Message from the Dean

The general public and employers want higher education to change. And, the changes they seek will be familiar to all of you. That is what we learned in Northeastern's second annual national survey.

I was fascinated to see how closely public expectations align with our aspirations here at the College of Professional Studies:

- **Improve career preparation** - 62% of Americans say higher education is doing only a fair-to-poor job of preparing graduates for career success.

- **Think differently** - 87% of Americans believe higher education must innovate to retain a workforce that is globally competitive.

- **We're in this together** - Americans believe there is a shared responsibility for preparing graduates for success in the workplace (36%-companies/employers, 35% graduates/employees, 29% colleges/universities.)

It is clear to me that we must be committed both to our students gaining knowledge, and to their future workplace success.

And you, the faculty, are at the core of achieving that goal.

Our teaching model relies on both full-time and part-time faculty members, bringing different perspectives and expertise into your teaching. Through your skills and experience, as well as the design of the curriculum, we're making the "experiential education" that everyone is talking about come to life for our students.

And, the marketplace has responded. Students are seeking what we offer, and we've grown, adding new sections, concentrations and degree programs. In fact, the College of Professional Studies faculty has tripled since 2008, with growth among both part-time and full-time faculty.

The key to all of this is that both students and employers need what we offer - degrees that are aligned with the demands of the working world.
Thank you for all that you do, to make the aspiration for a Northeastern degree a reality for our students. We can always improve, so I ask that you please share your ideas with me at cpsdean@neu.edu on making our curriculum, our teaching, and our student experience better. The public and the future employers of our students are relying on us, and so are our students.

Fall 2013 Graduation

Thousands of friends and family packed Matthews Arena on the morning of Saturday, September 21, to watch friends, colleagues, and family members receive their diplomas at the Fall 2013 Graduation ceremony.

Five hundred degrees were conferred: 178 bachelor's, 288 master's and 34 doctoral degrees. In attendance were the first graduates of Northeastern University'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. Schimizzi is a MacFarland Scholar, a scholarship program of the Anna and Helen MacFarland Memorial Scholarship Fund that provides tuition support to students who are committed to careers in public school education in large urban areas. Bill Bratton, international security expert, NBC news analyst and former Boston Police Commissioner, addressed graduates at the ceremony.

To read more about the fall 2013 ceremony, visit Years of Hard Work Culminate With Receiving Northeastern Diploma.

In 2014, the College will host one graduation ceremony and one doctoral hooding ceremony for all degree candidates. Students who qualify for a degree will be invited to attend the spring ceremony on Friday, June 6, 2014.

Share Your Accomplishments

Almost every day I hear about great things that you are doing in teaching or your professional life outside of teaching and I am
reminded of the relevance of professional studies to our students, and the breadth of accomplishment we have in our faculty. And, while I and others in the administration might hear the good word, I don't think you necessarily hear about what your colleagues are doing, so I would like to change that with reports in this newsletter from faculty.

Please write to us at cpsnews@neu.edu and tell us about the best practices in teaching that you have found particularly effective and your professional accomplishments; tell us what you would like us to know about your work.

Have you reached a major milestone, completed a big project, earned recognition or an award, or done something brand new in your teaching or your other work? Tell us about it.

Also tell us where you have spoken or presented recently, at professional, academic or policy conferences.

Have you authored an article about an aspect of your work in a journal, magazine or anthology, or been covered in conference proceedings? Send us a link or copy of the article. If you have authored a book or book chapter or edited an anthology or text book, please let us know.

Have you received a grant for research or practical application of your idea?

Do you serve on a business or non-profit board, a commission or task force, editorial board, policy-making body or advisory group? Tell us about it.

Please provide ample detail in your message to cpsnews@neu.edu so that your news can be shared in an upcoming edition of the newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Peggy Hayes, director of communications, at m.hayes@neu.edu or Jackie Anderson, communications specialist, at jacy.anderson@neu.edu.

I look forward to hearing from you and I know that your colleagues do too.

Meet Your Colleagues

Would you like to get to know your faculty colleagues? The newsletter will help you do that, introducing faculty members from across the wide range of degree programs in the College of Professional Studies. Would you like to recommend a faculty
Simone Elias has been teaching Portuguese at Northeastern since 2008, using her knowledge of hybrid and online education, Portuguese language expertise, and extensive international experience. She has also been recognized for her work; Elias earned the 2013 New Directions in the Humanities Graduate Scholar Award, an international recognition for her outstanding active academic interest and scholarship in hybrid education of languages.

"As a pioneer in developing and teaching Portuguese as a second language in the hybrid format, my experience has been a constant work in progress, yet a rewarding one," said Elias, a member of the World Languages Center faculty. "Being able to transform a face-to-face session into online experiences, without diminishing educational outcomes, has required not only an understanding of new technologies, but also significant re-thinking of teaching practices, new directions in language instruction in the 21st century, and considerable attention to adult and online learning concepts."

Having earned a Master of Education in Instructional Technology from Cambridge College, Elias is working toward a Doctor of Education degree with a concentration in Organizational Leadership Studies at Northeastern.

In addition to teaching Portuguese, Elias leads Dialogue of Civilizations learning trips to Brazil and has led a Portugal dialogue. The Dialogue of Civilizations program is a signature short-term study abroad academic program at Northeastern, which is led by faculty and designed for students to interact with and learn from peers in different national, cultural, political, and social environments.

Catherine A. Gildae combines her research and teaching interests in marriage and family policy, race, class, gender and sexuality and applies her PhD in Law, Policy and Society from Northeastern to teach undergraduate sociology students at the College of Professional Studies. She is also a visiting assistant professor of sociology at Wheaton College in Norton, MA.

Gildae earned a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School with her major areas of study in Feminist/Liberation Theologies, Sociology of Religion and Christianity and Culture. As her academic career advanced, as both a student and faculty member, she did additional coursework and training in sociology, conducting empirical legal scholarship, principles of epidemiology and other subjects.
Now, Gildae teaches undergraduate courses ranging from "Diversity" and "Race and Ethnicity" to "Gender and Work Roles in Society" and "Poverty, Power and Social Change."

Craig Gruber is a faculty member and director of the Master of Arts in Homeland Security program, combining his training in social and developmental psychology, a PhD in Psychology from Clark University, a Master of Science in Gifted and Talented Education from Johns Hopkins University, and his experience as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserves. Recently he helped plan and coordinate the 6th annual Homeland Defense and Security Education Summit with the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security September 26-28, 2013, co-hosted by Northeastern University and the George J. Kostas Research Institute for Homeland Security.

The conference brought together over 200 individuals from across the country and around the world. The conference began at the Kostas Center with a keynote address by Kurt Schwartz, undersecretary for Homeland Security for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a welcome by John LaBrie, dean of the College of Professional Studies, David Luzzi, professor and executive director of Strategic Security Initiatives at Northeastern's College of Engineering and Peter Boynton, co-director of the Kostas Research Institute for Homeland Security at Northeastern.

Gruber's teaching, research, and theoretical interests focus on courage, personal agency revolving around homeland security, intelligence analysis, and educational settings; his expertise lies in maritime domain awareness, intelligence analysis, and counter-terrorism.

New FAQs Added to Part-Time Faculty Information Web Pages

In an email message to all College of Professional Studies faculty on September 3, you received information about a Northeastern University website entitled "Part-Time Faculty Information and FAQs" about the current efforts by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to organize part-time faculty to form a union.

The university has posted copies of the contracts that SEIU negotiated with George Washington University and American University on behalf of the faculty it represents at those schools and Frequently Asked Questions about those contracts.

Since then, there have been new Frequently Asked Questions posted to the site to provide you with information regarding union authorization cards. As Dean LaBrie mentioned in the
September faculty newsletter:

"SEIU, or a faculty member who supports SEIU, may ask you to sign a union authorization card. If you sign an authorization card, it indicates your support for SEIU representation, and if they attain a sufficient number of authorization cards, they will likely submit the cards to the National Labor Relations Board for the purpose of securing a government-administered union representation election. I ask that you educate yourself before taking any action with respect to SEIU's organizing activity, including signing a union authorization card."

In addition, new information has been added about the recent union election at Tufts University where faculty voted in favor of union representation.

NU Online Update: Blackboard New Features

NU Online recently updated NU Online Blackboard to release 9.1.11.

New Features

- Increase your presence within your course using Video Everywhere.
- Explore a new, easy approach to grading online assignments with Inline Grading.
- Encourage student originality within the discussion board with the Post First option.

Workarounds for potential issues you may encounter

- Ensure students can view embedded video
- Copy/Paste in the new content editor
- Activate Spell Check

Click the image for more detailed information.
Strategies for successful teaching using NU Online Blackboard SP11

This is the first in a series of updates that promote successful teaching and learning using NU Online Blackboard. Through regular updates and through our comprehensive NU Online Instructor Resource Center, NU Online presents numerous strategies/approaches to help you and your students get the most out of the latest features from NU Online Blackboard.

Here are three new features and three things to be aware of in NU Online Blackboard release 9.1.11.

Three New Features

Video Everywhere

Video Everywhere is an easy way to incorporate video into your course. Record video using a webcam from the new content editor or upload an existing video into your own private YouTube channel. Use Video Everywhere to personalize video feedback to students.

NU Online promotes successful teaching and learning using NU Online Blackboard through our comprehensive NU Online Instructor Resource Center.

Register for one of our upcoming webinars or classroom trainings taking place this month.

Northeastern Rises to Top 50 Spot in National Ranking

Northeastern was ranked #49 in National Universities and #3 in Up-and-Coming Schools by U.S. News & World Report.

Over the past seven years, Northeastern University has made a significant leap in the National Universities ranking by U.S. News & World Report, moving into the top 50 in 2014.

Northeastern moved from #98 in 2007 to #56 in 2013 to #49 in ranking for 2014.

Additionally, in the category Up-and-Coming Schools, this year Northeastern was ranked #3 for "making the most promising
and innovative changes in the areas of academics, faculty and student life," according to U.S. News & World Report.

USA Today reported on factors affecting the shifts in the rankings: "Under the new U.S. News methodology, graduation-related data account for 30% of the rankings, making it the most-heavily weighted factor. Student selectivity, based on class rank and standardized test scores, accounts for 12.5% of the formula, down from 15% last year. Other key factors include a school's reputation among peers and faculty resources."

Following is a sample of media coverage on the new ranking:

USA Today - College rankings reflect change in emphasis
The Washington Post - U.S. News college rankings: The big gainers and big decliners over three years

Northeastern Surges Past Annual Fundraising Goal

Despite difficult economic times, Northeastern University has continued to surpass its fundraising goals, having tripled its annual fundraising average since 2005.

Despite difficult economic times, Northeastern University has continued to surpass its fundraising goals, securing $63.3 million in new gifts and pledges.

Since 2005, Northeastern's annual fundraising average has tripled. Support from all members of the community—alumni, students, parents, friends, and university partners—has been integral to this momentum. And undergraduate alumni played a key role during the last fiscal year, with an impressive 13,103 donors making gifts—a record for Northeastern.

These gifts are fueling the launch of Empower: The Campaign for Northeastern University, a comprehensive fundraising drive to secure $1 billion in support of students, faculty, and research innovation. The campaign, announced in May, will amplify Northeastern's strengths in creativity and entrepreneurship, and redefine the university's leadership on a global scale.
To learn more, read Following the launch of its ‘Empower’ campaign, Northeastern surges past annual fundraising goal.

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.