

Mission Statement

We live and work in a global community in which many cultures and traditions interact. The objective of the Inter-Faith Conference is to promote the positive role of understanding and tolerance as a healing and constructive force in life. Presentations and opportunity for dialog give students an enhanced understanding to learn, respect, and revitalize cross-cultural experiences. At no point should any individual feel the need to compromise the integrity of one's beliefs, practices, traditions, or that of their community. The Inter-Faith Committee of Northeastern Illinois University invites you to join in this journey and assume a leadership role as we walk the paths of life respectfully in Unity and Peace.

Calendar of Events

9:25 am - 10:40 am _____ **Golden Eagles**

A Keynote Address "Building Unity: The Challenge of Change - Empowerment for Action"

Introduction.....**Murrell J. H. Duster**, Dean, Academic Development / Diversity and Multicultural Programs, NEIU
Moderator:.....**Rosemary Schneekloth**, Acting Coordinator/PDSO, International Programs, NEIU
Presenter:.....**Reverend Gregory Seal Livingston**, National Field Secretary, Rainbow PUSH Coalition; former senior pastor, Mandell United Methodist Church; president, Black United Methodist Pastors (BUMP); Westside Ministers Coalition; The African-American Leadership Commission (AALC/Gamaliel Foundation); The Westside Health Crisis Coalition; The Metropolitan Alliance of Congregations West (MAC West); Chairman, Chicago's 17th Ward Ministers Advisory Council; contributing journalist, Austin Weekly, Austin Voice and the Garfield Voice newspapers; Author, "Spiritual Hunger", (2008).
Discussant:.....**Bharat Barai**, MD, Medical Director, Oncology/Hematology, Methodist Hospitals

10:50 am – 12:05 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Inter-Faith Perspectives on Building Unity

Introduction: ...**Michael T. Kelly**, Dean of Students, NEIU
Moderator:.....**Hans Upadhyay**, Professor, Earth Science, NEIU
Discussants:.....**Rabbi Asher Lopatin**, Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation - (Judaism)
Manish Shah, Trustee, Council of Parliament of World Religions ('98-'04) - (Jainism)
Sudha Rao, MD, Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago, Lemont - (Hinduism)
Reverend Sunju Choi Chong, Pastoral Psychotherapy/ Consultation, Telosclinic; Education Pastor (ordained clergy), New Friends Wesleyan Church – (Christianity)

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Inter-Faith Perspectives on Building Unity

Introduction /
Moderator:.....**Elaine Koffman**, Professor, Educational Leadership and Development, NEIU
Discussants:.....**Assad Busool**, Chairman, Department of Arabic Studies, American Islamic College - (Islam)
Kayomارش P. Mehta, Board Member/Trustee, Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago - (Zoroastrianism)
Boonshoo Sriburin, Wat Dhammaram/Vipassana Meditation Center - (Buddhism)
Saba Ayman-Nolley, Chair and Professor, Psychology Department, NEIU (The Baha'i Faith)
Rajinder Singh Mago, Community Outreach, Sikh Religious Society of Chicago - (Sikhism)

1:40 pm – 2:50 pm _____ **SU - 214**

A Round Table Dialog with Students and Staff of Northeastern Illinois University

Introduction: ...**Kathleen Kardaras**, Coordinator, Honors Program, NEIU
Moderators:.....**Chris Poulos**, Sociology; Students Against War, NEIU
Kimberly J. Sonju, Honors Program, NEIU
Jeremy Slate, Environmental Studies, Green Cycle Group, NEIU
Discussants:.....**Students**, NEIU

It is important that we know and understand the various interconnections between faiths and religions. We do this when we explore, compare and contrast their philosophical underpinnings. Globalization and a rapidly changing world market economy urge us to foster greater objectivity and non-compartmentalized thinking regarding our perception of various religions and faiths. Societal and demographic shifts manifest the need for greater inter-cultural and inter-religious understanding. Let us come together and engage in dialog as we ponder what it means to build unity while we face the challenge of change.

2:50 pm – 3:50 pm _____ **SU - 214**

A Video Presentation and Discussion - "Spiritual Reality"

Discussants:.....**Anita Ambardar**, Professor, Reading, NEIU
Reverend Siew Lian Lim, Mahayana Buddhist Meditation, Student, NEIU

This interactive presentation on meditative experiences represents two decades of extensive research and real life experiences of Spiritual Masters.

2:50 pm – 4:05 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Critical Discourse between Middle Eastern and Western Philosophers

Introduction /
Moderator:.....**Dan Milsky**, Coordinator, Philosophy, NEIU
Presenter:.....**Jason Mohaghegh**, Assistant Professor, Philosophy, NEIU

This presentation will seek to uncover the vast and intense dialogue that has taken place between philosophical visionaries of the Middle East and the West throughout the 20th century and beyond. This talk will cover some of the most innovative literary, artistic, and critical movements that have emerged on both sides throughout contemporary history, tracing the ways in which figures from these radically distinct cultural contexts have engaged and experimented with the concepts of modernism, surrealism, futurism, minimalism, and existentialism. Ultimately, the intent is to reveal the profound exchange of ideas still occurring between authors and thinkers from these regions, and to demonstrate the ways in which such movements are able to tread beyond the limits of their historical context.

5:40 pm – 6:55 pm _____ **Golden Eagles**

Liberation Theology and Social Justice

Introduction: ...**Yasmin Ranney**, Assistant Dean, Academic Development, NEIU
Presenter:.....**June Terpstra**, Instructor, Justice Studies, NEIU and Columbia College

Dr. Terpstra's talk will offer an overview of the main principles of the early Liberation Theologists as they relate to the main principles of social justice and her own ancestry and vocation.

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm _____ **El Centro, NEIU**

Empowerment Through Action for Social Change

Introduction: ...**Daniel López, Jr.**, Associate Dean, Academic Development and Director, El Centro, NEIU
Presenter:.....**Reverend Walter L. Coleman**, Pastor, Adalberto United Methodist Church

This session will discuss ways in which the United Methodist Church assists, protects and empowers Latino families in Chicago.

Monday, November 12, 2007
1:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Political Science Careers Fair SU-003

Committee Members

Rosemary Schneekloth
Ellen Cannon
Dan Creely
Murrell J. H. Duster
Rohit Joshi
Masahiro Kasai
Michael Kelly

Elaine C. Koffman
Rubi Ortiz
Yasmin Ranney
Narendar Rao
Jade Stanley
Hans Upadhyay

The Committee gratefully acknowledges the support received from members of the University community.

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Lawrence P. Frank, Vice President and Provost, Academic Affairs
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Mark Wilcockson, Vice President, Finance and Administration
Santos Rivera, Senior Executive Director of Affirmative Action and Institutional Outreach Initiatives

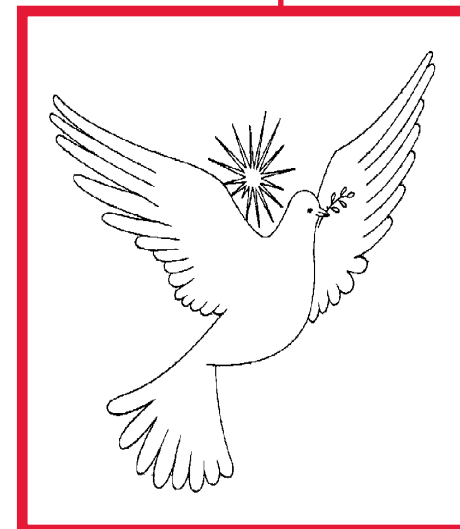
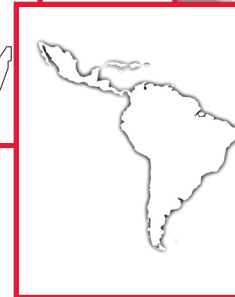
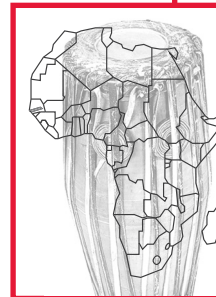
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For additional information, please call
The Office of Academic Development at (773) 442-5449.
www.neiu.edu/~acdevelo

All Events Are Free And Open To The Public

Inter-Faith Conference
“Building Unity: The Challenge of Change
Empowering Each Other to Take Action”

Tuesday, November 13, 2007