CAS CONNECTIONS

Fall Term | Issue 26 | September 4, 2026

FROM THE DEAN

Greetings, CAS Community,

I hope you've had a great start to the Fall 2026 semester. I know for myself and Associate Deans Amanda Dykema-Engblade and Ken Voglesonger, it has been energizing to see our campus bursting with life and enthusiasm.

Ken, Amanda, and I especially want to welcome all to the new year, particularly those new to NEIU and our new first-year and transfer students. We did our best to meet every new student and their families at summer orientations, and we have been so pumped up by how focused, engaged, and hungry to learn our incoming class is and how excited you all are to be at NEIU!

For all our new members, this is the first issue of CAS Connections for the 2026-2027 academic year. You'll hear from us on a monthly basis and learn about what's going on in the CAS and the opportunities available to you. A typical newsletter features a student profile, so you can get to know our students better and see how they are availing themselves of opportunities in the CAS. We also typically have an alumni feature, so you can see the success of our graduates and how their time at NEIU has launched them on their journey. And finally, we feature a faculty member, so you understand how accomplished our faculty are and the opportunities they offer you for working with them. In short, the newsletter is largely about alerting you to all the opportunities here for you to help you be successful and make your time at NEIU awesome.

For this first issue, I want to draw your attention in particular to the featured student, Caleb Libretti, who happens to share my family name–because he's my son! Associate Dean Dykema-Engblade chose him for the feature not so much for nepotistic reasons but because he's someone who has been active on campus and taken advantage of the great opportunities we offer. As his dad and dean, it has been wonderful watching him learn and grow at NEIU; his experience in the CAS and at NEIU has validated my view of everything that is wonderful about NEIU and what our incredible faculty and community offer students. As part of NEIU study tours, he has traveled to Rome and Japan, he works as a tutor, participates in student clubs, and attends events on campus, such as the Philosophy Colloquium Series. It's wonderful to witness. If you see him around campus, say hello to him. I'm sure he'll be happy to meet with you and share his experiences.

And let me stress that these opportunities aren't available to him because he's the Dean's son. As Dean, I can assure you that the experience he is enjoying is one you can all enjoy!

So, here's to a great academic year! Look out for the CAS Connections newsletter every month of the Fall and Spring terms, and always feel free to stop by the CAS Dean's office in BBH 158 to say hello and grab a free snack.

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

IN THIS ISSUE

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



Caleb Libretti

What is your major?

My majors are Economics and Philosophy.

What are your career goals?

Currently I have a loose idea of what I want to do in regards to my career. I'm interested in working to solve the issue of food insecurity, especially in Chicago. I currently have ideas for a community centered grocery store. However, I'm planning to pursue a masters degree in Economics with a focus on sustainability, so my interests may change over the next few years. Whatever I pursue, I imagine it will pertain to social justice and in some way.

What do you like about NEIU so far?

I really appreciate the faculty at NEIU. Many of whom have gone above and beyond to enrich the learning experience of my peers and me. I really feel a sense that they care and want to see their students succeed.

What are your hobbies?

I started rock climbing last year! I appreciate how challenging it is and the sense of accomplishment I feel after I complete a tough climb. I also really enjoy listening to music, going to the movies, and spending time with loved ones.

Where was your photo taken?

This photo was taken after I visited the Nikkō Tōshōgū Shinto shrine on the Psychology Department's study tour of Japan. It was truly an amazing experience!

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



Dr. Amanda Greenbacker-Mitchell
Music Education

What do you do at NEIU?

I am an Assistant Professor of Music Education, Director of the Wind Ensemble, and Music Education Area Head. I teach music education courses, supervise music student teachers, oversee the music Teaching Licensure Program (TLP), conduct the Wind Ensemble, and provide oversight to the music education department.

What are your research interests?

I am interested in childhood music learning practices in genocides and human atrocities, specializing in music education in the Nazi camp system; historical research methodologies in music education; Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Education; Interdisciplinary music education practices, including socio-historically contextualized music learning; Music Teacher Education and teacher preparation; and Popular Music Pedagogy.

What is your favorite thing about NEIU?

OUR STUDENTS! We have brilliant, hard-working students, many of whom are first-generation college students (like I was!). It is truly a joy to walk the path of higher education with them.

Why did you join higher education?

It was definitely not the plan. I wanted to become a competitive, high-performing high school band director; so, I pursued a Masters in Wind Conducting. During my masters program I fell in love with working with future teachers. I realized that music teacher preparation was where my heart is – so a future in academia fell into my lap! Historical research and teaching about music and the Holocaust is a body of work I had been pursuing on my own for many years – childhood music learning practices in human atrocities became my area of study during my doctorate as a natural extension of previous work.

What are your hobbies/interests?

I love attending as many rock, punk, and metal shows as humanly possible; performing with the Chicago Wind Symphony and Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band; hanging out with my silly black cat, Salem; and baking – I'm always happy to share recipes!

WELCOME NEW FACULTY!



Dr. Jesse Self
Assistant Professor
Justice Studies

Dr. Shihan Zhu
Assistant Professor
Philosophy





Dr. Bill Balco
Assistant Professor
Anthropology

The College of Arts and Sciences is proud to announce these new faculty! We hope you will join us in giving them a warm welcome, and we are so excited to see all that they accomplish here at NEIU.



Join us for NEIU Night at the Chicago Sky!

Thursday, September 17th, 7pm
Wintrust Arena

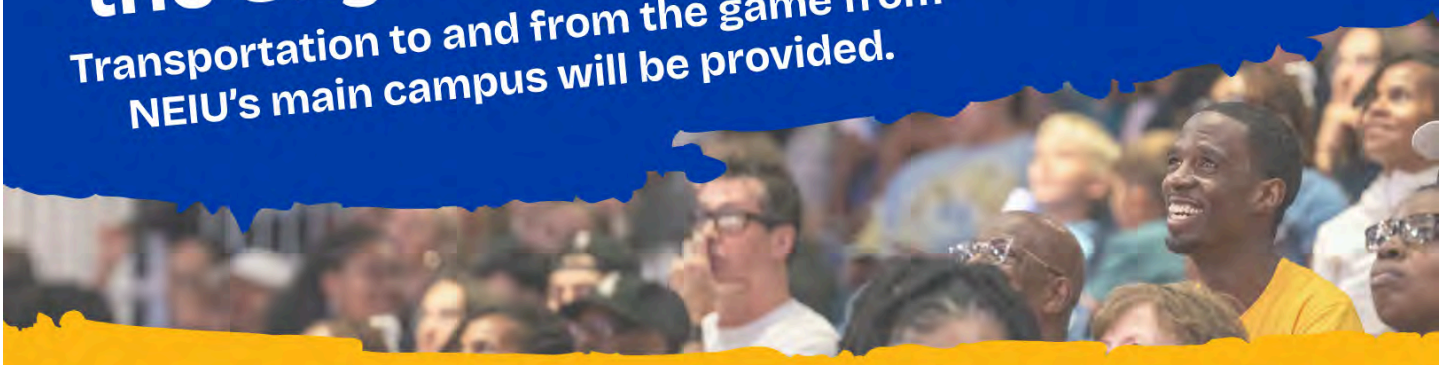


TICKETS

bit.ly/NEIUsky26

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Night & cheer the Sky on to victory!

Transportation to and from the game from NEIU's main campus will be provided.



Help us support our students and DONATE to the College Undergraduate Scholars Program!

A donation of $20 per ticket is suggested for non-student attendees.
Students attend for FREE! Go to bit.ly/CUSPneiu to learn more.

Wear your NEIU gear with pride as we take over Wintrust Arena for Hispanic Heritage Night at the Chicago Sky!

Tickets are available for FREE (although we encourage non-students to donate to our College Undergraduate Scholars Program). They are first-come, first-served, so sign up quick if you want to go!

We will have busses available for anyone who needs transportation from North campus to the game and back.

Let's be loud and proud, Golden Eagles! We can't wait to cheer on the Sky with you!

Request tickets here!

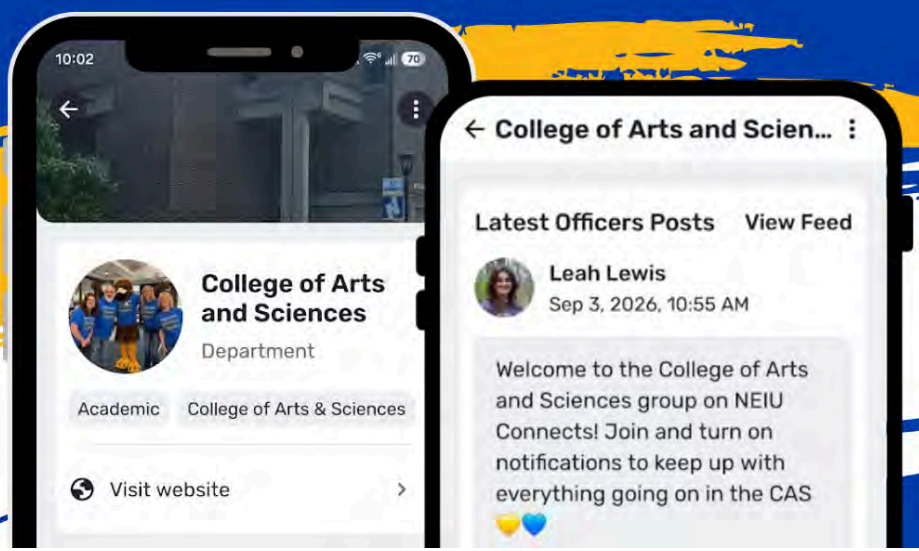
Donate to CUSP

NEIU | College of Arts and Sciences
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

NEIU CONNECTS

Join us on CampusGroups today!

1. Download **CampusGroups** from your app store
2. Look up **NEIU Connects**
3. Log in with your NEIU username & password
4. Stay connected!



Sign up here!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE CAS

PRE-LAW SOCIETY

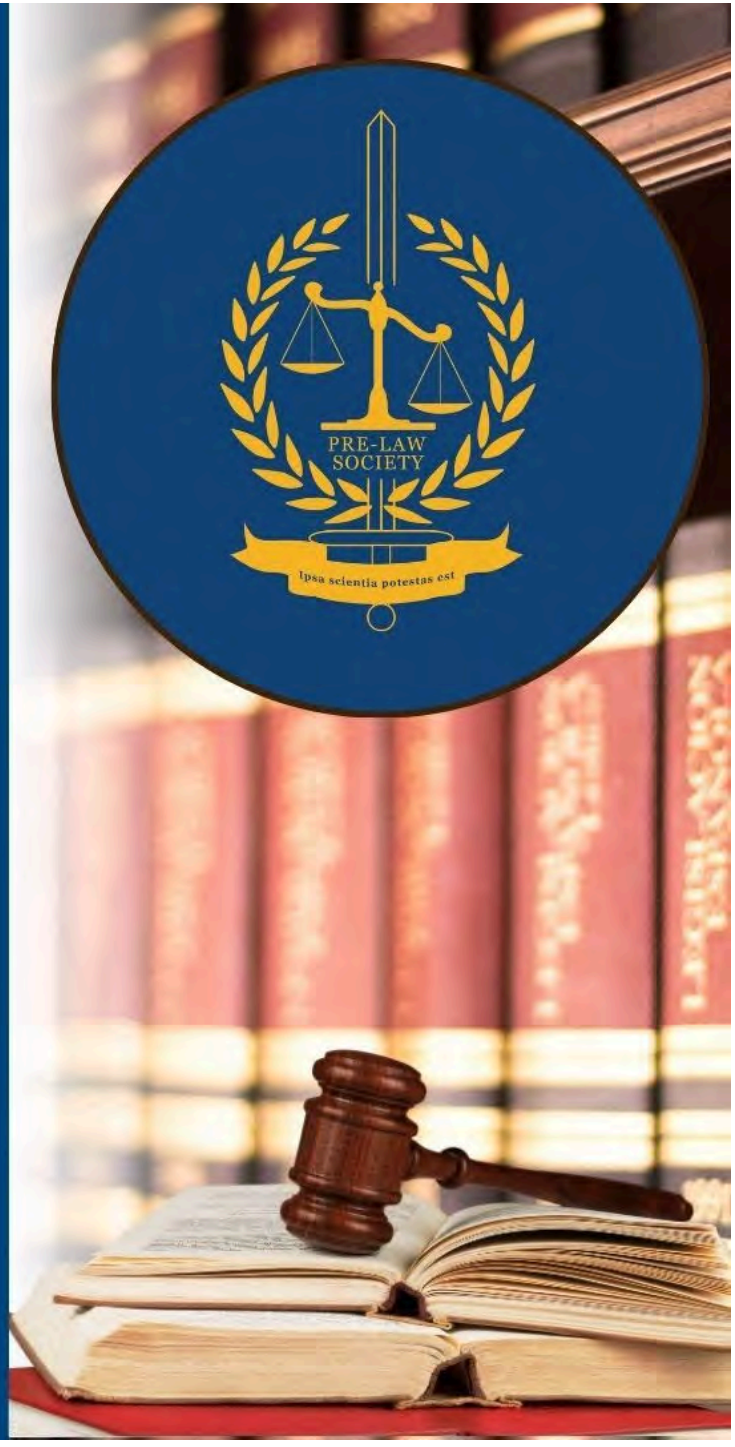
OFFICERS NEEDED!

Meeting to join and get involved in the Pre-Law Society

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 8TH
B-152
3-4 PM

WHY JOIN US

- ☑ Explore Law Schools and Admissions
- ☑ Attend an Alumni Panel
- ☑ Learn about Law School Specialties
- ☑ LSAT Prep
- ☑ Networking and Leadership
- ☑ Community



Join the NEIU Cinema Club!

Watch and discuss films together!
Free popcorn, candy and drinks!
All NEIU students are welcome to attend!

Fall 2026 NEIU Cinema Club Schedule

Tuesdays at 6pm in FA 107

8/25: ***Everything Everywhere All At Once*** (The Daniels, 2022)
9/08: ***Assassination Nation*** (Sam Levinson, 2018)
9/22: ***Casablanca*** (Michael Curtiz, 1942)
10/06: ***The Sixth Sense*** (M. Night Shyamalan, 1999)
10/20: ***Get Out*** (Jordan Peele, 2017)
11/10: ***Dunkirk*** (Christopher Nolan, 2017)
11/17: ***Invasion of the Body Snatchers*** (Philip Kaufman, 1978)
12/01: ***In the Heights*** (Jon M. Chu, 2021)

@NEIUCinemaClub
www.neiucinemaclub.com
neiucinemaclub@gmail.com

Northeastern Illinois University

FUTURE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Join the Club!!

Medical
Dental
Nursing, Optometry
Pharmacy, Veterinary
Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Physician Assistant
and more!

Thursday, September 10th
BBH-112
3 - 4 PM

- Explore Different Health Careers
- Attend Program Info Sessions and Alumni Panels
- MCAT/DAT/OAT/GRE Prep
- Network with Admissions Reps
- Leadership Opportunities
- Join a Community!

GET INVOLVED!



The American Revolution as World History

A Public Dialogue for History Teachers

Join us for a free public dialogue with historians and history teachers on the global significance of the American Revolution.

Thurs September 10th, 5pm - 6:30pm, in person
Lech Walesa Hall, Lecture Hall 1002 (ground floor)
Northeastern Illinois University
Enter at 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Free Parking in Lot D

1.5 hours of Professional Development Credit Available for Illinois Teachers

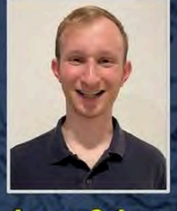
The Midwest Social Studies Education Hub **The Hub**



Caitlin Fitz
Northwestern University



James Vaughn
The University of Chicago



Lance Cohen
Noble Schools



Crystalynn Ortiz
Chicago Public Schools

Register Here:
forms.gle/jepdXEMUB1aHUB738

An After School Special brought to you by...

Northeastern Department of History
National Louis University, National College of Education
UIC University of Illinois Chicago, Department of History
Libraries
Chicago Metro History Day
The Newberry, Teacher Programs
Loyola University Chicago, School of Education
ICSS

Register here!

AGING IN THREE CITIES:

CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES & INNOVATIONS

Join the Shanghai and Osaka Social Services Committees of Chicago Sister Cities International for a free 3-hour conference on caring for aging populations in Chicago, Shanghai and Osaka.



Osaka Social Services Delegation 2024



Shanghai Social Services Delegation 2024

Tuesday, September 22, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

El Centro, 3390 N. Avondale Ave, Chicago, IL 60618

Register for the conference here!

CHICAGO SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

CHICAGO OSAKA SISTER CITIES

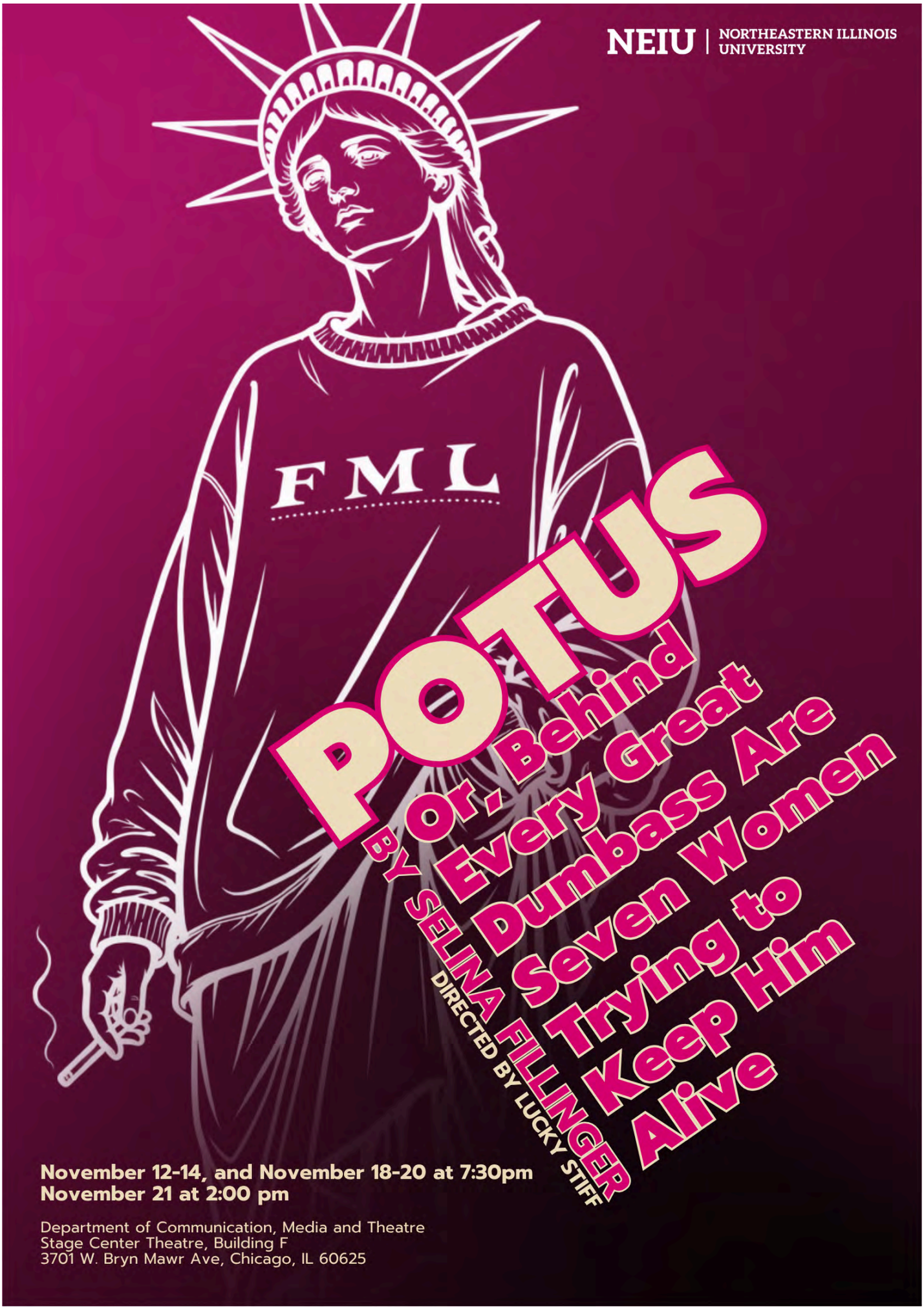
CHICAGO SHANGHAI SISTER CITIES

SPONSORED BY: Northeastern Illinois University | Preferra Insurance Company RRG, A COMPANY WITH HEART | DFSS Department of Family and Support Services

Register here!



Get tickets here!



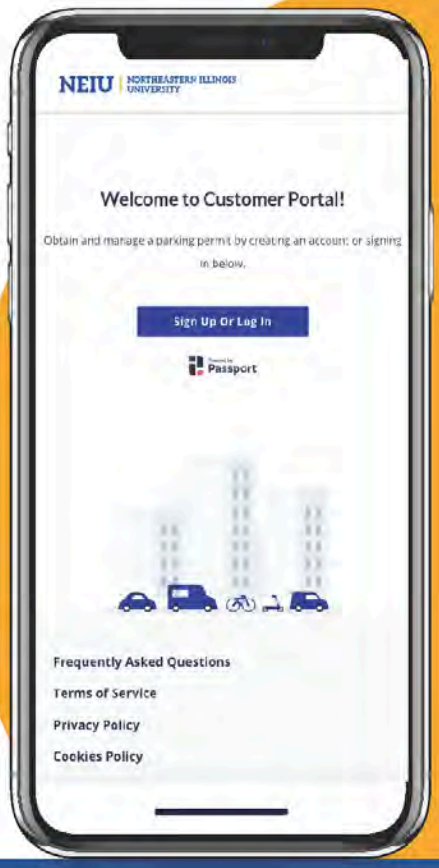
Get tickets here!

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

NEIU | NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

NEIU Students: Blue Lot Parking

Registered NEIU students can now park in campus BLUE lots for no additional cost!



No stickers or tags needed.

- Simply register your vehicle through the NEIU Permit Portal
- Student parking permits are digital and tied to the registered vehicle.
- Parking registration must be updated every semester.
- $0 Permit fee

How to Apply

1. Visit the NEIU Permit Portal.
2. Create or log into your account.
3. Register your vehicle.
4. Enter your Student ID.
5. Submit your application.
6. Monitor the NEIU Permit Portal for approval notification.

Scan the QR code to go to the NEIU Permit Portal.

Guest Parking

Guest parking is still available through the Passport Parking app or Text2Pay.

Parking Lot Rentals

Parking lot rental requests can be sent to: events@neiu.edu

Register your vehicle here!

Northeastern
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Open Members
Welcome!

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Become an Advocate
Support Campaigns
Organize Events
Share New Ideas

DIGNITY. JUSTICE. RESPECT. FOR ALL

HAVE A PASSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS?

SCAN OUR QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Biology

BIOLOGY ADVISING

(Aug. 17 through Dec. 22, 2026)

Gain advice about course selection, registration, and graduation requirements

In-person – Located in BBH-342

Just walk in; no appointment necessary

MONDAYS	**2:00 – 4:00 pm**
TUESDAYS	**4:00 – 6:00 pm**
THURSDAYS	**11:00 – 1:00 pm**

Virtual – Scan QR code or go to https://tinyurl.com/biologyNEIU to make a Zoom appt. during these time periods:

WEDNESDAYS	**4:00 – 6:00 pm**
FRIDAYS	**Noon – 2:00 pm**

Biology advisors can also answer questions at:

bioadvising@neiu.edu

Make an appointment

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

NEIU COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
2026 SCHOLARSHIPS

CAS Mossadegh Servant Leadership Fund
Award Amount: $1,700
Deadline: Wednesday, September 30, 2026

The Brommel-Hanson McGee Award
Award Amount: $1,200
Deadline: Wednesday, September 30, 2026

The Bernard J. Brommel Doctoral Scholarship
Award Amount: $5,000
Deadline: Wednesday, September 30, 2026

CAS Crown Cork & Seal Scholarship
Award Amount: $1,600
Deadline: Wednesday, September 30, 2026

NEW!

APPLY HERE:
https://bit.ly/neiuCASawards

Still have questions?
Email Associate Dean
Amanda Dykema-Englade at
a-dykema-engblade@neiu.edu

Learn more

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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Leah Lewis
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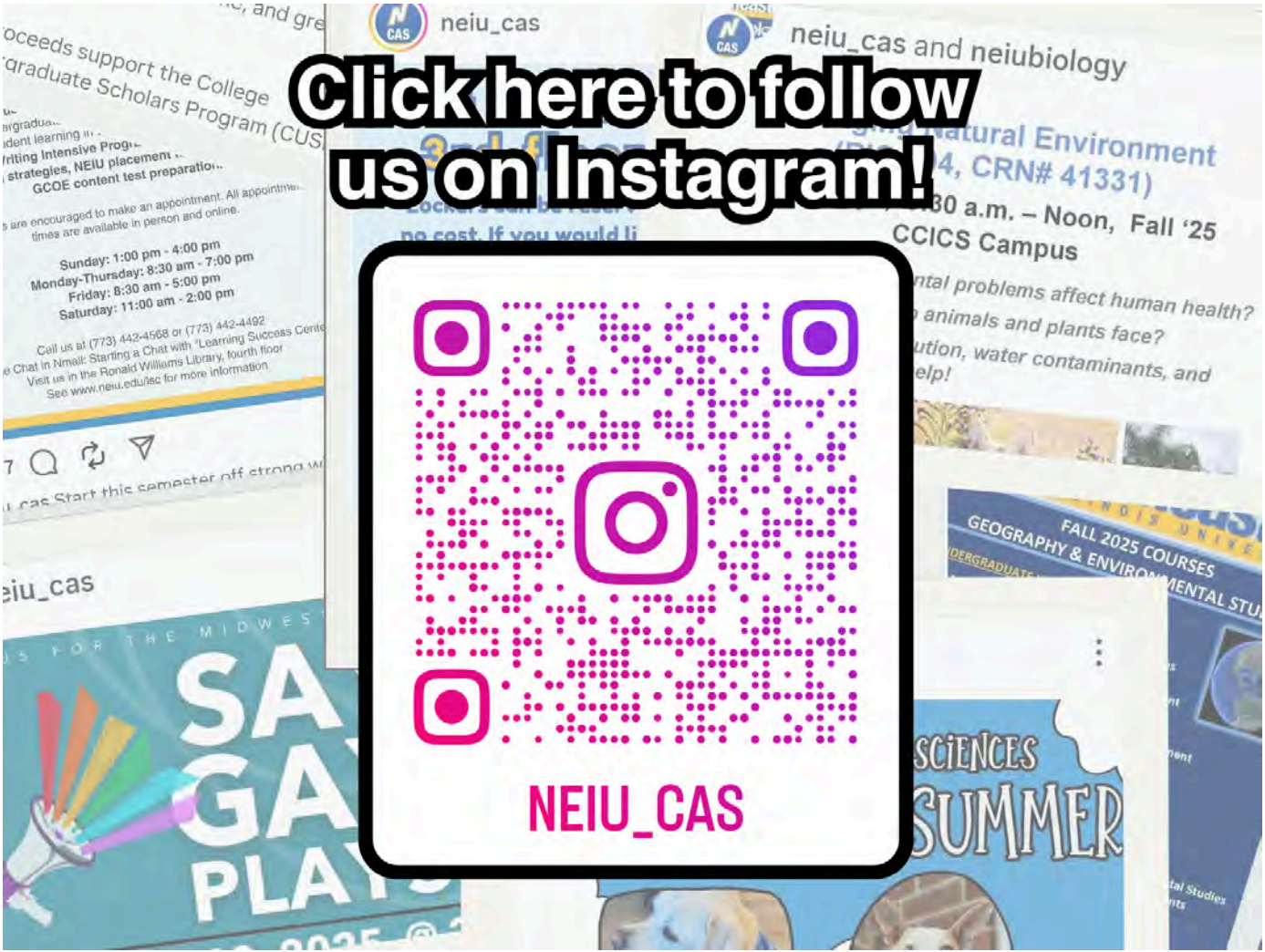
Pre-Professional Advising information

CAS Website


Click here to follow us on Instagram!
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!



Like Comment Share