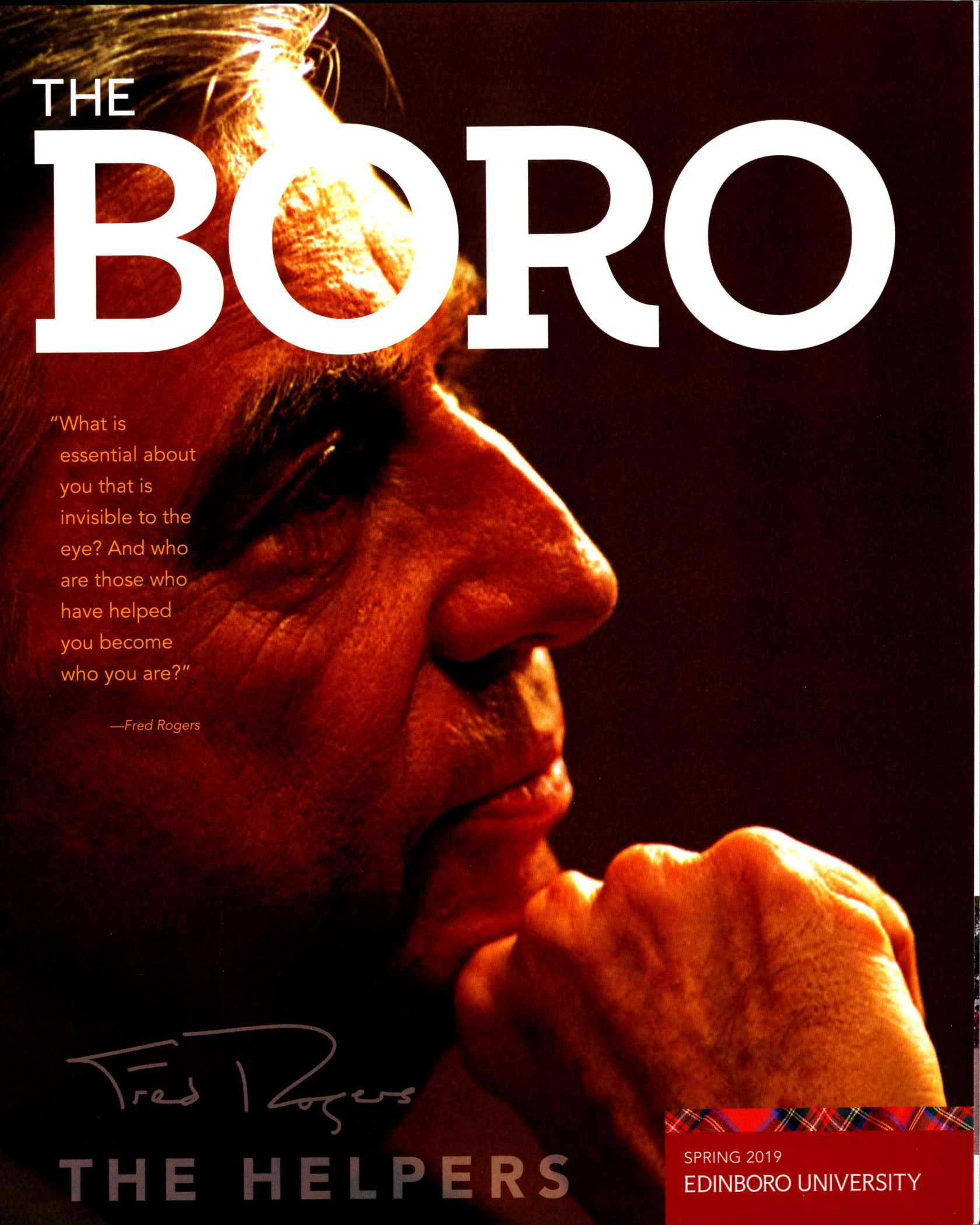




THE BORO

"What is
essential about
you that is
invisible to the
eye? And who
are those who
have helped
you become
who you are?"

—Fred Rogers

Fred Rogers

THE HELPERS

SPRING 2019
EDINBORO UNIVERSITY

THE BORO

SPRING 2019 | VOLUME 30 | NO. 1

CORRESPONDENCE

Marketing and Communications
Edinboro University
219 Meadville Street
Edinboro, PA 16444
ph. 814-732-2193
fx. 814-732-2342
communications@edinboro.edu

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Dr. Michael Hannan, interim

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Angela Burrows, executive editor

MANAGING EDITOR

Kristin Brockett

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND BRAND IDENTITY

Bill Berger

WRITERS

John Altdorfer
Kristin Brockett
Kathryn Dolecki, intern
Christopher LaFuria
Gianna Leone, intern

EDITOR

Gloria Ruane

PHOTOGRAPHY

BD&E
John Altdorfer
Mike Conway
Rob Frank
Matt Kleck

PUBLICATION DESIGN

BD&E, Pittsburgh
Bdeusa.com



EDINBORO.EDU

Past and present issues of the Edinboro Magazine
can be found at edinboromagazine.com

CONTENTS

- 2 A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 4 FEATURED STORY: THE HELPERS
- 24 WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT GAME AND
VIRTUAL WORLD DEVELOPMENT
- 26 MORE THAN JUST BOOKS:
A LIBRARY EVOLUTION
- 30 BOB JAHN: THE JAHN LEGACY
- 34 JIM ROBERTS: MARATHON MAN
- 36 CAMPUS GEMS
- 40 ADVANCEMENT
- 42 SAVE THE DATE
- 43 ALUMNI IN THE NEWS
- 46 FACULTY MENTORS HELP BUSINESS
MAJOR CARVE A CAREER PATH
- 48 ETHAN DENNIS: A TASTE OF THAILAND

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.

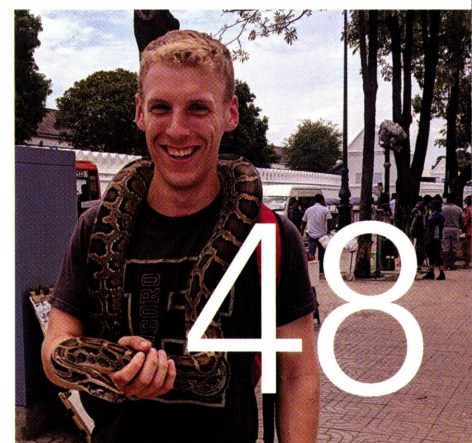
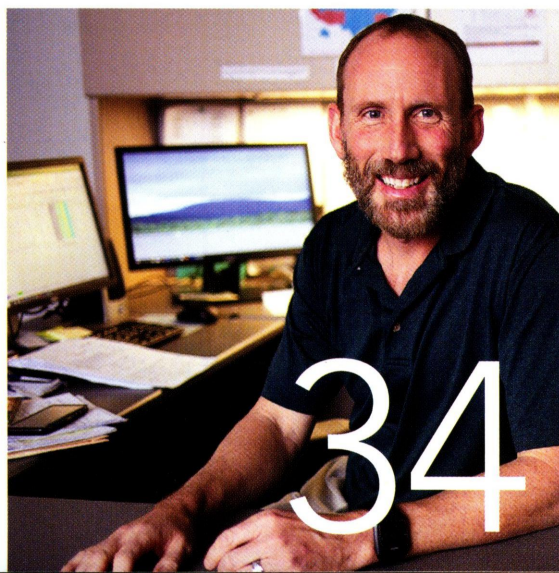


THE BORO

Welcome to another issue of "The Boro" magazine. This twice-yearly publication highlights news of Edinboro students, faculty and alumni, using photos, design and text to share the Edinboro story. It's a really good story!

Please send comments to communications@edinboro.edu.

Enjoy!





A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Fighting Scots,

Having just wrapped up another academic year, one in which I traded my provost's hat for the president's office as interim, I've found myself reflecting. It's been another busy year, one that has come with its own challenges and opportunities, rough waters and triumphs. Through it all, I have remained very hopeful and proud, buoyed by our collective progress since August and the remarkable spirit so characteristic of Fighting Scots.

It's been a good year.

I arrived at Edinboro more than 30 years ago, fresh out of a Ph.D. program. In the years since, I've served as a faculty member, department chair, dean, provost and, since April 2018, as interim president. I've found the prism has shifted a bit with each new role, providing me with a different perspective.

My time as president has reinforced for me that no leader can move an institution forward without a team of very competent and committed colleagues. I am grateful to the hardworking staff and faculty who demonstrate every day their commitment to and support for our students. And the students, they have inspired me, energized me and given me a sense of purpose.

I am also grateful for the very loyal alumni and friends, who have been so generous with their time, talent and treasure. They can be counted among Edinboro's greatest ambassadors.

I invite you to read the following stories of some of our proud Fighting Scots, all of whom have worked to make the world a little better by offering a helping hand.

To all, I say thank you for your efforts, your encouragement and your support. I have been humbled and inspired.

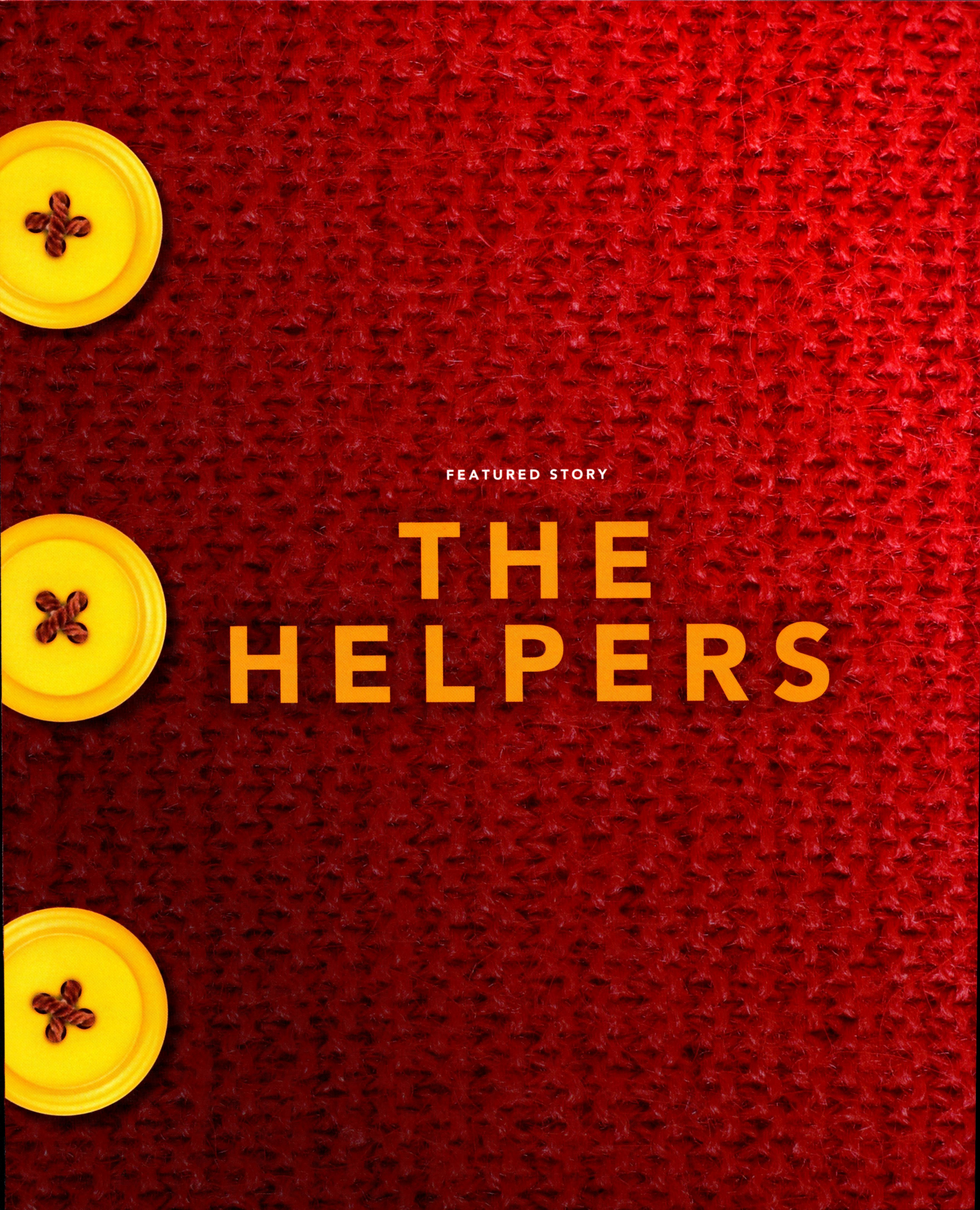
Best wishes for a great summer.

Dr. Michael Hannan
Interim President

FOR THOSE WHO STRIVESM

DURING THE PAST NINE MONTHS, WE'VE:

- Added 10 new academic programs with more to come.
- Announced the fall 2019 launch of an eSports team that will be housed in a space that is looking great.
- Launched a marketing campaign that captures the essence of our students, faculty, staff and alumni. We are a community of strivers with the persistence and grit to push forward, recognizing the work is never done.
- Continued to increase our admitted-student quality and seen a significant rise in our first-to-second-year retention rate.
- Made significant progress on a strategic plan that focuses our energies on the success of our students and the University for the coming years.
- Welcomed hundreds of graduates into our alumni ranks and hundreds of new students into the fold.



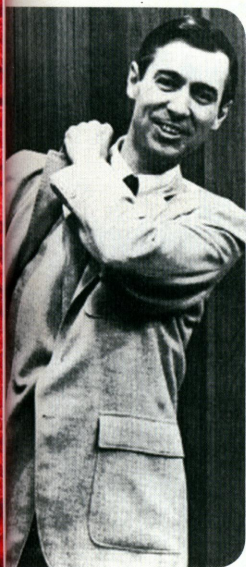
FEATURED STORY

THE HELPERS

*"When I was a boy and I
would see scary things in the
news, my mother would say to me,
Look for the helpers.*

*You will always find people who
are helping."*

Fred Rogers



Edinboro University has been producing "helpers" since its founding in 1857 as Edinboro Academy, a private training school for teachers. For more than 160 years, our graduates have gone on to serve as social workers, teachers, business leaders, artists, school administrators, environmental scientists ... making their communities all the richer by responding to needs.

As we anticipate the October release of "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," a film focusing on the life's work of Fred Rogers, beloved star of long-running PBS program "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," we thought it appropriate to celebrate the Southwest Pennsylvania native by recognizing our own helpers.

Rogers was Edinboro's commencement speaker in spring 1998. During his remarks, he recounted the story of asking a 12-year-old friend what he should say to graduating seniors. He had met the girl several years earlier at Johns Hopkins Hospital, just after she had survived a very complicated brain surgery. Her advice was to tell the graduates:

'Hi, my name is Fred Rogers. And I am here to tell you to do little favors for people. They will like you and feel better about the world. And then they will do little favors for other people.'

Those featured in the following pages represent just a small fraction of Edinboro graduates who have been doing "favors" for people as they've forged their careers, serving as helpers to their families, friends and the broader world.

We invite you to read their stories.

From fun ties to desktop demos, physics professor sets the stage for learning

By Kristin Brockett

FAST FACTS ABOUT DR. KARIM HOSSAIN

HIS HERO:

Charlie Brown

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"If you get, give. If you learn,
teach." — *Maya Angelou*

RANDOM FACT:

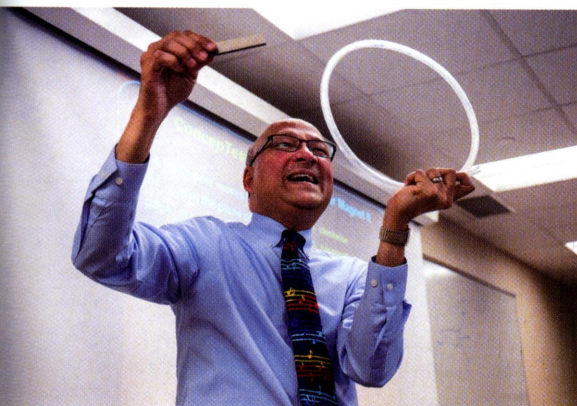
He never wears the same tie
twice in the same semester.

NICKNAME:

Mr. Wizard

CHILDREN:

Karim and his wife, Barb,
have one daughter, Lorraine
Amena, who is working on
her Ph.D. in NanoEngineering
at the University of California
San Diego.



Nervous laughter erupts from a classroom in Cooper Science Center as Dr. Karim Hossain delivers his signature first-day-of-the-semester joke.

"Why did the M&Ms go to class?" he says. "Because they wanted to be Smarties."

The next PowerPoint slide reads, "I would like you to address me by my first name. In return, hopefully you will allow me to address you by your first name. As equals, we can learn from each other."

Outfitted in a blue button-down shirt and M&M tie – another first-day staple – the seasoned physics professor is setting the stage for the next 15 weeks.

As Karim glances at the students sitting stiffly near the back of the room, he recognizes the look of apprehension on their faces. Many of his students, especially nonphysics majors, enter the course with negative preconceptions about the discipline.

He knows that physics can seem daunting, but through active research and three decades of practice, Karim has perfected the teaching formula. His approach involves 50% preparation and 50% performance.

"The first day is important," said Karim, who joined Edinboro's Physics and Technology Department in 1987. "The first chapter of a book is where the author gets you hooked. On the first day, I try to get them hooked."

Drawing inspiration from Bill Nye the Science Guy and Mr. Wizard, Karim uses hands-on experiments to demonstrate basic concepts. It's not uncommon for him to be standing on the desk at the front of the class demonstrating the impact of air resistance on acceleration of gravity or illuminating lightbulbs using a potato and some copper wire. Each day's lesson builds on the last.

"The problem is that we memorize too much without understanding it. If you miss one aspect of it, you won't know how to do it," said Karim, who holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Learning and Instruction at the State University of Buffalo. "How do we avoid memorization? Through concept building."

Every 10 minutes, Karim poses a multiple-choice question based on the material that was covered. Students are asked to hold up a flashcard indicating the answer. If 80% of the students get it right, he knows it's time to move on. Otherwise he'll take a few steps back and review the concepts.

"Traditional teaching does not work with the new generation," he said. "So how do you teach them? You teach them the way they learn. Our job is to learn how they learn."

Books about teaching methods line the shelves of his office, but he knows that the process is ever-evolving. According to Karim, it's all about creating an environment where students feel comfortable enough to actively participate in the conversation.

"Traditional teaching does not work with the new generation," he said. "So how do you teach them? You teach them the way they learn. Our job is to learn how they learn."

At the beginning of each semester, he passes out a questionnaire for students to fill out about their individual learning styles.

"My teaching is research-based," he

said. "If I know you are an audio learner, I want to make sure you hear me well. If you ask me a question, I will address you the way you learn."

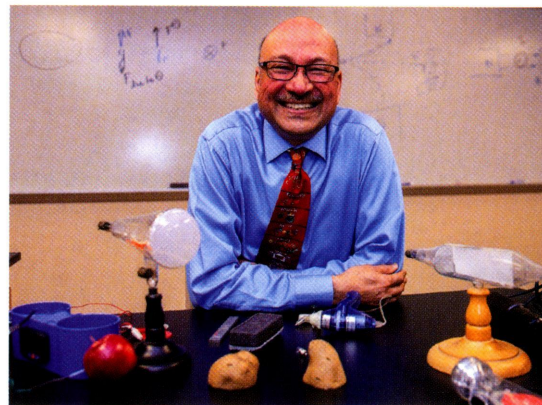
The approach has proven effective; just ask any of his students. A message penned on the white board adjacent to his desk reads, "Hey, Karim! It's your favorite student (Jamie) here! Thanks for being the best teacher ever! You make physics so fun!"

Karim's passion for education began early. Growing up in Bangladesh, an impoverished country with one of the highest population densities in the world, he knew that education was his ticket to expanded opportunities. And there wasn't much room for error.

"If you fail a class in Bangladesh, there are 50 students waiting in line behind you," said Karim, the youngest of nine children. "My parents made sure, whether we ate two good meals or not, that we went to college."

While other children his age were outside playing sports, Karim was tutoring neighborhood kids at their parents' request. After earning his undergraduate degree, he moved to the United States and earned a master of science in Physics from Southern Illinois University. He taught for a few years in Freeport, Ill., where he met his wife, Barb, before moving to Edinboro.

Thirty-one years later, Karim knows that students will probably forget many of the physics principles he taught them. They may even forget his outlandish teaching demonstrations. But he hopes they'll never forget the way he made them feel.



CONQUERING MOUNTAINS

SOCIOLOGY PROFESSOR PROPELS STUDENTS TOWARD THEIR OWN SUMMITS

By Gianna Leone

Blustery wind stings the sliver of skin that the thick goggles and scarf around her chin leave exposed. The cold strangles the air in her lungs. At 19,341 feet above sea level, oxygen levels are roughly half of what she is accustomed to. Each labored breath is an icy knife cutting her throat. Glacial silt blankets the black slopes for miles, thick snow and ice glittering against volcanic rock beneath the bright Tanzanian sun.

Her boots crunch as she moves forward and plants her flag in the snow: a red banner billowing with the Edinboro University logo.

Dr. Irene Fiala has scaled Mount Fuji. She's trekked Mount Tai and the Mount Everest base camp, but this journey — to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro — requires more strength and willpower than most. Climbers have to adapt to five ecological zones, from the thick rainforest to the stark, dry desert, before they can reach Uhuru, the highest peak of Africa's stratovolcano.

The associate professor of Sociology has powered through to the top, and she's teaching her students how to climb summits of their own.

Fiala grew up as a first-generation American; her family emigrated from Germany. After her father died, she grew up with her mother, who could speak only broken English and struggled to provide for the family. As a young child, Fiala struggled in school, having to learn the English language quickly, but soon found her footing and excelled as a high honors student.

"[University was not something that

mom didn't even finish middle school."

But obtaining a college education became her goal, and she set her sights on the peak: a doctorate. She found her niche in the Sociology program at Kent State University, connecting with the marginalized groups in the program as a daughter of immigrants and a woman who loves shattering stereotypes. Financially strapped and unfamiliar with university life, she triumphed.

Settling as a professor at Edinboro University has given her many travel opportunities. She's joined students on study abroad trips to China, Poland, Mexico and Ireland. She's had solo adventures in Africa, Antarctica and the Czech Republic where she discovered her favorite city thus far, Prague. She's even hung out with Buddhist monks in a Tibetan monastery and was blessed by the high-ranking Panchen Lama.

"Unless you define something as a problem, there's nothing people are gonna do about it."

"I tried to take a selfie with (the monks), and I guess I stepped into the area that was off-limits," Fiala said, "'cause the next thing I know there's this cop standing right behind me, and I'm thinking, 'This is one of my best selfies.'"

Each adventure is more humbling than the last, and Fiala always returns with a better understanding of the

freedoms. Her office is decorated floor to ceiling with unique trinkets and souvenirs from the seven continents. Her next trip will be to the Black Forest in Germany.

Bold and confident, she never fails to speak her mind about issues she's passionate about. As an animal rights advocate, Fiala is vice president of the Ashtabula County Animal Protective League, where she promotes adoption and joins in animal rescues. Certified in Animal Shelter Management, she regularly attends local protests and court hearings.

"I make sure judges know that the animal advocate groups are out here watching the case," Fiala said.

Three years ago, she launched the Animals in Society class at Edinboro, the first course of its kind in the PASSHE system. The goal is to encourage students to think about their relationships with animals, and Fiala offers opportunities for them to collect donations in a service learning project.

Fiala does the same in her victimology course, where students collect donations for domestic violence shelters for women.

"Unless you define something as a problem, there's nothing people are gonna do about it," said Fiala, who also volunteers at the fire department. She was the oldest woman in her certification course at the state fire academy by at least 20 years, but that didn't stop her.

That same passion carries through to the classroom, where she inspires



THE HELPERS

DR. IRENE FIALA HAS GIVEN HER TIME TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AS:

Adviser for PAW Prints, Edinboro University's student-run animal welfare advocacy club

Member of the President's Commission on the Status of Women at Edinboro

Former secretary on the board of directors for Homesafe, Inc., the women's shelter in Ashtabula County

Vice president of the Ashtabula County Animal Protective League

Member of the Violence Against Women Council

ALUMNI PROFILE

A PATH OF HER OWN

By John Altdorfer



FROM ENGLISH MAJOR TO MAJOR GENERAL, EDER CHARTED HER COURSE WITH A HELPING HAND

**Sometimes, you find a path in life.
Sometimes, the path finds you.**

If you're retired Army Maj. Gen. Mari K. Eder, you cut your own path to a 36-year military career with enough accomplishments to fill a Wikipedia page.

Eder created her path with an English degree from Edinboro University. Make that two English degrees.

"An English degree is the door opener," said Eder, 65, of Virginia, who earned her B.A. in 1975 and a master's two years later. "You're the person who can write better. You know how to make the narrative work for you."

Let's pick up Eder's narrative in 1977, when she signed up for her first hitch in the Army.

"I was a direct commission," she said. A direct commission allows civilians with special skills to enter the Army as a second lieutenant, without ROTC or other previous training.

"You raise your hand. Recite the oath. And you're in the Army. Whether you know anything about it or not," she said.

Eder decidedly did not. Faced with a steep learning curve that included some basic training, she caught on fast. She credits her journalism professor, Dr. Kay Miller, for helping her negotiate that curve.

"She was tough," Eder recalled. "She was a correspondent in World War II."

Dr. Miller's journalism classes taught her discipline, focus and deadlines, which served her well in the Army.

Eder deployed those skills as deputy chief of Army Public Affairs, among other stateside positions. No mere desk jockey resting on her brass, she

commanded NATO media relations in Kosovo and Afghanistan as Operation Enduring Freedom started.

However, her Pentagon assignments proved most stressful, Eder said. The endless hours and pressures of dealing with sensitive issues took a toll. Then a four-legged pal provided an outlet for the tension.

"I adopted a dog from an older couple," she said. "He came with his suitcase and winter coat and took over" her life. At Christmas, the couple sent a card to the dog, a mini schnauzer named Benson. Eder wrote a thank-you letter to them — in Benson's "voice."

**"I had a moment
where I asked
myself, 'Am I going
to tell this story?'
And the answer was,
'Hell, yeah.'"**

The correspondence continued for years. Eventually, Eder collected the letters for a book, "1001 Places to Pee Before You Die." The book let her exercise those Edinboro lessons in a way the military never could — with humor. She designed and marketed it, too.

At Edinboro, Eder learned another lesson — a harsh one. After high school in her hometown of Grove City, Pa., two of the three colleges she applied to turned her away. After a tough interview, Edinboro guardedly admitted her.

"The recruiters asked if I would work hard, and I said, 'Yes.'" She kept that

promise and became a steady presence on the dean's list. But for years she didn't understand why the other schools rejected her — until she saw her student records.

Through the newly instituted Freedom of Information Act, Eder checked her formerly private files. There she found a devastating letter from her high school counselor that advised colleges to pass on her — because she wasn't smart enough.

Of course, Eder proved plenty smart enough. In 2013, she retired as the highest-ranking female general in the Army. She earned a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College and received the Vatican's Dame Grand Cross of the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

Not long ago, her high school inducted Eder to its hall of fame and asked her to speak.

"I had a moment where I asked myself, 'Am I going to tell this story?' And the answer was, 'Hell, yeah.'"

She didn't name names because the former counselor was there. Afterward, others shared stories of how the man thwarted their college careers.

Today, Eder helps others find their paths at Edinboro University. It's her way of thanking those who gave her a chance.

"I've established a scholarship at Edinboro," she explained. "It's for the kid who isn't an automatic choice."

Through the scholarship, Eder will give a helping hand to a student who wouldn't otherwise get one. Sometimes, the path you choose is the one someone else leaves behind. ★★

*"You'll have the opportunity to participate fully in this world of ours.
You'll be the ones who will make the choices. You'll make the difference."*

Fred Rogers

A photograph of a man in a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie, sitting in a wheelchair. He is wearing glasses and looking off to the side with a slight smile. The background is blurred, showing a crowd of people at what appears to be a sports event. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.

ALUMNI PROFILE

WHEN A

Chaz Kellem says he's 'nothing special,' but he leaves an unforgettable impression.



DOOR OPENS

By John Altdorfer

Chaz Kellem wants you to remember one thing.

"I'm nothing special," said the 2005 health and physical education Edinboro University grad. "I'm not the tallest or smartest or strongest person. I've done nothing amazing to get here. I show up for work every day. And I try each day to be better."

Got that? Because Kellem has accomplished some amazing things since he graduated.

Straight out of Edinboro, he landed a dream job handling diversity programs with the Pittsburgh Pirates, his hometown baseball team. After 10 years with the Bucs, Kellem moved to the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh to direct its Race and Gender Equity program. Two years later he accepted his current position as director of PittServes, which oversees student service programs and volunteer projects involving faculty and staff at the University of Pittsburgh.

You also need to remember this about Kellem.

He was born with osteogenesis imperfecta, known as brittle bone disease.

That means even minor falls or bumps could break one or more bones. At 36 years old, he counts 43 breaks since birth.

The last one happened while Kellem was attending Edinboro. He was paying a little too much attention to a girlfriend and slammed his hand in a car door.

"That could happen to anyone," he said with a smile.

While Kellem gets around in a wheelchair, he can move his legs and has normal feeling in them. But because he broke so many bones as a kid, his legs never fully developed and can't support him.

Don't expect him to say that makes him special.

"I don't want to be applauded because I come to work with all my other co-workers," he said. "Yes, I happen to be an individual who uses a wheelchair. I'm not using that as a crutch. Life is hard for everybody."

"I prepare myself for opportunities. When a door opens, I want to make sure that I'm ready to go through it."

Always determined to succeed, Kellem found many sources of encouragement at Edinboro.

"I loved Edinboro," he said. "I am so grateful for the way people welcomed folks like me. I had a lot of people who inspired and challenged me."

He singles out three.

"Jim Glatch was the coach of wheelchair basketball team," Kellem said. "He welcomed me as part of the team even though I couldn't play. He gave students with disabilities the experience to be part of something bigger than themselves and leave a legacy on their own terms."

Another influence was Craig Tiede, who supervised Kellem as a resident adviser and coordinator.

"Craig made everyone he worked with community- and civically engaged," he explained. "He focused

on a curriculum outside the classroom. He did little things to make us better humans. I work in student affairs today because of Craig."

Finally, Kellem singled out Dr. Kathleen Lipkovich, who developed the sports administration track at Edinboro, for his overall success.

"Kathleen helped me find my academic home. Without her guidance and challenging me academically, I don't know if my experience at Edinboro would've been as good," he said.

Those influences have propelled Kellem through a series of jobs with ever-increasing responsibilities. The velocity of his success might indicate he mapped out a career path. But he hadn't.

"I am a person who prepares but doesn't plan," he said. "I prepare myself for opportunities. When a door opens, I want to make sure that I'm ready to go through it."

These days, he works with Pitt students to prepare them to accept — when a door opens — meaningful, ethical and sustainable service opportunities that will make them better human beings.

Kellem knows that some people watch him because of his disability. But he pays them no mind.

"I don't remember who said this, but the saying goes, 'People laugh at me because I'm different. I laugh at them because they're normal.' I have zero interest in being normal."

No doubt, that's something people remember about Kellem.



ALUMNI PROFILE

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DIRECTOR TAPS INTO
HER LIFE STORY TO
PULL OTHERS OVER
BARRIERS

BREAKING THE

By Kristin Brockett

Sometimes the path to career success leads to unexpected places. For Edinboro alumna Jamilia Gates, it brought her back home.

The 33-year-old is the inaugural community schools director at East Middle School, where she creates and implements programming designed to address the health, wellness and social needs of students and their families. She assumed the role in January 2017 as part of the United Way of Erie County and Erie School District's newly instituted community schools model, which aims to break the cycle of generational poverty by removing barriers to learning.

For students at East Middle School, there are plenty of barriers to overcome. According to data from Future Ready PA Index, 87.8% of the school's 700 students are classified as economically disadvantaged

and 23.4% are learning English as a second language.

Gates understands these challenges – she faced them, too.

"I grew up in these neighborhoods, disadvantaged and at-risk like my students," she said. "It's rewarding to be able to be here today and be an example to them that you don't have to become a victim of your surroundings."

The daughter of teenage parents and the oldest of seven siblings, Gates was primarily raised by her late grandmother, Georgia. She says that of all the lessons Georgia taught her, the most important was to live a life of service to others.

"Loving people. Serving people. Helping people, regardless of their background, culture or race. She instilled those morals in me," Gates said. "I'm so appreciative of the person she was

because she made me who I am."

A proud product of the Erie School District, Gates admits she wasn't always the best student but credits strong community leaders and mentors for guiding her along the way.

"I had behavior issues, but I was very smart," she said. "Somebody saw the good in me, and I see the good in every child here. I try to nurture that good and help them develop in ways they never imagined for themselves."

After graduating from Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy in 2004 and attending classes at Edinboro University for one semester, Gates was recruited to run track and field at Marshall University. Despite having never set foot in the state of West Virginia, she packed her bags and headed south, eager to leave Erie behind.



RECENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

ERIE READER'S
2018 40 UNDER 40

ERIE ARTS AND
CULTURE'S 2018
IMAGINE AWARD

MLK CENTER'S
CORETTA SCOTT
KING AWARD

CYCLE

While at Marshall, she earned bachelor's degrees in print journalism and public relations and was an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. Determined not to return home after commencement, she moved to Atlanta, where she struggled to find steady employment.

Two years later, Gates moved back to Erie and started working odd jobs to make ends meet. One of her co-workers was a student in Edinboro University's graduate college counseling program, and Gates decided to apply.

Back at Edinboro, she was afforded a graduate assistantship in the Multicultural Resource Center – now the Center for Diversity and Inclusion – where she coordinated programs that promoted cultural awareness to the campus community. She also advised the Black Student Union Association,

Identity, the International Student Union Association and the Latino Student Organization.

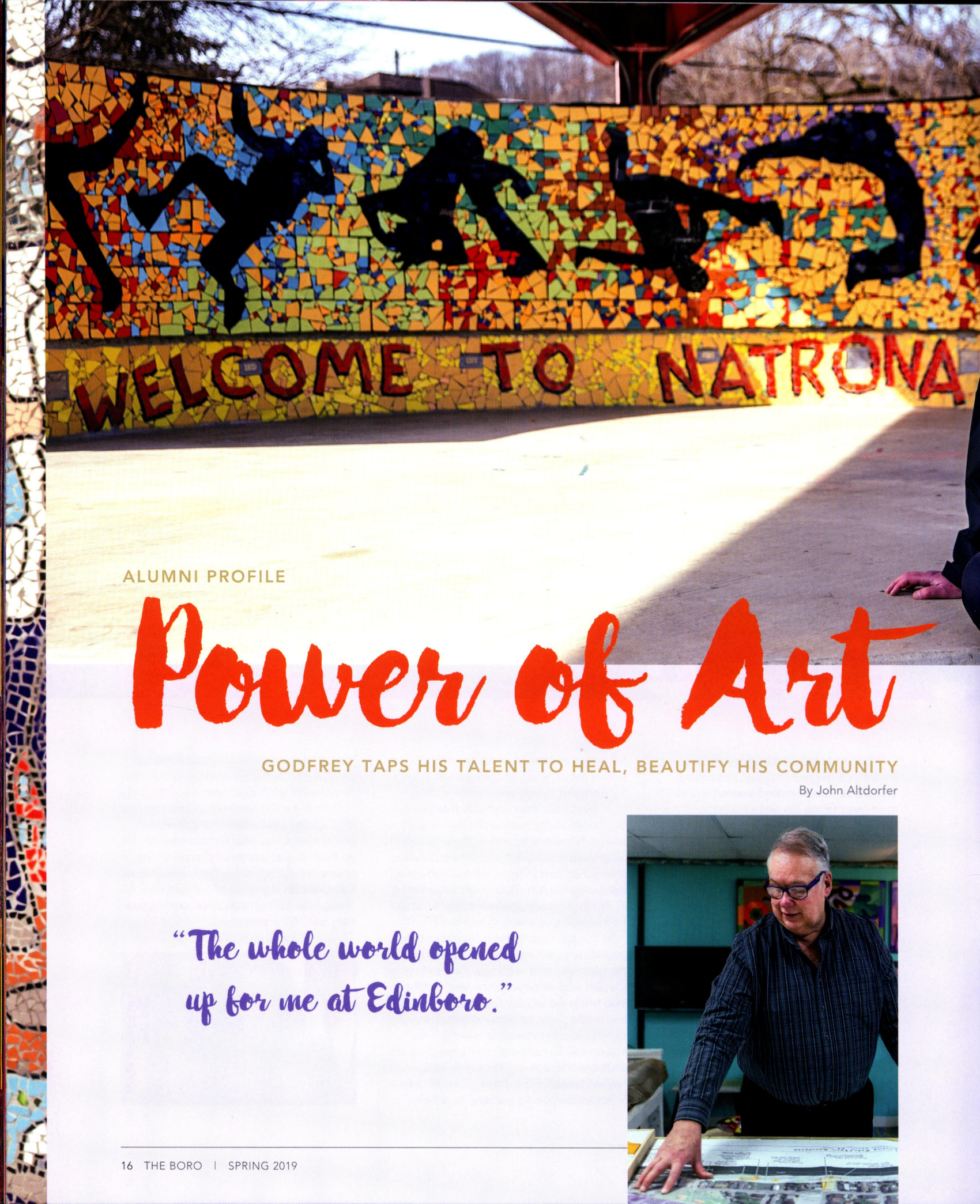
"I was really involved with every organization that fell under the multicultural center at the time. If I didn't see a program at Edinboro, I created it," said Gates, who completed her master of arts in College Counseling in 2017. "It really prepared me for what I do now."

In the past year, Gates has introduced countless initiatives at East, from STEM programs to cosmetology, music, theater and cultural dance teams. She also hosted a job fair for parents and has made plans to bring in a mobile dentist to treat students without insurance. The programming was made possible through collaboration with Hamot Health Foundation, East Middle School's corporate partner, and Safe

Harbor Behavioral Health of UPMC, East Middle School's lead partner in the community schools model.

"I feel like the Lord is replaying my life," Gates said. "I ended up back in places that I was years ago. I ended up back at East, where I played all my sports in high school. I came back to Edinboro for my graduate degree. Things are falling into place, and I know I am here for a purpose."





ALUMNI PROFILE

Power of Art

GODFREY TAPS HIS TALENT TO HEAL, BEAUTIFY HIS COMMUNITY

By John Altdorfer

*"The whole world opened
up for me at Edinboro."*





"Artists are a dangerous element," Bill Godfrey will tell you.

At first glance, the 1972 Edinboro art education graduate hardly seems menacing.

You might guess he's just a nice guy who tends to the garden next to the former soda pop plant he now calls home in Natrona, Pa., a once prosperous industrial town along the Allegheny River, 25 miles upstream of Pittsburgh.

Yet, talk to owners of some shuttered "nuisance bars" he helped put out of business and you'll hear that Godfrey is indeed a dangerous — and tenacious — element who doesn't quit.

Since moving to Natrona two decades ago, Godfrey has helped to transform the fading town through a series of grassroots initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for its 12,000 residents.

After Edinboro, Godfrey hitchhiked across America, soaked up the laid-back lifestyle in Jamaica and taught at the

"Artists are a dangerous element."

Carnegie Museum of Art before landing in Natrona, a few miles from where he grew up, to be a working artist.

In time, Godfrey earned renown for his fabric banners, mobiles and art installations that grace corporate headquarters and houses of worship around the world. Then, nearly 14 years ago, he heard the knock on his front door.

"Can you help us?" was the visitors' plea.

Disheartened by Natrona's decline, some residents approached Godfrey about starting a citizens group to brake the town's slide.

"I had no experience with running nonprofits," he admitted. So, of course, he said, "Yes," and became the president of Natrona Comes Together, which promotes economic growth and development through community programs and neighborhood revitalization projects.

What Godfrey did understand is that "art is healing and transcending. Art can make life better."

His belief in the transforming power of art started early: "From the time I popped out of the womb, I was going to be an artist."

As an artistic kid growing up in a place where boys hunted deer, played football and, eventually, joined family and friends sweating out a living in the steel mills, Godfrey felt misplaced.

Until he hit the Edinboro campus in 1968.

"The whole world opened up for me at Edinboro," he remembers. "There was a general level of openness and acceptance. I found alternatives that I never knew existed. Edinboro helped me learn who I was."

Decades later, Godfrey learned that art could help his neighbors find ways to heal Natrona.

Natrona Comes Together has helped to significantly lower the town's crime rate and sweep away some of its nastier problems. Its achievements are clearly visible in the community.

At a park near his home, Godfrey points to three sets of mosaics. One on a low wall shows the butterflies that flit around the park during the summer.

THE HELPERS

Birds common to the area decorate a house-shaped archway. And six columns flanking a walkway tell Natrona's history, from its first Native American residents to the Eastern Europeans immigrants who stoked the blast furnaces that roared around the clock to turn out steel.

"I work with wonderful people," he said. "Our volunteers range in age from 6 to 92. Tens of thousands of volunteer hours went into the sculptures in the park. They rolled up their sleeves to do the hard work. That fosters a sense of pride."

Godfrey doesn't speak of his pride in Natrona's ongoing revival. Still, you can hear it in his voice when he mentions that two young artists recently moved to town, and when he talks about plans for a \$14 million riverfront restoration.

Yes, he remains a dangerous element, because challenges still await him and his volunteers. And he knows he might not be around when Natrona Comes Together completes its mission.

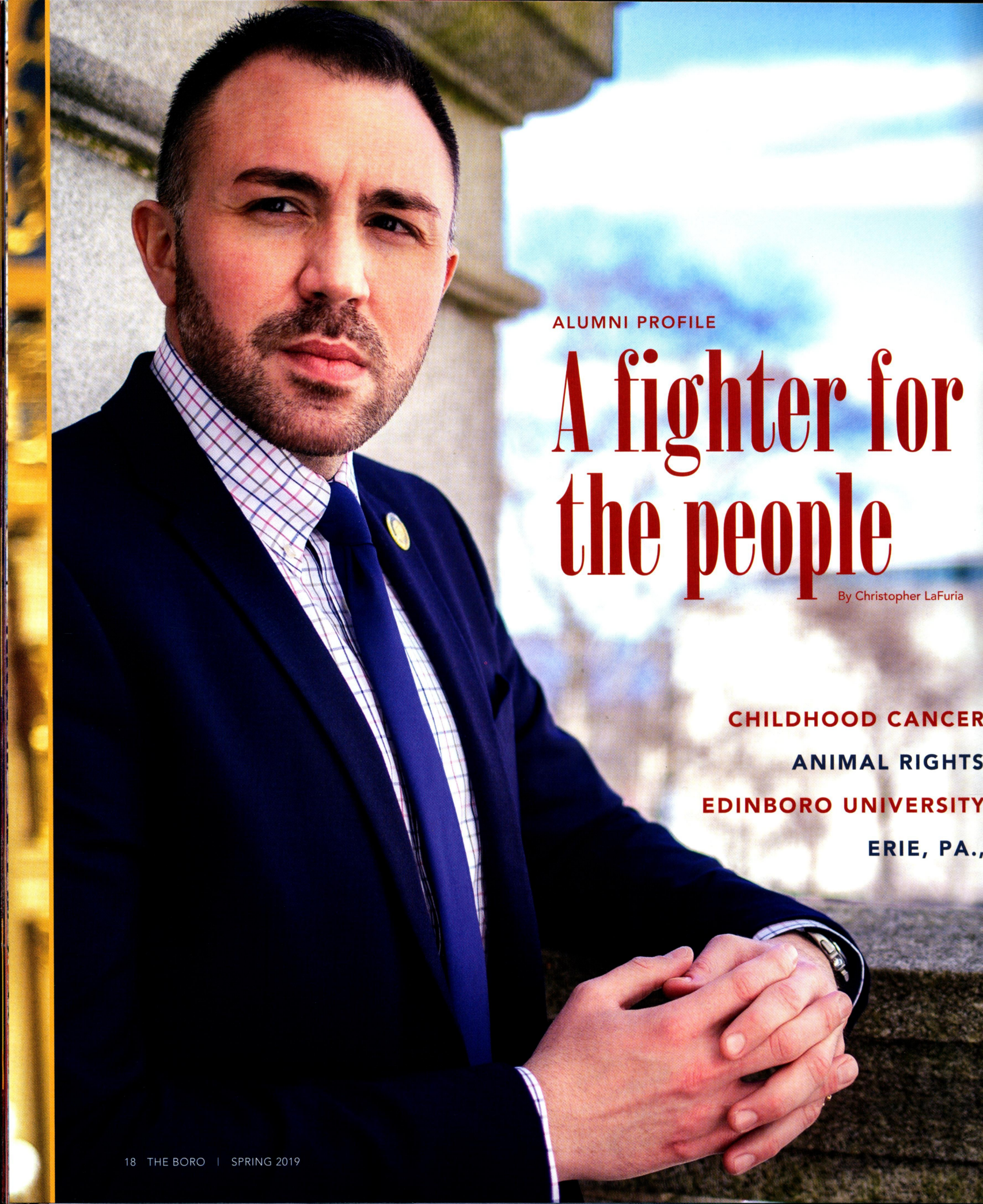
"I wish I could clone myself. There's so much work to be done."

For now, Godfrey accepts small rewards here and there, from older residents who thank him and kids who ask how they can help.

"They say, 'You give, you get.' What I've given out, so much has been returned."

More than 50 years after he arrived at Edinboro, Godfrey is still learning that art can help transcend, heal and make life better — for one person and an entire town.





ALUMNI PROFILE

A fighter for the people

By Christopher LaFuria

CHILDHOOD CANCER

ANIMAL RIGHTS

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY

ERIE, PA.,



FIRST ELECTED MILLENNIAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

There are many descriptors that outline Ryan Bizzarro's achievements and contributions since he was first sworn in as 3rd Legislative District representative in January 2013. Perhaps the one that stands out to the 33-year-old politician is his continual dedication to serving Northwest Pennsylvania.

"I'm humbled that my constituents decided to put their faith in such a young member of the community," said Bizzarro, who earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science in 2008 and an associate degree in Criminal Justice.

SURVIVOR.

ACTIVIST.

GRADUATE.

NATIVE.

"It is my hope that I've repaid that trust, by delivering on the promises I made to the public and the reason I ran for office initially – service to our community, respect for our seniors, and doing your best day in and day out to make the world a better place."

Bizzarro developed his perspective as a helper and fighter as a child in Erie after surviving childhood leukemia. After serving as a behavioral health specialist in Erie's Public Schools and a business development specialist in the city, he decided to run for an open seat in the state legislature.

From there, Bizzarro has served as vice chairman of the Northwest Delegation, Democratic secretary of the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee and – most recently – chief deputy House whip.

His service to seniors, emergency medical technicians and veterans has earned him several endorsements, including the Pennsylvania Fire Fighters Association.

"Our emergency responders put their lives on the line every day in order to make all of us safe and secure," Bizzarro said. "I believe it's important to unabashedly fight for their benefit because of the sacrifices they make for all of us."

As gratifying as it feels to serve his neighbors and hometown, public projects aren't always the easiest to accomplish. For Bizzarro, passing legislation can be time-consuming and difficult.

For example, in February, the House of Representatives passed House Bill 128, known as the "First-Time Home Buyer Savings Account Act," which Bizzarro sponsored with Rep. Rosemary Brown of Monroe County. After weeks of negotiations, policy discussions, research and – of course – time, the bill crossed the finish line in the House and now sits in the state Senate.

"This bill would greatly improve the ability for people in Erie and across the state to buy their first home," Bizzarro said. "I knew this would be difficult, but it's the right thing for the people of Pennsylvania. I'd do it all over again."

Despite the setbacks and rocky road, Bizzarro sees hope for the public service field. When he arrives in Harrisburg for sessions and meetings, he continues to meet qualified, professional people who

are excited to embark on a career in public service.

"We've got some incredible people in this part of the Commonwealth, and representing them in Harrisburg never gets tiring," he said. "I entered the state House with a big, bold agenda, and I'm proud to say I've made gigantic strides to fulfill those promises."

A devoted family man, Bizzarro credits his parents and grandparents for creating a loving home for him and his two brothers.

As a teenager working in his grandfather's restaurant – The Ringside – Bizzarro developed his own sense of service to the community.

"My grandparents taught me the value of hard work, and how important it is to serve your community – with food, a comfortable and welcoming environment, and listening to people," he said. "I will always be in their debt for making me the person I am today."

"I entered the state House with a big, bold agenda, and I'm proud to say I've made gigantic strides to fulfill those promises."

ALUMNI PROFILE

SOCIAL WORKER'S FOCUS ON MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH GIVES FAMILIES HELP, HOPE

By Kristin Brackett

One in seven women experience a mental health concern during pregnancy or within the first year of giving birth – a statistic that Edinboro University alumna Miranda Melquist is working tirelessly to change.

Melquist, a licensed clinical social worker practicing in Erie, Pa., counsels women and families who are struggling with infertility, parenting stressors and postpartum depression, anxiety or obsessive-compulsive disorder.

The Erie native holds certifications in mindfulness and cognitive behavioral therapy, and, as one of the first in the region to specialize in perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, she is on the cutting edge of maternal mental health.

"These moms have a newborn baby and everyone is saying, 'Your life is perfect. You must be so happy.' And they are just silently suffering, afraid to speak up or reach out," said Melquist, who has three children of her own and has experienced the ups and downs of motherhood firsthand. "I'm super passionate about mothers getting the support and mental help that they need, because it trickles down through the whole family."

After initially enrolling at Edinboro University in 2004 as a communication major, Melquist took some time off from school and moved to Charlotte, N.C., where she was employed as a medical assistant at a doctor's office. Her passion for helping others grew through her interactions with the patients, prompting her to return to Edinboro with a newfound sense of purpose.

"By helping people, I felt really connected," she said. "Mental health really interested me. I knew that I wanted to become a therapist and eventually own my own practice."

Upon earning a bachelor of arts in Sociology in 2012, she enrolled in Edinboro's Master of Social Work program, where she gained confidence working alongside faculty members Dr. David Pugh and Dr. Suzanne McDevitt as a graduate assistant in the Social Work Department.

Counseling teen moms at Florence Crittenton, a 24-hour residential care facility dedicated to supporting and educating single pregnant females and new mothers, she acquired insight into the unique mental health needs of women during and following pregnancy.

Additional field placements at local agencies further solidified her career path.

"Most of the time I was assigned to work with the children, but I found myself sitting and connecting with the mothers so much more. I found the mothers were really leaning on me," Melquist said. "That's when I said, 'This is what I'm going to do.'"

She immersed herself in the perinatal discipline, completing all available online coursework and attending an in-person training in New York City. A member of Postpartum Support International, Melquist recently earned official certification in perinatal mental health – a distinction held by fewer than 150 people.

In November 2018, she quit her job and became an independent practitioner at NurturInse, allowing her to focus full-time on advocacy, education and the proper treatment of maternal mental health issues.

Having faced her own struggles with infertility, she also provides support to families during the process of adoption through the Bair Foundation.

"Adoption is really close to my heart," she said. "Being a social worker, I've seen all the children that need homes and the loving families that really want to provide them with a loving, stable environment."

Aside from her practice, she advocates for the Erie region as a graduate of the Erie Ambassador program and inspires her fellow female leaders as a member of the ATHENA Circle of Trust. The organization empowers women to achieve their professional potential through networking and leadership development.

"A helper to me is someone who is going to hold your hand through the hard experiences. They aren't going to judge. They listen when you need someone to listen and lift you up and remind you of all the good things that you have to offer," she said. "I want to help people and sit with them during these difficult times."

"A helper to me is someone who is going to hold your hand through the hard experiences. They aren't going to judge. They listen when you need someone to listen and lift you up and remind you of all the good things that you have to offer.

I want to help people and sit with them during these difficult times."

FOCUS ON INJUSTICE

From a steel town's demise to the Flint water crisis, her images tell stories of place, race and family

By Christopher LaFuria



A crowd of disheartened autoworkers in ragged T-shirts join hands in prayer around a conference room table turned makeshift altar.

An 8-year-old African-American girl squints out the window of her inner-city apartment with sanguine expectations, despite crippling poverty.

Three generations of loved ones share stories of the glory days of the steel mills, despite the current state of hopelessness for their revival.

LaToya Ruby Frazier – camera permanently affixed around her neck – seeks these stories not to draw sympathy from those who curiously thumb through her black-and-white photo albums. Rather, the Edinboro University graduate uses her camera to bring attention to social issues in her community and beyond.

Despite the black and white coloration of these nuanced images, the stories behind the scars and the heartbreak highlight the full spectrum of human emotion.

Growing up in the industrial town of Braddock, Pa., just 9 miles east of Pittsburgh, Frazier does more than sympathize with these images.

Because she lived these moments.

"At the end of your life, you will have overcome – and have gone much further than where you began."

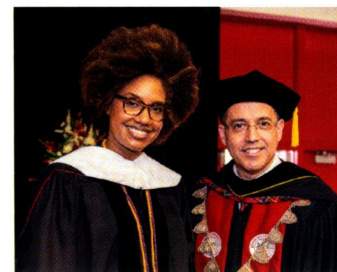
"I would come of age understanding what it meant to lose social services, to see jobs go overseas, and to see my community look like a war zone," said Frazier, 37, who dual-majored in photography and graphic design at Edinboro. "I'm not ashamed that I come from living below the poverty line. I'm not ashamed, because we cannot control the circumstances that we're born into."

Raised by her grandmother, Ruby, in an environment the family considered much safer than her hometown, Frazier overcame poverty and community violence to graduate from a public high school and earn her degrees from Edinboro in 2004.

For the majority of her 15-year professional career as a Chicago-based photographer, Frazier has hunted for inequalities that exist among cultural, racial and socioeconomic lines. Her collection of images showing the systemic racial and environmental decline that she witnessed in her hometown has brought her international fame as a chronicler of social justice.

"We need longer sustained stories that reflect and tell us where the prejudices and blind spots are and continue to be in this culture and society," she told the New York Times in 2014, following the publication of her monograph, "The Notion of Family" – winner of the 2015 Infinity Award for Best Publication by the International Center of Photography.

LaToya Ruby Frazier received an honorary doctorate from Edinboro University and delivered the keynote address during the May Undergraduate Commencement.



While helping her viewers understand these mainstream issues, Frazier has become a mainstay on the exhibition circuit, with notable shows at the Brooklyn Museum, Seattle Art Museum, Institute of Contemporary Art and the Andy Warhol Museum.

She is also the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Pratt Institute, fellowships from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's MacArthur Fellows Program, TED Fellows Program and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Most recently, Frazier earned an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from her alma mater – Edinboro University – where she delivered the undergraduate commencement keynote address in May.

Her works include "Flint is Family," which depicts the water crisis in southeast Michigan through the eyes of African-American residents of the embattled city, and "The Grey Area," which documents the yearlong demise and

demolition of UPMC Braddock Hospital.

Gazing across a sea of graduation caps and confident (albeit somewhat nervous) faces, Frazier shared stories of her struggles against poverty and racism and how she unwaveringly pursued her dream despite these opposing forces.

"Your life is not simply your own. You are here to help and to give to others."

"We all have to start somewhere," she told the crowd of nearly 700 students. "At the end of your life, you will have overcome – and have gone much further than where you began."

On the surface, the dark and dense photographs of bellowing smoke stacks and abandoned vehicles in Braddock might appear to predict misery and hopelessness. The crumbling buildings

and elderly men with debilitating injuries and hardened souls might also appear to capture a time lost to the might of the steel mills.

However, as a true helper and advocate for social change, Frazier delivered a message of hope and a call to action for the next generation of Edinboro students – and the world at large – to become the vehicles of change.

"I want you to make sure that you are founded and rooted, deeply and securely, on love," she told a packed gymnasium at McComb Fieldhouse. "Your life is not simply your own. You are here to help and to give to others."

WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT GAME AND VIRTUAL WORLD DEVELOPMENT

The world of video gaming has come a long way since Pac-Man.

Today, there's an increased demand for animation and visual effects in everything from sophisticated video games to movies to corporate presentations. In fact, jobs in this field are expected to grow 10% annually – faster than most other occupations between now and 2026.

Game development majors take coursework in computer science, mathematics, physics, art and animation to prepare for careers such as game developers and engineers. Under the guidance of expert faculty members, students hone their design skills and explore all areas of video games and virtual simulations.

We're top-ranked.

Edinboro is THE place to be for game designers. Why? With a prestigious Art Department and a combined Math and Computer Science Department, we can offer you the best of all worlds:

- Edinboro was recently ranked the top public university in Pennsylvania for Game Design.
- Edinboro's Game and Virtual World Development program has been recognized by AnimationCareerReview.com as a top program in the United States since the track's first student graduated in 2014.
- Game and Virtual World Development is the most popular track for Computer Science majors at Edinboro.

Graduates with Edinboro's math and computer science background have worked for Fortune 500 companies across the United States. Daniel Taylor, '08, worked as a software development engineer at Amazon before landing a job as a software engineer for iStreamPlanet. Nathan Christy, '06, started his career as a software engineer intern at Erie Insurance. He then specialized in automated test infrastructure and development at Google before becoming a software developer at Susquehanna International Group (SIG) in Philadelphia.

Edinboro unveils competition space design for eSports team.

In collaboration with Erie-based architecture and design firm Weber Murphy Fox, Edinboro unveiled the plans for a renovated eSports competition space in Hamilton Hall – located in the heart of campus.

The first collegiate-level gaming program in Western Pennsylvania, Edinboro's eSports team will compete in digital contests such as "Fortnite," "League of Legends," "Counter-Strike: Global Offensive" and "Hearthstone" among nearly 150 programs across the U.S.

The team is open to students from all majors, but Edinboro is uniquely positioned for eSports because of its academic strengths in game design, animation and virtual world development. The Fighting Scots are expected to begin competitions this fall in the National Association of Collegiate eSports (NACE).





MORE

THAN JUST BOOKS

a library evolution



College and university libraries have increasingly become collaborative workspaces, social hubs, homes to coffee shops and more. As print collections have been de-emphasized, space has been reallocated for a different kind of activity and a different way of studying. Edinboro's Baron-Forness Library is no exception.

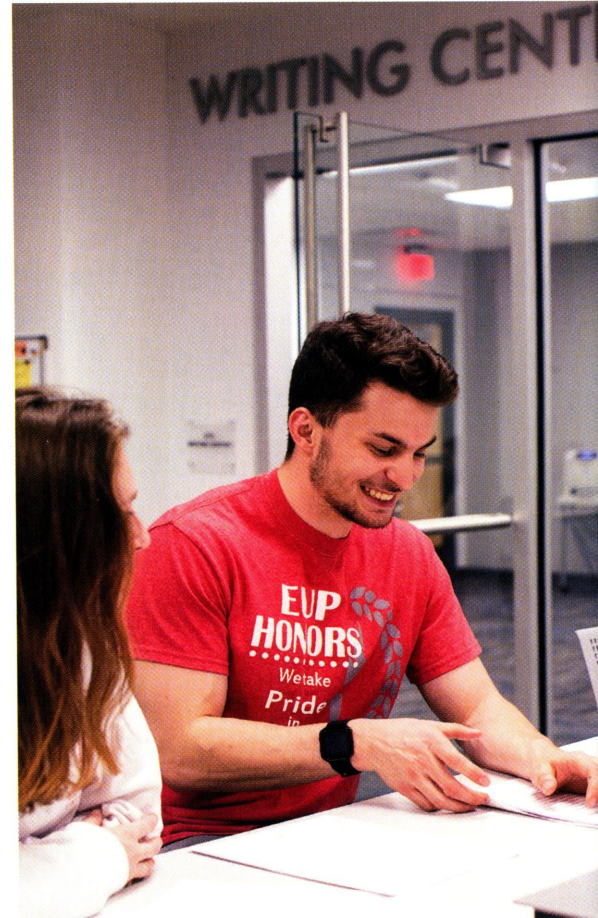
Plans are in place for a \$16 million renovation of the library, which not long ago housed a print collection of books, legal materials and bound journals totaling nearly 400,000 volumes. That number has been reduced by half with further reductions planned.

The design phase for the project will occur during the 2019-2020 academic year, with construction anticipated to begin in fall 2020. There will be no expansion of the space, just a re-envisioning to include gallery space, flexible seating, better showcasing of the library's special collection, and a significant addition of collaborative work areas and seminar space. Also included will be upgrades to the heating and cooling system, windows and other facilities life-cycle renovations, said Facilities Director Ashley Spears.

The seven-story library, built in 1976, stands at the center of the Edinboro campus, with the top floor providing commanding views of much of the University's 585 acres.



The design phase for the project will occur during the 2019-2020 academic year, with construction anticipated to begin in fall 2020. There will be no expansion of the space, just a re-envisioning to include gallery space, flexible seating, better showcasing of the library's special collection, and a significant addition of collaborative work areas and seminar space.





MORE

THAN JUST BOOKS

a library evolution



10

REASONS TO VISIT YOUR BARON-FORNESS LIBRARY

The library isn't just located in the center of campus, it is the center of campus activity, research, and collaboration. While the library has thousands of books, it offers so much more.

1. Need info?

Access over 100 academic databases with just a few clicks. Find streaming video, magazine/newspaper articles and academic journals from our library portal.

2. Take the library with you!

All of our databases, ebooks, and many other library resources are accessible on your home computer or mobile device. It doesn't matter if you are at home, in a classroom, or on vacation, you can access an abundance of sources and help guides 24/7.

3. Study 24/7

Study even when the library is closed! Our 24/7 study is open around the clock.

4. Find solitude or work together

Study alone in one of the solitary study spaces around the building or collaborate with other students in study rooms.

5. Lounging is encouraged!

Grab a drink from Starbucks and browse our new and recommended book shelves.

6. Got Technology?

The library has laptops available for checkout. Take a tablet or a laptop home for up to three days at a time. In addition, the library has a number of chargers, headphones, flash drives and other accessories for your use.

7. Be a kid again!

The library boasts a large collection of young adult titles, novels, and early childhood education books.

8. Access libraries worldwide!

Through services such as Inter-Library Loan and EZ-Borrow, students have access to materials located around the world.

9. Get Help

Expert librarians are available to guide you through the research process. Whether you are already researching, or you don't know where to start, set up an appointment with a librarian or chat online for immediate assistance.

10. Your one-stop shop for success

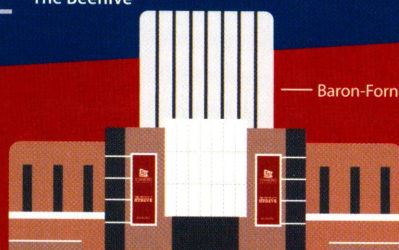
Take advantage of the many services and offices conveniently located within the library! Studies have shown that students that regularly use the library have higher GPAs and graduation rates.

Academic Success Center
Center for Career Development
Writing Center
Transfer and Adult Student Services
Global Education Office
Testing and Tutoring Services
The Beehive

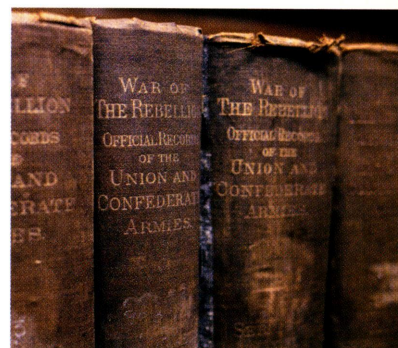
More to Come...

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY

WALK IN OR LOG ON. DISCOVER YOUR EU LIBRARY.



Baron-Forness Library



ATHLETICS
Michelle Jahn
Senior
Guard

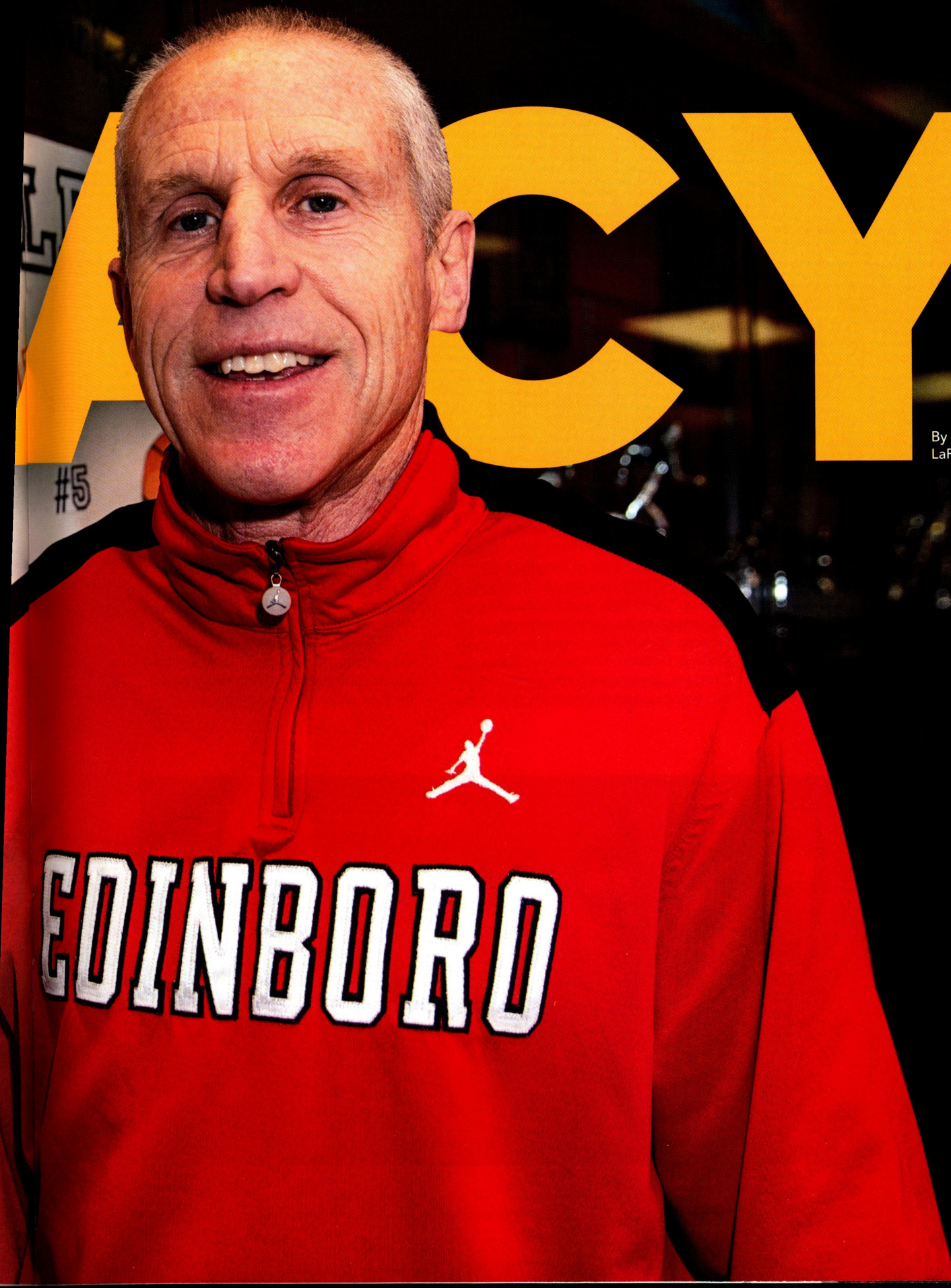
LEG

FIGHTING SCOTS
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
EDINBORO vs. GANNON
JANUARY 11, 2017 5:30 p.m.

FIGHTING SCOTS
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
EDINBORO vs. WEST LIBERTY

THE JAHN LEGACY

A Fighting Scots
family draws
blueprint for
Edinboro tradition



By Christopher
LaFuria

"When I reflect on my time at **Edinboro**, what else could you want?"

It's an unseasonably warm February evening, and the Jahn family has gathered at their cozy dining room table after a thrilling win for the Edinboro University women's basketball team.

The conversation has shifted from Michelle Jahn's 13 points and career-high 12 rebounds to a more lighthearted competition – who's the best family athlete?

"I can easily beat Michelle when we compete because I'm stronger than her, but she's definitely more athletic than I am," said Lindsey Jahn, 24, a 2017 Edinboro graduate and former basketball student-athlete, with a slight touch of humor in her voice.

Michelle, 22, an Edinboro student-athlete who has reached the 1,000-point mark and wrapped up her final season this spring, slowly and quietly raises her hand.

"I would be my own first pick," Luke Jahn, 26, a 2015 Edinboro graduate, chimed in with a chuckle. "If we had to start a team, I'd pick me."

Around the competitive dining room table sits an Edinboro family – by every definition of the word. Two parents. Three children. All Edinboro University grads and passionate supporters of the Fighting Scots.

Bob Jahn, 62, the patriarch and 1980 graduate of Edinboro, arrived in town as a football recruit. Pamela, 50, graduated in 1991, earning a degree in Health and Physical Education.

When Bob initially came to Edinboro, he didn't make the big show immediately, earning a spot on the freshman team. Then, he saw limited action his sophomore year, prior to his breakout junior and senior seasons.

"In most cases, you have to wait your turn – and a lot of people don't understand that – so they quit early or give up," said Bob, who would take advantage of his junior and senior seasons to earn Associated Press College Division All-American status. "You are challenged by those obstacles, but you develop coping skills, and that

helps you in everything you do."

A first team All-PSAC selection in 1977-1978, Bob finished his athletic career at Edinboro with 58 receptions, 868 yards and 11 touchdowns. This success on the gridiron led the 2005 Edinboro University Athletics Hall of Famer to a free agent contract with the Buffalo Bills in 1979, then a free agent contract offer from the Kansas City Chiefs in 1980.

In the summer of 1980, Bob's football career ended after he was released by the Chiefs. But in true Jahn fashion, he didn't think of putting his head down for even a minute.

"It really was the best thing that could have happened," said Bob, who immediately took his first teaching job at General McLane School District in Edinboro, where he remained until his retirement in 2015.

As the matriarch of the Jahn household, Pamela's focus was instilling a model of self-sufficiency and support for their children – and creating a warm,



Luke, Pam, Michelle, Bob and Lindsey Jahn are joined at Senior Night by family friends Xavier and Emerson Lodanosky – children of athletic trainer Danielle Lodanosky.



inviting house for friends and relatives.

An active athlete herself, Pamela joined Luke in 2012 to complete the Presque Isle Marathon in Erie, Pa., after months of preparation and training.

"We were – by no means – going to blow anyone out of the water," Luke said. "But we finished."

In addition to earning his degree from Edinboro, Luke contributed to University athletics as the manager of the football team for three years.

"When I reflect on my time at Edinboro, what else could you want?" he said. "Everything you need is right here. You're truly surrounded by professors and students who are passionate about what they're doing."

Just two years apart in age, Lindsey and Michelle not only developed as outstanding athletes early in their high school careers, they were also supportive teammates. As students at General McLane High School, the sisters competed together in basketball and volleyball.

"We loved it," said Michelle, a four-year starter in high school who scored 1,245 points for the Lancers. "We played really well together."

Herself a high school standout, earning all-region honors as a senior, Lindsey agrees that the sibling rivalry helped both athletes grow.

"She is just the best teammate you could ask for," she said.

The lineage of dedication to education by no means skipped a generation with the folks at the family dinner table. Bob, who retired from teaching after 35 years of service, was always confident that his children would follow the parents' footprints into education.

Luke followed his father's direct path, becoming a health and physical education teacher himself in the General McLane School District, where his sister Lindsey works as a special education teacher.

After graduating, the next step for Michelle's education is a degree in Early

Childhood and Special Education.

"I have had a wonderful experience with the professors and the programs," said Michelle, who is completing her student-teaching now that basketball is finished. "I enjoy going to class and gaining the experience of being in different types of classrooms."

As Bob and Pam reflect on their children's success, they can also take comfort in the fact that the three Jahn student-athletes have overcome adversity in their athletic careers and life experience.

"It's hard for us – as parents – when things are not going as planned," Pam said. "But we do rally – as a family – and try to be supportive and come up with ideas to help them through the tough times."

"I'm proud that they have all remained humble, aren't materialistic, and keep God close to their heart," Bob added. "And they can lead by example."

**"Everything you
need is right here.**

You're truly surrounded by
professors and students who
are passionate about what
they're doing."

Luke Jahn, '15



**JIM ROBERTS
MARATHON
PROFILE**

- MARATHONS COMPLETED: 57
- STATES: 50
- STATE FINISHES IN UNDER FOUR HOURS: 40
- FIRST MARATHON: 1986 ERIE MARATHON
- LATEST MARATHON: 2019 MAUI OCEANFRONT MARATHON
- COMPLETED ORIGINAL GREEK MARATHON IN 2017



MARATHON MAN

ROBERTS REACHES FINISH LINE IN QUEST TO RACE IN 50 STATES

By Christopher LaFuria

Before Jim Roberts stood at the finish line after completing his 50-state marathon mission, he fully expected to celebrate.

His wife was there. His friends had joined him for the race. This was the big time.

However, when the Edinboro University faculty member finished the 26.2-mile Maui Ocean Front Marathon in Hawaii in three hours, 41 minutes and 10 seconds, the self-imposed torture of running through the blazing heat and thick humidity caught up to him.

"Crossing the finish line, I was hurting at the end," said Roberts, 48, the chairman of the University's Health and Physical Education Department, who finished his quest on Jan. 20. "Sometimes you finish strong and powerful at the end, and sometimes not so much. This time, it was just pain and fatigue."

But after collecting himself and locating his loved ones in the crowds, Roberts reflected on his successful quest to run a marathon in every state in the U.S. – starting in 1986 when he completed the Erie Marathon at Presque Isle State Park.

And that he finished in first place for his age group.

"I can't believe I just did this," Roberts said to himself as he gazed out on the Pacific Ocean and the palm trees lining the streets. "It took some time to appreciate that I just finished my 50th state."

Although his marathons have taken him across the country – in 2017 alone, the Warren, Pa., native ran marathons on three consecutive days in Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico – his true marker of success has nothing to do with the time on a stopwatch or the miles logged in his ASICS shoes.

When he returned from Hawaii to an Edinboro campus that was facing minus 7 degrees and a blanket of January snow, his life's work continued – instructing future health and physical education teachers and personal trainers on health and wellness and living drug-free lives.

"It's more important than my own running, especially doing what I do for a living," said Roberts, a faculty member at Edinboro since 2001, about educating college students. "Athletic success is great, but your goal here at Edinboro is a choosing a career in which you can help someone and really make a difference."

That's been his goal as a profession, to help people find a balance of being fit and healthy while staying active. Roberts has accomplished this through his career in a hospital setting and classroom, and as a public school teacher and coach.

He's also made it a life mission to help dispel myths about being healthy and buying into trends and products. And convincing people to make time for their health.

"When you're trying to help people with being physically active and nutritionally sound, time is always a factor – we're all really busy people," he said. "We can extend our quality and, hopefully, our quantity of life just by doing the things we preach and practice in the classroom."

"You can avoid reality but you can't avoid the consequences of avoiding reality."

That brings him back to a quote from author Ayn Rand that he always uses in his classroom and his personal life.

"You can avoid reality but you can't avoid the consequences of avoiding reality," Roberts said. "You can pretend that you're healthy, but the consequences of not living healthy will find you."

Running his first marathon at 16 years old, the young Jim Roberts knew he would dedicate his career to exercise and health. After earning his bachelor's degree in Health & Physical Education from Edinboro, he decided to obtain an MBA with a focus on health care and to pursue a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology.

All for the pursuit of helping people.

"As I look back now, for me as a kid, I was always fascinated with the human body and I liked being active," said Roberts, who – in addition to running and his course development – studies modern trends in exercise technology. "There's so much that we still don't know. There is still so much to learn."



CAMPUS GEMS

**ALL AROUND CAMPUS AT EDINBORO UNIVERSITY,
THERE ARE SIGNS THAT REMIND YOU OF YOUR EDINBORO ROOTS.**

Some you can't miss – like the cheerful bellow from bagpipes that resonate with a sharply nostalgic tune. Other signs, however, are tucked away in a quaint campus corner – waiting to connect with the next student or visitor. This collection of iconic campus gems will surely give you a few reasons to visit.



ROPES COURSE

What better way to learn than by doing? The ropes course at Edinboro University offers an exhilarating and challenging experience to student groups and outside organizations. The course features eight low ropes and six high ropes elements designed to build self-confidence and team collaboration.



COOPER SCIENCE CENTER'S NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Several thousand visitors each year visit the Planetarium and adjacent natural history museum. Edinboro students of all majors work directly with K-12 students and the general public in planetarium operations and as docents for the museum, which features a giant pendulum.



SOLAR PANELS

Located just off Scot Road near the Mike S. Zafirovski Sports & Recreation Center, Edinboro University's solar power generating system is capable of producing 227,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually – enough to power 23.5 average homes for an entire year – and offset 262 tons of annual carbon emissions.





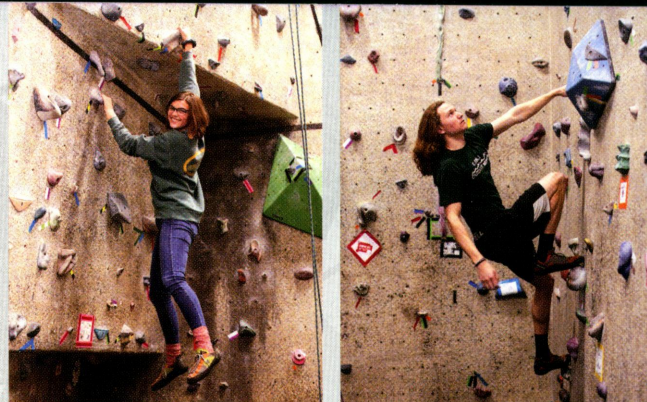
DISC GOLF

Circling the Mallory Lake property is Edinboro's disc golf course, where students and community members compete on a daily basis.



SCOT CINEMA

Located in Frank G. Pogue Student Center, Edinboro's 75-seat movie theater plays many of the most talked-about and popular movies from the past year, often before they're available for sale. Films are free for Edinboro students and only \$1 for guests.



CLIMBING GYM

The climbing gym, which is free to students, offers opportunities for you to learn or improve on your bouldering or top roping skills. You can learn harnessing, knot tying, proper belay techniques, commands and the scales associated with top roping and bouldering.



ELEVATED WALKWAY

Stretching from Ross Hall to the Baron-Forness Library, the fully enclosed, elevated and temperature-controlled walkway offers students an opportunity to traverse campus no matter the weather.



STANDING STONES AT HIGHLANDS

This uniquely landscaped architectural structure celebrates the University's Scottish heritage. Nestled between the Highlands residence halls, the calming aqua pool features a stone map of Scotland. Megalithic columns similar to those found throughout Scotland surround the water.



MALLORY LAKE

Visible from nearly every building on campus, the 5-acre Mallory Lake provides a natural spot for social gatherings or an escape to peace and tranquility for all Edinboro students. The lake features an active fountain, bench seating for visitors, a permanent gazebo for hosting events and a 360-degree view of campus.

LOUIS C. COLE AUDITORIUM MEMORIAL HALL

Truly one of the region's premier performing arts venues, Louis C. Cole Auditorium – Memorial Hall houses an 800-seat grand auditorium and a rehearsal hall for the University's performing students. Completed in 1941, it was named to honor the men and women who served the nation in World War I, and features a unique mural-covered ceiling that depicts the greatest thinkers in history – from Aristotle to Sigmund Freud.



PLANETARIUM

Whether you want to stargaze, journey to distant galaxies or explore the solar system, Edinboro University's Planetarium is your gateway to the universe. The 70-seat Planetarium offers dynamic, hands-on educational experiences in which students and the public can learn about astronomy-related programs, the stars and various constellations.





Did you know there are creative ways to support Edinboro University? Ways in which Edinboro University, you and your loved ones all benefit at the same time?

Remainder to support Edinboro University



A charitable gift annuity is a contract between you and the Edinboro University Foundation. In exchange for your irrevocable gift of cash or securities, the Foundation agrees to pay you a fixed income each year for your lifetime (or, in the case of a joint annuity, for your life and that of another annuitant, such as your spouse). You also have the peace of mind knowing after a lifetime of payments to you, the remainder supports our mission.

IMMEDIATE PAYMENT

You can transfer cash or securities to Edinboro University now, in return for an annuity that pays a fixed income for life to you and/or your spouse. Annuitants must be age 55 or older. An annuity requires a gift of \$10,000 or more, which is backed by the full faith and credit of the Foundation. With this type of gift annuity, your payments begin immediately and will be made on a quarterly basis.

In addition, a gift annuity entitles you to take a charitable tax deduction. The amount of your charitable deduction

depends on the ages of the annuitants, the annuity rate and the value of the gift. Part of each annuity payment will be taxed as ordinary income, part may be taxed as capital gains if appreciated property is used, and part may be tax-free.

DEFERRED PAYMENT

You may wish to defer receiving income from your annuity for a specified term of years. Because payments are deferred, you and/or your spouse will receive annuity payments significantly higher than those associated with the immediate payment gift annuity.

An effective retirement planning tool, the deferred payment charitable gift annuity still entitles you to an immediate charitable deduction at a time when your income tax bracket is likely to be higher than in retirement.

You may postpone receiving income until you retire, when your income tax bracket may be lower. The donor or the annuitant may determine the age at which income payments begin. Part of each annuity payment will be taxed as ordinary income, part may be taxed as capital gains, and part may be tax-free.

Learn more at **EDINBORO.EDU/SUPPORT**

Anyone considering a planned gift should consult a tax and/or legal advisor to determine the consequences of making a gift.



I'M FIRST SCHOLARSHIP

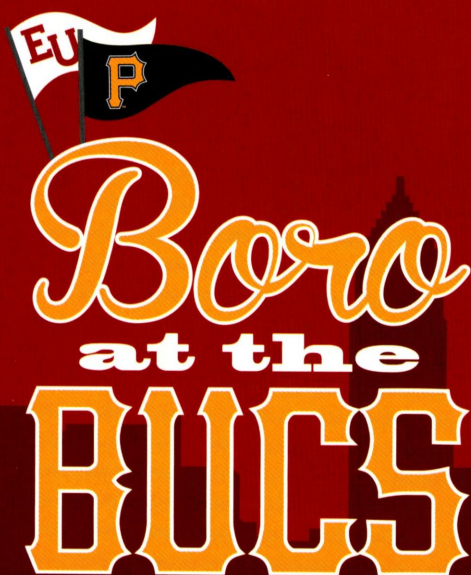
The I'm First Scholarship is an annual award for first-generation students enrolled full-time at Edinboro University. I'm First celebrates the grit, drive and determination of college students who are first in their families to earn a bachelor's degree.

Your gift of \$8,000 (pledged over four years) will provide a \$2,000 partial merit- or need-based annual award for a first-generation student in an undergraduate program of your choice.

For more information, contact the Office of University Advancement by phone at 814-732-2992 or email at advancement@edinboro.edu.



Edinboro University is creating a support network for first-generation students by connecting them with faculty and staff on campus who are first-generation college graduates. Pictured clockwise from top left: Dr. R. James Wertz, associate dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Dr. Michael Hannan, interim president; Pertrina Marrero, director of Diversity and Inclusion; Samuel Comfort, executive assistant to the president; Monica Clem, executive director of the Center for Career Development and Experiential Learning; and students Haley Carter, Samantha Nordlund, Brandon Torres Nieto and Sarah Swanson.



**3RD ANNUAL
EDINBORO UNIVERSITY NIGHT
AT PNC PARK**

SPACE IS LIMITED! REGISTER TODAY.

Saturday, June 22 • 4:05 p.m. Pirates vs. San Diego Padres

We're inviting alumni, students, friends, and family to join us for an exciting day of fun at the ballpark as we cheer for the Pirates.

11:00 a.m.

Pre-game party at The Hotel

Noon

Buses depart from The BORO to PNC Park

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Alumni & Friends gathering at the Corner Bar (Next to the Rotunda entrance)

Meet & Greet with Interim

President Hannan Enjoy half-price appetizers and beverages

4:05 p.m.

Play ball! Pirates vs. San Diego Padres

Questions? Please contact:

Cody Sharik: 412-325-4778 | cody.sharik@pirates.com
or Edinboro Alumni Engagement: 814-732-2715

Register today at
your.edinboro.edu/borobucs

SAVE *the* DATE



EDINBORO UNIVERSITY
Homecoming 2019

OCTOBER 11-12, 2019

Plans are well underway.
Mark your calendars.
homecoming.edinboro.edu

AFRICAN AMERICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF EDINBORO UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

**ALUMNI REUNION
2019**

OCTOBER 11-13, 2019

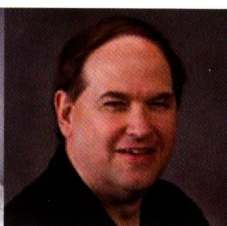
SCHOOL DAZE THEMED WEEKEND
aaeupreunion.com



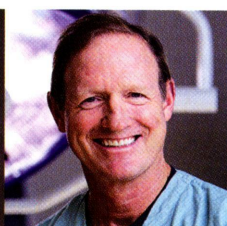
ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



Jeanne Miller



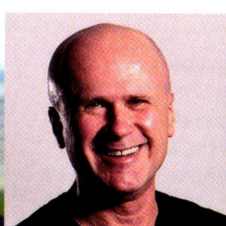
Dr. Michael Weaver



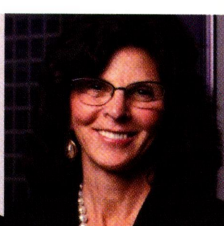
Dr. Jeffrey Astbury



John Carroll



Peter P. Gool



Regina A. Pingitore

1950s

1959 | Elizabeth (Lisa) Forster Beach was awarded the Alden Bryan Memorial Medal from the American Watercolor Society for her work, "Your Number Is?" A graduate of the Art Education program, Beach is the daughter of former Edinboro faculty members Mildred and Ralph Bruce, after whom the Bruce Gallery is named. She resides in Stowe, Vt., where she teaches private art and skiing lessons.

1970s

1971 | Jeanne M. Miller won a Gold Science Journalism Award in the Children's Science News category from the American Association for the Advancement of Science for her article in Muse magazine about eradicating Guinea worm disease. Miller, who resides in Berkely, Calif., is a longtime contributor to Odyssey and Muse magazines.

1974 | Dr. Michael Weaver was awarded the rank of professor emeritus of Entomology at Virginia Tech. Dr. Weaver served as director of Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs and professor of entomology for 38 years. He was recently appointed a fellow of the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators, and he continues to train graduate students, mentor students and colleagues, dedicate his time to service

in adult and youth science education and raise funds to support youth and adult education at Virginia Tech. He is writing a book on the legacies of Virginia agricultural education and research that he plans to publish next year.

1974 | Nancy Schiefferle Weaver recently retired from Virginia Tech after 40 years serving as a library assistant at the university's Newman Library.

1979 | Gregory D. Barnhart's photo was placed on the Past Master's wall at Ligonier Lodge No. 331 F&AM in Ligonier, Pa. He is the only living Past Master to serve the Lodge for three terms.

1980s

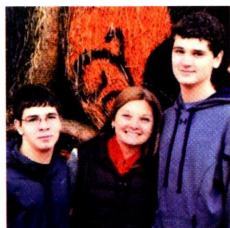
1980 | Dr. Jeffrey Astbury is the vice-chairman of Cardiovascular Services and director of Intraoperative Echocardiography at Butler Health Services. In addition, he serves as director of Cardiovascular Anesthesia at Butler Anesthesia and as an adjunct clinical assistant professor at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

1983 | Pamela Swansboro was recently named chief nursing officer at Conemaugh Meyersdale Medical Center. Prior to accepting her new position, Swansboro served as director of nursing at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center.

1985 | John Carroll was named president of Hotel Supply & Design, a design and purchasing service provider for hotels. Carroll was selected to lead this new division of The Carroll Adams Group where he previously served as vice president.

1985 | Peter P. Gool accepted a position at Zippo Manufacturing as the in-house corporate photographer. In this role, Gool is responsible for national and international photography of Zippo lighters, accessories, apparel, camping supplies, Case knives and Ronson Fuel products. He also owns and operates Studio G, a photography company serving clients in Erie, Pa. and New York. Gool's invention, the "T-Snub," recently secured distribution in Canada. The device improves the grip on tremolo bars for electric guitars.

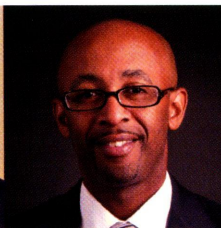
M 1985 | Regina A. Pingitore joined the NPD Group as senior vice president of research and innovation. Pingitore is responsible for leading research solutions, methodologies and applications for NPD's Checkout service. Prior to joining NPD, she worked at Deloitte as managing director of its Center for Industry Insights, where she provided executive direction for the research initiatives across the firm's consumer and industrial product sectors.



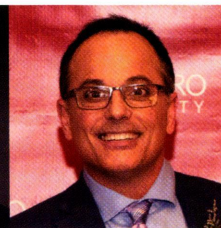
Julie (Kitchen) Milkie



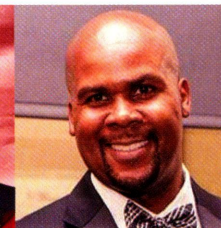
Anthony A. Bartkowski



Dr. Georj Lewis



Gregory Purchase



Sean L. Gibson



Dr. Jennifer L. Geddes Hall

1987 | Charles J. Holder retired from the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office in New York after 30 years of service. He accepted a new position as Emergency Planning Coordinator for the State University of NY at Fredonia.

1989 | Patrick Zentis was nominated for a Visual Effects Society Award for Outstanding Created Environment in an Episode, Commercial or Real-Time Project for his work creating "Fenway Park" for "The Handmaid's Tale." Zentis is a CG Environment Supervisor at Double Negative Visual Effects in London.

1989 | Barbara J. Williams released her second album, "A Box Full of Records," on March 1 under the artist name, "Barbara J." The album is a collection of covers and songs from the 1970s and '80s. The album was released by G.A.M. Records in Santa Monica, Calif.

1990s

1990 | Julie (Kitchen) Milkie is the owner of The Sprout Experience, an immersive educational company that provides camps, classes and international learning opportunities for students in grades 5-12. She has also been an educator since 1991.

1991 | Dr. Steven Tammariello is the Director of the Institute for Equine Genomics at Binghamton University. His article about extracting and analyzing DNA from the preserved hooves of thoroughbred champion Seabiscuit was published on "The Conversation" and Smithsonian.com.

1992 | Mark Lewandowski was named the 2018 recipient of the Mike Augustin Award, which is presented annually to recognize outstanding contributions to Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) athletic programs and their student-athletes. Since 1999, Lewandowski has covered Saint John's University athletics, lending his voice to countless memorable Johnnie football, basketball and hockey games.

1993 | Anthony A. Bartkowski was named the director of athlete development and welfare with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Bartkowski, who worked for PRCA Properties from 1999-2005, returned to the association after most recently serving as the executive director of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association. He and his wife, Kimberly, reside in the Colorado Springs area.

1993, M 1998 | Dr. Georj Lewis was named interim president of Atlanta Metropolitan State College effective July 1, 2019. Prior to his appointment, Lewis served as vice president for student affairs at Georgia Southern University.

1995 | Sean L. Gibson, executive director of the Josh Gibson Foundation, was awarded Edinboro University's 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for his service to the community and dedication to Pittsburgh youth.

1998, M 2003 | Dr. Jennifer L. Geddes Hall was appointed to the South Carolina Association for Play Therapy Board of Directors. Dr. Geddes Hall is an assistant clinical professor of Counseling in the Department of Education and Human Development at Clemson University. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Registered Play Therapist and Approved Clinical Supervisor.

1999, M 2005 | Michael Trudnowski is the principal of Elk Valley Elementary School in Girard, Pa. Trudnowski has been recognized across the state for his leadership in forming and sustaining one of the earliest and best implemented school-wide behavior support programs in Pennsylvania.

2000s

2003 | Rebecca F. (Rawlings) McMahon was promoted to director/clinical pharmacist focusing on clinical quality improvement at Optum Advisory Services, part of United Healthcare Group. Previously, she was director of Medicare Part D for United Healthcare in the employer group division. After earning her bachelor's degree from Edinboro, McMahon earned a Doctorate of Pharmacy from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2006.

2005 | Kimberly S. (Brumagin) Graham earned her Master of Science in Nursing in the Family Nurse Practitioner specialty from the University of South Alabama.

M 2007 | Jennifer (Lundy) Eehalt is a regional manager at Common Sense Media, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educators media-rich curricula and tools. She collaborates with school districts and after-school programs to help create a culture where students behave thoughtfully, respectfully and safely in their digital lives.

2009 | Dr. William Dillen is in his sixth year of residence at the University of Kentucky, Department of Neurosurgery. He is an accomplished researcher and author - work that began even before earning his undergraduate degree.



Jennifer Eehalt

Michael Trudnowski

Dr. William Dillen

Michael Outlaw

Steven Paternostro

Lacey M. Frownfelter

Joshua M. Kaufer

2009 | Trevor J. Harris signed with the Edmonton Eskimos Football Club in the Canadian Football League. Harris helped the Ottawa Redblacks to an East Division title in 2018.

2010s

2011 | Michael Outlaw is the community liaison for Erie Mayor Joe Schember. He previously served as a case manager at the Erie County Re-Entry Services and Support Alliance, which helps ex-offenders re-enter society after incarceration.

M 2013 | Jessica V. Dudley is the new president and chief professional officer at United Way of Hall County. Dudley, who earned a master's degree in social work from Edinboro, previously served as the executive director of Community Helping Place in Dahlonega, Ga.

2013 | Ryan P. Wilson was named offensive line coach at Saint Francis University. Wilson joined the Red Flash staff after serving as a graduate assistant offensive line coach at the University at

Buffalo. A four-year starter for Edinboro, he also has coaching experience at Utica College and the University of Rochester.

M 2014 | Michael A. Stamp joined Newberry College as coordinator of Campus Recreation in the Office of Student Affairs. In his new role, Stamp will focus on expanding the College's intramural sports program, overseeing the campus fitness center and developing Newberry's outdoor recreation/adventure programming.

2014 | Steven Paternostro was recently named the head coach of the Alfred State cross country and track & field programs. He also serves as the eSports Director at Alfred State.

2015 | Lacey M. Frownfelter married Aaron Tipping, '15, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Erie, Pa., on Dec. 1. The reception was held in Van Houten Dining Hall North on Edinboro's campus. The couple met in 2012 while working in the Undergraduate Admissions Office.

M 2015 | Gregory Purchase is a licensed clinical social worker. He owns and operates a private practice in Erie, Pa. In addition, Purchase is a mental health professional for the Certified Peer Specialist Program at the Mental Health Association of Northwestern PA and a firefighter/emergency medical technician with the City of Erie Bureau of Fire.

2016, M 2018 | Joshua M. Kaufer was appointed to the position of safety press officer for the northwest region District 1 by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

2018 | Kevin J. Dess is a taste room and travel events associate at Nova Cellars Winery in Pulaski, Pa.

Send news about your career and life milestones and a high-resolution photo to the Office of Alumni Engagement at eup_alumni@edinboro.edu or call 814-732-2715.



CONGRATULATIONS

to Edinboro University's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. Pictured from left: Dr. William Dillen, Jennifer Eehalt, Michael Trudnowski, Dr. Jeffrey Astbury and Mr. Gregory Purchase.

FACULTY MENTORS HELP BUSINESS MAJOR CARVE A CAREER PATH

By Kathryn Dolecki

Derrick Goodenow began his college career at Edinboro University in 2015 without a clear career path. Thanks to mentorship by expert faculty members in the Business and Economics Department and experiences outside the classroom, his dreams have taken shape.

"Uncertainty still existed as to what exactly I wanted to do, but I quickly found myself in the hands of two professors, Dr. Shaun Pfeiffer and Dr. Michael Engdahl, who cared about more than just educating me about financial planning," said Goodenow, a senior from Conneautville, Pa.

As a sophomore, he met with Dr. Engdahl, CFP®, chair of the Business and Economics Department, to discuss career goals. Goodenow learned more about Edinboro's nationally accredited Personal Financial Planning (PFP) Program.

The University's Bachelor of Science in Business Administration – Personal Financial Planning and minor in Personal Financial Planning both received renewal earlier this year from the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc., allowing students who complete the program to take the Certified Financial Planner® (CFP) Exam without additional coursework.

After passing the exam, graduates will be ready to help clients make educated financial decisions on a wide range of topics, from mortgages and insurance to college and estate planning, taxes and retirement.

"After that meeting, I knew that Personal Financial Planning was right for me," Goodenow said.

He set his sights on the Financial Advisor Development Program at Vanguard, a financial services company based in Malvern, Pa, that accepts only 10 graduates per year.



Dr. Michael Engdahl and students from Edinboro's Department of Business and Economics attend the 2019 Certified Financial Planner Board Registered Program Conference in Arlington, Va.

"What makes our program unique is what students are doing while they're at Edinboro, which is a lot of things above and beyond just taking the classwork," Dr. Engdahl said.

Students in Edinboro's PFP Program can become IRS-certified tax preparers to volunteer with Erie FREE Taxes. Each year, around 15-20 business students help low-income residents prepare their income taxes at no cost.

Students also have the opportunity to attend the CFP Board Conference in Arlington, Va., and the Financial Planning Association of the National Capital Area's (FPA-NCA's) Annual Career Day in Herndon, Va. They learn about the financial services field, gain exposure to industry professionals and sharpen their networking skills.

Goodenow took the initiative to form and act as president for the Personal Financial Planning Club after attending the 2017 FPA conference. Within a week, 40 students had joined. In 2018, Goodenow was awarded the Accreditation Council for Business

Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Leadership award for his work with the PFP Program.

By networking at conferences, Goodenow landed an internship with Radnor Financial Advisors, LLC in 2018. "They liked me so much from my initial phone interview after learning about how strong Edinboro's PFP program is, they hired me before my in-person interview," he said.

Later, he applied and was accepted to his dream goal: Vanguard's Financial Advisor Development Program. But after his internship at Radnor, Goodenow's career path changed. Radnor offered him a job.

He asked himself, "Was I really about to turn down an offer that had been a goal during my whole journey?" Goodenow turned down Vanguard's offer because he knew his experience with Edinboro's PFP Program led him to a better option to reach his long-term goals.

An MBA program designed to meet your needs — on your time and on your terms.

3

convenient ways to attend lectures.

No other MBA program in this area offers you this much flexibility.

1

In person

Attend lectures on campus.

2

Real-time Online

Follow along at home in real time.

3

Your-time Online

Catch up later at a time convenient for you.



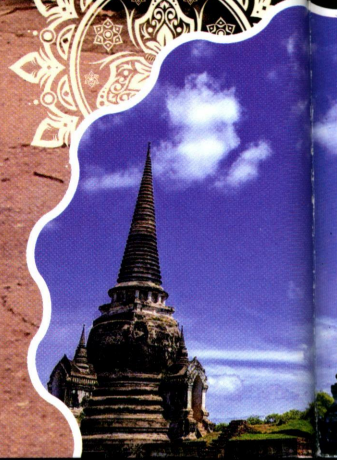
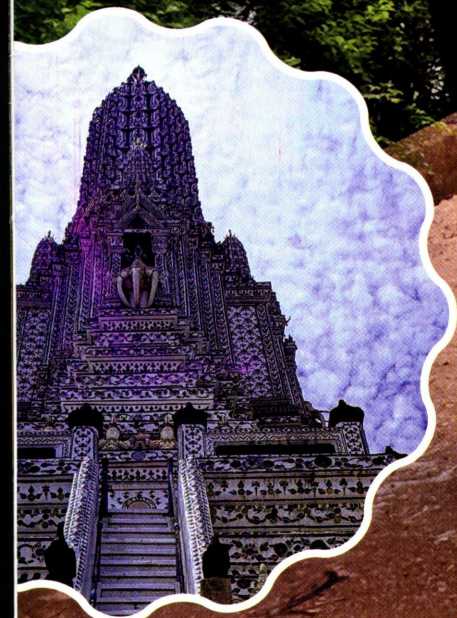
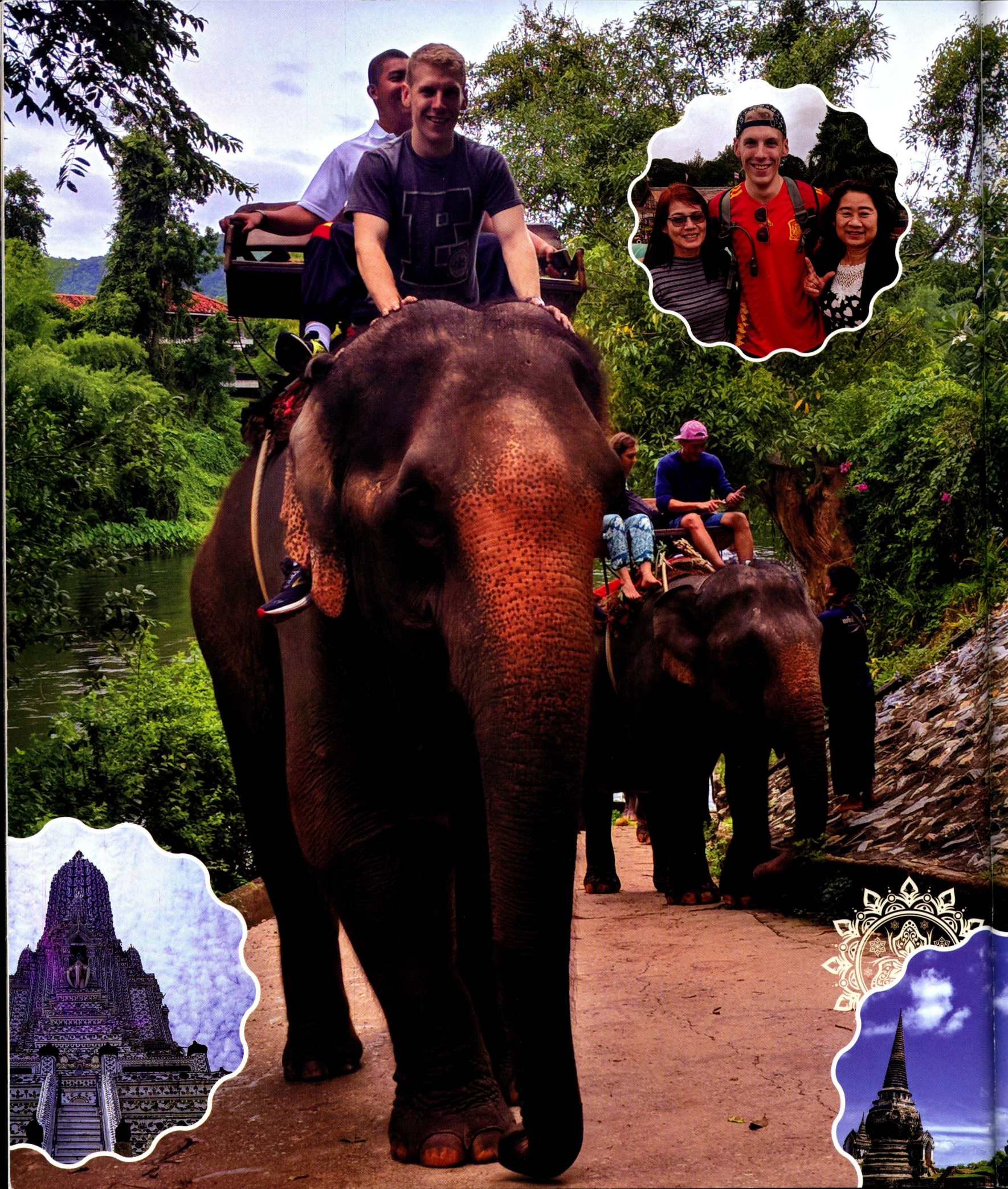
STAND OUT WITH AN MBA

We created our MBA program to prepare students to tackle the real challenges that businesses face in our rapidly changing global economy. Our expert faculty have built a curriculum designed to teach how complex decisions affect an entire organization. Our approach ensures graduates gain a truly integrated, advanced business education and leave with the critical skills they need to succeed.



Apply now at
Edinboro.edu/MBA

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis for the Fall, Spring and Summer terms.



A Taste Of Thailand

By Christopher LaFuria

Standing below the stunning 200-foot Wat Arun, a Buddhist temple in Bangkok that signifies a rising sun.

Flavors and aromas of freshly caught fish, spicy curried meat and stir-fried vegetables.

Riding water buffaloes and elephants. Rice farming in a rural patch of Thailand.

This doesn't sound much like U.S. Army ROTC training. But for Edinboro University student-cadet Ethan Dennis, a senior from Cambridge Springs, Pa., a summer in Thailand is exactly the experience needed for his college and military transcripts.

Dennis recently participated in the Army ROTC Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program (CULP), a three-week immersion program that places cadets in foreign countries to learn about other cultures and discover the U.S. reputation abroad.

"I didn't know that I was chosen to visit Thailand – all I knew was that I was scheduled to arrive in Asia," said Dennis, who was one of nearly 1,000 ROTC cadets around the country to travel with the program. "And I discovered that, even though Asian culture is very different from ours, the local people and cadets are extremely curious and friendly to visitors."

Prior to his visit, Dennis reported to Fort Knox in Kentucky for safety training, pre-deployment homework and to learn more about Asian cultures. After preparing for the trip and obtaining a passport, Dennis landed at Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy in Phrommani, the Thai version of West Point Academy.

In addition to discovering the Buddhist temples, cozy corner markets and local cuisine, Dennis and his American colleagues participated in rappel drills, conducted firearms training and coordinated jump tower training – a parachuting practice common with the Army Airborne School.

ROTC cadet learns leadership during global cultural training

Cadets also visited a local elementary school to train in leadership skills with a group of Thai children.

"This trip really taught me how other cultures have different social interactions than we do in the United States," Dennis said. "It was definitely amazing to see how friendly everyone was – even to complete strangers from other continents."

Designed for participants to experience up to three different venues during immersion, Army ROTC cadets can select military-to-military exchange, humanitarian service, and education on the social, cultural and historical aspects of the country.

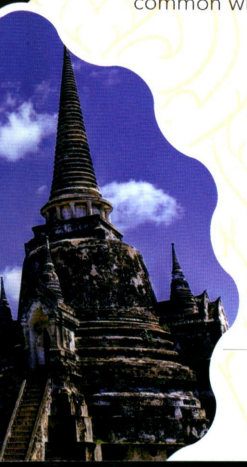
"This trip really taught me how other cultures have different social interactions than we do in the United States."

Lt. Col. Benjamin Kavanagh, commander of Edinboro University's ROTC battalion, credits Dennis for exploring Thailand and Asia and for representing Edinboro abroad.

"When our cadets receive their commission as second lieutenants in the United States Army, their careers lead them across the globe," said Kavanagh, who became the leader of the Fighting Scots Battalion in 2017. "Cadet Dennis continually shows his growth as a leader by taking on these challenges and being a constant leader and learner."

Yet to discover where he'll end up after graduation and commissioning, Dennis said he will take every single adventure from the trip with him beyond his time at Edinboro.

"Every little town had food carts and small markets, and the meals were all family-style," he said. "It was a learning experience for me and an eye-opening experience for the Thai people who were meeting an American for the first time."





219 Meadville Street
Edinboro, PA 16444

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 869
Erie, PA

Mr. Dietrich Wegner
Art Department

Stay Connected.

Follow us online to keep up with
everything happening on campus.

WWW.EDINBORO.EDU

