

# ALUMNI NOTES

## 60s/70s

**Nancy Schwanda '69** was recently recognized by the Connecticut Library Association for her many years of dedicated service to Stafford Library. Nancy was awarded the Edith B. Nettleton Award, which honors an individual's "outstanding record of volunteer service to their library."

**Zygmunt Dembek '72** was named editor in chief of "Public Health Reports," the official journal of the U.S. surgeon general, in July 2024. He has also been the chief editor of Medscape, a medical news and expertise website, since 2014.

**Debra Pallatto '74** and Jackie Abbott, a retired Eastern professor, have jointly funded a new endowed scholarship that will provide support for students in Eastern's Global Studies programs with unmet financial need. Debbie celebrated 50 years as an Eastern graduate at Alumni and Family Day this past October.

**Geralyn Roberts '75** was named director of the Sun City Center Community Association, located just south of Tampa, in January 2024. She had spent the previous 18 years in the Beaumont, TX, Public Library System.

Speaking about the Student Government Association (SGA) Emergency Fund, **Patricia Lawson '76** writes, "I was SGA president my senior year (1975-76) and there were times I know I could have used a fund like this. I'm so glad Eastern has this available for students."

## 80s

**David Whitehead '84** founded his own company, Whitehead Strategy Group, and named himself managing director in March 2024. He had been a top executive in Hartford HealthCare since 2013, most recently serving as senior advisor to the CEO.

**Mark Scraba '84** began a new job as senior national security advisor at Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc., a defense and space manufacturing company in Newport News, VA, in December 2023. He has more than 20 years of experience in military, national security and government agency leadership in organizations such as AmeriCorps, the

Colorado state government and the Connecticut Army National Guard.

**Dean Vaillancourt '85** began a new job as human resources manager for Hunger Mountain Co-Op, a food and beverage co-op in Montpelier, VT, in November 2023.

**Kathy Paro '86** was named to the Board of Directors of GeoBlue, an insurance provider in King of Prussia, PA, in February 2024. She is currently serving as vice president for strategic execution and partnerships of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association in Chicago.

**Peter Martin '86** began a new job as assistant vice president for corporate insurance and risk management at Travelers in January 2024. He has spent the last 20 years in insurance and risk management, most recently at EMCOR Group, Inc., in Norwalk.

**Trish Godino Loring '86** was named director of residence life and student engagement at New Hampshire Technical Institute (NHTI), Concord's (New Hampshire) Community College in March 2024. She has almost 40 years of experience in college residence life, mostly with NHTI but also with the University of Hartford and Babson College.



Debra Pallatto '74

## CLASS OF 1974 CELEBRATES 50 YEARS BY MICHAEL ROULEAU '11

The Class of 1974 celebrated its golden jubilee on Oct. 5 during this year's Alumni and Family Day. The class was honored with a commemorative luncheon hosted by President Karim Ismaili, who presented golden diplomas to the group.

"The Class of 1974 holds a significant place in my tenure as president," said Ismaili, "as you are my first class to sign golden diplomas. I'm happy to honor your legacy. ... Know that you are always a part of Eastern's story."

Reflecting on her time at Eastern, **Claudia (Moffitt) Bettez '74** fondly recalled living in Burr Hall and participating in campus life. "Eastern wasn't yet a university — it was still a teachers' college — but there was a lot to do: hanging out with friends, walking around campus and going to Hurley Hall," she said. "My one regret is that I didn't see Stevie Wonder when he was here."

**Don Richmond '74** said, "The campus was very small. ... Everybody knew everybody. It was like your extended family. It's very impressive how the campus has grown, but it still has that family atmosphere." He humorously recalled pranks in Winthrop Hall, where his friends once moved his bed into the hallway and left a frozen fish under his pillow.

**Katherine and Kevin Matsil '74**, who met as juniors and have been married for 50 years, traveled from North Carolina for the reunion. "Eastern was such an important part of our lives. It gave us the ability to grow academically and emotionally," they said. The couple recently made provisions for Eastern in their estate plans. "We want others to have the experience we had. It's important for us to give back to help this institution thrive."

Speaking of the overall turnout for Alumni Day, **Chris Dorsey '96** director of alumni communications and advancement, said: "This year's guests represented a remarkable 60-year span of Eastern's history, with graduates from the class of 1964 all the way to our newest alumni from the class of 2024. Their continued engagement serves as a testament to the lasting impact Eastern has on its graduates, generation after generation."



The Class of 1974 gathers for a group photo with President Karim Ismaili (back right).

## JEFF BENEDICT '91 DOCUMENTARY 'POISONED' WINS EMMY BY MICHAEL ROULEAU '11

"Poisoned: The Dirty Truth About Your Food," a Netflix documentary based on a book by **Jeff Benedict '91**, won the Emmy for Outstanding Current Affairs Documentary this September at the 45th News & Documentary Emmy Awards.

Released on Netflix in August 2023, the film is based on Benedict's 2011 book "Poisoned: The True Story of the Deadly E. Coli Outbreak That Changed the Way Americans Eat."

"Writing the book 'Poisoned' and getting it published was one of the harder things I've done in my career," said Benedict. "The opportunity to turn the book into a documentary film for Netflix a decade later was a dream come true. These things take time and persistence and a little bit of luck. But food safety is an important issue that affects everyone. ... I'm grateful to have been part of a

terrifically talented and dedicated team that made this important film."

Two nights before the Emmys, Benedict hosted a screening of 'Poisoned' for students at Eastern on Sept. 24. "We were thrilled to welcome Jeff back to campus," said Ken DeLisa, vice president emeritus for institutional advancement. "His dedication to investigative journalism and storytelling has earned him national recognition, and it was an honor to host this screening on the eve of such a significant moment in his career."

Benedict is a #1 New York Times best-selling author and seasoned television/film producer who has written 17 nonfiction books and more than 100 articles and essays exploring a diverse range of topics, from Native American casinos to biographies on sports icons.



Benedict speaks during a "Poisoned" screening on campus this fall.

**Gordon Hourihan '86** was named vice president of operations at HR Knowledge in Mansfield, MA, in March 2024. He has been serving in similar positions dating back to 2001, when he became vice president of operations at ADP.

**Gregory DeVeau '87** has retired after four decades in the insurance industry. His last position was senior vice president and team leader at Swiss Re.

**Kevin Heffernan '89** became vice president of claims at Co-operative Insurance Companies in September 2023. He has been working in claims since 1995, for MetLife, Farmers Insurance and now Co-operative Insurance Companies.

**Jeffrey Dugas '89** has been hired by Leisure Investment Properties Group (LIPG), a leading commercial brokerage firm specializing in golf courses, marinas, resorts, master-planned communities, RV parks and boutique hospitality. Dugas has three decades of expertise in golf, marina, hospitality and RV appraisals.

**Robert Zarnetske '87** was named director of policy at Sewer Thermal Energy Network, a renewable energy member-supported network in Madison, CT, in January 2024. He has been working in public infrastructure since 1994 when he was named acting assistant director of BTS at the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington.



Robert Zarnetske '87

**Thomas Williams '87** became a partner at iCyberworks, a cybersecurity firm in northern Virginia, in January 2023. He has been working in technology since 1997, when he joined Scytale Inc., a tech firm in New York City, as a senior software engineer.

**Keith Waters '88** is retiring after 48 years in Adventist Education. In 1973, Waters left New England for the first time to serve as a student missionary in Zaire. When he returned to study at Atlantic Union College, he pursued elementary education. Upon graduation, Waters got married and became head teacher at New London School in Connecticut.

**Sister Mary Rose Reddy '89** was named director of Catholic Identity and Mission, Catholic Schools Office at the Diocese of Manchester, NH, in October 2023. She had previously served as director of family faith formation at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary and St. Leo Parishes in Rochester, NH.

## 90s

**Mark Olmstead '90** was named vice president for market access and reimbursement at Vibrant Gastro, a medical equipment manufacturer in Newton, MA, in November 2023. He has worked in surgery/health care materials for 36 years, for companies such as Allegiance Health Care, Centocor Ortho Biotech and Johnson & Johnson.

**Gary Lombardo '90** was named senior director of project management at Pfizer in October 2023. He has 20 years of experience in project management, mostly with Pfizer and Sapphire Energy, a biotechnology firm in San Diego.



### BONNIE EDMONDSON '87 RETURNS AS A WORLD CHAMPION BY ED OSBORN

At age 60, Eastern Athletics hall-of-famer **Bonnie Edmondson '87** has added another remarkable achievement to her storied throwing career. On Aug. 19, she captured first place in the World Master's Athletic Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, with a hammer throw of 136' 11", securing her status as the world champion in the 60-64 age group.

This triumph comes after Edmondson's impressive victory in the USA Track & Field Master's Champion-

ships in Sacramento, CA, just a month earlier, where she threw 135' 3" to take first place in her division. Notably, she achieved these incredible feats despite having undergone two hip replacements.

Edmondson's return to competitive throwing started a year ago when she dusted off her old hammer, glove and shoes, driven by a renewed desire to test her skills. She credits her success to a rigorous training regimen that includes physical therapy, massage, stretching, ice baths and rest.

Her long-time coach, Bill Southerland of Southern Connecticut State University, has been instrumental in guiding her, just as he has for the past 30 years. Together, they train twice a week, while Edmondson also works on her own, incorporating weightlifting and plyometrics into her routine.

Reflecting on her decision to compete again, Edmondson said, "I just turned 60. I always wanted to compete internationally. I said, 'if not now, when?' Plus, I feel that competing will help me be a better coach."

Her recent victories add to an already illustrious career. As a two-time All-American in discus and hammer throw at Eastern, Edmondson won national championships in the hammer throw in 1990 and 1991. In 1992, she placed third in the U.S. Olympic Trials, but hammer throw for women wouldn't debut in the Olympics until 2000.



## TAMMY GERHARD '92 CONNECTS WITH COMMUNITY THROUGH HER COFFEE SHOP

BY NOEL TETER '24

Since her days at Eastern, **Tammy Gerhard '92** has carried a deep desire to help and serve those she can reach. This love for connection has motivated her through her ownership of Silk City Coffee, a coffee shop in Manchester, since 2016.

Gerhard's role at Silk City does not stop at "business owner." In her position, she oversees the shop's community engagement and charitable giving efforts.

"I've always had a passion for connecting with the community and resourcing hardworking nonprofit initiatives to help them be successful," she said.

Part of her approach to connecting with the surrounding community in Manchester involves collaborating with groups that some in her position may see as competitors. During its fifth year, Silk City began roasting its own beans and wholesaling them to other shops.

This collaborative approach comes from Gerhard's educational and philosophical background. "I've always been very collaborative versus competitive as a person," said Gerhard, who holds two degrees in psychology. "I love looking at the strengths and abilities of people and groups of people and trying to leverage that for success."

To give back to the community, Silk City Coffee partners with a different community organization each month. "We highlight the work that is happening in our community, and then also leverage sales to support the work that we're doing," said Gerhard.

"For me, opening the shop was about creating a safe, healthy space for people to come, where anyone would be welcomed, and they would feel that they could nest with others and be part of something a little bit bigger than themselves."

Silk City Coffee also features a community board where patrons and community members can post needs, whether it's help with yard work or a ride to the grocery store. "Any person can share a need that any other person is welcome to respond to and meet."

**Cory DeWeese '90** began a new job as director of human resources for the Odonnell Company, a marketing firm in New Haven, in October 2023. He had spent the previous 10 years in director-level jobs with The Marketing Arm, an advertising firm headquartered in Dallas.

**Michael Moore '90** began a new job as business systems senior analyst at Amex GBT Neo in July 2024. He

previously served as business analyst at American Express Global Business Travel.

**Duane Witter '90** is the new head men's basketball coach at the University of Connecticut Avery Point. Witter, who will be making his collegiate coaching debut with the Pointers, brings a wealth of experience from his 25-season tenure as the varsity boys' basketball coach at Farmington High School. During his distinguished career in Farmington, Coach Witter accumulated 345 wins. His dedication to the sport was recognized with the 2024 CIAC Merit Award, honoring his distinguished service in basketball.

**Lisa McDonald '90** has been promoted to senior customer success representative from her prior position of platform success representative at Ingram Micro. She has been with Ingram since February 2022.

**Susan Mullaney '90** has been named executive vice president of strategic initiatives at Blue Shield of California, leading special projects that help to transform the broken health care system. Mullaney has deep experience in health care and most recently served as senior advisor at Boston Consulting Group. Previously, she held various leadership roles at Kaiser Permanente, including serving on their national executive team and later as president of Kaiser Permanente Washington.

**Russell Higgins '91** was named chief financial officer and executive vice president at Luminator Technology Group, a manufacturer in Plano, TX, that specializes in communications and lighting products, in May 2024. He has held financial leadership positions since 2014, when he was named director of finance at CIRCOR International Inc., an industrial machinery manufacturer in Burlington, MA.

**Sanjay Suri '91** was named director of business development/senior portfolio manager for EJJ Real Estate Services Inc. in Washington, D.C., in January 2024. He has worked in business development and real estate management in the D.C. area since 2006, when he joined Harris Teeter, a grocery chain headquartered in North Carolina, as an operations manager.

**Scott Pawlich '91** was named regional vice president at Voya Financial in Feb-

ruary 2024. He has previously held vice president roles at Prudential Retirement and American Century Investments.

**David Anderson '92** began a new job as director of sales for Viventium, a payroll software business in the New York City/New Jersey area, in February 2024. He had previously been serving as vice president, specialty sales for Nextech Systems.

**Patrick Murphy '92** has begun a new job as senior vice president, government commercial banker at Ameris Bank in July 2024. He had been serving as vice president, relationship manager at TD Bank for the previous 11 years.

**Gregory Shimer '93** began a new job as senior account executive at UBEO Business Services, an IT firm headquartered in Austin, TX, in January 2024. He has more than 20 years of business leadership experience, including founding his own business (The Imaginos Partnership, an advertising and marketing firm in West Hartford) in 2002.

**Jon Benham '93** began a new job as regional IT director for Middlesex Orthopedic and Spine Associates in January 2024. He had previously been serving as regional director of IT services for Radiology Partners.

**Cynthia Mike '94** has been selected for inclusion in Marquis Who's Who. Mike is a board-certified behavior analyst dedicated to working with children on the autism spectrum and conducting functional analysis. She has held positions at Autism Allies in Agawam, MA, since 2022 and Transcend ABA in New York City since early 2024, where she has been instrumental in providing behaviorally based treatment therapies for patients.

**Adam Kelsey '95** began a new job as assistant principal & athletic director at D'Evelyn Jr.-Sr. High School in Denver, CO. He had been serving in those same two roles at Denver South High School for 11 years.

**Amy Dickson '96** began a new job as facilities analyst at Lowe's Companies, Inc. in March 2024. She has been working in facilities since 2000 when she joined FM Facility Maintenance in Hartford.

**Jose Marrero '96** began a new job as human resources director for National Health Care Associates in December 2023. He has spent most of the last 12 years in health care, most recently at The Hebrew Center for Health and Rehabilitation.

**Jason Delvecchio '96** began a new job as southeast director of direct sales for TPx, an IT firm headquartered in Austin, TX, in August 2024. He had been serving as director of strategic programs at TPx since October 2023.

**Bryan Czajkowski '96** began a new job in February 2024 as COO of 535, a “marketing lab” that is part of the Rebellion Group, an advertising firm in Cheshire. Bryan is also COO of Rebellion Group, which he has been involved with since 2013.

**Tara Booker '96** began a new job as executive director, homelessness and community supports for the State of Rhode Island Department of Housing in March 2024. She has also been self-employed as a consultant for finance management, payroll, grant writing and other services since 2021.



Jason Ruggiero '01

**Bryan Thomas '98** was named senior director of sales, Eastern United States for rapid!/Green Dot Corporation, a partnership between a payment platform and a bank holding company headquartered in Austin, TX, in February 2024. He has worked for rapid! since 2011, when he joined the platform as a territory manager working out of East Greenwich, RI.

**Sean Kosinski '98** began a new job as resource development and optimization leader at Arcadium Lithium, a chemical manufacturer, in March 2024. He spent more than 20 years as a hydrogeologist for two environmental consulting firms in Boulder, CO — Geomega and Integral Consulting Inc.

**Vincent Bellante '99** was promoted to area vice president, Eastern United States for iotaMotion, a medical equipment business in Minnesota, in January 2024.

**Lee Walter '99** was at the helm as Norwich Sea Unicorns general manager when the Sea Unicorns won their second consecutive Futures Collegiate

Baseball League championship this season at Dodd Stadium.

**Scott Chiasson '99**, former star shortstop at Norwich Free Academy from 1990-1993, was inducted into the Norwich Hall of Fame. Chiasson continued his baseball journey at Eastern where he played shortstop and was the team's closer. In 1998, Chiasson saved five games and earned three wins during the NCAA tournament while helping Eastern win the national championship. He was named a First Team ABCA All-American. Chiasson spent 13 years in professional baseball.

## 00s

**Keith Fleming '00** was promoted to vice president of Aspen Insurance Group in April 2024. This is his second stint with Aspen. In addition to Aspen, he spent the previous 24 years working in insurance at The Hartford, Allied World Assurance Company and Worldwide Facilities LLC.

**Jason Ruggiero '01** was named chief executive officer of Choice Fitness (Massachusetts) in December 2023. He has been with Choice Fitness since January 2019, serving as a regional fitness director for two years, then as president of operations for three years before becoming CEO.

**Ken Plante '01** was named managing director of Webster Bank in February 2024. He has a strong background in audit management, beginning in 2007 at Aetna, Inc., and continuing at XL Catlin and Webster Bank, where he has been working since 2015.

**Lorraine Cullen '01** began a new job as branch chief, health care quality and safety at the Connecticut Department of Mental Health in January 2024. She previously spent more than 11 years at Gaylord Specialty Healthcare in Wallingford, serving as director of respiratory and radiology services and senior director of clinical services.

**Jerry Piscitelli '02** began a new job as senior director of eCommerce and Marketing at Bulbrite Industries, an appliance and electrical manufacturer in Moonachie, NJ, in August 2024. He

has held similar positions at Keeney (Newington), Oatey Company (Cleveland) and HKC-US / Palm Coast Imports LLC (Memphis).

**Morgan Boren '02** began a new job as associate director for Crinetics Pharmaceuticals in San Diego in January 2024. She has been working for various West Coast biotech companies such as Amgen and Kinnate Biopharma Inc. since 2005.

**Angela Rae Duhaime '03** began a new job as behavioral health program manager at the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in Middletown in July 2024. She also became certified as a grief counselor in June 2024.



Angela Rae Duhaime '03

**Sebastian Motta '03** was named director of primary care for Griffin Hospital in Derby in January 2024. He has been working in hospitals and physicians' services for 25 years, including stints at Hartford Hospital, National Physicians Services (Rocky Hill) and ProHealth Physicians (Farmington).



Sebastian Motta '03

**Justin Miclette '03** began a new job as principal engineer of user interface at Broadcom Software, a software development firm in Palo Alto, CA, in November 2023. He has been a software engineer for the past 15 years, mostly with VMware in Palo Alto.

**Jan McCray '03** was named chief executive officer of Esperanza Shelter Inc, a domestic abuse service in Santa Fe, NM, in January 2024. She has spent the past 20 years in judicial work and advocacy, most recently at SafeNest, a domestic and sexual violence charity in Las Vegas, NV.



Jan McCray '03

**Skye Cohen '03** began a new job as senior information security program administrator for the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system in December 2023. He had been working in IT at Three Rivers Community College since 1999 before the new job.

**Cheryl Beaulieu '03** began a new job as associate director, corporate events and sales enablement for Consortium Health Plans in February 2024. She has been with Consortium since December 2019,

## CODY GUARNIERI '09 NOMINATED AS CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

BY NOEL TETER '24



**Cody Guarnieri '09** was nominated by Gov. Ned Lamont this past spring to serve as a judge on the Connecticut Superior Court. Among this year's class of 22 nominees, Guarnieri, 37, is the youngest judge nominated to the court.

Guarnieri previously spent 12 years as a trial attorney and partner at Brown, Paindiris & Scott, LLP in Hartford and Glastonbury. "I have a lot of experience in the litigation process," he said. "I was involved for many years in advocating for clients' interests, usually individuals and small businesses."

Speaking to his role on the Superior Court, Guarnieri said, "I'm in a position, thanks to Gov. Lamont and his team, to play the role of ensuring that there's a fair process that litigants are entitled to. Having used the (litigation) process on behalf of clients for many years gives me a good perspective on how the process should and is supposed to work."

Guarnieri laid the groundwork for his understanding of the litigation process as a student at Eastern, where he double majored in history/social science and political science, and later at the University of Connecticut School of Law.

"My time at Eastern was about foundations," he said. "It was about building that liberal arts education you can get from a small institution like Eastern, where you get individualized attention from professors to develop a foundational educational background on these topics."

Speaking of his Eastern education, Guarnieri said, "The most important (skills) for me in law school, for me as a lawyer and for me as a judge, are critical thinking and reading things with a critical eye. ... When you put the time and effort in, there's the opportunity to really develop (those skills) at a school like Eastern."

Guarnieri offers words of encouragement to students. "I have seen and met Eastern alumni as lawyers and in every aspect of my career," he said. "No one should feel limited if they go to a state school, especially Eastern, where there are such fantastic opportunities to carve your own path."

previously serving as senior associate, health care events and program development.

**Kristi Pappas '04** was named senior director of Long Island Residential Programs at MercyFirst, a not-for-profit human and social service agency in Syosset, NY, in October 2023. She has been working in family services since 2005 when she joined Little Flower Children and Family Services of New York, in Wading River (Long Island).

**Jamal Paire '04** was named director of risk and fraud management at West-erly (RI) Community Credit Union in February 2024. He has been working in the financial sector, mostly in credit unions, since 2004 when he joined Charter Oak FCU as a member service representative.

**Darley George '04** began a new job as senior payroll project analyst for Stanley Black & Decker, Inc. in January 2024. She has previously held payroll positions with Citi Human Resources Shared Services, CTtransit and Robert Half Executive Search since 2006.

**Joel Berntsen '04** began a new job as head of marketing for Dimension Renewable Energy in November 2023. He had previously been serving as chief marketing officer for Vutility, a technology firm.

**Stephanie Dumont '05** began a new job as vice president, organizational excellence for Occam Health Services in Sterling, VA, in January 2024. She had spent the previous six years in director and senior vice president roles with

PRIA Healthcare Management LLC in Torrington.

**Quinlan Lyte '05** began a new job as vice president and general manager, space and sensors at L3Harris Technologies in September 2023. He previously served as senior director and general manager of programs and propeller systems at Collins Aerospace.

**Jonathan Adams '05** began a new job as vice president of investments and private client advisor at J.P. Morgan in June 2023. He previously served as a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch.

**Adam Hevenor '06** was named director at Integra Realty Resources in Providence, RI, in December 2023. He has been working in real estate valuation throughout his career, dating back to 2005, and has served as real estate appraiser and vice president of Markus Appraisal prior to his current position.

**Erica Gee '06** became chief operating officer for NXTMoves, a financial services firm headquartered in Atlanta, GA, in February 2024. She has held leadership positions with Geezeo, Interact Software and Moov Financial, and founded her own company, Synergee Consulting, LLC, in June 2023.

**Michael Cervizzi '06** was promoted to vice president, pricing and business intelligence for Prolific 1, an events services business in South Windsor, in December 2023. He has been with Prolific 1 since 2010, serving as associate vice president of pricing and sports partnerships prior to his new role.

**William Busch '06** began a new job as director of assistive technology for New Horizons in Autism Inc. in October 2023. He has been providing care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 2004, working for organizations such as Alternative Services of CT and Community Access Unlimited (New Jersey).



William Busch '06

**Nicholas Bellucci '06** was promoted to senior director, annual and leadership giving for Pace University in November 2023. He had previously served as associate director of leadership giving and then director of annual giving from 2019–23.

**Andrew Cooke '07** began a new job as director of operations at Clarity Output Solutions, a marketing business in Stratford, in October 2023. He served as senior operations manager there (when it was called Premier Graphics) from April 2018 to October 2023.

**Avion Hudson '08** was named senior human resources manager and chief of staff at Comcast in March 2024. She had worked in human resources since 2010 for Bridgewater Associates and Nestlé Waters North America before coming to Comcast in 2017.

**Keniesha Johnson '08** has been hired as assistant director of field education and special programs for the Social Work Program at Eastern. Her primary responsibility will be the oversight of field education and placement for social work juniors and seniors, ensuring they get the best possible outcome from their field work experience. Johnson received

## SOFTBALL GREAT MOLLY RATHBUN '12 INDUCTED INTO CONNECTICUT HALL OF FAME



**Molly Rathbun '12**, a four-year All-American pitcher at Eastern between 2009 and 2012, was inducted into the Connecticut Scholastic and Collegiate Softball Hall of Fame on Sept. 15 at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville.

Rathbun is the only four-time All-American in Eastern softball history and one of the program's all-time most successful two-way players. At the time of her 2019 induction into the Eastern Alumni Hall of Fame, the Hebron native still held 19 career, season and game pitching records and was ranked among the program's all-time top five in seven offensive career categories, including first in RBI.

Rathbun led the Warriors to an overall record of 144-29-1 (83%), four NCAA tournaments, two NCAA regional champion-

ships and three straight Little East Conference regular-season and tournament titles (62-8 combined LEC regular-season and tournament record). Rathbun was selected to the NFCA Division III All-America first team in each of her final three seasons when she was also voted LEC Pitcher of the Year.

A two-time LEC tournament MVP and Eastern's three-time Female Athlete of the Year, Rathbun won 103 games and lost only 14 in her career, with 14 saves, 1,130 strikeouts in 770 2/3 innings, and a 0.88 ERA in 142 appearances (105 starts) with 94 complete games, 49 shutouts and nine no-hitters. She was inducted into the Little East Conference Hall of Fame in 2023.



### SARAH NORMANDIE '02 CRACKS AMAZON'S TOP 10 WITH DEBUT NOVEL

BY NOEL TETER '24

**Sarah Normandie '02** has been a storyteller for as long as she can remember. "Even before I could read or write, I'd record my stories on my mother's tape recorder," she said.

Normandie recently synthesized her lifelong passion into her first novel, "All These Threads of Time," which she self-published under the pen name Sarah Crowne.

The indie novel debuted on Amazon in the top 100 for teen science fiction and young adult (YA) time travel and cracked the top 10 for Amazon's new YA releases in science fiction for several weeks.

Set in the late 1980s, "All These Threads of Time" follows Sylvie Mitchell, a young girl whose sister is murdered the same night her father disappears from her New England town. She then discovers the ability to time travel and sets out to stop the killer from terrorizing her community.

"The concept for the novel began with the idea that I wanted to write a story about an unlikely opponent no one would suspect, and a family seeking hope through trauma," said Normandie.

"We've all had those moments in our lives where we wished we could change things, travel back in time, stop something from happening or save the ones we love."

Normandie credits her time at Eastern as a psychology major for helping her as a writer. "I learned how the mind works, how we grow and develop as human beings, how we learn and how people interact with each other," she said. "As a writer, understanding how people think, grow and develop is instrumental in developing characters for fiction."

"Eastern taught me to question, seek answers, gather facts, opinions and anecdotal data, test theories and explore concepts," she said. "Those lessons have helped me not just as an author, but in life."

her master's degree from Springfield College in Massachusetts, and her D.S.W. from Walden University.

**Jessica Carroll '08** began a new job as executive director for Animal Place, a northern California farm animal rescue and sanctuary, in October 2023. She has been working in northern California since 2009 for organizations including In Defense of Animals and GU Energy Labs.

**Norm Melendez '09** began a new job as procurement specialist for the City of Norfolk, VA, in June 2024. He had been working in procurement jobs for the United States Navy for the previous 11 years.

**Kelly Corcoran '09** began a new job as associate director of aftermarket sales and customer experience at Pratt & Whitney in January 2024. She has been with Pratt & Whitney since October 2018; her previous position was F135 global warehousing senior manager.

## 10s

**Justin Sorel '10** was named vice president of finance at Mystic Aquarium in August 2024. He has more than 13 years of accounting experience, the last four of which have been at the director or vice president level.

Women We Admire selected **Jocelyn DeMaio '10** as one of the Top 50 Women Leaders of Hartford for 2024. DeMaio is the head of end user services at The Hartford, where she has worked for more than 22 years.

**Ashley Hunt '10** began a new job as director of underwriting partnerships at SCOR, a reinsurance company headquartered in France, in February 2024.

She had previously been director of underwriting strategy at Ethos, an insurance company headquartered in Austin, TX.

**Brian Green '10** began a new job as director of internal audit for the State of Connecticut in October 2023. He has been working as an auditor since 2014, previously serving as supervisory auditor for the Defense Contract Audit Agency, an agency within the Department of Defense.

**Dominique Dunn '10** began a new job as executive director of the Monroe Housing Authority (MHA) in Monroe, NC, in January 2024. This is her second stint with the MHA. She has spent the previous 13 years working in housing in Charlotte, Daytona and Durham, NC.

**David Ciccalone '10** became president and founder of Cortland Builders, LLC in North Hampton, NH, in November 2023. Cortland Builders is "the progression of Dave Ciccalone and his highly talented design-build team, developed while operating as Yankee Construction, LLC."

**Megan Savage '11** began a new job as assistant vice president of communications and public involvement at Williams Sale Partnership (WSP), an engineering and professional services firm in New York City, in January 2024. She has been with WSP since 2014 in various roles involving communications.

**Abhishek Patel '11** entered private practice as a certified public accountant (CPA) in Houston in September 2023. Prior to this, he worked for Pratt & Whitney and Waste Management.

**Michelle Kaczynski '11** was promoted to co-director of the Crossroads Adolescent/Transitional-Aged Youth IOP



Jessica Carroll '08



Brian Green '10

Program at NFI Vermont Family Center in December 2023. She had been serving as assistant director of that same program since March 2022.

**Alyssia Cinami '11** began a new job as senior program director for Community Health Resources in October 2023. She has also been a family therapist at Positive Mind Counseling in Putnam since July 2021.

**Deirdre Tavares '11** began a new job as project manager at Pfizer in July 2024. She has been with Pfizer since 2002, working in administration, business support and operations support. After graduating from Eastern, she went to Southern New Hampshire University and earned a master's degree.

**Samantha Paul '12** began a new job as human factors engineer at Yale New Haven Health in August 2024. She recently earned a graduate certificate in human factors engineering/medical devices and systems from Tufts University and is currently enrolled in Tufts' M.S. program in human factors engineering.

**Kristen Kosich '12** was named director of field marketing at Adlumin, a computer and network security firm headquartered in Washington, D.C., in June 2024. At Eastern, she worked on campus as an information technology assistant and completed an internship with AEG, a sports and entertainment company. Since graduation, she has worked for Felix, an advertising company in New York City, and at Varonis, a NYC-based cybersecurity company where she was marketing manager.

**Jodi Clark '12** began a new job as interim director of workforce development and continuing education at Connecticut State Community College's Quinebaug Valley campus in Danielson in November 2023. She has been with Quinebaug Valley since 2013, working as an adjunct instructor and Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center assistant director.

**Timothy Snopkowski '12** was named development director for the American Heart Association in November 2023. He has almost 10 years of development experience, in both business and nonprofit environments.

**Miles McDonald '12** was named executive committee vice president of the Connecticut/Westchester Chapter of CoreNet Global, a professional organization for members of the corporate real estate/facilities industry, in January 2024. He has been working in marketing for the past 12 years and is currently a business development and marketing specialist at Salas O'Brien, a building design services company headquartered in Irvine, CA.

**Kolin Ebron '12** has been named assistant director of University Opportunity Programs at Eastern's Academic Success Center. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Connecticut after earning a doctoral degree in learning leadership and educational policy in 2021.

**Todd Buckholt '12** began a new job as associate creative director for Shark-Ninja, a Boston-area product design company, in December 2023. He has been working in Boston since 2013 for organizations such as Boston University and DraftKings.

**Vallery St. Phard '13** founded Zoië Vie Ministry, a nonprofit aimed at helping those in need in Spartanburg, SC, in January 2024. He also earned a certificate in fashion design from the New York School of Design as well as several style certificates from Kate Taylor International. He also worked at Bonobos in Greenwich before moving to South Carolina. In Spartanburg, he founded Styling Phard LLC, where he works as a stylist, image and wardrobe consultant and photographer, in 2016.

**Nelsy Reyes '13** began a new job as academic coordinator at the Institute at Brown University for Environment and Society in January 2024. She had previously served as AmeriCorps VISTA leader for the Rhode Island Campus Compact, a higher education coalition in Providence.

**Meghan Glenn '13** began a new job as regional digital sales director for Nexstar Media Group, Inc. in New York City in January 2024. She has been working in digital marketing and sales since 2014, previously serving as head of sales-media/publishing for Flowcode, a technology company headquartered in New York City.



## SEIZING OPPORTUNITY LANDS MEGAN SAUNDERS '15 AN EMMY

BY NOEL TETER '24

**Megan Saunders '15**, a senior producer at NBCUniversal Local in Boston, MA, has built her career through self-motivation and seizing opportunities. Her team's coverage of the 2023 Boston Pride for the People Parade earned them the award for Outstanding Special Event Coverage at the 47th Boston-New England Emmy Awards.

Previously winning three Northwest Regional Emmys for breaking news, Saunders noted this event was different. "With breaking news, you're lucky — it just happens. But this was something I made happen," she said.

Having previously received little media coverage, the parade was an opportunity for Saunders to spotlight an "untold" story. "The parade organizers let me cover it because I kept raising my hand," she explained.

Saunders credits her proactive mindset to her time at Eastern Connecticut State University, where she was an anchor and executive producer for ETV News. "Eastern offers opportunities — you just have to take them," she said.

Her creativity flourished in the Pride coverage. "I wanted rainbows, overlays, bright colors," she said, collaborating closely with an editor to bring her vision to life.

Saunders also highlights the value of small-market experience, starting as an overnight producer at KTVB News Group in Idaho before moving up to produce the station's flagship news program. "If you want something, raise your hand. Show you're hungry for experience, and they'll give it to you."

**Judith Clinton '13** began a new job as co-executive director for Rhode Island Theatre Makers Roundtable in February 2024. She has been a self-employed theatre professional since 1990.

**Daniel Calzone '13** began a new job as senior growth director for Allen Media Group, an Atlanta-based entertainment business, in December 2023. He has been working in major city marketing firms since 2013, including AMC Networks (New York) and Plex, Inc. (Los Angeles).



**ANA RAMOS '19 WINS  
PRESTIGIOUS GILLIAM FELLOWSHIP**  
BY NOEL TETER '24

**Anany Ramos '19**, a doctoral microbiology student at Emory University, has dedicated the past several years to serving the scientific community through both her research and her commitment to advancing equity and diversity in science. This year, her hard work earned her the prestigious Gilliam Fellowship, making her one of only 50 recipients selected from 43 institutions nationwide.

"I am eager to connect and forge relationships with a diverse pool of fellows that I may have never met otherwise," said Ramos, who earned the award with her mentor, Tim Read, professor of medicine at Emory.

Ramos' background as an undocumented first-generation college student has driven her work to advance equity and diversity in the sciences. "It was almost entirely by accident that I stumbled upon TheDream.US," she said of the scholarship program that brought her to Eastern.

"Being part of the first cohort of TheDream.US Opportunity Scholars at Eastern taught me valuable skills in learning how to be my own advocate, how to be resourceful and how to take failures as redirection."

While studying at Eastern, Ramos struggled to find summer research opportunities, many of which required U.S. citizenship. "It was extremely disheartening to know so few research opportunities existed at the time for undocumented students," she said.

Ramos credits Eastern professors Garrett Dancik, Vijaykumar Veerappan and Yaw Nsiah for giving her research experience and helping her figure out a career path.

"The mentorship and support I was offered at Eastern deeply ingrained in me the power of mentorship in advancing equity, inclusion and diversity in science," she said.

As a Gilliam Fellow, she said, "I'm determined to make an impact by making sure other undocumented students know that this path is possible, and I will do whatever I can to make space for other underrepresented minorities to pursue a career in STEM."

**Kathryn Peterson '14** began a new job as associate operations manager at Travelers in August 2024. She has been working in operations jobs at Travelers since joining the company in September 2018.

**Hannah Lewis '14** was named director of user experience design and development at Fidelity Investments in January 2024. She majored in communication with a minor in digital art and design at Eastern, and now has 10 years of work experience in graphic design and design management.

**Nicole Bruno '14** began a new job as assistant director of graduate recruitment and admission for the Boston College Lynch School in January 2024. She has previously worked in Boston for Northeastern University and William James College starting in 2017.

**Troy Marrotte '14**, an Eastern adjunct faculty member, received a certificate of recognition at the annual business information systems (BIS) banquet in spring 2024. He was a BIS major at Eastern and works for Davies Group, which is owned by BC Partners in London, UK. Davies Group specializes in insurance services. Marrotte was previously a business technology architect for Cigna and his current job title is senior solutions architect. In his new role he will be reporting directly to the Davies Group's North America CIO as their lead architect.

**Marc Volza '15** began a new job as network director for WeCall, an advertising firm in Charlotte, NC, in November 2023. He first joined WeCall in March 2023 as a business analyst.

**Joshua Palmer '15** began a new job as associate creative director for Indigo Slate, an advertising firm in Seattle. He has been working in branding/marketing since 2014 when he joined KnockMedia, a technology firm specializing in user experience located in New Haven.

**Alexander Love '15** began a new job as Google cloud architect for McDonald's in March 2024. He has almost 20 years of experience in data systems, mostly with Cigna Healthcare. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Eastern, majoring in general studies with concentrations in business information systems management and computer science.

**Taylor Lussier '15** became assistant director for marketing and communications for The Hartford in April 2024. She has been working in marketing for The Hartford since November 2019, when she served as senior marketing communications specialist.

**Laura Markley '15** began a new job as multifamily waste and sustainable materials policy coordinator at the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (Portland, OR). She earned a doctorate in civil and environmental engineering from Syracuse University in May 2023.



Laura Markley '15

**David Johnson '15**, adjunct professor at Eastern, received a certificate of appreciation at the annual BIS Banquet on May 2. He started a new full-time position in November as a data engineering manager for Arch Insurance.

**Gabriela Wrobel '16** began a new job as financial planning and analysis manager at SC&H, a business consulting firm in Sparks, MD, in July 2024. She earned a master's degree in economics from the University of South Carolina, Darla Moore School of Business, in 2018.

**Brittany Kuczenski '16** began a new job as associate vice president of leadership development at Travelers in August 2024. Prior to this new position, she had spent eight years at Pratt & Whitney, beginning as engineering support senior associate and ending as global learning and development lead.

**Anny Ovalle '16** began a new job as account manager at Option A Group, a media company in Centerbrook, CT, in January 2024. She has been working in media since 2017 when she started working for Overabove, an advertising company in Chester, CT.

**Ryan Kelly '16** was named vice president for construction practice at USI Insurance Services in March 2024. He has also served as president of the CT Young Insurance Professionals and served on the board of directors for the Stratford Chamber of Commerce.

**Scott Olm '16** began a new job as senior systems administrator at Eastern in July 2024. He had spent the previous two-and-a-half years at NLC Insurance Companies in Norwich in a similar role.

**Amber Fugedi '16** became marketing director for PERQ, a marketing technology firm, in December 2023. She has been working in marketing since 2015 with eTraveler, MembersFirst CT Federal Credit Union and her own consultancy



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called Mindfully Brilliant, among other companies.

**Jason Gentile '17** was promoted to delivery specialist operations manager at LTS, an IT firm headquartered in Herndon, VA, in August 2024. This is his third role at LTS, having previously served as business analyst lead/cyber-security SME and then senior consultant.

**Lauren Williams '17** began a new job as analyst for marketing operations at Bavarian Nordic, a pharmaceutical manufacturer in Copenhagen, Denmark, in March 2024. Her previous job was also with a pharmaceutical manufacturer, Canopy Life Sciences, located in Danbury.

**Sarah Dunn '17** began a new job as vice president at HUB International in the D.C./Baltimore area in February 2024. She is also serving as a relationship expert and employee benefits advisor for women in GovCon, a hub for female government contractors.

**Hugh Lindo '17** began a new job as regional group manager at Symetra in April 2024. He has been with Symetra since August 2019, previously serving as a stop loss internal sales partner.

**Danielle Turgeon '17** began a new job as admissions counselor at Bay Path University in June 2024. She earned a master's degree in higher education administration at Central Connecticut State University in 2019.

**Jonathon Gallo '17** began a new job as transmission operator at NBC Sports in July 2024. Previously, Gallo served as board operator and then project manager for iHeart-Media.



Jonathon Gallo '17

**Love Cassells '18** began a new job as chief financial officer for the Connecticut Education Association in July 2023. He had previously been director of finance for the Connecticut Science Center for more than two years.

**Rachael Judson '18** took the helm as executive director and owner at Sunshine Preschool 2 in Hamden, CT, in January 2024. She is also director and owner of the original Sunshine Preschool, also in Hamden.

**Katherine O'Rourke '18** earned an M.B.A. focusing on human resources and management from Fairfield University in June 2024. She previously earned a master's in higher education administration from James Madison University in 2021.

**Courtney Regan '19** was promoted to senior account executive at indeed.com in April 2024. She first joined indeed.com two years ago as an account executive.

**Michael Theriault '19** began a new job as coordinator of student engagement at Saint Joseph's College in Standish, ME, in August 2024. He has been with Saint Joseph's since June 2021, serving as community coordinator and instructor.

**Jacob Dayton '19** was awarded a doctorate in biology at Tufts University in August 2024. He was also a visiting fellow in the Owens Laboratory, part of the Rowland Institute at Harvard, an interdisciplinary experimental science facility.

**Justin Jensen '19** began a new job as business operations consultant at MassMutual in January 2024. He has been with MassMutual since March 2020, having previously served as a valuation specialist.

**Allie Toffolon '19** has been promoted to associate planner from her prior position of senior allocation analyst at TJX Companies, Inc. She has been with TJX Companies since March 2021. Prior to that, she was a ticket sales account executive for Hartford Yard Goats Baseball.

**Yael Hernandez '19** began a new job as software engineer at Microsoft. His prior position had been software engineer at Travelers for more than three years.

**Mary Rotelli '19** began a new job as associate functional consultant at Sikich in July 2024. She had been a business development manager at Addison Group since December 2023 before taking the new job.

**Kamran Chaudhry '19** began a new job as senior analyst in e-commerce at EssilorLuxottica. Previously, Chaudhry served as business marketing specialist at EssilorLuxottica and as marketing associate at Health E-Commerce.

## 20s

**Rachael Finch '20** has begun a new job and a master's degree program. She is a business intelligence analyst at Optum, a health services company headquartered in Eden Prairie, MN. She has also begun work on a master's degree in analytics from Georgia Institute of Technology.



Jacob Dayton '19

**Michael Zuraw '20** began a new job as creative brand manager at Symmetry Partners LLC, a financial services firm in Glastonbury, in July 2024. He has been in creative/graphic design work since June 2019 when he joined Mission Control, a political candi-



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date advertising firm in Glastonbury, as a graphic designer.

**Natalia Lozano Ramirez '20** began a new job as home study and post release services case manager at the National Youth Advocate Program, a family services organization in Columbus, OH, in March 2024. She has been working with young clients since 2020, when she joined ABS Kids in Charlotte, NC, as a registered behavioral technician.

**Alexa Moustakakis '20** began a new job as project manager at Quest Global, an engineering firm headquartered in Singapore, in January 2024. She joined Quest Global in April 2021, serving as supply chain analyst.

**RJ Dewar '20** began a new job as marketing and business development specialist for Shipman & Goodwin LLP, a law practice in Hartford, in March 2024. He had spent the previous four years serving in marketing and business development roles at two law practices in New York City.

**Dom Conte '20** began a new job as associate producer at ESPN in February 2024. He served as assistant director of sports broadcasting at Eastern while working on his communication degree.

**Clancy Benedict '20** began a new job as chief technology specialist for Rockspring Media in December 2023. He had previously been working in AI quality assurance at mijim (pronounced "mime"), a software firm in Boston.

**Jen Beams '20** began a new job as vice president and delivery planning lead for Fidelity Investments in December 2023. She has been with Fidelity since 2007, serving in roles such as certified scrum product owner and chapter leader for scrum masters.

**Bayan Alomari '20** began a new job as project manager for The Granite City, a countertop installation business in East Hartford.

**Brandon Piazza '20** began a new job as senior analyst/training delivery at CVS Health in July 2024. He had previously been a physical education teacher, first for West Hartford Public Schools and then for Enfield Public Schools.

**Lauren Landry '20** began a new job as IBH clinician at Providence Community Health Centers in Providence, RI, in July 2024. She had previously been a family specialist at Lifespan in Warwick, RI.

**Morgan Kuckel '20** began a new job as corporate recruiter at Ken's Foods in June 2024. Her prior position was senior recruiting specialist at Eurofins PSS Insourcing Solutions.

**Elizabeth Forsythe '20** began a new job as assurance manager at CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) in July 2024. She has been with CLA since January 2021. As a student at Eastern, she interned with Northwestern Mutual, Fuss & O'Neill and BlumShapiro. She also worked on campus.

**Vanessa Zetino-Granados '20** received a certification of appreciation at the annual BIS Banquet on May 2 for her role as BIS-ITSA Club event partner. She is a data engineer for Travelers in the Business Intelligence and Analytics Leadership Development Program.

**Samantha Honeywell '21** began a new job as video editor at Sperling Interactive, a marketing firm in Salem, MA, in August 2024. She had been working in video editing jobs for the previous three years and held internships with local TV stations during her time at Eastern.

**Shai-Lin Gothreau '21** began a new job as business process management consultant at Travelers in Richardson, TX, in August 2024. She has been with Travelers since June 2021, starting in business insurance for small business in Spokane, WA.

**Everin Chacho '21** began a new job as associate scientist in injectable

drug product development at Alexion Pharmaceuticals Inc. in Boston, MA, in June 2024. She had been working as a research associate in biophysics and biochemistry at Siduma Therapeutics, a drug discovery company in New Haven, prior to her new role at Alexion.

**Crystal Jaboin '21** began a new job as account manager at NFP, an insurance company headquartered in New York City, in February 2024. She had previously been associate tenant researcher at CoStar Group in Richmond, VA.

**Simone Connor '21** began a new job as a registered nurse at St. Vincent's Medical Center in February 2024. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing at Quinnipiac University in August 2022 after earning her bachelor's in health sciences at Eastern in May 2021.

**Nour Kalbouneh '21** began a new job as a paralegal at ACLU of Wisconsin in July 2024. She has been with ACLU for three years, previously serving as community and legal engagement coordinator in Milwaukee, WI.



Nour Kalbouneh '21

**Marie Jeudy '22** began a new job as program director at Community Solutions, Inc. in March 2024. She has been with CSI since September 2019; her previous roles include case manager and community transition supervisor.

**John Fiester '22** has been promoted to actuarial lead analyst from his prior position of actuarial senior analyst, which he began in July 2022 at the Cigna Group. When he was a student at Eastern, he completed an internship with Cigna's Actuarial Executive Development Program.

**Haydee Pepe '22** began a new job as piping draftsman at General Dynamics Electric Boat in July 2024. She has been with GD since April 2023, previously serving as an advance planner in New London.

**Doussouba Kane '22** began a new job as an accountant at DeCaprio CPA & Associates in July 2024. After graduating from Eastern, she held an internship with Yale Finance until April 2024.

**Shalaine McCall '22** began a new job as teaching artist at Touchstone Theatre in July 2024. She had previously been a student intern at Touchstone, after earning a master's in performance creation at Moravian University in August 2022.

**Areli Munoz-Reyes '22** obtained her master's in social work and now specializes in assisting immigrant and refugee families, supporting them in their transition and integration processes.

**Jimmy Miller '22** began a new job as human resources generalist at Hartford HealthCare in October 2023. He has been at Hartford HealthCare since July 2022, previously serving as a human resources representative.

**Tyra Bergstrom '22** began a new job as research study coordinator at the Lab for Scalable Mental Health in Chicago. After graduating from Eastern, she was a post-baccalaureate researcher in clinical psychology at Brown University.

**Megan Solensky '23** began a new job as community relations specialist at Community Blood Bank in Erie, PA, in August 2024. She had been working as a multimedia journalist with Erie News Now since May 2022 before taking the new position.

**Andrew Golden '23** was promoted to human resources generalist at Hartford HealthCare in August 2024. He had spent the previous year in the position of human resources representative at HHC.

Torrington High School recently named **Alexis Tyrrell '23** as the girls' soccer coach. Tyrrell was an All-New England/All-Academic outfielder for Eastern's softball team in leading the Warriors to the Division III World Series in two of her final three years.

**Zachary Shaham '23** began a new job as email marketing specialist for VKTRY Gear, a sporting goods manufacturer in Milford, in July 2024. He completed

an internship as corporate marketing intern for the Central Wire Group of Companies during his junior and senior years at Eastern, then got a job as digital marketing coordinator at Momentus Technologies, a software development firm headquartered in St. Louis, MO.

**Alex Rooney '23** was promoted to senior tax accountant at Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP in Glastonbury in July 2024. He first came to FML as a tax intern during the summer of 2021, before his senior year at Eastern.

**Talya Pitruzzello '23** was promoted to sales consultant at The Hartford in August 2024. She had been serving as sales associate since joining The Hartford in October 2023.

**Adriana Hernandez '23** began a new job as law clerk at the Deuteran Law Group in Greensboro, NC, in June 2024. She had previously served as a legal assistant with Bates & Roper in Willimantic and as a paralegal with McCoy & McCoy Personal Injury Trial Attorneys in Hartford. She is enrolled in the juris doctorate program at Elon University.

**Kyle Garneau '23** began a new job as grants specialist at Our Piece of the Pie, a nonprofit organization in Hartford, in August 2024. He had been working for the University of Connecticut as an educational program assistant for the prior year.

**Fabri Villanueva-Verde '23** began a new job as pricing analyst for Travelers in January 2024. He first worked with Travelers in the summer of 2023 as an intern after graduating from Eastern in May 2023.

**Ryan Mariasi '23** has begun a new job as information technology services (ITS) customer support center assistant at Eastern. He had previously been working in the ITS Department as a part-time university assistant.

**Emma Haas '23** began a new job as supported employment coach at Horizons Program Inc. in July 2024. She had previously served as a school psychology intern at Mansfield Middle School in 2023.

**William Beaver '23** began a new job as junior analyst at iCapital in June 2024.

His prior position was human resource coordinator at Church Hill Classics/[diplomaframe.com](http://diplomaframe.com).

**Aoife Casey '24** has begun a new role as assistant sales and marketing manager at the Standard at Four Corners with Landmark Properties as of August 2024.

**Domenick Bukowski '24** was promoted to sales executive at Gengras Volvo in East Hartford in August 2024. He has been with Gengras Volvo since May 2021, serving as sales specialist.

**Nathan Melia '24** began a new job as marketing specialist at Melia Associates LLC, a manufacturer's representative of HVAC products in Connecticut and western Massachusetts, in May 2024. He completed a graphic designer internship with BestLogic Staffing in Rocky Hill before graduating in 2024.

**Laura Martenson '24** began a new job as executive assistant at S&S Management Services in Bloomfield.

New Griswold Elementary School physical education teacher **Isiah Lovell '24** wants to teach his students lifelong healthy habits. Lovell is looking forward to "getting accustomed to the school and looking forward to a great school year."

**Tehya Hargett-Cerese '24** was named assistant to the director of financial aid at Eastern. As a student, she worked on campus as a financial aid client service representative from December 2022 to May 2024.

**Jamie Koski '24** began a new job as pricing analyst at Travelers in July 2024. As a psychology major at Eastern, she completed several internships with Travelers and also served as a writing tutor on campus.

**Matthew Kiernan '24** began a new job as staff accountant at DR Bank in Darien in July 2024. As a finance major at Eastern, he was a peer mentor in the Finance and Economics Summer Research Institute at Eastern in August 2022 and completed an internship at Michael G. Pallein CPA in spring 2024.

**Dilcia Sanchez '24** began a new job as medical interpreter in the Mecklenburg



Adriana Hernandez '23



Isiah Lovell '24

County Public Health Department in Charlotte, NC, in July 2024. Before earning her health sciences degree from Eastern, she held jobs in phlebotomy for Hartford HealthCare and Trinity Health of New England and held an internship with Integrated Anesthesia Associates in Hartford.

**Kevin McIntyre '24** began a new job as junior credit analyst at Liberty Bank in July 2024. He did an internship with HORST Engineering in the summer of 2023, before his senior year at Eastern.

**Christopher Kourtzidis '24** began a new job as production assistant at ESPN in July 2024. During his senior year at Eastern, he served as broadcast director for the athletics department.

**Tamika Coppedge '24** began a new job as human resources business partner at UNFI in July 2024. She had previously served as human resources administrator at The Arc Eastern Connecticut.

**Thomas Stone '24** began a new job as private equity analyst at Hartford Investment Management Co. (HIMCO) in July 2024. He had previously worked with HIMCO during the summer of 2023 in an internship before his senior year at Eastern.

**Marisa McComiskey '24** began a new job as a first-grade teacher at Plymouth Center School in Plymouth, CT, in June 2024. In the education program at Eastern, she was a student teacher at Gilead Hill School and a student assistant teacher at the Community Children's Center.

**Johanna Lasbury '24** began a new job as production assistant at ESPN in August 2024. During her senior year at Eastern, she was ETV sports broadcasting director.

**Ocion Mollison '24** began a new job as account executive at Barton Associates in July 2024. For the prior two years, he had been serving as project manager and retail associate for Breakfast Lunch & Dinner, a civic organization in Hartford.

**Morgan Tirrell '24** began a new job as geographic information system specialist at Heritage Consultants in July 2024. As an Eastern student, she interned at the Capitol Region Council of Governments.

**Jamyva Lagout '24** began a new full-time job as co-teacher at Family Centers in Greenwich, CT, in June 2024. She had been a camp counselor at Camp Horizon since February 2023.

## in Memoriam

**Margery Zundell '39**

Manchester, NH  
June 3, 2024

**Richard Grenier '53**

Windham, CT  
June 18, 2024

**Mary Lou Keables '55**

Mansfield Center, CT  
January 18, 2024

**Geraldine Murphy '58**

West Hartford, CT  
April 2, 2024

**Roland Johndrow '60**

Vernon Rockville, CT  
September 15, 2024

**Wilfred Gladue '63**

Niantic, CT  
January 8, 2024

**William Haddad '63**

Glastonbury, CT  
July 12, 2024

**Barbara Jacobs '64**

Norwich, CT  
January 21, 2024

**Lucy Sweeney '64**

Manchester, CT  
January 6, 2024

**Elaine Effman '65**

Grantham, NH  
January 11, 2024

**Virginia Peterson '65**

January 8, 2024

**Brien Ward '68**

Windsor Locks, CT  
May 17, 2024

**David Munson '69**

Red Lodge, MT  
February 17, 2024

**Ruth Mathieu '70**

North Branford, CT  
January 26, 2024

**Kristine Savo '70**

July 25, 2024

**Mary Cutler '71**

Morrison, CO  
April 4, 2024

**Anita Sebestyen '71**

Windham, CT  
July 21, 2024

**Dianne Saunders '73**

Groton, CT  
March 26, 2024

**Stephen Sylvester '73**

Groton, CT  
April 19, 2024

**Jane Jackman '74**

Storrs Mansfield, CT  
January 7, 2024

**Valerie Alexander '75**

Portland, CT  
January 25, 2024

**Judith Parmelee '77**

North Eastham, MA  
May 8, 2024

**Lisbeth Sheehan '77**

Norwich, CT  
January 30, 2024

**Susan D'Ambrosio '81**

March 13, 2024

**Margaret Cotter '82**

Frederick, MD  
January 31, 2024

**Joyce Lund '82**

Lakeland, FL  
April 5, 2024

**Patricia McNiff '83**

Wallingford, CT  
April 5, 2024

**Therese Zimmerman '84**

Hooksett, NH  
January 16, 2024

**Norbert Blain '85**

Columbia, CT  
February 24, 2024

**Barbara Gallio '86**

Wappingers Falls, NY  
March 24, 2024

**Wendy Ryan '86**

Bridgeport, CT  
March 27, 2024

**Janet Columbia '91**

Wellfleet, MA  
October 13, 2024

**Ronald Blake '94**

Greenville, SC  
March 5, 2024

**Robert Jackson '94**

Hartford, CT  
January 24, 2024

**Cynthia Nowak '95**

Windham, CT  
March 22, 2024

**David Burrell '96**

Columbia, CT  
May 7, 2024

**Kimberly Perkowski '98**

Colchester, CT  
April 5, 2024

**Gregory Thomson '00**

Willington, CT  
January 3, 2024

**Daniel Brewer '04**

Beaverton, OR  
June 24, 2024

**Timothy Hippe '07**

The Villages, FL  
January 25, 2024

**Elaine Herman '10**

Preston, CT  
January 28, 2024