Message from Sandy Butters, Director of Parent Giving and Engagement

Dear Parents:

After a seemingly endless winter, spring has finally emerged on Northeastern's beautiful campus. With summer 1 classes in session and planning underway for the next academic and fiscal years, the university is abuzz with activity--and the Parents Leadership Council (PLC) is no exception, as you'll see in our newsletter.

In this issue, you'll meet Northeastern parent Craig Schmidt and members of the PLC Engagement Committee; learn more about the university's co-op and study abroad programs; read about student ventures; and receive information about Parent and Family Weekend in October.

I'd like to recognize and thank PLC members for an exceptional year as liaisons between the parent community and the Parent Giving and Engagement teams. In particular, I commend them for achieving 100 percent participation as philanthropic partners with the university. Their gifts of time and financial support are enormously appreciated, especially by the students and faculty who benefit from their generosity each day.

I wish you and your family a relaxing and fun summer break. Stay tuned for the calendar of exciting regional events coming to your area this summer and fall.

Warm regards,
Sandy Butters
Director, Parent Giving and Engagement Program
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Join Our Team

Welcome to the spring edition of Northeastern’s Parents Pack, a newsletter created by the Parents Leadership Council (PLC). As chair of the PLC’s Engagement Committee, my goal is to provide parents with numerous opportunities to immerse themselves in university life at Northeastern and remain involved with their students.

The PLC enables parents from around the world to connect with one another, while gaining a deep sense of accomplishment by acting as a resource and liaison for the greater parent community. It also opens doors for parents to participate in and serve at student and parent orientations; campus receptions; parents’ weekend; student send-off events; and popular happenings such as Northeastern POPS, Beanpot, and more.

I have the pleasure of serving on the Engagement Committee with two fellow parents, pictured below with their families. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Parents Leadership Council, please complete our online application (under the Parents Leadership Council section). Join our team and help the PLC give a large university the feel of a much smaller family.

Best,
Craig Schmidt, MD
Chair, Engagement Committee
Parents Leadership Council
PNT’16

Craig and Cameron Schmidt (at left) with their children CJ (E’16) and Caroline

Mili Mehta, PNT’18 (second from right), with her family
Maureen Underhill, MEd'07, PNT'10,'15,'16 (center), Northeastern's Associate Director of Finance and Operations, with two of her children.

Honor Your Student

Northeastern's Digital Bookplate Program is a unique way to honor your student or graduate while supporting University Libraries' resources and collections. View our online gallery of bookplates or learn more about the program by visiting the library's website.

Upcoming Events for Parents

Parent and Family Weekend
October 24-26, 2014
Due to the large number of visitors expected for this event, it is recommended that out of town parents reserve hotel accommodations early. Hotels with close proximity to Northeastern's campus include:

- The Colonnade
- Marriott Copley
- Westin Copley
- Sheraton Boston
- Hilton Back Bay
- Revere Hotel
- Hampton Inn and Suites Boston

For regional events, visit Northeastern's alumni chapter website. Parents are invited to participate in one of our 25 domestic or eight international chapters.

To cheer on the Huskies at a sporting event in your area, visit GO NU!

Check out an event hosted by University Libraries, including the Meet the Author lecture series.

Cooperative Learning and Career Services

Co-op: Would you like to get involved? We want to
Northeastern's distinctive co-op program helps companies across all industries address employment needs and strengthen their talent pool with skilled and motivated students. If you're interested in becoming a co-op employer or know of an organization that would find this program beneficial, contact Director of Employer Relations Jim Boyle at 617.373.3772 or j.boyle@neu.edu to learn more.

Wondering how to jump start your student's job search?
The fall 2014 Career Fair kicks off on Thursday, October 2, 2014 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. in the Cabot Gym. This is an occasion for students to speak with prospective employers about various career paths and full-time, internship, or co-op employment opportunities. Your student will also learn which skills and experiences increase his/her employment potential, how to better market himself/herself, and how to build a professional network that will enhance the chance of employment. There is no registration fee or pre-registration required.

Empowering Young Women
Northeastern's Department of Career Development recently launched sheLEADS, a series of workshops designed to address challenges that young women may face in the workplace.

The program's goal is to equip today's generation of women entering the workforce with skills and confidence through sessions focusing on leadership, empowerment, awareness, development, and self-advocacy. We encourage your student to participate in upcoming workshops.

Silver Level Medal Winners
The Department of Career Development was awarded a Silver Level of Certification from the Out at Work LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) Career Center Certification Assessment. The team was recognized for safe zone training for staff and faculty, developing a webpage for LGBTQ students, and delivering a workshop on assessing the readiness to reveal.

International Study Abroad Programs

Susan Curtin, PNT'18, and PLC member, spoke with Study Abroad Coordinator Katie Rabbitt Burke (above) about Northeastern's approach to developing global citizens and relevant parental concerns. Katie loves sending students off to foreign countries and lives vicariously through their life changing, far-flung global
experiences. Each year, she and her colleagues in the Office of International Study Programs (OISP) conduct about 750 student meetings, host dozens of informational events on campus, and take two-week rotations with the emergency 24/7 cellular phone.

Q: What are common misconceptions about the study abroad program?

A: Common misconceptions include that students must speak the language of the host country, that study abroad is cost-prohibitive, and that it is a vacation. None of these are true. Study abroad is a transformative academic and cultural experience, and we encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity.

Q: How many students study abroad in an average year?

A: Last academic year, 1,703 students studied abroad. Northeastern is in the top 25 schools in the country for sending students overseas and we believe this experience definitely sets our students apart. People tend to think that everyone studies abroad, but it's not true: Only 1.4% of American students do so.

Q: What are the top destinations?

A: England, followed by Italy, Australia, Spain, France, and China. This data is consistent with trends across the U.S.

Q: Can you walk me through the application process from a student's perspective?

A: We encourage students to start the process a year in advance of their departure. They should research our website, attend informational events to learn about the different programs, and meet with us to talk through options. There are more than 150 programs to choose from, and we want to make sure they pick one that's a good fit academically, personally, and financially. Once a student selects a program, they submit application materials to OISP for review.

Q: Do students need to get shots or special medications?

A: There are country-specific immunizations, which can be received at health services on campus. We review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website with students and enroll everyone in an emergency medical plan to help pave the way with in-country doctors. Students are also advised to get a clean bill of health from their doctors and dentists prior to departure.

Q: What are common problems for students who study abroad?

A: Sometimes they have trouble adjusting to different cultures or academic structures. For example, study abroad tends to be more self-directed than instruction in the U.S., or sometimes the student visa process can cause anxiety. Additionally, any preexisting mental or physical health issues can be exacerbated when students go abroad. We can accommodate most matters that arise and partner with schools that share our commitment to health, safety, and security.

Q: What else should parents know about study abroad?

A: We have many resources to help families prepare for these exciting, life-changing experiences. There's information, tools, and checklists on the study abroad website, and we encourage parents to contact our office any time at 617.373.5276.
(IDEA) was started in 2009 by a group of Northeastern students who were focused on advancing and refining the direction of their professional careers. Five years later, with the backing of the university, IDEA provides services designed to accelerate the development of business ideas from entrepreneurial students and alumni.

IDEA's management team and coaches, along with the help of service providers, mentors and our advisory board, work to support a large number of these business ventures. They instruct ventures through the development of their business idea, connect them with the resources they need, and also provide free funding to enterprises that show exceptional potential.

IDEA is a great organization for students looking to pursue and further their entrepreneurial desires while at Northeastern. To learn more, check out the IDEA website.