

Office of the Dean of Students

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NEWSLETTER

The Office of the Dean of Students Welcomes New Staff  
 Antoinette McConnell, Assistant Dean

Antoinette McConnell has been appointed to the position of Assistant Dean of Students. Her responsibilities include coordinating off-campus housing, serving as office liaison to International Programs, the University Ambassadors Program, managing the office website and publications, and serving as the Judicial Hearing Officer.

Antoinette earned a B.S. in Communication/Public Relations from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. She attended Loyola University, Chicago for graduate school where she worked for the Community Law Center and within the Office of Student Activities. She earned an M.A. in Education from Loyola and since has served as an educational program director, trainer for the National PTA, academic skills specialist at UIC, Chicago and as a Coordinator within Academic Development at NEIU.

Antoinette is enthusiastic and committed to student development, service and support. Within the past two years she has researched and presented to the NCLCA national conference on the topics of Student-Centered Learning and on University Comprehensive Student Support Programs Best Practices. Her new office is located in room B 119 and she can be reached at ext. 4618.



Orientation  
 Transformation

Becoming orientated to a new place can be a difficult experience. To help ease the process, for the first time in 2008, Northeastern Illinois University offered a modern, efficient orientation process for new students. The “new” orientation included registration for classes, learning the campus and answering financial matters, academic related questions and even what major a student could pursue.

A total of twenty-two orientation sessions were held in 2008: fifteen were held for new incoming freshman, four for transfer students, one for the adult learner, and two for families of all new students. During a four-month period, a total of 1,020 students went through this process in 2008. Of those completing the process, a book bag was given in exchange for completing an evaluation. Also, those who arrived on time or were early were surprised to take part in special prize give away, ranging from t-shirts, to school supplies, to other NEIU themed prizes. At many of the orientations, students heard a program introduction and welcome from either President Sharon K. Hahs or Dr. Michael T. Kelly, Dean of Students. At every orientation, a lunch was served.

All in all, in 2008, orientation transformation was a huge success! We at NEIU and the Office of the Dean of Students look forward to having the process expand more in 2009.



The National Student  
 Exchange Program

The National Student Exchange (NSE) Program is currently accepting applications from students interested in spending a semester studying at one of 200+ university institutions throughout the U.S. The application deadline for national exchange study is Feb. 1, 2009. For a complete list of all schools participating, including those in Puerto Rico and Canada, feel free to stop by the Dean of Students Office or visit [www.nse.org](http://www.nse.org)

NSE allows a student an affordable and practical opportunity to experience new and diverse settings in which to study and live. Study through the NSE program within the U.S. and Canada can be just as exhilarating and culturally enriching as international study and one of the most significant experiences of a student’s undergraduate education. For more information, feel free to contact the NEIU, NSE coordinator Flora Llacuna at (773) 442-4610 or stop by the Dean of Students Office.

Dean's Office Staff:

- Michael T. Kelly, Ed.D., Dean of Students
- Antoinette R. McConnell, M.A., Assistant Dean of Students
- Robert Bedford, M.S.Ed., Assistant Dean of Students
- Flora M. Llacuna, M.A., Coordinator, Student Enrichment Programs
- Ruth Johnson, Office Support Specialist
- Nawaf Habib, M.Sc., University Liaison for S.A.H.H.P. Grant
- Dave Rudey, Graduate Assistant
- Nathan Ziccarelli, Graduate Assistant
- Jimit Shah, Office Assistant

Vital Information:

This newsletter is published once per academic term to inform students about the activities of the Office of the Dean of Students.

Questions:

Suggestions for future editions should be forwarded to the Dean's Office by calling extension 4610 or e-mailing [M-Kelly2@neiu.edu](mailto:M-Kelly2@neiu.edu)

## Show your Support!

# WRC



**The White Ribbon Campaign**  
**(Men working to end men's violence against women).**  
**Held: Monday**  
**October 27th, 2008**  
**Village Square**  
**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

## What is the White Ribbon Campaign (WRC)?

The WRC is the largest effort in the world of men working to end men's violence against women. It relies on volunteer support and financial contributions from individuals and organizations.

## How did the WRC get started?

In 1991, a handful of men in Canada decided they had a responsibility to speak out against violence against women. They decided that wearing a white ribbon would be a symbol of opposition to men's violence against women. After only six weeks preparation, as many as 100,000 men across Canada wore a white ribbon.

## Why should you participate? And what does it mean to wear a white ribbon?

Wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women. This is not just a campaign for men, women are also encouraged to show their support against domestic violence.

The White Ribbon Campaign ran on Oct. 27th with information available in the Village Square. Showing support means simply wearing a white ribbon. For additional information, contact the Office of the Dean of the Students at (773) 442-4610.

# The Student Complaint Procedure

**The Office of the Dean of Students distributes the Request for Formal Review of a Student Complaint form.**

**The form must be submitted in order for a complaint to be investigated.**

## Steps in filing a complaint:

The student is to first meet with the staff person responsible for complaints in the office where the matter arose in hopes of gaining resolution.

If after the meeting the student is dissatisfied with the outcome, the following steps are to be followed:

- 1) A complaint is to be submitted in writing to the Office of the Dean of Students by completing a Student Complaint Form.
- 2) When a student submits a complaint, the person must provide their name, contact information, and attach any related documents.
- 3) After a complaint is submitted, the student will meet with the Dean, an Assistant Dean, or Coordinator to review the matter and be informed of the process.

- 4) The assigned staff member will then investigate the nature of the complaint, contact all necessary parties, and report back to the student with the outcome.
- 5) Additional follow-ups will take place at the student's request until the matter is resolved.

**All completed complaint forms are kept on file in the Office of the Dean of Students.**

**Note that grade appeals, exceptions to University procedures, student disciplinary complaints, and affirmative action cases do not fall under these guidelines.**

## Leadership Opportunities



The University Student Ambassadors program allows promising leaders the opportunity to assist in preserving the integrity of Northeastern Illinois University. The University Ambassador program enhances students' educational experience and helps to build the leadership skills needed in pursuit of an academic program and in accomplishing career goals. They greet, inform and conduct tours for university special guests, creating a positive first and last impression. They serve during major university events including Fall and Spring Commencement, the Academic Honors Reception and other cultural events. Many of these events are sponsored by the Office of the President.

Students need only thirty hours of coursework completed and a GPA of 2.00 to be eligible for the program. Ambassadors receive priority registration and leadership training. Ambassadors engage in many networking opportunities and enjoy the benefits of recognition as dynamic student leaders and role models.

The Office of the Dean of Students is currently accepting applications. Interested students can get an application in room B 119 or from the Office of the Dean of Students website at [www.neiu.edu/~deanst](http://www.neiu.edu/~deanst). This program is vital to enhancing campus life and in providing our students with an enriching college experience.

## Peer Leader Recruitment

The Dean of Students Office is currently accepting applications for Peer Leaders for the Orientation Program, 2009. This paid position allows a student to experience leadership training while sharing experiences with incoming freshman and Transfer/Adult Learners. Leadership training is an invaluable asset on a college and career resume. Our past peer leaders have come from all disciplines. However, they all share one major common goal: to make NEIU a better place.

Rewards await you if you become a Peer Leader for orientation 2009. Put in an application today to become a Peer Leader and help fellow students with the transition to campus life.

For more information, please contact Assistant Dean Robert E. Bedford at (773) 442-4610 or via e-mail at [R-Bedford@neiu.edu](mailto:R-Bedford@neiu.edu). Also feel free to use the orientation line (773) 442-4619 to leave a message.

## New University Liaison Hired for Grant Program



Nawaf Habib assumed duties as University Liaison for the office's HIV, Hepatitis, and Substance Abuse prevention program for Latino students. He began his new role on August 1st. Nawaf has a Masters of Science in veterinary immunology, and is currently a graduate student in the Department of Biology. As University Liaison, he is responsible for coordinating prevention activities and supervising Student Peer Educators. He is also the primary contact with the grantor, the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which is a division of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

## Partners for Success: The Minority Student Mentoring Program

The Partners for Success: Minority Student Mentoring Program held its 2008 Kick Off Reception in the Golden Eagles Room on Thursday, September 25th. Newly selected mentees met their mentors, who are faculty and staff from various NEIU departments. This successful program, in its 19th year, is designed to provide freshman students with a mentor to assist with commonplace tasks of being a college student. Mentors provide everything from advice on higher education, careers of interest, to practical life information, or even what modes of public transportation are quickest to get to campus.

If you are interested in the program as a mentor or mentee, please feel free to stop by the Office of the Dean of Students and talk with Flora Llacuna or give her a call at (773) 442-4610.

## Be Sure you Attend!

Attend a dialogue between NEIU students and filmmaker Tod Lending discussing documenting topics of drug addiction, poverty and violence in *Legacy* his Academy Award-nominated film. NEIU Sociology and Justice Studies courses have been asked to preview the film *Legacy* and to submit discussion questions in advance. The dialogue with filmmaker Tod Lending will be held on Thursday, November, 20th from 7 to 9 p.m. in room SU 214. This program is in support of the Adult and Women Student Program's Pathways to Peace Fall, 2008 series and co-sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Students.