

Northeastern
University



CLASS OF 2025

UNDERGRADUATE CELEBRATION

D'AMORE-MCKIM SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
MAY 8, 2025

PROGRAM

Welcome

Daniele Mathras

Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs; Associate Teaching Professor, Marketing

Dean's Address

David De Cremer

Dunton Family Dean; Professor, Management and Technology

Pioneer Award

Awarded to

Frederick Brodsky, '66

Trustee Emeritus

Awarded by

Diane Nishigaya MacGillivray

Senior Vice President for University Advancement

Joseph E. Aoun

President

Best Teacher Award

Daniele Mathras

Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs; Associate Teaching Professor, Marketing

Class of 2025 Video

Keynote Address

Vivek Sharma

Executive Chairman, Apollo Intelligence

Announcement of the Candidates

Daniele Mathras

Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs; Associate Teaching Professor, Marketing

Closing Remarks

Daniele Mathras

Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs; Associate Teaching Professor, Marketing

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY PIONEER AWARD

Frederick Brodsky

The Northeastern University Pioneer Award is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the greater community and who are pioneers in their own right. The award recognizes university citizens who make a deep and lasting impact through their support of Northeastern, the depth and breadth of their engagement across the university, and for spearheading work in their personal and professional lives that create opportunities that otherwise may not have been attainable for those who follow.

Fred Brodsky's impressive career spans nearly five decades across construction, finance, real estate, and venture capital industries. A highly successful entrepreneur, he founded International Investment Advisors, Inc., a real estate investment and development corporation that managed projects for corporate and private clients worldwide.

After an unsuccessful attempt to become an astrophysicist at Rutgers University, Brodsky held several menial jobs and spent one year working in Europe before joining the U.S. Army Reserve, where he learned about Northeastern and its co-op program. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in business management from Northeastern—graduating first in his class at D'Amore McKim School of Business—and an MBA in international business from the University of Michigan one year later.

Brodsky was eager to expand upon his passion for international business, inspired by his prior work in France and England. His global business acumen grew during his tenure in the World Communications division of International Telephone and Telegraph and as manager of finance and administration for Trammell Crow International, with projects in Europe, Brazil, and the South Pacific. He successfully leveraged this background and strong affinity for working across cultures and pursued his entrepreneurial ambitions by starting his own real estate and development firm based in Texas, which included clients from Australia, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Pakistan, India, and Kenya.

A dedicated alumnus with a deep gratitude for the Travelli scholarship opportunity that enabled him to study at Northeastern, Brodsky has given back to the university through both visionary leadership and thoughtful philanthropy. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 2000-2011, and continues to play a role in the university's defining moments as Trustee Emeritus. Over many decades, Brodsky has advocated for the importance of international business education and experience. Together with his wife Darla, he established the Darla and Frederick Brodsky Trustee Professorship in Global Business at Northeastern and forever changed the course of the university's Bachelor of Science in International Business program.

In championing a global mindset that is now core to Northeastern's identity, Brodsky has left an indelible mark on this university and on generations of learners empowered to become responsible business leaders of the world.

Now retired in Florida, Brodsky published his memoir *The Accidental Entrepreneur: How I Stumbled into Success*, in 2021, chronicling his remarkable journey from humble beginnings to international business success. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Coast Guard Foundation.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Vivek Sharma

Vivek Sharma is a strategic and visionary executive with more than 25 years of leadership experience across the global life sciences and healthcare technology sectors. Known for his ability to lead complex organizations through transformation, Sharma has consistently driven growth by integrating cutting-edge technologies, expanding global operations, and fostering high-performing, mission-driven teams. His cross-sector impact reflects a deep understanding of how to align the interests of investors, customers, and employees to generate lasting value.

Currently, Sharma serves as executive chairman of Suven Pharma, a global manufacturer, where he influences the future of pharmaceutical services worldwide. He also holds board positions at Apollo Intelligence, a leading provider of healthcare and life sciences market research, and Agilix Health, a nutrition management platform, where he provides strategic guidance on growth initiatives and organizational excellence.

Sharma's impressive career spans executive leadership roles at several prominent organizations in the pharmaceutical services space. As CEO of Piramal Pharma Solutions, he led a global expansion that significantly enhanced the company's capabilities and market presence. He then served as CEO of Decision Resources Group, where he leveraged his expertise in healthcare analytics to drive innovation. Next, as chairman and CEO of Adare Pharma Solutions, he continued his track record of organizational transformation. Most recently, as CEO of Saama, he led the advancement of AI-driven clinical analytics to reshape pharmaceutical research and development.

His exceptional leadership was recognized with the prestigious "CEO of the Year" award at the CPhI Pharma Awards in 2015, an honor that highlights his enduring contributions to the pharmaceutical industry.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Sharma demonstrates a deep commitment to social impact through philanthropy. He supports numerous initiatives focused on women's empowerment, education, social advocacy, and environmental sustainability, reflecting his dedication to creating positive and enduring societal change.

Sharma has strong ties to Northeastern, serving as vice chair of the D'Amore-McKim School of Business Boston Executive Leadership Council and as a member of the NYC/Tri-State Executive Leadership Council. Since 2019, he has also been an active board member of the university's Center for Emerging Markets, where he contributes valuable insights on global business trends. As a parent of a current D'Amore-McKim student, his connection to Northeastern continues to deepen through his ongoing engagement with the university community.

Sharma earned an Executive MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management and is both a chartered accountant and certified public accountant.

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**