CAS CONNECTIONS

Spring Term | Issue 23 | March 6, 2026

FROM THE DEAN

Greetings, CAS Community,

I hope this message finds you staying strong and doing what you can to enjoy life amidst all that is going on in the world.

If you are looking for inspiration and hope in these times, I hope that these greetings will give you some. I know I take inspiration from all the good work my colleagues and community partners are doing this term for our human rights themed semester.

This week was full of events featuring research and action designed to help us create a more humane world. Earlier in the week, our Genocide and Human Rights in Africa and the Diaspora (GHRAD) Research Center, directed by Dr. Jeanine Ntihirageza, organized and hosted its 12th Annual Conference, **Breaking the Cycle from Remembrance to Prevention**. This conference brought together scholars from around the world and featured a powerful art exhibit, **Echoes of Silence (still open in the Ronald Williams Library through March 23)**, giving voice to victims of genocide with the hope of finding ways to prevent it.

Yesterday afternoon, our Philosophy Department and our Geography and Environmental Studies Department held a screening with the director of **The Here Now Project**, a powerful and innovative documentary about climate change aimed at provoking thought, awareness, and action on all our parts to address this issue.

And yesterday evening, our Social Work program organized and hosted the event **Community Mental Health in Chicago: Care as a Human Right**, bringing together professional practitioners and scholar activists from across the city to discuss the history of community mental health in the city as well as present efforts to rebuild the mental health infrastructure with community-based clinics. Our faculty, such as Drs. Andy Brake and Patricia Aguado, have been incredibly active in these community efforts, particularly in Logan Square and Hermosa as well as Humboldt Park.

There's a Taoist saying that goes, "To know and not to act is not to know." What is so inspiring about the work of faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences and the community partners and friends who work with us, is that the knowledge production is typically coupled with action, such that it is true knowing.

You'll read more about upcoming events for our Human Rights Themed Semester in this newsletter, but here's a quick overview, as the next one is tomorrow:

This Saturday, March 7th, at the International Servant Leaders Museum in Morton Grove (a lovely place you really need to experience if you haven't), Jeremy Babcock (Director of First Year Experience Program) and Dean Tim Libretti (me) from the CAS will host an event honoring Mr. Rogers: **Remembering Mr. Rogers and His 143 Message for Human Rights**. Jeremy will provide music, and I'll share some views on Mister Rogers focusing on how he guided us to think about work and community. We will have a discussion and remembrances from the audience and some refreshments. Bring your family!

On Tuesday, March 10th, Hamid Akbari and Azar Khounani, co-founders of the International Servant Leaders Museum, will be at NEIU to talk about the work of human rights as well as their museum and its relationship to NEIU in a discussion titled **Servant Leadership for Human Rights in Our Communities and Workplaces**.

Coming up on Thursday, March 12th, we have a double-header of events!

At 2pm, Professor Tom Alter, recently fired from his tenured position at Texas State University for a political speech he made outside the university, will speak about his experience in **The Assault on Academic Freedom and the Fight Against the Far Right**.

Then, at 3pm, Illinois State Representative Will Guzzardi will host a panel titled **Fighting Discrimination in the Age of Trump** where he will share information about anti-discrimination legislation he is working on. He will also be joined by representatives from the Illinois Department of Human Rights and the National Lawyers Employment Association.

So, come join us and get inspired!

All the best,
Tim Libretti
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



John Sayson
Psychology

What is your current major?

I am a psychology major graduating this May 2026!

What are your career goals?

My ultimate goal is to be a clinical psychologist and tenure-track professor. In these roles, I intend to conduct both research and therapy in addiction and mental health. Growing up, my friends often described me as a "good shoulder to cry on" or "easy to talk to," so I saw therapy as my life's calling.

At NEIU, however, I've gained a lot of research experience. Through conducting these studies and presenting at several national research conferences, I realized the importance of psychological research. Key psychological concepts like personality traits, risk and resilience factors in mental health, or various therapeutic approaches like cognitive behavioral therapy were primarily discovered and studied through rigorous scientific research. I decided I wanted to be a part of that, so getting a PhD in clinical psychology was the perfect choice.

With that, I am thrilled to share that I recently received an offer of admission to the Clinical Psychology PhD program at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia! By the grace of God, I will matriculate in the Fall 2026 semester. Clinical Psych PhDs are absolutely brutal to get into (1-10% acceptance rates for most schools), so I feel incredibly blessed and grateful to be accepted straight out of undergrad. It's humbling – but also exciting – to think that in five or six years, I will be "Dr. Sayson."

What do you like about NEIU?

What I love about NEIU is all our wonderful faculty and the truly effective programs they run. As a first-generation college student, I knew next to nothing about college life, and I knew even less about graduate school. And now, I am about to graduate from college and immediately become a PhD student in clinical psychology thanks to all the invaluable support of my mentors. I think of people like Dr. Deborah Klos Dehring in the McNair Scholars Program, Dr. Amanda Dykema-Engblade in the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Alvin David Farmer Jr. in the Department of Psychology, and MANY, many more. I wish I could name them all here, but they know who they are.

NEIU has a stated mission of helping minority students and first-generation students, and I truly believe in that ethos. It doesn't feel like lip service – they really mean it. I am quite literally living out my educational and career dreams and I will forever be grateful to this university and the people in it for making that possible.

Are there any fun facts we should know about you?

I love training mixed martial arts (MMA)! Most of my experience is with Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) and kickboxing. I've been doing some form of martial arts since I was 11 years old. I haven't been able to train much lately because of how busy I've been, but it's always such a fun hobby to fall back into.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Other fun facts! I'm Roman Catholic, I love singing karaoke (particularly old jazz music like Frank Sinatra), I'm a Star Wars nerd, and I have a beautiful partner named Anabelle Jimenez. We met in high school, and we are both psych majors here at NEIU. And yes, she is much smarter than I.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Brian Thalhammer
English



What did you study at NEIU?

I majored in English. My time in the program helped me develop both my creative voice and inspired my belief that writing could be a full-time career if I was willing to fully commit to it. NEIU's instructors gave me the confidence to pursue writing seriously and showed me that the stories we carry can have a real impact, whether as a hobby or a profession.

What are you doing now?

I currently work as a Creative Copywriter for a national automotive brand, developing narrative-driven articles, interviews and other content that connect with our audiences in engaging and informative ways. I typically write about topics covering rare cars, motorcycles and the interesting people who collect them, as well as historically driven pieces and pop culture features. In addition to my copywriting role, I continue to pursue long-form creative writing. I am also currently a writer for a television series that is in its early preproduction stages, which has given me the opportunity to expand my storytelling into a collaborative, visual medium. Most recently, I am the author of the novel ***Broken Birds and the Boys They Carry***, an Amazon Top 10 Bestseller, which explores youthful themes of identity, resilience, and belonging. It just recently launched and is available on Amazon in multiple formats.

What do you remember about your time at NEIU?

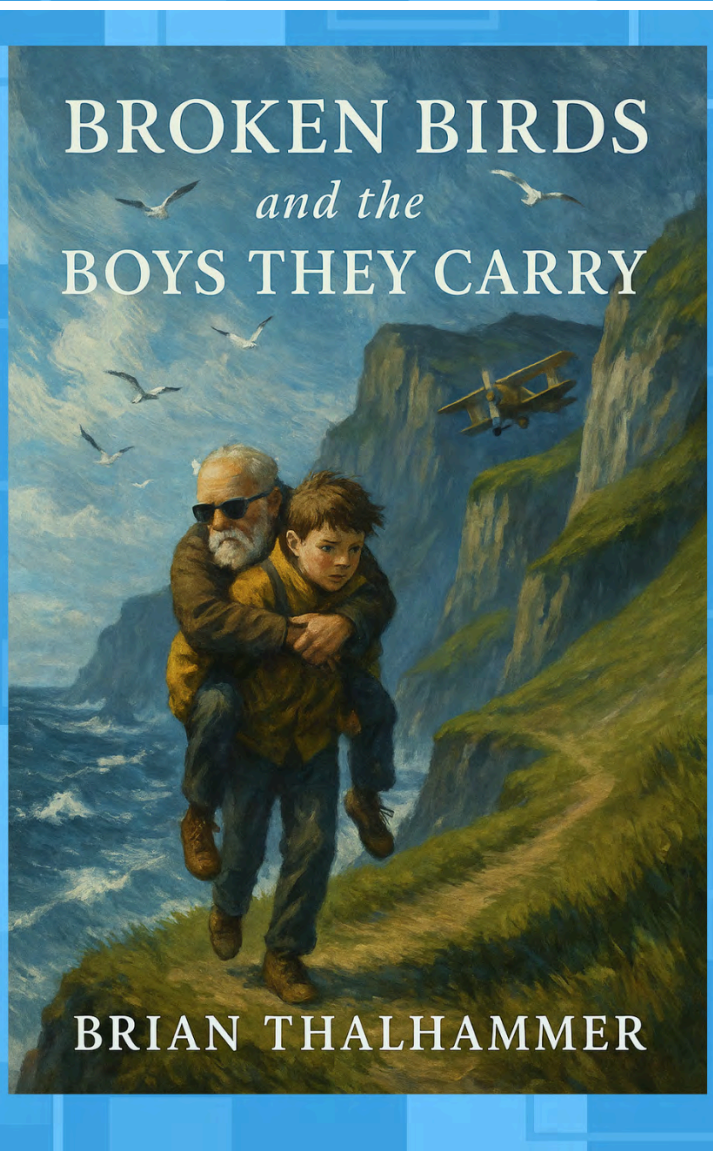
What I remember most about my time at NEIU was the opportunity to immerse myself in literature and explore different perspectives through storytelling. The English department instructors, in particular, opened my eyes to what a book can be. Through exposure to poetry, graphic novels/comics, and unconventional narrative forms, I learned that storytelling isn't confined to a single structure or expectation. That realization gave me the freedom to explore my own voice and understand that meaningful stories come in many forms. The environment encouraged reflection, creativity, and critical thinking, all of which continue to shape my approach to writing today.

Do you have any advice for current students?

Stay patient with yourself and your projects, and trust your creative instincts. There is no single equation for reaching your goals. Traditional publishing may be right for one person, while self-publishing may be ideal for another. What matters most is finishing the work in a way that feels true to you. Be open to feedback, continue improving, and take ownership of your path. Writing is a craft that never becomes perfect, but it gets better with time and discipline. Write consistently, pursue it for the right reasons, and focus on creating something you would want to read rather than trying to impress others or follow trends.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

My time studying at NEIU helped me understand the importance of storytelling and collaboration, lessons that continue to shape my work today. I've also learned that even when you love writing, making it sustainable requires treating it like a business. Some work may not fulfill you creatively, but those experiences build discipline and open doors. NEIU's instructors offer invaluable insight and encouragement that drastically helped shape my future. Absorb every lecture, read every book, complete each assignment, stay open to opportunities no matter how out of your comfort zone they might be, and trust that growth comes with time and persistence.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



Sangmin Bae
Political Science

What kind of research are you doing?

I'm a political scientist, which means I spend a lot of time thinking about why people and states behave the way they do. And then writing books and articles about it. My research focuses on two main themes: human rights and human security, as well as East Asian politics. My first book explored why some countries abolish the death penalty while others don't, looking closely at how international human rights norms interact with domestic politics. My second book examined the concept of human security and asked whether we might broaden our understanding of "security" beyond the more familiar (and narrower) ideas of homeland or national security. Currently, I'm working on projects ranging from Japan's military normalization to same-sex marriage policy variation in East Asia, as well as voting behavior and alliance patterns in the UN General Assembly. In short, I'm interested in how global norms travel, evolve, and sometimes clash with domestic politics. At a practical level, I hope my research does more than sit on a bookshelf. My hope is to translate broad principles about human rights and human security into ideas that advocates and policymakers can actually use.

What is your favorite thing about NEIU?

Before coming to NEIU 20 years ago, I taught at both a very large state university (over 50,000 students) and a small liberal arts college (around 4,000 students). At the large university, I taught classes of 130 students. It was exciting, but also a bit like performing for a small stadium. At the liberal arts college, the sense of community was strong, classes were intimate, and the tuition was definitely not. NEIU feels like the best of both worlds. We offer small, discussion-based classes that are affordable, where students and professors form close relationships. At the same time, we have a wonderfully diverse student body. Mentorship here is personal and sustained. Every time I meet a new student, I'm reminded of the depth behind each name on the roster. Getting to know their stories - their struggles, hopes, resilience, and humor - keeps my work grounded. NEIU reminds me that education is ultimately about shared humanity.

What are your hobbies?

I love long walks and hiking. I love British and Korean indie bands. What I love most is walking for hours, aimlessly, feeling the wind and listening to my favorite music. Of course, with a busy schedule, I can't always be aimless. So I compromise: I walk six miles from my house to NEIU each day. On the way, I usually listen to NPR to prepare for political science classes. But when the political news becomes a bit too… unbelievable, I switch back to K-indie music for my mental health.

Why did you decide to work in an academic environment?

As an undergrad political science student in Seoul during South Korea's democratic struggles of the 1990s, I spent more time at protests than in the classroom (my attendance record from that era is something I hope my current students never see!). Back then, I wanted to be an activist to "fix" what felt broken in society. Over time, inspiring professors and scholars showed me a different path: that research, teaching, and mentoring can be forms of engagement too. I realized that academia isn't separate from activism; it's another way to work toward social change.

Today, as the graduate coordinator in my department, I'm lucky to be part of an M.A. program that has built a close-knit scholarly community where students and faculty collaborate and grow together. Read more about our M.A. program below.

POLITICAL SCIENCE M.A. PROGRAM

A Community of Scholars

NEIU's Political Science MA program is home to an active and diverse community of scholars and changemakers. Our program supports students' intellectual growth through rigorous research training, close faculty mentorship, collaborative learning, and professional development opportunities. Here are some of the benefits our students enjoy:

- **Faculty Mentorship:** Our faculty members work closely with graduate students, providing personalized guidance in coursework, research projects, internships, and career planning. Professors are always open to conversations about ideas, challenges, and professional goals.

- **Research-Focused Training:** The program emphasizes careful reading, critical thinking, and analytical writing to strengthen students' research skills. Students regularly collaborate with faculty, present their work at academic conferences, and, in some cases, co-author publications.

- **Close-Knit Academic Environment:** Our MA students work closely together through study groups and seminars. They regularly meet outside of the classroom and thoughtfully engage with each other's ideas and research, building a strong, supportive community of scholars.

- **Professional Development:** Our MA program prepares students for doctoral study as well as professional careers in policy, law, education, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector.

Our recent graduates have gone on to successful careers in the U.S. Foreign Service, law, university professorships, high school teaching, public service at the local, state, and federal levels, state legislative offices, the security sector, and business.

We are proud to feature two graduates who exemplify the program's mission: David Diaz and Sarah Travis-Hlatshwayo.



David Diaz: I currently serve as a Coordinator of Economic Development at the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD), where I administer small business development grants that support companies investing in their employees and improving their brick-and-mortar locations through capital improvements and façade restoration. Beginning April 1, 2026, I will transition to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) as Program Manager for the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Program — a statewide tax credit tool designed to spur capital investment and drive job creation and retention across Illinois.

As a two-time graduate of Northeastern Illinois University (B.A. 2016; M.A. 2018), the Political Science program was instrumental in shaping my commitment to public service. It strengthened my ability to think critically about governance, institutions, and the ways power is structured and exercised. The analytical training and mentorship I received continue to inform my work advancing economic opportunity at both the city and state levels.



Sarah Travis-Hlatshwayo is the Chief of Staff at The Election Group, based in Washington, DC. The nonpartisan organization strengthens democracy and improves the trustworthiness of elections in the United States by advancing the profession of election administration. In this role, Sarah drives strategy and organizational excellence to support the organization's mission of supporting election officials nationwide. Since earning her MA in Political Science from NEIU in 2016, Sarah has made an impact on the global elections community at Microsoft, supported global policy strategy at Meta (formerly Facebook), strengthened political parties at the National Democratic Institute, won campaigns with the Democratic Party of Illinois, and served constituents in the Illinois House of Representatives. She has worked in over 40 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, and North America, primarily providing best practices, training, and high-level consultations to political parties across the political spectrum.

Sarah's experience in NEIU's political science graduate program was instrumental to her current success: the accessibility of faculty during the program and after graduation, the program's vast alumni network working in elected government, the community built across cohorts, and the additional programming outside of coursework makes the program an exceptional experience for any student considering or currently working toward their graduate degree.



Staying the Course for Human Rights: From Awareness to Action

a College of Arts and Sciences themed semester

SPRING 2026













What is a themed semester?

A themed semester is a collection of classes, events, and activities that focus on a particular topic. Some classes will be heavily focused on the topic, while others add a unit or special activity to bring it in to an existing class.

Why human rights?

In this political moment, paying attention to human rights is critical. We need to be aware of what is going on in the world around us and educated on our rights so that we can forge the best path forward.

Who benefits?

Everyone! You can learn to protect yourself, your community, and your world if you are educated about and aware of human rights.

What are my human rights?

In 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It set out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected. These rights are listed below, or you can go to bit.ly/UNHumanRights to learn more.

How do I participate?

You can participate in our themed semester by taking a class on our list or attending an event we are hosting. Click the button below for an up-to-date list of everything included in the themed semester, or email cas@neiu.edu with questions or comments.

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1 Equality

Everyone is born **free** and **equal** in **dignity** and with rights.

2 Freedom from Discrimination

You should never be discriminated against for any reason.

3 Life, Liberty and Security

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and personal security.

4 Freedom from Slavery

No-one shall be held in slavery or servitude.

5 Freedom from Torture

No-one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel or degrading treatment.

6 Recognition as Person Before Law

You have the right to be treated as a person in the eyes of the law.

7 Equality Before the Law

You have the right to be treated by the law in the same way as everyone else

8 Remedy by Tribunal

Your have the right to remedy by competent tribunal.

9 Freedom from arbitrary arrest

No-one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

10 Fair Public Hearing

You have the right to a fair public hearing.

11 Innocent until Proven Guilty

You have the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

12 Privacy

No-one has the right to interfere with your privacy, family, or home.

13 Freedom of Movement

You have the right to freedom of movement in and out of the country.

14 Asylum

You have the right to seek asylum in other countries from persecution.

15 Nationality

You have the right to a nationality.

16 Marriage and Family

You have the right to marriage and to raise a family.

17 Property

You have the right to own property.

18 Freedom of Belief

You have the right to freedom of belief and religion.

19 Freedom of Opinion

You have the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

20 Freedom of Assembly

You have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

21 Take Part in Government

You have the right to take part in the government of your country.

VOTE

22 Social Security

You have the right to social security.

23 Work

You have the right to desirable work and to join trade unions.

24 Rest and Leisure

You have the right to rest and leisure.

25 Adequate Living Standard

You have the right to a decent life, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care.

26 Education

You have the right to education

27 Participate in Cultural Life

You have the right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community.

28 Social Order

You have the Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document.

29 Mutual Responsibility

We all have a responsibility to the people around us and should protect their rights and freedoms.

30 Freedom from State or Personal Interference

There is nothing in this declaration that justifies any person or country taking away the rights to which we are all entitled.

CHICAGO RIVER STUDENT CONGRESS

February 28, 2026





The College of Arts and Sciences was pleased to host the Chicago River Student Congress, welcoming local families and more than 250 junior high and high school students from over 40 schools, from Chicago Public Schools to as far as Rockford. They engaged in a fun day of learning about environmental science, health, and justice. More than 80 teachers and local professionals also attended. Congratulations to Jalynn Webb of Imani Green Health Advocates, who received the Educator of the Year award! This was the third year that the College has partnered with Friends of the Chicago River to host the event, and we look forward to welcoming the Chicagoland community to the next Congress in February 2027.

ROME STUDY TOUR

February 2026









Dr. Rachel Birmingham-Hoel (Chair of Justice Studies) and Dr. Amanda Dykema Engblade (Professor of Psychology and Interim CAS Associate Dean) traveled with 10 students to Rome last month on a human rights themed study tour. While there, the group explored Rome's famous attractions, visited the United Nations, and toured the Museum of the Liberation of Rome.

This trip was in association with the Child Advocacy Studies and Justice Studies course CAST 210/JUST 210: Child Poverty, taught by Dr. Birmingham-Hoel, and it was organized in part by NEIU's Office of International Programs (click here to learn more about other study abroad opportunities!). The trip gave students an exciting opportunity to learn outside of the classroom and consider history and human rights from a new perspective.

UPCOMING IN THE CAS

Remembering Mr. Rogers and His 143 Message for Human Rights

Saturday, March 7, 2026 | 10:30am - 12:30pm
International Servant Leaders Museum
9233 Shermer Road, Morton Grove, IL 60053



Join us for a program of music honoring Mister Rogers and a presentation and discussion of the important values and perspectives Mister Rogers communicated regarding work and community, as he effectively, if implicitly, advocated for worker rights as human rights.

The discussion will invite audience members to share their own memories of Mister Rogers and how his work impacted them as well as their insights about his influence and importance.



Jeremy Babcock will regale us with a musical celebration. He is the Director of the First-Year Experience Program at Northeastern Illinois University, and also is the founder of Chicago's beloved family-friend band, The Dreamtree Shakers (learn more at dreamtreeshakers.com).



Tim Libretti, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and American Literature Professor at Northeastern Illinois University, will present some thoughts on the legacy and importance of Mister Rogers and lead a discussion remembering this beautiful man and his work as we celebrate his legacy of servant leadership!

Northeastern Illinois University
College of Arts and Sciences

International Servant Leadership Museum

ARCOS STEM ACADEMY 2026

DEADLINE: APRIL 1

When/where: May 26 - July 1
Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:30 am-4 pm, NEIU main campus
Tuesdays, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, remote

Who: We are looking for students who...

- are a first or second-year student at NEIU or HWC
- enjoy learning and working with others
- are excited to explore different STEM disciplines
- are interested in learning research skills
- would like to start building their future career

Program stipend: $1920 (~20 hr / week for 6 weeks)

Questions?
s-mayle@neiu.edu

APPLICATION AND MORE INFORMATION:

SCAN ME!

VIRTUAL INFO SESSION
MARCH 10, 11 AM

Funded by US Department of Education #P031C210111 and #P031S200083

NEIU ARCOS HWC
Advancing Research and Career Opportunities in STEM

Servant Leadership for Human Rights in Our Communities and Workplaces

March 10, 2026 | 3 - 4pm
BBH 102 | 5500 N. St. Louis Ave.





Join us for an insightful presentation and discussion by the co-founders of the International Servant Leaders Museum, Hamid Akbari and Azar Khounani. They will provide an overview of why a servant leadership approach to leadership and communityship is essential for advancing and protecting human rights in our communities and workplaces. They will also talk about the work of founding the International Servant Leaders Museum and the role of NEIU in their work of creating the museum.

In addition to co-founding the Dehkoda Educational Foundation and International Servant Leaders Museum with Azar Khounani, Hamid Akbari is an NEIU Audrey Reynolds Distringuished Teaching Professor Emeritus of Management, and Azar Khounani is also the founder of the Kids Academy Early Learning Center.

Refreshments will be served.
We hope you will join us!

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences

INTERNATIONAL SERVANT LEADERS MUSEUM

Northeastern PSYCHOLOGY

Hosted by the Department of Psychology

13th Annual Graduate Programs Fair

Thursday, March 12th from 1:30pm-4:30pm in Alumni Hall

Adler University

Loyola University

Dominican University

University of Illinois at Chicago

Midwestern University



Elmhurst University

NEIU MSW Master of Social Work

Governors State University

University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work

NEIU MA in Human Developmental Science

Roosevelt University

Wheaton College

Western Illinois University

Rosalind Franklin University

The Assault on Academic Freedom and the Fight Against the Far Right

Thursday, March 12 | 2:00pm - 3:00pm
SU 103 (Golden Eagles) | 5500 N. St. Louis Ave.



Last year, tenured professor and historian Dr. Tom Alter was fired from Texas State University over a talk he gave in his personal capacity at a socialist conference. During the talk, Dr. Alter advocated for opposing ICE raids, walking picket lines in support of striking workers, and defending transgender people—all views he has the right to discuss.

Dr. Alter's firing is part of a growing wave of first amendment violations happening all across our country. To silence dissent, far-right forces now completely disregard constitutional rights, with many even openly questioning democracy itself. There is, however, hope. Alter's local unions, and the Texas labor movement generally, have robustly backed the campaign for free speech, providing an example of how unions can forge a vigorous, nonpartisan opposition to the growing fascist current and fight for a better world.

In this presentation, Dr. Alter will discuss the growing far-right attacks on higher education and democratic rights that he and many others have faced. Join us to hear his story and learn with our community about how to protect our constitutional rights on the national, state, and local levels.

UPI

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College of Arts and Sciences

Fighting Discrimination in the Age of Trump

Thursday, March 12, 2026 | 3:00 - 4:00pm
SU 103 (Golden Eagles) | 5500 N. St. Louis Ave.



Will Guzzardi
Illinois State Representative



Gail Eisenberg
National Employment Lawyers Association of Illinois



Jason Rosensweig
Illinois Department of Human Rights

As Trump and his administration continue their efforts to roll back civil and human rights in the workplace and America overall, our leaders and public servants in Illinois are pushing back. Join us to hear these speakers in the mix of it talk about the legislative and legal efforts they are making to protect workers' rights against discrimination in the workplace and discuss such issues as disparate treatment and disparate impact.

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Stateville Speaks Panel

Friday, March 13, 2026 | 1:00pm - 2:00pm
SU 215 | 5500 N. St. Louis Ave.



Students who facilitate correspondence with incarcerated individuals for the Justice Studies supported *Stateville Speaks n*ewsletter will be presenting written and visual narratives from incarcerated individuals. Panel students will then reflect on the experience of fostering those perspectives and present an interactive activity for the audience.



Since 2009, the NEIU Justice Studies Department has served as the institutional home for the *Stateville Speaks* project, comprising the publication of a newsletter written by and for incarcerated individuals in the state of Illinois. The newsletter serves as a voice for the voiceless—for those incarcerated in Illinois, by publishing their essays, letters, and artwork. It also disseminates critical information about legislation and policies that affect people inside.

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences

STATEVILLE SPEAKS

PRAIRIE JUBILEE

AT GENSBURG-MARKHAM PRAIRIE!

ALL ARE WELCOME TO CELEBRATE ONE YEAR OF RESTORATION STEWARDSHIP AT GMP AND BE A PART OF A FLOURISHING FUTURE!

SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST
9AM-12PM

Follow on Instagram
@GensburgMarkhamPrairie

Parking at
15900 California Ave.
Markham, IL 606428
Look For Signs!

RSVP &
More Details

NEIU's English Department presents

Writing & Literature Collective

Spring '26 Schedule

Thursdays @ 3 - 4pm

LWH 2005

Refreshments will be served!

- February 5th
- February 19th
- March 5th
- March 26th
- April 9th
- April 23rd
- May 7th

An INCLUSIVE, OPEN, and WELCOMING space for all creatives and those simply looking for community!



Environmental Rights in Action:

How Your Career or Internship with the MWRD Connects to Human Rights

Thursday, March 26, 2026 | 3:00pm - 4:00pm
BBH 102 | 5500 N. St. Louis Ave.

What is environmental justice exactly? What does it have to do with human rights? How can you enjoy a career or internship doing human rights work for environmental justice?

Come hear Edward Coleman speak about the commitment of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) to achieving environmental justice and the career and internship opportunities you can pursue at the MWRD, regardless of your major, to engage in important environmental justice and human rights work.

Whether your major is in Fine Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, or STEM, the MWRD has opportunities for you! Come learn!



Edward Coleman
Human Resources Manager
Environmental Justice Section
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Northeastern Illinois University
College of Arts and Sciences

Protecting the Press, Protestors and Privacy: A Talk with the ACLU's Ed Yohnka

Thursday, April 2, 2026 | 4:15pm - 6:00pm
The Pedroso Center (B 159) | 5500 N. St. Louis Ave.



The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the liberties guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, the state Constitution, and state/federal human rights laws. The ACLU accomplishes its goals through litigating, lobbying and educating the public on a broad array of civil liberties issues.

Ed Yohnka, Director of Communications and Public Policy, began his job at the ACLU in June 1999. He serves as a primary spokesperson for the organization, appearing regularly in the media in Illinois and throughout the nation on legal and legislative matters related to the priorities of ACLU of Illinois.

Join us for an insightful discussion led by Mr. Yohnka on civil liberties and human rights in Illinois and beyond. He will touch on our constitutional rights and how they are being challenged in our current political climate. Refreshments will be provided.

CMT
Communication • Media • Theatre

Northeastern
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences

ACLU
Illinois

Spring '26 Semester Schedule

STEM COFFEE HOURS



Coffee, cookies, and community!

FEB 3
Student Center for Science Engagment

MARCH 3
Chemistry Department

APRIL 7
GES-ESCI Department

MAY 5

Check out our co-hosts!

FIRST TUESDAYS

2:30 - 4:00 PM

BBH 2ND FLOOR LANDING

Join STEM students, staff, and faculty

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

SAVE THE DATE

LAWRENCE FRANK LECTURE:

DR. MARY PATTILLO
"RACE AND HOUSING ON CHICAGO'S SOUTH SIDE"



Speaker

Harold Washington Professor of
Sociology and Black Studies
Northwestern University

APRIL 21, 2026 | 3PM
GOLDEN EAGLES ROOM

Northeastern
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

AFAM
African & African American Studies
Northeastern Illinois University

SING IT LOUD!

a Human Rights Sing-Along at the International Servant Leaders Museum

April 21, 2026 | 6:00pm

9233 Shermer Rd, Morton Grove, IL 60053

Join the NEIU Choir, instrumentalists, and the College of Arts and Sciences in partnership with the International Servant Leaders Museum for a night of singing and social justice.

Musicians will present important historical songs that showcase artists fighting back through calls to protest, songs of comfort, and music that tells the stories of the oppressed. We then invite our audience to sing along with songs of social justice, protest, and community.

There will be food and refreshments, a silent auction, and more. The event is free to attend, and all donations and proceeds from the silent auction will benefit NEIU's College of Arts and Sciences AND the International Servant Leaders Museum.

We hope to see you there!

DEHKHODA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

INTERNATIONAL SERVANT LEADERS MUSEUM



Northeastern

STAGE CENTER THEATRE

SILK ROAD CULTURAL CENTER

April 2026

April 15-17 and April 22-24 at 7:30pm | April 18* and April 25 at 3pm

*denotes private event

Stage Center Theatre, Building F
3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60625

GET TICKETS



The Office of Community and Professional Education and the Department of Communication, Media and Theatre's Stage Center Theatre is thrilled to announce **the 10th Anniversary of Jim Blair's NUEVAS VOCES: Playwriting Contest and Festival**!

Founded in Fall 2017 by alumnus and former Northeastern professor Jim Blair to create a platform for new playwrights at Northeastern Illinois University, Nuevas Voces is a thrilling launch point for new work from Northeastern and its vibrant community Featuring multiple prize-winning short plays selected from an extensive competition, Nuevas Voces reveals the complexity of our human experience through the many lenses that make up Northeastern.

We are currently accepting play submissions for consideration. Submission guidelines are available on our webpage. The deadline is May 1st for submissions with the winners announced by May 15th.

The play festival is tentatively scheduled for October 1-3, 2026.

Questions? Please contact Sarah J. Fabian, Managing Director of Stage Center Theatre at sj-fabian@neiu.edu.

SUMMER 2026

STUDY TOUR TO

TURN THE WORLD INTO YOUR CLASSROOM

DISCOVER ECUADOR ON NEIU'S SUMMER 2026 STUDY TOUR

ECUADOR

JUNE 14 – 27
(APPROXIMATE)

CUENCA AND CAÑAR

SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE



Approximate Dates:
June 14-27, 2026

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

Co-leaders:
Dr. Amanda Montes
amontes@neiu.edu

Dr. Tracy Luedke
t-luedke@neiu.edu

Pathways toward
University
Education that
Navigate
Transitions
Essential for
Spanish speakers

NEW FOR FALL 2026: BILINGUAL COURSES TAUGHT IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH

ENG 101: Writing I
T/R 1:40-2:55 | Ruth Llana

ARTH 106: Introduction to Art History
T/R 9:25-10:40 | Ana Nieves

SPAN 109: FYE - Chicago's Latino/a Cultures
T/R 10:50-12:05 | Emily Masó

BIO 104: The Changing Natural Environment
M/W 12:55-2:10 | Jorge Cantú

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

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!

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!

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

NEIU University and Private Scholarship Opportunities

https://www.neiu.edu/financial-aid/scholarship-opportunities

The links on this page will take you to other scholarship directories, so be sure to explore it thoroughly!

NEIU College of Arts and Sciences Scholarships

https://www.neiu.edu/academics/colleges-departments/arts-and-sciences/college-arts-and-sciences-scholarships

These scholarships are for students in the College of Arts and Sciences. Email cas@neiu.edu with any questions.

Private Scholarship Spotlights

https://www.neiu.edu/financial-aid/scholarship-opportunities/private-scholarship-spotlights

Explore the links on this page to find scholarships that may be available to you from outside of the university.

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

CONTACTS

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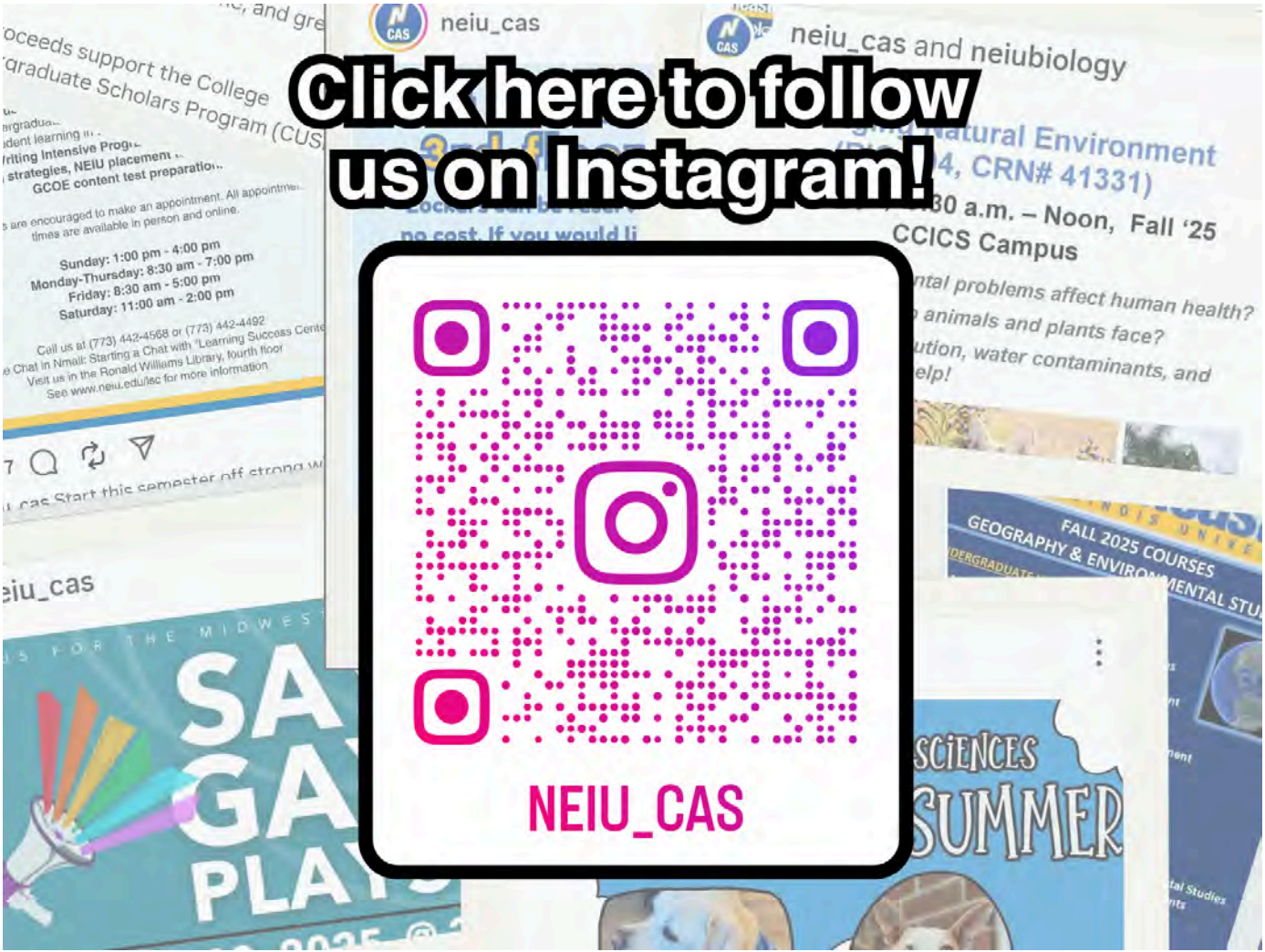
Pre-Professional Advising information

CAS Website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NEIU_CAS
neiu_cas
neiu_cas and neiubiology
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 ·

Click here to follow us on Facebook and keep up to date with the CAS!



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