

Northeastern  
University



CLASS OF 2025

**DOCTORATE  
CELEBRATION**

**BOUVÉ COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**  
MAY 6, 2025

# PROGRAM

Welcome

**Connie Lorette**

*Clinical Professor & Program Administrator  
Doctor of Nursing Practice, Nurse Anesthesia  
Program*

Dean's Address

**Carmen Castañeda Sceppa**

*Dean, Bouvé College of Health Sciences*

College Representative Address

**Margarita DiVall**

*Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and  
Belonging, Bouvé College of Health Sciences*

Student Address

**Nisha Perez**

*Doctor of Medical Science*

Student Address

**Cate Murphy**

*Doctor of Pharmacy*

Alumni Address

**Gina Regonini**

*Director of Educational Initiatives in Alumni  
Relations  
Bouvé Class of 2007*

Recognition of Graduates

**Connie Lorette**

*Clinical Professor & Program Administrator,  
Doctor of Nursing Practice, Nurse Anesthesia  
Program*

Closing Remarks

*Carmen Castañeda Sceppa  
Dean, Bouvé College of Health Sciences*

## **MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

### **Connie Lorette**

Dr. Connie Lorette is a clinical professor and program director for the Doctor of Nursing Practice Nurse Anesthesia program at Northeastern University. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Rivier College, a Master of Science from Northeastern University, and her Ph.D. from Boston College. A Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology, Dr. Lorette has dedicated over 20 years to educating nurse anesthesia students at Northeastern. She is widely recognized as an expert, scholar, and leader in cardiac anesthesia and has presented nationally and internationally in her area of expertise. Dr. Lorette is a dedicated leader in the nurse anesthesia profession, serving as a board member of her state association and as a state advocate for the national association's Foundation, where she promotes and supports the advancement of Nurse Anesthesiology providers and students.

## **COLLEGE DEAN**

### **Carmen Castañeda Sceppa**

Dr. Sceppa received her medical degree from Francisco Marroquín University in Guatemala City, Guatemala, where she was born and raised. She received her PhD in Nutrition from The Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Sceppa is a clinician, researcher, educator, mentor, and leader. Her research seeks to understand the role of lifestyle interventions on advancing health and quality of life among older adults. She examines the role of physical activity, exercise and nutrition as health promoting interventions for underserved and vulnerable populations, particularly Hispanics and African Americans older adults and the elderly. Dr. Sceppa's research has provided evidence-based information to transform the way we think about healthy lifestyle from personal choice to preventive medicine. Dr. Sceppa serves as senior faculty mentor for the Network of Minority Research Investigators at the National Institutes of Health, the GSA Board of Directors, and member of the American Society for Nutrition.

## **COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE SPEAKER**

### **Margarita DiVall**

Margarita V. DiVall is a clinical professor at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and a senior associate dean for Faculty Affairs and Belonging at the Bouvé College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University. She is a Double Husky, earning her PharmD and Masters in Education degrees from Northeastern. After graduating with her PharmD degree, she completed a pharmacy practice residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, here in Boston. She is a Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist and a Fellow of the National Academies of Practice.

Dr. DiVall began her faculty career at Northeastern in 2000. For nearly two decades, she practiced and trained PharmD students and pharmacy residents at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and had a significant impact on curricular development and assessment of our PharmD program. In her current administrative role at the college level, she oversees faculty affairs across all four schools in the college and oversees our efforts to ensure belonging for all members of our community. Dr. DiVall's scholarship aligns with her expertise in curricular design, assessment, faculty affairs, and a passion for interprofessional education. She has authored over 60 publications, 9 book chapters, and presented many times at national and international conferences. Over her career, she has provided significant service to several professional pharmacy organizations, including the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, where she was recently elected to serve as the next President.

## **ALUMNI SPEAKER**

### **Gina Regonini**

Gina Regonini, MS '07 is thrilled to welcome the class of 2025 to the alumni community. A fellow Bouvé alum, she is currently the director of educational initiatives in Alumni Relations and has over 20 years of experience in higher education, ranging from student life to advancement. She has always held involvement with one's institution in high regard because of the numerous ways it supports personal, educational, and professional development; it has been especially rewarding to connect fellow Huskies back to Northeastern! She looks forward to seeing you in the years ahead!

# STUDENT SPEAKERS

## Nisha Perez

Nisha Perez is a recognized leader in preclinical development and clinical pharmacology. She has worked across multiple therapeutic areas, including cancer, immuno-oncology, rare diseases, fibrosis, inflammation, women's health, and GI during her 18-year biotech career. She serves as a Science Advisory Board member, has 2 patents granted, and was part of the 2023 award-winning IQ consortium team for leading guidance on at-home blood sampling for clinical trials during the COVID-19 pandemic. She has contributed to multiple program strategies, regulatory filings, and drug approvals. Her Doctor of Medical Science thesis was on The Health and Economic Benefit of Increasing Funding for Gynecological Research.

## Cate Murphy

Cate Murphy enrolled in Northeastern University as an Early Assurance Doctor of Pharmacy student in 2019. During her tenure, she became heavily involved in several pharmacy organizations, including the Pharmacy Leadership Society, the Rho Chi Honor Society, and Lambda Kappa Sigma, a professional fraternity dedicated to elevating women in pharmacy. She has also served as a peer tutor for nine different pharmacy courses. Outside of the School of Pharmacy, she was an active member of Northeastern's Choral Society and Chamber Singers, through which she has performed at esteemed concert halls including Symphony Hall and Carnegie Hall. In 2024, she delivered a talk at the TEDxNortheasternU flagship event, where she shared her experience with grief and advocated for stronger support systems for grieving children. She has spent the past three years as a hazardous sterile compounding technician at Massachusetts General Hospital, where she will begin her career following graduation as a PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident. Upon completion of her residency, she plans to pursue further training in oncology.

A person in a graduation gown stands in a room, looking at a large shadow of a husky on the wall. The scene is lit from the side, creating long shadows on the floor and wall.

FOREVER A HUSKY

# LIKE **A HUSKY**