Convocation

Academic Honors

April 20, 2023
HONORING EXCELLENCE

Each year, we celebrate Northeastern University faculty and students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, research, teaching, and advancing our university’s mission. These honorees reflect Northeastern’s highest ideals: a global university powered by experience, innovation, and impact.

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF ALL HONOREES
David Madigan, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

REMARKS
Ali Abur, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

CLOSING REMARKS
Joseph E. Aoun, President of Northeastern University

FACULTY HONOREES

Awards are in order of the program

UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD
Nominations for this award are based on a professor’s depth of knowledge in their discipline(s); ability to provide effective links among course content, research, and experiential learning; and the rigor of the course work. Award decisions are made by a committee composed of the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate, and representatives of student government groups.

Miso Kim, Assistant Professor, Experience Design
Laura Kuhl, Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Urban Affairs and International Affairs

Presented by:
Dessy Raytcheva, Associate Teaching Professor, Biology
Daniele Mathras, Associate Teaching Professor, Marketing

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD
This award is presented to full-time faculty members to honor outstanding research and creative activity of national and international significance. The president and the provost determine the recipients on the basis of a faculty committee report on nominations received.

Margaret Burnham, University Distinguished Professor; Director, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ); Faculty Co-Director, Center for Law, Equity and Race (CLEAR)
Alan Mislove, Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Presented by:
David Luzzi, Senior Vice Provost for Research and Vice President of the Innovation Campus at Burlington, MA

INAUGURAL GLOBAL EDUCATOR AWARD
The Northeastern Global Educator award recognizes the contributions of faculty to students’ global learning and acknowledges and celebrates the value of these experiences to Northeastern’s students and to our mission as a global university. Honorees exhibit high-quality teaching that is engaging, supportive, inclusive, interculturally competent, and appropriately challenging, contributes to students’ global mindset, and has a positive impact on host communities.

ty Pfluger, Associate Teaching Professor, Chemical Engineering

Presented by:
Tom Sheahan, Executive Vice Provost
Jonna Iacono, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships

INAUGURAL GLOBAL NETWORK ACCELERATOR AWARD
The Northeastern University Global Network Accelerator Award recognizes the contributions of faculty who continue to push the advancement of experiential learning and discovery beyond the boundaries of place. This award celebrates faculty whose research and teaching span disciplines, colleges, campuses, countries and industry sectors, connecting diverse communities of problem-solvers to create measurable change. These faculty exhibit the very best of Northeastern University’s mission to activate the global university system’s experience and expertise to solve the greatest challenges of today.

Alicia Sasser Modestino, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and Economics; Research Director, Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy
Carrie Maultsby-Lute, Director, The Center for Transformative Action; Professor of Practice, Marketing

Presented by:
Gbemi Disu, Vice President for Global Network Expansion

KLEIN UNIVERSITY LECTURER AWARD
This prestigious Northeastern award honors a member of the faculty who has contributed with great distinction to their field of study. The lecture enables the faculty member to share their scholarly work with the university community and the general public.

Christo Wilson, Associate Professor, Director of the BS in Cybersecurity Program
STUDENT HONOREES

Awards are in order of the program

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP
The most prestigious award for junior-level undergraduate citizens of the United States who possess outstanding leadership skills and are interested in a career in public service. The Scholarship serves as a living memorial to President Harry S. Truman and provides financial support for graduate study (including law school), leadership training, and fellowship for those who are committed to making a difference through public service.

Amara Ifeji, SSH ’24, Political Science, Philosophy minor

Presented by:
Jonna Iacono, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
This esteemed fellowship recognizes outstanding undergraduate and graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who will pursue research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions.

Adel Wael Attari, E ’19, Chemical Engineering

Gillian Nyala Audia, E ’23, Chemical Engineering and Biochemistry

Rebecca R. Chinn, E ’18, Chemical Engineering

Derek R. Egolf, KCS ’22, Computer Science

Michaela Marie Fanikos, S ’22/PhD ’25, Behavioral Neuroscience and Interdisciplinary Studies

Seth A. Freedman, S ’21, Chemistry and Chemical Biology

Caroline Ghio, E ’21, Chemical Engineering

Ashley Herrick, E ’25, Bioengineering

Nicholas Kathios, S ’25, Psychology

Nora Khalil, E ’22, Chemical Engineering

Bjorn Kierulf, E ’22, Mechanical Engineering

Gabrielle R. LeBlanc, S ’17, Biology

Kelsie Lynn Lopez, S ’27, Psychology

David Makoto McMullin, E ’20, Chemical Engineering

B. Parazin, S ’23, Physics and Mathematics

Liam Pavlovic, KCS ’22, Computer Science

Andrew James Piasecki, S ’25, Biology

Michael Shen, E ’23, Computer Engineering

Alyssa Smith, SSH ’25, Network Science

Amanda Stark, S ’22, Behavioral Neuroscience

Jonathan L. Tan, E ’23, Electrical Engineering

Nathan Matthieu Tang, S ’23, Chemistry

Justin Vega, S ’23, Physics and Philosophy

Presented by:
Gregory Abowd, Dean, College of Engineering

BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP
This national award—the most prestigious undergraduate science scholarship in the country—is granted annually to top sophomores and juniors studying math, science, or engineering. Goldwater Scholars must demonstrate outstanding potential for and interest in pursuing a career in research.

Gillian McClennen, S ’24, Biochemistry, Data Science minor

Siddharth Simon, E ’24, Computer Engineering and Computer Science

Ethan Wong, S ’23, Biology, Data Science minor

Presented by:
Marilyn Minus, Professor and Chair, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

GRADUATE EDUCATION FOR MINORITIES (GEM) PH.D. ENGINEERING FELLOWSHIP
GEM offers MS and Ph.D. level students an outstanding opportunity and access to dozens of the top Engineering and Science firms and Universities in the nation. The GEM Fellowship was designed to focus on promoting opportunities for individuals to enter industry at the graduate level in areas such as research and development, product development, and other high level technical careers.

Eric Cardoza, E ’23, Mechanical Engineering

Melanie Edmund, E ’23, Industrial Engineering

Ben-Oni Vainqueur, E/KCS, ’23, Computer Engineering and Computer Science

Presented by:
Marilyn Minus, Professor and Chair, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

SCHWARZMAN SCHOLARSHIP
Two hundred students worldwide are chosen each year for this esteemed award. They take part in a one-year master’s degree program in global affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing—with the goal of building a global community of future leaders who will deepen understanding between China and the rest of the world.

Alex Marley, E/SSH ’22, Electrical Engineering and Economics

Presented by:
Ken Henderson, Chancellor and Senior Vice President for Learning
GEORGE J. MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP
Named to honor former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell’s contributions to the Northern Ireland peace process, this scholarship aims to introduce and connect future American leaders to the island of Ireland, while recognizing and fostering intellectual achievement, leadership, and a commitment to community and public service.

Vivek Kanpa, KCS ’23, Data Science and Biology, Mathematics minor
Presented by:
Ken Henderson, Chancellor and Senior Vice President for Learning

THOMAS R. PICKERING FOREIGN AFFAIRS GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP
Funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Howard University, the Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship Program seeks to attract and prepare outstanding young people for Foreign Service careers in the U.S. Department of State. The award provides undergraduate and graduate student awardees with financial support, mentoring and professional development to prepare them academically and professionally for a career in the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service.

Katherine Kikta, DMSB ’23, International Business
Presented by:
Ken Henderson, Chancellor and Senior Vice President for Learning

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP
The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program offers grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students to pursue academic studies abroad. Such international study is intended to better prepare U.S. students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.

Angelica Erskine, SSH ’23, English
Presented by:
Beth Kochly, Interim Dean of Mills College at Northeastern University

CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP
The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The CLS Program Scholarship provides opportunities for undergraduates to pursue intensive overseas summer study in the critical need foreign languages.

Grayson Peel, SSH ’23, Cultural Anthropology
Helen Wang, KCS/S ’26, Computer Science and Linguistics
Presented by:
Beth Kochly, Interim Dean of Mills College at Northeastern University

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP
The world-renowned Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides grants for individually designed study or research projects or for English Teaching Assistant programs. The recipients meet, work, live with, and learn from people of the host country, in an atmosphere of openness, academic integrity, and intellectual freedom, thereby promoting mutual understanding.

Katherine Kikta, DMSB ’23, International Business
Michael Nelson, KCS ’20, Physics and Computer Science
Andrew Small, SSH ’23, Asian Studies, Political Science minor
Zaneta Sulley, SSH ’22, Criminal Justice and Sociology, International Affairs minor
Saoirse McNally, SSH ’23, Human Services and Criminal Justice
Presented by:
David Madigan, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

HAROLD D. HODGKINSON AWARD
This award is one of the university’s highest honors for graduating seniors. Colleges nominate their top students on the basis of exceptional academic and experiential performance, and selections are made by a faculty committee.

Ben Dottinger, BHS ’23, Health Sciences
Emerson Johnston, SSH ’23, Politics, Philosophy, and Economics and History, Culture, and Law
Tejas Sathyamurthi, KCS ’23, Computer Science
Hope Zamora, S ’23, Behavioral Neuroscience
Presented by:
David Madigan, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

SEARS B. CONDIT AWARD
This prestigious scholarship was started by and is named for a former, longtime member of Northeastern’s Corporation. It recognizes juniors and seniors who have achieved the highest level of academic excellence.

Zachary Hoglund, S ’24, Bioengineering and Biochemistry
Amara Ifeji, SSH ’24, Political Science, Philosophy minor
Jessica Johnson, S ’24, Health Sciences, Psychology minor
Naomi Kim, AMD/SSH ’25, Theatre, History and Musical Theatre minor
Gillian McClennen, S ’24, Biochemistry
Lillian Moffett, DMSB ’23, Business Administration, Finance, Strategy minor
Brandon Onyejekwe, KCS ’24, Data Science
Presented by:
David Madigan, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS
GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
This Northeastern award recognizes graduate students who have shown an extraordinary capacity to integrate academics and professional work and establish themselves as emerging leaders in their fields.

Saeed Alborzi, PhD’24, Mechanical Engineering
Nathaniel Hanson, PhD’24, Computer Engineering
Madhuri Iyer, MS’21, Regulatory Affairs

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD IN HUMANICS
This Northeastern award recognizes graduate students who have seamlessly integrated human literacies with data and technology in their learning or research.

Avery Blankenship, PhD’25, English
Justin Haner, PhD’23, Political Science
Katharine Lee, MS’24, Data Analytics Engineering

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD IN LEADERSHIP
This Northeastern award recognizes graduate students who have demonstrated significant leadership and a deep commitment to giving back to members of Northeastern’s community or surrounding Neighborhoods.

Magda Cooney, MS’23, Management
Miranda Duffany, DPT’23, Physical Therapy, Movement, and Rehabilitation Science
Jaahnavi Kandula, MS’23, Information Systems
Caroline Millard, PhD’24, Chemistry
Emmanuel Nasamu, MS’23, Analytics and Evidence Based Management

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD IN RESEARCH
This Northeastern award recognizes graduate students who have shown an impressive ability to conduct high-level research and make contributions to the scholarly literature in their field.

Muhammad Ali, PhD’23, Computer Science
Peiru Chen, PhD’23, Chemistry
Ryan Jamieson, PhD’23, Bioengineering
Jordie Kamuene, PhD’23, Biomedical Science
Sarah Lockwood, PhD’23, Criminology and Justice Policy

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD IN TEACHING
This Northeastern award recognizes graduate students who have demonstrated an exceptional ability to communicate ideas and concepts in the classroom, and a talent for inspiring students.

Ronodeep Mitra, PhD’23, Chemical Engineering
Hannah Wolfe, PhD’24, Psychology

Presented by:
Aliza Lakhani, Regional Dean and CEO of Northeastern University, Toronto
Dave Thurman, Regional Dean and CEO of Northeastern University, Seattle

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING
This prestigious academy chooses new members from the world’s top engineers, who have made outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice, or education. Members serve the nation through participation in National Academies workshops and reports on significant engineering issues related to topics such as national security, energy, and sustainability. The election process spans multiple years and is highly selective; members are deemed to be the very best in this discipline.

Ali Abur, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Presented by:
David Madigan, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING MACHINERY’S SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP FOR COMPUTER-HUMAN INTERACTION

Lifetime Research Award
The SIGCHI Lifetime Research Award is presented to individuals for outstanding contributions to the study of human-computer interaction. This award recognizes the very best, most fundamental, and influential research contributions. It is awarded for a lifetime of innovation and leadership.

Gregory D. Abowd, Dean of the College of Engineering

Presented by:
David Madigan, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

Northeastern faculty regularly receive a wide range of fellowships, appointments, and awards that reflect scholarly achievement, teaching excellence, and research innovation. Over the past year, the following faculty distinguished themselves in fields ranging from computer science to the arts.

BOUVÉ COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Carey Barry, Chair and Associate Clinical Professor, Medical Sciences
Rising Star Award
Physician Assistant Education Association

Grace Buttriss, Clinical Associate Professor and Director, Accelerated BSN Program, School of Nursing
Book of the Year Award - Adult Primary Care
American Journal of Nursing

Janet Dewan, Assistant Clinical Professor, School of Nursing
Living Legend of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Nurses’ Association
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Nurses’ Association

Jenny Gormley, Affiliate Associate Faculty, Lead Nurse Planner and Director, Northeastern University School Health Academy (NEUSHA), School of Nursing
Outstanding School Nurse Education Award
National Association of School Nurses

Trenton Honda, Associate Dean, Clinical Professor, Clinical and Rehabilitation Sciences
Article of the Year
Physician Assistant Education Association

David Nolan, Associate Clinical Professor, Physical Therapy, Movement, and Rehabilitation Sciences
Richard Kessler Memorial Award
American Physical Therapy Association of Massachusetts

Therese O’Neil-Pirozzi, Associate Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders Fellow
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Valeria Ramdin, Associate Clinical Professor, Director, Global Health Nursing, School of Nursing
Planetree Fellow Person-Centered Care
Planetree International

Ralf Schlosser, Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders Fellow
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Kathy Simmonds, Clinical Professor, School of Nursing, Roux Institute Fellow
American Academy of Nursing

Joshua Stefanik, Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy, Movement, and Rehabilitation Sciences
Eugene Michels New Investigator Award
American Physical Therapy Association

Lichuan Ye, Associate Professor, School of Nursing Fellow
American Academy of Nursing

COLLEGE OF ARTS, MEDIA AND DESIGN

Marie Adams, Associate Professor, Architecture
Emerging Voices
The Architectural League of New York

Sara Carr, Assistant Professor, Architecture
2022 Annual BSLA Design Awards
Boston Society of Landscape Architects

Nabeel Gillani, Assistant Professor, Art + Design
Non-Resident Fellow
Center for Democracy and Technology

Miso Kim, Assistant Professor, Experience Design
Excellence in Teaching Award
Northeastern University

Ang Li, Assistant Professor, Architecture
US National Pavilion Representative, 2023 Venice Architecture Biennale,
US State Department of Cultural Affairs / SPACES
Arts Industry Residency
John Michael Kohler Arts Center

Blair MacIntyre
Professor, Art + Design
IEEE VCTC VR Academy Member
IEEE Visualization and Graphics Technical Community - Virtual Reality Academy

Humbi Song, Visiting Assistant Professor, Architecture
Research Innovation Award

Thomas Starr, Professor, Art + Design
Board of Directors
Alliance of Climate and Environmental Stewards

Moira Weigel, Assistant Professor, Communication Studies
Elected to Institute of Advanced Study
Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Gregory Abowd, Dean of College of Engineering; Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Lifetime Research Award
Special Interest Group for Computer Human Interaction - Association for Computing Machinery

Ali Abur, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Director, Center for Ultra-wide Area Resilient Electric Energy Transmission Networks Member
National Academy of Engineering

Arthur Coury, University Distinguished Professor, Chemical Engineering; Affiliated Faculty, Bioengineering
Bioelastomer Award
American Chemical Society - Rubber Division
Guo hao Dai, Associate Professor, Bioengineering
Newly appointed Board of Directors
Biomedical Engineering Society

Kris Dorsey, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Physical Therapy, Movement, and Rehabilitation Sciences
2022 Emerging Leader Abie Award Winner
AnitaB.org

Kevin Fu, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Fellow, Association for Computing Machinery
Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science

Yun Fu, College Of Engineering Distinguished Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Fellow
American Association for the Advancement of Science

Vincent Harris, University Distinguished Professor, William Lincoln Smith Chair Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Fellow
National Academy of Inventors

Carlos Hidrovo, Associate Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Fulbright Scholar
Fulbright Scholar Program

Aileen Huang-Saad, Associate Professor, Director, Life Science and Engineering Programs, Bioengineering
Fellow
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering

Mahdi Imani, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Trailblazer R21 Award
National Institute of Health - National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering

Safa Jamali, Assistant Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Young Investigator Award
Army Research Office

Josep Jornet, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
IEEE Communications Society Distinguished Lecturer
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - Communications Society
Radio Communications Technical Committee Early Achievement Award
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - Communications Society
2022 Wireless Communications Technical Committee Outstanding Young Researcher Award
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - Communications Society

Sagar Kamarthi, Professor; Associate Dean for Graduate Education; Director, Data Analytics Engineering Program; Founder & Advisor, Advanced and Intelligent Manufacturing, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Fellow
Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers

Lucas Landherr, College Of Engineering Distinguished Teaching Professor; Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies, Chemical Engineering
AiChE Award for Education Research
American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Brad Lehman, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Elected President
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - Power Electronics Society

Yiannis Levendis, College of Engineering Distinguished Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Associate Fellow
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

Laura Lewis, Distinguished University and Cabot Professor, Chemical Engineering, Distinguished University and Cabot Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Fellow
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - Power Electronics Society

Jiahe Li, Assistant Professor, Bioengineering
CAREER Award
National Science Foundation

Yongmin Liu, Associate Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
2023 Society Fellow
Optica, Advancing Optics and Photonics Worldwide

Bala Maheswaran, Teaching Professor, First Year Engineering Program
Zone-1-Chair, Board of Directors
American Society for Engineering Education

Tommaso Melodia, William Lincoln Smith Professor; Director, Institute for the Wireless Internet of Things; Director of Research, PAWR Project Office
Honorary Commander
Hanscom Air Force Base

Amy Mueller, Assistant Professor; Vice Chair for Graduate Studies, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Latrobe Prize
American Institute of Architects College of Fellows

Jessica Oakes, Assistant Professor, Bioengineering
Y C Fung Early Career Award
American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Taskin Padir, Associate Professor; Director of the Institute for Experiential Robotics, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Amazon Scholar
Amazon

Courtney Pfluger, Associate Teaching Professor, Chemical Engineering
Inaugural Global Educator Award
Northeastern University

Michele Polese, Principal Research Scientist, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Young Investigator Award - Merla Gerla Award for Research in Computer Science
Italian Scientists & Scholars in North America Foundation

Francesco Restuccia, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Young Investigator Award
Office of Naval Research
Young Investigator Research Program Award
Air Force Research Laboratory - Air Force Office of Scientific Research
Sara Rouhanifard, Assistant Professor, Bioengineering
Cellular and Molecular Bioengineering Rising Award
Biomedical Engineering Society

Hanumant Singh, Professor; Program Director, Master of Science in Robotics, Electrical and Computer Engineering
2022 IEEE OES Lifetime Achievement Award, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - Oceanic Engineering Society

Eduardo Sontag, University Distinguished Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Richard E Bellman Control Heritage Award, American Automatic Control Council
IFAC Technical Committee Award on Non-Linear Control Systems, International Federation of Automatic Control

Srinivas Tadigadapa, Professor; Chair, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Senior Member
National Academy of Inventors

Devesh Tiwari, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Silent Data Corruption at Scale Research Award
Meta Research

Yanzhi Wang, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
2022 Fall APSIPA Industrial Distinguished Leader
Asia-Pacific Signal and Information Association

Benjamin Woolston, Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering
Trailblazer R21 Award
National Institute of Health - National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering

Xufeng Zhang, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Young Investigator Award
Office of Naval Research

Sze Zheng Yong, Associate Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Young Investigator Award
Office of Naval Research

Yi Zheng, Associate Professor, COE Distinguished Professor
Appointed Member, Academia Europaea
ASTFE Early Career Researcher Award, American Society of Thermal Fluids Engineers
Non-Tenured Faculty Award, 3M

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Arun Bansil, Professor, Physics
2022 Highly Cited Researcher
Clarivate

Albert-Lásló Barabási, Dodge Professor; NETSI Professor; Distinguished Professor, Physics
Julius Edgar Lilienfeld Prize, American Physical Society
2022 Highly Cited Researcher, Clarivate

Lisa Feldman Barrett, Professor, Psychology
2022 Highly Cited Researcher, Clarivate
Mentorship Award, Society for Affective Science

Kim Lewis, University Distinguished Professor, Biology

ASM Award for Applied and Biotechnological Research
American Society for Microbiology

Steven Lopez, Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award, The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation
Academic Young Investigator Lectureship, American Chemical Society
I-APS Young Investigator Award, Inter-American Photochemical Society

Jorge Morales, Assistant Professor, Psychology
APS Rising Star Award
Association for Psychological Science

Sam Munoz, Assistant Professor, Marine and Environmental Sciences
NSF Career Award
National Science Foundation

Srinivas Sridhar, University Distinguished Professor of Physics
Fellow
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering

Alessandro Vespignani, Director and Sternberg Family Distinguished Professor, Physics, Network Science Program
Fellow
American Association for the Advancement of Science

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Cherese Childers-McKee, Associate Teaching Professor; Director of the Doctor of Education, Graduate School of Education
Program of the Year Award
The Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate

Darin Detwiler, Associate Teaching Professor, Food Policy; Assistant Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs, College of Professional Studies
Ewen C. D. Todd Control of Foodborne Illness Award
International Association for Food Protection

Sara Ewell, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs; Teaching Professor, Graduate School of Education
Education Program of the Year Award
The Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate

Joan Giblin, Associate Teaching Professor, Graduate School of Education
Program of the Year Award
The Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate

Joe McNabb, Professor of the Practice, Graduate School of Education
Program of the Year Award
The Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate

Kim Nolan, Associate Teaching Professor, Graduate School of Education
Program of the Year Award
The Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate

Melissa Parenti, Associate Teaching Professor, Graduate School of Education
Program of the Year Award
The Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate
ACADEMIC HONORS CONVOCATION | APRIL 20, 2023

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Karbia Baumgartner, Dean’s Associate Professor, History and Africana Studies; Associate Director, Public History
AAS-NEH Fellowship
American Antiquarian Society

Mai’a Cross, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, Diversity and Inclusion; Director of the Center for International Affairs and World Cultures; Dean’s Professor, Political Science, International Affairs, and Diplomacy
Lifetime Membership on the Council of Foreign Relations
Council on Foreign Relations

Ellen Cushman, Dean’s Professor, Civic Sustainability; Professor, English
Fellowship
National Endowment of the Humanities

Candice Delmas, Associate Professor, Philosophy and Political Science, Philosophy and Religion
Fellowship
Collegium de Lyon

Elizabeth Dillon, Distinguished Professor, English
2022–2023 Evelyn Green Davis Fellow
Harvard Radcliffe Institute

Régine Jean-Charles, Director, Africana Studies; Dean’s Professor, Culture and Social Justice; Professor, Africana Studies and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
Award for Excellence
Haitian Studies Association

Laura Kuhl, Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Urban Affairs and International Affairs
University in Excellence Teaching Award
Northeastern University

Chad Lee-Stronach, Assistant Professor, Philosophy
Fellow-in-Residence, Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics
Harvard University

William Mayer, Professor, Political Science
Laszlo Orszagh Distinguished Award in American Studies (Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary)
Fulbright Scholar Program

William Miles, Professor, Political Science
Fulbright Global Scholar Award
Fulbright Scholar Program

Serena Parekh, Distinguished Professor, Philosophy, Chair, Philosophy and Religion
Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2022 - Global Call Winner, Social Sciences and Humanities
Falling Walls

K. J. Rawson, Associate Professor, English and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies; Director and Founder of the Digital Transgender Archive, English
2022 Lavender Rhino Award honoree
The History Project

Heather Streets-Salter, Professor, History
Pioneer in World History
World History Association

Philip Thai, Associate Professor, History and Asian Studies; Director of Asian Studies, History
Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship
American Council of Learned Societies

Lillian-Yvonne Bertram, Associate Professor, English, Africana Studies, and Art & Design, English
The Elinor Lipman Award for Writing
Pollard Memorial Library Foundation

D’AMORE-MCKIM SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Ruth V. Aguiler, Darla and Frederick Brodsky Trustee Professor, Global Business; Distinguished Professor, International Business and Strategy Fellow
Academy of Management

Kevin Boudreau, Associate Professor, Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Fulbright U.S. Scholar for 2022-23 for Canada
Fulbright Scholar Program

Lovey Dau, Associate Professor, International Business & Strategy; Robert & Denise DiCenso Professor
Fulbright U.S. Scholar for 2023-2024 for the United Kingdom
Fulbright Scholar Program

Tim Hoff, Professor, Management, Healthcare Systems, and Health Policy
2023 Myron D. Fottler Exceptional Service Award
Academy of Management - Health Care Management

KHOURY COLLEGE OF COMPUTER SCIENCES

Lindsay Jamieson, Teaching Professor
North America Regional Chair
Association for Computing Machinery - Women in Computing

Alan Mislove, Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Excellence in Research and Creative Activity
Northeastern University

Daniel Wichs, Associate Professor
Best Paper Award
ACM Special Interest Group on Algorithms and Computation Theory Symposium on Theory of Computing

Christo Wilson, Associate Professor, Director of the BS in Cybersecurity Program
2023 Klein University Lectureship
Northeastern University
ACADEMIC HONORS CONVOCATION

SCHOOL OF LAW

Margaret Burnham, University Distinguished Professor, Director, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ); Faculty Co-Director, Center for Law, Equity and Race (CLEAR)
Excellence in Research and Creative Activity, Northeastern University
2023 Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction. American Library Association

Martha Davis, University Distinguished Professor, Co-Director, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy; faculty Director, NuLawLab
Carr Center Fellow
Harvard Kennedy School - Carr Center for Human Rights Policy

Wendy Parmet, Matthews Distinguished University Professor, Law
Lifetime Achievement in Public Health Law Award
American Public Health Association

Alexandra Roberts, Professor, Law and Media
Senior Fellow for Trademarks
George Mason University - Center for Intellectual Property x Innovation Policy

Sonia Rolland, Professor, Law
Excellence in Reviewing Award
Journal of International Economic Law

Kara Swanson, Professor, Law; Affiliate Professor, History; Associate Dean for Research and Interdisciplinary Education

Martha Trescott Prize
Society for the History of Technology

Lucy Williams, Professor, Law; Faculty Director, Center for Public Interest Advocacy and Collaboration

MILLS COLLEGE AT NORTHEASTERN

Christie Chung, Associate Dean for Research, Scholarship, and Partnerships; Professor of Psychology
Fellow
American Conference of Academic Deans

Nalini Ghuman, Professor and Department Head, Music
François Lesure Award
International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres

Catherine Wagner, Professor and Department Head, Studio Art
Distinguished Artist
University of California Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive

UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

Akrar Alshawabkeh
University Distinguished Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering
George A. Snell Professor of Engineering
Fellow, American Society of Civil Engineers

Mansoor M. Amiji
University Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Fellow, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists
Fellow, Controlled Release Society

Arun Bansil
University Distinguished Professor of Physics
Fellow, American Physical Society

Albert-László Barabási
University Distinguished Professor of Physics
Robert Gray Dodge Professor of Network Science
Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science
Fellow, American Physical Society
Member, European Academy of Sciences and Arts

Lisa Feldman Barrett
University Distinguished Professor of Psychology
Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science
Fellow, Royal Society of Canada
Fellow, American Psychological Association
Fellow, Association for Psychological Science

Phil Brown
University Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Health Sciences

Margaret Burnham
University Distinguished Professor of Law

Ahmed Busnaina
University Distinguished Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
William Lincoln Smith Professor in the College of Engineering
Fellow, American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Fellow, National Academy of Inventors

Arthur Coury
University Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering
Member, National Academy of Engineering
Fellow, American Chemical Society
Fellow, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
Fellow, International College of Fellows of Biomaterials Science and Engineering

Martha Davis
University Distinguished Professor of Law

Richard Daynard
University Distinguished Professor of Law
William Dickens  
University Distinguished Professor of Economics and Public Policy

Vincent Harris  
University Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Dr. William Lincoln Smith Chair Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Fellow, American Physical Society  
Fellow, Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers  
Fellow, Institute of Physics  
Fellow, International Engineering and Technology Institute

David Lazer  
University Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Computer Sciences

Kim Lewis  
University Distinguished Professor of Biology  
Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Fellow, American Academy of Microbiology  
Fellow, American Physical Society

Laura Lewis  
Distinguished University and Cabot Professor, Chemical Engineering  
Distinguished University and Cabot Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

Herbert Levine  
University Distinguished Professor of Physics and Bioengineering  
Member, National Academy Sciences  
Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
Fellow, American Physical Society

Alexandros Makriyannis  
University Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology  
George D. Behrakis Professor of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology  
Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Fellow, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists

Eduardo Sontag  
University Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Bioengineering  
Fellow, American Mathematical Society  
Fellow, Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers  
Fellow, International Federation of Automatic Control  
Fellow, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

Srinivas Sridhar  
University Distinguished Professor of Physics  
Fellow, American Physical Society  
Fellow, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering

Dagmar Sternad  
University Distinguished Professor of Biology, Physics, and Electrical and Computer Engineering

Jonathan Tilly  
University Distinguished Professor of Biology

Vladimir Torchilin  
University Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Fellow, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists  
Fellow, Controlled Release Society  
Fellow, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering

Patricia Williams  
University Distinguished Professor of Law

IN RECOGNITION

FACULTY HONOUREES

Ali Abur  
Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering  
National Academy of Engineering Membership

A renowned expert and groundbreaking researcher in the field of electrical and computer engineering, Professor Abur’s work has contributed to the efficiency and efficacy of power grids across the globe. His seminal work has focused on methods for identifying faults, potentially damaging voltages and currents, in the U.S. power system. He directs the Center for Ultra-Wide-Area Resilient Electric Energy Transmission Networks. This federally funded engineering research center has positioned Northeastern University as a leader in creating methods to build more reliable, secure, and efficient electric grid transmission systems that use renewable energy sources. Selected by the National Academy of Engineering as one of the world’s top engineers, his work has appeared in flagship engineering journals, and he is a sought-after speaker on the topic of power systems.
Gregory D. Abowd
Dean of the College of Engineering, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Lifetime Research Award, Association for Computing Machinery’s Special Interest Group for Computer-Human Interaction

A bold and innovative researcher, Dean Abowd is internationally renowned for pioneering contributions in human-computer interaction, or HCI, and groundbreaking research in ubiquitous computing. His contributions have been recognized through numerous awards, including a fellowship at the Association for Computing Machinery and induction into the ACM CHI Academy, the most prestigious honor for researchers in HCI. He has been a dynamic force behind innovations in autism and technology. In 2008 he founded the non-profit Atlanta Autism Consortium and received the ACM Eugene Lawler Humanitarian Award for his work in autism and technology in 2009. During his 26 years at Georgia Institute of Technology, he served as Regents' Professor and held the J.Z. Liang Chair in the School of Interactive Computing, where he spearheaded innovative projects like Classroom 2000 and the Aware Home.

Margaret A. Burnham
University Distinguished Professor of Law; Director, Civil Rights, and Restorative Justice Project; Faculty Co-Director, Center for Law, Equity and Race

Excellence in Research and Creative Activity Award

Margaret A. Burnham is a University Distinguished Professor of Law and an internationally recognized expert on civil and human rights, comparative constitutional rights, and international criminal law. She is the faculty co-director of the Center for Law, Equity and Race and founded and directs the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project. Professor Burnham’s impressive accomplishments include leading the federal lawsuit against Franklin County, Mississippi, law enforcement officials who aided Klansmen in the murder of two 19-year-olds. In 1993, she was appointed by South African president Nelson Mandela to serve on an international human rights commission. In 2012, she was nominated by President Joe Biden as a member of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board. In 2002 Professor Burnham’s book By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow’s Legal Executioners was selected for the 2022 Kirkus Prize in nonfiction.

Alan Mislove
Professor, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Excellence in Research and Creative Activity Award

Alan Mislove is a professor and the senior associate dean for academic affairs at Khoury College of Computer Sciences at Northeastern University. His research on understanding the security and privacy implications of emerging online services has led to his 2023 appointment as assistant director for data and democracy at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Alan has explored using social networks to enhance the security, privacy, and efficiency of newly emerging systems. He is a core faculty member of the Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute, which forges partnerships with experts in industry, government, and academia worldwide. He has received numerous prestigious awards, including the IRTF Applied Networking Research Prize, the NSF Career Award, and research grants from organizations such as Amazon Web Services, Google, and the Data Transparency Lab. His work has been covered by reputable media outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and CBS Evening News.

Miso Kim
Assistant Professor of Experience Design
University Excellence in Teaching Award

Miso Kim is an assistant professor of experience design in the Department of Art + Design at Northeastern University. Miso was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2023 for her work to advance the conceptual frameworks of service design and apply them to help solve crucial social problems. She brings her real-life experience into the classroom, teaching her students the importance of enhancing dignity, autonomy, and participation in service design through a humanist framework. Kim holds a PhD in design from Carnegie Mellon University and has worked as a senior UX designer at Cisco Systems in Silicon Valley. At Northeastern, she teaches experience design, serves as the design director of the NuLawLab at Northeastern University School of Law, and works on service design projects for the elderly and for incarcerated individuals. Her exceptional integration of teaching, service, and scholarship empowers students to address real-world problems through design.

Laura Kuhl
Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and International Affairs
University Excellence in Teaching Award

A passionate teacher and researcher exploring climate adaptation and resilience in developing countries, Professor Laura Kuhl has spent her career inspiring students in an inclusive and creative learning environment. She seeks to inculcate in her students a passion for creating a socially-just world while teaching them about the complex challenges of climate change and social and political contexts. From her work with smallholder farmers in Honduras to the role of gender in development projects in Ethiopia, she brings her field research and experience into the classroom. Her students develop the necessary tools to analyze and devise solutions to complex climate challenges in the world of policy and international negotiations. In 2022 she was recognized with the CSSH Outstanding Teaching Award for her hands-on approach to mentoring and commitment to experiential learning. She has successfully created a classroom environment where PhD students from as many as five colleges can explore adaptation efforts that can empower vulnerable populations.
Courtney Pfluger
Associate Teaching Professor, Chemical Engineering
Inaugural Global Educator Award

Highly regarded by faculty and students alike, Courtney Pfluger demonstrates an unwavering commitment to engineering education and innovative research. A dedicated chemical engineer with expertise in biomimetics, biotechnology, and sustainable energy, she has spent nearly two decades improving the quality of research and education in Northeastern’s chemical engineering program. With a focus on technology-enhancing pedagogues, she has been instrumental in transforming the way Northeastern students learn. She was the inaugural recipient of the prestigious Global Educator Award for creating and running eight faculty-led Dialogue of Civilizations programs in Brazil with a focus on sustainable energy. She began as an assistant teaching professor after completing her PhD in 2011, and she promptly redesigned the first-year curriculum creating courses focused on sustainability and clean water. She has been recognized for her role as a mentor and instructor, winning several prestigious awards, including Residential Life Faculty Member of the Year, the Chemical Engineering Sioui Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the College of Engineering Essigmann Outstanding Teaching Award.

Christo Wilson
Associate Professor, Director of the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Program
Klein Lecture Award

Christo Wilson is one of today’s leading authorities on Big Data, security, and privacy. Director of the Bachelor of Science in cybersecurity program at the Khoury College of Computer Sciences, Wilson is a founding member of the Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute at Northeastern. Highly regarded for creating a multidisciplinary approach to research into the sociotechnical systems that shape modern lives, Wilson’s work applies Algorithmic Auditing to real-world challenges. His work on personalization on Google Search, price discrimination in e-commerce, and surge pricing on Uber have helped him earn several prestigious industry awards including the IEEE Cybersecurity Award for Innovation and the IRTF/Internet Society Applied Networking Research Prize. Christo earned a PhD in computer science from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and has been recognized as a Sloan Fellow and a fellow at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society and is an active leader of several academic communities.

Alicia Sasser Modestino
Associate Professor of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and Economics; Research Director, Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy
Inaugural Global Network Accelerator Award

A community-engaged researcher, and prolific change agent, Alicia Sasser Modestino has dedicated her career to increasing economic opportunity for all. As an associate professor with appointments in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and the Department of Economics, as well as the research director of the Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy, she has guided public policy based on research between employer demands on the labor market. Her many efforts, including a new Impact Engine that she co-leads, focus on identifying solutions that negatively impact urban-area residents. One such effort includes spearheading the creation of 125 employment opportunities on Northeastern University’s Boston campus for young people in partnership with the city of Boston. She is a research fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Woman and Public Policy Program, a non-resident fellow at the Brookings Institution’s Metropolitan Policy Program, and an affiliated researcher of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Previously, she was a senior economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

Carrie Maultsby-Lute
Director, The Center for Transformative Action; Professor of Practice, Marketing
Inaugural Global Network Accelerator Award

Professor Carrie Maultsby-Lute is an exceptional model of excellence in interdisciplinary research, service and teaching. Her dedication and commitment to building meaningful partnerships to strengthen the opportunity of underserved populations, in particular with African American and Latinx organizations, has led the way in translating models that make true impact. She has partnered with over 125 organizations and is the co-lead on a new Impact Engine that focuses on supporting underserved urban residents. In 2021 she was awarded a Love Takes Action award by New York Life for her role in supporting small businesses in the community during COVID. As a marketing professional and educator, Professor Maultsby-Lute is passionate about nurturing the next generation of purpose-driven leaders and entrepreneurs. With more than 14 years of experience in marketing, education, and sales, she brings industry-relevant knowledge to the classroom and works with organizations that aspire to create a sustainable and equitable world.
**STUDENT AWARDS**

**Saeed Alborzi, E PhD ’24**  
**Mechanical Engineering**  
Saeed has participated in LEADERS and has completed an industrial co-op internship with Amgen. While on his LEADERS project at Amgen he “succeeded where many others had already failed” due to his ability to overcome several different coding challenges in his project that was to simulate flow through a pharmaceutical tool to optimize its functionality.

**Muhammad Ali, KCS PhD ’25**  
**Computer Science**  
Muhammad studies personalization systems through the lens of algorithm audits. His research has made tremendous impact, with the inclusion of multiple publications, awards, significant press coverage, briefing a congressional committee, and national policy impacts.

**Adel Attari E’19**  
**Chemical Engineering**  
Adel has a strong desire to make an impact in the world of nanomedicine. A 2019 graduate of the College of Engineering, Attari gained invaluable firsthand experience through his co-op with CaNCURE, a program developed to provide Northeastern students with practical experience in cancer nanomedicine research. In this role, he worked in the Center for Systems Biology at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. His current studies continue to be focused on the field of cell biology. As a recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, he plans to utilize the experience and skills developed at Northeastern to pursue a PhD. Ultimately, he plans to put his learned technical expertise and leadership abilities into practice in a role as a head researcher at a lab where he can apply his learning in a work setting.

**Gillian Audia E’23**  
**Chemical Engineering/Biochemistry**  
Gillian’s impressive résumé showcases her passion for biomaterials, biofabrication, and translational research. With an interest in accelerating the development and clinical application of bioprinting technologies for tissue and organ regeneration, Gillian will pursue a PhD in bioengineering at Rice University following graduation in 2023. Beyond the classroom and lab, she has gained extensive experience through internships and co-op programs. She worked at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, where she designed innovative technologies for high bioavailability oral delivery of protein drugs. Additionally, she worked as a process development intern at Sigilon Therapeutics, where she later completed a co-op in biomedical design and delivery. In 2020, Gillian spent six months in Freemont, California, as a cell engineering co-op at Tesla, gaining experience in materials manufacturing.

**Avery Blankenship**  
**SSH PhD, English**  
Avery earned her bachelor’s degrees in English literature and computer science from Rhodes College, and her master’s degree in English from Northeastern, where she is pursuing her PhD. Avery’s work involves integrating human literacy with data and technology. Among the aspects of her work at this intersection, she is currently collaborating with chemists and other research scientists at Harvard and the Museum of Fine Arts on identifying spills and stains in historical cookbooks to recover a more complex sense of agency in 19th-century domestic life.

**Eric Cardoza MS’23**  
**Mechanical Engineering**  
Eric’s love for cars is what drives his passion for engineering. The son of a diesel mechanic, he is a fourth-year mechanical engineering graduate student and has focused his studies and co-op work at Northeastern on automotive mechanics. Recently, he completed a mechanical engineering co-op with Indigo Technologies, where he contributed to the development of a new class of electric, light-utility vehicles intended to innovate the rideshare and delivery industries. He also designed and released over 100 parts using sheet metal, weldment, machining, and 3D printing design standards. He undertook a mechanical engineering co-op with Berkshire Grey, developing automated sorting devices for global retailers and designing products intended to bolster operator safety. His ultimate goal is to utilize his education and automotive experience to bring electric vehicles to the world that redefine performance and efficiency.

**Rebecca R Chinn E’18**  
**Chemical Engineering**  
A top student and talented engineer, Rebecca graduated summa cum laude from the College of Engineering with a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering in 2018. In 2023, Chinn was recognized by the National Science Foundation with a Graduate Research Fellowship Program Award. This prestigious award is given to support outstanding graduate students who are pursuing master’s and doctoral degrees in STEM fields or STEM education. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Bioengineering at the University of California – San Diego. While at Northeastern, she worked as an Undergraduate Research Assistant in the College of Engineering and completed co-ops at organizations such as Dimension Therapeutics and Cogent Biosciences, focused on process development. Prior to her enrollment in her PhD program, she served as a Senior Research Associate at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, a biotechnology company in Cambridge, Massachusetts, focused on developing treatments for numerous severe diseases.

**Magda Cooney, DMSB MS ’23**  
**Marketing and Management**  
Magda Cooney demonstrates significant leadership and a deep commitment to the Northeastern University community. She has served as research assistant on a high-impact research project, as a member of the human resources team, and as a teaching assistant. She was a graduate assistant and website designer for a recent Black Reparations Conference. Her contributions to organizing events and activities for graduate students, proctoring exams for faculty members, and helping faculty members navigate administrative issues make Magda an invaluable member of D’Amore-McKim School of Business and demonstrates her ability to create a positive and inclusive environment.
Ben Dottinger, BHS ’23

Health Sciences
Ben is a co-founder and vice president of SaluTemp, a startup focused on developing a device to properly store prescription medications at the correct temperature, effectively averting one of the leading challenges in the field of drug storage. Additionally, Ben has worked as an ophthalmic technician at Mass Eye and Ear at Massachusetts General Brigham, focused on patient intake and interviewing as well as triaging patients.

Miranda Duffany, BHS DPT ’23

Physical Therapy
Miranda served as the core ambassador for students for the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), where she engaged students across the state and coordinated advocacy events and various communications throughout the state. Additionally, she worked with the APTA board of directors to strategize additional ways to engage students. She has worked to coordinate the New England Regional Student Conclave, a large-scale event geared at providing students an opportunity to participate in a conference specifically designed for students. She was recognized by the Haley Cremer Foundation with the Haley Cremer Memorial Scholarship. She is a leader within her cohort of students, within Northeastern’s physical therapy program, and at the state and national level for the American Physical Therapy Association.

Melanie Edmund, MS’23

Industrial Engineering
Melanie is passionate about planning. The fifth-year graduate student in industrial engineering brings this into her studies and work in operations and manufacturing engineering. During her time at Northeastern, she has completed co-ops with organizations such as WHOOP, a wearable fitness-tracking wearable and app, and energy companies Sense and Dalkia Energy Solutions. In each of these roles, she improved her project coordination skills and engaged with diverse supply chains and manufacturing environments. She is a member of the National Society of Black Engineers and has served as the communications chair for the Black Engineering Student Society at Northeastern. She has also worked as a scheduling assistant at Northeastern, where she assisted more than 400 student groups with scheduling on-campus venues and efficiently resolving scheduling conflicts.

Amara Efiji, SSH’24

Political Science & Environmental Studies
Since arriving at Northeastern in 2020, Amara has made significant strides in her work at the intersection of environmental and social justice. She created a Multicultural Student Union in her high school in Maine, which helped to promote a more inclusive learning environment for all students. Inspired by the disproportionate impact that the water crisis in Flint, Michigan had on at-risk populations, she conducted research using plants and fungi to remediate heavy metals in water, earning several awards and recognition for her work. As an Ujima Global Leader at Northeastern, she has continued to advocate for positive change, including working full time at the Maine Environmental Education Association and helping to pass a bipartisan climate education bill in Maine. Amara is a systems-thinker who aspires to attend law school and continue her advocacy in public policy. She was named a 2021 National Geographic Young Explorer for her work in this field.

Derek R Egolf, KCS PhD’25

Computer Science
Derek is an accomplished doctoral student at the Khoury College of Computer Sciences at Northeastern University, where he is advised by renowned computer scientists Stavros Tripakis and Pete Manolios. His doctoral research, which he started in 2021 and expects to finish in 2026, is focused on formal methods, a mathematical approach to designing and analyzing computer programs. He recognized that automatic synthesis of correct-by-construction programs often produces inefficient, unusable programs and is seeking to identify synthesis algorithms that can produce correct and efficient systems. His impressive research has resulted in multiple publications on formal methods, including a presentation “Verbatim: A Verified Lexer Generator” at LangSec 2021, the IEEE Security and Privacy Conference. He holds a Bachelor of Science in computer science and mathematics. He is an esteemed member of Khoury College’s Formal Methods Group, and his contributions have been invaluable to the team.

Angelica Erskine,
Mills College at Northeastern University, ’23

English
Angelica is an Indigenous woman from the Leni Lenape tribe and feels a strong connection to the earth. Nature is one of the elements that show up in her work, as does: love, death, transformation, birth, and rebirth. She won the Mary Merritt Henry Honorable Mention Award twice at Mills College at Northeastern University for her poetry. She is president of the Wild Oakland Writers club on campus and in addition to writing poetry, she explores other writing genres such as screenwriting, playwriting, memoir, and speculative fiction. She has worked on the editorial staff of a literary magazine at Portland Community College in Oregon, wrote a play which was produced by the college’s social justice theater group, and was the founder and president of the Performing Arts Club in Portland and Laney College in Oakland, where she produced several open mic events. Angelica is finishing her last semester at Mills College at Northeastern, studying abroad in romantic Rome, Italy, and will pursue her Master of Fine Arts in creative writing.

Michaela Fanikos, S’21/PhD’25

Behavioral Neuroscience, Interdisciplinary Studies
A well-rounded and dedicated researcher, Michaela Marie Fanikos is a first-year graduate student studying behavioral neuroscience, particularly the impact of early life adversity on the developing brain. She is conducting important research on how microglia, the resident immune cell of the brain, are altered by stress early in life, and her proposal about microglial priming via glucocorticoid signaling was awarded the NSF-CRFP. She has traveled to Belgium for a sought-after position as a research intern at Takeoka Lab, where she studied the effect of spinal cord injury on cell type population and locomotor activity in mice. Back in Boston, she has gained invaluable experience working as a undergraduate research assistant at Shansky Lab, where she conducted behavioral tests to assess the impact of shock intensity on fear conditioning in rats. Always willing to help her fellow students, Michaela served as a biology department tutor, providing personalized instruction and cultivating a growth mindset to enhance student learning.

Seth A Freedman S’21

Computer Science
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Seth A Freedman S’21
Chemistry & Chemical Biology
Seth Freedman is a highly regarded PhD candidate at the University of Chicago with a strong interest in organic chemistry, especially natural product total synthesis. He is a 2021 chemistry and chemical biology graduate from the College of Science. While at Northeastern, he worked as a medical chemistry co-op at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, a Boston-based biotechnology company focused on developing treatments and medicines for severe diseases. He also excelled as a research assistant for the O'Doherty Group at Northeastern, studying the development of new methods for the de novo synthesis of natural and unnatural structures. He has continued his research as a graduate member of the prestigious Snyder Research Group at the University of Chicago. Under the guidance of Professor Scott Snyder, his team seeks to develop the skills to prepare any molecule efficiently, on scale, and in environmentally benign ways and tailor them for specific use in biomedical research.

Caroline Chio, E'21
Chemical Engineering
Caroline is a talented researcher pursuing a PhD from Johns Hopkins University. While an undergraduate in chemical engineering at Northeastern, Caroline studied iron absorption in the intestine in the Koppes Lab and did co-ops at Lynda Therapeutics, Oncorus, and Bristol Myers Squibb. Today, she is developing and applying new computational and molecular engineering tools to record gene expression during development and disease progression. She hopes that developing these technologies will help establish novel treatments for cancer, developmental disorders, and neurodegenerative diseases. She puts her passion for diversity and inclusion in STEM and biotech entrepreneurship into practice and has served on the Society of Women Engineers executive board, and led the Data and Analytics team for IDEA, Northeastern's student-run venture accelerator.

Justin Haner SSH PhD '23
Political Science
Justin's dissertation research compiles and showcases centuries worth of information relevant to international relations in a way that is both astounding and accessible. He is the first to fully take advantage of a vast and newly available digital treaty records. Once he gained access to this data, he then employed the most cutting-edge methods of machine learning and artificial intelligence. He has taught courses on international relations and research methods during his time at Northeastern, and he has a significant interest in the fields of global governance and international security.

Nathaniel Hanson, E PhD '24
Computer Engineering
Nathaniel's research explores the intersection of hyperspectral sensing and near infrared spectroscopy to enable better material recognition in unstructured, real-world environments. He has shown a strong research and publication record, publishing four conference papers and one journal paper since 2022. These publications are focused on improving the experience of working with robots—understanding robotics science to improve object identification and object manipulation. This research is a critical step in bringing robots from highly structured environments, like labs and factories, into daily life.

Ashley Herrick, EPhD'25
Bioengineering
Ashley is a PhD student in her second year of study in the bioengineering department, working with Associate Professor Chiara Bellini. Her current research initiatives are centered upon cardiovascular biomechanics of murine arteries, specifically focusing on the effects of smoke exposure. Prior to Northeastern, Ashley obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in biomedical engineering at UMass Amherst where she conducted comprehensive research on post-traumatic osteoarthritis, focusing on a rabbit knee model. Ashley has been recognized by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, which was awarded to her based on her pioneering research proposal titled, “Hysterectomy and the Contribution of Hormones, Aging, and Smoking on the Structural and Functional Remodeling of the Cardiovascular System in the Female Mouse.” Related to her academic achievements, Ashley has developed a vested interest in improving health outcomes for women, which was catalyzed by her own experiences within the U.S. healthcare system.
Health Sciences, Psychology minor
Jessica has spent much of her time at Northeastern focused on community involvement and social justice initiatives. She worked as a community engagement co-op with the Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services in Boston, developing social media and promotional content while also building partnerships with Mission Hill residents and the Horticulture and Grounds Team at Northeastern to certify the neighborhood’s Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park as an arboretum. She also coordinated the first-ever Arbor Day celebration for the organization, including securing grant support that covered the entirety of the event’s cost. Jessica is also the president of Northeastern's Feminist Student Organization.

Emerson Johnston, SSH’23
Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
Putting theory into practice comes naturally for a high achiever like Emerson. Displaying purposeful leadership, independent thinking, and strong civic orientation have earned her recognition among her peers and supervisors alike as she has built a stellar resumé toward a future in the national IT security arena. To gain a firsthand understanding of national security issues, she completed a co-op at the U.N., served in the Army ROTC, and was named a fellow of the John Quincy Adams Institute. A tireless advocate for the inclusion of historically marginalized groups in the security field, she explored the rise and fall of Nazi rhetoric and propaganda in Germany as a Gilman Scholar in 2021. Awarded the prestigious PEAK Summit Award, she furthered her research into ethnic terrorism and proposed a novel solution for the U.S. to address the use of cyber warfare.

Jordie Kamuene, BHSn PhD ’23
Biomedical Sciences
Jordie’s research includes studies of cardiac arrhythmias, specifically how the regular heartbeat is generated by ion channel proteins in cardiac muscle cells and how the activity of cardiac ion channels can be dysregulated to cause disease. Her work will be transformative for molecular cardiology and perhaps clinical cardiovascular medicine.

Vivek Kanpa, KCS/S’23
Data Science/Biology
Ever at the intersection of biology and Big Data, Vivek strives to take the troves of data produced by the genomic revolution and put them into practice to advance humanity. A true prodigy, he engineered a low-cost water treatment filter and was published in Brain Science while in his teens. During his Northeastern co-op at Takeda Global Biologics, he began work with Associate Professor Javier Apfeld on C. elegans as part of the Worm Immortality Team. “He helped re-engineer the team’s Pharedox software processing and created an image-processing and data-routing application. Vivek’s lofty aspirations include developing computational tools and machine learning models to enable precision medicine. He begins this journey toward a PhD in 2024 in Ireland as part of the Mitchell Scholarship. A leader in the classroom and among his peers, Kanpa has received the PEAK Ascent and TrailBlazer Awards, and he serves as both a Husky Ambassador and resident assistant.

Nicholas Kathios, S PhD’25

Psychology
An inspiring and dedicated student in the Music, Imaging, and Neural Dynamics Laboratory, Nicholas seeks to uncover why people like to listen to music and the memories they associate with it. With a broad interest in the relationship between music, affect, and cognition as a way to understand music-based interventions, he joined the MIND Lab in the fall of 2021. Under the direction of Associate Professor Psyche Loui, he has been conducting cutting-edge work on sensitive periods supporting higher-order functions across development using music. This work builds on his vast prior experience, including work as an Honors graduate assistant in Developmental Affective Neuroscience Lab at Columbia University. A talented French hornist, he plans to use his love of music and utilize his National Science Foundation GRFP award to investigate developmental differences in reward responses to music using both behavioral and neuroimaging methods.

Nora Khalil, COE PhD’25
Chemical Engineering
Nora’s chemical engineering degree and experience in undergraduate research investigating nanoparticle applications in targeted drug delivery made her a valuable addition to Northeastern University’s chemical engineering PhD program. She has focused her research on using lipid-based nanoparticles and microfluidic devices for personalized cancer treatment. Her lab experience includes critical research on nanoparticle distribution and stability analysis. She also completed an R&D Chemical Formulations internship at Henkel, where she developed two new fabric softener formulations with anti-bacterial and anti-wrinkle properties. As a member of the Computational Modelling Group since 2021, she is committed to continuing her research in nanoparticle applications for targeted drug delivery and hopes to make significant contributions to the field.

Bjorn Gordon Kierulf, E’22
Mechanical Engineering
Bjorn completed his undergraduate studies summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering at Northeastern University in December of 2022. As an undergraduate, he validated aerodynamic computational fluid dynamics against in-flight measurements, then used those methods to determine structural requirements for a rocket. He is passionate about the intersection of fluid mechanics and numerical methods and will be pursuing research on numerical methods for high-energy-density multiphase flows. He was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and is an incoming PhD student in mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Katherine Kikta, DMSB ’23

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International Business
Katherine has focused her studies and research on investigating diverse social issues and designing innovative solutions to address these needs. She put her concern for at-risk populations into action with a Peak Summit Award that studied the impact of societal pressure on HIV testing in Ukraine. The following year she undertook the examination of the health impacts of migration due to climate change on the people in Niger and the Sahel region of Africa. Her work proposed and evaluated innovative ways to implement technology to detect and aid similar at-risk populations. Seeking a well-rounded undergraduate experience, she completed co-ops at Imprivata, a novel digital security applications firm, and Svenfish, a local hook-to-table food supplier. Katherine will continue to expand her international relations experience by studying in Singapore this fall with a Gilman Scholarship Fellowship and teaching English in Timor-Leste as part of the Fullbright U.S. Student Program.

Naomi Kim, AMD/SSH ’25
Theatre, History and Musical Theatre minor
Naomi has dedicated her time at Northeastern to developing as an actor and to exploring creativity through diverse experiences and opportunities. She has worked as an artistic co-op with the Huntington Theatre Company, conducting research on behalf of the organization’s Artistic and Literary departments while studying and interpreting plays and other theatre pieces. Naomi is a member of the University Honors Program, as well as the Student Advisory Board for the Department of Theatre.

Gabrielle LeBlanc, S’17
Biology
Gabrielle LeBlanc graduated from the College of Science in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in biology and went on to pursue a PhD in chemical and biological sciences as part of a Scripps Research program. While at Northeastern, Gabrielle participated in several diverse programs including PRISM (Proactive Recruitment in Introductory Science and Mathematics), the Husky Startup Challenge, and the Northeastern University Triathlon Team.

Katharine Lee, E ’23
MS Data Analytics Engineering
Katharine is a graduate research assistant for the Kauffman Foundation-funded project that aims to promote supplier diversity in higher education. By collating data and reaching out to stakeholders, she has significantly contributed to our project which can potentially impact diverse suppliers and their communities. Expanding opportunities to diverse suppliers can be a meaningful avenue to close socioeconomic gaps in our society.

Sarah Lockwood, SSH PhD ’24
Criminology and Justice Policy
Sarah has deep experience leading projects to understand and solve complex problems connected to community violence and victimization. She has worked as a graduate researcher for Northeastern’s Institute on Race and Justice, and also as a research consultant for the Children’s Advocacy Center of Suffolk County, seeking to assist exploited or trafficked youth to secure safe and stable housing. She is a dedicated and creative researcher, committed to actionable research that improves the safety of our most vulnerable communities.

Kelsie Lynn Lopez, S PhD’27
Psychology
Kelsie strives to understand the impact of trauma on the language development skills of infants and children. As a first-year Psychology PhD student, she conducts her research in the Plasticity in Neurodevelopment Lab under the direction of Professor Laurel Gabard-Durnam in the Center for Cognitive and Brain Health. Her research uses EEG methodology to focus on the effects of early adverse life events on later language outcomes. She has expanded this research into a practical investigation of how infants use music as a regulatory tool in response to stressful life events. Her work tested the theory that infants can relax in response to music by using unfamiliar foreign lullabies. The results were published in Nature Human Behavior, where they have been cited frequently. Her other work has also been published in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience and NeuroImage. She plans to use her National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to fund her continued research.

Alex Marley, E/SSH ’22
Electrical Engineering/Economics
Described by mentors as humble, dedicated, easy to communicate with, and curious, Alex has focused his considerable intellectual and entrepreneurial energies on making an impact. During a stellar undergraduate career, he parlayed his interests in engineering, finance, investing, entrepreneurship, and research into several successful undertakings. A natural leader known for his initiative, Alex is co-founder and CEO of the $12.5 million dollar Dorm Room Fund (the first independent venture fund of its kind) and welcomed his role as the first control engineer of a food-tech startup while there on his co-op. A sense of global curiosity led him to Italy last summer and now to China as a Schwarzman Scholar for an immersive yearlong program. He will contribute to the intellectual engagement, professional development, and cultural exchange of his peers as he seeks to bridge entrepreneurship and engineering on a global scale. It is easy to see why he was named to the top 25 under 25 by BostInno.

Gillian McClennen ’24
Biochemistry
Gillian is a driven scientist with a focus on molecular microbiology and mental health treatment. In her research with Associate Professor Yunrong Chai, she focused on Bacillus subtilis, exploring the acetate pathway and cell wall biosynthesis for potential antibiotic development. She also pursued complementary research in population genetics and neurobiology during study abroad, co-op, and a six-month co-op at Kisbee Therapeutics. Her work earned her a PEAK Ascent Award and a PEAK Summit Award. She is a generous mentor to her peers serving as a member of the student research organization Sigma Xi, chair of the student group Think Like a Scientist, and a College of Science Ambassador. As a biology project lab undergraduate assistant, she is integral to students’ success and safety. She aims to earn a PhD and conduct research in molecular microbiology to explore the implications of the gut-brain axis in mental health treatment.

David Makoto McMullin, E’20
Chemical Engineering
A 2020 graduate from the Northeastern chemical engineering program, David took his considerable research talents and experience to the west coast to explore opportunities to make a difference in the world of biotechnology. He promptly earned a role as a technical development research assistant at Genentech, a pioneer in the biotechnology industry in San Francisco. His success at Genentech led to a role as a process development engineer for a leading stem cell researcher, Axent Biosciences, located in Berkeley, California. Here he is developing cutting-edge research focused on developing thermoresponsive polymers as a scaffold to scale up the production of differentiated pluripotent stem cells for cell therapy. David will conduct his graduate fellow research as part of the UCSF/UC Berkeley Joint PhD program in Bioengineering. Ultimately McMullin strives to develop technologies in the cell and gene therapy space to tackle neurodegenerative diseases.

Connor Messer, E ’19
Bioengineering and Biomedical Engineering
Commitment and inspiration are traits that Fulbright Scholar Connor has demonstrated across three continents. A gifted biomedical engineer and a man of deep faith, he has sought ways to put his talents and experience into practice. While at Northeastern, he earned a highly sought-after co-op position with Stryker Trauma GmbH that took him to Kiel, Germany. There he explored internal splints and Liberating Technologies in hand orthotics. He has subsequently applied that experience to developing an apparatus to create “electrospun” nanofiber mats for use as tissue engineering scaffolds. His journey will next lead him to Khalifa University Center for Autonomous Robotic Systems in Abu Dhabi, where he will work with “soft” robotics used to perform minimally invasive cardiac surgery. Connor has always demonstrated his strong faith and leadership by engaging with various multiethnic Christian programs and humanitarian efforts at home and abroad to encourage dialogue and understanding across cultures and faiths.

Caroline Millard, S PhD ’23
Chemistry
Caroline has demonstrated her leadership in the research lab, mentoring undergraduate students and serving as a role model of safety. She was also president of the Graduate Student Association and has been instrumental in increasing the sense of community in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology by being a peer mentor. In addition, she has served as a teaching assistant for both organic and general chemistry labs.

Ronodeep Mitra, S PhD ’24
Chemical Engineering
Ronodeep has served as a teacher and mentor in various contexts while conducting PhD dissertation-level chemical engineering research to develop new therapies and to optimize diagnostic techniques to mitigate cardiovascular disease. As a first-year doctoral student, he served as a teaching assistant for the Department of Chemical Engineering. This experience started him on an incredible journey as a teacher of undergraduate and Master of Science students in a lab-based setting. Ron became an excellent teacher and mentor of a student research team. Ron has been the safety officer for a lab, providing training and oversight to ensure that every lab member and guest is properly and safely working in the lab.

Lillian Moffett, DMSB ’23
Business Administration, Finance, Strategy minor
Lillian serves as the co-president of Northeastern University Women in Finance, and as a peer mentor for students in the introductory levels of the D’Amore-McKim School of Business programs. Additionally, she has held co-op positions with Wellington Management and Valens Research, two leading investment management firms in the Greater Boston area.

Emmanuel Nasamu, MS’23
Analytics and Evidence Based Management
As an international student pursuing a master’s in professional studies in analytics at Northeastern in Toronto, Emmanuel’s zeal for success and passion to serve others while making a lasting impact in his community sets him apart. He earned his master’s in business administration from the Lagos Business School in Nigeria’s Pan-Atlantic University and has worked with organizations, including British American Tobacco and the Coca-Cola Company, as an innovative technology leader. He worked as a business initiatives co-op with RBC Wealth Management in Toronto. Emmanuel is a strong collaborator, connector, and advocate.

Michael Nelson, KCS ’20
Physics and Computer Science
Mike graduated from the Khoury College of Computer Sciences in May 2020 with a combined degree in physics and computer science. Following graduation, he moved to Southern California to pursue a career in environmental conservation. For the past three years, Mike has worked with American Conservation Experience to facilitate outdoor learning and stewardship with Americorps members on various projects including chainsaw felling, dry stone masonry, and hiking trail construction. When he is not working outside, you can find Mike backpacking, skiing, or rock climbing in the Sierra Nevada.

Brandon Onyejekwe, KCS ’24
Data Science
Brandon has worked as a data analytics and engineering co-op with the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority, restructuring the ways in which they collect financial data and eliminating redundancies through system reprogramming. Additionally, he has served as an undergraduate researcher in Northeastern's Summer Math Research Program, and as a teaching assistant and teer tutor for introductory computer science courses. Brandon is also a captain of the Northeastern University Club Running Team and a member of the Math Club.

B. Parazin, S’23  
Physics, Mathematics

B. Parazin is a dedicated undergraduate researcher who will graduate summa cum laude with a B.S. in Physics and a B.S. in Mathematics from Northeastern University in 2023. They are passionate about using mathematical and computational methods to study our planet and beyond. Their research projects have included simulating weather patterns over the Mississippi River Basin and optimizing telescope schedules. In 2022, they received a prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship, and in 2023 they were awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. Their research is wide-ranging, from climate modeling to astrophysics. After graduation, they will continue their research as a PhD student in earth and planetary sciences at the University of McGill, in Montreal, Quebec. There they will focus on simulating coupled ice sheet-sea level interactions. Their dedication to research and their impressive accomplishments makes them a promising future leader for the good of the planet.

Liam Pavlovic, KCS PhD’22  
Computer Science

Liam is a PhD student with a keen interest in the potential of machine learning and artificial intelligence. A dedicated and skilled researcher, his primary interest is developing intelligent agents that can explore safely and learn reliably with minimal human guidance. He joined the computer science program at the Khoury College of Computer Sciences in 2022. Under the guidance of Professors David Rosen and Lawson Wong, he expanded his research focus to improving the expressiveness of uncertainty models used in machine learning to enable introspective reasoning for intelligent agents. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Northeastern University, with a concentration in Artificial Intelligence and a minor in mathematics. He previously interned at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in the fall of 2021, where he worked on neural network-based denoising algorithms for X-ray holotomography.

Grayson Peel, SSH’23  
Cultural Anthropology

Motivated, curious, and self-directed, Grayson is passionate about activism for anthropology, music, and film. As a fourth-year cultural anthropology student with minors in Spanish and music recording, Grayson has built a reputation as a creative problem solver with an eye for detail. Most recently, they have served as an audio production assistant for a Northeastern professor’s podcast, “Anthropologist on the Street,” an interview-format podcast that explores the many applications of anthropology within and beyond academia. Grayson has also held a role as an undergraduate research assistant at the Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict. There they assisted in research toward better understanding and seeking solutions to inter-group conflict. Grayson intends to continue bringing compassion, understanding, and patience to their graduate studies in anthropology.

Andrew James Piasecki  
PhD’25, Biology

Andrew brings advanced skills in flow cytometry and a solid background in both mouse embryology and bioinformatics to his work as a second-year graduate student in the Northeastern University biology PhD program. His research in the Woods Lab is centered on charting mitochondrial progression to establish the role mitochondria play in stem cell fate specification and differentiation. More specifically, his work has focused on the impact of mitochondrial function in the aging mammalian ovary. In recognition of his research potential, Andrew has been awarded a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. This fellowship will support his research for the next three years of PhD studies. Prior to graduate school, he received his undergraduate degree from Boston University, where they spent three years working in the Ravid lab studying megakaryocyte function in primary myelofibrosis.

Tejas Sathyamurthi, KCS ’23  
Computer Science

Tejas has devoted time at Northeastern to researching the opportunities presented by graphical data presentation. Specifically, alongside colleagues, Tejas participated in a study entitled, “Juvenile Graphical Perception: A Comparison Between Children and Adults,” which determined that while children are typically less accurate in their understanding of data represented by a graph, their minds process the information in a similar way to adults surveyed. He has also conducted research focused on developing artificial intelligence solutions to the climate change crisis, such as algorithms that can effectively predict wildfire patterns with up to 76% accuracy.

Michael Shen, E ’23  
Computer Engineering

Michael is a skilled researcher and talented future engineer whose interests encompass computer architecture, performance analysis and modeling, computer security, and simulation of modern microarchitectures on commercial CPUs and GPUs. As a researcher at the Northeastern University Computer Architecture Research Laboratory under the direction of Professor David Kaeli, he focuses on developing computer architecture simulators to enhance performance evaluation and security in microarchitectural design. Taking his skills beyond the lab, Michael held co-op positions at Portal Instruments and Advanced Micro Devices, where he developed software for their needle-free drug delivery device and graphics pipeline on next-generation GPU simulators. He has been recognized for his work on designing next-generation secure microprocessors. Outside of his academic pursuits, Michael enjoys playing tennis and learning piano and is an avid fan of Northeastern’s hockey teams and the Boston Bruins.

Siddharth Simon, E/KCS  
Computer Engineering/Computer Science

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Siddharth, an aspiring MD/PhD, is making an impact in medical research through data science. He joined Professor Sumientra Rampersad’s Brain Stimulation and Simulation Lab at Northeastern, exploring artificial intelligence, electricity, and magnetism in physics and neuroscience. He was awarded a PEAK Experiences Ascent Award for his work in electric field simulation for non-invasive neurostimulation. He is currently an intern at Generate Biomedicines, an AI-based generative biotech startup, where he works with bioinformatics data and lab robotics systems for high-throughput antibody production. Previously, he worked at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, improving a data pipeline for an implantable neuromodulation device that treated epilepsy. At Weill Cornell Medicine, he served as lead machine learning engineer and co-lead developer, optimizing a machine learning algorithm for a mobile diagnostic application for migraines. Siddharth is an EMT and volunteers as a tutor for incarcerated youth through the Petey Greene Program.

Andrew Small, SSH’23
Asian Studies
Andrew always had a passion for the country where he was raised, Japan. Northeastern Professor Daniel Aldrich helped channel his natural curiosity into a research project collecting detailed biographical research on the members of the Reconstruction Committee following World War II. Encouraged by this early success, Andrew conducted more advanced research on export bans on agricultural products from Fukushima, renewable energy policy in China, and analyzed climate change policy in Japan and Boston. His co-op brought his focus back to Fukushima as he conducted immersive field research on radiation measurements with the Japanese nonprofit Safecast. To sharpen his interdisciplinary skill set, he also interned with the JICA Kyrgyzstan office to support its regional economic development project “One Village One Product.” Small has been appointed to a role in the Northeastern Political Journal, reporting on Japanese politics and the Asia Pacific. Andrew’s ultimate plan is to work in government policy research in Japan following his post-graduate work in the U.S. or Japan.

Alyssa Smith, SSH PhD’25
Network Science
Second-year PhD student Alyssa is undertaking bold research into social media that could dramatically impact the roles that algorithms play in the content users ultimately see. A savvy data engineer and talented scientist, she seeks to understand how amplification can broker attention. Under the auspices of Northeastern’s Network Science Institute, she is analyzing the impact of specific trends such as “Jorts the Cat,” Britney Spears’ conservatorship battle, and Twitter following patterns behavior to gauge the impact on user choice and content streams across social media. Smith’s work was recognized with a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP). She plans to utilize the three-year annual stipend and access to NSF-supported professional development opportunities to study how ideas are brokered in media and look at the formation of unlikely ties on social media platforms like Reddit and Twitter.

Amanda Stark, S’22
Behavioral Neuroscience
Amanda is a rising star in the field of neuroscience, having achieved impressive accomplishments during her undergraduate career. As a research assistant at the Regehr Lab at Harvard Medical School, she demonstrated a deep understanding of the cerebellar circuit and its influence on behavior through a series of anatomical experiments. She also spearheaded a project investigating social and motor dysfunction in mice, and optimized electrophysiology rig and surgery setups. As a Neuroscience In Vivo Pharmacology Co-Op at AbbVie, she contributed to research aimed at developing treatments for Alzheimer’s. Her interests in cerebellum, epilepsy, learning and memory demonstrate her passion for neuroscience research. Her recent recognition as an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Candidate is a testament to her exceptional potential in the field.

Zaneta Sulley, SSH’22
Criminology/Sociology
Zaneta graduated in 2022 with a combined degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology. During her time at Northeastern, she was a recipient of the President’s Award, the criminal justice Cormier Memorial Scholarship, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, and in 2022 was an inductee of the Huntington 100. Zaneta is deeply committed to issues related to race, poverty, and the criminal justice system in the United States. Putting her studies into practice, she served as an intern with the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance and as a paralegal at Prisoners’ Legal Services of MA. She plans to teach in Italy this fall as part of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Upon her return to the US, Zaneta’s goal is to obtain a Masters of Public Health where she hopes to work on issues related to race and reproductive justice.

Jonathan Tan, E’23
Electrical Engineering
Jonathan is a driven electrical engineering student passionate about microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) and magnetic devices. A 2023 graduate of the College of Engineering, he developed his research interests under the guidance of Professor Nian Sun and is focused on the intersection of multiferroics and MEMS devices for magnetic sensing and energy harvesting. His research work is complemented by his co-op and internship experiences at Micro-Leads Inc., The Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, and the University of Pennsylvania, where he developed skills in researching, developing, and testing advanced technologies. He also completed two NSF-funded research fellowships, where he worked on developing magnetic field sensors for brain-machine interface and undersea magnetic anomaly applications. In recognition of his accomplishments, he has been accepted into the PhD program in Electrical and Systems Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, where he will continue to pursue his research interests.

Nathan Matthieu Tang, CS’23
Chemistry

STUDENT AWARDS
Nathan’s research and work sit firmly at the intersection between organic synthesis and drug discovery. A 2023 graduate of the College of Science, he will complete his undergraduate studies summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry. His experience and interests have spanned the total synthesis of complex molecules and the application of metallaphotoredox chemistry to medicinal chemistry. A well-rounded student, he minored in philosophy and is currently studying the power dynamics of pedagogical systems and their moral and practical implications in scientific research in academia. He has been named a Hertz Fellowship finalist and a U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad finalist. His research in the total synthesis of natural products earned funding from Bristol Myers Squibb and was awarded an American Chemical Society Division of Organic Chemistry Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship. He will begin the PhD program in organic chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, with the hopes of translating his skills and experience to enable drug discovery.

Benoni Vainqueur, E/KCS, ‘23
Computer Engineering and Computer Science
Benoni is a talented and experienced technician, web developer, and aspiring computer engineer/scientist. In his fourth year as a computer engineering student at Northeastern, his work focuses on object-oriented programming, cyber infrastructure, and robotics. He has put his skills into practice most recently as a software/firmware engineering co-op with Microsoft, working to implement diverse machine learning elements across several distinct firmware platforms. He has also worked as a software automation engineer with Amazon Global Robotics, developing coding and applications for Amazon fulfillment centers worldwide. Vainqueur exhibited his creative side as a web developer at DRMWX Creative, where he created eye-catching and functional digital design concepts for corporate websites and branding and identity campaigns. At Northeastern, he has acted as both a teaching assistant and peer advisor within the College of Engineering.

Justin Vega, S’23
Physics/Philosophy
Justin is a driven and multidisciplinary student with a passion for astrophysics research. A 2023 graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Philosophy, he spent his time at Northeastern engaged in thoughtful and awe-inspiring research projects in astrophysics. These included the study of subatomic physics at CERN and Fermilab and the astronomical at the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian. His current research interests are modeling and inference problems at the intersection of astrophysics and data science. He most recently used simulated telescope observations to generate polarized images and movies of supermassive black holes with the Event Horizon Telescope project. A music minor, his talent goes beyond the classroom, where he served as the music director for a cappella group, the Downbeats. He was selected for the Huntington 100 and was awarded the American Chemical Society Division of Organic Chemistry Undergraduate Research Fellowship to support his upcoming PhD studies in Astronomy at Columbia University.

Helen Wang, BS’26
International Affairs and Linguistics
A freshman at Northeastern University, Helen is studying toward a bachelor’s degree in international affairs with a minor in Linguistics. Outside of class, she enjoys participating in martial arts and helping friends campaign on campus. She currently works as a work-study student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, where she helps organize and prepare for events. In her senior year of high school, she was a finalist for the government-sponsored National Security Language Initiative for Youth program and studied abroad in Gwangju, South Korea the following summer. She received a Critical Language Scholarship, where she will be returning to South Korea to continue her international studies.

Hannah Wolfe, PhD
Social Psychology
Hannah’s primary research focus is on lifespan emotional development. She utilizes metrics such as eye-tracking, psychophysiology, and self-reported information to study emotional regulation of individuals across diverse age brackets. As an undergraduate, she studied cognitive aging, which instilled her continued focus on the ways emotions interact with cognition across an individual’s lifespan. Hannah has demonstrated a passion for teaching and mentorship. She has mentored numerous undergraduate students as research assistants, including supervising two senior honors students through their theses, and has also served as a teaching assistant for multiple courses in the psychology department and as instructor of record for the department’s social psychology lab course.

Ethan Wong S’24
Biology
Ethan is a meticulous researcher with a focus on neurobiology and the neuropathology of cognitive decline. He arrived on the Northeastern campus during the onset of COVID-19, limiting his access to wet lab research. Known as a resilient problem solver, he was quick to pivot and dive into computational research, learning Python, MATLAB, and SPSS while working on a digitized version of the Trail Making Test in the Laboratory for Movement Neuroscience. His work was recognized with a Solutions Award and a PEAK Experiences Ascent award, which he used to develop a novel algorithm for a new task called the “CanTMT.” Outside of Northeastern, he has conducted extensive research working with Professor Raymundo Baez-Mendoza of the German Primate Center and Professor Ziv Williams of Harvard Medical School. His work has earned him multiple awards, and he also serves as an executive board member for the research honors society, mentoring first- and second-year students.

Hope Zamora, S’23
Behavioral Neuroscience
Hope has worked as a College of Science Ambassador, engaging with both fellow students and administrators as a resource for prospective and admitted students. She has also worked as a research intern in the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research, investigating the role of transcriptional factors in interneural development, while developing an independent research project, participating in key experiments and processes, and maintaining a leadership role among the organization’s interns. Hope has also worked as a resident assistant at Northeastern, focused on community-building and support development for undergraduate peers in one of the university’s residence halls.

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Carmen Sceppa, Dean

College of Arts, Media and Design
Elizabeth Hudson, Dean

College of Engineering
Gregory Abowd, Dean

College of Professional Studies
Radhika Seshan, Dean

College of Science
Hazel Sive, Dean

College of Social Sciences and Humanities
Uta Poiger, Dean

D’Amore-McKim School of Business
Emery Trahan, Interim Dean

Khoury College of Computer Sciences
Elizabeth Mynatt, Dean

School of Law
James Hackney, Dean

Mills College at Northeastern University
Beth Kochly, Interim Dean

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Jamie Jones Miller, Regional Dean and CEO of Northeastern University, Arlington

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David Luzzi, Senior Vice Provost for Research and Vice President of the Innovation Campus at Burlington, Massachusetts

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Angela Hosking, Regional Dean and CEO of Northeastern University, Charlotte

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Scott Wildman, Dean, Northeastern University, London

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Maria Alonso, Regional Dean and CEO of Northeastern University, Miami

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Geoffrey Trussell, Vice President of the Nahant, Massachusetts Campus

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Beth Kochly, Interim Dean of Mills College at Northeastern University

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