

# Nontraditional Degree Programs (NDP) Newsletter

Spring 2010

Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies  
Prospective Student Meetings

Thursday, January 21, 6-8 pm	SU 003
Monday, February 1, 2-4 pm	SU 214
Wednesday, February 17, 6-8pm	SU 215
Tuesday, March 2, 2-4 pm	SU 216
Wednesday, March 17, 6-8 pm	SU 216
Tuesday, April 6, 2-4 pm	SU 216
Thursday, April 22, 6-8 pm	SU 214
Monday, May 3, 6-8 pm	SU 214
Thursday, May 20, 6-8 pm	SU 215

#### Session 1 **BAIS Portfolio Development Workshops**

Tuesday, Feb 9, 2010; 6-8 p.m.  
Wednesday, Feb 24, 2010; 6-8 p.m.

#### **UWW Information Meetings**

Wednesday, December 2, 2009  
6 p.m. conference room B140  
Friday, January 15, 2010  
2 p.m. conference room B140  
Tuesday, January 26, 2010  
6p.m. conference room B140  
*B140 is located inside Suite B132*

#### **UWW Application Deadlines**

February 15, 2010 for Summer 2010  
May 17, 2010 for Fall 2010

#### **NDP Professional Staff**

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NDP Office Phone 773-442-6030  
NDP Web Site  
<http://www.neiu.edu/~ndp/>

## EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN NDP

This is an exciting time for Nontraditional Degree Programs (NDP). We continue our commitment to serving adult learners by developing innovative options while retaining the flexibility that has always been our hallmark.

#### **New Name**

We have revised the name of our most popular program to Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (BAIS) from Board of Governors to clearly reflect the mission of the program.

#### **New BAIS Concentrations**

There are seven areas of concentration that BAIS students may pursue. They are designed to help students to frame the choices they have made regarding course of study.

The seven areas are: Fine Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Leadership, Community Development & Multicultural Studies, and Professional Studies.

To fulfill a concentration, students will work in consultation with a BAIS advisor to select 18 upper division hours (300-level) of course work in the relevant subjects to create an individualized group of courses that fit with the general themes of the chosen concentration.

#### **New Nontraditional Degree Programs' Course Offerings**

We have created four new courses under the NDP banner. These courses, developed for BAIS and University Without Walls (UWW) Program students, but open to all NEIU students, address University initiatives and current student needs.

#### **Congratulations & Thanks**

Congratulations to Dr. Wamucii Njogu on her appointment as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The NDP staff would like to thank Dr. Njogu for her continuous support, dedication, and leadership. We are grateful to Dr.

Njogu and the NDP Advisory Council who were instrumental in assisting with the process and implementation of our exciting new developments.



**As of October 1, 2009**, NDP reports to Vice Provost Dr. Vicki Román-Lagunas. We look forward to working with her.

## NATIONAL NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT WEEK EVENTS NOVEMBER 2-7, 2009

The NDP Open House is Thursday, November 5th from 1:30-3:00 p.m. Come by our offices in B-147 and meet the NDP staff. We invite you to attend and to bring a dish to share.

The week will include a number of events and workshops on such topics as Applying to Graduate School and a session on Employment Strategies. These events will be jointly hosted by Nontradi-

tional Degree Programs and Adult and Women Student Programs.

For event info, please call NDP at 773-442-6030.

## NDP Advisory Council

Janet Sandoval, Director  
Nontraditional Degree Programs

Hamid Akbari, Chair  
Management  
Michael Armato, Assistant Professor  
Sociology and Women's Studies  
Shelley Bannister, Professor  
Justice Studies and Women's Studies  
Suzanne Benson, Associate Professor  
Educational Leadership and Development  
Ruth Breckinridge Church, Professor  
Psychology  
Eleni Makris, Associate Professor  
Educational Leadership and Development  
Nancy A. Matthews, Associate Professor  
Justice Studies  
Erica R. Meiners, Professor  
Educational Leadership and Development  
Joshua Thusat, Instructor  
Nontraditional Degree Programs and the  
English Language Program  
Joaquin Villegas, Associate Professor  
Teacher Education  
Jen Blair, Program Specialist  
BAIS  
Jay Jans, Program Specialist  
BAIS  
Janine Liska, Coordinator  
UWW

## 300-LEVEL WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE DESIGNED FOR ADULT LEARNERS!

### NDP - 310 WIP Diversity in the Workplace, 3 cr.

Workplace diversity is a hallmark of contemporary life. This course explores multiple dimensions of diversity, including race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and disabilities with the goal of preparing students to function in varied settings. The course is a writing intensive experience, offering the opportunity to develop and hone

written communication skills applicable to the workplace. Students who earn a minimum grade of C in this course will fulfill the Writing Intensive requirement.

Prereq: ENG-101 or consent of Nontraditional Degree Programs.

*Joshua Thusat is the writing instructor for Nontraditional Degree Programs. He received his M.A. in English from Bowling Green State University, and he is finishing his M.A. in Linguistics at North-*

*eastern Illinois University this spring. Joshua notes about NDP 310: "I think students are scared of the Writing Intensive label. Although the course is intensive, the writing process is gradual. It offers students a serious and flexible space to learn about disciplinary writing. Past students will tell you they felt comfortable learning things about writing that they missed or forgot."*

## NONTRADITIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS SCHOLARSHIPS

**NDP students** are eligible for a variety of scholarship opportunities. We encourage students to apply for:

**The Brommel Mendelson-Henington Scholarship.** This is a \$1,500 annual scholarship awarded to a full or part-time NDP student with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

**The Robert Pringle Memorial Scholarship** for BAIS students is a \$500 scholarship awarded annually. Eligibility criteria are:

1. Admitted to BAIS, 2. in good academic standing, 3. exhibit potential to do college work, and 4. exhibit financial need.

### New NEIU Tuition Scholarship for NDP Students

Applications for the Tuition Scholarship are open to any NDP student with a course load of six hours or more and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Up to nine hours of tuition may be awarded on a semester basis.

For information on any of these scholarships, contact the NDP Office at 773-442-6030.

All BAIS and UWW students are eligible to apply for any applicable NEIU scholarship. Contact the Office of Scholarships and Retention at 773-442-4606.

### NONTRADITIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS STAFF

Clockwise from bottom center: Janet Sandoval, Janine Liska, Debra McKenzie, Trease Sockol, Jay Jans, Jen Blair.



**Northeastern** ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**Nontraditional Degree Programs** NEWSLETTER

## NDP GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Recent NDP alumnus Fernando Olszanski was born in Buenos Aries, Argentina in 1965. There he completed two years at university, but quit school in order to support his family.

In 1998, Fernando decided to pursue his two passions: writing and travel and moved to Chicago with his family. After more travel to Japan, Fer-

nando moved back to Chicago and became a writer and community advocate with *ContraTiempo* magazine.

In the BOG program (now BAIS), Fernando took advantage of the portfolio option, documenting his life-learning and proving its equivalence to college coursework. His is one of the most successful portfolios in the program's history; he

earned 55 credit hours.

Fernando has this to say about the BAIS program:

"What I liked the most about the program was that I had the chance to review my life experience, and see it in a different perspective as if every experience were a brick in a wall." Fernando graduated in August 2009.