

CAS

CONNECTIONS

2023 Fall Term | ISSUE #1 | November 13th, 2023

FROM THE DEAN



Greetings, CAS community!

We in the CAS Dean's office are happy to be reaching out to you with our CAS Connections newsletter, hoping to keep you informed and to encourage your connection to and involvement in our college community at NEIU. On a monthly basis, as a way of building our community, we'll be sending you a few highlights from among all the exciting activities in which our students, faculty, and alumni are engaged. Always please feel free to reach out to us with any news you'd like to share with the CAS community or ideas for ways you'd like to contribute to building our community.

The first update we have for you is that our Dean, Katrina Bell-Jordan, is now serving as our Interim President and Associate Dean, Sudha Srinivas, is now serving as Acting Associate Provost. While I can't fill Dr. Bell-Jordan's shoes, I've taken over as Acting Dean for the year with Acting Associate Deans Ken Voglesonger and Amanda Dykema-Engblade rounding out our team. Ken is an Associate Professor in the Earth Science program and has served previously as the Director of the Student Center for Science Engagement. Amanda is an Associate Professor in the Psychology Department, where she was serving as Department Chair before agreeing to join our team in this transition year.

We hope to carry on the good work the CAS was doing under Interim President Bell-Jordan's leadership, and we look forward to keeping you up to date on the work of the College and to having you take part in our community.

Sincerely,
Tim Libretti, Acting Dean, CAS

Inside this Issue

- **Greeting from the Dean**
- **Dr. Christopher Owen Faculty Highlight**
- **Haley Farris Student Highlight**
- **Olivia Goree Alumni Highlight**
- **Community Partner Highlight**
- **Upcoming CAS events and announcements**
- **CAS Giving Tuesday**
- **CAS contacts and quick-links**

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



Dr. Christopher Owen



The College of Arts and Sciences is proud to announce that Professor Christopher Owen, who chairs our Department of Music and Dance, was chosen last June to serve as the Artistic Director of Windy City Performing Arts, a performing arts company that “sings to inspire change, celebrate diversity, and honor the dignity of the LGBTQ+ community,” according to their website.

Owen sought the position because for him it was, he says, “about being able to serve the queer community of which I’m a part. To be part of an organization that puts the LGBTQ+ community in the center is a great honor.” For Owen, taking on this leadership role in our current political landscape in which members of LGBTQ+ community, particularly trans youth, are targeted for violence and told they don’t belong, was a powerful political act. As he puts it, “Every time the LGBTQ+ community sings, it’s a political act. We’re saying we are here, we’re not going anywhere, and we can create beautiful things for the world.”

Owen sees the company modeling for LGBTQ+ people, youth and trans youth in particular, that they have a right to exist and that they have much beauty to bring to the world—a vital message in a world that too often seeks to exclude or target for hostility LGBTQ+ people. The company features the Windy City Gay Choir (TTBB) for tenors and basses and the Windy City Treble Quire (SSAA) for sopranos and altos. Owen explains that the spelling “Quire” is intended to highlight the queer identity of the group, for whom intersectionality is an important element as they seek to transcend the simplistic identity categories that have historically organized, say, a men’s or women’s choir. The College is proud of Professor Owen’s community leadership.



CURRENT CAS STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



Haley ("Lily")

Farris

ANTHROPOLOGY MAJOR



What do you study at NEIU?

I am an Anthropology major.

What are your career goals?

I am pursuing a career in Archaeology.

What do you like most about NEIU?

I've been to a few different universities and so far NEIU has to be one of the best in terms of the professor's pedagogical care. They're passionate about both what they teach and their students' wellbeing, which creates a positive environment all around.


Anything else fun and interesting that we should know about you?

A few interesting things about me are that I'm a multidisciplinary artist and love working creatively with any medium I can get my hands on. I love to travel and want to live in a few different countries for a couple of years. I also really enjoy being out in nature and would eventually (when I tire of city life) like to start a homestead in my later years.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Olivia Goree (BA PSYCHOLOGY 2018)



Olivia, pictured with her children and husband (**Olatunde Bisiryu BS Biology and BA Psychology 2019**) on a family vacation in Hawaii.

What did you study at NEIU?

My Undergraduate major was Psychology and my Graduate degree is a Master of Social Work (Graduation date 12/23!)

What are you doing now?

I am currently completing an internship in Medical Social Work at Dignity Health St. Joseph Family Medicine (Phoenix, AZ)

What do you remember most about your time at NEIU?

So many memories at NEIU! The supportive staff, encouraging peers, confidence gained through knowing I always had support when needed. (I miss it)!

What is a word of advice for current students?

Continue to push forward and know that ALL things are possible. Build a support system and never be afraid to ask for help

Anything else that you think is important that we haven't asked?

I just applied to obtain a doctorate in behavioral health (fingers crossed!)





Scholarship Corner



Check out our current scholarship opportunities with the QR code or [link](#). The next Merit Scholarship deadline is February 1st for summer semester!

STAY CONNECTED



[NEIU College of Arts and Sciences](#)



[@cas_neiu](#)



Community Partner Highlight



The Black Ensemble Theater (BE) was founded by Dr. Jackie Taylor in 1976 in Chicago. The BE is the only theater in the nation founded with the explicit mission to eradicate racism. NEIU's partnership with the BE is a step toward a two-way collaborative bridge between NEIU and the BE to further our shared mission of increasing access to holistic and culturally responsive educational opportunities.

Partner Events

Thursday, November 16th 3-4:00pm
Teacher Leadership Power Hour with Dr. Jackie Taylor

SU 214, Dr. Taylor will share her journey of becoming an educator. Learn about her decision to leave Hollywood and create the Black Ensemble Theater in Chicago. [Zoom Link](#)

Link: [Support our partners: Black Ensemble Theater!](#)

Friday, December 1st 8:00pm

Theater Production "The Other Cinderella"

The Black Ensemble Theater 4450 N. Clark St.
Opening December 3rd, 2023-Closing January 14th, 2024.
Reserve via this [google form](#) by November 21st.



November is Native American and Indigenous Peoples Heritage Month



Congratulations to Dr. Nabil Kahouadji (Math Department), recipient of a National Science Foundation (NSF) award for his project "PRIMES: A Biological Socio-Environmental Approach to Machine Learning for Equitable and Proactive Cancer and Health Screening" (Award Number 2331502).
@NSF_MPS #DMSF



November 1-11, 15-16, 17-18th 7:30pm (2:30pm 11/18)

Stage Center Theatre Presents: "In the Belly of the Whale (aka The Jonah Play)"

Stage Center Theatre (Building F)

November 13th- December 4th

Music Performances

Recital Hall, Free

More info: [CAS Calendar](#)

See next page for more events/flyers!

Monday, November 13th 5:30pm

"Lakota Nation Vs. United States"

Screening in the Pedroso Center

Tuesday, November 14th 3:30-5:00pm

Book Talk: "First Gen: A Memoir"

Alejandra Campoverdi discusses her new national bestseller. RSVP Required [Here](#)
Pedroso Center

Wednesday, November 15th All day

Rock Your Mocs

Social Media Campaign

Wednesday, November 15th 7:30-9:30pm

CMT & Chicago Film Society Presents

"The Plot Against Harry"

Main Campus, Auditorium, \$5 with ID, \$10 for general public

Thursday November 16th 4:10-5:30pm

Artist Talk: Frank Trankina: "Gallery of Galleries"

Fine Arts Gallery, 3701 N. Bryn Mawr Ave
Exhibition up from Oct. 30th-Dec. 1st

Thursday November 16th 3:05-4:15pm

Philosophy Colloquium: "Justice and the Monty Hall Problem of Public Health"

Takunda Matose from Loyola University speaks.
BBH 102.

Wednesday, November 22th 7:30pm

CMT and the Chicago Film Society Presents "Paths of Glory"

Main Campus Auditorium, \$5 with ID, \$10 for the general public

Monday, November 27th 10:00am-4:00pm

Biology Department Fall Plant Sale

Purchase garden and house plants grown in the NEIU greenhouse at the annual fall plant sale.
Village Square.

Wednesday, November 29th 6:30-8:30pm

Dia De Los Muertos: 3D-Printed Frida Planter and Wall art Workshop

El Centro, \$15, [Requires registration](#)

Wednesday, December 6th 7:30pm

The Chicago Film Society Presents "Night World"

Main Campus, Auditorium, \$5 with ID, \$10 for general public



*Click flyer for Zoom link

10th ANNUAL PRE-LAW ALUMNI PANEL

Thinking of Law School?



TUES NOV 14, 2023
6 PM - 8 PM Via Zoom

Meet our panel of NEIU graduates who are currently practicing attorneys. The panel will discuss:

- How NEIU prepared them for law school
- Financing law school
- Their law school experience
- The current job market
- Questions & Answers!

MODERATOR

Marcellus Moore
Northwestern Law 1998
NEIU Foundation Board



Meet Our NEIU Alumni Panelists



SIR WILLIAMS

NEIU: 2005
Major: Crim Just
Univ/Wis Law: 2011
Owner, SWJD Consulting



WENDY JETER

NEIU: 2022
Major: Justice Studies
L1 Mitchell Hamline Law
Class of 2026



SANDER WEINER

NEIU: 2014
Major: Philosophy
Chicago Kent: 2017
Associate Attorney at
Wicker Smith



ALEJANDRA ESCOBAR

NEIU: 2017
Major: Political Science
UIC John Marshall: 2020
Associate Attorney at
Nextlevel Law, P.C.

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.neiu.edu/pre-law-events>



ALEJANDRA CAMPOVERDI

First Gen: A Memoir

Author Talk with Alejandra CampoVerdi

November 14, 2023
3:30-5:00 p.m.

Northeastern Illinois University welcomes Alejandra CampoVerdi for a discussion of her new, national bestseller, "First Gen: A Memoir" (Hachette Book Group). This riveting personal story is a broad examination of the unacknowledged emotional tolls of being a trailblazer and navigating social mobility as a first-generation Latina in the U.S.

This is a moderated, hybrid event. In-person capacity is limited to 70 attendees. NEIU students will receive priority. An RSVP confirmation or livestream link will be provided, once capacity is reached.

In-person guests will receive a free copy of "First Gen" upon arrival.



Sign up today!

Scan our QR code with your mobile device to RSVP or visit us at neiu.edu/pedroso



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES EDUCATION PROGRAM

CASEP TEACHER LEADERSHIP

POWER HOUR!

FALL 2023 @ NEIU

Get Connected.

Thursday, November 16th
3-4 PM

NEIU's Student Union (SU) 214

*Tune in at 3:30 for a livestreamed interview by scanning the QR code below

With special guest, Dr. Jackie Taylor!

Founder and CEO of the Black Ensemble Theatre, as well as a distinguished producer, director, actor, educator, singer and playwright!

FOOD (and FUN) will be provided...POWER UP!

Questions? Contact Jeremy Babcock

j-babcock@neiu.edu

www.neiu.edu/CASEP



EAGLE FEST FALL 2023

MUSIC FOOD

GAMES GIVEAWAYS

Must be REGISTERED FOR SPRING 2024 to enter.

December 2023 graduates are welcome too!

See your advisor for registration help, or stop @ tables in Village Square starting Nov 8

???s Contact - Irma Ortiz
i-ortiz4@neiu.edu



2PM - 5PM
NOV 29



ALUMNI HALL



| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| NOV 01 | KEYNOTE: ISABEL CORONADO, MPH MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION Location: ZOOM 6:00- 7:30 PM |
| NOV 02 | DIGRESSIONS: OPEN CONVERSATION ON THERE THERE Location: PEDROSO B-159 12:15- 1:30 PM |
| NOV 06 | FIRST NATIONS FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL Location: PEDROSO B-159 6:00 PM |
| NOV 09 | LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: SOLIDARITY WORK LUNCHEON PART 2 ADDRESSING ANTI-INDIGENITY Location: PEDROSO B-159 1:30 - 2:30 PM |
| NOV 09 | REVITALIZACIÓN DE LAS LENGUAS INDÍGENAS COMO UN PROYECTO COMUNITARIO Y NO DESDE EL ESTADO Location: PEDROSO B-159 6:30 - 8:00 PM |
| NOV 13 | MOVIE SCREENING: LAKOTA NATION VS. UNITED STATES Location: PEDROSO B-159 5:30 PM |
| NOV 14 | BOOK DISCUSSION OF TOMMY ORANGE'S THERE THERE Location: Zoom 1:30-2:30 |
| NOV 15 | SISTER TALK: TEA TIME Location: PEDROSO B-159 1:00- 3:00 P.M. |
| NOV 15 | ROC YOUR MOCs 2023 Location: Campus Wide All Day |
| NOV 15 | PEDROSO CENTER WATCH PARTY OF LIVE STREAMED KEYNOTE EVENT WITH TOMMY ORANGE, AUTHOR OF THERE THERE Location: PEDROSO B-159 6:00- 7:30PM |
| NOV 16 | INDIGENOUS FEMINISM DOCUMENTARY SCREENING & DISCUSSION WITHOUT A WHISPER: KONNON:KWE Location: PEDROSO B-159 4:15 - 6:45 PM |



DONATE TO NEIU'S NATIVE & INDIGENOUS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

WORLD BUILDING & RADICAL RE-IMAGINING
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIGENOUS HERITAGE MONTH

If you have an event you would like highlighted, please send our way! [Link](#)

Giving Tuesday: Tuesday November 28th



Millions of people across the country come together the Tuesday after Thanksgiving for Giving Tuesday, a global day of generosity and giving back to causes and communities.

This year, **#GivingTuesday is Nov. 28!**

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and CAS programs and departments are raising money for **scholarships and program support.**

The CAS will be raising funds for the CAS Undergraduate Scholars Program (**CUSP**) to help offset the costs of funding undergraduate research projects and travel, these experiences are truly transformational for our students. *Please look out for emails in the coming weeks with more information.*

Radical Generosity

\ 'rɑ-dɪ-kəl \ \ dʒɪnə'rɪəsəti \
noun

The concept that the suffering of others should be as intolerable to us as our own suffering.

GIVING
TUESDAY



CAS STAFF



CONTACT US

CAS@NEIU.EDU

(773) 442- 5700

Office Location: BBH 158

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30pm

Tim Libretti

Acting Dean

t-libretti@neiu.edu

Ken Voglesonger

Acting Associate Dean

k-voglesonger@neiu.edu

Amanda Dykema-Engblade

Acting Associate Dean

a-dykema-engblade@neiu.edu

Bruce (Alan) Mace

Business Manager

b-mace@neiu.edu

David Nissim-Sabat

Director of Pre-Professional Advising

d-nissimsabat@neiu.edu

Peter Goldman

Administrative Assistant/Contracts Administrator

p-goldman@neiu.edu

Debra Williams

Student and Faculty Program Support Specialist

d-williams28@neiu.edu

Shanna Griffus

Program Assistant

s-griffus@neiu.edu

QUICK LINKS

- [College of Arts and Sciences Website](#)
- [CAS Log Form](#) Department submit important paperwork to CAS using attached link.
- Schedule a meeting with David Nissim-Sabat for Pre-Professional Advising (Law and Health). Using this [link](#) or QR code below:



VIEW E-NEWSLETTER



SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER

