

THE CAMPAIGN FOR NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

empowerreader

We are now fully immersed in Empower: The Campaign for Northeastern, the most ambitious fundraising drive in our university's history. Alumni, parents, and friends are investing in our world-class scholars and researchers at an unprecedented pace, and infusing our bold vision for Northeastern with limitless promise.

Staying true to our global character, Empower is hosting campaign kickoffs in California, New York City, and Hong Kong during the coming months. Three exceptional students have each been selected to travel to one of these destinations with Northeastern and to chart our worldwide celebrations live on social media--and you're invited to [follow](#) their journeys and to [join us](#) for these distinctive events.

Backed by the "power of we," the Empower campaign is positioning Northeastern to advance interdisciplinary discovery and experiential education for generations to come. Thank you for your continued partnership, leadership, and support.

Joseph E. Aoun
President



we inspire



Thanking Our Vets for Their Service

Brian Fountaine, AMD'17, was a 24-year-old Army sergeant and tank commander in Iraq when an IED blew up beneath his Humvee, shearing off both legs below the knee. After surviving a near-fatal blood clot and getting fitted for prostheses, he channeled his rage into recovery and then turned his sights to college. "I don't believe in luck or fate," he says. "It's about human perseverance."

Now, thanks to Northeastern's Phi Gamma Pi Veterans Scholarship--established by alumni of the former fraternity--Fountaine is pursuing his bachelor's degree at the College of Arts, Media and Design, set to graduate in 2017.

Nearly 500 veterans and their spouses and children currently study at Northeastern, about a third of them aided by the Yellow Ribbon Program, an extension of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. According to Northeastern's Veteran Services Specialist Andy McCarty, the university has an exceptional track record of providing services to vets and their dependents. However, many still have unmet financial needs. "Most of our vets don't qualify for Yellow Ribbon or have limited GI Bill eligibility" he says. "Any number of hurdles can make earning a degree challenging."

The Phi Gamma Pi brothers saw this gap in assistance and voted to support vets with proceeds from the sale of their fraternity's house in Brookline. The Phi Gamma Pi Veterans Scholarship will provide financial awards to several vets a year, defraying tuition and other expenses, or helping them pay off debt.

For Fountaine, the scholarship will fund a Dialogue of Civilizations course in Ireland at the Burren College of Art this summer. "My plan," he says, "is to continue my recovery-and to find myself again through a piece of charcoal, or the bristles of a paintbrush."

we progress



Donor Spotlight: Howard Konar, Parent'09

What makes us happy? Why would a rational person act irrationally? Can our emotions make us safer, or better prepared for challenges? Thanks to a generous \$50,000 investment by the Konar Family Foundation, researchers at Northeastern's Affective Science Institute (ASI) will have the flexibility and time to devote to answering these questions.

The gift from university parent Howard Konar is unusual in that it's directed at the process--the details that may sound mundane but actually make research happen--rather than at the final result. Such support allows the ASI, led by psychology professor David DeSteno, to hire administrators who organize and coordinate a wide array of activities. This frees up faculty to spend more time on the science of emotion--and less time on the administrative side of things.

When Konar's son, Alex, AS'09, was a psychology student, he often spoke about his newfound passion for understanding the scientific aspects of emotion, and about the classes he was then taking with DeSteno. So when Northeastern hosted an interdisciplinary panel discussion on the science and economics of happiness, the elder Konar was curious and attended with his son.

"I was impressed by the immediate applications of this research, and by the way the ASI faculty collaborated with other scholars in the area," says Konar. "I asked Dave to tell me the one thing that would help him and his team the most. When he said that he'd like to spend more time doing research, writing grant proposals, and reaching out to others about the value of this work, I wanted to help."

"The Konar family is increasing our research output and helping to sustain the work of the ASI," says DeSteno. "In this way, we can play a crucial role in helping Northeastern create knowledge that affects our society."

90%
of our graduates from 2006
through 2012 were employed full
time or enrolled in graduate school
within nine months of graduation

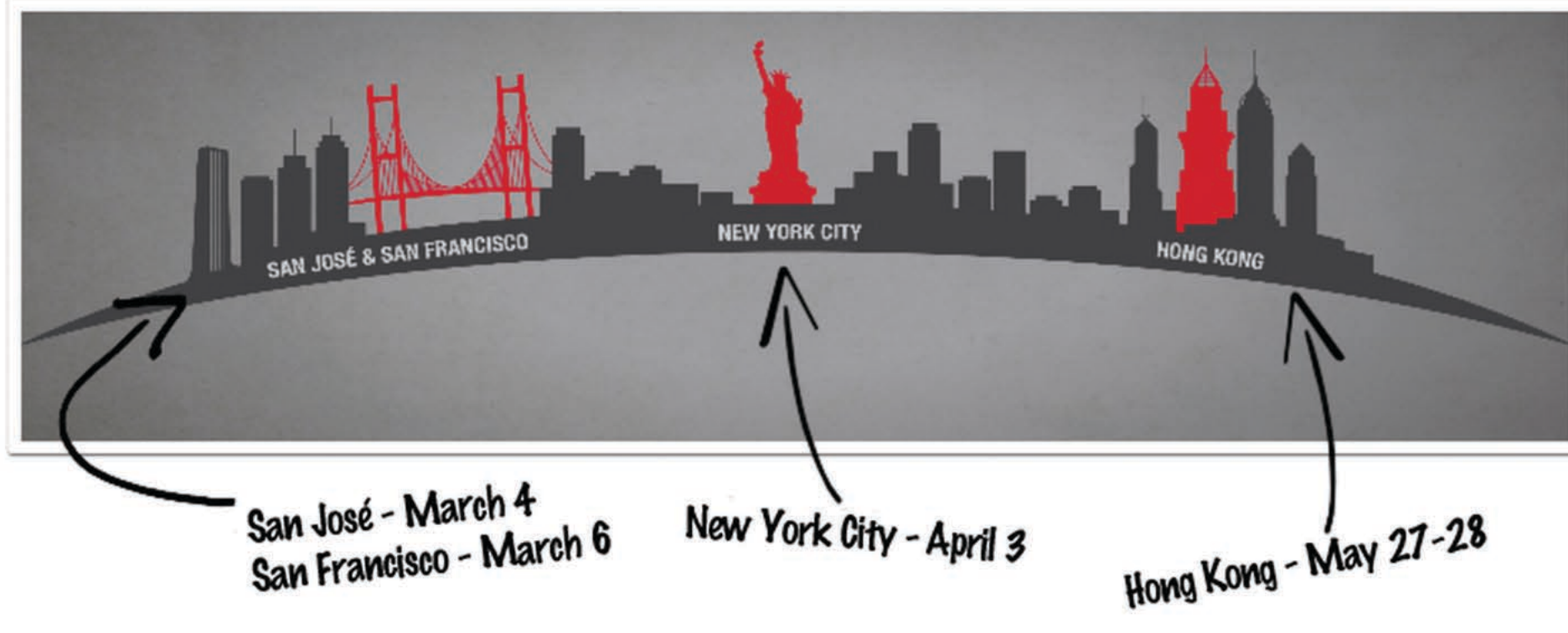
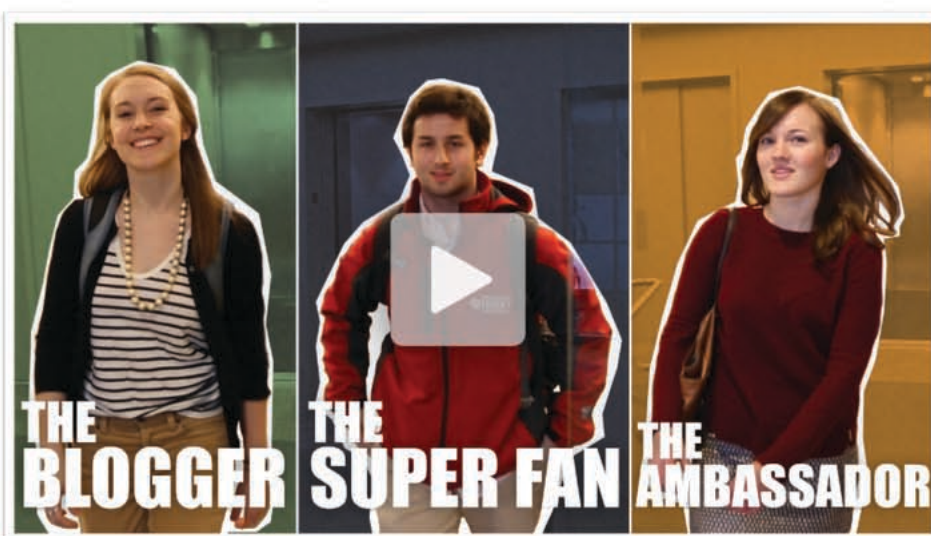


we embark

The Empower campaign is hitting the road, and [you're invited to celebrate with us!](#) Join President Joseph E. Aoun as he welcomes alumni, parents, students, faculty, and friends at Empower launches in Northern California, New York City, and Hong Kong.

Three Northeastern students will be broadcasting live from these exciting events. Follow their journeys on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to get insider access!

Three students.
Four cities.
Watch their adventure begin.



San José - March 4
San Francisco - March 6

New York City - April 3

Hong Kong - May 27-28

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AT NORTHEASTERN

we serve

Sue Welch, Parent'16

Through WeServe, a new volunteer leadership program, donating your time, expertise, and experience can be just as valuable as a more traditional contribution--and many people like Sue Welch do both.

>> [Read more](#)



Who empowered you?

Cory Bolotsky, DMSB'15

"Professor Gordon Adomdza has empowered me to take full advantage of global experiential learning and he has helped shape me into the person I am today."

>> [Read more](#)



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Volunteer Service

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STORY

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