

The BORO

SPRING | 2023



Tradition and Transformation

PennWest University – Edinboro



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Fighting Scots,

It is the privilege of a lifetime to serve as founding president of Pennsylvania Western University. During these past five years in the State System, I have been honored to lead California, Clarion and Edinboro as separate institutions and throughout the transition into our new university.

Getting to know so many of you who were shaped by your Edinboro experiences has been deeply rewarding. This campus has played a significant role in your lives and, indeed, greatly impacted the borough, region and commonwealth. You have returned the favor by endlessly supporting our students, faculty and staff. For that, I thank you.

Working remotely these past few months has enabled me to reflect on my 50-year career as an entrepreneur, community leader, business owner, nurse, hospital administrator, mental health counselor, career counselor, full professor, department chair, associate dean, dean and president. It's been a great ride.

After careful thought and consideration, I have decided to retire as founding president, effective July 1.

In retirement, I look forward to spending more time with Dr. Bob and our little rescue pup, Penzy West, at our cottage in Erie. For those who are wondering what I will do next – it will include creativity, nature, gardening, books, writing, learning, helping, and, of course, cycling.

I am forever grateful to our students; they are the reason we do what we do, and that work matters deeply. I am also thankful to our communities, alumni, Council of Trustees, faculty, staff and volunteers for giving their all to our students and to one another.

Together, we have laid the groundwork to ensure a strong, secure future for public higher education while keeping our campus legacies alive.

Laurie Bernotsky, D.Phil., has been serving as PennWest's chief operating officer since 2022 as a loaned executive from West Chester University, where she serves as executive vice president and provost. She shares my passion for public education, and PennWest is well-positioned to thrive with her at the helm.

I am filled with appreciation, gratitude and pride for all that we've accomplished together. Today and always, I remain a steadfast supporter of PennWest.

Go BORO!

Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson
Founding President
Pennsylvania Western University

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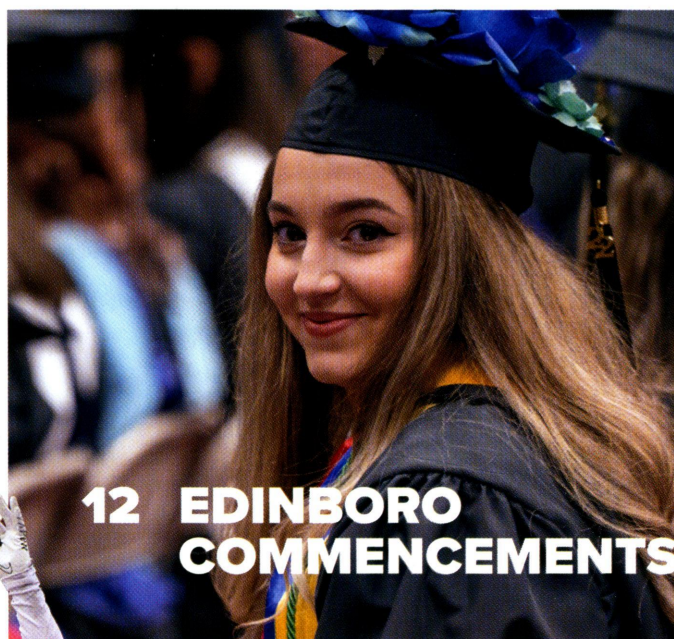
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The BORO

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MARTIN NAMED AFCA FIRST-TEAM ALL-AMERICAN

Sophomore Reed Martin was selected as the American Football Coaches Association First-Team All-American punter.

Martin was the only member of the first team from the PSAC West. He adds the All-American honor to his D2CCA All-Atlantic Region selection and his first-team All-PSAC West honors.

OH, THE

HORROR!

FILM MAJOR'S DEBUT SCREENPLAY
TAKES INTERNATIONAL AWARD
AT BRITISH FESTIVAL

When Lee Copeland '08 entered his horror screenplay for "OREAD" – it took nearly six months to write and one month to edit and revise – into a foreign film festival, he didn't necessarily have high hopes of winning.

"I thought it would be awesome to be selected at a festival in the country that invented the language I write in," he said.

And as it turned out, the nomination that came weeks later was just the beginning.

The Edinboro grad and Erie screenwriter and filmmaker earned an international award at the British Horror Film Festival after entering his first full-length screenplay.

An Edinboro resident who earned his degree in Applied Media Arts with a focus on film and animation, Copeland won the Best Screenplay award for "OREAD," a story about friends who reconnect in the mountains only to cross into the realm of myth, madness and horror.

He describes "OREAD" as a folk/horror screenplay with mythological concepts transformed into a full-length horror story. Designing it as a love letter to the filmmakers who inspired him, Copeland credits Sam Raimi ("Spider-Man," 2002), John Carpenter ("Halloween" series) and Guillermo del Toro ("Pan's Labyrinth") as his film mentors.

Copeland and his wife, Rana, traveled to the British Museum in London, where the awards ceremony was held after hours. After viewing the short-film entries and the feature film, the awards committee started to list the special commendations for the Best Screenplay award. When his name wasn't called, Copeland was anxious but still reflected on the honor to be nominated.

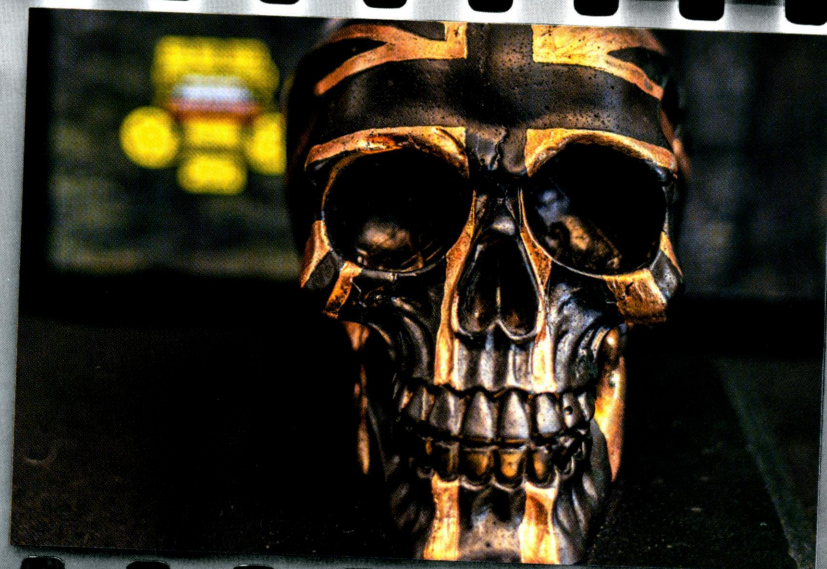
But then, after the commendations were named, the committee announced that Copeland was, indeed, the Best Screenplay winner.

"My wife and I just looked at each other and said, 'What just happened?'" he said. "I'm still shocked."

Rooted in the mythological story of mountain creatures who were corrupted by humans, the characters Copeland created have a piece of his own personality in each of them.

"Hopefully, they are relatable for people," he said. "Even with my creatures, they have a certain sadness about them – so they're not just these demonic, awful little nymphs that do a bunch of horrible things."

Upon graduating from Edinboro in 2008, Copeland worked on a variety of freelance digital and special effects projects and took a job as a commercial and promotions



producer for a local television station. After getting the itch to create screenplays and films, he quit his job to focus on his independent projects. To help with the screenwriting process, Copeland enrolled in introductory and advanced screenwriting courses at Edinboro with English professor Dr. Robert Bernard Hass.

Hass, who came to Edinboro in 2001, credited Copeland's perseverance in overcoming the screenplay's initial deficiencies by refining the story's arc – concentrating on making each scene a self-contained dramatic unit.

"He was serious in his intention, and that seriousness inspired me to work diligently with him to help him realize his dream," Hass said. "He imagined his future into being, and I am extremely proud of him."

Copeland said he was thankful for Hass' constructive criticism, which provided the necessary boost to finalize the screenplay.

"Dr. Hass pushed me because he thought the direction I was taking had potential," Copeland said. "And he was right."

Following his success at the British festival, Copeland's work

was also accepted as a finalist for the FilmQuest Film Festival in Provo, Utah, and the Be Afraid Horror Fest in Gorizia, Italy.

Following his win and the awards circuit, Copeland's goal is to receive enough attention from filmmakers and producers to bring "OREAD" to life – and to continue writing the story into a trilogy.

"It started out as a short story, then ballooned into a feature. And when I was writing the feature, I came up with the idea for a sequel," he explained. "While I was plotting out the sequel, I came up with an idea for a prequel to show a hundred years previous."

Copeland caught the horror bug when he was younger, and his parents gave him permission to watch any film genre he chose.

That led to Friday-night film rentals, when Copeland became hooked on the story lines and special effects of horror films.

"My parents told me I could watch whatever I wanted as long as I slept in my own bed and didn't get too scared," he said.



To say that Dr. Baher Ghosheh grew up in a volatile region is an understatement.

The retired Edinboro professor was raised in a contentious section of Jerusalem, where parents, nieces and nephews were born on the same street but had different citizenship due to control by the Turks, British, Jordanians and Israelis.

Violence plagued the region as conflicts between Israeli and Arab coalitions escalated following the first Arab-Israeli War in 1948.

"If you go out and buy a loaf of bread, you don't know if you're going to come home," said Ghosheh, who retired in 2022 after 26 years of service to Edinboro.

When Ghosheh was just 10 years old, working as a guide and selling bric-a-brac to tourists, his entire world changed in an instant.

As Israeli forces launched preemptive strikes in Ghosheh's hometown – a conflict that would become known as the Six-Day War – he and nearly 100 family members and neighbors hunkered down in his grandmother's basement.

When the first bomb struck his grandmother's house, the second story was destroyed. With the second bomb, the entire above-ground living quarters were dismantled.

"One more bomb and a hundred of us would have been dead," Ghosheh said.

"We had nothing. We didn't even have knives to fight with."

Soon after, Israel took control of the region, implemented a curfew and prevented thousands of residents – including Ghosheh's parents – from working.

"Growing up, it wasn't that bad. You could easily move around the city," Ghosheh said. "Now, you would think you're in a warfront."

INTERDEPENDENT

Retired geography professor shared life experiences in his classroom

Throughout this conflict, Ghosheh graduated from high school in Jerusalem and embarked upon higher education at the American University in Ankara, Turkey. However, violence and unrest would continue to follow him.

Subsidized by the U.S. government, the American University was one of the prominent institutions in the region – offering \$25 tuition, \$25 housing and 25-cent meals for international students.

Weeks before final exams in his first semester, Ghosheh found himself in the middle of the 1980 Turkish coup d'état, where right-wing militants infiltrated Turkey, leading to bombings on the college campus.

"I hadn't even finished my first semester – all I needed to do was take my finals," Ghosheh said. "I decided I couldn't wait, since this semester might have taken two or three years to finish."

After working in Kuwait for nearly seven months, Ghosheh relocated to the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Miss., to continue studying.

"I was studying in the Middle East at one of the best technical universities in the entire region," he said. "Then I ended up in Mississippi, probably because I've read too many Ernest Hemingway novels and I believed what he was writing."

Despite finding the city charming relative to the fiction writing, Ghosheh found that the Ole Miss region wasn't a good fit. He moved on to the University of Buffalo, where he studied international relations and international trade.

"This time, I knew what I was getting into," said Ghosheh, who earned a bachelor's degree in political science, master's degrees in political science and geography, and a Ph.D. in economic development from Buffalo.

With a handful of degrees, a 350-page dissertation and temporary faculty experience at Buffalo – paired with his experience with international conflict – Ghosheh decided to dig deeper into understanding regions and cultures and share his passions with the next generation of curious learners.

In 1996, Ghosheh started his tenure at Edinboro, where he developed and taught courses in world, cultural, economic, political and regional geography.

Then in 1999, Ghosheh was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study ethnic diversity and labor controversies for four months in Malaysia and Singapore. He spent his time researching and interviewing students on topics such as

positive discrimination, where Malay native sons are given preferential treatment in government hiring and projects.

"Basically, your policy is blatant discrimination to favor one group," he explained.

He also embarked on a globetrotting career that led him on travels to 60 countries and student trips to Italy, Russia, Morocco and China. During his international excursions, Ghosheh adopted a "going native" approach to visiting countries – living, eating, sleeping and traveling as a native of the country.

"It's one thing to hear about a place or read about it. But to experience it yourself is a whole different matter," he said. "You actually learn about the culture and interact with the people. You completely experience the environment."

During a university trip to Japan, he taught students how to sit on the floor during meals; eat rice, raw eggs and fish; and use the public bath. In the dorms at a university in China, students encountered living situations with eight students to one room and no furniture except for beds.

"I'm hoping students realize how their lives are impacted by their environment – and how their lives impact those around them," Ghosheh said. "We are all interdependent."

All of this natural and developed expertise has significantly impacted the way Ghosheh sees the world and educates in the classroom. In his career, his major goal was to help students make a connection to cultures and ask three key questions: What's there? Why is it there? And so what?

"Unless you can make the connection of why something is important and why it should matter to them, why should they care?" Ghosheh said.

In retirement, Ghosheh spends his time in Edinboro with his wife, Heather Froman, and remains active with exercise, tennis, weightlifting, traveling and writing. He's also completing his next books dealing with the demographic trends and immigration patterns in Erie, Pa.

But as he reflects on his career and his journeys, Ghosheh realized he would never replace his connections in the classroom.

"I love teaching, and I probably would have done it for free if I didn't have a job in the field," he said. "It allows me to learn and grow every day. I get as much – if not more – from the students, who bring different experiences into the classroom."

A PLATFORM

Jon Vincent holds a cup of coffee as he looks out a window at Flip Café. He watches snowflakes drift through the gray skies before they softly land on the snow-covered ground. It's a typical winter scene in Edinboro.

"I don't miss this," the 38-year-old Erie native said. "Seems like most of my life I spent pushing around snow, from the time I was a kid to when I was on the campus police force. I don't expect to be shoveling a lot in Savannah, Georgia."

After a short holiday trip to visit family in Erie, Vincent will return to the Peach State and his new job as a SAP ERP solutions analyst II with Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., which specializes in building business jets. He landed the position after graduating in May 2022 with a bachelor's degree from PennWest Edinboro's Business Administration Intelligent Enterprise program.

Vincent originally enrolled at Edinboro in 2003. By the end of his first semester, he withdrew. "I had no idea what I was doing back then," he admitted. "I never asked any questions in class because I didn't want to seem stupid. Finally, I just quit going."

A few years later, still searching for a path in life, Vincent signed up for a martial arts course taught by Pennsylvania State Trooper Brian Arrington, who encouraged him to become a police officer.

Vincent wanted to prove that people of color could trust cops — especially if the officers looked like them. "I wanted to be part of making a change," he said. "I wanted to make a positive impact in the community."

So, he went back to school. After earning an associate degree in criminal justice and enrolling in the Mercyhurst Police Academy, Vincent joined the Edinboro University Police Department in January 2015.

A portrait of Jon Vincent, a Black man with a short beard and mustache, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a dark blue denim jacket with a thick, cream-colored shearling collar. The background is dark and out of focus.

*"I want to
make a positive
impact in the
community"*

Campus police corporal recodes his career via the Intelligent Enterprise program

FOR SUCCESS

Within a few years, he earned his stripes as a corporal and specialized in community relations as a police liaison.

Though he found the work fulfilling, he realized that his opportunities to move up were limited.

Once again, Vincent searched for the next direction in his life's journey. He re-enrolled at Edinboro, where his wife, Lisette, was taking classes.

"She was my inspiration to return," Vincent said. He found his niche in the Intelligent Enterprise program taught by Dr. Douglas Battleson.

"Dr. Battleson took me under his guidance and gave me a blueprint to build a new career," Vincent said. "When I signed up, I had no idea what the course was. But it didn't take long to realize it was exactly what I wanted. The program was definitely hard work. But it was worth every sacrifice."

Vincent worked with The Baer Group as a SAP project coordination lead even before he graduated. A few months after he received his diploma,

Gulfstream wanted to talk to him. After arranging to meet with company representatives in Savannah, Vincent tore his Achilles tendon.

That injury may have felled a mythical warrior, but Vincent wasn't going to let it keep him from the interview. Against the recommendations of his doctors, he began the journey with a stopover in Charlotte, N.C. His connecting flight to Savannah was canceled. The next flight was after his interview.

Hard work and determination had gotten him this far, but Vincent needed a bit of luck to finish the last leg of the trip. Another grounded passenger overheard Vincent's plight. The man is a former Gulfstream employee and knew the people set to interview him. He contacted Gulfstream and explained the situation.

The next morning, Vincent flew to Savannah and aced the interview. He so impressed Gulfstream that the company increased Vincent's starting salary before he returned home. Saying yes was easy.

"I can't emphasize enough the significance of Edinboro's business program in my life," Vincent said. "Everyone from the dean of the school to all my instructors did everything they could to make sure I was successful."

Less than a year after leaving the campus police force, Vincent said he does miss the job.

"I loved my job at Edinboro," he said. "But I'm in my happy place now with a great company and a great team."

And he won't be pushing around snow anytime soon.

wanted to
positive
act in the
community."



THE POWER OF WILL

Nursing major lifts her way to success

Balance. Support. Cooperation. Grace under fire. Marissa Wanker needs all of these in two prominent areas of her life. As a senior Nursing major at Edinboro, Wanker will soon be on the frontlines of impacting human life – learning to balance an encyclopedic knowledge of medicine with a comforting bedside manner.

As a professional powerlifter, the Spartansburg, Pa., native thrusts nearly 1,200 pounds of metal in the air while battling the anxiety of the spotlight. However, Wanker finds a complementary balance that drives her to greatness.

“People talk about how powerlifting is a solo sport. And you need a team of people that you trust to support you and be ready to grab the weights and talk you through it,” Wanker said. “And I try to take that sort of energy into nursing, too. Because even during nursing clinicals we get caught in a situation that we’re not expecting.”

So far at Edinboro, Wanker has completed clinical rotations in Erie, Pa., at Allegheny Health Network St. Vincent Hospital on the rehabilitation floor and at UPMC Hamot in the maternal fetal unit.

This balance immediately came into play during a recent clinical experience at UPMC Hamot, where Wanker spent nearly five hours caring for an expectant mother who was experiencing intense morning sickness.

While administering care and overseeing the patient's vital signs, Wanker also created a close bond through comforting conversations. Despite the brief relationship, the expectant mother gratefully complimented Wanker's bedside manner to her immediate supervisor.

"It takes a while to realize that you have all this knowledge and it's sticking with you."

"But every little thing that you do and say can impact their day and their worldview," Wanker said. "And that can make the difference between positivity and negativity."

Wanker transferred to Edinboro after discussing nursing school with Edinboro faculty member Andrea Chelton. Wanker learned she could become a nurse and eventually land a leadership and teaching role within the field.

Chelton, who has been a Nursing instructor at Edinboro since 2015, said she knew Wanker would become a nurse long before the Edinboro student did.

"Her capacity for caring and empathy – and a passion for helping others – are foundational to becoming a great nurse," Chelton said. "She applies the same drive towards excellence in nursing as she does towards her powerlifting, work on her family farm, involvement in her church and other obligations."

For 2021-2022, Wanker was named as one of the Addison Gibson Foundation Educational Grant scholarship recipients. To qualify for this funding, students must be residents of Western Pennsylvania and be enrolled full time at an eligible educational institution with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Wanker hopes to use this college experience – and the scholarship – to pursue a master's degree in nursing and eventually become a nurse practitioner.

"I am thankful for this grant because it eases this burden and allows me to focus on what is most important – preparing myself to care for those in my community and providing optimal care to the patients I interact with now as a nurse aide," she said.

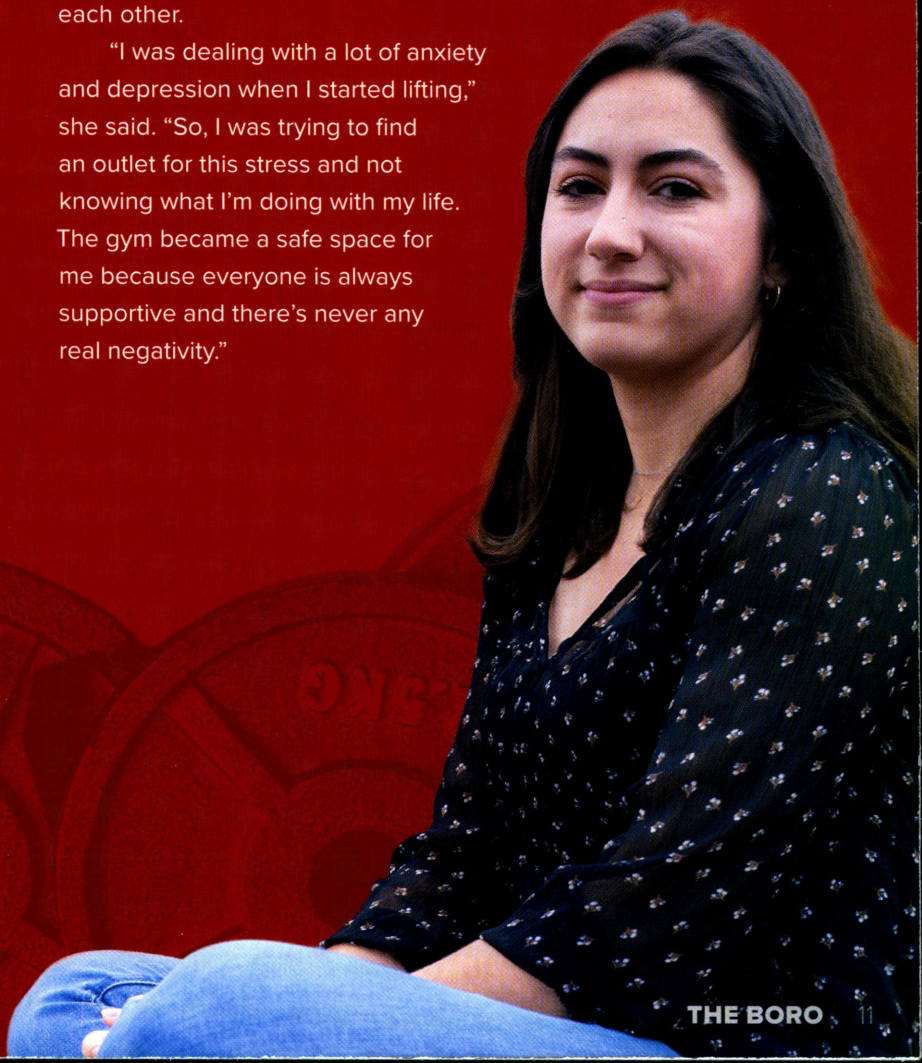
In addition to her gains as a nursing student, Wanker has developed into a standout young powerlifter, earning professional status in July 2021.

In her first amateur meet at Iron Warfare in New York, Wanker maxed out at a 175-pound result in squats, 105 pounds in the bench press and a 250-pound deadlift.

Fast-forward to July's 814 Summer Smackdown Invitational in Erie, where Wanker captured her personal best of a 475-pound squat, 305-pound bench press and 350-pound deadlift.

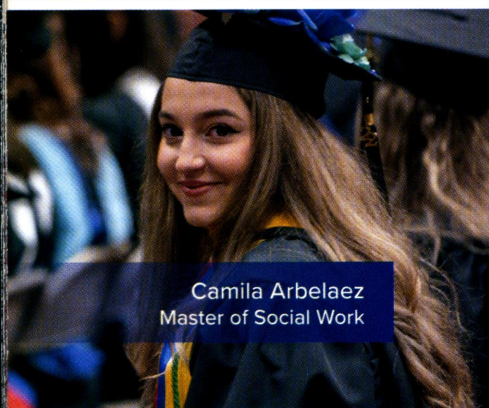
Wanker credits these gains to her transference of mental health struggles to competitive athletics. While balancing a full course load and nursing rotations, Wanker puts in hours at Absolute Health & Fitness in Corry, Pa., where she and her team continually support each other.

"I was dealing with a lot of anxiety and depression when I started lifting," she said. "So, I was trying to find an outlet for this stress and not knowing what I'm doing with my life. The gym became a safe space for me because everyone is always supportive and there's never any real negativity."

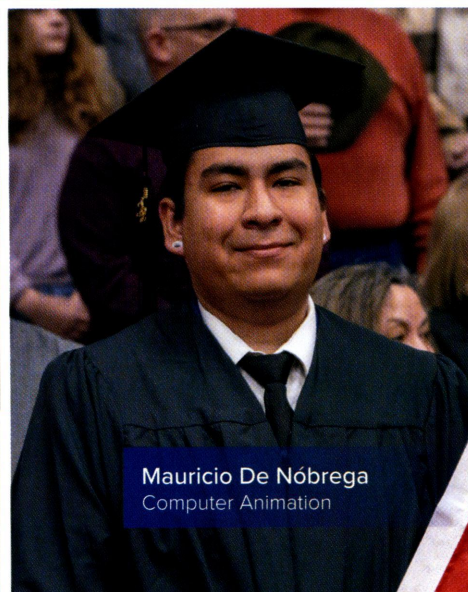




PENNWEST EDINBORO COMMENCEMENT



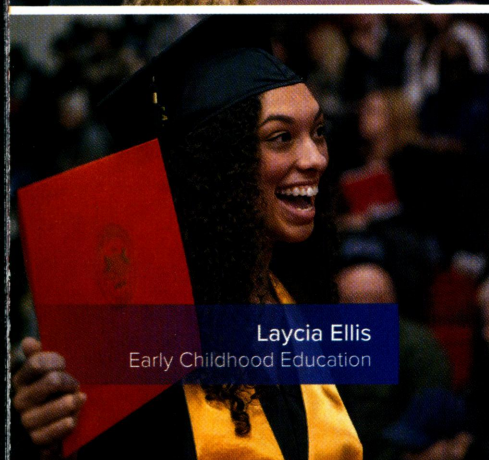
Camila Arbelaez
Master of Social Work



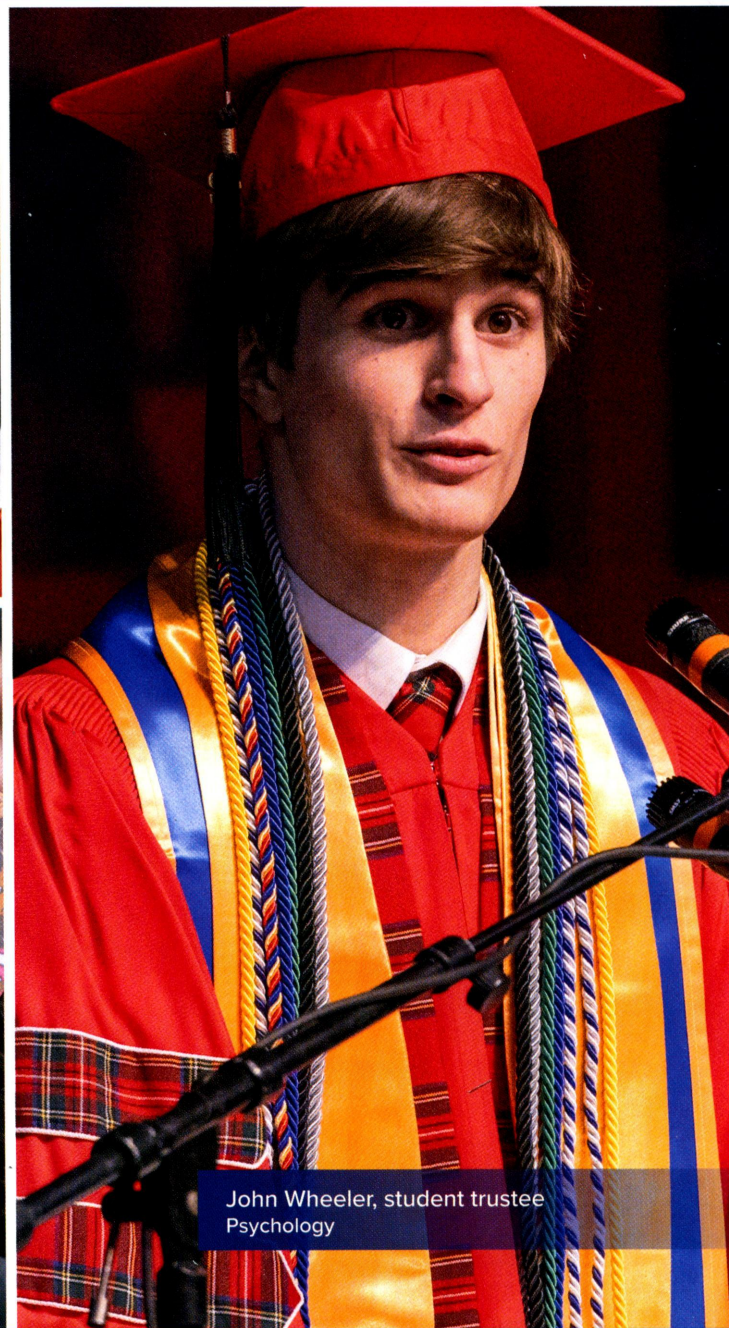
Mauricio De Nóbrega
Computer Animation



Adrienne Pauline
Master of Social Work



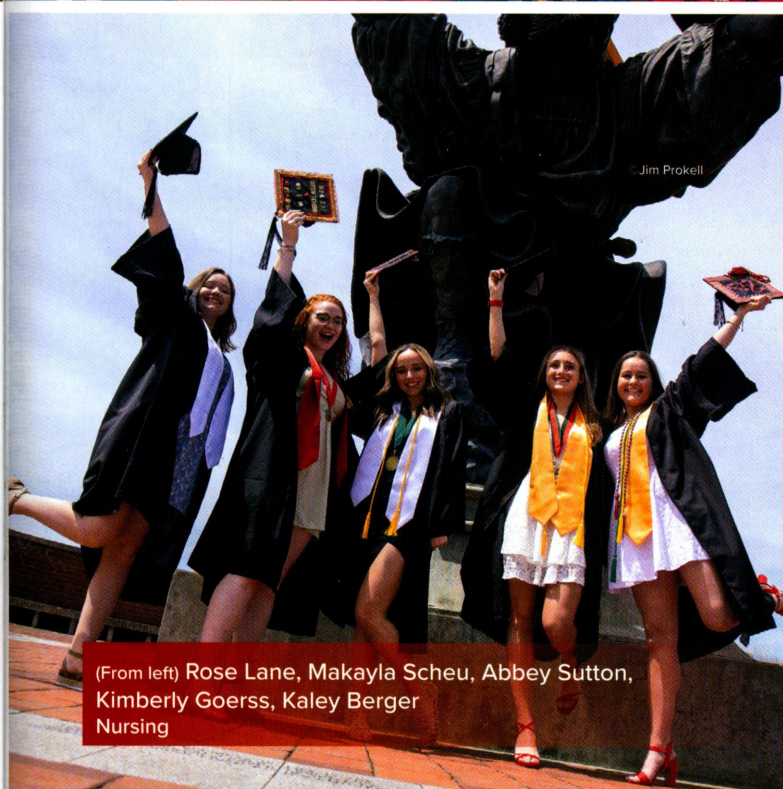
Laycia Ellis
Early Childhood Education



John Wheeler, student trustee
Psychology

WINTER 2022

INBORO ENTS



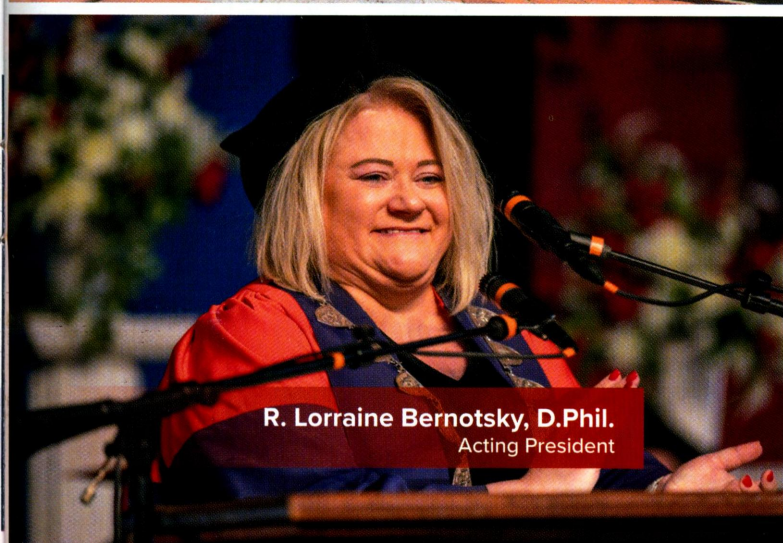
(From left) Rose Lane, Makayla Scheu, Abbey Sutton, Kimberly Goerss, Kaley Berger
Nursing



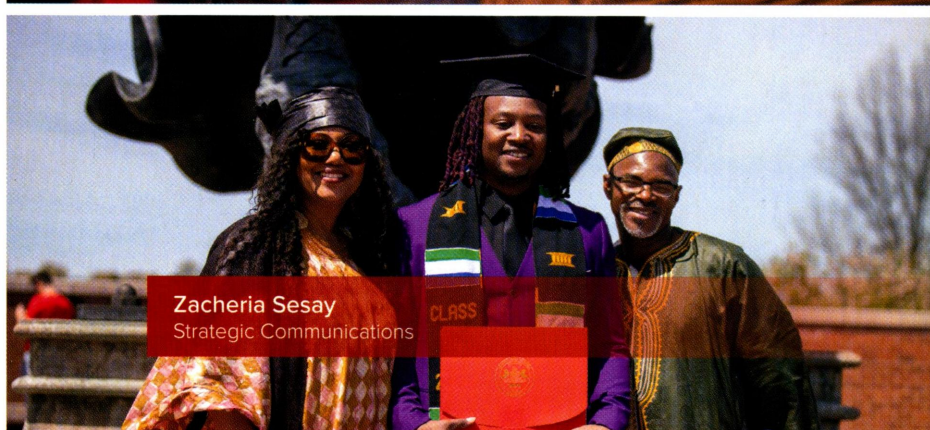
Kelli Moodie
Sociology



Emily Muniz
Political Science

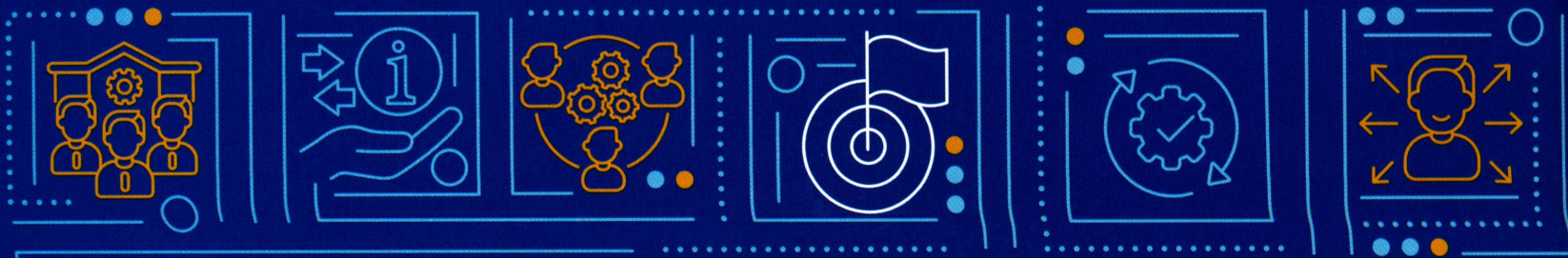


R. Lorraine Bernotsky, D.Phil.
Acting President



Zacheria Sesay
Strategic Communications

SPRING 2023



#Prepared4PA

Throughout Pennsylvania and beyond, our graduates are stepping up and standing out. They are saving and improving lives, revolutionizing technology, commanding boardrooms, inspiring future leaders and literally soaring to new heights.

Each founded more than 150 years ago to increase educational attainment and fill training gaps in our communities, the California, Clarion and Edinboro campuses remain focused on transforming lives and meeting the ever-evolving workforce needs of the commonwealth.

Together as PennWest, the economic impact of our alumni continues to grow, and the reach of our Global Online campus is infinite.

Our graduates serve the commonwealth as business owners, counselors, educators, doctors, nurses, lawyers, inventors, public servants, journalists, engineers, pilots, authors, artists, scientists, researchers and so much more.

Workforce development – or aligning individuals’ education, skills and training with the needs of Pennsylvania industries – is a critical challenge for our commonwealth. In response, Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education introduced the Prepared4PA initiative, which links education and industry through strategic partnerships.

These partnerships customize programs to provide a pipeline of talent to meet the growing workforce needs of Pennsylvania, preparing students for meaningful lives and careers.

PennWest is building on the strengths of each campus and leveraging partnerships with industry and community leaders to help students succeed in a dynamic world.



TOTAL LIVING
ALUMNI IN PA

125,000+



TOTAL ECONOMIC
IMPACT

\$701 Million

(Direct and indirect spending)
FY 2021-2022



TOTAL PROJECTED
ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$758.6 Million

(Direct and indirect spending)
FY 2025-2026



“PENNWEST CONTINUES TO LOOK FOR NEW RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING SOLUTIONS TO MEET THE DIRE NEED WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES.”

Participants in the Edinboro Noyce Teacher Scholar program are helping to meet the need for STEM educators in low-income school districts.

PENNWEST INITIATES RECRUITMENT, TRAINING PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS U.S. TEACHER SHORTAGE

T

he National Education Association estimates the U.S. is facing a shortage of about 300,000 teachers and support staff. Job openings began to outnumber hires in 2017, and the gap only widened throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

With more than 480 years of combined experience in preparing exceptional educators, it's no surprise that Pennsylvania Western University is doing its part to address this growing crisis.

“Our sister campuses share a proud history in teacher preparation,” said Dr. Daniel Engstrom, deputy provost. “As the demand for qualified educators grows, PennWest continues to look for new recruitment and training solutions to meet the dire need within our communities.”

Scan the QR code or visit www.pennwest.edu/news/teacher-shortage to read more about PennWest's initiatives to recruit and retain top-notch educators.



First-year nursing student Riley Hay hones her skills in the ASN Somerset simulation lab.



Partnership adds 69 nurses to Somerset County workforce

Early in 2019, a group of community stakeholders began conversations about bringing an Associate of Science in Nursing program to Somerset County.

Seeking partnership with a quality, experienced educational institution, the group – comprising members of Somerset County Commissioners and Somerset County Foundation for Higher Education (SCFHE) – turned to PennWest Clarion.

Four years later, three classes of nurses have completed the program, adding 69 skilled registered nurses to the region's health care facilities.

Citing Clarion's proven, cutting-edge nursing and technology program, Charles Korn, Somerset County Foundation for Higher Education vice chair, said the program would complement the foundation's robust scholarship, tuition assistance and student loan initiatives.

The Somerset commissioners and SCFHE worked with Pennsylvania Sen. Patrick Stefano and state Rep. Carl Metzgar to secure grant funding to start the program. The funding was used to renovate a wing of the Somerset County Education Center, which houses the program, purchase simulation equipment, and offer scholarships to residents of Somerset.

Other community leaders joined the effort and have created

scholarships for students who enroll in the ASN program at Somerset. The students are eligible for low-interest loans through a local financial institution that has partnered with SCFHE.

"This partnership will result in the county being able to retain a highly skilled and educated nursing workforce delivering vastly improved health care and medical services throughout Somerset County," Charles Korn, SCFHE vice chair, said at the time.

"Health care facilities in the region were having a difficult time attracting and retaining nurses. When young people left the community to pursue educational opportunities, they often would leave the area and not return," said Dr. Deb Kelly, dean of PennWest's College of Health Sciences.

"Leaders of the Somerset community believed that if they brought a nursing program to the area, they could attract people who were interested in remaining in the region."

Pennsylvania Highlands Community College and Somerset Hospital are also partnering in the initiative. PennWest Clarion offers the core nursing classes and general education, while Penn Highlands provides additional general education and support courses.

Somerset Hospital serves as a clinical training site and offers diverse clinical/hospital experiences arranged to cover a variety of nursing specialties including emergency room, operating room, home health and other nursing specialties, such as medical-surgical and pediatrics.

Krista Mathias, board chair of Somerset Hospital, said Clarion's nursing program benefits the region significantly.

"Not only is this an excellent educational opportunity for our young people and folks looking to be trained in a highly marketable and noble profession, it is an opportunity for Somerset Hospital to connect with the best and brightest in the Laurel Highlands and recruit highly skilled nurses from the clinical portion of the program," Mathias said.

"These partnerships create additional learning opportunities for our students and strengthen our local workforce," said Trish Corle, Penn Highlands vice president of student services.

The two-year ASN program leads to licensure as a registered nurse upon successful completion of the NCLEX state exam. Clarion's current ASN program has boasted strong

"... it is an opportunity for Somerset Hospital to connect with the best and brightest in the Laurel Highlands ..."



academics with NCLEX pass rates of 100 percent

in 2016 and

94 percent in 2017, well above the national average.

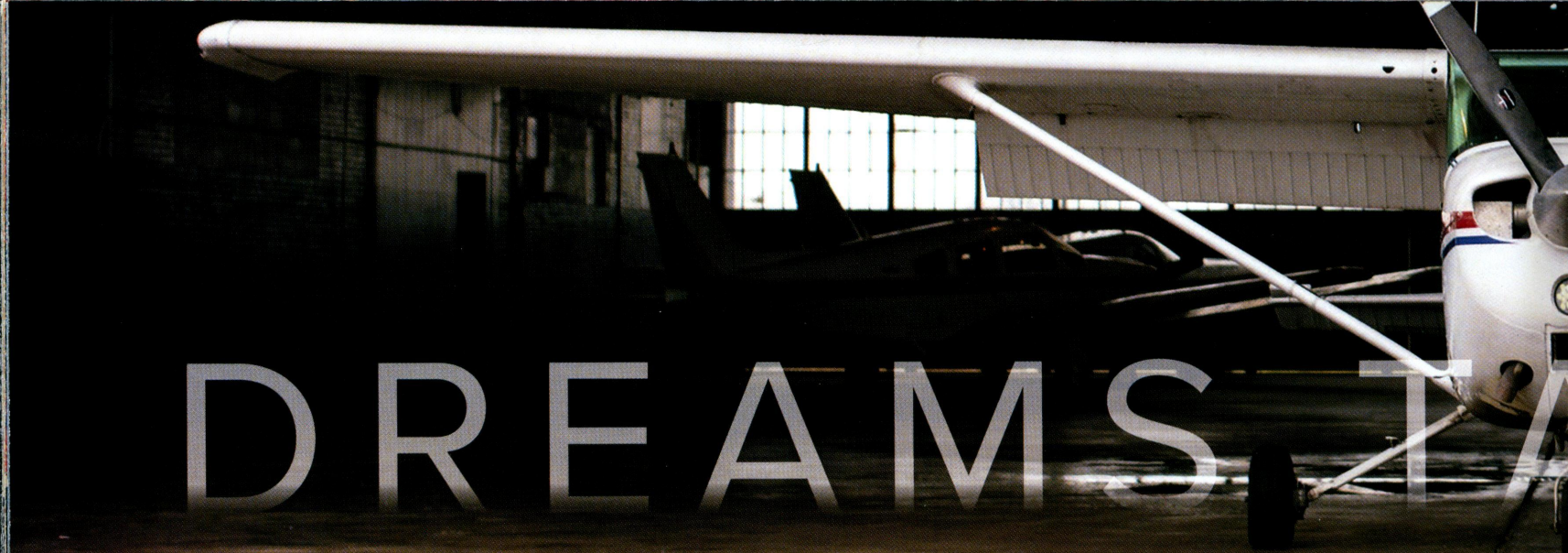
"This partnership brings a top-notch education program to help staff our world-class medical institutions here in Somerset County," Stefano said.

"Working with Rep. (Carl) Metzgar, I was proud to secure the funding needed to renovate the facility and acquire the technology needed to provide the students in this program with the tools that they need to succeed."

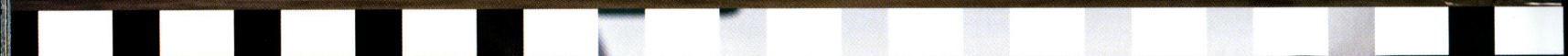
Once students complete the program and pass the licensure exam, they can begin working in the nursing specialty of their choice. Students can seamlessly continue to Clarion's online RN-to-Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. The online format supports program completion built around the student's work and family responsibilities. Many employers offer tuition reimbursement for the upper-level degree programs.

Brenda Miller graduated in May 2022 from the ASN program in Somerset and is a registered nurse at UPMC Somerset.





DREAMS TAKE



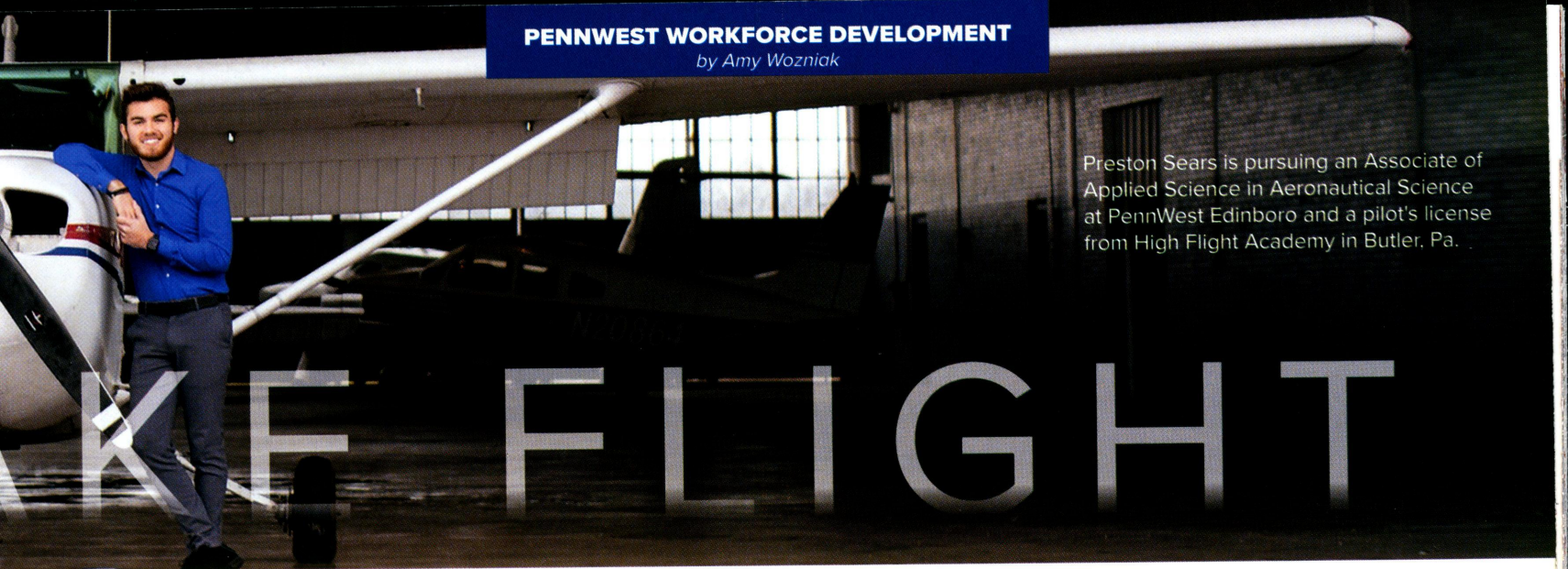
PennWest Edinboro student Preston Sears flies above Butler with his flight instructor, Joe Dornetta, of High Flight Academy.

PENNWEST EDINBORO'S ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN AERONAUTICS helps students turn their dreams of flight into a future that has wings.

PennWest Edinboro has partnered with 141 FAA-approved flight schools on an accelerated 60-credit program that allows students to complete academic coursework online, as well as complete between 225 and 250 flight hours, in about two years. Upon completion, graduates will be prepared for a job as a commercial industry pilot (non-passenger), a private charter pilot or a flight instructor.

Additionally, when students complete flight training at High Flight Academy in Butler (one of Edinboro's flight school partners), they can be hired as paid flight instructors for the next generation of pilots. This helps them gain additional flight hours to become airline transport or cargo pilots.

The program, housed under Edinboro's physics department, also fuels the flight industry, which needs pilots.



Preston Sears is pursuing an Associate of Applied Science in Aeronautical Science at PennWest Edinboro and a pilot's license from High Flight Academy in Butler, Pa.

In Technician Outlook, Boeing estimates that more than 600,000 pilots will be needed over the next two decades – which was good news for Nick Fritz, who has wanted to fly since he was 8 years old.

Couple that with his interest in truck driving, and Fritz is on his way to becoming a cargo pilot.

Through research, Fritz discovered the PennWest Edinboro program has many advantages, including that in addition to an A.S. degree, he could also achieve a Bachelor of Science in applied technical leadership.

Unlike Fritz, Nathaniel Webb was well into his college career, but he was without a future plan until he discovered the aeronautical science program.

"I wanted to find something exciting," Webb said.

Webb, who had an interest in flying, was fully on board when he discovered that most of his credits would transfer into the A.S. program and that the program's coursework is completely online.

Another major factor in Webb's decision was easy access to financial aid. Flight programs require access to planes, plus fuel and maintenance to fly them; costs add up quickly. Loan institutions believe becoming a pilot is a good return on investment, said Korey Kilburn, Ph.D., advisor and developer of the Edinboro aeronautics program.

Once students complete training, well-paying job offers are typical; pilots eventually make six figures, according to the Department of Labor and Industry.

"You get a good-paying job at a young age. You can hit the ground running," said Chris Hayden, chief instructor at High Flight Academy, where Fritz, Webb and fellow student Preston Sears are gaining their flight training and experience.

Choosing Edinboro and High Flight put Sears in the cockpit sooner than other aeronautics programs. Sears knew he wanted to fly, but he had no idea how much he would grow to love it once he stepped inside the cockpit.

"I didn't realize it was going to be so fun," Sears said.

High Flight works to make certain its students get experience both in the full motion simulator and in the air. Gaining the necessary flight time can be problematic at other flight schools, but High Flight has 12 airplanes in its hangar and is looking to buy another, Hayden said.

Accessible planes make it easier to gain crucial flight hours. In order to complete a part of the 141 pilot program, the FAA requires a student to log a minimum of 190 hours of flight time.

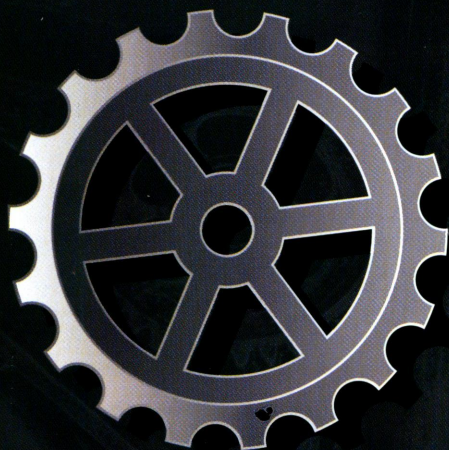
Sears is looking forward to becoming a trainer to log additional flight hours required to become a commercial or cargo pilot. He's logged many of his hours with Joe Dornetta, who has been a trainer for four months.

"I never walk away from here in a bad mood," Dornetta said as he coached Sears in a Cessna 172 on a cloudy afternoon.

The exhilaration of flight is part of the fun that Sears, Webb and Fritz have found.

"I really want to fly," Sears said.

WITH THIS PROGRAM, SEARS AND OTHERS CAN TRULY TAKE OFF.



BUSINESSES STEM-S



Bailey Jellison and Gideon Godspower make final preparations to their project, Fire Search and Rescue Robot.



here mechanical and electrical engineering, computing technology, automated control and information systems intersect are graduates from

the mechatronics engineering technology program based at PennWest California.

"Making robots is a really common application for mechatronics," said Dr. Jennifer Wilburn, chair of the Department of Applied Engineering, Technology and Physics. "Because we are located in southwestern Pennsylvania, we focus on advanced manufacturing, because we have a lot of manufacturing jobs. Our students want jobs when they're done."

Wilburn helped to build the mechatronics engineering technology program, which launched in 2013 as the first hands-on, technology-focused, four-year program of its kind in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

One highlight is the Industrial Advisory Board, a key component to ensuring the program is accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.

Member businesses provide input into the program in order to ensure graduates are

PARTNER WITH STUDENTS

workforce ready. Some sponsor the students' senior projects.

"Businesses come to us with problems in their production process that maybe aren't big enough for a contractor to pick up," Wilburn says. "Maybe it's not urgent, but it's something they would like to address."

The business provides the parts and a mentor. Students flesh out the complexities and design a solution. Final designs are presented to the Industrial Advisory Board before students graduate.

Julietta Maffeo '22 and her team presented their project in partnership with DMI Companies, a leader in HVAC products and services. They wheeled their label applicator for ceiling radiation dampers from the classroom to a truck for delivery to the company's production floor. The project eliminates drying time and labor on more than a million parts produced each year.

"What DMI seemed to like about me is that I knew the manufacturing side and engineering side as well," said Maffeo, who also studied electrical engineering technology and now works for DMI as an automation engineer. "I had hands-on experience with programmable logic controllers and automation equipment – stepper motors, robotics and circuit design."

Maffeo returned to California last fall as an industry partner and guest presenter on AutoCAD Electrical, a product that is important in understanding electrical drawings.

"It works out well for the students," Wilburn said. "They get feedback from the industry and the durable skills they will need in the workforce."

NSF SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS STEM MAJORS

PennWest California has been granted \$745,379 for student STEM scholarships through the National Science Foundation Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program.

The funding will be used to support the recruitment, enrollment, retention and graduation of 12 low-income, academically talented students pursuing bachelor of science degrees in computer engineering technology, electrical engineering technology or mechatronics engineering technology.

Each of the 12 students who receives a scholarship will be granted up to \$10,000 per year for four years, based on their unmet financial need. Students will also have access to comprehensive academic support services as part of PennWest California's Aligning Careers and Campus Experiences for Student Success project.

For information, contact Dr. Brent Wilburn, wilburn_b@pennwest.edu, or Dr. Jennifer Wilburn, wilburn@pennwest.edu.



THE LIBRARY IS THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Shelly Mathis remembers one of her library science professors sharing the adage that “the library is the heart of the community.” He then amended it to say that “the community needs to be the heart of the library.” For Mathis, they’re one and the same. Library science brings together two of her passions: lifelong learning and service to her community.

Mathis graduated in May with her Master of Science in library science in May 2023. She previously earned a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Studies: library science from PennWest Clarion. Both programs are fully online.

The path to her degrees took 10 years, but Mathis takes joy in knowing that she earned them in the way that worked best for her family. As a homeschooling mom, Mathis worked part time at her local library in Grand County, Colorado, while

taking classes. It was important to Mathis to be available for her children, so she steadily chipped away at her schooling, the online classes making that possible.

In fact, it was having children that brought her back to the library in the first place. As a youngster, Mathis remembers having a fondness for the library, but being a mom and seeing firsthand the impact libraries have on the community made her want to work at one.

So, she does, while she completes her degree. She said working at a library at the same time she is acquiring knowledge is beneficial, as she is able to apply her education right away.

By the time she graduates, Mathis will have taken 20 library science-specific classes. “I use all of it,” she said. “I just found it was a perfect fit. I get to teach, and I get to serve,” Mathis said.

She does both, guided by her professor’s lesson about making the community the heart of the library.

In December, she led a snowshoeing class. She said it’s not the type of program you’d expect from a library, but a variety of free programming is offered at all libraries – especially rural libraries – where the library and schools are the center of community life.

Her education has exposed her to other aspects of library science that she may not have considered prior to her education.

PennWest Library Science professor Xiaofeng Li, Ph.D., was so impressed with a paper Mathis had written on an imagined program that she proposed collaborating with Mathis to create a study based on the idea.

“Shelly and I worked together on a paper which got a research competition award at the national (Association for Library and Information Science Education) conference. It is a prestigious award,” Li said.

Mathis is humbled by the recognition and delighted that it opened her eyes to the possibility of research in her field.

“I’m just a lifelong learner,” she said.

While at the conference, other library professionals encouraged her to pursue her Ph.D., but she isn’t certain about her next steps.

In addition to research, Mathis has been investigating library consulting; she could work remotely, and she wouldn’t have to leave the community she so deeply loves.

“I am rooted in this community,” Mathis said.

BUILDING. ACADEMIC. MUSCLE.

GLOBAL ONLINE FLEXIBILITY ENERGIZES HEALTH/FITNESS EXPERT'S CAREER PATH

Fitness has always been a vital part of Dr. Jacque Crockford's life – from spending her childhood at the YMCA to summer camp, swim lessons and gymnastics. "I am someone who needs to move to survive and be my best self, and competing in challenging sporting events gives me purpose and direction while challenging me to grow and evolve," said Crockford '20, senior product manager for the American Council on Exercise.

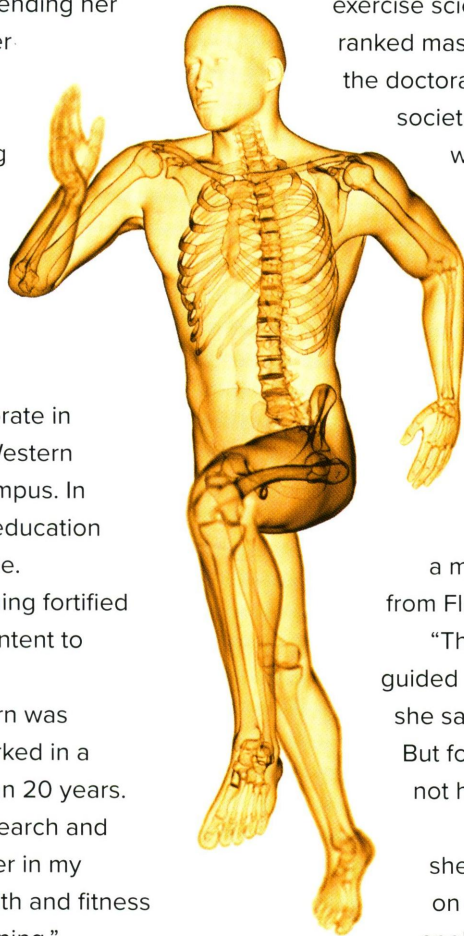
This love for movement and sport directed Crockford, 38, to the online Doctorate in Health Science program at Pennsylvania Western University – then hosted by California's campus. In her program, she focused on adult online education with a special emphasis on exercise science.

This concentration on individual learning fortified Crockford's ability to connect academic content to health and fitness professionals.

"Understanding how our learners learn was essential to me," said Crockford, who's worked in a variety of fitness-related fields for more than 20 years. "The California program allowed me to research and practice those skills so that I could be better in my own career, while helping those in the health and fitness industry improve theirs through online learning."

Crockford is one of thousands of alumni who have channeled their interest in health and wellness into a professional path. Through PennWest Global Online, individuals can earn a bachelor's degree in exercise science, a master's degree in exercise science and health promotion, and a doctorate in health science and exercise leadership.

With all three tracks offered 100% online, students can invest in their careers with an education from nationally renowned instructors and industry professionals while working in the field.



PennWest California is the leader in the study of exercise science as the first institution to offer the nationally ranked master's degree program. Those who pursue the doctorate-level program are at the forefront of the societal shift from treating disease to promoting wellness and health. The bachelor's degree track recently earned the No. 1 national ranking from EduMed – a leading higher-education health care consultant – for accreditation, internship opportunities, and practical and theory method delivery.

For Crockford, her educational degrees have been an essential part of her career trajectory. Prior to her doctorate from California, she earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from Kansas State University and a master's degree in exercise and sport sciences from Florida International University.

"Through the educational process, I have been guided in the various directions my career has taken," she said. "Formal education may not be for everyone. But for me, it has helped to steer me in a path I might not have taken, and for that I am grateful."

Since receiving her doctorate from California, she was promoted within the American Council on Exercise (ACE) and has been a featured spokesperson for ACE in the Los Angeles Times, New York Post and Women's Health.

This achievement at the professional level matches Crockford's definition of success as being content while simultaneously moving forward with opportunities for growth.

"I believe that qualities important for success are the ability to be comfortable being uncomfortable, desire for lifelong learning, and a sense of adventure and willingness to try new things," she said.

For more information about PennWest Global Online's exercise science programs, visit online.pennwest.edu.

Missy Soboleski Earns 500th Career Win

Head women's volleyball coach Missy Soboleski recorded her 500th career head coaching victory on Sept. 23 when the Fighting Scots swept Mercyhurst 3-0.

Soboleski has recorded 374 of her 507 career wins at Edinboro and is the winningest coach in Fighting Scot history.

Edinboro finished the season 19-10 and qualified for the PSAC postseason for the third straight season. In her 17 seasons at Edinboro, Soboleski has piloted the Scots to 13 PSAC postseason appearances and 10 trips to the NCAA Atlantic Regional.

Soboleski is one of just 19 active Division II head coaches to reach 500 wins. Her 507 wins ranks 17th among active DII head coaches.



Martin Named AFCA First-Team All-American

Sophomore Reed Martin was named to the American Football Coaches Association Division II All-America First Team.

Martin was the only member of the AFCA First Team from the PSAC West. He adds the All-American honor to his D2CCA All-Atlantic Region selection and his First-Team All-PSAC West honors.

Martin led the PSAC in punting with an average of 42.8 yards per punt, the ninth-best mark in Division II.



He had 20 of his 53 punts downed inside the 20-yard line.

He posted the second-longest punt in Edinboro history when he hit a 77-yarder at Slippery Rock.

Martin led the Edinboro punt unit that was the seventh-best net punting unit in the nation, averaging 40.0 yards per punt. Martin also converted three of four fake punt attempts.

Martin

Football Lands Five On All-PSAC West Teams

Edinboro's football team had five players earn spots on the All-PSAC West teams, following the 2022 season.

Martin was the Scot's lone first-team choice. Offensive tackle Gabe Hulslander earned a second-team nod, as did sophomore wide receiver Thaddeus Standfield as both a wideout and a return specialist. Defensively, linebacker Clay Cunningham and defensive back Allen Stritzinger were second-team selections.



Hulslander



Standfield



Cunningham



Stritzinger

Cross-Country Continues PSAC Domination

The Edinboro men's and women's cross-country teams continued to stand atop the PSAC yet again in 2022.

The men claimed their fifth straight PSAC Championship with Ward Ries claiming the top spot as an individual.

The Fighting Scots men's team had five First-Team All-PSAC honors in Ward Ries, Connor Volk-Klos, Eric Alu, Nick Amos and Danny Desmond. Cole Hanks was a second-team honoree.

Edinboro finished second at the NCAA Regional, punching their ticket to the NCAA Championships in Seattle on Dec. 3. Edinboro finished 30th in the nation.

Kylie Anicic and Kimberly Goerss led the Fighting Scot women's cross-country team to their fourth straight PSAC Championship.

Anicic was the individual champion and Goerss was the second-place finisher. In addition, Kate Szep was a First-Team All-PSAC performer.

The Scots were NCAA Atlantic Region runners-up and qualified for the NCAA National Championships. Anicic earned Second-Team All-American honors.



Fall Athletes Earn Academic All-District

Three Edinboro fall sport athletes were named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Teams.

The 2022 Academic All-District Teams, selected by College Sports Communicators, recognize the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performances on the field and in the classroom.

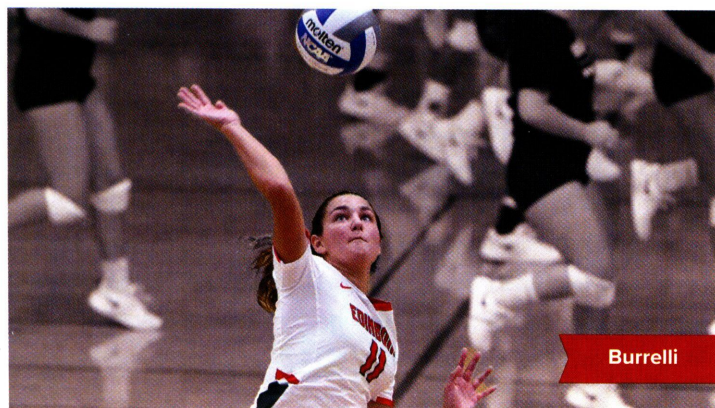
Football's Clay Cunningham as well as volleyball's Bella Burrelli and Alicia Eldredge were named to the Academic All-District Teams.

Cunningham was a Second-Team All-PSAC West linebacker, making 125 total tackles to lead the Scots. He also added 13.5

tackles for loss and five sacks. He added one interception and one forced fumble on the season. His 11.4 tackles per game ranked sixth in all of Division II.

Burrelli is the leading hitter for Edinboro, recording 319 kills for an average of 3.01 kills per set. She also recorded 291 digs, 33 blocks and 40 service aces.

Eldredge was the trigger for the Edinboro offense, dishing out 876 assists this season and finishing her career with 3,888 helpers. She averaged 8.6 assists per set. An offensive weapon as well, Eldredge finished with 127 kills, the highest single-season total in her career.



Burrelli



Eldredge

Fighting Scots HALL *of* FAME 2022

©Jim Prokell



Pictured are the honorees at the 2022 Hall of Fame Ceremony: (front row, from left) Mac Kegarise, Ashley Jones, Trevon Jenifer, Heather Clark and Mike Kegarise; (second row, from left) Jeff Jacobs, Dave Higham, Jakim Donaldson, Kelsey Conklin and Kevin Welsh. Not pictured: Mark Muggleton.



HEATHER CLARK '15

Softball

Heather Clark played three seasons for the Fighting Scots, leading the softball team in batting average all three seasons. She still holds the record for career batting average at .415

and is the only player in Fighting Scot history to finish her career with a batting average over .400. She also ranks in the top 10 in program history in triples, doubles, homeruns, hits and RBIs. She was a two-time All-PSAC West selection.

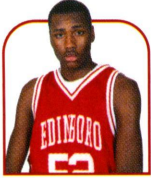


KELSEY CONKLIN '10

Women's Basketball

Kelsey Conklin was a three-time All-PSAC West selection over the course of her career, including a first-team selection in 2008-09.

She is among the top 10 in program history in scoring with 1,557 points, 772 rebounds and 633 field goals. Conklin is one of only three Edinboro players to have both 1,500 points and 750 rebounds.

**JAKIM DONALDSON '20****Men's Basketball**

Jakim Donaldson finished his playing career in 2005 as the program's all-time leading rebounder at 1,100 boards, a record he still holds today. He ranks inside the top 15 in career scoring, ranking 13th with 1,355 points. Donaldson was named a First-Team All-American by NABC, Basketball Times and Daktronics while DII Bulletin honored him as a Second-Team All-American. Donaldson was a three-time All-PSAC West First-Team honoree and 2004-05 PSAC West Player of the Year.

**DAVE HIGHAM '07****Distinguished Service Award**

Dave Higham earned four varsity letters as a football player at Edinboro. Higham continued his graduate studies at Edinboro and served as a graduate assistant to the athletic director. He has faithfully served as the athletic administrative coordinator, enriching the experience of Fighting Scot student-athletes and the student work study he supervises.

**JEFF JACOBS '92****Football**

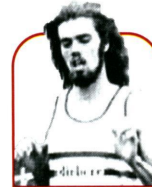
Jeff Jacobs was a standout on some of the best football teams to ever take the field for the Fighting Scots. He played his freshman season as an offensive lineman before moving to defensive end and playing the next three seasons on the defensive side. He was a Second-Team All-PSAC choice in 1988 and a First-Team All-Conference selection in 1990. He finished his career with over 120 tackles, including a career-high 66 in his senior season.

**TREVON JENIFER '11****Wheelchair Basketball**

Trevon Jenifer was a four-year starter for Edinboro's wheelchair basketball team. In his final two seasons with the Scots, he led the team in scoring, rebounds and assists on his way to back-to-back NWBA All-American honors. Upon graduation, Jenifer played two seasons professionally in Paris. He was a member of the 2009 Team USA Junior World National Team. In an eight-year career with Team USA, they brought home five gold medals as well as a silver and a bronze. He is considered by wheelchair basketball experts to be the best defensive player in the world over the past 10 years.

**ASHLEY JONES '09****Soccer**

Ashley Jones was a key defender for the Fighting Scots women's soccer team. She started in all 76 games of her four-year career. She was the first women's soccer player to earn All-PSAC West honors four times as a first-team selection. She was also a three-time NSCAA All-Atlantic Region selection, earning second-team honors in 2006 and first-team in 2007 and 2008. Also in 2008, she was named an ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American.

**MARK MUGGLETON****Lifetime Achievement Award**

Mark Muggleton was a member of Edinboro's men's cross country teams that dominated the NAIA national championships in 1975 and 1976. He was a three-time All-American once in cross-country and twice in the 1,500-meter outdoor. Mark was the PSAC champion in the 880-yard and the mile run in 1976 and the mile in 1977, where he set the school record. He is a member of the Edinboro All-Time Team in men's track and field. Mark later became team captain at the University of Arkansas, earning NCAA Division I All-American in men's cross-country in 1977 and in men's indoor track and field in the two-mile run in 1979, where he finished third in 8:41. Post-collegiately, Mark qualified for the 1980 U.S. Olympic Trials for track and field in the 1,500 meter run with his time of 3:40. He also was a member of the U.S. Men's Cross Country team that finished second to Ethiopia at the 1981 World Championships.

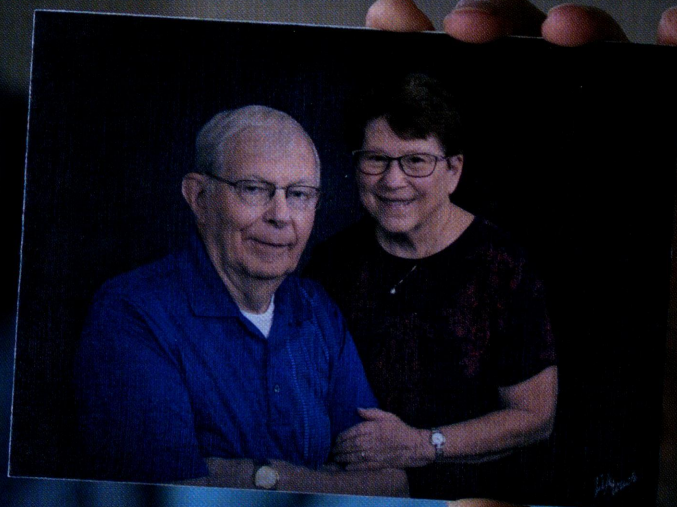
**KEVIN WELSH '01****Wrestling**

Kevin Welsh was a four-time national qualifier for the Edinboro wrestling team. He ranks in the top 20 in career wins with 111 and had a career winning percentage of .681. Welsh earned All-American honors with a sixth-place finish in 2000. He finished the 1999-2000 season with a 37-9 record and finished second at the EWL Championships at 184 pounds. He was the 2000 Sox Harrison Award winner.

MIKE AND MAC KEGARISE**Edinboro Athletic Advocate of the Year Award**

Mike and Mac Kegarise have demonstrated a dedication to the promotion of Edinboro Athletics with a combination of loyalty, involvement and philanthropy. They are avid supporters and contributors to the football and wrestling programs.

THE GIFT OF *Transformation*



Dr. Joel Erion holds a photo of his parents, Ted and Carolyn Erion, who he honored with an eponymous scholarship in 2011.

Longtime school psychologist, educator provides life-changing opportunities, one student at a time.

*D*r. Joel Erion didn't set out to change the world.

And yet, for the thousands of students he's impacted throughout his 42-year tenure as a school psychologist, educator and researcher, that's exactly what he's done.

The western Pennsylvania native joined Edinboro's school psychology faculty in 1997 after 16 years of providing therapeutic support to

children struggling with academic, behavioral and/or mental health issues in the Oil City School District.

"I enjoy working with students, and watching them grow professionally is incredibly satisfying," said Erion, who was named the 1993 School Psychologist of the Year by the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania. "Being in academia was a lifelong goal. Having the opportunity to

teach and conduct research is pretty cool."

Inspired by his family's belief in the transformative power of education, Erion began making regular gifts to student scholarships soon after accepting a position at Edinboro. With the support of his wife, Janet, a faculty member at Waynesburg University, he established the Ted and Carolyn Erion Scholarship in 2011 to

honor his parents for their influence in his life and service to others.

"My parents are hard-working and caring individuals who passed along a strong work ethic to their children and stressed the value of education," said Erion, who earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a minor in psychology from then Clarion State College and both a master's in education psychology with school psychology certification and an Ed.D. in school psychology with an emphasis on neuropsychology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

At Edinboro, Erion has led undergraduate and graduate classes in special education and school psychology and regularly partners with students and colleagues on scholarly articles. His research interests include parent tutoring, response to instruction and intervention.

To further encourage student scholarship, he recently created the School Psychology National Convention Annual Award. The award funds expenses related to presenting

at the National Association of School Psychologists annual conference.

"It's really good for students to make that connection to the larger professional community, and conference attendance is a great way to do that," he said. "In my family – and for me personally – it was always pretty important to give back and make those kinds of financial contributions."

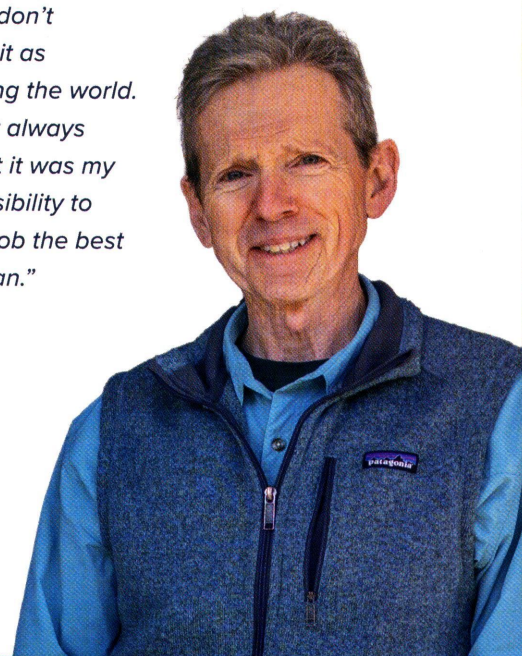
Beyond the classroom, he serves as the faculty advisor to the Alpha Epsilon Lambda National Honor Society of Graduate and Professional School Students and the School Psychology Club. The father of four has also held several leadership roles, including seven years as department chairperson.

"Dr. Erion understands that giving is not just about making a donation; it's about making a difference," said Jon Pulice, PennWest's director of Development. "He has gone over and above – inside and outside of the classroom – to provide life-changing opportunities for our students, and he does so without seeking gratitude or recognition."

For Erion, the joy his parents feel when reading about scholarship recipients in their yearly donor notification is thanks enough.

"I found my work as a school psychologist and practitioner intellectually and personally satisfying. And I find the same thing to be true about being in academia," he said.

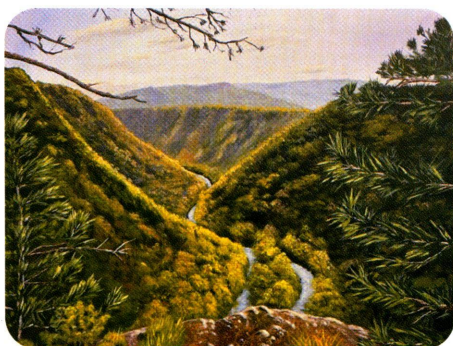
"I really don't look at it as changing the world. I've just always thought it was my responsibility to do my job the best that I can."



**Any gift,
regardless of size,
can add up to
something big.**

Edinboro students thrive, thanks to the support of donors. They learn, create and achieve. They engage in important research and experience transformative travel-study. They persist and fulfill their dreams of a college education. With the aid of scholarship dollars and philanthropic support for programs, facilities and special initiatives, they build a better future for themselves and their families.

To support an existing scholarship or endowment, or for information about establishing a new scholarship at Edinboro, visit your.edinboro.edu/scholarships-endowments or contact Advancement at EdinboroAlumni@pennwest.edu or 814-732-2992.



'60s

Charles F. Taylor '60 began painting landscapes after his retirement from research physics and network application project management. He recently won first place in the annual Aurora Art League show and is working on a commissioned series of Pennsylvania snow scenes.

Rodney M. Herron '69 and **F. Robert McMurray '70** coauthored "The Grape Picker's Empire," which was published June 13 on Amazon.

'70s

John J. Sanford '71, a 2010 Erie Sports Hall of Fame inductee, was honored with the renaming of McDowell High School's annual track and field meet to Joe Sanford's McDowell Track and Field Invitational. Sanford served as McDowell's head track and field coach from 1990 until 2019 and continues to volunteer with the program.

Barbara Wallace '74 retired after 30 years of service to Westerville City School District. As executive director of elementary schools since 2014, she championed the magnet and all-day kindergarten programs. She previously

served as executive director of pupil services and special education and as principal of Huber Ridge Elementary.

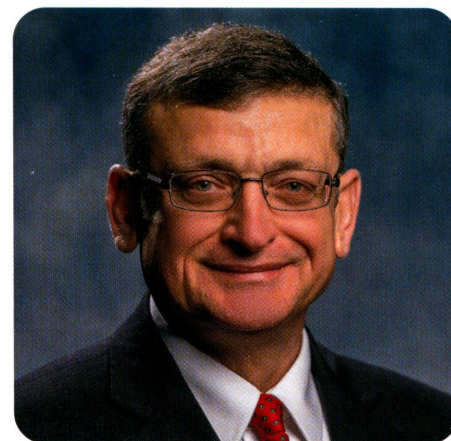
Carl E. Goodwill '75, '77G authored "The Dad School," a book designed to help current and future fathers become supportive dads.

George M. Roberts '76, '90G has been inducted into the National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame after decades of working and volunteering as an athletic trainer.



Chester "Chet" Lubecki '77 retired from the blind rehabilitation field after 43 years. His interest in the specialization began when he worked in Edinboro's summer program with college-bound blind and visually impaired students. After earning a master's degree in blind rehabilitation from Western Michigan University, he worked at Edinboro's summer program as an orientation and mobility specialist. He spent his career as an orientation and mobility specialist and low vision therapist at Elwyn, Inc. and the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, both in Delaware County, before joining the Visually Impaired Services Outpatient

Rehabilitation program at Lebanon Veterans Administration Medical Center. He has published several articles and conducted numerous presentations about blindness.



Mark A. Bellini '79, retired Army brigadier general and member of the PennWest Council of Trustees, spoke at the Crawford County Pomona Grange's veteran recognition event on Oct. 29.



Francis T. Schanz '79, Shelle L. Barron '85, Kris Risto '99, and Jeffrey J. Kuntz '12 were featured in Erie filmmaker Tom Weber's hour-long documentary, "A Few Things About Artists," which explores the lives and work of artists in the Erie area.

'80s

Stephen T. Wasiesky '80 received the 2022 Keystone Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators for his contributions to environmental education. Wasiesky, who has been involved as a staff member or volunteer at Asbury Woods Nature Center for a combined 52 years, is environmental education coordinator for Millcreek Township School District.

Patricia A. Pavolko '82 published a children's book, "While Their Parents Were Sleeping," inspired by her granddaughter.

Lee M. Steadman '82 and **Lori A. Steadman '82** were honored for their dedication to arts and culture in Erie with a tribute show. "Honoring the Arts - Recognizing Lee and Lori Steadman" was hosted by the Woman's Club of Erie.

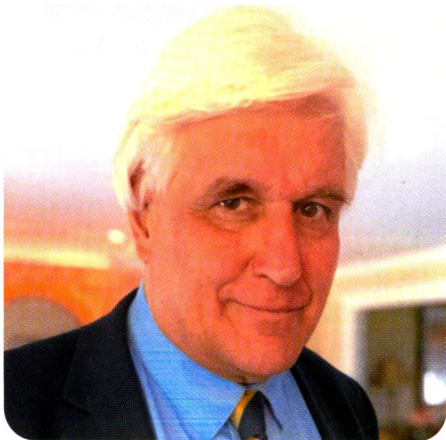
Psychology from Columbia University and a master's in Neuroeducation from Johns Hopkins University. He has been accepted into Cornell University, where he will pursue an MBA in the SC Johnson College of Business. Dr. Yaksick is a forensic and outpatient psychotherapist at the Scranton Counseling Center. In the late 1980s and '90s he was a television reporter and anchor at several NBC and CBS network affiliates, including WPXI Channel 11 News in Pittsburgh and WSEE-TV Newswatch in Erie. At Edinboro, he earned a bachelor's and master's in political science and was a four-year member and letter winner for the Fighting Scots football team.

Debra L. Giese '85, '88G was granted the Annie Sullivan Award by the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit for her decades of speech language pathology work with Corry-area students.

Kimio L. Nelson '85, owner and head instructor of Fighting Tigers Martial Arts in Warren, Pa., was inducted into the USA Karate Hall of Fame for excellence as an athlete, official and coach. A 7th degree black belt in Shotokan karate, Nelson has been training and teaching martial arts since 1973.

Theotis W. Braddy '86, a longtime disability advocate, was appointed to the National Council on Disability by President Joe Biden.

Jonna L. (Spitznogle) Miller '89 is the marketing manager for Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, CEC is an engineering and environmental consulting firm with more than 1,200 team members and 30 offices nationwide. Miller spent the last 33 years as a journalist before moving to the corporate world.



Dr. Peter A. Yaksick '84, '87G earned a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling at the University of Pennsylvania in May. He also holds a master's in Developmental



Patricia J. Kennedy '85 joined the Governmental Practice Group of Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.



Xavier D. Williams '89, '18G, CEO of Network Wireless Solutions, LLC, was appointed to the board of directors for United States Cellular Corporation.

'90s

Eileen T. DeLuca-Kranz '90G retired after 42 years as a professional nurse in September 2020. She is a grandmother to two children and plans to celebrate her retirement with them and her son.

Charles Herring '90 was appointed director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for South Fayette Township School District in McDonald, Pa.

Gregory Oakes '90 was named president and chief executive officer of Landos Biopharma, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company developing novel medications to treat autoimmune diseases.

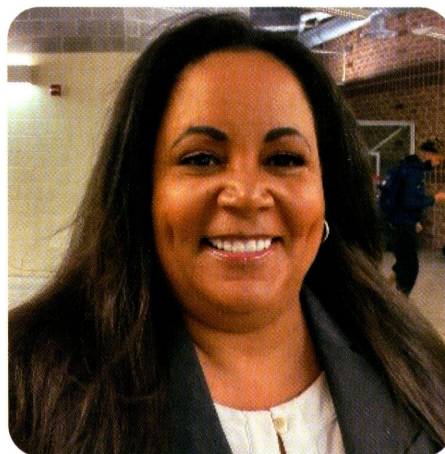


Dr. Karen K. Tyler '92, '00G an assistant professor in PennWest's Early Childhood and Elementary Education Department, was named one of Mercy Center for Women's 2022 Women Making History. Tyler led a \$4 million capital campaign to improve Erie Day School, where she has been head of school since 2010. Her efforts have made the school more inclusive and

economically diverse and increased salaries and improved benefits for the staff, mostly women.



Dr. Georg L. Lewis '93, '98G was inducted into the Connellsville Area Falcon Foundation's hall of fame. Lewis is president of Atlanta Metropolitan State College.



Andrea C. Williams '94 was named head women's basketball coach at Chicago State University. Williams has coached for 27 years across Division I, II and III.

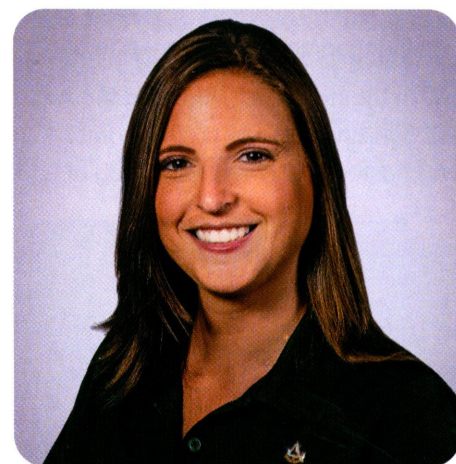
Amy K. Berger '97, '05G a teacher at Edinboro Elementary School, received JET 24 and Pennwest Edinboro's Golden Apple Teacher of the Year Award.

Matthew P. Bruno '97G was promoted to colonel in the U.S. Space Force during a ceremony at the Pentagon on June 1.

Michelle L. Wolf '99 was promoted to colonel in the Army.

2000s

Patrick A. Rae '02, assistant professor of culinary arts, was elected chair of the Business Department at Finger Lakes Community College.



Lauren E. Moran '04, who serves as the director of Student Engagement and Leadership at Slippery Rock University, was elected national vice president of Sigma Sigma Sigma. In 2019, she earned a Ph.D. in Higher Education Management from the University of Pittsburgh, focusing her research on undergraduate leadership development.

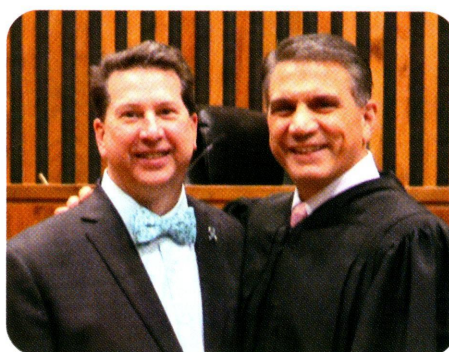
Rabecca L. Signoriello '04 created a mural on the facade of DON ReClaim, a deconstruction and reuse nonprofit in New Castle, Pa. The gear-themed mural stretches across two sides of the building.

Brandy N. Donze '05 and **Dr. Daniel Ruefman '06** opened a publishing company, Wick Weald Publishing, in 2021. Ruefman wrote and Donze illustrated a children's book called "Willow's Wings."

Lorren R. (Pallone) Lucas '05 was named the 2022-23 Williams Memorial Elementary School Teacher of the Year and the 2022-23 Dorchester District Four Teacher of the Year. Lucas helped develop the school's Special Olympics program, resulting in its recognition as a National Banner School and ESPN honor school. She was also recognized among the 2022 Mary Dean Brewer Women of Distinction by Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina.

Rebecca A. Van Cleve '05 worked as head of puppet fabrication on the 2022 stop-motion film "Marcel the Shell With Shoes On."

Amparito Hernandez '06 was named one of Mercy Center for Women's 2022 Women Making History for going above and beyond to help students overcome obstacles to education. Hernandez, a Spanish teacher for Erie's Public Schools, built desks for and delivered food baskets to students who did not have them during the pandemic and provided humanitarian relief to Puerto Rico.



Paul A. Lukach '06, MSW, LSW, TF-CBT was appointed by Gov. Tom Wolf to serve on Pennsylvania's Victim Services Advisory Committee (VSAC). Lukach, who is in his 12th year as executive director for the Crime Victim Center of Erie County, was sworn into office on Nov. 30 by Judge John Trucilla. Through service to the VSAC, Lukach aims to ensure that no victim, regardless of any individualistic trait, will ever have to endure mistreatment regarding the horrific crimes that were done to them.



Sarah J. Glover '07G was named vice president of News & Civic Dialogue at WHYY, the Philadelphia region's leading public media organization.

Glover, former managing editor at MPR News, has decades of experience in contemporary news coverage.

'10s

Carol C. Shereni '10 was appointed Southern African Development Community regional coordinator for Empire Partner Foundation's End GBV-F Campaign. Shereni is helping to develop an SOS Alert app that enables women to report gender-based violence and seek help.

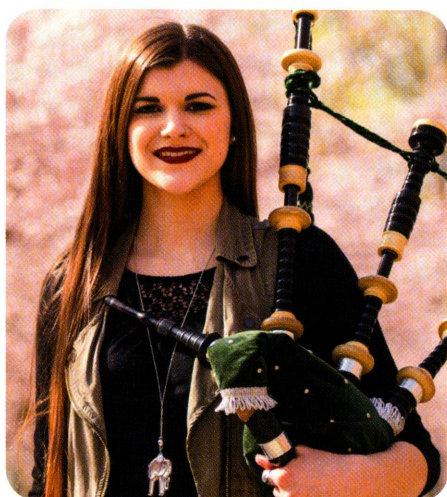
Kacey M. Gibson '12 is a certified mental performance consultant who works with World Championship Silver Medalist Trevor Bassitt. Gibson has worked with Army soldiers, plus many other athletes and performers, in her work as a sport psychology consultant.

William T. Steadman '13 and **Sarah E. Steadman '15** launched a brother-sister horror-themed comedy podcast, "All Things Spooky."

Andrew S. Vogt '13 is a room service order technician at a hospital in Mentor on the Lake, Ohio. He also plays and coaches on the Yankees baseball team in the Miracle League of Lake County.

Chelsea Pappas '16 exhibited in Van Der Plas Gallery's Rays of Light exhibition and was featured on the show's promotional posters.





Allyson K. Crowley-Duncan '17 has reached 1.3 million followers on TikTok, making her account, @piper.ally, the most followed bagpiping account on the platform. Crowley-Duncan performs covers of popular music as well as original compositions.



Dr. Penelope P. Orr '17 earned the prestigious Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship to help launch the first graduate-level Art Therapy program in India. Orr, who was instrumental in creating the graduate Art Therapy program at Edinboro, will visit India to conduct faculty workshops and

present to students at MIT Art, Design and Technology University in Pune, Maharashtra.

Nathan A. Jeffery '18 instructed a drawing workshop for children age 8-12 at Foundation Art Academy in Erie, teaching youths how to utilize basic drawing techniques when depicting a clothed model.

Gina L. Thornberg '18 vice president of Technology & Virtual Marketing at Higher Images, Inc., was named to Delta Zeta's 35 Under 35, which recognizes outstanding young professionals.

Cayleigh A. Gibbons Hall '19 a licensed real estate agent and certified military relocation professional, joined VeteranPCS, an online service that connects military families going through a permanent change of station (PCS) with realtors and lenders who are veterans and/or military spouses. Hall's husband, Dylan '16, is in the Air Force, so her personal experiences with PCS allow her to better assist clients.

'20s

Vitaliy Gurman '20, a starting center on the Fighting Scots football team through the 2017 and 2018 seasons, attended training camp with the Kansas City Chiefs before being signed to the Las Vegas Raiders practice squad.

Marco A. Sanchez '20G exhibited his printmaking work, "Historias de Dos Tierras," at Casa Ortiz Art Gallery in Socorro, Texas. Sanchez, who studied anthropology in addition to art, depicts

culture, history and personal subjects from the Texas borderlands in his work to help preserve the culture. Sanchez curates shows across the country and Mexico. He also teaches at El Paso Community College.



Chayse G. Wolf '20 was named to the 2022 Toyota Team USA Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team. Wolf, who competed for the U23 team in 2017, was a two-time NWCA All-American at Edinboro and the 2019-20 Sox Harrison Award winner for top senior male athlete.

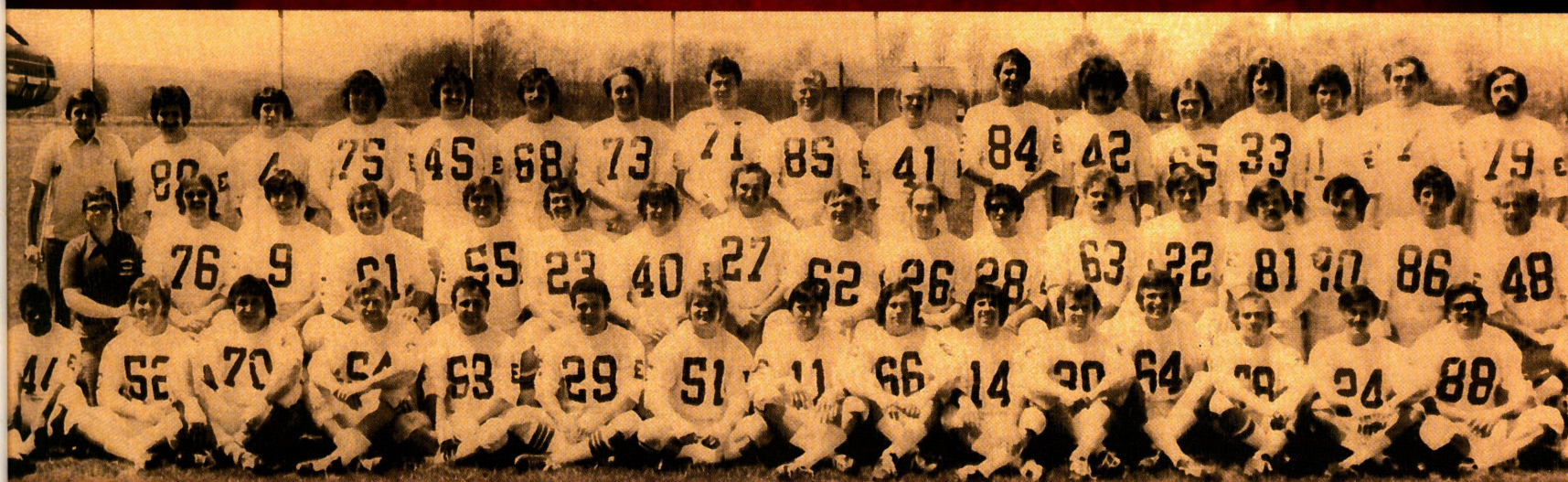
Joshua R. Giardina '21, '22G is among three generations from his family to earn master's degrees at Edinboro. His grandmother, **Charlotte Fenton**, earned her master's in 1973, and his mother, **Sherri R. Winner**, completed her master's in 1997.



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A Look Back...

Footballers from the '60s and '70s returned to campus for the first Varsity vs. Alumni Game on Saturday, May 10, 1975.



1	Falconi	RB
4	Sanford	QB
9	McKissock	QB
11	Masterson	QB
14	Bufalino	S
22	Walker	DB
23	McCurry	DB
24	Kutz	P
26	Sass	DB
27	Berzansky	PK
28	Mifsud	FB
29	Ferraro	HB

30	Mengerink	FB
33	Snell	WR
40	Creehan	S
41	Bissontz	TE
42	Bayer	DE
44	Raines	TB
45	Harris	S
48	Romaniszyn	RB
51	Tamasy	DT
52	Minotas	LB
53	Kegel	G
54	Dinges	C

55	Formosa	G
58	Name Uncertain	
61	Worley	LB
62	Sisko	LB
63	McClure	LB
64	Miseyka	OG
65	Ellis	OG
66	Burkell	OG
68	Pikoulas	OG
70	Chieffo	T
71	Ballard	OT
73	Chakot	OT

75	Kustor	OT
76	Underwood	OT
77	Nishnick	DT
79	Brandel	DE
81	Gast	DE
84	Sturga	DE
85	Cass	OG
86	Herman	C
88	Name Uncertain	
89	Romeo	WR
90	Walker	WR

SAVE THE DATES

**BREAK OUT THE
TARTAN AND JOIN
US ON CAMPUS FOR
THESE EDINBORO
FAVORITES**



Highland & Scottish Festival



Boro with the
July 3
edinboro.net/

Highland Games Scottish Festival

Sept. 9

edinboro.edu/highlandgames



the Works
/ 3
t/fireworks



With deepest sympathy
to the family and friends
of the following alumni
who have passed away.

'50s

Mrs. Evelyn B. (White) Minshull '51 | Carlisle, PA
Mr. Roger J. Orr '58 | Meadville, PA
Mrs. Barth A. (McCaw) Dubler '59 | Maumee, OH
Mrs. Kathryn E. (Parrett) Wood '62 | Harpursville, NY

'60s

Ms. Peggy S. Alexander '63 | Waterford, PA
Mr. Arnold W. Bradshaw '63 | Geneva, OH
Mrs. Darlee A. Jackson '63 | Hermitage, PA
Mr. Rudolph J. Lascek '63 | Erie, PA
Mr. Henry "Hank" A. Lynn Jr. '64 | Greenville, SC
Mrs. Carol A. (Gregory) Nader '64 | Conneaut Lake, PA
Mr. Donald D. Pulling '64 | Edinboro, PA
Dr. Margaret "Peggy" A. (Bell) Smith '64 | Port Orange, FL
Mr. David I. McKrell '65 | Masury, OH
Mr. Richard R. Nemchik '65 | Hagerstown, MD
Mrs. Antoinette (Ragusa) Robasky '65 | The Villages, FL
Mrs. Andrea S. (Pozel) Dorwart '66 | New Kensington, PA
Mrs. Carol J. (Kraschneske) Ford '66 | Painesville, OH
Mr. Thomas C. Bowes '67 | Bradford, PA
Lt. Col. (retired) Warren E. Jordans '67 | New Port Richey, FL
Mrs. Rosemarie (Brindle) Mastrog '67 | Erie, PA
Mr. David E. Otteni '67 | Coatesville, PA
Dr. Sara A. Shafer '67 | Paintsville, KY
Mrs. Marion "Marnie" (Carter) Beatty '68 | Bedford, PA
Mrs. Nancy L. (Stuart) Poust '68 | Pine Grove Mills, PA
Mr. John J. Caribardi '69 | Lebanon, PA
Mr. Rodney M. Herron '69 | Washington, PA
Mr. Robert B. McCorkle '69 | Coraopolis, PA

'70s

Mr. Paul W. Hugus '70 | Greensburg, PA
Mrs. Janis (Root) Hrutkay '70 | Erie, PA
Mrs. Esther (Kretzinger) Kester '70 | Dayton, OH
Mr. Samuel J. Amendola '71 | Oil City, PA
Mr. Robert E. Carbaugh Jr. '71 | Fryburg, PA
The Rev. Marilyn H. (Hegert) Evans '71 | Sewickley, PA
Mr. Clifford N. Kelly '71 | Vero Beach, FL
Ms. Mary Patricia Ruane '71 | Monroeville, PA
Ms. Ellen D. (Bollinger) Brzezicki '72 | Erie, PA
Mrs. Regina (Eberhardt) Donnelly '72 | Hermitage, PA
Ms. Deborah E. Elbel '72 | Punxsutawney, PA
Mr. Edward G. Ferrang '72 | Grovetown, GA
Mr. James A. Lougher '72 | Aliquippa, PA
Ms. Karen R. (Warren) Steele '72 | Meadville, PA
Mrs. Martha E. (Zook) Troyer '72 | Cambridge Springs, PA
Mr. Thomas Daugherty '73 | Oil City, PA
Mr. William W. Magnotto '73 | Tucson, AZ
Mr. Bill Sleptzoff '73 | Saegertown, PA
Mr. Stephen "Doug" D. Glass '74 | Greenville, PA
Mr. Gary N. Martin '74 | Brookville, PA
Mr. Michael J. Romeo '74 | Marana, AZ
Mr. Anthony C. Curcio '75 | Erie, PA
Ms. Nancy J. Harpst '75 | Orlando, FL
Mr. Ronald J. Janoski '75 | Craig, CO
Mr. Raymond M. Sullivan '75 | Erie, PA
Mrs. JoMarie (Krivonak) Boesch '76 | Girard, PA
Mrs. Eva M. (Cherry) Hyatt '76 | Kersey, PA
Mrs. Paula L. (Santoro) Pederson '76 | White Oak, PA
Mrs. Jean L. (Rausch) English '77 | Albion, PA
Mr. John E. Martin '77 | Chardon, OH
Mr. Walter J. Pustelak '77 | Donora, PA
Mr. David A. Schau '78 | Charleston, WV
Mr. John "Jack" M. Craig '79 | Galloway, NJ
Ms. Margaret R. Hemme '79 | Geneva, OH
Mr. Gregory S. Nagurney '79 | North Warren, PA
Mrs. Darcy (Knecht) Young '79 | Erie, PA

'80s

Mr. Steven M. Carb '80 | Hilton Head, SC
 Mrs. Vicki M. (Mowad) Delgreco '80 | Aliquippa, PA
 Mr. Scott H. Armstrong '81 | Macomb, IL
 Mrs. Beth (Menke) Hufnagel '81 | Finleyville, PA
 Mrs. Denise G. (Norris) Hathaway '82 | Kittanning, PA
 Mr. Joseph A. Parma '82 | Conneaut, OH
 Mr. Jack D. Weyant '82 | Stephens City, VA
 Mr. Robert G. Grinarm '83 | Cambridge Springs, PA
 Mrs. Karen A. (Heise) Larkin '83 | Erie, PA
 Mrs. Lee Ann (Schorting) Leech '83 | Meadville, PA
 Mr. James Ordons '83 | Los Gatos, CA
 Mr. Anthony M. Pedone '84 | Meadville, PA
 Mrs. Beth (Hricik) Silva '84 | Greensburg, PA
 Mrs. Dawn M. (Derks) Stanton '84 | Lake City, PA
 Ms. Marsha E. Black '85 | Leeper, PA
 Mrs. Danelle J. Gradler '85 | Fairview, PA
 Mrs. Margaret (Vellone) Mingione '85 | New Castle, PA
 Mr. John E. Ewonce '86 | Mars, PA
 Mr. Richard Williams '86 | Phoenix, AZ
 Mr. Gregory L. Beers '87 | Utica, PA
 Dr. Richard P. Kovalesky '87 | Coaldale, PA
 Mr. Cecil R. Plouse '89 | Cambridge Springs, PA

'90s

Mr. Steven T. Barnett '90 | East Hickory, PA
 Mrs. Darcie L. (Sanford) Biel-Moseley '91 | Erie, PA
 Mr. Glenn "Chip" M. Conrad '91 | Altoona, PA
 Mr. Michael Robson '91 | Enon Valley, PA
 Ms. Cecily L. (Liichow) Bailey '92 | Saegertown, PA
 Mr. Richard R. Lane '92 | Titusville, PA
 Mrs. Jacqueline Y. Ratcliff-Brown '93 | Erie, PA
 Mrs. Betty L. (Miller) White '93 | Edinboro, PA
 Mr. Joel B. Wood '93 | Girard, OH
 Mrs. Ann M. (Hamilton) Bryan '94 | Geneva, OH
 Mr. Christopher C. McGonnell '95 | Olean, NY
 Mrs. Regina P. (Schneider) Merritt '95 | Cochran, PA
 Mrs. Cheryl L. (Reed-Clark) Purser '95 | Sarasota, FL
 Mr. Max A. Blobner '97 | Pittsburgh, PA
 Ms. Amy C. Frary '99 | Youngstown, OH
 Mrs. Linda S. Jukes '99 | Corry, PA

'00s

Mr. Larry J. Palmero '00 | Cambridge Springs, PA
 Mr. Patrick J. Marron '07 | Parker, PA

'10s

Ms. Lesley A. Bailes '10 | Union City, PA
 Mr. Joshua D. Dennis '12 | Glenshaw, PA
 Mr. Joseph J. Orlando '12 | Erie, PA
 Ms. Chelsea R. Council '13 | Bethlehem, PA
 Mrs. Kaye K. Reiber '13 | Portersville, PA
 Ms. Lauren M. Pawlak '14 | Washington, PA
 Ms. Breanna L. Elder '16 | Edinboro, PA
 Mr. Matthew H. Gregory '19 | North East, PA

'20s

Mr. Dylan H. Oakes '22 | Girard, PA



PennWest Edinboro

219 Meadville St.
Edinboro, PA 16444



SEPTEMBER 29-30



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