

Northeastern
University



CLASS OF 2025

UNDERGRADUATE CELEBRATION

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
9 MAY 2025

PROGRAM

Welcome

Brent Nelson

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Introduction of Student Speaker

Diane Nishigaya MacGillivray

Senior Vice President for University Advancement

Student Address

Dillon Nishigaya '25

Biology, minor in Health Sciences Entrepreneurship

Dean's Address

Hazel Sive

Dean, College of Science

Recognition of Graduates

Brent Nelson

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Student Procession

Mary Jo Ondrechen

Chief University Cadre Marshal and Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology

Ana Otero

University Cadre Marshal and Associate Teaching Professor of Biology

MarySusan Potts-Santone

University Cadre Marshal and Teaching Professor of Biology

Closing Remarks

Brent Nelson

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

DEAN

Hazel Sive

Hazel Sive is a research pioneer, award-winning educator and innovator in the higher education space. Sive became dean of the College of Science, and professor of Biology at Northeastern University, Boston in June 2020. For twenty-eight years prior, she was professor of Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), member of the Whitehead Institute, and associate member of the Broad Institute. A native of South Africa, Dr. Sive received the B.Sc. from University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and the Ph.D. from Rockefeller University, New York.

Sive's groundbreaking research focuses on neurodevelopmental disorders, as well as fundamental processes underlying brain and craniofacial development. She is a distinguished educator, a MacVicar Faculty Fellow, MIT's highest teaching accolade and twice winner of the prestigious School of Science Teaching Award. An accomplished leader, Sive was associate dean for the MIT School of Science; founding director of the MIT Jameel World Higher Education Lab; and founding director of the MIT-Africa Initiative. At Northeastern, Sive is chair of the new Africa Global Initiative. Among other accolades, in 2022, Sive was elected a Fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science.

As Dean of Science at Northeastern University, Sive has promoted excellence through innovation in science research and education, amidst an overarching culture of belonging and respect. She is a collaborative and inclusive leader, with impressive outcomes in all goals proposed. The following threads are part of the College of Science Strategic Plan *CONNECTIONS to the Future* written by all college members under Dean Sive's leadership.

- Build a College Where Everyone Belongs
- Empower Education Across Learning Communities
- Shift the PhD Paradigm
- Connect Solutions to Crucial Research Challenges
- Promote a Successful Faculty
- Construct a Framework for Growth

STUDENT SPEAKER

Dillon Nishigaya

Dillon Nishigaya began his Northeastern journey through the N.U.in Program in Thessaloniki, Greece, where he conducted breast cancer research and played on the university soccer team. On the Boston campus, he spent four years as a research assistant at Northeastern's Laboratory for Aging and Infertility Research, earning seven PEAK awards. He served as a Presidential Ambassador and College of Science Ambassador and was inducted into the Huntington 100.

For his first co-op, Nishigaya worked at Sana Biotechnology in South San Francisco, developing novel allogeneic CAR-T cell therapies. He interned at NASA Ames Research Center, contributing to space biology research and mentoring a team of research associates through the Space Life Sciences Training Program. Nishigaya continued his work with NASA as part of the Rodent Research-20 mission in Sarasota, Florida, where he conducted dissections on model organisms sent to space. He also supported studies at NASA's National Space Radiation Laboratory in Long Island, New York, focusing on oxidative stress and immune dysregulation. He currently contributes to NASA's Reproductive Biology Working Group.

Nishigaya co-founded the Undergraduate Research Club at Northeastern and served as its president. He conducted stem cell research at Harvard's Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology and completed observerships in vascular anomalies and pediatric dermatology at Boston Children's Hospital.

He interned with Stoezle Glass Group in Vienna, Austria, focusing on global business development and is the drummer for the band *Runner Up*.

A person wearing a black graduation cap and gown stands with their back to the camera, looking at a large, dark shadow of a husky dog cast onto a light-colored wall. The scene is dimly lit, with the light source coming from the right, creating long shadows on the floor.

FOREVER A HUSKY

LIKE **A HUSKY**