Northeastern University is poised for excellence on many levels, with successes in attracting new faculty and minority students, swelling applicant pools and groundbreaking research, President Joseph Aoun said, and the university can be proud of its accomplishments.

Northeastern boasts an international presence, with noted interdisciplinary faculty research and experiential education opportunities around the United States and abroad, Aoun said during an Oct. 10 meeting with the campus community.

At the same time, fund raising is up 60 percent over last year, contributing to a “bigger pie” that in part will support tenured and tenure-track professors in their teaching and research, he said.

The foundation of Northeastern University’s academic enterprise — a focus on experiential education, translational research, faculty investment, infrastructural improvement and urban engagement — was outlined in an hour-long address highlighting the upward momentum of the university on all levels.

“This university has momentum and this is precious,” Aoun said, adding, “We are on an upward trajectory.”

‘What I stand for’

“What I stand for,” the president said, “is very simple: A commitment to the academic enterprise in its entirety. And second, I have a very, very big weakness for excellence. Whatever we do has to be done based on excellence.”

“Our mission is to educate students for a life of fulfillment and accomplishment,” Aoun said. “Our mission is to create and translate knowledge to meet global and societal needs. And you say that’s very beautiful, that’s lofty. So how are we going to do it? How are we going to achieve excellence? How are we going to be distinctive?”

The university’s academic plan to further the university’s momentum in excellence is built on research successes — disciplinary, interdisciplinary and translational, he said.

“We are going to be leaders in interdisciplinary and translational research,” and those working in disciplinary and interdisciplinary research have equal merit, Aoun said; without the foundation of strong disciplines, he said, there is no strength in interdisciplinarity.

“If there is a problem identified in the environment, for example, then we can study it by involving economists, geologists, chemists and political scientists.”

Aoun also stressed the importance of building new graduate and especially doctoral programs as a key ingredient to Northeastern’s success. “We cannot have a situation where we are not focusing on our Ph.D. programs,” he said. It is up to everyone in the schools and departments to be innovative in their thinking about the future of graduate education, he said.

With every step toward a future of excellence and distinction, the university must remember its roots. Beneath the campus is the riverbed of the Stony Brook, a symbol of the interconnection between Northeastern’s leafy campus and the urban neighborhood surrounding it. Aoun reminded faculty that Northeastern must remain engaged with the community, to do more for the neighborhood within the framework outlined within the recently launched Stony Brook Initiative.

“We have a responsibility to showcase what we have and to showcase our momentum,” Aoun said. “It’s going to happen by sending strong messages that we are a community that is working on its future, that we have the confidence to shape it. “We have the confidence to take risks, we have the confidence to change, and we have the humility to listen to one another and not be stymied by factions, not be stymied by fear,” the president said. “We cannot afford it.”
President: ‘Empowering schools’ is way to the future

In a move to decentralize operations, President Joseph Aoun has asked the deans to take more ownership of their enterprises.

Northeastern must “empower” deans and faculty to work on shaping the academic agenda of the colleges and schools and its articulation within the university-wide plan, he said at the recent campus meeting focused on the Academic Plan.

“The deans have worked together on moving away from a centralized approach to an approach that offers guiding principles, and goals to make our mission an attainable reality.”

he said at the recent campus meeting focusing on the Academic Plan, “The engine of Northeastern University’s academic enterprise is its faculty. All faculty, from new assistants, to tenure-track and tenured academics are critical to the university, and the institution is committed to growing their numbers, the president said.

“You saw a sign (of that commitment) last year when we decided to invest in 37 new faculty hires,” Aoun said.

“This is only the beginning.”

“People don’t come to Northeastern University because they want to work with the president or the provost. They come because they want to work with faculty colleagues,” Aoun said.

“A faculty recruit faculty.”

Speaking to the importance of each member of the teaching community, Aoun outlined goals:

• Assistant/junior faculty must be helped to be the best they can be. “We have a responsibility make them successful and then it’s up to them to decide what they want to do and how they want to be successful,” he said. Ideas under consideration include teaching releases and leave for study; both would send a strong signal of support that the university backs its young faculty, and supports their endeavors.
• The administration has launched a program called “Enhance” to support faculty who have been with the university “That’s a small step, but it’s a beginning.”
• Discussions are continuing about recruitment tools for all those ranks of the professorate, he said. In recent discussions of the tenure process, and early tenure, Aoun said the spirit of those talks was to find ways of “putting the candidate in the best possible light with his or her dossier.”
• However, in the past, “mistakes were made” in creating a rigidly uniform approach to tenure, he said.

“I am not in favor of ‘one size fits all,’” he said. “But that means that we have a heightened responsibility to all work together on the goals and how to make them reality in each unit.”

‘The university is maturing’

Like an adult growing out of children’s clothes, the university has stretched the seams in areas like computer systems, classrooms, and laboratories, Aoun said.

Addressing issues of infrastructure, Aoun said the campus must commit its collective time and effort to solving the happy problem of a university that has outgrown its walls and technology.

“Our infrastructures have bottlenecks and roadblocks,” Aoun said. “We need to make them disappear one by one.”

Citing the need for “enormous discussions,” Aoun said he does not want to hear only about problem; he wants suggestions for solutions.

The issue of physical space is also top of his agenda. Noting the university spent nearly $20 million last year to renew existing laboratory space and remodel class rooms, he said the need is still great.

“The university is maturing by leaps and bounds, and so therefore it’s fine for us to look at our infrastructure and see whether it’s commensurate, it’s consonant with our growth.”

Success in all fields, he concluded, will stem from collaborative effort.

“We have now the opportunity,” said Aoun, “to show the world that we are one community, working jointly on shaping our future, and I have to tell you, the future is bright.”

Institutional Accomplishments, 2006-2007

Planning
• Adopted the Academic Plan for Northeastern University to establish clear priorities for the institution and set the context for decision-making in the years ahead.
• Based on our commitment to excellence, distinctiveness, and innovation, the plan identifies five strategic areas of endeavor: experiential learning, interdisciplinary and translational research, intellectual life and creative expression, urban engagement, and global opportunities.

Enrollment & Students
• More than 30,000 applications for fall 2007 admission, up 12 percent over 2006 and 41 percent since 2003
• Achieved “Most Selective” status in undergraduate admissions
• Addition of 630 new high schools to the applicant pool
• More than 28 percent students of color
• A 70 percent enrollment increase for international freshmen
• A jump to 90 percent in freshman-to-sophomore retention
• Placed undergraduates in 52 cities around the world for international co-op experiences
• A 49 percent increase in graduate applications over the past two academic years
• Graduate students earned prestigious academic awards, including a Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellowship and a Farnsworth Trust Aging Policy Research Fellowship
• Two undergraduates named Goldwater Scholars
• A 28 percent increase in the number of undergraduates who received provost’s funding for their research

Faculty & Research
• Appointed 11 new faculty members in the first of a three-year initiative to hire 30 outstanding associate and full professors to pursue interdisciplinary research and teaching.
• Recruitment of 33 new faculty from some of the nation’s best universities
• A 14 percent increase in full-time faculty (884 total) since 2001
• Research awards totaled $54 million, a 10 percent increase over the previous year
• Success with early career research awards
• Two National Science Foundation (NSF) Career Awards
• Two Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Awards
• Northeastern’s first NSF Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers
• NSF funding of $3 million per year for a comprehensive Integrated Graduate Education and Research Training Program (IGERT) on Intelligent Diagnostics for Civil Infrastructures
• Northeastern’s second IGERT program
• Nine Gordon Fellows enrolled for the new academic year

Financial Health
• A 15 percent increase in net worth
• A 60 percent increase in total fund raising over 2006
• An endowment that exceeded $680 million

Partnerships
• Two joint-degree programs created with the School of the Museum of Fine Arts: a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art
• A collaboration with Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts, to create cross appointments of faculty and develop joint degree programs
• A technology transfer partnership, spearheaded by Northeastern alumni, between Greece and the University
• A conference cosponsored by the College of Business Administration and the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School to kick off Northeastern’s new Center for Emerging Markets
• A statewide research partnership between Northeastern’s Institute of Race and Justice and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety to help stem the tide of gang violence

Alumni Outreach
• The new Alumni Center hosted more than 200 events and meetings, including new Homecoming offerings that attracted more than 1,200 alumni to campus
• Launched 14 regional alumni chapters in primary markets, and recruited and trained more than 400 new alumni volunteers
• Increased Senior Gift program from 300 gifts to more than 1,000
• Increased alumni online giving by 46 percent

Distinction
• The undergraduate program in business administration ranked 26th in nation by BusinessWeek
• The School of Architecture ranked 12th in nation by archsoc.com
• Graduate programs in pharmaceutical science, counseling psychology, and the humanities ranked 6th, 8th and 14th, respectively, according to a national study of graduate research productivity in various disciplines
• The bachelor’s program in international business ranked 15th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report
• Jumpstart, a reading program for Boston preschoolers staffed by Northeastern students, won the Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Partnership Award as one of the outstanding campus-community collaborations in the country
• The College of Business Administration’s Executive M.B.A. program ranked among the top such programs in the world by the Financial Times

President touches on key themes of Academic Plan in remarks

‘Empower the schools’

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Emergency contact system set for testing

The university’s new emergency communication system, NU ALERT, will be able send nearly instant alerts in three formats to the phones and email inboxes of student, faculty and staff.

“We’ve been working on this specifically, and our crisis-management protocol generally, for some time,” said Philomena Mantella, senior vice president for enrollment management and students affairs. “And, of course, Virginia Tech brought the communications issue front and center.”

After a rampaging student killed 32 people on campus in April, Virginia Tech officials faced criticism for, among other issues, failure to notify the campus community in a timely way of the ongoing threat.

Northeastern’s system can be used not merely for crises, but for matters like snow emergencies, said Mushkin.

“We won’t necessarily launch a message through all three venues” — voice-mail, e-mail and text-messaging — “but when we do, we really want people to pay attention.”

The university will test the system for the first time this week.

Mantella acknowledged that any university must be concerned about “our capacity to reach students when we’re such a mobile society.”

But Northeastern, she noted, this year required students to sign up for emergency communications, listing any combination of telephone, cell phone, e-mail address and text-messaging system.

“When they went to the MyNEU portal, they had to pass through an emergency-contact form, and they had to provide at least one piece of emergency-contact information,” Mantella said.

Faculty and staff are likewise urged to add contact information through Human Resources Management’s HR Connect function, which is accessed through the MyNEU portal.

“We have about 24,000 records in the system already,” Mantella said. “That includes almost all students and many faculty and staff.”

“We’re really excited” by the system’s readiness to be tested, she said. Still, Mantella said, “we really hope this is something we never have to use.”

Boston youths’ banners line Columbus

Display springs from partnership with Artists for Humanity

Bright banners along Columbus Avenue now feature the artwork of young Bostonians, the latest signs of a growing partnership between Northeastern and the Boston group Artists for Humanity.

“We do a lot with Northeastern,” said Susan Rodgerson, executive director of the art group. “Especially since President (Joseph) Aoun came — he’s really embraced our work and seen, I think, some real value to the arts in education.

“It’s been a very successful relationship,” she said.

Aoun met with Rodgerson and a group of young Boston artists during his inauguration week in March, as the students began designing the banners. “What really unifies us is the arts,” the president said at that gathering. “It’s a universal language.”

Artists for Humanity hires and trains talented young people from Boston high schools, giving them studio space and guidance and having them work as commercial and fine artists. Now in its 17th year, it works out of a newly designed building in South Boston.

Rodgerson, who is also artistic director of the program, said seeing the banners along Columbus Avenue has been “very exciting.

“We love it, and of course we love having them front and center on the street. It’s another testament to the importance of empowering urban youth in a way that they feel part of the city, feel some ownership. When they drive with their grandparents down that street, they’re able to point these (banners) out and be proud of their place in the city.”

Said Rodgerson: “What Northeastern has done to empower these kids is life-changing. We’re very, very thankful that the university has been involved with this project.”

Proctor & Gamble official: Watch emerging markets

Growing worldwide income, even in these poor regions, combined with demographic shifts and population changes will revolutionize international business. He predicted students will see a time when the United States’ preeminence in the global economy falls behind China’s and Africa’s.

The ability of P&G and other companies to sell shampoo in China or laundry detergent in India is made all the more significant by their growing percentage of value in a multi-trillion-dollar industry, he said. “Those countries are where 25 percent of the value” will be, he said.

With 80 percent of the world population residing in these developing economies, Bergh said it is important to work creatively to meet challenges specific to a particular region or country. Some countries may have poorer infrastructure, creating difficulty moving products around, but other regions, like China, with newer roads and airports, doing business is an advantage, he said.

To illustrate the ways P&G has sought to engage the Chinese market, Bergh showed examples of television commercials that tied into the culture there. One was centered on the theme of the Chinese New Year.

Bergh joined P&G in 1983, as a brand assistant and worked his way up in “the usual ways,” he said.

His son graduated from Northeastern last year.
Glod urges faculty: ‘Be leaders’

Carol Glod, professor of nursing and chair of the Senate Agenda Committee, addressed the recent campus-wide meeting focused on the Academic Plan. She supported several of President Joseph Aoun’s themes, including his call for stronger institutional support for faculty and students.

“Good research needs research space” she said, noting that she and the entire faculty were working through the “major transition” at the university to continue to be valued members of the research team. Glod thanked faculty who served on several committees, including those who helped design the new general education curriculum, which began to be implemented this year at Aoun’s request. She called on professors to have a “strong faculty voice” in the university’s work, striving for success in further scholarship, and helping set the agenda going forward.

“I believe the faculty need to involve themselves in this process, to help direct and guide the university through important decisions,” she said. The university needs to “do that together and to work as a team.”

“I ask all faculty to be leaders in our Academic Initiative,” she said. “I don’t believe we should be taking sides,” Glod urged her colleagues. “In the end, we’re all on the same side.”

Provost search committee chosen

At President Joseph Aoun’s request, the Faculty Senate Agenda Committee has established an ad hoc search committee for provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, in collaboration with the president.

“We need to recruit people very actively,” President Joseph Aoun said during last week’s meeting with the campus community. “We’re going to launch a national search. We’re going to look at candidates internally, externally — there is no barrier,” he said. “But it’s not going to happen simply by having a search committee. It’s going to happen by sending strong messages that we are a community that is working on its future, that we have the confidence to shape it.”

Criminal justice professor Donna Bishop will chair the search committee, with psychology professor Joanne Miller as vice chair. Other members:

- Trustee Margot Botsford, computer and information science Associate Dean Agnes Chan, law professor James Hackney, Stephen Lavenberg of the Student Government Association, counseling and applied psychology professor Karin Lifter, engineering Dean David Luzzi, graduate student Tina Pennan, electrical and computer engineering professor Carey Rappaport and accounting professor David Sherman.

Loeffelholz named president’s faculty liaison

Mary Loeffelholz will be an “invaluable” resource to the president’s office in her new role as special adviser for faculty and affairs, said President Joseph Aoun.

Aoun named Loeffelholz, a professor of English and associate dean of arts and sciences, to the newly created role earlier this month. She is charged with “identifying opportunities to engage faculty colleagues in sharing their input and expertise toward realizing our collective vision,” the president said when announcing the appointment.

Loeffelholz, who joined the English Department in 1988 and chaired it from 2001 until last year, said she will be “working with the president and with the Faculty Senate, and I hope with the academic deans, to help define my role.”

As associate dean of arts and sciences for the past year, “I’ve had a portfolio of faculty affairs,” she said. During her service on the Senate, she reviewed completed research proposals, awards and grants, and helped develop strategies for faculty research.

“A lot of people have always valued my role,” she said. “But I think I’ve been there for the moment, the time to bring my expertise to bear on the university’s agenda.”

She earned her Ph.D. from Yale, and serves as co-editor of the Northeastern-based journal Studies in American Fiction. Loeffelholz said she’s proud to be joining the university’s administration at a crucial time in Northeastern’s history.

“I know for a fact that faculty participation in the affairs of the university can make a huge difference. It always has,” she said. “And during this period of rapid changes, there is a chance almost more than at any time that I can think of for the faculty to help drive those changes intellectually.

“This year, under President Aoun, I feel more called upon to contribute to the university as a faculty member,” Loeffelholz said. “He has articulated the connection between my discipline, and the arts and humanities generally, and the university’s traditional identity and mission in broader ways than I ever heard before.”

Northeastern Creates works to be shown in Curry exhibit

The Northeastern Creates art project has received 149 submissions of artwork from 55 members of the campus community.

These paintings, photographs, sketches, sculptures, multimedia works, poetry and fiction, created by Northeastern’s students, faculty and staff, can be viewed in an online gallery on the Northeastern Creates web site: www.northeasterncreates.com/submissions.

The works will be displayed in an electronic exhibit in the Curry Student Center’s indoor quad later in the fall semester.

Over the winter, an external panel of art judges will determine which works will adorn Huntington Avenue, the “avenue of the arts.”

NU BRIEFS

UNIVERSITY OFFERS FLU, MENINGITIS VACCINES

The university will offer flu vaccines for faculty, staff and students on Nov. 8 and 14, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Marino Center. Bring a Husky Card and $30 for a flu shot. At the Nov. 8 session, meningitis vaccines will also be offered, for $125. No appointments are necessary. The flu program is sponsored by University Health and Counseling Services and Human Resources Management.

SINGAPORE OFFICIALS LEARN ABOUT CO-OP

A delegation of Singaporean government officials met with President Joseph Aoun and joined a discussion with Northeastern administrators, faculty and staff earlier this month to learn more about the university’s co-op, enrollment and financial aid programs, as they prepare to open a new university in Singapore. Leading the delegation were Minister of Education Tamar Shmugan Batman and Singaporean education officials.

GALA TO HONOR TWO WITH UNIVERSITY TIES

Casa Esperanza, a Boston non-profit agency that helps individuals and families with homelessness and addictions, will honor a Northeastern professor and a late former staffer at its annual gala Oct. 25. The group will also honor Nelson Amaro, Distinguished University Professor of health sciences, and the late Kevin Fitzgerald, a longtime member of the Center for the Study of Sport in Society, for their work with Boston’s underprivileged.
By the time he was 7 years old, Andrei Zelevinsky had the answer to one of life’s most difficult problems. “My parents, both physicists, asked me what I wanted to do when I grew up. I don’t know how I knew it, or even if I knew what it was, but I told them I wanted to be a mathematician,” he said.

Seven years later, Zelevinsky represented Russia in the International Mathematics Olympiad for high school students, held in Romania, one of just a handful selected for the honor. He won a silver medal. Since then, the victories have kept on coming for the Northeastern professor of math:

- His recent discovery and development of a new mathematical concept — cluster algebra — will be developed into a book with colleague Sergey Fomin of the University of Michigan.
- The American Mathematical Society has contracted the pair to write a book based on a series of lectures given by Zelevinsky at North Carolina State University in 2006.
- In December, the Notices of the American Mathematical Society will publish a column titled, “What is... cluster algebra?” which endeavors to explain his work to the math community. This concept, which has many connections “to different areas of mathematics and mathematical physics” expands on work done in the early 1990s by George Lusztig and Masaki Kashiwara, he explained in online publication in-cites.com.
- His work with “representation theory” continues to offer insights into symmetry, a concept understood on some level by anyone appreciating a fine painting, or other beautiful objects. “The math is another way to recognize symmetry, and to find different ways to classify what so many of us recognize when we look at a beautiful painting,” he said.
- His analysis of systems of algebraic equations has been used in theoretical work related to robotics, he said.
- Considered a highly cited expert in varied areas of research, including representation theory, algebraic geometry, algebraic and polyhedral combinatorics and hypergeometric functions, Zelevinsky’s most recent work has been referenced more than 215 times, according to “Essential Science Indicators,” the basis of a recent interview published by in-cites.com. He has published more than 80 research papers and surveys and two research monographs.
- Asked in the article why he felt he was referenced so often, Zelevinsky speculated it had something to do with the fact he works in several mathematical disciplines.

“First, I try to address natural questions whose significance be understood without going into too many technicalities. Second, the topics addressed cut across several mathematics disciplines, and so have a better chance attract the attention of a wider mathematical audience,” he said.

“My parents, both physicists, asked me what I wanted to do when I grew up. I don’t know how I knew it, or even if I knew what it was, but I told them I wanted to be a mathematician.”

Admitting that math is not a mainstream topic that easily grabs headlines — it is by its nature difficult to put in laymen’s terms, he said — Zelevinsky nonetheless views himself as a mathematician with a “down-to-earth” approach.

At the end of the day, Zelevinsky said, his biggest hope is that he will have made some interesting contributions to his field. He has been striving to do so since he received his doctorate in math from the Moscow State University, and, since 1991, through his teaching at Northeastern.

On the verge of publishing a new book, Zelevinsky describes how he traveled to Vienna six years ago to meet with colleague and longtime collaborator Fomin on another matter. The pair intended to flesh out an outline for an entirely different book, when they began discussing some mysterious calculations done by Zelevinsky in the preceding few months.

“We were so excited about it that we forgot all about the other book idea,” he recalled, noting that the new concept of cluster algebras was born as a result of these discussions.

“In math, it’s not every day you create an entirely new concept,” he said. “We’re not just studying historic facts from 100 years ago, but we’re making the discoveries that hopefully will be of interest to other mathematicians for years to come.”
NOTABLE

Donald Chickering, a member of the Chemical Engineering Department’s industrial advisory board, was named one of Boston Business Journal’s “Forty Under 40” promising young Bosstonians.

William Detrich, professor of biochemistry and marine biology, presented a seminar, “Antarctic Icefishes, the Natural Bloodless Mammals: Their evolution and use in erythroid gene discovery,” at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Germany earlier this year.

Robert Hall, associate professor and chair of African-American studies, spoke in October at the Arnold School of Public Health in South Carolina on the link between health and African-American foodways.

Pran Nath, Matthews Distinguished University Professor of physics, gave the opening talk at the international conference “The Next Generation Nucleon Stability and Neutrino Detection,” in Japan in early October. He was also an invited speaker at the conference “Search for Baryon and Lepton Number Violation in the Universe,” held at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in September.

QUOTABLE

Joseph Ayers, professor of biology, talked with The Boston Globe for an Oct. 14 story about his robotic creations for use underwater, including for mine detection and detonation.

“Right now, they send in an 18-year-old kid, a Navy SEAL, with a satchel charge,” he said. “Things get blown out of proportion with fans. That’s not use force... for the path of resistance.”

Barry Bluestone, dean of the School of Social Science, Urban Affairs Policy and director of the Center for Urban and Regional Policy, and Chase Billingham, a research associate, wrote a column for The Boston Globe on Oct. 12 about Massachusetts economic development. “Essentially, the state has to make the high cost of living here worth it,” they wrote.

Michael Dukakis, Distinguished University Professor of political science, spoke with the Newburyport, Mass., Daily News for an Oct. 10 story about fans’ disappointment in the Buffalo Bills’ losing streak. “It’s been common here (in Boston) at times, too,” he said. “Things get blown out of proportion with fans. That’s where the emotional turns illogical.”

Michael Levin, athletic director, was quoted in The Boston Globe for an Oct. 12 story about the Democratic Party. “This party of mine has got to get serious about precinct-based, grass-roots organizing,” he said.

Harvey Green, professor of history, talked with The Chronicle of Higher Education for an Oct. 12 story about his new book, “Wood: Craft, Culture, History.” “In some ways wood is both mundane and special, but so common that most people don’t think much about it,” he said.

Sean Varano, assistant professor of criminal justice, talked with the Cape Cod Times for an Oct. 19 story about alleged Bloods street-gang activity in Boston’s western suburbs. “It’s more of an assumed identity rather than them being recruited to be part of a national network,” he said. “It becomes like a fraternity oath.”

Maria Stein, director of careers services, talked with the Cape Cod Times for an Oct. 8 story about the Democratic Party. “This party of mine has got to get serious about precinct-based, grass-roots organizing,” he said.

Kerri Greenidge, lecturer in African-American studies, was quoted by The Boston Globe for an Oct. 17 story about a 1907 gathering of prominent black leaders in Boston. Speaking about early critics of the NAACP, “They were out of touch with the racial politics of the time,” she said.

April Gu, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, talked with The Boston Globe for an Oct. 7 story about the cutting-edge waste-water treatment plant proposed for a new Boston housing development. “It’s definitely taking the lead,” she said. “It’s not one that you don’t often see that.”

Dan Kennedy, visiting assistant professor of journalism, talked with The Boston Globe for an Oct. 13 story about a Boston TV commentator’s coverage of a congressional candidate while his son worked for the candidate’s campaign. “I think some degree of disclosure would be appropriate, but I don’t think he has to go around with a sandwich board,” he said.

Jack Levin, Brudnick Professor of sociology and director of the Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict, was interviewed by Newsday for an Oct. 19 story on the coverage of copycat crimes. “Sometimes aberrant behavior becomes contagious,” he said.

Jackqelyn Mascher, lecturer in psychology, spoke with the Telegram & Gazette of Worcester, Mass., for an Oct. 18 story about 25-year high-school reunions. “People have these socially and culturally imposed deadlines about what should have happened by the time they are in their early 40s,” she said.

Jack McDevitt, associate professor and associate dean of criminal justice, talked with the MetroWest Daily News for an Oct. 9 story about alleged Bloods street-gang activity in Boston’s western suburbs. “It’s more of an assumed identity rather than them being recruited to be part of a national network,” he said. “It becomes like a fraternity oath.”

Antonio Ocampo-Guzman, assistant professor of theater, wrote a column for BlogStage on Oct. 9 about actors with Hispanic accents. “No one should tell another person that his or her accent of origin is unacceptable for the theater,” he wrote.

Peter Roby, athletic director, was quoted in the Washington Post for an Oct. 7 story about prayer in sports. “Sometimes being respectful to everybody means that you have to refrain from things you would prefer to do as a team, because you don’t want to exclude of offend anyone,” he said.

Maria Stein, director of career services, talked with The Boston Globe for an Oct. 14 story about the absence of health-care institutions at Northeastern’s Fall Career Fair. She said students graduating in health sciences “have already been scooped up. They’re gone. So they don’t come to the career fair.”

Sean Varano, assistant professor of criminal justice, talked with the Cape Cod Times for an Oct. 19 story about a wave of burglaries. “Most breaking-and-enterings do not use force,” he said. “They’re a matter of opportunity. People look, just like water, for the path of least resistance.”


**MUSIC**

A Master Class by Peggy Seeger Oct. 24, noon Fenway Center. Contact Arthur Rishi at ext. 2671.

The Stravinsky Code: Number Games in the Rite of Spring Oct. 25, 3 p.m., 217 Ryder Hall. Featuring assistant professor Matthew McDonald. Speaking on the infamous prelude of the ballet “The Rite of Spring” and Igor Stravinsky’s boldly innovative musical score. McDonald is a new assistant music professor who specializes in 20th century composers, particularly Stravinsky and Ives. Call Arthur Rishi at ext. 2671.

NU Orchestra Concert Nov. 18, 3:30 p.m., NU Fenway Center. Tickets are $7; $5 for students. Call Arthur Rishi at ext. 2671.

Gala Dedication of the Fenway Center Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m., NU Fenway Center. Featuring professor Josh Jacobson and the NU Choral Society; professor Allen Feinstein of the NU Orchestra; professor William Drury of NU Wind Ensemble; and guest soloists: Virginia Eskin, Ja-Nae Duane, David Kaminski, and Andrea Liberherr. Professor Anthony DeRitis will premiere “Dedication” for solo and brass. Co-sponsored by alumni relations. Call ext. 2671.

**ART**

NU Art & Design Faculty Exhibit Nov. 8-30, noon to 5 p.m., Tuesdays through Friday, Curry Student Center Gallery; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Ryder Hall atrium.

**ARCHITECTURE**

Architecture and Parking Oct. 29, 6 p.m., Raytheon Amphitheater, Egan. Featuring architect Bryan Shiles, discussing the evolution of parking structures in modern times. Call ext. 4367.

**LECTURES**


Teaching Today: Don’t Look Back Oct. 26, 3 p.m., classroom TBA. Featuring senior academic specialist Susan Freeman of engineering. Discussing classroom teaching methods and change through the years. A Homecoming 2007 event.

Faculty Spotlight on Jack Levin: Violence in the Media Oct. 27, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., McLeod Suite, Curry Student Center. The famous Northeastern professor shares his thoughts on the depiction of violence in American popular culture.

The Way Ahead in the Middle East Oct. 30, 9:50 to 11:30 a.m., 20 West Village F. Featuring retired U.S. Army General John P. Abizaid, former commander of the U.S. Central Command. Hosted by political science professor Denis Sullivan. Presented by the president's office. For more information, please visit www.northeastern.edu/president/abizaid.

Endocannabinoids and the Regulation of Energy Homeostasis Nov. 5, 4 p.m., 10 Behrakis Center. Featuring George Kunos, M.D., Ph.D., Scientific Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institutes of Health. Contact H. Leigh Shocrylas at h.shocrylas@neu.edu.

**THEATER**

You Can't Take it with You Nov. 6-10, 13-17, 8 p.m., Studio Theater. By Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. Directed by Del Lewis. Tickets are $7; $5 for Northeastern students. Call the theater department at ext. 2244.

A Master Class by Peggy Seeger Oct. 24, noon Fenway Center. Contact Arthur Rishi at ext. 2671.

**SPARK**

NU Art & Design Faculty Exhibit Nov. 8-30, noon to 5 p.m., Tuesdays through Friday, Curry Student Center Gallery; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Ryder Hall atrium.

**SPORTS**

Women’s Soccer: NU vs. Delaware Oct. 26, 2 p.m., Sweeney Field. Several new recruits join this experienced team as they look to make another run at the Colonial Athletic Association championship in 2007. A Homecoming 2007 event.

Homecoming Football Game: NU vs. Maine Oct. 27, 2 p.m., Parsons Field. Support your Huskies against the Maine Black Bears in this exciting Atlantic 10 play. Don’t forget to wear red and black. Continuous busing between Forsyth Circle and the field. Beginning at 1 p.m. Tickets are $8; $4 for children under 12. Northeastern students with valid ID get in free.

Women’s Ice Hockey: NU vs. Connecticut Oct. 27, 2 p.m., Matthews Arena. Tickets are $3; $2 for youth under 12.

Men’s Ice Hockey: NU vs. Maine Oct. 27, 7 p.m., Matthews Arena. Tickets are $8; $4 for youth under 12.

Send us your listings Send to Susan Saik, 598 CP; e-mail to s.saik@neu.edu; or submit via the Web at www.voice.neu.edu.
More than 450 Northeastern students gave up a recent Saturday to show their community spirit.

The 12th annual NU Service Day drew “the largest turnout ever,” said Sara De Ritter, assistant director of the Center for Community Service.

“We had a lot of student groups, scholarship students as a group, and just groups of friends who signed up together, as well as some individuals,” she said.

Groups were sent to help the university’s various community partners, almost all in Boston, who had made requests for help for projects like community cleanups and school maintenance. Students were matched with community projects based on the kind of work they felt comfortable doing, De Ritter noted.

Naia Wilson, principal of New Mission High School in Mission Hill — which shares a building with an elementary school — said teachers and staff of both schools have come to rely on the regular assistance of Northeastern students. (The university also organizes a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in January.)

“They’ve done some really fantastic work,” she said. “I have plenty of people in the building, but everyone’s got a job and everyone’s got a life, and there are never enough people to support all the projects we’ve got here — you can never have enough support.”

She compiles lists of projects requested by her teachers throughout the year, she said, and reminds them again when Service Day is coming around.

“The rooms that have been transformed in this building, you’d be amazed,” she said. “There are never enough people to support all the projects we’ve got here — you can never have enough support.”

He called the day “definitely a good experience ... to get more acquainted with the Greater Boston community.”

“Jordan Martins, a freshman from Fall River, Mass., majoring in sociology, joined his fellow Torch Scholars in doing voter education with the Hyde Square Task Force’s youth group in Mission Hill.

The university’s community partners for Service Day were: Cradles to Crayons, New Mission High School and Mission Hill School, Esplanade Association, Hyde Square Task Force, American Diabetes Association, Spontaneous Celebrations, Boston Rescue Mission, Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services and St. Ambrose Family Shelter.