

# ALUMNI NOTES

## 1940s

**Ann (Pisarko) Mahalawich '44, M '67** celebrated her 100th birthday at a grand party attended by 75 family and friends. She received citations of congratulations from the State House of Representatives and the State Senate, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Governor Ned Lamont, all personally delivered by State Senator Kathy Osten. In a video greeting, President Elsa Núñez noted that she often saw Ann at alumni reunions and always smiling. "That was especially true in 2016 when I watched you lead the Alumni March into our Big Tent Barbeque. Ann, you were absolutely beaming!" Ann passed away peacefully on May 26, but her warm and generous spirit will live on in the aspiring teachers who will benefit from the Ann Pisarko Mahalawich Endowed Scholarship Fund, which Ann established at Eastern nearly a decade ago. 📷

## 1950s

At the Class of 1959 50th Jubilee Reunion, Class President **William Hargreaves '59** challenged his classmates to endow a scholarship. Gifts from 20 generous members of the class created an endowed scholarship supporting Elementary Education students in 2014, and more than \$6,000 has been awarded since then. "This wasn't easy for our small class, but we wanted to help future students, and be remembered long after we're all gone." Bill challenged other small classes to follow the example of the Class of '59 and create their own endowed scholarships.

**Reisa (Goldfarb) Sweet '59** continues to serve as chair of the Ocean County (New Jersey) Human Relations Commission. She was honored by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners for "a lifetime of building bridges between people of diverse communities to eliminate hate, bias and discrimination," and for taking action in her community to prevent crime resulting from bias.

## 1960s

**Jim Logan '63** is a Platinum Life Master in the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). Jim's wife, Anne (McGrath) Logan, is an ACBL Gold Life Master, and she is a past president of the St. Vincent De Paul Society. They reside in Spring Hill, FL.

**Bunny (Nowakowski) Lescoe '64** fulfilled a long-time dream by relocating to Cocoa Beach, FL, and was promptly approached to serve on the board of directors of her condo association.

**Diane (Kruger) Cohen '67** has written more than 70 books for her grandchildren. Most recently she has published "You Can Write a Book for Your Grandchild," a step-by-step guide to being a successful writer of books for grandchildren, without fear of rejection. It contains practical writing tips from one grandparent to another and examples of the author's own stories written for her grandchildren. This book will give grandparents the confidence they need to begin writing their own stories. 📷

**Bob Brewster '68** is still active in Florida real estate, receiving the Presidential Award for Top Sales in 2021, and for achieving #1 in listings for the first quarter of 2022.

**Mark Leveton '69** has been named an ambassador at Solstice at Groton, an independent living facility where he has lived for more than 10 years. As an ambassador, Mark meets with prospective residents and with their families and shares his experiences from the many years he's lived there. He sends greetings to all of his classmates and friends from the Class of 1969.

## 1970s

**William Peterson '72** released a new book, "Mystic Built: Ships and Shipyards of the Mystic River, Connecticut," a revised edition of his 1989 work of the same name, which focused on the years 1784-1919. This publication received the prestigious John Lyman Book Award from the North American Society of Oceanic Historians for the best book published on American maritime history. Bill spent more than 40 years at the Mystic Seaport Museum, retiring as senior curator in 2009, when he was named curator emeritus. He served as a consultant for the movie "Amistad"

and met with both Steven Spielberg and Matthew McConaughey. Bill credits the late David Roth, professor of history at Eastern, as a major influence on his life and career, and he dedicates this book to his mother Virginia F. Niebling '30. Bill was co-author of "Historic Buildings at Mystic Seaport Museum" (which received an Award of Merit from the Connecticut League of Historical Organizations), and he served as historical adviser and contributing writer for Connecticut Public Television and the Connecticut Humanities Council's collaborative documentary, "Connecticut and the Sea."

**Mary Jane (Larson) Traska '72** writes, "This year my husband, Jim, and I will celebrate 45 years of marriage! In 1994 I joined Literacy Volunteers. This year I will have tutored adult students for 28 years. I have tutored students in English from five continents, including North and South America, Asia, Africa and Europe. Jim and I have three great grandnephews and one great grand-niece."



### ALUMNI BOOK CLUB BOOKWORMS UNITE!

Join our virtual community of fellow Eastern alumni, faculty and staff as we read and discuss some of America's most popular and thought-provoking book titles. Participation is free! Learn more at [pbc.guru/easternct](http://pbc.guru/easternct)

Five alumni who made history for Women's Basketball at Eastern celebrated the 50th anniversary of the program's first varsity season (1971-72). **Joan (Loneragan) McMahon '74** and first varsity head coach Julie Bradley participated via Webex. Posing for a photo were (left to right): current head coach Denise Bierly, **Norma (Bailey) Posocco '73**, **Tubby (Jenkins) Fonville '99**, **Anne (Noheimer) Robinson '76**, **Laura (Winzler) Aldrich** and Director of Athletics Lori Runksmeier. 📷

**Scott Rhoades '73** was the featured artist for July and August at Top Shelf Gallery in Hampton. Rhoades took his first art class as a junior at Eastern and has been painting ever since. He earned his master's degree in art education from Central Connecticut State University and began painting barns, country landscapes, livestock and wildlife, before becoming an art teacher, spending 35 years in the Coventry school system. After his retirement from teaching, he designed and built his own art studio in his backyard. "It has become an afternoon destination that I enjoy most every day."

**Ronald "Ron" Pires '76** was featured in a story in The Day honoring residents during Black History Month. A four-year member of Eastern's basketball program and a varsity starter on Hall of Fame coach Clyde Washburne's first team in 1968-69, Ron scored 1,342 points in 78 career games and keyed Eastern to two New England State College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) post-season divisional titles, three conference post-season appearances and to its winningest three-year period (58-17) to that date. Pires was inducted into the Eastern Athletics Hall of Fame for basketball in 1988. In 1980, Ron's career took him to E.O. Smith High School as a teacher and head boy's basketball coach. Over the next 35 years, Coach Pires racked up 514 wins, including seven 20-win seasons and a 66-game home league winning streak from 1990 to 1995. His teams qualified for 29 state tournaments, won 10 conference championships and six conference tournament titles, and reached two Class L state finals.

**Daniel Tenney '79** has been in a semi-retired mode, but has taken a full-time teaching position at the University of Bridgeport. Dan is cross-training and consulting with the graduate business school and helping to update and strategize the university's technology business graduate programs. He is

developing/updating some courses for the fall that he will teach and ultimately he will be advising Ph.D. students. Dan had a long career in various senior technical management roles at HJ Heinz and 3M. In 2020 he earned his Ph.D. from University of Bridgeport.

## 1980s

**Kristina (Knittel) Renshaw '82** is a retired financial planner living in Arizona, where she plays the drums, the guitar and creates art. Check out her work at [tiarensshaw.com](http://tiarensshaw.com).

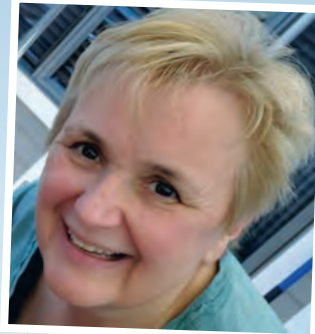
**Theresa "Terri" (Knobloch) Wilson '82** writes "Happy 40th Anniversary to the Class of 1982! We had a wonderful experience together and I hope anyone reading this will agree and share a hello next time. I am self-employed in the museum world, president of my local historical society and assist my veteran husband with his VFW and American Legion activities. We enjoy life and I wish my classmates well too!" 📷

Now that the pandemic is waning, **Arthur Rovozzo '85** is continuing his radio show on Eastern's WECS-FM radio station. "Musical Myriad" can be heard on Saturdays from noon-3 p.m., and features profiles of the immortals of jazz and blues as well as contemporary players. He is also writing a book which follows the radio show's format and themes.

## 1990s

**Michael Lavery '92** is a candidate for the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He has lived in Becket, MA since 2011 and was first elected to the Becket Select Board in 2017.

**Lana O'Connor '93** has been named associate director of Eastern's Center for Community Engagement. She will work with community partners to create opportunities that give students valuable life and employability skills by engaging in activities that benefit the local community. The CCE has coordinated programs such as tutoring and mentoring in schools, juvenile and adult rehabilitation, and programs focused on cultural awareness, hunger and homelessness, and health and wellness. Lana's career at Eastern spans nearly 25 years, with six years in the Office of



Theresa "Terri" (Knobloch) Wilson '82



Victor Thomas '00

Alumni Affairs and the past 17 years in the Center for Career Services, most recently as associate director.

A group of 10 Eastern alumni got together in April for a mini-RA reunion at Blarney's. According to **Agata (Kozikowski) Cavar '94**, "We were all RAs at Noble, Winthrop, Low Rise, High Rise and Occum Halls from 1991-94." 📷

**Ronald Samul '94** is assistant director of Thames at Mitchell College, a pre-college transition program that focuses on student college readiness. The program works with a wide variety of learners — all with complex learning pathways — who are college-eligible but not yet college-ready. Ron graduated from Mitchell College in 1991 and earned a B.A. in English from Eastern followed by an M.F.A. in creative and professional writing at Western Connecticut State University. He is currently working on a doctorate in educational leadership.

**Conrad Paquette '95** is advertising account manager at Boston Business Journal and was recently recognized as an American City Business Journals Chairman's Club honoree. The Chairman's Club recognizes top sales performance and is the benchmark for sales excellence at American City Business Journals and the Boston Business Journal.

## 2000s

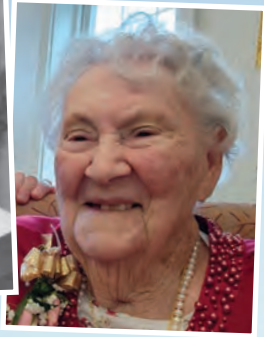
**Victor Thomas '00** shared on LinkedIn that he is starting a new position as director of business development of the Public Sector Salesforce Alliance at KPMG United States. After earning his B.S. in Business Administration from Eastern, Victor went on to earn an M.B.A. in Strategic Marketing and Innovation from Southern Connecticut State University, and an M.S. in Project Management from the George Washington University School of Business. 📷



### SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIES THAT MATTER

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Ann (Pisarko) Mahalawich '44, M '67



Diane (Kruger) Cohen '67



Women's basketball first varsity team reunion, March 6, 2022 • Sitting (L-R): Norma (Bailey) Posocco '73, Anne (Noheimer) Robinson '76, Laura (Winzler) Aldrich, Tubby (Jenkins) Fonville '99. Standing (L-R): Head Coach Denise Bierly, Anna Barry, Jaclyn Santella, Danielle OBrien '22, Jenna Serrantino, Martha Chatman, Julie Keckler



Pictured Front (L-R): Lori (Tozier) Toombs '93, Agata (Kozikowski) Cavar '94, Jennifer (Waters) Bronson '94, Brad Grauer '94, Lisa Cicia '07, Becky Cochrane '94. Back Row (L-R): Margaret (Pendergast) Keayes '93, Mary Pendergast '96, Ralph Riccio '98, Connie Haskins '93



Alumni of the club rugby team gather in celebration on a playground at the wedding of 2019 graduates Sean and Jackie Orlowski DeVllegger, who were married June 18, 2022, in Woodstock, CT.



From left to right: Holly (Mandes) Ryan '01, Anthony LaPia '03, Andrew Simmons '06, Heidi (White) Suskin '06, Muhammad Malloy '09, Christina (Amato) Turner '09 and Nikole (Doolittle) Shultis '10

Award-winning Nigerian author **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie '01** recently received her 16th honorary degree. According to the Guardian Nigeria, the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium honored Adichie with an honorary Ph.D. during an official ceremony at the main campus in Louvain-la-Neuve, located near Brussels.

**Holly (Mandes) Ryan '01** is a co-editor of "Unlimited Players: The Intersections of Writing Center and Game Studies," published by Utah State University Press. Holly is associate professor of English and writing center coordinator at Penn State Berks in Reading, PA. She has worked in collegiate writing centers since her freshman year at Eastern, when she was hired as a student tutor. In addition to her B.A. in English and B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Eastern, Holly earned both an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. 📷

**Kenneth Luurtsema '02**, assistant vice president of architecture at Travelers, has served in leadership and technical roles at Travelers since 2016. He served five years in the military before enrolling at Eastern. While still a student, Ken worked for the Town of Norwich installing technology in classrooms and building a database to track assets across the district. Before moving to Travelers, Ken held several positions at East Pointe Systems, an IT services and consulting firm in East Hartford. Ken is a Freemason, and volunteers by providing transportation for children to get to important healthcare appointments.

**Anthony LaPia '03** has a new position as chief sales officer at Equity National Title & Closing, providing title and closing services and support to both commercial and residential lenders, homeowners and realtors. Anthony is also the president and principal consultant of LaPia Leadership Academy where he serves as a keynote speaker, executive coach and mentor. 📷

**William Tyminski '03** has served as vice president/financial crimes technology group lead at Truist for the past five years. He received his Ph.D. in Geography from the University of North

Carolina Greensboro in 2011 and still resides in Greensboro. He has very fond memories of his study abroad experience in Spain and the field courses he took in Belize and the Bahamas.

**Ryan Vassar '03** owns and operates Mr. Nice Guy, a Wolcott-based cannabis cultivation and organic garden supply store that supports the entire growing process from planting to cultivation. Ryan and his business were recently profiled in an article in the Hartford Business Journal.

**Thomas Geraghty '04** has served as president of Paladin Insurance Agency since he opened it in 2011. He is from New Jersey and returned to his home state after graduating from Eastern. Tom credits Eastern for helping him learn to apply himself academically, and recalled Professor Ron Lowy's senior capstone class as an experience that taught him to work hard to meet high standards.

**Kristen (Pavlik) McCallie '04** has been executive director of Children's Advocacy Center: The Emmy Haney House in Chattanooga, TN, since 2017. The Children's Advocacy Center is dedicated to providing a coordinated and comprehensive path to healing for children who have experienced child sexual abuse or severe physical abuse, and engages the community in education initiatives. It is the fourth largest children's advocacy center in the state. The United Way of Greater Chattanooga recently recognized the Children's Advocacy Center as "Nonprofit of the Year."

**Milton Jackson '05** has been named senior vice president and experience design executive at Bank of America. He also continues as founder and photographer at PicSpotr, where he manages all aspects of operations including marketing, customer acquisition, user experience, product design and development.

**Quinlan Lyte '05** has had a 15-year career in the aerospace and defense industry, beginning at Pratt & Whitney, then moving to Sikorsky Aircraft in 2013. At Sikorsky he held various roles of growing responsibility in finance, strategy, business development and program management. Most recently, Quinlan was a senior program manager at Sikorsky before joining Collins Aerospace in 2019 as Senior Director for Propeller Systems. In this executive role, he provides general management oversight for propeller systems military platforms. His primary focus is on business growth initiatives, financial and operational performance with an emphasis on continuous improvement and customer satisfaction.

**Maribel Sanchez '05 M'21** was recently named the associate director of University Access Programs (UAP) at Southern Connecticut State University. She is a first-generation student who earned her bachelor's degree in sociology and her master's degree in organizational management, both from Eastern. Before taking the position at Southern, Maribel worked at Eastern, working directly with the STEP/CAP program and with Opportunity Scholars attending Eastern through the Dream.US Foundation. "I owe so much to the STEP/CAP program, and it was truly an amazing experience to be able to work directly with the program that had such an immeasurable impact on my own academic career and ultimately, my professional career."



## ALUMNI DIRECTORY

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After 16 years as a freelance reporter covering the Connecticut State Capitol and more than six years as a reporter and morning news anchor on WTIC-AM and WTIC-FM, **Aaron Kupec '06** is leaving Connecticut to become director of communications for the City of Greenfield, MA.

When **Andrew Simmons '06** left BNY Mellon, he also moved from banking operations to banking IT, becoming a senior IT business analyst/project manager for BNP Paribas CIB. He also serves as an advisory board member for the Customer Experience Certificate Program at Seton Hall University's Stillman School of Business, providing feedback and strategic direction to the program and supporting the faculty and program managers by assessing and improving program efficiency. 📷

After earning her bachelor's degree at Eastern, **Lisa Michelle Smith '06** went on to earn an M.F.A. in Professional Writing from Western Connecticut State University. She recently began a new position as a technical writer for The Walt Disney Company and is also a copy editor for the University of California-San Francisco.

**Heidi (White) Suskin '06** will earn a master's degree in school counseling from UMass-Boston and is serving a school counseling internship at the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Sciences in Boston, in addition to substituting at the Joseph Lee K8 School. Prior to pursuing her master's degree, Heidi served as academic dean at the Joseph Lee School, campus director for Citizen Schools and as a social studies teacher in Baltimore County Public Schools. Heidi previously earned a master's degree in school leadership from Towson University, and will be looking to secure a counseling position in the Boston area. 📷

For the past five years **Mark Clifton '07** has served as the executive director of the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District (NSMAD) in Northfield, IL. The NSMAD manages local mosquito populations to reduce the risk of disease from mosquito-borne viruses and minimize the negative impact mosquitoes have on the quality of life in the District. Mark received his Ph.D. in Biology from Florida International University.

**Jonathan Nemergut '07** moved to Daytona Beach, FL, in June 2010 and earned his master's degree in library and information science from the University of South Florida in 2017. Since 2018 he has worked for the Flagler County Public Library as librarian II, branch manager.

He is married with two children: a son, age 8 and a daughter, age 10.

**Clayton Pollock '07** earned his biology degree from Eastern and went on to earn his master's degree in marine and environmental science from the University of the Virgin Islands in 2013. He has worked with the National Park Service at Buck Island Reef National Monument and Dry Tortugas National Park for the past 11 years. He is currently serving as program manager for resource science and stewardship at Black Canyon National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area, in Gunnison, CO.

**Ashon "Chewey" Avent '08** recently held a grand opening for his newly named and focused custom design and printing company, T-Shirt World, in the Crystal Mall in Waterford, CT. Chewey originally opened the business in 2012 as Main Avent Athletics and Apparel, but lost everything after Hurricane Ida left that first store under four feet of water. He accepts Eastern students for internships, which he tailors to their goals, and he is a lecturer in the Management and Marketing Department at Eastern.

**Brandon Schingh '08** has a new position as contractor program security officer (CPSO) at STR, a defense and space manufacturing company based in Woburn, MA. STR utilizes people and technology platforms to tackle tough problems in cybersecurity, distributed sensing, and artificial intelligence to deliver mission performance.

The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CTCPA) has elected and installed **Muhammad Malloy '09**, CPA, as an at-large member of its Board of Directors for the 2022-23 activity year. Muhammad is a tax manager at CohnReznick LLP in Hartford. He holds an M.S. in Accounting and Taxation from the University of Hartford and a B.S. in Accounting from Eastern. He has served CTCPA as member of the New and Young Professionals Group, Membership Committee, and High School Speakers Bureau. Muhammad resides in Colchester.

**Paul Martineau '09** is coach of the Windham High School boy's basketball team. Seeded eighth in the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference's Division V with a regular season record of 20-7, the Whippets defeated Bacon Academy, Stafford, Portland and Windsor Locks to face the second-seed Sport and Medical Sciences Academy of Hartford for the state championship. Windham prevailed over SMSA 62-56



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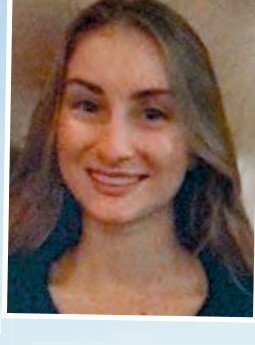
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to claim the Division V championship. Prior to this year, Windham's only appearance in a state championship final was in 1941, when they suffered a one-point loss to Bristol.

**Andrew Powaleny '09** received The Fund for American Studies (TFAS) Kevin Burket Alumni Service Award. The senior director of public affairs at PhRMA, Andrew was recognized for his commitment to supporting the next generation of leaders through his continued involvement with TFAS, and for continually demonstrating his commitment to personal responsibility, civil service dialogue and providing opportunity for all through their outstanding leadership. TFAS is an educational nonprofit that aspires to change the world by developing leaders for a free society. 📷

**Christina (Amato) Turner '09** is chief of staff at the national headquarters of Women Leaders in College Sports, a nonprofit leadership organization that develops, connects and advances women working in college sports and beyond. Christina was introduced to Women Leaders while serving in a variety of administrative positions at Colgate University, including assistant director of athletics for administration and chair of physical education. Christina is married to **Andrew Turner '08**, a personal trainer and fitness coach in Kansas City. Christina and Andrew have two sons, Chase, 5, and Liam, 1. In addition to earning her B.S. in Sport & Leisure Management at Eastern, Christina earned her master's degree in exercise and sport science from East Carolina University. 📷

**Michael Wolter '09** was the 2022 commencement speaker at his alma mater, Montville High School. He spoke about going to Eastern and how his Eastern mentor truly shaped his career path and trajectory. "I would not have all the opportunities I did if not for the mentoring and guidance from the amazing faculty I met at Eastern." Mike is the assistant registrar at Post University in Waterbury.



From left to right: Andrew Powaleny '09, Alexander Cross '12, Jennifer Phipps '16, Natalie Criniti '19, Leigh Generous '19 and Robert Johnson '20

## 2010s

**Mita (Lad) McAuliff '10** has been promoted to senior partnership manager at Dynata, a global online market research firm. She joined Dynata as a senior project manager in 2018 and was promoted to partnership manager in 2019.

**Nikole “Koli” (Doolittle) Shultis '10** has been promoted to lead coordinator to the president of Pratt & Whitney. 📷

The Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement has named **Brajin Vazquez '10** to its 2022 “40 Under 40” list. Brajin is a biotech scientist at Unilever, where he serves as the global packaging development manager, focusing on the science of developing personal care products, such as deodorants, hair care, skincare, skin cleansing and face care. Brajin earned his B.A. in Biology at Eastern, concentrating on cell and molecular biology and biotechnology.

After earning a B.G.S. in Business/Management from Eastern, **Melanie (Covino) Cipher '11** received a master's degree in industrial/organizational psychology from the University of New Haven. She has been a customer service representative, supervisor, and product manager, as well as a yoga and meditation teacher.

**Jason Custer '11** contributed a chapter to “Unlimited Players: The Intersection of Writing Center and Game Studies,” edited by **Holly (Mendes) Ryan '01**. Jason's chapter focused on historic games and writing theory. An English major at Eastern, Jason earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from Florida State University, and is now assistant professor of English at Midway University in Midway, KY.

**Khrystyna Stefak '11** has been promoted to director of the U.S. Digital Growth and Product Strategy Program Office at Cigna. She joined Cigna in 2017 as a digital marketing program manager and was promoted to digital customer engagement program manager in 2020. Khrystyna and her husband, Greg Benites, welcomed their

first child, Alexander Gregory Benites, on April 19, 2022.

**Gregory Steffes '11** has a new position as investment accounting operations consultant at MassMutual. He earned his M.B.A. from Post University, and most recently held positions with Landmark Partners and IPS Fund Services LLC.

**Peter Caless '12** has been promoted to the rank of sergeant in the West Hartford Police Department. He joined the department in 2014 and was first assigned to the Patrol Division, and has served as a field training officer, as a member of the Honor Guard, and on the Drone Aviation Team. Since 2020, Peter has been part of the Traffic Division, and a member of the Accident Reconstruction Team responding to serious incidents involving injuries or fatalities. Peter is also a member of the Connecticut National Guard, and is currently a captain within the 192nd Engineer Battalion.

American International College (AIC) has named **Alexander Cross '12** as dean of students and deputy Title IX coordinator. Alexander's primary areas of responsibility include residence life, residence education, housing operations, student engagement, diversity education, campus recreation and student conduct. He will transition to the college's chief student conduct officer and will serve as a deputy Title IX coordinator for violations of the college's sexual misconduct policy. Alexander earned his bachelor's degree in history and political science from Eastern, a master's degree in leadership and organizational development from Merrimack College, and is currently enrolled in the doctor of education in educational leadership and supervision program at American International College. In November 2021, Alexander became engaged to his partner William. 📷

**Matthew Fazo '12** was promoted to assistant vice president and project officer at Thomaston Savings Bank. He started at the bank in 2013 as a teller and worked a variety of positions since then, most recently as project manager. His project responsibilities will be expanded

in his new role to ensure continuity and efficacy of projects from start to finish. Matthew actively volunteers in the community through the United Way of Greater Waterbury, Our Lady Mount Carmel School, Camp Moe, the Waterbury Regional Chamber and the Bristol Boys and Girls Club. Matt earned a B.S. in Business Information Systems and he later completed the Connecticut School of Finance and Management program sponsored by the Connecticut Bankers Association.

**Hamilton Levy '12** has been promoted to senior account executive at Ambassador Labs. Headquartered in Boston, Ambassador Labs is a technology company that builds developer infrastructure that helps organizations of every size to adapt to the cloud world.

**Meghan (McMullen) Soucier '12** is nearing the end of a master's degree in library and information science from San Jose State University. Meg earned a B.A. in English from Eastern.

**Dr. Nickalus Stevens '12** earned his D.M.D. from Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine and has entered into practice with his father at Smile Solutions in Willimantic. Nick earned his B.A. in Social Work at Eastern.

**Elise Zarcaro '12** is the new human resources director for the Town of Bourne, MA. Prior to being hired in Bourne, Elise served for three years as the human resources manager in Provincetown, MA. A resident of Harwichport, she earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science from Eastern, and earlier this year she earned certification as an SHRM Professional.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) has named **Matthew Esposito '13** as a new assistant coach of the men's soccer team. An assistant with the Engineers during the 2017 and 2018 season, Matt spent the past three years as the head men's soccer coach at Sage College, where he took over a four-win program and led it to an overall record of 21-19-2. While at Eastern, Matt was a two-year team captain and an LEC Tournament MVP.

**Donald Farquhar '13** has been promoted to serve as the next fire chief of the Keene, NH, fire department. His 26-year career in the fire service included serving as a firefighter in Manchester (CT) and fire chief of the Electric Boat Fire Department in Groton before joining the Keene department. Chief Farquhar also served at the Connecticut Fire Academy for 15 years as an instructor and with the state's Urban Search and Rescue team for 11 years. He earned his bachelor's degree in management from Eastern and a master's degree in homeland security from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

**Samantha (Stevens) Graul '13** has been promoted to communications consultant of workplace investing at Fidelity Investments. Samantha was hired by Fidelity as an event coordinator in 2018 and promoted to event manager in 2021. Prior to joining Fidelity, Samantha spent five years at the University of Rhode Island, first in the Housing Office and later in the Office of Alumni Relations. She earned a B.A. in Mathematics and Secondary Education from Eastern and an M.S. in College Student Personnel from the University of Rhode Island.

**Anthony Lo '13**, vice president and software engineer III at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, has served in leadership and technical roles there since 2017. He says Eastern set him up well for his career, allowing him to build good relationships while learning the core concepts that every leader should know.

**Maryam Khan '14** became the first Muslim person elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives following her victory in a special election in the 5th House District of Windsor and Hartford. She earned her B.S. in Psychology at Eastern and a master's degree in special education from Central Connecticut State University. She taught for several years in the Hartford Public Schools and had been most recently teaching special education at Prince Technical High School in Hartford.

**Hannah Malcolm '14** is park and recreation director for the Town of Middlefield, CT, as well as a middle school health educator at New Haven Public Schools. She also serves as a lifeguard at Middlefield's Lake Beseck Beach and is a member of the Lions Club. Hannah earned a B.S. in Physical Education at Eastern.

**Amy Vento '14** was promoted to customer service manager at Paragon Medical, a manufacturer that works with healthcare businesses to help accelerate the process of creating products, optimizing their performance and bringing them to market.

**Ragan Decker '15** earned her Ph.D. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of Connecticut in August 2021. She also holds a Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Research Methods and Occupational Health Psychology. She is currently a lead researcher at SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management), responsible for designing and conducting strategic research to help C-suite executives and HR leaders make strategic workforce decisions that drive effective workplaces and improve the employee experience.

**Melinda DeDominicis '15** has a new position as senior event planner at the Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami. A music major at Eastern, Melinda earned an M.A. in Arts Administration/Music from Florida State University.

**Natasha Gambrell '15**, a member and tribal councilor of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, was one of four indigenous writers participating in a virtual Lit Talk hosted by the Connecticut Literary Festival. Natasha and the other authors read from their own works and spoke about the struggles of being an Indigenous author and how they imbue their personal experiences into their stories.

**Kelly Labanara '15 M'16** has been promoted to assistant accounting manager at HarbourVest Partners, a global private equity investment firm based in Boston. Kelly joined the firm in 2019 as a private equity accountant, and was promoted to senior private equity accountant in 2021. Kelly earned both her B.S. in Accounting and M.S. in Accounting from Eastern.

**Mitchell Nyser '15** is an exercise physiologist in the GoodLife Fitness program at Hartford HealthCare, based at the Cedar Mountain Commons Independent and Assisted Living Community in Newington. Mitchell has presented on the "Benefits of Exercise" and "Fall Prevention" to senior citizen groups. He holds a personal training certification from the National Academy of Sports Medicine.

**Richard Squires '15** has a new position as an optometrist at M&M Eye Institute in Prescott, AZ. Earlier this year he earned his Doctor of Optometry degree from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

**Elizabeth Valenzuela '15** has been promoted to merchandise manager at Aritzia.

**Alyssa Zebrowski '15** joined Early Childhood Education Professor Theresa Bouley on Connecticut East's podcast, discussing the lack of diversity in the teaching profession, the lack of diversity in the content found in books for children and other classroom dynamics. Alyssa is a kindergarten teacher in Bridgeport.

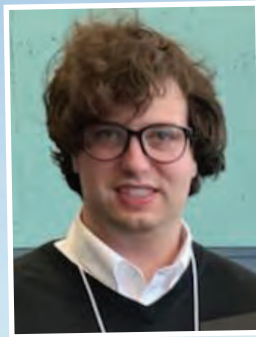
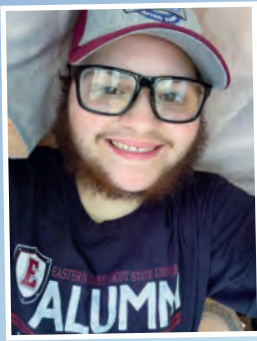
**Robert "Corey" Keane '16** will join the Yale baseball staff as an assistant coach for the 2023 season after spending the last five seasons at Quinnipiac, helping the Bobcats to a memorable NCAA tournament run in 2019. Corey helped coach 12 All-MAAC selections for the Bobcats, including three outfielders – the group he worked with primarily. As a student-athlete at Eastern, he helped the Warriors win the Little East Conference Championship in 2014 and was named first team all-conference in 2015. He played five different positions for three different head coaches, and helped the program to more than 100 wins in his career. He graduated from Eastern with a B.A. in Sport Performance.

**Jennifer Phipps '16** is the Hartford Symphony Orchestra's assistant manager of learning and social impact. Jennifer earned a B.A. in Theatre, specializing in acting, directing and scenic design. Prior to her position with the HSO, she spent four years as a lead teacher for the Wallingford Family YMCA and is also a technical support administrator with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, utilizing her skills and experience in video production. 📷

**Andrew Falce '17** was hired as social media manager by CashmanKatz, an advertising agency based in Glastonbury. He will oversee all social media activity for the agency and its clients.

**Dajoun Jones '17** has a new position at City First Broadway, the largest Black-led Minority Depository Institution (MDI) in the United States.

**Daniel Mueller '17** announced on LinkedIn that he is starting a new position as the human resources assistant at Web Industries. He said he was especially moved by one of the company's values: "The essence to life is relationships." He wrote, "This motto has definitely served me through my life and career, and I hope to continue throughout my time in human resources!" Daniel earned his degree in psychology at Eastern.



From left to right: Pablo Cruz '21, Tyler Madden '21 and Allen Horn IV '21

**Alexandra Steward '17** has a new position as senior human resources business partner at PAR Technology Corporation, a leading global provider of software, systems and service solutions to the restaurant and retail industries. After completing her B.A. in Sociology at Eastern, Alexandra earned a M.S. in Human Resource Management from the University of Connecticut.

**Tiffany Goodall '18** has a new position as undergraduate academic advisor at Bentley University. She earned her B.S. in Psychology from Eastern and her M.S. in Counselor Education from Central Connecticut State University.

**Cooper Goslin '18** is a new associate at Webster Bank.

**Mariana Serrano '18** is working at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health as senior home visiting implementation specialist for the Massachusetts Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative (MA MIECHV). After majoring in health sciences at Eastern, she went on to earn her M.P.H. from Boston University.

**Tarchee Brown '19** joined the Hartford Shockers of the East Coast Basketball League, an independent basketball minor league founded in 2015 with teams operating from New England to the Carolinas.

**Natalie Criniti '19** is pursuing a master's degree in counseling at the University of Saint Joseph. She is also working on behalf of the American Savings Foundation, providing outreach to high school students to apply for the Foundation's Robert T. Kenney Scholarship. 📷

Nancy Brennan of Eastern's Office of Campus Ministry reports that **Shawn Dousis '19** is still working to combat food insecurity among Eastern students through the campus food pantry that bears Shawn's name. Shawn donated a carload of food and also held a food drive for Shawn's Cupboard at Horace

Porter School where she is a second-grade teacher. According to Nancy, "Shawn was a great student who was so passionate about Shawn's Cupboard and still is!"

University College London (UCL) has accepted **Leigh Generous '19** into the school's M.S. in Child Development program. UCL is ranked as a top 10 global university, and is world-renowned for its Institute of Education. Leigh graduated from Eastern with her degree in political science and a minor in Latin American studies, and later interned at the Organization of American States and worked as a paralegal at a Providence law firm. During her senior year at Eastern, Leigh began working with infants and toddlers as a part-time nanny which led her to discover that her passion is in early childhood development. She now works full time as both a nanny and an early childhood tutor for two families. "Working alongside these children has absolutely changed my life and made me realize that this is the path I am meant to follow." 📷

**Jacqueline Lewis '19** is the new head softball coach at Fitch High School in New London. As a student at Fitch, Jackie was a two-time Class L All-State selection who helped lead the Falcons to a pair of state championships. At Eastern, she helped lead the Warriors to an NCAA Division III College World Series appearance in 2019. She earned her B.S. in Physical Education.

**Jen Porpora '19** has a new position as marketing coordinator at Sales Xceleration, a company providing outsourced sales leadership that helps businesses build pathways to achieving more sales. Jen was a business administration major at Eastern.

**Thanousone Sourignamath '19** has a new position as a production planner at General Dynamics Electric Boat.

# 2020s

**Daniela Iniestra Varelas '20** is working for the College Advising Corps, a non-profit organization created to increase the number of low-income, first-generation college and underrepresented high school students who enter and complete higher education. Daniela will spend a year working with students at Windham High School — primarily seniors who wish to attend college — helping them navigate through the application process as well as accessing financial aid. Daniela earned a B.A. in Sociology from Eastern, and she plans to start graduate school at the University of Connecticut in the fall to pursue a master's degree in higher education and student affairs.

**Robert Johnson '20** earned his Master of Science in Data Science from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. While at Eastern, he majored in mathematics and political science and minored in data management. 📷

**Jacob LeFevre '20** started a new position as underwriting analyst at The Hartford. Jake earned his B.S. in Business Administration.

**Nicholas Misale '20** was hired as a dispatcher for the Plainfield Police Department, after earning his degree in criminology from Eastern and completing more than 100 hours of dispatcher training. In addition to receiving 911 and routine citizen calls, dispatchers must relay information to road officers, check on prisoner statuses and handle lobby traffic. But beyond the training, a good dispatcher must also possess the ability to stay cool under pressure. "You've got to be that calm voice on the other end of the phone," Misale said. "It's about helping the public."

**Jafet Aparicio Santos '21** works at Travelers as a data engineer in the Claims Department, focusing on implementing predictive models and automating processes. He works heavily with Python and AWS among other technologies. He spent a year as an intern in the department before being hired in 2021. Jafet is also part of a leadership development program called Business Insights and Analytics.



# In Memoriam

**Pablo Cruz '21** began volunteering at Brooker Memorial Childcare in Torrington in 2014 through a city youth program. After continuing through high school, when he was hired as a float/seasonal assistant, Pablo was hired as a full-time toddler teacher after graduating early in August 2021 with a B.A. in Sociology. "I've quite literally grown up at this place, as they've seen me transition from a high schooler to a college student and now to a college graduate. This is my dream job, as there's no other place I would rather work." 📷

**Allen Horn IV '21** was awarded the Undergraduate Paper Prize from the New England Historical Association (NEHA). His paper, "Little Sorrel, Living Relic of the Lost Cause," emerged from his Eastern honors research in history under the supervision of Thomas Balcerski, associate professor of history. Allen is now pursuing a master's degree in history at the University of Maine. 📷

**Tyler Madden '21** received the Rising Star Award as the best new broadcast journalist in the State of Ohio. The award is given by the Associated Press Media Editors. 📷

**Ryan Gable '22** is a new production assistant at ESPN NEXT. Ryan majored in communication with minors in sport management and writing. While at Eastern he was part of the production staff for ETV Sports and eventually became director of sports broadcasting, producing and editing content for Eastern Athletics and helping to run each Eastern sports broadcast.

**Emily Hailu '22** is a social media specialist at Mohegan Sun. A communication major at Eastern with a concentration in applied media production, Emily served video production internships with Eastern's Institute for Sustainable Energy and Office of Alumni Affairs.

*Anne (Pisarko)  
Mahalawich '44, M '67  
Norwich, CT  
May 26, 2022*

*Joseph Picano '51  
Crofton, MD  
May 22, 2022*

*Mary Kathleen (Daley) Ring '51  
Norwich, CT  
June 1, 2021*

*Irene (Majchier) Gantick '53  
Willington, CT  
June 11, 2022*

*Audrey (Hale) Goodhue '53  
Old Saybrook, CT  
July 19, 2021*

*Carol (Cerina)  
Hunsinger '53  
East Calais, VT  
June 25, 2021*

*Elizabeth (Hartung) Brodeur '54  
New London, CT  
May 28, 2022*

*Lucille (Caisse) Curland '54  
Hebron, CT  
June 4, 2022*

*Ada (Corn) Roth '54  
Glen Gardner, NJ  
June 14, 2022*

*Nancy (Perkins) Fischer '55  
Punta Gorda, FL  
December 24, 2020*

*Joan (Lema) Grabowski '57  
Wethersfield, CT  
January 11, 2022*

*Adrienne (Ulikowski) Mansfield '57  
Norwich, CT  
July 27, 2021*

*John Zukowski '58  
Niantic, CT  
April 24, 2022*

*Karen (Pierson) Gaucher '59  
Columbia, CT  
February 24, 2021*

*William Gregonis '59  
Tolland, CT  
January 30, 2022*

*Herbert Shedroff '59  
West Hartford, CT  
May 14, 2022*

*Lawrence Colvin '64  
South Windsor, CT  
May 25, 2022*

*Jeanne (Tasca) Martin '64  
Manhattan Beach, CA  
November 22, 2021*

*Del Anne (MacFarlane) Carey '65  
South Windham, CT  
March 21, 2022*

<i>John Morrill '70 Columbia, CT January 25, 2022</i>	<i>Dale Dumas '83 San Diego, CA May 3, 2022</i>	<i>Kristin (Levanduski) Ortolani '00 Vernon Rockville, CT June 14, 2022</i>	<i>Mary Carsky Former Faculty Vernon, CT June 2, 2022</i>
<i>Peter Kerensky '71 Lebanon, CT May 4, 2022</i>	<i>Terry Bale Sr. '87 Hephzibah, GA November 10, 2020</i>	<i>Benjamin Stern '00 Rockwood, ME May 27, 2022</i>	<i>Eve E. Corey Student Westport, MA April 19, 2022</i>
<i>Hedda Reichlin '72 Manchester, CT February 10, 2022</i>	<i>Francine Gould '87 Hampstead, NC October 21, 2021</i>	<i>Andrea Olesnevich '01 South Windsor, CT February 11, 2022</i>	<i>Dr. David Edens Former Faculty Storrs Mansfield, CT June 20, 2022</i>
<i>Joseph Uchneat '73 Stafford Springs, CT May 24, 2022</i>	<i>Willie Smith Jr. '87 Hartford, CT August 20, 2021</i>	<i>Kelly Thompson '02 Bristol, CT December 6, 2021</i>	<i>Dr. David G. Haines Faculty Emeritus Brooklyn, CT March 3, 2022</i>
<i>Michael Papallo '74 Meriden, CT June 4, 2022</i>	<i>Peter Blume '91, M '03 Vernon Rockville, CT March 1, 2022</i>	<i>Ian Sullivan '07 Willimantic, CT April 20, 2022</i>	<i>Dr. Sandra C. Holley-Carter Widow of Dr. David G. Carter Sr. Mesa, AZ March 8, 2020</i>
<i>Linda (Kovacs) Gollenberg '76 Southbury, CT June 25, 2022</i>	<i>Nancy Newcomb '91 Vernon Rockville, CT April 7, 2022</i>	<i>Dr. Marshall A. Atwater Former Faculty Tolland, CT April 8, 2022</i>	<i>John Risley - Friend Willimantic, CT April 11, 2022</i>
<i>Arnold Hanna '77 Naples, FL July 7, 2021</i>	<i>Geraldine Evangelista '92 Tolland, CT February 2, 2022</i>	<i>Joel Blain Friend Riverside, CA August 3, 2020</i>	<i>Chance Dian Thompson Student Orange, CT July 9, 2022</i>
<i>Robert Martin '79 Norwich, CT February 27, 2022</i>	<i>Stephen A. Jackson '94 Palm Coast, FL March 13, 2022</i>	<i>James A. Brown Former Staff Willimantic, CT May 13, 2022</i>	
<i>Genevieve Chojnacki '82 Norwich, CT April 13, 2020</i>	<i>Charles Bonadies '97 Ridgefield, CT March 6, 2022</i>		
	<i>Lois Carr '97 Norwich, CT July 11, 2021</i>		