

Zoe MacDiarmid

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EDUCATION

Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Expected May 2027

Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology (pre-med)

Coursework: Genetics and Molecular Biology; Biology Project Lab; Human Parasitology; Current Topics in Cell and Molecular Biology, Limb Regeneration; Organic Chemistry I w/ lab; Moral and Social Issues in Healthcare

Activities: The Huntington News, news staff (2023-2024), deputy campus editor (September 2024-December 2024); Notetaker, Northeastern Disability Access Services (September 2024-December 2024)

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Laboratory: Bacterial/nematode culture and staining; PCR; gel electrophoresis; NanoDrop Spectrometry

Certifications: CPR; EMT (Licensed in April 2023)

Computer: ImageJ; Microsoft Excel; Adobe InDesign; Adobe Premiere Pro; Benchling; Zotero

Communications: Journalistic writing; copy editing; AP style

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Volunteer EMT, Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services

Ellicott City, MD

- Provided patient care on 911 calls
 - Supported fire house operations including maintaining apparatuses, inventorying supplies, and engaging with the community
 - Documented patient care reports and transitioning care to emergency department staff
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WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, PROGRESS Study, Massachusetts General Hospital

Boston, MA

- Take vitals and collect medical history of study participants
- Assist in educating patients on the study
- Collaborate with PI, study nurses, and research coordinators to carry out protocol and meet enrollment quotas

January 2025-Present

Lab Assistant, Beuning Laboratory, Northeastern University

Boston, MA

- Assist graduate students in preparations and execution of experiments
- Map and catalog lab space for optimized workflow and streamlined logistics
- Conduct literature reviews for DNA repair mechanisms

September 2024-December 2024

Biology Project Lab Undergraduate Assistant, Northeastern University

Boston, MA

- Aid instructor in teaching students fundamental lab skills
- Complete instructor-assigned tasks including preparing and pouring plates, picking nematodes, and culturing bacteria

September 2024-December 2024

LEADERSHIP

Campus Editor, The Huntington News, Northeastern University

Boston, MA

- Communicate with editors and writers to publish up to fourteen stories a week
 - Coordinate coverage of breaking news
 - Train new staff members in reporting and journalistic writing
 - Strategize writer recruitment and development
 - Edit for content, copy errors and fact-checking
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ACADEMIC PROJECTS

The Effect of Everyday Substances on Nematodes Experiencing Oxidative Stress, Northeastern University

Boston, MA

- Collaborated with team members to design and establish experiments
- Analyzed data utilizing ImageJ software
- Developed and delivered presentations

June 2024-August 2024

Northeastern student identified as engineer for Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency

Zoe MacDiarmid, campus editor

A friend of Edward Coristine, a first-year student at Northeastern, said tech billionaire Elon Musk is an "idol" to Coristine.

"Through high school, his goal was never really to go to college," the friend said. "He really just wanted to build his own thing, like Mark Zuckerberg or Bill Gates."

Now, Coristine, a Class of 2028 mechanical engineering and physics combined major, is one of a handful of young men employed by Musk at the new Department of Government Efficiency who has been given extraordinary access to sensitive government data as part of his designation as an "expert" within the U.S. government's Office of Personnel Management, [WIRED](#) Magazine reported Feb. 2.

The WIRED article identified a group of young engineers — all 19 to 24 years old — who appeared on calls with government employees and asked them to review code they had written and "justify their jobs." All the young engineers are believed to have connections to Elon Musk, who currently [spearheads the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE](#). According to WIRED, Coristine spent three months last summer before starting at Northeastern working at [Neuralink](#), a company founded by Musk that develops brain implants.

The Trump administration established DOGE with a [Jan. 20 executive order](#), aiming to "modern[ize] Federal technology and software to maximize governmental efficiency and productivity."

Since its inception, DOGE has been granted increasingly confidential access to [sensitive government databases](#) and the [Treasury Department's payment systems](#). Anonymous sources at the Technology Transformation Services — housed within the U.S. General Services Administration — told [WIRED](#) that employees were being summoned for one-on-one meetings with management and were surprised when they were met on the calls by college-aged engineers connected to DOGE. WIRED reported that the engineers lacked official government IDs and email addresses and were reluctant to identify themselves on the calls with career government employees.

Coristine is listed as an "expert" by internal records from the Office of Personnel Management, or OPM, according to WIRED. He allegedly reports to [Amanda Scales](#), the new OPM chief of staff, who was previously employed by Musk's artificial intelligence company, [xAI](#).

Coristine did not respond to requests for comment from The Huntington News. Three sources close to Coristine told The News in interviews that they were unaware of any involvement he allegedly has at DOGE before WIRED's Feb. 2 article.

One person connected to Coristine, who spoke to The News on the condition of anonymity, befriended him in 2021. They said Coristine completed the fall 2024 semester at Northeastern but did not return for the spring 2025 semester. The source said they have "no clue" where Coristine is now and have not seen him for weeks.

The person described an interaction between themselves and Coristine days before the spring 2025 semester began in January.

“It was like an on-the-whim decision,” the person said of Coristine not returning for the spring semester. “I saw him here at Northeastern as I was moving in. He was telling me he was moving out and just didn't elaborate.” They added that Coristine said he planned to work for his dad, and “do his own thing.”

Charles Coristine, Edward Coristine's father, is the president and CEO of [LesserEvil Snacks](#) — a company that manufactures organic snacks. Charles Coristine began as CEO of LesserEvil in 2012, which raked in over \$100 million in revenue in 2024, according to a September 2024 [CNBC article](#).

Charles Coristine was last active on his [Facebook](#) account in 2021. Among his reposts are articles urging readers to go vegan, critiques of Trump's border policy from 2015 and an article about the United States' plastic waste problem.

Edward Coristine's friend described him as being politically “independent,” saying that he doesn't discuss politics. The source said Coristine has demonstrated interest in computer science and entrepreneurship since high school but did not see a compelling reason to attend college.

The source said they believe Coristine “didn't think that he'd ever be able to learn any computer science from university because he's already learned so much.”

They added that Musk is an “idol” to Coristine.

“He just thinks Elon [Musk] is a genius entrepreneur and admired his work and wanted to follow his tracks somewhat in the entrepreneurial space,” the source said.

The source added that Coristine's skills and experience set him apart from his peers and that working for Musk will allow him to build on them.

“He's very passionate about what he does,” the source said. “Obviously, he's super passionate about computer science, and he's trying to chase that passion. He's very skillful at it because he's obviously very accomplished for someone his age, just a freshman in college. He's already done so much.”

There has been substantial criticism of Musk's access and influence on the federal government. After reading WIRED's report, Jordan, a 2018 Northeastern alum, submitted a complaint to Northeastern's Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, claiming that, as a student, Coristine violated Northeastern's Code of Student Conduct.

“Mr. Coristine was among the unauthorized individuals who infiltrated the USAID offices and seized classified information in violation of federal law,” the complaint, which was shared with The News, reads. “According to media reports, Mr. Coristine is an incoming Northeastern University student and is reported to have engaged in unprofessional conduct.”

In the complaint, Jordan wrote that they suspected Edward Coristine to be in violation of several policies, including “Forgery (misuse of documents or records),” “Misuse of Electronic Resources” and “Theft (unauthorized use of computer systems).”

A [profile](#) hyperlinked in [DiamondCDN’s](#) page with the name “Edward C.” on GitHub — a platform that allows developers to store, manage and share code — refers to him as a “technologist.”

“It’s cheesy, but I’m passionate about improving humanity!” the profile’s biography reads.

“He’s a super nice guy. He’s a super humble guy,” said another source close to Edward Coristine, who spoke to The News on the condition of anonymity. “And he’s a really hard-working guy who just loves to accomplish great things. ... That’s just who he is.”

News staff [Paloma Welch](#) contributed reporting.

[Story published Feb. 4, 2025](#)

NUPD conducted operation in response to lewd behavior in Mugar in June, police report shows

Cruising website features three other locations for meet-ups on campus

Zoe MacDiarmid, deputy campus editor

Over the summer, a Northeastern University Police Department, or NUPD, operation led to the arrest of a 61-year-old man for lewd and lascivious behavior in a first-floor men's bathroom of Mugar Life Sciences Building June 6, a police report obtained by The News shows.

The operation, conducted by the NUPD Investigations and Special Operations, or ISO, unit, was in response to "several recent complaints and incidents involving lewd activity" occurring in men's bathrooms in Mugar and several of the buildings connected via the [campus tunnel](#) system, which include Dodge Hall, Ell Hall and Curry Student Center. [Lewdness](#), a term meaning the deliberate exposure of buttocks, genitalia or female breasts, is a felony in Massachusetts and carries up to three years in a state prison.

On Oct. 23, the News first reported on [incidents](#) of illegal activity that led to the addition of locks requiring Husky IDs for entrance to bathrooms in Mugar. At a faculty senate meeting Oct. 16, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs David Madigan said the locks were added due to activity "in relation to prostitution." Massachusetts law defines [prostitution](#) as "the conduct of engaging, agreeing to engage or offering to engage in sexual conduct for a fee."

The police report filed at Roxbury Municipal Court makes no mention of the subject engaging in a monetary transaction. There were two other incidents of trespassing in Mugar June 6, and the individuals involved in both incidents were summoned to court, according to [NUPD crime logs](#).

In total, there were eight reported instances throughout May and June of either trespassing, loitering, suspicious activity or lewd and lascivious conduct in Mugar, according to NUPD [crime logs](#). As of October, locks were added to eight of Mugar's bathrooms, requiring a Husky Card for entrance.

The court document obtained by The News said through intelligence gained in "previous similar operations," NUPD ISO "was aware" of two websites — Sniffies and Grindr — that are used by men looking for other men to have sexual encounters.

[Sniffies](#), which calls itself a "map-based cruising" app on its website, has a feature that allows users to share their location on a live map that is visible to all users, indicating they are open to engaging in sexual encounters. Initially launched in 2018, the map displays the locations of groups and popular meeting places in the user's area. According to the website, there are three meet up sites listed for the Northeastern campus as of Nov. 19: Ell Hall, Dodge Hall and Curry Student Center. Mugar is not listed on the website.

Northeastern media relations did not respond to several requests for comment on The News' findings that multiple buildings were listed on the Sniffies map.

The website provides directions to reach specific bathrooms in each of the buildings. The News found the bathroom in the basement of Dodge features a lock that requires a Husky ID for entry, while bathrooms listed in Ell and Curry did not have locks.

In June, Northeastern was a featured location on Sniffies, and there were four buildings, including Mugar, listed as “meet up spots,” according to the police report. For Mugar, the map on Sniffies had a picture of the door to the first-floor men’s bathroom and instructions on how to navigate to that location.

During the June 6 operation, a NUPD officer went to the area, which he had checked 10 minutes prior when he observed an anonymous user check in to the location. The lights in the previously empty bathroom had been turned off and the handicapped stall appeared to be occupied.

The officer observed a man sitting on the toilet. As the officer approached the area, he heard a sniffing sound from the handicapped stall. From previous similar operations, the officer wrote in the report that they were “aware this noise is often used as a way of discreetly communicating that you are a Sniffies user.” The officer tapped the bathroom counter in response — another discrete communication method also used during meet-ups.

The officer reported that a minute later, the subject laid on the floor in the stall. The report said the officer heard noises coming from the stall suggesting that the subject was masturbating. He then identified himself as a police officer and ordered the subject to exit the stall.

The subject said he was on campus “looking to meet men” and that he has “been engaged in such activity for most of his adult life.” The man said he gained access to Mugar through a door that prominently displays a Private Property/No Trespassing placard. NUPD placed the subject under arrest for trespassing and lewd and lascivious conduct.

News staff [Eli Curwin](#) contributed reporting.

[Story published Nov. 19, 2024](#)

‘Boston is a union town’: Northeastern graduate student worker union pickets outside undergraduate commencement

Zoe MacDiarmid, campus editor

More than 30 members of Northeastern’s graduate student union picketed outside Fenway Park at the university’s undergraduate commencement ceremony May 11, where more than 6,400 undergraduates turned their tassels.

Earlier this week, Northeastern offered the Graduate Employees of Northeastern University-United Auto Workers, or GENU-UAW, a [final package proposal](#) for the union’s first contract, giving it until June 5 to accept the current terms. The union [wrote in a May 5 update](#) on its website that if approved in its current state, the contract would be “the worst grad worker union contract in the nation.” After [24 negotiation sessions](#), GENU-UAW and the university remain at odds about several hot-button issues, including compensation, health and dental insurance and anti-discrimination protections.

“Bargaining is about coming to the table. It’s about compromise on both sides,” said Nicole Gerzon, a cybersecurity doctoral student and a member of GENU-UAW’s organizing committee, at the protest. “And Northeastern has just been showing that they’re unwilling to do it at all. They keep pushing this ‘All or nothing, take it or leave it’ proposal, and that doesn’t really show us that they want to come and discuss details.”

After gathering by the Kenmore T Station, the protesters split into two groups and headed to different sides of the stadium around 2 p.m. as graduates, family and friends entered Fenway Park in droves. Union members — donning bright red shirts with the United Auto Workers logo — handed passersby flyers and engaged people in conversation about their demands, particularly compensation.

“Stand up, stand down, Boston is a union town,” union members chanted.

After 17 months of bargaining against the backdrop of a divisive political climate, the union has yet to certify a contract. So far, the university has proposed three contracts. But the union said the May 5 final package proposal is [largely unchanged](#) from the proposal Northeastern initially put forth in [January 2024](#).

“The position that Northeastern’s been taking throughout this entire thing is trying to discredit the bargaining committee,” Gerzon said. “Every time we come to the table, they tell us we don’t know what our program requirements are. They tell us that we don’t know how law works when we have people on the bargaining committee who have multiple degrees in law, [and] we have people on the bargaining committee who have been in their Ph.D. programs for five or six years.”

This marks the second consecutive year of students using commencement as an opportunity for advocacy. Last year, [one pro-Palestine demonstrator was arrested](#) at the undergraduate commencement May 5 after walking toward the stage with hands [smeared with fake blood](#) as crowd members chanted “Aoun, Aoun, you can’t hide, you are funding genocide.” The 2024 commencement ceremony came during a time of [heightened tensions](#) on campus, just days after 98 individuals who participated in a 48-hour pro-Palestinian [encampment](#) were arrested.

GENU-UAW has previously used university events as a means to put pressure on Northeastern, which the university has strongly [criticized](#). In a May 9 statement to The Huntington News, Northeastern's Vice President for Communications Renata Nyul called GENU-UAW's intent to picket outside commencement "disheartening."

"It is disheartening that the United Autoworkers Union is planning to disrupt the graduation ceremonies for thousands of students and their families instead of putting Northeastern's proposal to their members for a vote," Nyul wrote.

The future of negotiations appears unclear for now. GENU-UAW said that its bargaining committee [received an email](#) from the university "threatening" to claim impasse if the union does not accept its final package offer, which fueled the union's decision to picket at commencement. While the university gave the union until June 5 to respond, the union [wrote](#) that the deadline is "fake and arbitrary" and that it is determined to get the university back to the bargaining table.

"You'll definitely see us show up at basically every Northeastern event to let it be known that this isn't okay," Gerzon said.

[Story published May 11, 2025](#)

Major production companies are threatening independent filmmakers. These students are fighting back.

Zoe MacDiarmid, campus editor

Their story begins in 1938. At the time, eight major film companies — including Paramount Pictures and Twentieth Century-Fox — sought to control the film industry [through their sole ownership](#) of film distribution and exhibition. Ten years later, in 1948, after delays due to the outbreak of World War II, the Supreme Court ruled that these companies had conspired to illegally fix motion picture prices and monopolize both the film distribution and movie theatre markets.

United States v. Paramount Pictures, Inc., now considered a landmark antitrust case, introduced the “Paramount Decrees” which placed restrictions on the companies, such as prohibiting the defendants from both distributing movies and owning theatres without prior court approval. The decrees stood until 2020, when the Department of Justice [terminated](#) them as it worked to eliminate outdated antitrust policies, affectionately dubbed “horse and buggy” policies.

The outcome of this termination [shook](#) the film industry. Today, the industry has evolved from silver screens and Shirley Temple to at-home streaming services and movies with budgets in the [hundreds of millions](#) of dollars. But just like in Old Hollywood, the industry is increasingly in the palm of a few [companies](#) like Netflix and Amazon.

Enter: Brynne Norquist and Tyler Knohl.

Norquist, a fourth-year media arts product major at Emerson College, is no stranger to the world of film. She grew up performing and acting, but it wasn’t until she got to college that she took an interest in the business side of the industry.

In the fall of 2022, she launched Emerson’s first film distribution program within [Frames Per Second](#) — the college’s oldest film organization — where she served as head of distribution. The distribution program was successful and prompted Norquist to dig deeper into the independent film industry.

At the time, the industry was still reeling over the loss of the Paramount Decrees. Troubled by this, in October 2023, Norquist founded Hiike, a platform for independent filmmakers. With [Hiike](#), filmmakers can submit their films, which are then analyzed using thousands of previous submissions. Then, recommendations are generated for filmmakers to inform them of the festivals to which they should submit their films.

“History is truly repeating itself, so I find that to be a major threat,” Norquist said of the termination of the Paramount Decrees. “That was one of the major things that really got me to want to start Hiike in the first place.”

By June 2024, Northeastern fourth-year data science and business administration combined major Tyler Knohl joined Hiike. Knohl had prior experience with film festivals, serving as assistant film festival director at the [Boston Science Fiction Film Festival](#), the nation's oldest genre film festival.

The two originally connected on LinkedIn. And what was supposed to be a 30-minute meeting over coffee turned into four hours of bonding over a shared sense of purpose, which bridged the gap between connecting on LinkedIn and becoming partners for Hiike.

“A differentiator of Hiike is we're not just this platform or this product,” Norquist said. “We are a data source because we have manually collected thousands of lines of film festival data in order to make our recommendation system as specific as possible for our users.”

Norquist and Knohl individually research thousands of different film festival criteria, vet the requirements and add to their ever-growing data source. Yet, major production companies have the upper hand, as they have access to distribution systems that are out of reach for independent filmmakers, Knohl said.

“All these big studios and these big companies have access to them right on, on a scale of content generation and connecting users to the right platforms,” Knohl said. “And now we're creating something that, although not as synonymous, it's still giving filmmakers and people that don't have that access a tool that they're able to use.”

On campus, there is an increasing demand for spaces for filmmakers, highlighted by [North by Northeastern](#) — an annual film festival run solely by students. Lucy Perkins, a third-year business administration and communication studies combined major, and Rylie Hepp, a fourth-year business administration major, lead the film festival.

Last year, North By Northeastern hosted its biggest film festival yet, for which it sold upwards of 300 tickets, Perkins said. The festival highlighted several films by current students, faculty members and alumni of the university.

“The fact that we do have so many non-film students, I think it really speaks to the fact that there is a community at Northeastern that doesn't necessarily want to make filmmaking their career, so they are not studying it at school, but are interested in it and want to engage with the topic,” Hepp said.

As college students across Boston like Norquist and Knohl work to ensure that independent films reach a wider audience, they said that their efforts and their company is rooted in the concept of grit. Norquist grew up ski racing and said it is not uncommon for racers to fall or miss a gate. Many would leave the course, but a select few skiers would try again.

“Most racers just get up and ski out of the course, disqualifying themselves from the whole competition,” Norquist [wrote](#) on her website. “But, if you have the ambition, you get up, hike back to the gate and finish the course. This spirit of resilience and determination is what drives Hiike.”

As Norquist put it: “It's time to Hiike.”

News correspondent [Tanvi Saxena](#) contributed reporting.

[Story published March 4, 2025](#)