



Northeastern University

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
AND HUMANITIES  
UNDERGRADUATE AND  
GRADUATE CELEBRATION

5 MAY 2023

# **PROGRAM**

MATTHEWS ARENA, 6:30 P.M.

## **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Uta Poiger, *Dean of College of Social Sciences and Humanities*

## **Celebration Poet**

Jesica Bak, *Bachelor of Arts, History and English*

## **Graduate Student Speakers**

Victor Mendevil, *Master of Arts, English*

Adam Scanlon, *Master of Public Administration*

## **Undergraduate Student Speakers**

Drefnie Limprevil, *Bachelor of Science, Political Science*

Bianca Yeager, *Bachelor of Arts, History*

## **Celebration Speaker**

Jodi Rosenbaum, *Founder and Executive Director of More Than Words*

## **Alumni Welcome**

Edward Meehan, MA '79, *Chair of Dean's Strategy Council*

## **Student Procession**

Uta Poiger, *Dean of College of Social Sciences and Humanities*

## **Charge to the Candidates**

Uta Poiger, *Dean of College of Social Sciences and Humanities*

## **STUDENT SPEAKERS FOR THE CLASS OF 2023**

### **Victor Mendevil**

Victor Hugo Mendevil is graduating with an MA in English. Victor completed a co-op at Mass Poetry as an Events & Communications Coordinator and founded the Creative Writing Group at the Northeastern Writing Center with Dr. Isabel Sobral Campos. He has taught First Year Writing and also worked as a Web Content Editor & Storywriter for Dr. Ellen Cushman's project, the Digital Archive for Indigenous Language Persistence (DAILP). Upon graduation, Victor will be continuing his education at Northeastern University, pursuing a PhD in English with interests in disability studies, narrative medicine, creative writing, and Indigenous literature.

### **Adam Scanlon**

Adam Scanlon is graduating with a Masters in Public Administration (MPA). Originally from North Attleboro, MA, he was first elected to office at the age of 18 while a senior as a representative town meeting member. As part of his master's, he took a course with Michael Dukakis and was inspired by the former governor's passion for public service and teachings about the importance of collaborative leadership in local and state government. In 2020, Adam was elected state representative for the 14th Bristol district in Massachusetts.

### **Drefnie Limprevil**

Drefnie Limprevil is graduating with a BS in Political Science with minors in Urban Studies and Data Science. During her time at Northeastern, she completed co-ops with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and Fenway Community Development Corporation and interned with the Urban Mobility Group at Stantec. Additionally, she took part in two global opportunities, participating in a Dialogue of Civilizations in Havana, Cuba, and working as a program assistant in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

### **Bianca Yeager**

Bianca Yeager is graduating with a BA in History, Culture, and Law with a minor in Criminal Justice. She returned to higher education following an eight-year career in restaurants and hospitality. Born in Providence, RI, Bianca grew up all over the world, which inspired a career change to immigrants' rights and human rights law, a commitment bolstered by her co-ops at the Rian Immigrant Center and at Cetrulo LLP. She served as Career Ambassador and a Peer Mentor, offering practical advice and insight from her real-world experiences to her fellow CSSH students. She will begin attending Boston University Law School in fall '23.

## **CELEBRATION SPEAKER**

### **Jodi Rosenbaum**

In 2004, Jodi Rosenbaum piloted More Than Words as an online bookselling venture with a few teenage boys in foster care. Using that success as a springboard, she worked with youth to launch and grow More Than Words into a vibrant social enterprise and transformational vehicle for at-risk youth that includes intensive job training, case management, and supportive services.

More Than Words—which Rosenbaum founded and serves as executive director—captures its mission with the succinct statement: We sell books to change lives. And that it has. With two brick-and-mortar locations—one in Waltham, Massachusetts, and the other in Boston’s South End neighborhood—More Than Words provided jobs and transition pathways for more than 300 youth in 2022. Each store now offers not only a wide selection of books, but also music and gifts ranging from jewelry to personal care to handmade items. Customers can shop by product or the mission they wish to support.

Rosenbaum has deep experience working with youth in the juvenile justice system, public schools, and youth development field, including with Teach For America. She was selected as the Advocate of the Year by the Providers’ Council and named a Rising Star by Germaine Lawrence, New England’s leading provider of residential treatment services for at-risk adolescent girls. She also received the Next Generation Award from the Social Enterprise Alliance.

**Graduate names will be listed on the university-wide programs on May 7, 2023.**