

# Nontraditional Degree Programs

# NDP NEWS

Fall 2012

Volume 1, Issue 1

## BAIS Grad Delivers May Commencement Speech



BAIS graduate Eddie Bocanegra at May 2012 commencement

May 2012 Commencement speaker and BAIS graduate **Eddie Bocanegra** began his talk saying that although he had addressed audiences about violence prevention at most of the colleges and universities in the Chicago area, and that he had been invited to speak at Ohio State University, Harvard University and the United Nations, none of those experiences held a candle to the invitation to speak at "my university... NORTHEASTERN!" His commencement speech addressed the struggles of his youth which he remembers as "filled with misery, anger and angst," his incarceration, and the redemption he found at NEIU majoring in BAIS and Social Work. Eddie acknowledged that as a teenager he succumbed to the pressures of gangs and drugs. "Instead of becoming a productive citizen in my community I became a burden on it." He

## UWW Faculty Advisement

This fall, Provost **Vicki Roman-Lagunas**, PhD, appointed **Dr. Shelley Bannister**, PhD, JD, Professor of Justice Studies and Women's Studies, to the role of advisor to students in the University Without Walls Program. Dr. Bannister has a distinguished record of scholarship and teaching at NEIU and has served the University in many capacities. She has also long been a friend to NDP, sharing her knowledge and expertise with the Department as a member of the NDP Advisory Council. As well, Dr. Bannister has served as academic advisor to individual UWW students, all of whom successfully completed their degrees. Recently, Dr. Bannister received the Audrey Reynolds Distinguished Teaching Award. As a recipient, she presented her talk, *Humor in the Classroom*, to the University community.

recalled how he spiraled downward, and spent fourteen years in jail. Afterward, Eddie saw the future as a second chance, and an opportunity to make a difference in his community. He expressed gratitude at finding employment with CeaseFire!

He said he was grateful to Nontraditional Degree Programs and that NDP "recognized my experiences and understood my challenges." The BAIS Program allowed him to put his "faith into action," and helped him find his way to the Social Work Program.

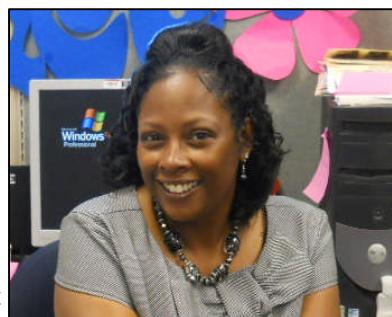
Eddie concluded by stating that "we are all proof that there are second acts and that our lives are not written out for us. I have no doubt that many of you were told by teachers, or by peers, or possibly even family, that you needed to be realistic about your expectations. But you knew better...Let our challenges inspire others and bring hope."

In September, Eddie began his graduate studies at the University of Chicago.

## Nontraditional Student Recognition Week

Each year during the first week of November, the Association of Nontraditional Students in Higher Education (ANTSHE) recognizes adult students during Nontraditional Student Recognition Week, held this year November 5 to 9. To recognize the success and commitment of all BAIS and UWW students, NDP will distribute information and treats outside of the NDP suite B 147, 2:30 to 6:30 pm November 7 and 8.

This year, NDP recognizes BAIS student **Mary Garrett** as an exemplary nontraditional student. Mary double majors in Interdisciplinary Studies and Inner City Studies. She feels it is imperative that members of the inner city community advance their education and bring their knowledge back to the community. Mary has a great appreciation for faculty and staff at the Carruthers Center and acknowledges Assistant Director **Dr. Lance Williams** as instrumental in getting her started in her academic career. As a single parent, Mary is pleased to model educational achievement for her teen-aged son, and her 3.96 grade point average sets a very good example indeed.



BAIS student Mary Garrett

# Nontraditional Degree Programs

## Director Sandoval Retires

After more than thirty years as student, advisor and ultimately Director of Nontraditional Degree Programs, **Janet Sandoval** retired from NEIU last spring. Janet was named Director in 1994. She was hand selected for that role by Dr. Robert Pringle, who developed the Board of Governors (BOG) Bachelor of Arts Degree, to assume the leadership of the program at NEIU. Janet earned her own degrees at NEIU and always felt a loyalty and a unity with the school and its mission.

Her administrative style was well suited to a program serving adult students. She developed a staff that stayed the course: four advisors for two positions in the BOG/BAIS programs in her eighteen-year tenure, an Administrative Clerk who pre-dated her, and the UWW advisor who retired after thirty years in December, 2011.

Over the years she many times took the initiative to be at the forefront of change and adult student advocacy. Under her tenure as Program Director, the NEIU BOG degree was further developed and improved: the residency requirement was strengthened, the upper division credit hours requirement was adjusted and a new name, Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (BAIS), was established to reflect the nature of the degree and the experiences of its students.

Janet's legacy is marked by her commitment to students, particularly minority students. She served on many committees, including the Hispanic Heritage Committee and the Latino and Latin American Studies Advisory Committee. She contributed to the establishment of programs at NEIU that would improve conditions for women, adult and minority students.

Nearly 4000 students, ranging in age from twenty-five to ninety, were awarded BAIS/BOG or UWW degrees while she was director of Nontraditional Degree Programs.

## Upcoming NDP Prospective Student Meetings

Attendance at a Prospective Student Meeting is requisite for applicants to Nontraditional Degree Programs.

### Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (BAIS)

|                   |        |        |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| November 15, 2012 | 6-8 pm | SU 216 |
| November 29, 2012 | 2-4 pm | SU 214 |
| December 10, 2012 | 6-8 pm | SU 003 |

### University Without Walls (UWW)

|                   |        |        |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| November 14, 2012 | 6-8 pm | SU 215 |
| January 9, 2013   | 6-8 pm | SU 217 |
| March 21, 2013    | 6-8 pm | B 146  |

## NDP Scholarships



*BAIS Advisors J. Blair and J. Jans with Karl Bell*

support their degree attainment.

In October, BAIS student **Karl Bell** received the Robert A. Pringle Memorial Scholarship. NEIU BAIS advisors selected Karl as NEIU recipient this year for his dedication to advancing his education and service to his community and communities around Chicago. Karl has done violence reduction work with CeaseFire, and a baccalaureate degree will open up more opportunities for him to share his expertise.

## New NDP Leadership

Last spring, **Kim Sanborn** was appointed Acting Director of Non-traditional Degree Programs.

Dr. Sanborn came to NEIU in 2003 to launch the McNair Scholars Program and served as director for eight years. She recently served as Acting Assistant Dean of the Graduate College. Before coming to NEIU, Dr. Sanborn was Site Director for the University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Literacy. In that capacity she developed curricula for adult students, administered an Ameri-Corps grant and managed all aspects of the Family Start Learning Center at Madison and Kedzie on Chicago's west side.



*Acting Director Kim Sanborn*

In addition to her administrative experience, Dr. Sanborn has taught research methods to undergraduate and graduate students, and art appreciation to first-year students at NEIU. Her 25 years experience teaching studio art at Loyola University informs her pedagogy as well as her advocacy of student-centered learning. Her chapter "Education that Transforms and Liberates" in *Educational Technology: Critical Perspectives, Possible Futures* details her research findings regarding college student learning in the context of a liberal arts curriculum.