



EILEEN OSSEN: ONE OF EASTERN'S STRONGEST SUPPORTERS REMEMBERED

Eileen (Moran) Ossen, 67, of Mansfield Center, passed away peacefully at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston this past October. Eileen was born in Willimantic and lived there most of her life, graduating from Windham High School. Eileen and her husband Jeffrey, who passed away in 2007, cared deeply about helping people and supporting the local community, and created the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation to support cultural arts, education and health care in Windham County.

Since 2016, the Ossen Family Foundation has donated upwards of \$400,000 to Eastern to match other donors' contributions to endowed scholarships.

The Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation received the ECSU Foundation Board of Directors Donor Award at the annual

President's Leadership Luncheon on March 16, 2018. On that day, Eileen Ossen explained her thoughts on philanthropy. "My foundation has done some really remarkable things and has affected the lives of many, and with these grants going to scholarships at Eastern, we are making a difference. Some of you know my late husband Jeff. We talked about how we wanted this foundation to grow ... I wish you could see the light in his eyes when he knew how many people he was going to help even though he wasn't going to be here to see it. I see it. We had a vision for Windham and we had a dream, and this dream is just starting to come true."



ECSU Foundation hosts annual golf tournament



The ECSU Foundation annual golf tournament on Oct. 5 at the Wethersfield Country Club continued the event's longstanding success, raising \$57,000 for scholarship funds. Since its inaugural event in 2006, the tournament has raised approximately \$1.2 million. This year's sponsors included KeyBank, Barnes and Noble, Walmart, the Windham Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co., Chartwells and aerospace company Kell-Strom Tool Co.

Catlett Prize Honors Late English Professor

Senior Kaylee Blackwood was chosen as the winner of the 2020-21 Dr. Celia J.

Catlett Memorial Prize in English, named in honor of the late English professor who taught at Eastern from 1972-2001. An expert in children's literature and a strong proponent

of a writing culture on campus, Catlett passed away in May 2021.

Blackwood's winning novella, "Once We Meet," was nominated by **Christopher Torockio**, who taught the Capstone Seminar "The Craft of the Novel" in which Blackwood completed the work.

In his letter nominating Blackwood, Torockio described "Once We Meet" as "a beautifully tragic brother-sister novel," and said, "The prose is authoritative and beautiful, the characters fully rendered and alive, the dialogue is pitch perfect, and the plot reveals what it means to be human in all of life's complex texture and nuance."



Kaylee Blackwood '22



Dr. Celia J. Catlett

THE BEST NOVEMBER "MATCH" CAMPAIGN EVER!

Now in its sixth year, the annual "Big Match Days" #WarriorsGive campaign from Nov. 12-15, 2021, was our best ever.

495

Donors

414

Alumni Donors

\$31,110

Jeffrey P. Ossen Family

Foundation Match (endowed scholarships)

\$138,545

Total Raised

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR CHALLENGE

Three teams divided up \$5,000 based on alumni participation.

1st

Men's Lacrosse

2nd

Field Hockey

3rd

Softball