

The FOUNDERS SOCIETY Newsletter

WINTER 2014

News and partnership opportunities from the Northeastern Illinois University Foundation

GENERATIONS OF IMPACT

The Rory Donnelly Family Assistance Award

In 2009, the Northeastern community lost Professor Emerita Rory Donnelly (pictured below), a beloved faculty member who had served the University for nearly 30 years. As a professor of linguistics, Donnelly was deeply committed to the success of her students. She was also a single mother who understood the challenges of overcoming significant obstacles.



Upon her death, the Northeastern Illinois University Foundation learned that Donnelly had taken steps to continue to provide support for Northeastern students through a bequest made in her will. That gift established the Rory Donnelly Family Assistance Award, which underwrites 50 percent of child care expenses for qualified single parents.

Since 2009, the award has provided support for parents and their children, including Liesl Laurich (pictured right with her daughter, Riley), who received the award in 2011.

“The Donnelly Scholarship was a blessing to my daughter and I,” said Laurich. “Without it, I wouldn’t have

been able to put my daughter in daycare so that I could attend classes. It felt like a weight was lifted off my shoulders, knowing that my daughter was being taken care of and I could focus on my studies.”

At Northeastern, Laurich engaged in a variety of activities and societies including the Alpha Chi Society, Associate Justice, Justice Studies Club Secretary, Student Conduct Committee Member, Amnesty Club Secretary and Veteran’s Club Treasurer. She graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in Justice Studies in 2011.

Prior to coming to Northeastern, Laurich served for three years as a security forces leader in the United States Air Force Security Forces, where her duties included missile security, convoy actions, capture and recovery of nuclear weapons and law enforcement.

Today, Laurich takes night classes at the John Marshall Law School, and works as a legal administrative assistant at a downtown Chicago law firm.

“My passion in life is to help others and be able to contribute to society by providing legal aid,” said Laurich.



**Liesl Laurich (B.A. ‘11 Justice Studies)
Veteran, U.S. Air Force Security Forces**

My Northeastern Experience

“It was a great educational experience and a great social experience as well. I loved being a part of clubs and making lifelong friends. My favorite memory was when our Veteran’s Club had a bake sale and I brought my daughter to introduce her to the concept of volunteering. She walked around selling cupcakes for our troops!”

Receiving the Donnelly Scholarship

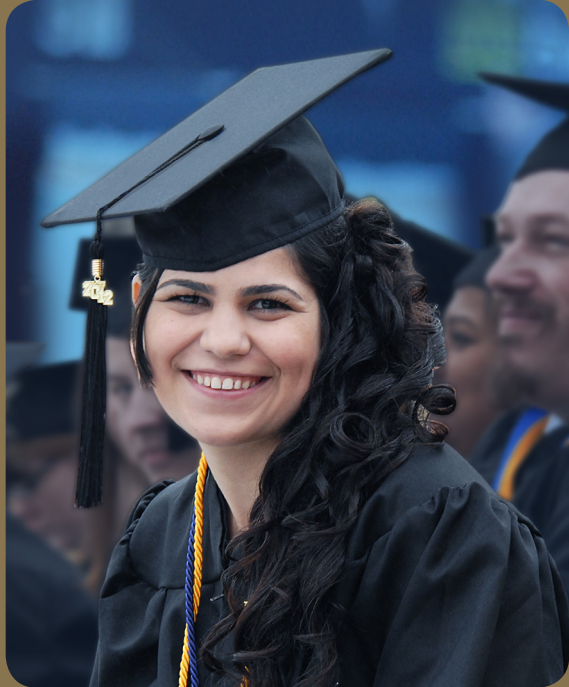
“I feel fortunate to have received this scholarship from someone who faced challenges similar to myself. My hope is that I may be able to pay forward this act of generosity to help others in similar situations. The scholarship makes me hopeful for future generations. I know that a little gift can make a huge impact in someone’s life, and I would like to continue this act of generosity with future generations.”

Giving to Northeastern

“I hope that by sharing my story, others will be encouraged to give a gift that will benefit someone in need. This is not just a gift, but an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. The people who apply for these scholarships, like me, want to succeed and give our children the best lives that we can dream. Without these opportunities, those dreams might not come true.”

BEST INVESTMENT

Newsweek magazine named Northeastern Illinois University the sixth “Best Investment” in the United States and number one in Illinois. Northeastern shares a top-ten spot with Harvard, Stanford, Princeton and MIT.



LEAST DEBT

According to *U.S. News and World Report*, Northeastern is the leader among all universities in the nation for “least debt,” having the lowest percentage of graduates who incur student loan debt. The magazine also named Northeastern one of the “most ethnically diverse” universities in the nation for the 15th year in a row.

Planned Giving

Making charitable contributions is an art—a creative process that adapts to your changing needs as a donor. Planned giving allows you to make charitable gifts, continue to meet your income needs and take advantage of current tax incentives.

There are many ways to ensure the mission of Northeastern. One of the most powerful tools you have to make a significant impact is through your will or estate plan. Plus, there are additional benefits to giving to our students, faculty and staff. Planned gifts allow you to:

- Make a gift larger than you thought possible.
- See ways to save on income, gift and estate taxes.
- Add personal meaning by making your gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.

The Founders Society

Individuals who remember Northeastern in their wills and estate plans can notify us of their bequests and earn membership into the Founders Society.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY IS TWO-FOLD:

- To increase the future endowment of Northeastern Illinois University;
- To honor those individuals who provide gifts through estate planning during their lifetime

No specific amount of money is required. Gifts can be made through assets including life insurance, retirement benefits, stock holdings and more. Members of the Founders Society are invited to exclusive University events and activities.

If you would like to discuss various planned giving options, please call Melba Rodriguez, vice president for institutional advancement at (773) 442-4202.

We strongly encourage all of our donors to seek appropriate legal counsel. Information provided by the NEIU Foundation is only an overview of the options available to you.

Bequests: The Gifts that Build our Future

HOW IT WORKS

- Provide now for a future gift to Northeastern by including a bequest provision in your will or revocable trust.
- The NEIU Foundation receives the gift and applies it to the purpose(s) you specify.

BENEFITS

- Assets remain in your control during your lifetime.
- Modify your bequest if your circumstances change.
- Direct your bequest to a particular purpose (Be sure to check with the NEIU Foundation by calling (773) 442-4202).
- There is an upper limit on the estate tax deductions that can be taken for charitable bequests.
- Know that your gift will benefit Northeastern tomorrow just as you intend it to today.

Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts

Due to the nature of these types of charitable donations and their financial requirements, the NEIU Foundation encourages you to work with your legal and financial advisors to establish these types of arrangements.

Life Insurance

HOW IT WORKS

Transfer ownership of a paid-in-full life insurance policy to the NEIU Foundation. The NEIU Foundation cashes in the policy now or maintains it and receives the death benefit later.

BENEFITS

- Receive gift credit and an immediate income tax deduction for the cash surrender value of the policy.
- In some cases, you can use the cash value in your policy to fund a life-income gift, such as a deferred gift annuity. However, you will want to confirm this with a professional financial advisor.
- Enjoy the satisfaction of making a significant gift to Northeastern without adversely affecting your cash flow.

Retirement Benefit Plans

HOW IT WORKS

- Name the NEIU Foundation as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k) or other qualified plan.
- After your lifetime, the residual of your plan passes to the NEIU Foundation, tax-free.

BENEFITS

- Escape both income AND estate tax levied on the residual left in your retirement account by leaving it to the NEIU Foundation.
- Give the most-taxed asset in your estate to the NEIU Foundation and leave more favorably taxed property to your heirs.
- Continue to take withdrawals during your lifetime.
- Change the beneficiary if your circumstances change.

THE FOUNDERS SOCIETY

The Society was created by President Emerita Salme Harju Steinberg and Professor Emeritus Bernard J. Brommel (pictured right).

In addition to being a founding member of the Society, Brommel is the first million-dollar donor to Northeastern and the first donor to name a building at the University. Bernard J. Brommel Hall (formerly the Science Building) was dedicated in 2010.

“I believe that in my life there was a time to learn, and then came a time to earn and, finally, a time to return,” said Brommel. “I am proud to have inspired others to do the same.”

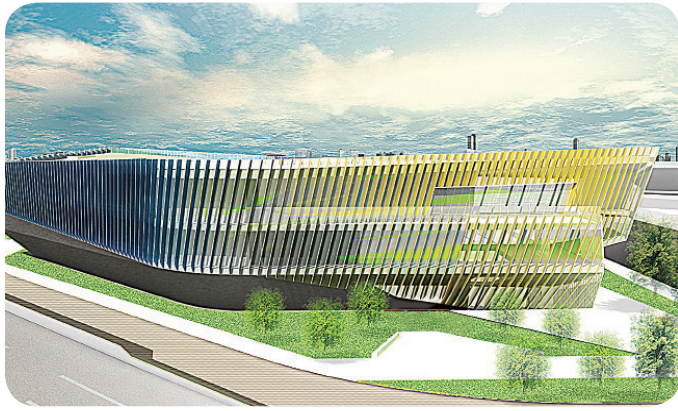
Brommel was the first recipient of the Wentworth Prize, the highest recognition awarded to benefactors of the University. It is given by the NEIU Foundation and recognizes a significant investment made in support of the University’s mission. Donors who give to Northeastern at the President’s Circle level (\$100,000+) are eligible to receive the award.



Interested in planned giving? Have questions?
Call (773) 442-4202 or email m-rodriguez44@neiu.edu

Private donations make a difference! Discover more at
www.neiu.edu/giving

New El Centro Campus



After more than 40 years of serving students and the community in leased space, Northeastern's El Centro Campus will have a new, permanent home on the Northwest Side of Chicago. The 55,000-square foot, three-story facility will be highly visible to the half-million vehicles that travel daily along the Kennedy Expressway. The building is scheduled to open in time for the fall 2014 semester. Students, faculty, staff and community members will have access to a higher education environment with modern facilities including technology-enhanced classrooms, wet and damp laboratories, a student lounge and study spaces, a computer lab, resource center and library, meeting rooms and gathering spaces, faculty and staff offices, and an outdoor, third-floor terrace.

The building design intends to meet LEED Gold classification, and includes a photovoltaic array system located on the roof. The design incorporates a balance of form and function, as the building's exterior "fins" adorn a glass curtain wall system and control the amount of sunlight into the building. The ground floor will bask in natural light streaming through windows punched into a protective cement fiber rain screen system, and a glass-cantilevered roof will create an inviting, covered entry space for the building.



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New Academic Programs

Northeastern has added several new academic programs including:

- B.A. in Global Studies
- B.A. in Latino and Latin American Studies
- M.A.T. in Early Childhood Education
- Minor in Child Advocacy Studies
- Minor in Communication
- Minor in Environmental Studies
- Minor in Geography
- Minor in Journalism
- Minor in LGBTQ Studies

Other programs under consideration include bachelor's degrees in Creative Writing, Environmental Science, and Graphic Design, as well as a master's degree in Social Work. The University is also exploring the feasibility of a doctoral program in Special Education.

