

# THE BORO



FOR THOSE WHO  
**STRIVE**

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY





# THE BORO

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One of the 14 universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania is an equal opportunity education institution and employer and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation and disability in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, ADEA and the ADA.





THE  
**BORO**

FALL 2018

Please send comments to  
[communications@edinboro.edu](mailto:communications@edinboro.edu).





Dear Fighting Scots,

Greetings as we approach the end-point of a very exciting semester. We have had many things to celebrate since the opening of the Fall semester, including:

- The addition of 10 new academic programs and the restructuring of others
- A continued increase in admitted-student quality
- A significant rise in first-to-second-year student retention
- The announcement of an eSports program, which will launch in Fall 2019
- The unveiling of a new marketing campaign to better showcase the identity that makes us so proud

Our 10 new academic programs, along with some restructurings, are among the outcomes of an extensive academic program review. Many thanks to the faculty and deans for their good work to ensure our offerings are of interest to both students and employers. As the region's largest public university, our role is to prepare students to be contributing, thoughtful citizens and for fulfilling careers that meet the needs of the community, regionally and beyond. We take that role very seriously.

We are also committed to ensuring that the students we admit to Edinboro are prepared for a rigorous university education. For that reason, we have increased our admission standards for two consecutive years. The average GPA for first-time, bachelor's degree-seeking students entering the University this fall was 3.6, up from 3.54 last year. In fact, last year Edinboro led Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education with its percentage of first-time/full-time new students with a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher. Comparative data is not yet in for the current academic year. Our heightened admission criteria have positively influenced our first-to-second-year-student-retention rate, which increased by more than seven percentage points over last year, a substantial improvement for any university. The jump in retention is a reflection of our students' hard work and persistence and faculty and staff dedication to student success.

Understanding that a positive university experience is dependent upon life outside, as well as inside, the classroom, we are working to ensure our extracurricular and co-curricular offerings are consistent with student interests. To that end, beginning in Fall 2019, we will be launching a varsity eSports team that will compete against some of the top gamers in the world. ESports at Edinboro, which will build on the University's strengths in animation and gaming/virtual world development, will be one of fewer than 100 eSports programs nationally.

Finally, September marked the release of Edinboro's new marketing campaign. Beginning last spring, our in-house Marketing and Communications team worked in partnership with BD&E, a Pittsburgh-based branding and marketing communications agency, to sharpen our message. It is a message derived from input this past year from faculty, staff and students—Edinboro is a place for Those Who Strive. Throughout Edinboro's history, we have created a place for those willing to work, those willing to go further, those willing to aim for something greater.

I invite you to read the stories featured in this issue of "The Boro." The alumni, students, faculty and staff featured reflect the characteristics that make us all Edinboro Proud.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Hannan  
Interim President



Dr. Michael Hannan  
INTERIM PRESIDENT



# FOR THOSE WHO **STRIVE**<sup>SM</sup>



## **Honoring the Strivers...**

Our students have a vision for the future and the will to build it. At Edinboro, our faculty push students as hard as they push themselves and inspire them to expect more.

Throughout Edinboro's history, we've created a place for those willing to work, those willing to go further, those willing to aim for something greater. This brand essence is at the core of the University's recently launched "For Those Who Strive" campaign.

The alumni and students featured on the following pages reflect the passion, perseverance, persistence and grit common among our students, alumni, faculty and staff. These qualities have enabled them to seize opportunities and run with them, charting a course for themselves that they may never have imagined when they stepped onto campus as first-year students.

We invite you to read their stories.

Boro Proud!





**BETTY CRUZ**  
CHANGE AGENT



# Making a difference from The Boro to the 'Burgh

BY: GIANNA LEONE

When Betty Cruz, '09, was 29 years old, she was working an office job in public relations – feeling the limitations of not having a college degree and the dissatisfaction of not doing enough to help others.

Aimless but driven, Cruz found her path to success through Edinboro University.

The daughter of Cuban immigrants, Cruz grew up witnessing the challenges many face trying to integrate into American society. She didn't receive much guidance at school, and her parents were often busy, working 12- to 15-hour days.

"I didn't understand how to get better in the classes I was struggling in because I didn't have the internal support at school," Cruz said. And I didn't have that guidance at home because it's not something that was normal for immigrants."

After trying out community college in Miami, she decided to leave Florida and move north to New York, where she worked in PR for a number of years before enrolling at Edinboro. She was a nontraditional student, nearing her 30s, but she worked hard to get her bachelor's degree in history.

"I got into Edinboro on probation because I had dropped my classes when I last went to school, and I never took my SATs, but Edinboro as an institution believed in me when others wouldn't have," she said.

As her academic career progressed, she was offered numerous opportunities to expand her studies, including a 7-week fellowship: The Public Policy in International Affairs Junior Summer Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. The program was specifically designed to encourage marginalized people to pursue higher education. It was here that Cruz found her calling.

After earning her master's degree in public administration at the University of Pittsburgh, she moved

to Washington, D.C., where she spent two years working for KA-BOOM, a nonprofit organization that promotes nationwide play and playgrounds.

Missing the city and its people, she packed up her things and headed home to the 'Burgh.

"I always felt that Pittsburgh was a friendly place, an authentic place," Cruz said in a recent podcast from The Heinz Endowment. "It has a scrappiness. It's everything Miami isn't, and I loved that about the city."

Cruz worked in Mayor William Peduto's office as his deputy chief of special initiatives from 2014 - 2016, launching programs like Welcoming Pittsburgh, Live Well and Homefront Pittsburgh to welcome immigrants, improve their access to health and food and provide services to military veterans and families.

"You get to meet so many different people and hear all these amazing things that are happening on the ground," Cruz said. "You're able to see connections that people maybe aren't seeing when they're just busy getting the work done."

In September 2016, she left her position at the mayor's office to start her own organization, Change Agency. Previously Cruz had been at the table of a comprehensive immigrant inclusion plan overseen by the Department of Human Services in Allegheny County. She volunteered to turn the plan into action, and thus Change Agency was born.

Its flagship project, All for All, is guided by a blueprint designed by the immigrant community. The blueprint aims to advance economic opportunity and increase institutional practices for immigrants nationwide.

In addition to running Change Agency, Cruz also serves on several local boards and advisory committees focused on education, culture and equity, including the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Global Minds Initiative, University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development, YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh Global Centers of Excellence and the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh Center for Race and Gender Equity. She's also a member of the BMW Foundation Responsible Leaders Network.

Cruz devotes her days to helping immigrant families overcome the limitations she has spent her life facing.

"I'm continuously asking that question of 'How can we be most helpful,' and when you're able to hear from your partners and from the community about what they would like to see and then be able to actually work on that together and see it come to life, even if it's one moment, one day...maybe it was a small difference, but it was something new. That's what inspires me every day."

## HONORS & RECOGNITIONS:

- Pittsburgh Magazine 40 Under 40
- Global Pittsburgh Immigrant Champion
- The Incline as a Community Leader
- The Islamic Center of Pittsburgh for Humanity Day
- Peace Islands Institute and Turkish Cultural Center for Public Service
- Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs



BEYOND THE BORO: CELEBRATING ALUMNI

**RACHEL RENAUDIN**



# Encouraged by faculty, artist forges her own path

BY: CHRISTOPHER LAFURIA

Rachel Renaudin remembers posing as her mother painted watercolor portraits – some of them imbued on recycled wood-burnt surfaces.

The process created such a strong impression for the Pittsburgh artist and Edinboro University graduate that it was almost a foretelling for Renaudin's artistic success.

"I remember pleading with my mother that I wanted nothing more than to learn to paint," said Renaudin, a successful Pittsburgh-based freelance artist and visual merchandiser at Market District, a specialty food store in the Steel City.

Renaudin's father, though not a professional artist, also encouraged the young artist through his mixed-media projects and carpentry. Throughout her childhood, Renaudin's father would often ask her to draw and paint images for his writing.

"Every time I would finish painting something, my dad was the first one who wanted to see and express his excitement about it," said Renaudin, 29, originally from Townville, Pa.

A 2011 graduate of Edinboro University with a degree in painting and minors in drawing and art history, Renaudin took the knowledge and inspiration from her education to numerous gallery circuits and art showcases.

With an emphasis on artistic sharing and connection, Renaudin is an active member of the Pittsburgh Society of Artists and collaborates with a variety of artists and local musicians.

“ I believe if you look, listen and appreciate things closely enough, everyone and everything has the capability of initiating inspiration. ”

At Market District, her tasks include designing thematic product displays and painting signage at the market's retail location, as well as directing seasonal summer farmers markets. En route to her professional art career,

Renaudin said she found inspiration not only from her family but also from familiar Edinboro faces. Her college roommate, Edinboro graduate Abby Winkler – who also works as a graphic designer at Market District – became a kindred spirit with Renaudin, as the two discovered their paths together.

"We were both Fine Arts majors – sharing many of the same classes – so I was blessed to have another to relate to," Renaudin expressed about her roommate. "I will never forget all that she offered me – giving me energy when I sometimes had none."

Renaudin also reflected on the dynamic impact that her art professors had, promoting the young artist's evolution in her craft and her personal growth. She named Malcolm Christhlf, Rachael Burke, Geoffrey Beadle, DP Warner, Michelle Vitali, Ben Gibson, John Bavaro and Jim Parlin as the benefactors of her growth.

“ Every facet of Edinboro's Art Department – whether it was related to my art form or not – encouraged me to live every moment with eyes wide open and apply it to my work. ”

When Renaudin isn't painting for career or pleasure, she can be found maintaining an active lifestyle, either connecting with community events or training for her next race.

This past May, she finished her first marathon.

"I cannot say the climb to get to where I am today was easy, but I am truly a person living in 2018 who paints and creates handmade artwork for a living," she said. "I am very fortunate to be working directly within my concentration."

To view the complete portfolio of Renaudin's freelance and commissioned work, visit : [www.rachelrenaudin.com](http://www.rachelrenaudin.com).





# TRACEY MERLINO

SCHOOL COUNSELOR



# EU alumna is Counselor of the Year

BY: KRISTIN BROCKETT & RILEY WHITE

When Tracey Merlino, '95, M '96, began her career as a school counselor at Belle Valley Elementary School in Millcreek, she probably wasn't predicting a congratulatory hug from a former First Lady.

But somehow – nearly 20 years later – it happened.

In February, she met former First Lady Michelle Obama in Washington, D.C., at a special ceremony recognizing guidance counselors from across the U.S. Merlino, who holds two degrees from Edinboro, was named the 2017 – 2018 Pennsylvania School Counselors Association (PSCA) School Counselor of the Year.

The award honors school counselors who have made significant contributions to their students and school districts. She was nominated by Michael Simmons, a counselor at James W. Parker Middle School.

"I have known Tracey for probably 15 years or so, and everything she does, she works to do it very well," Simmons said. "She is a leader in her school building and an advocate for her students. She collaborates with her teachers and with her fellow school counselors and works to implement change in her building when needed."

Merlino represented Millcreek Township School District in Erie County, Pa., at the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) School Counselor of the Year celebration at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Obama spoke during the ceremony about the vital role of guidance counselors.

"These men and women are transforming the lives of young people across the country, and, as always, I am in awe of them. I am inspired by them, and I am so grateful for everything they do," said Obama in her speech. "Real change doesn't happen from the top down here in Washington. Real change happens from the bottom up in communities across this country."

The former First Lady's remarks had a lasting impact on Merlino, who said the hug they shared during the ceremony was definitely the highlight. "She went low for a handshake, but I went high for a hug," Merlino said. "She was gracious and kind, and her words will continue to motivate me for the remainder of my career."

Merlino comes from a family of teachers, and she happily followed suit, earning her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education at Edinboro. It wasn't until she was offered a graduate assistantship with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions that she began to consider other career options.

While browsing the graduate school catalog, the Elementary School Counseling program caught her eye. The rest is history.

"The program turned out to be more than just interesting," Merlino said. "The professors were brilliant, motivating and taught me to be a good listener."

She described her time at Edinboro as a blessing, stating that the opportunities the University provided led her to a career that is both personally and professionally rewarding.

"Children are faced with such daunting challenges so early in life these days," she said. "I am motivated, every day, to be a part of a team that helps to give these children opportunities to have an amazing childhood, whether I help them by listening during a dark time, by helping them to make friends, by helping their families or by helping them to be heard."



Merlino represented Millcreek Township School District in Erie County, Pa., at the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) School Counselor of the Year celebration.



# JOHN LYONS

FILMMAKER





John Lyons on the set of "Unearth" with Adrienne Barbeau.

## Alumnus finds filmmaking success amid 'organized chaos' of everyday life

BY: KRISTIN BROCKETT

John C. Lyons, '00, is a busy guy.

Between writing and directing psychological thrillers, serving as the executive director of the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania, and working his full-time gig as the IT Service Desk manager at Edinboro, the alumnus has a pretty demanding schedule.

Add in his duties as the director of operations for Edinboro's Movies Under the Stars series and his role as the curator of Film Grain: Dinner and a Movie in downtown Erie, and his days are jam-packed. In fact, Lyons qualifies cleaning his bathroom as downtime.

"I enjoy the balance and the organized chaos of it all," said Lyons, who owns and operates Lyons Den Productions and Unearth Film, LLC alongside his wife and partner, Dorota Swies. "I work at Edinboro for eight hours each day, and my lunch break and evenings are devoted to filmmaking. It's full days, but I love it."

The 41-year-old recently wrapped production on his latest feature, "Unearth," which follows two neighboring families as they face the catastrophic repercussions of unconventional natural gas drilling.

The environmental thriller – described by Lyons as "equal parts docu-drama and eco-horror" – stars Girard, Pa., native Marc Blucas (Buffy the Vampire Slayer), General McLane High School graduate Allison McAtee (The Haves and Have Nots) and well-known horror movie actress Adrienne Barbeau.

Auditions were held at Edinboro University's Porreco College campus, during which more than 150 people vied for roles in the flick.

"A big goal of this film was always to hire local and to bring talent back home," said Lyons, who grew up about 12 miles west of Edinboro in Albion, Pa. "We really want to showcase the talent that exists here and the resources that we have built through the Film Society and the Greater Erie Film Office. Our ultimate goal is to make Northwestern Pennsylvania a hub for small, independent films, and we want to cultivate a community that appreciates the art of film."

And like most of Lyons' movie ventures, the "Unearth" plot hits close to home.

"I spent my entire youth on farms and in the woods of Pennsylvania and learned the importance of the land and our relationship to our environment," he said. "After viewing the effects of the industry on my beautiful state in documentaries like 'Gasland' and 'Triple Divide,' I was inspired to write this story."

Released in 2009, Lyons' first feature film, "Schism," was based on his father's struggle with Alzheimer's Disease. His second production, "There Are No Goodbyes," (2013) features young people balancing apathy and ambition while searching for purpose in blue-collar America – a feeling that Lyons identified with at the time. Both films were screened globally. In 2017, he produced the short film "#OurErie," which was viewed over 100,000 times in 48 hours.

"It's like therapy," said Lyons, a four-time winner of Erie Reader's Best Filmmaker Award. "When we make a movie, it takes time. It's always very personal."

That personal element and careful attention has shone through in his films, prompting attention from both local and national outlets.

"Schism" was awarded Best Screenplay at the Director's Chair Film Festival in New York and the Purple Heart Award at Zero Film Festival in Los Angeles. Lyons was named to the Erie Times-News People of the Year in 2007, awarded the Young Erie Professionals Generation-E Leadership Award in 2009, selected for the *Erie Reader's* inaugural 40 Under 40 list in 2013, and he later received recognition by James Fallows in *The Atlantic* in 2017.

But despite his current success in the industry, Lyons didn't always consider himself a writer.

"I didn't like writing when I was in high school, so creating films was my way to get out of writing. I made home movies and little short videos with my high school friends," he said. "It probably ended up being more work, but to me it was easier."

Lyons faced a difficult decision when enrolling at Edinboro – choosing between his affinity for computers and programming and his love for art and film. Ultimately he chose to major in computer science, opening the door for him to troubleshoot computers by day and still think creatively at night.

"There is a lot of overlap with editing and visual effects. Computers are heavily involved," Lyons said. "The cool thing about independent films and today's technology is that you don't necessarily have to go to Hollywood. We have the resources right here in Erie."

Learn more about "Unearth" at [www.uneearthmovie.com](http://www.uneearthmovie.com).



BEYOND THE BORO: CELEBRATING ALUMNI

# GUSTAV KLIMT

THE RONALD S. LAUDER AND SERGE SABARSKY COLLECTIONS

OCTOBER 16, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2008

NEUE  
GALE

## DAVID KIEFER

WRITER AND ILLUSTRATOR





# Woodland creatures. Colorful sketches. A classic tale of good versus evil.

BY: KRISTIN BROCKETT AND GIANNA LEONE

At first glance “The Day,” a short story written and illustrated by Edinboro alumnus David Kiefer, may seem like just another children’s book.

But beyond the “cat and mouse” narrative lies a powerful allegory for living with anxiety.

The protagonist, a meek squirrel named Simon, is crippled by fear and constant worry. Despite a desperate longing to bask in the warm sunlight, he hides in the darkness, ever-afraid of the frightening fox that looms beyond the safety of his underground dwelling. The sharp teeth and permeating stench of the carnivorous creature seem inescapable to Simon, and his angst escalates as his food supply dwindles.

These emotions – fear, worry and inquietude – are feelings that sufferers of anxiety know all too well. And even though anxiety is the most commonly diagnosed mental illness in the U.S., its “invisible” nature can make it difficult to discuss.

“Talking about anxiety, particularly in childhood, is a complicated topic, and it needs to be approached carefully,” said Kiefer, a May 2017 graduate who grew up about 25 miles northwest of Pittsburgh in Freedom, Pa. “I wanted the book to be a starting point for a conversation in which a child might be able to begin to talk about their own worries with an adult. And so this book is my attempt to do just that – to present a platform in which both sides of the conversation can relate.”

Kiefer, now a Master of Fine Arts in Drawing candidate at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, began working on the book in an Advanced Illustration class during his senior year at Edinboro. Along the way, he received expert guidance from Edinboro faculty members Michelle

Vitali, Dr. Roger Solberg and Dr. William Pithers, as well as funding through the Friends of the Baron-Forness Library Research Grant Program.

“David is a talented artist and storyteller, yet he was always very modest,” Solberg said. “Because he was willing to challenge himself both as an illustrator and a writer, and willing to do the hard work of substantial and multiple revisions, he can build on what he learned and continue to create books as entertaining and instructive as ‘The Day.’”

A self-described “overthinker,” Kiefer drew inspiration for the project from his own personal experiences and challenges.

“The book allows me to talk about some of my own struggles but in the format of a metaphor,” Kiefer said. “There are parts of myself in the story and in the characters, but the main focus is on the audience. I wanted the book to be something that others could use to talk about their own struggles.”

Kiefer plans to create more books in the future that explore similar themes. He hopes the tales will spark greater discussion about mental health between children and adults while also fostering creativity.

“It would be really entertaining to create stories that encourage children to use their imagination,” Kiefer said. “It would also be wonderful if those stories encouraged the adults reading the stories with them to reconnect with their own imaginations.”





# XAVIER WILLIAMS

AT&T EXECUTIVE



# Xavier Williams: Shooting high and giving back

BY: CHRISTOPHER LAFURIA

He's earned Edinboro University's Distinguished Alumni Award for his success in the private sector and in philanthropy. He's the namesake of Edinboro's Summer Business Academy, which has brought hundreds of high school students to campus over the last six years.

Now, Xavier Williams, 1989 graduate of Edinboro and president of Public Sector and Wholesale Solutions for AT&T Services, Inc., has earned the pinnacle award from his alma mater – an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service.

Williams, who earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a minor in Mathematics, returned to campus on May 12, to deliver the keynote address and receive his honorary degree during commencement.

Throughout his AT&T career, Williams has worked in various disciplines, including finance, product management, business planning, sales, human resources and customer service. He has achieved extensive leadership experience through serving in a variety of executive positions. Most recently, Williams served as president of AT&T's Business Operations.

Dr. Scott Miller, dean of Edinboro University's School of Business and College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, worked directly with Williams and his wife, Tina, to develop the Xavier and Tina Williams Summer Youth Business Academy.

Through his generosity, students focus on team building, business strategy, management, finance, marketing, problem-solving and financial literacy at no cost.

"After his time at Edinboro – where he excelled as a scholar-athlete – he has demonstrated the dedication to his profession, family and community that illustrates the character of our exceptional students," Miller said.

Following his career as an Edinboro student-athlete, the former Fighting Scot hoopster earned his MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. Throughout his career, Williams has been involved in various board activities, including Make-A-Wish America Foundation, Urban League of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Foundation.

“ I fully credit my time and experiences at Edinboro for many of my personal and professional achievements thus far in life. To be recognized by The Boro, I'm humbled, speechless and honestly have emotions that I cannot adequately articulate. ”

XAVIER WILLIAMS





## Victor Hudson reaches personal goals through personal commitment

BY: CHRISTOPHER LAFURIA



### Victor Hudson

Admissions Recruiter Edinboro University  
Majors: Sport and Recreation Administration and Journalism and Public Relations

Victor Hudson chose to become an admissions recruiter at Edinboro because he enjoyed his time as an undergraduate student. His mission was to encourage prospective students to enroll as well.

"My goal is to become an athletic director at the collegiate level, and I believe my current position at Edinboro will prepare me to adequately reach that goal," he said.

Hudson's Edinboro experience began in 2013, after graduation from Nordon High School in Macedonia, Ohio. He was recruited by Coach Wayne Bradford to continue his successful football career playing for Edinboro.

"My experiences while playing Division II football helped mold me into the professional I am today. I learned many valuable leadership skills and gained an excellent work ethic that transferred to every other area of my life as a result of working with the fantastic athletic staff at Edinboro," Hudson said.

While obtaining two degrees in Sport and Recreation Administration and Journalism/Public Relations, Hudson developed many important skills, such as public speaking and collaborating

with others on group projects. In fact, most of his classes included group work opportunities as a considerable portion of the final grade.

"I believe those experiences helped me tremendously in the position I hold today," he said.

After researching programs that fit his specific goal in mind, Hudson came across a graduate program at Edinboro that fit his goal entirely. After completing his undergraduate degree requirements in the summer of 2017, Hudson enrolled in Edinboro's Educational Leadership Program (M.Ed.) in the fall of 2017. So far, the program has further enhanced his leadership skills and introduced him to a boundless number of current professionals in his field.

"I earnestly believe in the benefits of higher education, particularly at Edinboro University. This is proven through my desire to stay at Edinboro for more than five years," he said. "My experiences as an undergraduate student, student-athlete, graduate student and now a full-time employee have prepared me to relate to and attract a vast number of prospective students for Edinboro."

## Falkowski fulfills childhood dream with Edinboro Nursing program

BY: CHRISTOPHER LAFURIA



### Brianne Falkowski

Staff Nurse at UPMC St. Margaret  
Major: Nursing  
Minors: Biology and Psychology

Ever since she was a little girl, Brianne Falkowski wanted to be a professional in the medical field. She never knew exactly what she wanted to do, but she was certain that helping people was the path she would take.

Throughout her education, she shadowed pharmacists and physician assistants, but knew that she wanted to be more involved with direct patient care.

"That's when I found an interest in nursing, and I realized I could do anything I wanted in medicine if I had a bachelor's degree," said Falkowski, who graduated in May 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. "I found that nursing incorporated the perfect balance of science and medicine into a daily job, while also being able to provide services and take care of others."

When looking at schools, Edinboro University was on the top of Falkowski's list.

"Not only was campus beautiful, but pair that with a top-notch nursing program, and it was the best of both worlds," she said.

Upon graduation, Falkowski was hired as a staff nurse at UPMC St. Margaret, located in Pittsburgh. She became one of the first nurses to be hired into the brand-new St. Margaret Medical Surgical Nursing Rotational Program.

This program lasts six months, and during these six months Falkowski will rotate through different medical-surgical units in the hospital. She will then have the option of staying in one of these units or working as a nurse in the resource pool.

"Since I am a new nurse, I am also enrolled in a Nurse Residency Program through UPMC," she said. "This will give me a broad education in medical-surgical nursing and prepare me for a position in an intensive care unit."



# Jacob Poteet

Developer at Certain Affinity  
Major: Game and Virtual World Development

## Poteet transforms internship experience into career opportunity



When Jacob Poteet's fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi, held a career development conference in Chicago, he was all ears. The conference was about building a resume and using LinkedIn to help grow a professional network.

That was all Jacob needed to hear. As a Computer Science major, Jacob has a desire to develop video games that connect and engage. And that desire to connect people exists offline too. When he returned from the conference, he wanted to share what he had learned with his fellow students in the Math and Computer Science Department. He decided to host a talk where he'd share what he'd discovered.

"The best thing about Edinboro is that if you want to do something, you can do it," said Poteet, a native of New Wilmington, Pa. "The size of the school and the professors create an atmosphere where you can actually do things that make a difference."

Jacob didn't just share the career-building skills he learned with classmates, he put them to work for himself.

"Ever since I was a kid I wanted to build video games, so I sat down and made a spreadsheet of more than 100 game developers and just started to connect with them."

After a trip to Austin, Texas, in high school, Jacob found the place for him. "It's just such a cool city with so much going on and great game design scene."

With a goal in mind and a city targeted, he went to work. "I probably connected with more than 100 people and applied to just about every job

out there." That hustle paid off when he landed an internship at Certain Affinity, the largest independent video game developer in Austin. Jacob initially felt overwhelmed, but drew on his experiences at Edinboro working on his final game project, Broken Grandmaster.

"Developing Broken Grandmaster at Edinboro taught me so much that I use in my job every day. We had to create a story, build technology, design the game and manage everyone's roles," he said. "Most importantly we had to work as a team and do things we hadn't necessarily prepared for. That experience made a huge difference."

It also helped turn Jacob's internship into a job offer. After just a few short months, he was promoted to associate technical designer, where he's taking his love of programming and video games to a whole new level.

"When this opportunity came about, I was initially skeptical. I'd have to delay completing my degree," Poteet said.

But he found support at Edinboro from the professor he calls his "hero."

"Professor Ellen Zimmer told me I had to take this opportunity. The rest of the details would work themselves out. I'm so thankful for that."

Jacob is just a few credits short of completing his degree in Computer Science, and he plans to attend classes online to finish over the next year or two. Even prior to graduating, it's very clear that Jacob is developing quite a start to his career.



**"The best thing about Edinboro is that if you want to do something, you can do it. The size of the school and the professors create an atmosphere where you can actually do things that make a difference."**





# Morgan Calahan

Major: Environmental Biology

Concentration: Wildlife Biology

Minors: Environmental Studies and Illustration

## Calahan finds the path to success at the intersection of art and science

BY: GIANNA LEONE

Science and art are often considered contrary disciplines in the academic world, but both require passion, diligence and creativity – qualities Morgan Calahan has in spades.

The 21-year-old Edinboro student developed an affinity for scientific illustration at a young age. Inspired by her artist grandmother, she grew up collecting plants, animals and insects to use as models for her many art projects.

"My grandmother has always encouraged everyone to do what they love," said Calahan, who is pursuing a degree in Biology and a minor in Illustration. "It's exciting to have someone that inspirational in my life."

After beginning her studies at another university and realizing the institution lacked the curriculum flexibility needed to fulfill her career goals, she followed the advice of an old high school art teacher and explored Edinboro. Calahan spoke to

Professor Michelle Vitali, who reassured her about transferring and explained how it was possible for Calahan to pursue the arts and sciences through scientific illustration.

"Professor Vitali has been such an inspiration to me," said Calahan. "I truly came to Edinboro because I knew she would be an amazing professor and mentor."

This past summer Calahan was invited to participate in a two-week trip to Belize with Professor Vitali to take part in the Maya Research Program, a nonprofit organization that sponsors archaeological research at various Maya sites. She participated in archaeological digging with numerous other volunteers and conducted separate forensic illustrations alongside Vitali. She also began her own project, a field study that illustrates plants that the Maya people used for medicines, herbs and other purposes. Her drawings were displayed in a solo art exhibition in November.



Professor Vitali and Morgan Calahan

"My study abroad experience captured what I had only dreamed of doing: exploring a tropical rainforest to observe the diversity of life within and illustrating the unique flora and fauna that surrounded us," said Calahan, a native of Beaver County, Pa. "I illustrate to understand what I am studying, portray that knowledge to others and show the importance of every living organism to promote conservation."

Calahan has also participated in a number of internships, including the Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Seagertown, Phipps Conservatory and the Erie Zoo. In addition to her studies, she works multiple jobs and continues to pursue independent research opportunities.

"I feel that the college experience should not just be going to class and completing assignments, but also gaining practical experience for the real world."





# Late nights, long hours keep Groft motivated at Edinboro

BY: CHRISTOPHER LAFURIA



## Miranda Groft

Major: Psychology with a custom focus in Neuroscience  
Minor: Biology

"You don't get this opportunity to do hands-on research as an undergraduate student at many other places," she said. "At Edinboro, you're an integral part of the entire process – which isn't something that happens elsewhere."

She works late into the night, conducting psychology lab research in the basement level of Compton Hall. She rises early in the morning to greet prospective students at Academy Hall as a member of the Admissions Office team. She adorns herself with an official red blazer as a campus leader in the Highland Ambassadors.

And somehow, between those activities, Miranda Groft finds time to eat, sleep and study. Somehow.

"You have to push yourself outside your comfort zone. College is a really great time to do that," said Groft, a native of Venus, Pa., just 15 miles north of Clarion. "You're given this new opportunity, and you're in this new place where nobody has an impression of who you are. It's a great opportunity to try new things."

Needless to say, Groft has taken advantage of every opportunity that has come her way. Expected to graduate in May 2019 after four years at Edinboro, Groft is pursuing a major in Psychology – with a custom focus in Neuroscience – and a minor in Biology. As a member of Edinboro University's Honors Program and the international Psi Chi Psychology Honors Society, she has already found herself among preeminent scholars.

Groft and a group of five Edinboro students took their undergraduate research project to the National Society for Neuroscience conference in Washington, D.C., which featured more than 30,000 leaders and students in the field of neuroscience.

At the conference, Groft and team presented their research regarding an individual's perception of neuroscience using primers and preparation tactics to stimulate a preconceived notion of the field.

Priming activates a human's association with a subject in their memory, prior to carrying out an action. For example, if a psychologist shows a subject a card with the word "red," they might be quicker to recognize the word "apple."

"People are becoming more aware of how we use things like neuroscience, biology and chemistry to persuade them," said Groft, who presented more than 150 students with articles and infographics about oxytocin and measured the change in perception of the concept.

Expecting to influence perception with pre-arranged content, Groft and company assumed their preparation would change the students' perception on oxytocin – a neurotransmitter in the brain known as the "love hormone" –

and the field of neuroscience. However, this wasn't exactly the case.

"Priming doesn't do anything for that behavior," Groft said, still somewhat surprised, months after completing the research.

Not only did this give Groft exposure to teamwork and a national spotlight, it also helped her develop a mentor-mentee relationship with her faculty advisors – like Dr. Peter McLaughlin, who is enthusiastic about Groft's presentation at scientific conferences during her undergraduate career.

"Most students at other schools don't do that until well into graduate school, but that's something that smart, motivated people like Miranda can do at EU," said McLaughlin, who has served as Groft's research advisor for three years. "She is going to have a stellar career as a neuroscientist."

Groft also spends her limited free time researching graduate schools across the country and planning to pursue a Ph.D. in neuroscience. Wherever she ends up, she will revert to her Edinboro experience as a primer for her own career success.

"You don't get this opportunity to do hands-on research as an undergraduate student at many other places," she said. "At Edinboro, you're an integral part of the entire process – which isn't something that happens elsewhere."

Dr. Wayne Hawley, who oversees research laboratories on campus, echoes Groft's sentiment about continually being involved in undergraduate research.

"With her passion for learning, her strong work ethic and her easygoing personality, Miranda has proven to be an integral part of the Psychology Department and behavioral neuroscience laboratory at EU," he said. "There is little doubt in my mind that Miranda is incredibly well positioned to embark on the next stage of her career – a Ph.D. program in neuroscience."

Groft draws daily inspiration from her parents, Jeff and Dawn Groft, and her brother, Isaac, who studies engineering at Grove City College. Groft said her mother, a first-generation college student, understands her daughter's drive to succeed.

"She really wanted me to be some place where I'd enjoy myself and where I love what I'm doing," the Edinboro honors student said. "And she knew I found it here."

Students. Young Alumni. Prepared for Success.



# Dr. James Drane

Bioethics at Edinboro:  
Dr. James Drane's legacy lives on

BY: SHARON SANTUS



In an unpretentious corner room on the second floor of Edinboro University's Baron-Forness Library, a gray-haired professor sits amid hundreds of file folders, books, photocopies and academic journals.

Here, in the James F. Drane Bioethics Institute, named in his honor, are letters, notes and photographs from former students and former presidents: Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Another photo shows him and an old friend from Buenos Aires, Jorge Mario Bergoglio. Drane considers Pope Francis a trusted friend since their first meeting decades ago in the ancient Argentine city.

Edinboro University and its globally recognized Bioethics Institute, founded in 1969, have been the professor's home for nearly 50 years. This year, the 88-year-old bioethicist is stepping down as director of the Institute. Dr. Drane is not only a bioethicist; he is one of the founders of discipline, also known as medical ethics.

The professor has not always known such distinction. As the oldest of 10 children in a strict Irish-Catholic family, Drane grew up in a row house in an ethnic, working-class neighborhood in Chester, Delaware County. His father worked on the factory floor at Baldwin Locomotive Works.

Drane spent his days at St. James Catholic High organizing school dances and wondering about his future. "Our family never went without, but some things were out of the question. We could never afford a college education.

One day, I was walking home late at night on Ninth Street, and it

came to me. I would be a priest." The thought was not a foreign concept. An aunt was a nun, and an uncle was a priest in an Arkansas diocese and helped arrange his nephew's placement at a seminary in Little Rock.

Studies were taxing, but summers back in Chester brought welcomed relaxation ... and one day, an unexpected telephone call. It was the bishop from Little Rock.

"He said they were sending me to Rome to study at the Gregorian seminary," said Drane. "Rome? Me? I nearly passed out and had to lie down on the couch."

His ocean voyage across the Atlantic turned out to be more comfortable than expected. When he purchased his passage, the bill went directly to the Little Rock Diocese. That prompted another call from the bishop. "You're going first class? Do you know how much this is costing?" Drane laughed as he recalled explaining that his grand accommodations were unintentional.

"I just took the ticket they gave me," he said. "I had no idea it was first class. I still remember looking over the railing at the others on the deck below. I also remember that my meals were very good."

Drane recalls the rigorous academics at the Gregorian seminary. All lectures and texts were in Latin, and the young men were required to speak the

language in and out of class. Drane gained a reputation for talking, which came from both his affable nature and his desire to practice Latin.

The final exam required the nervous young men to meet individually with the bishop, who posed a theological question to each. The bishop had grown weary as the young men delivered their answers in unsure monotones as they struggled to find the appropriate Latin words. Drane said when it was his turn, he delivered answers that might have been short on evidence, but long on passion.

"I decided to just keep talking," said Drane. "I really wasn't too sure what I was saying, but I kept going."

Drane answered with such animation and inflection that the bishop smiled, then chuckled, and finally laughed until tears rolled down his cheeks.

"He could not stop laughing and literally fell out of his chair," Drane said. "When he was on the floor, he was still laughing."

Apparently, the exam went well enough, and Drane was ordained in the Little Rock diocese in 1955. His parents proudly displayed a portrait of their vestments-clad son in the entryway of their Chester home. It was the first thing any visitor would see.

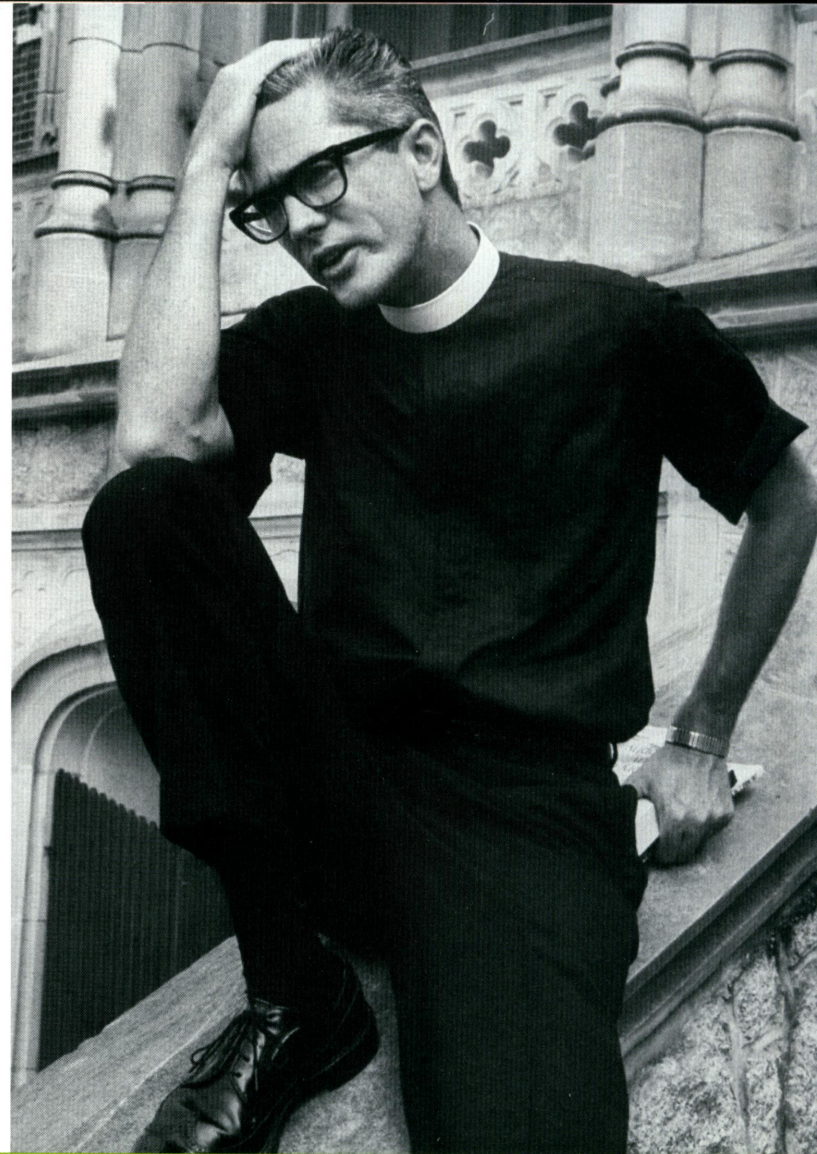






# "RADICAL" PRIEST

After witnessing the condition of malnourished children in poverty and the total lack of healthcare in some countries, Dr. James Drane began to question the Catholic Church's rigid stance on contraception – a move that would earn him the label of "radical."



DRANE POSES FOR LIFE MAGAZINE, 1967

His ordination led to academic opportunities and eventually a Ph.D. from the University of Madrid. Assignments took him to various foreign countries, but it was in Central America that he began questioning the church's teaching involving medicine, compassion for patients and ethics.

He witnessed the sunken eyes of malnourished children, the stench of raw sewage and the near total lack of healthcare. Families, the vast majority Catholic, simply had too many mouths to feed. The experience caused the young priest to question the church's unshakable ban on birth control.

When he returned to his Little Rock diocese, Drane wrote about what he had

seen and about his changing view on contraception. He submitted his columns to the Arkansas Gazette, which published a series of his submissions. The widely read columns soon alerted the Bishop of the Little Rock Diocese.

"One day, an assistant to the bishop came to me and said I was being dismissed from the priesthood," said Drane. "I was shocked."

Drane said he went back to his tiny room at the clergy house not knowing what to do or where to go. It wasn't long before the assistant returned and said he had to leave.

Drane did not leave the priesthood quietly. He fought his dismissal in every

church-related court in the U.S. and Rome. The international news media followed his battle, and in 1967, Life magazine wrote a profile labeling him as the face of the emerging liberal Church.

"It was a very big deal at the time, and the Vatican ultimately ruled against me," Drane said. "I was defrocked."

Drane recalled his mother crying when he told her of the verdict. His next visit home was solemn and silent.

The portrait in the entryway was gone.





## LIFE AFTER THE PRIESTHOOD/THE BEGINNINGS OF THE DRANE INSTITUTE

Drane had lost his priesthood, but not his passion for medical ethics.

He found like-minded scholars at the Hastings Center in Garrison, N.Y., including longtime colleague and fellow founder of the discipline, Daniel Callahan. Together, the two researchers wrote about the collision among medicine, religion and needs of the patient. Soon, bioethics emerged into public policy circles, medical journals and legislative debates.

At the Hastings Center, issues emerged and scholars wrote about abortion, human-subject experiments, physician-assisted suicide and lack of healthcare for the poor.

It was a chance snowstorm on a trip back from Notre Dame in 1967 that brought Dr. Drane to Edinboro University. His flight was forced to land in Erie, and Drane took advantage of the lengthy layover to visit the local university. He met with then-University President Chester McNerney, who was fascinated by Drane's academic background. McNerney persuaded Drane to join the faculty, and the Drane Institute opened two years later.

Fueled by Dr. Drane's earlier experiences in Latin America, the Institute offers scholarships to students from Latin America and the Caribbean to conduct bioethics research. The aim is to create a distinct bioethics culture in those regions that will contribute to a global, interdisciplinary dialogue on medicine and ethics.

As the distinguished professor packs his belongings in preparation for his successor, Dr. Kiarash Aramesh, he thinks back on a rewarding life as a professor...and priest.

"If it weren't for the Church, I never could have gone to college," Drane said. "I've loved my time here at Edinboro University. I've been blessed with an amazing life. I have no regrets."



## KIARASH ARAMESH, M.D., PH.D., NAMED BIOETHICS INSTITUTE'S NEW DIRECTOR

As a young medical doctor in Tehran, Iran, Dr. Aramesh specialized in community medicine. But he soon found himself immersed in issues that extended beyond physical health and wellness. He became increasingly aware of conflicts between medicine and ethical best practices. In 2005, he began teaching a course in Medical Ethics at his medical school alma mater, Tehran University of Medical Sciences. During the next eight years, he conducted and taught more than 40 workshops on Research Ethics and Essentials of Medical Ethics for faculty members of medical universities in Tehran and other cities of Iran. He has served as a member of various committees, including the Specialized Research Ethics Committee of Tehran University of Medical Sciences and the National Committee of Ethics in Science and Technology and Bioethics at the National Commission of UNESCO in Iran. He also played a prominent role in the development of various institutions and activities related to biomedical ethics in Iran, including curriculum development for the first Ph.D. programs in medical ethics and the first national guidelines for ethics in biomedical research. In 2017, Dr. Aramesh was awarded a Ph.D. in Healthcare Ethics from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. In September 2018, he accepted the position of director of the James F. Drane Bioethics Institute at Edinboro University, where he coordinates activities, teaches courses in Bioethics and pursues his own scholarly research on topics such as global bioethics, global governance for health, clinical research ethics and the science-pseudoscience debate and its ethical implications in biomedical research and practice. His goal is to preserve the legacy created by Dr. James Drane and to create a more dynamic, global presence for the Bioethics Institute.



# EDINBORO LAUNCHES 10 NEW PROGRAMS

In response to the evolving needs of students, employers and the regional and broader community, Edinboro University is thrilled to announce 10 new academic programs.

## **Accounting** (major)

Formerly housed under Business Administration, Edinboro's accounting program is one of the best in the region.

## **Applied Technical Leadership** (major)

This Bachelor of Science degree program will allow students to advance their careers while remaining on the job. Those who already have an associate's degree in a technical field can complete 100 percent of their coursework online.

## **Community Arts**

(concentration within Art Education) Building on Edinboro's longtime strengths in education and art, this interdisciplinary program offers a unique opportunity to prepare for a career that allows students to share their talents and advocate for social justice.

## **Data Analytics**

(both a major and a minor) Big data is big business. The foundation for this program is multidisciplinary, combining a background in math, computer science and statistics to ensure students are well prepared to best meet the growing demand for data analysts.

## **Dyslexia** (minor)

Research shows that educational intervention can be highly effective in helping individuals with dyslexia achieve success. This minor within our Early Childhood and Reading Department, is designed for students passionate about helping those who struggle with dyslexia and its limitations.

## **Fermentation Science** (major)

Pharmaceutical fermentation, dairy fermentation and the craft beer and wine industries are growing at an exponential rate. The Fermentation Science program prepares graduates for positions in the food science, pharmaceutical and brewing industries.

## **Forensic Anthropology** (concentration)

Working with medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement officers and the legal community, forensic anthropologists identify remains by determining age at death, gender, height and race. Professionals working in this field also assist in locating missing persons and identifying remains following plane crashes and natural disasters.

## **Geographic Information Science**

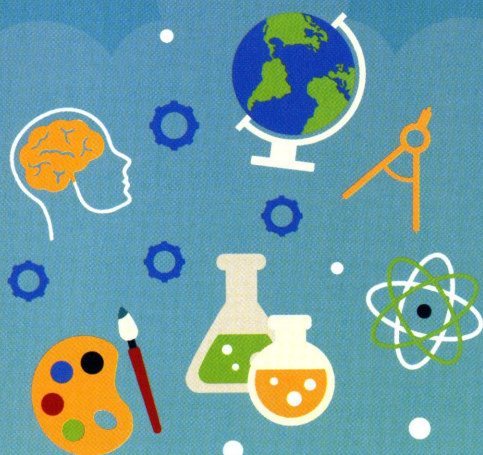
(major) – New career opportunities in GIS are emerging every day. Students enrolled in this program will reap the benefits from a curriculum that blends geography, cartography, computer science and photogrammetry (the use of photography in surveying and mapping).

## **Pre-Occupational Therapy**

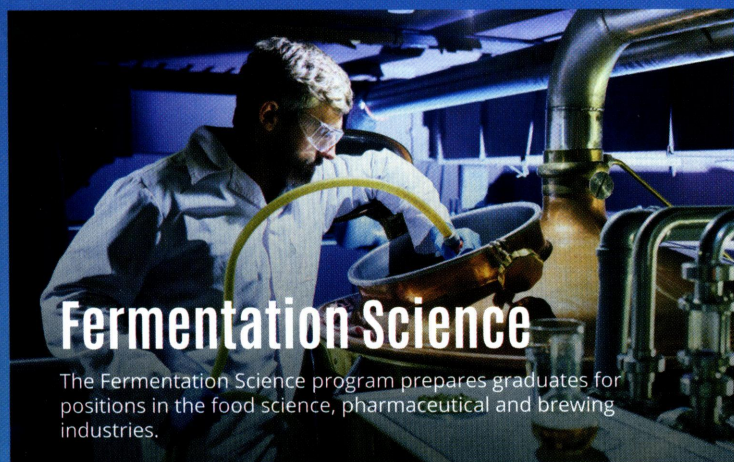
(concentration) – The Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences Pre-Occupational Therapy concentration will put students on the right path to apply to a professional school to earn a Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) degree. The program offers a rigorous curriculum that is heavy on the sciences, including courses in kinesiology and exercise physiology.

## **Pre-Optometry** (concentration)

Optometry is a highly competitive field that requires intense doctoral-level preparation and state licensure. Edinboro's new Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences Pre-Optometry concentration will provide a laser-sharp focus on the development of skills needed to gain admittance to professional schools.







## Fermentation Science

The Fermentation Science program prepares graduates for positions in the food science, pharmaceutical and brewing industries.



## Community Arts

This interdisciplinary program offers a unique opportunity to prepare for a career that allows students to share their talents and advocate for social justice.

# COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS INTEGRATES BIOETHICS INTO CURRICULUM

Edinboro's College of Science and Health Professions is tapping into the University's well-respected and long-standing James F. Drane Bioethics Institute by integrating bioethics into the curriculum for pre-health profession majors.

"These students will become autonomous practitioners in professions that require a high degree of trustworthiness and adherence to a strict code of ethics," said Dr. Roy Shinn, associate dean of the College. "Early exposure to bioethics enables students to better understand the importance of ethical behavior as it relates to patient care and proudly embrace it rather than perceive it as a burden. Health care professionals should always make decisions that hold their patients' welfare paramount."

During the course of professional careers, health care professionals, as well as those in other fields, will be confronted with different ethical dilemmas. "In the case of health care, patients and their families are counting on you to know your stuff and do the right thing even when nobody is watching," Shinn said. "Sound ethical decision-making is improved by an awareness of potential ethical challenges, an understanding of the principles, rules, and rationale adopted by their profession, and practice with responding prior to an actual scenario when self-interest is involved."

Students are drawn to health professions for different reasons, Shinn said. "What's really important is that however you got there, you have made a commitment to do what is in the best interest of the patient. You can't opt out of that."

Shinn said he is delighted that Kiarash Aramesh, M.D., Ph.D., was recently named director of the Drane Bioethics Institute, as well as an assistant professor in the Department of Biology and Health Sciences. Dr. Aramesh replaces founding director, James Drane, Ph.D., who headed the Institute for five decades.

"We wanted to ensure the Institute continued its important mission, and we had this opportunity to add Dr. Aramesh, a physician and bioethicist who had worked for the National Institutes of Health. The Department of Biology and Health Sciences, under the leadership of Dr. Nina Thumser, made several curricular changes to further enhance our health sciences programs, including the addition of bioethics." Dr. Aramesh will be sponsoring student research and guest speakers, and will be working with colleagues across the university to integrate the teaching of bioethics into other areas, Shinn said.





# URBAN SEMINAR

BY: CHRISTOPHER LAFURIA

It all started with a pencil  
for Shannon Kearney.

Diaz borrowed school supplies, but never returned them. During one writing lesson, he asked Kearney – a pre-service teacher from Edinboro – to borrow one of her pencils after his broke.

Not expecting the boy, a seventh grader at one of Philadelphia's Mastery Charter Schools, to return the pencil, Kearney first made him promise to return it at the end of the week.

She almost lost hope of seeing the pencil again, but at week's end, there was Diaz with the pencil, excited to return it to its rightful owner.

"If you show students that you care about them and show them mutual respect, it makes a world of a difference," said Kearney who traveled with Edinboro University students to Philadelphia for the annual Urban Seminar.

This spring, Kearney and company gained practical, hands-on experience in education through two weeks in Philadelphia and the surrounding inner-city climate. Satisfying a field-teaching experience or early



"This seminar is life changing for our students. After being immersed in the diverse culture for two weeks, they return to Edinboro University more confident in their role as educators and more knowledgeable regarding issues and needs of the urban child, school and community."

childhood education elective, the Urban Seminar exposes Edinboro students and educational pre-service teachers to the cultural and education identity of inner-city schools.

Guided by Edinboro faculty members Dr. Heather Baron and Dr. Mary Jo Melvin, from the School of Education, Urban Seminar participants engage in an intensive two-week cultural immersion experience to challenge the myths and stereotypes regarding race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status of the urban child and the urban community.

Edinboro's 19 students and two faculty members gained practical, hands-on experience in inner-city classrooms, attended professional-development seminars and networked with education students from across Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

What began at Edinboro in 1992 has grown into an essential component for Edinboro's pre-service teachers.

"This seminar is life changing for our students," said Melvin, the chairperson of the Early Childhood and Reading Department and Urban Seminar supervisor. "After being immersed in the diverse culture for two weeks, they return to Edinboro University more confident in their role as educators and more knowledgeable regarding issues and needs of the urban child, school and community. It is truly a win-win situation for all involved."

Beyond education and pre-professional lectures, Edinboro students also engaged in cleanup efforts in Philadelphia's Norris Square and renovation projects to clean and paint Molina Elementary School in nearby Camden, N.J.

Trading the teacher cap for a tourist hat, students also visited national landmarks, including the Liberty Bell, Penn's Landing, Chinatown and the Constitution Center.

"The service projects between our school visits were extremely exciting, but also just fun," said Kelly Hinnebusch, an art education and ceramics major at Edinboro. "The students didn't know that we were cleaning up and painting their school, so the idea of them seeing the transformation was so exciting."



Hinnebusch, a graduate of Chartiers Valley High School in Pittsburgh, said the opportunity presented a challenge of opening her mind to different cultural experiences and applying teaching skills – such as classroom management, material management and relationship building – to a real-world environment.

"With the challenge comes immeasurable experience that you can apply to your classroom in and outside of an urban setting," she said. "Being in my senior year, I was able to put my education to work and see those lessons and tactics coming to fruitful fruition."

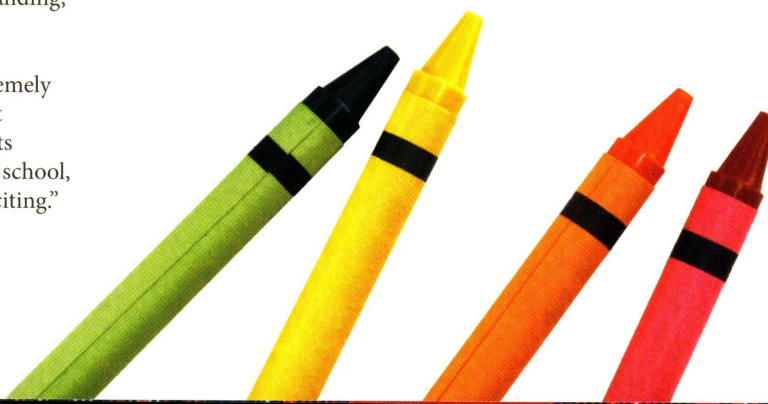
That cultural experience was an eye-opener for Kearney, a native of Cochran, Pa., who graduated high school with just 73 other students. In just her first year at Edinboro, Kearney completed teaching experiences in the Dominican Republic and now Philadelphia.

"I feel as though the biggest lesson we all took away from this trip was to know all you can about your students because it lets them know how much you care," said Kearney, who is pursuing a degree in both middle-level math and English education. "As educators, we can be so much more than someone who meaninglessly spits out information at our students."

With that same pencil in hand, Kearney wrote one word over and over again in her educational journal.

"Heartwarming," said Kearney, who plans to student-teach in Ireland. "I have done so much in my first year, and this journey helped me realize what kind of teacher I want to be."

(Note: Name of elementary student has been changed to protect identity.)







## Dr. Jiang: Economics meets Social Consciousness

BY: CHRISTOPHER LAFURIA

Jingze Jiang was about 10 years old when she figured out she wanted to protect the environment.

The Edinboro University professor recalls her elementary class field trip in Kunming, China, counting the population of seagulls to determine why the number of birds was decreasing rapidly.

"We found that the seagulls were consuming human junk food, which might have been associated with a high mortality rate," said Jiang, an associate professor of Business and Economics at Edinboro.

Since then Jiang has published dozens of peer-reviewed articles and presented at conferences related to environmental economics. Growing up in southern China, she has been

concerned about issues challenging agriculture and social welfare. Now as an adult and academic professional, Jiang is focused on issues such as severe weather and global warming, impact on agriculture production and policies that induce economic risk for farmers.

Her research "El Niño and La Niña Induced Volatility Spillover Effects in the U.S. Soybean and Water Equity Markets" was recently accepted by the highly regarded journal in the field, *Applied Economics*. The study helped farmers to find the better strategy to manage increased market risks associated with climate-change-related extreme weather events.



"My pursuit of thoroughly understanding economic theories and my strong quantitative and analytical abilities allow me to produce high-quality research with high productivity," said Jiang, who joined Edinboro in 2013. "My passion for sustainability is one of my strongest influences, and it inspires me to develop new research projects and keeps me following challenging research problems."

Dr. Scott Miller, dean of Edinboro's School of Business, said that Jiang's research not only impacts her students but also has greater implications beyond academics.

"At a time when social consciousness is growing and the interest in sustainability has risen, Dr. Jiang's research is not only timely but also important to our community," said Miller, who became dean in 2012.

*"Her research brings to light the need for more education as we manage the challenges in our environment."*

Dr. Scott Miller, dean of Edinboro's School of Business

Her next investigation involved the current trend of eliminating single-use plastics – mainly bags and straws – from public consumption and how reward programs drive consumers to change their behaviors.

"The results show that reward programs are effective in reducing plastic bag users in the long term and can increase profits for the stores implementing them," said Jiang, whose paper was published in the "Journal of Industry, Competition and Trade."

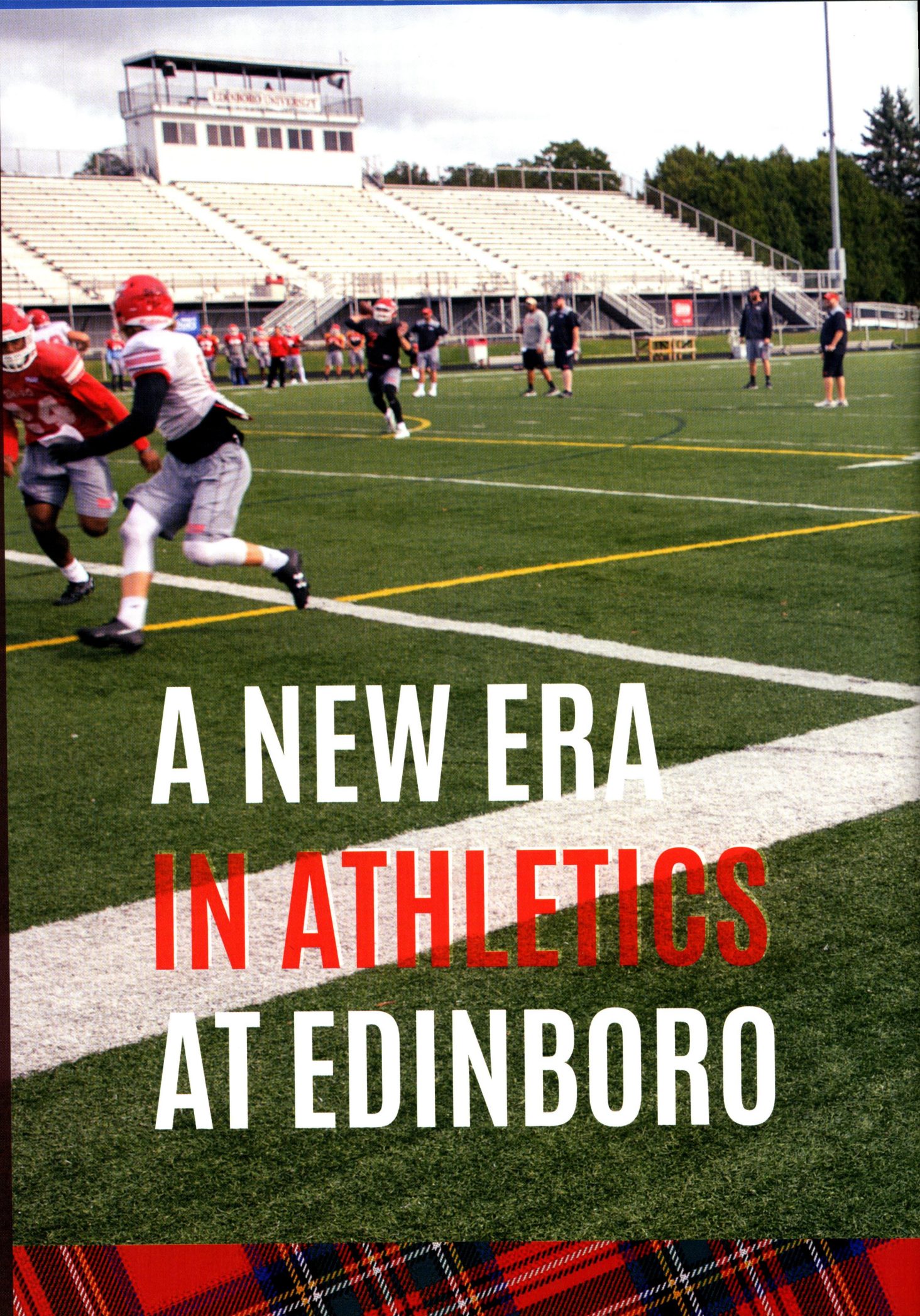
After completing a bachelor's degree in Finance at Shanghai University in 2009, Jiang relocated to the U.S. to earn a master's degree in Statistics and a Ph.D. in Economics from Washington State University. As a faculty member, Jiang's goal is to help students discover their own personal goals by exploring existing research and conducting their own.

"I know I won't be able to finish all of the research about environmental economics," said Jiang, who was nominated as Edinboro's Scholar of the Year in 2016 and Faculty Member of the Year in 2013. "My goal is to educate students and inspire them to find their passions."



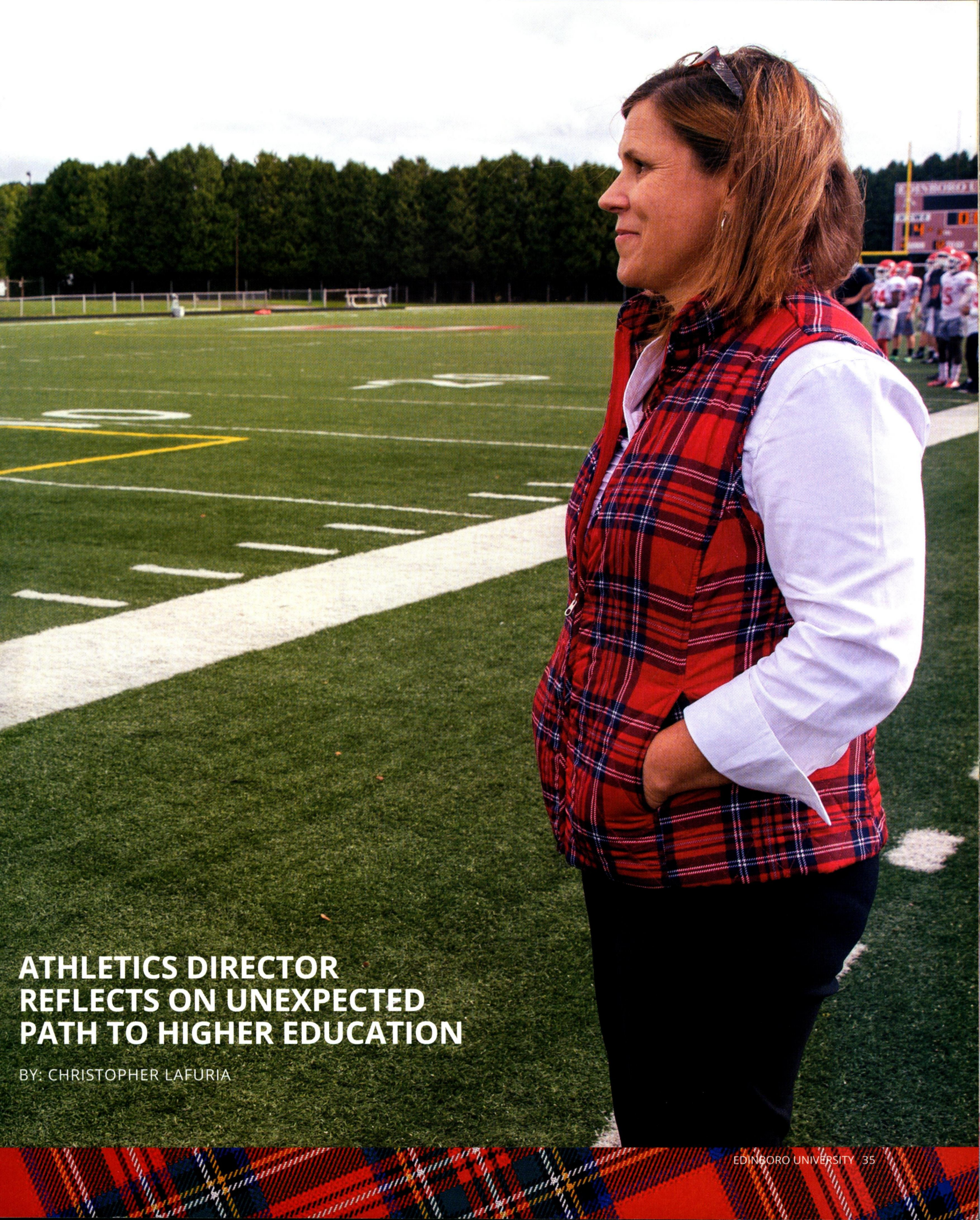
**Researchers estimate that more than 2 million tons of plastic enter the ocean each year from rivers. Located between Hawaii and California, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a landmass of plastic that covers more than 600,000 square miles.**





# A NEW ERA IN ATHLETICS AT EDINBORO





# ATHLETICS DIRECTOR REFLECTS ON UNEXPECTED PATH TO HIGHER EDUCATION

BY: CHRISTOPHER LAFURIA



“Every day I find myself inspired by a student athlete, a coach, or a staff member as they find ways to exceed even our highest expectations. Edinboro is truly for those who strive, and I couldn't be more excited to be a part of Edinboro University and Edinboro Athletics.”

**Dr. KATHERINE ROBBINS**



## Plans can change in an instant.

Dr. Katherine Robbins, Edinboro's athletics director, learned that lesson on the lake during a fateful water skiing tournament.



During her eight years teaching middle school in the Pittsburgh area and coaching water skiing in the summers, Robbins didn't originally see herself in higher education. No, after being a 3-time All-American water skier at the University of Central Florida and the University of Louisiana, Monroe, the professional tour was calling her name.

However, a severe knee injury interrupted Robbins' career trajectory and caused the student-athlete to call an audible.

"I just thought I would spend my life skiing and teaching," said Robbins, who continued to compete as an amateur at the state, regional and national level even after her injury.

Robbins joined Edinboro's faculty in 2012 after earning a doctorate from Clemson University in 2010, where she also worked as a strategic tutor, mentor and eventually learning specialist in athletics.

The shift in plans led Robbins to discover her true passion in life – helping student-athletes succeed. After four years of working with the Tigers in Clemson's Student-Athlete Enrichment Program, Robbins joined the ranks of higher education as a faculty member at Southern Indiana before coming to Edinboro and being named athletics director.

"I never thought I'd become an athletic director," said Robbins, who moved into the role on May 14 following her tenure as professor and assistant chairperson of Edinboro's Department of Counseling, School Psychology and Special Education. "But it seems only appropriate in terms of combining my teaching experience and my service to student-athletes into one role."

A native of Pittsburgh, Robbins has collaborated with Fighting Scots for the past three years, after launching an academic mentoring program for underprepared student-athletes that mirrored the program she worked in at Clemson. In collaboration with Todd Jay, associate athletic director, and coaches Chris Bess and Chris Rhodes, Robbins has helped hundreds of Edinboro student-athletes make

the transition from high school to college and persist through graduation.

During the program's pilot year in 2015, four student-athletes participated and worked one-on-one with Robbins. In 2016, that number reached over 40 and has since maintained between 40 and 50 student-athletes each year, served entirely by volunteer peer and faculty mentors.

**"Edinboro has such an excitement toward athletics because many of our student-athletes excel both in their sport and in the classroom" said Robbins, who learned the balance of classwork and competition as a student-athlete herself. "We are also looking beyond competition and developing students into outstanding future leaders."**

Robbins credits Dr. Michael Hannan, interim president, all the Edinboro leadership across campus and everyone in the Athletics Department in her conversion from the classroom to athletics.

"Being able to interact with, learn from and rely on such a great supporting group of coaches and staff has really helped my transition into this role," she said. "Every day I find myself inspired by a student-athlete, a coach or a staff member as they find ways to exceed even our highest expectations. Edinboro is truly for those who strive, and I couldn't be more excited to be a part of Edinboro University and Edinboro Athletics."





# EDINBORO TENNIS TEAM GOES GLOBAL

BY: CHRISTOPHER LAFURIA



Since the 2014 – 2015 season, 21 student-athletes from 13 different countries across North America, Central America, South America and Europe competed in both singles and doubles tennis at Edinboro University.

This number represents a significant percentage of international students who enroll at Edinboro under the student visa program. In the fall of 2017, Edinboro welcomed 70 students from 32 different countries, which is a 25 percent increase over the past decade.

Roxana Yeh, who visited the U.S. and Edinboro from her native Argentina when she was 14 years old, is one of the 21 student-athletes on the Fighting Scots roster.

Yeh received an athletic scholarship to compete for the Fighting Scots. Now 23, Yeh graduated from Edinboro in May with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a focus in International Business.

As an athlete, Yeh recorded a 27-19 singles record. But she also used her Edinboro tenure to explore different cultures – with teammates from Germany, Serbia, Colombia and Brazil – and discover culture in the U.S.

"Having women from around the globe as teammates surely taught me a lot and made me more multicultural," said Yeh, who has lived in the U.S. for five years. "Edinboro has helped me grow not only intellectually but also as a person."

To aid the experience of students like Yeh, Edinboro's Global Education Office guides students through the policies and procedures for studying abroad and assists international students with academics and career exploration.

"When we see the changes and growth in our international students during their time at Edinboro, it truly is priceless," said Linda Kightlinger, Edinboro's director of Global Education. "We offer a solid foundation with excellent faculty and support programs and this just becomes their home."

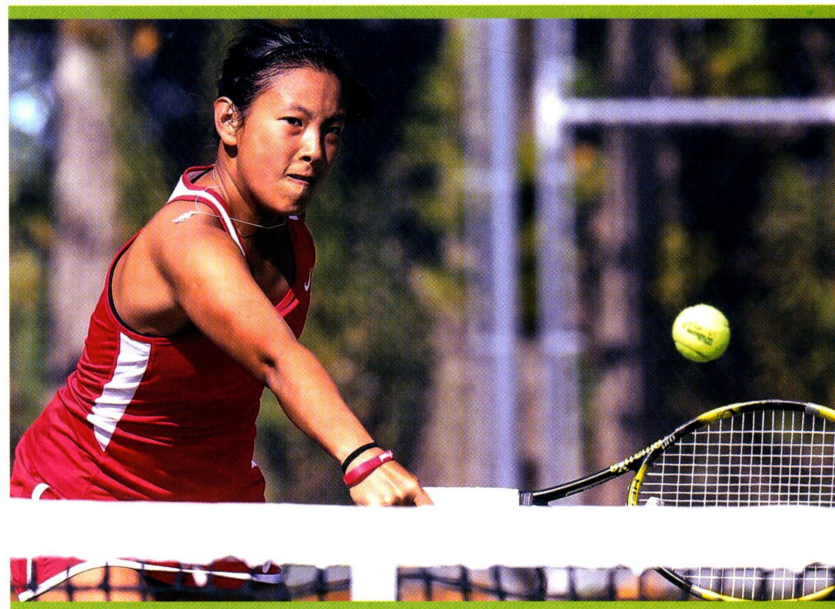
Ranked one of the 2017 Top 30 Safest College Towns in America by SafeWise, Edinboro also allows students to explore higher education with less worries for parents at home.

Head coach Kody Duncan, 2015 Edinboro graduate who competed for the Fighting Scots from 2011 until graduation, received an early introduction to the global competition as a tennis player himself. By the time the Oil City, Pa., native was a junior at Edinboro, he was one of just a handful of American-born student-athletes on the tennis squad.

Exposure to the habits, traditions and language of a global collective helped Duncan structure his approach to coaching.

"Having a roster with players from around the world, you get to learn about vastly different backgrounds," said Duncan, who graduated with a degree in Health and Physical Education. "It's like going on a vacation across the globe and bringing all of those experiences into one place."

In Duncan's first year as head coach, the Fighting Scots earned a trip to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) finals and the NCAA Atlantic Region Tournament.



Yeh graduated from Edinboro in May with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a focus in International Business.







## EDINBORO'S NEWEST VARSITY ADDITION: ESPORTS

- We're looking for players ready to challenge the most competitive gamers in the world on our new team.

Led by Director Chris Rhodes, Edinboro's team will be one of fewer than 100 eSports programs in the country—and the only one in Western Pennsylvania.

The eSports team is part of the Edinboro Athletics program. Team members will need to meet the same academic eligibility and related requirements as every other student-athlete at the University. Edinboro will also be forming a Living Learning Community (LLC) in our residence halls just for eSports team members and supporters.

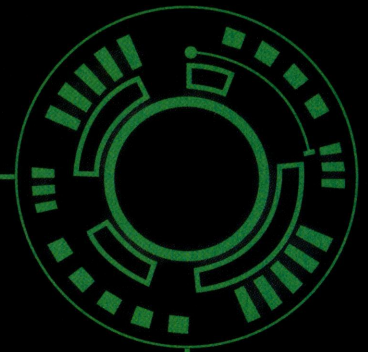
LOADING...

25%

LAUNCHING FALL 2019



## WHY ESORTS AT EDINBORO?



- eSports builds on our nationally ranked programs like Gaming and Virtual World development<sup>1</sup>, as well as Animation.<sup>2</sup>
- The chance to be a part of a team and compete against some of the top gamers in the world.
- A mentally challenging experience in game play and strategy.
- The opportunity to participate in an innovative and growing sports trend.

<sup>1</sup>Animation Career Review placed Edinboro's Bachelor of Science in Computer Science – Game and Virtual World Development track 24th nationally among public schools and colleges and 20th on the East Coast in its 2016 listing of the best game design programs in the United States.

<sup>2</sup>Edinboro's Animation and Computer Animation programs ranked 22nd on the East Coast and 27th among public colleges and universities nationwide in Animation Career Review's 2017 listing of the best animation programs in the United States.



Game and Virtual World Development is the most popular track for Computer Science majors at Edinboro.

### GAME AND VIRTUAL WORLD



Our Animation program is consistently ranked among the best in the country by Animation Career Review.

### CINEMA AND ANIMATION





# Give back to EU

## Your Legacy – Making a Planned Gift

Edinboro University students are the future leaders of our community, our state, our nation. They will teach, invent, create, heal, serve and lead, influencing the lives of our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

When you make a planned gift to Edinboro, you make the future brighter for all of us and for future generations. With your gift, you provide strategic support for Edinboro that will endure, providing opportunities for future generations of students.

We want your gift to benefit you and your family as well.

- **Arrange for a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime.**
- **Make a gift that pays you income for life.**
- **Give life insurance you no longer need or make the University a beneficiary of your policy.**
- **Donate appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares and realize larger tax savings than when you donate cash.**
- **Preserve your estate for your heirs while simultaneously leaving a legacy to Edinboro.**

## Interested?

We can provide valuable information on any of the giving methods mentioned here. Please give us a call at **814-732-1778**.



## MEET AMANDA BROWN SISSEM, EDINBORO'S DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Amanda Brown Sissem, an Erie native with more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, joined Edinboro University as the director of Alumni Engagement June 11. Sissem, who served as the executive director of Erie Arts & Culture since 2012, brings expertise in program development, event planning, fundraising, grant writing and advocacy. She has played a major role in advancing arts and cultural initiatives in the Erie region and has built strong relationships in the community through extensive civic involvement. Prior to her appointment at Erie Arts & Culture, Sissem worked as a program officer at the Erie Community Foundation, where she developed and managed a nonprofit capacity-building program, facilitated grant-review processes and helped manage the Foundation's strategic grant portfolio. Within the community, Sissem is actively involved with Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania, Emerge 2040, VisitErie, Erie Downtown Partnership, Partnership for Erie's Public Schools, Erie's Blues & Jazz Festival and Erie County Poet Laureate Initiative. She is also a member of the Junior League of Erie and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She earned a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Georgia in 1998 and a Master of Nonprofit Management from Regis University in 2007.



### Dear Edinboro,

Thank you for welcoming me to the Edinboro family as your new director of Alumni Engagement! Since joining Edinboro University this summer, I've had the opportunity to get to know our beautiful campus, meet with our talented faculty and staff and to assess the many ways that alumni are engaged with the University through academic departments, the arts, athletics, career development and the Alumni Association.

Along my journey, I've found a campus community committed to facing our challenges, raising our standards and providing exceptional academic experiences at a value-confirming for me that this is the right time to join Edinboro University. While positive momentum is growing on campus, we need your help. As alumni, you are critical to the future of Edinboro. You embody the mission, vision and values of your alma mater. Your success is emblematic of the strength and commitment of the University; you are the best reflection of the Edinboro experience, having benefited from it most fully. At this time of organizational evolution, it's important that we enlist you as champions, engage you as allies in advancing strategic goals and recognize your contributions to your community, to the economy and to the future of Edinboro University.

Your dedication to STRIVE is a reflection of our collective strength and our ability to face challenges head-on. In the coming year, the Alumni Engagement Office will offer new tools to amplify the quiet pride that you repeatedly express when asked about Edinboro. Together, we will work to enhance the reputation of the University and strengthen our network as advocates. We'll present new reasons to visit the Alumni House, not only as a first stop when visiting campus but as a hub for staying connected with the University and with one another. We'll provide new tools for your continual growth and meaningful volunteer opportunities to help recruit and retain the next generation of Fighting Scots. We'll help you express your passion for Edinboro as a fan, mentor, donor and friend. You are at the center of my work. As your director of Alumni Engagement, I believe my most important job is to connect your talent and experience as a Fighting Scot to action. The road ahead is a collaborative one—I look forward to traveling it with you. Thank you for your love of Edinboro University.

Sincerely,  
**Amanda Brown Sissem, BSW, MNM**  
**Director of Alumni Engagement**





## The Annual Fund

Striving to make a difference  
for Edinboro students

When you make a gift to Edinboro University, you are not only contributing to Edinboro's ability to impact the lives of our current students but also assisting in the preservation of the high-quality education EU offers for future generations. Gifts to the Annual Fund directly benefit each and every student by increasing scholarships, enhancing academic programs and enriching the overall educational experience.

Your contributions reach across our University to help deliver extraordinary opportunities for learning and discovery for our students.



### Jessica Gray Director of Annual Giving

Edinboro University is a place for those who strive, and Jessica Gray, '08, is a striver.

From the moment she walked across the stage in McComb Fieldhouse and received her diploma for Speech Communications, she began looking for ways to give back to the University. Nine years later, she joined Edinboro's Advancement team as the director of Annual Giving.

In her role, Gray oversees the planning and implementation of annual fund campaigns and leads the University's Phonathon efforts. She also oversees multiple student organizations, including the Student Philanthropy Council. Members of the council seek to create a culture of philanthropy on campus by helping with Graduation Fair, collecting clothing donations for those in need in the local community and writing holiday cards to alumni.

In addition to her duties at Edinboro, Gray also serves as an Erie Ambassador with the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership and volunteers with H.O.P.E for Erie Animal Wellness, a nonprofit in Erie and Crawford counties that assists stray and abandoned animals.

In June, she and Monica Clem, the executive director of EU's Center for Career Development and Experiential Learning, were named to Erie Reader's Erie's 2018 40 Under 40.

Gray's passion for Edinboro University is contagious, and it drives her to encourage others to embrace their charitable side.

“ I want to help build and encourage a culture of philanthropy in this region. Giving back is so important. It's how communities stay strong. ”





## Fighting Scots are charged up

Have you seen these new charging stations around campus? The five towers were graciously donated by Ryan Doak, an Edinboro alumnus and cofounder of POWER UP™. Founded in 2008, the Baltimore-based company was the first to build and sell public charging kiosks in the U.S. Doak, '96, and his family visited campus in July. EU's Marketing and Communications team designed the graphics that have quickly become popular with students.

Learn more about POWER UP™ at [www.powerupconnect.com](http://www.powerupconnect.com).



**THE SCOTS  
ARE CALLING**

The Edinboro University Phonathon is an integral component of the University's fundraising efforts. During the 2017 – 2018 academic year, the Phonathon team raised more than \$150,000 that will be used to serve the greatest needs of the student body.

Staffed with 22 energetic student callers, the Phonathon team spends 18 hours each week promoting the University and its activities, building relationships and making a case for financial support of the Annual Fund. Through these efforts, student callers learn firsthand how their education is impacted by the generous donations of thousands of alumni and friends.

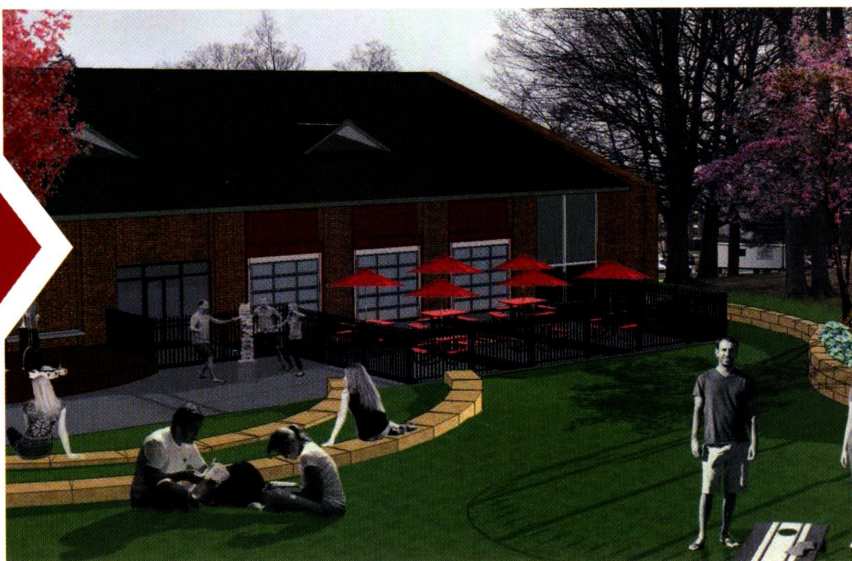
But the Phonathon isn't just about raising money. It's a unique opportunity for students to gain valuable work experience, learn from one another and build confidence and communication skills.

Several alumni have also visited the team to discuss their personal stories and professional achievements. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge with our Phonathon team, please contact Jessica Gray at [jgray@edinboro.edu](mailto:jgray@edinboro.edu).

## THE BORO PIT

Thanks to privately funded donations and a generous gift from Edinboro University's Student Government Association, work is scheduled to begin next spring on a unique outdoor venue for students to relax, unwind, socialize and dine.

The Boro Pit will feature a small stage and outdoor speakers for performances, a meditation garden, a fire pit, shade sails, corn hole, giant Jenga sets, hammocks and an area to display student artwork. Plans for the project were based entirely on student ideas and feedback.

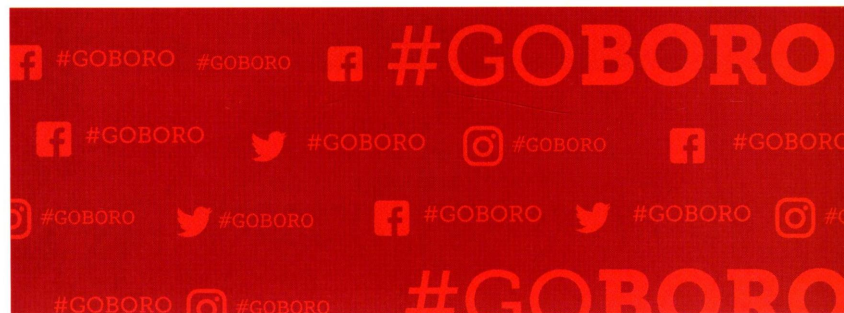
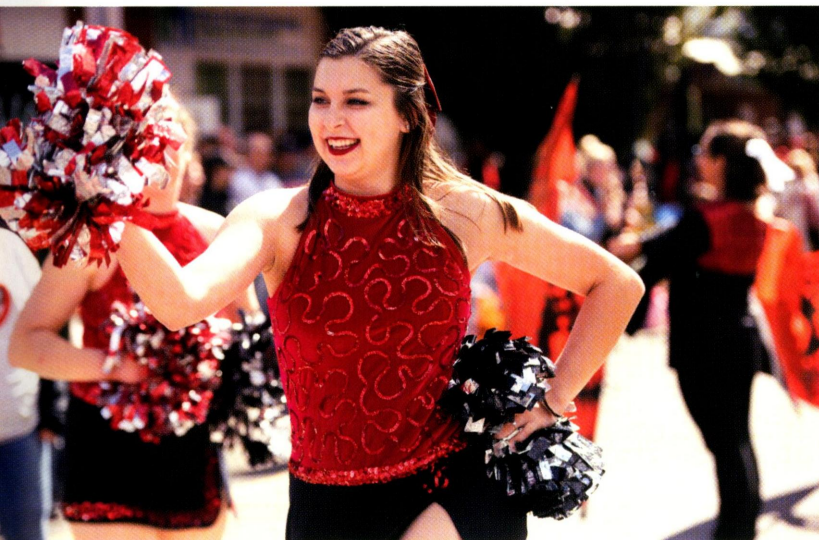




# HOMECOMING 2018









# Our Graduates Are Going Places!

See for yourself.



## STRIVING FOR SUCCESS

6 EMMY AWARDS



won by cinema and animation graduates

## STARTING OFF STRONG

3.6

Average high school GPA for fall 2018 first-year students

95%

first-time pass rate for NCLEX nursing licensure exam

Speech-Language (MA) Pathology grads have a

100%  
PASS RATE

on their national certification exam for 2015 – 2017

## HARD WORK PAYS OFF

95%



of the Class of 2015 – 16 was either employed or attending graduate or professional school within a year of graduating

\$49,974

Our 2015 – 2016 average starting salary was above the national average





# ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

## 1930s

**1938 | Frances (Creacraft) Werling** recently celebrated her 100th birthday at Wesbury Retirement Community.

## 1950s

**1950 | Norma L. Kay** celebrated her 90th birthday in May in Greensboro, N.C.

## 1960s

**1963 | Thomas A. Jambro, Ph.D.,** has been appointed to the Burchfield Penney Art Center's board of trustees. Jambro has served on the advisory boards of the Castellani Art Museum, Graycliff Conservancy, Young Audiences of Western New York and the Buffalo Arts Commission. He is also a past president of the New York State Council of Administrators in Art Education. (Below)



## 1970s

**1971 | Medis Kent** designed "Outrageously Made Garments," one-of-a-kind creations that were featured at the Meadville Council of Arts. Kent has shown her work internationally and throughout the Erie region.

**1972 | Timothy W. Ayers** won a 2017 Selah Award in the speculative fiction category for his novel, "Cruel Messenger." His latest books include "Magical Murder Mystery Tour" and "Buffalo Bill and the Magic Amulet."

## 1980s

**1982 | Dr. Joseph M. Boesch** received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Mercyhurst Preparatory School. This award recognizes an outstanding alumnus who has achieved a high level of career success while being generous in support of their alma mater.

**1982 | Edward M. Charney** teaches painting and drawing at Wittenberg University. His collection, "Recent Observations," was on display at Dutoit Gallery in Dayton, Ohio, and his paintings are exhibited in museums and private collections throughout the region, including the Keny Gallery in Columbus, Ohio.

**1982 | Gerald Clark** was featured in the Netflix series "Evil Genius," which details Erie's Pizza Bomber case. Clark served as the lead FBI Special Agent on the high-profile case.

**1982 | Frank S. "Pizza" Purrachio** and members of Lambda Chi Alpha dedicated a new plaque by Mallory Lake on campus to honor every brother of the Beta Delta chapter.

**1982 | David L. Weber** authored "Pennsylvania Oil Region Machine Shops and Foundries Helped Win 'The Great War': Beginning of 21st Century Industrial Diversification." The scholarly research article was published in The Oilfield Journal. Weber is a freelance writer and historical researcher.

**1985 | Mary Chilcott** retired after 31 years as a physical education teacher in the Newark Central School District in Newark, N.Y. After obtaining a bachelor's degree at Edinboro, she earned her master's degree in Recreation from Memphis University.

**1988 | Paul G. Honatke** showcased his acrylic paintings at The Artists' Studio in the Foothills from June 1 through August 11. The solo exhibition was titled "Portraits of Women."

**1989 | Dr. Joseph W. Mancuso** was named the superintendent at Eastern York School District in July 2018. In addition to his bachelor's degree in Education from Edinboro, Mancuso earned two master's degrees from Shippensburg University and a doctorate from Widener University.



## 1990s

**1991 | Donald L. Robson's** "Occupations" series, a portrayal of working men and women from the 1950s, is featured in "The Class Pictures" exhibit at the Zuckerman Museum of Art on the campus of Kennesaw State University.

**1992 | Joe Bolash** was appointed general manager of Hilton Austin. He and his wife, Melissa, and their three children, Milana, Joey and Zach, enjoy traveling and exploring new cities. (Below)



**1995 | Bridget M. Miller** was appointed vice principal at Seneca Valley Middle School in Harmony, Pa. Miller has been a teacher in the school district since 1997.

**1995 | Peter M. Murphy** was named principal at Thomas Jefferson High School in Jefferson Hills, Pa. He previously served as principal at Gateway High School.

**1997 | Dr. Eric M. Wiser** was elected to the Board of Directors of the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP) during the Academy's Annual Family Medicine Weekend in April 2018. Dr. Wiser has been a member of the OAFP since 2007. His term as a board member will last three years.

**1998 | Cory J. Bonnet**, a Pittsburgh-based oil painter, was named the 2017 Preservationist of the Year by the Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh. His work, "Visions of Pittsburgh," was recently on display at Bonnet's Shehady Gallery in Pittsburgh

**1998 | Jennifer L. Johnston** was recently named principal at Cochran Elementary School. Prior to accepting her new role, Johnston was the assistant to the superintendent in Lakeview School District, located in Mercer County, Pa.

**1999 | NaShonda Bender-Cooke**, a teacher at the Carroll Leadership in Technology Magnet Middle School in Raleigh, N.C., was featured on one of three covers of the Sept. 24, 2018, edition of Time Magazine. (Below)



## 2000s

**2002 | Stephen E. Heywood** was featured in the Sept. 2018 issue of Ceramic Monthly. In the article, "Naturally Manufactured," Heywood credits a semester-long assignment during his graduate work at Edinboro for his lifelong interest in industrial forms.

**2004 | Amber D. Blashak** was hired as Chautauqua Institution's human resources director. Most recently, she served as human resources manager for Scott Enterprises in Erie, Pa.

**2004 | Aaron D. Rowe** won the 27th annual Baltimore Festival 5K with a time of 15:15. As a student-athlete at Edinboro, Rowe earned All-American honors in cross country and track.

**2005 | David W. Ferry** was hired as a reporter and page designer by Times Observer in Warren, Pa. He previously served as museum interpreter and art handler at the Frederic Remington Art Museum in Ogdensburg, N.Y.

**2005 | Kevin Maziarz** was named to the Crawford Central School Board in April 2018.

**2007 | Sara J. McMillan Guerrein** is the owner and founder of Moxi Hair Salon LLC. She was nominated to Erie's 2018 40 Under 40 by the Erie Reader.

**2008 | Gregory J. Grasinger, Esq.** serves as an attorney for SafeNet. Grasinger was named to Erie Reader's Erie's 2018 40 Under 40.

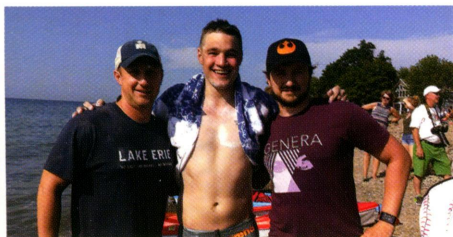
**2009 | Eli Peyronel** was honored at Pittsburgh's 2018 Law Enforcement Agency Directors (LEAD) awards for his outstanding work as a detective sergeant with the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office. (Below)





**2009 | Kristopher M. Reis** was named principal at H.L. Trigg Community School in the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools district.

**2009 | Gregory J. Roberts** became the 22nd person to successfully swim the grueling 24-mile course across Lake Erie from Long Point, Ontario, to Freeport Beach. The former Edinboro student-athlete teaches math and coaches swimming at Erie High School. (Below, far right.)



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## 2010s

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**2010 | Domenic J. DelGreco**, the Youtheatre and Education director at the Erie Playhouse, was nominated to Erie's 2018 40 Under 40 by the Erie Reader.

**2010 | Julie M. Skelly**, the assistant principal at Fairview Elementary School, was named to Erie's 2018 40 Under 40 by the Erie Reader.

**2010 | Danielle C. Yoder** is the new principal at Easterly Parkway Elementary School. Yoder had been principal of Penns Valley Elementary and Intermediate School since 2015 and was previously principal of Centre Hall-Potter Elementary School and Miles Township Elementary School for three years.

**2011 | Katie A. Huba** is the director of Opportunities for Academic Success in Inclusive Settings (OASIS) Program at Mercyhurst Northeast. She was named to Erie's 2018 40 Under 40 by the Erie Reader.

**2011 | Melissa A. Kenney**, a Philadelphia-based artist who creates layered works using cardstock, launched Kenney Kut-Outs & Illustrations. In June, she demonstrated her intricate paper cutting technique at Merion Art Adventure in Ardmore, Pa.

**2011 | Eric F. Morrill** joined the Bucknell University wrestling staff as an assistant coach. Morrill spent three seasons at Ohio University, where he helped mentor one All-American and 11 NCAA qualifiers.

**2013 | Maxwell B. Niggel** was hired as the head men's and women's swimming and diving coach at Allegheny College. Niggel, who previously held assistant coach positions at Clarion and Gannon Universities, was a highly decorated student-athlete at Edinboro University.

**2013 | Kimberly K. Rees** is the new superintendent of Austin Area School District. Previously, she served for 21 years as the district's principal/school counselor.

**2015 | Anthony A. Nathal** was named vice president of operations at Lakewood College in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

**2016 | Jamilia D. Gates** is the community schools director at Safe Harbor Behavioral Health of UPMC Hamot. She was nominated to Erie Reader's Erie's 2018 40 Under 40.

**2016 | Clair J. Heitzenrater** exhibited her show, titled "memento mori," at the Station Gallery in Lock Haven, Pa. A contemporary painter, Heitzenrater has displayed her work at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh and the Erie Art Museum, and she was a featured artist in Fresh Paint Magazine.

**2017 | Katherine M. Warren** is employed as a behavior technician for the Vista Foundation in Hershey, Pa., working with children with severe autism and their families.

**2018 | Kaitlyn E. Hallock**, who graduated summa cum laude in May with a bachelor's degree in Music and a minor in Psychology, earned a national fraternity award for academic success and organizational leadership. She was named the 2018 National Collegiate Leadership Award recipient by the Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI) international music fraternity.

**2018 | Jaymon K. Mason**, a former Edinboro University men's basketball standout, signed a contract to play for the Cape Breton Highlanders in the National Basketball League of Canada.

**2018 | Ty J. Schoffstall** was named assistant wrestling coach at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington.

### Stay connected with EU

Edinboro University's successful alumni are its greatest ambassadors. Let your success be an inspiration to current and future students and stay connected with your friends and classmates. Send news about your career and life milestones to [eup\\_alumni@edinboromagazine.com](mailto:eup_alumni@edinboromagazine.com) or call the Office of Alumni Engagement at 814-732-2992.





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