



13 JUNE 2025 THE ROUX INSTITUTE

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This program is for ceremonial purposes only and is not to be considered an official confirmation of degree information. It contains only those details available at the publication deadline.

We ask those in attendance to kindly silence their electronic devices and to remain in their seats until the platform party has left the stage and the graduate recessional has finished.

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A UNIVERSITY ENGAGED WITH THE WORLD

THE HISTORY OF NORTHEASTERN

Founded in 1898, Northeastern is a global research university, the recognized leader in experiential learning, and renowned for its innovative approach to education. Yet it had humble beginnings.

At the end of the 19th century, immigrants and first-generation Americans constituted more than half of Boston's population. Chief among the city's institutions committed to helping those new to the country improve their lives was the Boston YMCA, where young men gathered to hear lectures on literature, history, music, and other subjects considered essential to intellectual growth.

In response to the enthusiastic demand for these lectures, the directors of the YMCA organized the "Evening Institute for Young Men" in May 1896. Frank Palmer Speare, a well-known teacher and high school principal with considerable experience in public schools, was hired as the institute's director. Two years later, under Speare's direction, the YMCA advertised the creation of the "Department of Law of the Boston YMCA," and on October 3, 1898, Robert Gray Dodge taught the first class. The program, an immediate success, marked the birth of Northeastern University. Speare would later remark, "We started with an eraser and two sticks of chalk."

When demand for other courses grew, Speare moved to add more programs, and in 1909 the full-time day colleges began instruction. That same year, the Evening Polytechnic School announced "cooperative engineering courses," in which students would have an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in the workplace—the beginning of Northeastern's signature cooperative education program.

Decades of expansion

The school continued to grow, and in 1922 the College of Business was founded. More space was needed. The university purchased the former home of the Boston Red Sox in 1929, and in 1934 the Boston architectural firm Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbott was awarded the contract to design Richards Hall. Using what was to become the campus signature white brick—Shepley, Bulfinch presented plans for a neoclassical building. Opened in 1938, Richards Hall was the first building to appear on the front quadrangle.

As the campus grew, so did Northeastern's programs. In 1935, the College of Liberal Arts was added, signaling that Northeastern was on its way to becoming a major university.

When Speare stepped down as president in 1940, he was replaced by Carl Stephens Ell, dean of the College of Engineering. It was under Ell's leadership that Northeastern first admitted women to full-time day programs.

In the postwar world, Northeastern, like its peer institutions, saw a phenomenal increase in the number of people attending college. The university expanded its programs to accommodate this growing population of increasingly diverse students. In rapid succession, additional programs and colleges were established: College of Education, 1953; University College, 1960; College of Pharmacy, 1962; College of Nursing, 1964; Boston Bouvé College, 1964; College of Criminal Justice, 1967; and College of Computer Science, 1982.

This expansion of programs brought with it a need for more buildings—and land. When Ell retired as president in 1959, he was succeeded by Asa S. Knowles. Under his leadership, suburban properties in Weston, Nahant, and Burlington were acquired. The Boston campus blossomed with new buildings, including various undergraduate dormitories designed to accommodate the increasing number of residential students at what had been primarily a commuter campus.

Transforming the Boston campus

When Knowles retired in 1975, he was succeeded by Kenneth G. Ryder, who had begun his career at Northeastern as a member of the history department and had risen through the ranks to become executive vice president before his election as president. Under his leadership, the university expanded and enriched its programs, particularly in the arts and humanities, and continued to improve its facilities. Plans for Snell Library were finalized during Ryder's tenure, and the campus was beautified. During these years, Northeastern also deepened its commitment to Boston and its neighborhoods.

In 1989, Ryder stepped down as the fourth president of the university. He was succeeded by John A. Curry, Northeastern's executive vice president and its first alumnus to become president. With President Curry in charge, the university embarked on a series of ambitious undertakings, including a new science and engineering research center, a state-of-the-art classroom building, a recreation complex, and several new graduate and undergraduate programs.

To support these new ventures, Curry led Northeastern in a successful fundraising campaign. His years of leadership also featured significant restructuring as the university prepared to enter its second century. In June 1996, after four decades of service, Curry retired from Northeastern. To succeed him, the trustees elected Richard M. Freeland as the university's sixth president.

Elevating experience

A distinguished historian and administrator, President Freeland brought to the university a renewed sense of energy and mission. His programs were designed to support his vision of Northeastern as a university that would be student-centered, practice-oriented, and urban. Northeastern developed the West Campus with architecturally acclaimed residence halls and teaching facilities for the health sciences and computer science and added new spaces to enrich student life on campus.

When Freeland stepped down in 2006, he was succeeded by Joseph E. Aoun, an internationally known linguistics scholar. Northeastern's seventh president came from the University of Southern California, where he served as dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences. President Aoun developed an academic plan outlining the university's vision in several areas: experiential learning, global outreach, use-inspired research, urban engagement, and intellectual life. He greatly expanded global co-op opportunities. He also aligned the university's research with three worldwide imperatives—health, security, and sustainability—with a focus on interdisciplinary solutions.

A rising global profile

Under Aoun's leadership, Northeastern launched a system of campuses designed to be platforms for lifelong learning aligned with area economies. The first two opened in Charlotte, North Carolina (2011), and Seattle (2013). Additional campuses followed in Silicon Valley, California (2015), and in Toronto (2016).

In 2016, Aoun led the development of a new academic plan, *Northeastern 2025*. The plan was a blueprint for transforming the university into a global university system—featuring networks of learners and innovators—designed to empower people to succeed in this era of unprecedented technological change. Accordingly, the university expanded the role of its global campuses to serve as platforms for learning, research, and industry partnerships. In 2019, it opened another location in Vancouver and acquired New College of the Humanities in London, now officially Northeastern University London and offering undergraduates a unique opportunity to earn a dual U.S./U.K. degree. Later in 2019, Northeastern launched a research campus in Arlington, Virginia, an addition to two existing research campuses in Nahant and Burlington, Massachusetts (formed in 1967 and 2012 respectively).

Then in January 2020, technology entrepreneur David Roux and his wife, Barbara, made an investment in the university to open the Roux Institute in Portland, Maine. The institute focuses on graduate studies and research in fields such as AI, digital engineering, and advanced life sciences, amplified by industry partnerships. It was specifically designed to be a model of how higher education can ignite economic development in regions of the country largely bypassed by the innovation economy, setting a new bar for what the global university system could achieve.

Resilience and momentum

The same revolutionary vision for global learning and discovery that inspired *Northeastern* 2025 infuses the university's latest academic plan, *Experience Unleashed*. The plan is designed to deepen the impact of Northeastern's global network by maximizing the power of experience to understand and solve the world's interconnected, ever-evolving challenges.

In 2022, the university took a significant step in realizing the potential for its global system by merging with Mills College in Oakland, California, becoming the first university with comprehensive residential campuses for undergraduate and graduate students on both U.S. coasts. In 2023, Northeastern opened a campus in Miami, with graduate education and innovation partnerships aligned with South Florida's economic growth. The following year, the university announced the addition of a campus in New York City through a merger with Marymount Manhattan College.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our university community, Frank Palmer Speare's "eraser and two sticks of chalk" have evolved into one of the world's most innovative universities. Our faculty collaborates more fluidly with experts across industry, government, and community-based organizations. Ideas and solutions can be scaled. And our students are empowered to be true global citizens, scientists, entrepreneurs, and creators—prepared to make an impact wherever they go.

PROGRAM

Procession Candidates for Master's Degrees Faculty Platform Party led by the Commencement Marshal Aileen Huang-Saad Associate Professor, Bioengineering, College of Engineering

National Anthem

Marshal Aileen Huang-Saad Associate Professor, Bioengineering, College of Engineering Performed by the Roux Department of Music

Welcome Chris Mallett Chief Administrative Officer, Roux Institute

Introduction of Student Commencement Speaker Annie Chuprevich Senior Director, Student Life, Roux Institute

Student Commencement Speaker Emmanuella Wiafe, '25

Laurel and Scroll Award Presentation Michael Pollastri Senior Vice Provost

Introduction of Commencement Keynote Speaker Liz Kohler

Managing Director, Strategy, Operations and Growth, Roux Institute

Commencement Address Stephen M. Smith

Citation Presentation Michael Pollastri Senior Vice Provost, Roux Institute

Barbara Roux Philanthropist

David Roux Technology entrepreneur and philanthropist Degrees in Course Dan Koloski Head of Learning, Roux Institute College of Engineering represented by Stefano Basagni, Associate Dean, Global Engineering Campus College of Science represented by Jeffrey Agar, Associate Dean, Professional Programs and Lifelong Learning Khoury College of Computer Sciences represented by Lindsay Jamieson, Teaching Professor and Associate Dean of Teaching Faculty College of Professional Studies represented by Jared Auclair, Dean

Degree Conferral Michael Pollastri Senior Vice Provost

Honoring of Graduates Dan Koloski

Head of Learning, Roux Institute

Introduction of Alumni Representative

Annie Chuprevich Senior Director, Student Life, Roux Institute

Alumni Greeting Abby Bridgers, '24

Class Charge Chris Mallett Chief Administrative Officer, Roux Institute

Recessional

Led by Marshal Aileen Huang-Saad, Associαte Professor, Bioengineering, College of Engineering Platform Party Faculty Graduates

The audience is requested to remain seated during the recessional. We kindly ask those in attendance to silence their electronic devices.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Commencement Speaker Stephen M. Smith

As president and CEO of the iconic outdoor retailer L.L.Bean since 2016, Stephen M. Smith has guided the company through a period of extraordinary transformation. The first person hired outside the family or company to helm the now 113-year-old company, Smith has brought a bold, forward-looking vision rooted in the firm's enduring legacy of innovation. Since Leon Leonwood Bean crafted his first hunting boot in 1911, L.L.Bean has grown into one of the most trusted names in American retail. Under Smith's leadership, it has become a model of how heritage brands can thrive in a rapidly evolving, digitally driven economy.

When Smith assumed leadership, L.L.Bean stood at a critical juncture—committed to its values and Maine roots but facing the pressures of global retail and shifting consumer expectations. Drawing on his extensive international experience with major multichannel retailers, Smith focused on modernization without sacrificing authenticity. He repositioned the brand with the widely acclaimed "Be an Outsider" campaign, updated core business systems, expanded the company's retail presence, and forged strategic wholesale partnerships—all while reinforcing L.L.Bean's customer-first ethos.

Smith's professional journey began in 1992 at J. Walter Thompson. He transitioned to consumer marketing at AT&T before moving to Maine to join Resort Sports Network and Hannaford Supermarkets. He later held executive roles around the globe, including with Delhaize in Europe and the U.S., and with Walmart in China and the U.K. His return to Maine to lead L.L.Bean reflects not only his personal connection to the state, but also his belief in the potential of Maine's people, economy, and natural assets.

One of Smith's most defining leadership tests came during the COVID-19 pandemic. With modernization efforts already underway, he steered the company through global supply chain disruptions and shifting customer behavior, adapting product assortments and accelerating innovation. The result: three consecutive years of record performance, reaffirming L.L.Bean's relevance and resilience.

Recognizing the importance of a tech-fluent workforce in today's economy, Smith became a champion of workforce development in Maine. He played a pivotal role in forging L.L.Bean's founding partnership with Northeastern University's Roux Institute. This collaboration has empowered L.L.Bean employees to expand their expertise in data science, AI, and digital innovation, while reinforcing the company's role as a driver of economic opportunity in Northern New England.

A passionate advocate for Maine's communities and outdoor heritage, Smith is also committed to inclusive leadership and sustainable business practices. He serves on the boards of WEX, Inc., and the Retail Industry Leaders Association, and previously served on the board of the Appalachian Mountain Club. He is a trustee of Dickinson College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in art history and physics.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Master of Electrical and Computer Engineering Sreesatya Nandivada

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Mαster of Science, Bioinformαtics Adam Jawdat Alzaim Sage-Taliya Darling Elizabeth Ann Dunbar

John Andrew Gill Kristian Jucar Lorenzo Ryan Jack Neilson

Master of Science, Biotechnology	
Galen Patrick Arnold	Unnati Jonnavithula
Sai Charan Reddy Donapati	Alexandra Denise Lewis
Katherine Danielle Drew	Elorm Ninsin
Chibuzor Jennifer Eze-Nwosu	Sairah Zeinab Shir
Isabelle Grant	Emmanuella Wiafe
Dawood Jimale	

KHOURY COLLEGE OF COMPUTER SCIENCES

Master of Science, Data Science	
Meghana Chillara	Kaiwen Shao
Donald Dominic Dill	Oluwafunmilayo Ifeoluwa Somoye
Darren Jon Fishell	Liyang Song
Rahil Jignesh Jhaveri	Heping Sun
Jheel Harnish Kamdar	Casey Butler Tilton
Samee Hussain Mushtak	Jeffrey J Turgeon
Liam Raphael Diarmuid O'Connor	Mian Wang
Senyo Kofi Edzeani Ohene	Ruyang Wang
Matthew Ray	Yuan Wei
Alexey Felix Rizvanov	Logan John Willans
Dilshath Shaik	

Master of Science, Computer Science

Paul Adaimi	Ruiqi Liu
Vahid Agbortoko	Yue Liu
Sihan Bai	Cristal Wilson Lobo
Krutik Ashok Bajariya	Yiqing Ma
Dhanush Adithya Balamurugan	Maxwell Webster MacAvoy
Anthony James Burwinkel	Yue Mei
Bini Chandra	Michael Arthur Mills
Guyriano Charles	William Ryan Moore
Yasha Chaurasia	Keegan Towle Moseley
Nan Chen	Chun Sheung Ng
Lillith Tatiana Chute	Anqi Nie
Matthew Leo Craig	Haifei Pan
Anurag Daga	Tyler Poff
Meagan Shannon Dyer	Chenxi Qu
Mary Kathryn Fairfield	David Calef Riggle
Danyang Feng	Armaan Sait
David William Getchell Jr.	Adit Mayank Shah
Milad Ghavami	Junyu She
Yucheng Gu	Jacob Daniel Simonds
Edward Michael Hallahan	Sean Michael Sullivan
Zican Hao	Xiaowen Sun
Chaoyi Jiang	Hakshay Sundar
Lulu Jiao	Shivam Nileshbhai Thakker
Hao Jin	Jiabi Tian
Rithwik Katuri	Briggs Alden Twitchell
Yuan Kuang	Ruobing Wang
Po-Shen Lee	Xuan Wang
Charles William Lees	Conor William Rossvall Weiss
Nicholas John Letarte	Jue Wu
Tuoxin Li	Yixiao Wu
Xingdong Li	Zongyu Wu
Jiahao Liang	Ruijia Xiong
Hongrui Liu	Yue Yao

Manhong Yuan	Qiaochu Zhang
Tao Yuan	Yue Zhang
Abdelrahman Ahmed Ramadan Zeidan	Zihan Zhu
Guoyi Zhang	Jitong Zou
Keke Zhang	

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Graduate Certificate, Applied Analytics	
Emily Constantian	Mark W. Lilley
Emily Lynn Cushman	Christopher A Walton
John Edward Goetz	

Graduate Certificate, Project Management		
Elizabeth Baker-Wacks	Kayla Daniele Girardin	
Amy B. Berg	Dominic Charles Malia	

Master of Professional Studies, Analytics

Dennis Okyere Agyekum	Bennison Carl Hagelin
Julia Watson Allison	Nicole M. Hewes
Andrew Nii Nortey Amartei	Jason Donald Hickson
Abigail Spitta Adjoa Ansah	Chloe Hight
Emmanuel Owusu Asante	Hunter Ray Hornay
Priscilla Asare	Aravind Korutla
Scott Thomas Barksdale	John Michael Lane
Colin Grant Campbell	Thomas Matthews
Erin Doran	Alexandra Claire Maurer
Anna Beth Driscoll	Anh Nguyen
Justin Chase Ehringhaus	Fidele Nsanzumukunzi
Ryan Richard Flaherty	Terri Onyinyechi Nwanma
Katharine Simms Freund	Paa-Kwasi Obeng Adjei
Yamin Ghowrwal	Chinonso Victoria Ozigbo

Ganesh Pammi Venu Gopal	Molly Kane Szeman
Rachael Anne Roberts	Wendy Elizabeth Thress
Davis Lind Ryan	Trang Thi Thu Tran
Christina Nichole Sampson	Yijia Wang
Connor Timothy Shaw	William Benjamin Wilson
Rachel Lynne Sukeforth	David Allison York

Master of Professional Studies, Applied Machine Intelligence Sampson Boateng Venkatesh Shivandi Patience Mudjgiwa

Master of Science, Project Management

Ogochukwu Gold Abaneme	Kimberly Ann Mancini
Razak Abdulai	Amanda Michaela Myron
Uzochi Joy Achumba	Hanna Seif Naji
James Martin Ahearne	Quynh Thi Lam Nguyen
Mazin Abdulhafiz Ahmed	Muzamel Noor
Muhammad Adnan Akhtar	Sri Sai Anisha Nunna
Albertha Ampofo	Oluwasegun Emmanuel Odediran
Cooper William Babcock	Kanidaye Okorji
Charlie Emmanuel Bart-Addison	Jose Antonio Perez Reed
Stephen Okyere Boansi	Simon Joseph Pratico
Julia Lindsey Roberts Carleton	Burr Harrison Adams Rhoads
Elizabeth A Coffey	Grace Ryan
Erica Virginia Damon	James E Tierney
Bisengimana Gakunzi	Satchel B Toole
Carolyn Anderson Gallagher	Jordan Pham Tran
Denise N Giuvelis	Hannah Claire Tripp
Mohamed Vaseem Idris	Emma Elizabeth Weed
Naomi Nkem Juwah	Yashvi Nitinbhai Zinzuwadia
Sairaj Mangesh Kadam	
Erin Elizabeth Kane	
Alexander Campbell LeGore	

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Laurel and Scroll 100 Recipients for the Academic Year 2024–2025

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Alexander Campbell Legore College of Professional Studies

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