

Three ECSU alums named Fellows

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WILLIMANTIC—Eastern Connecticut State University has inducted a new trio of Fellows into its ranks.

Three ECSU alumni were inducted into the institution's Fellows Program on Oct. 19: Charlotte Braziel from the Class of 1980, Raymond Hill Jr. from the Class of 1983, and Shawn Meaike from the Class of 1995.

There are now 32 alumni in the Eastern Fellows Program, which was established in 2008 to recognize distinguished graduates and create opportunities for them to engage with the current student body.

The three newest Fellows met with students recently, sharing career advice as part of a panel discussion.

Braziel is retired from the FBI as a special agent investigating organized crime, acts of terrorism and fraud, and is now the head of the investigative consulting firm Braziel and Associates. She also teaches at St. Leo University in Florida.

As an Eastern student, she majored in public policy and government.

"My father saw an advertisement in the paper for the FBI, recruiting specifically women," said Braziel during the panel's discussion. "When he told me he thought I'd be a good candidate, I laughed and said I would never get in. But after a two-

Special Neighbor



Eastern Connecticut State University alumni Raymond Hill, Charlotte Braziel and Shawn Meaike were inducted into the university's Fellows Program. With them is ECSU President Elsa Nunez. Contributed photo

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Charlotte Braziel

and-a-half year application process, I got hired as an agent in December 1987, and had the career of a lifetime.

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Hill, who became a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force after earning a doctorate in industrial systems

engineering from Ohio State University, is now a professor at the Air Force Institute of Technology. He has published and edited hundreds of articles and advises students on doctoral projects.

As an ECSU undergrad, Hill majored in mathematics.

"When I started thinking about the type of professor I wanted to be, I thought back to Eastern," Hill said during the panel. "My professors' doors were never closed. I could go to any of their offic-

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Raymond Hill Jr.

es for help both academically and personally. I've adopted that same philosophy."

Meaike had careers in social work and as an entrepreneur before establishing the Family First Life organization, an Uncasville-based multimillion-dollar marketing company for insurance and investments that provides annual scholarships. He also founded Connecticut Affordable Waste this year, a company that reduces the costs of residential and commercial renovations.

At ECSU, he majored in sociology and applied social relations.

"My social work experience here was raw and real," Meaike said during the panel discussion. "We were challenged to speak and work with passion; it shaped who I am today."

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Shawn Meaike