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## Message from the Dean

I am very pleased that the keynote speaker for our Fall Faculty Conference (details about conference follow this message) will be Dr. Martha Kanter, former Under Secretary of the U.S.

Department of Education and now a distinguished visiting professor and senior fellow at New York University (NYU). As Under Secretary, Dr. Kanter focused on increasing college access, affordability and quality, among other efforts. She saw the successful implementation of the Direct Student Loan program that resulted in a 50-percent increase in college enrollment, growing from 6

to more than 9 million students today who are Pell Grant recipients. Read more about her [role](#) at The U.S. Department of Education [and now](#) at NYU.



*Dr. Martha Kanter*

Dr. Kanter will speak on "Faculty Leadership for Advancing Teaching, Learning and Collaboration Across Borders" at the conference. I am looking forward to the thoughts she will share with all of us on this topic and her experience as an educator who started out in our field as an alternative high school teacher.

I hope to see you all there.

Sincerely,

John LaBrie  
Dean

## Faculty Development - Save October 2

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Please save the date for the Fall Faculty Conference which will be held on Friday, October 2 from 10 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. The theme of this year's fall conference is "Energizing Leadership, Energizing Teaching." The keynote speaker will be Dr. Martha Kanter (see above). More information will follow about the Fall Faculty Conference.

## Faculty Academic Council

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The College's Faculty Academic Council (FAC) will announce its meeting schedule for the 2015-2016 academic year this month. The Faculty Academic Council Standing Committees will continue to meet throughout the summer to prepare recommendations for the fall FAC agenda. In addition, the *Joint Task Force for Faculty Workload* formed in May by a vote of the FAC has started to meet to collect information on faculty workloads across all units, and to look at definitions of service and scholarship. They expect to report back on their work at the first fall meeting of the FAC.

## Changes to Class Evaluations for Quarter-based Classes

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The College is announcing two upcoming changes to class evaluations for quarter-based classes. First, the software that runs the surveys (EvaluationKIT) launched a new user interface on Friday, July 10. The interface has a great new look with improved navigation, works on all device types, and includes a feature-packed dashboard. Faculty members can find helpful information on the new user interface by going to the "Help Center" in the top-right corner of your screen.

Second, in order to allow students more time to complete their class evaluation surveys, Summer 2015 surveys for all classes, regardless of length, will be open for two weeks. This will result in students having an extra week to fill out surveys for "half-term" (four- and six-week) classes.

As a reminder, faculty can access surveys via the direct link that is sent to your Husky Mail address, through your NU Online Blackboard account, or by going to <https://neu.evaluationkit.com> and logging in with your myNEU username and password. More information on class evaluations can also be found on [Faculty Central](#).

## Foundation Year Alumni Reflect on the Program and its Impact

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*Prince Kalu, alumnus of Foundation Year*

[Prince Kalu beamed with joy](#), unable to stifle his ear-to-ear smile. It was early June and he was reflecting on his life-changing experience in Northeastern University's [Foundation Year program](#), which helps Boston high school graduates prepare for college success.

"I owe everything I have to this program," said Kalu, who received a standing ovation from the throng of people who had gathered in the Fenway Center to celebrate Foundation Year's five-year anniversary. "It gave me a second chance to succeed."

Read the full story:

[Preparatory Program Offers Boston Youth a Second Chance to Succeed](#)

## Case Competition Earns Sustained Attention of Faculty, Industry Partners, Students in 3rd Year

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The 2015 Problem-Solving & Consulting Case Writing Competition came to a close in June, with the greatest degree of involvement from students, faculty and industry partners to date in the competition's three year history.

Faculty member and chair of the competition, Julia Ivy, PhD reports:

"Our journey included:

- **January:** We started the journey, inviting all students with more than ten credits to enter the competition through a free-of-charge workshop in case writing, or through writing cases within their regular courses. We received 46 applications.
- **February and March:** Students worked on their cases, examining real-life problems in organizations or in their own communities, investigating the situation and collecting data, analyzing the data through the prism of concepts they studied in their programs, and arriving at relevant and solutions. Thirty cases were submitted from students representing eight degree programs and 15 countries.
- **April:** Fifty judges from around the world - practitioners, scholars, and alumni from the College- reviewed the cases and provided suggestions on how the cases could be strengthened.
- **May:** Five judges on the Executive Judging Panel evaluated the top-scored cases to select the winners.
- **June:** At the Award Ceremony and Judges Reception the winner was named: Abigail Nasshan, a student in the Master's in Nonprofit Management program, with her case, "*What's Next? Sustainable Development for Small Nonprofit Organizations -- Gathering of Mountain Eagles.*" [Gathering of Mountain Eagles](#) is an organization that provides opportunities for wounded or injured American military service members and selected family members to enjoy the therapeutic effects of adventure activities and relaxation opportunities.
  
- Although the New England weather and traffic did not cooperate, judges and students had a great time networking, discussing problem-solving, listening to music, and enjoying the refreshments."

Ivy further notes, "The industry involvement in this project as case "clients" (or project hosts) and as judges for the competition provided an opportunity for our partners to see our students' capabilities."

For more information, see [video](#) of the award ceremony and [photo gallery](#).

All faculty members interested in participating in the 2016 competition are invited to contact Julia Ivy at [j.ivy@neu.edu](mailto:j.ivy@neu.edu)

## Building Simulation into the Curriculum

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If it works for pilots, can it work for teachers?

Last month, faculty members Amy Stratman and Dr. Lydia Young participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual [TeachLivE](#) Conference in Orlando, Florida to support the integration of simulation technology into Northeastern's teacher preparation programs.

TeachLivE describes the learning environment this way: "It is a mixed-reality classroom with simulated students that provides teachers the opportunity to develop their pedagogical practice in a safe environment....The lab is a virtual setting and the students in the classroom are avatars."

This pilot program and conference supported by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) provided collaborative opportunities as Amy and Lydia built simulation scenarios, received training to integrate simulation into courses, and planned for ways this technology can support ongoing assessment of teacher preparation programs.

"As educators, it is key that faculty remain up to date on ways that technology can better support future classroom teachers. Moreover, the conference provided opportunities to collaborate as they designed scenarios that align with DESE initiatives for ongoing assessment and continuous use of formative assessment in the teacher preparation programs," explained Young. "As a leader in the field of online teaching and with ongoing commitment to innovative, research-based pedagogy and program and outcomes assessment, the College is uniquely poised to implement and support the TeachLive (Mursion) platform, and this conference allowed us to learn the necessary components, collaborate with colleagues, and design curriculum and pedagogy that supports these features of our teacher preparation."

Northeastern Named Center of Academic  
Excellence in Geospatial Science

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Northeastern's College of Professional Studies is focused on training the next generation of geospatial professionals-and now the university is being recognized for it.

Northeastern was [one of 17](#) institutions selected for the Centers of Academic Excellence in Geospatial Sciences Program, recognizing the College's [Master of Geographic Information Technology](#). This is a new endeavor launched by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Read the full story [here](#)

## Transnational Teaching, Offering Experiences Beyond the Classroom

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By Patty Goodman, EdD

When I was offered an opportunity to teach two classes in the Master's in Leadership Program this past winter, I honestly was a bit surprised by the location, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. This program is a [joint program](#) with Ho Chi Minh City International University and the College of Professional Studies. I have been teaching Intercultural Communication for years, so I felt confident in studying the culture and preparing for my experience. Based on Hofstede's National Cultural Dimension (see table below), the major difference might be related to self-image. As an Individualistic society as the United States tends to be "I" focused, whereas a Collective society, such as Vietnam, is focused on "We." Since I was teaching "Leading Teams and Creating Leadership Capacity: Developing Bench Strength," I thought I had much to offer to the class both from an academic perspective and practical experience. The courses are split between online and face-to-face, which provided me four weeks in Vietnam with the students meeting about nine hours each week. It may not be surprising that I learned much more from my

students than I had anticipated. Their eagerness to learn and understand was enriching. Moreover, I realized how the dynamics of a political system, Vietnam being communist, influences the educational system. It was fascinating!

In an effort to connect with the community prior to my arrival in Vietnam, Vasiliki Mavroudis, Director of Operations, Transnational Education, had been in contact with Ngoc Quach, Senior Education Advisor for the U.S. Consulate. The U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City was celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of opening the U.S. Education Center and rebuilding U.S. and Vietnam relations. Ngoc Quach sought U.S. faculty interaction with their members, who were students ranging from 18 year olds to adults and elders seeking to understand English and opportunities in the U.S. After we determined what would be most beneficial for the members, I offered a three-part Public Speaking series, a two-hour session over three weeks. I was impressed by the modern facilities and technical capabilities. In the first session, we were pleased to have over 150 members present, making the group activity a bit challenging, but all participated. In the following week our numbers swelled beyond room capacity. Again, the enthusiasm to learn from the members from 18 years olds to 60 year olds was enlightening. This was a mutually rewarding experience, one that I would highly recommend for educators seeking to empower learners and willing to recognize that they have been impacted, too.



Source: <http://geert-hofstede.com/united-states.html>, retrieved 7/8/2015

## We Want to Hear From You!

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What information would you like to receive in the September issue of the Faculty Newsletter? We welcome all suggestions, and will do our best to incorporate your ideas into future communications. To submit a note, please send an email

to [cpsnews@neu.edu](mailto:cpsnews@neu.edu). **Deadline for submissions for the September issue is Tuesday, August 25 at noon. The August issue is now closed for submissions.**

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