

I N S I G H T S

Excellence. Access. Diversity. Community.

February 2007 - Vol. 9, No. 1



Message from the Desk of Salme H. Steinberg

There have been a number of occasions to say farewell to Northeastern Illinois University, my home for more than 30 years. As I said at the farewell gala, the quality that I cherish about our university community has always been the wonderful people who make it special. It is those of you who support our students, programs, and initiatives who make this

a place where we all come to learn and grow. Yes, we are distinctive, and each of you makes a difference to our students and to each other.

The warmth of the University community was evident at the reception on January 19 attended by more than 400 faculty, staff, students, alumni, retirees, and friends of NEIU, including President Emeritus Jerome Sachs.

I am grateful to the program speakers and their generous comments: Vice President Melvin Terrell, NEIU's longest-serving vice president; Santos Rivera, senior executive director of affirmative action and institutional outreach initiatives; Helen Ang, executive director of the office of university budgets; Wilma Sutton, executive assistant to the president; Margaret Laurino, member of the NEIU Board of Trustees as well as alumna and alderman for our Ward. Mrs. Nancy Masterson, Chair of the NEIU Board of Trustees, offered remarks, a toast, and presented me with the President Emerita scroll.

The NEIU Foundation Board President John Gingell spoke on behalf of the Board of Directors and presented me with a

beautiful gift of three paintings by noted Chicago artist Nancie King Mertz depicting Serenity by Ruth Duckworth, the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, and prairie flowers from Northeastern's campus.

The NEIU Jazz Quartet directed by Mayo Tiana performed and two NEIU students performed. Dorothy Slater sang "Vissi d'Arte" from Puccini's *Tosca*, and Gerald Chaney sang a favorite ballad of mine, "Shenandoah."

Last Thursday, a group of faculty and staff including Murrell Duster, Conrad Worrill, Wamucii Njogu, and BarBara Scott organized a celebration of diversity and our mutual roles in leading in this central area. Members across the campus and from CCICS and El Centro as well as friends representing diverse communities throughout the Chicago area commented on the importance of Northeastern diversity and what a difference it makes in all of our lives. Their testimony was deeply moving.

And so, I thank each of you who came to these special events, and I thank all of you who have been my colleagues and friends over the years from my heart.



NEIU Welcomes President Sharon K. Hahs

NEIU's next President, Dr. Sharon K. Hahs, joined the University on February 1. With more than 30 years experience in higher education, Dr. Hahs most recently served as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Director of Special Projects at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE). "NEIU's Board of Trustees chose Dr. Hahs after a nationwide search that began for the Board in November 2005. Dr. Hahs has a dynamic vision for the future of urban universities such as NEIU," said Nancy Masterson, chair, NEIU Board of Trustees.

Dr. Hahs earned her Ph.D. and M.S. in inorganic chemistry from the University of New Mexico and her B.A. in chemistry from Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Ill. Dr. Hahs was a member of the chemistry faculty at Metropolitan State College in Denver (1974-84) where she was promoted to Associate Professor and Professor. She also served as Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for the 1982-83 academic year.

"I am honored and delighted to have been selected as Northeastern Illinois University's next President," said Dr. Hahs. "I am committed to working closely with faculty and staff to enhance relationships with university, city, state, and student group leaders."

Northeastern in the media



Jon Hageman, assistant professor, anthropology, was interviewed on the WGN-AM Milt Rosenberg show, Extension 720, on January 2. Hageman discussed the history, civilization and culture of the ancient Maya and Mel Gibson's "Apocalypto" movie.



On December 30, Ed Odisho, professor, teacher education, and his son were interviewed on the ABC Channel 7, 10 p.m. news to discuss how Iraqi Americans reacted to the death of Saddam Hussein. The interview was picked up by the Associated Press and broadcast in the media throughout the United States, including on CNN.



The December 28 issue of *DIVERSE: Issues in Higher Education* magazine, formerly *Black Issues in Higher Education*, published an essay written by President Steinberg titled "Widening the Door to Higher Education."

CBS NEWS

A segment about ceramist and sculptor Ruth Duckworth on CBS Sunday Morning, December 3, featured Northeastern and the sculpture *Serenity* located in NEIU's University Commons area. *Serenity* is Duckworth's first free-standing permanent sculpture in Chicago. The sculpture was made possible by the Illinois Capital Development Board's Art-in-Architecture Program.



The article "Northeastern Illinois Students Celebrate Diwali" appeared on December 1 in the *India Post*. "Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago has achieved the distinction of being a good ethnic mix educational institution and it has lived up to this reputation by celebrating once again the Diwali Festival on a grand scale with sizeable student participation." The article included a spread of photos from the celebration at NEIU.

Chicago Tribune

An article titled "NEIU's next chief vows to build on success" in the Metro section of the November 18 *Chicago Tribune* announced Dr. Hahs as the next president of NEIU. Dr. Hahs' appointment was also announced in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Associated Press*, and *The Voice* e-newsletter of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

NEIU ALUM ESTABLISHES STUDENT TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP



(L-R) Kim Kleeman of Shakespeare Squared, Derrick S. Bullie (award recipient), President Steinberg, Hyacinth A. Cabael (award recipient), Dean Maureen Gillette, College of Education

Jay Kleeman (B.A. '02 Secondary Education: Math) and his wife Kim have established the Shakespeare Squared Scholarship for student teachers at NEIU. Named after a business that Kleeman and his wife founded in 2001, the scholarship fund is designed to cover both living and educational expenses incurred during the mandatory student teaching semester.

Each fall and spring, a scholarship will be awarded for tuition and fees during a recipient's student teaching semester. A cash award will also be given along with the scholarship to cover other expenses such as travel, housing and school supplies.

The Kleemans founded Shakespeare Squared when Jay was a young father attending Northeastern and working full-time. Although his wife Kim was already working as a teacher, the family suffered economic hardships when Kleeman had to quit his full-time job to student teach. To help support their family, the couple took on a publishing contract to check math

Continued on page 3

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problems in a K-6 text book series. The project became so time consuming that the Kleemans hired 13 other teachers to help them complete the work.

That was nearly five years ago. Today, Shakespeare Squared manages editing, writing and fact checking projects for several publishing houses and educational organizations. While Jay maintains his position as a math teacher at Lake Forest High School and provides input on projects, Kim manages the day-to-day operations of the business. Currently, the company has 10 full-time staff and a pool of more than 300 teachers who work as freelancers to help complete the projects.

Their burgeoning success prompted the Kleemans to establish the student teaching scholarship. They chose Northeastern, not only because Jay is an alum, but because the University has a diverse population, with many students who are working and going to school at the same time.

"I can remember one year when Jay and I had nine different W-2's from part-time jobs we'd taken on to support ourselves while we were going to school," says Kim. "We both know how keeping financially afloat becomes even more difficult when you start to student teach and aren't able to find the same number of hours to earn a paycheck."

The Kleemans hope their scholarship will provide a model for other donors who can follow their lead. They also plan to seek corporate sponsors who might be willing to donate cash or hard goods to defray some of the hidden student teaching costs currently covered by the scholarship fund's cash award.

"Teaching is one of the only professions without paid internships," says Kim. "We risk losing some of the potentially best candidates if we don't start to offer student teachers some sort of financial support. Hopefully this scholarship is just the beginning."

For an application or more information contact Michelle Morrow, director, scholarships and retention, at ext. 4406.

◆ Student Spotlight ◆

Alvin Raul Cardona

Student Laureate Medallion Recipient



Alvin Raul Cardona, student, communication, media and theatre, was recently awarded the Student Laureate Medallion by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. Cardona was among a group of 48 outstanding senior college students honored during the student laureate ceremony held at the Old State Capitol historic site in Springfield, Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne M. Burke presented the medallions.

The Student Laureate Medallion is given each year, along with a \$150 honorarium and a certificate of achievement, to one member from the senior class of each four-year degree-granting institution of higher learning in Illinois.

"These students have exhibited a personal commitment to excel as seen by their remarkable academic accomplishments," said John B. Simon, chancellor, Lincoln Academy. "But just as important, these students serve as role models to other Illinois students, as well as their own family and friends."

Cardona's path to academic excellence was not what one would consider typical. A student of Kung Fu from a young age, Cardona opened his own martial arts school soon after graduating from high school.

As lead instructor of the Golden Eagle

Martial Arts School in Chicago, Cardona has traveled throughout Central and South America, Europe and the United States to teach workshops and seminars. He has also trained with Krav Maga, the official self-defense system of the Israeli Defense Forces, and in anti-terror tactics at the Israeli Military Institute.

In addition to all of his training and teaching, Cardona spends his free time serving his community. He was a mentor at the Jewish Children's Bureau and, through his promotion of national martial arts tournaments, has been a consummate supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

One of the biggest influences in Cardona's life was his late father, Rafael Cardona, a television personality and pioneer of Spanish media.

"My dad was a major part of my life," Cardona said. "He was my teacher and mentor. Not only did I learn how to run and manage a business from him, he also sparked my interest in media."

Cardona said Northeastern has afforded him the opportunity to pursue an education, even with such a hectic schedule. This spring Cardona will travel to Greece with NEIU to study the literature of antiquity.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ART GALLERY

Ext. 4944

Glimpse/Stare, Paintings by Rhonda Wheatley and sculpture by Isaac Duncan III

January 29 - March 2

Fine Arts Center Gallery - Free

There will be an Artist Gallery Talk on Tuesday, January 30 from 1:30 - 3 p.m. and an Opening Reception on Friday, February 9 from 6 - 9 p.m.

ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL

Ext. 5930

Flamenco Passion, part of the Chicago Flamenco 2007 Festival presented by the Instituto Cervantes and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs

Saturday, February 10, 7:30 p.m.

Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University

50 East Congress Parkway in Chicago - \$22-48, groups of 10 or more receive a 10% discount

Purchase tickets by phone at (312) 902-1500, online at www.ticketmaster.com or in person at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office. Groups of 10 or more call (312) 922-2110 ext. 357.

JEWEL BOX SERIES

Ext. 4636

The Verdehr Trio

Friday, February 16, 8 p.m.

Fine Arts Recital Hall - \$25; \$15 NEIU faculty, staff and alumni; NEIU students \$10

A free master class with The Verdehr Trio will be held on Saturday, February 17 at 10 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT AND DANCE PROGRAM

Ext. 5921

Student Recital

Tuesday, February 6, 1:45 p.m.

Fine Arts Center Recital Hall - Free

Guitar Master Class, Brian Torosian, instructor, music

Friday, February 9, 11 a.m.

Fine Arts Center Recital Hall - Free

Jazz Combos, Mayo Tiana, director

Wednesday, February 14, 7:30 p.m.

NEIU Auditorium - Free

Jazz Combos, Mayo Tiana, director

Tuesday, February 20, 1:45 p.m.

NEIU Auditorium - Free

String Orchestra, Joseph Glymph, conductor

Thursday, February 22, 1:45 p.m.

Fine Arts Center Recital Hall - Free

Senior Recital, Cynthia Pierce, mezzo soprano

Thursday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Center Recital Hall - Free

Senior Recital, Luigi Pezzarossi, clarinet

Friday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Center Recital Hall - Free

Student Recital, Yiming Zhang, piano

Monday, February 26, 7:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Center Recital Hall - Free

MOSTLY MUSIC

Ext. 4978

Passionate, The Jupiter Trio

Sunday, February 4, 4 p.m.

North Shore Residence - \$25

A Magical Blend, Prairie Winds

Sunday, February 11, 4 p.m.

North Side Residence - \$25

Captivating, Cavatina Duo

Sunday, February 25, 4 p.m.

The Quadrangle Club, 1144 East 57th Street in Chicago - \$25

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Ext. 4636

Dallas Brass, "American Musical Journey"

Saturday, February 3, 8 p.m.

NEIU Auditorium - \$25; \$15 NEIU faculty, staff and alumni; \$10 students

A free master class with Dallas Brass will be held on Saturday, February 3 at 2 p.m. in the NEIU Auditorium.

STAGE CENTER THEATRE

Ext. 4972

Proof, by David Auburn

This play is now a major motion picture starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Anthony Hopkins and Jake Gyllenhaal.

Thursdays through Saturdays, February 22 - 24, March 1 - 3 and March 8 - 10

Stage Center Theatre, Building F - \$10; NEIU students, faculty and staff free with I.D.

18th Annual T.E.A.M. Conference

The Spirit of Education: Connecting Heads, Hearts and Hands



NEIU's College of Education's 18th Annual Teachers of Experiential and Adventure Methodology (T.E.A.M.) Conference "The Spirit of Education: Connecting Heads, Hearts and Hands" will be held February 9 and 10 in both the Physical Education Complex and the Student Union.

The T.E.A.M. conference offers over 70 varied workshops in experiential education and related fields to a diverse audience that includes educators, coaches, community agencies, camp counselors, Girl and Boy Scout leaders, youth-at-risk counselors, social workers and others who attend for their own personal growth and development.

For registration information and conference brochure with workshop descriptions go to www.neiu.edu/~TEAM or call ext. 5564.



Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship Approved

A proposal by the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance to set up a scholarship fund for alumni of the first GEAR UP grant has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). NEIU's Chicago Teachers' Center requested that the U.S. DOE allow the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance to keep all unexpended funds from the almost \$38 million, six-year grant, to use for scholarships. The NEIU Foundation will hold in trust more than \$750,000 for GEAR UP scholarships.

Only GEAR UP students who received services under the grant between 1999 and 2005 when they were in elementary and high school will be eligible to apply

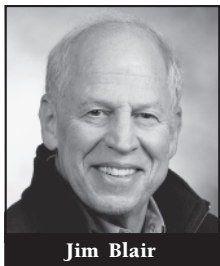
for and receive scholarship awards.

"Our goal is to make sure that as many GEAR UP students as possible who want to continue their education after high school have the financial ability to do so. This will be a needs-based scholarship and is intended to provide the 'last dollar,'" said Wendy M. Stack, director, NEIU Chicago Teachers' Center. "Our students come from schools that have very high levels of poverty. We don't want them to forego their education because they just didn't get enough financial aid to cover their expenses. We are proposing that GEAR UP awards can be used to cover essential college costs, from tuition and room and board to lab fees, books and computers."

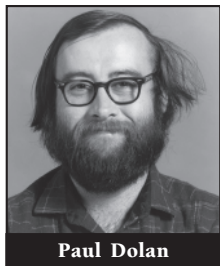
The Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship fund will operate until all available resources are exhausted. Contributions will be sought to extend the life of the fund so that as many GEAR UP students as possible can be served. "These students are the future of this country," added Stack. "The more students we can help, the greater the benefits we will all enjoy."

GEAR UP is a federally-funded program. The first GEAR UP grant served almost 15,000 Chicago Public School students in grades five through 12 in 46 schools across Chicago. The goal of the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance is to increase the number of students who graduate from target Chicago high schools and go on to be successful in college.

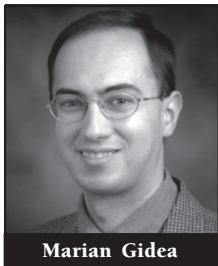
Did you know...



Jim Blair



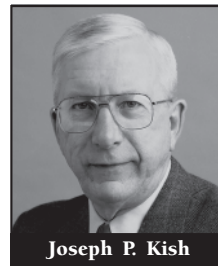
Paul Dolan



Marian Gidea



John Hoeppe



Joseph P. Kish

Jim Blair, coordinator, College of Arts and Sciences Education Program, wrote an original radio play that was featured on WGTD Radio Theater, a Wisconsin national public radio affiliate.

Paul Dolan, professor, physics, presented a paper titled "Force Fields & Equipotentials: A Proposal for Helping Students Overcome the Barrier to Understanding These Concepts" at the fall meeting of the Chicago Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers. Several NEIU alums also participated in the conference.

Marian Gidea, associate professor, mathematics, participated in the workshop "Semi-classical Long-time Evolution," organized by the Wolfgang Pauli Institute in Vienna, Austria. Gidea presented a lecture titled "From the three-body problem to the classical mechanics of two-electron atoms."

John Hoeppe, director, counseling center, presented a paper titled "Suicide Concerns on College and University Campuses" at a Convention of the American Psychology Association symposium in New Orleans. Hoeppe participated in a panel discussion on federal efforts to reduce suicides among college students.

Joseph P. Kish, former assistant vice president, facilities management, won the Illinois Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects' Community Service Award for his significant contributions to NEIU. While at NEIU, Kish pioneered a native plant landscape theme and completed more than a dozen projects including a large wetland project and the complete makeover of campus signage.

Elyse Mach, professor, music, has signed a contract with Dongmoonsun Publishers in Seoul, South Korea, to have her book "Great Contemporary Pianists Speak for Themselves" published in a Korean translation. The book has been published in the United States and London and is also already available in a Japanese translation. *People* magazine said of the book, which contains interviews with 26 renowned pianists, "Mach's interviews will enhance the pleasure of any concertgoer."

Rasoul Rezvanian, professor, accounting, business law and finance, was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant. Rezvanian will be lecturing and researching on the subject of "Mutual Benefits Through Academic Interaction-Collaborating in Teaching and Research" at the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Beijing, China, from September 2006 - July 2007.

David Rubin, business manager, facilities management, has been leading the chess club at Highland School in Skokie. Rubin has been credited by the principle of Highland School as "an excellent leader and teacher" whose efforts have afforded the students at Highland School "a much better opportunity to learn and grow."

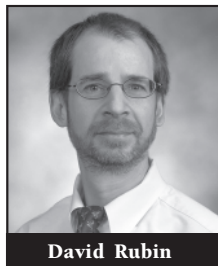
Zhonggang Zeng, professor, mathematics, accepted an invited membership-in-residence at the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA), a mathematics research institute established by the National Science Foundation, from September 18 - October 27. While at IMA he presented two lectures: "A numerical approach toward approximate algebraic computation," and "APAtools: A Maple/Matlab toolbox for approximate polynomial algebra."



Elyse Mach



Rasoul Rezvanian



David Rubin



Zhonggang Zeng

Please e-mail items for **Did you know...** to Carolyn at c-bonner@neiu.edu.

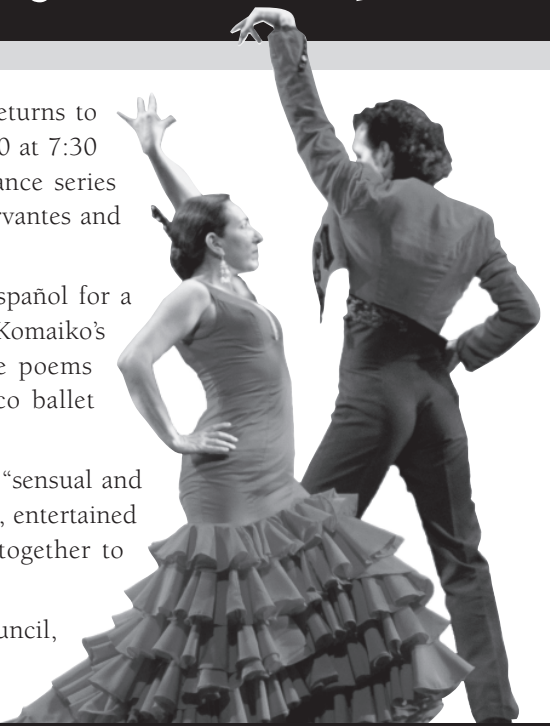
Experience the Passions of Spain at the Auditorium Theatre with the Internationally Award-Winning Ensemble Español!

The Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, in-residence at NEIU, returns to the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University on Saturday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m. This concert is part of the Auditorium Theatre's international dance series and the Chicago Flamenco 2007 Festival presented by the Instituto Cervantes and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.

Guest artists from Spain will join the full company of the Ensemble Español for a performance critics call "sensational." Highlights include Dame Libby Komaiko's theatrical productions of "Memorias de Vidas Gitanas," based on the poems of Pablo Neruda and Federico Garcia Lorca, and the exotic Flamenco ballet "Bolero."

For 30 years the Ensemble Español, hailed as "magnificent," "exciting," "sensual and breathtaking" by the *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Sun-Times*, has inspired, entertained and educated millions of people from around the world, who come together to celebrate the culture and art of Spain.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.



Tickets are \$22-48. Call (312) 902-1500 or visit ticketmaster.com for tickets. Tickets are also available at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office located at 50 East Congress Parkway. Groups of 10 or more are eligible for a 10% discount. Call (312) 922-2110, ext. 357 to purchase group tickets.

NEIU/Jamaica Collaboration



Jo Ann Karr and Elizabeth Landerholm, professors, teacher education, along with Jade Stanley, associate professor, social work and women studies, recently received a grant from the Illinois Reading Council for a project to support their ongoing collaborative work with Moneague College in St. Ann Parish, Jamaica.

The project's goal is to enhance technology at the Moneague College Teacher Education Program as well as in designated Chicago Public School (CPS) elementary schools. Student-authored e-books featuring digital photography and art work will be shared online between

Jamaican and CPS elementary schools and with Moneague College literacy student teachers and their cooperating teachers. There will also be e-chats about jointly read literature. The Moneague College literacy faculty, the Chicago Area Reading Association, CPS teachers, and NEIU teacher education students will assist in facilitation of the project.

Collaboration between NEIU and Moneague College began in the summer of 2002 when Karr and Landerholm led a group of NEIU teacher education students on a two-week study tour to Moneague. Sponsored by the office of international programs, the tour gave education majors an opportunity to learn about the culture and education system in Jamaica. The following summer Karr and Landerholm teamed up with Stanley and expanded the study tour to include

social work students and the study of Jamaican social service agencies.

Since the expansion, there have been three study tours to Moneague. Students involved in the two-week intensive summer experience attended lectures about Jamaican education and culture, visited local schools and social service agencies, and actively participated in a social service agency or summer school program. They also conducted ethnographic research on a subject of their choice. This past summer, studies were done on domestic violence in Jamaica, literacy and poverty, and Jamaican special education.

Plans are in the works for another summer experience in 2007. Stated Karr, "We are excited about the outcomes of our work thus far and we're looking forward to continually expanding joint communication through this literacy grant, the summer study tours and other avenues."

The NEIU Jewel Box Series Presents:

Dallas Brass and The Verdehr Trio

Tickets are general admission \$25; senior citizens \$15; students \$10.
Call the NEIU Box Office at ext. 4636 or visit www.ticketweb.com for tickets.

Dallas Brass

The Jewel Box Series presents Dallas Brass on Saturday, February 3 at 8 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. The Dallas Brass are artistry, fun, vitality, and energy.

The Dallas Brass show, "American Musical Journey," incorporates a full complement of brass and percussion for a musical travelogue through American history. From the time of George Washington to the present day, music is selected from the masters - Copland, Bernstein, Gershwin,



Berlin, John Williams, Sousa; from bands like the Tijuana Brass and Chicago; and styles from Dixieland, swing, Broadway, folk, patriotic, pop, and hip-hop.

strong dedication to working with young musicians, frequently visiting public schools to present clinics and workshops for students of all ages.

Dallas Brass has shared the stage with the late Bob Hope, performed for Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush, and has appeared on the CBS "Early Show." Their music has been used numerous times on the television show "The Young & The Restless."

Dallas Brass also has a

The Verdehr Trio

The Jewel Box Series presents the Verdehr Trio on Friday, February 16 at 8 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall.

The Verdehr Trio has performed throughout the world in 17 European countries, the former Soviet Union, in South and Central America as well as in Asia, Australia and across the United States.

Major concert halls where the Trio has appeared include the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Library



of Congress, Vienna's Brahmsaal, Sydney Opera House, London's Wigmore Hall,

and Leningrad's Philharmonic Chamber Hall. An acknowledged leader in the field of new music, the Verdehr Trio has concentrated on molding and defining the personality of the violin-clarinet-piano trio. The Trio has created a large repertoire by commissioning nearly 200 new works from some of the world's most prominent composers. Recently, the Verdehr Trio received a Creative Programming Award from Chamber Music America.

The *Insights* newsletter is published monthly by the public relations office for the NEIU community.



Get Insights online at www.neiu.edu/insights

Comments and story suggestions are welcome. Call us at ext. 4223 or e-mail e-krehbiel@neiu.edu.