

In This Issue

Message from the Dean

Honoring Commonwealth
Diplomats

Student Named to Senior
Research Role at HarvardX

Authentic, Experiential and
Evidence-Based Learning

Best Paper: Academy
Management

Save the Date

NU Online Update

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Message from the Dean

Dear Jaclyn,



You are on the forefront of some of the most important developments in higher education. You probably know that because of the dramatic changes in recent years in how you teach, who you teach, where you teach, and what your students need. And, Northeastern University is at the forefront with you, exploring, learning and finding meaningful ways to innovate to improve education for

students.

Recently, Northeastern University president, Joseph Aoun, noted in an [op-ed](#) for the publication Times Higher Education in the UK that, "...[a] remarkable paradigm shift [is] under way in higher education today. New teaching and learning innovations offer the possibility to help resolve the great challenges facing higher education, including the pressing challenge of cost.

Adaptive learning systems, experiential learning, competency-based approaches, programs that offer alternative credentials, courses that are accessible on mobile devices, and educational partnerships with employers all personalize higher education. They allow students to tailor their learning to fit their needs, their learning styles and, just as importantly, their budgets.

While the residential campus remains a superb model for education, it's expensive, place-based and unsuited to the lives of many non-traditional learners. New teaching and learning innovations push past these limits. Because they make higher education more customer-centric, they have the potential to increase student retention, graduation rates and overall attainment."

I encourage you to take a few minutes to read the entire [column](#) and ask that you continue to share your insight from your experience teaching at the forefront of change with all of us.

Sincerely,

John LaBrie

Dean

Honoring Commonwealth Diplomats



Before Mary Thompson-Jones came to Northeastern to teach and direct the [Global Studies and International Relations](#) program she lived and worked around the world as a career diplomat and foreign policy practitioner. She was asked to reflect on that experience in a speech this spring at the Massachusetts State House for an event honoring

Commonwealth diplomats from 1776 to the present- from Boston-born Benjamin Franklin, Representative John Jacob Rogers (D-Lowell) author of the 1924 U.S. Foreign Service Act which established the U.S. Foreign Service, and many others, to current U.S. Secretary of State, John F. Kerry, represented by U.S. Department of State Special Representative Andrew O'Brien of Boston.

The event, under the auspices of State Senator [Eileen Donoghue](#) (D-Lowell), commemorated the 90th Anniversary of the U.S. Foreign Service.

Thompson-Jones spoke about the history of the Foreign Service, how it has changed over the years, and how the people who become Foreign Service officers tend to reflect the changes in society. She also addressed how the duties of foreign service officers have evolved and become more diverse, reflecting new expertise in science and technology, global warming and climate change, trade and commerce.

Student Named to Senior Research Role at HarvardX

[Doctor of Education](#) student Rebecca Peterson is on the cutting edge in her professional life, and in her academic life, with a great deal of overlap between the two.

Recently, HarvardX, named Peterson its first senior research manager.

[HarvardX](#) is the group within Harvard University that "integrates the development of instructional approaches and digital tools across Harvard's campus by providing faculty with pedagogical and research support... [HarvardX was] launched in parallel with edX, the Harvard and MIT founded not-for-profit, online learning platform...."

The announcement notes that, "At HarvardX, Rebecca will support the development and implementation of research

strategies via the HarvardX Research Committee; manage the research side of the HarvardX organization, including collaboration with the HarvardX instructional development team on the integration of research into course and module development; and serve as primary advocate for HarvardX research needs in our partnerships and collaborations."

Peterson's background includes serving as Director of Research and Educational Initiatives at edX and 12 years at Lesley University in a variety of capacities including instructional designer, director of academic technology and director of e-learning resources, part of a Provost office team leading initiatives to support faculty in digital teaching, learning and scholarship.

In addition to teaching in the Lesley Graduate School of Education, she is the current chair of the Educause Advisory Committee for Teaching and Learning (ACTL) and is a Commissioner on the Education Attainment and Innovation Task Force for the American Council on Education (ACE).

She is completing her Ed.D in organizational leadership at Northeastern.

Authentic, Experiential and Evidence-Based Learning

That is both the description of an approach to education and the title of a conference where a team from the [Graduate Programs in Education](#) will be presenting this month.

Mya Mangawang, senior assistant dean of academic and faculty affairs, and faculty members Gail Matthews-DeNatale and Lydia Young will be presenting to their colleagues at the upcoming meeting of [The Association for Authentic, Experiential and Evidence-Based Learning](#) in Boston.

The Northeastern team submitted an abstract entitled, "A Window and A Doorway: ePortfolios in Support of Program Redesign" and describes their session this way: "ePortfolios provide a window into student perception, a view that cannot be attained through other means. In 2012 Northeastern's M.Ed. Program analyzed students' portfolios to assess their presentation of self and representation of learning. This served as the doorway to redesigning a cohesive curriculum in which portfolio-based signature assignments integrate theory with practice, engaging students and faculty in a synergistic approach to learning. This interactive session involves participants in exercises and the consideration of guiding questions for program redesign."

Best Paper: Academy of Management



When scholar-practitioners gather at the annual meeting of the Academy of Management (August 1-5 2014 in Philadelphia), they don't just exchange ideas in their field; they compete.

And the paper submitted by Julia Ivy, faculty member in the Master's in Leadership program, and head of the College's annual case writing competition entitled "Social Capital and Venture

Development in a Low-Trust Environment", has been judged by the reviewers to be "one of the best" in the program. This means that Ivy's paper, which submitted in the competitive division known as Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Developments, is eligible to be published in the Best Paper Proceedings of the 2014 Academy of Management Meeting.

Save the Date

Fall Faculty Professional Development Day
Save the date: October 9, 2014

Sheraton Boston Hotel
39 Dalton Street
Boston, MA 02199

Additional details to follow soon.

NU Online Update

Looking for Blackboard support? The Northeastern University Online Blackboard Support Center portal now has a new look with an updated interface, improved web ticket submission, live chat, and an expanded self-help Knowledge Base. Get answers to your Blackboard support questions [here](#).

Visit the [NU Online IRC training calendar](#) to register for our summer trainings. Don't see a training you're looking for? Request a customized training with our instructional design team by contacting Jennifer Pope at je.pope@neu.edu.

July 23 - Best Practices for Online Course Accessibility: This webinar will introduce the best practices for creating a more accessible online course for students, including those with disabilities. The webinar will also take a look at working with both the Northeastern University Disability Resource Center and instructional designers to meet the needs of students.

July 24 - Power Session: Blackboard Basics/Grade Center: Back-to-back sessions covering Blackboard basics and best practices, including navigation and adding media, and using the Grade Center for grading electronic assignments, weighted grade columns, and more. Each session allows time for a question and answer session.

August 12 - Blackboard Collaborate: Join a virtual session covering the basics of using Blackboard Collaborate. Learn how to use Blackboard Collaborate to hold synchronous meetings, share presentations, and record sessions for students.

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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