



CAS Kaleidoscope

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FALL RECEPTION 2009

Dean Wamucii Njogu welcomed the College of Arts & Sciences faculty and staff and various guests at the CAS Fall Reception on September 15 in Alumni Hall. The College celebrated nine new faculty, a new dean, and the promotions and achievement of tenure. The evening was enjoyed by all. Music was provided by the Mayo Tiana and the Northeastern Jazz Combo.



Happy New Year! Message from the Dean.

I hope you enjoyed a happy, safe, and relaxing break.

As I began to write this message, I realized that I have completed a semester as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Time flies when you are having fun! Assuming the position of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. The College of Arts and Sciences at Northeastern Illinois University is the largest college on campus, employing over 60% of the University's tenured/tenure track faculty and a significant number of staff and full-time and part-time instructors. It is not an understatement to say that the College of Arts and Sciences has a profound impact on the education of all of Northeastern Illinois University's students. In Fall 2009, CAS college generated over two thirds (67%) of the credit hours generated in the entire University.

As your dean, I will collaborate with staff, alumni, emeriti faculty, students and faculty to strengthen CAS because I believe that the success of the College depends on the hard and dedicated service of all stakeholders. During my short tenure as dean of the college, I have seen many developments that confirm my belief that the college is thriving.

Some of these developments include the following:

- Student credit hours increased significantly (6%) between 2008 and 2009. The number of majors also increased between fall 2008 and fall 2009. Indeed, some of our programs have experienced unprecedented growth since they were implemented.

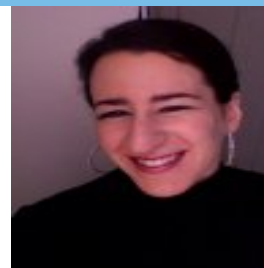
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Who is Stephanie Levi?

by Stephaine Levi

As the new Coordinator for the Student Center for Science Engagement, Dr. Stephanie Levi brings a strong background of science and research experience, public and educational outreach, mentoring and advising students, and career development programming in the sciences. Stephanie received her Ph.D. from the Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology at the University of Chicago, where she studied the molecular basis of the structure of the Golgi—the cell's own post office—using baker's and brewers yeast. She is an expert electron and light microscopist, molecular biologist, biochemist and cell biologist. While in graduate school, Stephanie initiated and participated in countless programs to bring science education to children,

teens and adults, serving on the University of Chicago's executive planning committee for the City of Chicago's Science Chicago initiative; as well as serving as a Scientist-on-Call for the program, bringing science workshops to children at a local writing center, initiating a series of discussions at local venues for the adult public, mentoring students to win state science competitions and successfully complete Ph.D. programs, and also serving as the Vice-Chair of the young professionals group for Human Rights Watch in Chicago. Stephanie has authored several scientific papers during her career, and her outreach activities have



been featured on WTTW 11's "Chicago Tonight," in "Chicago Magazine," and most recently, "Timeout Chicago." Stephanie is passionate about the Student Center for Science Engagement, whose mission is to make science accessible for students and provide them with support and opportunities in the sciences. She can be reached at s-levi@neiu.edu, and is located in SCI-225C.

Pre-Health Events at NEIU

by David Nissim-Sabat

Last spring several universities visited Northeastern providing information sessions of their professional health programs to pre-health students. Universities such as Rush, UIC, Rosalind Franklin, Midwestern, and Southern participated in these sessions. This fall the visits and outreach to students continued with the University of Illinois' Urban Health Program launching the semester's guests on Thursday, September 24th.

The UIC Urban Health Program (UHP) visited NEIU to meet with prospective graduate and professional students. UHP was established in 1978 to increase the number of African American, Latino and Native American students in the health sciences. The following Colleges at UIC all participate in UHP; Applied Health Sciences, College of Dentistry, Graduate College, College of Medicine, College

of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, School of Public Health and the Jane Addams College of Social Work.

They shared information on application and admissions procedures including discussions on what students can do to complete a successful application to any of their programs. They also discussed their many summer programs including GRE training, the Medical College Admissions Program, (MCAT) Review Program and more.

Also in the spring, an affiliate agreement was signed between NEIU and Rush University's College of Nursing. The agreement guarantees admission for two NEIU graduates per entry term (4 students per year) into Rush's General Entry Master of Science

in Nursing program (GEM). The students must meet all of Rush's minimum requirements as well as have at least two years of credit from Northeastern, have taken five of the eight prerequisites from Northeastern, have graduated from Northeastern, and have been formally recommended by Northeastern's pre-health advisor. Rush visited NEIU on Thursday, October 22nd to hold an information session specifically about the program and answer any questions from interested students.



Spotlight on Staff

by Cynthia Aguirre and Mary Hay Verne

This year we've decided to highlight some of our wonderful staff in the College of Arts and Sciences! We'll be focusing on two per newsletter and picking our subjects randomly. We've also included a few comments which we, unfortunately, had to pare down because there are so many positive things to say about our CAS Staff!

So, without further ado, enjoy getting to know Ann Botz and John Baumgardner a bit better.

Ann Botz

I began working at the University Spring 2005 as a temp (secretary) in the LLAS and WS programs. Prior to NEIU, I worked in the business world for more than 25 years in corporate real estate and strategic planning. Currently, I am the Office Administrator supporting AFAM, LLAS and WSP. All three programs operate out of LWH 2096. So, our office is a busy one -- with lots of students stopping by to use the computer lab, study or talk. It's a happening place!

Outside of work, I try to stay fit by doing a lot of walking and taking exercise classes at the PE Building. This is probably a good thing, considering that I like to cook and love to go out to eat. Dancing is always fun -- although those disco nights are a thing of the past. My music tastes are varied but I have a soft spot for R&B and jazz. Did you know that NEIU has a great jazz band? For relaxation -- a good book, movie, crossword puzzle or "junky" TV show does the trick.

Now you know a little more about me. But what you may not know is how much I appreciate working with the many excellent staff and faculty that we have here at NEIU.

A few comments about Ann:

I find Ann to be organized, dedicated, efficient, and very hardworking. She loves the students and gets along very well with faculty and staff. -from Job Ngwe.

Ann is the very heart of the Women's Studies Program.—from Deb Bernstein

Ann is such a help to me when I am teaching Women's Perspectives and Values... She's supportive and just plain fun to be around.—from Jill Althage

Ann is one of the finest professional staff members I have had the pleasure of working with...She is hard working, positive, skilled and a pleasure to work with. - from Ellen Cannon

Ann is exceptional to work with. Besides being one of the most competent people I have ever worked with, she is upbeat and cool under fire! - from Susan Stall.

I have always been struck by the intellectual role Ann plays in the Women's Studies Program. Every time I have participated in public presentations with our students, Ann has been in the audience and asked great questions. - from Sophia Mihic

She's a pleasure to have as a co-worker." - from Netiva Caftori

Her competence, diligence, and good nature are outstanding.—from Victor Ortiz

John Baumgardner

I split my day between the Anthropology Department, where I serve

as Office Manager, and the African & African American/Latino & Latin American/Women's Studies Programs, where I am the Office Support Specialist. In addition, I am currently working toward a Master's degree in vocal pedagogy through the Music Department at

When I am not in class or rehearsing singing, I enjoy attending music performances and trying different restaurants throughout the city. I also enjoy jogging along the lakefront, catching a late-night movie and baking pies while watching reruns of *The Golden Girls*.

A few Comments about John:

John is among the very best staff personnel with whom I've worked with at NEIU. He is a total problem solver, and is always willing to help. - from Russell Zanca

John is simply a superb office manager. In addition to his proactive, conscientious service to faculty and the coordinator, John is an excellent advocate for the students and is always friendly and efficient in handling their queries. Did I mention he sings? He does so *manifiently*" - from Lesa Davis

John is amazing both because of his infectiously upbeat disposition and for his organizational skills. Thanks so much for highlighting him... he certainly deserves the public praise. - from Holly Dunsworth

He's been an extremely valuable addition to our department and has embraced his position with enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication...He is a great asset to our department and we are fortunate to have him; the downside is that we have him only half-time!" - from Jon Hageman

FALL RECEPTION 2009



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Virus Prevention

by Leotis Dunn

In this quick article computer virus refers to any software or code that was designed to cause damage to a computer system. Is that a vague definition or what? The answer is yes it is because there are so many types of codes, software and people out there who want your private information or to cause chaos on your computer. There are certain things that can be done to protect your computer system but none are 100 percent effective because of the weak link.

The following steps will assist you in protecting your computer system and save you in

case your system does get a virus.

1. Always back up data because it may be too late to back up data if computer virus has engaged your computer.
2. Make sure that a firewall is connected and active. A firewall is the computer system's first line of defense. Remember there is a constant flow of new viruses being created just for you and the rest of the world.
3. Make sure that anti-virus program is up-dated regularly.
4. Scan for viruses often.
5. Do not open e-mail or soft-

ware or download attachments from an unknown person or source that you don't trust or feel comfortable with. Scan first before opening if possible. If you do get a computer virus – disconnect from the network quickly to help prevent the spread of that virus.

Keeping your computer system virus free means that you must be proactive in maintaining your system by updating and scanning your system for viruses.



The Wonders of Chicago

by Mark Sherkow

Are you a new teacher at NEIU and new to Chicago? In 2005, the *Chicago Tribune* newspaper ran a poll asking readers to name their choices for "the 7 wonders of Chicago." Here are the results of that poll (with some comments from me):

THE LAKEFRONT--No surprise that this was the winner. Chicagoans benefit from the wisdom of Daniel Burnham, the City Planner of Chicago who 100 years ago declared that the lakefront should remain public and for the benefit of all citizens.

WRIGLEY FIELD—This is the baseball park for the Chicago Cubs, located in a popular area for "urban professionals."

THE "L"—The combined elevated and subway train system.

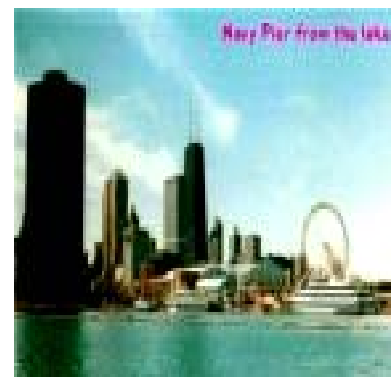
Trains that do not go underground, such as the Brown Line, give a great view of the city, from the neighborhoods to downtown. A great way to get to and from downtown.

THE SEARS TOWER—Now called the Willis Tower, it is one of the tallest buildings in the world and offers great views from the observation deck.

THE WATER TOWER—One of only two buildings in Chicago to survive the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, it is located downtown in the middle of the "Magnificent Mile," a great area for shopping or just walking.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO—Located in Hyde Park, it includes such attractions as Rockefeller Chapel and the Henry Moore sculpture that commemorates the first atomic reaction.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY—School kids throughout the Chicago area and the Midwest make at least one school trip to this venerable institution in their lives. Located in Hyde Park right next to the University of Chicago.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

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- The CAS secured unprecedented number of grants in the past year. In FY2007, the CAS received \$584,826 in grant funding but by FY2009, the college secured grants totaling \$2,244,243
- The Social Work program has been reaffirmed for an additional eight years. Congratulations to students, staff, and faculty in the Social Work Department.
- The college added nine new faculty members in Fall 2009. The CAS is in the process of conducting ten searches for two faculty in Social Work, one in each of the following: Math, Psychology, English; Earth Science; History; Art and Communication, Media and Theatre..
- We had a successful fall reception on September 15, 2009. Over 150 friends including members of faculty, instructors, members of our Board of Trustees, administrators and our staff attended the reception.
- On October 19, 2009, we held a very successful staff development luncheon. Another seminar that was held on November 19, 2009 was also very successful.
- We have held a working lunch meeting with faculty in year two and three of employment. We will plan more of these meetings in the spring.
- I have visited several departments, attended several program review debriefings, and met with many faculty members, staff, and students.

I look forward to the spring semester. My goal in the coming months is to continue to understand the needs and challenges of the many departments that make up our college. Please do not hesitate to invite me to your department meeting if you have not already done so.

The "Mouse House"

Puryear/Kimble Research group by Terrence Puryear

The Mouse House is a research group made up of undergraduate and master's students from the biology department. Students from our group have presented at the national Developmental Biology meetings this summer and will be presenting at the national SACNAS meetings this fall. The research concentrates on the possible connection between high levels of folate supplementation and developmental problems such as ADHA and autism.

- Luiza Przewodnikowska, Rachel Brunner, Dragan Mackovic and Yasmeen Shorish all had presentations at the national Developmental Biology meetings in July of this year.
- Christopher Del Re, Luiza Przewodnikowska, Rachel Brunner and Sarada Abraham are all presenting at the national SACNAS meeting in October.
- Christopher Del Re, Luiza Przewodnikowska, Rachel Brunner, Dragan Mackovic and Muzna Nazeer all had presentations at the university symposium last spring.

The group's research focuses on the role of folate in embryonic development. Recent publications have pointed out the deleterious effects of high folate levels on human health. It has been shown that folate can promote the growth of certain types of cancers, increase your chances of getting type 2 diabetes and pancreatic cancer. In addition, high levels of folate in utero have been linked with asthma ADHD and autism in a cohort specific manner.

This is one of several research groups at Northeastern. We hope to let you know about others in future editions.

Our Kind of Town

ALL JOKES ASIDE COMEDY CLUB A CHICAGO SECRET

by Mark Sherkow

A film and discussion about the black comedy club *All Jokes Aside* was one of the presentations at the 20th annual Chicago Humanities Festival. The presentation took place November 15 at Northwestern University Law School's Thorne Auditorium, at 375 W. Chicago Ave. in Chicago.

All Jokes Aside was located at approximately 1000 S. Michigan Ave. and existed through most of the 1990s. The club was a springboard for new young black comics such as Steve Harvey, Jamie Foxx, Cedric the Entertainer, D.L. Hughley, Carlos Mencia and

Bernie Mac.

The documentary that was shown as part of the presentation is still in production. Producers hope to issue a 45 minute version for TV and a longer version for release in movie theaters.

The discussion centered on the club's start, success, and eventual demise after the rise of cable television.

It noted that Chicago newspapers referred to it as a "South Side club"—code for African



American—even though it was located in the South loop.

Promotions, Tenure, and Excellence Awards for Fall 2009 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

Awards of Tenure

Paulo Acioli, Physics
Jon Hageman, Anthropology
T.Y. Okosun, Justice Studies
Mark Schmeller, History
Marcelo Sztainberg, Computer Science
Nancy Wrinkle, Mathematics
Shencheng Xu, Art

Promotion to the Rank of Associate Professor

Paulo Acioli, Physics
Jon Hageman, Anthropology

Mark Schmeller, History
Marcelo Sztainberg, Computer Science
Nancy Wrinkle, Mathematics
Shencheng Xu, Art

Promotion to the Rank of Professor

Katrina Bell-Jordan, Communication,
Media and Theatre
Vicki Byard, English
Denise Cloonan, Foreign Languages
and Literatures
Richard Hallett, Linguistics

Ana Fraiman, Chemistry
Peter Kimmel, Computer Science
Maureen Wang-Eber, Psychology

Audrey Reynolds Distinguished Teaching Award CAS Nominees

Shelley Bannister, Justice Studies & Women's Studies
Ellen Cannon, Political Science & Women's Studies
Denise Coonan-Cortez, Foreign Languages & Literatures

Spotlight on Customer Service #1 Time Savers vs. Time Wasters

by Mark Sherkow

We all have our little “tricks”—things we do to save time.

Sometimes it might be for a repetitive activity that is done every day, such as how we find an e-mail. Because we do it so much, if we can find a fast way to do it, the time saved will add up.

Other times it might be for some-

thing we only do every once in awhile. Since we do not do the thing very often, perhaps we forget how to do it or even where to check to find out how to do it. If we can do something to remind us, we can save the time of scurrying around saying “now where is that thing?”

Here are some examples:



Time Waster	Time Saver
Never can find a paper file	Think of a place you will always remember to look for the file.
Never can find an electronic file	Create directories and sub-directories—e.g. <i>reports, annual report</i>
Never can find an e-mail	Create folders and sub-folders—e.g. <i>faculty, evaluations</i>
Use a web site a lot	Add it to your “favorites” bar
Forgot about an appointment	Use a calendar
Forgot about a promise	Write down the promise where you will see it!
Got started late or skipped a step	Create a check list for the project, with dates.
Walking far to get something	Place the thing where you will need it (“point of use”)

The moral of the story: TIME IS IMPORTANT. USE IT WISELY!

Spotlight on Customer Service#2 Accountability and Accuracy

by Mark Sherkow

Two good ways to improve customer service are to focus on *Accuracy* and *Accountability*.

Accuracy is making sure something is correct when it arrives at your desk and when it leaves your desk:

1. Double-check everything, especially numbers. Proofread.
2. Seek clarity rather than

vagueness. If something is unclear, **ASK ABOUT IT.** Listen to your inner voice of doubt that says “Hmm, I am not sure that is right.”

For someone to be *Accountable*, it must be clear who is responsible and what is expected of them. **PUT IT IN WRITING.**

1. Clarify **WHAT** needs to be

- done.
2. Clarify **WHEN** it needs to be done.
3. Make sure the person doing the work and the one receiving it agree on #1 & #2.
4. Check a day or two before the work is due to be sure the person is on track.
5. Know the full name and phone number of the person making these promises!

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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@neiu.edu

Welcome New Faculty

by Cynthia Aguirre

We are happy to announce and to welcome 9 new tenure-track faculty to the College of Arts and Sciences. They began Fall 2009 .

Maria Eugenia de la Torre, Justice Studies
Ryan Gallagher, Economics
Francisco Gaytan, Social Work
Pamela Geddes, Biology
Robert Heitzinger, Music
Ken Nicholson, Chemistry
Shannon Saszik, Psychology
Aaron Schirmer, Biology
Michael Wenz, Economics