

UWW Student Spotlights



Sherry Williams is a determined student. In her own words she describes the adversities she had to navigate during her first few semesters at NEIU: “Do note, I was homeless when I first started NEIU Fall 2014. Friends let me ‘crash’ at their homes until I got my apartment. I got my apartment Aug 1, 2016. Three days after I broke my ankle and leg in a car accident. That accident forced me to remain on bed rest for 2 months using a wheel chair for 5 months. But, I never stopped taking classes.”

Sherry has utilized that same resolve in pursuing her passion in life. She works to engage the public on the importance of preserving Black burial sites. She also teaches people about African heritage gardening. These two passions both stem from early childhood experiences visiting the graves of beloved family members, cleaning and maintaining gravestones, as well as planting flowers.

In UWW, Sherry succeeded in expanding her work and devotion to the community. For several semesters she has collaborated with Prof. Karen Benjamin and St. Xavier History Department students in integrating these cultural practices into a curriculum. She has also worked with Rev. Jaime Canty to facilitate a restoration project at the Angel of Peace Cemetery. Sherry acknowledges the opportunity that the University Without Walls program has provided her, in being able to demonstrate how life and learning experiences benefit communities and future scholarship.

Prior Learning Assessment

Both NDP programs, Interdisciplinary Studies and the University Without Walls, feature assessment of prior learning for students who can demonstrate college level learning attained outside of college:

- Interdisciplinary Studies majors have the option of submitting a prior learning portfolio to request up to 36 credit hours toward their degree.
- For University Without Walls students, validation of prior learning begins with the narrative application process and the development of a Learning Contract that builds on prior learning and contributes to the bachelor’s degree.

In both cases, the emphasis is on demonstrable competencies rather than time in the classroom so that returning adult students’ time to degree may be expedited.

NDP CLASSES

NDP offers four courses that are each worth one credit hour. Students can earn three credit hours at the 300 level, while learning valuable skills:

Intro to Library Research and Information Fluency - NDP 305

Creating a Prior Learning Portfolio - NDP 330

Time and Project Management - NDP 351

Each of these one credit hour courses are scheduled to allow students to complete the class halfway through the semester.

If you are planning to create a Prior Learning Portfolio, NDP 330 will guide you through this process and fulfills the ELE and 300 level requirements. If you are moving on to a graduate program, NDP 305 and NDP 351 provide tools that will enhance the success of your academic undertakings.

Two sections of **NDP 310 WIP Diversity in the Workplace** are offered each Fall and Spring semester. In addition, there is a section offered each summer term.

Stateville Project—Dr. Tim Barnett

This fall saw the reinstatement of the University Without Walls Program in Stateville Prison, a maximum security institution located in Crest Hill Illinois. The UWW program had been a part of Stateville up until the early 1990s, when Pell Grants were denied to those who were incarcerated, and this new version is the first BA program at Stateville, or any Illinois prison, in many years.

Eight students registered for six credits of independent study each this fall and will continue through May 2019, thanks to a generous grant paying the students' tuition from an anonymous donor; great support from President Richard Helldobler, Special Assistant to the President Shelley Bannister, Provost Wamucii Njogu, NDP Director Kim Sanborn, NDP Graduate Assistant Kevin Mulka, the hard-working folks in Admissions and Enrollment Services, and others at NEIU; the Illinois Department of Corrections; and the Stateville Prison administration.

The program is a collaborative effort with the Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project, an independent community-based organization composed of Chicago activists, artists, and educators who have been bringing college-level classes to Stateville for five years. At NEIU, the program is coordinated by NEIU faculty and PNAP members Tim Barnett and Erica Meiners. Special thanks to NEIU faculty Troy Harden, Tim Libretti, Olivia Perlow, Isaura Pulido, Brett Stockdill, and Lance Williams for acting as academic advisers to our eight new students and to the students themselves, whose commitment, intellects, and major accomplishments make the program possible.

Progress on the NDP Scholarship Fund

At NDP, we understand how difficult it can be for students to finance their education, that is why we invite you to be one of the founding donors of a new endowed scholarship for NDP students.

Our goal was to reach the \$5,000 mark and we are happy to announce that we have reached this important milestone! A matching grant brings the fund to \$10,000. We can start distributing scholarships once the fund is at \$20,000. Even the smallest donation helps. Please contribute your tax-deductible gift to the NEIU Foundation by going to:

<https://your.neiu.edu/sslpage.aspx?pid=298>

After selecting your donation information, please select designation for “Nontraditional Degree Program”, and complete the rest of the form as prompted.

Thank you in advance for contributing to NDP students’ futures!

Nontraditional Thanks

NDP held a Nontraditional Thanksgiving event Wednesday December 6 from 5pm to 7pm. Students, alums, faculty and staff enjoyed a variety of snacks, great conversations and even some reunions.

Included in the event was a special thanks to NDP graduate Assistant **Kevin Mulka**, who finished his NDP assistantship December 15. Kevin will be student teaching in the Spring semester and earn his Master of Arts in Teaching in May of 2018.

BAIS Summer 2018 Application Deadline: April 1, 2018

BAIS FALL 2018 Application Deadline: July 1, 2018

UWW Fall 2018 Application Deadline: April 1, 2018

NDP Director Awarded Educational Leave



NDP Director **Kim Sanborn** has been awarded educational leave for Spring 2018, from January 1 through June 30. Dr. Sanborn, whose writing and research investigates pedagogy built through college studio art courses, will complete a book prospectus with the tentative title, *Pedagogy of the big questions of life: Studio art as a model for college teaching and learning*. The work will bring a narrative about helping college students come to a new recognition of themselves as meaning makers through artistic activity. It is based on research Dr. Sanborn conducted during her 25 years teaching studio art at Loyola University and her belief in the confluence of art and education. According to Dr. Sanborn, “Just as the artist looks within for content of her art, so must the learner look within to make meaning. In this way, education and art are linked in the deepest purposes of each.”

Dr. Sanborn received her Ph.D. in Higher Education Policy from the University of Illinois Chicago. Her research interests are in college student cognitive development and college teaching and learning. Her administrative roles at NEIU have been as Director of the McNair Scholars Program and Director of Nontraditional Degree Programs. She has taught research methods to undergraduate and graduate students, seminars on teaching college and preparing for graduate study, and a field-based art appreciation course for first-year students.

In addition, Dr. Sanborn was a member of the Fine Arts faculty of Loyola University from 1984 to 2013. Her ceramic pottery and sculpture was exhibited continuously in the Chicago area from 1980 to 2001. She was part owner of Chicago Clay Feat, a successful Rogers Park studio and gallery, from 1980 to 1995. Her experience teaching studio art informs her approach to teaching in other disciplines as well as her advocacy of student-centered learning. Dr. Sanborn’s chapter *Education that Transforms and Liberates* appears in [Educational Technology: Critical Perspectives, Possible Futures](#), and details her research findings regarding college student learning in studio art.

Acting NDP Director George Gerdow

George Gerdow has been appointed Acting Director of NDP while Dr. Sanborn is on educational leave. Mr. Gerdow has been an educator for the last twenty-eight years at Northeastern. He received his education at Loyola University of Chicago, where he specialized in US-Latin American relations. He has taught courses in United States, European, Mexican, Central American and Caribbean. He currently teaches courses in United States, European and Latin American history. Mr. Gerdow also is a founding faculty member of the Latino and Latin American Studies Program, and serves on the advisory council for El Centro Northeastern.



NDP December 2017 Graduates

December 2017 Commencement included **112 graduates** of Nontraditional Degree Programs. Ten of these graduated from the University Without Walls, and 102 graduated from Interdisciplinary Studies. Thirty-two, nearly 30%, graduated with academic honors (cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude).

NDP graduates represent a range of professions, geographies, social demographics and personal histories. They have some things in common, too: intellectual curiosity, thoughtfulness, engagement with their communities, and determination to achieve their goals.

NDP staff are proud of our graduates and look forward to knowing of their future accomplishments.

New NDP Credit by Exam

The Credit by Exam Workshop was developed for prospective students to learn and inquire about opportunities to achieve credits outside of traditional coursework. Students who elect this option will be studying independently and are encouraged to participate in this Q&A session that focuses on:

- Choosing exams
- Building a timetable for success
- Skills for independent study
- Strategies to overcome test anxiety
- Test taking tips
- Exam registration and fees

The fees for these exams may be reimbursable for students currently in or retired from the military .

Upcoming workshops to be held in Room B-140 from 5:45pm-6:30pm on all dates (unless otherwise changed through via email notification

Wednesday, January 24, 2018
Wednesday, February 21, 2018
Wednesday, March 21, 20178

Space is limited to 10, so please RSVP Contact **Jacqui Weiner-O'Shea** for more Information about upcoming workshops at jweinero@neiu.edu.

Upcoming NDP Prospective Student Meetings

Please come in and explore on how to obtain a customized degree that suits your needs.

UNIVERSITY WITHOUT WALLS:

February 13, 2018, 6:30-8:30pm, FA 202

B.A. INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES:

January 18, 2018 , 6:00-7:30pm, SU 217

February 6, 2018, 6:00-7:30pm, SU 217

February 23, 2018, 2:00-3:30pm, SU 217

March 13, 2018, 6:00-7:30pm, SU 217

March 29, 2018, 6:00-7:30pm, SU 217

April 10, 2018, 2:00-3:30pm, SU 217

Meet NDP Tutor Sean Carey

Sean Carey graduated from NEIU with a Bachelor's of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in Music in 2017. He is currently pursuing his Master's in Communication, Media & Theatre here at NEIU. Sean also works as a professional tutor for City Colleges of Chicago.



Sean is working in NDP as a tutor and can help you with:

- Essay Writing (including the NDP WIP course)
- Humanities, Literature, History
- Astronomy & Earth Science
- Math (foundational & placement test)
- Communication, Media, Theater
- Study Skills

Tutoring is available by **appointment**.

Email Sean at: s-carey3@neiu.edu

NDP Staff & Instructors

No matter if you are new to the NEIU campus, a student looking to transfer, or already a nontraditional student, the NDP Office at B-147 is fully staffed with people who are here to help you every day.

Kim Sanborn— Director, NDP

George Gerdow— Acting Director Spring 2018

Tim Barnett— Faculty Advisor, UWW

Jennifer Blair— Program Specialist, BAIS

Jacqueline Butler— Program Specialist, BAIS

Jeff Wade— Office Support Specialist, NDP

Maureen Walsh— Office Support Associate, NDP

Susan Berkman— Instructor, NDP

Antuanette Mester—Instructor, NDP

Erica Krueger— Adj. Faculty Instructor, NDP

Jacquelyn Weiner-O'Shea— Grad Assistant, NDP

Sean Carey— Tutor, NDP

Umama Fakher— Work Study, NDP

Maxi Villareal - Grad Assistant, NDP

Justine Wesley— Grad Assistant, UWW

Gloria Ortiz-Grad Assistant, NDP

What Would You Like to Read About in Our Next Newsletter?

Is there a topic you would like us to report on, someone on-campus you would like to interviewed, or an event you would like to have us highlight? Please send suggestions for future newsletter articles, interviews, happenings, and/or announcements to NDP@neiu.edu. Thank you and we look forward to reading your suggestions!