

Northeastern
University



CLASS OF 2024

**UNDERGRADUATE
CELEBRATION**

College of Science
May 3, 1:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Invocation

Alexander Levering Kern

Executive Director, Center for Cultural and Spiritual Life

Welcome

Brent Nelson

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Student Address

Sacha Sergent

Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Neuroscience

Keynote Address

Deborah Dunsire

*Chair of the Board of Directors of Neurvati Neurosciences and
Northeastern University Trustee*

Dean's Address

Hazel Sive

Dean

Recognition of Graduates

Closing Remarks

Brent Nelson

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Ceremony Speakers

Hazel Sive
Dean

Dr. Hazel Sive became Dean of the College of Science, and Professor of Biology at Northeastern University in June 2020. For twenty-eight years prior, she was Professor of Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. She is a research pioneer, award-winning educator and entrepreneur in the higher education space.

For the Northeastern College of Science, Dean Sive has the overarching vision of building excellence in research, education and innovation, with the following goals:

- Build a Diverse College Where Everyone Belongs
- Empower Education Across Learning Communities
- Shift the PhD Paradigm
- Connect Solutions to Crucial Research Challenges
- Promote a Successful Faculty
- Construct a Framework for Growth

A native of South Africa, Dr. Sive received the BSc in Chemistry and Zoology, from University of Witwatersrand (Wits), Johannesburg, South Africa, where she was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2022. She received the PhD from Rockefeller University. Dr. Sive's groundbreaking research focuses on neurodevelopmental disorders, as well as fundamental processes underlying brain and craniofacial development. Recipient of numerous awards, in 2022, Dr. Sive was elected a Fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science.

Dr. Sive is a distinguished educator, and MacVicar Faculty Fellow, MIT's highest undergraduate teaching accolade. An accomplished leader, Dr. Sive was Associate Dean of the MIT School of Science; Founding Director of the MIT Jameel World Higher Education Lab; and Founding Director of the MIT-Africa Initiative. At Northeastern, Dr. Sive is Chair of the Africa Global Initiative.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Deborah Dunsire

*Chair of the Board of Directors of Neurvati Neurosciences and
Northeastern University Trustee*

A prominent physician, scientist, and life sciences executive, Dr. Deborah Dunsire has devoted her life to the discovery and development of medicines that improve the health and outcomes of people across the globe. Over the span of three decades, she has been responsible for the launch of 11 blockbuster medicines.

With a unique combination of business experience, strong leadership, and a passion for making an impact on patients' lives, she has steered the turnaround of commercial operations at several organizations, transformed research and development at others, and overseen numerous successful mergers and acquisitions.

From 2018 until April 2023, Dr. Dunsire was the CEO of Lundbeck, a global company singularly focused on treating brain diseases with products in over 100 countries addressing mental and neurological health. Under her leadership, Lundbeck significantly advanced its pipeline of novel treatments, expanded its global reach, and created a model culture of innovation and collaboration. Prior to joining Lundbeck, she served as CEO and president of several biopharmaceutical companies. She led XTuit Pharmaceuticals, which focuses on creating new targeted medicines to prevent fibrotic diseases and cancer; FORUM Pharmaceuticals, which specializes in treatments for cognitive disorders; and Millennium Pharmaceuticals, known for its innovative medicines for blood cancers and inflammatory diseases.

Dr. Dunsire is currently the chair of the board of directors of Neurvati Neurosciences, a company dedicated to advancing therapies for neurological and psychiatric diseases. She also holds positions on the boards of Ultragenyx and Syros Pharmaceuticals and has contributed her expertise to numerous public company boards, including Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Allergan, and Alexion Pharmaceuticals.

In addition to her leadership in the biotechnology industry, Dr. Dunsire serves as a trustee for several nonprofit organizations, including Northeastern University, the International Institute of New England, and the Museum of Science in Boston.

Her work has been recognized with numerous awards including the 2001 American Cancer Society's Excalibur Award, the 2009 Healthcare Businesswomen's Association's Woman of the Year, the 2011 MassBIO Innovator Award, and the 2013 Boston CEO Conference Lifetime Achievement award. Dr. Dunsire earned her medical degree from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

STUDENT SPEAKER

Sacha Sergent

Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Neuroscience

Born in Paris, France, Sacha moved to the US at a young age and attended the French American School of New York. In high school, she discovered a passion for neuroscience which she decided to pursue upon her arrival at Northeastern in the fall of 2020. In her time at Northeastern, Sacha was active in the Northeastern community, notably serving as Vice President of NEURONS (Northeastern University Researchers of Neuroscience), organizing the annual Brain Awareness conference in 2023 and 2024, volunteering at Women's Lunch Place on Newbury Street, teaching over 300 group fitness classes at the Marino Center, and as the president of CHAARG (Changing Health, Attitudes, and Actions to Recreate Girls), a health and wellness group). She also completed two co-ops, as a scribe at the South End Community Health Center, and as a Clinical Development Co-op at Prime Medicine in Cambridge. Upon graduation, she will continue working at Prime Medicine in Clinical Operations and Medical Writing, while applying to medical school.

Undergraduate Program

Graduate Program

View our official Northeastern University
Commencement Programs for the Class of 2024.



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