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Message from the Dean

Dear Jaclyn,

While I hear that at this point in the academic year, not to mention the winter, both faculty and students begin to feel drained, I saw no evidence of that at the College's semi-annual gathering of the faculty on Thursday, March 13.

Let me tell you what I saw: I joined the largest group of faculty we've ever had turn out for this event. I saw faculty members energized by the challenge of teaching, and excited about sharing new methods and learning from their colleagues. And, I saw the vibrant and creative faculty body in action that has propelled the growth of the College of Professional Studies and our increasing excellence. I came away from the day inspired by the strength of faculty and the bright prospects for our College.

If you were able to participate in person or online, I thank you for enriching the experience for all of us by your presence. As soon as we have the link to the video recording, we will share it for those of you who were unable to attend or would like to review the content of a session.

As always, I am eager to hear from you, so please be in touch at cpsdean@neu.edu, and thank you for all you do for our students.

Sincerely,



John G. LaBrie
Dean

You're Invited to Participate in Graduation



In attendance at the fall 2013 graduation were the first graduates of Northeastern's Charlotte campus: Cory Los Schumacher and Joanna Schimizzi, who both earned their Master's in Education degrees, completing the program in less than 18 months.

College of Professional Studies Doctoral Hooding Ceremony

Thursday, June 5

Ceremony start time: 10:30 AM

Curry Student Center Ballroom

Reception in Curry Student Center Indoor Quad to immediately follow

College of Professional Studies Graduation Ceremony

Friday, June 6, 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Matthews Arena

238-262 St. Botolph Street

Boston, MA 02115

You are invited to march in the faculty procession of the graduation ceremony on June 6. Please see the Monday, March 17 email invitation you received from John LaBrie, dean, to register. Registration closes Wednesday, April 9.

Meet Your Colleague



Paul Tsang teaches fluid mechanics and thermodynamics in the Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering Technology program on Northeastern's Boston campus, and he's been doing so for 25 years. "I enjoy teaching; it's a rewarding feeling to see students learn. Fluid mechanics and thermodynamics are the fundamentals in engineering, and there are so many applications to what goes on in our

daily lives. Think about driving a car. It's a conversion of chemical energy (fuel oil) into heat energy (through combustion) that causes the engine (as mechanical energy) to run. This process allows the car to take us from A to B."

Tsang finds demonstrating how concepts like these apply to real-

life scenarios to be extremely valuable in his teaching. He believes students learn more when they see the use of applications, and that makes things easier to understand.

In addition to teaching, Tsang works for Parsons Corporation, an engineering consulting company, as a principal mechanical engineer where he designs mechanical systems in buildings, such as boiler plants, chilled water plants, air-conditioning and heating systems cleanrooms, labs and pharmaceutical facilities. He's a registered professional engineer, licensed in 14 states, and a certified energy manager.

Does Courage Matter in the Learning Process?

Developmental Psychologist and Faculty Director of the Master's in Homeland Security Published Research Showing a Link



Craig W. Gruber, PhD, studies the building blocks of academic success, examining in a recent journal article, "how courage may function in educational settings." In his paper, "Do Traces of Courage in Students' Writing Help Predict Academic Success?" (*Research in Developmental Education*, Volume 25, Issue 3, 2013) Gruber found compelling links between the use of what were termed

"courage words" in writing assignments at the beginning and end of the first semester and the students' math course grades, and SAT verbal scores.

Gruber notes, "Perhaps the most relevant factors in this research lie in the applications for teaching and learning By encouraging students to utilize terms which emphasize courage in their writing, instructors may begin to see a shift in writing structure and content. This may, in fact, be a precursor to increased confidence and communication. It is precisely these increases which can positively impact overall student achievement."

[Research in Developmental Education is presented in a single-article issue format.](#)

Gruber is the director of the Master of Arts in Homeland Security program. His teaching, research, and theoretical interests focus on the area of courage, personal agency revolving around homeland security, intelligence analysis, and educational settings; his expertise lies in maritime domain awareness, intelligence analysis, and counter-terrorism. An officer in the U.S. Navy Reserves, Gruber has served at the Office of Naval Intelligence 0397 and Joint Intelligence Center Central Command 0597. A social and developmental psychologist, he is the coauthor of the book, *Psychology, AP Edition*.

Faculty, Staff and Students Take Away New Ideas from Case Writing Workshop



Faculty and staff participate in a workshop led by distinguished case writer Dr. Steve McGuire, to learn how to strengthen the learning experience for students in the second annual Case Writing Competition.

As part of the College's second annual Case Writing Competition, a workshop entitled, "Faculty-Student Partner in Case Writing," led by Dr. Steve McGuire, Management professor from California State University and distinguished case writer, on February 28, delved into this form of academic writing, and ways to strengthen the learning experience for students. As Dr. Kelly Otter, associate dean, Graduate Academic and Faculty Affairs, emphasized in her welcome remarks, "this event is a part of a College-wide effort to support faculty-student partnership in problem-solving oriented scholarship and best practice recognition."

During the workshop, Dr. McGuire addressed how to guide students in case study research, shared his experience on including case writing as a course assignment, described researching and preparing cases for conferences, and explained how to serve as mentors/co-authors for student cases. Twenty seven faculty and staff members participated in the workshop. The following is a sample of comments about the workshop:

- **Friedrich Lohr**, Global Studies faculty member, noted, "I was happy with the engaging way the presentation was given, as well as with its substance. I saw a lot of value in the general insights into the dos and don'ts of case studies. I think that by the end of this year I might be able to write a case on international politics."
- **Julia Cho**, Master's in Technical Communication faculty member, added, "This practical hands-on type of project is perfect for the student who is primarily seeking practical knowledge, but who also needs to be exposed to theory and learn how to apply it. The most useful information was that students from different backgrounds can participate."
- **James Passanisi**, Doctor of Law and Policy program manager, said, "As John LaBrie, dean, has mentioned, one of the next steps in our collective progression as a College is to bridge online learning with applied experiences. Case research, broadly defined, is certainly a useful mechanism to help achieve that goal. I think that this concept is still relatively novel to those outside of the business/leadership circles, so it was useful and

refreshing to see such a wide array of faces at the workshop."

- **Lauren Nicoll**, graduate campus assessment data specialist, concurred, "The workshop was useful because I have a much better sense of how I can help the students as a mentor."
- **Sean P. Burke**, Esquire, executive director, Center for Resilience Studies, Northeastern University stated, "Thanks again for the terrific Case Writing Workshop. I garnered much that will be useful to our mission and efforts at the Center for Resilience Studies to learn from disasters and teach the lessons learned. And, I learned how much I need to learn about case writing!"

The workshop, "Faculty-Student Partner in Case Writing" ([part 1](#) and [part 2](#)) is now available for viewing. The event was organized by faculty member Dr. Julia Ivy. For questions or ideas about case writing at the College, please contact her at j.ivy@neu.edu.

Kevin Bell Talks Adaptive Learning at SXSWedu



Kevin Bell (left) with fellow panelists who were invited to serve on the Gates Foundation's adaptive learning panel at the conference, South by Southwest Edu.

Playing a lead role in the College's new adaptive learning pilot program resulted in an invitation for Executive Director for Online, Curriculum Development and Deployment [Kevin Bell to participate on the Gates Foundation's adaptive learning panel](#) event this month at South by Southwest Edu (SXSWedu). SXSWedu is a popular education conference that is an outgrowth of the SXSW music conference held in Austin, TX, every year.

Funded by the Gates Foundation and offered in conjunction with Shoreline Community College in Seattle, WA, the joint adaptive learning program is wrapping up its first winter cohort of 53 students.

Preliminary outcomes from Northeastern and Shoreline's winter 2013-2014 cohort show a significant difference between student's retention and learning outcomes when adaptive learning technologies are used compared to not using the technology.

Read more about the [program's outcomes and student survey responses](#).

Leadership Students in Vietnam Move with Country's Growing Economy



Goode's students understand that if they want to be recognized in their careers, the Master's in Leadership program will give them the skills they need to move forward in a fast-paced and growing economy.

For faculty member Teresa Goode, who just returned from teaching the first course of the College of Professional Studies' [new leadership program](#) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, the fast-paced and dynamic city is reflective of the professional diversity of the students and what they want from the program. As this developing country rises economically, it is producing a "skilled workforce and higher productivity ... soaking up a growing share of manufacturing investments," according to a recent Wall Street Journal article.

The students in Goode's class bring a range of professional experiences which is reflective of Vietnam's growing economy and which also enhances the learning of the students. For example, two of the women in Goode's class have started their own companies; one of whom is taking advantage of the thriving tourism industry in Vietnam. One student works as a civil servant, while another is in banking.

Students in the program take eight Northeastern courses, such as Creating Leadership Capability, Leading Teams and Developing the Strategic Leader, which provide foundational leadership skills. In addition, students take four classes in the Master of Business Administration program at International University, Vietnam National University, giving them a well-rounded set of skills when they leave the program.

"I've found that there are many strengths to the Master of Science in Leadership program, but perhaps one of its key strengths is the multiple formats and media that I'm able to use," said Goode. "This program has definitely emphasized how to encompass different learning styles for a smart and savvy

international audience."

[Read more about Goode's class, students, and her experience teaching in Vietnam and now online.](#)

Global Studies Faculty Weigh in on "Hot-Button" Issues in Ukraine, Russia and North Korea

There is a lot of upheaval and turmoil going on in the world today. And who knows these situations, and their possible outcomes, better than those who have experience working in these countries or with their leaders?



Mary Thompson-Jones, Director and faculty member in the Master's in Global Studies and International Affairs program and former diplomat, recently penned a piece for the College's website news section on why President Obama's statement that Russia's President Putin is on the [wrong side of history](#) rings true when it comes to the situation in Ukraine.

Global Studies faculty member, former ambassador, and native



of Kyrgyzstan, Baktybek Beshimov (pictured left), recently co-authored an article in *The Diplomat* on whether [Kyrgyzstan is the next Ukraine](#). Beshimov also co-authored an opinion piece recently in *Al Jazeera* on [Russia vs. China's](#)

[struggle for Central Asia](#).

And, Friedrich Lohr (pictured right), Global Studies faculty member and former German ambassador to North Korea (among many other posts), wrote a news article on the recent string of events in North Korea: [Elections - Missile Tests - Family Reunions: "Same Procedure as Every Year?"](#)



Look out for more global analysis, opinions and commentary from our esteemed Global Studies faculty! [Learn more about Thompson-Jones, Beshimov, and Lohr and their diplomatic assignments around the world.](#)

NU Online Update: NU Online Instructor Resource Center

Have you visited the NU Online Instructor Resource Center website? As an instructor, you'll find resources here to help you develop your online, hybrid, or blended course including [Blackboard tutorials](#) and [how to prepare your course](#) for the upcoming term.

How can you make your Camtasia Relay lectures more accessible for your students? Take one of our [Captioning with Camtasia Relay trainings](#).

A [study by a San Francisco State professor](#) found that a simple change of adding captions to his videos made a dramatic difference in learning for all of his students.

Do you use Blackboard from your mobile device (iPad, iPhone, etc)? To ensure your mobile experience goes smoothly, make sure you download the Blackboard Mobile Learn 4.0 application free through the applicable application store (Apple iTunes, Blackberry App World, Google Play, HP webOS). For more information, visit the IRC [Blackboard Mobile Learn](#) section.

Not sure who your instructional designer is? Find out here: [Instructional Designer Assignments By Program](#).

Excellence in Teaching Award

The annual call for students to nominate faculty for the Excellence in Teaching Award has begun. Two awards, based on student nominations, will be announced at spring graduation exercises, which will take place on Friday, June 6. A request was sent to all enrolled students soliciting nominations for the period January 1 - December 31, 2013. All faculty of the College of Professional Studies who taught during this time period are eligible for nomination.

For questions, please contact Nancy Pawlyshyn, special academic officer to the dean, at n.pawlyshyn@neu.edu.

Look back on the winners of this award last year: [An Instructor who "Encourages Students to Attempt Challenging Problems without Fear or Failure"](#) and [An "Inspiring Instructor Who Encourages Intellectual Risk-Taking."](#)

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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