

Spring 2006

NEIU Magazine- Spring 2006

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SPRING 2006

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

M A G A Z I N E

INSIDE THE LIFE OF...

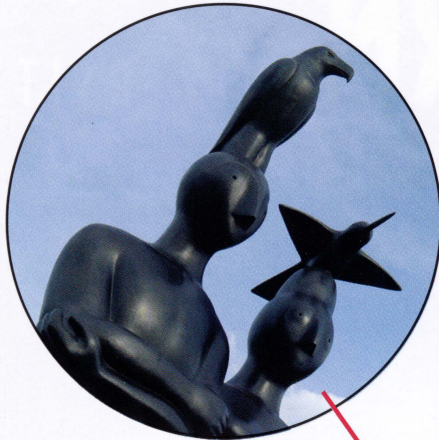
Dame Libby

Komaiko

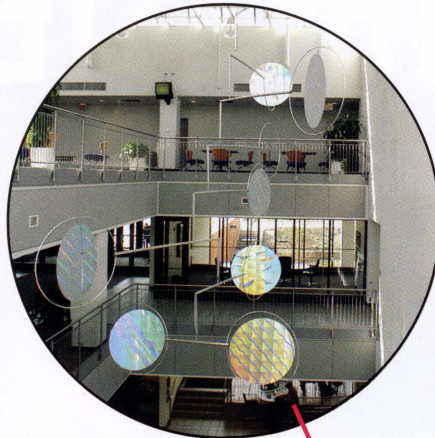


NEIU SCRAPBOOK

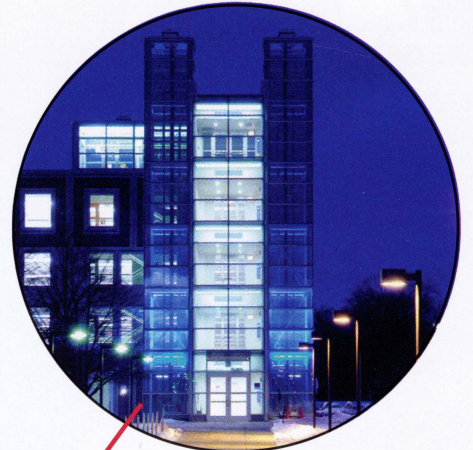
what's changed on campus...



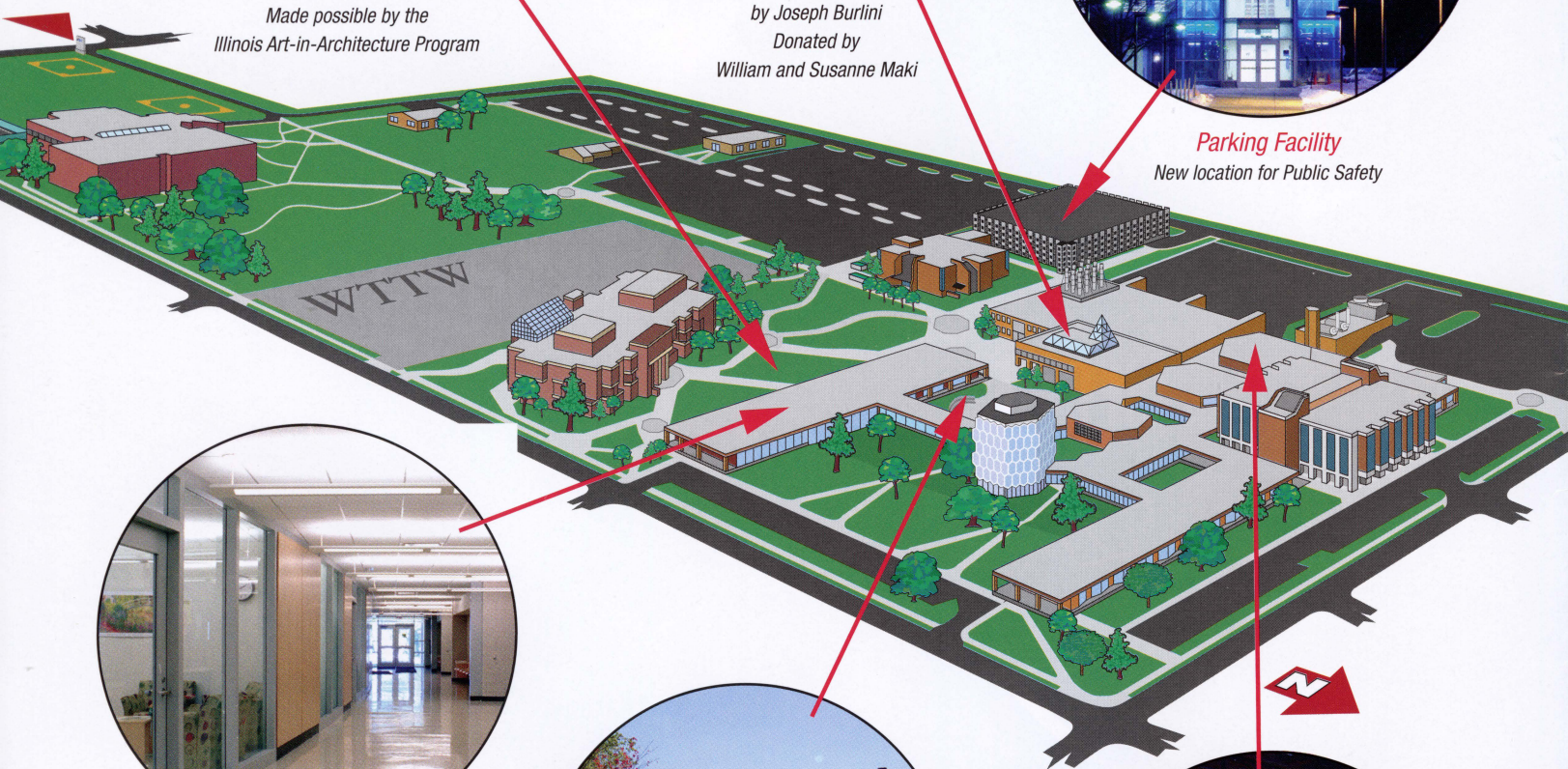
"Serenity"
by Ruth Duckworth
Made possible by the
Illinois Art-in-Architecture Program



"Flight of Birds"
by Joseph Burlini
Donated by
William and Susanne Maki



Parking Facility
New location for Public Safety



Renovated B-Building



Renovated B-Courtyard



NEIU Auditorium

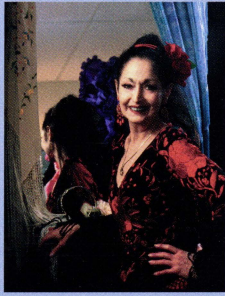


Photo by Joe Davis

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FEATURES

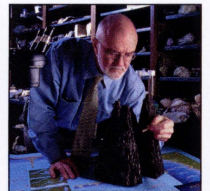
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Editors' Note:

In the Winter issue of the NEIU Magazine, we published photos which were represented as "Hurricane Katrina breaking up over the state of Georgia." That was incorrect. The photos were of several different storm systems, taken by a storm chaser in Oklahoma and Nebraska between 2002 and 2004. We regret the error.

The Northeastern Illinois University Magazine is published four times a year by the University for graduates, donors and friends. Please send your comments, suggestions and news items to the office of alumni affairs, Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 North St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60625-4699.

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A LOVE FOR *Life,* A PASSION FOR

*L*ibby Komaiko stood in the office of the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, switching back and forth between English and Spanish as she finalized plans for the company's 30th annual American Spanish Dance Festival. Without missing a beat, she simultaneously spoke into the phone and to the steady stream of Spanish dancers and musicians that drifted in and out of the modest office (it used to be a dressing room) in Northeastern's Building A.

Libby (B.A. '78 Nontraditional Degree Program), the company's founder and artistic director, looked Spanish with her black hair and strong features. Few people know that she is a second generation American artist of Jewish, Lithuanian and Russian heritage, born on Chicago's North Side and raised in Evanston. Even fewer know how she became Chicago's "Dame of Spanish Dance."

Libby was born in 1949 to parents who were both musicians. "When I was in my mother's womb, she was concretizing piano. The laundry basket was my crib beside the grand piano as my parents practiced and played classical duets," said Libby. "These were my lullabies."

When she was five-years-old, her parents took her to see the "Nutcracker" Ballet, presented by Ruth Page at the Lyric Opera House. Now that Libby is in her 42nd year of her professional career, she tells this story of her first theatrical dance adventure to each new class of students at NEIU:

There was great excitement in the air... my mother dressed me in a beautiful red dress, with white tights and ribbons in my hair. My parents, my younger sister and I drove downtown to the Lyric Opera House. I was in awe! Marble floors, crystal chandeliers, red velvet carpeting on the winding stairway... the sounds of adults talking and laughing, fur coats and the dreamy scents of perfume. Then we went up in the elevator all snuggled together and were escorted to our seats (first row on the first balcony)... we were sitting in velvet seats with arms!!! The lights dimmed to dark...a follow spot illuminated the conductor and the orchestra... everyone applauded... BEAUTIFUL MUSIC FILLED THE AIR...the curtain opened... and there it was... THE CASTLE,... every detail reaching for me... every light... every sound and then dancing begins... calling me and THEN... the Prince appeared!!! There I was sitting in the dark with strangers

Dance

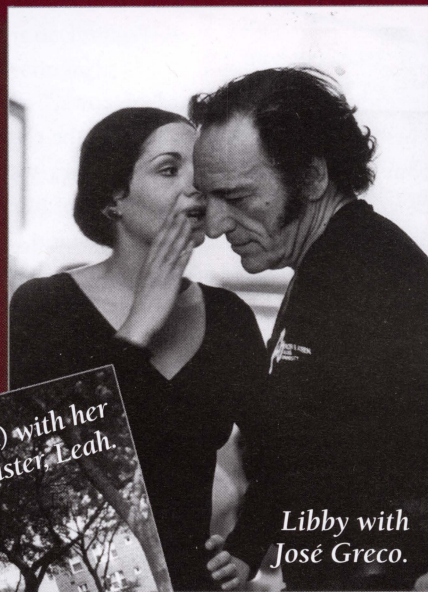
BY CAROLYN BONNER, EDITORIAL WRITER

and the prince and dancers were all beckoning me. My mother reminded me several years later that I said "look mom, look at that little blue light up there"... and she answered "my daughter, Cecil B. DeMille."

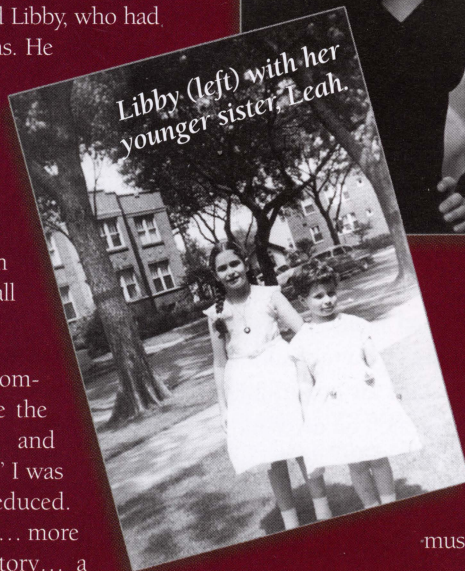
Throughout her childhood and teen years, Libby's world was dance and the theatre. At age 18, an unexpected audition changed her life when the famed José Greco Dance Company came to Chicago to cast for their touring company. Greco noticed Libby, who had come to watch the auditions. He asked her to audition and she replied, "But I'm not a Spanish dancer." "Just try," he said. Libby did, still dressed in her street clothes. When Greco offered her an opportunity in the company, she danced all the way home.

With the Greco Dance Company she was ready to see the world. "Like the prince and dancers in the 'Nutcracker,' I was summoned... charmed, seduced. This was more than theater... more than dance... this was history... a culture... stories of the ages... many cultures... a new way to see life... to hear life to feel life," expressed Libby.

At the end of 1972, she began developing her own program called "Spanish Dance in Concert," with her mother Dorothy Ko-maiko accompanying her on piano. She brought her solo concert to Northeastern Illinois University, where she performed for an overflow audience. The success of the concert prompted an invitation to teach at Northeastern as an artist-in-residence. Soon,



Libby with José Greco.



Libby (left) with her younger sister, Leah.

she was teaching full-time, developing the Spanish Dance Program at NEIU and becoming a tenured professor in Northeastern's department of music's dance program.

With only six dancers committed to the dream of what is now Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, she went to the Illinois Arts Council for advice and support. In 1976, because of Libby's commitment and drive, the Ensemble Español was incorporated and received in-residence status at NEIU.

In 1982, the Consul General of Spain in Chicago attended a performance by the Ensemble Español. "He was blown away by the performance," said Libby. "He had never seen anything like it in America before." Months

later, Libby received a letter informing her that His Majesty Don Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, had granted her the Lazo de Dama de la Orden de Isabel la Católica (the Ribbon of the Dame), and the title of Dama (Dame).

This, the highest honor Spain can bestow on foreign nationals, recognizes individuals who have served Spain in the areas of art and culture. Libby was the first American artist to receive the distinction.

Her work attracted the attention of others in Chicago as well, as the Ensemble continued to reach out and engage talented young Latinos living in some of the city's rougher neighborhoods, distracting them from drugs and gangs. In 1990, Mayor Richard M. Daley presented Libby with the "Brightener Award."

Reflecting on her successes, Libby recognizes that it wasn't always an easy path. In 1994, she was diagnosed with an autoimmune condition that requires daily medications and multiple therapies. "The amount of time I spend in doctors' offices, it's like a part-time job," says Libby, "But I try not to make a big deal out of it. I just deal with it."

With the support of the University, Libby pushed forward. "I love Northeastern, especially President Steinberg who has always been a great friend of the Ensemble and of all the fine arts at Northeastern."

Now, with the success of what has grown to be the international center for Spanish dance and music in America, with over 40 dancers, singers and instrumentalists, and her teaching career, Libby says she is in a good place. "I didn't choose this career. This career chose me," says Libby. "I truly believe that my path was set when I was born, it's a blessing and a wonderment." ■



MEET THE COLLEGE OF ED'S NEW DEAN

by SUSAN APPEL BASS, editorial writer

Maureen Gillette believes she was born to be a teacher. Even while growing up, she spent much of her free time working with children. "By the time I finished college," says Gillette, "I couldn't wait to get into the classroom. I thought I knew everything about teaching. Was I in for a shock!"

According to Gillette, her first year of teaching elementary school was "awful." "The students misbehaved as soon as they got out of my sight," explains Gillette. "I gave them too much freedom. They came from a very structured classroom the year before and I didn't transition them into handling a more open environment."

Fortunately, the teacher next door took Gillette under her wing. By the end of the first year, Gillette had "found the line between teacher and friend." However, she had already decided not to return for a second year because she was expecting a baby.

Recognizing that Gillette had talent, her teacher/mentor coaxed her back to the classroom soon after her baby was born. She then spent the next nine years teaching in Aurora before pursuing a doctorate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. To support herself while studying, Gillette took a teaching position in a rural community outside Madison.

Suddenly she was immersed in an entirely different culture. "I went from a concrete

playground to a backyard of cows," says Gillette. "For example, I came into the classroom one morning and all the boys were absent because it was the first day of hunting season. I had to try to understand the culture and needs of families in a very different way."

After three years in Wisconsin, Gillette left full-time teaching to complete her doctorate. She also accepted an assistantship in the first federally-funded teacher education program since the '60s that had a focus on inclusion of multicultural education. The assistantship gave Gillette the opportunity to work with project directors Ken Zeichner, a renowned specialist in reflective teaching, and Carl Grant, an internationally-known expert in multicultural education. It also provided an opportunity to collect data for her research on diversity.

"I'd always been interested in multicultural and equity issues," says Gillette. "I grew up in East Aurora where the population was very diverse, and I taught in a culturally diverse setting. Studying at Wisconsin gave me a theoretical framework for understanding my own teaching and other life experiences, and a chance to look at why some kids are successful in school and others are not."

Gillette's research revealed that, despite training, new teachers had difficulty implementing multicultural practices. While she admits the results were disappointing, she says they

"helped me understand the importance of good teacher education."

Armed with this new knowledge, Gillette made a decision to change from teaching at the elementary and middle school level to teaching in college. In addition, she made up her mind to work at higher education institutions whose priority was teaching and whose mission revolved around diversity and meeting the needs of first-generation college students.

"I went into teaching to make a difference," says Gillette. "I realized the potential of making the greatest impact by training professionals who teach effectively no matter what the cultural setting and who realize the important role that educators play in making schools equitable for all students."

After receiving her doctorate, Gillette spent 15 years working in urban teacher education before being appointed dean of NEIU's College of Education. Says Gillette, "I've been gratified by all the help and support I've received from the faculty and administration since I arrived. I've also been impressed by the energy and motivation of the students and faculty in our College of Education. I'm looking forward to working with them to continue to build on all the outstanding work that's already been done." ■

MORE WORKERS KEEP BOOMING PAST 65

by CYNTHIA BROOKE, editorial writer

Baby Boomers have always re-interpreted the world, and they are doing that now as they redefine the rules of work, retirement and aging. The term Baby Boomers first appeared in print in *Time* magazine in 1974 to define the 79 million people born between 1946 and 1964. According to Dr. Lisa Hollis-Sawyer, coordinator, NEIU gerontology master's program, retiring before the age of 65 is not a realistic expectation for many Boomers. Her research shows that while some may retire early, many people will put off retirement longer than ever before. "If you think you will retire at 65, you might want to think twice."

On-time retirement dictated by Social Security age is declining. Hollis-Sawyer sees two distinct trends—early and late retirement.

Early retirement often means career change

Baby Boomers are just starting to approach retirement age. Some are retiring before the traditional retirement age. This group has an affinity towards leisure and is concerned with their quality of life. They feel they can financially afford to retire and want to engage in leisure activities while they are still healthy.

"However," Hollis-Sawyer notes, "research shows that after employees retire, and once incentive packages settle in, the employees may not be satisfied and will miss working. They may decide to return to the workforce."

Late retirement will become more common

The late retirees will opt to continue working beyond the traditional retirement age. For some, retirement at 65 will not be economically feasible. Many Baby Boomers will see their retirement funds depleted by health costs for their parents, their own health costs and financial support for their children.

Others would like to stay in the workforce longer because they experience fulfillment through work. Or, if full-time employment is not

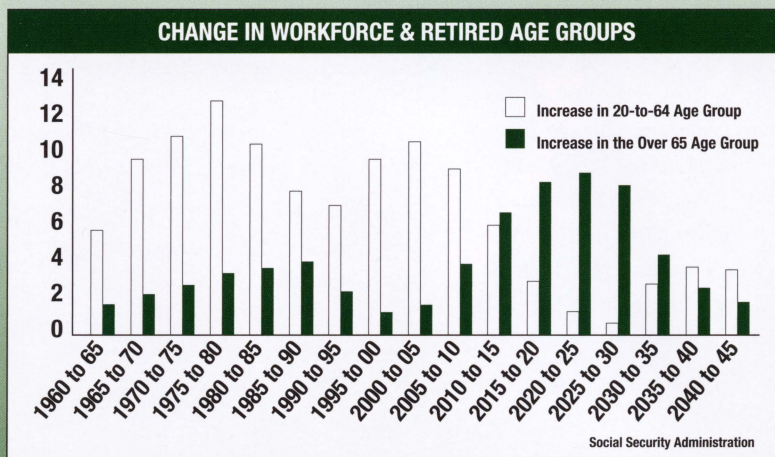
feasible, they may opt to continue working part-time.

Hollis-Sawyer says that the sheer number of 79 million people who are approaching retirement age who are making decisions about workforce participation will have an impact in the workplace.

Instead of trying to retire an aging workforce, employers will need to find ways to extend their employees' careers. "There are current trends showing an increased willingness of employers to accommodate older workers," explained Hollis-Sawyer. "If 79 million leave the workforce, how can a smaller, younger generation fill the positions vacated by a larger cohort? Younger employees wouldn't be able to fill the sheer quantity of jobs in most industries."

Many employers are also of the Baby Boomer generation, so they are more receptive to changing the workplace to accommodate themselves and their peers.

To meet Baby Boomers' needs, some employers are instituting eldercare sites at their facilities. Eldercare entails many issues of meeting the physical, emotional, psychological, and social needs of an aging segment of the population who may need assistance in one or more activities of daily living. "This is happening in some industries more than others," says Hollis-Sawyer. "For example, the insurance industry is more oriented toward family. Government is as well. But, it is starting to trickle down to other industries."



As the Baby Boomers redefine what it means to work and retire in later life, their life lessons will become aging "templates" for successive generations which follow. This generation has always exemplified a "generation of change," and its approach to aging adaptation will be no different.

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Monument Installed at Northeastern's CCICS

A monument in honor of the late Dr. Jacob H. Carruthers was dedicated by Northeastern's Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) and the Kemetic Institute Cultural Center and Museum. The monument located in the lobby of CCICS is on indefinite loan from the artist.

Carruthers founded the Kemetic Institute and was a member of Northeastern's faculty from 1968 until his retirement in 2000. An internationally-recognized scholar who loved teaching, Carruthers made significant contributions to the study of African history.

The monument was created by award-winning artist Aundra Ford. Ford specializes in African funerary traditions and has been working on this project since the death of Carruthers in January of 2004.



Unpublished Music by Samuel Barber Premiered at NEIU

Jennifer Barrett, graduate student in music at NEIU, performed two unpublished songs by Samuel Barber, "An Old Song," and "Thy Will Be Done," at her student recital on campus.

Barrett discovered manuscripts for the songs at the Chester County Historical Society in Pennsylvania, where she had traveled to learn more about Barber's life. While the songs

have appeared in catalogs of Barber's works they have never been performed and have not been recorded.

Barber, who is considered one of the top American composers of the 20th century, began writing music at the age of seven. These two songs were written in 1921 and 1922, when Barber was 11 and 12 years old.



The story of Barrett's discovery and performance of Barber's songs was featured in a full-page color article in *Time Out Chicago* magazine's January 12-19 issue. On February 8, it also made the cover of the *Joliet Herald News*, which proclaimed Barrett "the Indiana Jones of the music world."

Partnership Explores Nature in Chicago

This spring, NEIU College of Arts and Sciences Education Program (CASEP) students are teaming up with seventh and eighth grade social studies and language arts students from Audubon Elementary School in Chicago to explore "Nature in Chicago." CASEP is a pre-service teacher education program that gives first-year NEIU students classroom experience.

CASEP students are working directly with the Audubon students to create a book of poems and essays about nature in Chicago, with a section devoted to Native American poetry. The partnership encourages creative writing and critical analysis by the Audubon students.

Life Saving Grant Awarded to NEIU

NEIU is one of only two higher education institutions in Illinois to receive the Campus Suicide Prevention Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The \$75,000 grant will last for three years with a total amount of \$225,000.

“Nationwide, the number of youth who contemplate suicide is sobering,” said John Hoepfel, director, NEIU counseling center, and suicide prevention program director. The suicide prevention program is designed to increase awareness of suicide and other mental health issues and to facilitate a more responsive campus environment by increasing collaboration among students, faculty, administrators, and counselors.

34th Annual CHUCK KANE MEMORIAL

GOLF OUTING

The 34th Annual Chuck Kane Memorial Golf Outing will be held on Monday, August 21 at the Highland Park Country Club. Professor Charles (Chuck) Kane was NEIU's first athletic director and golf coach. Since 1972, the golf outing has been raising scholarship funds for students at Northeastern. The profits from the outing endow two scholarship funds: the Charles G. Kane Memorial Scholarship and the NEIU Chuck Kane Scholarship.

This year the proceeds will benefit student scholarship funds in the department of health, physical education, recreation, and athletics; the College of Arts and Sciences; the College of Business and Management; and the College of Education.

For more information call (773) 442-4210 or e-mail neiufoundation@neiu.edu.

Students Celebrate the Arts with New Mural



NEIU art students created the mural titled “A Celebration of the Arts,” which is located in the northwest hallway of the Fine Arts Center on campus. “We incorporated many of the arts that we teach at NEIU into the mural,” said Santiago Vaca, assistant professor, art. “Its placement helps to identify the Fine Arts Center as a place where art is being learned, discussed and created.”

CLASS NOTES

1972

Joyce Stella Komperda, Ed.D. (B.A. Special Education: Mental Retardation M.A. '89 Educational Administration Administration) earned a doctorate degree in curriculum and instruction from Loyola University Chicago. She is a Polish, German and English as a second language transitional bilingual education instructor at Robert Frost Junior High in Schaumburg. She is also an English as a second language teacher for adults in the High School District 211 Continuing Education Program.

Marilyn (Hartog) Morgan (B.A. Elementary Education: Psychology) is the author of "The Broken Toy: The Story of a Fragile X Syndrome Child." She has been a Chicago Public School teacher for 30 years and is currently teaching at Charles Deneen Elementary School in Chicago.

1974

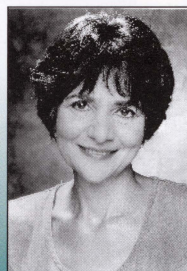
Herbert V. Ramlose, Jr. (M.A.T. English: Literature) is chair of the English department at Zion-Benton Township High School in Zion and treasurer of the Illinois Association of Teachers of English.

1976

Anne B. Bennett-Govostis (B.A. Elementary Education: Language Arts) is listed in the ninth edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." She is a first grade teacher and coordinator for the first grade team at Todd Hall School in Lincolnwood.

Linda (Schwartz) Blatchford (B.A. Speech) earned a Web Design Certification from Elgin Community College. She is a proofreader and editor at Aspen Marketing Services in West Chicago. She is also a business partner, e-tailer and Web designer at LinorStore.com in Elgin.

John M. Milas, M.D. (B.S. Biology) has a private practice in internal medicine and clinical research in Greenville, S.C. He is a physician at Internal Medicine of Greer in Greer, S.C.



1975 Maria (Boundas) Bakalis (M.A. Speech) is a professor at Waubensee Community College in Sugar Grove, Ill. She wrote and starred in "La Maria," a one-woman show about the life of opera diva Maria Callas, which won her a Twentieth Century Award for Achievement in the Field of Theater from the International Biographical Centre of Cambridge, England. She was also recognized as the Woman of the Year in the Arts by the United Hellenic Voters of America, as well as Faculty of the Year Award from Waubensee.

1978

Pamela (Holman) Herstein (B.A. Early Childhood Education) and **Ken Morris** (B.A. '93 Board of Governors) have released a children's music CD titled "Menagerie." Pamela has taught sing-a-long classes at various pre-schools and libraries. She is a guitar player, singer, performer and songwriter. Kenneth works in the media services department at NEIU.

Barbara (Kariotis) Javaras (M.A. Special Education: Teaching the Trainable Mentally Handicapped Child) is a teacher liaison for the Chicago Public Schools Information Office at the Juvenile Center, Office of High School Programs, Department of Drop Out Prevention and Recovery in Chicago.

1980

Peyton B. Harrison, Jr., Ph.D. (B.A. Speech) earned a doctorate through a program under the auspices of the Sober Living Network in Santa Monica, Calif., in conjunction with Sharp Hospital Medical in San Diego. He is chief executive officer at Community Leadership Improving Multicultural Bridging and chief executive officer and pastor at Grace Covenant Christian Church in San Diego, Calif.

1982

Cheryl (Barber) Rushing (B.A. Linguistics) earned a master's degree in professional counseling from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Chicago campus.

1983

Gerald S. Majer, Ph.D. (B.A. English) is the author of "The Velvet Lounge: On Late Chicago Jazz" and of numerous poetry and essays, which have appeared in "Callaloo," "The Georgia Review" and "The Yale Review." He is a professor in the department of English at Villa Julie College in Stevenson, Md.

Martin J. Monnat (B.A. Board of Governors) is president and chief executive officer at ISI Commercial Refrigeration, LP in Dallas, Texas.

1986

Yen T. Ong (B.A. Kaskaskia) is a system configuration analyst at Hewitt Associates LLC in Lincolnshire.

1963

Forrest E. Weber (B.A. Education) was elected to the Winnebago County Board in Wisconsin. He is board president and alderman for the Menasha City Council in Wisconsin. He retired as an elementary school teacher after 30 years of service for the Appleton Area School District in Appleton, Wis.

1966

Patricia (Lewandowski) Healey, Ph.D. (B.A. General Education, M.A. '70 Special Education: Teaching the Maladjusted Child) earned a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Antoinette (Pighetti) Seidemann, Ph.D. (B.A. Elementary Education: Mathematics, M.S. '88 Mathematics) earned a doctorate in mathematics education from Illinois State University in Normal.

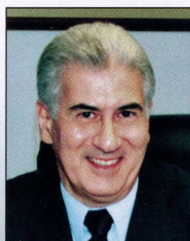
1968

Richard A. Swanson, Ph.D. (M.A.T. Mathematics) is the recipient of the 2004 Distinguished Service Award given by the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State. After 40 years as mathematics educator, he retired from the State University of New York at Oswego.

1970

Louverta Hurt, Ph.D. (B.A. Early Childhood Education) earned a doctorate in administration from Hamilton University in Evanston, Wyo. She retired as an assistant principal from Leif Ericson Elementary School in Chicago after 35 years of service. She is a member of the Education Task Force in the 7th Congressional District of Illinois with Congressman Danny K. Davis.

1967 Harry P. Rossi, Ed.D. (B.A. Elementary Education: Political Science, M.A. '71 Political Science) retired as superintendent of Northbrook and Glenview School District 30 in Northbrook, completing 33 years as an administrator, which includes 18 years as a superintendent. He also retired from the education, research and development board, which represents the interests of over 300,000 suburban children and Casa de los Ninos, which builds and staffs foster homes for abused and neglected Hispanic children in Chicago. He continues to work as Board of Education secretary and District 30 Policy Consultant for District 30 in Northbrook. Rossi also works for a consulting firm called School Exec Connect. He is an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago and is the recipient of the 2005 Damen Award from Loyola University Chicago. Most recently, Rossi served as one of eight alumni panelists at NEIU's 2006 University Day.



Rodney C. Sclater (B.A. Board of Governors) was deployed to Southwest Asia as chief of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive flight in Iraq. He is chief, 4th Air Force Readiness for the United States Air Force Reserve in March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

1988

Karen Watts-Dolan (M.A. Guidance and Counseling: Community and Family Counseling) is the owner and president of Luv A Dub Dub Co., an internet business which was featured in *Time Out Chicago* magazine.

1990

Jeanine (Carlson) Colwell (M.A. Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers) is a mathematics instructor at Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville, N.C.

William J. Peacy, III (B.S. Chemistry, M.S. '94 Chemistry) is associate dean of natural science at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn. He is also chair-elect for the Joliet local section of the American Chemical Society.

1991

Marilyn D. Glazer (B.A. Board of Governors) was elected to the Village Board of Trustees in Niles. She is the owner of Marilyn D. Glazer, REALTOR and Glazer Enterprises, Inc. in Skokie.

1992

William Maheia (B.A. Board of Governors) is the founder and executive director of the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment in Toledo, Belize.

1993

David P. Dewar, Ph.D. (M.A. History) earned a doctorate in colonial American history from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan. He is a lecturer and assistant director of the humanities and western civilization program.

1994

Lloyd D. Clark (B.A. Board of Governors) was elected president and chair of the Board of Directors of the Historic Camelot Project, Inc., a Wisconsin nonprofit educational organization.

1992 Brian James (M.A. Educational Administration: Administration) signed a multi-year contract as an assistant coach for the Milwaukee Bucks in Milwaukee, Wis. James has eight years of National Basketball Association (NBA) coaching experience. He has worked with the Washington Wizards (2001-03), Toronto Raptors (1998-01) and Detroit Pistons (1995-98). He has assisted the Detroit head coach Doug Collins with the Eastern Conference team in the 1997 NBA All-Star Game and helped Toronto earn their first playoff berth in team history (1999-2000). For the past two years, James has worked as an advance scout for the Seattle SuperSonics and an NBA analyst for ESPN.com Insider. He also worked as a pre and post-game analyst for Washington Wizards television broadcasts. Before joining the NBA, James coached high school basketball in the state of Illinois for 18 years.



1995

Alex V. Barbour (M.A. Educational Administration: Administration) is principal at Charles Quentin Elementary School in Palatine.

1996

Nelly (Ayala) Diaz (B.A. Special Education: Learning Disabilities and Behavior Disorders, M.A. '03 Educational Leadership: School Leadership) is chair of the special education department at Maine East High School in Park Ridge.

Gary S. Riskin (M.A. Reading) is chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee at the Illinois Reading Council in Normal. He is also a teacher at Hoffman Elementary School in Glenview.

1997

Everett Walker (B.A. Board of Governors) is owner and senior consultant of KER Consulting, Ltd., a financial engineering firm in Chicago.

1998

Magdalena Torres (M.A. Human Resource Development) is a Spanish teacher at Fleming Island High School in Orange Park, Fla.

Neema Mekaba (Mitchell) Woodard (B.A. Board of Governors) is the author of several children's books, including "The Bear That Would Not Talk" and "Mike Rabbit's First Day of School." She is also the owner and publisher of Neema's Children Literature Association, Inc. in Chicago.

2000

Ana M. Correa (B.A. Environmental Studies) is a health advocate at the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center in Chicago.

Mayela D. Perez-Fajardo (B.A. Bilingual and Bicultural Education, Elementary Education) is a reading specialist at Hamline School in Chicago.

2001

Luke N. Bobek (B.A. Speech) is regional sales manager at Chase Products Company in Broadview, Ill.

Miguel A. Rios (B.A. Spanish) is a Hispanic program specialist for the Northern Illinois District United States Postal Service in Carol Stream.

2002

Kevin C. Boyle (B.A. Economics) was a guest speaker for an economics course at NEIU. He is an attorney at Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. in Milwaukee, Wis.

Paul T. Gahol (B.S. Computer Science) is an application developer analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Chicago.

Jennifer A. Jacobs (M.A. Special Education: Teaching Children with Learning Disabilities) is an instructor for Southern Illinois University at their Lake County Extension Center in Grayslake.

Cheryl (McClenahan) Kuba (M.A. Gerontology) received the 2005 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the National Speakers Association - Illinois Chapter. She is the author of "Navigating the Journey of Aging Parents: What Care Receivers Want" and is president of Aging Parent Solutions in Chicago.

Cristina M. Vera (B.A. Spanish, Political Science) earned a master's degree in urban planning and policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is a rewards coach at Near West Side Community Development Corporation in Chicago.

George C. Williams (B.A. Board of Governors) is a volunteer for the Tucson Urban League and PRO Neighborhoods in Tucson, Ariz. He retired as an electrician from Amtrak in Chicago.

2004

Jill (DelPorte) Schweiger (M.A. Educational Leadership: School Leadership) is principal at Arnett C. Lines Elementary School in Barrington.

2005

Jory A. Spears (B.A. Board of Governors; Communication, Media and Theatre) was selected as one of the top 10 finalists for NBC channel 5 "Jeanne's Traffic Apprentice." He is president and CEO of Omnium, a small business development firm.

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI:

Joseph P. Abruzzo
(B.A. '71 Geography)

Rita Anton
(B.A. '78 University without Walls)

Sally C. Brzozowski
(B.A. '69 Early Childhood Education)

Frances (Oliphant) Gabino
(B.A. '89 University without Walls)

Johnny A. Grey
(B.A. '84 Elementary Education: Music)

Grant A. Kurpiewski
(B.A. '88 Criminal Justice)

Diane M. Langridge
(B.A. '70 Music)

Gina (Fontechia) Lauchner
(B.A. '90 Social Work)

Bertha (Reiter) Rosenzweig Stein
(B.A. '87 Board of Governors)

Shelly Weisberg
(B.A. '88 Board of Governors,
Political Science)

Dorothy J. Wojcik
(B.A. '71 Elementary Education:
English)

FACULTY:

C. Donald LaBudde, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, Computer Science
1974 - 1991

NEIU 2005 Annual Retirement Dinner Alumni Honorees

Esther (Gonzalez) Aros
(B.A. '90 Board of Governors, M.A. '98 Guidance and Counseling: Community and Family Counseling)
Project Success

John M. Baker
(B.S. '79 Computer Science, Business and Management)
Public Safety

Ulf Chayer
(B.S. '74 Biology)
Biology

Peggy L. Jackson
(B.A. '77 Special Education: Educating Mentally Handicap)
Facilities Management

Martin Miles
(B.A. '86 University without Walls)
Telecommunications

Thomas C. Pilsbury
(B.A. '77 Sociology)
Facilities Management

Eleanor (Soukup) Segal
(B.A. '87 Sociology, M.A. '97 Reading)
Chicago Teachers' Center

Vaughn G. Silverman
(M.S. '96 Computer Science)
Computer Science

Ferne A. Szulc
(B.A. '78 Psychology)
College of Education

Fred H. Tarnow
(B.S. '73 Secondary Education: Biology)
Teacher Education

2005 NEIU Award of Tenure and Academic Promotion Given to Alumni

Katherine S. McKnight, Ph.D.
(M.Ed. '93 Teaching Language Arts)
Associate Professor, Teacher Education

Roger Passman
(M.Ed. '93 Teaching Language Arts)
Associate Professor, Teacher Education

2005 NEIU Faculty Excellence Awards Presented to Alumni

Barry W. Birnbaum, Ed.D.
(M.A. '80 Special Education: Teaching Children with Learning Disabilities)
Associate Professor,
Special Education

Dame Libby (Fleming) Komaiko
(B.A. '78 University without Walls)
Professor, Music
Founder and Artistic Director,
Ensemble Español
Spanish Dance Theater,
in-residence at NEIU

Send class note information to:
Office of Alumni Affairs
773-442-4205
alumni@neiu.edu
www.neiu.edu/Alum.htm

UPCOMING EVENTS



ANNOUNCING OUR ALL NEW ALUMNI DIRECTORY!

In an effort to bring alumni from around the globe back together, Northeastern Illinois University is proud to announce the publication of an all-new alumni directory.

Scheduled for release at the end of 2006, our alumni directory will be the most up-to-date and complete reference of more than **58,000** grads ever compiled! This comprehensive volume will include current names and academic information, as well as business, professional, residential, and family information.

The new 2006 edition will also list alumni by class year, geographic location and by occupation in our special career networking section.

The NEIU office of alumni affairs has chosen Harris Connect to produce our directory. Harris has been researching and compiling the data to be included in the directory by mailing questionnaires and calling each alumnus/a. If we don't have your current address, please contact the office of alumni affairs at 773-442-4205 or e-mail alumni@neiu.edu so we can make sure you receive a directory questionnaire! The 2006 NEIU Alumni Directory will be available for purchase in print or electronic format by the end of this year.

With your participation, the 2006 edition of the *Northeastern Illinois University Alumni Directory* is sure to be a great success.

ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL

The Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater will hold its 30th annual American Spanish Dance Festival this summer, including an anniversary concert at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Chicago's Millennium Park on June 24 and 25. Call 773-442-5930 or go to www.neiu.edu/~eespanol for more information.