# CAS CONNECTIONS

FALL TERM | ISSUE 20 | OCTOBER 31, 2025

## DEAN'S GREETINGS

**Greetings, CAS Community,**

**On this unusual Halloween, it's worth acknowledging that the scariness of our world these days isn't at all fun and games—quite the opposite.**

**Still, as you'll see in this issue of *CAS Connections*, the College of Arts and Sciences marches on doing the good work it can in the world. As always, we offer a vibrant slate of programming and events; our faculty, students, and alumni are out doing meaningful work to make our world more humane. The CAS continues to love joining forces with organizations who share our democratic values and commitments to advancing the public good. That's how we win the world we want.**

**On October 21, for example, we teamed up with the Chicago Public Library to host a *One Book One Chicago* panel discussion of this year's selection, Xochitl Gonzalez's novel *Olga Dies Dreaming*. Our panelists included Gabriela Molina, one of our graduate students in Communication, Media, and Theatre; Elisa Galvan, an English Department alumna and English teacher at Stevenson High School; Angelica Rivera, the Director of NEIU's Proyecto Pa'Lante at NEIU; Dr. Ruth Llana Fernandez, Assistant Professor in World Languages and Cultures; and Justin Vallas, owner of *Restoried Bookshop*, the great local bookstore in Albany Park, which is committed to "building community through reading." It was great to have members of our local community as well as students, staff, and faculty join us for a great discussion and the evening of learning together. Many thanks to our panelists for making the event vibrant and thought-provoking!**

**In the CAS, we believe we add much to the cultural life of our surrounding communities and hope all of you are able to avail yourselves of the wonderful cultural events and programming we offer. Just last Friday, October 24, I attended the Department of Music and Dance's *3rd Annual Collage Concert: Generations*. I admit that this was the first time I had attended the annual Collage Concert, and I was truly blown away by the performances of our students, faculty, and special guests, who included three young performers who were winners of the 2025 Chicago Chamber Music Concerto Competition, of which Acting Chair and Professor of Music Dr. Susan Tang is a part. The evening was truly fun, entertaining, and inspiring, full of whimsy and virtuosity. Even for me, who has been at NEIU for thirty years, there are always new things to discover at NEIU that enrich my life.**

**On a final note, let me plant this seed: this December 2nd is Giving Tuesday. The CAS will once again be fundraising for our College Undergraduate Scholars Program (CUSP). We'd love to have you join our mission and help us do the work we do to support our students and faculty and serve this region. This newsletter goes out to over 13,000 alumni, friends, faculty, and community members. If each newsletter recipient donated $10 to help the cause, we'd have a real chunk of change: $130,000!**

**Give it some thought. NEIU and our students are a great investment!**

**Stay well and hold on to your humanity,**

**Tim Libretti**
**Dean, College of Arts and Sciences**

# IN THIS ISSUE


From the Dean

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# STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

## MIGUEL ALVARADO
## CHEMISTRY MAJOR



### What are your career goals?

My goal is to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemical Physics or Quantum Science. I am quite interested in the applications of quantum materials and how material design at the nanoscale can improve their performance.

### What do you like about NEIU so far?

I really appreciate how supportive professors are and how much experience I've gained doing research with Dr. Stojkovic and Dr. Tsonchev. I also value that classes are small, which allows me to receive better help and guidance when I need it.

### What's an interesting fact about you?

I'm currently involved on a project about developing a new type of superconducting qubit for quantum computers.

# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT



## Dr. Sam Klein
## Psychology major
## Philosophy minor

**What did you do after graduating?**

**After graduating from NEIU, I went on to attain a Ph.D. in (Experimental) Social Psychology at UC, Davis. From there, I took on the role I'm currently in, as a postdoctoral research scientist at Columbia University. In this role, I am continuing my program of research on how people form and update their impressions of others. In a complex social world, our impressions of others are the lifeblood of our decision-making (who we hire, trust, approach, punish, etc.). Understanding how they form and influence us is crucial to understanding why we often find ourselves entangled in a web of misjudgments and overgeneralizations.**

**What stands out to you when you think about your time at NEIU?**

**I remember how much NEIU was a catalyst for self-discovery. I was given so many opportunities through scholarships and individualized meetings with professors. The administration also allowed for students to chart out their unique trajectories from the first to last day of college. I am so appreciative of the flexibility I was offered.**

**Do you have any advice for current students?**

**Talk to your professors! If you have questions and curiosities, they are there to help you explore them. I am only where I am now because I knocked on the door of professors who ended up giving me the support I needed to shape initial hairbrained ideas into concrete theses and plans for the future. No example better illustrates this than my initial meeting of Dr. Amanda Dykema-Engblade. During the summer of my first year at NEIU, I read a book on the seminal research in the area of social cognition. It sparked so many questions in me, but none more strongly than "How can I be a part of this?!" I thought I might as well go to the psychology department to learn more, so I knocked on the first door I could find. Within 20 minutes with Dr. Dykema-Engblade, I was changing my major to psychology. Within a couple of weeks, I was working in her lab as a research assistant and bombarding her with every question I could think of. Two years later, she was helping me successfully enter a Ph.D. program, and the rest is history. This is not a one-off. My time at NEIU was a success because of the care those who run it took to guide my journey of intellectual self-discovery. I'll never forget that, and I hope students realize that they have the same opportunity, and that they seize it.**

**What is your favorite thing about NEIU?**

**The student body at NEIU is very diverse. Students converge on campus from a wide variety of backgrounds, with an even broader array of goals for the future. Many come back to school after years away. Many more are simultaneously working part-time or full-time jobs. Almost everyone I met had a unique story for how they got to NEIU and where they planned to go next. Diversity is a strength. It offers us a chance to see how flexible and creative we can be with the paths we walk, by showing us just how many paths others have walked before us. I learned so much from my peers (friends!) during my time at NEIU.**

# FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

## Courtney Francis
## Professor of TESOL, Social Work, and AFAM



### What are your research interests?

My research interests include African-American English, the Great Migration, social and collective Black memory, the Black immigrant experience, the impact of social work policy on Black communities, clinical support of TESOL teacher candidates, and SWK program evaluation.

### What do you love about NEIU?

My favorite thing about NEIU is the students who persevere against the odds. I also appreciate our community's continued conversation on diversity and inclusion, our progressive attitude, and our willingness to recognize that NEIU is a work-in-progress. Looking at NEIU as a whole, I love its history as a teachers' college, its interesting and hardworking faculty, and its perfectly-sized campus (not too big, not too small!).

### What are your hobbies?

I love swimming, reading, writing, collecting art, and dancing. I also manage a Facebook page I founded called "You Were a Little Black Girl in the 70s." And I of course love spending time with my four adult children and two grandsons (5 yrs and 4 months)!

### Why did you decide to work in an academic environment?

Simply put, I love to witness, prompt, and engage in the process of learning. I enjoy seeing NEIU through the eyes of students new to college. Academia offers an environment where we exchange ideas, challenge one another, and value continuous improvement and growth.

I came to Chicago from my home of NYC thirty-seven years ago to attend graduate school at University of Chicago. Many years later, I attended NEIU for a second graduate degree; some of the activities I have enjoyed while at NEIU have been teaching in TESOL, Social Work, and AFAM; being a member of the UPI bargaining team; involvement in UWW Stateville; being on the FYE Curriculum Writing Committee; and being on the Black Heritage Month Committee.

# NEW TREES ON CAMPUS!





**In exciting news, there are several new trees planted around campus! This is because of a partnership Geography & Environmental Studies has fostered with Openlands, who are doing their fall Tree Keepers training on our campus right now. They have learned how to prune trees and have pruned many of our existing trees. Last Saturday, they planted 25 NEW TREES on our main campus! This was truly a team effort. Faculty members Melinda Storie (GES) and Joel Olfelt (Biology) worked with Openlands staff to secure placement and select species of the trees. The team also worked closely with Facilities and Grounds to ensure the success of the new trees. These trees will add to our Tree Campus designation and Arboretum initiative, while contributing innumerable ecosystem benefits. These new, beautiful trees will bring joy and well-being to many of us tree lovers on campus.**




# Staying the Course for Human Rights: From Awareness to Action

*a College of Arts and Sciences themed semester*

## SPRING 2026
















**Join the College of Arts and Sciences this spring for our themed semester, Staying the Course for Human Rights: From Awareness to Action.**

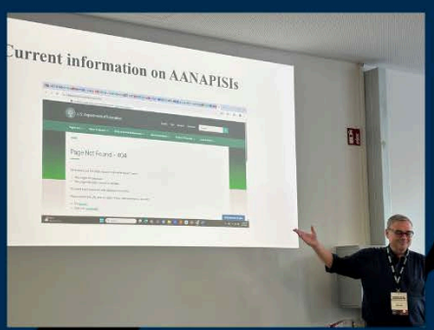
In 1948, the United Nations proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, setting out for the first time fundamental human rights that demand universal protection. The document asserted “the highest human aspiration of the common people” to be “the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want.”

Clearly, our nation and the world have not realized this general aspiration, not to mention the many specifics in the expansive list of rights in the Declaration, which include, among many, the right to education, to economic security, to clean water and a safe environment, to equal protection under the law, to share in the wealth we produce as a world, and many more. Looking at developments in our city and nation and around the globe, a refresher course on human and civil rights is arguably in order. It’s vital we keep our ideals and expectations in sight, even if we are falling short, to remind us of the world to win.

To ensure we maintain a focus on the human and civil rights that all people deserve, and include our students and community members on the same mission, the College of Arts and Sciences is hosting a Human Rights themed semester this Spring 2026. A full slate of courses across the Fine Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and STEM areas will explore human and civil rights issues from their particular disciplinary perspectives. This opportunity will underscore the problem-solving strengths of the CAS curriculum, while also emphasizing the career readiness our courses and programming provide to students. Additionally, the CAS will offer a range of co-curricular programming for our NEIU community and the public.

Click here to learn more

# FACULTY CONFERENCE FEATURE









## Dr. Rick Hallett, Professor and Coordinator of Linguistics

Dr. Rick Hallett and the Linguistics Department have had a very busy fall semester full of conferences!

In September, Dr. Hallett traveled to Essen, Germany (left) where he presented a paper, "The transformation of a Minority-Serving Institution in the United States: On being both an HSI and an AANAPISI," at the Sixteenth Linguistic Landscape Workshop.

In early October, he traveled to the Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) Conference in Tempe, Arizona (right) to present his paper, "Using Duolingo to learn (isi)Zulu as an additional language."

Finally, just a few weeks ago, Dr. Hallett and several students made their way to the 54th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest (LASSO) Conference in Wichita, Kansas (center). Frida P. Valdés Orizaba, M.A. student in Linguistics (first from left), presented a paper titled “Digital migration and its influence on language technologies and the teaching of English (Social media).” Tamara Martin, M.A. student in Linguistics (second from left), presented a paper titled “Branding the antihero: Albuquerque’s use of Breaking Bad in tourism marketing.” Sarah L.C. Beard, M.A. student in Linguistics (third from left), presented a paper titled, “English only at the digital border: How HSIs’ online language choices undermine Hispanic representation.” Lastly, Dr. Hallett presented a paper titled “Constructing an AANAPISI identity at an HSI: A case study.”

Thank you all for your fantastic contributions to the field of linguistics and for representing NEIU so widely!

# Nature, discovery, and community: Thanks to everyone who came out to BioBlitz 2025!





On October 11, the Geographic Society of Chicago partnered with Friends of the Chicago River and the Forest Preserves of Cook County to bring its annual Fall BioBlitz to Linne Woods. Together, participants explored the rich biodiversity of this urban oasis and learned from experts how conservation efforts are shaping its future.

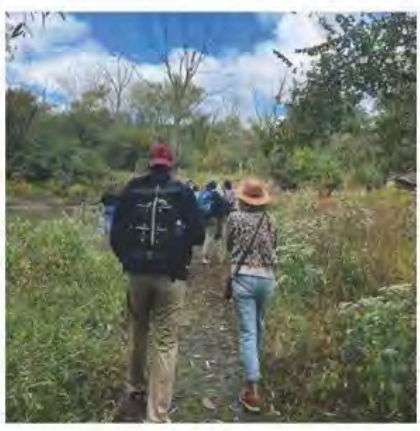
Here's what we discovered:

- **River Discovery** – With Friends of the Chicago River, participants examined aquatic life and learned learn about the importance of healthy waterways.
- **River's Edge Hike** – Guided by the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, we spotted birds and insects thriving along the riverbank and discussed their role in wetland habitats.
- **Prairie Hike** – Led by the Forest Preserves of Cook County, we walked through restored prairie landscapes, highlighting decades of reclamation efforts and the role of native plants.

The BioBlitz wasn't just an event, it was an opportunity for community members to connect with nature, contribute to citizen science through observations, and deepen their understanding of local conservation efforts. Every observation helps us understand and protect the natural spaces we all cherish.







**This event was possible thanks to our incredible partners who shared their passion for nature and exploration:**

Friends of the Chicago River

FOREST PRESERVES of Cook County

PEGGY NOTEBAERT NATURE MUSEUM OF THE CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

REACH Refugee Education & Adventure CHallenge

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC | EXPLORER CLASSROOM

**Thank you to Stacy Alikakos, a graduate student from Geography & Environmental Studies, and Kage Guare, an undergraduate student from Biology, for representing NEIU by leading activities for the public at the GSC BioBlitz event!**

# ONE BOOK ONE CHICAGO 2025

## Housing Justice and Cultural Belonging: Panel Discussion







**In addition to Dean Libretti's One Book One Chicago panel this month, two other CAS faculty members participated in their own panel about this year's book, *Olga Dies Dreaming* by Xochitl Gonzalez.**

**Dr. Casey Holtschneider (left) and Dr. Gaylon B. Alcaraz (right) spoke on a panel about the novel, focusing on issues of housing, displacement, and belonging. *Olga Dies Dreaming* examines political corruption, familial strife, and the very notion of the American dream—all raw, real issues that are especially poignant in today's Chicago.**

**Dr. Holtschneider is an associate professor of social work at NEIU and the co-founder and executive director of LYTE Collective, a Chicago nonprofit created in partnership with young people to challenge the systems that perpetuate poverty and homelessness. For more than 25 years, she has worked alongside young people to expand access to housing, education, creative spaces, and opportunities for healing, grounding her practice in trust, dignity, and collective care.**

**Dr. Alcaraz has a similarly rich history as an activist, organizer, and champion of human rights. She currently teaches justice studies at NEIU, and she also works within the reproductive justice/rights/health movement to advocate for low-income women seeking to control their reproductive freedom. In 1995, as a trained organizer through Metropolitan Tenant's Organization, she facilitated the affordable housing preservation at Ogden Corners, located in Lincoln Park.**

**Thanks to Dr. Holtschneider and Dr. Alcaraz for representing the CAS at such a worthwhile event!**


UPCOMING
IN THE CAS

# NEIU EL CENTRO EVENTS FALL 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, November 4 | **Speed Networking**<br>Third floor lobby, 3:00pm-4:30pm |
| Wednesday, November 12 | **Movie Trivia**<br>First floor lobby, 3:00pm-4:30pm |
| Tuesday, November 18 | **Orgullo y Memoria**<br>Third floor lobby, 3:00pm-4:30pm |
| Thursday, November 20 | **Pop-Up Food Pantry**<br>First floor lobby, 2:30pm-4:30pm |
| Monday, December 1 | **Finals Stress Free Zone**<br>First floor lobby, 2:30pm-4:30pm |
| Tuesday, December 2 | **GivingTuesday**<br>Donate online! |
| Wednesday, December 3 | **Holiday Traditions: Las Posadas**<br>First floor lobby, 5:00pm-6:30pm |



# STEM COFFEE HOUR



*Coffee & Cookies provided!*

**CO-HOSTED BY:**

Biology

**BBH 2ND FLOOR LANDING**

**TUESDAY NOV 4TH**

**2:30 - 4pm**

NEIU ARCOS HWC

Advancing Research and Career Opportunities in STEM

**Funded by the U.S. Dept. of Ed Grant #P031C21011**
**Advancing Research and Career Opportunities in STEM**

# JUSTICE STUDIES

# Alumni career *panel*

Panelists:

Ana Torres

Fermin Ayala

Roberto Lopez

***Join us for an inspiring panel with alumni who've been where you are now. Hear about their career paths, how their studies shaped their journeys, and get advice for your future.***



**4 NOVEMBER, 2025**
**5:00-7:00 PM**

**Location**
**Student union 214**

justice-studies@neiu.edu

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# Internship Application Workshop

Learn how to find & apply to STEM internships with advice from faculty & advisors.

**Thurs Nov 6th**
**3:00-4:00pm**
**BBH 102**

NEIU ARCOS HWC
Advancing Research and Career Opportunities in STEM

REGISTER

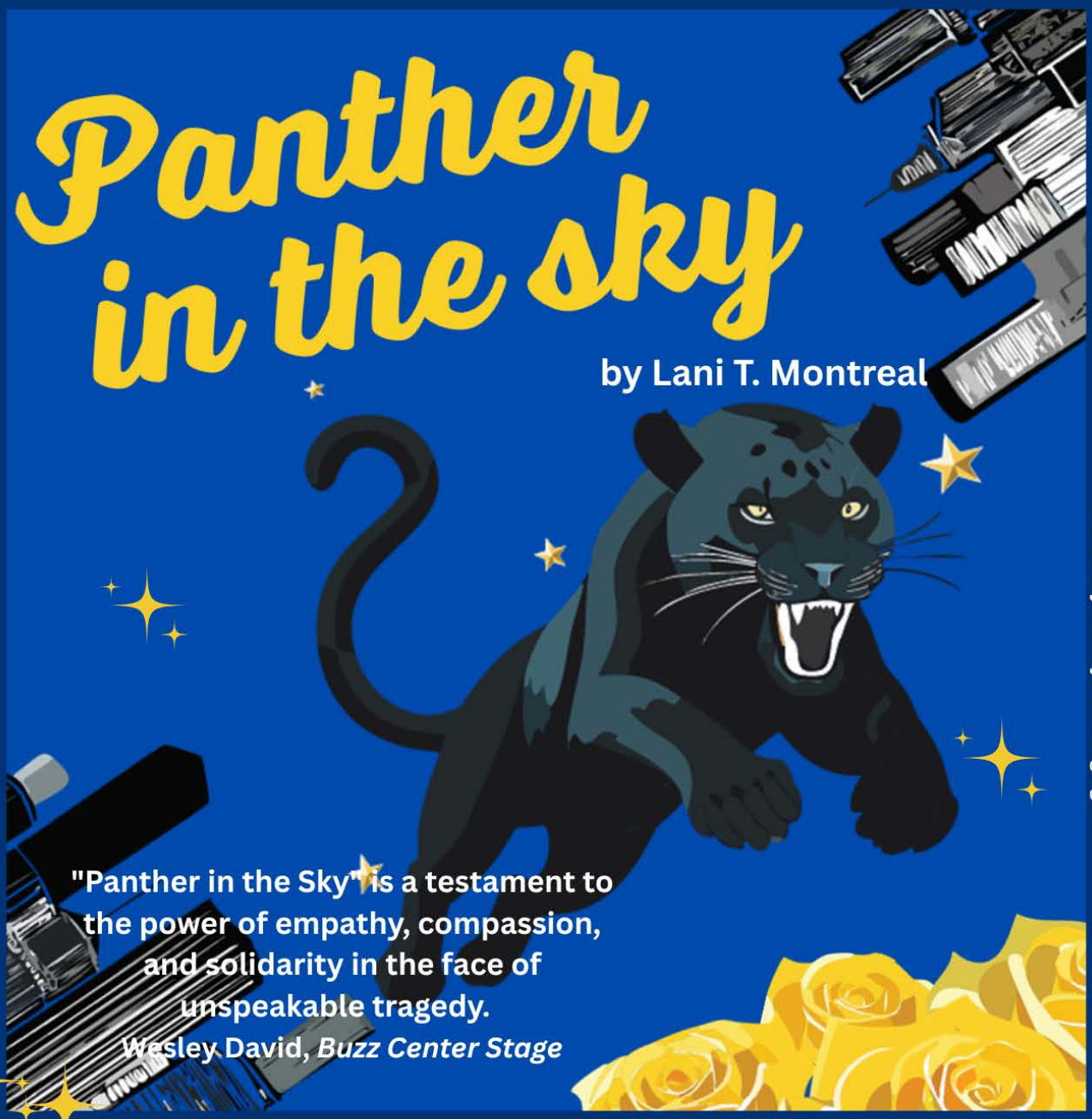
Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Student Center for Science Engagement


Chicago Area PeaceAction
Justice Studies Department
Invite you to the film screening of
WHAT I WANT YOU TO KNOW
Veterans share deeply personal stories from their deployments, exploring truth and justice
November 6, 2025
5:40 pm
Student Union 214
Northeastern Illinois University
justice-studies@neiu.edu

The NEIU College of Arts and Sciences and CIRCA-Pintig are proud to sponsor a staged reading of

# Panther in the sky

by Lani T. Montreal



Artwork by Melanya Liwanag Aguila

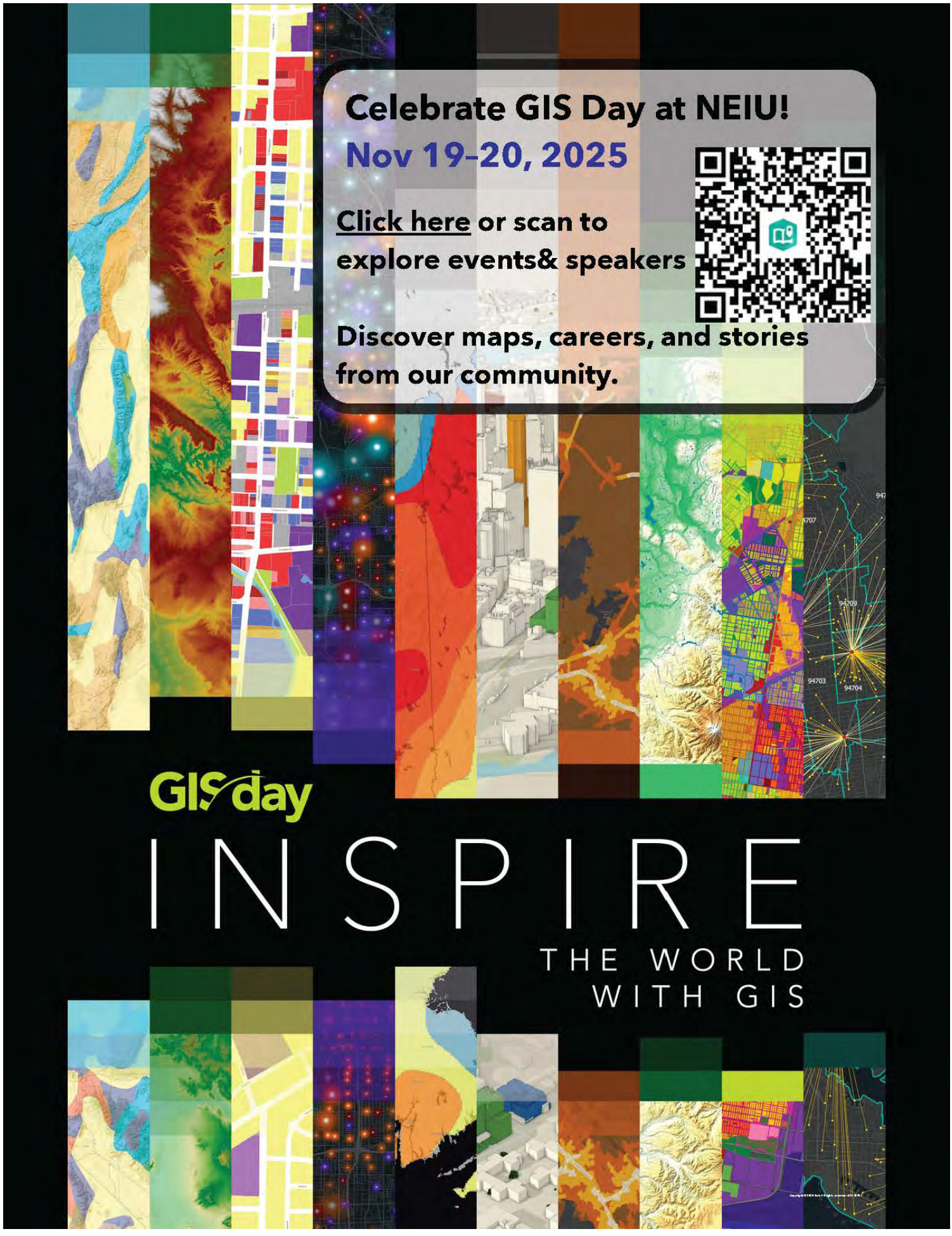
"Panther in the Sky" is a testament to the power of empathy, compassion, and solidarity in the face of unspeakable tragedy.
Wesley David, *Buzz Center Stage*

**This play addresses the persistent epidemic of gun violence in the city, dramatizing the experiences of four mothers who lost children to gun violence.**

CIRCA-Pintig HISTORY THEATRE COMMUNITY

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences

**November 13, 2025, 7:00 pm**
**NEIU El Centro Campus**
**3390 N. Avondale Ave.**
***Tickets are free! RSVP here:***


Celebrate GIS Day at NEIU!
Nov 19-20, 2025
Click here or scan to explore events& speakers
Discover maps, careers, and stories from our community.
GIS day
INSPIRE
THE WORLD WITH GIS

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# 12TH ANNUAL PRE-LAW ALUMNI PANEL

Meet our panel of NEIU graduates who are practicing attorneys or currently attending law school.

**MODERATOR**



**Marcellus Moore**
*Northwestern Law 1998*
*NEIU Foundation Board*



**Sir Williams**
*Crim Just 2005*
*Univ/Wis Law 2011*
*Owner, SWJD Consulting*



**Wendy Jeter**
*Justice Studies 2022*
*L3 Mitchell Hamline Law Class of 2026*



**Sander Weiner**
*Philosophy 2014*
*Chicago Kent 2017*
*Senior Counsel, Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman*



**Matthew Reardon**
*Philosophy & Economics (Double major) 2012*
*Harvard Law 2018*
*Program Manager*



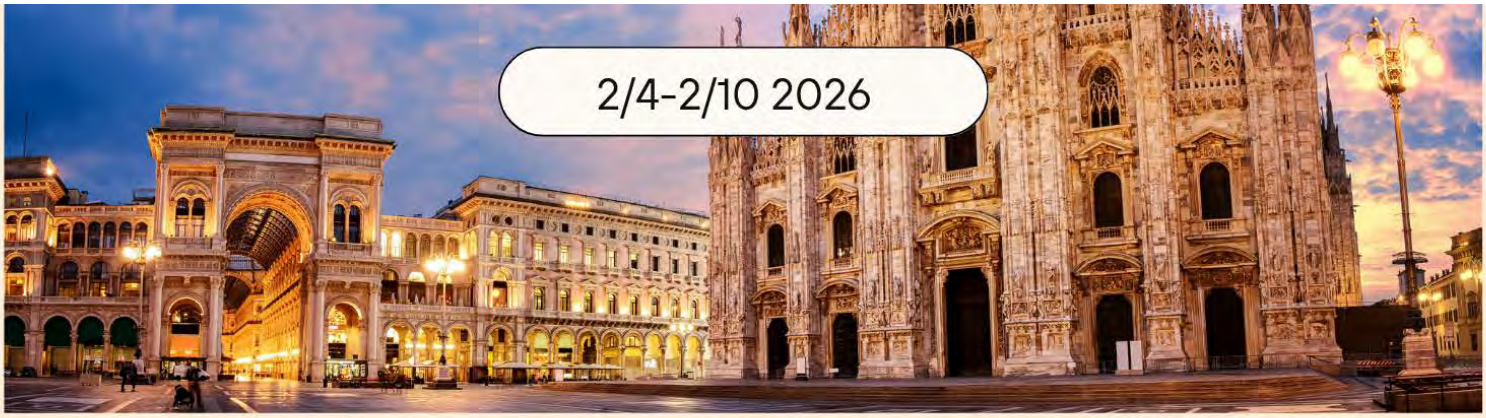
**Alejandra Escobar**
*Political Science 2017*
*UIC/John Marshall 2020*
*Associate Attorney*
*Malman Law*

## Key Discussions & Insights

- Preparing for Law School
- Financing Law School
- Studying for the LSAT
- Current Job Market

**Tues. Nov 25, 2025 6-8 PM**

**RSVP VIA ZOOM**



2/4-2/10 2026

# STUDENT STUDY TOUR

EXPLORING FOOD, SUSTAINABILITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ROME.



INCLUDES:

- AIRFARE
- LODGING
- BREAKFAST & LUNCH
- MUESUEM ENTRANCE FEES
- FIELD TRIP TO WINERY

## $2400/PERSON - 6 DAYS 5 NIGHTS

*OVERESTIMATED COST OF TRIP*

# Save the Date!

**SAT. FEB. 28, 2026**

**8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

*29th Annual*



Friends of the Chicago River

# Chicago River Student Congress

## at Northeastern Illinois University

Come celebrate the Chicago-Calumet River system!

- Free event, snacks and t-shirts
- For students 5th grade to college
- Teachers, siblings and entire classrooms welcome

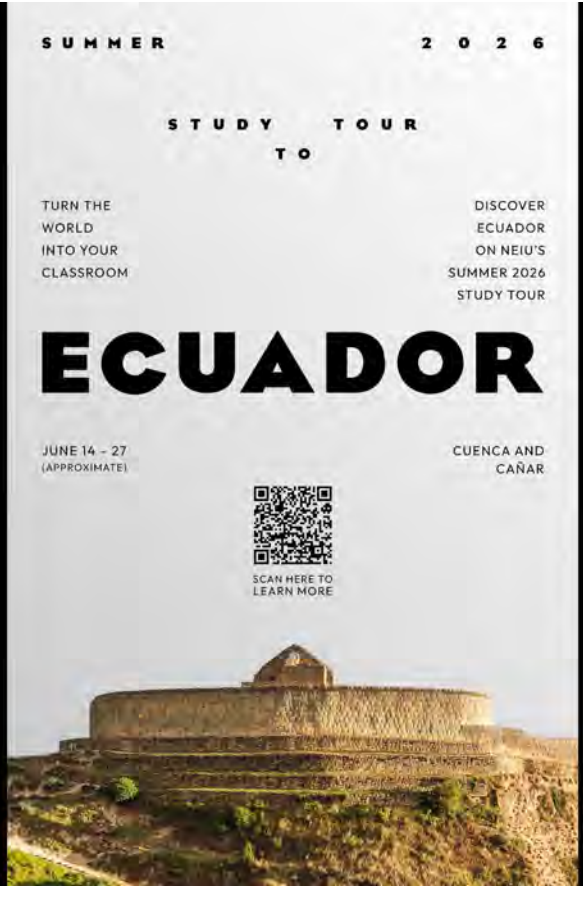
Discover our rivers as a living classroom and as a source of inspiration. Learn about:

- College preparedness
- Career planning
- Volunteer opportunities
- Live animals

Attend – Present a workshop – Display your ideas, research or river artwork. Registration opens in January.

Northeastern Illinois University

chicagoriver.org/education/student-congress




**Co-leaders:**
Dr. Amanda Montes
amontes@neiu.edu
Dr. Tracy Luedke
t-luedke@neiu.edu

**Approximate Dates:**
June 14-27, 2026

**Approximate Cost:**
$2200-2400 (includes all expenses)

**Come to our next info session!**

November 11, 3-4 PM on Zoom:
https://neiu-edu.zoom.us/j/7552420277

# PRIDE ALLIANCE 2025

**A welcoming & safer space for members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community & allies to connect, learn, & make our voices heard**

Students, Faculty & Staff welcome

**Every Thursday from 3-4p in LWH 2071**



# Get a locker on the 3rd floor of BBH!

**Lockers can be reserved for the semester, at no cost. If you would like a locker, then please scan the QR code below to fill out the locker reservation form. Lockers will be assigned first-come, first serve.**



tinyurl.com/BBHLOCKERS

SCAN ME

**If you have any questions, email icontre2@neiu.edu or stop by BBH-358G.**

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# History of Chicago

## A graduate class about the Second City

Learn about the history of Chicago at Northeastern Illinois University! Why is it called the Second City and Windy City? How did the Chicago fire influence a path for change and innovation? In this class, you'll experience a high level and intellectual discourse about the city in which we all live.



Whether you're pursuing graduate school or not, see what graduate studies are like in a small classroom setting, led by an expert in the field. NEIU offers a diverse and welcoming higher education environment.

### Class details

History of Chicago is an in-person class held each Wednesday from 7:05-9:45 p.m. on NEIU's Main Campus. The class runs from Jan. 21-May 6, 2026. History of Chicago is a single one-time course. You don't have to be enrolled in NEIU's master's degree program in History. There are no prerequisites. No prior knowledge required.

### In this class, you will:

- Read and discuss historical studies of Chicago
- Interact with visiting Chicago history scholars
- Examine archival materials
- Complete an original Chicago history project of your own

### Did you know...

You do not need to be a degree-seeking student to take this class. Pique your intellectual curiosity and expand your fascination with Chicago into a meaningful and serious study of its history and many unique facets.

### Apply to and enroll at NEIU to begin your studies!

1. Complete a Graduate Student-at-Large (non-degree) application at **neiu.edu/apply** by Dec. 15, 2025.
2. Send in official transcripts.
3. Register for the History of Chicago class at **neiuport.neiu.edu**.
4. Pay the class tuition and fees: $1,432.59 (plus $30 application fee).

### Connect with us

For more information about the History of Chicago class, contact Dr. Josh Salzmann at j-salzmann@neiu.edu.
For general or application questions, contact Dr. Nikolas Hoel at n-hoel@neiu.edu.

# SPRING 2026 COURSES
# GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



## UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL COURSES

GES 104 World Geography
GES 150 Introduction to Environmental Studies
GES 205 Physical Geography
GES 302M Regional Geography: Russia & Central Asia
GES 303 Geography & Disability: Space, Place & Power
GES 308 Conservation Psychology
GES 315 Economic Geography
GES 319 Environmental & Natural Resources Policy
GES 361 Urban Planning
GES 374 Research Methods
GES 390 Remote Sensing & Digital Image Processing
GES 391 Introduction to GIS
GES 392 Geospatial Analysis

## GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES

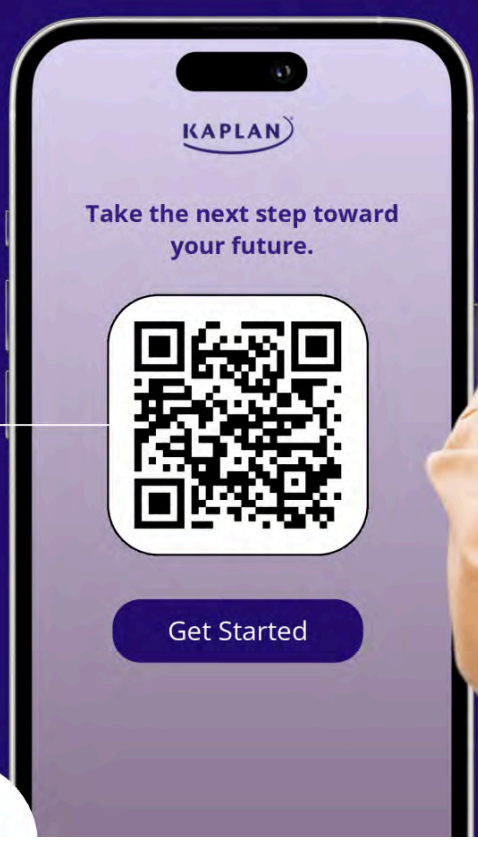
GES 413 Advanced Research Methods
GES 450 Seminar in Urban Planning
GES 490 Remote Sensing & Digital Image Processing
GES 491 Introduction to GIS
GES 492 Geospatial Analysis

KAPLAN | Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# Get Ahead with Free Premium Test Prep

As a Northeastern Illinois University student, you can now take advantage of free access to the most realistic and comprehensive test prep available for grad school, licensure, and career exams. Planning your next move? This is the perfect place to start.

**Start preparing today: Go.Kaplan.com/Illinois**






Administered by ISAC Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# Post-Baccalaureate

## Certificate in Pre-Health

catalog.neiu.edu/arts-sciences/biology/post-baccalaureate-certificate-pre-health



The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Pre-Health at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) is tailored for career changers with a bachelor's degree who need to complete the prerequisites for health professional programs. This comprehensive certificate fulfills the core requirements for admission to health professional programs, including:

**Medicine • Dentistry • Optometry**
**Physician Assistant • Physical Therapy**
**Pharmacy • Veterinary Medicine**

**Why complete the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Pre-Health at Northeastern?**

- Dedicated Pre-Health Advising
- Personalized Support
- Intimate Learning Environment
- Faculty-Mentored Research Opportunities
- Hands-on Laboratory Experience
- Networking and Leadership Opportunities
- Pre-Health Events
- Entrance Exam Preparation
- Tutoring Services

**Admission Requirements**

- Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above.

**David Nissim-Sabat**
Director of Pre-Professional Advising
College of Arts and Sciences, BBH 148A
dnissim@neiu.edu | (773) 442-0000

neiu

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# Pre-Law Minor

**The Pre-Law minor supports undergraduate students pursuing law school, as well as those interested in understanding the design and impact of our legal system. Acquire skills and knowledge relevant to legal careers, while drilling down into areas of law most fascinating to *you*. With course offerings across eight different NEIU programs, the Pre-Law minor will help you see our legal system in a whole new, interdisciplinary light!**





## Required Courses

### JUST-205: Law & Society

Law permeates every aspect of our lives, permitting and banning, safeguarding and prosecuting, legitimizing and stigmatizing. This course concerns the roles that laws play in all of our daily lives. We will examine theories of law and justice, the role of legal actors and institutions in constructing and enforcing laws, the main types of law, how the law shapes and is shaped by inequality and social change, and pathways into legal careers.

### PHIL-201: Logic I

Introductory course in symbolic logic, dealing with propositional calculus, quantification theory and the logic of relations and classes.

### PSCI-320: Constitutional Law

The role of the Supreme Court and its impact on the constitutional development of the due process clause, civil liberties, First Amendment freedoms, and the equal protection of the law are traced with particular emphasis on the assessment of the role of the Supreme Court vis-a-vis the states and the national government in protecting and restricting civil liberties.

### Plus 3 Pre-Law Electives

The three electives should be taken in at least two different programs, with eight programs to choose from!

## Learn More

### Contact

Pre-Law@neiu.edu

### Requirements & Electives

View requirements of the Pre-Law minor, plus our many electives, by scanning the QR code below!

Apply for the

# Undergraduate Merit Tuition Scholarship

## Applications for Summer 2026 are due

## February 1st, 2026

The College of Arts and Sciences provides a limited number of Merit Tuition Scholarships for interested and deserving undergraduates (Second Bachelor's candidates are not eligible) within the College of Arts and Sciences. **These scholarships are generally granted for three to six credit hours and students *must* be enrolled at least half-time.** Scholarships will be granted on the basis of the student's intended major, status, intended Career/Educational Goals, transcripts and/or ACT/SAT scores, and letter of recommendation.

**To be considered for selection, applicants must meet the following criteria:**

- Transfer and NEIU continuing students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25.
- Students who have earned 45 credit hours at NEIU must be declared majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. Transfer students with over 45 total hours must declare their major in the College of Arts and Sciences by their second semester at NEIU.
- Entering Freshmen must be in the top 15% of their graduating class or have a minimum ACT score of 24 or SAT of 1110.

**Applicants must submit a complete application including:**

- The name and email address of a faculty member who has agreed to complete a faculty recommendation form.

This award may be withdrawn in instances of substantiated academic misconduct or other violations of University standards pertaining to proper student conduct.

**Application Deadlines:**

- **Fall:** May 15
- **Spring:** October 1
- **Summer:** February 1

*The College Merit Tuition Scholarship Committee will review all applications and notify applicants approximately one month after the application deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.*

*Awards to prospective and declared majors in the College of Arts and Sciences are highly competitive with the College intent on awarding to the most deserving students.*

**Click here to learn more**

# Join the CAS Student Advisory Board!

Northeastern Illinois University's College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) has assembled 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.

The board consists of up to 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. 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 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.

**Click here to apply!**

# Donate to CUSP

## What is CUSP?

**CUSP stands for College Undergraduate Scholars Program. The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is raising money to provide students with valuable research and creative opportunities they would not otherwise have. We empower students on the CUSP of success!**

## What does the CUSP do?

**Each year, the College of Arts and Sciences funds dozens of student-faculty research projects and creative endeavors and sends our students to national conferences and exhibitions to present their work. Our students routinely win awards at these events, receiving recognition for their work and standing out from students from all over the nation.**

## What's the benefit?

**These research and creative opportunities build confidence and capacity in our students and help them realize they can positively impact the world through the learning they are doing with College of Arts and Sciences faculty.**

## Why donate?

**We want to create a sustainable funding stream to support student research projects, creative endeavors, student conference and exhibition travel, and more. With enough support, we can fund any project a student can dream up!**

**Donate here!**

# CONTACTS

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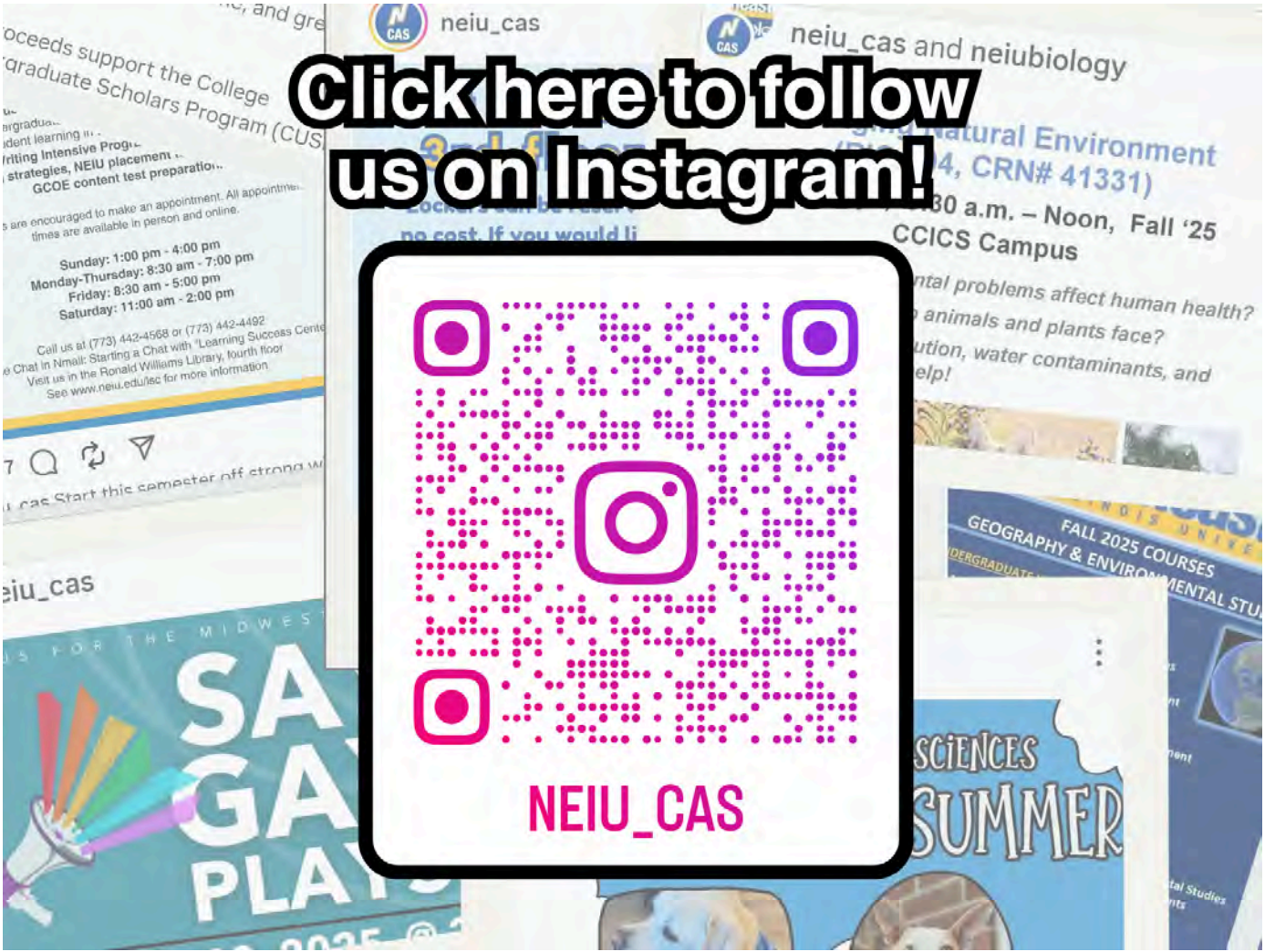
**Pre-Professional Advising information**

**CAS Website**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Sunday: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Monday-Thursday: 8:30 am - 7:00 pm
Friday: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
FALL 2025 COURSES
SUMMER

NEIU College of Arts and Sciences

Just now ·

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