

CLASS OF 2024
Commencement



14 JUNE 2024
PORTLAND

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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). Additional campuses followed in Silicon Valley, 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.

On October 3, 2023, Northeastern marked its 125th anniversary. The milestone offered an opportunity both to recognize how the entire Northeastern community has been shaped by the power of experience and to herald the next 125 years of world-changing impact. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our university community, Frank Palmer Spear's "eraser and two sticks of chalk" have evolved into one of the world's most innovative universities. 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.

PROGRAM

ProceSSIONal

Candidates for Certificates

Candidates for Master's degrees

Faculty

Platform Party led by Marshal Alan Jamieson

*Director of Computing Programs and Teaching Professor, Computer Science,
Khoury College of Computer Sciences*

National Anthem

Performed by The Roux Institute Choir led by Dan Koloski

Head of Learning Programs and Professor of the Practice, The Roux Institute

Welcome

Chris Mallett

Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Administrative Officer, The Roux Institute

University Welcome

Ken Henderson

Chancellor and Senior Vice President for Learning

Introduction of Student Speaker

Mike Pollastri

Senior Vice Provost and Academic Lead, The Roux Institute

Student Speaker

Courtney Taylor Bloniasz, '24

Lux. Veritas. Virtus. Award Presentation

Michael Pollastri

Senior Vice Provost and Academic Lead, The Roux Institute

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

Margaret Angell

Head of Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives, The Roux Institute

Commencement Address

Bob Montgomery-Rice

President and CEO, Bangor Savings Bank

Degrees in Course

Dan Koloski

Head of Learning Programs and Professor of the Practice, The Roux Institute

Conferral of Degrees

Michael Pollastri

Senior Vice Provost and Academic Lead, The Roux Institute

Honoring of Graduates

Dan Koloski

Head of Learning Programs and Professor of the Practice, The Roux Institute

Introduction of Alumni Representative

Liz Atwood

Director of Enrollment Management, The Roux Institute

Alumni Welcome

Zoram Blancas-Ruiz, '23

Class Charge

Chris Mallett

Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Administrative Officer, The Roux Institute

Recessional

Led by Marshal Alan Jamieson

*Director of Computing Programs and Teaching Professor, Computer Science,
Khoury College of Computer Sciences*

Platform Party

Faculty

Graduates

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Commencement Speaker

Robert Montgomery-Rice

As CEO of Bangor Savings Bank and president of Bangor Bancorp, Robert Montgomery-Rice provides the visionary leadership needed to ensure that his bank flourishes as a vital partner for job growth and economic development in Maine.

Since his appointment in 2015, he has brought the bank national recognition for its far-sighted investments in digital banking technology and the development of supporting products for fintech companies—financial services firms like Square and Coinbase that operate only in the digital sphere.

He spearheaded the bank's founding partnership with the Roux Institute in 2019, recognizing that the institute's focus—transforming Maine's economy by building the pipeline of tech-savvy talent and igniting business innovation—aligned closely with his own institution's mission to expand opportunity for Maine's citizens and businesses.

Montgomery-Rice has also prioritized the bank's role in attracting and retaining workforce talent in the state through support for more affordable housing and the nurturing of new business ventures. Its potential impact in those realms is significant: With more than \$7 billion in assets, Bangor Savings is the state's largest Maine-based bank.

While embracing the transformational potential of the digital age, the defining trait of Montgomery-Rice's leadership—within the bank and in the larger Maine community—is his human-centered focus on empowering people and communities.

Montgomery-Rice first honed those leadership skills working in consumer retail, as a store manager for TJX Companies. That role enabled him to develop invaluable insights into customer needs and priorities and led to his career shift into banking.

In the mid-1990s, Massachusetts' leading retail bank, BayBank, was committed to a strategic shift towards customer service, and it recruited Montgomery-Rice for his unique mix of skills and experiences in retail management.

In 2004, after weathering the decade-long consolidation of Boston's banking industry, he joined Bangor Savings Bank as head of human resources. He also served in executive roles in consumer banking, information technology, and real estate management, before becoming chief operating officer in 2007, and president and CEO eight years later. He was appointed to the bank's board of directors in 2023.

Beyond his leadership at the bank, Montgomery-Rice is a proactive community leader. He serves with the Maine Development Foundation as a member of its leadership advisory committee and on the boards of several other Maine nonprofits,

including the Maine Economic Research Institute, the Maine Bankers Association, the LifeFlight of Maine Foundation, and the Heart of Maine United Way.

He also served as a member of the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee and co-chair of its Innovation and Tourism subcommittee, which were established to rekindle Maine's economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Montgomery-Rice earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a certificate in human resources management from the University of Maine.

DEGREES IN COURSE

College of Engineering

Master of Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Chinemeremna Collins Okara

Khoury College of Computer Sciences

Master of Science, Data Science

David Samuel Dadiomov

Aaron Fihn

Jesse Julian Hautala

Thomas Henehan

Qiwei Hu

Disleve Mubenga Kanku

Robert B. Lalani

Philip Englund Mathieu

Paige Acadia Norris

Senyo Kofi Edzeani Ohene

Jayati Samar

Master of Science, Computer Science

James Rudolph Bebarski

Noah John Beliveau

Kentaro Bodzewski

Srikanth Bonkuri

Raymond Matt Brown Jr.

Yun Cao

David Alexander Centeno

Zhicun Chen

Andrea Rose Croak

Jefferson Cuartas

Ruohan Dang

Bin Feng

Qing Fu

Sarah Pacheco Gallant

Chang Ge

Daniel Eric Graziano

Jordan Robert Greene

Lukas Hernandez

Yiqian Huang

GunGyeom James Kim

Brian Laich

Xueyang Li

Qia Lin

Xiaowei Liu

Xichen Liu

Kristina Lord

Benjamin Christopher Mallett

Prateep Rao Malyala

Sai Kumar Reddy Manne

Brendan Martin

Derek Gregory Muse

Zachary Parker Nichols

Khoury College of Computer Sciences

Master of Science, Computer Science

Hao Sheng Ning

Jasmine Nicole Owens

Akhila Ravi

Bernhard Sander

Madhavi Arvind Saraf

James Sheldon

Chandler Drew Smith

Xue Tang

Zhenyu Wang

Nathaniel Rodman Webb

Robert Anthony James Wilson

Dylan James Wu

Lingfeng Xia

Yang Yang

Sida Zhang

Josie Amalia Reardon Zvelebilova

Graduate Certificate

Bryan David Woodhams

College of Science

Master of Science, Biotechnology

Samira A. Ahmed

Galen Patrick Arnold

Anthony Charles Cavallaro III

Adam Blackburn Gaines

Dana Michele Grass

Yodit Rhys Herrmann

Ryan Arthur McCann

Breanna Rose-Marie Morrill

Sammira Grace Rais-Rohani

Abbey Jordan Reilly

Salmaa Bent Sahtout

Rachel L. Sands

Jacob Munro Seeker

Nicholas Langton Smith

Benjamin Tero

Master of Science, Bioinformatics

Thomas Dexter Morse V

Aiden Matthew Christopher Pike

Christian Malcolm Potts

Griffin T. Scott

College of Professional Studies

Master of Professional Studies

James Henry Biegel

Courtney Taylor Bloniasz

Abigail Kathleen Bridgers

Kathryn Marie Brogan

Evan J. Connolly

Claire McLellan Dardinski

Nicholas Edward De Diego

Emilia Nicole Degler

Samantha Joy Green

Sheldon John Green

Bennison Carl Hagelin

Adrian Julea

Rajashekar Korutla

Gloria Mataka Kunje

Henry Loughlin

Douglas Folsom Lunnie

Sarah Clark McKeown

Bridget Diana Mulligan

Olalekan Adegboyega Olatunbosun

Harry W. Podolsky

Hunter Gregory Thomas Rushing

Abigail Smith

Cameron Stevens

Rachel Lynne Sukeforth

Lauren Kopcha Todaro

John Barkley Van Vranken

Runjing Zhou

Master of Science, Project Management

Alex Alden

Conrad Arthur Bollinger

Ann Marie Bowdoin

Nathan James Brough

Brennan Kevin Callahan

Molly Anna Creeden

Michael James DaCosta

Olga Rosie DiBella

William Johnston Goduti

Simon Michael Hebert

Hannah Jane Kelly

Margaret Mary Kelly

Sai Kalyan Chakravarthy Kodela

Nikhil Manchikalapudi

Katelyn Sherman McGrail

Braden Scott MacGown Monteyro

Angela Marie Mowatt

Stephen Edward Murphy

Jacqueline Nicole Newell

Cyrus Hunt Noble

Oluwabusola Dorcas Olagunju

Balaji Pathipati

Emma Bradley Pidden

Adjanie Pierre-Canel

Nathan Lee Pinnette

Cassie Rocha

Christian Carter Ros

Jacob Warren Smith

College of Professional Studies

Master of Science, Project Management

Amalie Elizabeth Sonneborn

Nina Cotton Weyl

Emma Corinne Strongin

Katrina Kelley Whittier

Tanner Joseph Sutkowski

Mohammed Adeyemi Yusuf

Rohit Vaddi

Michael Angelo Zanchi

Lauren Ward

Graduate Certificate, Project Management

Nicole Barna

Jose Matondo Jaque

John Wescott Carroll

Shannon Levesque

Angelina Christine Clancy

Kristin L. McMahan

Taylor Carman Drew

Stephen Faxon Seymour

Ray Haversat

Graduate Certificate, Applied Analytics

Shannon T. Bean

Casey MacMillan Myhaver

Alicia Jayne Critelli

Deborah Ann Noble

Danielle Marie Cutrone

Sydney Paige Rusak

Danielle Marie Dane

LUX. VERITAS. VIRTUS. AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023–2024

Courtney Bloniasz
College of Professional Studies

Abigail Bridgers
College of Professional Studies

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Joseph E. Aoun, *President*

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Diane Nishigaya MacGillivray, *Senior Vice President for University Advancement*

Thomas Nedell, *Senior Vice President for Finance and Treasurer*

Mary B. Strother, *Senior Vice President and General Counsel*

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Jared Auclair, *Interim, College of Professional Studies*

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James R. Hackney, *School of Law*

Elizabeth Hudson, *College of Arts, Media and Design*

Beth Kochly, *Interim, Mills College at Northeastern University*

Elizabeth D. Mynatt, *Khoury College of Computer Sciences*

Carmen Sceppa, *Bouvé College of Health Sciences*

Hazel Sive, *College of Science*

Kellee Tsai, *College of Social Sciences and Humanities*

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