



The Northeastern Voice

Hedge funds' performance may have a 'contagious' effect on others, says researcher.



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Northeastern moves entirely to Common Application

Joint application method touted as easier for aspiring students, staff reviewers

THE VOICE STAFF

Streamlining college applications for both potential students and university staff, Northeastern now accepts only The Common Application, promulgated by a consortium of more than 300 U.S. institutions of higher learning.

"This is the only application we will accept from now on," said Ronné Turner, Northeastern's dean of admissions.

The 32-year-old Common Application has recently been upgraded, with an easier online process and college search function, among other features, Turner said.

"It makes the process much easier for students," she said. "We're very excited about this move."

Northeastern has been part of the consortium for years, but had also offered its own application form, Turner explained.

"We had some students submitting two of everything," she said. "With 30,000 applications, some coming in on one form and some on another, it did cause confusion."

On the university's end, "there was additional data-entry work, at the very least. Now we can read applications much faster."

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Communications system upgraded

BY SUSAN SALK

In the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy, senior university officials have rolled out a multimillion-dollar overhaul of Northeastern's communications systems to offer up-to-the-minute communications with students, parents, faculty and staff.

Senior vice president for enrollment management Philomena Mantella and senior vice president for finance and administration Jack McCarthy unveiled the \$10 million to \$14 million project, called Unified Digital Campus (UDC), during a kickoff meeting earlier this fall.

Given the climate, it is critical that the university possess the capacity to communicate quickly and effectively with all members of its family, both on and off campus, the officials said.

The two explained that, above all, communication capacity and ability was identified by senior administrators

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Russian academics visit



Russian university presidents visited Northeastern's campus earlier this fall, in a trip arranged by telecommunications-support firm NetCracker Technology, which is working with Russian academics to help students transition from the university to the commercial world. The trip was arranged by Vice Provost Robert Lowndes and by Bonnie Ward, a Northeastern alumna who is vice president of NetCracker. From left are translator Maria Pankova, president Vladimir Andreyev of the Povolzhskaya State Academy of Telecommunications and Informatics, president Nikolay Kuznetsov of the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, president Viktor Soifer of Samara State Aerospace University, president Artem Adjemov of Moscow Technical University of Communications and Informatics, Ward and Lowndes. For more, see Page 6.

Torch burning brightly

Innovative scholarship program drawing support from alumni, faculty and staff

THE VOICE STAFF

As the second class of Torch Scholars begins, university officials say fund-raising for the unique scholarship program has become a powerful symbol of the faith that the university community has in the program.

The Torch program, which admits non-traditional students who have overcome significant challenges, covers full tuition for its scholars.

Begun in fall 2006 with a \$1.2 million grant from the Manganaro family, Torch has attracted more than \$6 million in donations, said Philomena Mantella, senior vice president for enrollment management.

"It's attracting donors – folks who are helping to define what Northeastern is," she said.

Among those donors are Northeastern faculty and staff, many of whom attended a fund-raiser earlier this year to support one Torch Scholarship.

"It was a good turnout, a lot of enthusiasm," said associate professor Paul Harrington, who helped organize the event and sits on the Torch advisory board.

"A lot of the faculty and staff, particularly people who are alums, feel a close affinity to this program," he said. "The appeal of Torch comes from what Northeastern University has done for tens of thousands of people – create opportunity. At least, that's how the alumni view it."

"A consequence of that is, the access mission of Northeastern has real meaning and depth that I don't think it



Cedric Jennings, main character of the book 'A Hope in the Unseen,' about growing up as a brilliant scholar in urban Washington D.C., speaks to Torch Scholars earlier this fall.

has at other institutions."

Harrington, B.S. '75, M.S. '84, called a Torch Scholarship "a two-way street, a partnership."

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