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Message from the Dean

Dear Jaclyn,

With the winter term in full swing, I want to personally thank you for all you are doing to make this such a productive time of year for our students, and I want to welcome you to the first 2014 issue of the faculty newsletter, a venue for news and information-sharing about your work.

Throughout the year, there will be several opportunities for you to meet and talk with your colleagues. I am looking forward to the first event, the College's Faculty Development Day, which will be held on Thursday, March 13. I encourage you to participate in this event, both to address critical issues facing faculty and students, but also to learn from one another. You each bring different perspectives and expertise into your teaching, and that insight should be shared.

Other faculty resources and ways for you to stay engaged with your colleagues and the College include:

- FACT - Early warning system to identify and support students before they get into academic trouble
- [Faculty Central website](#)
- Webinars on professional development topics
- All-faculty meetings once per term
- Faculty training for Blackboard
- Participation in development of new courses, program assessment plans, and curriculum revisions
- Participation in re-accreditation processes
- Peer review/feedback (upon request)

In addition, I would like to call your attention to another resource that I recommend you consult, especially if you are new to teaching in the College of Professional Studies, or did not teach in the summer or fall 2013 terms. It is a [website](#) created by Northeastern in light of an effort initiated in 2013 by Service Employees International Union ("SEIU") to organize part-time faculty at Northeastern.

Northeastern respects the right of faculty to decide whether they wish to be represented by a union, but asks that all faculty members educate themselves on this topic. You can find information about union organizing, collective bargaining and the SEIU on the website. We hope you find this information helpful. The website also has information about pay and benefits at Northeastern in comparison to what SEIU has negotiated for faculty at other schools.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to the academic dean leading your program, or direct them to me at cpsdean@neu.edu.

I am impressed by your commitment to teaching at the College, and thankful for the ways you have enriched the learning experience for our students. I appreciate your input, and invite you to continue to share your feedback with me.

Sincerely,



John G. LaBrie, EdD
Dean

Former Executive Speechwriter Now Faculty Member Sean Gresh Keeps Skills Sharp



A career as a speechwriter for chief executive officers does not end when a professional writer and communicator begins teaching at the College of Professional Studies.

Sean Gresh, a faculty member in the [Master's in Corporate and Organizational Communication](#) degree program, recently published a

speech in [Vital Speeches of the Day](#), the prestigious publication of speeches. Gresh's speech, "Smart, Sustainable Cities: The Backbone of a Civilized World" was delivered to the Ipswich Rotary Club in late 2013. About the art of speech-writing, David Murray, editor of Vital Speeches, says, "speeches are the oldest, and thus most elegant, form of mass communication."

The speech appears in the same issue of Vital Speeches of the Day (November 2013) as two speeches by President Barack Obama, and speeches by Peter Voser, the chief executive officer of Royal Dutch Shell, Jose Manual Barroso, president of the European Commission and Linda McMahon, former chief executive officer of World Wrestling Entertainment and Connecticut's Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate in 2012. Vital Speeches of the Day began publishing in 1935.

In his speech, Gresh contends that the urbanization of the globe is "both an emblem of our economic and societal progress -- especially for the world's emerging nations -- and a huge strain on the planet's infrastructure. That strain touches areas that include, security, public safety, water, transportation, an aging population, the environment, economic development, job growth,

education, training, and the list goes on."

Gresh joined the faculty in 2013 after more than 25 years in the communications field including stints as the communications lead for IBM's Global Public Sector and a scriptwriter for "CBS Sixty Minutes" and continues to consult on executive and internal communications.

Graduates of Global Leadership Program Welcomed to Alumni Community



Graduates of the College of Professional Studies and Swinburne University of Technology celebrate their alumni status with a pinning ceremony.

Graduates of the College's [dual degree global leadership program](#) were recently recognized at a pinning ceremony at Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia. Professor Ken Chern of the Swinburne Leadership Institute and Faculty of Business and Enterprise Deputy Dean Bernadine Van Gramberg welcomed graduates.

Graduate Yinravi Phan reflected on his experience, describing how his understanding of leadership changed dramatically throughout the program while graduates Ricky Sucitra, Sarut Arayatanon, and Siddharth Patankar showed their [video](#), which highlights their newly acquired knowledge and training that will help them make a difference in their communities and workplaces.

Three students were recognized with leadership awards. The Leadership Star award, presented by Swinburne University Program Director Murray Rees and CPS faculty Rick Arrowood, was delivered to Dilini Kithsiri recognizing her strong leadership skills, and active role in intercultural engagement. The Leadership Spirit award was presented to Yinravi Phan and to Ricky Sucitra in recognition of students who guide their classmates in leadership activities, and is designed to honor students who help advance the program, its goals and objectives, and the greater community.

Alumni Andrew Mean and Karen Fong welcomed graduates into the alumni community: "This pin, and the act of pinning it on your fellow classmate, is our way of officially welcoming you to the Husky and Swinburne alumni community - we are here to help you and will always consider you family."

The graduates earned two master's degrees in two years as part of a dual degree program initiated by Northeastern University and Swinburne University of Technology in 2007. Since its inception, the program has graduated over 250 students.

Faculty Member Nancy Pawlyshyn Reports on National Project to Improve Student Success Using Open Education Resources



When challenges are great, try something new. That's the core message of a new publication by faculty member Nancy Pawlyshyn and co-authors, in a case study entitled, "[Adopting open education resources: A case study of cross-institutional collaboration and innovation](#)," published recently in *EDUCAUSE Quarterly Review*.

In her paper, Pawlyshyn describes the "messy" work of collaborating across seven institutions to stem the tide of student failure in required courses at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, NY where she served as Chief Assessment Officer and Associate Provost in Academic Affairs.

Pawlyshyn and co-authors noted that the "key takeaways" from this grant-funded effort (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Hewlett Foundation) described in their case study were:

- "By leveraging investments in open educational resources (OER) across institutions, universities can both increase the return on investment beyond the initial adoption and benefit their students at scale.
- Creative use of OER offers tangible benefits in student success and retention, resulting in measurable performance increases.
- Faculty collaboration, investment in professional development, and the ability to adapt to local conditions are keys to supporting OER adoption at the college level.
- Sometimes, educational problems are best tackled from outside the institutional hierarchy in spaces that allow innovation to happen."

Pawlyshyn teaches in the Graduate Education programs.

Play a Role in Applied Research as a Facilitator, Reviewer or Mentor



Faculty support graduate students in case study applied research through the Case Writing Competition.

Become involved in the Second Annual Case Writing Competition, which teaches graduate students how to conduct case study applied research and consult with practicing organizations. What does participation involve? [Review frequently asked questions.](#)

Last year, the College launched the [First Annual Case Writing Competition](#), which showcased the academic expertise of our graduate students. The competition was interdisciplinary; students from five different master's programs - MS in Leadership, MS in Nonprofit Management, MS in Project Management, MS in Regulatory Affairs and MS in Technical Communication - submitted cases for review. Not only was there representation from different programs, participating students were from all over the world - U.S., Chile, China, Russia and India. The cases wouldn't have been successful without support from faculty and staff who helped to guide students throughout the competition.

This year, help students practice their skills in real-life case investigation and consulting by participating in one of the following roles:

- **Facilitator - Include the case writing assignment in your winter A or winter B courses.** Students will investigate a real-life dilemma in the area of the course content, analyze this dilemma through the course material, and provide recommendations on how the problem can be solved. After the course, they will submit the case and the case analysis for the competition.
- **Reviewer - Review two to three cases related to your area of expertise.** At the beginning of April, you will receive two to three cases and review them based on the case clarity, rigor and relevance. The criteria and review form will be provided.
- **Mentor and coauthor - Help students move their cases to the level of international conferences and publications in peer-reviewed journals.** If you believe that a case has potential but needs professional guidance, you can collaborate with the students and help them revise the case. Such a scholarly activity is supported by the Center for Advancement of Teaching and Scholarship (CATS), and you are welcome to apply for its residency and conference/field study/research assistance.

You have the opportunity to contribute to your own skill set as a scholar-practitioner and consultant, share expertise in applied knowledge production, and help students connect their studies with problem solving skills.

If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact Julia Ivy (j.ivy@neu.edu) faculty member in the Master's in Leadership degree program and Chair of the Case Writing Competition.

You're Invited: Partnership Appreciation Breakfasts

In recognition of the College's expanding network of partners, there will be a monthly Partnership Appreciation Breakfast, new this year! Each breakfast will showcase one of our partner organizations in order to:

1. Share the work they do,
2. Highlight why and how continuing education is valuable to this work,
3. Enhance visibility of the partnership,
4. Provide an opportunity for College-wide networking and synergy development with partners.

These breakfasts are open to College faculty and staff and all are encouraged to attend as they are sure to be interactive, engaging, and informative events. Breakfast is provided.

Details for the first Partnership Appreciation Breakfast are as follows:

Massachusetts Promise Fellowship, Partnership Appreciation Breakfast

When: Wednesday, January 29, 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Where: Belvidere, Colonnade Conference room BV-C3-140A, Boston, MA

Plan on a dynamic presentation, great conversation and networking!

To learn more, please contact Assistant Director of Partnerships and Alliances, Kristi Woodworth, at k.woodworth@neu.edu or x2283.

What are the Essential Elements of Online Course Construction?

Eight years of online teaching of undergraduate and graduate students led faculty member Richard Kesner to address this question in the article, "[Building an Asynchronous Learning Experience: A Practiced Approach to Online Course Development.](#)"

The article was among the 10 highest-ranked papers emerging from [The Journal of the World Universities Forum](#), which is

"...peer-reviewed, supported by rigorous, criterion-referenced article ranking and qualitative commentary processes, ensuring that only intellectual work of significance is published." It was thereby recognized with the 2013 International Award for Excellence.

Kesner notes in his article: "With the involvement of Stanford, Harvard, MIT and other distinguished institutions in so-called Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), an increasing number of academics and professional journals have turned their attention to how colleges and universities might leverage web-based platforms, social networking tools, et al., to produce effective and less costly learning experiences. Clearly, online courses can provide a means of broad knowledge dissemination while achieving economies of scale. But how does one ensure the quality of the educational outcome?"

Kesner's award was announced at the Seventh [World Universities Forum](#) in Lisbon, Portugal this month and he has been invited to attend the Eighth World Universities Forum, which will be held February 5-6, 2015, at Georgia Southern University in Savannah, Georgia. He is a faculty member in the [Bachelor of Science in Management degree program](#), and teaches courses including: Mastering Business Intelligence, Data Management in the Enterprise, Managing Information Resources, and Management Information Systems. His paper is available for free download.

Upcoming Events: 50 Years Forward Series



In marking the half-century milestone for the Civil Rights Act, Northeastern also celebrates the 45th anniversary of the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute and the 40th anniversary of the Department of African American Studies. To honor these milestones, Student Affairs and the College of Social Sciences and Humanities present the *50 Years Forward* series, a collection of events and activities intended to celebrate and honor those who helped advance the dream of freedom and equality in America. There are several upcoming events taking place:

- [Black History Month Kickoff](#), Monday, February 3, 11:30 AM

- [John D. O'Bryant Recognition Ceremony](#), Wednesday, February 5, 11:30 AM
- [How Far to the Promised Land?: Civil Rights since Brown v. Board of Education](#), Thursday, February 6, 4:30 PM
- [Honoring African American Veterans](#), Thursday, February 6, 6:00 PM
- [Eyes on the Prize: Bridge to Freedom](#), Monday, February 10, 11:45 AM

There is a *50 Years Forward* exhibit in Gallery360, featuring photography from Northeastern's own archives, which will be on display from December 19 through February 4.

Be sure to keep abreast of what's happening via social media and the hashtag #50yrsfwdNU, as well as the ['50 Years Forward' website](#), which encapsulates all related events and information, and will be continually updated as new initiatives are developed.

We Want to Hear from You!

What information would you like to receive in the next issue? We welcome all suggestions, and will do our best to incorporate your ideas into future communications. Thanks in advance for your input and support. To submit a note, send an email to cpsnews@neu.edu.

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