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Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



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Student Trustee Replaced Mid-Tenure By Janean L. Watkins – *Editor In Chief*

In a surprise motion at last Tuesday afternoon's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, Student Trustee Winston Rysdahl stepped down from his post. After serving in his position since his inauguration in May of 2011, Rysdahl tendered his resignation to the SGA saying, "This should not in any way reflect on my experience working on the board. I am very grateful for the opportunity afforded to me, but as a student, my academics come first."

At the meeting, senators motioned to accept President Araia's appointment of Lakeesha J. Harris. Readers may know Harris from her many honors and positions held on campus. The Political Science graduate student was recognized as an undergraduate when she was inducted as NEIU's Lincoln Laureate, representing Northeastern Illinois University.

Harris, a McNair Scholar who graduated from the Women's Studies Program with honors, was sworn in by SGA Vice President, Jessica Dominguez at the meeting. The Student Trustee is the liaison between the Board of Trustees and students at the university. This surprise move is thoroughly backed by SGA President Danait Araia. "Ms. Harris is a distinguished student

leader with an extensive resume and I have no doubt in my mind that she will represent our students on the Board of Trustees accurately," said Araia.

Aside from approving decisions made by the board on behalf of students, Harris' duties will encompass providing the student population with information from the meetings. "I plan to disseminate information regarding board proposals through the Independent and with postings around this campus and our satellite campuses. I also plan to find out what students want by administering surveys to see how the Board can best meet the needs of its population," said Harris.

If past events are any indication – Harris will follow through on her promise. Just two short semesters ago, Harris, along with other students, staged a "Lay-In" in Village Square in protest of the closure of the Adult & Women Student Programs. A born activist, Harris plans to exercise more of her political savvy in working with the board. "Building strong relationships that produce results for the student body is of most importance to me," said Harris.

Senator Melissa McGlynn says that Student Trustees are entrusted to speak for students. Therefore, if students don't feel they're living up to their duties, they can voice their concerns to SGA senators. The Senate and other officers of the SGA seem confident of Harris' abilities. Senator Dylan Porter stated after Harris' statement regarding her level of commitment, ability and dedication, "After looking over your resume, I was really impressed. I don't doubt your ability and that you're a great choice for the position," he said. Many are interested to see what will happen in the coming months with this change in regime.



What's Online:

- * Student Showcase Photos
- * Poll: "What are you looking for in the next President of the U.S.?"
- * Submit your choices for "Bird Flu", "Playlist", or "Watch This!" by simply registering for an account!

Independent President's Pen: Student Veterans Club

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The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for the content of the Independent, and views presented do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or students.

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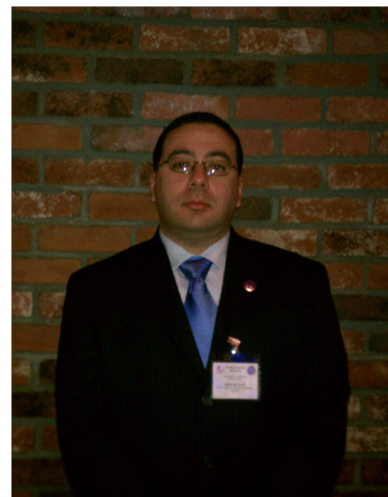
Weston Polaski is the secretary of the Student Veterans Club (SVC), and has been an active officer in the club for over three years. He served in the United States Marine Corps as an infantryman from 2005 - 2009. He served in the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Charlie Company (1st Marine Division) and deployed to Iraq from March-October 2007. Weston is currently majoring in history and secondary education. After graduating from NEIU this 2012 Spring semester, Weston hopes to teach history at the high school level.

Armando Corral is the SVC's Vice President, and on the executive board of the International Business Conference as well as the Council of Clubs. He is a junior, majoring in Business Management. Originally from Chicago, Armando served in the Marine Corps from 2004 - 2008, complete with an eight month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During his time in the Marines, he developed the Marine Special Operation Command in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. After graduating Armando hopes to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



Marlene Julye is a social work major and the President of the SVC. She served in the United States Navy as a MH-60s helicopter mechanic from 2004 - 2008 with a deployment to the Persian Gulf in 2008. Along with being a student Marlene was also appointed to the Student Veterans of America 2012 National Leadership Council. After graduating in May 2012 Marlene will pursue a career in Military Social Work.

Rebecca Rodriguez is the SVC Outreach Coordinator and is married with 2 children. Rebecca served in the U.S. Army for 20 years and again in 2007. Before attending NEIU, Rebecca earned her Associate's degree in Dietetics, and is currently pursuing a degree in Computer Science. Along with going to school, working, taking care of her family Rebecca is also an assistant troop leader for a Girl Scout troop for her daughters. In addition to participating in the various events, one of her main responsibilities is trying to connect with more Veterans on campus and spread the word about the club. With this in mind, Rebecca created a Facebook page so we can share information with the others in the club as well as fellow NEIU students. Rebecca also publishes information about upcoming events using the events option on that page.



The Student Veterans Club is an official chapter of the Student Veterans of America, and is open to all student veterans and veteran supporters. The goal of SVC is to function as a means for veterans to transition into civilian life, help the community through volunteer work, and to help support the troops overseas. Established in 2007 the SVC has done many activities to become involved in not only the school, but also the community. SVC aims to encourage its members to participate in various volunteer work as well as the numerous veteran activities SVC hosts. Membership is open to anyone, and we welcome anyone who would like to support our club and veterans as a whole. Some of the annual events SVC hosts are the Veterans Day celebration, where we honor those present before us as well as those still serving, and Hikes for the Homeless, where we walk as a team from the campus to downtown Chicago handing out donations to the city's homeless. This past summer we hosted a 9/11 Remembrance 5k where we raised almost 2k to donate to charities that help service members and their families. We have bake sales every month, featuring goodies that are handmade by our members. Our upcoming events will be our Honoring Women Veterans luncheon and paintball trip in March and our annual Hike for the Homeless ending with a family BBQ in April. For more information and to keep up to date on everything please visit our Facebook Page: <http://tiny.cc/NEIUSVC> SVC Events: <http://tiny.cc/NEIUSVC-Events>. Or email Veterans-Club@neiu.edu.



SPIRIT OF TANZANIA ART EXHIBIT

NEIU El Centro 3119 N. Pulaski Chicago, IL 60618

February 10th, 2012 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Last summer Worldview Education and Care awarded NEIU student, Patricia Perez a sponsorship to teach art in Tanzania, Africa. She will be presenting a series of paintings created by students of the Usa Village. Please join us for an evening of African artwork and music.

All paintings will be for sale. 100% of proceeds will go towards art materials to benefit the students who depend on the sales of their work to sustain themselves and their families.

Correction: We at Independent would like to apologize for the misspelling of Dr. Obre's name in last issue. His visit was much appreciated his visit to talk about What the U.S. Public REALLY think's about Obama. Please accept our deepest apologies Dr. Obre!

President Barack Obama – An Overview Of The Incumbent

By Matthew Sardo - Staff Writer

President Barack Obama has been in the White House for three years. With the 2012 election on the horizon, and President Obama up for re-election, his resume could use some review.

The biggest issue facing Obama at the start of his first term was the failing economy and the demand for more jobs. In the past three years the national unemployment rate has fallen from its peak of 10% to 8.5% but this is still the highest rate since 1983. According to Bloomberg.com, the U.S. economy grew by 2.8% in 2011. In that time, Obama created jobs and eluded the previous forecast “double-dip recession,” despite Republicans like Mitt Romney claiming the growth was not quick enough.

Many people also seem unclear as to just how the President stopped the recession and turned it around to create economic growth. First, Obama rescued the U.S. auto industry by extending emergency rescue loans to U.S. automakers General Motors and Chrysler. Part of the loan agreement was for Chrysler and GM to cut labor costs and to overhaul their business model. GM and Chrysler have since repaid their loans and rehired workers.

Next, Obama passed the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which set up a

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to protect consumers from unfair financial practices. This act also works to hold Wall Street accountable and prevent a domino effect economic crisis from happening again, such as the housing bubble bursting and causing a chain reaction of defaults and credit line revocations. This means that taxpayers should not have to bail out Wall Street and banks again in the future.

In the President’s State of the Union address, Obama focused on continued economic and job growth through continued support for small business loans, specifically for those businesses that have higher wages and want to create jobs. The President wants to create tax incentives for businesses to return to the U.S. and prevent job loss as a result of outsourcing. He also wants to create a bill that does not let students drop out of high school, and has laid down an ultimatum to universities and colleges to keep their costs down or federal funding might be cut. Obama also wants to more strictly regulate insider trading in U.S. government to prevent the personal interests of congressional members and lobbyists representing corporate concerns from making laws that only intend to benefit an interested and small minority. President Obama has laid out his plan for the future; in November, we will see who is listening.

Newt Gingrich – Republican Candidate Perspective

By Matthew Sardo - Staff Writer

Following a major victory by Newt Gingrich in the South Carolina primary, the state of the Republican Presidential Nomination remains something of a toss-up. What isn’t unclear is the long path Gingrich has taken to arrive at his current position.

The 68-year old Newton Leroy Gingrich was born in 1943. Gingrich is an author, political consultant and was the 58th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 1999. Gingrich was born in south central Pennsylvania. He received his masters and Ph.D. from Tulane University. Gingrich taught history and geography at West Georgia College in the 70’s. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1979 to 1999. In 1995, Time Magazine named him “Man of the Year.” The House of Representatives had to discipline Gingrich for an ethics violation in January 1997. However, in 1998, Gingrich passed a balanced U.S. budget - the first since 1969.

One interesting aspect of Gingrich’s website - newt.org is that where all the other candidates and even the President feature “issues” as a menu item, Gingrich has “solutions.” Job and economy, national security and an energy plan are the first three solutions on his

website. The other aspect that stands out on Gingrich’s website is “Callista’s Canvas” which is Gingrich’s third wife’s blog about the campaign trail and the issues she represents.

Gingrich has had some ups and downs both inside and outside of politics. He has been married three times and had affairs in two of the marriages. Most recently, his second wife was on ABC’s Dateline and talked about Gingrich’s feelings towards an open marriage. Herman Cain, who has his own sexual harassment issues, just endorsed Gingrich, which may not be as helpful as he might hope.

Gingrich has made a name for himself in a negative light because of recent offensive statements that he has made against minorities, most notably, “I’ll tell African-Americans that they should demand paychecks and not be satisfied with food stamps.” However, even after it was pointed out that this statement was offensive, Gingrich stood by his statement and didn’t back down from it, going so far as to say he didn’t understand why people found it offensive.

Gingrich has 1,429,899 followers on Twitter (@newtingrich) and 266,159 “likes” on Facebook.



TO: University Community
FROM: Sharon Hahs, President
DATE: February 3, 2012
RE: Condolences

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the loss of one of our University community members. Michael Kelly, of Student Affairs, passed away today.

Michael Kelly had been at Northeastern Illinois University since 1999 and impacted the lives of countless students. He will be remembered for his dedication to the welfare and success of our students, both in and out of the classroom.

Losing a member of our community is difficult, and I encourage anyone who needs support to utilize our University resources. To speak with a counselor or make an appointment, please visit the NEIU Counseling Office in D-024 or call (773) 442-4650.

I express my deepest condolences to the family, friends, students and colleagues of Michael Kelly.

Bloggers Left Exposed Via Exclusion From Shield Laws

By Gary Soriano - Copy Editor

In a recent trial regarding the validity of blogging, a self-titled investigative blogger, Crystal L. Cox, investigating a case regarding an alleged Ponzi scheme, lost her case due to the assertion that “as a blogger with no other credentials, she was not a journalist and was entitled to no protection,” according to PCmag.com.

The judge, recent Obama appointee Marco Hernandez, ordered Cox to pay a \$2.5 million fine according to International Sports Examiner Marv Dumon. Hernandez’s ruling cited that while Cox wrote in a factual tone, the fact that she had no affiliation with any established media group i.e. a newspaper, broadcast network, or magazine, the validity of her claims were not protected under shield laws, or reporter’s privilege. In her blog, Cox refers to plaintiff, Kevin Padrick, of Obsidian Finance LLC, as a “thief,” “liar” and “a thug.”

The suggested fine line between blogging and journalism is examined by PressThink writer Jay Rosen who states, “bloggers and journalists are each other’s ideal ‘other.’” In his article, “The Twisted Psychology of Bloggers vs. Journalists:

My Talk at South By Southwest,” Rosen claims that the idea of bloggers “replacing” journalists is one-sided. This “fantasy of replacement comes almost exclusively from the journalist’s side,” Rosen said.

Rosen feels that journalists may be battling for their jobs; their typical adversary being “socially inadequate, pimply, single, slightly seedy, bald, cauliflower-nosed young men sitting in their mother’s basements and ranting.” Although this fear, according to Rosen, is “typically connected to fears for a lost business model,” Rosen still feels that journalists ought not to be threatened by the existence of bloggers. This notion relates to the fact that bloggers vastly outnumber professional journalists, thus inferring the strong influence they may have on delivering news to the public without having been vetted by a news organization charged with and known for providing information to the public.

Chicago Tribune Columnist John Kass says the general public doesn’t appreciate the work that journalists do. “[Our] reporters work in difficult and sometimes dangerous

conditions. They do not blog from mommy’s basement, cutting and pasting what others have reported, while putting it under a cute pen name on the Internet.” To Kass, not only does the objectivity of journalism demarcate the distinction between the blogger and the journalist, but the methods of obtaining information exceeds those methods utilized by bloggers.

Although the increase of blogs might suggest a job security threat to many journalists, owing to bloggers’ contemporary and often unverifiable approach to presenting news to the public, Rosen feels confident that real journalism will never fade away. “Blogging cannot replace the watchdog journalism that keeps a government accountable to its people. Journalists know that, but somehow the American people don’t.” While many people may no longer be able to distinguish between blogs that use officious layouts and actual vetted news sources, the current legal precedent makes the distinction all too clear.

The Student Center for Scientific Engagement

By Emily Haddad – Associate Managing/News Editor

One of NEIU's best resources for Math and Science Majors is also one of its least-known. The Student Center for Scientific Engagement (SCSE) in Bernard Brummel Hall (BBH) is a multipurpose study area where all students, not just Math and Science Majors, can go to find free tutoring help or a quiet place to study.

The SCSE also has advisors like Joe Hibden, whose job it is to help students figure out what their long term plans are, what possible careers they could work toward, and how to accomplish their goals. Hibden, along with other advisors, can assist students in tracking their progress through their degree, as well as finding and applying for graduate programs, and scholarships. Partnering with other notable scientific institutions such as the Field Museum, the Lincoln Park Zoo, the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, the SCSE extends valuable internship and field experience opportunities to NEIU students. Unified with the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, or SACNAS, the SCSE provides workshops and research symposiums, and helps sponsor conference attendance and research opportunities.

The SCSE was originally funded by a federal Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) grant from the U.S Department of Education of \$2.5 million, awarded to NEIU for the purpose of remodeling outdated laboratory classrooms, updating the computer labs that serve students in BBH, and creating an enriching study space and resource center. The student center opened on Sept. 23, 2010, with the original goal of increasing the recruitment and retention of Hispanic and low-income students entering the sciences. By offering tutoring, advisement, and a pleasant and serene environment to study in, the SCSE seeks to make the sciences more accessible for everyone at NEIU.

SCSE recently reported that there was 65% increase in the number of low-income students studying and graduating with degrees in the sciences, 40% of which were Hispanic. Although these statistics speak to the success and progress toward their goals, according to coordinator Stephanie Levi, the SCSE's real measure of success are students who graduate and continue on to graduate programs or competitive employment positions.

SCSE alumni such as Sarah Vorpahl, who was recently accepted into Cornell University



Photo Courtesy of Winston Rysdahl

for graduate studies, Christopher Toni who went on from NEIU to get his Ph.D in Mathematics at UC Santa Cruz, and Adrian Zamora who was accepted into UIC medical school in 2010, each took advantage of the SCSE services available to accomplish the next step of their educational and career paths.

The SCSE is located in room 247 of Bernard Brummel Hall, and is open Mon-Fri 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The center maintains a Facebook page and website with valuable information about upcoming events and services. Inquiries can be made at (773)442-5636 or at www.neiu.edu/~scse/index.php.

“Black History Every day” Presented By The Black Heritage Committee

By Iris Jackson – CCICS Staff Writer

The Black Heritage Committee discussed the lack of awareness of Black History with students at Northeastern Illinois University in a panel entitled “Black History Everyday” on Nov. 8, 2011. The panelists were Dr. Conrad W. Worrill, Director of NEIU's satellite campus Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS), and Professor Ben Levi of CCICS.

They began by talking about February as the official month for the celebration of Black history and heritage. Black history month is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the many great contributions of Africans throughout history and their influence in our society. During this month schools and communities typically try to raise awareness about the accomplishments of strong Black leaders and the rich history surrounding the African-American community.

However, the panel disagreed with the limited annual recognition and thought that Black history and its leaders should be common knowledge, moved up from virtual anonymity 11 months of the year to become household names. Throughout American history, African Americans have excelled in this country despite of their disadvantages and second-class citizenship. Professor Ben Levi gave an introduction on why it was so important for everyone to know Black History as it relates to this country and the world. Levi spoke briefly on Kemet, an ancient Egyptian civilization built and ruled by Black Africans, and about the CCICS campus focal point relating to African Studies. He gave examples from his own experiences as to what can and must be done to educate the masses on African and African American history, regardless of ethnic background.

Next on the panel to speak was Dr. Worrill, whose intellectual commentary was humorous and informative. Dr Worrill gave the audience a short Black History quiz and unfortunately few in the audience were able to answer the questions. Dr. Worrill touched on events such as the Civil Rights Movement, the murder of Emmett Till, the boycott of Alabama buses by Rosa Parks, the Jim Crow laws, and the Plessy v. Ferguson Supreme Court ruling being vital points for people to know about and remember, lest history repeat itself.

At the end of the discussion the following question was posed - “What would be the best



Photos by Terri Barfield

approach in developing paradigm for a Black History curriculum that could possibly dissolve the Western Civilization's mis-education of African American history in the new millennium?” Dr. Worrill replied “If you want to make changes in the world, then you have to change it.”



Ecology Field Trip Thrills And Chills

By E.N. Haddad – News Editor

Students of Professor Steven Frankel's Ecology 305 class braved 20-degree weather, snow and icy conditions in the nearby LaBagh Woods forest preserve on Jan. 21, to get some first-hand experience in the field. The class observed the site and recorded characteristics such as animal trails, visible vegetation and fungi occurrence. Students then gathered sampling data about the indigenous lichen species present on trees in the LaBagh Woods flood plains. Lichens are symbiotic composite organisms comprised of a fungus and either algae or cyanobacteria, and are an important species for scientists trying to measure the effects of forest fragmentation, air pollution, and other forms of environmental degradation.

NEIU's Green House – Growing By Leaps and Bounds

By Christos Liardakis - Copy Editor

If I were to ask anyone about the greenhouse at Northeastern I am pretty sure I would get a lot of confused expressions. While most people would have no clue what I'm talking about, the only ones that I am sure would know are the biology majors, and that can mostly be attributed to having to take a botany class or ecology. But the fact is Northeastern has a green house and a rather nice one at that. The green house holds a variety of flowers and multiple other plants that may interest students.

While a lot of students simply take advantage of it for botany and other plant related experiments there is so much more to do. Whether it is to just relax and learn a few things about gardening or to try it yourself. It is easy and low key. Dr. Olfelt can be found there usually in the mornings when he doesn't have class and is very knowledgeable about any botanic questions one may have. Or one can even help the professors and a few students that volunteer with helping grow and prepare plants for the semi-annual plant sale that is currently being held every semester.

Although a lot of students are art or education majors it is nice to know that the university has a local greenhouse that caters specifically to the students, all one has to do is come up to the third floor of the science building and go to the first door on their right when going North. It doesn't matter what your major is, you can feel free to walk in anytime for those with a green thumb and are simply a different major it is a nice stress relief. If you don't have the time in their day to take a break and visit though, they can always just wait for the plant sale that will be later in the semester, around March or April to get some greenery for your home too.



Salina Wunderlee taking care of greenhouse flowers.

Learning Support Center – Tutoring, Teaching, and More.

By Lluvia Carrisoza - Visual Media Editor

During the Fall 2011 semester, the Math lab, the Writing lab and the Learning Center came together and formed the new NEIU Learning Center. Through this consolidation, the Learning Center offers students the ability to find all the learning support they might need in one place. Located in the 4th floor of the library, the center is run by Katherine Gleiss, Director with the help of Christine Larsen, acting assistant director. The center has 26 subject tutors, 17 writing tutors, and 10 math tutors. These tutors are highly trained and are handpicked based on their GPA and recommendations from faculty members. The center also has a number of specialists on staff, including reading specialist Ellen Tieran, learning specialist Bryan Brady, math specialist Mark Martindale, and writing specialist Borislava Quaintance.

According to Katherine Gleiss, the Director of the Learning Center, the center focuses on tutoring, improving academic skills, and making learning engaging for students in order for them to be more successful in their college career. Another aim of the Learning Center is to facilitate the formation of student study groups to engage students in peer-to-peer tutoring.

However, the Center is more than just a place for tutoring. It is a place for NEIU students to familiarize themselves with the vital learning strategies that will get them through college successfully. Students can learn to achieve by developing intellectually positive habits that manage time effectively,

by associating their educational material with memorable and relatable examples, as well as gaining insight from more experienced peers that can facilitate a broader understanding of the subject matter. The Learning Center regularly hosts seminars that are free for students such as tutorials on Microsoft programs, educational success strategies and more.

Although the statistics for the Fall 2011 semester haven't been compiled, the fact that the Learning Center booked over five thousand tutoring sessions since its conception speaks well for the consolidation of the various learning and tutoring programs. However, the real achievements of the Learning Center are seen only in the NEIUport accounts of the students who utilized it; the improvement to their grades, GPA, and self-esteem. The Learning Center is a great tool for NEIU students, not only for those that are on academic probation or have a hard time in classes, but for those that want to get A's and B's in all their classes. They have the following free seminars scheduled in the upcoming weeks: 'Introduction to Microsoft Excel' on Feb. 16, 'Reading Strategies for College Learning' on March 13, and 'Assessing Your Comprehension for Finals' on April 19.

To schedule a tutoring session, call the Learning Center at 773-442-4568 or visit them in 4th floor of the library. The center is opened Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am-8:00 pm and Friday from 8:30-5:00 pm.

