

CAS CONNECTIONS

2024 SPRING TERM | ISSUE #4 | FEBRUARY 13TH, 2024

FROM THE DEAN

Greetings, CAS Community,

I hope this message finds you enjoying Black History Month. We still have a lot of events for you to enjoy at [NEIU](#).

Reflecting on the experiences, achievements, and contributions of Black Americans to U.S. society and culture can serve as a potent reminder of the preciousness of democracy and civil rights and perhaps also provide an antidote to the swirling and increasingly-organized anti-democratic forces gaining momentum in U.S. society and severely imperilling Americans' basic rights.

As much as that of any other group of people, the African American experience epitomizes the struggle and need for democracy and civil rights for all; and we can certainly see in studying U.S. history through an African American perspective the horrors of a world that denies people basic civil rights, the franchise, and indeed the simple and fundamental rights of personhood. Simply put, African Americans have been central to this nation's unfinished—and highly contested--quest for a full-fledged democracy that recognizes the equal rights of all.

Reflecting on history, culture, and politics is fundamental to the curriculum of the College of Arts and Sciences, it's hard to imagine an educational culture that did not encourage, indeed insist upon, cultivating this kind of understanding and knowledge in those we are training to participate and lead in our world, to do the work we need to do to make our society function and to take care of each other by meeting our collective needs. Yet around the country, we see major universities and colleges slashing arts, humanities, and language study, citing budgetary reasons, even though many of these programs are actually profitable.

At Northeastern, we know these programs cultivate valuable skills that help students succeed in careers after graduation and that they also promise to humanize us and thus fuel us in creating a democratic culture that recognizes the human rights of all.

CONTINUED...

FROM THE DEAN

And more than ever, we need humane people who can recognize and honor the humanity of others and, in the work they do in the world, help to create a world that fosters the democratic and human rights of all. This work is vital right now. What could be of more utility now than the skills and vision for promoting democracy and civil rights for all?

Though it may be trite to quote the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., I am compelled to invoke some words of his that I encountered anew and which struck me as relevant to the mission of the arts and sciences. They are these:

“World peace through nonviolent means is neither absurd nor unattainable. All other methods have failed. Thus we must begin anew... Those of us who believe in this method can be voices of reason, sanity, and understanding amid the voices of violence, hatred and emotion. **We can very well set a mood of peace out of which a system of peace can be built.**”

This final sentence struck me most because thinking about creating systemic change, completely overhauling our systems, can be disarming, just way too daunting. But we can create a mood in how and what we teach.

I like to think that what our CAS programs do, in part, is cultivate this “mood of peace out of which a system of peace can be built.”

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



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FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Dr. Joseph Hibdon Jr.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT



Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences not only excel in the classroom, they also do amazing work related to research and engagement of the community in many different ways. Professor Joseph Hibdon Jr., of the Mathematics Department, is one of our faculty that has an extensive track record of research grants related to student success, and the hits keep coming!

Dr. Hibdon was recently awarded a grant from the National Institute for Theory and Mathematics in Biology, where he serves as a Leader on the Outreach and Leadership Team. In his work on this project, Dr. Hibdon will be focusing on how students at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs), just like NEIU, will benefit from the project's mission of creating a collaborative research community to address real world issues through the integration of mathematics and biology. This is just one example of how Dr. Hibdon has connected his research work to the success of our students.

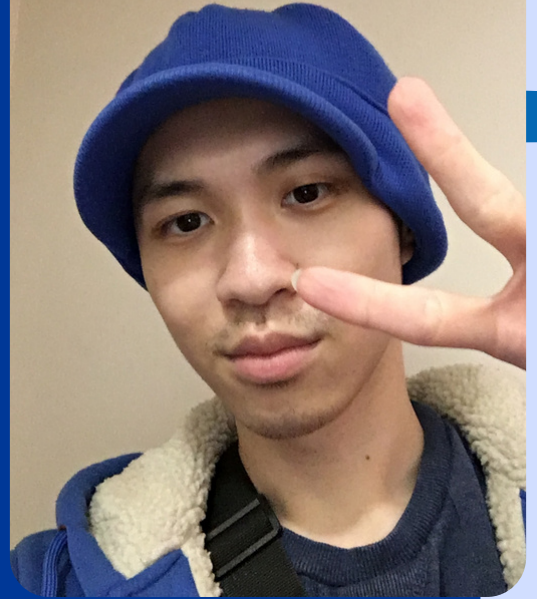
A thread that is easily seen throughout his work is a laser sharp focus on students and how he can use his expertise in mathematical modeling in creative ways to support NEIU students. Other recent examples of this include running a workshop for the American Institute of Mathematics on open educational resources related to Quantitative Justice at the California Institute of Technology, and coming in the summer of 2025, he will be leading a Research Experiences for Undergraduates program funded by the National Science Foundation that will provide students paid internships related to Quantitative Justice, in connection with the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute.

Throughout his time at NEIU, Dr. Hibdon has filled the roles of Director and Advisor in the Student Center for Science Engagement, as a Principal Investigator on a major National Institutes of Health grant, and as a faculty in the Mathematics department, providing him with an excellent connection to and understanding of our students. The commitment that he routinely shows to the NEIU mission and our students goes far beyond the classroom, and exposes students to the opportunities and pathways that exist for them in the College of Arts and Sciences and beyond. Dr. Hibdon's work is a prime example of how the disciplinary expertise of CAS faculty is translated into real world success that improves the lives of our students. Way to go Joe!

CURRENT CAS STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Kevin Duong

GLOBAL STUDIES, SPRING 2024



What do you study at NEIU?

My current major is Global Studies. I like to learn a bit of everything around the world like other cultures. It's just something that's fascinated me and I get to meet a lot of people in different disciplines in school.

What are your career goals?

My career goal is to be a diplomat or something similar in the international field. I believe that sometimes diplomacy can defeat even the strongest army.

What do you like most about NEIU?

I'm not ashamed to say this, but the best thing in NEIU is the freebies. Nothing tastes better than free food. You won't hear complaints from me. In addition to that, I do like how the school has lots of people from different backgrounds, age groups, etc. There's also a lot of international students that I meet and they share their cultures with me. It beats reading a textbook.

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

Hmm... I can make bird chirping noises. If I'm being honest, I'm a really boring person. People think I'm funny when we talk, but in reality, I'm just talking about my life stories and they laugh for some reason.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Lindsay Maldonado, PhD

PSYCHOLOGY/CHILD DEVELOPMENT 2004



Undergraduate major- Psychology NEIU

Graduate school and program- Erikson Institute, M.S. & Loyola University Chicago, Ph.D. both in Child Development.

What are you doing now?

I'm back where it all started! I'm an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at NEIU. I've been back at NEIU for almost 3 years now. Prior to coming to NEIU, I worked at Shedd Aquarium as the Director of Research and Evaluation for 11 years.

What do you remember most about your time at NEIU?

I remember the faculty most of all from my time as a NEIU student. Specifically, I remember the applied research experience I got in Dr. Suzanne Gaskins child development lab course. It was that course and Suzanne's mentorship that set me on my career trajectory. As part of the course, we conducted research at the Chicago Children's Museum, and it was there where I realized that I wanted to work in museums some day. It turns out that worked out for me, and Suzanne continues to be one of my go-to mentors. She served on my dissertation committee, and she wrote me a recommendation letter for my job here at NEIU.

What is a word of advice for current students?

I think it's important for students to build relationships with faculty members and be engaged in faculty research. And, don't be afraid to ask for help. Faculty want you to succeed, but they're not mind readers; so, make time to talk with faculty when you need support.

FEATURED MAJOR: GEOGRAPHY

WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is more than maps and map making. Modern Geography is a fundamental field that explores and critically examines spatial relationships through human, environmental, and technological lenses. As one of the earliest disciplines and often called the “mother of all sciences,” Geography is an essential aspect of a holistic and interdisciplinary liberal arts education. It has evolved into a highly relevant field that informs our understanding of complex human-environment interactions. At Northeastern Illinois University, our Geography program offers targeted, career-centered pathways both at the undergraduate and graduate levels in these **focus areas**:

- ★ Urban Geography
- ★ Regional & International Studies
- ★ Geographic Information Science (GIS)

CAREER READINESS:

Graduates from our Geography and GIS programs are highly-skilled, interdisciplinary problem- solvers with an edge over other generally-trained applicants because of their finely-tuned GIS skills and field-based studies within the Chicago metropolitan area. Our graduates leave with the **following skills**:

- ★ Highly technical, advanced, and applied GIS skills (this is where most of our scholars excel as applicants).
- ★ Nuanced and complex problem-solving skills sitting at the intersection of natural and social sciences.
- ★ The ability to communicate in interdisciplinary settings, discourses, and scholarship.
- ★ An understanding of the world through the lens of scale (local to the international)
- ★ Established professional networks through service-learning projects integrated into our curriculum.
- ★ The ability to critically engage in the various (cultural, economic, political, environmental, spatial) ways of contextualizing human-environment interactions.

More on careers related to Geography under this link: [Click here](#)



FEATURED MAJOR: GEOGRAPHY

College of Arts and Sciences



The Geography major

The World is your career with this dynamic and relevant discipline for the 21st century. Be prepared to tackle real world problems like climate change, the spread of disease, sustainable urbanization, resource conflicts, refugee crises, uneven development, and other local and global challenges. The Geography major provides essential hands-on, applied knowledge that includes the transferable geospatial skills of GIS technology.

Is this major right for me?

This is the right choice for students who are intellectually curious about the world and want an exciting and rewarding career that makes a difference. The Geography major offers a stimulating learning experience that focuses on the student and provides flexible training that integrates social science, physical science, and geospatial technology.

What can I do with this major?

Our Geography majors find gainful employment in a broad variety of fields such as business, real estate, logistics, transportation, tourism, education, community development, urban planning, governmental and non-profit organizations, and many more. Spatial skills are essential to success in today's global job market and a geographer always comes prepared.

How do I get started?

Contact an advisor in the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies to discuss the program and your career goals. Talk with faculty and students or with our 1,400 G&ES alumni. We have useful information to share. Put yourself on the map – Geography is an excellent choice!



Whom do I contact?

Main G&ES Office
BBH-346C
(773) 442-5690
www.neiu.edu/ge
s 5500 N. St.
Louis Chicago IL Ave.
60625
ges@neiu.edu



CALLING ALL CAS ALUMNI

To share your professional journeys and successes

We know that so many of you, our alumni, have leveraged your NEIU Arts and Sciences degrees into rewarding professional and personal lives.

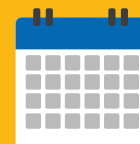
We'd love for you to share your journeys and successes with us as a way of helping our students understand the many career pathways and possibilities the NEIU College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) degrees and curriculum open up for students. For students who major in accounting, the career path may seem clear; however, the paths for an Anthropology, Sociology, History, or Physics major may, at first glance, be less clear but may very well be more multiple and various.

The CAS has embarked upon a Career Readiness initiative, one purpose of which is to highlight the key skills and abilities students learn and develop in NEIU's liberal arts and sciences programs, which employers seek and which prepare them for career success.

Your stories and wisdom will help us to help our students! Tell us what you're doing, what you've done, and how your degree helped you, or whatever else you'd like us to know. And if you'd like to be more involved and come talk to our students or help our students in their career journey in any way (internships or micro-internships), let us know.

Contact Tim Libretti, Acting CAS Dean, at t-libretti@neiu.edu

[Link: Core Competencies/Career Readiness Initiative](#)



February is Black History Month



March is Womens History Month

Congratulations to Professor Joe Hibdon for your work on the National Institute for Theory and Mathematics in Biology grant! He is the senior personnel on the grant where he works on understanding how the activities of the grant can support students at PUI and MSI. We appreciate all of the work you do for NEIU!



National Institute for Theory and Mathematics in Biology

CHICAGO FILM SOCIETY

All 7:30pm, Main campus, auditorium, \$5 with NEIU ID

Wednesday, February 14th, 2024

"Viridiana"

Wednesday, February 21st, 2024

"Kid Galahad"

Wednesday, March 6th, 2024

"Pumping Iron II: The Women"

MUSIC PERFORMANCES

All Main Campus recital hall unless noted, Free to public.

Tuesday, 7:30pm, February 13th, 2024

MTPF Jazz Series: Norman Palm Quintet

Wednesday, 7:30 February 21st, 2024

Faculty Recital: Katy Cowan "The Life and Music of Percy French"

Tuesday, 7:30pm, February 20th, 2024

Voice Area Black Heritage Month Celebration



Tuesday, 3:05/7:30, February 27th, 2024
MTPF Jazz Series: Clif Wallace Big Band Masterclass (FA 106A)/Big Band

Thursday, 3:05pm, February 29th, 2024
NEIU Jazz Combo, FA 106A

Thursday, 7:30pm, February 29th, 2024
Elise J. Mach Awards Concerto Competition Winners Concert

Tuesday, 7:30pm, March 5th, 2024
NEIU Wind Ensemble, Bldg E 106A

Thursday, 7:30pm, March 7th, 2024
Guitar Studio Showcase, FA 106A

OTHER

Saturday, February 17th, 2024
Black Love & Heritage Pop-Up Marketplace

CCICS, 700 E. Oakwood Blvd. 11am-4pm.

Monday, February 19th, 2024

Black History Month: Black Professionals Fair

Pedroso Center, B 159, 5-7pm

Tuesday, March 5th, 2024

Dr. Patrick O'Donnell Oakton College, "Better Living Through Pessimism"

BBH 102, 3:05-4:30pm

Wednesday, March 6th, 2024
Undergraduate Open House

Alumni Hall, 10am-2pm

Thursday, March 7th, 2024

3rd Annual International Women's Day Panel Discussion "Rematriation, Resistance, Resilience, and Revitalization"

Pedroso Center

Thursday, March 7th-9th, 2024

10th Annual Genocide and Human Rights Research Conference

9-5:00pm, Main campus alumni hall

See next page for more events/flyers!

Save the Date!

You are invited to attend the 27th annual

Chicago River Student Congress

This year we're going to college to celebrate the Chicago River... all are welcome!

Register to present or attend:
chicagoriver.org/education/student-congress

Join students from other schools, teachers, college students, and environmental professionals as we celebrate the Chicago River. Workshops and displays highlight the Chicago-Calumet River system and its role as a living scientific laboratory and source of inspiration for students. Register to present your workshop, display, poetry or river artwork, or to just attend.

Friends of the Chicago River

Saturday
February 24, 2024
8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
at Northeastern Illinois University



10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON

GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH IN AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA

Save the Date!

March
7th, 8th, and 9th
2024

9:00 am-5:00 pm CST
Northeastern Illinois University
Alumni Hall

Free to the Public!

Email: humanrights@neiu.edu
Follow us for conference updates!



Conference Theme

The Intersection of Gender, Sexual Violence & Genocide in Africa and Beyond.

The application for Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) is open for the 2024-2025 academic year!



DFI Aims to increase the number of minority full-time tenure track faculty and staff at Illinois' two-and-four-year public and private colleges and universities.

AIM

Illinois residency, part of an underrepresented group designated in the Act, Academic eligibility, Academic pursuit, and Demonstrate financial need.

REQUIREMENTS

The application deadline is Friday, March 1st, 2024 at 1:00pm. All application must be submitted to DFI rep Maria J. Nataren in B-141. Email mjnatara@neiu.edu with questions or go to <https://www.ibhe.org/dfi.html>

IMPORTANT DETAILS

BROMMEL-HAHS ANNUAL LECTURE

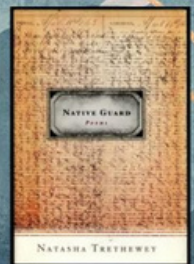


The author will read from her memoir *Memorial Drive*...



will host

NATASHA TRETHEWEY
Pulitzer Prize Winner & U.S. Poet Laureate



...as well as poetry from *Native Guard*

PEDROSO CENTER

Thursday, February 29 from 3:00 - 4:15 pm
There will be a book signing and light refreshments



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

JOHN SARGON ALBAZI STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

Applications are now being accepted for student presentations at the 31st John Sargon Albazi Student Symposium. The symposium showcases performances, creative activities, and research by graduate and undergraduate students. This event will be held on the NEIU Main Campus on Friday, April 26, 2024.

The deadline to submit abstracts for the symposium is Friday, March 1, at 11:59 pm CT.

Student presentations will follow one of two formats:

- **Poster Presentations:** Students display their approach and initial findings as a poster. During the Symposium, poster authors are available for an hour-long live Q&A session alongside their poster.
- **Podium Presentations:** Students deliver a 15-minute oral presentation on their research or performance/creative work in a session with other students, followed by a short Q&A session.

Students interested in presenting must have a faculty sponsor who oversees their work.

Application materials, including the [application form](#), are available on the [symposium website](#).

Please direct questions to the Symposium Planning Committee at rcasymposium@neiu.edu.



SUMMER TRANSITION PROGRAM

Northeastern's [Summer Transition Program](#) is currently seeking energetic students to become Student Success Mentors.

Each Student Success Mentor is responsible for a cohort of new students and will act as a key component in the college transition experience. Mentors will be trained to provide a variety of services to meet the academic, career and personal development needs of program participants, consistent with the mission of the program.

Our Summer Transition Program is six weeks, held between July 1 and Aug. 9, 2024.

For more details and to apply, please fill out and submit the [Student Success Mentor application](#) by March 1.

Please contact Student Transition Services at sts@neiu.edu if you have any questions.



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

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Northeastern Illinois University's College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is interested in assembling a **Student Advisory Board** to provide the Dean's Office with **insights into student experiences** in the CAS and to raise issues/concerns regarding processes on campus.

Advisory board members are also expected to be available a few times a semester to promote the college and provide a student voice at various events during the year. The board will consist of 15 undergraduate students (and two alternates) representing a variety of CAS majors and life experiences. The advisory group will meet approximately three times a semester with the CAS Deans and may be asked to provide feedback on urgent matters between meetings.

The Student Advisory Board provides students with leadership opportunities, centers students in CAS decision-making, affirms and acknowledges student experiences and allows students to help share and improve processes. Students should be able to commit to one academic year and will not be able to serve more than two years on the board.

APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED ON A ROLLING BASIS AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED EVERY SEPTEMBER.



[APPLICATION LINK HERE](#)

Handshake

Handshake is the No. 1 career platform for students and alumni. It encompasses a large-scale network with more than seven million student users and access to more than 500,000 employers. Handshake offers new features, enabling you to:

- Access personalized job recommendations based on your major and interests
- Register for career fairs, on-campus, off-campus, and nationwide industry events
- Manage on-campus interviews with top companies and connect directly with employers
- Schedule appointments with your career coordinators.

VERIFY your Handshake Account at
neu.joinhandshake.edu



STUDENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES

HEY STUDENTS!

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

Handshake has many career resources and job opportunities for students with more being posted every week.



MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT **HANDSHAKE!**



Scholarship Corner

Next Merit Scholarship Deadline is May 15th for Fall 2024.

Our Merit Scholarship application has changed. It is now on a Google Form !



TITLE OF SCHOLARSHIP

Highlighted scholarship info

CONSIDER DONATING



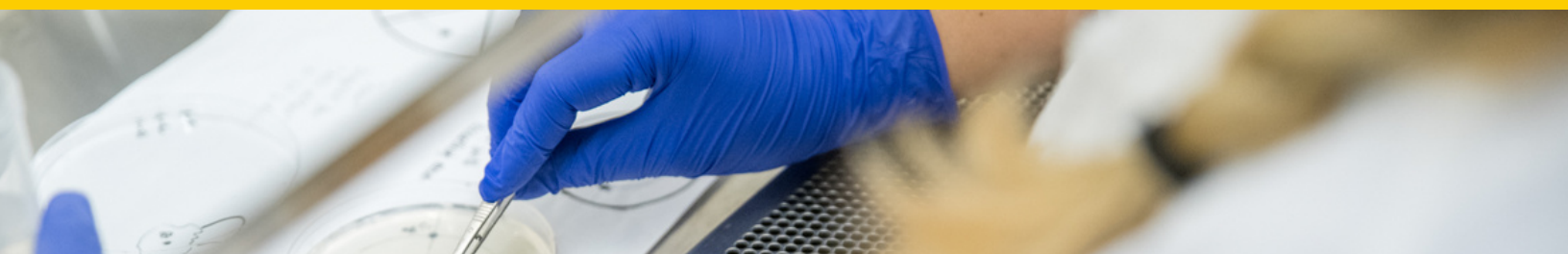
Support NEIU and Our Students!

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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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:



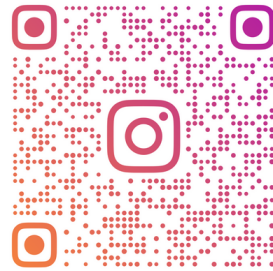
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of Arts and
ciences



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