

# CLASS NOTES

## 59

**REISA (GOLDFARB) SWEET** is chair of the Ocean County (NJ) Human Relations Commission. The commission works with the county prosecutor's office to identify needs for programs designed to prevent bias crimes.

## 68

**MARY ELLEN (DAVIES) GIARD** and a fellow teacher led a three-year effort guiding young students to design and build a 9-11 memorial that culminated in the dedication of the memorial on Sept. 11, 2019. During her 41-year teaching career, Mary Ellen was a fourth-grade teacher for many years but has been a reading interventionist recently.

## 74

**CHRISTINE SACERDOTE** retired from her position as coordinator of early childhood programs at Lander University in Greenwood, SC, but she continued to teach in Lander's Montessori school this summer. Chris came to Lander in 2012, after earning an Ed.D. at Argosy University in Minnesota and teaching at St. Catherine University in St. Paul.

## 79

**JANET HECK-STRYCHARSKI** forged an impressive career before retiring in 2018 and marrying Robert Strycharski. After graduating with a degree in English from Eastern, Janet earned a master's degree in Linguistics at the University of Connecticut in 1981. She started her career as a proofreader, then joined a Wall Street firm and advanced to become its vice president of administration and a partner. She went back to school to earn a degree in nursing.

## 82

**JACK CASSADA** retired from Travelers this year after 34 years working in IT systems design, 28 years with The Hartford. Jack and his wife Christine (Martin) '82 share that their daughter, Kelly '18, is starting her third year at Maria Sanchez school in Hartford as a third-grade teacher.

When COVID-19 arrived in March, **TERRI WILSON** asked friends and neighbors for fabric, elastic and other essentials, and started making masks on her new sewing machine. To date she has made more than 1,000 masks, donating them to Connecticut Children's Medical Center, healthcare workers, Foodshare, nursing homes and other grateful recipients.

## 83

**BRIAN MAGNA**, owner and operator of Magna Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Center in Avon since 2005, opened a second clinic in February in the Collinsville section of Canton. The Collinsville office will be smaller than the Avon clinic, but will include physical therapists and other specialists.

## 84

Though he lost his election bid to become the representative for the 48th District in the Connecticut legislature, **MARK DeCAPRIO** continues his service to his hometown of Lebanon. He is on the town's Board of Education, was previously on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and also served as the Lebanon Emergency Management Director for six years. Mark retired in 2018 after a 32-year career with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.



Mary Ellen (Davies) Giard '68 (far left)



## In Memoriam



### WILLIAM ANTHONY "ANDY" JONES

1958-2020

*Longtime art professor William Anthony "Andy" Jones passed away on Jan. 25, 2020. Andy was born in Raleigh, NC, and went to St. Andrews College in Laurinburg, NC. He played basketball in high school and at St. Andrews before earning his MFA at Louisiana Tech University.*

*Although Andy was known primarily as an oil and watercolor landscape painter, he had an array of talents ranging from being a printmaker and illustrator to fixing cars and building his own home painting studio.*

*Andy's art has been exhibited across the United States, and he was elected to membership in the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts and the Connecticut Plein Art Society. Of special note was the recognition Andy received in 1999 when his painting of the Charter Oak was chosen as the design for the Connecticut quarter in the U.S. Mint's state quarter series.*

*Environmental Earth Science Professor Drew Hyatt taught a First-Year Program course with Andy and also joined his friend on several trips with students to Providence State Park in Georgia: "We spent time in the field in Georgia and places in Connecticut, and it was fascinating to watch him work. He was a truly gentle soul, and a gifted artist with the ability to engage students across the arts and sciences."*

*Andy is survived by his wife Deborah, his daughter Lydia, sons Sam and Will Jones, his parents and numerous other relatives.*

## 85

An Environmental Earth Science major, **RICK LARSON** worked for eight years as a consultant in western Massachusetts and then spent a 21-year career with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection/Drinking Water Program. A year after his retirement the University of Massachusetts asked him to manage a program to test all the drinking water fixtures for lead in Massachusetts public schools and childcare facilities.



Rick Larson '85

## 86

**RON REGAN** is a realtor at Beach Road Properties in Orleans, MA.

**PATRICIA SESTO** became director of the Greenwich inland wetlands and watercourses agency in 2015, and was promoted to director of environmental affairs in 2018. Prior to coming to Greenwich, she was Wilton's director of environmental affairs for 23 years.

**JEANNINE MARTIN UPSON** founded the Union Historical Society in 1974, became the town historian in 1990 and continues in that role today. A nontraditional student, she majored in History and

went on to earn a master's degree in Education Administration at the University of Connecticut. She retired in 2006 as director of advancement systems at UConn.

## 87

**STEVE CULBERTSON** became assistant director of education at Arch Bridge School in Bethlehem, CT, in January 2020. Arch Bridge teaches students in grades three to 12 while they are also in treatment or in a therapeutic environment for psychological or emotional issues to prepare them to reintegrate into their home schools successfully. Steve has worked at psychological hospitals and regional education centers in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

**PATRICIA WODATCH** has stepped down as head softball coach at Platt High School in Meriden after 22 seasons of guiding the team. She will not be retiring altogether; she remains a physical education and health teacher. Trish forged an outstanding Hall of Fame career at Eastern on the 1985 and 1986 national championship teams. Her coaching career started with four years at Yale and she also had a stint as head coach at the University of Hartford. She is a member of the Connecticut Scholastic and Collegiate Hall of Fame as well as Eastern's and Platt's Hall of Fames.

## 88

**KELLY CECCHINI** has taught in the English Department at Manchester High School for the past 20 years. She has served as an adjunct professor at Quinnebaug Valley Community College for 12 years and in the University of Connecticut's First Year Writing Program for the past five years.



# 90

**ELIZABETH DUPONT-DIEHL** has a new job as grants and proposal manager for Connecticut Public Broadcasting. Liz has an extensive background in working for nonprofit organizations in Connecticut in leadership and communications roles. She graduated cum laude from Eastern with a degree in English.

**DIANA “DEE” (DIFEDERICO) McCURRY**, who works at the knitting supplies store Another Yarn in Burlington, MA, now owns a piece of an Academy Award for the 2019 movie “Little Women” for Best Costume Design. A part-time manager at the store, Dee was approached by a representative of the film to make several pieces, including a wrap-around shawl worn by actress Emma Watson in the movie. Dee and other employees of the shop also spent hours knitting various items for the movie “1917” to portray what British World War I troops would have worn in cold weather.

**TAMYRA WHITEHEAD** is a magistrate serving in Virginia Beach, VA, where she continues to provide services such as criminal processes, emergency protective orders, emergency custody orders and temporary custody orders.

# 92

**STEVE TRIMPER**, a longtime college head baseball coach, has written the book “Walk Off Winning: A Game Plan for Leading Your Team and Organization to Success.” While his book draws on the lessons Steve learned coaching, it is also based on interactions with business leaders he has known and what he has learned from them. Now the coach at Stetson University in Deland, FL, Steve compiled 102 victories in his first three seasons there after winning more than 300 games in 11 seasons at the University of Maine.

# 93

**STACEY LAWTON** became chief executive officer of the Southeastern Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (SCADD) in October 2019. She was promoted from deputy director to take over the top position from Jack Malone '83, who will remain at the rehabilitation organization as president until 2021. She has filled various roles at SCADD in more than 25 years there. She also has a Master of Social Work Administration degree from the University of Connecticut.

# 94

After retiring as a teacher in 2015, **DOROTHY DROBNEY MS '02** expanded her interest in photography, and in 2019 opened a gallery in Stafford Springs where she represents more than 30 artisans.

The Sarasota (FL) County School Board appointed **JODY DUMAS** assistant superintendent and chief operating officer in December 2019. He had been executive director of facilities, planning and construction since 2017, and interim COO since June 2019. Jody joined the district in 2003 after beginning his career as a third-grade teacher.

**JODI (CHANT) LATINA** left her position as chief of staff for New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart after four years to return to the world of television news, this time for a position as political correspondent for WTNH, Channel 8. Previously Jodi worked for five years as senior press secretary in the Senate Republican Office of the Connecticut State Legislature. Her previous work in TV news included time as a reporter and anchor at WTNH for nearly a decade and also at WFSB, Channel 3.

The Branford Board of Police (BPD) approved the promotion of **GREGORY WATROUS** from lieutenant to patrol captain. He is an 18-year veteran of the department

and was promoted in 2019 to the rank of lieutenant, where he was a patrol shift commander. Before joining the BPD, Greg worked for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Town of Westbrook.

# 95

**JONATHAN ALPERT** is a New York City-based psychotherapist, author and performance coach. During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Alpert authored two columns on how to cope and thrive during this unprecedented time. In addition to how to manage anxiety, he gave advice on establishing a routine in working from home. Read more at [easternct.edu/alpert](http://easternct.edu/alpert).



Jonathan Alpert '95

**WILLIAM (CHIP) BECKWITH** became business development manager at Olink Proteomics in Dublin, CA, in October 2019. In his new position, Chip works with researchers at Stanford, the University of California at Davis and many Bay Area companies. Chip's research involves implementing the latest techniques to measure protein biomarkers as early indicators of disease, response to therapeutics, as well as toxicity, inflammation and organ damage.



As an educational issues specialist for the Connecticut Education Association, **MICHELLE (RIDOLFI) O'NEILL** has been working on recommendations for reopening Connecticut schools. She is also a runner, and joined a group called the Run 169 Towns Society, which encourages members to run races in every town in Connecticut. She had only Groton left when the pandemic hit.

## 00

**KEVIN BOOKER JR.** became a city councilor for the City of New London in December 2019. Kevin has operated his company Booker Empowerment, LLC since 2007, leading workshops in diversity, leadership and equity across the country and teaching public speaking. He received the Bridge Builder Award in 2019 from the Town of Windsor's Human Relations Commission for his work on race relations.



Kevin Booker Jr. '00

**JOHN RUBANO** has a new position as area manager at Outset Medical, Inc.

After graduating with a degree in Physical Education at Eastern, **MICHAEL SORMRUDE** went on to earn a master's degree in Public Health Education and Promotion at Worcester State University and a doctorate in Health Science at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He is now an adjunct professor teaching biology courses at Southern Connecticut State University, Quinnipiac Univer-

sity and the Community College of Rhode Island.

## 02

**DAWN SANDVOSS** of Mystic recently joined Chelsea Groton Bank as assistant vice president and commercial loan officer. Dawn will work to develop commercial loan and commercial mortgage relationships with centers of influence across the bank's market areas. Most recently, Dawn was an assistant vice president and commercial loan officer at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union in Waterford where she monitored and serviced existing loans and originated new loans.



Wonderland Tea Company

**JERRY PISCITELLI** is director of eCommerce for Oatey, a company that markets plumbing repair and faucets. In his spare time, Jerry has recently launched the Wonderland Tea Company, an all-organic tea brand inspired by the Lewis Carroll classic "Alice in Wonderland."

## 03

**PAUL BLAHA** was promoted from manager to senior manager, cyber security & risk management, at United Technologies in April 2019.

**BONNIE BRYDEN** was named Employee of the Year at WPRI-12 in Providence, RI.

**RYAN J. DAVIS** became associate vice president for equity and diversity at Brown University in January.

He had been director of assessment and educational programs in the Office of the Provost for Diversity and Inclusion at Purdue University in Indiana since 2014.

**JOE LOBE** was named vice president, associate general counsel at Mohegan Gaming and Entertainment. He is a part-time lecturer in Business Law at Eastern and serves on the ECSU Foundation Board.

Hubbard-Hall, a Waterbury chemical distribution company, promoted **SHELLEY LUSAS** to director of marketing in May. She had joined the company as marketing manager in May 2017.

During the pandemic **TERENCE MCSWEENEY M'03** wrote a book based on his oil paintings and writings that was accepted into the Library of Congress. "Poems and Thoughts" includes original oil paintings and matching poetry.

## 04

**JAMES FIDELI** is senior manager, aerospace financial operations and reporting, at United Technologies.

**DAVID E. JONES** is the chief diversity officer and director of talent management at William Paterson University of New Jersey.

## 05

**REBECCA (BISSONNETTE) ALDRED** became principal of Windsor Locks High School on July 1, 2020. She had been co-assistant principal at Ellington High School. Becca began her teaching career as a math teacher at Woodstock Academy in 2006 after graduating with a Mathematics degree in 2005. She spent several years in Pinellas County, FL, as a high school math teacher. Becca returned to Connecticut to teach at Windham High School in 2015.



## In Memoriam



**JEAN-PIERRE GODBOUT**  
1952-2019

*Jean-Pierre Godbout served Eastern Connecticut State University as a key member of the facilities staff for more than 30 years. He was a talented carpenter, a well-respected supervisor, and known as a generous man who could make or fix just about anything.*

*Born in 1952 in Sherbooke, Quebec, Jean-Pierre moved with his family to Willimantic in 1968 and graduated from Windham High School in 1970. He was a hockey player as a youth and proud owner of the sailboat *Recompense* as an adult.*

*Jean-Pierre died on Nov. 12, 2019, after a short battle with ALS, five years after he retired. He is survived by his wife Deborah and children Jason and Nicole, as well as his brother and three sisters.*

*Niloufar Rezai of the Child and Family Resource Development called Jean-Pierre “a warm, compassionate and caring man and an extremely talented craftsman. I have missed him popping into the CFDRS since his retirement and now I will miss him even more. Repose en paix, mon ami!”*

*Emeritus Executive Vice President Mike Pernal remembers Jean-Pierre with similar sentiments: “Jean-Pierre and I worked together at Eastern for many years. During that time he stood out for his cheerfulness, terrific humor and an unmatched loyalty to Eastern and all who worked here.”*

**ANDREW BESSETTE** is senior disease awareness specialist in rheumatology at Novartis.

**DWAYNE ROBERTSON** is manager, cultural competency, at Carolina Complete Health Network, Inc.

## 07

The Norwich school district named **MEGHAN (FERACO) CAMPBELL** its Teacher of the Year in June on the last school day. Meghan is a fifth-grade reading and writing teacher at Uncas School and was called “a master teacher” by Superintendent Kristen Stringfellow. Meghan has spent her entire teaching career in Norwich, focusing on school budgeting issues, including serving on a committee in 2014 that ultimately brought Uncas School \$1.3 million in state funding for added staff, capital improvements and other assistance.

**GARRETT DUKETTE** was named the 2020 Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Schools. He has now accepted a position as principal in Scotland, CT, after having served as assistant principal in Ashford School.

Leadership Greater Hartford promoted **MAE RYAN MALONEY** to senior director for programs in February. She had been overseeing the Quest leadership program to connect current and aspiring leaders in Greater Hartford to build a stronger community. Mae was chosen in the past two years as a “40 Under 40” honoree by the Hartford Business Journal and Connecticut Magazine. She earned an MSW degree from Smith College after graduating from Eastern with a degree in Sociology.

**JACQUELINE NATHMAN** is a fifth-grade teacher in Irving School in Derby and was named Derby’s Teacher of the Year. “Helping set up my mother’s classroom each summer and participating in her school community forever shaped my life.”



*Meghan (Feraco) Campbell '07*

## 08

In 2015, History major **JASON DOUGLAS** established his own private investigation company, JBD Investigations, in Hartford. He believes the lessons learned in pursuing a history degree serve him in his chosen field. “I’m a stickler when it comes to ensuring that I have credible sources and cite them properly,” he said. “My research is included in court cases and many forms of legal documentation, so it must be accurate.”

Derby High School named physical education and health teacher **ERIC O'TOOLE** Teacher of the Year for 2020. The school recognized Eric for his creativity in teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic. Eric majored in Physical Education and minored in Health at Eastern, where he also played baseball for four years. He earned his master’s degree in Educational Leadership at Central Connecticut State University in 2016.



# 09

**NOVAGRAMI GEORGE** is a researcher at IQVIA.

Gogo Business Aviation promoted **DANIEL HERNANDEZ** to senior business analyst in March. He had joined the Broomfield, CO, firm in 2017 as a business systems analyst. Daniel earned his Eastern degree cum laude with a major in Communication and minor in Sociology.

**CECILIA HUGHES** is chief of staff and director of sales operations, Pacific Northwest market, at Cigna. She is responsible for overseeing the Pacific Northwest management process; owning the projection, expense and reporting functions; and developing the market's community engagement strategy.

**ANTHONY MENDES** is an academic success specialist in the natural sciences division of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University (ASU) in Tempe. After earning his degree in History at Eastern, Anthony worked at Providence College for six years, and earned an M.A. in History and M.Ed. in Higher Education Counseling and Guidance there. His wife Skyler is a Ph.D. candidate at ASU.

**ANTHONY ROSATI** is assistant athletic director for facilities at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He recently hosted faculty from Eastern's KPE Department to learn about the setup, management and operations of the athletic facilities on the UMass campus.

# 10

In February 2020, **ADNAN AKHAND** became one of three new partners in BX3, a Manhattan business advisory and venture capital firm. Adnan is also vice president of accounting and a member of the firm's six-person leadership team. Although Adnan is a CPA who handles accounting functions, he is a versatile team player who also

works in roles similar to a consultant or outsourced chief financial officer. Adnan graduated with a degree in Accounting from Eastern, and also holds a master's degree in International Finance from Northeastern University.

**COURTNEY BEDOCS**, who works for Visa in Colorado structuring learning solutions for Visa's Global Data Products, was one of the English alumni at the English@Work Alumni Panel on March 9.

United Technologies has promoted **NIKOLE (KOLI) DOOLITTLE** to lead coordinator to the chief operations officer of Pratt & Whitney.

**JERRY MAILHIOT JR.** is imaging producer for Golic and Wingo, an ESPN talk radio show that is simulcast on ESPN. The hosts are Mike Golic, a former NFL defensive lineman, and Trey Wingo, a sports broadcaster for more than 30 years. A Communication major at Eastern, Jerry has worked in broadcast production since shortly after graduating.

**MAX SACKERSON** is a medical technologist at Danbury Hospital. He has worked at the hospital for about seven and a half years, first in the patient access central processing lab, and then for four years as a phlebotomist. Max's Eastern degree is in Biology.

**AMANDA TOPPING** is a technical writer for Electric Boat in Groton, where she writes technical manuals for Columbia Class Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarines that are used to train submarine crew members. Amanda was one of the English alumni at the English@Work Alumni Panel on March 9.

# 11

**CURTIS DARRAGH IV** has been a school counselor for five years at Westside Middle School Academy in Danbury. After graduating with a degree in Psychology, he earned a master's degree in School Counseling at the University of Connecticut.

In addition to handling a caseload of 350 students, Curtis enjoys helping students produce the annual school musical, advises the national junior honor society, and guides eighth graders on a two-week research travel project to Europe each year.

**TIM TALLEY'S** non-profit group in Thailand offers free English programs, life skills programs, leadership training and Bible training to impoverished and at-risk children and families. In spring 2020, Talley and his associates were especially busy. They collected and gave food baskets to families who had lost employment due to COVID-19, donated 1,100 masks to four area hospitals, and distributed 4,000 bottles of water to volunteers fighting a forest fire on the outskirts of Chiang Mai, Thailand.



Tim Talley '11

# 12

**MATT BANAS** has been a teacher at St. Rita School, a middle school in Hamden, since 2015. He teaches history, social studies and geography to students in the sixth to eighth grades. Concurrently, he has been an assistant coach of the boys track team at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull. After graduating with a degree in History, he earned a master's degree in Educational/Instructional Technology at the University of Connecticut in 2015.



## In Memoriam



### JOSEPH NAROTSKY

1932-2019

*Joseph Narotsky arrived at Willimantic State Teachers College in 1951 as a local lad from nearby Columbia. He was a solid student and a gifted athlete. He left after graduation to get his Ph.D. in Education at the University of Connecticut, before returning to WSTC in 1958. He would not leave again until he retired in 1992, and was elected to Eastern's athletic Hall of Fame in his retirement year.*

*Joe was born in Brooklyn, NY, before moving with his family to Columbia at age three. A devoted husband and father, he coached his four sons in baseball and basketball and was a longstanding member of Temple B'Nai Israel in Willimantic. He died Dec. 11, 2019, and is survived by his sons and four grandchildren.*

*One of the ECSU Foundation's 20 endowed scholarships for education majors is the NRY Endowed Scholarship, named for Professor Narotsky and Professors David Rand and Ralph Yulo. Yulo and Narotsky were close colleagues, and Ralph remembers Joe as "a wonderful colleague and dedicated and caring teacher with a steadfast loyalty to and devotion for Eastern, his alma mater."*

*Alumni who had Joe Narotsky as a teacher may remember this quote that he had on his office door: "In a completely rational society, the best of us would aspire to be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something less, because passing civilization along from one generation to the next ought to be the highest honor and the highest responsibility anyone could have."*

**BRAD BEAUSOLEIL** became director of third-party administrator services for ACG Wealth Management in Midlothian, VA, in January. Brad earned his degree in Economics at Eastern and was on the cross country and track teams. He earned his M.B.A. in Business Analytics at Central Connecticut State University in 2018.

**CARLINE CHARMELUS** has been the project manager for the reaching home campaign at the Partnership for Strong Communities in Hartford since February 2015. She works to reduce homelessness, expand affordable housing and help build strong communities in Connecticut. She earned a Master in Public Administration degree in 2014 at the University of Connecticut with certificates in Nonprofit Management and Survey Research.



Carline Charmelus '12

**LUISA CHMIELECKI** became coordinator for advancement services at Erskine College in Due West, SC, in September 2019. She has been working in the school's fundraising and alumni office since December 2017. Luisa worked for Hartford Health Care for 23 years, during which time she earned her Eastern degree, before she and her husband Rich moved to South Carolina.

**KYLE ST. JEAN** is director of staff services at Horizons, a South Windham nonprofit that provides services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. Kyle

graduated magna cum laude with a double major in English and History and Social Science. Kyle's wife Rochelle also works at Horizons as team director of education support services, and they are the parents of a one-year old daughter Rona.

**KEVIN HINES** began a position as area sales manager for America's Preferred Home Warranty in the Nashville, TN, area in March. Kevin works with real estate agents and brokers to educate them about home warranties and assist them when a warranty purchase accompanies a home sale. Kevin and his wife Kimberleigh live in a nearby Nashville suburb.

**HAMILTON LEVY** is an account executive at Datawire.io.

**SAMANTHA (PETRELLA)**

**PAULL** is a health and safety specialist at Yale New Haven Health.

## 13

**DR. RUSLAN ABDUKALIKOV**

is resident physician, Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, at Maine Medical Center in Portland. He earned his Doctor of Osteopathy degree at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Maine in 2018.

**NICHOLAS BERTORA** is a financial assistant in the bursar's office at the University of Connecticut. His Eastern degree is in Accounting.



Kyle St. Jean '12



**TAYLOR HAMMOND** is assistant director of undergraduate admissions at Eastern, where she also serves as the Admissions Office's primary international recruiter. Taylor was one of the English alumni at the English@Work Alumni Panel on March 9.

**ERICH LATINCSICS** became a modernization sales representative for thyssenkrupp, an elevator company in Manhattan, NY, in November 2019. He had previously worked for two other elevator companies, Unitech for nearly two years starting in January 2014, and Otis Elevator Company for four years, prior to joining thyssenkrupp.

**KOREY LEWIS** is control account manager for Pratt & Whitney's F135 program, with outcome responsibilities for multi-million dollar projects, including proposing and negotiating new contracts. Korey was one of the English alumni at the English@Work Alumni Panel on March 9.

**JESSICA ONDERDONK** is a supervisor at Electric Boat.

## 14

**AJ AUDET** is the assistant athletic director of facilities and operations at American International College in Springfield, MA.



AJ Audet '14

**ANNELISE BLANCHETTE** completed her second year as a Ph.D. student in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Tulane University in New Orleans in the spring. She earned a master's degree in Biology from John Carroll University, in 2017.

**ANA CAROLINA FERNANDES** returned to her homeland of Brazil in 2015 after receiving her M.S. in Early Childhood Education. She works at an American School in Belo Horizonte-Minas Gerais teaching 3- and 4-year-olds. Ana credits Eastern's focus on educational technology for preparing her for teaching the children online.

**MATTHEW GONSALVES** became a project scientist with BL Companies in Meriden in May 2019. He had previously worked for two other environmental engineering and consulting firms, AEI Consultants in Jersey City and Sage Environmental in Pawtucket, RI.

**ANTHONY PETERSON** is starting a new position as market director at Kemper.

**JENNIFER TAMINDZIJA** recently began a new job as user experience researcher at Allied Solutions LLC.

## 15

**NICK ACONFORA** is program coordinator with ESPN Next. He works with a small team running one of the premier leadership development programs in the industry. Nick supports the day-to-day and long-term strategy and operations of the program by creating content for website/social media platforms, recruiting top talent and handling the program's marketing strategy.

**JOE GARZONE** completed service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia in August 2019. During his two years there as an English language and development agent, he taught English in a small rural high school, helping local teachers improve their English and computer skills. Following his return to America, he began a new job in January as a building management specialist with

the General Services Administration in New York City.

**GREGORY LANO** is an account manager at State Farm.

**GAVIN LAVALLEE** was sworn in as one of three new Bethel police officers in June. His first assignment is six months of police academy training that will be followed by further training with the Bethel police department.

**LAURA MARKLEY** is a Ph.D. student in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Syracuse University, where her research is focused on the effects of plastic pollution on humans and the environment. An Environmental Earth Science major at Eastern, Laura was an Honor Scholar all four years and graduated summa cum laude with a 3.99 GPA.

**ERIN MILLER** became head softball coach for Mitchell College in November 2019. She was assistant softball coach and pitching coach at the Coast Guard Academy from 2015-17. She then served as a graduate assistant softball coach at Smith College from September 2017 to May 2019, when she earned her M.S. in Exercise and Sports Studies.

**JORDAN THOMPSON** works in Eastern's Office of AccessAbility Services, in the testing center as well as on a project that will enhance the process on how students can become more employable. "We are focusing on different areas like interviewing, resume, cover letters and finding appropriate resources. We have great students, and we want to make sure they have successful lives after they graduate from Eastern."



Joe Garzone '15



## In Memoriam



### CAMERON A. "RON" CARLYLE

1933-2020

*Cameron "Ron" Carlyle passed away on March 6, 2020. He met his wife, Dorothy (Nye) Carlyle '56 at a 1952 "exchange dance" for Willimantic State Teachers College and University of Connecticut students. Dorothy was a freshman and Ron was a UConn sophomore at the time. While Dorothy prepared for a career as a teacher, Ron was studying psychology, and enrolled in the ROTC program at the Storrs campus. The couple married in July 1956 after Dorothy graduated. After fulfilling his military duty, Ron joined a small delivery company called "United Parcel Service."*

*The couple raised four children together and Dorothy went back to work as a part-time teacher; when the children were old enough, she became a full-time teacher.*

*Ron eventually retired from UPS, and following Dorothy's 50th reunion in 2006, the couple established the Dorothy N. Carlyle Endowed Scholarship for students with unmet financial need. In 2008, the Carlyles made Eastern the beneficiary of a substantial six-figure Charitable Remainder Uni-trust. Sometime in the future the fund will effectively become a bequest to assist the ECSU Foundation in helping students.*

# 16

**COOPER D'AMBROSIO** has been promoted to account manager at Insight Global, a national staffing and services company that specializes in sourcing information technology, government, accounting, finance, and engineering professionals, and delivering service-based solutions to Fortune 1000 clients.

**MATTHEW B. GORSKI** is a member services representative at Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union.



Ryan Kelly '16

The National Association of Professional Insurance Agents has named **RYAN KELLY** the 2020 PIA National Young Insurance Professional of the Year. He is a property and casualty insurance agent with Merit Insurance, a Gallagher Company, and has been with them since graduation. Ryan is vice president and a member of the board of the Connecticut Young Insurance Professionals, and also on the board of the Stratford Chamber of Commerce.

**ASHLEY MARTIN** has been a registered nurse at Smilow Cancer Hospital in New Haven since February 2019. She now works on a floor for surgical oncology patients only, created by the hospital to protect cancer patients from COVID-19 infections. After earning her degree in Health Sciences, Ashley earned her B.S. in Nursing at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston.

**DEVIN QUINN** was elevated to senior associate, human resources, with AMG Funds in Greenwich in January. She came to the firm as human resources contractor in June 2016 and has been promoted three times since.

**ANTHONY J. PICCIONE** is the author of a new one-act drama, "Unaffordably Unhealthy" that made its world premiere at The Tank in New York City. Inspired by true stories, "Unaffordably Unhealthy" is an exploration of how to stay alive in America, through the eyes of 12 different people with different backgrounds and ailments across the United States. The common theme found in all their stories is how hard it is to obtain and afford proper health insurance and the obstacles they encountered to treat their varied injuries and illnesses. **NATHAN CUSSON '18** is directing "Unaffordably Unhealthy."



Nathan Cusson '18 and Anthony Piccione '16

**ROBERTO ROSADO** was selected as Meriden's new police chief in June and took over leadership of the police department on July 1, 2020. A native of Meriden, Roberto is returning to his hometown after spending 22 years with the Willimantic Police Department, the last four as its chief. Roberto graduated from Eastern with a degree in General Studies with concentrations in Sociology and Criminology.



## In Memoriam



**MARTIN SEYMOUR**  
1955-2020

*Martin Seymour passed away on Jan. 30, 2020, and is survived by his mother Connie, his sister Kathleen and her husband David King, and two nephews.*

*Martin came to Eastern as a university assistant in 1997, but his real impact on Eastern students began in 1999 when he started teaching photography part time in the Communication Department.*

*Martin had already enjoyed a sterling career as a professional photographer before coming to Eastern. After graduating from Adelphi University in Garden City, NY, he launched a photography career specializing in fashion and portraiture photography in England and New York City. He worked with British Royal photographer Norman Parkinson and legendary American photographer Irving Penn, both prominent in fashion photography in the 1980s. He assisted Parkinson with lighting design for photographic sessions with royal luminaries including King Hussein and Queen Noor of Jordan.*

*He designed lighting for fashion shows and theatre and dance productions, and spent five years as lighting director and designer for opera productions at the New York Academy of Art. His work also appeared in magazines including Vanity Fair, Town & Country and Harper's Bazaar. He carried that talent with him to Eastern, collaborating with the theatre program on lighting and photography for shows.*

**MAX SILVIA** became territory sales manager in the Boston office of Panda Security in January. Panda Security is an Internet antivirus company headquartered in Spain.

## 17

**JONATHAN BLEJEWSKI** was promoted this year to audit senior with the accounting firm Blum Shapiro. He has been with the firm since January 2018. Jonathan graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Business Information Systems, and recently became a CPA.

**DAVID CANNY JR.** has been outreach representative for Trinity Solar in Cheshire since June 2019.

**BRYAN FRANKOVITCH** has been a registered nurse at Hartford Hospital since February 2019. He earned a B.S. in Nursing at the University of Connecticut in 2018 after earning his B.S. in Health Sciences with a concentration in Pre-Nursing.

**ANDREW FITZGERALD** became a national media associate at ICON International Inc. in February. He works with clients to help them maximize the effectiveness of their broadcast media buys. Andrew also works as a freelance assignment desk editor for News 12 Connecticut. His Eastern degree is in Communication.

**JEAN HERMAN** became an audit associate with CohnReznick in February 2020. She previously worked at BlumShapiro for two years. Jean earned her Eastern degree in Accounting with Dean's Distinction, and she is now a CPA.

**DAJOUN JONES** is a sales trainee at Graybar.

**PAMELA MARQUEZ** became a laboratory technician at Mercy Health in Chesterfield, MO, in December 2019. Her Eastern degree is in Health Sciences.

**MEGAN McCASKILL** became an emergency medical technician with Access Ambulance Company of North Haven in May 2019. She graduated with a degree in Health Sciences.

**RYAN POMROY** became an occupational therapist at Athena Healthcare in Southington in November 2019, the same time he started a weekend job as an occupational therapist at Aaron Manor in Chester. Ryan graduated magna cum laude from Eastern with a degree in Health Sciences, and in 2019 earned a master's degree in Occupational Therapy from Sacred Heart University.

**KAYLA TENORE** earned her law degree in May from the Quinnipiac School of Law with a concentration in Tax Law. She also won an award for excellence in clinical legal education at the law school. Kayla is a state and local tax intern with KPMG US in Hartford, part of a global network of firms providing tax, audit and advisory services.

## 18

**WILLIAM AHERN** became a software engineer with Cigna in January. He had started at Cigna as a data engineer in 2017 while still an Eastern student. William graduated from Eastern cum laude with a degree in Computer Science.

**RALPH ANTHONY** is an insurance agent at Innovative Financial Group.

**LINDSEY BERUBE** became patient access coordinator with the Community Health & Wellness Center of Greater Torrington in January 2020. She had started with the organization a year earlier as clinical informatics analyst. Lindsey earned her Eastern degree summa cum laude with a major in Political Science.

**FREDDY CRUZ JR.** has worked at the Travelers since July 2018 to develop software programs to sell auto insurance to individual drivers.

**HELENA DELFINO** graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Connecticut in December 2019 and became a registered nurse at Yale New Haven Hospital in January 2020. She graduated from Eastern cum laude with a degree in Health Sciences and a minor in Public Health Studies.



## In Memoriam



**C. ROBERT MILLER**  
1933–2020

*C. Robert “Bob” Miller passed away on Feb. 4, 2020, in Aiken, SC. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Judith (Bourell) Miller, his daughter Mindy and his son Michael.*

*Coach Miller became a legend on the Eastern campus for bringing women’s basketball to the forefront. After coaching baseball and men’s basketball, Bob became the “interim” coach of women’s basketball in 1974. Nineteen seasons and 332 wins later he had become one of the most successful Division III women’s basketball coaches ever. His record includes winning 69 percent of the games he coached, 16 postseason tournaments, including six NCAA tournaments, and seven 20-win seasons. Coach Miller led his team to the AIAW national tournament in 1976-77 and 1979-80.*

*An ardent supporter of equality in women’s sports, he served as the first president of the New England Women’s Basketball Association in the late 1970s. By the time of his passing, he had become the first male to be enshrined in the Connecticut Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame and was inducted into the NEWBA, Little East Conference and Eastern Halls of Fame.*

*Bob was a graduate of Miami of Ohio, later earning his Ph.D. at Springfield College. He began his coaching career at Wilmington (Ohio) College and also served six years in the Air Force Reserve.*

*Coach Miller ended his coaching career after the 1992-93 season and retired in 1995 after 30 years at Eastern.*

**MERLYN HERRERA** is an associate business analyst at Infosys.

**KATIE O’ROURKE** is pursuing a Master of Education in College Student Personnel Administration at James Madison University. She holds an assistantship in student activities and works with clubs and organizations. Her internship this summer is managing a team of other graduate students and leading the withdrawal process.

**KATHERINE PLAYER** has been a financial aid advisor at Lincoln Tech in East Windsor since January 2019. She graduated from Eastern cum laude with a degree in Health Sciences and a minor in Psychology.

**DANIEL RIGGOTT JR.** has been an accounting and finance recruiter in the Stamford office of Aston Carter, an international staffing and recruiting services firm, since March 2019.

**KELLY SHEEHAN**, who graduated with degrees in Spanish and Business Administration, teaches English at the C.E.C. Politécnica Nacional in Quito, Ecuador. She married Andrés Faria in March.

## 19

**ANGEL BLEGGI** joined the visitor services team of the Fairfield Museum and History Center last fall as weekend manager of visitor services. After earning his Master of Science degree in Secondary Education at Eastern in December 2019, **TYLER BURLESON** became an advanced placement history teacher at Henderson Collegiate High School, a charter school in Henderson, NC, in January.

**LEAJA JOHNSON** is a social media intern at EACH Enterprise, LLC.

**TAN DUNG LUONG** began working as a senior analyst/software developer for Cigna in the company’s technology early career development program in January. He completed his Eastern degree in Computer Science in December, graduating summa cum laude.

**AYANNA McDOUGALD** is working for Americorps Vista at the Kohala Middle School in Kapaau, HI. Her job involves creating partnerships between the school and community and connecting students and families to community services. She graduated cum laude from Eastern with a degree in Health Sciences and a concentration in Public Health.

**NATALIIA ROMANENKO** became an associate data scientist with The Hartford in January. She graduated with a degree in Computer Science with Dean’s Distinction.

**MEKAILA STEFANO** became a junior graphic designer in January at the Glastonbury office of Mission Control, Inc., a national political direct mail firm. She earned her B.A. in Art at Eastern with a concentration in Digital Art and Design.

**ANNA TAYLOR** is an account manager for Barton Associates, a Windsor firm she joined shortly after graduating from Eastern. Barton Associates specializes in placing doctors, dentists, nurse practitioners and other medical professionals in temporary positions. Anna graduated with a degree in Health Sciences and a concentration in Public Health.

## 20

**RYAN COPPINGER** is a senior associate at Hartford Yard Goats Baseball.

**LAUREN LANDRY** began working as a behavioral health specialist at Bradley Memorial Hospital. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Psychology and served as vice president of Love Your Melon and founder/president of WarriorTHON.



# IN MEMORIAM

- Pauline (Hurteau) Magliocco '49*  
Norwich, June 21, 2019
- Joan (McNally) Picano '50*  
Crofton, MD, Feb. 1, 2020
- Raymond L. Plassman '50*  
Moosup, November 2019
- Walter E. Gaipa, Sr. '51*  
Hilton Head, SC, Sept. 8, 2019
- Dolores (Kelley) Gallon '51*  
Naples, FL, Feb. 11, 2020
- Mary (Keenan) Plourde '51*  
Meriden, April 2019
- Eleanor (Christensen) Waring '51*  
Dixon, IL, May 12, 2019
- Marie Tedeschi Crane '52*  
Norwich, Dec. 19, 2019
- Edward H. Timbrell, Jr., '53*  
Manchester, March 23, 2020
- Roberta (Kittredge) Hemmann '54*  
Deep River, May 1, 2020
- Joseph R. Narotsky '54*  
Columbia, Dec. 11, 2019
- Nancy (Neher) Wilcox '55*  
Madison, July 9, 2019
- Beverly (Marsie) Keener '57*  
Newtown, May 5, 2020
- Alice (McAuliffe) McMahon '58*  
Newington, June 23, 2019
- Noeleen (Geno) Parker '58*  
Mystic, April 9, 2020
- Joan L. (Milek) Kastner '59*  
Glastonbury, Jan. 22, 2020
- Eugene E. Phaneuf '59*  
West Hartford, Feb. 1, 2020
- Roland L. Pier '59*  
New London, July 15, 2019
- Maxine (Rothe) Shortman '63*  
Broad Brook, Jan. 12, 2020
- Edward A. Wieszicki '63*  
Plainfield, Feb. 25, 2020
- Diana (Graham) Hodgins '66 MS '91*  
Mansfield Center, April 18, 2020
- Robert G. Pakenham '66*  
Willimantic, Jan. 7, 2020
- Doris Marie (Rigby) Horton '67*  
Bennington, VT, Feb. 28, 2020
- Anita (Dreesen) Bacon '69*  
Mansfield Center, March 4, 2019
- Charles E. Funk III '69*  
Coventry, Feb. 13, 2020
- Jane King '69, MS '73*  
Claremore, OK, Oct. 16, 2019
- F. Robert Sandin '69*  
Rabbit Lake Township, MN  
November 2019
- Linda Dickson '70*  
Waterford, Dec. 2, 2019
- Michael P. Savo '70*  
March 30, 2019
- Donna (Holland) Songdahl '70*  
Pawcatuck, Feb. 16, 2020
- Carolyn H. Vacca '70*  
Aug. 6, 2019
- Jeffrey K. Moeckel '73*  
Killingworth, Feb. 6, 2020
- Judith A. Doyle MS '74*  
Willimantic, Dec. 26, 2019
- Jerome F. Reed '75*  
South Windsor, Feb. 7, 2020
- Paul D. Kerwin '76*  
Waterbury, May 8, 2020
- Ruth (Abramson) Heller '77*  
Willimantic, March 16, 2019
- Gary A. Littlefield '77*  
Columbia, July 3, 2019
- Anne Marie Ternullo '77*  
Mansfield Center, May 10, 2020
- Robert J. McKay '79*  
South Windsor, March 10, 2020
- Mary (Cadigan) Martin '82*  
Avon, Nov. 26, 2019
- Guy M. Rodgers '82*  
East Hartford, Jan. 6, 2019
- Richard Emmerich '87*  
Madison, May 26, 2020
- Daniel J. Greenhalgh '87*  
Fort Myers, FL, May 7, 2020
- Alpheus W. Lewis '90*  
West Union, OH, February 2019
- Marion E. Greene '93*  
North Windham, Dec. 18, 2019
- Peter Vogt, '95*  
Brooklyn, Jan. 23, 2020
- Carol F. Ross '96*  
League City, TX, March 2019
- John W. Stephenson, Jr. '13*  
New Britain, April 22, 2020
- Lee Barrett, student*  
Hamden, Jan. 23, 2020
- Marco John Chirichella, student*  
Niantic, March 2019
- Chace John Wood, student*  
Danielson, March 25, 2020
- Jean-Pierre Godbout*  
facilities staff member  
Willimantic, Nov. 12, 2019
- William Anthony Jones, art professor*  
Hampton, Jan. 25, 2020
- Martin Seymour, photography*  
lecturer, Columbia, Jan. 30, 2020
- Robert J. Wolf, emeritus professor*  
South Windsor, June 24, 2019
- C. Robert Miller, emeritus professor/  
coach, Aiken, SC, Feb. 4, 2020*
- Richard Nassiff, former*  
ECSU Foundation Board member  
Willimantic, June 11, 2019
- Cameron "Ron" Carlyle, friend*  
East Woodstock, March 6, 2020
- Kristine (Dyrland) Penny, friend*  
Wappingers Falls, NY, May 11, 2019
- Kannangath Narayan Kutty*  
emeritus professor  
Mansfield Center, July 4, 2020