

### In This Issue

Message from the Dean

Largest-Ever Faculty Gathering

New Co-op Experience for  
Graduates

NU Online Update

Crisis Mapping Ebola

Welcome, Nadine Nassif

GIT Program Earns Accreditation

Faculty Share Knowledge at  
Conferences

Global Leadership Conference

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## Message from the Dean



Thank you to all of you who participated in the 2014 Fall Faculty Development Conference that was held in Boston on October 9<sup>th</sup>. With 350 faculty registered, I'm proud to say that this conference was the largest gathering of faculty to-date. Our day was filled with rich interactions and discussions - and your participation was key in shaping this successful event. I hope that it was as enriching and engaging for you as it was for me and I hope to see you all again at the spring faculty

conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John LaBrie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John LaBrie  
Dean

## Faculty Converge at Largest-Ever Gathering



When faculty gathered for their annual fall development conference on October 9 in Boston to exchange ideas, they joined the largest faculty gathering the College has ever hosted with 350 faculty and staff registered (50 of those being virtual). Titled "Shifting the Paradigm," the conference signaled a renewed focus on valuing the input and expertise of faculty - who helped shaped this successful event.



Tracy Penny Light, PhD, executive director, Centre for Student Engagement and Learning Innovation at Thompson Rivers University, British Columbia, Canada, gave the keynote address at the conference. Her presentation entitled "Ebola and Terrorism: How 'Big Ideas' in Higher Education are Relevant in the Classroom (and Can Save the World)," had three key takeaways: 1) "Big Ideas" are relevant in our teaching when we make sense of them in our own context - one size does not fit all 2) It's important to connect what we do at universities to the "real world" since that is where our learners are living and working and 3) There is much space for us to reinvent the college experience when we practice what we preach!



This year's conference included a poster session, where faculty presented their innovative projects to their colleagues. Pictured: Guideo (Fred) Lopez, PhD, faculty in the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology in Mechanical Engineering Technology program, shows his colleague, undergraduate and graduate faculty member Kristin Lee Costa his posters on conducting engineering and scientific research on novel fabrication techniques and characterization of advanced nanomaterials, in collaboration with his colleagues at the Russian Academy of Science.



One goal of this year's conference was for faculty to take away some new techniques, technology, tools, and teaching practices. Pictured: Instructional Designer Joe Ryan presents on how to use branching scenarios as an assessment strategy in online courses. CPS faculty identified this as a summative assessment in a brainstorm activity using the white board then considered where the strategy would be useful in their own courses.



Some of the key discussion questions throughout the day were: How do big ideas in education affect what happens in the classroom, both online and on-ground? What are colleagues doing that they can share to make the faculty experience more productive and satisfying? How are CPS faculty part of this vibrant community? Pictured: Rick Arrowood, J.D., a graduate faculty member in the Leadership, Nonprofit Management, and Human Resources Management programs (pictured standing) leads a workshop on exploring personality and leadership styles through superheroes and storybook characters. "This activity is designed as an innovative method of engaging others to learn how to form relationships, gain trust, foster collaboration, and do the right thing, among other attributes," said Arrowood. The activity was an adaptation of a creative project he developed for his students in the graduate dual degree Master's in Leadership program at Swinburne University, Melbourne, Australia.

## Working Graduates Can Now Have a Customized Co-op Experience

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Beginning November 3, working graduate students pursuing degrees at the College will have the opportunity to participate in [Experiential Learning at Work](#), a new program that begins at the start of the Winter term.

Through the program, working professionals take on a special project in their workplace and apply their new knowledge to complete it. Students earn graduate credit and additional professional experience.

[Read more](#) about the program including examples from a pilot project and encourage your students to consider this uniquely Northeastern learning opportunity.

Registration for Experiential Learning at Work opens Monday, November 3.

## NU Online Update

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Want to learn more about Digication, the College's e-portfolio

program? Check out the resources on the NU Online Instructor Resource Center - visit the [Digication page](#) to see how other instructors are using it, contact your [instructional designer](#) with questions, or [sign up for one of our trainings](#).

## Crisis Mapping the Ebola Epidemic

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Joseph Guay, faculty member in the [Master's in Global Studies and International Relations](#) and the [Geographic Information Technology](#) (GIT) programs, and his colleagues at [The Standby Task Force](#), an organization that arranges digital volunteers into a flexible, trained and prepared network ready to deploy in crises, have invited students in Guay's "Crisis Mapping for Humanitarian Action" course in the GIT program, also taught by faculty member Steven Purcell, to provide digital support for the organization's Phase II Ebola response. Building on the work done in [Phase I](#), Phase II will seek to use crowd-sourced methods and open-sourced data to verify, update, and geo-tag information about the status, capacity, strength, and current use of existing and upcoming medical centers in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Guay notes that this work being done by students will be important in providing a clear and accurate picture to those on the ground battling the epidemic such as the United Nations, humanitarian organizations, and the Ministries of Health. After thousands of data points have been geo-tagged and verified by him, his colleagues, and his students, one of the most comprehensive facilities maps will be available for use by the Red Cross and other actors on the ground.

Guay also notes that for students in the GIT program, this provides an opportunity to leverage the theoretical and foundational knowledge they have gained thus far in class through experiential learning. Students are exploring and honing their skills in a real-life crisis situation, while being able to reflect on material from the first few weeks of class: principles of humanitarian action, a changing humanitarian context, knowledge about the kinds of contexts humanitarians are used to working in (conflict and disaster), a shifting humanitarian environment, theories behind information communication technologies and collective action, and an introduction to the emergence of crisis mapping (and challenges).

## Welcome, Nadine Nassif

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Nadine Nassif, PhD, is a Fulbright scholar from the environmental science department at the Lebanese University in Beirut, Lebanon, currently doing research here at the College with Cordula Robinson, faculty director for the Master's in [Geographic Information Technology](#) (GIT) program. Dr. Robinson's expertise is generating groundwater potentiality maps in arid and semi-arid areas of the world, having worked extensively in the Middle East and North Africa. Dr. Nassif is keen to include more geographic information systems into her work in law and agricultural management (for which water is needed) to help decision-makers in law and policy.

## Northeastern GIT Program Joins Select Group of Universities Earning Industry Accreditation

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The Master's in [Geographic Information Technology](#) (GIT) program is now one of the few programs on the list of [United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation](#), (USGIF) accredited college and university programs. Students who take a select combination of classes within the program will receive USGIF's Geospatial Intelligence Certificate, which is the first of its kind. To date, USGIF has accredited nine collegiate Geospatial Intelligence Certificate Programs, with the College's GIT program being one of them.

"The USGIF certificate provides a distinguished qualification for our students and graduates to work in areas such as international relief, disaster management, and national security, with direct links to industry connected to USGIF," said Cordula Robinson, faculty director for the GIT program, in the [press release](#) announcing the news. "The certificate meshes well with Northeastern's ongoing involvement with the intelligence community and homeland security."

## Faculty Share Knowledge in Conference Presentations

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**Harvey Shapiro**, PhD, faculty member in the [Department of Education](#), will be sharing his research on the philosophy of education at The American Educational Studies Association and the International Association of Intercultural Education [joint conference](#), October 29 - November 2, 2014 in Toronto. He will be presenting a paper titled, "The 'Refugee' as Paradigm for Civic Education" as part of the conference's theme: "Reconceptualizing Diversity: Engaging with Histories, Theories, Practices, and Discursive Strategies in Global Contexts." Dr. Shapiro is also presenting at the Spencer Foundation funded conference on gun violence in education at Loyola University in Chicago, IL, October 23-26, 2014. Shapiro, along with seven other scholars in the philosophy of education, will be sharing their research and collaborating to extend this research on the theme of "Gun Violence in Schools." His presentation is entitled "When the Exception is the Rule: School Shootings, Bare Life, and the Sovereign Self."

**Patty Goodman**, PhD, faculty member in the [Global](#)

[Classroom](#) is presenting at the [11<sup>th</sup> International Transformative Learning Conference](#) at Columbia University in New York City on October 23-26, 2014. Her abstract, "Cross Generational Transformative Learning Through Storytelling" discusses how to build an understanding between youth and elders through collaborative oral exercises and how to find a sustainable model of cross-generational communication that can foster transformative learning between generations. Dr. Goodman will be presenting another abstract at the conference, "Transformative Learning Through Fluid Sculpture." In this session, learners will participate in an experiential session employing an abstract improvisational form, resulting in transformative learning through a process of assimilative learning.

## Global Leadership Conference

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Jointly hosted by Swinburne University of Technology, Australia, and Northeastern University on November 14, 2014, the [2014 Global Leadership Conference](#) will



draw together leadership researchers and experienced leaders from Australia and the U.S. to explore the latest in leadership practice, development and education. Speakers include leaders from private, government and not-for-profit sectors who will explore:

- Agile and adaptive leadership in a connected world
- Frameworks for ethical, authentic and sustainable leadership
- Agendas for leadership development and education

The [program](#) will feature a mix of [keynote](#) addresses, panel discussions, and roundtables, while showcasing the unique relationship between Swinburne University of Technology and Northeastern University, developed through their dual Master's [Global Leadership](#) Program.

## We Want to Hear From You!

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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](mailto:cpsnews@neu.edu).

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