

THE

SPECIAL ISSUE

BORO

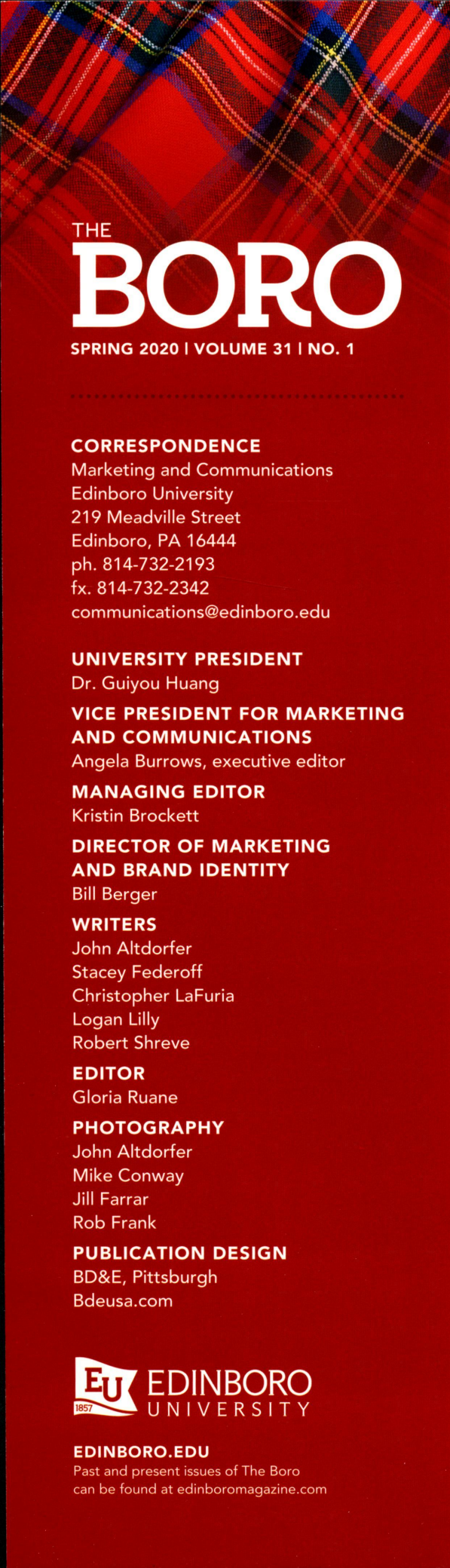
THE FIGHTERS

While the world
seemingly closed down,
Fighting Scots around
the globe **stepped up**.



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THE BORO

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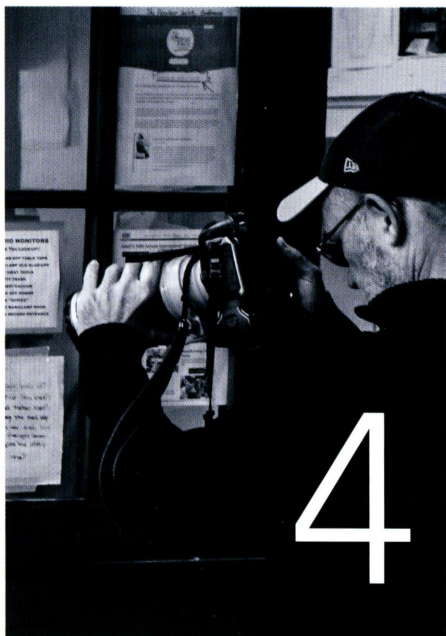
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CONTENTS

- 2 A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 3 A TRIBUTE TO THE CLASS OF 2020
- 4 CAPTURING THE STORY FROM A DISTANCE
- 5 THE FIGHTERS: WHILE THE WORLD
SEEMINGLY CLOSED DOWN, FIGHTING
SCOTS AROUND THE GLOBE STEPPED UP
- 24 CREATIVITY IN QUARANTINE WITH
ART THERAPY
- 30 MICHAELA BARNES' EU LEGACY:
A STELLAR BASKETBALL CAREER
SPURRED BY DRIVE AND GRIT
- 34 A NOTE FROM EDINBORO'S DIRECTOR OF
ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT
- 35 READY TO WORK. READY TO HELP.
- 36 STUDENT HARDSHIP FUND
- 38 ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

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THE BORO

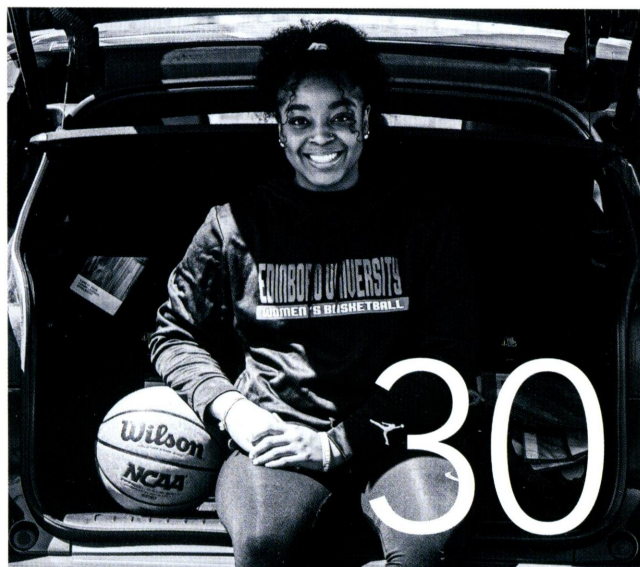
Welcome to another issue of "The Boro" magazine. This publication highlights news of students, faculty and alumni, using photos, design and text to share the Edinboro story. It's a really good story!

Please send comments to communications@edinboro.edu.

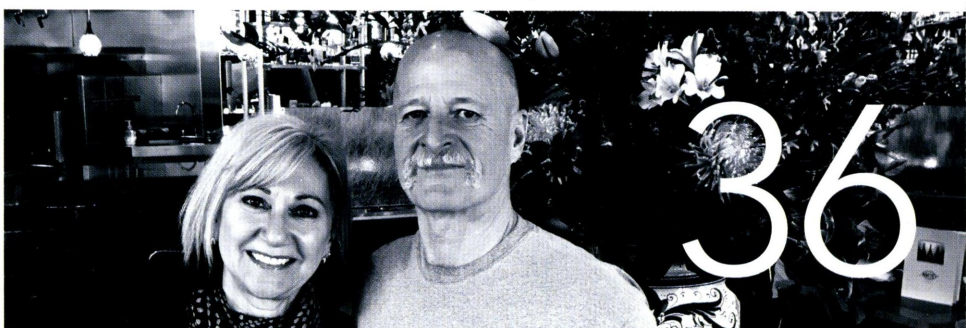
Enjoy!



24



30



36



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Our world is dramatically different than it was just a year ago when I first arrived on campus.

Edinboro students, faculty and staff recently completed one of the most challenging semesters in the history of higher education. And whether this message finds you in Edinboro, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Denver, Los Angeles or Edinburgh, COVID-19 has no doubt impacted your life as well.

My thoughts have been with each of you as you and your loved ones grapple with the extraordinary challenges posed by this pandemic. The disruption to life as we knew it has been difficult, but I remain confident that we will get through it together.

Indeed, these past several months have served as a defining moment. It's hard to predict when we will get to some semblance of normal, but until then, I believe we all will continue to find moments and experiences to savor in these hard times. Some have talked about the benefits of slowing down and spending more time with family. Others have shared stories of kindnesses shown, returned and paid forward. We have been inspired by the first responders and healthcare workers who have been heroic in their response. We have been touched by teachers who have found a way to connect with their students and let them know they care. And who among us has not been moved as we've watched videos of city dwellers opening their windows and harmonizing with neighbors to dispel the loneliness that can come with isolation?

As for me, the virus has given me an opportunity to understand the Edinboro community more intimately and to experience in a deeper way what it means to be a Fighting Scot.

Edinboro University is an extraordinary place with a welcoming, compassionate community united in the pursuit of knowledge, a desire to serve and a willingness to do whatever it takes to get things done.

When the coronavirus hit in March, our University community sprang into action. Students moved from campus, often without a chance to say goodbye to friends. Faculty adapted to new delivery methods and developed creative approaches to what would have been hands-on experiences in art studios and science labs. Staff coordinated departures, answered questions, arranged for timely refunds of fees and offered a helping hand where students and parents needed it most.

We know that many of you are on the front line of the pandemic response—treating patients, educating students, preparing meals, drafting legislation, serving in the military, researching vaccines, fighting fires, advocating for underserved communities, donating supplies, making masks and so much more. Others have transitioned to working from home while balancing family responsibilities; that too is heroic, requiring perseverance and a great deal of stamina.

Yes. When challenged, Fighting Scots always rise to the occasion. This issue of "The Boro" is devoted to your stories.

I feel quite privileged to be a member of this community of scholars, leaders, problem solvers, caregivers and caretakers. When this crisis passes—and it will pass—we will emerge united and stronger than ever.

Stay well,

Guiyou Huang, Ph.D.

President, Edinboro University



A TRIBUTE TO THE CLASS OF 2020

Members of the Class of 2020 have overcome extraordinary obstacles to complete their degrees and succeed at the highest levels. Even when COVID-19 abruptly ended their college experience and caused the Commencement ceremony to be postponed, they continued to strive.

These weeks and months of uncertainty have provided an opportunity to demonstrate what defines the Edinboro family. In the midst of this global crisis, alumni, faculty and staff have rallied around the Class of 2020 with video greetings and words of encouragement. President Huang also sent each graduate a tassel, symbolizing their transition from student to graduate and reaffirming Edinboro's commitment to an in-person ceremony when it's safe to gather again. Until then, here's to you, Class of 2020.

Yvonne Orton, '71, Elementary Education, Wattsburg, Pa.

In times that are difficult, hang onto your inner strength and take things one day at a time, keeping in mind that, 'this, too, shall pass.' Together, we will get through this and come out on the other side, stronger and wiser.

Kyle Witucki, '09, Sports Administration, Tarentum, Pa.

Stay focused. This is a minor setback for a major comeback! Best wishes and stay healthy!

Janet Pawlowski, '89, Clinical Psychology, Erie, Pa.

Change can be a good thing—think of a caterpillar becoming a butterfly. The outcome is worth the struggle and endurance it takes! GO SCOTS!

Kimberly Fisk, '96, Elementary/Special Education, Columbiana, Ohio

Stay Strong Scots! This too shall pass and you will come out stronger in the end!

Corinne Creppage, '01, Criminal Justice, State College, Pa.

Fighting Scots will persist! Good vibes to all of you and better days will come!

Greg Harris, '07, M '12, BS in Health & Physical Education – Sport Administration & MA Communication Studies, Cleveland, Ohio

As a two-time alum and former EU employee, I know the grit and resiliency of Fighting Scots, and I know that we are all in this together. The EU community drives each other forward and, even through difficult times, EU is "For Those Who Strive!"

Charles Scalise, '86, Business, Erie, Pa.

Edinboro University is known for our commitment to striving. Now, more than ever, you have identified yourselves as those who can strive. Go Boro!

Dr. Guiyou Huang, president

Congratulations on your graduation. I am very proud of you. Despite all of the problems caused by COVID-19 and despite the abrupt transition from in-person to online courses, you did it. You made it. Use your diploma well.

Dr. Mary Jo Melvin, chairperson, Early Childhood and Reading Department

I feel so confident that you have developed a tool kit that will enable you to go out into the world and make your mark. Always remember: You are special. You are a winner. You are a Fighting Scot.

Dr. Elaine Rinfrette, chairperson, Social Work Department

I wish you all success in the future and days filled with happiness. Always remember: Life is a journey. You'll be amazed at where it takes you.

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Meier, assistant professor, Art Department

As you strive to serve your communities and lead our world to new places, we—the Edinboro faculty—stand behind you. We are cheering you on.

Dr. Ron Craig, professor, Psychology Department

When I sit with my advisees and we talk during their first semester at Edinboro, we talk about how quickly time will fly. Then, before we know it, we're sitting down talking about graduation. It's exciting to think about the things you'll be doing in the future. We wish you the very best.

Dr. Jingze Jiang, associate professor, Business and Economics Department

Congratulations on your graduation, and good luck on your next adventure. I want to thank you for sharing your valuable years with us. Keep being awesome.

Lt. Col. Benjamin Kavanagh, Edinboro University ROTC

Congratulations on completing your degree. Just because we're not together for an in-person ceremony just yet, don't think we're not celebrating your success with you now. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and look forward to seeing you back on campus as an alumni.

**CLASS
OF 2020**

CAPTURING THE STORY FROM A DISTANCE



COVID-19 HAS PRESENTED BARRIERS FOR US ALL. BUT IT'S ALSO RESULTED IN UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES.

With stay-at-home regulations in place, we approached this issue of "The Boro" in a whole new way. Interviews were conducted virtually. Pittsburgh-based photographer John Altdorfer captured images outside, through windows or via long-focus lenses. The beauty that emerged is proof that Fighting Scots never stop striving—even during a global pandemic.

Altdorfer, who has taken photos for "The Boro" since fall 2018, is no stranger to this kind of work. He and Edinboro alumna Jill (Butcher) Farrar, '04, recently teamed up to capture artistic images of Pittsburghers from a safe distance in exchange for a donation to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. The duo raised more than \$5,300 in less than a month.

THE FIGHTERS

When news broke in late December that an unknown virus had caused a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China, it was impossible to predict the global impact of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

By the end of January, the virus had spread to 18 additional countries, and it was just getting started.

Life as we knew it changed in the blink of an eye. Restaurants, malls, amusement parks, schools and daycares closed. Concerts and other large-scale events were canceled. Millions of people lost their jobs. Toilet paper and disinfectant wipes became precious commodities. Higher-education institutions, including Edinboro, transitioned to online learning.

While the world seemingly closed down, Fighting Scots around the globe stepped up.

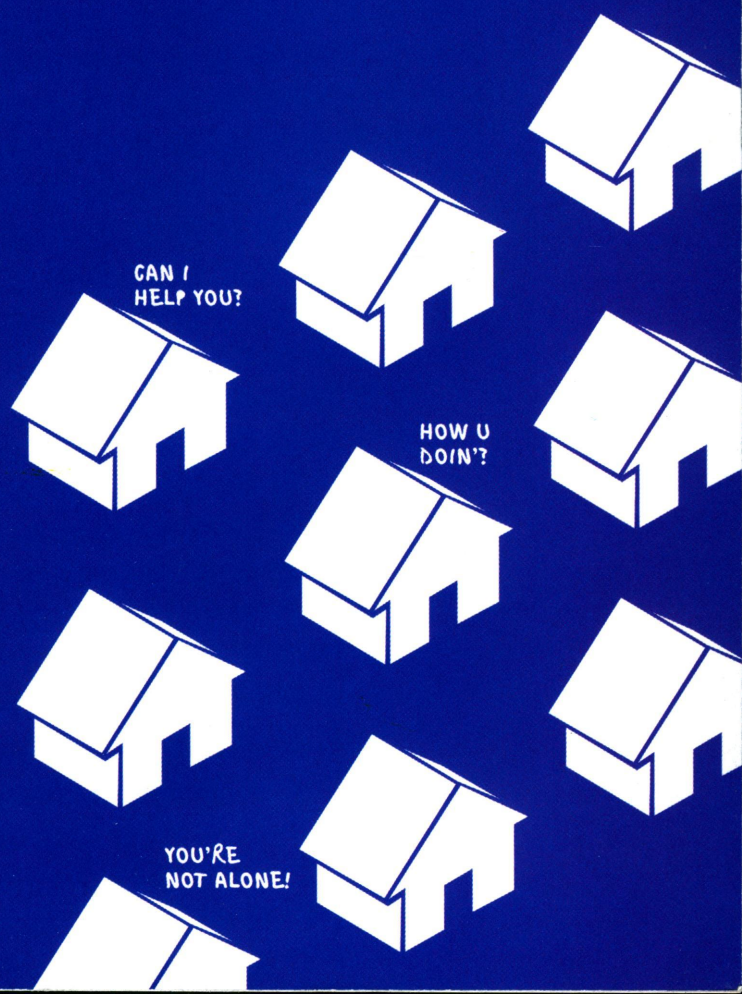
Doctors and nurses cared for critically ill patients. Students adjusted to a new way of learning. Educators reconfigured their courses and mastered new technology. Staff members adapted to telecommuting while balancing family responsibilities. Employees in retail, shipping, public transit and many more fields performed life-sustaining work. Others stayed home and helped to slow the curve.

The individuals featured on the following pages represent a small sampling of Edinboro alumni, faculty and students who navigated the obstacles prompted by COVID-19 with tremendous resolve.

Fighting Scots persevere. We invite you to read their tales of persistence, leadership, strength and courage.

“When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure.”

— Scottish clergyman Peter Marshall



ALUMNI PROFILE



The issues that face the county executive can seem intimidating.

Providing leadership to the region's economic development, expanding a network of social services to reduce mental health stigmas and treat trauma survivors, overseeing the launch of a new \$26.5 million public safety radio system and creating an efficient government for Erie County are all on Kathy Dahlkemper's calendar.

And with the arrival of COVID-19, Dahlkemper has added even more bullet points to her daily agenda.

"My focus is COVID-19," said Dahlkemper, who issued a stay-at-home order for Erie County residents on March 24. "How do we mitigate the spread of it, and how do we save lives?"

As the highest-ranking elected official in Erie County—home to nearly 270,000 Pennsylvanians—Dahlkemper has prepared for this logistical challenge.

Shifting from economic discussions and public safety projects, Dahlkemper's daily routine now includes frequent reports from the COVID-19 response team—including Melissa Lyon, director of the county's Department of Health, and a countywide incident command structure.

Throughout the spring, she has also delivered press briefings at 3 p.m. daily to update residents about new cases and potentially confirmed cases. At 4:15 p.m., her crew of public service, legal and public information professionals has met to discuss a reopening process.

"It's a fascinating time," said Dahlkemper, who graduated from Edinboro in 1982 with a degree in dietetics. "Luckily, I have an excellent staff, working with every other department that continues to do the hard work."

This collaborative approach is something Dahlkemper has relied on since taking office as Erie County executive in January 2014. Her first order of business as an elected official in her home county was to drop the silos of municipal government and begin collective work with elected leaders, nonprofit groups, healthcare associations and other vital groups.

"We are one county government," said Dahlkemper, who was reelected to a second term in November 2017. "We are one community. And our community as a whole has been more collaborative than it's been in my lifetime."

Charting Erie County's Course

WHEN THE COVID CRISIS PUSHED HER CHALLENGES HIGHER, KATHY DAHLKEMPER DOUBLED DOWN ON COLLABORATION

By Christopher LaFuria

In addition to informing the public about changes in COVID-19 and the county's planning, Dahlkemper also has major concerns. Erie County is one of only six counties in Pennsylvania with a centralized health department. Although this puts Erie in a better position to respond to pandemics like COVID-19, Dahlkemper is concerned about how state funding could affect future crises.

"What people are seeing now is—because we haven't funded public health in the way that we should have—we've struggled dealing with this pandemic," she said. "I hope that we've learned some lessons about this—and the local, state and federal level understands that we are doing important work to keep everyone safe."

Another major concern is the Erie County economy, with major hits to hospitality, professional services and manufacturing due to COVID-19 quarantine. As of May 2020, the county was still discussing plans to gradually reopen certain industries.

"We're going to get back to some sense of normal, but I think our sense of normal is going to be much different than it was before COVID-19," Dahlkemper said.

Dahlkemper, who lives in the City of Erie with her husband, Dan, has spent her career putting her hometown at the top of her priority list. Prior to becoming county executive, she served Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives until 2011—becoming the first woman ever elected to this district position.

"The most successful work in our country is being done at the local level," said Dahlkemper, who decided to run for the Erie County executive position to provide more impactful service to her community. "You can visibly see changes that have occurred because of the work we've done."

With a background in dietetics and health science, Dahlkemper has used her experience from Edinboro University to understand the human condition—and exactly how COVID-19 impacts the mental, physical and emotional health of her community.

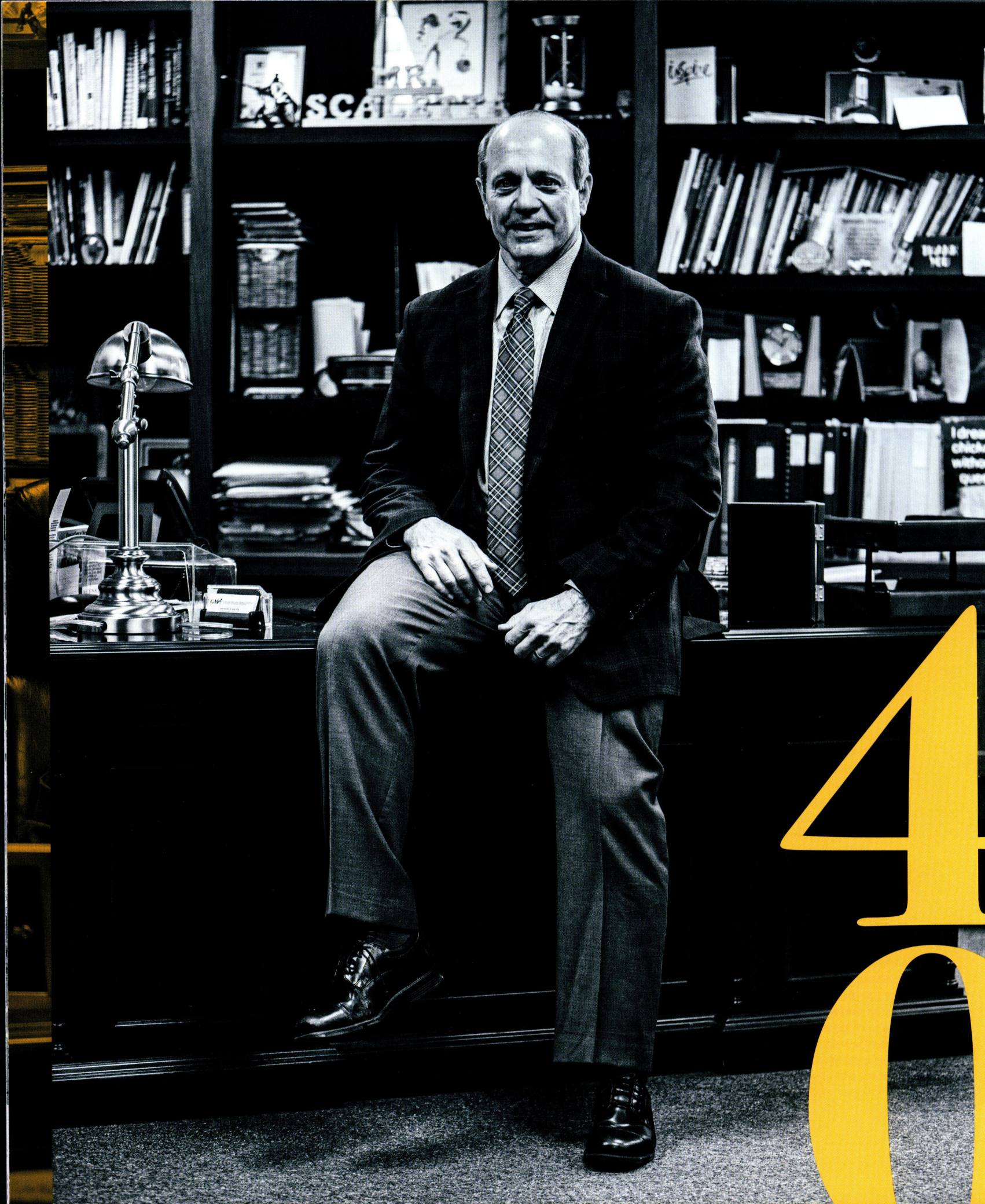
"This is a very, very difficult time for even the healthiest of people," said Dahlkemper, who received an Honorary Doctorate from Edinboro in May 2012 for her work in public service. "There are days when I find myself anxious and wondering if this will ever be over."

Dahlkemper said that, although there is still major work to be done, she does see the light at the end of the tunnel.

"Because of the work that has been done over the past five years, we are in a much better place today to deal with getting back and running our economy," she said. "That's really a tribute to all the work that has been done—from government, for-profit, nonprofit, philanthropic, universities—I think we all are in a better place. Erie County will definitely be one of the counties that bounces back, maybe easier than others"

As Dahlkemper works with Erie County officials and her local communities to find solutions and seek a return to normalcy, she reflected on how returning to the county has created a philosophical and spiritual connection.

"I'm living my purpose right now," she said. "I feel very much like this is where I am supposed to be in my life. I was put into this particular position as county executive because I would be needed for this particular role."



40 YEARS AND THEN SOME

DEDICATED EDUCATOR DELAYS RETIREMENT TO HELP IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

By Logan Lilly

For 40 years, alumnus Rick Scaletta, '80, has been a vital part of the General McLane School District in Edinboro, Pa., as a music teacher, choral director, assistant band director and administrator. This fall, Scaletta's tenure there will presumably come to an end.

Scaletta's last day as superintendent in the district of more than 2,100 students had been scheduled for June 30. But due to concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the school board asked him to stay on until his replacement is found.

Looking back on his time serving the community, Scaletta recalled how the Edinboro area caught his attention in the first place.

"When I was in high school, my band director was very influential in my life, and he actually suggested Edinboro," said Scaletta, who grew up in Johnstown, Pa. "He had known Cliff Cox in the Music Department. I came for Music Education, and he spoke highly of it."

An education was important to his parents, neither of whom had finished high school. His father left the classroom behind to fight in World War II, and his mother left school in the eighth grade to help support her family.

"They would always say, 'Education is important,'" Scaletta recalled. "Even though they didn't technically finish their basic education, they still understood the importance of it."

Entering Edinboro as a tuba major and a vocal minor, Scaletta said it was the faculty who truly shaped his college experience.

"Gordon Flood was the choir director then. I did work-study in his office; I was the choral librarian, basically his assistant, and he was a great influence on me. He was just a brilliant, brilliant man," Scaletta said. "Music has always been important to me because it allows us to transcend the drudgery of the everyday."

By spring 1980, Scaletta had graduated and was packed up to leave campus, expecting to return to the area only for homecomings. But he was mistaken.

That July, Scaletta got a call: General McLane was looking for a teacher with a background in both band and choir. Within weeks, Scaletta was hired by the school district where he would remain for four decades, just down the road from the Edinboro University campus.

Scaletta's focus shifted from teaching to administration, and he was named superintendent in 2010. He occasionally looked at working elsewhere throughout his career, but leaving never felt right, he said.

"I did not think I was going to stay at General McLane for 40 years when I started here. I became aware that this really is a unique community," he said.

Scaletta, 62, is most proud of the relationships he formed in the school district, where his wife, Judy, teaches high school math. "When I look back at the 40 years, I think mostly about people—students, teachers, community members—that I had the pleasure of being involved with."

Scaletta always tried to keep students in mind, he said. Before every decision he would ponder what was the best thing for the students. "In some places administrative convenience comes before the student needs. That has never been the case at General McLane, and I hope it never becomes the case," he said.

While he looks forward to retirement, Scaletta has the unique hurdle of COVID-19 to face. Scaletta said the state-ordered closure of schools for the academic year required the broadest application of problem-solving skills he has experienced.

"Every teacher had to completely rethink what they were doing," Scaletta said. "We had people stepping up to make lunches for kids, to take care of the buildings; some of our bus drivers are making deliveries of our learning packets to kids who don't have internet. And the community and parents have been very supportive."

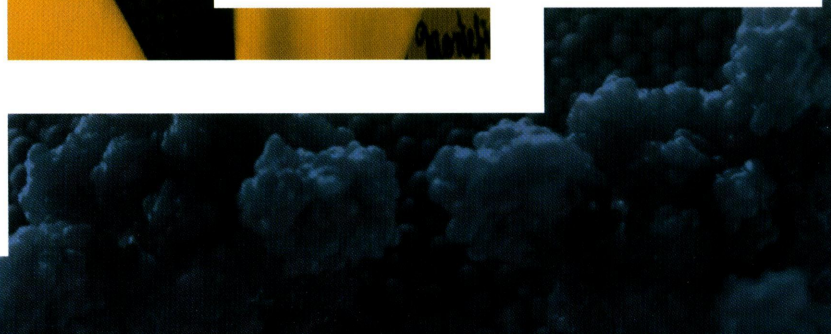
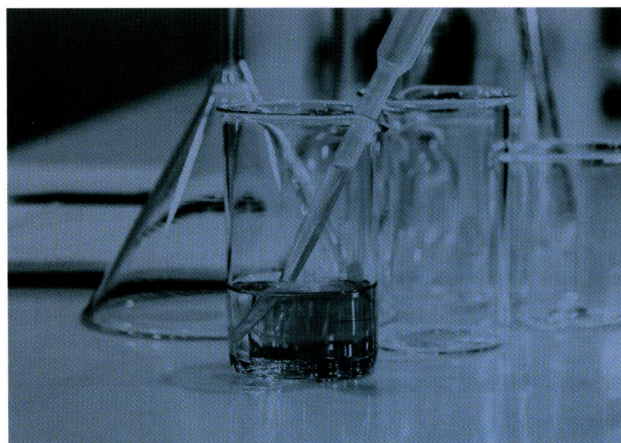
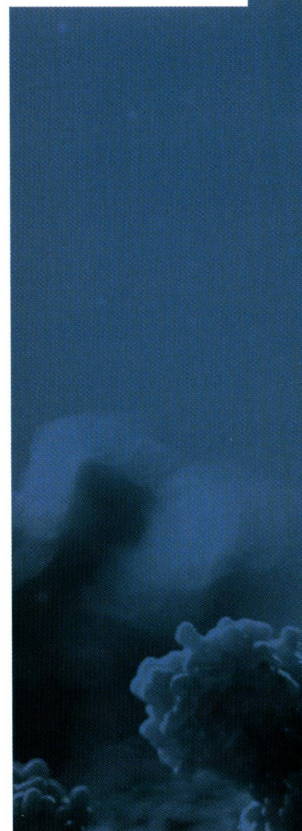
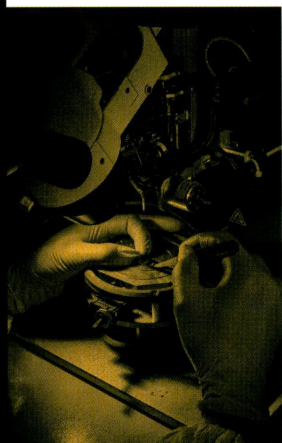
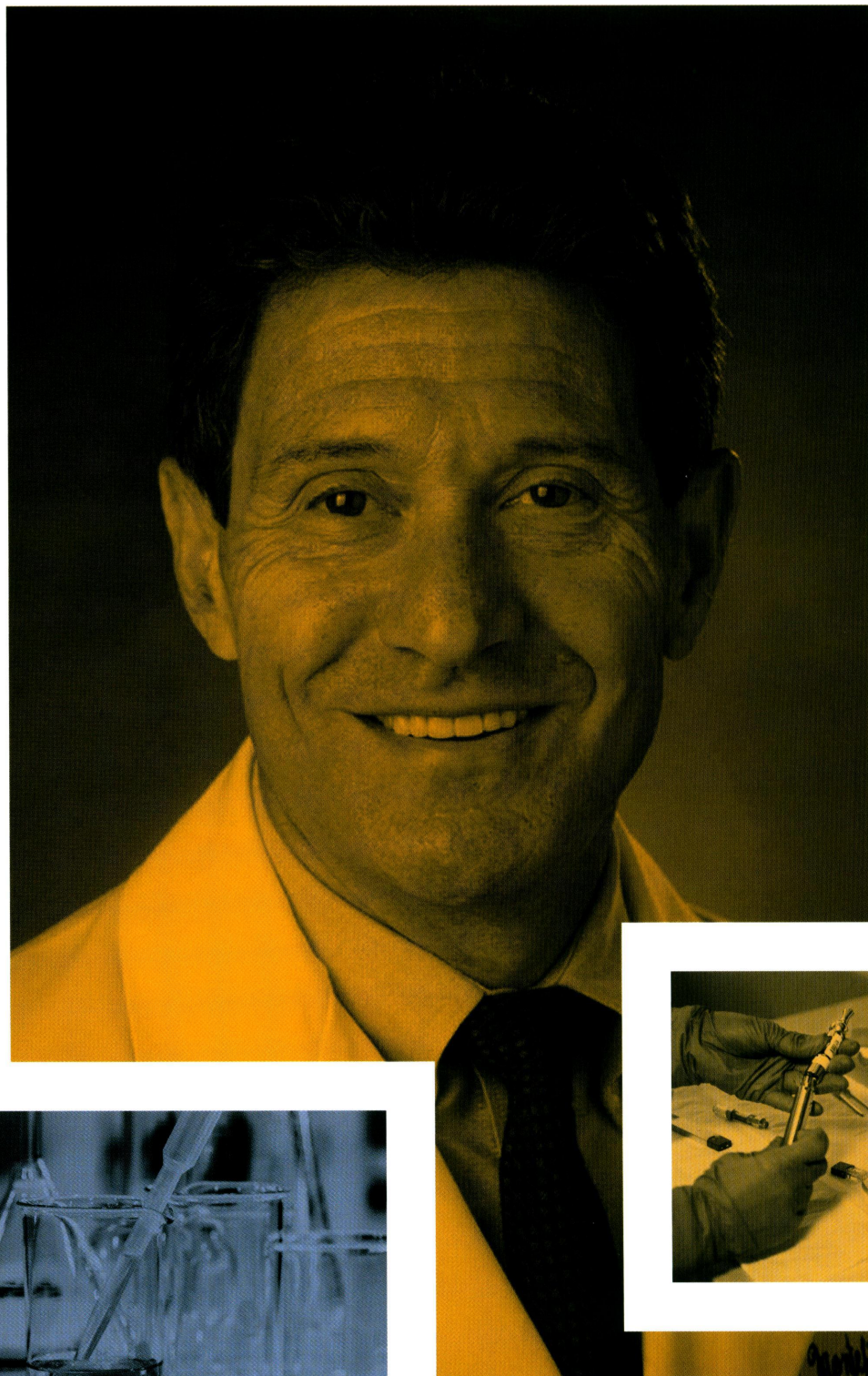
During social distancing, Scaletta has taught himself video editing skills, creating supportive videos each Sunday for his faculty and staff.

"We're going to come out of this crisis better and as better teachers," Scaletta predicted.

Despite his long career of accomplishments, Scaletta still attributes his success to where he came from and the state university that got him here.

"My parents did not finish high school, but here I am, one of only 500 leaders of a public school system in the state. It's pretty amazing when you think about it," he said. "I'm a first-generation college student, and if it wasn't for places like Edinboro, I don't know what would have happened."

"We're going to come out of this crisis better and as better teachers."



ALUMNI PROFILE

FRONTLINE FIGHTER

HIV EXPERT DR. DAVID MONTEFIORI IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF COVID-19
VACCINE RESEARCH

By Logan Lilly

Through most of his career, Edinboro alumnus Dr. David Montefiori has focused on tackling one of the biggest medical challenges of our time, HIV/AIDS. This year, a new challenge and a new virus is on his radar: COVID-19.

While the two viruses differ, Montefiori sees the similarities in how the medical community is fighting back against both.

"The strong sense of urgency and the need to move quickly to develop effective treatments and vaccines for COVID-19 reminds me of the early days of the HIV epidemic," said Montefiori, professor and director of the Laboratory for AIDS Vaccine Research and Development at Duke University Medical Center.

"Unfortunately, HIV turned out to be a much more complex virus. COVID-19 is much different—simpler, and more vulnerable to our immune system. Hopefully, this makes it an easier target for vaccines."

A major focus of Montefiori's work to combat COVID-19 with his team is helping to develop a vaccine, specifically when the virus has mutated into different strains.

"The COVID-19 genome is much more stable than HIV, even more stable than influenza virus, but it does mutate," Montefiori said. "Together with colleagues at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, we recently discovered a new, mutant form of COVID-19 that is more transmissible. We call this new form the D614G strain."

Montefiori explained that the effectiveness of vaccines now in development depends on whether they can combat both strains of the virus or if a second vaccine will be needed.

"All COVID-19 vaccines currently in development are based on the original Wuhan-1 strain. We do not know whether those vaccines will work against the D614G form of the virus," Montefiori said. "We are doing experiments to determine whether it will be necessary to create second-generation vaccines to protect against both forms of the virus, or whether the current vaccines are likely to protect against both."

While work on the vaccine is promising, Montefiori said it is important for everyone to continue listening to experts during this uncertain time.

"My best advice is to continue to be vigilant, even after stay-at-home and social distancing restrictions are lifted and you begin to get out again," Montefiori stressed. "Be mindful of the vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions. Get tested if you feel sick. Wash your hands often. Pay attention to the advice of infectious disease experts, people like Drs. Tony Fauci and Deborah Birx, who are doing their best to provide us with the information we need."

Montefiori attributes many of the skills he uses in the lab to the solid education he received in his undergraduate work at Edinboro.

"A strong undergraduate education was absolutely essential in preparing me for all of this," Montefiori said. "Edinboro had incredible faculty who were knowledgeable, resourceful, creative and highly dedicated to their students. Looking back, I also recognize the value of the basic and advanced course offerings that were available in areas such as biology, chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology, physics and statistics, to mention a few, in addition to the many interesting course offerings outside my major, all of which contributed to an expanded base of knowledge to prepare me for what was to come next."

"My best advice is to continue to be vigilant, even after stay-at-home and social distancing restrictions are lifted and you begin to get out again"

Montefiori earned his bachelor's degree in Biology from Edinboro in 1978. Following graduation, he earned his Ph.D. in Microbiology from Clemson and later became a faculty member at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where he began his work on HIV. He eventually moved to Duke University to continue his work on HIV with a focus on vaccines and neutralizing antibodies.

Montefiori attributes the path he took in his career to independent studies he worked on while at Edinboro.

"This research occupied most of my 'free' time during my last two years at Edinboro, including summers, and became the basis of my doctoral research at Clemson," Montefiori recalled. "These independent projects reinforced my passion for research and my commitment to a career in science."

To current students, Montefiori offered advice to make the most out of their college experience.

"I strongly encourage all students to take advantage of the many opportunities Edinboro has to offer," Montefiori said. "This is a unique time in your life to absorb information and learn how to use that information in meaningful and constructive ways that are personally rewarding."



ALUMNI PROFILE

a new work-life balance challenge

ALUMNA CARLI HOEHN BELOSH
FOUND WAYS TO MESH KIDS'
LEARNING AND PLAY WITH OFFICE
CALLS AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS
DURING STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

By Stacey Federoff

Ella notices everything.

She's only 3 years old, but she heard the word "coronavirus" on the news and asked her parents what it was.

"At first, we simply explained to her that there was a bad germ that was making people sick," said her mother, Carli HoeHN Belosh, of Meadville, Pa. "She asks reasons for everything, so once we explained to her that everything is closed because we don't want to get sick, she's been extremely matter-of-fact about it. She comments all the time about wanting to do things 'once Corona goes away.'"

Belosh, who earned a bachelor's degree in Speech Communication in 2009 and a Master of Arts in Communication Studies (MACS) in 2011 from Edinboro, worked from home as a precaution related to the COVID-19 pandemic. She and her husband, Jordan, took care of Ella and their 7-month-old son, Elliot, through the duration of the statewide stay-at-home order in their northwestern Pennsylvania county.

"The main difference in transitioning from life prior to COVID-19 and now is the lack of quiet time, and focused work time," Belosh said in April. "In an office, it's much easier to start a task, focus and complete it without too much distraction."

Most days, the pair would switch every few hours working in their basement home office and taking care of the kids, who would normally be playing and learning at the Meadville Family YMCA daycare.

Belosh has worked since June 2013 as the assistant director for donor relations at Allegheny College. As part of her work, several projects were postponed or canceled, with one event—the annual Gator Giving Day—changed from in-person to virtual.



"It's one of my favorite days of the year—campus always feels alive and excited, and alumni across the country are enthusiastic online," she said. "While the day was incredibly successful, leading up to it was filled with uncertainty."

During the stay-at-home order, she missed spending time with her co-workers. Her closest friend, Lauren Kennedy, was a fellow 2011 MACS graduate from Edinboro and is now a co-worker, serving as the assistant director of annual giving.

"We have a very social workplace, and I've come to realize how vital that is to my work motivation and energy levels," Belosh said. "A lot of good ideas come from impromptu meetings in the office, and this environment makes it extremely challenging for that to happen."

In addition to technology problems—"My co-workers often tell me I am freezing or sound like a robot"—Belosh said one drawback is the guilt she feels having to juggle her work and spending quality time with her kids.

"Ella gets excited every night when we tell her we are done with work," Belosh said. "When I am at the office, I have the peace of mind knowing my kids are at day care, with their friends and teachers they love. They are getting the attention they deserve, all while learning and having a good time. At home, while I am working, I have the guilt of feeling like I should be playing with them, instead of just 'occupying' them."

"I worry I am not teaching my 3-year-old enough, at a time when I know she would be thriving in her preschool class," Belosh said. "Right now, I know Ella and Elliot are being taken care of; I just have guilt thinking they may not be interacted with enough—or taught enough."

When the whole family is free during the evenings and weekends, the Beloshes spend time taking walks, video-chatting with grandparents and cousins, building blocks in the living room or including the kids in help with household chores.

Even in a small way, staying connected with her alma mater has helped some.

"I especially appreciate the positive messages coming from Edinboro—we are so inundated with negativity right now that any positive messages make people feel just a little better," Belosh said.

She looks forward to when she can once again tell Ella that the whole family can go to a restaurant or the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.

"When I just focus on the day ahead of me and finishing my work and keeping the kids happy and healthy for that day, it's much easier to digest," Belosh said. "When I think of the long-term situation, or when we may be able to go back to 'normal' life, it's easy to get overwhelmed."

ALUMNI PROFILE



READY CRISIS

A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE PREPARED JIM DAHLE TO PUT THE CAMPUS PANDEMIC PLAN INTO ACTION

By Kristin Brockett

Even before the spread of COVID-19 forced higher-education institutions across the nation to transition to online instruction, Edinboro University was ready. In fact, Edinboro's pandemic plan long predates the current global health crisis.

That's because Jim Dahle is at his best when he's preparing for the worst.

As Edinboro's director of safety and risk management, Dahle, '06, oversees all aspects of the University's hazard mitigation efforts, including emergency preparedness, occupational, environmental and fire safety, regulatory compliance, access control and security systems.

His vigilant, ongoing work to enhance University safety programs and procedures was integral to Edinboro's swift and decisive response to COVID-19. And his leadership throughout the crisis is one of the many reasons he was named Edinboro University's 2020 Staff Member of the Year.

"Jim is a knowledgeable and dedicated professional who is committed to student, employee and community

"My father instilled service as a core value in my brother and me when we were young."



position with a forensic engineering firm in the Cleveland area, working alongside his mentor and fellow Edinboro alumnus, Jason Wallace, '98, as a fire explosion investigator. It was during that time that he first became interested in safety and risk management.

"As a fire explosion investigator, you work to identify the origin and cause of a variety of fires and explosions," Dahle said. "This information can be used by insurance companies, organizations and government entities to improve codes and standards to reduce the overall risk of property damage, injury or death."

He later served as a fire and life safety specialist at Case Western Reserve University, while also working as a lieutenant, fire inspector, firefighter and emergency medical technician for his local municipality.

When the position opened at Edinboro, he seized the opportunity to return to his alma mater.

Now he works around the clock conducting fire drills, performing safety inspections, updating safety programs and procedures, evaluating emergency

plans, testing indoor air quality, leading safety prevention training, monitoring severe weather, handling the University's property and liability insurance, managing the campus emergency alert system and providing support to University departments as they work to improve their safety programs and procedures.

"The primary goal of my job is to prevent incidents such as injuries, illnesses and property damage and to mitigate the risks that could adversely affect the campus community," said Dahle, who takes this charge seriously, even ending all campus emails with the salutation, "stay safe."

Since January, Dahle and members of Edinboro's Emergency Response Team have been monitoring news about the spread of coronavirus. The group reviewed the University's established pandemic plan and created a specific COVID-19 response protocol using guidance from the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dahle collaborated with county,

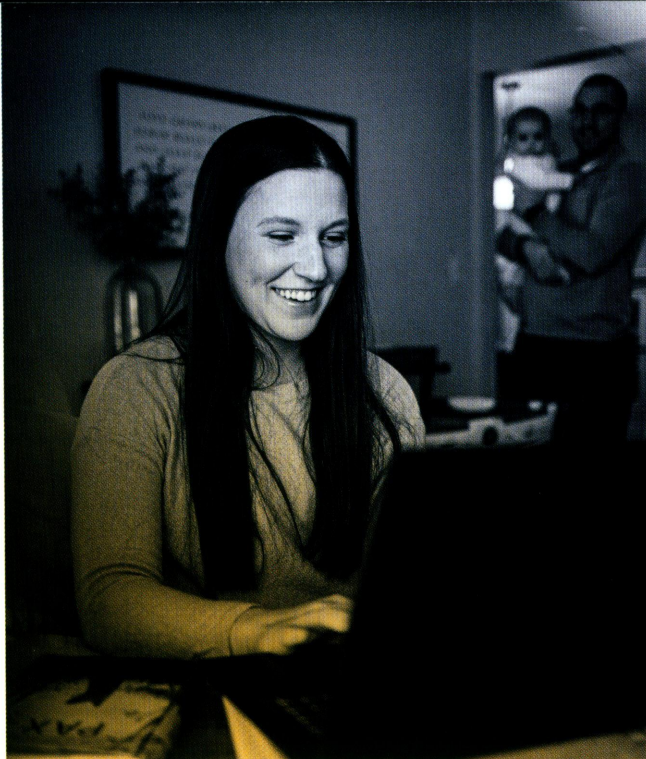
state and federal agencies regarding logistical planning efforts for the use of University buildings and resources in the event the virus overloaded local hospitals. He also worked with safety and emergency management professionals from each of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education universities to develop guidance for workplace safety during the pandemic.

Despite the demands of the job and his frequent after-hours trips to campus, the father of two remains calm, cool and collected and never seeks praise for his contributions.

"I could not function in this position without the support of my wonderful wife, Racheal, and my exceptional staff," Dahle said. "As a first responder, I have been a part of emergencies where there has been property damage, injury and death. Anytime I can work to prevent this on campus, it is a job well done."

ALUMNI PROFILE





From your (virtual) teacher, with love

EU ALUM TAKES FOURTH-GRADERS ONLINE BUT MISSES ONE-ON-ONE, PERSONAL FEEL OF CLASSROOM

By John Altdorfer

Connie Lyons Schreffler feels cheated.

When Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf closed schools statewide in mid-March, Schreffler said goodbye to her 20 fourth-grade students at Erie Day School. The unexpected early dismissal robbed her of a rare teaching experience.

"I started at Erie Day School four years ago with first grade," said Schreffler, '15. "My students this year were in that class. It was nice to be with them again to see how they developed and changed."

The COVID-related shutdown wiped out the end of the school year for Schreffler. She missed much of the middle, too, when she went on maternity leave in late October and returned at the start of February. Overall, she spent just over three months with her class during the 2019–20 academic calendar.

Schreffler feels cheated because she loves being a teacher. In a classroom. Working with students one-on-one. In person.

"Online courses really go against the way I teach," she said. "During a lesson, I walk around the room about 75 percent of the time, helping students who have a problem or giving them a pat on the back when they get it. You can't do that through a screen."

Still, Schreffler will do whatever she can for her students. That's why you'll find her at her laptop in front of her home's living room window up to 12 hours a day to prepare her students for the fifth grade. She credits her training at Edinboro with helping her adapt. Dealing with the problems caused by a pandemic, however, wasn't part of the curriculum. That lesson plan evolves daily.

"Simple things that took five minutes in class need a lot more time online," she said. "You might have to remind a student that she's on mute. Or tell someone to move to a different part of the house because his sister is too loud in the background. And there might be a sibling at home who needs to use the computer, too."

And, yes, being a first-time mother adds a layer of challenges on top of an already demanding situation. Fortunately, she has in-house support to help care for her nearly 6-month-old daughter. Her husband, Mitch, is also a homebound teacher.

"We're lucky that Hayden is such a good baby," she said. "We've become very good multitaskers. We take turns with her when she's awake. When she's napping, we go our separate ways and try to be super-productive. When she's goes to bed for the night, we continue working. We have to be 100 percent on, all day, as teachers and new parents."

By the way, the Schrefflers met at Edinboro in a Special Education course taught by Terri White. Mitch, '15, teaches health and physical education at Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie.

You could call Connie Schreffler an Erie Day School lifer. She attended the private middle school as a student. She completed her student teaching there, then returned as a teacher after graduating from Edinboro. Ask who inspired her to become a teacher, and the answer won't surprise you.

"My fourth-grade teacher," she said. "Bonnie Tansey. She was the epitome of the perfect teacher you'll never forget."

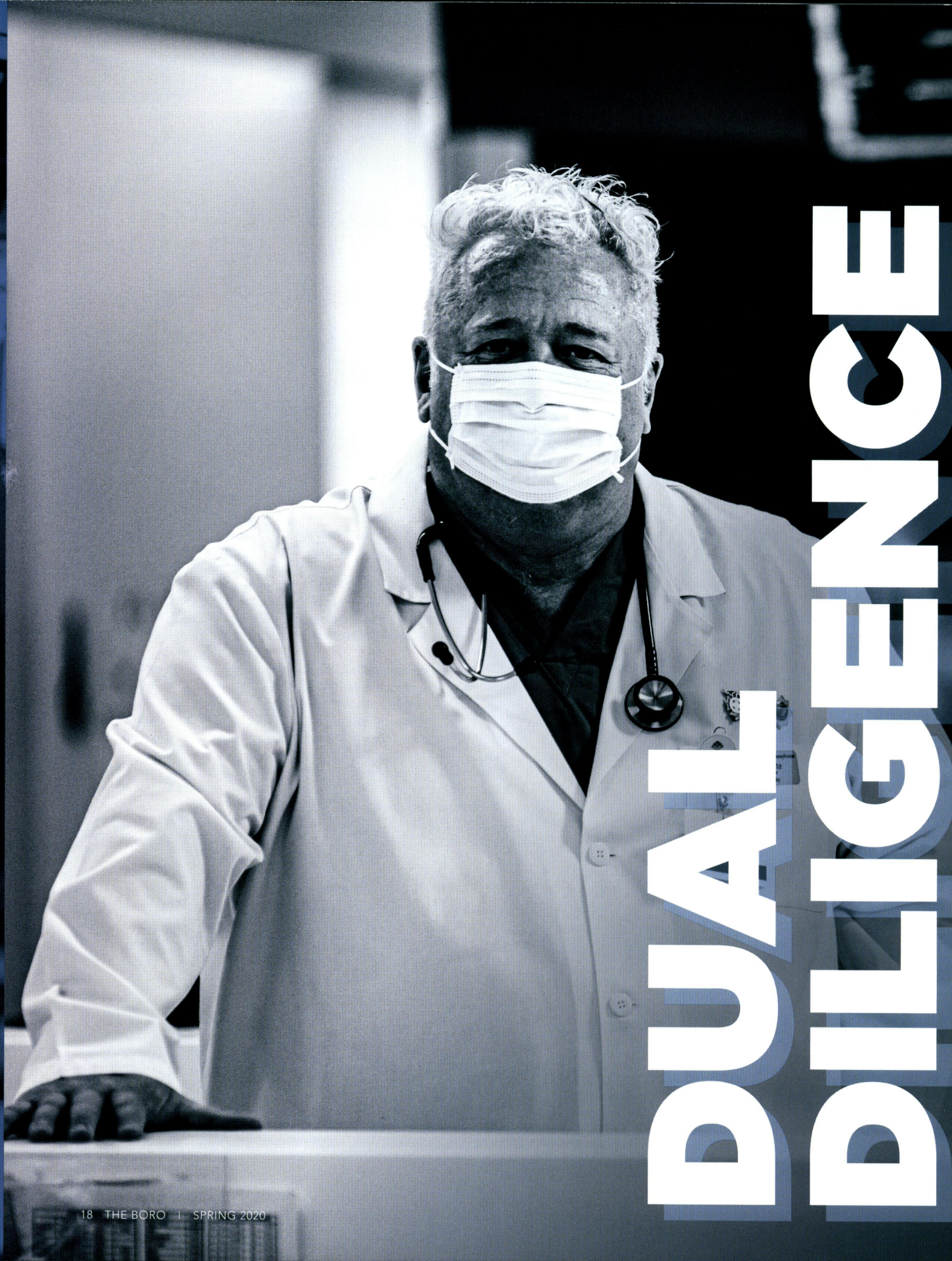
Schreffler feels cheated because her students may never forget this school year—for the wrong reasons.

"My fourth-graders are missing their friends and teachers," she said. "Big time. Some are really struggling. Parents are saying their kids are scared and having trouble sleeping. Finding out that some students were stressed by this really crushed me. The students (may) figure out this 'new normal.' But I don't think they would prefer it all the time. They need the personal interaction that you only get in a classroom."

While she plans new lessons and creates YouTube videos for her class, Schreffler turns to another source for an extra assist.

"Each night, I pray for every single one of my students," she said. "I want them to know that I love them—and all the kids at our school. They're all special to me. I'm an open door for everyone."

And when students enter that open door, they'll find Connie Schreffler—an unforgettable teacher with an open heart.



DILIGENCE



FACULTY PROFILE

NURSING PROGRAM DIRECTOR
CHALLENGED BY THE 'NEW NORMAL'
IN CLASSROOMS AND THE ER

By John Altdorfer

Dr. Tom White was in the home stretch.

In mid-March, the clock was running out fast on his three-year term as director of Edinboro University's nursing program.

When the school year ended, White planned to travel a bit before returning to his usual summer shift as a registered nurse practitioner in the emergency room at St. Vincent Hospital in nearby Erie, Pa.

He was looking forward to returning to the classroom as a professor for the fall semester, sharing his expertise in emergency medicine, family medicine and occupational health.

Then COVID hit.

Around the country ER personnel struggled to care for soaring numbers of patients with respiratory symptoms.

Fortunately, St. Vincent did not, and White has yet to see a COVID-positive patient. So far, Erie County has avoided the onslaught that many American communities suffered, with just 124 confirmed cases by mid-May.

One April night, White stood in the middle of the ER as nurses, doctors and other personnel calmly went about their normal duties. Not a patient—COVID or otherwise—was in sight. For the most part, it was "business as usual," White said.

Still, he approaches every ER shift with extreme caution.

"Everyone I've examined for the virus has tested negative," he said. "But every person I see, I assume they are positive."

As director of the school's nursing program, White knows that his workplace will be a bit different for some time. Instead of working on campus each day, he pulls up a chair in front of his home office computer to meet with staff via Zoom conferences and advise graduate nursing students online.

Overall, his professor's role remains "business as usual," White said. While his graduate nursing students stopped clinical work because of the virus, White continues to supervise them online, as he did before Pennsylvania issued a stay-at-home order.

"My teaching responsibilities weren't affected much" by the pandemic, White said. "But that's not the same for everyone. It was an especially big change for the undergraduate faculty."

Nursing instructors typically meet with undergraduate students in classrooms and clinical settings. The pandemic

meant the staff needed to quickly adapt a complex, hands-on curriculum to remote, online lessons.

White praised the department's innovative responses to the challenge.

"Our faculty were outstanding," he said. "They came up with creative ways to deliver the content and meet the course objectives. They are an incredible group that has done an amazing job in continuing this program."

Another point of pride for White is that the 2020 nursing class will graduate on schedule, ready to join the medical community's fight against the novel virus.

As usual, many of those in-demand graduates will accept jobs close to home—even though they could work and live just about anywhere they choose.

"The nice thing about being in this area is that many of our graduates go into advanced practice roles or administrative positions and make huge contributions in hospitals throughout the community," White said. "They could get jobs wherever they want. But they stay here to serve as nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists and many other roles. It says something about our students and the community."

Though he enjoyed his time in the director's chair, White is eager to resume what he enjoys most about being part of the nursing program—classroom teaching.

"If there is one thing I missed as the director it's seeing the students' progress from year to year," he said. "As their competency levels increase, they're able to work independently. You see that 'aha' moment when the light comes on. It's when they make the connection between the classroom work and the clinical setting that gets them ready for practice. That's very fulfilling."

Though he can't predict when "things will get back to normal," White knows he always has a place in education and nursing.

"I found my niche," he said. While his dual professions presented him with many opportunities, what he likes most is being able to make a difference in people's lives."

For White, that difference will always be "business as usual."



FACULTY PROFILE

WHERE GOOD DESIGN RULES

WHEN HER STUDIO WENT SILENT, FURNITURE DESIGN PROFESSOR SHIFTED HER STUDENTS TO CARDBOARD CREATIONS

By Kristin Brockett

On a typical day in Karen Ernst's classroom, there isn't much quiet time.

The piercing shrill of a table saw drowns out the constant roar of the air filtration system. A mallet taps on the back of a chisel. Sandpaper brushes along a piece of freshly cut maple, generating a rhythmic shh—shh—shh.

It's like an orchestra of tools performing a woodworker's symphony. And Ernst, who has taught woodworking and furniture design at Edinboro University since 2004, is the spirited conductor.

Lately though, the atmosphere in her studio is markedly different. The sweet, familiar smell of sawdust still hangs in the air, but productivity has screeched to a halt. The instruments are idle, and the silence is deafening.

Dozens of tool kits sit atop the wooden worktables—left there by students as they hurriedly departed campus in the wake of COVID-19. For Ernst, the kits represent the challenges she and her students have faced together over the last several weeks.

"The way that I teach is so dependent on using the equipment in the studio," she said. "I'd much rather be in the studio with my students than looking at them through a computer screen, but it's out of everyone's hands."

When the decision was made on March 16 to move all courses online for the remainder of the spring semester, Ernst and her colleagues faced the difficult task of adapting their hands-on courses for a new modality. After some serious contemplation, Ernst did what artists do best—she got creative.

In lieu of wood designs, the students were tasked with creating six chair models out of cardboard using the techniques they had learned in the first half of the semester. For their final project, they selected one model to transform into a full-scale, functioning piece of cardboard furniture.

"It was pretty important for me to not ask them to leave their house or to spend any money to buy materials to complete my course," said Ernst, who met regularly with each of her classes via Zoom to review their progress. "I just felt like this is an intense, tough time for everyone, and I didn't want to put any additional burden on my students in any way."

Despite the circumstances, students embraced the challenge. In addition to strengthening their foundational skills, the exercise reinforced the notion that a beautiful piece doesn't necessarily begin with perfect materials.

"I always tell my students not to substitute fancy wood for good design," said Ernst, who prefers locally available hardwoods over expensive, imported woods. "If you're an artist, you should be able to make work that's meaningful to you regardless of the material you're working with."

Ernst has been creating art through various mediums since grade school, and she knows a thing or two about good design.

In addition to a full teaching schedule, the mother of three carves out time in the studio whenever possible. Two of her pieces are currently on display at the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center in Denton, Texas. Only 72 works were selected from more than 1,000 submissions.

"The problem-solving that occurs in the classroom definitely carries into my own work. It pushes me," she said. "I try to exhibit in at least half a dozen shows a year."

She grew up in East Aurora, N.Y.—not far from the Roycroft Inn, a national historic landmark that had a strong influence on the Arts and Crafts Movement in America. Founded in 1895 by Elbert Hubbard and named after the English printers, Samuel and Thomas Roycroft, the campus was home to a reformist community of printers, furniture makers, metalsmiths and bookbinders until 1938.

After earning a bachelor's degree in Studio Art with a concentration in Woodworking and Furniture Design from SUNY Geneseo in 1998, she completed an MFA in Furniture Design at the Rhode Island School of Design. During the summers, she made high-end cabinetry and custom furniture with a cabinetmaker on Martha's Vineyard.

Exchanging sandy beaches for the Rocky Mountains, Ernst then served as a wood studio assistant for two years at Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, Colo. The campus draws art makers and art enthusiasts from all over the world.

Now at Edinboro, she continues to draw inspiration from travel, focusing on natural shapes, textures and landscapes.

"The process of creating something can be therapeutic for a lot of people," Ernst said. "I think artists get a little addicted to the magic that happens when a piece really comes together successfully. We keep making things to get to that feeling again."

**"If you're an artist,
you should be able
to make work that's
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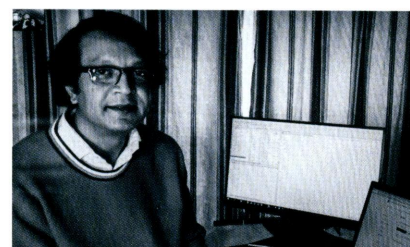
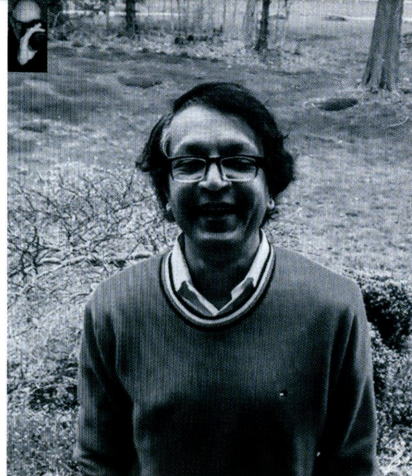
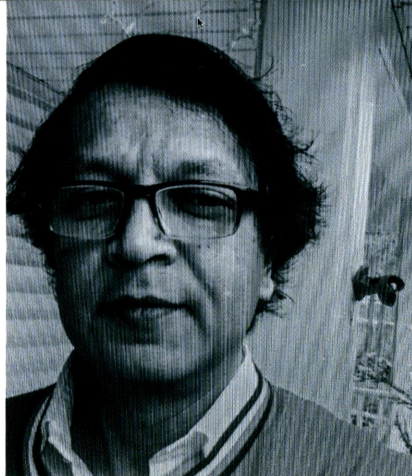
*A cardboard chair designed by Nick Carpinello
for Professor Ernst's Woodworking course.*



FACULTY PROFILE

Exploring
the science
of online
teaching





PHYSICS PROFESSOR GOT A JUMP START BY FILMING VIDEO LECTURES, LAB DEMOS TAILORED TO HIS STUDENTS' NEEDS

By Kristin Brockett

Scientist. Researcher. Faculty member. Program coordinator. Dr. Abdur Rahman, an associate professor in Edinboro University's Physics and Technology Department, has something new to add to his curriculum vitae—online instructor.

Prior to the March 11 suspension of in-person courses in response to the novel coronavirus, he had never taught online. But thanks to the inherent inquisitive nature that motivates most scientists, he was prepared.

"I wanted to know how an online course works from the perspective of the faculty and students," Rahman said. "So in fall 2019 I took a training on how to teach an online course. That definitely helped me in making this transition."

Rahman was scheduled to present his latest research at the American Physical Society's annual meeting in Denver on March 2. When he received word that the event was canceled due to COVID-19, he began to think about how he could adapt his face-to-face courses for distance learning.

He got to work immediately, creating instructions for students and recording introductory videos with information about expectations, timelines, adaptations and assessment tools. During spring break, Rahman filmed video lectures and lab demonstrations for all his classes.

"I used video lectures instead of synchronous instruction so that students could watch the lectures at their convenience," he said. "I have students who have other family obligations that they need to take care of because of this emergency situation, and they may not be able to meet me over Zoom during the regularly scheduled time."

Rahman posted worksheets, homework and quizzes online and also sent them via email in case students had difficulty accessing the University's web-based learning management system. In place of hands-on labs, he researched and implemented free electronic design software, and instead of general office hours, he designated office hours for each course. He also uploaded problem-solving video sessions and encouraged students to text him at any time to set up a Zoom meeting.

"The students have been very receptive to these changes and have adapted quickly," he said. "I have to give a lot of credit to the students who have been immensely helpful, attentive and worked hard to make this effort a successful one."

One of eight children, Rahman first took an interest in physics when his eldest sister, Zohora, was explaining fundamental concepts from his ninth grade textbook. Zohora, who was an

undergraduate student at the time and now holds a Ph.D. in Physics, inspired him to pursue a similar path.

Rahman earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Dhaka University in Bangladesh in 1996. He later completed a master's degree in Physics from Oklahoma State University and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Colorado State University.

Before joining the Edinboro faculty in 2015, he spent five years in the Electrical Engineering Department at Georgia Southern University, teaching circuit analysis, computer engineering and microcontrollers.

"I distinctly remember that I was very excited to apply for the assistant professor position at Edinboro University because the job description matched my interest and expertise very closely," he said.

Since 2010, Rahman has been awarded nearly \$250,000 in grants and research awards, including a recent \$120,000 equipment grant, which will be used for active faculty and student research, laboratory experiments and new course development.

For two consecutive summers, he was selected to participate in the Department of Energy's Visiting Faculty Program at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The highly competitive program allowed Rahman to collaborate with some of the most talented scientists in the world in an effort to design, fabricate and characterize planar metasurface reflectors for microwave communication.

"I have the support of my department chair, Dr. Richard Lloyd, and Dr. Denise Ohler, dean of the College of Science and Health Professions, to carry out my research activities," said Rahman, who lives in Mentor, Ohio, with his wife, Dr. Faria Huq, and their two sons. "They are very supportive and always encourage me to attend conferences and present my work."

Huq is an assistant professor of Economics and Quantitative Methods at Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio.

"I enjoy what I am doing every day, but there are days when I feel delighted," he said. "Commencement events that I have attended made me proud of being a part of this university. Also, when students drop by to let me know that they have been accepted into graduate programs, offered an internship or a job, or into a medical school, etc., it makes my day. I feel grateful for all these moments."



creativity in

ART THERAPY PROGRAM DESIGNS INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL SESSIONS TO COMBAT ISOLATION

By Christopher LaFuria

“The act of art-making creates a similar effect to that of meditation, so it is very calming.”

When Sheila Lorenzo de la Peña noticed a utility bill on her kitchen counter, she knew she wasn't going to mail it at the post office. Since the COVID-19 quarantine period, she's been paying her bills online.

As an art therapy instructor and uninterrupted creator, though, de la Peña did take note of some fascinating design elements in the patterns and logos on the envelope.

“It's all about being open and seeing things differently and artistically,” said de la Peña, assistant professor in Edinboro's Counseling, School Psychology and Special Education Department.

It's this everyday creativity and a need for decompression and de-stressing from home-based education that led de la Peña and Edinboro's Art Therapy Program to develop a virtual mindfulness outreach for students and the community.

Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the quarantine, Edinboro's Art Therapy folks hosted virtual open studios on Zoom and Instagram (@edinboroarttherapy) with projects and prompts ranging from painting and illustration to mindfulness collages.

Additionally, every Wednesday during the spring 2020 semester, the Edinboro Art Therapy interns hosted #EUWellnessWednesday with a new prompt posted on Instagram and Facebook.

“Creating art with others, even if it's just through the computer, has helped me feel less isolated,” said Kimberly Glecos, a graduate student and intern with Edinboro's Art Therapy program. “The act of art-making creates a similar

ALUMNI PROFILE



quarantine

effect to that of meditation, so it is very calming. The video conference supplies the social element most of us are craving."

Glecos and the Art Therapy faculty hosted free live sessions wherein participants from Edinboro and around the globe chat about art influences and other methods for being active and mindful during the quarantine period. Art prompts include blackout poetry—using newspaper and magazine articles and Sharpies to "black out" unneeded text to create poems—and other topics chosen by the club members and participants.

"We're helping our participants think outside of the box while they're at home," said de la Peña, who incorporates art-making in her online courses. "What sort of supplies do you have in the kitchen, or what can you create with what's in your office drawer?"

These sessions also help from a therapy perspective, providing faculty and students opportunities to connect specifically targeted populations with appropriate mental health services and creative interventions where necessary.

Ellen LaFuria, a first-year student from Harbors Creek, Pa., tuned in with her family to create projects and relieve some stress from remote learning.

"It just offered a little escape from the news for a while," said LaFuria, a Communications Science and Disorders major at Edinboro. "In a time of isolation, it was neat to interact with people all over the country as well as Jamaica and Hungary."

Since the sessions began in the spring, dozens of participants from around the globe tuned in each session—not only to create

art but also to find a release from being stuck at home.

Dr. Carolyn Treadon, director of Edinboro's Art Therapy master's level program, helped establish the virtual open art therapy sessions to attract the community and connect students whose semesters were transformed to virtual modality.

"Our goal was to provide a space for people to come and connect and provide our students an opportunity to engage in virtual supervision as they lead the studio," Treadon said. "We have been very pleased with the response from participants. It's been wonderful to build a community in spite of social distancing."

Although these sessions result in creative artwork—collages, poems, illustrations and watercolor paintings—the collateral objective is to provide a welcoming voice and a friendly face.

"What makes this extra special is we always leave time for the group to process, discuss and share our artwork voluntarily with each other," said Glecos, who with her Edinboro student peers is earning internship and practicum credits through the open sessions. "It has been such a positive and supportive experience."

Whether the participants are Edinboro students or international friends and families, de la Peña encourages all age and experience ranges to create some art.

"You don't need to be an artist or have artistic abilities to come to the virtual studio. All abilities are welcome," she said. "You can take the prompt we give and go for it. And that's OK."

A CHAMPION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS





AFTER THREE DECADES AT EDINBORO, BAUMGARTNER PASSES THE TORCH

By Bob Shreve

Bruce Baumgartner arrived on the Edinboro University campus in 1984 as assistant wrestling coach, and within a few months he returned from Los Angeles with the Olympic gold medal at superheavyweight in men's freestyle.

His career as an international wrestler was just taking off at the time, and the young coach would go on to win three additional Olympic medals, including gold in 1984 and 1992, silver in 1988 and bronze in 1996. The former Indiana State University heavyweight was selected as the captain of the 1996 U.S. Olympic team and was the flag bearer for the team in Atlanta.

In 1986, after serving as the interim director of athletics for a year at Edinboro, Baumgartner was named director of athletics. That was the start of his highly successful run in charge of the Fighting Scots' athletic program.

For 20 years, Baumgartner oversaw the growth of the Athletic Department. His notable accomplishments included the establishment of numerous endowed scholarships to support student-athletes and a student-athlete graduation rate of 80%. He oversaw several capital projects, including renovations to Sox Harrison Stadium and the McComb Fieldhouse weight room.

In addition, he spearheaded Edinboro's successful Make-A-Wish fundraising initiative, earning the University one of the top five spots among NCAA Division II institutions for a number of years. He took a major role in assisting with the growth of Edinboro's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

From the time Baumgartner served in a coaching capacity to the time he took over as athletic director to the end of his reign in athletics in 2018, the landscape changed greatly.

"I spent 36 years at Edinboro, 33 in athletics in one form or another," said Baumgartner, a New Jersey native. "The nice thing about Edinboro is the Division II landscape, compared with Division I wrestling, hasn't changed that much. But we went from our compliance meetings and handbooks being eight to 10 pages to now 110 pages, 20 years later. The rules and regulations really grew."

While Baumgartner achieved a great deal in his various roles at Edinboro, it's hard to imagine anything topping his role as flag bearer for the 1996 U.S. Olympic Team.

"It was a great experience," Baumgartner said. "To be honored by the United States Olympic Team and have the team elect you as captain was a great honor. Representing our country was outstanding, and to know your peers elected you."

"The whole day, from meeting the President of the United States to walking into the stadium with 80,000 to 100,000 people—it was just an awesome feeling and honor. I was so nervous carrying the flag. I didn't want to stumble and fall. You barely remember unless you watch on TV."

Baumgartner is proud of the role he played during his decades as a Fighting Scot coach and administrator—he was named vice president for university advancement in 2018—and turned down any opportunity to move on to a bigger school.

"I believe in what Edinboro does," he said. "We provide students a good education with caring coaches and faculty. When you look at athletics, academic integrity is there. I think we did a good job of graduating kids. A much more wholesome, educational-based model is there as opposed to some of the Big 5 schools. That's not what I wanted to be a part of. I like working within a team structure."

As Baumgartner retires, he feels good knowing what he accomplished.

"I feel I left Edinboro Athletics better than when I got here," he said. "I think I provided honor and integrity to the University and worked hard."

In the future, Baumgartner fully intends to assist the University whenever possible. He looks forward to staying involved in the Edinboro community. He will also maintain a presence with USA Wrestling and plans some leisurely travel with his wife, Linda.

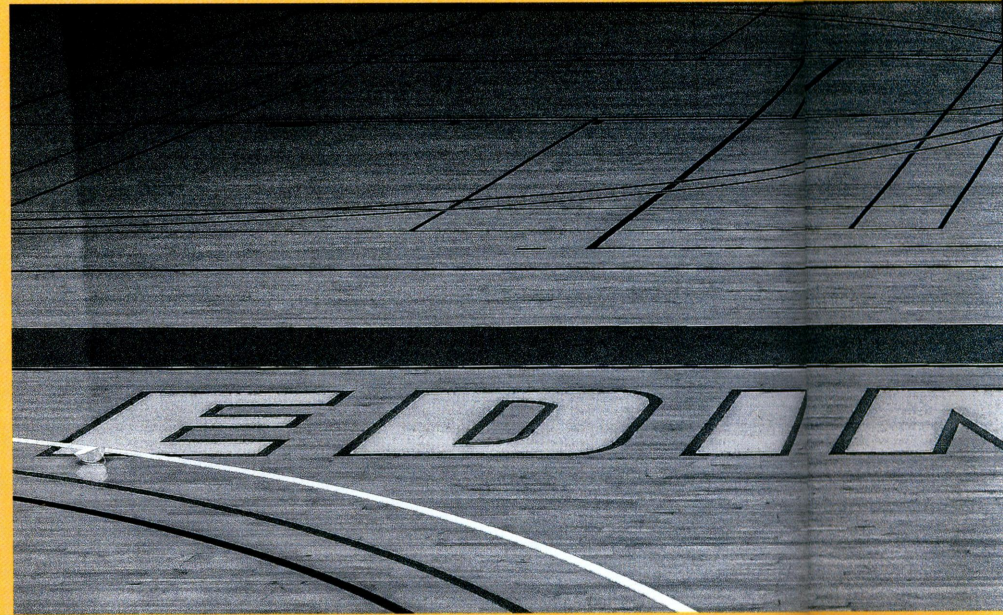
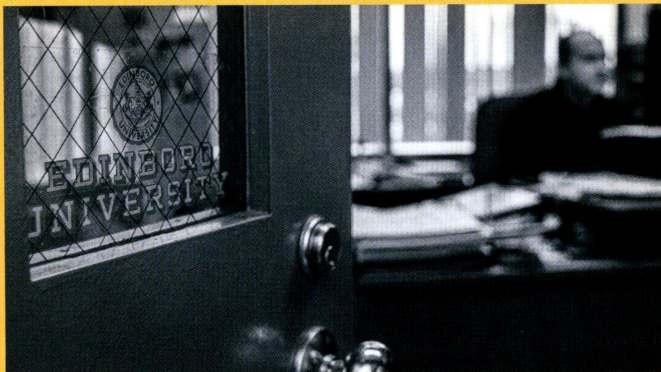
"I'm going to take it easy," he said. "I'll do some things I haven't been able to do."

BRUCE BAUMGARTNER'S DOMINATION OF WRESTLING COMPETITIONS SPANNED THE GLOBE.

- AT INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, HE WON 86 OF 87 MATCHES DURING HIS LAST TWO YEARS AND TOOK THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NCAA) CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1982.
- HE CLAIMED THE GOLD MEDAL AT THE 1984 OLYMPIC GAMES IN LOS ANGELES.
- AT THE 1986 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN HUNGARY, HE BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN TO WIN THE WORLD AMATEUR HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE.
- HE WON A SILVER MEDAL AT THE 1988 OLYMPICS IN SEOUL.
- AT THE 1992 OLYMPICS IN BARCELONA, BAUMGARTNER BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN WRESTLER TO WIN THREE OLYMPIC MEDALS BY TAKING THE GOLD.
- IN 1995, HE RECEIVED THE JAMES E. SULLIVAN AWARD AS THE TOP AMERICAN AMATEUR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR.
- HE TOOK THE BRONZE MEDAL AT THE 1996 GAMES IN ATLANTA.

Edinboro Athletic Hall of Fame inductee retires as associate athletic director

By Bob Shreve



One of the most challenging aspects of collegiate athletics today is to keep up with and interpret the myriad NCAA rules and regulations. Todd Jay spent a career at it as Edinboro's associate athletic director before retiring on May 8.

Jay is among Edinboro's most devoted supporters, though, oddly enough, he is a graduate of Division II rival Clarion University. Since joining Edinboro in 1985 as the sports information director, he has worked tirelessly, first to promote the accomplishments of student-athletes, and then, in his role as compliance coordinator, to make sure those athletes were eligible to play. He was also heavily involved in the safe travel of the teams.

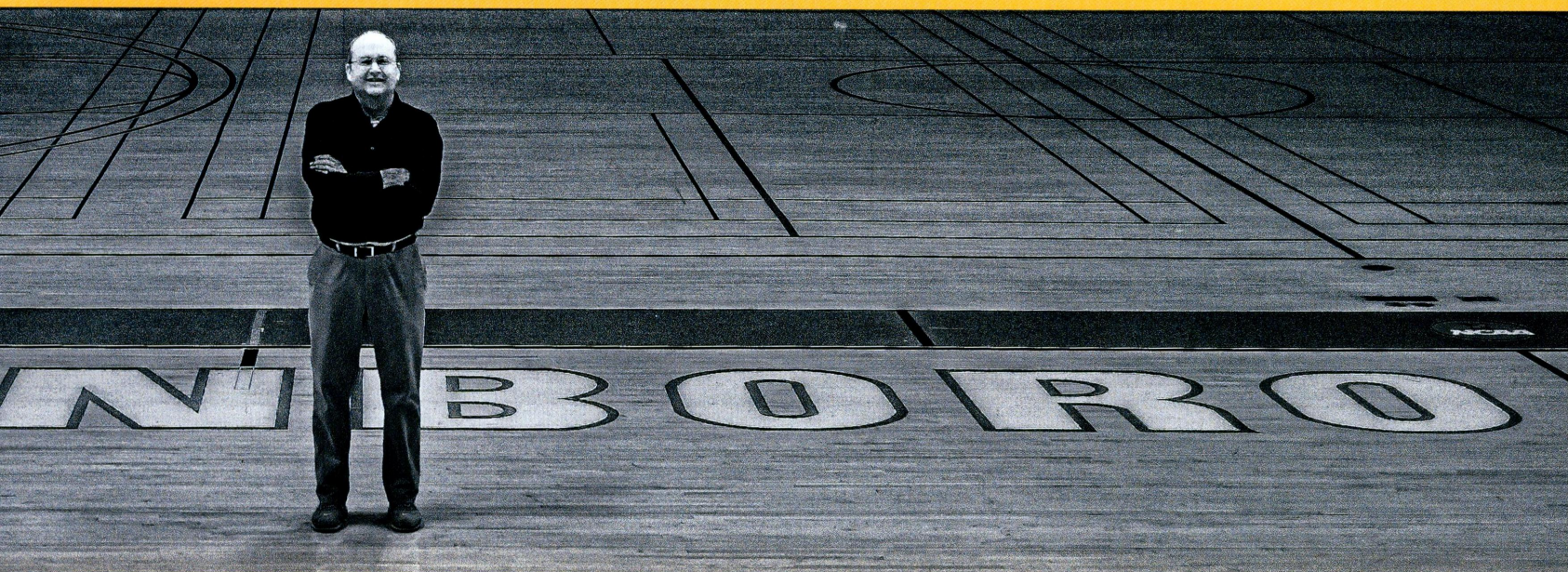
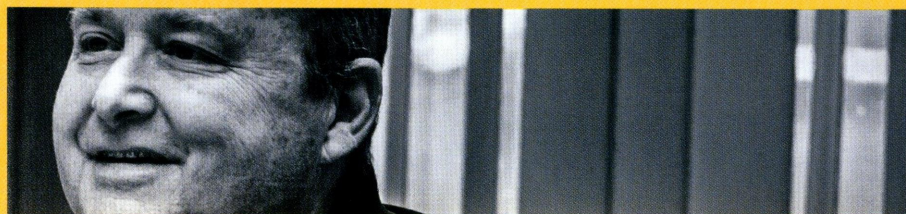
In 2016, Jay was inducted into the Edinboro Athletic Hall of Fame, joining his wife, the former Sarah Bishop, an outstanding basketball player at EU. He was inducted under the category of Distinguished Service, and it's easy to see why.

Through his efforts, Edinboro has hosted the biannual Sports Memorabilia Auction, which has raised nearly a quarter million dollars in scholarship money for Fighting Scot student-athletes.

"Undoubtedly, the greatest accomplishment and proudest moment for me was induction into the Edinboro University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016," Jay said. "The distinguished service award was very gratifying and humbling. It was a tremendous honor."

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“My loyalty and love for Edinboro has grown out of a true passion for the University, its student-athletes and the community



“The auction was my brainchild because I loved to collect, myself, and I saw it as a great opportunity to raise scholarship money. It started as a biannual event in 1995 with (former Pittsburgh Steeler) Rod Woodson as our first guest. It has grown into a huge event, which I’m proud of,” he said. “But more than anything, it’s a feel-good event, great for the community and great for kids to have the opportunity to interact with pro athletes. That’s the best part of it.”

Jay’s spirited support of the University and its athletes has only grown stronger through the decades.

“My loyalty and love for Edinboro has grown out of a true passion for the University, its student-athletes and the community,” he said. “It offered exactly what I had hoped for. The people who hired me believed in me and believed in the job that I could do. That I am thankful for. Specifically, Foster Diebold, Cliff Cox, Dave O’Dessa and Jim McDonald.

“In short, Edinboro was great to me and I hope I was good to it in return. I want to feel that I made a difference in the lives of those student-athletes around me. That’s all the satisfaction I ever needed.”

Jay will remain a familiar face around campus. His son, Alex, has been a mainstay on the men’s basketball team and enters his senior year this fall. His daughter, Makayla, will start classes as a freshman.

“It has been great to watch all the student-athletes grow, including my son, Alex,” Jay said. “I never wanted to pressure him to go to Edinboro, but I’m certainly glad he did, because that gave me the opportunity to watch him develop as a player and a man. I’m so proud of him and my daughter, Makayla, who is also a scholar-athlete at General McLane.”

Jay hopes to have a role in raising money for the athletic department. “There is a major need to help current and future student-athletes so they, too, can enjoy the experience and live their own dreams here at Edinboro,” he said.



EXCEEDING EVERY EXPECTATION

MICHAELA BARNES' EU LEGACY: A STELLAR BASKETBALL CAREER SPURRED BY DRIVE AND GRIT

By Christopher LaFuria

When Michaela Barnes laced up her sneakers for Kenston High School, she could feel the heat from her opponents. In her senior year alone, she put up 20 points per game for the Bombers and led the squad to a 14-0 conference record.

In the highly competitive Western Reserve Conference of Ohio, the Lakewood native also felt the pressure from critics.

Barnes is too small.

Barnes isn't skilled enough to play college ball.

"I was overlooked and underrated," said Barnes, who wrapped up a splendid basketball career at Edinboro University, where she set the overall scoring record with 2,019 points—top for both men and women. "Instead of listening to these critics and giving up, I let it drive me. I had a chip on my shoulder, and I wanted to prove everybody wrong."

Barnes carried that chip on her shoulder through her four-year career at Edinboro, in which she earned an entire trophy case's worth of awards—from Division II Academic All-American to Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) West Player of the Year.

Additionally, Barnes maintained a 3.51 GPA in her Health & Physical Education major even after COVID-19 forced her to leave campus and return to her home near Cleveland.

As a high school student, Barnes didn't even expect to land at Edinboro. Her father, Mike, is an Athletics Hall of Fame inductee—a four-year starter on the Fighting Scots football team who ended his career with 222 career tackles and seven interceptions.

Constantly hearing stories about Edinboro, Barnes thought there was no way she'd follow in her father's footsteps. She wanted her own legacy.

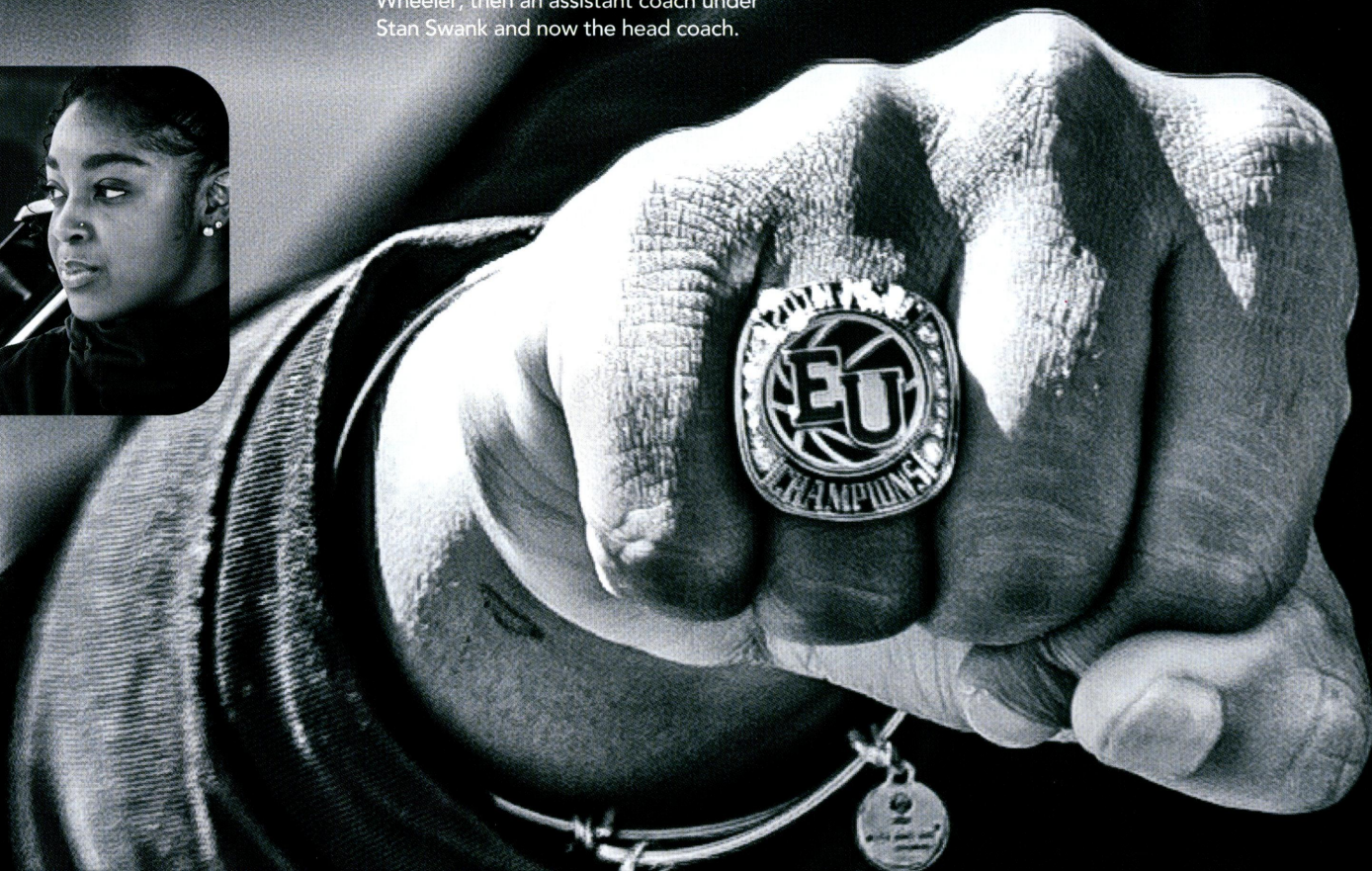
Then came that visit to campus during her junior year—and meeting Callie Wheeler, then an assistant coach under Stan Swank and now the head coach.

"Everyone was so warm and welcoming, and the hometown feeling was indescribable," she said. "I knew that I wanted to play for a coach that cared for her players on more of a personal level and not just as basketball players."

Coach Wheeler reciprocates these sentiments.

"Michaela has been a very special part of our program throughout her four years. She is one of the most talented players I have ever coached," said Wheeler, who was named head coach in 2018. "She was also an outstanding role model for our younger players on and off the court."

From the first day of recruitment until graduation, Barnes exceeded even her own expectations. Just look at the stat line from her senior season: 26.3 points per game, 2.4 assists per game, 33 steals and 145 rebounds.





But she also knows how to give credit. "I wouldn't be able to score without my teammates," said Barnes on the night she scored her 1,000th career point against Mercyhurst in 2019. "I couldn't do this by myself."

Michelle Jahn remembers competing with Barnes every step of the way—from sprints to layups. A 2019 graduate and fellow 1,000-point scorer, Jahn is certain that this competition led to improvement.

"We fought through a lot of adversity together, on and off the court," said Jahn, who finished with 1,384 points. "But Michaela was a fighter, and nothing was going to get in her way of success."

Monica Brown agrees.

"She's a teammate any student-athlete could dream of," said Brown, who just wrapped up her second season with the Fighting Scots. "Michaela has a drive that was contagious, and it really took our energy to the next level."

This is the Michaela Barnes reputation.

"Not many people get to say they played with the best player in Edinboro history," Jahn said. "But as for me, that's one of my best friends and I am so proud of her."

In addition to her teammates, Barnes also credits her family—parents Mike and Laverne, sister Mia—and Coach Wheeler, her court "mom."

"I am truly blessed beyond belief to have the loving, supportive family that I have," she said. "Even though Coach Callie was my coach, she was also like my mom away from home. She is a main reason why I am growing into the woman I am today."

Nearly 15 years after picking up a basketball, Barnes said she still gets nervous before every game. The name on the front and back of that jersey, though, has helped clear her thoughts.

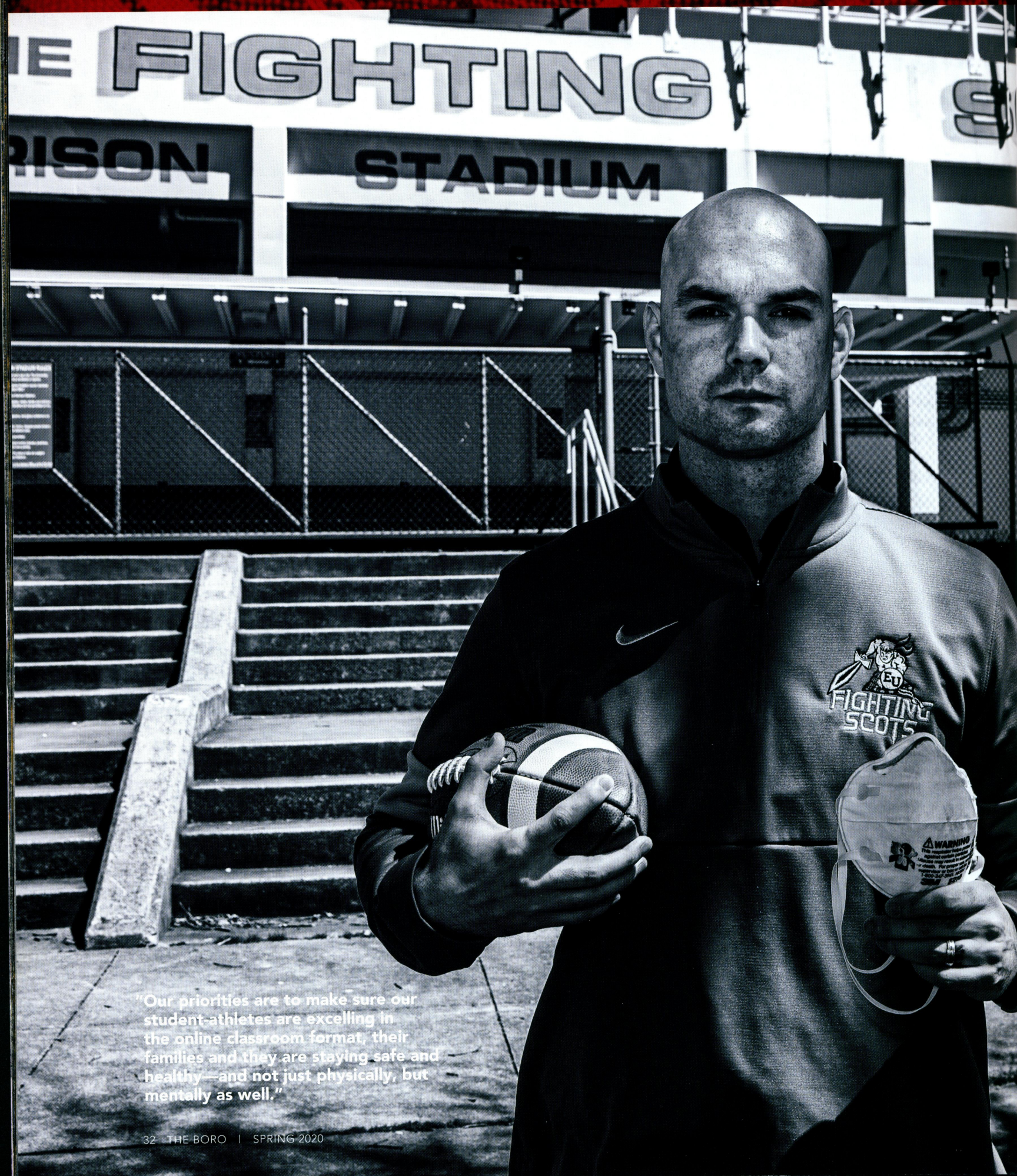
"Every time I hit that court, I represented that name on my jersey, my teammates and my coaches," she said.

As far as creating her own legacy?

The evidence is in the stat sheets and grade books, the observations from her coach and teammates, and her grit and determination to funnel out the noise and critics to become something bigger.

"If you don't have the hard work, discipline and determination to be the best version of yourself, then you will be average," she said. "But if you make these things a priority, you will shock the world—and even yourself—on the things that you can accomplish."

"Every time I hit that court, I represented that name on my jersey, my teammates and my coaches."



"Our priorities are to make sure our student-athletes are excelling in the online classroom format, their families and they are staying safe and healthy—and not just physically, but mentally as well."

THE PLAYBOOK

NEW FIGHTING SCOTS COACHING STAFF ADDS VIRTUAL DRILLS TO GAMEPLAN

By Bob Shreve

When Jake Nulph was named Edinboro's 16th head football coach in January, he knew he had to hit the ground running.

The Fighting Scots had come off a 3–8 finish in 2019.

The former standout at Robert Morris University did just that, beginning with assembling his coaching staff. He has brought in four new coaches, three of whom have a close association to him.

Nulph served as an assistant coach at Indiana (Pa.) a year ago, and in 2018 he was the special teams coordinator and defensive backs coach at Duquesne University.

From 2014–18, Nulph spent four seasons as the defensive coordinator/special teams coordinator at Westminster College. He helped turn around the Titans program, as it posted three consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 1995–97.

Nulph began with Rich DeMaio. The two played together at Robert Morris, then worked together on the Westminster staff. DeMaio had enjoyed a successful run as the offensive coordinator at Westminster and now looks to do the same at Edinboro.

"I can't begin to tell you how excited I am to have Coach DeMaio here at Edinboro," Nulph said. "Not only is Rich a great coach, he's an even better person. Our young men are going to love what he brings to The Boro."

"When this opportunity presented itself for me, Coach DeMaio was always a guy that I wanted on my staff. Our experience coaching together at RMU and Westminster were very special times in my career."

Nulph then recruited Tony Papley to be his defensive coordinator. They previously worked together on the Duquesne staff. "He brings tremendous passion, and his work ethic and commitment are second to none," Nulph said. "I met Tony when I would attend Duquesne's prospect camps. Then getting to work with him in 2018, we became very close."

Nulph completed his staff with the hiring of Travis Tislaretz, a former assistant at Youngstown State, and Keith Willis, who has nearly 25 years of coaching experience in the professional and collegiate ranks, along with 12 years as a player in the NFL, 10 of those with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

After putting together his staff and bringing in a promising early recruiting class, Nulph was looking forward to spring drills, which were scheduled for April. But Nulph, along with coaches around the country, was thrown a curveball when the coronavirus hit.

Without the opportunity to evaluate his new team during spring drills, Nulph and his staff were forced to hold virtual meetings. "We as a staff have adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic by utilizing the Zoom meeting platform for a 'virtual spring ball.' Although we are lacking the face-to-face communication and the ability to practice, we are taking advantage of the virtual platform to have meetings," Nulph said. "These meetings allow myself and our coaching staff a chance to see our young men and communicate with them. It gives all of us a chance to stay connected."

"Clearly things are changing day by day, and we are just adapting to those changes the best we can," the coach said. "Our priorities are to make sure our student-athletes are excelling in the online classroom format, their families and they are staying safe and healthy—and not just physically, but mentally as well."

Spring drills aren't the only thing to go virtual. When he first arrived, Nulph and his staff put together a solid group of recruits in a very short period of time. But round two was made much more difficult due to the campus shutdown.

"The biggest challenge for us in recruiting is the fact that the recruits can't physically visit Edinboro," Nulph said. "We have been sending them the virtual campus tour and videos that are provided from admissions to help educate them in the process. Our staff is open and honest with our prospective student-athletes. We are communicating my vision and goals of the program."

Nulph is hopeful that—coronavirus permitting—the 2020 Fighting Scots will take to the field for the first time on Thursday, Sept. 3, hosting Division II power Grand Valley State.

A NOTE FROM EDINBORO'S DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Dear Fighting Scots,

As we face the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic, I continue to be inspired by the resiliency, compassion and collective strength of our alumni network. Your ability to face these challenges head-on has reinforced what it means to be a Fighting Scot.

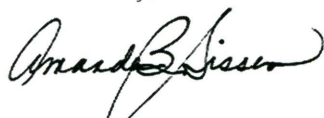
To those serving on the front lines, I want to express my sincerest appreciation for the work you are doing. Your contributions to the health and safety of your communities are admirable. The creativity and dedication of our educators has never been more evident. And, to our business leaders, entrepreneurs, scientists and innovators—your ingenuity and grit will lead us to recovery. We are thankful to all who have sacrificed and to those who have reached out to help a fellow Fighting Scot in need. Thank you for reminding us that Royal Stewart tartan never fades. We are one Edinboro family and we take care of each other.

COVID-19 has cast a wide shadow. The necessary cancellation of all summer travel and University events was difficult. It's hard to imagine a summer without the energy and excitement of reunions, concerts, sporting events and gatherings bring, but I find solace in knowing that this crisis will pass, and we will celebrate together again.

University leadership will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves, and the safety of our students, faculty, staff and alumni will remain at the forefront of every decision. In the meantime, please visit edinboro.edu/alumni or follow us on the Edinboro University Alumni Facebook page for information about upcoming virtual and fall events.

Even though we are physically apart, we will get through this together. Stay connected, be well and remain strong.

Sincerely,



Amanda Brown Sissem, BSW, MNM

Director of Alumni Engagement

Connect with Edinboro University's Office of Alumni Engagement

The Office of Alumni Engagement is a resource for Edinboro University's more than 60,000 alumni. Plan your reunion, participate in alumni events, learn about continuing education and career services, and support the next generation of Fighting Scots by volunteering or making a gift.

Office of Alumni Engagement

Alumni House

210 Meadville Street

Edinboro, PA 16444

Phone: 814-732-2715 / 800-526-0117 Toll-free

Email: eup_alumni@edinboro.edu

[f /EdinboroAlumni](#)

Visit edinboro.edu/alumni for the latest information on virtual alumni events.



Roaring into Homecoming 2020

October 2-3

Homecoming.edinboro.edu

Put on your swankiest Boro attire and get ready to party like it's 1920. We're talking sequins, feathers, fringe, fedoras and all that jazz.

Although it's hard to predict what the fall will bring, plans are moving forward for this annual celebration of our beloved University. Whether it's held on campus or online, this soiree promises to be the bee's knees.

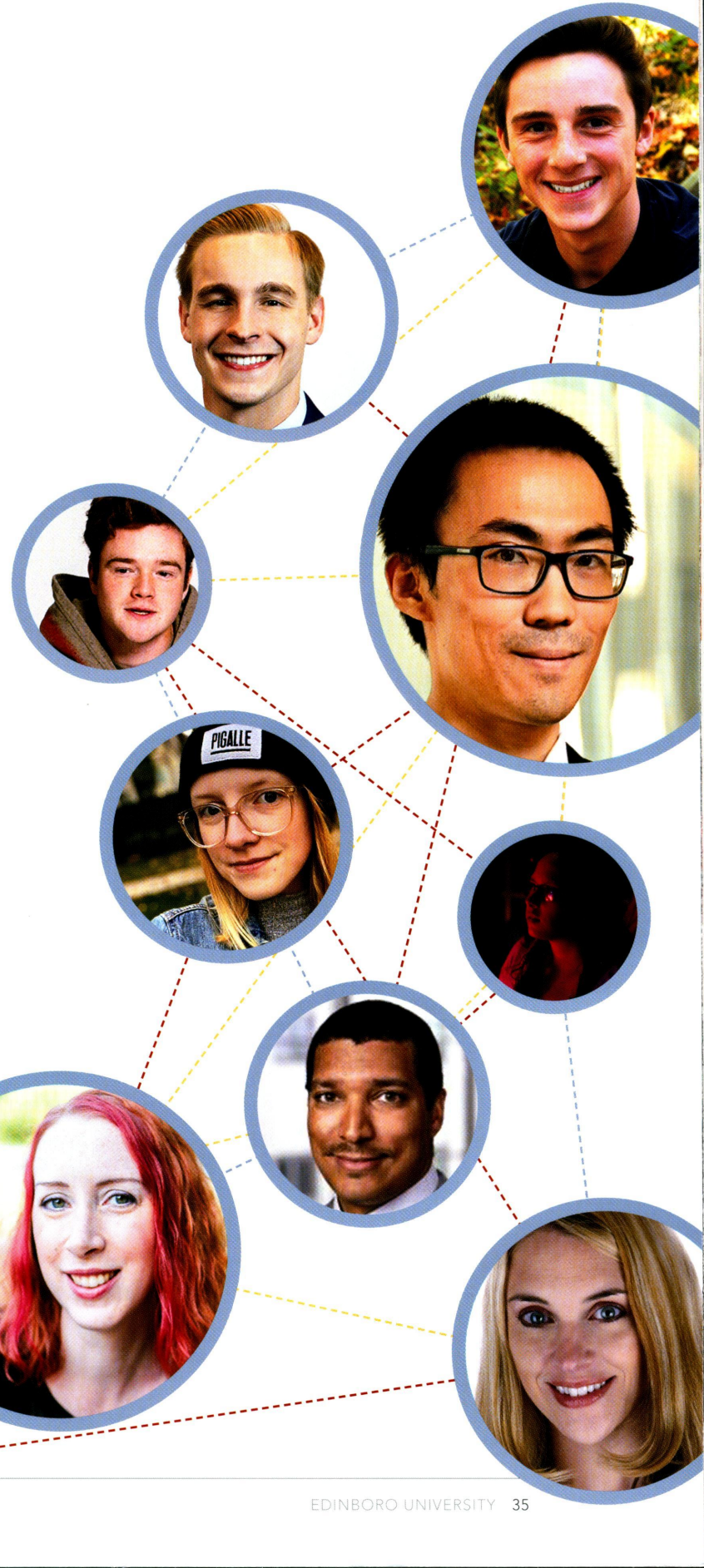
EDINBORO ALUMNI LEND A HELPING HAND TO NEW GRADUATES

FOLLOWING A COLOSSAL SURGE IN UNEMPLOYMENT FUELED BY COVID-19, THE CLASS OF 2020 FACES ONE OF THE TOUGHEST JOB MARKETS IN RECENT HISTORY. MORE THAN 20 MILLION AMERICANS LOST THEIR JOBS IN APRIL ALONE.

In an effort to help Edinboro's newest alumni navigate an increasingly virtual job market, the University's Center for Career Development and Experiential Learning and the Office of Alumni Engagement have teamed up to connect recent Edinboro graduates with successful alumni who can provide advice, networking, resume reviews and more.

The "Ready to Work" and "Ready to Help" campaigns provide new graduates with an expanded social network and showcase alumni who are giving back to their alma mater during a global pandemic.

A number of recent graduates and working professionals have already been featured on the Edinboro University LinkedIn and Twitter pages. If you are interested in offering mentorship to a member of the class of 2020 as they start their career, contact the Center for Career Development and Experiential Learning at careerdevelopment@edinboro.edu or 814-732-2781.



LESSONS IN GIVING

GEOSCIENTIST KEEPS EU STUDENTS IN MIND THROUGH A CAREER THAT TOOK HIM TO THE DESERT AND BEYOND

By Logan Lilly



In times of crisis, many people look at their financial situation and hold on with clenched fists, especially when they don't know how long they will be able to maintain what they have. In the face of the COVID-19 global pandemic, alumnus Michael Chornack, '77, had a very different reaction.

Chornack looked at what he had and saw an opportunity to give students at his alma mater the same opportunities he had as a student.

Using his GI Bill benefits, Chornack started classes at Edinboro State College in January of 1974 after serving in the Marine Corps for three years.

"I was interested in pursuing a career in earth sciences," said Chornack, who is originally from Meadville, Pa. "I knew Edinboro had a real strong department, and it was close to home."

Chornack was drawn to his studies in the Geology Department, as well as the veterans group on campus, and cites his professors as those who helped guide him.

"The professors in the Geology Department, Art Wegweiser, Mike Lukert, were strong influences on me, and Dr. Jack Baker and Dr. Wesley Bryers, those were the four primary geological professors. They strongly influenced me and helped shape me and my career," Chornack said.

By spring of 1977, Chornack had graduated from Edinboro with a B.S. in Geology and faced the challenge of finding a job in his field. It was a difficult time to get hired within geosciences, he recalled.

Luckily, it wasn't long before an offer came his way. Just one week after graduation, he was set to move across the country.

"I was fortunate enough, after I had sent out so many applications, to get accepted for an interview with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), working out of the Nevada office in Las Vegas," Chornack said. "I did the interview, came back, packed up and moved to Las Vegas to start my career."

Chornack said the change in climate from Edinboro to Las Vegas was hard at first, but his love for the desert helped make Nevada home. "I just fell in love with the desert. I just loved it. I still do; I'm a desert rat," he chuckled.

Chornack worked with the USGS in various capacities throughout his 29-year career, which took him everywhere from Afghanistan to Denver, where he now lives.

He worked at the Nevada Test Site on Department of Energy nuclear waste storage investigations, handling well-site geology and hydrologic testing, geologic field mapping and geophysical surveys.

In 1985, he moved to Denver to work at the USGS Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Investigations office where he was selected to become the team chief/supervisory hydrogeologist for the unsaturated-zone studies group in 1990. He served in a number of supervisory/team chief positions within the USGS Yucca Mountain Project Branch (YMPB) until the project ended a decade later.

"Whatever I can do to support people who aren't as fortunate in their situation, I want to do that for them."

In 2004, while still working with the YMPB, he volunteered to join a team of USGS hydrogeologists to conduct training and field work in Afghanistan, one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. Arid and drought-prone, its many rural communities rely on a clean, dependable water supply to exist.

The team trained engineers at the Afghanistan Geologic Survey in modern groundwater testing techniques and conducted a groundwater assessment on the Kabul Basin in cooperation with the State Department.

For the next five years, Chornack supported the USGS Mineral Resources Investigations in Afghanistan, conducting hydrogeologic evaluations of potential mineral areas of interest for investment and production purposes, providing geologic support during field investigations, and serving as an editor and co-author of the team's assessment report.

The initial phase of that work was completed in 2014, and Chornack retired. But that wasn't the end of his work in Afghanistan.

In September 2018, the Afghanistan government funded the USGS to continue to support an assessment of its lithium resources, and Chornack was hired on a part-time basis to assist, an appointment that runs until September.

Throughout his career, the impact his alma mater had on his life was never lost, and he always aspired to give back to the university so students would have the same chance at success that he had.

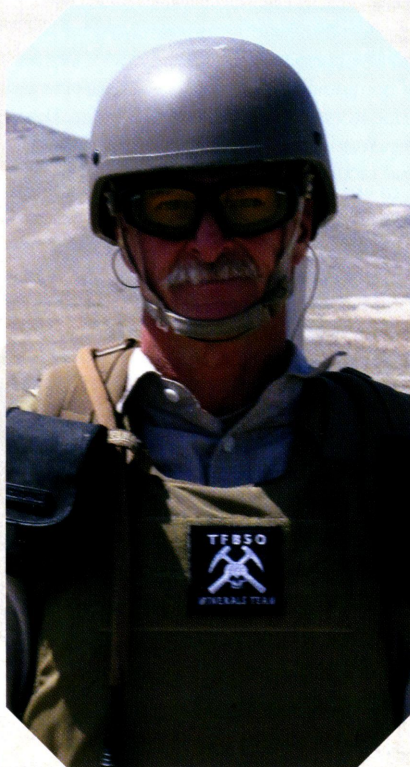
"I give back to Edinboro because everything I have, career-wise, Edinboro made that possible," Chornack said. "Every year it seems like college expenses and tuition are blowing up, and I just want to make sure incoming students have all the resources necessary to further their education."

One area of giving Chornack is particularly drawn to is the Student Hardship Fund. The charitable account is funded by donations to Edinboro to help students in need.

"I was fortunate I had the GI Bill; I came out of college mostly debt-free. So I just think if I can help other graduating seniors to come out of Edinboro with no or a very small amount of debt, then they can focus on their careers and not have to focus as much on student loans," he said.

Chornack feels he has been fortunate in this time of crisis not to have the financial burdens that many people are facing. He just hopes that his giving can help ease the burdens students face.

"Whatever I can do to support people who aren't as fortunate in their situation, I want to do that for them."



SUPPORT THE STUDENT HARDSHIP FUND

Life on the Edinboro campus has changed, but it has not stopped. For our students, these changes can bring complications—lost wages, transportation issues, food insecurity, technology issues and more.

The Student Hardship Fund was created to assist students who are facing emergency financial situations. Support provided through this fund can mean the difference between a student continuing their education at Edinboro or needing to withdraw.

Here's how you can help.

Make a gift to support the Student Hardship Fund to give us the tools to remain flexible and innovative as we serve our students during this difficult time. For more information on how to help students encountering difficulties, please visit your.edinboro.edu/online-donation

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

1930s

1930 | Dr. Gertrude A. Barber, who passed away in 2000, is being considered for canonization as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church. Dr. Barber founded the Barber National Institute and was well-known in Pennsylvania and throughout the U.S. for her advocacy for education, especially on behalf of children with special needs and their families.

1960s

1966, M 1976 | Therese Reiser Zamboldi was inducted into the Cathedral Prep/Villa Maria President's Hall of Fame as a celebration of her personal accomplishments and dedication to the mission of her high school, Villa Maria Academy in Erie, Pa.

1968 | Donna Arnink was recently granted emeritus status at Colorado College. She devoted 22 years to the Theatre and Dance Department, serving as committee chair of the Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center.

1970s

1970 | Don Felix was inducted to the Cathedral Prep/Villa Maria President's Hall of Fame as a celebration of his personal accomplishments and dedication to the mission of his high school, Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie, Pa.

1972 | Thomas J. Jakubowski was voted into the Class of 2020 in the Metro Erie Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in May 2020. Prior to his retirement in 2018, he was a coach, athletic director and D-10 official. He racked up 798 wins as head coach in various sports at McDowell High School and as the head coach of the Gannon University softball team.

1976 | Paul A. Anselmo was recently awarded the William E. Hardman Award for Excellence in Training and Education by the National Tooling & Machine Association. Anselmo retired from New Century Motors in February 2020 after 20 years of service. As president and CEO of New Century Motors, Anselmo led the nonprofit manufacturing organization to minister and advance manufacturer training programs that provide new opportunities for young people in the precision custom manufacturing industry.

1977 | Thomas L. Pyle was named the Jet 24/Edinboro University 2020 Golden Apple Teacher of the Year. Pyle will retire from North East High School after a 34-year career in education.

1980s

1980 | Linda Hoehn Graff and her husband, Brian Graff, established the Graff-Hoehn Teacher Education Fund through the Foundation for Erie's Public Schools to help defray the costs of continuing education classes for educators in the Erie School District. The new fund awarded its first \$5,000 to five Erie faculty members on Feb. 4.

1984 | Janet L. Bowker was inducted into the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League's Western Pennsylvania Hall of Fame as part of the Pittsburgh North Hills 1980 Softball Team. The team was the first Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League team to win a state softball championship.

1984, M 1987 | Dr. Darwin V. Kysor was recently named executive director of Huntingdon County Business and Industry in Huntingdon, Pa. Kysor holds a Ph.D. in College Student Services Administration from Oregon State University and has spent more than two decades at Juniata College, most recently as the director of career development.

1989 | Kent A. Urbanski recently appeared in a feature by Jet24 News in Erie, Pa., to discuss his three-decade career in sports videography. Originally a history major and an athlete himself, Urbanski became interested in videography while a student at Edinboro. He was hired at JetTV after graduation and has gone on to make a career filming both local and national sporting events, including nine Super Bowls.

1990s

1990 | Gregory Oakes is the corporate vice president—global integration lead for Otezla at Amgen. He was appointed to the Board of Directors for AzurRX BioPharma, Inc., effective April 13. Oakes has more than 25 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry.

1991 | Michelle D. Kephart alumna and instructor in Edinboro's Social Work Department, started as United Way Community School Director at Perry Elementary School in January. Kephart was previously the director of programs at Family Services of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

1992 | Dr. Melissa K. Gibson, head of the Communication Studies graduate program at Edinboro University, was honored in March as one of the Mercy Center for Women's Women Making History. Gibson has taught in the Communication, Journalism, and Media Department since 2005. She has served as a consultant to for-profit and nonprofit organizations across the U.S.

1993, M 1998 | Dr. Georj Lewis was named president of Atlanta Metropolitan State College by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Lewis has been serving as interim president of AMSC since July 1, 2019. Lewis has more than 25 years of experience in higher education and 16 years of experience within USG.



Thomas L. Pyle



Melissa (War) Adair



Janet L. Bowker



LaToya Ruff
Frazier



Dr. Melissa K. Gibson



Katherine "K.D." (Doyle) Meunier



Dr. Georj Lewis



Knox Granger

1995 | Thomas H. Shifflet will be inducted into the Upper New York Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in September. Shifflet was a three-time NCAA All-American at Edinboro University under then-coach Bruce Baumgartner. He has served as head coach at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Hofstra University.

1996, M 2002 | Jason A. Burgert was appointed principal of Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary School in Erie, Pa., effective Jan. 6. The school holds a special connection for Burgert, whose first job after graduating from Edinboro was as a first-grade teacher at Pfeiffer-Burleigh.

1996 | D. Shane McCoy was promoted to the position of claims manager for Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Marble, Pa. He and his wife, Johanna, and their two children live near Franklin, Pa.

1997, M 1999 | Melissa (Ward) Adams of Mesa, Ariz. recently published a book, "Behind the Pink Ribbon," which details her personal story through a breast cancer diagnosis. She also launched a weekly podcast called "Behind the Pink Ribbon," which features stories of other survivors, interviews with medical professionals in the field of oncology and local and national organizations that support breast cancer.

1999 | Kris Risto started an ongoing project, consisting of nine works so far, exploring life under quarantine. His paintings focus on the human form, blending surreal imagery with religious iconography.

2000s

2002, M 2009 | Robert T. Launer started a unique business making custom headbands for professional athletes, musicians and sports teams. The venture started as a hobby in his garage and has since expanded to its own production facility in Cleveland. More than 25,000 athletes are now wearing the bands, and a portion of every online sale benefits the Cleveland Animal Protective League.

2003 | Jessica S. Mohl recently displayed her metalwork and silverpoint drawings in an exhibition titled "Unholding" in the Eric Dean Gallery at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind. This exhibition explores impermanent and ephemeral phenomena in nature.

2004 | LaToya Ruby Frazier's work was selected for the New York Times Year in Pictures 2019. The photograph features Kesha Scales, a metal assembly worker, with Beverly Williams, her friend and former co-worker, after General Motors shut down its Lordstown, Ohio, plant, cutting thousands of jobs.

2004, M 2007 | Dr. Brittiani McNeil successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, "Do We Assess What We Value? An edTPA Alignment Study and its Impact on Implementation," on July 29, 2019, earning her Doctorate in Education with a focus on Higher Education Administration from Concordia University - Portland.

2004 | Katherine "K.D." (Doyle) Meucci was named a 2020 All-Star Teacher by the Pittsburgh Pirates. Meucci is a fourth-grade teacher at Franklin Elementary School in the Bethel Park School District in Pittsburgh. She is one of 18 Pittsburgh-area teachers to be selected for this honor.

2004 | Anthony R. Stefanelli, owner of Romolo Chocolates in Erie, Pa., plans to expand his family's business with a new retail store and manufacturing facility.

2008 | Jessica (Rice) Gray and husband **David Gray** welcomed future Fighting Scot, Knox Elliot Gray, on April 6. Jessica is Edinboro's director of annual giving. She leads the student phone-a-thon team and philanthropy program. Edinboro University pride runs deep in the Gray family, a legacy started by Knox's maternal grandmother, Russeline (Bisbe) Steinbuhler, '92.

2009 | Jennifer M. Butterfield has published a new guidebook about jewelry design and choosing jewelry that fits your personal style. "Choosing Jewelry Made Easy" includes tips and tricks for how to choose a jeweler, get correct sizing and protect your jewelry after purchase, all drawn from Butterfield's 10 years of experience in the jewelry industry.

2009 | Betty H. Cruz was named president and CEO of the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. In 2016, Cruz founded Change Agency, a social enterprise with a mission to increase the access, opportunity and visibility of underrepresented communities by building cross-sector partnerships.

2009 | Dana M. Webb, a member of Edinboro University's Athletic Hall of Fame, was recently hired as head softball coach for Mercyhurst Preparatory School in Erie, Pa.

2010s

2010 | Winston C. Alozie, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Bethlehem, Pa., was appointed by the Bethlehem Area School District school board as the director for Region 1.

2010, M 2013 | Dr. Pablo Reyes accepted a role as a leadership and talent strategy consultant at the global consulting firm, Accenture. At Accenture, Dr. Reyes works to provide global HR leaders the needed support to align their business and human capital demands effectively.

2011 | David G. Meade, an art teacher at Joseph Rogers Primary School, took office as president-elect of the Tennessee Art Education Association. The six-year commitment involves serving as Tennessee's delegate to the National Art Education Association, coordinating the nominations for state and national awards and supporting the mission and advocacy of NAEA and TAEA.



Melissa (Ward) Adams



LaToya Ruby Frazier



Katherine "K.D." (Doyle) Meucci



Robert T. Launer



Jennifer M. Butterfield



Betty H. Cruz



Dana M. Webb



Dr. Pablo Reyes

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



Paul M.
Wendel Jr.

2011 | Angelica J. Spraggins served on a panel that addressed the Black Lives Matter movement at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pa. Spraggins is a vocational rehabilitation counselor.

M 2011 | Paul M. Wendel Jr. took office as the County Executive for Chautauqua County, N.Y., in January.

2012 | Susan R. Hosterman, an Erie artist, had her works featured in the quarterly Gallery Night organized by the Erie Art Museum on Feb. 28. Her paintings mix the abstract and the realistic.

2013 | Ericka L. Knight served on a panel that addressed the Black Lives Matter movement at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pa. Knight works as an accounting specialist.



Adam Brozewicz

2013 | Maxwell B. Niggel, head coach of the Allegheny College swimming and diving team, was named the 2020 Women's Swimming Coach of the Year for the North Coast Atlantic Conference.

2014 | Adam Brozewicz was named 2019 Husqvarna Sales Associate of the Year in January.

2014 | Donald W. Einhouse was hired as the head football coach for the Seneca High School Bobcats.

2015 | Brittney Chantele has released a new rap album, "A Golden Opportunity," which reflects on her experiences in the Army, her struggles with fibromyalgia and the #MeToo movement.

2016 | Patrick R. Bell and Justin Pope had their collective works exhibited at Kent State University at Stark. The two artists met on campus at Edinboro University. In their first

collective exhibition, "Old Souls: Ceramic Sculpture, Prints & Painting," they explore the concept of self via sculpture that represents the body, oil paint and charcoal that represent emotion, and character sketches that represent the mind.

2019 | Daniel R. Markel was selected as Pennsylvania State Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Markel has often shared the story of how he works to overcome the effects of muscular dystrophy. He has previously spoken at MDA events and participated in MDA summer camps and panel discussions. As State Ambassador, Markel will take part in fundraisers, write to sponsors and meet with state legislators in Harrisburg about issues related to muscular dystrophy.



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IN MEMORIAM

With deepest sympathy to the family
and friends of alumni who passed away in 2019 and 2020.

Mr. Harry E. Downs, Jr. | '48 | Elyria, OH
 Mr. John J. Latini | '51 | Holland, MI
 Mr. Dominick A. DeMarco | '51 | Tucson, AZ
 Mrs. Stella D. (Mukina) Hale | '51 | Mentor, OH
 Mr. Arthur "Douglas" D. Winton | '53 | Mentor, OH
 Mr. Francis M. Furlong | '53 | Lockport, NY
 Mrs. Amy K. (Flewelling) Gregory | '53 | Westfield, NY
 Dr. Glenn W. Olsen | '53 | Erie, PA
 Mrs. Mary M. (Lewis) Annunziata | '54 | Erie, PA
 Mrs. Norma R. (Allen) Tau | '54 | Wattsburg, PA
 Ms. Nancy C. Dillon | '55 | Erie, PA
 Mr. Richard D. Baker | '56 | Saegertown, PA
 Mrs. Elizabeth "Betty" (Desko) Charters | '58 | Randolph, NY
 Mr. Paul M. Foust | '58 | Erie, PA
 Ms. Margaret S. Rudolph | '60 | Allison Park, PA
 Dr. Robert "Bob" V. Tammariello | '60 | Edinboro, PA
 Mr. John B. Brillhart | '60 | Bradenton, FL
 Mrs. Marilyn S. (Morgan) Watts | '60 | Estero, FL
 Mrs. Elaine M. (Morton) Anderson | '61 | Pittsburgh, PA
 Mr. Paul F. Rose | '62 | Meadville, PA
 Mrs. Sally M. (Mcklveen) Jones | '63 | Vero Beach, FL
 Ms. Carol A. (Felege) Anderson | '63 | Erie, PA
 Mr. Gary L. Jurysta | '63 | Pittsburgh, PA
 Mrs. Susan W. (Lewis) Kingston | '63 | Erie, PA
 Dr. Thomas E. Walsh | '65 | Edinboro, PA
 Mr. Jack L. Case | '65 | Erie, PA
 Mr. Milton K. Nicks, Jr. | '65 | Fairfield, PA
 Ms. Sharon (Bird) Hayes | '66 | Meadville, PA
 Ms. Marguerite M. Anekite | '66 | Meadville, PA
 Dr. Doris A. (Larsen) Snell | '66 | Estero, FL
 Mrs. Susan H. (Hockenberger) DeCota | '67 | Clarence Ctr, NY
 Mr. George L. Abbott | '67 | Scottsdale, AZ
 Mrs. Elizabeth "Betty" (Mechler) Saklas | '67 | Spring Lake, NJ
 Dr. Richard S. Troiano | '68 | Indianapolis, IN
 Ms. Regina A. (Frederick) Gault | '68 | Baden, PA
 Mr. Thomas F. Morgan | '68 | Pittsburgh, PA
 Mr. Elden F. Walthour | '68 | Monroeville, PA
 Mr. James R. Palmer | '68 | New Brighton, PA
 Mrs. Margaret "Peggy" (Nock) Richardson | '68 | Erie, PA
 Reverend Charles A. Staudenmaier | '69 | Hamilton, OH
 Mr. Robert "Moose" J. Kaczinski | '69 | Erie, PA
 Mrs. Mary A. (Nowakowski) Coleman | '69 | Bridgeville, PA
 Mr. Edward B. Lauth | '70 | Pittsburgh, PA
 Mr. Arthur A. Druschel | '70 | Youngstown, OH
 Mr. Ronald C. Vrabel | '70 | New Castle, PA
 Ms. Christine A. (Parsh) Sedgwick | '70 | Erie, PA
 Mrs. Bonnie L. (Qualey) Gregg | '70 | Imperial, PA
 Ms. Eileen M. (Sekelesky) Harper | '71 | Butler, PA
 Ms. Evelyn J. (Davis) Hamilton | '71 | Union City, PA
 Mrs. Helen M. (Markiewicz) Carr | '71 | Meadville, PA

Ms. Alison M. (Maybury) Young | '71 | Natrona Heights, PA
 Mrs. Dixie L. (Doolittle) Corwin | '71 | Edinboro, PA
 Mr. Edward F. Styborski | '71 | Palm Springs, CA
 Ms. Nancy B. Hankey | '72 | Grove City, PA
 Ms. Susan L. Pusbach | '72 | Meadville, PA
 Mrs. Mary C. Sontheimer | '73 | Fairview, PA
 Mrs. E. Gay (Endsley) Thompson | '73 | Acme, PA
 Mr. Frank A. Cole | '73 | Oakdale, PA
 Mr. Michael J. Dubowski | '74 | Salcha, AK
 Mr. James J. Rettinger, Jr. | '74 | Coraopolis, PA
 Dr. Ida M. Halasz | '74 | Broomfield, CO
 Sister Dorothy Szczypinski | '74 | Erie, PA
 Mr. Robert Q. Patterson | '76 | Tampa, FL
 Mrs. Stacy I. (Lindstrom) Fraser | '80 | Virginia Beach, VA
 Mrs. Carolyn M. (Paul) Fetzner | '80 | Houston, TX
 Mrs. Pamela A. Schanz-Unger | '80 | Alexandria, VA
 Mr. Dennis P. Lutz | '80 | Cambridge Springs, PA
 Mr. Nicholas A. Angiolelli | '82 | Punta Gorda, FL
 Mrs. Janice M. (Vockroth) DeMaria | '83 | W Middlesex, PA
 Ms. Rosetta Manus | '83 | Erie, PA
 Mr. Kenneth Vollmer, Jr. | '83 | Tampa, FL
 Mrs. Tammy E. Pilarcik | '84 | Middletown, MD
 Mrs. Elizabeth F. Beidler | '86 | Erie, PA
 Mr. Brian W. Shelley | '87 | McKean, PA
 Mrs. Karrie L. (Lindsey) Laemmer | '88 | Bradford, PA
 Mrs. Susannah G. (Gales) Bonner | '88 | Irwin, PA
 Mr. Rudy Yovich, Jr. | '88 | Saint Clairsville, OH
 Mrs. Janice A. (Turner) McMahon | '89 | Erie, PA
 Ms. Beth A. Fenice | '90 | Harrisburg, PA
 Mrs. Dianne L. (Weisz) Young | '90 | Conneaut, OH
 Mr. Donald J. Vitron | '91 | Erie, PA
 Mr. Christopher R. Rhodes | '92 | Panama, NY
 Mrs. Darcie (Huff) Sloan | '93 | Troutville, VA
 Ms. Downia N. Glass | '94 | Waterford, PA
 Mrs. Dayle E. (Taylor) O'Day | '94 | Albion, PA
 Mrs. Margaret A. (Zavotsky) Wilson | '95 | Toledo, OH
 Mr. Jeffery Rzepecki | '96 | Erie, PA
 Ms. Phyllis E. (Krahe) Merritt | '96 | Albion, PA
 Mr. Joseph C. Germino | '98 | Galetton, PA
 Mr. Kenneth P. Diehl | '98 | Coraopolis, PA
 Mr. John P. Hayes | '01 | Manassas, VA
 Mr. Thomas "TJ" J. Bomba | '01 | Gaithersburg, MD
 Mr. Shaun M. Shapert | '02 | Glenshaw, PA
 Ms. Michelle M. Wray | '03 | Greenville, PA
 Mrs. Donna J. (Brandon) Tobin | '03 | Erie, PA
 Ms. Danielle C. Gaudioso | '09 | Marcus Hook, PA
 Mr. Brian M. Morris | '11 | Las Vegas, NV
 Ms. Ashley A. Kuzma | '17 | Erie, PA
 Mr. Bradley J. Schlecht | '19 | Erie, PA



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