

CLASS NOTES

'43

Gussie (Paster) Sitkin celebrated her 100th birthday in October 2021.

'53



Jean (Browne) Wolfe '53

Jean (Browne) Wolfe has published "Stupidly Simple and Timeless Recipes," a cookbook for her grandchildren that includes recipes loved by her late husband, Chef Pierre Wolfe. Chef Wolfe was one of Denver's most iconic chefs and owner of four of Denver's best-known restaurants.

'78

Dr. Elinore F. McCance-Katz has been named chief medical officer of the Eleanor Slater Hospital in Rhode Island after serving in the Division of Diversion Control at the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Previously, Dr. McCance-Katz was assistant secretary for mental health and substance abuse in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. McCance-Katz earned a B.A. in Biology from Eastern, holds advanced degrees from Yale and earned her medical degree from the University of Connecticut.

'79

Jeffrey Brown is the new CEO of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, and will be responsible for the museum's overall leadership, vision and strategic direction. He had been

serving as Interim CEO and Director since April 2021, and as a member of the museum's board of trustees since 2012. Jeff previously served as a senior executive at Newman's Own, and prior to that, as executive vice president and chief administrative officer for Webster Financial Corporation and Webster Bank N.A. Jeff was inducted as an Eastern Fellow in 2010 and serves on the ECSU Foundation's Board of Directors.

Dan Tenney has had a long career in various senior technical management roles at HJ Heinz and 3M. In 2020 he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Bridgeport (UB), while teaching several graduate technology management courses and serving on UB's Industry Advisory Board. Dan has also been teaching business management courses at Eastern since 2019, and provides planning and operations support and serves as secretary of the board of directors of the Bridgeport Child and Family Guidance Center. He received his B.A. in Environmental Earth Science from Eastern, and his M.B.A. in Operations Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

'80

Tom Connors has been named president of the Piscataway Township (NJ) Board of Education. Tom received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Connecticut and was named a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Connecticut State Department of Health Laboratory Bureau. After a three-decade career, Tom retired from the Technology Division of the Colgate-Palmolive Company. A "Google Scholar," Tom and his wife Abby have resided in Piscataway for the past 34 years where they raised three children.



Tom Connors '80

'81

Kevin Perry has a busy summer ahead coordinating five motorcycle runs that will raise money for veterans and local charities. To learn more about Kevin's volunteer work, find him on Facebook at "Defenders of Charity-CT."

'85

Michael Petteruti has been named president and general manager of Chemi Nutra, where he will be responsible for managing all aspects of the business unit. Mike was formerly vice president, Gnosis by Lesaffre (formerly Gnosis USA), where the company grew significantly under his leadership, focusing on top quality, value added, clinically validated, health-benefiting specialty ingredients.



FAVORITE PROFESSOR • Robert Polito '86, retired Webster Bank executive, spent a day with Professor Emeritus Jay Cobbledick this past fall. Polito describes his "favorite college professor" as "brilliant" and "still teaching me almost 40 years later." Cobbledick earned his B.A. and M.A. from Wesleyan and his Ph.D. from Tufts. A Fulbright Scholar, Cobbledick worked in the U.S. State Department during the Cuban Missile Crisis. "An amazing lecturer, he taught me to think critically and view the world differently," says Polito.



EASTERN MIXER • Kevin Joiner '91, owner of KBarr on Park Street in Hartford, hosted an Eastern alumni mixer on Sept. 25, 2021, that was attended by 25 Eastern alumni and friends. Attendees included four Eastern basketball alumni (left to right): Rob Farrow '91, John "JT" Theriault '88, Joiner and Dan Trudeau '07. The event was organized by Mark Bradley '90 in conjunction with Eastern's Office of Alumni Affairs.

'87

Anthony Vocalina has joined Essex Financial as a financial advisor. He had previously served for 20 years as a financial advisor at Fidelity Investments, followed by 15 years at his own firm, Vision Wealth Management. In addition to his B.A. in Business Administration from Eastern, Anthony earned the Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF) designation in 2016. Essex Financial is one of the largest independent registered investment advisory firms in Connecticut with \$3.2 billion in assets under management or administration.

NY, coaches the Arlington varsity "B" softball team, and still competes in a local women's league.

Thomas Simon has lived in New Mexico since 1990 and has owned WestGate Properties LLC since 2005. He is the past president of the Rotary Club of Santa Fe and is currently assistant governor of Rotary District 5520. This year marks his 30th wedding anniversary to Deborah Simon. Thomas and Deborah have three children and five grandchildren.

areas such as single-cell profiling and biopsy. A former Barnard Scholar, Chip earned his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology/Biochemistry from Wesleyan University in 2000 and spent several years working in the U.S. public health infrastructure, developing and implementing state-of-the-art methods for the detection of infectious pathogens, such as West Nile virus and bio-threat agents.

'90

Certified Risk Managers International has awarded the CRM designation to **Mark Bradley**. A certified risk manager is a member of the National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research. The CRM Program is an independent education and designation program designed expressly for professionals in risk management and related fields. Mark is claims program executive at The Hartford.

The New York State Sportswriters and Coaches Organization for Girls Sports has named **Christia Mohan-Besko** to the New York State High School Softball Hall of Fame. As a pitcher for Arlington High School (Poughkeepsie, NY), Christia threw 10 no-hitters, including a perfect game. At Eastern, she was selected for NCAA Division III All-America honors three times and was named the 1990 National Player-of-the-Year when she led the Warriors to their fifth national championship. She was inducted into Eastern's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2007. Christia teaches math in Mount Vernon,

'91

Amy Orlomski, director of the Andover Public Library, was recently profiled in the Manchester Journal-Inquirer. She also hosts the Bluegrass Café on Sundays at 4 p.m. on WHUS 91.7-FM, the University of Connecticut student and community radio station.

'96

Tara Booker has been named director of human services for the City of Norwich. She returns to Connecticut after serving 10 years as the chief operating officer for Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness in Sarasota, FL.

'92

Dawn (Walmsley) Brolin, CPA, CFE and founder of Team Brolin, is the author of "The Designated Motivator: Unlock Your Superpower to Change Your Life, The World & Everyone in It." She defines herself as a designated motivator — an individual who has the passion and ability to give others the greatest gift of all: the realization and mobilization of their true potential.

THE DESIGNATED MOTIVATOR:
UNLOCK YOUR SUPERPOWER TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE, THE WORLD & EVERYONE IN IT

Encouragement
Transform
Kindness
Empathy
Connection
Motivate
Caring

DAWN W. BROLIN, CPA, CFE

'95

Chip Belkwith is associate director of pharma and academic alliances at Somalogic, working with researchers in

Dawn (Walmsley) Brolin '92

BOYS NIGHT • Four former Eastern roommates get together at least once a year and have been meeting for the past 40 years. (Left to right) Former baseball players Joe “Buddy” Silva ’79 and Ken Hewitt ’80, former basketball captain Morris McCloud ’80 and Patrick Hearn ’78. Buddy’s son Troy Silva is a 2008 Eastern graduate and Patrick’s daughter Bridgette Hearn graduated in 2020.



'97

Dennis Doyle was among 85 St. Louis-area educators to receive Emerson’s Excellence in Teaching awards. Sponsored annually by St. Louis-based Emerson, a diversified global manufacturer and technology leader, the awards pay tribute to area educators for their achievements and dedication to the field of education. Dennis is associate professor of history at the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis. He earned his B.A. in History from Eastern and his Ph.D. from Stony Brook University. His academic specialty is 20th-century U.S. history of medicine and psychiatry with a focus on African Americans, health disparities and popular culture.

Duane Mitchell, MBA, DBA has been named manager, investment accounting at SE2, LLC in Topeka, KS. SE2 currently administers nearly two million active policies on behalf of its 25+ clients, and has more than \$100 billion in assets under administration.

Scott Smith was sworn in as a West Hartford Police Officer at a ceremony last fall. He comes to West Hartford with more than 20 years of law enforcement experience, beginning with the East Hartford Police Department and retiring as a major after a 21-year career with the Connecticut State Police. In addition to his Eastern degree, Scott is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy’s executive leadership program.

'98

Eric Larson is a technology education teacher at Manchester High School, and is also the advisor to MHS TV, the high

school’s television and media production program. Two of Eric’s former students, Jake Bolduc and Kyle Smith, were named national finalists for the American Volleyball Coaches Association Grant Berger Media Award.

Sharale (Walker) Mathis is the new vice president of academic and student affairs at Holyoke Community College. Prior to her appointment at HCC, Sharale served as the dean of academic and student affairs at Middlesex Community College, where she was previously a tenured professor of biology, course coordinator, department chair and STEM Division director. She earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Eastern, a master’s degree in biomedical sciences from Quinnipiac University and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Hartford.

After serving 15 years as an attorney for Kahan, Kerensky and Caposella, LLC, the last nine years as a partner, **Justin Murphy**, Esq. accepted a new position with ONSite Mammography, LLC in August. Murphy was named vice president and general counsel for ONSite, which is based out of Westfield, MA. Murphy also serves as the president of the ECSU Foundation Board of Directors.

'99

Scott Chiasson is the new baseball coach at Montville High School. Over the past eight seasons at Ledyard High School, he compiled a winning percentage of more than .600, including eight state tournament wins. Scott is also the general manager and head coach of the Connecticut Hurricanes AAU baseball program.

Kathleen (Fluckinger) Fischer is president at the University of Connecticut Professional Employees Association. She is also associate director of the Women’s Center at the University of Connecticut.

Jason Ruel is now the creative manager of 13News Now (WVEC) in Portsmouth, VA.

'00

Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. has promoted **Birgit Girshick** to the position of chief operating officer and executive vice president. In her new role, in addition to her current responsibilities in managing a number of the organization’s subsidiaries, she will add oversight of the Research Models and Services business, where she began her career at Charles River in 1989. Birgit earned an M.B.A. degree from the University of Rhode Island and is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Mitch Mitchell has a new executive management position at AgeWell New York, a family of health plans offering Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans and Managed Long Term Care Plan options.

John Rubano is the new director of sales at Lucid Dx at Lucid Diagnostics. Lucid Dx is a clinical lab consulting organization providing lab management and compliance services to more than 100 high-complexity hospital labs and independent reference labs throughout the United States.

'01

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's latest work, "Notes on Grief," is described as "an exquisite work of meditation, remembrance and hope, written in the wake of her beloved father's death in the summer of 2020." The Times writes, "For fans of the famously private Adichie, this is fascinatingly intimate. It is also delivered in the most readable, tender bites for any of the many of us whose attention has been shot by the harrowing of this past year."

'02

Jill Karrenberg '02 M'19 has a new position as talent coordinator/recruitment and retention at New London Public Schools. She is also a lecturer in the Communication Department at Eastern.

The East Windsor Board of Education has named **Darryl Rouillard** as assistant superintendent of pre-kindergarten through Grade 12 instruction. Darryl has been with the East Windsor schools since 2014 and has served as assistant principal at both the middle school and high school, and most recently as the director of curriculum and instruction.

Timothy Thayer has a new position as Middle School Science Teacher at Norwich Public Schools. Tim completed a second master's degree in Natural Science and Environmental Education from Hamline University in 2019.

'03

OMG Inc. has promoted **Brent Fournier** to the position of director of procurement. In this role, he will develop and implement procurement strategies that meet OMG's customer demands by focusing on customer service, reduced supply-chain risk, as well as stronger supply partnerships across the value chain. OMG is a leading U.S. manufacturer of specialty fasteners, adhesives, tools, and related products used in commercial and residential construction. Brent also earned an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix.

Justin Liskiewicz is owner of his own CPA firm in Milford.

'04

In addition to her role as associate director of learning and development & DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging) Liaison for Workplace Culture at Yale University, **Dannika Kemp Avent** is also a consultant leader at I Follow the Leader LLC, a leadership consulting firm specializing in diversity, equity and inclusion. This past May, Dannika completed a second master's degree from Quinnipiac University in Instructional Design. In 2011, she earned an M.A. in Industrial Organizational Psychology-Human Resources Management from the University of New Haven.

Amber (Drake) Tucker has been promoted to partner at Fiordella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP, a Glastonbury-based firm providing professional auditing, tax and business consulting services. Amber was also recently elected to the Rocky Hill Board of Education.

'05

Joel Kosciak is an administrative assistant at Market Mentors in Springfield, MA, where he assists with print and media quotes, accounting functions and office management. He resides in East Longmeadow, MA.

Solar Integrated Roofing Corp., an integrated, single-source solar power and roofing systems installation company, has announced the appointment of **Héctor Peña M'05** to its board of directors. Héctor is a financial executive with more than 20 years of experience in accounting and operations, due diligence, turnarounds, start-ups and large complex projects at solar renewable energy organizations. Most recently he was vice president of finance at Suntuity, part of a conglomerate of renewable energy, finance, technology and UAV service companies.

Aniko Szabo is employment services manager for IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services) in New Haven. She leads a team that helps refugees find jobs and become self-sufficient. Szabo, who was born in a refugee camp in Latina, Italy, graduated from Eastern in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and started working as a mental health counselor with adolescents at Manchester Memorial Hospital immediately after graduation. She later earned a graduate degree in International Studies from Central Connecticut State University. "I am doing what I love

and I love what I do. Every day I get up and am excited to start because I don't consider it work."

'06

Kyle Wolff has a new position as agency sales leader at AssuredPartners, a national partnership of leading independent insurance brokers specializing in property and casualty and employee benefits.

'07

Tim Hippe is a technical sourcer at Amazon Web Services (AWS).

Rachelle (Parenteau) Kaman MBA is the new director of finance and administration at Jaroop, the leading end-to-end provider of business and technology solutions to stand up, operate, optimize and scale insurance distribution. She is also owner of RK3 Consulting, LLC. RK3 Consulting supports startups and non-profit organizations through innovative and efficient business and accounting services, specializing in strategic planning, accounting and marketing solutions to enhance operations and increase client's revenues.

Philip Lohman IV is a new juvenile rehabilitation residential counselor at the Washington Department of Children, Youth and Families in Ephrata, WA.



Philip Lohman '07

Adam Wurtzel started a new position as backstage host and celebrity producer at Fox Corporation. He will be working on FOX's "25 Words or Less," which has been renewed through the 2022-23 season. Adam is also social media producer for FOX's "Pictionary."

'08

Kristen Brierley was promoted to senior labor relations associate/labor and employment attorney at the University of Connecticut. She had previously served as labor relations associate/labor and employment attorney.

EASTCONN appointed **David Brown** to the position of principal at the Quinebaug Middle College public magnet high school. Brown had worked for New London Public Schools since 2015 in a variety of positions. He is a former graduate fellow and geospatial analyst for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and worked as a marine aquarist at Mystic Aquarium. In addition to his bachelor's degree in Environmental Earth Science from Eastern, Brown holds several degrees and certificates from Sacred Heart University and the University of New Haven.

Eric Grundfast recently became director of business operations for the San Jose Barracuda, the AHL affiliate of the San Jose Sharks. "This is an exciting opportunity to relaunch a franchise and open a new arena." Eric spent eight years with the Iowa Wild, the last four as vice president of sales. He recently spoke virtually to students in Charlie Chatterton's "Entrepreneurship, Marketing & Communication" class.

Brandon Schingh is principal security specialist at RTX.

'09

Trey Bongiovanni is a managing partner of Bongiovanni Insurance and Financial and BSP Insurance, which provides holistic insurance and financial solutions for individuals and businesses. He was selected as one of 2021's 40 Under 40 by the Hartford Business Journal.

Christopher Doyle has a new position as master clinician at AdCare Rhode Island, an in-patient alcohol and drug treatment center in North Kingstown, RI. He had previously been a manager with the Southeastern Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence.

Nova George is a new senior clinical research associate Pfizer FSP at DOCS. DOCS recently became ICON Strategic Solutions, a global leading provider of Functional Service Provision (FSP) services. Since earning her B.S. in Biology from Eastern, Nova has gained more than 10 years of experience in clinical trials, successfully managing

industry and investigator-initiated studies from start-up to close-out. Her areas of research include pediatric rare diseases, autoimmune diseases, vaccine effectiveness, emerging infections and healthcare access in underserved communities.

People's United Bank has promoted **Benjamin Raccio** to senior business banking portfolio manager.

'10

Andrew Bass started a new position as a licensed realtor at eXp Realty.

The Quincy, MA, Police Department has promoted **Mark Connolly M'10** to the rank of Sergeant. Sergeant Connolly joined the department as a patrolman in 2012.



Mark Connolly M'10

Andrew DiFiore is a licensed clinical social worker specializing in depression, anxiety, trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder, eating disorders and other mental health conditions. He recently gave a presentation to Eastern psychology students on evidence-based practice in psychotherapy. He told students the best way to understand this line of work is to seek therapy themselves. "Not everyone needs therapy, but it's a really good idea to sit in the other chair and try to understand it from the patient's perspective."

Blaine Fisher MS '15 has returned to Eastern as the interim associate director of housing and residential life. Blaine most recently served as a resident director and student activities coordinator at Chester College of New England in New Hampshire. Besides her previous stint as a hall director at Eastern, Blaine served as assistant director of student life for housing operations and



Andrew DiFiore '10

as assistant director of student life for residential and commuter student living at American International College in Springfield, MA. Blaine has a B.S. in Communication, a B.A. in Psychology, and a M.S. in Organizational Management, all earned at Eastern.

Erika Forsa is a hair stylist at Cappola-Brokaw Art of Hair in Cheshire.

Michael Palladini has a new position as financial reporting analyst at Symetra. He recently marked 10 years with the Army National Guard, where he serves as an IT specialist. He has earned his M.B.A. in Finance and Management of Technology and M.S. in Business Analytics and Project Management, both from the University of Connecticut.

'11

Since graduating from Eastern, **Christina (Schirone) Collins** acquired a full-time health and physical education position, received tenure, completed multiple ultra-endurance events, and married her best friend. She and her husband are raising their two beautiful boys in Westchester County, NY. Christina's passion is NeverStopMoving365, a sports and exercise tutoring company she founded to help children of all ability levels grow in a nurturing environment. Connect with her at neverstopmoving365@gmail.com.

Erica Holloway is a new clinical case manager at The MENTOR Network. In addition to being named one of Forbes Best Employers for Diversity, The MENTOR Network is a premier provider of home and community-based health care, offering adults, children and their families innovative, quality services and individualized supports that lead to growth and independence. Erica earned her M.S.W. from the University of New England in 2021.



Christina (Schirone) Collins '11

Dave Hunt began a new position as technical customer service representative for GiveSignup/RunSignup. RunSignup is the leading innovator of online race management tools for the running community, including promotion, registration, fundraising and race day activities. Dave earned his B.S. in Sport and Leisure Management from Eastern and has more than 10 years of professional race-timing and event-organizing experience.

Dayna (Beardsley) Samela is a new special education teacher at Jonathan Law High School in Milford. After earning her M.S. in Early Childhood Education at Eastern, she decided she wanted to teach older students, so she completed a bachelor's degree in Special Education at Fairfield University. Dayna is also a new mom to an infant son.

Jim Schult started a new position as senior associate at RSM US LLP, an audit, tax and consulting firm focused on the middle market in the country. RSM is the fifth largest accounting firm in the United States. Jim recently became engaged to his girlfriend Jade, and he still plays in the Greater Hartford Twilight baseball league.

Michelle Thakur has a new position as academic partner operations associate at Guild Education.

'12

Marci (Reismann) Belton has a new position as campus recruiter senior associate at Ernst and Young. She previously served as assistant director of student life at Loyola University Maryland.

Judith Frankel has a new position as assessment manager in the University of Saint Joseph's School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies Program.

Christina Frugale is the planning and event success manager at Russell Morin Catering and Events in Attleboro, MA.

After working for six years in the Dare County Sheriff's Office, **Kelly Hill** is now a police officer in Duck, NC. She earned a B.A. in Political Science at Eastern.

Kira Holmes is the new executive director of the Windham Textile and History Museum. Over the past 10 years, Kira has been a dedicated museum volunteer, curating exhibits, archiving, coordinating fundraisers, and serving on the museum's Board of Directors.

After receiving her B.A. in History from Eastern, Kira obtained an M.A. in Public History from Central Connecticut State University. In her new role Kira will focus on developing community partnerships, adding programming and attracting more museum visitors.

Ariana White was promoted to senior director of publicity at Atlantic Records. She lives in Elizabeth, NJ, and recently celebrated her first anniversary as a homeowner.

'13

Arielle Cooper has been named head softball coach at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. She was an assistant coach for three seasons before serving as interim head coach last season. Arielle earned her B.S. at Eastern in Sport and Leisure Management, Health Promotion, and her M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis from Western Connecticut State University in 2017.

Christine DeFilippo is a special education teacher and a soccer coach at John F. Kennedy High School in Bellmore, NY.

Nathan Garcia is the new sales and distribution manager at Urban South-Houston, where he will direct all on-premise and off-premise sales of package products, including taproom release management, in-state retail customers, out-of-state distributor management and direct-to-consumer sales. Prior positions included roles as a health and wellness manager and personal trainer, site manager at Go Ape Treetop Adventure, director at Nomads Outdoor Adventure and director of operations at The Adventure Park at Storrs.

Rob Kavaler has been promoted to senior graphic designer at RCN Capital, a nationwide, private direct lender providing short-term fix and flip financing and long-term rental financing for real estate investors. In addition, Rob continues to operate his own freelance business, RDK Design and Photography, designing logos, advertisements, collat-

eral materials, apparel and websites, and photographing events, performances and engagements.

Patrick Mulvihill works with Uber Healthcare Partnerships in New York City. Prior to making the move to Uber Healthcare, he was a sales executive for Kinetik, a billing company for the healthcare transportation industry.

'14

Alex Bieniek is an air traffic controller at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. His wife **Rachel (Junga) Bieniek '14** is the new senior associate at Heidrick & Struggles, a Chicago-based provider of senior-level executive search, culture shaping and leadership consulting services.

The Royal Law Firm of Springfield, MA, recently welcomed attorney **Jaclyn Cronin** to its team. Jaclyn received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Eastern and her juris doctor from Western New England University School of Law. She is admitted to practice law in the state of Connecticut.

Ryan DiPietro has been inducted into the Berlin High School Athletic Hall of Fame. While at Berlin, Ryan was an all-state and all-conference selection, and was voted MVP of the 2002 Senior All-Star game held at Fenway Park. At Eastern, he compiled a career record of 29-3 and helped Eastern reach the NCAA Division III national title game in 2004. Ryan now works as an environmental inspector, and resides in Wallingford with his wife Rachel, sons Chase and Cal, and daughter Hailey.

Alyssa "Allie" Henry has a new position as academic success coach at Barry University in Miami, FL. She earned her M.Ed. in Psychology-Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education from Springfield College in 2018, and had previously served at Mitchell College in New London as athletic academic advisor.

As marketing manager for Bridge Loan Network, **Erica Sikoski** is focused on creating informative and thought-provoking content to strengthen Bridge Loan Network's marketing and trade-show initiatives. She also manages the company's social media channels, email campaigns, and digital and print campaigns. Erica earned a degree in Communications with a concentration in Advertising at Eastern.



EASTERN WOMEN'S TRACK • On Aug. 28, 2021, the Hartford Marathon Foundation hosted a running relay from Providence to Hartford in support of the East Coast Greenway. Eastern's Women's Track and Field Alumni Team was the first women's team to finish and placed 10th overall out of 135 teams. Eastern's current team volunteered at the relay exchange zone at Jillson Square in Willimantic, where they directed runners, supplied snacks and water and recorded times. Also on hand was Men's Track and Field alumnus Ryan Jones '19, now a Willimantic police officer. (Left to right) Kass Banks '18, Tina Gosselin '19, Haley Knox '19, Rachel Berkowski '18, Ryan Jones '19, Head Coach Kathy Manizza and Kelly Labanara '15. (Missing is Samara Johnson, who was running a leg of the relay)



Nick Aconfora '15

'15

In addition to his recent promotion to associate manager-ESPN Next, **Nick Aconfora** is a lecturer in the Communication Department at Eastern, where he teaches "Video Storytelling in Sports."

Alexandra Cafferly is a human resource specialist at Alliant, a provider of audience-based marketing services in Brewster, NY. She was recently recognized by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) as an "Emerging

Professional Champion" in the next generation of human resource leaders. She earned her SHRM-CP and her M.S. in SHRM from Sacred Heart University.

Monique Dumaine is the founder of Athena's Bridge, offering strategic and creative services for impact-driven entrepreneurs. Monique coordinates the services she provides through an Online Business Manager (OBM), who works directly with small business owners and entrepreneurs and manages day-to-day business activities, team members and projects. The logo for Athena's Bridge was designed by **Alyssa Reilly '14**. For more information, visit <https://www.athenasbridge.com/>.



Monique Dumaine '15

Grant Messier has a new position as director of communications at Remarkableness Services Corporation|Turnkey Phils. He is also national sales manager for Turnkey Processing LLC, a credit processing service company that embraces constant service evolution to find better, easier and more innovative ways to support entrepreneurs and business owners. Grant earned his B.A. in Sociology at Eastern.

Dane Paracuelles is the new assistant director of residence life at the University of California-San Diego.

Richard Squires is an optometrist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Perry Point, MD. The position is part of his fourth-year clinical rotations for the Doctor of Optometry program at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Rob Scheim has a new position as sales account manager at Topgolf, a technology-enabled global sports and entertainment community. He and his wife Danielle were married in October 2021.

Elizabeth Valenzuela is the new associate merchandise manager at Aritzia, an innovative design house and fashion boutique with more than 100 locations in select cities across North America.

'16

Lee Cattanch has been promoted to senior manager II, merchandising operations at Walmart.

Brett Galino is a doctoral candidate in Applied Behavioral Sciences at the University of Kansas. He recently made a virtual presentation to Eastern Psychology students titled "Scaling up: Behavioral Psychology and the Pursuit of Sustainable Policy," which focused on ways to reduce climate change by looking at behavior analysis and behavioral economics. He also spoke about career opportunities, including his own career path.



Brett Galino '16

OMG Roofing Products has named **Christina Gonzalez** as product manager. She will be responsible for developing sales and marketing opportunities for new and existing OMG discretionary products through a nationwide network of independent roofing distributors. She had previously been an associate product manager with the FastenMaster Division of OMG Inc., where she led cross-functional teams to help commercialize new products.

Matthew Gorski has been promoted to Operational Risk Administrator at Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union in Lowell, MA. He joined the credit union as a Member Service Representative in March 2020. He earned his B.A. in Economics at Eastern.

Brie Passero has been promoted to auditor II by the Office of the State Comptroller, Connecticut Auditors of Public Accounts. She joined the Auditors of Public Accounts as an auditor trainee in 2017.

Rachel Sawyer-Walker has been appointed as the new associate director of the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Compliance (EDIC), at Ramapo College of New Jersey. Rachel earned her Master of Education in College Student Affairs from Rutgers, and most recently served as associate director of student engagement at Drew University. (See the story of Rachel and her college sweetheart Donald Walker '15 in Matches Made at Eastern on pages 26-27.)

'17

Jessica Dastous is CEO and founder of Wildflower Creative LLC in Edwards, CO. She offers business to consumer marketing and branding for the ski and snowboard industry, the outdoor industry, and the consumer packaged goods, luxury resorts, entertainment, dining, retail and gaming industries. Jessica resides in Vail, CO.

Dajoun Jones is a relationship banker at Bank of America.

Daniel Mueller has started a new position as human resources assistant at Sheffield, which specializes in executive search, executive selection, interim management, and leadership and organizational development. Some of Daniel's responsibilities include recruiting, HUBZone data keeping and benefits administration.

Ravi Patel is the owner of Other Desi Beer Co. and was recently featured in Connecticut Magazine. He tries to incorporate traditional South Asian flavors into the beers he produces. "I wanted something that represented me and my culture. I try to integrate flavoring from my childhood or from now that I enjoy — a lot of sweets or fruits or spices." Check out www.otherdesibeer.com or @otherdesibeerco on Instagram.

Amy (Dziewaltowski) Salcedo has a new position as Cell Leader at Pratt & Whitney. She recently earned her M.B.A. from the University of Connecticut and she also serves as a staff sergeant with the Connecticut Air National Guard.

Justin Schaffer is the new acquisition integration manager at William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage and Insurance. He had previously been mergers and acquisitions advisor/closer at Woodbridge International in New Haven. Justin volunteers for the Weston (CT) Food Pantry, Special Olympics, JA Worldwide and the Weston Warmup Fund. He is also an assistant football coach at Weston High School.

'18

Casey Collins has a new position as a search analyst for Converge, a marketing and advertising firm based in the New York City area. His previous role was as an advertising and search specialist with Rebel Interactive.

Kaylee DeFelice is a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst studying school psychology. She recently spoke to students in Eastern's Psychological Science Department, focusing on school psychology along with the factors and experiences that made her choose that field.

Tiffany Gooddall started a new position at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst as a student success advisor. While pursuing her M.S. in Counseling/Student Development in Higher



EDITH PRAGUE • Edith Prague '65, longtime state representative, state senator and advocate for the elderly, passed away on Dec. 16, 2021. Prague was a teacher, a medical social worker and a state representative in the Connecticut House of Representatives from 1982 to 1990. After her stint in the House, Prague went on to become the Commissioner on Aging for Gov. Lowell Weicker. After the position was eliminated, she was elected state senator from 1995-2013 and, after leaving elected office, became the Connecticut Commissioner on Aging again under Gov. Dannel Malloy when the position was reinstated. A frequent visitor to the Child and Family Development Resource Center and a welcome volunteer at Eastern's annual Day of Giving in November, Prague and her husband Franklin established the Franklin and Edith Prague Endowed Centennial Scholarship in 1989 to commemorate Eastern's 100th anniversary. The scholarship is awarded to students from New London, Tolland and Windham counties.

Education at Central Connecticut State University, Tiffany served in Eastern's Division of Student Affairs as a graduate intern for student orientation and leadership programs.

Katie O'Rourke is an area coordinator at Fairfield University.

'19

Taylor Danielczuk has a new position as sciences and healthcare recruiter at Actalent.

Sean DeVlieger graduated from the Connecticut Fire Academy and was sworn in as a member of the Willimantic Fire Department.

Nicholas Hanley is a registered representative at Equitable Advisors.

Leaja Johnson has a new position as community outreach assistant at Hartford HealthCare.

Jen Porpora has a new position as financial services consultant at TIAA and has relocated to Charlotte, NC.

Jesse Steinmetz is producer of "Charlotte Talks with Mike Collins" on WFAE 90.7 FM in Charlotte, NC. Before joining WFAE, Jesse interned at WNPR in Hartford, and his first radio experience was hosting a show on WECS-FM at Eastern.

Kristina Zoghbi has a new position as talent acquisition partner at CVS Health, where she is part of a team that recruits at colleges and universities. Prior to that she was an underwriting consultant and was enrolled in the Underwriting Leadership Development Program at Aetna.

'20

Clancy Benedict has relocated to the Boston area and is pursuing an M.S. in Management in Entrepreneurial Leadership at Babson College.

Madeline Colegrove is a digital marketing coordinator in the Shelton, CT office of Really Good Stuff, LLC, a retail company that provides educational products to teachers.

Briana Shore is a digital merchandising operations specialist at CVS Health. While at Eastern, Briana majored in Art and minored in Business Information Systems and Digital Art and Design.

Nicole Reinschmidt has been promoted to advocate at Safe Futures in New London. Safe Futures' mission is to

save lives, restore hope and change the future for those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking. Nicole earned a B.S. in Psychology and minored in mental health counseling.

'21

Annie Audigé is the new talent acquisition operations administrator at New York Community Bank (NYCB). She earned her B.S. in Business Administration.



Annie Audigé '21

James Callaghan is a recreation specialist at the Westover Job Corps Center in Chicopee, MA.

Jackson Delaney is a public relations assistant at Susan Oliver Consulting, an independent consultant specializing in strategic communications and helping clients define powerful messages for top-tier media placements. He is also pursuing his M.P.A. at the University of Connecticut.

Prior to his senior year at Eastern, **Patrick Guertin** was a Technology Leadership Development Program (TLDP) intern at The Travelers, and was subsequently hired as a TLDP Software Engineer when he graduated in May. Patrick was also selected to be Travelers liaison as a source of information for Eastern students who are interested in careers at Travelers. Patrick majored in Computer Science and minored in Mathematics at Eastern.

Sydney Hogan is a paraprofessional with the North Haven Public Schools while she pursues her master's degree in Special Education at Southern Connecticut State University.

Khalifa Karim graduated last May with a B.S. in Business Administration. She is working for the Admissions Office at Eastern as an admissions counselor, recruiting prospective students from New Haven and Litchfield counties.

Jessica Moise is an associate analyst at Infosys in Hartford. Infosys is a multinational information technology company that provides business consulting, information technology and outsourcing services.

Paulina Palomo is one of only 50 participants from across the country selected for a Television Academy Foundation Internship in 2021. The eight-week paid internship has her working with Endemol Shine North America, a Hollywood-based content production company that produces such shows as "Big Brother," "The Biggest Loser" and "Wipeout."



Paulina Palomo '21

Ryan Tarko is a content development specialist with Black Kite, a firm providing third-party risk management through accurate and comprehensive cyber intelligence.

Johana Vazquez is a staff writer for The Day of New London, where she covers Montville and Waterford. Originally from Arkansas, she said what sparked her interest in writing was learning about the Syrian refugee crisis while in high school.



IN MEMORIAM

Ronald Edmondson '54
Coventry, CT • July 29, 2021

Naomi "Paddy"
Padowitz Swartz '54
August 1, 2020 • White Plains, NY

Judith (Mills) Haddad '58
Cromwell, CT • Nov. 10, 2021

Thomas Kelly '59
South Windsor, CT • Aug. 22, 2021

Davis Burton '64
Thompson, CT • Dec. 17, 2021

Edith (Gelt) Prague '65
Former State Senator
Columbia, CT • December 16, 2021

Sandra (Smith) Crebore '66
Westport Island, ME
Sept. 30, 2021

John Destefano M'67
Lebanon, CT
Oct. 9, 2021

Mary (Stafford) Harper '69
Storrs/Mansfield, CT
Nov. 29, 2021

Ilene Frank '70
Glastonbury, CT • June 25, 2021

Angela (Cicchetti) Bowen '70
Windham, CT • Nov. 2, 2021

Terrance Corcoran '71
Longmont, CO • Oct. 13, 2021

Janice Adams '71
Colchester, CT • Nov. 18, 2021

Jean Rand M '71
Columbia, CT • Dec. 30, 2021

Holly (Rhodes) Best '72
Denmark, ME • Aug. 21, 2021

Mary Eberle '72
Niantic, CT • Sept. 25, 2021

Clyde Hall M '72
Willington, CT • Jan. 4, 2022

Barbara Krauss '73
Lisbon, CT • June 24, 2021

Ernest Bergeron '73
Enfield, CT • Nov. 16, 2021

Joseph Joaquin '73, M'76
Colchester, CT • Dec. 17, 2021

Joan Youngs '74
East Hampton, CT • Dec. 12, 2021

Catherine Williams '75
Chaplin, CT • Aug. 20, 2021

Sylvia Masi '76
Sunset Beach, NC • Nov. 11, 2021

David Emery '78
East Granby, CT • Sept. 28, 2021

Mary Butler '80
Ledyard, CT • Oct. 17, 2020

Jayne Kingston '80
Tariffville, CT • Nov. 22, 2021

Sharon (Murphy) Palmer M'80
Quaker Hill, CT • Dec. 4, 2020

Frances Abetz '82
Tolland, CT • Jan. 11, 2022

Arthur Drab '83
San Antonio, TX • Dec. 9, 2021

Michael Laporte '84
Southington, CT • Oct. 17, 2021

Darleen Keaney '87
Norwich, CT • Sept. 27, 2021

Cheryl Mullin '88
Woodstock Valley, CT
July 23, 2021

Robert Uzpen '89
Saint Paul, MN • May 13, 2020

Harold Diggs '90
Philadelphia, PA • Nov. 26, 2020

Barbara Kolb '91
Mansfield Center, CT
July 15, 2021

Maria Whitcomb '93
Andover, CT • Feb. 26, 2021

James Whitney '96
Waterford, CT • April 11, 2020

Shirley Stoney '02
Willimantic, CT • Oct. 10, 2021

Thomas Nash '02
Portland, CT • Dec. 14, 2021

Nicole Richard '03
Hopedale, MA • Aug. 27, 2021

Jacqueline Bogue '06
Palm Bay, FL • Aug. 31, 2021

Katharine Teper '09
Ledyard, CT • Aug. 25, 2020

John Parke '11
Tolland, CT • Dec. 2, 2021

Michael Freilich '16
Oneonta, NY • Dec. 17, 2021

James Donnelly • Former faculty
Windham, CT • Dec. 5, 2021

David Enggas • Friend
Mansfield Center, CT
July 24, 2021

Frances Funk • Friend
Coventry, CT • Oct. 10, 2020

Charles Lyons • Former staff
Eastford, CT • Dec. 31, 2021

Eugene Mittelman
Foundation Board Member
Dedham, MA • Oct. 25, 2021

Eileen Ossen • Friend
Mansfield Center, CT
Oct. 28, 2021

Cynthia Schaffer • Former staff
Ashford, CT • Jan. 9, 2022

Sean Spillane • Friend
Brooklyn Park, MN • April 16, 2021

Gabriel Vallario • Student
New London, CT • Aug. 22, 2021

Richard Wolf • Professor Emeritus
Willimantic, CT • Aug. 11, 2021