

Word Of Mouth: *Turning Noise into Intelligence*

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Anyone over 2 and under 30



Northeastern University

- Founded in 1898
- Private research university
- Located in the heart of Boston
- A leader in interdisciplinary and translational research, urban engagement, and the integration of classroom learning with real-world experience.





Word of Mouth

 Consumer created marketing-relevant information

 Also known as consumer generated media (CGM)



Presentation Objectives

- Recognizing key shifts....
 - Influence, Power & Speed
- Discovering application....
 - Reaching our Students
- Understanding position....
 - What is your virtual image?



Influence, Power & Speed



Who is Talking?

- **Prospective freshmen** are the biggest audience out there
- **Current students** talk about their experiences
- Parents are biggest user of university sponsored Blogs
- <u>Alumni</u> are reconnecting outside of the web through WOM including classmates.com and other online community



The Student Mindset

Who are they?

- "The Millennial Student"
- iGeneration
- The Net Generation
- MyPod Generation
- Generation Next
- D.A.R.E. Generation
- Reality to Generation Authenticity is the Holy Grail





What are students doing on Web sites?

- 97% of incoming students would like access to a campus portal with information about class registration, billing, financial aid, and my account
- 94% of incoming students would like access to online forms to send in housing contracts and meal plans
- 30% of incoming students have read student blogs; 91% would like to if they were available
- 21% of incoming students have read faculty blogs; 88% would like to if they were available

Source: Noel-Levitz / James Tower/ NRCCUA E-Expectations Class of 2007 Study



"About two-thirds of all economic activity in the US is influenced by shared opinions about a product, brand or service."

McKinsey Consulting 2005



Challenges of WOM

- Perception becomes reality at warp speed
- The starting point may define the direction of the dialogue
- Its potential impact on our market is huge
- Yes, it is out of "our" control



AOL HELL







INSIGNIFICANT THOUGHTS

June 15, 2006





June 20, 2006





June 24, 2006

Ehe New York Eimes June 25, 2006



June 26, 2006



June 27, 2006



July 14, 2006





Consequence or Concurrent AOL Impact

- In the quarter that ended Sept. 30, AOL lost 2.5 million subscribers
- Revenue declined 3 percent
- AOL abandoned its "pay-to-play" model, is now trying to succeed as a free service in a very crowded marketplace



Remember These: Traditional Media Readership

- The Washington Post 647,000
- The Los Angeles Times 858,497
- The New York Times 529,575

2005 DMA Circulation, http://www.washingtonpostads.com/adsite/why/media/versus/page1316.html



"The New Influencers"

By Paul Gillin – Quill Book Published Spring 2007 Former Editor of Computerworld Magazine

Paul Gillin – www.paulgillin.com







Reaching our Students



We have largely focused tactically

Getting in the game:

- Creating Blogs (students, faculty and staff)
- Creating Facebook, YouTube and iTunes channels
- Participating in the conversation
- Managing content
- Understanding how to use it



Ι

lice President for student Affairs at Northeastern University.

May 05, 2008

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Hello again,



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES! Friday's Commencement ceremonies went exceptionally well. Traditionally a Saturday event, this year's undergraduate ceremony was inspirational. Student

Commencement speaker, Armine Nalbandian, gave an emotional speech about overcoming adversity, leading the class of 2008 into the world with her strong mind and giving heart. Take a look at the <u>Boston Globe</u> and <u>Northeastern Voice</u> stories highlighting her speech.



SEC Chairman Christopher Cox was the keynote speaker at the ceremony Friday morning, who urged graduates to look to the future, a message I hope you all take to heart. Want a recap of the ceremony?

The NU Voice offers photos and video of the Commencement exercises <u>here</u>. I just wanted to say congratulations to all of you who have graduated Northeastern University, graduate and undergraduate. I wish you all the best in life.

UNDERGRADS! - Don't forget, classes start tomorrow. Make sure you complete your I AM HERE registration TODAY, otherwise your classes will be dropped after 4pm!

Until next time,

Northeastern Admissions An Inside Look

ARCHIVES

May 2008

April 2008

March 2008

February 2008

January 2008

December 2007

November 2007

October 2007

CATEGORIES

ABOUT



May 16, 2008

Waitlist Update

As we wrap up our initial wait list activity, I wanted to take a moment to provide an update on our progress. We had space to admit about 100 students from the wait list. Although the final deposit deadline for this first group of wait list admits is today, May 16, it appears we may have filled our remaining spots. I deliberately used the word "may" because there has been a lot of buzz in the media about the large numbers of schools including Harvard and Penn, who have gone to their wait lists. In fact, I appeared on a local Boston TV show discussing this very topic. While we believe the Northeastern class is just about complete, more space could open up later if the wait list activity at other colleges and universities continues. For students who are still on our wait list, we will continue to monitor our enrollment over the next couple of weeks. We know how difficult it is to wait so we will do our best to wrap up the wait list process as soon as we can.

Until next time.



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Counselor Corner



Mon 30 Apr 2007 Get a Jump on a Summer Job Posted by Counselor under General No Comments

You're heading down the home stretch and summer is right around the corner. Since the best summer jobs go early, carve out some time **now** for an active job hunt. Nailing down that summer job **before** exam week can translate into more money and less stress. Here are some tips to help you get ahead of the game:

- Get your resume and cover letter in top-notch shape, and tailor and tweak your resume for different jobs. If your school's career office has counselors who review student job resumes, take advantage of this service.
- Give some real thought to how do you'd like to spend this summer. Consider several possibilities with a plan of attack for each, then work your plans.
- Heading home for the summer? Check out your town's newspaper and online job boards for summer positions, including paid internships. If you plan to stay near campus, check out summer jobs and paid internships available on campus or in the surrounding area. If you have a holiday/resort area in mind, this often means finding summer housing as well as a job. Now's the time to nail down the details.

Northeastern Home Page Student Financial Services Pages About Us Categories General (15) Search

Links



Market Response

- Helpful and convenient information
- More parents than students
- Not perceived as "real" consumer information
- "Flogs" versus Blogs
- Student to student connection



What is your virtual image?



What do you need to explore?

- The strength of our brand
- A consumer perspective
- What is driving students' decisions?
- What starts the best (and worst) conversations
- Where are our brand advocates
- Where/what de-brands our universities



Transparency is not an option, it *IS* a reality of the new world.



What is OUR virtual reality?

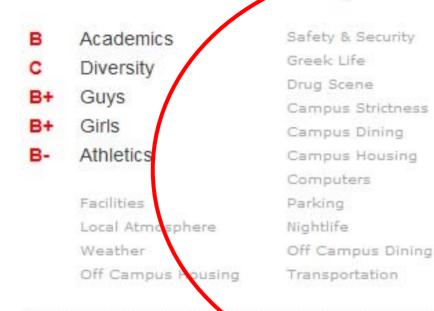
And what can we do about it?



What's Out There? Information sites

Post information from various sources (that may or may not be correct)

Get a 20 Subject Report Card on Northeastern University



CONTEN OTHERSING OVERVIEW CAMPUS LIFE AMENTTEES TC By the Numbers Diversity A+ Campus Dining Overall Experience E+ Guys **Campus Housing** The Inside Scoop Cirts Computers No Best & Worst 6- Athlatics Facilities War is To Know Safety & Security Parking 84 Greek Life Transportation Weiting #+ Drug Some ACADEMICS **Campus Strictness** + Academics Student Organizations Athletics: B-OVERVIEW JOENTS SPEAK OUT COLLEGE PROWLER TAKE FACTS **Students Speak Out** "It's exciting to be at a place so renown same time highly competitive and top r it's thrilling to watch a football gan match in Lynah Rink, or a wrestling ma

Read Hundreds of Quotes from Northeastern University Students

Read samples from the Northeastern University guide below:

Guys & Girls

2

"I think we have the most attractive campus around. I see the students at BU as being the 'nerdy-antisocial' crowd, and **Northeastern's** exactly huge. Hockey is fairly big here, it's definitely not a priority. Intramural s presence here. If you want to participate very easy to do. There are intramurals fo sport you can think of."



"Varsity hockey is huge; the games a is also really big. Other sports just can't high school football team has more enthi football team does here. Our basketball t think our hockey support is probably as a college in the country. If you're an athlet really good to play a sport, but IMs are p make a team."



"There are many varsity sports on campu hockey is very big here. We have a for they never do very well. Lacrosse is also



The U: Have you seen your university's video?

Sponsored by: The WB and U.S. News & World Report



Collegeconfidential.com

- Average 300,000 visitors per month
- Founded to "demystify" the admissions process
- College Counseling specializing in lvy League and elite college counseling
- Staff has served as college counselors

2		
124		#3
SherryL08 Junior Member		
Join Date: Feb 2008 Threads: 6 Posts		
	I would go Neu! Fordham seems strict on their core curriculum and Bu, well it's too pricey! That's just my opinion!	
°c		
📮 06-06-2008, 06:08 PM		#4
RatedPG Member	humtaro, you mentioned a possible change of major to SLP. My daughter is starting in that program in the fall. Very well recognized and established.	
Join Date: Mar 2006 Location: New Hampshire Threads: 48 Posts: 494	Have you visited any of these schools, What school are you transferring from? I have not be to Fordham but BU and NEU have very different campuses.	en
	It really depends on where you would be most comfortable, can't imagine making a decision without visiting the schools first.	
	That being said, NEU is know for its coop and its big upswing in the last several years in selectivity.	
	If you have any questions specific to NEU let me know, I have another daughter there in the college of engineering.	
	 O6-06-2008, 05:24 PM SherryL08 Junior Member Join Date: Feb 2008 Threads: 6 Posts Posts O6-06-2008, 06:08 PM RatedPG Member Join Date: Mar 2006 Location: New Hampshire Threads: 48 	Oc-06-2008, 05:24 PM SherryL08 Junior Member Join Date: Feb 2008 Threads: 6 Posts I would go Neu! Fordham seems strict on their core curriculum and Bu, well it's too pricey! That's just my opinion! Ce I would go Neu! Fordham seems strict on their core curriculum and Bu, well it's too pricey! That's just my opinion! Ce Note-06-2008, 06:08 PM RatedPG Numaro, you mentioned a possible change of major to SLP. My daughter is starting in that program in the fall. Very well recognized and established. Have you visited any of these schools, What school are you transferring from? I have not ber to Fordham but BU and NEU have very different campuses. It really depends on where you would be most comfortable, can't imagine making a decision without visiting the schools first. That being said, NEU is know for its coop and its big upswing in the last several years in selectivity. If you have any questions specific to NEU let me know, I have another daughter there in the

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College Visits



Browse All Northeastern University Reports

Northeastern University

Visit Report by creasemonkey (Member since March 29 2005 with 53 posts) Visit Date - April 2006

5 of 6 people found this visit report helpful

Visit to Northeastern University in April 2006 by creasemonkey (Parent of Student, HS Class of 2006)

Visit Activities:

Information Session: Yes - General admission session and tour followed by Bouve Health Program session. Very good presentation followed by Q/A session. Especially enjoyed the information about how Northeastern's Co-op program works.

Campus Tour: Yes - Comprehensive walking tour including sample dorm room, Marino fitness center, library, student center, academic buildings, etc.

Northeastern University Campus:

Friendliness/Courtesy of Students: 5 - Excellent 🚖 🚖 🚖 🚖 🚽 - Met up with a few students through facebook ar got another impromptu meeting and tour with some of them after the official admissions office tour. Friendliness/Courtesy of Staff: 5 - Excellent 🚖 🚖 🚖 🚖 - Bouve staff members were extremely informative and helpful.

Appearance of Campus: 5 - Excellent 🚖 🚖 🚖 🚖 - Very nice for an urban campus. It really had a campus reel (like UC Berkeley) compared to Boston University.

Building/Facilities Maintenance/Cleanliness: 5 - Excellent **XXXXX** - Very clean and well-maintained. Campus was easy to get around and we were able to spend more time exploring after the general tour.

Dormitories: 4 - Very Good 🚖 🚖 🚖 🎲 - Visited dorms in Light Hall, Stetson West and West Village. Pretty nice for an urban campus where real estate is at a premium. Northeastern tour quide said that on-campus housing is quaranteed for the first 3 years which is far better than many other col

Security/Safety: 5 - Excellent 🚖 🚖 🚖 🚖 🚖 - Amazing - Lost wallet and it was turned in with everything in tact. Campus security officers and staff were extremely helpful.

Overall Campus Impression: 5 - Excellent 🚖 🚖 🚖 🚖 - Excellent choice for many students, especially for those wishing to have the connerative experiential learning experience.

🙆 Internet

one

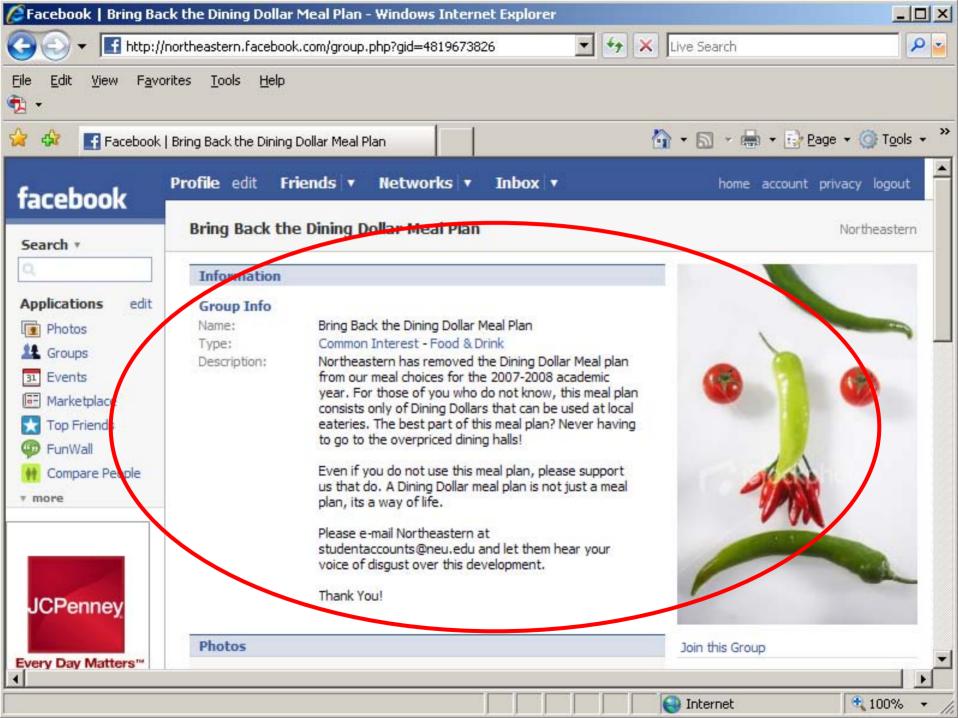


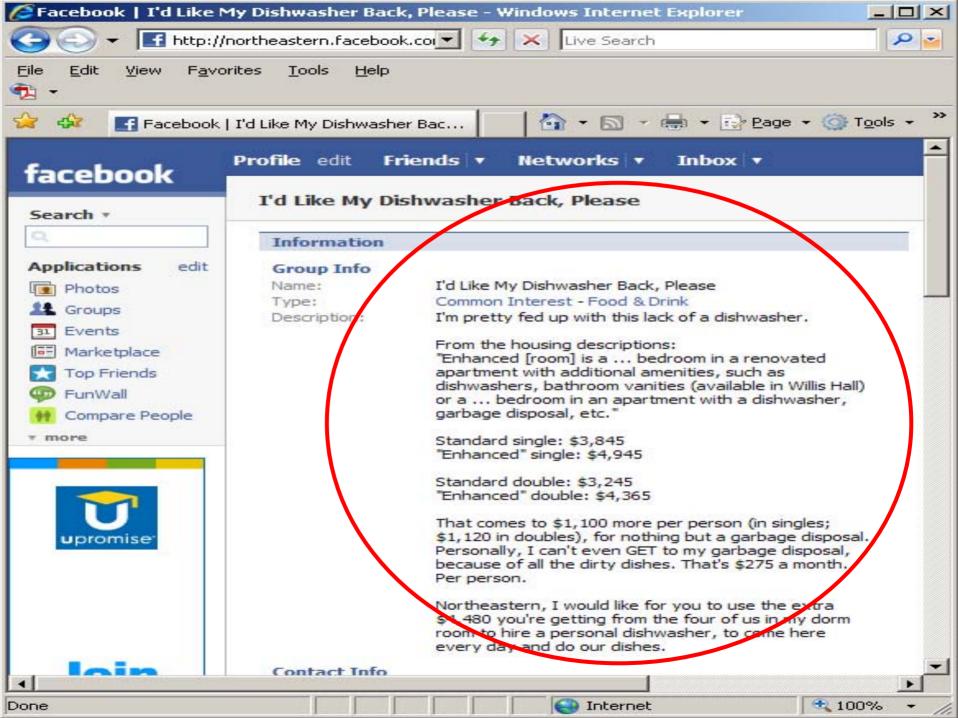
Networking Sites Allow users to connect with others





- More than 80 active users
- Over 55,000 regional, work-related, collegiate, and high school networks
- Maintain 85 percent market share of 4-year U.S. universities
- Sixth-most trafficked site in the United States
- More than 54 billion page views per month
- People spend an average of 20 minutes on the site daily
- Canada has the most users outside of the United States, with more than 6 million active users; the U.K. is the third largest country with more than 5 million active users







Dialogue & Opinion Sites "the bloggosphere..."

Allow users to talk amongst themselves about your University and other issues and to rate and review their experiences





- More than 50 million members
- Fastest growing Web site in the country
- 75% of members are over the age of 18
- Murdoch's News Corp. bought MySpace for \$580 million one year ago



LiveJournal.com

٠	Total accounts:	15.8M	
٠	Accounts active in some way:	1.7M	
٠	Posts per hour:	18,367	
٠	 Top Countries where Livejournal is most popular: 		
	 United States 	3.3M	
	 Russian Federation 	500,00	
	 Canada 	295,430	





Liiiindsay (<u>Liamlindsay</u>) wrote in ^{(Liiindsay} (<u>Liiindsay</u>) wro



Hey everyone-

I tried looking to see if this was asked yet, but I didn't see anything about it from this year. Does anyone know when grades should be posted? I heard it was today, but I'm not sure. Thanks...and good luck!

(Post a new comment)



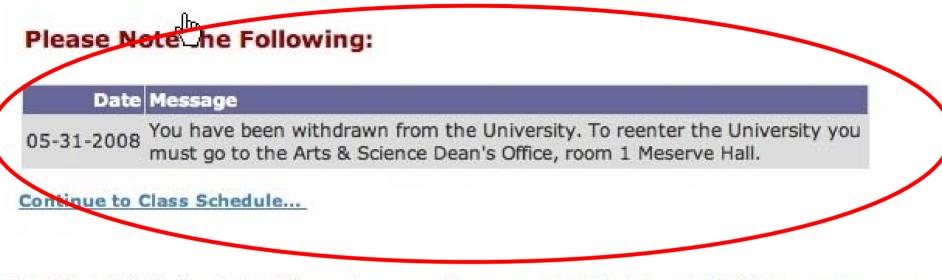
<u>newspapertaxis7</u> 2008-04-28 04:42 pm UTC (link)

The academic calendar says they'll be up tomorrow.

(Reply to this)(Thread)

northeastern would make the pope cry

I wish Northeastern would at least have the decency to buy me a drink or something before it screws me over, because this one really takes the cake.



What. The. Hell. Seriously, has this ever happened to anyone else?! And how do I fix it? I'm nowhere near Boston right now, my advisor is out of the country, and I'm ready to tear my hair out.

When I clicked "continue to class schedule" my fall classes and Dialogues program still showed up - confusing me even more!

Background: I was on study abroad this spring, I'm at home on vacation now, and attending one of the Dialogues of Civilizations programs for summer 2. I'm assuming this pattern may have screwed me over...but...anyone? Help?

City sounds: furious



Affiliated, Unauthorized Sites

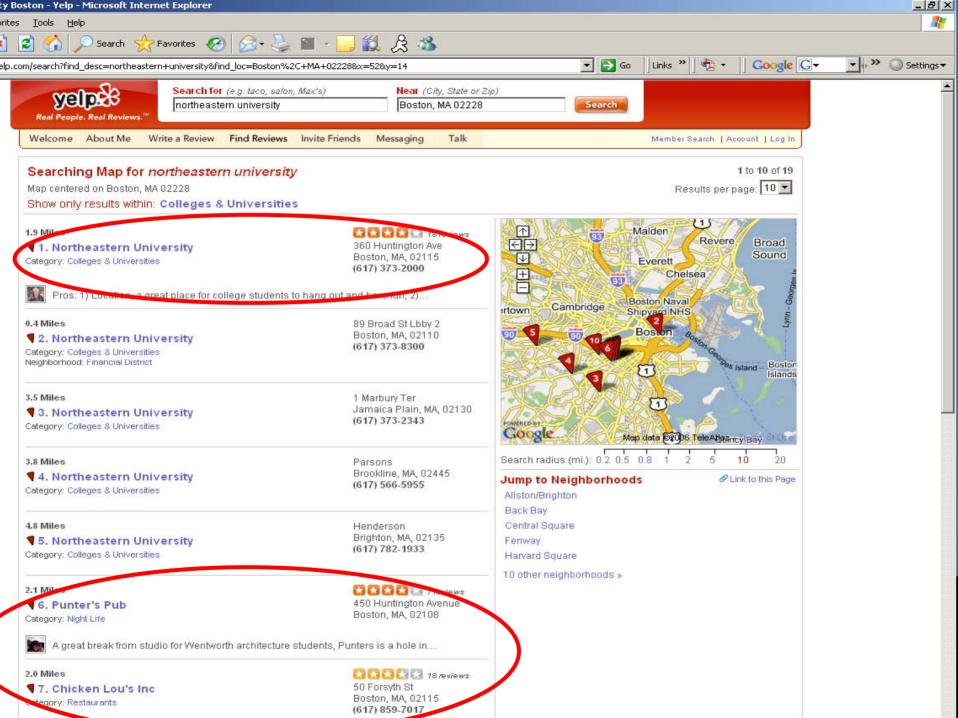
- Managed by current students, sharing opinions
- Not authorized by the University (often carries the brand though)
- Northeastern's list includes:
 - Renegadehuskies.com
 - NUshuffle.com
 - NortheasternOTR
 - Dieharddogs.com

What's on your University's list?



Social Networks

- 85% of teens who have created an online profile they use or update most often is on Myspace
- Nearly half of teens who use social networks visit the sites either once a day (26%) or several times a day (22%), while 17% visit the sites three to five days per week, 15% visit on to two days per week, and 20% visit every few weeks or less often





Online Video

YouTube

- 12- to-64-year-old Internet users, daily usage of online video rose by 56% over the last year
- #1 type of video viewed is news, followed by video content (bloopers,/jokes, weather, movies) and user-generated content
- 80% of 18-to-24 year old male Internet users in the U.S. watch online videos at least once a week, and 35% on a daily basis
- Among females ages 18 to 24, weekly use of online video is 53%.
- YouTube acquired by Google in November 2006



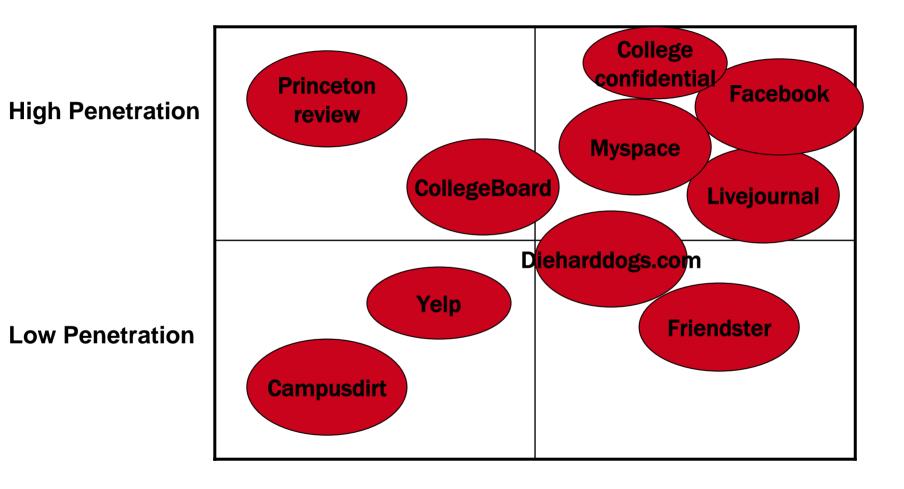
Northeastern's YouTube Site



Understanding Perception

- Gather market intelligence
- Spend as much time examining how messages are received as framing them
- Use it internally to create a deeper community understanding of our university
- Examine the agility of decision-making
- Gain a better understanding of functionality on Web sites





Low Activities High Activities





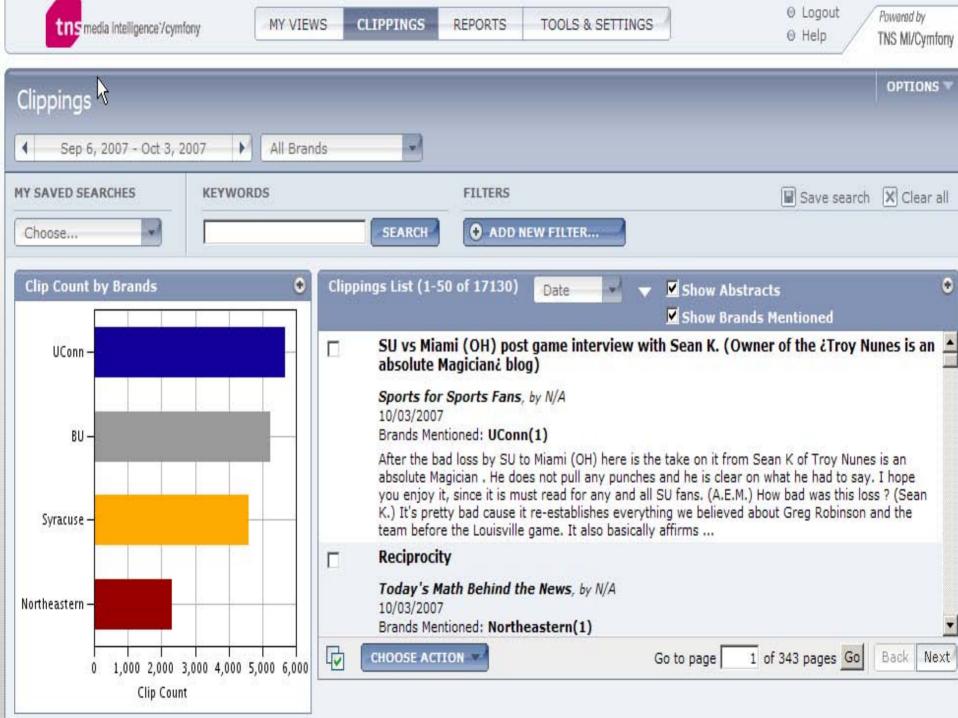
Insider View

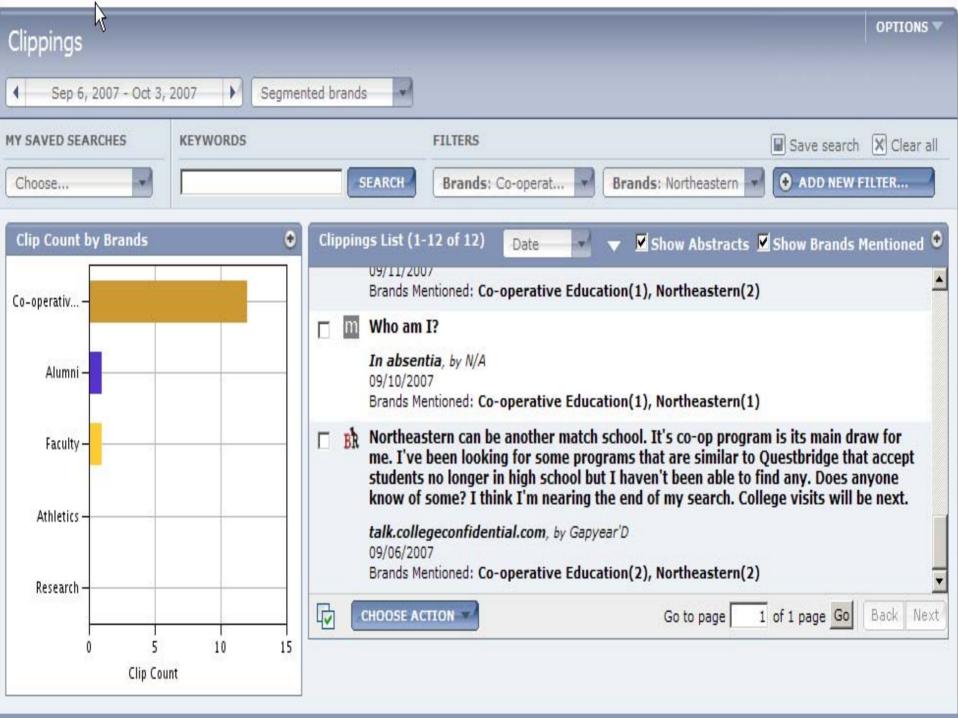
Distant View



Methodology Currently Being Tested

- Retained Cymfony Inc. for site monitoring
- Dashboard designed to maximize analytical view
- Dashboard designed for action

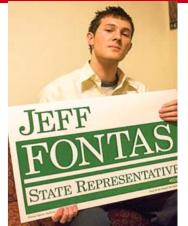






Learning From Our Students

- Jeffrey Fontas 19 year old NU student; won State Rep in New Hampshire
- Sees his knowledge of the internet as a big advantage



Media Credit: News Photo/Zach Virgilio Jeff Fontas

 Jeffrey used his campaign blog and social networking sites to rally support, voice his stances on the issues and raise money



Ouick Search

My Profile edit My Friends My Photos My Groups My Events My Messages

My Account

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Northeastern Announcement

Why FLYER campus?

Upcomina areek event? or club meeting? or sports game?

Want everyone at school to come?

Post a Facebook announcement now.

Create Your Own!



Smith Anderson's Profile



View More Photos of Smith (141) Send Smith a Message Poke Him! Add Smith as a Friend Report this Person

Friends at Northeastern Smith has 195 Northeastern friends.



Redman Allison Neff



Tara Rosa



Information

Account Info Name: Member Since: Last Update:

> **Basic Info** School:

Status: Sex: Concentration: Residence: Birthday: Home Town: High School:

Contact Info School Email: AIM Screenname: Mobile: Current Town:

Personal Info Interested In: Political Views: Interests:

Clubs and Jobs:

Favorite Music:

Favorite TV Shows:

Favorite Movies: Esuscito Rooker

Smith Anderson [add to friends] August 2, 2004 January 15, 2006

home search global social net invite help logout

Northeastern

Northeastern '07 Undergrad Male Biology W. Village C 718PENTHOU 04/26/84 Delray bch., FL. 33444 Atlantic High School '02

anderson.sm@neu.edu smoke0079 561.715.5181 Boston, MA

Women

Very Liberal snowboarding, wakeboarding, Running, Swimming, anything that can be categorized as sweet RSA President, Intramural Soccer and dodgeball and broomball, club swimming and Club tennis Yellowcard, Something Corporate, New Found Glory, Brand new, coheed & Cambria, Sublime...anything that rocks Grey's Anatomy, House, Extreme make over, simpsons Elf, boondock saints, ocean's eleven

Angola and Domana Da Linci codo Digital Fortrace





Lessons Learned from Facebook

One student's story



A Reminder about Today's Student

YouTube - A Vision of Students Today



A satisfied person tells one person

A dissatisfied person tells 3 people or is it...

"3 million or 10 million"

Paul Gillin "The New Influencer"



Sites to Watch

- www.collegeboard.com
- www.collegeedge.com
- www.collegenet.com
- www.dialyjolt.com
- www.facebook.com
- www.hobsons.com
- www.petersons.com
- www.ratemyprofessors.com
- www.campusdirt.com

- www.collegeprowler.com
- www.theu.com
- www.mtvu.com
- www.epinions.com
- www.iagora.com
- www.studentsreview.com
- www.yelp.com
- www.xap.com
- www.Myspace.com
- www.Friendster.com



Comment...Question...Discussion