. Iraq is the country in which the first system of government was developed, the first system of writing was developed, the first library and the first school were established. So it can truly be said to be a country of civilization."

Odisho feels the changes in Iraq may light a beacon of hope and bring positive change for the entire region – but that the stakes are high. "If the allies and the opposition to Saddam are successful, then it is likely we can create something which I, along with many others, dream of, which is for Iraq to be the model of democracy to be pursued everywhere in the Mideast," he said. "Otherwise it could be one of the largest disasters in the world."





# CAMPUS NEWS

## Answering the Challenge in Latino Communities

Northeastern hosted the fifth annual Latino Prevention Network conference, "Answering the Challenge in Latino Communities, Sí Se Puede," in June. Chicago-area providers created the Latino Prevention Network to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, as well as HIV/AIDS, teen pregnancy, domestic violence, gang involvement, violence, and school attrition. The network is an ongoing initiative of Prevention First, Inc.

Conference presenters included Lisa Madigan, Illinois attorney general; Richard Devine, Cook County state's attorney; Anita Padilla, NBC 5 news reporter; Samuel Betances, NEIU professor emeritus of sociology; and Diego Bonnesati, immigration expert with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

The conference is the only professional development opportunity for preventionists working in Latino communities in the Midwest.



Lisa Madigan

## Two Faculty Members Receive Fulbrights



Netiva Caftori

NEIU faculty members Netiva Caftori and Ana Gil-Garcia have been awarded Fulbright Grants. They are among approximately 800 American scholars and professionals who will travel to more than 140 countries during the 2003-2004 academic year to teach and/or conduct research.

Caftori, professor, computer science and women's studies, received a grant to participate in the Fulbright Scholar Program for Africa.

She will be conducting research at the National University of Benin in Porto-Novo, Benin, located between Togo and Nigeria in West Africa.

Gil-Garcia, associate professor, educational leadership and development, will return to her native Venezuela for 10 months. She will teach graduate and undergraduate courses in school administration, curriculum development and research methodologies at the Universidad Simon Bolivar, Caracas.



Ana Gil-Garcia

## NEIU President Appointed Governing Board Member of Cinema/Chicago and the Chicago International Film Festival

President Salme Harju Steinberg was recently appointed to the governing board of Cinema/Chicago, a year-round, not-for-profit cultural and educational organization.

Cinema/Chicago is the presenting organization of the Chicago International Film Festival, North America's oldest competitive international film festival. Founded in 1964 by award winning filmmaker and graphic designer Michael Kutza, the festival's goals were the same then as they are now: to discover and present new filmmakers to Chicago, and to

acknowledge and award these filmmakers for their artistry. The first festival opened at the Carnegie Theater, where directors King Vidor, Stanley Kramer and actress Bette Davis were honored for their contributions to American cinema. Since then, the festival has grown to become a world-renowned annual event.

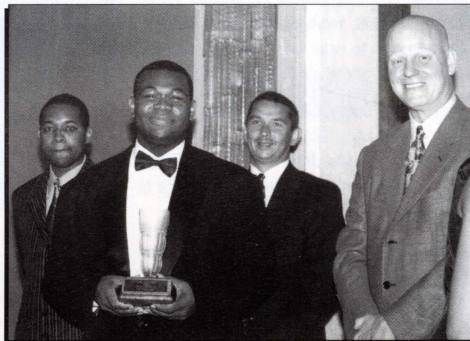
Cinema/Chicago is known for its educational outreach, programs for persons with disabilities and international connections.

## ***Nordstrom Names Scholarship in Honor of NEIU Student***

Sir Martin Vincent Williams, a justice studies major, recently had a scholarship named in his honor by Nordstrom Executive Vice President Robert Middlemas. The new scholarship was made possible by the 11-10-02 Foundation in Chicago.

Middlemas established the "11-10-02 Foundation Nordstrom Sir Martin Vincent Williams Scholarship" as a reward for Williams' hard work and dedication to academics and to Nordstrom. Williams has worked part-time at the Michigan Avenue Nordstrom shoe department for over two years to help finance his education.

In addition, Williams recently received NEIU's Daniel L. Goodwin Student Government Award,



honoring an outstanding Student Government Association (SGA) senator who demonstrates significant leadership and service. Goodwin, the first president of the SGA and current chairman of the NEIU Board of Trustees, established the award in 2002.

## ***Northeastern Nationally Ranked by U.S. News and World Report***

Northeastern has again been ranked the most ethnically diverse university in the Midwest by *U.S. News and World Report* in their yearly edition of "Best Colleges." NEIU has held the number one spot since the magazine created this category in 1997.

The data for the rankings were drawn from each institution's 2001-2002 enrollment numbers. According to *U.S. News and World Report*, the groups forming the basis for the diversity ranking calculations were Native-Americans, Asian-Americans, African-Americans who are non-Hispanic, whites who are non-Hispanic, and Hispanics.

Northeastern reported its undergraduate student body as 43 percent white, 28 percent Hispanic, 13 percent African-American, and 12 percent Asian-American.

## ***Students Produce "Artbeat Chicago" Segment***

Students enrolled in the media lab course taught by Cyndi Moran, assistant professor, department of communication, media and theatre (formerly speech and performing arts), produced a segment for WTTW's "Artbeat Chicago" that aired in April.

The segment focused on the local band D-Settlement, headed by poet, sculptor and songwriter Marvin Tate. The class researched the band, conducted interviews, directed the WTTW production crew on location shoots, and edited the final piece.

The media laboratory course provides students with experience in various phases of production and management for on- and off-campus radio, television and film.

## ***NEIU Sparks Student Interest in Space Science***

Northeastern is in the third phase of a three-year project to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups majoring in mathematics and physical sciences. The program's long-term goal is to interest students in space science careers. The project is funded by a grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

The NASA/UNCF project changes the way faculty think about and teach science in the classroom. The three phases of the project focus on faculty development, curriculum revision and assessment, and dissemination. Its mission is to apply space science concepts to targeted courses by incorporating hands-on interactive teaching techniques allowing students to use real-world data from NASA Web sites and integrating more technology into coursework.



# CLASS NOTES

## 1971

**Jeria A. Iannotti** (B.A. Early Childhood Education, M.A.E. '75 Reading) was one of 33 finalists for the 2003 Golden Apple Award, given for excellence in teaching by the Golden Apple Foundation. She is a teacher at Frederick Stock School in Chicago.

**Terrance A. Jacobus** (B.A. Secondary Education: English) is a featured poet in "The Spoken Word Revolution," a collection of written and performed works of over 40 influential slam, hip hop and performance poets. The book was published in April 2003 by Sourcebooks in Naperville. He presented his poetry at a Sourcebooks event held in April at the Bowery Poetry Club in New York, N.Y.

## 1972

**Catherine R. Papp** (B.A. Elementary Education: Psychology) is a supervisor of Crisis Beds for Chronically Mentally Ill Adults at Compass Health, the largest not-for-profit mental health organization in the state of Washington. She manages a crisis facility, which provides treatment to patients in order to divert them from in-hospital stay. She has worked for Compass Health for 16 years.

## 1973

**John G. Barnitz, Ph.D.** (B.A. Secondary Education: Linguistics) has worked as an applied linguist, urban literacy researcher and teacher educator in the department of curriculum and instruction of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of New Orleans for 25 years. During this time, he received awards for excellence in university teaching and research, as well as served three terms as department chair.

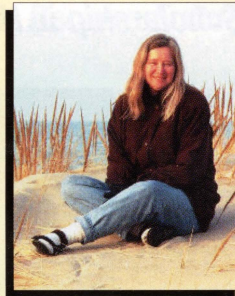
## 1974

**Patricia M. Obuchowski** (B.A. Psychology) is the CEO of inVisionaria, a company devoted to business and life coaching, in Foster City, Calif. She serves on

**Karen (Holland) Rodriguez** (B.A. Anthropology, M.A. '95 Geography and Environmental Studies) is the team leader of Ecological Protection and Restoration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Great Lakes National Program Office located in Chicago. Karen coordinates the efforts of dozens of local, regional, state, and national organizations, businesses, and agencies to work on Great Lakes issues, including water quality, invasive species, and ecological health.

She serves on the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference steering committee, is a board member representing EPA U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Joint Upper Mississippi-Great Lakes Joint Venture, and is the Midwest region board member and education-training work group chair to the Society for Ecological Restoration.

She is also co-founder and editor of "Seeding the Snow," a women's journal of nature writing and artwork. She has presented at numerous conferences, written papers, and has contributed book reviews to the Chicago Botanic Garden Web site.



the board of consultants for BoardNet and is president of the California Mid-Peninsula Chapter of Business Network International.

## 1975

**Alicia Padilla** (B.A. Elementary Education: Spanish, M.A.S. '82 Teaching Children With LD) retired in August 2002 as adjunct faculty from the adult education program at the College of Lake County in Grayslake.

**Richard Levin** (B.A. Secondary Education: Physical Education) is the sales and marketing manager for Learning To Listen, an international business he established, which provides therapeutic, Berard-type auditory integration training services for children and young adults with learning disabilities. He has offices in Nevada, California, and Vermont, as well as South Africa and Israel.

## 1977

**Francis X. Tomaszewicz** (M.A.S. Teaching Children With LD) designed the curriculum for the exploratory art technology program at Hadley Junior High School, which received the 2003 Outstanding Integrated Curriculum Award in April 2003 by the DuPage Area Education to Careers Partnership. His exploratory art technology class was named one of the "Top 40" creative classrooms in Illinois

by the Illinois State Board of Education. He was also awarded the National Board Certification in Career and Technical Education and the Illinois Master Teacher Certificate in 2003.

## 1978

**Bari L. Pink** (B.A. Special Education: Learning Disabilities, M.A.S. Educating Children With BD) is a special education teacher for the Special Education District of Lake County in Gages Lake. She teaches at Wauconda Middle School in Wauconda.

## 1980

**Martha M. Padilla-Ramos** (B.A. Elementary Education: Social Science, M.A., '99 Educational Administration) is a kindergarten through eighth grade language programs coordinator for the Waukegan School District. She supervises seven schools, which have a bilingual program and has worked as a coordinator since September 2000. She has also been employed as a part-time English as a second language instructor at the College of Lake County in Grayslake.

**Santos Rivera, Ph.D.** (M.A. Guidance and Counseling: Vocational Counseling) received the 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award from the George Williams College/Aurora University Alumni Association. This award is given once a year to an alumnus who,

through work and service, has made outstanding contributions to society and/or their professions. He was also one of 100 Hispanics from across the nation invited to meet with the U.S. Senate Democratic Hispanic Task Force in Washington, D.C. in June 2002. He currently works as special assistant to the president and is the director of the Chicago ENLACE Partnership at NEIU.

**Charlene (Harre) Jett** (M.S. Biology) is the founder, president and consultant of 3Rs Management and Research Consulting in Vandalia, Ill. She consults and performs clinical research and regulatory and quality activities for pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

## 1981

**Carmen G. Perez, Ph.D.** (B.A. Social Work) is an assistant professor and field instruction coordinator in the social work department at St. Augustine College.

**Margaret (Padilla) Carrasco** (B.S. Computer Science) is a Spanish general equivalency diploma instructor and driver's safety instructor for the College of Lake County, Waukegan.

## 1983

**Nancy L. Padilla** (B.A. Business and Management) is an analyst for the office of credit union

development at the National Credit Union Administration in Alexandria, Va. She has worked for the federal government for 25 years.

**Lori (Cunningham) Mertes** (B.A. Special Education: Learning Disabilities) earned a master of education in early childhood education from the University of Alaska Southeast, Alaska in May 2003. She is a resource specialist at Nordale Elementary School in Fairbanks, Alaska.

## 1987

**Joseph M. Harrington** (B.A. Speech, M.A. '93 Speech) has been an instructor in mass media, film history and public speaking at Triton College in River Grove since 1997.

## 1989

**Jonathan D. Stoltze** (B.S. Chemistry) presented a workshop titled "Using Polymers in Physics Class" at the Chicago Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers spring meeting held in March 2003 at NEIU.

## 1990

**Richard Weissensel** (B.S. Computer Science) is the co-owner and managing director of Technical Services at Outernet Technologies, a computer consulting firm in Riverside that does computer firmware testing to make sure that pre-programmed chips function as they are designed. Outernet Technologies consults for companies such as Siemens Medical, Motorola Automotive and Baxter International.

## 1991

**Alberto Godinez** (B.A. Social Work) earned an M.B.A. at North Park University in May 2003. He is a social worker at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago.

## 1992

**Steven Fonti** (B.A. English) was featured in an article titled "Fonti

pencils in a career" in the March 2003 *Edgebrook Times Review*. He is a storyboard artist for DreamWorks in Glendale, CA. He has worked on animated feature films and television projects such as "The Emperor's New Groove," "Osmosis Jones," "Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights," and "Sponge Bob Square Pants."

## 1993

**Craig Johnson** (B.A. Board of Governors, M.A. '96 Political Science, B.A. '99 Elementary Education and Teacher Education) was one of 33 finalists for the 2003 Golden Apple Award, given for excellence in teaching, by the Golden Apple Foundation. He is a teacher at Arthur E. Canty School in Chicago.

## 1996

**Margaret I. Williams** (B.A. Board of Governors) appeared as a guest on the talk show, "Sunday Mornings with Ode," hosted by Ode Aduma in Youngstown, Ohio. Margaret discussed her book, "A Conspiracy to Ponder." The show aired in May 2003 on Channel 27 TV - WKBN.

## 1997

**Caren (Gans) Schulman** (B.A. Board of Governors) passed the Illinois bar exam in February 2003 and will be practicing law in the Chicago area. She earned her juris doctor degree from John Marshall Law School, Chicago, in May 2002. She recently retired as a special agent investigator for the Illinois Department of Employment Security after 32 years of service with the State of Illinois.

**Emilia H. Pasier** (B.A. Secondary Education: Physical Education) was recognized by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association as the District 64 Class A "Coach of the Year" at the April 2003 Hall of Fame ceremonies and Coach of the Year banquet at Illinois State University in Normal. She is a physical education teacher and a girl's basketball coach at Emerson Middle School in Niles.

## 1998

**Tania A. Boigues** (B.A. Social Work) is the supervisor of intake for the Teen Parenting Service Network of Uhlich Children's Advantage Network agency in Chicago. She is currently a student in the Post-MSW Type 73 program at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Richard Quijano** (B.A. Criminal Justice) is a project manager at Motorola, Inc. in Arlington Heights.

## 1999

**Cristina (Pena) Figueroa** (B.A. Criminal Justice) was hired by the 19th Judicial Circuit with the Department of Juvenile Probation/Detention Services in Waukegan to work as a juvenile counselor within the Minard E. Hulse Juvenile Detention Center in Vernon Hills.

**Jiji M. Peters** (B.S. Biology) is a final year medical student at the University of the West Indies in Mt. Hope, Trinidad.

**David W. Cromer** (B.A. Secondary Education: Physical Education) coached the Fenwick High School hockey team, Oak Park, to their first Illinois State Championship in March 2003.

**Faviola (Tovar) Kallas** (B.A. English) is the coordinator of the STARS program and participates in the minority mentorship program at NEIU, where she is pursuing a master's in English literature. She is also an admissions counselor.

## 2000

**Kathryn J. Cowan** (M.A. Music) performed as guest soloist with the Grammy Award winning Paul Winter Consort and the Colorado Symphony Orchestra in March 2003. She is a voice instructor at Northeastern Illinois University and at The Old Town School of Folk Music.

**Craig A. Johnson** (B.A. Elementary Education: Teacher Education) is a teacher at Irving Elementary School in Chicago.

**Laura P. Soria** (B.A. Spanish) is pursuing a master's degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is a legal assistant at Rooks Pitts in Chicago.

**Lauretta Hart** (M.A. Counseling and Community) is a counselor and case manager at the North Shore Senior Center in Northfield.

**Johnnie B. Mister** (B.A. Board of Governors) is a mortgage banker at Charter One Bank in Chicago.

**Suleyma Perez** (B.A. Social Work) NEIU project coordinator of the Chicago ENLACE Partnership has served on the board of directors of the Girl's Best Friend Foundation since fall 2002. She participated in the 18th Annual Inland Empire Future Leaders Program's Leadership Development Conference in August 2002.

**Florina (Vitca) Sirb** (B.A. Sociology) earned her master's in human resource development

*Congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected federal, state and city political leaders who are Northeastern Illinois University alumni.*

### U.S.

November 2002 election:

**Luis V. Gutierrez** (B.A. '76 English) Re-elected as U.S. Congressman for the 4<sup>th</sup> district of Illinois.

### Illinois

**House of Representatives:**  
November 2002 election:

**Robert A. Biggins** (B.A. '69 Secondary Education-History) Re-elected as Illinois Representative for the 41<sup>st</sup> district, a new district.

**Sara Feigenholtz** (B.A. '79 Speech and Performing Arts) Re-elected as Illinois Representative for the 12<sup>th</sup> district.

**Calvin Giles** (B.S. '94 Management) Re-elected as Illinois Representative for the 8<sup>th</sup> district.

**Karen A. Yarbrough** (M.A. '96 Inner City Studies) Re-elected as Illinois Representative for the 7<sup>th</sup> district.

### City Council of Chicago

February 2003 election:

**Walter Burnett** (B.A. '98 University Without Walls) Re-elected as Alderman of the 27<sup>th</sup> ward.

**George A. Cardenas** (B.S. '91 Accounting, M.A. '98 Political Science) Newly elected as Alderman of the 12<sup>th</sup> ward.

**Brian G. Doherty** (B.A. '84 Business and Management) Re-elected as Alderman of the 41<sup>st</sup> ward.

**Margaret Laurino** (B.A. '74 Secondary Education - History, M.A. '93 History) Re-elected as Alderman of the 39<sup>th</sup> ward.

**Patrick J. Levar** (B.A. '74 Sec. Ed. - Physical Education) Re-elected as Alderman of the 45<sup>th</sup> ward.

**Billy Ocasio** (B.A. '92 Board of Governors) Re-elected as Alderman of the 26<sup>th</sup> ward.

**Eddie H. Smith** (M.A. '71 Inner City Studies) Re-elected as Alderman of the 28<sup>th</sup> ward.

from NEIU in May 2003. She is an administrative secretary for the College of Business and Management.

## 2001

**Dorelia Rivera-Martinez** (B.A. Spanish) is a teacher at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago.

**Judith W. Mitchell** (M.A. Educational Administration: Administration) is a librarian at New Trier High School in Winnetka.

**Rebecca M. Orsa** (B.S. Biology) earned her teaching certification from Dominican University in spring 2003. She is a science teacher at Resurrection High School in Chicago.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Marion Molyneux**  
(B.A. '71 Early Childhood Education)

### FACULTY AND STAFF

**Irwin J. Glicken**  
Former Associate Director of Admissions and Records and Assistant Professor Emeritus, Student Services

**Jaroslav Tuzar**  
Professor Emeritus, Math  
1970-1984

**Dr. Robert L. Gilbert**  
Professor Emeritus, Physics

**Dr. William Kenyon-Conway**  
Part-time Instructor, Physics  
1999-2001

*Northeastern Illinois University hosted the annual Chicago Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers spring meeting in March 2003. Listed below are alumni who presented papers.*

**Romeo Ibrahim** (B.S. '90 Chemistry, M.S. '98 Chemistry) "Evaluation of Crystal Lattices"

**Mahmoud Khalili, Ph.D.** (M.S. '91 Physics) "Principal of Photodynamic Therapy and its Application in Treating Cancer"

**John T. Loftus** (B.S. '93 Biology, M.S. '96 Mathematics) "A Mathematical Model of the Growth of a Sand Pile Based Upon the Angle of Repose"

**Todd P. Abramson** (B.S. '93 Chemistry) "Magnetic Vortex Containment of Plasma"

**Jonathan D. Stoltze** (B.S. '87 Chemistry) "Using Polymers in Physics Class"

## ARCHIVES

### Keep us informed

It's easy to do – simply send updates on your recent educational, professional and personal achievements to [alumni@neiu.edu](mailto:alumni@neiu.edu)

Please include your full name, current address, phone number and e-mail address when sending updates.

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Hotel and car rental discounts, library privileges, discounted membership to the NEIU physical education facilities, and other benefits are available to NEIU grads!

For detailed information about alumni benefits and services, visit [www.neiu.edu/Alum.htm](http://www.neiu.edu/Alum.htm) or call 773.442.4205.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Mostly Music Annual Benefit

Friday, September 12, 2003, 6:30 p.m.  
The University Club of Chicago  
76 East Monroe Street in Chicago

Honoring Orbert Davis, jazz musician and educator.  
Featuring pianist Judy Roberts and saxophonist Greg Fishman performing "A Duke Ellington Showcase"

Tickets: \$125 per person, \$200 for two  
Business attire

Door prizes include an afternoon sail on Lake Michigan, brunch for four at the Four Seasons, and more.

Call 773-442-4978 for information and a complete calendar of the season's events!

#### 2003-04 Jewel Box Series

Season tickets are now on sale! Alumni receive half off series subscription costs. All concerts begin at 8 p.m. in NEIU's Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. For information call the box office at 773-442-INFO.

**Bolcom and Morris**  
September 19, 2003

**The Merling Trio**  
October 17, 2003

**Garrick Ohlsson**  
November 20, 2003

**Vermeer Quartet**  
December 19, 2003

**Prairie Winds**  
January 16, 2004

**Chicago Brass Quintet**  
February 20, 2004

**Bella Voce**  
March 19, 2004

**Nazzareno Carusi**  
April 16, 2004

**Pilgrim Chamber Players**  
May 21, 2004