

CLASS NOTES

52

Elizabeth (Ashton) Levey turned 90 in April and moved into assisted living in May. After graduating from Eastern, Betty earned her master's degree in Special Education from East Carolina University, and her doctorate in Learning Disabilities from the University of Virginia. Widowed in 1961 when her husband was killed in a military plane crash, Betty completed her advanced degrees while raising two children. She retired after teaching for many years at East Carolina University in the College of Education.

54

Ada Corn Roth wrote to say how much she enjoys EASTERN Magazine. After graduation she moved to New Jersey to get married. She lost touch with her classmates but is always happy to get mail from the alumni office. "At the time we all graduated as teachers, and this became a big part of my life." She taught in New Jersey for more than 30 years with a break of seven years to stay home with her children. She has been retired for more than 20 years.

66

Jack LaPlante taught for 40 years in the Hartford public school system, and coached football and track at Hartford Public High School for 25 of those years. He also coached football and basketball at Glastonbury High School. Jack and his wife Pat have 18 grandchildren.

69

While a graduate student at Willimantic State College, **Cathy Overkamp** wrote her thesis on the history of Mansfield, CT. "I put in years of research and wrote in triplicate on an old typewriter while eight months pregnant with a toddler playing under my desk before I was 30." Many of the people in Cathy's research

turned out to be ancestors and some of the students she taught in fifth grade at Hunting Lodge Road School turned out to be her cousins. Cathy now lives in Hurricane, Utah, and continues to work on genealogy. "Perhaps there is a student attending Eastern now who is a relative of mine!"

70

After graduation, **June (Roma) Machia** taught grades one and two in her hometown of Trumbull, CT, for four years, marrying her husband Ed in 1972. She left teaching in 1974 for 10 years to have a family. June returned to the education field in 1984, and worked as a paraprofessional for 25 years, retiring in 2010. She babysits her granddaughters (ages 11 and 7) and has been teaching them remotely since March. She and Ed like traveling, and have visited Alaska, Hawaii and numerous national parks, in addition to enjoying a trip to Italy in February 2019.

Fred Souza bought a shirt 10 years ago at his 40th reunion for his grandson. It now fits his granddaughter Ella, and Fred's daughter and son-in-law sent in a photo of Ella with the caption "Future Freshman." "If that happens, it will be the first time in 50+ years that anyone in the family has gone to a state school with in-state tuition." Fred's four years at Eastern cost about \$6,000, "including the cost of a VW bug so I could commute senior year."



Fred Souza's '70 granddaughter Ella

74

Charles Iadaresta sent a note along with a donation to the Andree & C.R. Webb Endowed Scholarship in memory of President Webb. "I saw him a couple of times 'in concert' and enjoyed it back in '72-'74."



Scott Rhoades '73 was recently elected as a member of the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, a Signature Member of Arts Center East and an Elected Member of the Academic Artists Association. He has participated in several virtual art exhibitions and shows, including the Academic Artists Association's 70th Annual National Exhibition of Traditional Realism, where he received the Jack Richeson Merchandise Award for his painting "Locked." See more at scotterhoadesart.com.

75

Barbara (Halchek) Dion is winding down a 45-year teaching career by substituting two days a week in the Tolland school system. She also babysits two of her grandsons and does some elder care. She said that by next year she and husband David will have five grandsons and a granddaughter.

77

Utah State University President Noelle Cockett has named **Laurens "Larry" Smith** vice president of statewide campuses, removing the "interim" label he's had since taking the position in spring 2019. Larry oversees the operation of more than 30 campuses and smaller learning centers and academic facilities in the Utah State system — all but the flagship campus in Logan. He has served Utah State in several high-level administrative positions for more than a decade. Larry was inducted as an Eastern Fellow in fall 2019.

78

Jim Grieco volunteers with the American Red Cross as co-lead of the Home Fire Campaign, which installs free smoke alarms in people's homes. "It's very satisfying work, and the Red Cross is an amazing organization." Jim welcomed his 11th grandchild and ninth granddaughter in August 2020.

Stephen Kania, professor and director of the Immunology Service Laboratory in the Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named the college's assistant dean of research and graduate studies. As director of the Comparative and Experimental Medicine Graduate Program, Stephen has overseen a revitalization of the graduate program and initiated program changes that included the addition of DVM/Ph.D. and concurrent master's/Ph.D. options.

81

Liz Augustine served her country as a vocalist with the U.S. Air Force Band. She has managed and owned an art gallery, and taught art to children at a science and art museum in Bridgeport. She authored the initial proposal for a women's center at Housatonic Community College and served as co-chair for eight years. She received her MFA in Visual Art in 2019 from Wilson College in Chambersburg, PA. "Education has been a lifelong process for me."

80



Tony Ross '80

After earning his Ph.D. at Stony Brook University and doing postdoctoral fellowships at Yale University and the University of Massachusetts, **Tony Ross** joined the faculty at the University of Bridgeport in 1996 to teach anatomy, physiology and microbiology at the Chiropractic School. He did a three year stint as associate dean in the school of naturopathic medicine from 1999 to

2002, and then became an instructor and later senior lecturer, equivalent to full professor, as his primary appointment for nearly two decades.

85

Roy Rovazzo writes "I am starting to write a book about the radio show I hosted at Eastern — 'Musical Myriad' — and jazz, at the suggestion of a 'Myriad' fan who has notable ties to Eastern, professor emerita Claudia Wid-

diss. I am also working on a new group of paintings."

88

Dianne Bilyak is a Pushcart-prize nominated writer, graduate of the Yale Divinity School and Connecticut disability rights advocate. Her new book, "Nothing Special: the mostly true, sometimes funny tales of two sisters," will be published by Wesleyan University Press on March 2, 2021. Her book of poems "Against the Turning" was published by Amherst Writers & Artists Press in 2011, and her poetry has also been featured in *Meat for Tea*, *Freshwater*, *Drunken Boat*, *The Massachusetts Review* and *The Tampa Review*.

89

Catherine Poulin is founder/president of Pitch Perfect Consulting, LLC, a marketing and public relations firm she launched in Essex in 2019. She previously worked as public relations/outreach director for Bob's Discount Furniture for 18 years, and was the company's television spokesperson for several years.

In her Nov. 4 University Hour presentation called "Six Voices in Women's Suffrage," **Bev York** related the stories of six leaders of the Women's Suffrage movement and the roles they played securing women's right to vote through passage of the 19th Amendment 100 years ago.

90

Travis Sitrine has served as highway superintendent for the Town of Putnam since July 2018. He previously worked for the Highway Department in Killingly.

Rob Szarka became an assistant teaching professor in Managerial Economics at the University of Kansas in August. Rob earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Connecticut in 2017.

91

Steve Boskus, a member of Eastern's Athletic Hall-of-Fame, is completing his 17th year as a guidance counselor at Nauset Regional High School in Massachusetts. He has fond memories of

pitching for Coach Bill Holowaty on the 1990 national championship team. His academic mentor was Dan Switchenko. "I still have the dried sweat from sitting in the first row of his exercise physiology class," said Steve. He and his wife, Christie, are the proud parents of Josi, a 10th grader, and Jacob, an 8th grader.

Roger DelGiorno became vice president-processing and wholesale relationship manager for Liberty Bank in Middletown in October 2019. Prior to being hired by Liberty he had been with Simsbury Bank for six years.

94

David Evans is assistant executive director of the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors in Raleigh, NC. He has been with the board for 23 years.

Exeltis, a global pharmaceutical and medical device company, promoted **Sean Holbrook** to senior executive territory manager in July. Sean has been with Exeltis since 2000.

95

Roger Boucher Jr. has been a pathologist's assistant in Roanoke, VA, for nearly 20 years, but he has also served in the reserves in the Army and Navy over the years. He recently completed a six-month stint on active duty as an Army captain serving as a pathologist's assistant in Hawaii "helping to combat the current pandemic within the Pacific theatre of operations."

Scott Dauphinee started a new position in August as senior director of supplier quality with Smith+Nephew, a company based in England that develops, manufactures and distributes medical devices specializing in wound care, orthopedics and sports medicine. Scott is responsible for managing purchasing controls globally to ensure compliance with local and international regulations. He and his wife Alicia live in Rhode Island with their two teenage daughters. Scott is active in youth soccer and teaching catechism classes in his church.

Conrad Paquette joined the Boston Business Journal as senior advertising account manager in August.

Elizabeth Wik became media buyer/planner with the advertising firm Mintz + Hoke in October 2019. She worked at The Bushnell for more than 19 years and was the performance hall's director of marketing her last five years there.

96

Debra Hartley is a retired social worker who has been volunteering with Norwich Human Services to alleviate pressure on the organization brought on by the pandemic. Since September, she's volunteered on a weekly basis, answering phones, filing, directing people to services and assisting with applications.

Nathan Suver was promoted to principal software engineer with MatrixCare in Southington in October 2019. He has been with the company for 13 years. In 2020 Nathan earned a master's degree in Computer Science with a concentration in Software Design from Southern Connecticut State University.



Thomas Gibson '96 has forged a career of increasingly responsible positions in higher education since graduating from Eastern. He was recently appointed by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents as the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens

Point, which enrolls nearly 8,000 undergraduate students and approximately 500 graduate students. Gibson began his position on Jan. 1, 2021. "Dr. Gibson is a fantastic fit for UW-Stevens Point," said Tommy Thompson, UW System President and former Wisconsin governor. "I am confident his background in student affairs coupled with his high-energy engagement with everyone he connects with will build an even better university for the entire region and our great state."

"I am honored to have this opportunity to serve as the 15th chancellor at UW-Stevens Point," Gibson said. "UW-Stevens Point has a rich history and culture, and dedicated students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community leaders that I am looking forward to joining."

Gibson had been serving as vice president for student affairs and vice provost at Bowling Green State University, and prior to that held student affairs positions at Ball State University and at York College of the City University of New York. Gibson received his B.A. in Communication from Eastern, a master's degree in education from the University of New Haven and a doctorate in higher education administration from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI.

Princess Ventura has been regional director in New South Wales, Australia, for the Australian firm Urbis since July 2019. Urbis is a company dedicated to shaping better futures for Australian cities and communities through urban planning, policy, design, heritage and other aspects of community character. Princess has been with Urbis for more than 12 years.

97

Duane Mitchell MBA, DBA started a new position as a real estate appraiser and executive director at Beer School of Real Estate.

Pfizer promoted **Arlene Waugh** to senior manager, global regulatory affairs strategy and operations, in February 2020. Arlene earned an MBA in Pharmaceutical Economics from the University of Rhode Island in 2018.

98

Jonathan Daly became trade review principal at Voya Financial in January 2020. He had previously been with Citizens Financial Group for more than five years.

99

Vincent Bellante joined Outset Medical in March 2020 as clinical sales manager and was promoted to market director six months later. The company is headquartered in California, but he works remotely from his Florida home. Vincent's wife **Sloane Bellante** is also a 1999 Eastern graduate.

Shepard Boucher has carved out a career as a television writer and producer in Los Angeles. His most recent ventures were as a writer and co-producer on Upload for Amazon, and Space Load for Netflix. Shepard, a Communication major and English minor at Eastern, credits the late English professor Howard Coughlin for inspiring his writing career. He said Coughlin could make stuffy and dense books fun to read and discuss.

Jeffrey Wolf was promoted to senior vice president with Merrill Lynch in West Hartford in November 2019. He has been with the firm since 2015.

00

Lt. Col. Mark Katz, a career Army officer, became the commanding officer of a headquarters battalion at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio in June. Mark's administrative battalion supports a joint force land component command with an area of responsibility including the Caribbean and Central and South America. Mark earned his commission by going through the University of Connecticut ROTC program while he was at Eastern. His military occupational specialty (MOS) is Military Police.



Lt. Col. Mark Katz '00

Kevin Webster became a licensed master social worker with the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Las Vegas area in October 2019. Kevin, who has master's degrees from Salve Regina and Arizona State universities, has also been teaching as an adjunct at four colleges and universities in the Southwest in recent years.

Chad West has been promoted to contracts negotiator, staff at Lockheed Martin. He joined Lockheed Martin in 2015.

01

Jake Johnson has been strategic account executive-emerging enterprise (promotion) since February 2020 for BitSight in Raleigh, NC. BitSight, headquartered in Boston, is an internet security risk assessment company serving businesses.

02

Jamey Carroll has been the human resources manager for Vistra Energy since July 2019. Vistra is a Fortune 300 power generation company based in Irving, TX, that provides residential energy in 20 states and the District of Columbia. Jamey holds M.S. degrees in Kinesiology and Exercise Science from California University of Pennsylvania and in Management from Texas A&M-Commerce. He spent 18 years in the Army, leaving as a captain and armor officer to focus on his civilian career.

Luke Feder became an Upper School History Teacher at The Browning School, a boy's school in Manhattan, NY, in September 2020. He had a similar position at the Lawrence Woodmere Academy in Woodmere, NY, for the prior three years. Luke earned his master's degree and doctorate in History at Stony Brook University.

03

Marc DiGiovanni, one of the top scorers in the history of Eastern's lacrosse program, was inducted into the Little East Conference Hall of Fame Class of 2020, a year after he was inducted into Eastern's Hall of Fame. He was selected for the All-LEC first team all three years he played and twice was named a second team All American in lacrosse.

Mike Eagle became head football coach for Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham, CT, in March 2020. He has been a physical education, health and wellness teacher at Catherine M. McGee Middle School in Berlin since 2003. He was previously head coach at Guilford High School for the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

Anthony LaPia has been named senior manager, global lead, strategic accounts, LinkedIn Learning Solutions at LinkedIn.



Joanna White '03

Manchester Community College has honored **Joanna White** as the recipient of its 2020 Educational Excellence and Community Service Award. Joanna is an assistant professor and program coordinator for human and social services, overseeing the Social Service, Social Work, Early Childhood Education, Therapeutic Recreation and the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counselor programs.

Her innovative initiatives have helped increase retention and graduation, including increasing fall to spring retention rates in the Therapeutic Recreation Program by double digits.

Singer-songwriter **Jim Wolf** released a new single "I'm Here for You" and a music video "Wild Heart" during the fall. The title track "Forever Sunday" from a June release hit 210,000 plays in a month and a half from all streaming services. "Music continues to be my therapy through these tough times and I hope this new stuff brings you some comfort and joy."



Jim Wolf '03

04

Lisa (Carrozza) Catano is the author of "Pickles and Mayonnaise," a humorous middle grade novel about two fifth-grade boys who are in constant competition with one another until they learn to embrace their differences and work together.

Christopher Davis became deputy chief of the East Hartford Police Department in September 2018, following a 25-year career in the Manchester Police Department, where he retired as a captain. He has also been teaching courses in Criminal Justice at Eastern as an adjunct in recent years. Chris earned his master's degree in Criminal Justice from Boston University in 2006.

Stephanie Skiba has been vice principal of Lincoln Bassett Community School in New Haven since August 2019. She has also been director of operations for the school since August 2014. Stephanie holds master's degrees in Developmental/Remedial English K-12 and Educational Leadership and Administration, K-12 from the University of Bridgeport.

Justin Wengrzynek became global procurement manager for Pitney Bowes in April 2019. His position involves ongoing efforts to effect cost savings and logistical efficiencies on both the procurement and the marketing and distribution sides of the company's operations. He works from the compa-

ny's Shelton office and his nearby home. Justin enjoyed a similar role with Unilever for more than a decade before moving to his current position. He is married to classmate **Thuy Dao-Wengrzynek**, and the couple has two children.

05

Daniel Carter has worked at MedHOK, Inc., formerly Continuum Performance Systems, for 18 years. He is currently lead developer designing and creating web APIs using .NET Core for a Market-Prominence web migration project.

In May 2020, **Benjamin DeMagistris** became an executive sales agent for New York Life Securities in Rhode Island. After graduating with his Eastern degree in Physical Education, he earned a Master of Arts in Student Affairs, Administration and Leadership from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA, in 2007.

Employee Family Protection in Glastonbury promoted **Ashley Fraser** to senior marketing communications specialist in July. She has been with the employee benefits services company for six years. Ashley earned an M.S. in Interactive Communication from Quinnipiac University.

Eric Hendricksen has been cyber product manager with the insurance company Hartford Steam Boiler since January 2019. His undergraduate degree is in History and Social Science, and he also earned his Master of Science in Organizational Management at Eastern in 2012.

Milton Jackson has been promoted to assistant vice president, design and user experience at The Hartford. He and his family celebrated the birth of their second son in April 2020 and they are now living in Bethany.

Dwayne Robertson became a diversity and inclusion manager for YPO, a global leadership association of chief executives, in March 2020. To join YPO a leader must be less than 45 years old and serve as a president, CEO, or managing director of a company that has at least 50 employees. Dwayne works with member-led chapters in more than 142 countries, and internally with other YPO management associates, to promote the importance of factoring diversity and inclusiveness in members' journeys. Dwayne earned a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Albany School of Public Health in 2007.



Dwayne Robertson '05



Warriors Give Virtually

The fifth annual #WarriorsGive campaign generated \$98,195 over a four-day period that concluded on Nov. 16. This total included \$38,900 from two matching gifts by the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation and an anonymous donor. In all, 327 donors contributed to the online campaign; 83 percent of them were Eastern alumni. **Darrell Stock Jr. '80**, a pharmacist from California, made the largest gift of \$20,000. Mr. Stock is in the process of establishing an endowed scholarship.

06

Padraic Hagan became senior analyst, energy management for CVS Health in Woonsocket, RI, in September 2019. He is responsible for effecting energy efficiencies and managing the programs that accomplish them for all CVS facilities nationally except retail stores. His areas of oversight include energy engineering and project management, management of sustainability programs including a solar fleet, and budgeting, forecasting and spending analysis. Padraic handled similar duties for smaller companies in two prior positions.

07

Garrett Dukette has been named the new principal of the Dr. Helen Baldwin

Middle School in Canterbury. He is also working on completing his doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Connecticut.

Anna Gerhart has been a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Newington, CT, since September 2019. She has also been in the Air National Guard since 2010. Anna earned a master's degree in Art Therapy and Counseling from Springfield College in 2015.

Chelsea Halpine-Berger works as an attorney for Berkshire Hathaway Homestate Companies in California, in the area of workers' compensation. Her position involves coordinating claims handling among lawyers, medical professionals, investigators and claimants and conducting investigations into claims, determining compensation, and in some cases investigating potential fraud. Chelsea earned her J.D. from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, cum laude, in 2013.

James Lincoln earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Kentucky in 2020 and is now a senior instructor in Philosophy at the University of Louisville. Between Eastern and Kentucky, James also earned a B.A. in Philosophy at the University of Illinois-Springfield, an M.S. in Project Management at Lasell University and an M.A. in Philosophy at Boston University.

Philip Lohman is starting a new position as counselor III/case manager at Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare.

08

Patrick Bushnell has a new position as enterprise sales director at DealerSocket.

Holly Butler was named Outstanding Mentor by the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. Holly is a mental health worker and mentor at Natchaug Hospital.

Daniel Routhier became assistant principal at Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport in July 2019. He has been at the school for more than six years and was dean of students before his promotion to assistant principal. Daniel earned a master's degree in Secondary Education, Educational Technology and his Sixth Year Administration certification, both from Sacred Heart University.

Since graduating from Eastern, **Melissa Ziogas** became a registered nurse at Maria College in Albany, NY, in 2012, earned a B.S. in Nursing at Jacksonville University in 2013, and earned a Master of Science in Nursing at Simmons Uni-

versity in Boston in 2020. Melissa has been a post-anesthesia care nurse at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, FL, since December 2019.

09

The Connecticut Association of Adult and Continuing Education named **Shelby Adams** one of its three teachers of the year for 2020 for their work in teaching adults. A teacher at City Hall Middle School in Naugatuck since 2009, where she teaches seventh-grade Language Arts, Shelby added adult education to her duties more than three years ago. She teaches English and civics to adults in Naugatuck. Shelby earned her master's degree in Secondary Education from the University of Bridgeport.

Luke Boyd became director of education and public programs for Historic Richmond Town in New York in February 2020. Historic Richmond Town is a central Staten Island town and farm museum that portrays life from the colonial period to the present. Luke earned his M.A. in Public History at Central Connecticut State University in 2013.

Since graduating from Eastern cum laude, **Kelsey Bushkoff** has earned two master's degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Connecticut, with a concentration in aerospace in 2018 and thermal and fluid dynamics in 2020. Kelsey has worked as an engineer for Pratt & Whitney since June 2018.

Vincent DeLuca became manager, digital marketing for Charter Communications in Stamford in February 2020.

Neil Frutuoso has been promoted to director, customer experience at Rebel Interactive Group, a digital marketing agency based in Southington. "I have been focusing my energy working within our higher education practice." He and his wife Nicole are expecting the birth of their first child.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal recently visited **Andrew Gutt** at his Willimantic restaurant Stone Row Kitchen. The senator was there to learn about the unique challenges faced by the restaurant industry during the pandemic, as well as the possibility of an extension of the Payroll Protection Program (PPP).

Kelly (Mastrianna) McCarthy has been an individual therapist at Newport Academy since October 2019. The private Bethlehem, CT, academy is a mental health and substance abuse rehabilitation facility for adolescents that also provides classroom instruction. Kelly has a client caseload of six to eight, and she is currently working with boys. She

earned a master's degree in Art Therapy from Albertus Magnus College in 2012.

Alexis Safo-Agyeman launched CT Hart Cheer, an organization to teach and promote the sport of cheerleading through clinics, camps and performance team opportunities for athletes from age five to adults, in June 2018. An experienced cheerleader and cheerleading coach, Alexis is assisted by two other cheerleading coaches. Her company is also committed to community service through charitable donations and service projects. Alexis also works as a community and parent liaison for the Capital Region Education Council.

Summer (Spellman) Sivetz was promoted to manager, philanthropic events at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. She got married in 2017, and she and her husband welcomed their first child Everly in August 2019.

10

Timothy Cooper became a physical education teacher with Ledyard Public Schools in July 2020. After earning his Eastern degree in Business Administration in 2010, Timothy earned a second bachelor's degree in Physical Education with a minor in Health in 2015. He was a physical education teacher with Thompson Public Schools for four years before taking the Ledyard position.

Christine Dascanio is an English language arts teacher at the Leigh H. Kellogg School in Falls Village in the Region One School District. Region One encompasses Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon in Litchfield County — Falls Village is part of Canaan. Christine previously taught in grades four to eight in Norwich. She graduated from Eastern with a degree in English and earned a Master of Education degree in Elementary Education from the University of New Haven.

Patrick O'Sullivan started a new position as brand manager, e-commerce at The Topps Company.

Michael Palladini is starting a new position as accountant II at Symetra, a financial services company offering annuities, life insurance and employee benefits.

Katherine Patnaude has been elected as a member at large of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants Board of Directors for 2020-21. Katherine is a senior manager with PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP in Wethersfield. She holds a B.S. in Accounting from Eastern and an M.S. in Accounting from the University of Connecticut. She

has served the CTCPA as chair of the Governmental Accounting and Auditing Committee and Accounting Scholarship Foundation, as well as a member of the Advisory Council, Audit Committee, and New and Young Professionals Cabinet.

Justin Sorel CPA has been promoted to director of finance at Ximedica.

Jennifer Succì MPH is the new chief financial officer at Root Center for Advanced Recovery, a private, non-profit, behavioral healthcare organization providing mental health and substance abuse treatment, prevention, community health services and research.

Masio Williams has been a college success counselor with Achievement First since June 2019. Achievement First began with the 1999 launch of Amistad High School, a charter school in New Haven, and now operates 37 elementary, middle and high school level charter schools in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island. Masio earned an M.S. in Organizational Management and Leadership at Springfield College in 2014.

11

Mariana Torres became associate director of the undergraduate colleges at Stony Brook University in February 2020. In that position, Mariana works with faculty, administrators and academic advisors to develop curriculum, advising and experiential learning opportunities for first-year students. She also earned her M.A. in Higher Education Administration from Stony Brook. Mariana's Eastern degree is in History. She was elected to the Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society and served as its president.

12

Operation Fuel promoted **Tasheenah Brown** to deputy executive director in January 2020. She had joined the Hartford nonprofit as director of energy programs in September 2018. Operation Fuel partners with local government and community-based organizations throughout Connecticut to ensure that people in need have access to year-round energy assistance, and can connect with other agencies for assistance with food, clothing, health services and more.

In July **Lauren Daddona** began a new position as lifeset specialist at Youth Villages in West Springfield, MA. In December she became compliance

specialist for the same agency. "Starting during a pandemic was definitely a different experience for sure!" She will also be pursuing her social work license.

Maria Garahan was promoted to director of research, senior investment officer with the Massachusetts Pension Reserves Investment Management (MassPRIM) in January 2020. A magna cum laude Economics graduate of Eastern, Maria also holds an M.A. in Applied Economics from Northeastern University.

Carolina Galvez became a junior art director with Bob's Discount Furniture in September 2019. She joined the company more than six years ago as a graphic designer. Carolina's Eastern degree is in Visual Arts, with a concentration in Graphic Art and Design.

Carolyn Guzzo is graphic design coordinator in the Richmond, VA, office of the national law firm Troutman Sanders LLP. Carolyn graduated summa cum laude as an Honor Scholar with an Eastern degree in Visual Arts, a Concentration in Graphic Art and Design and a minor in Art History.

Bryan Jorge became senior accountant, financial reporting and analysis with Aetna in January 2020. Bryan graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Political Science from Eastern, and has since earned a Master of Public Administration degree in Public Financial Management from the University of Connecticut in 2014 and a Master of Business Administration degree from Central Connecticut State University in 2016.

Colchester Public Schools named **Linda Lane** Teacher of the Year for Jack Jackter Intermediate School in Colchester for 2020. Linda said she found out about her selection when the assistant principal showed up at her house to congratulate her. She has taught third and fifth grade in the past and has been a reading intervention teacher for the past five years. She earned her M.S. in Reading and Language Arts from Eastern.

Scott Nolan earned his degree in Political Science from Eastern with an eye toward eventually getting involved with politics or local government. After graduation, he stayed at Eastern in roles including residence hall director for four years, while earning his M.S. in Counselor Education, Student Development in Higher Education at Central Connecticut State University in 2017. Last fall Scott was named assistant town clerk for his hometown of Windsor Locks. In July 2020 the Windsor Locks Board of Selectmen unanimously selected him to take over as town clerk following the retirement of longtime town clerk William Hamel.

Broderick Sawyer, who earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of Louisville in 2018 and was a graduate research assistant there, is now a self-employed clinical psychologist. An expert on racial trauma and stress, he participated in a virtual University Hour in December on race-based trauma. Broderick, who was a starter on Eastern's men's basketball team his final two years, earned a master's degree in Psychology at Central Connecticut State University in 2013.

Elise Zarcaro has been human resources manager for Provincetown, MA, since August 2019. She graduated with a double major in Elementary Education and Mathematics from Eastern and was on the field hockey and track teams.

13

Kaysee Berryman works for Trinity Health Senior Communities as therapeutic recreation director at St. Mary Home in West Hartford. Her Eastern degree is in Sociology.

Arielle Cooper was appointed interim head softball coach at the Coast Guard Academy in New London in October. She has been an assistant coach there since 2018. Arielle was an All American third baseman at Eastern.

Carlos Corona became a program director for Chula Vista Community Collaborative in April 2020. Chula Vista is a city of more than 250,000 bordering San Diego to the south. Carlos joined the organization in October 2019 as service coordinator. He is responsible for supervision and training of staff with a focus on home health programs. Carlos graduated from Eastern with a degree in Sociology with minors in Criminology and Spanish, and was active with several campus organizations.

Kyle Droniak is a new business development representative at Nextthink, a global leader in digital employee experience. Kyle is also a seventh-grade soccer referee.

In August, Norwich Free Academy named English teacher **Rebecca**

Holdridge its Teacher of the Year for 2020-21. Arriving at NFA in 2015, Rebecca teaches English to freshmen as part of a unit that supports new NFA students. She also teaches in the Step-Up summer program for incoming freshmen and in the night school. She earned her master's degree in Secondary Education at the University of New Haven



Rebecca Holdridge '13

in 2014. Rebecca graduated summa cum laude with a degree in English and was elected to the Omicron Delta Kappa leadership society at Eastern.

Jordan Kallenbach is starting a new position as data processing manager at Paragon Insurance Holdings in Avon, CT. Jordan married **Tasheerah Brown '12** in September 2019. They met at Eastern while taking the same International Advertising and Public Relations class together.

Joseph Kwasniewski is a partner and chief commercial officer at Cadilus, Inc. Based in Stamford, Cadilus is launching a new SaaS platform, DataPAX, a revolutionary business performance management platform for companies looking to unlock the power of data.

Kaitlin Lessard was hired in 2020 as a counselor at Jonathan Law High School in her hometown of Milford. She had previously interned at the high school while earning her M.S. in School Counseling at Southern Connecticut State University. Kaitlin graduated cum laude from Eastern with a degree in Psychology and minors in Health and Psychology of Children and Youth.

Jessica (Roessler) Onderdonk was named supervisor of engineering services at General Dynamics Electric Boat. She has been at Electric Boat since 2013, when she was hired as a buyer.

Ashley Smith became a social worker for Hartford Public Schools in October 2019. Her Eastern degree is in Sociology. She earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Connecticut in 2017.

Emily Whetstone became a program therapist at Butler Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in Providence, RI, in February 2020. She works alongside psychiatrists and other hospital staff with a caseload of about seven patients who need intermediate care. Emily sees her patients on a daily basis over a period of one to two weeks, generally in groups. Emily earned her Eastern degree cum laude with a major in Visual Arts and a minor in Psychology, and received a master's degree in Counseling and Art Therapy at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 2018.

14

AJ Audet III has a new position as facilities coordinator at JLL, a professional services firm that specializes in real estate and investment management. AJ earned a M.S. in Exercise Physiology

and Physical Education from Central Connecticut State University, and was most recently assistant athletic director for facilities and operations at American International College.

Stephen Bailey is the new boys' basketball coach at Lyman Memorial High School.

Jordan Clark has started a new position as senior financial analyst-enterprise capital management at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. He celebrated five years with BoA over the summer. Jordan is married to the former **Kaitlin Poresky '14**, and they are the proud parents of two-year-old daughter Lennon.

Stephanie Conway joined Stripes, a media marketing agency in Dallas, TX, in January 2020 and became digital account strategist for the firm in July. Her Eastern degree is in Political Science.

Kelsey Hallock has been a school social worker for Griswold Public Schools since September 2018, having earned her MSW from the University of Connecticut that year. She majored in Sociology with a minor in Criminology at Eastern.

In October 2020, **Mike King** joined E*Trade in Boston to work on "Gradifi," a product offered to E*Trade clients' employees that helps them pay down student loans faster with the help of their employers, while also providing 529 savings options. As a UX designer, Mike helps users through his work on design and business changes to Gradifi.

Kaleigh Kurpiewski has been an assistant graphic designer at Yale University since May 2019. She graduated summa cum laude from Eastern with a Visual Arts major and Communication minor.

Josh Stark has a new position as international property underwriter at Swiss Re.

Alexis Vatteroni is director of programming at the Copper Beech Institute, a West Hartford nonprofit mindfulness retreat center focused on meditation practice and helping to heal the world. She joined the organization in 2018 and was elevated to her current position in 2019. Alexis graduated cum laude from Eastern with a degree in Sociology.

Laura Walberg became a staff pharmacist at Beacon Prescriptions in New Britain in December 2019. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Saint Joseph earlier that year. Laura majored in Biochemistry at Eastern.

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Jonathan Blejewski is an audit senior with the accounting firm BlumShapiro, and a C.P.A. He graduated from Eastern magna cum laude with a double major in Accounting and Business Information systems.

Benn Dubois is the new account associate for the Town of Manchester, CT.

Matt Hicks has been assistant director of orientation and new student programs in the University of Maryland Office of Orientation since September 2019. Matt earned his M.S. in College Student Personnel at the University of Tennessee in 2017. His Eastern degree is in Political Science, cum laude, with minors in Pre-Law and History.

Shannon McCourt has been sales manager for Made U Look Promotions, a marketing firm in Glastonbury, since September 2019. She had started with the company as a sales representative in 2016. Made U Look specializes in attention-grabbing displays for automobile dealerships in the eastern United States. Shannon's degree is in Physical Education with a minor in Health.

Renae St. John is an administrative assistant and continuing professional development coordinator at Framingham State University.

Tania Vives is working at Rushford in Meriden as a care coordinator. She is engaged to Jimmy Lamothe and is expecting their first child.



Garland Mann-Lamb '16

Garland Mann-Lamb was promoted to director of campus life at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Worcester in September. In that role, she oversees clubs and organizations, the student government association, the orientation program and mentors, and campus-wide programming. She had been area coordinator there since 2018, responsible for the operation of residence halls and crisis intervention among other duties. Garland earned a master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs at the University of Connecticut in 2018.

Kelsey Nixon became a full-time English teacher at Griswold High School at the start of the 2020-21 school year. She had taught eighth-grade English at Killingly Intermediate School the previous two years. Kelsey, who was on the track and cross-country teams at Eastern, is also the cross-country coach and one of two head track coaches. She graduated from Eastern magna cum laude, majoring in English with minors in Writing and Health. Kelsey earned a master's degree in Teaching at Sacred Heart University in 2018.

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Shawn Batchelder became a social studies teacher in the Plainfield Public Schools system for the 2020 school year after earning his M.Ed. in Secondary Education and Teaching from Central Connecticut State University. Shawn earned his Eastern degree in History.

Nicole Biele has been a mathematics teacher at Schaghticoke Middle School in New Milford since August 2019. She earned her M.S. in Secondary Education, Mathematics from the University of Bridgeport in 2019. Her Eastern degree is in Mathematics, cum laude.

Allison Kazlauskas has been a constituent engagement coordinator for House Democrats in the Connecticut General Assembly since January 2020. She addresses constituent requests and concerns, coordinates events, helps legislators manage their schedules, and assists them with research and writing in support of their legislative initiatives.

A Political Science major at Eastern, Allie earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Connecticut in 2019.

Michael Lisitano is pursuing a law degree at Quinnipiac University School of Law. He was a legal intern with Robinson+Cole and began working with their Health Law Group in May 2019. Upon passing the bar exam, he will transition from his role as law clerk to that of associate. At Eastern, Michael earned his B.A. in History with minors in Asian Studies and Pre-Law.



Michael Lisitano '17

Alejandro Tobon recently earned his doctorate in Physical Therapy and is a physical therapist at Hartford Hospital. He is also the founder of a golf league called "The Millennial Slicers of Greater Hartford" at Keney Park Golf Course with one of his childhood friends, Sadie Martinez. The league caters to young professionals of all skill levels and has attracted more than 60 players from 18 different Connecticut towns. The recent league championship raised more than \$500 for the group's designated charity, The First Tee of CT.

Alexandra Tynan teaches seventh grade at St. Joseph School in New London. She graduated cum laude from Eastern with a degree in History and also earned her 7th to 12th grade certification.

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In preparation for a career as a physical therapist, **Carissa (Finney) Caban** is pursuing her doctorate degree at Methodist University. She earned her bachelor's degree in Health Science at Eastern, followed by her master's degree in Mental Health at Grand Canyon University.

After three years of anchoring overnight news, **Morgan Cunningham** is excited to start his new role as WTIC NewsTalk 1080's afternoon/evening drive news anchor. Morgan can be heard on 1080 AM, WTIC.com, and RADIO.com. For 10 years, he was the host and programmer of "Morgan Cunningham's Classic Hits" on WECS 90.1 FM.

Matthew Daddio joined Community Solutions as a human service worker in 2018, and he has been a case manager since April 2019. His job involves assisting formerly incarcerated individuals reentering the community. His Eastern degree is in Criminology.

Maggie Disbrow has been a legal administrative assistant with the

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Cigna promoted **Kayla Croft** to business analytics advisor in its global data and analytics section in December 2019. Kayla has been with Cigna since shortly after graduating from Eastern with a degree in Mathematics.

Penn State University hired **Jessica DeFelice** as a human resources technologist in January 2020. The job involves participant outreach, recruitment, data collection and related duties for a university research center, as well as helping to train and monitor undergraduate and graduate student research assistants. Jessica graduated magna cum laude from Eastern and was an Honors Scholar as a double major in Economics and Political Science. She earned a Master of Public Policy degree from Oregon State University in 2019.

Jysean Duncan is a behavioral health technician at Adlebrook.

Consoli Bartolan Law Group in Hartford since February 2020. She earned her certification as a paralegal at Boston University in 2018. Maggie's Eastern degree is in Criminology, with a minor in Psychology.

Anna Stevens is a VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) case manager for United Services, Inc. in northeastern Connecticut. Her job is to assist individuals and families who have been victims of crime, connecting them with services and helping them navigate the court system, through funding provided by the federal government. Anna earned her Eastern degree in Criminology.

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Ahmed Al-aqel is a logistics coordinator for Echochlor, Inc., a water treatment technology supplier in North Haven, and is a second lieutenant in the Army National Guard. He earned his commission by going through the ROTC program at the University of Connecticut while at Eastern. Ahmed's Eastern degree is in Criminology.

Taylor Danielczuk is Capstone Search Group recruiter at Barton Associates.

Kimberly Griffin is a case manager for United Services, Inc. She graduated from Eastern with a double major in Criminology and Psychology, and a concentration in Mental Health Counseling.

Jennifer Porpora has a new position as referral coordinator at VCA Shoreline Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center in Shelton, CT.

In August, **Juanita Wilbur** became executive director of Writer's Block Ink, a New London nonprofit that seeks to develop confidence and leadership skills in area youth through writing and involvement in the performing arts. Juanita is also a product of Writer's Block Ink, having joined it in 2007 at age 12 and moved up in progressively responsible leadership roles since. Her Eastern degree is in English.

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Melat Assefa is studying for her Master of Science degree in Applied Quantitative Finance and is a graduate assistant in the School of Accountancy at University of Denver's Daniels College of Business.

Anthony Choronzy has a new position as marketing associate at Philadelphia Insurance Companies. He recently passed his producer license for Property and Causality.

Abby DeMarkey is a M.Ed. candidate at Salem State University in Higher Education and Student Affairs. She is serving an assistantship at Tufts where she is a graduate assistant for operations, and has an internship with The Placement Exchange as an ambassador.

Katherine Hunt is the new mathematics teacher for grades six and seven at North Canaan Elementary School. She graduated from Eastern with a double major in Elementary Education and Liberal Studies. She enjoys arts and crafts (especially painting), reading and traveling.

The Plainfield Police Department hired **Julie Jordan** as a police officer in September. Julie graduated from Eastern with a double major in Criminology and Sociology. She was working three jobs when she was hired, one as a part-time dispatcher with the department.

Katelyn Kuegler has a new position as client success specialist at Evexia Diagnostics. Katie will be working with and managing data for doctors, dietitians and nutritionists who need to access specialty diagnostic testing services.

Jake LeFevre is a mechanical assembler at Amazon Robotics. He graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration and was a four-year member of Eastern's baseball team.

Julia Medina is one of 19 members of the first cohort of college graduates selected by the Connecticut Governor's Innovation Fellowship (CTGIF) program. She double majored in Computer Science and Political Science. The fellowship places Connecticut's most promising college graduates in positions at some of the top companies in the state. She will begin her career in information technology procurement at Sema4, a predictive health company and leader in diagnostic testing.

IN MEMORIAM

*Janice (Colton) Ellison '54, 88
Ivoryton, CT, July 5, 2020*

*James Keenan '54
Old Lyme, CT, May 11, 2019*

*Mary (Pedace) Mahler '56
Mystic, CT, Dec. 28, 2018*

*Lenore (Shlien) Zagoren '56
Revere, MA, April 21, 2020*

*Mary (Vacca) Gamache '59, 83
Windham, CT, Aug. 9, 2020*

*Sandra Viens '63
Center Conway, NH, Dec. 16, 2018*

*Charles Senteio '64, 82
Manchester, CT, and Osterville, MA
Nov. 12, 2020*

*Jane (Rondeau) King '69, M '73
Claremore, OK, Oct. 16, 2019*

*Margaret (Byrnes) Schaltegger '70, 72
Bluffton, SC, Nov. 5, 2020*

*Enid (Jones) Thomas '71, 93
Norwich, CT, Oct. 3, 2020*

*Kathleen (Constine) Dinan, '72, 70
Mansfield Center, CT, Nov. 4, 2020*

*Evelyn S. Albert '76, 83
North Conway, NH, Feb. 20, 2019*

*William W. Brainard '76, 66
Willimantic, CT, Aug. 29, 2020*

*Merrill Thoresen M '78
Big Sky, MT, Feb. 8, 2018*

*Margaret B. Pryor '79, M '80, 99
Storrs/Mansfield, CT, June 21, 2020*

*Madeleine (Tarrant) Moran '80
Vineyard Haven, MA, April 1, 2018*

*Judith Vezina '81, 79
Columbia, CT, Nov. 25, 2020*

*Susan C. Taylor '90, 64
Palmer, MA, Oct. 12, 2020*

*Gail H. Green '91, 77
Dayville, CT, Sept. 12, 2020*

*Stephen E. Bresciano M '08, 49
Tolland, CT, Oct. 17, 2020*

*Tyler G. LaMontagne '12, 29
Middletown, CT, Aug. 1, 2020*

*Richard J. Reynolds
Professor Emeritus, 81
Windham, CT, Sept. 19, 2020*

*Charles R. Webb
President Emeritus, 101
Santa Rosa, CA, Oct. 8, 2020*

*John L. St. Onge
Professor Emeritus, 86
Mansfield Center, CT, Oct. 21, 2020*

*Winifred E. Bennett, friend, 85
Hartford, CT, Oct. 30, 2020*

*Harry Singh, university assistant, 46
Willimantic, CT, Nov. 20, 2020*

*Charles Prewitt
Professor Emeritus, 102
Mansfield, CT, Jan. 8, 2021*