



CAS

CONNECTIONS

2024 Spring Term | ISSUE #3 | January 16th, 2024

FROM THE DEAN

Dear College of Arts and Sciences community,

First, let me wish you a Happy New Year!

And for our students who are returning to campus to start another semester, let me welcome you back and wish for you an exciting and fruitful learning experience this term. If you aren't currently a student, we hope you find some reason to come to campus for events or programming we provide for our community to foster lifelong learning.

No matter what problems may plague our world, as an educator I have to hold fast to my faith that we can cultivate the intelligence, humanity, and understanding to address and resolve the most vexing challenges we face, no matter how long standing and persistent, now matter how dark and troubling.

The knowledge, skills, and analytical methods we teach in the Arts and Sciences can foster in us the understanding and abilities to address the conflicts and inhumanity abounding around the globe and in our local communities. Our Global Studies major in the College, for example, offers a broad and flexible curriculum that provides students the opportunity to explore and understand the world from political, economic, historical, and cultural perspectives—and more! What could be more relevant than courses on the Anthropology of Islam, Islamic History, Feminisms in Islam, or our Jewish Studies minor? As we enter a political season, all of the issues that will come up for debate and consideration that directly impact our lives can all be studied in our programs—from the state of our economy to the state of our democracy to civil rights and women's rights to immigration and so on. Learning and studying help us understand the world we live in better in all its complex operations, and that understanding helps us make better choices about how we can live collectively on this globe and create systems that meet human need and help us take care of each other.

So, here's to the start of another semester of developing understanding and equipping our students with problem-solving skills.

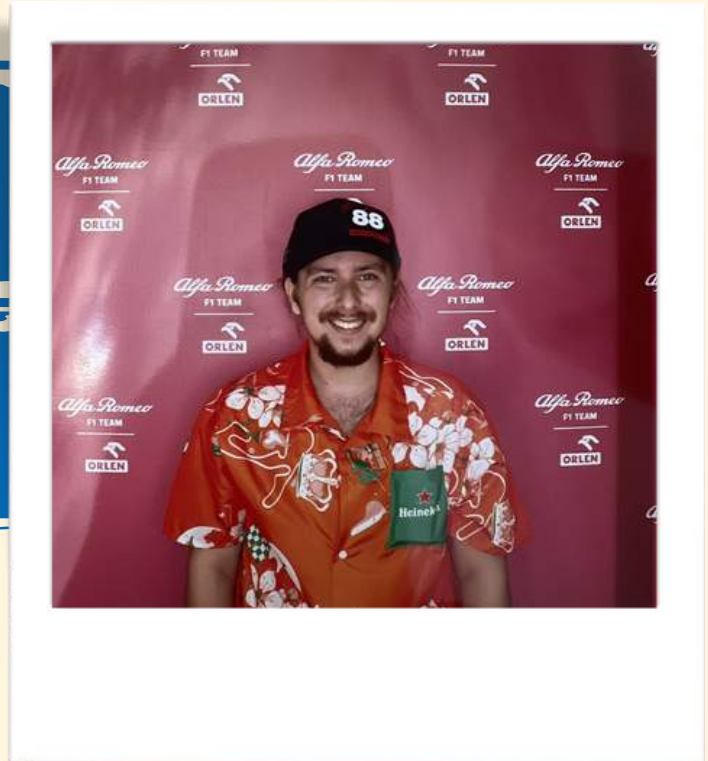
And, finally, let me invite you to reach out to me if you see ways the College can provide educational opportunities or programming to help you in your own journey to understanding.

Sincerely,
Tim Libretti
Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

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CURRENT CAS STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



What do you study at NEIU?

I am finishing up my bachelor's degree in economics

What are your career goals?

I would very much like to continue my education up until the Phd. level and eventually teach economics at the university level.

What do you like most about NEIU?

My favorite part about NEIU, among many others, is how accessible and helpful the faculty are. Our relatively small class sizes make it really easy to build relationships with our faculty. Throughout my time here, I've been fortunate enough to have a number of my fantastic professors go the extra mile and help me develop. Whether it was loaning me a book from their personal library or arranging a meeting with a prospective graduate school abroad, a professor was always willing to help. So it only makes sense that I feel NEIU is a great place to develop the support system one needs to succeed.

Any sort of fun/interesting thing we should know about you?

I love to travel! This past year I've had the opportunity to explore Peru, watch Champions League soccer live, and see an F1 race.

Anything else that you'd like to share?

I'd like to encourage everyone reading to try connecting with as many of your fellow students and professors as possible. We have plenty of great people both learning and working here who have so much to offer. Good luck :)

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Derek Barthel

MASTER OF ARTS IN GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 2016



Derek and his wife Angelica pictured here near the summit of Huayna Potosí (6,088m / 19,974ft) in Bolivia.

What was your Undergraduate major?

Political Science (DePaul University)

What was your Graduate program?

Master of Arts in Geography & Environmental Studies at NEIU. For my thesis I researched the effects of tourism on deforestation in the National Park system of Colombia.

What are you doing now?

I am an Account Manager with Esri on the State & Local Government team. I work with cities and counties in Illinois and Michigan to provide GIS-based solutions to common governmental tasks (parcel mapping, snow removal, road management, etc.)

What do you remember most about your time at NEIU?

The faculty of the G&ES department was (and is) wonderfully supportive and so well-rounded.

What is a word of advice for current students?

Take Dr. Grammenos's Political & Urban Geography courses, no matter what your major is!

Anything else that you think is important?

I'm on the board of the Geographic Society of Chicago for whom I run a quarterly Geography Trivia event at a sports bar/grill in the Irving Park neighborhood. NEIU students and faculty/staff are always welcome!

EXCITING COURSE IN THE CAS: DESIGN IN NATURE



Design in Nature is an interdisciplinary engaged learning experience course that merges biology and design thinking. The course explores the ways evolution leads to various structures, behaviors, and body forms and use the same processes to develop creative works. The course is workshop-based, meaning students work individually and in teams to develop projects using nature and nature-inspired materials.

This year we also took two field trips: one to Gompers Park to get inspiration from animal homes, and one to a Climate Inequality exhibit to get inspiration for climate-change infographics the students designed.



Projects this Fall semester included a lamp inspired by animal homes, mobiles inspired by the evolution of flight in animals, an outdoor installation inspired by biological relationships, face painting about bird conservation issues, armor inspired by protective adaptations, and Instagram infographics about climate change.

Students then exhibited their favorite pieces in our exhibition at the end of the semester.



-Dr. Beth Reinke (Biology Professor) and Lauren Meranda (Art+Design Professor)

DESIGN IN NATURE: STUDENT WORK GALLERY



Alumni Owned Business

DANIELA VITALE /BA COMMUNICATIONS/2006

SFERA SICILIAN STREET FOOD



SFERA

SICILIAN STREET FOOD



“ Sfera is a Sicilian Street Food business inspired by the love of my roots, love of food, love of people, and the courage to chase my dreams.

We are a counter-service quick and friendly spot to grab a bite, a coffee, or a freshly pressed OJ. We specialize in Sicilian Street Food using quality ingredients. We are located near NEIU in Edgewater, Chicago.

Northeastern Illinois University was a big part of my journey in starting Sfera Sicilian Street food. I chose a path that allowed me to immerse myself in a community and get an education at an affordable price. I worked at a local store and paid my tuition. I was grateful to graduate debt free in 2006 with a Bachelor's degree in Communications.

I chose that degree because it forced me to do uncomfortable things which has led to my successes today. I've met some wonderful people along the way and will continue to be an NEIU advocate.”

-Daniela

Sfera Sicilian Street Food

5759 N Broadway, Chicago, IL 60660

(773) 739-9128

If you are a CAS Alumni and would like your business featured please reach out to a-dykema-engblade@neiu.edu

Link: [website](#)

STUDENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES

HEY STUDENTS!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND
SCIENCES?



**PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM BY CLICKING
HERE**

On the interest form you will be asked to fill out your name, student ID, year, upload a current resume, and answer a couple of preference questions.

We will help connect you with departments in need of student help!



Scholarship Corner

Please scan QR code to see current CAS scholarship opportunities on our [website](#).
The Summer 2024 Merit Scholarship is deadline is February 1st.



2024-2025 FAFSA

The 2024-2025 Financial Aid Applications are open!

The 2024-2025 FREE Application for Federal Student Aid and the Illinois Alternative Application (RISE Act) are open! Students and those contributing information to the FAFSA will need an FSA ID – this includes undocumented parents.

Steps to get started:

1. Ensure anyone contributing information to the FAFSA has an FSA ID or FAFSA Account
2. Student logs into FAFSA and completes student portion
3. Student invites contributors (e.g., parents, spouse) to log into FAFSA to complete contributor portion
4. This is it! The NEIU Financial Aid Office hears that the application itself takes 7 minutes to complete!

Need help completing your application?

Thursday, February 15, 2024
5:30pm until 7:30pm
NEIU-Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies
700 E. Oakwood Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60653
Phone: 773-256-2131

January 22 – 26, 2024
NEIU TRIO –Main Campus Library Fourth Floor
Phone: 773-442-5016
Monday and Thursday – 11am until 3pm
Tuesday – 1pm until 6pm
Wednesday – 10am until 2pm
Friday – 9am until 3pm

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

For withdrawal and adding/dropping classes

January 10	Deadline for college Deans to submit the Individualized Study Registration Form for Independent Study to the Provost's Office for the Full and First 8 Weeks Spring Sessions. Students, please contact your program advisor/chairperson for departmental submission deadlines.
January 12	First payment due for students who registered for Spring. Payment due by 11:59 p.m. via NEIUport . Students receiving financial aid should confirm with the Office of Financial Aid. Waitlists end at 3:00 p.m.
January 15	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Holiday. University closed.
January 16	Weekday classes begin.
January 17	Open Registration ends for the First 8 Weeks Spring Session.
January 18	Change of Registration begins and continues through January 23 for the First 8 Weeks Spring Session. Departmental Approval will be required.
January 20	Saturday classes begin. Open Registration ends for the Full Spring Session.
January 21	Change of Registration begins and continues through January 29 for the Full Spring Session. Departmental approval will be required.
January 23	Change of Registration ends for the First 8 Week Spring Session.
	Last day to drop a course from the First 8 Weeks Spring Session and receive a 100% refund/credit of tuition and fees (less \$10 withdrawal fee for students withdrawing from all courses).
	Last day to drop a course from the First 8 Weeks Spring Session and not be assigned a "W" (withdrawn) grade.
	Last day to apply for the Pass/Fail Option with Enrollment Services for the First 8 Weeks Spring Sessions.
January 24	50% tuition and fees refund/credit period begins and continues through February 1 for the First 8 Weeks Spring Session.
	Change of Registration ends for the Full Spring Session.
January 29	Last day to drop a course from the Full Spring Session and receive a 100% refund/credit of tuition and fees (less \$10 withdrawal fee for students withdrawing from all courses).
	Last day to drop a course from the Full Spring Session and not be assigned a "W" (withdrawn) grade.
	Last day to waive the mandatory parking fee with Student Payment Services.
	Last day to apply for the Pass/Fail Option with Enrollment Services for the Full Spring Sessions.
January 30	Last day to apply for the Audit Option with Enrollment Services for the Full Spring Sessions.
	50% tuition and fees refund/credit period begins and continues through February 12 for the Full Spring Session.

February 2024	
February 1	Last day to drop a course from the First 8 Weeks Spring Session and receive a 50% refund of tuition and fees (less \$10 withdrawal fee for students withdrawing from all courses).
February 2	25% tuition and fees refund/credit period begins and continues through February 8 for the First 8 Weeks Spring Session.
February 8	Last day to drop a course from the First 8 Weeks Spring Session and receive a 25% refund of tuition and fees (less \$10 withdrawal fee for students withdrawing from all courses). No refund of tuition and fees starting February 9.
February 9	No refund/credit period of tuition and fees for the First 8 Weeks Spring Session begins and continues through February 21.
February 12	Lincoln's Birthday – University Closed/No classes.
	Last day to drop a course from the Full Spring Session and receive a 50% refund of tuition and fees (less \$10 withdrawal fee for students withdrawing from all courses).
February 13	25% tuition and fees refund/credit period begins and continues through March 8 for the Full Spring Session.
February 14	Refunds disbursed beginning at 1:00 p.m.
	Second deferred payment due by 11:59 p.m. via NEIUport .
February 21	Last day to drop a class from the First 8 Weeks Spring Session and receive a "W" (withdrawn) grade.



Happy MLK Jr. Day!



Congratulations to Kip Conwell, the Biology Lab Manager, for receiving an Employee Excellence award!



Congratulations to Jeanette Hernandez-Kalin, Administrative Aide, World Languages and Cultures for receiving an Employee Excellence award!



Chicago Film Society Presents
January 10th- "Tabu: A Story of the South Seas"
January 24th- "The Woman on the Beach"
January 31st- "Cutter's Way"

All films at 7:30pm, \$5 with an NEIU ID, \$10 for the general public. Main Campus Auditorium. Film screenings are a collaboration between the CMT department and The Chicago Film Society.



Jewel Box Series: The Wildwoods
Friday, January 19th, 7:30-9:30pm
Folk/Americana trio from Nebraska. Main Campus Recital Hall. Tickets \$10, \$18.50, and \$26



See next page for more events/flyers!

MLK DAY

VIRTUAL LECTURE

WHEN

JANUARY 16, 2024

630pm - 8pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR. BARBARA RANSBY

John D. MacArthur Chair, and Distinguished Professor, in the Departments of African American Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and History at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

Contact Dr. Shireen Roshanravan for questions about this event at: S-Roshanravan@neiu.edu or 773-442-5404.

Dr. Barbara Ransby will be virtually delivering NEIU's Martin Luther King Day keynote lecture

Lecture 30 to 40 minutes followed by 30 minute Q&A.



SCSE OPEN HOUSE



Thursday, January 25th

1:00 - 4:00pm

BBH 247

Come learn about the SCSE, meet the staff and tutors, and hang out. Snacks and refreshments will be served!

Questions? Email scse@neiu.edu



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Summer 2024 STUDY ABROAD

OKINAWA/TOKYO, JAPAN



Psychology 328 or 455 (Seminar in Aging or Advanced Topics in Aging) Students in other disciplines are welcomed

Cost includes airfare, ground transportation, daily stipend, and accommodations.

Course Description

This course allows students to have first-hand experience with the culture of Okinawa, Japan. Although its life expectancy rate is still one of the highest in the world, it has been declining somewhat in recent years. In this trip, we will learn about potential factors of this decline as well as explore factors traditionally associated with their longevity—relaxed attitude, close social network, simple diet, exercise habits, and an emphasis on religion and spirituality. We will also participate in field trips to community centers for older adults, a public school with only a handful of children, a luncheon (traditional cuisine) with older adults, local farms, and cultural and historical sites both in Tokyo and Okinawa. In addition, we will attend a lecture by C. Wilcox, the author of the *New York Times* best-seller book, *Okinawa Program*.

Tentative trip date: July 1 to 13, 2024. Drs. Dykema-Engblade and Takahashi will be accompanying students on the trip. For more information, contact Dr. Takahashi, m-takahashi@neiu.edu.



Save the Date!

Info Session I

October 26, 2023
3:00 pm
BBH #323

Info Session II

January 18, 2024
3:00 pm
BBH #323

Application & Deposit Deadline:

1st payment: 2/1/2024
2nd payment: 3/1/2024
3rd payment: 4/1/2024

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

CONGRATS

2023 Fall Graduates!

Congratulations graduates! Commencement was on December 10th 2023.

Special shout out to Andrea Perez, CAS graduate who spent time as a student worker in the CAS Dean's Office!

We wish you all the brightest futures!



CONSIDER DONATING



Support NEIU and Our Students!

NEIU has entered into a partnership with the world-renowned Black Ensemble Theater, led by founder and CEO Jackie Taylor. They will have a presence on our campus supporting our students and faculty in sustaining a creative, equitable, and humane campus culture, and we will have a presence in their theater as well. Stay tuned later this term for a production of our students telling their stories in a joint Black Ensemble Theater/NEIU production! To support this work and this partnership we need help, so the CAS has newly developed a Black Ensemble Theater Partnership fund if you want to help this initiative flourish!

Of course, there are many ways to support the CAS and help us support our students, including our College Undergraduate Scholarship Program (CUSP) which helps us fund the student research opportunities that are a hallmark of the CAS undergraduate experience and a proven springboard to professional success for our students!



The CAS is thoughtful about how we spend donations and our decisions are guided by NEIU's values of Integrity, Excellence, Access to Opportunity, Diversity, Community and Empowerment Through Learning. We appreciate any contributions that help us to advocate for and support our hard-working students.



You can choose to donate to a few different funds:

- THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (CAS) UNRESTRICTED FUND
- THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS PROGRAM (CUSP)
- BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER PARTNERSHIP FUND

MORE INFORMATION + DONATION LINK [CLICK HERE](#)



CAS STAFF



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

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QUICK LINKS

- [College of Arts and Sciences Website](#)
- [CAS Connections Newsletter Archive](#)
- [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:



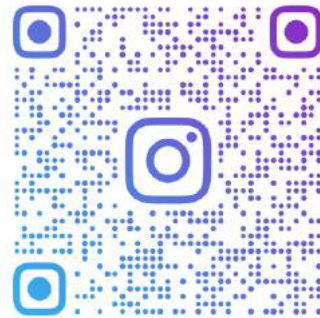
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