



CAS Kaleidoscope

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CAS GRANT- OVER 2 MILLION DOLLARS

by David Rutschman

A team from the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – in our case biology, chemistry, computer science, earth science, math & physics) disciplines has been awarded a grant titled “Science Engagement @ NEIU” for over 2 million dollars from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant proposes to create a new interdisciplinary Student Center for Science Engagement which will provide students, especially Hispanic and low-income college students, with a comprehensive set of services to retain and support them in the successful completion of their baccalaureate degree. The new center will be located in the science building once the neces-

sary remodeling of the former Physics Shop is completed. The Center will have areas for student study and group work as well as a ‘smart lab’ conference room. The Center will allow NEIU to develop and improve the capacity to serve STEM students for years to come. It will integrate effective teaching strategies and practices that research shows are effective in encouraging learning, persistence and retention. By updating labs and facilities, providing faculty development, enhancing academic support and mentoring, creating learning environments that encourage social integration, by en-



hancing student-faculty interaction, and providing summer research opportunities, it is anticipated that the outcomes will be achieved and will be sustained. This major initiative draws upon the past successes of the NEIU effort to support the Hispanic community it serves.

You can make a Difference

by Connie Kadow

Dean Forhan and her husband, Joseph P. Cousins, will contribute up to \$5000 to match any donations from faculty and staff given to the College of Arts & Sciences Endowment. These funds will be used as a “rainy day” fund to support the College of Arts & Sciences’ activities such as research

awards for faculty, space renovations, equipment for departments, travel funds for students, or even College and departmental conferences or lectures. The Dean’s goal is to have a large percentage of faculty and staff give before the end of December 2008. Any amount is greatly appreciated, large or small.

You can make your check out to The CAS Endowment Challenge and mail it to Madeline Nelson in the Institutional Advancement Department C-617. Indicate that your gift supports the CAS Challenge. The Dean will match the total donated before December 23, 2008.

The Dean's update....

I am very proud of all the College of Arts and Sciences contributes to the University. The CAS is the largest college on campus and provides the core of the university's academic mission. The College houses 61% of the University's tenure track and tenured faculty, serves 4566 majors and 1528 minors in 14 graduate and 24 undergraduate degree programs, provides 77% of the credit hours and 68% of the course sections at the University, as well providing general education to the entire University.

I have all of you to thank for the success we have experienced in the last few years. Fall 2008 figures show a 39% increase in degrees conferred over the last five years, with a 14% increase in the last year alone. Our progress in this area is an accomplishment that is the product of many people working together--staff and faculty--in many different venues, including the curriculum committees, Enrollment Services, Advising, faculty offices, department offices, and, of course, the classroom. Bravo to all!

Fall 08 enrollment data also show the continued growth of the College. Since 2004, the College has grown 13% in the total number of majors, and by 2% in the last year. Based on the Fall 08 data, the most popular undergraduate majors in the CAS include:

459	Psychology
441	Biology
433	Justice Studies
301	History
288	Communication, Media & Theatre
284	English
280	Computer Science

These large departments reflect the diversity of our programs, responses to student and societal needs, and the rich educational experience NEIU students encounter.

Departments that have had the highest 1 year growth rate include (% increase Fall 07 to Fall 08: Source ISP):

117%	Earth Science
25%	Physics
17%	Social Work
16%	Linguistics
14%	Chemistry
15%	Philosophy
12%	G & ES

These increases reflect important efforts by these departments to revise their curricula, engage students, and improve advising, among other important initiatives. The College has worked especially hard to improve student success, by simplifying general education, streamlining paperwork, reviewing curriculum, supporting the new First Year Experience and other innovative programs, and improving student advising.

Curriculum

This Fall, three departments have been preparing for external accreditation. Both Music and Art

have completed preparations for first time accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NACAD) respectively, and Social Work has been working on its self study for reaffirmation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Curriculum development and review was an important part of the work of the College, especially the CAS Committee on Academic Affairs. Geography and Environmental Studies reviewed its entire undergraduate curriculum as well and is developing its capacity for G.I.S. instruction. This year also includes the development of new on-line courses for the College, in Math, Art, Political Science, Computer Science, and Sociology.

Student Accomplishments

Student accomplishments continue to amaze. The recent victory at the Ethics Bowl competition of our team of philosophers is very exciting. Student-faculty collaborative research is especially strong in the CAS. In addition to housing several vibrant research communities, the College demonstrates commitment to individual student research projects: 126 CAS students presented papers and 15 participated in poster sessions at last year's research symposium. The work of the CAS Pre-Professional



Of the 10 teaching Excellence Awards for non-tenure track faculty, 8 were awarded to faculty from the CAS:

The Dean's update....continued

advisor, David Nissim-Sabat, has borne fruit as the following statistics show:

- The number of students registered with LSDAS (Law School Data Assembly Service) increased by 12%
- The average LSAT (Law School Admission Test) score increased by 1.8 points
- The number of students applying to law school increased by 11%
- The number of applications students submitted to different law school increased by 16%
- The number of students accepted to law school increased by 38%
- The number of students who matriculated into law school increased by 54%

Our most recent data indicate that our students are attending law school at Kent, DePaul, Drake, George Washington, Loyola, Texas Southern University, John Marshall, Cooley, and the University of California, Davis.

Faculty

The generous service and intellectual curiosity of CAS faculty has led to extraordinary accomplishments. A few examples follow: Twenty-nine faculty participated in the annual research symposium as presiders, discussants, and mentors. Nine faculty published books, and an additional 30 book chapters and 68 refereed articles were published in 07-08, along with countless paper presentations and 14 regional and national art exhibits, and dozens of concerts and performances. Our most active book authors are in Music (3), Political Science and History (2 each). History led in the total number of book chapters published (5), and Math and English faculty had a total of nine articles each in refereed journals. College faculty also applied for 22 grants, of which 12 were

funded, for a total of over \$560,000.

For the third year, the Brommel Distinguished Research Professor Award went to a CAS faculty member: Dr. Sarah Hoagland of the Philosophy Department who is not only a prolific scholar and researcher, but whose groundbreaking work in Feminist Philosophy has led to international acclaim. The Brommel Distinguished Research Professor Lecture will be given in the Fall of 08.

Dr. Timothy H. Scherman is the first winner of the newly established Audrey Reynolds Distinguished Teaching Award. In addition, the three other finalists are also from the CAS: Shelley Bannister (JUST), Teddy Bofman (LING), and Cyndi Moran (CMT). Of the 10 teaching Excellence Awards for non-tenure track faculty, 8 were awarded to faculty from the CAS:

Cathryn Bulicek, Anthropology
Steve Frankel, Biology
Jean Hemzacek, Earth Science
Audrey Natcone, Justice Studies
Frederick Prete, Biology
Michael Raley, History
Isador Ruderfer, Biology
Brian Torosian, Music

The list of Faculty Excellence Awards was also very impressive, with CAS faculty receiving 64% of these awards for teaching, research, and service:

Sophia Mihic, Political Science
Lesa Davis, Anthropology
Zhonggang Zeng, Mathematics
Shencheng Xu, Art
Joel Olfelt, Biology
Dragan Milovanovic, Justice Studies
Lisa Hollis-Sawyer, Psychology
Sarah Lucia Hoagland, Philosophy

Marian Gidea, Mathematics
Loretta Capeheart, Justice Studies
Sangmin Bae, Political Science
Dan Milsky, Philosophy
Nancy Matthews, Justice Studies
Peter Kimmel, Computer Science

Chairs and Coordinators attended national and College workshops on departmental issues and challenges, and workshops and individual training were offered for faculty advisors. In fact, 90 of 125 College faculty advisors (72%), including Chairs, Coordinators, and Graduate advisors, have taken advantage of advising workshops, under the leadership of Mary Hay Verne of the Dean's Office. Forty-eight of these advisors have had both Portal and Internet Native Banner (INB) training geared specifically towards advising. The Dean's Office, in conjunction with Yvonne Gulli, Director of Academic Advising, is in the process of providing training for all departments in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Moving Towards the Future

In the next year we hope to continue to review curriculum and college policies, to consolidate our significant progress and to take steps towards future planning. The success of the College is dependent on the hard work and dedication of many people. The departmental staff of the College and the very talented individuals in the Office of the Dean contribute enormously to students' success. Many of our faculty epitomize the ideal of the scholar-teacher. We also benefit from the creative leadership of President Sharon Hahs and Provost Lawrence P. Frank. We look forward to a very bright future.

Our Kind of Town CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL REACHES AGE 19

by Mark Sherkow

One of Chicago's most successful cultural ventures is becoming known to a wider and wider group of people. The Chicago Humanities Festival celebrated its 19th season this fall, with most of the programming taking place the first two weekends in November. Over 140 events were presented, at over 30 different sites, attracting approximately 50,000 people.

Events include lectures, panels, music, drama and movies, as well as some artistic exhibitions. Tickets to most events are \$5 if purchased in advance.

Each year the festival has an overall theme. This year the theme was *Thinking Big!*, in recognition of the upcoming centennial of

Daniel Burnham's Plan for Chicago.

Past themes have included *Expressions of Freedom* (1990), *Love and Marriage* (1995), *Work and Play* (1997), and *The Climate of Concern* (2007). I myself have been going to the festival since 1995, and have heard keynote addresses from such notables as Stephen Sondheim and Edward Albee.

The Chicago Tribune awards a Literary Prize for Lifetime Achievement as part of the festival, and I have heard addresses from award-winners writer Tom Wolfe in 2003 and, this year, from historian David McCullough. Two years ago I heard a talk by political commentator David Gergen, who has worked

on the political staffs of several presidents.

To give a flavor of the breadth of what is offered: at this year's festival I attended presentations on the monumental art and architecture of Rome; 20th century music; Habeas Corpus and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Marco Polo; and the philosophical/scientific concept of emergence. I also attended musical events on the birth of opera, birdsong, and the classical works that changed the rules of symphonic music.

The festival now also sponsors a Children's Humanity Festival in the spring as well as occasional talks throughout the year. Information is available at www.chfestival.org.



**The Chicago
Humanities Festival
celebrated its 19th
season this fall**

Promotions, Tenure, and Excellence Awards for Fall 2008 Congratulations!

by Cynthia Aguirre

The College of Arts and Sciences would like to congratulate our talented and dedicated faculty who have received promotions, awards of tenure, and excellence awards for Fall 2008. Please join us in congratulating them and thanking them for their service to NEIU.

Awards of Tenure

Sophia Mihic, Philosophy
Cyndi Moran, Communication,
Media, & Theatre
Paul Schroeder Rodriguez, Foreign
Languages & Literatures
Sudha Srinivas, Physics
Kristen Over, English
Cris Toffolo, Justice Studies

Promotion to the Rank of Associate Professor

Sophia Mihic, Philosophy
Sudha Srinivas, Physics

Promotion to the Rank of

Professor

Andrew Eisenberg, History

Instructor and Academic Support Professional Awards

Cathryn Bulicek, Anthropology
Steve Frankel, Biology
Jean Hemzacek, Earth Science
Audrey Natcone, Justice Studies
Frederick Prete, Biology
Michael Raley, History
Isidor Ruderfer, Biology
Brian Torosian, Music

Faculty Excellence Award for their achievements and contributions to

the academic community in the academic year 2007-2008.

Sangmin Bae, Political Science
Loretta Capeheart, Justice Studies
Lesia Davis, Anthropology
Marian Gidea, Mathematics
Sarah Lucia Hoagland, Philosophy
Lisa Hollis-Sawyer, Psychology
Peter Kimmel, Computer Science
Nancy Matthews, Justice Studies
Sophia Mihic, Philosophy
Dragan Milovanovic, Justice Studies
Dan Milsky, Philosophy
Joel Olfelt, Biology
Shencheng, Xu Art
Zhonggang Zeng, Mathematics

Record Management (RM) A Satisfying Experience or a Living Nightmare

by Leotis Dunn

The State of Illinois (5 ILCS 160/2) (from Ch. 116, par. 43.5) Sec. 2 states that "Record" or "records" means "all books, papers, digitized electronic material, maps, photographs, databases, or other official documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made, produced, executed or received by any agency in the State..."

For the College of Arts and Sciences at Northeastern Illinois University this means that we have three basic obligations regarding records:

1. Create records needed to do the business of the Department, record decisions and actions taken, and document activities for which the Department and its members are responsible
2. Take care of records so that information can be found when needed. This means setting up good directories and files, and filing materials (in legible and easy to understand format) regularly and carefully in a manner that allows them to be safely stored and efficiently retrieved when necessary
3. Carry out the disposition of records in accordance with University records schedules and State of Illinois regulations

Why is records management important? What are the benefits of record management?

Records management:

- Creates a smooth operation of your Department's programs by making the information needed for decision making and operations readily available
- Permits faster retrieval of documents and information from files
- Protects the rights of the Department, its employees, and its students
- Provides continuity in the event of a disaster
- Offers defense and support in litigation
- Helps protect records from inappropriate and unauthorized use
- Meets statutory and regulatory requirements including archival, audit, and oversight activities access
- Offers defense and support in litigation



Spotlight on Customer Service The Weigh to Success

by Mark Sherkow

Four key elements are at the core of efforts to improve work.

They are MEASUREMENT, ANALYSIS, CORRECTIVE ACTION, and PREVENTIVE ACTION.

The idea is pretty simple:

- Keep track of problems so you know which are the most frequent or crucial ones (*measurement*).
- Analyze the problem situations. What is the cause? (*analysis*)
- Take action to correct the specific problem (*corrective action*).
- Consider whether you can prevent a similar problem from happening elsewhere in the work (*preventive action*)

EXAMPLE: Let's say several people in your department answer phones.

You want to focus on the problems people are calling about, to identify any major problems. Use the above process as follows:

1. **MEASUREMENT:** Tally all problem calls over a period of time such as 3 weeks. Create a list of what these calls are about and how many of each type you get. Also, keep a log with brief descriptions of each problem call.

2. **ANALYSIS:** In our imaginary scenario, let's say you realize that the most frequent calls are the ones asking about advisors. Read the descriptions in the logs to see if there are any common patterns. For example, you might discover that one particular advisor is not returning calls from students.

3. **CORRECTIVE ACTION:** You have someone in authority talk to this advisor so the problem hopefully will not happen again with this advisor.

4. **PREVENTIVE ACTION:** You discuss this with someone in charge of advisor training and also the chairs and coordinators so they can spend more time talking to advisors about returning phone calls.

Of course there is effort required to create the initial list and to log in each problem. But once that is done, the rest of the process will follow pretty easily. Voila: problem solved (and future problems prevented)!

Gee Whiz

by Leotis Dunn

419 Scam is the name for section 419 of Nigerian law which makes confidence schemes illegal. This is a scam (confidence trick) where someone pretends to be a wealthy foreigner who wants help moving a large amount of money overseas. <http://blogsvault.com/geeks-dictionary>. Also see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advance_fee_fraud for more interesting insight into the origin and detail of this scam.



The 2008 Audrey Reynolds Distinguished Teaching Award

The recipient of the 2008 Audrey Reynolds Distinguished Teaching Award is Timothy Scherman, English Department Professor.

Dr. Audrey Reynolds, Professor Emerita, Linguistics, established this award to be given annually to a tenured member of the Northeastern faculty who best demonstrates distinguished teaching. The award

is being presented for the first time this year.

The finalists were Shelley Bannister, Justice Studies and Women's Studies; Teddy Bofman, Linguistics; Cyndi Moran, Communications, Media and Theatre; April Nauman, Teacher Education; and Timothy Scherman, English and Women's Studies.

Congratulations to the finalists and to Dr. Scherman. The award will be formally presented at the December 2008 Commencement Ceremony.

PRE-LAW SOCIETY

By David Nissim-Sabat

NEIU's Pre-Law Society has been hard at work putting together programming for the spring. They will host Kaplan for several events to help students get information on the LSAT, on how to write personal statements, and on the law school

application process. Most of the Chicago law schools such as Kent, John Marshall, Loyola, DePaul, NIU, and SIU will visit as well to give students an opportunity to meet the admissions staff and answer questions.



PRE HEALTH

By David Nissim-Sabat

This spring we are planning to have several visits from UIC including the College of Pharmacy, Public Health, Physical Therapy and even Dentistry. They will all hold separate information sessions for NEIU

students during activity hours throughout the semester. Rush University is also planning to do the same.



Welcome New Faculty

by Cynthia Aguirre

We are happy to announce and to welcome 10 new tenure-track faculty to the College of Arts and Sciences. They began Fall 2008 and we hope you will help us welcome them and share the great spirit of NEIU!

Holly Dunsworth, Anthropology
Ana Nieves, Art
Karen Hales, Biology
Emina Stojkovic, Biology
Anthony Adams, Communication, Media, & Theatre
Seung-Hwan Mun, Communication, Media, & Theatre

Kenneth Voglesonger, Earth Science
Marcia Buell, English
Paul Schroeder Rodriguez, Foreign Languages & Literatures
Monika Mihir, Geography & Environmental Studies
Cris Toffolo, Justice Studies

Exciting New One credit 300-level Course Offerings in English Summer Schedule: Courses on American Ethnic Poetry and Science Fiction

By Tim Libretti

This summer (2009) the English Department curriculum will feature two new and experimental one-credit offerings at the 300-level. The good Professor Tom Hoberg, one of the English Department's prominent scholars and teachers, will engage his expertise in two courses he recently developed, **English 305: New Voices, Different Voices: Contemporary Ethnic Poetry in America**, and **English 306: Science Fiction, Then and Now**.

A man of many interests and literary passions and an educator who loves to teach all, Professor Hoberg created these one-credit courses with the hope of appealing to students of all varieties who might not necessarily be seeking a degree but who nonetheless seek to engage their minds. Additionally, the course is intended to serve Northeastern's substantial population of non-traditional degree students who often need one-credit courses at the 300-level and have had to pursue such a course at other institutions such as Governor's State.

All students are welcome and will find Professor Hoberg to be one whose literary appetites and intellect are omnivorous and who reject snobbery, as he shares the passion of many for Science Fiction and other popular literature which orbit at the outskirts of the canon.

English 306: Science Fiction, Then and Now will be offered in Summer IA and will meet on Mondays from 10:40-1:00 for the six-week term. Professor Hoberg will chart the development and transformation of Science Fiction through such stalwarts in the genre as Arthur C. Clarke, Clifford Simak, Theodore Sturgeon, Frederick Pohl. Joan Vinge, William Gibson, and Neil Stephenson.

English 305: New Voices, Different Voices: Contemporary Ethnic Poetry in America, scheduled during the Summer II term on Mondays from 10:40-1:00, offers an appreciate and

critical reading of poetry of the present and recent past, including African-American, Hispanic-American, Native American, and Asian-American poets, in which will be discussed the poets' diversity and their commonality. Professor Hoberg will guide students through the fascinating works of poets such as Langston Hughes, N. Scott Momaday, Joy Harjo, Louise Erdrich, Audre Lorde, Rita Dove, Wendy Rose, Cathy Song, Lawson Inada, Sandra Cisneros, Lorna Dee Cervantes, and Gary Soto, among others.

Again, these courses are designed to appeal to the broad Northeastern community, and Professor Hoberg is a sure bet to create an intellectually vibrant and welcoming learning environment.

COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES

5500 North St. Louis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
60625-4699

Phone: 773-442-5700
Fax: 773-442-5710
E-mail: cas@neu.edu



College of Arts & Sciences Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is your Newsletter. Let us know what features you would like to see. Kaleidoscope will be published Fall, Spring and Summer by the College of Arts & Science. Let us hear from you. Comments, story suggestions and submissions are welcome. Call us at ext 5711 or e-mail C-Kadow@neu.edu

CAS 101- Title Varies: Banner Training for Advisors

by Mary Hay Verne

The CAS Dean's Office, in association with Yvonne Gulli, Director of Academic Advising, is offering Banner Training to CAS Faculty Advisors and Chairs/Coordinators. We've been able to schedule sessions with several departments already and are looking forward to completing the initial Banner training in the next couple of months. Training sessions are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Activity Hour and, as I

mentioned, we are attempting to train Advisors with others from their own department. This way, we can address some issues which are specific to their major. If you're an Advisor and haven't had your Banner Training, please contact your Chair/Coordinator and ask them to arrange a training session with Mary Hay Verne in the Dean's Office.

IT'S IN THE BOX

Academic life at Northeastern can and should be a challenging, yet enjoyable experience.

Asking for directions and guidance and receiving them should not be a part of the challenge. You are important to us, and the services you receive are important to us.

The College of Arts and Sciences is in the process of revamping the assistance you receive from our department (s). As a way of keeping the communication lines open, we will soon display a student comment box in a general area of our department. You will then

by Marlene Evans



be able to add complaints, suggestions, or compliments, which will be followed with feedback from us.

We value you "the customer", and we are committed to ensuring your satisfaction. Be on the lookout for exciting changes.