

Northeastern  
University



CLASS OF 2025

# **UNDERGRADUATE CELEBRATION**

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE  
9 MAY 2025

# PROGRAM

## Welcome

Brent Nelson

*Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

## Student Address

Paola Pimentel Torres '25

*Chemistry, minor in Spanish for Healthcare Professionals*

## 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

### Paola Pimentel Torres

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Paola Pimentel Torres has always been driven by a passion for helping others. She attended Saint John's School in San Juan, where she first discovered her interest in medicine and physical sciences. This passion led her to Northeastern University in the fall of 2021, where she majored in chemistry with a minor in Spanish for healthcare professionals.

At Northeastern, Pimentel Torres was an active and engaged member of the community. She served as both president and vice president of NUSA ACS (Northeastern University Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society), volunteered at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and was a site leader for the Community Volunteer Program. She also organized and participated in local cleanups with Trash to Treasures and gained clinical experience as an observer at Boston Children's Hospital. In addition to her service and leadership roles, Pimentel Torres conducted environmental chemistry research in the Tian Lab, contributing to two published papers.

Pimentel Torres completed two co-ops during her time at Northeastern—first as a formulations development chemist at Electrofi, and later as a process development scientist at Solid Biosciences. Upon graduation, she was accepted into the University of Puerto Rico Medical School, where she plans to pursue a career in pediatric orthopedic surgery.

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**