

CLASS OF 2023

*Convocation*



25 MAY 2023

VANCOUVER

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This program is for ceremonial purposes only and is not to be considered an official confirmation of degree information. It contains only those details available at the publication deadline.

We ask those in attendance to kindly silence their electronic devices and to remain in their seats until the platform party has left the stage and the graduate recessional has finished.

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# A UNIVERSITY ENGAGED WITH THE WORLD

## THE HISTORY OF NORTHEASTERN

Founded in 1898, Northeastern is a global research university and the recognized leader in experiential learning. Despite the university's current preeminence, Northeastern had modest origins.

At the end of the 19th century, immigrants and first-generation Americans constituted more than half of Boston's population. Chief among the city's institutions committed to helping these people improve their lives was the Boston YMCA. The YMCA became a place where young men gathered to hear lectures on literature, history, music, and other subjects considered essential to intellectual growth.

In response to the enthusiastic demand for these lectures, the directors of the YMCA organized the "Evening Institute for Young Men" in May 1896. Frank Palmer Speare, a well-known teacher and high-school principal with considerable experience in public schools, was hired as the institute's director. Two years later, under Speare's direction, the YMCA advertised the creation of the "Department of Law of the Boston YMCA," and on October 3, 1898, Robert Gray Dodge taught the first class. The program, an immediate success, marked the birth of Northeastern University. Speare would later remark, "We started with an eraser and two sticks of chalk."

When demand for other courses grew, Speare moved to add more programs, and in 1909 the full-time day colleges began instruction. That same year, the Evening Polytechnic School announced "cooperative engineering courses," in which students would have an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in the workplace—the beginning of Northeastern's signature cooperative education program.

### **Decades of expansion**

The school continued to grow, and in 1922 the College of Business was founded. More space was needed. The university purchased the former home of the Boston Red Sox in 1929, and in 1934 the Boston architectural firm Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbott was awarded the contract to design Richards Hall. Using what was to become the campus signature—white brick—Shepley, Bulfinch presented plans for a neoclassical building. Opened in 1938, Richards Hall was the first building to appear on the front quadrangle.

As the campus grew, so did Northeastern's programs. In 1935, the College of Liberal Arts was added, signaling that Northeastern was on its way to becoming a major university.

When Speare stepped down as president in 1940, he was replaced by Carl Stephens Ell, dean of the College of Engineering. It was under Ell's leadership that Northeastern first admitted women to full-time day programs.

In the postwar world, Northeastern, like its peer institutions, saw a phenomenal increase in the number of people attending college. The university expanded its programs to accommodate this growing population of increasingly diverse students. In rapid succession,

additional programs and colleges were established: College of Education, 1953; University College, 1960; College of Pharmacy, 1962; College of Nursing, 1964; Boston Bouvé College, 1964; College of Criminal Justice, 1967; and College of Computer Science, 1982.

This expansion of programs brought with it a need for more buildings—and land. When Ell retired as president in 1959, he was succeeded by Asa S. Knowles. Under his leadership, suburban properties in Weston, Nahant, and Burlington were acquired and the Boston campus blossomed with new buildings, including various undergraduate dormitories designed to accommodate the increasing number of residential students at what had been primarily a commuter campus.

### **Transforming the Boston campus**

When Knowles retired in 1975, he was succeeded by Kenneth G. Ryder, who had begun his career at Northeastern as a member of the history department and had risen through the ranks to become executive vice president before his election as president. Under his leadership, the university expanded and enriched its programs, particularly in the arts and humanities, and continued to improve its facilities. Plans for the Snell Library were finalized during Ryder's tenure, and the campus was beautified. During these years, Northeastern also deepened its commitment to Boston and its neighborhoods.

In 1989, Ryder stepped down as the fourth president of the university. He was succeeded by John A. Curry, Northeastern's executive vice president and its first alumnus to become president. With President Curry in charge, the university embarked on a series of ambitious undertakings, including a new science and engineering research center, a state-of-the-art classroom building, a recreation complex, and several new graduate and undergraduate programs.

To support these new ventures, Curry led Northeastern in a successful fundraising campaign. His years of leadership also featured significant restructuring as the university prepared to enter its second century. In June 1996, after four decades of service, Curry retired from Northeastern. To succeed him, the trustees elected Richard M. Freeland as the university's sixth president.

### **Elevating experience**

A distinguished historian and administrator, President Freeland brought to the university a renewed sense of energy and mission. His programs were designed to support his vision of Northeastern as a university that would be student-centered, practice-oriented, and urban. Northeastern developed the West Campus with architecturally acclaimed residence halls and teaching facilities for the health sciences and computer science, and added new spaces to enrich student life on campus.

When Freeland stepped down in 2006, he was succeeded by Joseph E. Aoun, an internationally known linguistics scholar. Northeastern's seventh president came from the University of Southern California, where he served as dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences. President Aoun developed an academic plan outlining the university's vision in several areas: experiential learning, global outreach, use-inspired research, urban engagement, and intellectual life. He greatly expanded global co-op opportunities. He also aligned the university's research with three worldwide imperatives—health, security, and

sustainability—with a focus on interdisciplinary solutions.

### **A rising global profile**

Under Aoun's leadership, Northeastern launched a system of campuses designed to be platforms for lifelong learning aligned with area economies. The first two opened in Charlotte, North Carolina (2011), and Seattle (2013). Three more campuses followed in San Francisco and San Jose, California (2015), and in Toronto (2016).

In 2016, Aoun led the development of a new academic plan, *Northeastern 2025*. The plan was a blueprint for transforming the university into a global university system—featuring networks of learners and innovators—designed to empower people to succeed in this era of unprecedented technological change. Accordingly, the university expanded the role of its global campuses to serve as platforms for learning, research, and industry partnerships. In 2019, it opened another location in Vancouver and acquired New College of the Humanities in London, now officially Northeastern University London and offering undergraduates a unique opportunity to earn a dual U.S./U.K. degree. Later in 2019, Northeastern launched a research campus in Arlington, Virginia, an addition to two existing research campuses in Nahant and Burlington, Massachusetts (formed in 1967 and 2012 respectively).

Then in January 2020, technology entrepreneur David Roux and his wife, Barbara, made an investment in the university to open the Roux Institute in Portland, Maine. The institute focuses on graduate studies and research in fields such as AI, digital engineering, and advanced life sciences, amplified by industry partnerships. It was specifically designed to be a model of how higher education can ignite economic development in regions of the country largely bypassed by the innovation economy, setting a new bar for what the global university system could achieve.

### **Resilience and momentum**

The same revolutionary vision for global learning and discovery that inspired *Northeastern 2025* infuses the university's latest academic plan, *Experience Unleashed*. The plan is designed to deepen the impact of Northeastern's global network by maximizing the power of experience to understand and solve the world's interconnected, ever-evolving challenges.

In 2022, the university took a significant step in realizing the potential for its global system by merging with Mills College in Oakland, California, becoming the first university with comprehensive residential campuses for undergraduate and graduate students on both U.S. coasts. Northeastern's Oakland campus is now home to Mills College at Northeastern and the Mills Institute, focused on equity, social justice, and women's leadership. Later in 2022, Northeastern announced its newest campus in Miami, with graduate education and innovation partnerships aligned with South Florida's economic growth.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our university community, Frank Palmer Spere's "eraser and two sticks of chalk" have evolved into one of the world's most innovative universities and a platform for significant impact. Our faculty collaborates more fluidly with experts across industry, government, and community-based organizations. Ideas and solutions can be scaled. And our students are empowered to be true global citizens, scientists, entrepreneurs, and creators—prepared to make an impact wherever they go.

## **CAMPUS HISTORY**

Northeastern's Vancouver campus was founded in 2019 at the center of one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world. Located in the growing international superhub known as the Cascadia Innovation Corridor, this campus was established in response to the city's increasing prominence as a global technology center. Despite the large projected number of tech jobs emerging in British Columbia, the area had not seen a similarly marked increase in master's graduates entering the workforce. As such, the Vancouver campus specializes in master's-level computer and information science programs, including data analytics engineering, information design and data visualization, and analytics.

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Northeastern University would like to acknowledge that our Vancouver campus is located on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh nations on whose lands we are privileged to live, love, learn, and work.

# PROGRAM

## Processional

Candidates

Faculty

Platform Party led by Marshal Bethany Edmunds

*Teaching Professor, Assistant Dean of Computing Programs for Vancouver and Seattle &*

*Director of Computing Programs - Vancouver*

## Land Acknowledgment

Carrie Chassels

Associate Dean and Campus Administrator

## Performance

M'Girl

## National Anthem

## Welcome

Steve Eccles

*Regional Dean & CEO, Vancouver Campus*

## Global Network Welcome

Mary Ludden

*Senior Vice President for Global Network & Strategic Initiatives*

## Presiding Provost Acknowledgment

David Madigan

*Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

## Student Address

Sommer Marie Harris, CS '23

*Master of Science in Computer Science*

## Convocation Address

Sarah Roth, DMSB '02

*President & CEO, BC Cancer Foundation*

## Degrees in Course

Steve Eccles

*Regional Dean & CEO, Vancouver Campus*

Jodi Tims, Associate Dean for Network Programs

*Houry College of Computer Science*

## Conferring of Degrees

David Madigan

*Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

## Alumni Welcome Remarks

Ria Agarwal, CS '22

*Intermediate Software Engineer, Demonware*

## Salute to the Graduates

Honourable Brenda Bailey

*Member of the Legislative Assembly,*

*Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation*

## Closing Charge

Steve Eccles

*Regional Dean & CEO, Vancouver Campus*

## Recessional

Platform Party

Faculty

Graduates led by Marshal Bethany Edmunds

*Teaching Professor, Assistant Dean of Computing Programs for Vancouver and Seattle &*

*Director of Computing Programs - Vancouver*

*We kindly ask those in attendance to silence their electronic devices.*



# CONVOCATION ADDRESS

*Convocation Speaker*

Sarah Roth

A passionate believer in the power of philanthropy, Sarah Roth has devoted half her life to raising money for some of the most transformational health organizations and hospitals in Canada and the United States. For the past seven years, she's helmed the BC Cancer Foundation, British Columbia's largest philanthropic funder of cancer research and care, where her leadership shines a light on the wide-ranging support cancer patients need.

As president and CEO, Roth has increased the BC Cancer Foundation's revenue to record heights across all lines of business. She has implemented a donor-centric strategy and championed a culture of empowerment among British Columbians. The organization recently launched its Beyond Belief Campaign—the most ambitious health campaign in British Columbia's history—to expand cancer teams, invest in leading-edge cancer research and technology, and bring world-class care closer to home.

For Roth, leading the BC Cancer Foundation, harnessing people's selflessness for the good of society, is a dream come true. "Small acts of generosity can collectively move mountains," she has said. "Cancer is the world's biggest health crisis, and it's an honour to be part of the solution."

Her relentless optimism and ambition—as well as her conviction in people's intrinsic altruism—fuel her results-driven approach to leadership. Throughout her career, she has steered several other large-scale campaigns to success, most recently for the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Medicine, and earlier in the U.S. for Boston Children's Hospital and New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Roth was first introduced to the power of philanthropy at Washington University, where she worked after graduation in the alumni and development office. She went on to join the Humane Society of St. Louis before moving to Boston to pursue her MBA at Northeastern.

Today, she also serves as the board chair of KidSafe, a Vancouver-based nonprofit organization that provides children facing adversity with a safe space to learn, play, eat, and have fun when school is not in session.

In addition to earning her MBA from Northeastern, at the Boston campus, in 2002, Roth earned her bachelor's degree in history and French and a master's degree in liberal arts from Washington University, in St. Louis.

# KHOURY COLLEGE OF COMPUTER SCIENCES

## *Masters of Science in Computer Science*

SJameson Albers	Koon Kit Kong
Arghavan Ayoughi	Jiaoyue Lan
Weifeng Bai	Mitchell Lawson
Zhiwei Bao	Bingyan Li
Artik Vinubhai Bharoliya	Jiaxue Li
Zijian Cao	Lin Li
Monideep Chakraborti	Shufei Li
Anita Chan	Yifan Li
Jialun Chen	Yifeng Li
Tianyi Chen	Yuanxi Li
Yiwu Chen	Jianming Liu
Zhe Cheng	Jiaqing Liu
Adithya Chundailthodi	Pu Liu
Kwok Keung Chung	Shaohua Liu
Tong Cui	Weiliang Liu
Yun Feng	Yuan Liu
Han Gao	Yuchen Liu
Yu Gao	Kaitlyn Lowen
Zheng Gong	Langlun Luo
Xiaotong Guan	Duo Ma
Fangxiao Guo	Jean Paul Mactal
Ali Hamzehee	David Maunder
Sommer Harris	Xinchang Meng
Boxuan Hu	Salim Nader
Fangyuan Huang	Kshitij Nair
Xingguo Huang	Qianhe Niu
Imdadul al Imraan	Yiheng Niu
Ziming Jia	Stephen Okeleke
Tianqi Jin	Dishant Patel
Xiamu Jin	Meet Patel
Kyung Tae Kang	Parth Jitendrabhai Patel

Thitikorn Pongmorrakot	Jun Wang
Francisco Proboste Cardenas	Pan Wang
Chen Qiu	Rui Wang
Qiang Rao	Yichen Wang
Jie Ren	Ziwei Wang
Xinyi Ren	Guoao Wei
Nabeel Rizvi	Qian Wu
Liam Scholte	Xiaoyu Wu
Arpit Semwal	Luyi Xiao
Dhwanil Shah	Shang Xiao
Komal Shah	Wei Xin
Saurav Shah	Jiabin Xiong
Aakash Anil Sharma	Shengjie Xu
Himanshu Sharma	Kuiyuan Yan
Cheng Shen	Jingting Yao
Yuzhe Shen	Sicong Ye
Yong Shi	Xuehan Yi
Yuecheng Shi	Ian Yip
Shi Shuai	Xiaofeng Yue
Ka Foon Siu	Yuhan Yue
Jiaqi Song	Chengyu Zhang
Venkateswari Sudalai	Jiesi Zhang
Maokun Sun	Jingtong Zhang
Viral Tagdiwala	Siyang Zhang
Di Tang	Zhengtian Zhang
Xirui Tang	Difei Zhao
Kevin Thomas Abraham	Dongxiao Zhao
Karishma Karamali Vadsaria	Wenxin Zhou
Niranjan Velraj	Yehong Zhou
Huaxing Wang	Zhenjie Zhou
Huizi Wang	

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*Summa cum laude* 3.850 to 4.000

*Magna cum laude* 3.700 to 3.849

*Cum laude* 3.500 to 3.699

Gold cord worn around neck denotes honor student.

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