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IBC  A Leadership Gift
Welcome to a new day for EASTERN Magazine!

The bright, cheerful cover is our way of letting you know that we have a fresh new look for you inside. With Eastern enrollments growing steadily over the past 10-15 years, most of our alumni today are in their 20s and 30s. Their growing numbers, use of social media and busy schedules are all good reasons to rethink how we share our Eastern story — hence the dramatic change in how EASTERN Magazine is being presented to you.

We hope that all of our alumni, donors, faculty, staff, parents and other University friends appreciate the magazine’s new design. It is more visual, a quicker read, and hopefully, more engaging to look at! A major story will be the centerpiece of each issue — this first one focuses on the five new majors we introduced to campus this past fall. The rest of the magazine is full of short stories about alumni, donors, students and faculty; photo galleries; games; humor; and other innovative ways to provide information.

The goal is to continue to share our special story with the Eastern family — through an exciting, upbeat experience. And a proud one! With the highest graduation rate and best ranking in U.S. News and World Report’s annual college ratings among Connecticut’s four state universities, Eastern continues to shine as it delivers on the promise of a quality, liberal arts experience.

EASTERN Magazine’s new look is one more example of the innovation occurring on our campus, and of the University’s commitment to staying current with social and technological trends. We encourage you to stay in touch. It is through your engagement with Eastern that we can continue to improve our stature as Connecticut’s public liberal arts university.

Elsa M. Núñez
President
Tucked away in Eastern’s Science Building is a powerful and unique piece of research equipment called a confocal microscope; having one is “virtually unheard of at an undergraduate institution,” said Biology Professor Barbara Murdoch.

A confocal microscope is designed to provide high-resolution images of tissues, cells and cellular structures. At Eastern, qualified students have greater access to a confocal microscope than many graduate students at large research institutions, who may have to reserve timeslots weeks in advance. “Most undergraduate students would never get this type of research experience, which really makes them stand out upon graduating,” said Murdoch.

This semester, student researchers are using the $250,000 microscope to study the regeneration of cells within the nervous system, and in particular, within the nose.

“In humans, specialized cells in the nose allow for the sense of smell,” explained Murdoch. “These cells, termed neurons, have a limited lifespan. If not replaced, the sense of smell would be forever lost. Most people retain their sense of smell for their lifetime through the continued regeneration of lost neurons. Undergraduate researchers at Eastern are studying this same tissue in chickens to figure out how regeneration works. In the future, their findings may be applied to other parts of the nervous system, like the brain, to help remediate brain damage.”
At Diana’s Pool, I studied erosion in a bedrock-controlled river. This was part of the “Art Rocks” course that allowed us to appreciate both the scientific and artistic beauty of the site. It was excellent to get outdoor experience for both topics. We saw real-life versions of different erosional features that we discussed in the classroom such as knickpoints, pools and riffles. We also learned how bedrock characteristics effect the behavior of rivers.

Lindsey Belliveau ’14, EES major

On a nice day, Diana’s Pool is the perfect place to go to get away from campus for a little while. It is only about a 10-minute drive. My friends and I enjoy relaxing and taking in all the natural surroundings. There are hiking trails along the stream, rocks you can sunbathe on, swimming holes and places to fish.”

Nicole Salisbury ’16, Social Work major

Diana’s Pool is a dramatic and interesting site for art students to paint and draw. There are geologic formations including large boulders and ledge outcroppings with waterfalls and pools. It is naturally beautiful and provides a very challenging place for students to respond to the landscape.

Art Professor Andy Jones
Since 2000, Sue Walling, known affectionately as “Sandwich Sue,” has been serving students sandwiches and omelets — with a side of smiles — in Hurley Hall. Known for complimenting students on their food choices and always having a positive attitude, Sue took off her apron for a few minutes to chat with us.

How did you come to work at Eastern?
“I was working at Dunkin’ Donuts and Stop & Shop at the time. I used to prepare the morning coffee for Eastern’s food service managers on their way up to Eastern. They liked my ‘game’ and skills, and asked me to work for them.”

Who are some of your role models?
Donald Trump, Chef Ramsey from Hell’s Kitchen, Mariah Carey, Larry the Cable Guy and Jesus.

What do you do for fun?
“I love music with positive messages. I grew up playing in orchestras and bands, and still play the violin — privately, in the house. I bring my kids to museums. I like to bowl, hike and boat. You have to stay active, have to get out there.”

What’s your favorite part about the job?
“The kids. They pick me up if I’m having a bad day, and if I make their day, that’s amazing.”

What’s your favorite station in the kitchen?
“All stations are special in their own way.”

Favorite quotes:
“Good job!”; “Get ’er done!”; “I always pray on my food”; “I believe in Burger King — have it your way”; “What you give you get back”; “Be positive.”
Since it was unearthed 30 years ago during construction of Occum Hall, “The Rock” has served as a billboard and canvas for Eastern students. After hundreds of coats of paint, you can hear this Eastern landmark saying, “Tweet this!”
New Majors Create More Options

BY Meghan Carden
FINANCE

By adding a major in Finance, Eastern addressed the increasing demand for graduates with a broad business and liberal arts background in the field of financial services. The degree will provide students with preparation to enter the financial services sector, work in a corporate setting or enroll in graduate school. The Finance major includes related courses in business and accounting, and core and elective courses in finance and economics.

“This major fortifies the students with knowledge in areas of investments, financial management, banking, real estate and international finance,” said Chiaku Chukwuogor, the Finance program coordinator.

Eastern students who major in Finance will be poised to work with companies seeking graduates who are ethically suited for today’s business challenges. Finance majors are in high demand in brokerage firms, insurance companies, the foreign exchange market and the banking industry.

Outside of the classroom, arrangements are underway to start a vibrant Finance Students Association. Members will have opportunities to hear from industry experts, network and participate in conferences and workshops locally and overseas.

“Finance majors will not only be well equipped for employment but will make great contributions to their communities,” said Chukwuogor.

LIBERAL STUDIES

There is a continued high demand for qualified teachers across Connecticut, with elementary schoolteachers first, and early childhood teachers fifth, on the list of occupations that require a bachelor’s degree with the most job openings. At the same time, changes in teacher certification requirements, as well as the longstanding mandate that Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education majors declare a second major, have made it difficult for education majors to graduate in four years. Many Eastern education majors have also been challenged by the Praxis II exam, which tests the knowledge required to successfully teach.

“The Education Department was feeling that students weren’t getting the preparation needed in all the subject areas they will be expected to teach, and as a result, were not prepared for the exam,” said English Professor Barbara Liu. A task force was assembled to address these issues, and the result was the new Liberal Studies major.

This major is exclusively offered to students who have declared pre-Elementary Education or pre-Early Childhood Education as a major or who have been admitted to one of those majors. The program offers concentrations in the natural sciences, history/social sciences, English and mathematics, while core courses range from economics to mathematics, U.S. government,
biology, children’s literature and history. The new program aligns with certification regulations and accreditation standards, while giving students a stronger foundation in preparation for passing the Praxis II exam and becoming exceptional teachers.

While the major enhances the content knowledge expected of Eastern’s teacher candidates, each concentration within the major gives students a deeper background. As for graduating in four years while balancing two majors and the requirements of the liberal arts core curriculum? “There is no room for error,” said Liu, “but with hard work and planning it is possible to finish in four.”

NEW MEDIA STUDIES

Today’s world of news, entertainment, commerce and education is digital, web-based, mobile and constantly changing. Trained professionals in the field are in high demand — the call for digital media employees in Connecticut is three times the number of available candidates. To meet this need, faculty from the Departments of Communication, English, Computer Science, Art and Art History and Performing Arts have worked together to develop the New Media Studies major.

“This new major will live up to our liberal arts principles of critical thinking, creative skills, problem solving and teamwork and will also look at how best to prepare our students to remain competitive,” said Jaime Gómez, communication professor and director of New Media Studies. “As things change in the world we will update the curriculum.”

Students in the New Media Studies major — unique within Connecticut’s state universities — will take courses across several disciplines as they prepare for careers in digital motion graphics, web development/design, game and app design, digital audio/video production, 2-D and 3-D animation, social media and digital art.

With a smooth transfer of credits from several of Connecticut’s community colleges, and concentrations in English, visual arts, performance media, communication and media computation, Gómez is confident the program will become well-known and respected within the region. “We have created a valuable academic option and a unique program.”

HEALTH SCIENCES

Across campus, another multi-disciplinary group of faculty has worked together to address the growing need for workers in the healthcare industry, as well as the increasing number of college-bound seniors interested in majoring in the health professions. The resulting Health Sciences major will prepare students for entrance into graduate schools and professional health schools or qualify them for entry-level positions in biology and health-related occupations.

The major consists of three main concentrations: public health studies, pre-nursing and pre-physical therapy. Using nationally recognized graduate programs as a guide, the curriculum is designed to build upon supporting courses in chemistry, mathematics, health and physical education, sociology, health informatics, healthcare management and psychology.

“This new major will prepare students to get into competitive graduate programs,” said Yaw Nsiah, professor of biology. Eastern already has articulation agreements in place with nursing programs at Southern Connecticut State University and the University of Connecticut Farmington,
and Nsiah is optimistic that other graduate programs will be eager to admit Eastern students.

Program facilities in Eastern’s state-of-the-art Science Building include a DNA Sequencer; an Imaging Center with confocal microscope; and a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Center. Once additional spaces are refurbished, majors will have their own Anatomy and Physiology lab and Health Sciences lab.

“This is a unique program that gives students who aren’t in the hard sciences a chance to go into health sciences,” said Nsiah. “This is a major that goes well with a minor in Spanish, Business, Environmental Earth Science or Communication. That is the blend we want to have.”

**PHILOSOPHY**

One of the core disciplines of a liberal arts education and the foundation of all knowledge, Eastern’s new Philosophy major evokes the traditions of the great Greek philosophers Plato, Socrates and Aristotle.

The Philosophy major will prepare students to think critically, develop their complex reasoning skills, and learn to analyze and solve problems while studying moral and ethical issues that confront mankind on a global scale. Taught in a comparative model, the program will explore both Western and non-Western philosophies, including peace and human rights, Asian philosophies, global ethics, American political thought, Western philosophy, logical inquiry and Jainism. Students will study topics ranging from bioethics and the philosophy of science to existentialism, aesthetics and phenomenology.

One of the major functions of philosophy is the development of reasoning and critical thinking. With these skills, Eastern’s Philosophy majors will be prepared to succeed across the occupational spectrum. “Philosophy students will be self-initiators, critical thinkers and problem solvers,” said Hope Fitz, professor of philosophy. “These graduates will fit with any company looking for self-motivated people with a command of the English language who can make critical decisions and don’t need everything explained to them. Who wouldn’t want that?”

“These new majors have grown out of our existing strengths in the arts, the natural and physical sciences, and the humanities, and will enrich the liberal arts at Eastern,” said Eastern President Elsa Núñez. “In addition to skill sets specific to each major, students will gain competencies in critical thinking, communication and collaboration as they prepare for career fields with excellent employment opportunities. I commend our faculty for the work required to get five new majors approved and integrated into our curriculum, and I look forward to seeing the first graduates from these majors join the ranks of successful Eastern alumni.”
From Oct. 7-12, Eastern’s Performing Arts Department presented “On the Verge,” portraying three Victorian women traveling through what they believe to be Terra Incognita (Lands Unknown). As the play advances, “Fanny,” “Mary” and “Alex” begin to realize that they are actually traveling through time. One actor played all nine male characters and the creatures the women meet on their journey — from Fanny’s husband, a shy American banker, to Alfonse, an eccentric character with a German accent, to a Yeti who growls and roars.

The greatest reward from the show was learning about the history of this country. I learned how special and unique a woman traveler was during the 19th century.”

Psychology/Theatre Major Stephanie Madden ’16 (Alex)

“Learning various words and cultural references led to many hilarious moments during rehearsals, especially when we explored the word ‘tribalism,’ unearthed an ancient episode of ‘College Bowl’ and sang along to ‘Wipeout.’”

Theatre/Accounting Major Caitlighn Foley ’17 (Mary)

“I always tried to entertain my family when I was younger, so some of my voices came from silly things I would do around my house or among family or friends.”

Biology Major John-Paul Deveglia ’16

“The costumes were the icing on the cake; once you are in costume, you live and breathe and move just like the women of that era.”

Theatre Major Sarah Oschmann ’15 (Fanny)
What’s in Today’s Backpack?

What’s in Today’s Backpack?

Textbooks, a notepad and art supplies — signs of a liberal arts college!

Braving the winter with a scarf!

Rolling Stone Magazine — for casual reading.

An iPad for the digital world.

Quench your thirst with some water or an energy drink.

Antioxidants? Have an apple!

Need potassium? Eat a banana!

Can’t be without your cell phone!

A hacky sack — for relaxing between classes!

Quench your thirst with some water or an energy drink.

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Can’t be without your cell phone!
The President’s Leadership Awards Luncheon was held on Nov. 7 to honor and thank the University’s leadership level donors. The luncheon is the premiere donor appreciation event of the year; in addition to recognizing Eastern’s top donors, the event also honored several distinguished Eastern alumni.

Eastern President Elsa Núñez opened the luncheon program. “So why are we here today? Quite simply, we are here to say ‘thank you,’” she said. “I am also here especially to bring thanks from the hundreds of Eastern students who, without your support, might not be walking our halls, sitting in our classrooms and working tirelessly to achieve their goals as scholars and budding professionals.”

Ken DeLisa, vice president for institutional advancement, spoke to the fundraising achievements of the current year. “With students facing unparalleled needs, your generosity resulted in our being able to award an all-time high of $750,000 in ECSU Foundation Scholarships to more than 300 deserving students!”

Award presentations followed the luncheon service. Dr. Zygmunt Francis Dembek ’72, an epidemiologist and biochemist with more than 30 years of state and military service, receive the Distinguished Alumni Award. “The son of immigrants, I come from a humble economic background,” he said. “I would not be where I am today if not for the state programs that provided me with financial aid to attend Eastern.”

The second Distinguished Alumni Award went to Kathy Regan-Pyne ’79, whose career includes positions in education, human resources and career development. Currently she is the corresponding secretary of the Mohegan Tribal Council. A decorated Eastern athlete, Regan-Pyne said, “Eastern’s coaches and educators have made me a
better person. My journey here began more than 35 years ago and continues today.”

Alumnus Edward J. Giard ’00, whose relationship with Eastern began as a graduate student, earned the Distinguished Service Award for his parish work in churches and volunteerism throughout Connecticut.

“Eastern gives to its students a love of learning and passion for service,” he said. “Midway through my career, Eastern gave me an opportunity to earn a master’s degree in organizational management, which helps me to better serve now.”

Ray Aramini earned the Hermann Beckert Friends of the University Award for his commitment to students as assistant coach of the rugby club. Aramini stresses character and work ethic as much as sport, and said, “We might not have anyone on the team who will become a professional player, but they will all become professionals.”

The ECSU Foundation Distinguished Donor Award went to Mary Lou Corbett DeVivo ’60, whose involvement with Eastern includes an endowed scholarship and participation on boards and in a number of campus events. “Our family has been at Eastern a long time,” she said. “My mother was first here to become a teacher, I was the second generation, my son graduated from here, and I hope one of my grandchildren will be the fourth generation to graduate from Eastern!”

Finally, the ECSU Foundation Board of Directors Distinguished Donor Award went to First Niagara Bank. Jim Bzdyra, senior vice president and market executive for First Niagara Bank’s New England region, accepted the award. “We greatly value our relationship with Eastern,” he said. “First Niagara has made supporting quality education initiatives a key philanthropic focus area, and Eastern Connecticut State University is an institution that we are proud to support.”
New this year in the Department of Art and Art History is Assistant Professor Tao Chen. Born and raised in Beijing, China, the digital artist and graphic designer comes to Eastern with more than 15 years of industry experience. In addition to being a New England clam chowder enthusiast who likes the relaxing pace of Willimantic and the changing leaves of autumn, Chen shared some of his other interests.

As an artist, what is your favorite medium?
I like mixed media. Draw something by hand, scan it into a computer, alter it, then use your hands again. Don’t be afraid to use your hands; they are a tool directly controlled by the mind.

What do you have to say about the blending of art and technology?
Art comes first, it’s the concept, the idea. Technology helps you to convey it, it’s a medium. Technology is nothing without the idea, the art comes first. Like with cooking; people like the flavor, they don’t care what you used to make it.

Talk more about finding relationships and conveying complexity in a simplified form.
When beginning a project, I compile everything, perhaps too much. From there, I subtract, combine, get rid of stuff, simplify. If it’s not necessary, take it out. From addition to subtraction. You want people to get the point easily. Less is more.

What’s the best thing about your job?
I like to watch students grow. I like to teach both highly talented students and students who are not gifted artists. Their growth helps me to gauge my teaching. Teaching is not a job, it’s a part of your life. Like a plant, from seed to tree — that’s the best part.

What is the greatest challenge of your job?
Getting students to realize the value or importance of their work. Sometimes we design marketing materials for nonprofit organizations. You’re not just creating a logo, you’re helping people.
1. Eastern is ranked in the top 30 public universities in the North by U.S. News and World Report.

2. Eastern students, faculty and staff contribute more than 100,000 hours annually to the community.

3. Art Professor Andy Jones designed the Connecticut quarter.

4. Eastern graduates the most early childhood educators in Connecticut.

5. Award-winning novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie ’01 won a MacArthur Award; her latest novel, “Americanah,” was on the New York Times Top Books of 2013 list.

6. The number of alumni donors has increased 50 percent in the past five years; alumni giving has doubled in that time.

7. High Rise Apartments are heated/cooled by the largest geo-thermal system in Connecticut.

8. Eastern students study abroad in Turkey, Costa Rica, Nepal, Australia and more.

9. Eastern has the largest percentage of minority faculty of any college in the state.

10. Eastern’s annual TIMPANI toy study receives national media attention.

11. Author Jeff Benedict ’91 has written 11 books and writes for Sports Illustrated.

12. Marc Freeman ’93 receives an annual six-figure grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to conduct neuro-biology research; it is a lifetime grant.
Warren Lee Ross '93
Mechanicsville, VA

Segment and Business Leader for Cloud Services, GE
Business Administration and Economics Double Major
Lead donor to John Lombard Endowed Scholarship

“I believe very deeply in Eastern’s mission, educational philosophy and instructional focus. I am thrilled to be part of this rich heritage and the fact that it has made a large difference in my life. Over the coming years, I intend to step up my level of contribution — monetarily and non-monetarily. In addition, I also intend to include Eastern in my estate planning with a meaningful and generous gift to scholarship students.”

Dr. Susan Sukman McCray
Westlake Village, CA

Graduate of UCLA; Vice President of Talent for Michael Landon Productions, with several Emmy Award-winning movies for television, including “Where Pigeons Go to Die” and “The Diary of Anne Frank”; Casting Director for “Little House on the Prairie,” “Highway to Heaven,” “Hawaii Five-O,” “Father Murphy” and numerous other film and television projects. Susan is an author, CD producer and perfumer, and is owner/partner of KUNK FM where she hosts the radio feature “Hollywood Hotline,” the mid-morning show with partner Hoot Hooten, and the award-winning show, “Getting To Know You.” Susan is a major donor, responsible for the establishment of The Susan McCray Endowment Fund for Theatre Arts, and for a major naming gift for the new Fine Arts Instructional Center, acknowledged by the naming of the “Susan Sukman McCray Foyer.”

“I was proud and thought highly of Eastern the first time I had the opportunity to see it; I knew at that moment I wanted to support the school. I am so very proud to have my name and my beloved father’s piano, which he used to write Academy Award-winning music, and my mother’s artwork become a part of the beautiful foyer within the stunning new fine arts building. I know my parents Francesca and Harry would be proud of my decision to support this wonderful project.”
Jeffrey N. Brown ’79
Glastonbury, CT

Executive Vice President, Newman’s Own Foundation
Major: Public Policy & Government
Activities: ECSU Foundation Board of Directors; Eastern Fellow Inductee (2010); Business Administration Advisory Board; lead donor with his wife Virginia to the Jeffrey N. Brown ’79 and Virginia B. Gascon Endowed Scholarship

“It was almost 40 years ago but I still remember the relief I felt when someone I did not know and never met picked up the cost of my books one semester. It was an honor then to receive the gift and I consider it a privilege now to be able to pay the favor forward for years to come. Eastern had a lasting impact on my life as it will continue to for many others.”

2,150 alumni donors (highest ever)
3,552 annual donors (highest ever)

All-time high of $750,000 awarded to 325 deserving students by the ECSU Foundation

Record 118 individual donors at the $1,000+ level

Increased number of individuals giving at the $500+ level by 23 percent

SBM Charitable Foundation, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the First Niagara Foundation and other major donors enabled Eastern to approach $1 million in corporate/foundation giving for the sixth consecutive year.

“Music to Our Ears” event at Mohegan Sun generated more than $40,000 for scholarships.

Annual Lake of Isles Golf Tournament generated $70,000 for seventh straight year.

1,083 active High5 pledges (Eastern seniors start their giving with a $75 pledge)

The Eastern Pride Society, which consists of alumni and friends who have donated to Eastern for 10 consecutive years, now has 171 members.

Making a contribution is easy.

Who: You
What: Cash, check, credit card
When: Now!
How: Online, mail, phone
Where: 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226 or (860) 465-0003
www1.easternct.edu/development/ways-to-give/
Women’s Soccer
Freshmen Emily Becher, Maggie Bodington and McKenzie Reimondo made the All-Little East Conference team, and Becher became the program’s third Rookie-of-the-Year in the last six years, finishing second in the LEC with 18 goals.

Field Hockey
After a number of near-misses over the previous nine years, the Warriors won a showdown with Worcester State University on the final day of the season to make the LEC playoffs, taking top-seeded Keene State College to overtime before losing in the conference tournament.

Men’s Cross Country
Junior Lee Cattanach, who missed all of 2013 with an injury, won the New England Alliance Championships, placed 20th in the New England Regional Championships and became Eastern’s first male runner to qualify for the national championships.
Men’s Soccer
Despite losing seven starters from a team which won its third straight Little East Conference championship in 2013, the Warriors tied for second place in the final conference standings. Junior transfer Cooper D’Ambrosio was named LEC Defensive Player-of-the-Year.

Women’s Cross Country
After losing top runner Kelly Labanara to injury in the first meet of the season, sophomore Mariah McPhee paced all Eastern runners over the final seven meets of the year, earning All-New England Alliance honors with an overall 19th-place finish in the Nov. 1 meet.

Women’s Volleyball
Six freshmen helped the Warriors to the Little East Conference volleyball final for the first time since capturing the third of three straight titles in 2007. Head Coach Megan Silver-Droesch, who accepted the position on the eve of the season, was named LEC Coach-of-the-Year.
FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/EasternCTUniversity

Like our Facebook page to see how students are engaging in the community; the most up-to-date campus discussions; and to see how Eastern is thriving in the world.

LINKEDIN
www.linkedin.com/edu/-school?id=18021&go-back=&trk=feed-body-name

Visit our LinkedIn Page to connect with more than 15,000 alumni and view campus news, events and announcements.

INSTAGRAM
instagram.com/easternctstateuniv

Follow us on Instagram for a photo feed ranging from the very best seasonal shots of campus, to student life and special events.
Subscribe to Eastern’s YouTube channel to see videos of faculty and student creative work, guest lectures, performances and special events.

Home to all your “News @ Eastern” needs, Eastern’s Twitter page highlights current stories and events.

Stop by our Pinterest page for the very best pins of “Warrior Pride” and “Those Who are Eastern.”
Eastern’s High Five program allows Eastern seniors to begin giving back to the University by pledging $5 and building on that pledge over the next four years. When their final High5 pledge payments are made, what is next? Eastern’s new High5 Giving Society is a simple and affordable way to keep giving to Eastern.

The High5 Giving Society starts with another five-year pledge, beginning this time with a $30 donation that increases each year by $5, ending with a $50 gift. Society members will continue to receive EASTERN Magazine and will be listed in the annual report of donors as members of this special giving society.

For Nikole Doolittle ’10, the High5 program is a perfect way to stay in touch. “Getting the reminder in the mail and Eastern Magazine has kept me connected and engaged. As I get busy with life, the pledge is a good reminder of where I came from.” Doolittle donates because of her passion for the Eastern community, and her gratitude for the resources and support that she received while a student. “Eastern has given so much to me; I can give back in my little way. As you advance in your career, your willingness to give should also increase.”
My happiest moments at Eastern were spent... playing softball for Coach Clyde Washburne, whom I greatly admired, and making lifelong connections in Burnap Hall and High Rise.

My favorite class was... Connecticut History with the late David Roth. I had great respect for him as well as Professor Cobbledick, whose classes were fascinating and are remarkably still relevant today. Professors Glasser (Anthropology) and Griscom (Sociology) also had an impact on me; Dr. Griscom was my academic advisor.

Some of my best memories were times spent hanging out with... my classmates Meg Deguzis ’79, Gladys Keating Pisani ’79, Mary Gentile ’79 and Ellen Janiga ’79.

Eastern was a good fit for me because... the class sizes were smaller than other universities. I didn’t want to go out of state but yet I wanted to leave the New Haven area where I had grown up. I double majored in History and Sociology with a minor in Secondary Education and I managed to fit in a 16-week practicum and student taught at RHAM High School.

The toughest thing I had to do in my professional career... I spent many years heading up The Hartford Financial Services compliance organization from the ground up, where I built the staff into two distinct departments from 2005 to 2011. After the 2008 economic crisis, I had to reduce the size of the compliance department, which led to some layoffs. The good news was that many people were able to find jobs within the company. But it was still a stressful time.

Giving back to my alma mater comes naturally because... it occurs to me how much my professors and coaches cared about my success and well-being. I realize that it takes more than just student tuition to create the environment, programs and culture that Eastern embodies. There comes a time in your life when you must return and replenish the source so others can prosper.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU VISITED CAMPUS?
Want to do it right now … in your easy chair? Download our Virtual Tour and be amazed! www.youvisit.com/tour/easternct

GOING MOBILE!
Eastern has a cool mobile-friendly app, full of links to news, events, directories, sports and more. Download it at www1.easternct.edu/connect-with-us/easternmobile/

THOSE WHO ARE EASTERN!
Check out our new interactive viewbook! You can view it on your desktop, laptop, tablet or smart phone. Go to www1.easternct.edu/thosewhoareeastern/ for instructions.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU VISITED CAMPUS?
Want to do it right now … in your easy chair? Download our Virtual Tour and be amazed! www.youvisit.com/tour/easternct
Lewis Lamb '54 & Jane Lamb '53 (as told by Jane)

“Who’s that cheerleader with the nice legs,” he asked his buddies on the basketball bench. Next thing I knew I was going to the movies with Lew Lamb. I was a freshman, and Lew was a sophomore from Fishers Island, NY. We dated until summer vacation that year, then went our separate ways. September arrived and we knew this was more than an “absence makes the heart grow fonder” thing.

In 1951 Lew was drafted into the Army along with several Fisher Island guys. He had one year left to finish his degree. After basic training he came home on leave, and we became engaged. Shortly after, he was shipped to Korea for 18 months, and we both wrote every single day. Lew would write to my parents and tell them to be prepared for a wedding as soon as he got home! I graduated from Eastern in June 1953, then Lew arrived home on Aug 19; we were married on Aug 30. There was no time to send invitations, so we contacted our college friends, relatives and others to pass the word. We had a fantastic garden reception, and 400 people signed our guest book!

Lew went back to Eastern and I accepted a position teaching kindergarten. Adjusting to work, home, a husband studying at midnight and exhaustion was a zoo! We found ourselves pregnant in March 1954. Our daughter Bonnie was born, next our son Donald, then our son Scott and then Debbie. When Debbie went to school I accepted a job at Woodstock Elementary School and retired from the same room in 1987 after 28 years of teaching. Lew retired in 1994 after 33 years in teaching and administration. We retired to our Fishers Island summer house and now have 16 grandchildren and two great-granddaughters, with another on the way. We are more in love than ever, even though those legs have had some wear.
Bobbi and I met after I transferred to Eastern in the fall of 2001. Both of us were sophomores and were part of the cross country and track and field teams. It took until about November, three months or so, before I finally had the courage to introduce myself to her. At first, Bobbi wasn’t interested in getting into anything serious, so it took a few requests before she actually agreed to go on a dinner date with me, over winter break in January.

As with most college romances, there were some ups and downs, but we worked through our issues and balanced school work and athletic responsibilities. After I graduated and landed a job, Bobbi and I moved in together in December 2004 and bought our first place in October 2005. The next big step was getting engaged. I thought I should propose in a way that had a lot of meaning to us, something we would remember forever. It was September 2007, Bobbi and I were living in our condo in Cromwell and frequented the Cromwell High School track as part of our workout routine. The plan was to go to the track and propose on the starting line to symbolize the start of the next phase of our relationship. What I didn’t plan for was the fact that the Cromwell High School girls soccer team was on the field. Not wanting to propose in front of the soccer team, we moved down outside of the track to what I thought was a good spot. I got down on one knee, pulled the ring out of my pocket and asked Bobbi to marry me. Of course she said yes, but then pointed out I had just proposed to her in front of a port-o-potty!

We got married in 2009, and in 2011 welcomed Emma-lyn Marie to our family. This past April, Owen James joined us. Our family is now complete!
ON SEPT. 4, more than 100 students, faculty and staff from Eastern Connecticut State University converged on the lawn of Gelsi Young Hall to take the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. The campus-wide event was in response to President Núñez’s own challenge, which she issued on Aug. 29 when she and her senior staff took the challenge on the Gelsi Young Hall patio.

ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, is a degenerative disease that is always fatal and has no cure and no treatment. Nearly 6,000 new cases are diagnosed every year, with a life expectancy of two to five years after diagnosis. There are approximately 30,000 Americans with ALS at any given time.

Sophomore Ashley Bressette, a communication major, said, “I’m happy to go to a school that comes together to support important causes such as ALS.” Abby

DAY OF GIVING 2014

Hundreds of members of the Willimantic community visited Eastern on Nov. 26 for the eighth annual Day of Giving. Despite the day’s inclement weather, Eastern’s Hurley Hall bustled as usual, as faculty, staff, student and alumni volunteers served up more than 400 hot Thanksgiving meals to community members who otherwise may not have had one. Originally thought up by alumnus Jason Budahazy ’09 in 2007, the Day of Giving has become a fixture in Willimantic during the holiday season. “It has become a dependable, steady and generous tradition at Eastern,” said President Elsa Núñez. In addition to the dinner, Eastern students also coordinated a food drive that yielded more than 3,000 canned goods that were donated to the local soup kitchen and food pantries.
ALUMNI GIVE CAREER LESSONS

Eight successful Eastern alumni from a variety of professional disciplines returned to campus to share their insight and expertise with nearly 100 students as part of the annual “LEAP Into a Successful Career” dinner on Nov. 19. The dinner was a collaboration between Eastern’s Office of Alumni Affairs, the Center for Internships and Career Development and the Division of Student Affairs. (1 to r) Suzanne Lucas-Deneen ’89, Sarah Kannas ’03, Michelle Puhlick ’93, Anne Iezzi ’79, Milton Jackson ’05, Levar Mitchell ’12, Kevin Donnelly ’98 and Colleen DeVine ’89.

Perreira, a sophomore majoring in social work, added, “I’ve done the challenge already on my own, but it was great to do it with a bunch of friends from Eastern.”

The ALS Association reports that it received $115 million from the Ice Bucket Challenge, compared to $3.2 million raised last year for all ALSA donations.
Robert “Buddy” Spillane ’56 and his wife Geraldine ’57

ROBERT “BUDDY” SPILLANE ’56 AND DAVE ENGELSON ’67/’70MS…

have had highly successful careers in education, Buddy as a school district superintendent in such communities as Boston, MA, and working for the U.S. Department of State; and Dave as a teacher and principal in Vernon, CT. How the two crossed paths for the first time many years ago is a uniquely “Eastern tale.”

Dave’s family moved to Willimantic in 1950 and he enrolled in the Noble School for second grade. “I asked my Mom if I could participate in the hot lunch program,” said Dave. “In those days the hot lunch was brought into the room. The first day they served creamed chipped beef — something that had never touched my tongue before nor has it since.” Dave’s father visited with the school principal the next day and a unique arrangement was negotiated. “I was given permission to leave the school grounds and go across the street to the Campus Shop, owned by the Spillane family. From second to eighth grade I had lunch there every day, a BLT sandwich made and waiting for me on the counter.”

As Buddy recalls, Dave’s nickname was “Well Done David” because “he would walk into the shop each day and tell my father, ‘make sure the bacon is well done’.”

Buddy’s father, Jack Spillane, was working at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft when he decided to open the Campus Shop at 49 High Street, an ice cream shop that he eventually expanded into a full restaurant. Buddy inherited the entrepreneurial spirit from Jack. “When I was a young teacher I made more money as an absentee owner of the Dairy Queen at the bottom of Windham Street than I did teaching that year,” he said. “My father showed me that you could do a lot of things — be very successful — while still focused on the teaching.”
Unscramble these words to spell the names of Eastern’s current/former residence halls.

1. ETCBEKR
2. RDALCALN
3. LSIEROW
4. ARUBNP
5. RSIIEGHH
6. DMAE
7. RBUR
8. ITGHNK SUOHE
9. IENALJKD
10. NNSUITTIOCTO
11. ELRLUA
12. ONLEB
13. ORHIWNTP
14. OUMCC
15. GTEUNM

Name That Residence Hall!

Unscramble these words to spell the names of Eastern’s current/former residence halls.

1. ETCBEKR
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9. IENALJKD
10. NNSUITTIOCTO
11. ELRLUA
12. ONLEB
13. ORHIWNTP
14. OUMCC
15. GTEUNM

How Well Do You Know The World of 1889?

It’s 1889, and you’re a member of the first class of students to enter this school. Answer the following questions with either yes or no to find out. Quiz courtesy of History Professor David Frye.

1. Based on the date of invention, could you have attended a class lit by incandescent bulbs?
2. Based on the date of invention, could you have driven a car to your first day of classes?
3. Based on the date of invention, could you have phoned home to your parents to ask for more money?
4. Could you have attended a lecture on the presidency of William McKinley?
5. Could your English professor have assigned “The Call of the Wild” by Jack London?
6. Could you have enjoyed a concert featuring the “Ode to Joy” by Beethoven?
7. Could you have attended a lecture on the Minoans?
8. Could you theoretically have spent a semester abroad in the nation of Greece?
9. Could you theoretically have spent a semester abroad in the nation of Turkey?
10. Based on the date of invention, could your professor have shown a movie during your first class?

Send Us Your Baby Photos!

Email high resolution (300 dpi) jpegs to alumni@easternct.edu, or mail prints to Office of Alumni Affairs, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

Eastern • Winter 2015 • 31
On Nov. 23, more than 100 Eastern alumni and friends visited campus for a special Silent Auction and Brunch to support student scholarships. Guests bid on more than 100 items ranging from a vacation week at a luxury condo to tickets to popular theatrical shows to electronics, jewelry, artwork and more. Proceeds from the event, hosted by the Alumni Association Board of Directors, will go towards the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund.
Reunion Weekend 2015

Eastern CELEBRATES

Friday, May 8

- '80s-'90s Reunion at Blarney’s ~ Alumni from the 1980s and 1990s, featuring the reunion Classes of 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995
- Young Alumni Bash for the Past at Blarney’s ~ Alumni from 2000 through 2014, featuring the reunion Classes of 2000, 2005 and 2010
- Campus Activity Board (CAB) Reunion

Saturday, May 9

- Class of 1965 Jubilee Reunion
- Reunion Luncheon and Afternoon Reunion Dessert Reception hosted by President Elsa Núñez ~ Classes of 1935 through 1964
- Afternoon Reunion Dessert Reception hosted by President Elsa Núñez ~ Classes of 1970 and 1975
- Men’s Soccer Alumni Game
- Education Awards Reception
- MS in Organizational Management Reception
- Campus Tours
- “Alumni March”
- Eastern Celebrates “Big Tent Barbeque” celebrating the Class of 2015

Watch your mail for reunion information and plan to come home to Eastern! For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (860) 465-5302.

EASTERN IN THE NEWS

Here are three ways to keep up on what is happening on campus and among the thousands of members of the Eastern family.

NEWSFLASH www1.easternct.edu/newsflash
Alumni with emails get News Flash on a regular basis; don’t miss another issue — send your email address to alumni@easternct.edu today!

PRESS RELEASES www1.easternct.edu/pressreleases
or subscribe to an RSS feed by visiting http://www1.easternct.edu/pressreleases/rss/

DEPARTMENT BLOGS www1.easternct.edu/connect-with-us/recent-blog-posts
**47 Olive Buddington**, a devoted community activist and longtime volunteer, was honored with the ninth annual Palmer Davies Leadership Award by United Community and Family Services in Norwich. She was recognized for her decades of public service, including stints on the City Council and her role in securing a $4 million state grant to build the Rose City Senior Center.

**63 Bertram Nussbaum** has been elected to the position of executive vice president of the Pap Corps at Cascade Lakes, FL. The mission of the Pap Corps is to raise money to fund research at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Institute at the Miller School of Medicine on the University of Miami campus. Bert has also been selected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Advisors for the Lifelong Learning Society at Florida Atlantic University.

**70 Stewart Brewster** is a paralegal at Senior Adults Legal Assistance in San Jose, CA.

**76 Jane Higgins** is happily retired in Kennebunk, ME, after working for 33 years in higher education.

**78 Vincent Connors** is a professor of biology at the University of South Carolina Upstate and is the executive editor of the Journal of Comparative Parasitology.

**79 Pamela Bernardo**, principal of Saucon Valley Middle School, has been selected as the 2014 Middle Level Principal of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals. Pamela has been the principal at the school for the past nine years.

**79 Mary Liebig** works at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center as the assistant to the director of volunteer services.

**86 Jeffrey Brown** is the executive vice president for the Newman’s Own Foundation. He is also a member of the ECSU Foundation Board of Directors.

**Jane Sangeloty** is the associate dean in the College of Lifelong and eLearning at the University of New Haven.

It is an honor for me to greet you as the new president of Eastern’s Alumni Association… again! I had the good fortune to serve as president from 1999 to 2002, and it is an amazing experience to serve again some 15 years later. Like you, I’ve marveled at the positive changes that have taken place on campus, and I’m proud of the institution that Eastern has become.

Eastern has a very special place in my heart. Even though I was a non-traditional student, Eastern still had a significant impact on my life. I was a registered nurse when I earned a biology degree from Eastern, which paved the way for my Master of Public Health degree. I continued my career in nursing and also started my own business as a wellness and fitness trainer. Eastern enabled my successful career choices.

This issue of EASTERN Magazine sums up all that made Eastern special to me when I was a student, and what continues to make Eastern special today. It is full of stories that illustrate Eastern’s culture of learning, mutual support and pride. We are part of an extended family of students, professors, administrators and staff, all doing their part to make Eastern the school it is today.

Perhaps you have hired Eastern graduates, or you have provided opportunities for valuable pre-professional experiences such as internships. Or perhaps you are a faithful Eastern donor, one of a record number of alumni who made gifts to Eastern last year. Thanks to your help, Eastern rose five places in the most recent college rankings in U.S. News and World Report, proving that each Eastern alum really can make a huge difference!

Finally, I want to call your attention to the newly created Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund. We hosted a very successful brunch and silent auction just before Thanksgiving as a way of raising money for this fund. Thanks to generous alumni, we will be awarding our first scholarships from this endowment for the 2015-16 academic year.

Thank you for being a critical part of “Those Who Are Eastern” and for sharing my pride in our alma mater and in its future success.

**ELLEN LANG ’81, President, ECSU Alumni Association**
Kathleen Weidman has joined Rovi Corporation as senior vice president and general manager, metadata. She will lead the metadata business group, overseeing product management, engineering and data operations.

After more than three decades in the hospitality business, Carol Stierle has moved from Connecticut to Vermont and placed her career on a very different path. She purchased and is now operating the East Poultney General Store in East Poultney, VT. At the store, she offers a full deli menu, a liquor selection, Vermont cheddar cheeses, hunting and fishing licenses and cigars. Carol invites Eastern people to drop by and see her and the store when they are in the area, which is near the New York state line. Carol’s most recent full-time position in hospitality was as a group sales executive for the Ocean House hotel in Watch Hill, RI. Her email is epoultneygs@gmail.com.

Timothy Murphy has worked for his firm, Perkins and Murphy, for 10 years. The business was established to meet the needs of families seeking advice as they enter the college admissions process, with services designed to save families time and resources and reduce the stress of selecting the right school. Outside of work, Tim has served as the regional golf and tennis coach for Special Olympics for the past 20 years.

Richard Crane is in his second year as a professor of history at Benedictine College. Prior to this appointment he taught at Greensboro College for 16 years. His book “Passion of Israel: Jacques Maritain, Catholic Conscience, and the Holocaust” is in reprint.

Karen Rainville was appointed to the Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet and is the executive director of the Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children.

Stephen Pedneault was appointed by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve on its 30-member Advisory Council for the 2014-15 activity year. Stephen is the owner of Forensic Accounting Services, LLC in Glastonbury.

Suzanne (Wood) Greene is a mortgage loan originator with Village Mortgage Company. She was named one of 50 “Elite Women in Mortgage 2014” by Mortgage Professional America.

Edith Ritz Main MS has been very active in retirement. After teaching as a volunteer for a year in Northern Thailand (Chiang Rai International Christian School, 2012-13), she married and then returned to work in New London, a priority school district, as a middle school Spanish teacher. This is a two-year commitment. She resides in Scotland with her husband Ken.

Mathew Fritz is deputy chief of staff at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, supporting day-to-day internal and external operations. In the past, Matthew worked in his home state of Connecticut, serving as the chief of staff and bureau chief of outdoor recreation at Connecticut’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, as well as special assistant to Governor Jodi Rell.

Dan Graziano has returned to his former role as advertising director for The (Norwich) Bulletin and is excited at the prospect of growing the paper’s digital offerings for businesses. Graziano spent two and a half years at New Haven-based Digital First Media, where he worked in digital advertising.

Michelle Puhlick has been executive director of curriculum and instruction with the Hartford Board of Education the past four years. Michelle earned her master’s degree in education from the University of New Haven before attending the University of Connecticut and receiving a sixth-year certificate in educational administration and an executive leadership certificate for superintendents. Michelle is married to Matthew Puhlick ’93/’01MS. The couple has three children.

Kevin Kobelski was named the Wethersfield School District’s 2014-15 Teacher of the Year. Kevin has taught physical education at Hillcrest Elementary School for 10 years; he worked at the Webster Hill School in West Hartford previously.

Jodi Latina is the senior press secretary for the Connecticut Senate Republican Caucus. She interacts with media, handles digital strategy (websites, social media), writes press releases and opinion pieces, coordinates press conferences and interviews, and formulates public policy. She has held this position for four years. Additionally, Latina is in her first term on the Wethersfield Board of Education. She and her husband Anthony, head basketball coach at Sacred Heart University, and their two children live in Wethersfield.
Kim Rattet is a partner with the Farmington Hills, MI, real estate law firm Trott & Trott, P.C. and was recently elected to the Consumer Bankruptcy Association of Detroit’s board of directors. Kim received her master’s degree in forensic science from the University of New Haven and earned her juris doctor from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, where she graduated magna cum laude with a concentration in litigation.

Entrepreneur Shawn Meaike is president of Family First Life in Gales Ferry, which he describes as a network of agencies around the country marketing life insurance, retirement planning and investments. He travels frequently, working to expand the company’s affiliations. Launched in December 2013, the company is his latest venture following others in real estate and as a part-time construction general contractor. He is also a landlord with about 20 residential properties in Eastern Connecticut. Shawn worked for the Department of Children and Families until 2012. He has a daughter and a son and lives in Preston.

Edwin Muenzner was appointed by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve on its 30-member Advisory Council for the 2014-15 activity year. Edwin is the owner of Edwin R. Muenzner, CPA, LLC, in Franklin and an associate professor at Three Rivers Community College.

Diane Nadeau has worked for Pratt & Whitney since graduating from high school, and her Eastern degree in business administration helped her move up in human resources management there. She is currently HR client manager, global supply chain for the company, a position from which she oversees the career paths of 200 to 300 Pratt employees with duties ranging from recruiting and staffing to developing leadership and coaching to mentoring new and experienced employees toward advancement within the company. Diane attended Bay Path Junior College before Eastern and later earned her M.S. in Human Resources at R.P.I. in Hartford. She is also certified as a professional in human resources by the Society of Human Resources Management. She and her husband Paul live in Storrs/Mansfield.

Joshua Berry has been appointed university registrar at Quinnipiac University. In his new position, Berry will oversee all aspects of the registrar’s office. Prior to this appointment he was the director of enrollment services at Brown University for six years.

Scott Chiasson was named Ledyard High School’s varsity baseball coach. A former Major League Baseball player, he played with the Chicago Cubs, Oakland Athletics, Colorado Rockies, San Francisco Giants, Cincinnati Reds and Baltimore Orioles before finishing his 14-year career with the Tigres de Quintana Roo in the Mexican League in 2011.

Carla Demers is the owner of Demers Accounting Services. She was named to the 2014 “Top 100 QuickBooks ProAdvisor” list by Intuitive Accountant, a publication serving small businesses.

Brian Schneider is a real estate agent with Re/Max Destination in Vernon.

Jeffrey Wolf is a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch.

Bryan Hall was named to Hartford Business Journal’s “40 Under Forty 2014” list. He works in Norwich as an adult probation officer.

Jennifer Gold is a JICC Watch Officer with the United States Air Force.

Sarah Kannas is a vice president and director of audit and risk at Savings Institute Bank & Trust. She is also a member of Eastern’s Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Justin Trzaskos and his wife Irina released their first children’s book in April. “The Fairy and the Frog” was penned by Justin while Irina contributed the illustrations. The couple lives in Coventry and owns The Copper Nail, an antique and gift store.

Melissa Bezanson was hired by Stantec as a member of its environmental services team in Hartford.

Amber Tucker was appointed by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve on its 30-member advisory council for the 2014-15 activity year. Amber is a manager for CohnReznick, LLP, in Glastonbury.

Stephanie Bedard is a marketing manager for Comcast Business. She was recently honored as Volunteer of the Year by the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce and is a new member of the chamber’s board of directors.

Amanda Bryckl earned a master’s degree in clinical psychology at the University of Hartford and has worked as a therapist and in institutional settings directly related to her field. She is a supervisor in an outpatient behavioral health setting.
Mark Light was promoted to vice president of commercial lending at the Savings Institute Bank & Trust in Willimantic.

David Kiner was elected to his third term representing Connecticut’s 59th House District of Enfield and East Windsor. He is a member of the Appropriations Committee, is vice chair of the General Law Committee, and serves as a member of the Education and Labor Committees.

Ashley Schwartz is married with two sons, ages two and four months. She has been teaching kindergarten in New Haven for the past nine years.

Carl Segura and his wife welcomed their second child, Clara Kathleen, on April 10. The couple also has a two-year-old son named Bryce.

Sharon Dumais was appointed by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants to serve on its 30-member advisory council for the 2014-15 activity year. Sharon is an auditor for General Dynamics, Electric Boat Division in Groton.

Carly (Stephens) Martin is owner and director of Silver Circle Gallery in Putnam. An artist and jewelry maker and sole operator of the gallery, Carly handles duties that include accounting, marketing and advertising, curating and organizing art classes. Carly is also pursuing graduate work in holistic nutrition while developing the gallery’s therapeutic arts program, using art and creativity as a healing modality. She lives in Pomfret.

Megan (Erickson) O’Toole and her husband Eric O’Toole ’08 welcomed their first child, a daughter named Emerson Rose, on Sept. 15, 2014. Eric is in his sixth year as a physical education and health teacher at Derby High School.

Gregory Post is a regional patient experience coordinator at Hartford HealthCare.

Patrick Bushnell is a product specialist at AutoTrader.com.

Sarah Grundfast is working for Principal Financial Group as a digital imaging specialist.

Cody Guarnieri is vice president of the Hartford Rotary Club for the 2014–15 year and will be president in 2015–16. He practices criminal defense and civil litigation in the Hartford-based law firm Brown, Paindiris & Scott, LLP. Cody’s first son, Daniel, was born in July 2014.

Nicole Henry, a kindergarten teacher at Horace W. Porter School in Columbia, traveled to Kenya for two weeks during the summer to teach at the Anajali Primary School. While there she helped with the kindergarten class, was in charge of vision screenings for the entire school, and shared books, stickers and a windsock craft with students. Nicole has continued to support the school by selling jewelry made by the mothers of Anajali students at anajalijewelry@yahoo.com.

Anthony Mendes received his master’s degree from Providence College in 2012. He now works at the college as an academic coordinator for student athletes, working with men’s ice hockey, men’s and women’s soccer, field hockey, men’s and women’s track and cross country, men’s and women’s swimming and diving, and women’s volleyball. He is also working on a second master’s degree.

Benjamin Raccio is working for Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union as a consumer lending manager.

Monica Rochon is the new residence life coordinator at the University of South Florida.

Daniel Romero is a customer service representative with Allied Community Resources.

Sulthana Sayed is a senior accountant at Lacoste.

Kim Church is the assistant athletic coordinator at Canton High School. She also coaches high school soccer and softball.

Erika Forsa is now the Connecticut/Rhode Island market coordinator at Aflac.

Stephen Moker is an e-business specialist, working in the areas of social media and mobile marketing with the Timex Group.

Veronica Samuels-Rhoden is the front office manager at Coco LaPalm Seaside Resorts.

Joseph Turner is the chief compliance officer at the Veterans Health Administration in West Haven.
Gregory Veter teaches K-4 physical education at Achievement First Bridgeport Elementary School.

Kenneth Blain was promoted to systems engineer at the Technology Group in Hartford.

Erica Holloway is the associate dean of students at Achievement First Hartford Elementary Academy.

Joanne Ocampo presented her first poster exhibit at the 2014 International AIDS Conference in Melbourne. She is an infectious disease research specialist in the Office of the Senior Vice President for Research at Georgetown University.

Reece Painter-Payne is the program coordinator for student programs and leadership development at Fairfield University.

Kinson Perry MS is a lobbyist with Rome, Smith and Lutz in Hartford.

Christina Schirone is a health teacher at Blind Brook Middle School and High School in Rye Brook, NY.

Jeffrey Sullivan is a sales consultant with Sonitrol New England.

Tasheenah Brown is the administrative coordinator at the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut. She is also working as the manager for Eastern’s Phonathon fundraising program.

Allison Coleman is the head women’s basketball coach at the Sage Colleges.

Alexander Cross accepted a position as an area coordinator at American International College in Springfield, MA, where he will be developing and implementing a comprehensive residence educational program for the main campus.

Christina Frugale is the student programs coordinator at Dean College.

Jennifer Levesque is at Western New England University School of Law, and is a 2015 J.D. Candidate. She is the note editor for the Western New England Law Review, Volume 37, and is a law clerk for Fitzgerald Attorneys at Law, P.C., East Longmeadow, MA.

Eric Lindquist began working for the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management in July 2014 after serving three years at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s Bureau of Natural Resources.

Molly Mandeville is a kindergarten teacher with the East Hampton Public Schools. Molly received her master’s of science degree in special education from Southern Connecticut State University and is currently working toward dual certification in elementary and special education.

Aaron Myers is the executive assistant to the chief information officer for Corporate Executive Board in Arlington, VA. “From studying abroad, to inspiring my move to Washington, D.C., the History Department at Eastern has equipped me with the know-how to succeed and the confidence to accept new challenges.”

Audriana White is an executive event coordinator with Compass Group in New York. She also works part time as a wedding coordinator with Erganic Design.

Mike Zarcone is the IT Project Manager for Tsunami Tsolutions in Glastonbury. “Critical thinking, research, diligence and the ability to make a narrative have made me more effective in all aspects of my IT career. I owe much of my current success and skill set to the lessons learned in history courses I took at Eastern.”

Adam Zebrowski is a radio broadcaster for the Connecticut Tigers. While at Eastern, Adam had his own show on the campus radio station and was the assistant sports editor for the Campus Lantern.

Federica Bucca is a hall director at Providence College. This summer she also worked as the assistant coordinator and hall director of the new Friar Foundation’s summer bridge program, which is aimed at easing the transition from high school to college for approximately 30 students a year.

Eastern was well represented at the recent National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) conference in Hartford, with a number of alumni who now work in the field of higher education. Left to right: Thomas Balestracci ’13, Hannah Pancak (graduate intern), Kyle Neary (former intern), Michelle Delaney (director of student activities), Ken Bedini ’79 (vice president for student affairs), Casey Kenney (assistant director of student activities), Jessica Ruddy ’11, Candace DeAngelis ’08 (assistant director of student activities), Samantha Stevens ’13, Sarah Potrikus ’11.
Robert Kavaler is the director of design and digital media with Graff Public Solutions, LLC.
Jessica Roessler works as a buyer for Electric Boat.
Nathan Rouisse is the owner of Deltac Kydex Systems, which manufactures kydex holsters.

14 Armand Audet is the head athletic equipment manager at the University of New Haven.
Mary-Elizabeth Bailey was promoted from direct support staff to residential director for Sunrise Northeast.
Jessica Bretherton is an editorial assistant at InnovativeKids, Inc.

TO MAKE YOUR OWN GIFT TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND, simply go to www.easternct.edu and click on “Giving to Eastern” in the lower-left corner of the home page, or mail your gift directly to the Office of Alumni Affairs, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ~ 2015 PRESIDENT’S LEADERSHIP AWARDS Each year Eastern Connecticut State University proudly recognizes and honors alumni, faculty, administration, staff and friends of the University for distinguished professional achievement and outstanding service to Eastern and the local university community through the President’s Leadership Awards. Nominations are now being accepted for the following awards:

- The Distinguished Alumni Award
- The Distinguished Service Award
- The Hermann Beckert “Friends of the University” Award

The awards will be presented at a luncheon on campus next fall. For more information, or to request nomination forms, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (860) 465-5302 or at alumni@easternct.edu. Nomination forms are also available at www1.easternct.edu/alumni/awards/ Self-nominations are welcome.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015.

Alyssa Griffin is a national broadcast associate with ICON International, Inc.
Rachel Junga is a recruitment specialist with Onward Healthcare.
Megan Kennett is working for Citizen Schools in Boston, an AmeriCorps non-profit that seeks to close the achievement gap by extending the learning day and providing low-income middle school students with academic support and hands-on classes.
Zachary Marotte is a Junior Support Analyst with Tsunami Tsolutions in Glastonbury.

In Memoriam

MARJORIE CARPENTER ’36
ELEANOR (JASINSKI) WILLEY ’63
DENNIS HARVEY ’66
DEREK SCHMUECKER ’12
JAVIER BAEZ ’13
SAMUEL SHEKMAN ’16
CARL MEIGS, professor emeritus of English
JASON SEMMELROCK, Facilities Department
USAFLT.COLONEL DR. WILLIAM
JOHN JAHODA, professor of Biology

Weddings

NICOLE OPPELT ’08 to Brian Kinncman on June 8, 2013
ALISON GAREWSKI ’09 to Kyle LoPriore on May 24, 2014
LAURA WORTHINGTON ’09MS to Chris Miller on July 12, 2014
I want to thank all of our donors and friends for making 2014 a truly special year. This past year’s success in attracting private philanthropic support for Eastern gives me great optimism as we move into 2015.

Why am I so optimistic? Our endowment is at an all-time high of $13 million. Using earnings from the endowment, we increased scholarship awards to Eastern students by almost 25 percent—to $750,000! We have a record number of donors at the $1,000 or higher level, and the highest number of annual donors in our history. Included in that number are 2,200 alumni donors—a record level of alumni support. We also had an outstanding year from the standpoint of corporate and foundation giving, as well as major gifts and planned giving.

Another reason for optimism is the growing number of alumni in our Eastern Pride Society, which was started in 2010. This society consists of alumni and friends who have donated to Eastern for 10 consecutive years. We now have 171 individuals in this society. These are special friends of the University who make sure to include Eastern in their philanthropic plans each year.

With all this support, Eastern can continue to increase its alumni giving rate. In addition to making more scholarship funds available to deserving students, increased alumni giving will help Eastern move up from our current position as the 30th top public university in the North in the U.S. News and World Report rankings.

Simply said, we cannot reach our goal of being a premier public liberal arts university in America without your continued support. The financial gifts we receive from faithful alumni and friends are a huge vote of confidence in the education Eastern provides its students.

There are other ways for you to participate in Eastern – through social media, by telling us of your own accomplishments, and by visiting campus for our many cultural events. We are proud that you have chosen to be part of the Eastern family, and we are grateful for your continued support and involvement as a member of this special community.

One more thing: I hope you have enjoyed the ‘new look’ of EASTERN Magazine. Our goal was to make it easier to read...informative yet entertaining. It reflects the quality and vitality of our institution and trends in the communication field that emphasize brevity and visual content. We hope you like it!

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. DeLisa
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
“My experience at Eastern, through my good fortune in meeting people who influenced me, has left a lasting impression on me.” Speaking to students this past March as he was inducted as an Eastern Fellow, Bill said, “Have the highest standards and expectations for yourselves, because your professors have nothing less than the highest expectations of how your performance in the classroom will translate into how you’ll perform in your professional career and in society.”

William P. Kelly ’82, Fairfield, CT
Deputy Director for Securities Lending and Global Head of Client Management, Bank New York Mellon

Public Policy & Government and Economics
Double Major

Four-year varsity soccer player; interned at State Capitol in Hartford

Founder, William P. Kelly ’82 and Elizabeth Y. Kelly ’82 Endowed Scholarship and leading donor for men’s soccer program

Bill’s wife, Elizabeth Y. Kelly, is also a 1982 Eastern graduate with a degree in Business Administration.
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