

WNE

SUMMER 2020

The Magazine of WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY

ANTHONY S. CAPRIO
TRANSFORMED A
College
AND INSPIRED A
University



Rising to Meet the Moment

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, the Western New England University community rose to meet the challenge to support our students. Here are some highlights:

On March 30, all classes were moved to remote learning for the remainder of the spring semester and throughout summer sessions. The University **reimbursed students over \$3.9 million for housing and meal plans** for the six weeks remaining in the spring semester. Undergraduate summer courses were discounted to a new rate of \$450 per credit. **Graduating seniors were offered a waiver for two free graduate courses** if they enroll in a full-time master's program in the upcoming academic year.

The Office of Development quickly created a **Student Emergency Fund** drive to assist undergraduate and graduate students with emergency needs, which raised \$6,040. A separate **Law Student Emergency Fund** raised \$32,313. Through the **CARES ACT Student Emergency Relief Grant Aid** (wne.edu/coronavirus/cares-act) the University also moved quickly to disburse grant aid of \$1,342,302 to full-time students eligible for federal aid who applied for reimbursement for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

Student support services, including peer tutoring, academic advising, counseling, career advising, student disability services, diversity services, spiritual life, and library access also moved virtual to help students navigate online learning and prepare for final exams.

The Office of Student Activities got creative with virtual programming, including a Virtual 5K, plus virtual games, open mics, painting, meditation, yoga, and even therapy dog sessions. Clubs sponsored a virtual Last Lecture and used social media to host virtual events.

The Career Development Center offered virtual career fairs and résumé workshops, including a webinar on how to successfully job hunt in the midst of the crisis. The School of Law and College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences also offered online career support to students and alumni.

Admissions efforts continued on all fronts, including a live virtual **Accepted Students Day for undergraduates** (viewed 2,000+ times). The effort doubled student/faculty-produced videos on our YouTube channel. Capitalizing on a national trend, a multimedia **Stay Local/Go Far campaign** was launched to recruit students from throughout the region as the deadline for first year and transfer students to apply for admission was extended to August 15.

Using Zoom, the **School of Law** held an Open House and offered virtual conferencing with student ambassadors. The School also offered programs to help prospective and current students navigate the changes to the administration of LSAT and Bar Exams.

The **College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences** conducted individual video calls with prospective students and interview/info sessions online.

Admitted students/families received ongoing support from financial aid advisors, faculty/student led panel series, a weekly video series introducing community members, and a **Virtual Athletics Prospect Day**. Coaches remained in close contact with current and incoming student-athletes. **Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR)** was reimagined as a series of virtual information sessions to onboard new students for fall.

We are moving forward with plans to welcome students to campus this fall. Extensive contingency planning is in place to support the continuation of student learning at WNE.

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WNE

The Magazine of WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY

The Magazine of Western New England University is published for alumni, parents, and friends of Western New England University.

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As my retirement date approaches, I find myself looking back over the past quarter century of my life, which has largely been devoted to furthering the mission of our University. As I do so, it becomes more and more apparent to me how very grateful I am to have been able to work hand in hand with so many good people who have participated along the way in helping raise the University to its current elevated status as a premier institution of higher education.

When I think of our faculty, I see clearly that they have worked tirelessly to help our students grow and blossom. Because of their dedication, our students' lives have been truly transformed. Working with such devoted professionals has been a deep pleasure. As an extra joy, many of these special colleagues have become close friends.

I think of our staff without whom we simply could not have functioned. These reliable and skilled people have served our campus community every day, displaying their profound belief in our University. I am so very grateful to have spent many hours each day with such admirable human beings.

I think of our Board of Trustees, past and present, the finest volunteers I could have ever hoped to work with. I have relied upon them for their knowledge, generosity, and guidance as they have supported our University and me wholeheartedly for the past quarter century.

I think of our donors as well as our volunteers who have given so generously of themselves. Such friends of the University include community members, student families, as well as faculty, staff, alumni, and trustees, and so many others who have supported us and have thereby participated in our success.

But most of all, I think of our students—without whom we would simply have had no reason for existing. Our students have always inspired me, amazed me, and caused me to feel so proud. They have enriched my life. I treasure the memories of our many wonderful conversations—wherever our paths may have crossed, on and off campus. I am happy that many students continue to share their lives with me as alumni, inviting me to their weddings and other important life events.

I have had the pleasure of presiding over the commencements of roughly half of our 48,000 alums—greeting them individually as they walk towards me on stage. Each and every one of them remains indelibly imprinted upon my heart and soul.

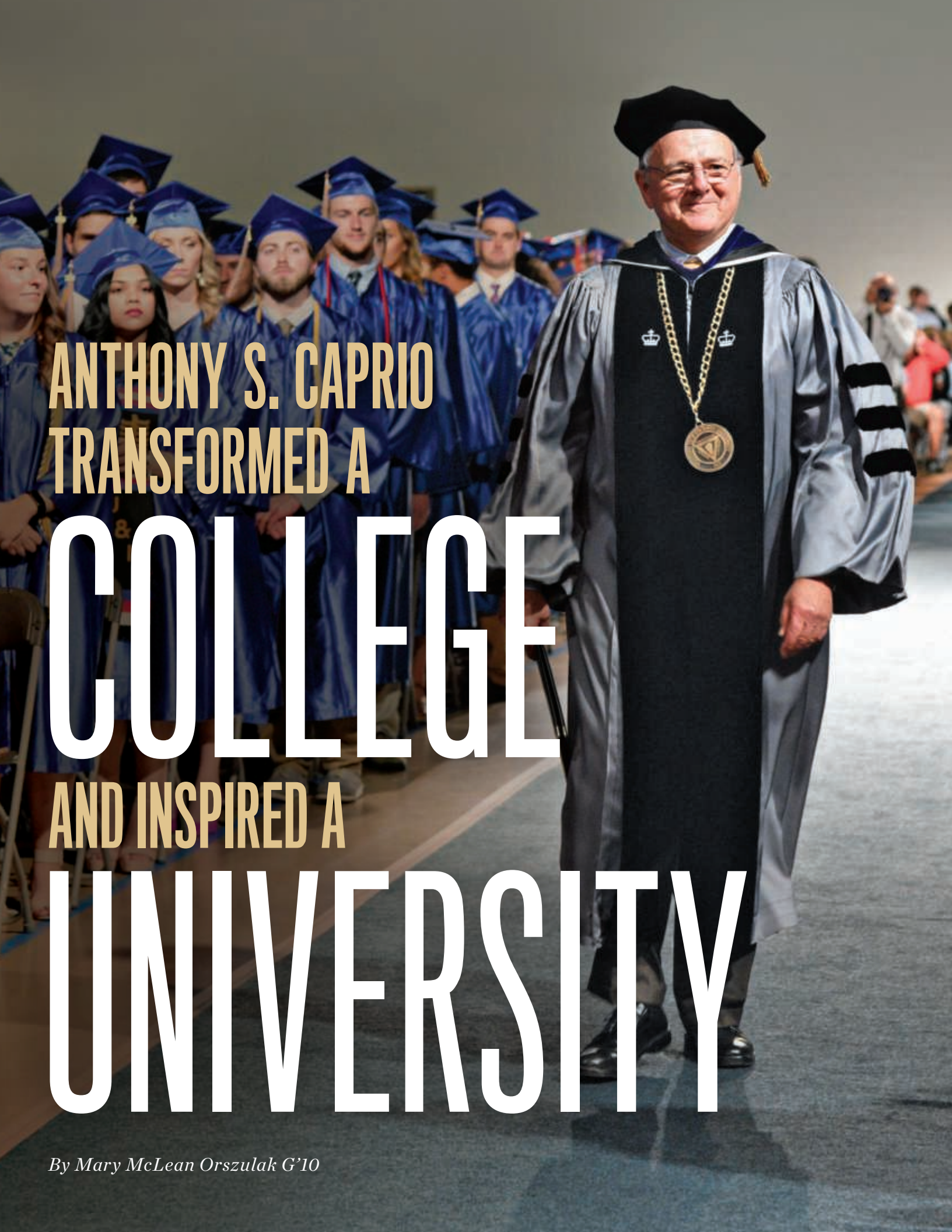
While the Covid-19 pandemic has challenged all of us, I am so grateful to once again have seen the strength and commitment of the entire campus community in support of our students. What a great team! I am honored to have been your President, and I am confident that Western New England University will continue to prevail.

Please know that I will deeply miss you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Caprio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony S. Caprio
President



ANTHONY S. CAPRIO
TRANSFORMED A

COLLEGE

AND INSPIRED A

UNIVERSITY

By Mary McLean Orszulak G'10



LET US BE PIONEERS
WITH OUR STUDENTS
AT THE NEW FRONTIERS CREATED
WHEN WE BREAK AWAY
FROM THE CONFINES OF OUR
RESPECTIVE DISCIPLINES.
LET OUR STUDENTS SEE US
WORKING TOGETHER AND
TEACHING TOGETHER.
THE CHALLENGES OUR STUDENTS
WILL FACE IN THE NEW CENTURY
WILL BE SOLVED
BY BREADTH OF VIEW
AND LENGTH OF PERSPECTIVE.



PRESIDENT ANTHONY S. CAPRIO
INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Eight months into his tenure, Dr. Anthony S. Caprio, an engaging and passionate new leader, spoke those words as he was formally installed as the fifth president of Western New England College on April 25, 1997. He would remain president for nearly one quarter of the institution's 100-year history. In that time, President Caprio would shepherd the University through an era of unparalleled growth in an age of unprecedented change, guiding its transformation from a much beloved college to a nationally-ranked university.

THE CAPRIO TENURE. SHAPING AN IDENTITY. DEFINING AN INSTITUTION.

What drew Anthony S. Caprio, an internationally renowned language scholar, educator, and administrator, to Western New England? The power of possibility. He recognized that the ingredients for greatness were already present: a beautiful campus with room to grow, a faculty and staff singularly committed to student success, a dynamic mix of academic disciplines, an athletics program ripe with potential, a loyal base of alumni and community stakeholders, and a history of tenacity in good times and in bad.

In his Inaugural Address that April day, President Caprio laid out both his vision for Western New England and his approach to leadership, one of collaboration predicated on the belief that "Ours is a communal responsibility to advance the College and to realize its full potential.

"Working together," he told the audience, "we will define an entity all its own." Under his leadership that has been accomplished.

With the goal of carving out a distinctive niche and institutional identity that would elevate Western New England to

the national stage and beyond, strategic planning began in earnest. These efforts produced a clearly articulated mission and defined goals and purposes that resulted in the *Strategic Plan* 1998-2003, a *Facilities Master Plan*, and an *Athletics Study* that would lead the Golden Bears to 62 tournament appearances, inspire a deeper culture of institutional pride, and boost the growth of athletics and recreational sports.

The *Strategic Plan* was updated and revised for 2003-08, and a new plan: *Individual Focus. Global Perspectives: A Personal Approach to a University Education* was adopted for 2009-18. In February 2020, Dr. Caprio presented to the University community the final collaborative document of his tenure: *A Call to Action for Our Second Century*, which defines the institution's purpose in its second century and outlines action items to make them a reality.

President Caprio's aspirations for the University that had been expressed in his inaugural address would come to be realized over the course of his tenure.



PIONEERING NEW FRONTIERS

With President Caprio's guidance, innovation and entrepreneurial thinking became central to the University's successful evolution and expansion of academic offerings. Breaking down academic silos, cross-disciplinary collaborations have yielded dynamic combined degree programs and courses, as well as game changing research and patents developed between departments, academic units, industry, students, and increasingly, with peer institutions. Western New England's size made it agile, and while others moved timidly during the Recession years, Dr. Caprio pushed Western New England to move forward with plans to open a pharmacy school, and to create much needed state-of-the-art science laboratories in a new building housing that program and the sciences. Later the University ventured into new fields such as behavior analysis, analytics, and occupational therapy.

WORKING AND TEACHING TOGETHER

Team-based learning is another hallmark of a Western New England University education fostered under Dr. Caprio's leadership. Observing cross-disciplinary team-teaching provides a model for students to emulate as they problem-solve and collaborate on their own projects and research. Initiatives like the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, on-campus and external competitions,

“
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STUDENTS NOT ONLY
TO MAKE A LIVING,
BUT TO LEAD A
FULFILLING LIFE.”

and industry-based research projects give students the skillsets and experiences essential for today's team-based work environments.

PREPARING FOR A NEW CENTURY

With the digital age in its infancy in 1996, President Caprio understood even then the value of giving our students the foundational skills to navigate their futures. Despite current debate about the enduring value of liberal arts, time and again, the transferrable skills gained from an integrated liberal and professional education—the ability to research and parse data, to think critically, to communicate effectively, and to live ethically—are those most prized by employers. “If ever the world cried out in need for a breadth of

THE CAPRIO TENURE

LED ACHIEVEMENT OF TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY STATUS with Western New England transforming from a college to a university in 2011.

EXPANDED FROM 50 TO 90 academic program offerings.

LAUNCHED THE \$35 MILLION CAMPAIGN FOR OUR SECOND CENTURY, the most ambitious fundraising endeavor in the University's 100-year history, and successfully exceeded the earlier \$20 million *Transformations Campaign* (2003-08).

ESTABLISHED SCHOOL OF PHARMACY (now College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences) in 2010.

DROVE THE PURSUIT OF ACCREDITATIONS, beginning with AACSB International Accreditation for business programs (2005), PhD in Behavior Analysis (2014), Doctor of Pharmacy (2016), and Doctor of Occupational Therapy (2019), among others.

SPEARHEADED CONTINUOUS ELEVATION, leading the University to move from a regional to nationally-ranked university in *U.S. News and World Report* and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the *Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education* in 2019.



MAJOR MILESTONES

ADVOCATED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST PHD PROGRAM

(Behavior Analysis 2010) and for LLM programs (2005).

COMMISSIONED PUBLICATION OF COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY BOOK

titled *Western New England: From College to University—A Retrospective 1919-2011*.

GREW CAMPUS FROM 18 TO 28

MAJOR BUILDINGS (185 to 215 acres).

Major construction projects included the LaRiviere Living and Learning Center, Evergreen Village Townhouses, the Kevin S. Delbridge Welcome Center, Golden Bear Stadium, the Trelease Memorial Baseball Park, the Softball Park, Southwood Hall, the Flynn Family Pavilion, the Center for the Sciences and Pharmacy, and the University Commons. Renovations/expansions were made to Rivers Memorial Hall, Herman Hall, D'Amour Library, Sleith Hall, the Blake Law Center, the outdoor sports complex, and the St. Germain Campus Center.

CHAMPIONED MAJOR ADVANCEMENTS

in technology and infrastructure to support the student recruitment, onboarding, and learning experience.

view and length of perspective, it is now,” wrote President Caprio in the initial *Strategic Plan*. “We must hold ourselves to defining professional and liberal education for this era. Everything we do should be viewed in light of our drive to integrate liberal and professional education.”

With this holistic view on student development, as he has often been heard to say, “We must prepare students not only to make a living, but to lead a fulfilling life.”

CHAMPIONING THE DRIVE TO UNIVERSITY STATUS

A significant achievement of President Caprio’s tenure was the result of his efforts to attain university status for the institution. While many clung to the “WNEC” acronym, President Caprio explained often and convincingly that this was more than a name change; it was essential to the very future of the institution.

In truth, by the 2010s Western New England had outgrown its “college” delineation; in many ways it had already become a comprehensive university. With forecasts for declining demographics in the US, the change in name was also important as it sought to extend its reach to international students for whom the term “college” is akin to a high school. In Massachusetts, to be designated as a university, an institution was required to offer PhDs. Capitalizing on the strengths of its existing Psychology program, Western New England introduced the PhD in Behavior Analysis, which has achieved international recognition for the research

capacity of its faculty and for its focus in the area of autism. This was followed by the PhD in Engineering Management.

In 2019 the University joined the newly created Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the most recent update to the *Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education*. This new classification resulted from the creation of additional professional degrees. Dr. Caprio championed the establishment of the pharmacy and the occupational therapy programs. The first PharmD students graduated in 2015 and the first Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD) students will complete their studies in August. The year 2019 also marked another reclassification when *U.S. News and World Report* placed Western New England into the category of National Universities, for its *Best Colleges 2020* rankings.



WORDS OF *Gratitude*

"A legendary mentor, leader, and friend. It was a pleasure for my twin brother and me to enjoy a simple meeting with him before graduating in May of 2019...Thank you President Caprio, and stay awesome."

BENJAMIN GREENBERG '19

"Anthony, the Western New England University community will never forget the countless ways you have touched all of our lives and your leadership to make this University one of the leading institutions in the country!"

STEPHEN ROURKE G'81, TRUSTEE

"Dr. Caprio's kindness, empathy for others, and love for the institution have been constant throughout his tenure."

MYRA QUICK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

"It was a pleasure to work with you! You have set the bar high for those who follow."

DR. DENNIS LUCIANO, PROFESSOR EMERITUS

"Great leader and better man! We have only known Dr. Caprio for a short time but he has made our entire family feel welcome and part of the WNE family! We will miss our conversations when we visit our son on campus."

BOB GILL, PARENT

"Not only is he a wonderful president, but an exceptional individual to look up to."

COLLEEN CLARK-MOELLER '03

WHAT HAS PRESIDENT CAPRIO'S LEADERSHIP MEANT TO YOU?

Continue the conversation and share your memories and well wishes with Dr. Caprio at wne.edu/caprio.



"Underscoring these changes is a focus on career-readiness that has long been central to our educational model and instrumental to the success of our graduates," says President Caprio. "That is why we have been ranked number five in the country and number one in Massachusetts for getting jobs. Enhancements to the Career Development Center and the new Vanech Family Academic Advising Center, as part of *The Campaign for Our Second Century*, will strengthen our ability to prepare students for a rapidly changing workplace and careers yet to be imagined."

THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

The president has likened Western New England University to a "living, breathing organism." If that analogy is true, then Anthony Caprio has long been at its heart.

Cutting a distinguished figure whether walking through campus or leading the Commencement procession, he is famously approachable. He has an uncanny capacity to connect with people in even the briefest of interactions, making them feel valued and instantly at ease. What is most remarkable is that in subsequent encounters he remembers details of those conversations—to ask students how their project is going, inquire about an alumnus' new job, congratulate a faculty or staff member on an accomplishment, or to thank individuals for all they do for the University.

Throughout his 24 years of service, President Caprio has reached out and traveled across the country and around the globe to connect with alumni and friends of the University. His popularity with students has also



BUILDINGS MAY BE BUILT,
ACADEMIC OFFERINGS MAY GROW,
ACCOLADES MAY BE EARNED, BUT IT
IS OUR PEOPLE WHO MAKE WESTERN
NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY SUCH
A REMARKABLE PLACE.

made him a sought after wedding guest, honored to stand with the happy couples in WNE alumni group photos as an ambassador of the Golden Bear family.

“I am so privileged to have shared these past 24 years in the company of inspiring faculty, whose commitment to students has transformed so many lives; in concert with caring staff who work tirelessly to help our students feel welcomed; in collaboration with dozens of remarkably dedicated trustees, past and present; and with the support of thousands of alumni who love this institution and the people here as much as I do,” he says.

He estimates he has shaken the hands of 24,000 students—one half of our 48,000 alumni. “I feel that each graduate has been imprinted in my mind and in my heart, I am overwhelmingly connected to them.”

FACING OUR GREATEST CHALLENGE

Just three months prior to his retirement, Anthony Caprio faced his greatest challenge: the COVID-19 pandemic, which dramatically changed all of our lives. Trustee Janet Johnson Bullard '69 wrote him stating: “You have really had to outdo all that you have accomplished in the previous 23 years of your tenure and you have done it brilliantly. May you be blessed with health and all the courage you will need to soldier ahead.” Dr. Caprio responded with calm and clarity stating: “We were creative and entrepreneurial, caring, and united in a singularity of purpose. That is who we are and who we will continue to be for years to come. I am all the more proud to have served as president of this great institution.” 🐾



BY JUDITH CURRAN

CAMPUS NEWS

School of Law Team Wins Best Brief at National ABA Tax Challenge

Mitch Renfrew L'20 of Barkhamsted, CT, and **Ryan Hartnett L'20** of Whitesboro, NY, won "Best Written Submission" at the national 19th Annual American Bar Association Law Student Tax Challenge. The competition was held during the Section of Taxation 2020 Midyear Tax Meeting in Boca Raton, FL (January 30-February 1).

The Western New England team was one of six finalists selected from more than 80 law schools nationwide to participate in the final J.D. Division rounds, where they presented oral arguments before a panel of distinguished tax lawyers and tax court judges.

This award-winning duo builds on a legacy of successful Tax Challenge teams coached by Professor Frederick Royal, a nationally renowned tax scholar and director of the LLM and Master's in Elder Law and Estate Planning.

"Over the years, I have been very fortunate to coach a number of gifted student teams who have competed in the Student

Tax Challenge," explains Royal. "Our teams have done extremely well and have finished in first place twice, in second place twice, and have also won the prize for Best Written Submission twice. The performance of our teams clearly demonstrates the quality of the legal education that our students receive at Western New England University School of Law."



Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program Accredited by ACOTE

Western New England University is pleased to announce that the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) has voted to grant

a Status of Accreditation for a period of seven years to the Western New England University Doctor of Occupational Therapy program.

This status allows graduates of the program to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR).

The inaugural class of OTD students will graduate this August.



Campus Chefs Moving Toward a More “Greenhouse Grown” Future

On February 27, members of the local media gathered in the University Commons dining facilities to experience “Greenhouse Grown” culinary creations by chefs from Aramark Food Service. Greenhouse Grown is part of the Henry P. Kendall Foundation New England Food Vision Prize initiative, an effort to encourage area college and university campuses to improve the health, sustainability, and vitality of the region’s food system. Western New England University, Springfield College, and Elms College, in partnership with Aramark

and Wellspring Harvest greenhouse, will expand local greenhouse production to meet campus culinary needs year-round, thereby increasing the need for more local food production and enhancing job opportunities in the region. Such local food sourcing will be even more valuable in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.



PharmD Class of 2019 Achieves Highest First-time NAPLEX Pass Rate in Massachusetts and Second Highest in New England



Congratulations to the WNE PharmD Class of 2019 for achieving the highest first-time pass rate (91.4%) on the NAPLEX in the state of Massachusetts, and the second highest in the New England region. Class members also bested all other Massachusetts and Connecticut schools for the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam (MPJE).

The Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2020 achieved an 82.4% Phase I match rate among candidates for postgraduate pharmacy residency programs, the highest match rate in the New England region and second nationally only to the University of California – San Francisco.



“We have always had great career building opportunities that connect our students to the business world,” says Dr. Sharianne Walker, who has been officially named dean of the College of Business.

“We also have bright, creative thinkers among our student body and on our faculty. We need to mobilize that force to become an equally valuable resource to industry, connecting the business world to Western New England University. Therein lies the bridge; we’ve got to be walking across it both ways.”

A NATURAL STEP INTO A NEW ROLE

Stepping into the deanship is a natural fit for Walker, who has worked in both academia and industry.

On the faculty since 1996, the Northampton, MA native was a Sophia Smith Scholar at Smith College where she earned a B.A. in English, and holds master’s and doctoral degrees in Sport Management from UMass Amherst. Prior to being named interim dean in 2019, she served as chair and professor of Sport Management, codirector of the Master of Science in Sport Leadership and Coaching graduate program, and athletic direct report to the president, which she remains.

Her passion for her work and dedication to helping her students reach for their biggest dreams have landed her mentees among a who’s who of major and minor league teams, sporting goods brands, stadiums, collegiate athletic programs, and the media. But the sport industry is first and foremost a business, and it is Dean Walker’s broad-based appreciation for all facets of business that have made her highly respected among her WNE peers and members of the business community.

“As we move boldly into the future, we believe that our role as a College of Business is to bridge business and academia. Business partnerships, relevant curricula, and faculty engaged in business research and with the business community guarantee our students that they are positioned well to face the challenges of business today.”

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BUILDING



CONNECTING PEOPLE
TO OPPORTUNITIES
IS NOTHING NEW FOR
DEAN SHARIANNE
WALKER. SHE'S BEEN
DOING IT ALL HER LIFE.

BRIDGES TO BUSINESS

By Mary McLean Orszulak G'10



Dean Walker at the Center for International Sport Business travel seminar to the 2012 London Olympics

Dr. Sharianne Walker is the coauthor of *Managing Intercollegiate Athletics*; *Managing Sport Organizations: Responsibility for Performance*; and *Strategic Management in International Sport in International Sport Management*. She has presented her research in leadership development, business operations, and revenue generation at various international, national, and regional conferences. Walker has also spearheaded accreditation, strategic planning, and assessment projects at the University.

She has served as a faculty fellow, an NCAA faculty representative, chair of the WNE Athletics Council, athletic direct report, and was inducted into the University's Downes Athletic Hall of Fame.

Walker was previously named Career Woman of the Year by the Massachusetts Business and Professional Women's Association and served as director of the Springfield Leadership Institute. She is currently the chair of the Board of Trustees of Frank Newhall Look Memorial Park in Florence, MA.



Dean Walker at TD Garden

FORTIFYING INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS

While working with industry and organizations within their disciplines is common at the University, Dean Walker is seeking to make it a more integrated and focused practice among her faculty.

"Each of our faculty in all of our majors from accounting to pharmaceutical business do it all of the time," she says. "We have started to really focus on and enhance the impact our College of Business has with its multiple stakeholders. One such initiative is a framework we've created called F2B (Faculty 2 Business), encouraging our faculty to systematically and purposefully get into the business community each semester, to talk with business people, take what they've learned back to the classroom, and to foster connections with our campus community. Early outcomes include the development of student-industry-faculty research projects, internships, employment opportunities, and curriculum and pedagogical enhancements."

Walker also views industry advisory boards as key in leveraging the talents and insights of professionals. The Dean's Board of Advisors, the Alumni Accounting Advisory Council, the Young Alumni Accounting Advisory Board, the Center for International Business Advisory Board, and the Pharmaceutical Business Advisory Board all provide that breadth of industry perspective so essential to making informed curricular and program decisions.

"An advisory board is a great way to establish systematic and longitudinal engagement and impact in the business community, creating that bridge from academia to business. Our boards are an invaluable resource," says Dean Walker.

In the classroom, industry professionals, often alumni, engage in video conferences or in live lectures. Engaged learning takes the form of projects for real clients, simulations, local and international travel, leadership and honors programming, and applied learning in the Frances and Norman Cohen Trading Room and the Business Analytics Center.

Graduate programs are meeting students where they are in their careers with stackable certificates that can be combined toward a master's degree and delivery models ranging from online/in-class options to the low-residency, accelerated Sport Leadership and Coaching program designed to accommodate working coaches and sport management professionals. A new accelerated accounting program moves students efficiently through the undergraduate and graduate accounting programs.

Undergraduates have access to the University's network of 1,000 internship sites, and the College of Business, along with the Career Development Center, welcomes Big Four accounting firms and corporate recruiters to meet with its highly prepared students.

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MENTORS

In her own life, mentorship has played a critical role in shaping Dr. Walker's approach to leadership. Her first mentors were her mother, a teacher, and her father, who held senior management posts with the J.J. Newberry Company before becoming the longtime executive director of the Northampton Chamber of Commerce.

"My love of business came from my dad's work with the Chamber," recalls Walker. "At an early age I was involved in all kinds of business events and innovative business programming. He was an awesome leader and creative thinker. I spent a lot of time with him talking about entrepreneurship, leadership, strategic planning, and how to build a high performing team—so you might say much of that was in my DNA."

While business was in the Walker blood, a love of sport was at its heart.



“Since I was five years old and into my adulthood, I can’t remember a time when I was not on some sort of a team,” recalls Dr. Walker. “A lot of that was influenced by my family’s love of sports. Back then you played a different sport every season, but basketball was my primary sport, and my brother played football at Texas Christian University. Sport has always been a part of who we were and what we did as a family.”

When she learned that she could pursue a graduate degree in Sport Management, blending two of her passions, Walker was thrilled. “Sport Management as a business pursuit was pretty revolutionary back then when these programs started to emerge,” she explains. “It introduced me to the business side of sport in a way that I hadn’t considered before.”

It also opened the door to opportunities at two of the biggest sport organizations in the world.

“I got an internship with the Celtics and worked with Jeff Twiss [VP of media services] who is still there today,” says Dean Walker. “He hadn’t had a full-time woman intern at that time and really took me under his wing. He gave me so many opportunities to take on a role even as an intern in helping him to manage the communications and PR function. He was a wonderful teacher; it made me feel at the time ‘that’s the kind of person that I want to be.’”

She credits Twiss with teaching her “how important relationships are in business, along with integrity; being a hard-working, ethical, and humble per-

son; and serving others in your career—those things really spoke to my heart,” says Walker, who included Twiss in the dedication of her doctoral dissertation.

In the golden era of Bird, McHale, and Parish, Dean Walker remembers the seminal moment when, as a lifelong Celtics fan, she first stepped onto the revered parquet.

“The first time that they gave me my staff press pass and I walked down on the Garden floor for a game was a moment I’ll never forget. I remember the thrill of actually being in the excitement of an NBA contest and being that close to the action.”

With Twiss’ support, Walker landed a job with another dream team, working for Commonwealth Sports Properties, the holding company for the Foxboro Race-track and Stadium, and the Patriots.

“I am just so blessed to have had the opportunity over the years to work with such amazing students, many of whom I continue to stay connected with as alumni. There is nothing more powerful than seeing them achieve their dreams.”

“It was a very different operation than the NBA,” explains Walker. “It was one of my first significant exposures to the breadth and depth of responsibilities in managing business enterprises, collaborating across multiple stakeholder groups, working with unions, understanding compliance, managing financial and technological resources...and the importance of paying attention to all these little details. It also got me thinking about ‘how are we educating people for the realities of the workplace?’ That’s where those seeds were really planted.”

Walker had the opportunity to connect to her third passion, teaching, when she pursued her doctorate in Sport Management. Then Western New England came calling in 1996 when it launched its Sport Management program.

“I was very fortunate to have a number of offers as a woman with a Ph.D. in sport management, but I came to Western New England and fell in love with the place, the people, and the community,” she says. “I saw it as an opportunity to build a program and work with a remarkable faculty. My first office was located next to the venerable Hank Bazan who told me on my very first day, ‘you just wait, you will put down your roots here and never want to leave.’ I am just so blessed to have had the opportunity over the years to work with such amazing students, many of whom I continue to stay connected with as alumni. There is nothing more powerful than seeing them achieve their dreams,” says Walker.

“Dr. Caprio was coming in at the same time, and he and I sat down and talked that summer...and the rest, as they say, is history,” laughs Walker in reference to the *Athletics Study*, often called “The Walker Report,” she was tasked to lead which helped to usher in a new era of athletics prominence at WNE.

Nearly a quarter century later, Sharianne Walker is uniquely poised to lead the College of Business and help prospective students and their families see a business degree as a tool that can be used for the greater good. As the world deals with seismic changes brought about by COVID-19, we see the positive impacts of collaboration between business, entrepreneurs, scientists, data analysts, researchers, and the medical community. “More than ever we are relying on creativity and innovation and needing to harness the power of public and private sector resources and initiatives to deliver immediate positive impact,” says Walker.

“I believe people’s perceptions of business are being broadened in a positive way,” she continues. “A career in business can provide a wonderful opportunity for a very fulfilling life. There are millions of business people out there doing good and changing the world around them, making life better, and making the planet better. This is a place where future leaders can learn how to make those connections. We want to be that bridge.” 🐾

A photograph of a BattleBots competition. In the foreground, a black robot with yellow wheels and a blue logo, labeled 'WHIRLASH', is shown in motion. In the background, several people wearing 'HUGE' t-shirts are standing behind a barrier, watching the competition. The scene is lit with bright stage lights.

LARGER THAN LIFE TEAM HUGE AIMS TO DOMINATE ON BATTLEBOTS® TV COMPETITION

By Alex Lyman '12/G'16

TEAM HUGE is steamrolling its way to the top on BattleBots®, the world's largest, and only professional robot fighting TV series, airing in 150 countries. The five-member team includes two Western New England University College of Engineering alumni: team leader and builder Jonathan Schultz '16, who built his first robot for his Engineering Senior Design Project, and his college roommate Peter Lombardo '16, who handles electronics, share design, and fabrication. TEAM HUGE has racked up 64% in career wins and is quickly working its way up the ranks to becoming a Bot fan favorite on the Discovery and Science Channel program.

The Connecticut-based team has competed in 11 matches in the program since 2018 with seven wins. They also won the 2018 competition's Best Design Award, which was voted upon by their peers. So, TEAM HUGE might be on its way to becoming a bit more than "a slightly bigger deal" (as its tagline claims) on BattleBots.

So what prepared these two WNE alumni for the big time in the world's most-watched combat arena?

"The greatest skill we have is the ability to take it slow, break it down, and think critically about every design feature on HUGE," says Jonathan. "We wouldn't have been able to go from rookies to contenders so quickly without seeing and exploiting common weaknesses in our opponents. Without having learned at WNE how to teach ourselves new skills, think critically, and learn from those around us, we never would have been prepared for the challenges of the BattleBox!"

Now that Jonathan and Peter have graduated and are achieving success in their work, they often return to campus to inspire the next generation of students interested in robotics at various FIRST® Robotics Competitions (FRC) held at the University. FRC encourages students at the



Team HUGE (L to R) Don Doerfler, Garrett Santoline, **Jonathan Schultz '16**, **Peter Lombardo '16**, and Maddie Thumma



“WITHOUT HAVING LEARNED AT WNE HOW TO TEACH OURSELVES NEW SKILLS, THINK CRITICALLY, AND LEARN FROM THOSE AROUND US, WE NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR THE CHALLENGES OF THE BATTLEBOX!”

Jonathan Schultz '16

elementary, junior high, and high school levels to not only build their own robots and program them to complete tasks in competitions, but also to market and fundraise the entire effort. Team HUGE has made appearances at several of these competitions on campus to cheer on the competitors, and they even bring the current iteration of their robot to show.

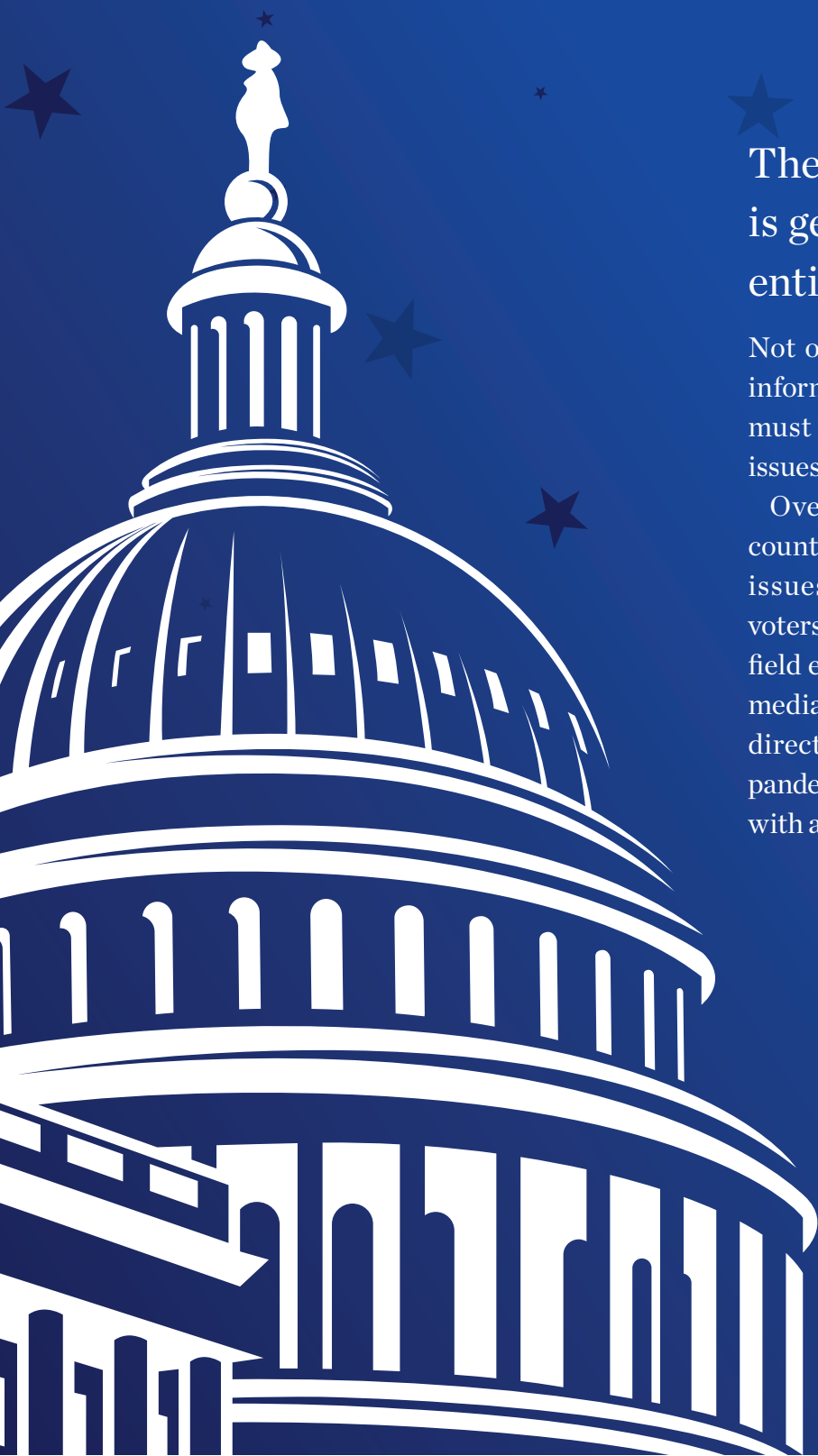
“BattleBots® was the foundation of our interests in robotics, leading us towards FIRST programs and eventually to WNE,” says Jonathan. “We’re thrilled to use our platform as BattleBots® competitors to inspire the next generation of robot builders, and grateful for WNE’s resources that led us into the world of combat robotics.”

Up next for Team HUGE is conquering the next season of BattleBots®, which is currently on hiatus from filming due to COVID-19. To keep up with their progress, you can check out their website at www.HugeBattleBots.com. 🐾

— WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE —

ELECTION 2020 HEATS UP





The 2020 Presidential Election is gearing up and is slated to be entirely unprecedented.

Not only will the history books have a lot of information to cover and analyze, but the voters must wade through a quagmire of candidates, issues, and scandals in real time.

Over the course of the election so far, the country has faced a variety of headline-making issues, but the biggest concerns affect the voters themselves. From a crowded Democratic field early on, misinformation spread on social media, the threat of both computer hacking and direct election interference, and the COVID-19 pandemic, American citizens have a lot to contend with as they seek to fulfill their right to vote.





DEMOCRATS CREATE A CROWDED FIELD

Democrats began the election cycle in the position of searching for the perfect candidate to run on the Democratic ticket. What was unusual was that while there were several big names and front runners that could potentially fit the bill, more and more Democrats signaled their intention to run. In fact, Democrats started off with a field of nearly 30 candidates early on, which was overwhelming for the average voter.

A dense field proved challenging for many of the lesser-known candidates, who struggled to break out from the pack. Professor of Political Science and Director of the Polling Institute Tim Vercellotti noted that many credible candidates were unable to find a hook—what made them memorable to voters—and therefore Democrats may have lost out on solid options.

“In order to survive in a crowded field you need money, and there were very good candidates in the field who just couldn’t

get traction,” Dr. Vercellotti said. “In another year, if it was a much smaller field, there were some very talented people in this cycle who might have made it much further.”

With President Trump as the Republican nominee, his campaign for re-election is also in full swing, adding his voice to those vying for presidency, and adding



Dr. Tim Vercellotti

more complexity to the election cycle. As the incumbent, President Trump still has a strong base that wants to see him through to a second term through both fundraising and votes.

On top of the work the average citizen must accomplish in order to properly vet each candidate, the election cycle seems to lengthen each year, creating burn out among voters.

“It feels like it starts earlier and earlier and I think there is voter fatigue,” said Dr. Vercellotti. “By the time people began voting in the primary season, they felt a little worn down by it.”

Professor of History John Baick offered some advice to survive the endless campaigning and to build stamina for the November election, as well as make an educated decision on who to vote for. “The key is to focus, to stay really attentive to the issues that matter to you, and to try to filter out a lot of the noise,” he said.



Social media is critical and I think there are greater demands on people to be discerning in what they see. Stories that get pushed at us on Facebook or Twitter are not always credible and we don’t always have the tools we need to judge what is legitimate and what isn’t.”

DR. TIM VERCELLOTTI

Professor of Political Science and
Director of the Polling Institute

DETERRING THE SPREAD OF MISINFORMATION IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a huge part of many people’s lives, spanning generations from Generation Z and Millennials, to Baby Boomers and beyond. Whether it’s staying in touch with friends and family or reading news headlines, social media has kept us connected, for better or worse, in ways that the Founding Fathers could not have dreamed of.

“Social media is critical and I think there are greater demands on people to be discerning in what they see,” said Dr. Vercellotti. “Stories that get pushed at us on Facebook or Twitter are not always credible and we don’t always have the tools we need to judge what is legitimate and what isn’t.”

One of those tools Dr. Vercellotti is referencing is taking the time to ask some simple questions. If an article shows up in your Facebook feed, there is usually an explanation for why you are seeing it—something about your profile brought that article to you. On Twitter, you can always go back and look at who is responsible for a specific tweet and the clues their profile may offer in terms of legitimacy.

Dr. Vercellotti also cautions voters about letting their passion for politics get ahead of their common sense. He says we must pause before sharing or liking information without verifying it first. Without that pause, we are individually culpable for spreading misinformation, and our own personal credibility is at stake.

ADDRESSING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND HACKING

Among the greatest concerns about the upcoming election is the threat of interference through hacking. Technology is increasingly at risk for intrusion by hackers and that leaves everything from our credit card information to election results vulnerable.

While our systems may not be infallible to hackers, election officials are doing everything in their power, including utilizing policies and safeguards, to protect the integrity of the election.

Ted Bromley L'99 is the Director of Elections in the State of Connecticut and regularly drafts new legislation and advises state legislature, local election officials, and

other state agencies on the proper conduct of elections. It's a critical role that has only grown in importance.

"The biggest concerns that we have about the upcoming election are foreign interference and the misinformation campaigns that appear to be getting more frequent," Bromley said. "We work closely with our federal partners to ensure that our technology is properly secured."

The chaos in Iowa that resulted in the delayed reporting of Democratic Caucus results due to a new app that malfunctioned highlighted the fact that elections are already technologically vulnerable, even without any sort of hacking or interference.

"The Iowa Caucus is an excellent reminder of why our office is so important when it comes to election administration," Bromley said. "Although it may take a little longer to report results, Connecticut's reliance on paper is our best defense against threats to our cybersecurity. We must all be very careful not to thrust our elections into the latest technology for the sole purpose of speed."

While election officials are cognizant of the perils of voting facing the modern world, that knowledge alone doesn't make the system invincible. That means it becomes that much more important for election administrators to be extremely vigilant and for elections to be as transparent as possible.



"The biggest concerns that we have about the upcoming election are foreign interference and the misinformation campaigns that appear to be getting more frequent."

TED BROMLEY L'99
Director of Elections

COVID-19 ENTERS THE RACE

In late February 2020, a new, uninvited guest suddenly emerged in the race for President: the COVID-19 pandemic. The thought of the virus spreading through the polls became a concern. For a short time primaries continued, including Super Tuesday, the largest block of voting states. However, as the pandemic progressed, states issued stay-at-home orders, and the country shut down in order to curb the spread of the virus. Despite this, quite a few states had not yet held their own primary elections, and were forced to reconsider how they may take place.

This, of course, begs the question, what does this mean for November? This election could potentially take place in the middle of a second wave of COVID-19. There is a possibility that voting methods must shift in order to accommodate citizens who could spread or be exposed to the virus.

Whether that means voting by mail-in ballot, or increasing the number of polling sites while decreasing occupancy limits, there will need to be special care to protect both the integrity of voting and the health and wellbeing of voters.



DR. JOHN BAICK
Professor of History



MOVING FORWARD IN 2020

Looking forward to the election in November, there are many more challenges to democracy on the horizon. There are major issues facing society such as the impact of the retirement of 80 million Baby Boomers, climate change, and tackling COVID-19 through vaccines.

The need to address these issues head-on is critically important, and starts with smart voting in order to get representatives in all offices that are willing to take on the issues voters feel most strongly about.

Dr. Baick offered clear cut methods for voters to gauge candidates up for election.

"The first thing I would tell someone is to make sure they are registered to vote," he says. "All of this means nothing if people don't vote. The second thing is, I think they should look at the candidates and the issues and ask, how does this affect the future? But not just my future and not just my pocketbook. Voters must feel comfortable with that." 🐾

A photograph of Professor Bruce Miller, a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a blue button-down shirt. He is standing in a classroom, gesturing with his right hand towards a whiteboard in the background. In the foreground, the back of a student's head is visible, looking towards the professor.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ICON AND BELOVED PROFESSOR BRUCE MILLER RETIRES

After Four Decades at School of Law

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Professor Bruce Miller, who has been teaching law at Western New England University School of Law for the last 40 years, is retiring at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. While Professor Miller looks forward to retirement, for someone who has been politically engaged since he was 12, stepping out of the batter's box will be easier said than done.

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By Kenneth Stratton '19/2L



Motivated by the political climate of the 1960s and his love of history, philosophy, and literature, Miller worked his way to Harvard Law. “I loved the assignments, I just hated the classes. I couldn’t wait to be a lawyer,” Miller explains. What he did enjoy was serving as a teacher’s assistant for a civil procedure class in his third year. That opportunity whet his appetite for teaching, and when it became his profession, he vowed to give his students a vastly different experience.

Miller began his career with the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare as a legal services lawyer, working on issues such as school desegregation and the national welfare rights movement. Starting in 1969, just after Richard Nixon’s inauguration as President, Miller remembers expecting an upheaval in the department, only to be reassured that the continuity and stability of their work would remain.

“People stand for the rule of law here,” Miller remembers his boss telling him. “Just by doing our jobs, we were able to stop Nixon from doing some of what he wanted to do,” Miller says.

Later, Miller accepted a job in Los Angeles at the National Senior Citizens Law Center, working with the elderly poor. He spent much of his time focused on Social Security, supplemental security income, and private pension law.

“There was nobody senior to me, so I was responsible for any litigation I brought,” Miller recalled. He was traveling the country, working in the federal courts on behalf of the elderly poor, and—with no litigation experience prior to that point—quickly developing and learning. This experience confirmed what Miller already knew: “the law can be useful for social change.”

Outside of the impact litigation he worked on, Miller also focused on supporting local legal aid lawyers, which furthered his interest in teaching. By 1980, through what Miller calls “tremendous luck and privilege,” he found himself teaching at Western New England.

“Bruce’s and my affiliation with the Law School began around the same time,” says former student, Kathryn Calibey L’82. “He quickly became a mentor, advisor, and friend. As his teaching assistant, his passion for equal justice—particularly the notion that an individual’s economic status should not determine the justice he or she receives—was impactful,” Calibey explains.

“I COULD DESCRIBE BRUCE AS EMPATHETIC, INTELLIGENT, KNOWLEDGEABLE, AND INDEFATIGABLE, AND THAT DESCRIPTION WOULD BE TRUE, BUT INCOMPLETE. INDEED, IF I HAD TO CHOOSE JUST ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE HIM IT WOULD BE DISARMING.”

Howard Kalodner

Dean Emeritus, School of Law

Miller was already impacting the lives of students at the School of Law, shaping the student-oriented community he felt was lacking in his own law school experience. But it would not have been possible without the trust of then Dean Howard Kalodner.

“I could describe Bruce as empathetic, intelligent, knowledgeable, and indefatigable, and that description would be true, but incomplete. Indeed, if I had to choose just one word to describe him it would be disarming,” says Kalodner. “Bruce begins each argument not by describing his views and not by criticizing the views of others, but by acknowledging the possibility of a solution which you will later realize he does not embrace. By the end of his presentation, you will be provided the ‘Brucian’ solution, and you will be convinced that it is the only reasonable solution to the issue.

“He is a gifted rhetorician and a wonderful teacher. The lives of the faculty and his students have been enriched by his presence,” Kalodner added.

“I felt like this guy was going to be okay as a boss,” Miller says, recalling his first encounters with Kalodner. He went further to call the former dean an inspirational leader. He remembered that Kalodner favored an Ivy League approach to teaching the law, but it spoke a lot to his leadership style that he allowed Miller to follow the “Brucian” approach, and chart his own course. “I felt completely accountable to me, and that was right for me,” Miller says.

“Bruce is one of the smartest, funniest, and nicest people I know. From the beginning, he was a natural in the classroom, loved by his students and admired by his colleagues, me included,” says retired professor Leora Harpaz. She was on the committee that hired Miller and remembers that he had his own special way about teaching—which included energetically pacing back and forth in front of the classroom during the entire lecture.

“He had that cool, West Coast vibe, and seemed like an unlikely transplant to the colder, less hip, more buttoned-down East Coast,” Harpaz says. She was quick to add, however, that she was wrong in this first impression. They taught together for over 30 years, and Harpaz knows well that the presence of Miller and his wife, Jane, have greatly benefited the community.

In all the years that he’s been with the School of Law, Miller has remained active in using the law for social change, continuing to impart his wisdom from experience on students.

“Professor Miller will always be a larger than life figure in my mind,” says Ryan Sullivan L’18. “Many of his lectures have stuck with me throughout the years—indeed, I can’t hear the term ‘diversity jurisdiction’ without thinking about Pete Rose,” Sullivan says, referring to the renowned Miller lecture in which he brings his love of baseball and civil procedure together to discuss the case of *Rose v. Giamatti*.



“From Professor Miller, I learned to think more deeply and more fully about everything. I am forever grateful for having been his student,” says Sullivan.

“PROFESSOR MILLER WILL ALWAYS BE A LARGER THAN LIFE FIGURE IN MY MIND. MANY OF HIS LECTURES HAVE STUCK WITH ME THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.”

Ryan Sullivan L’18

Always humble, Miller casts doubt on having such a deep and full understanding of the law. “I feel I should understand the rule of law better than I do,” Miller says. He laughed, knocking his own profession; one which is so important, but sometimes cannot define its own terms. After four decades, he’s still asking questions, an inquisitive student of law at heart. It

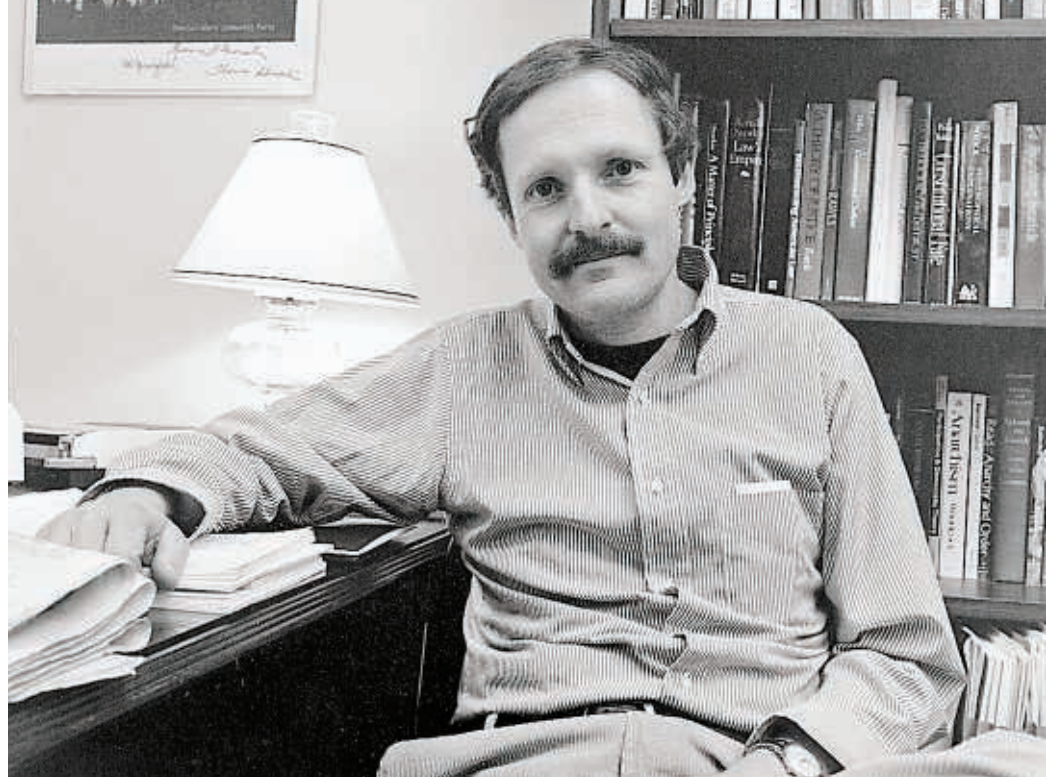
should be no surprise then that Miller has formed close relationships with his students over the years.

“A wise adviser, an intimate friend who is a sage counselor,” Thomas DeBose L’10 says of Miller. The alumnus explains that he and Miller formed a close relationship while working on a *Law Review* note together. “*No Virtue In Passivity*—It was the title of the note he wrote, and it’s a creed for him more than a title for a note,” DeBose says. “He has strong opinions and didn’t flinch away from sharing them,” his former student explains, adding that Miller taught him it was possible to disagree without being disagreeable.

Miller is certainly far from passive in his social justice work. He has been a trustee of the Rosenberg Fund for Children since 1990. He is president of No More Guantánamos, and has supported legislation requiring healthcare providers to not participate, directly or indirectly, in the abusive treatment or interrogation of prisoners. In recent years, Miller has held several talks at the School of Law, on topics including freedom of speech, immigration and security related travel restrictions, and impeachment.

"BRUCE IS ONE OF THE
SMARTEST, FUNNIEST, AND
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ADMIRER BY HIS COLLEAGUES,
ME INCLUDED."

Leora Harpaz
Professor Emerita



The Center for Social Justice

Furthering its commitment to social justice, the School of Law recently launched the Center for Social Justice, whose mission is to work toward advancing social justice through research, advocacy, education, and public engagement. The Center seeks to harness the expertise of faculty, the energy and interests of students, and a variety of resources from community organizations, all in the effort to serve the underserved. It provides opportunities for law and other University students to participate in hands-on experience in working for social justice through advocacy, scholarship, and legislative engagement.

The Center for Social Justice addresses the following areas of social justice inquiry and advocacy:

Civil rights and international human rights, as well as environmental and climate justice, and advancing the rights of indigenous peoples

Community economic development, economic justice, financial literacy and self-sufficiency, and consumer rights

Elder law and the issues facing the aging population in our community

Gender equity and other legal issues confronting the LGBTQI community

Immigrants' rights on a local and national level

Racial justice issues, including criminal justice reform

Current projects in the Center for Social Justice include the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) Children and Family Law (CAFL) pipeline program, which provides training for representing children and parents in protection cases; the Immigrant Protection Project, where *pro bono* efforts work to satisfy the unmet needs of immigrants in the region and on the U.S.-Mexican border; returning calls on the American Civil Liberties Union of Western Massachusetts Law hotline; and high school pipeline programs, which include mock trial, mentoring, camps, and internship opportunities.

Learn about news and events at
wne.edu/social-justice.

School of Law Establishes Bruce Miller Social Justice Fellowship

"Professor Miller has been a devoted and passionate teacher and advocate for social justice, and I count myself lucky to be his colleague," says Dean Sudha Setty. "I can think of no better way to honor his work and his legacy at the School of Law than to establish the Professor Bruce Miller Social Justice Fellowship, which will support law students who follow in his footsteps of striving to use law as a means toward justice and fairness for all people."

Your gift to the Bruce Miller Social Justice Fellowship will provide financial aid to a law student doing social justice summer work.

Honor Professor Miller with
a gift to the Fellowship at
wne.edu/thefund.

We plan to celebrate Bruce Miller
at an event on November 13.

For updates, visit
wne.edu/alumni/law.

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION OF DONORS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

As Western New England University embarks on its second century, the Advancement Division is focused on how to best strengthen ties with alumni and cultivate the next generation of volunteer leaders and donors. National trends in giving are shifting in the digital age. The University is adapting to a new sense of personal responsibility and desire for transparency voiced by donors.

Vice President for Advancement

Beverly Dwight leads the University's fundraising and engagement activities. "Traditional tried-and-true methods such as phone-a-thons, direct mail, and email still remain part of our outreach and fundraising strategy. However, we are also leveraging new technology to reach a broader audience," says Dwight.



Younger alumni especially want to know where their money is going and how it will benefit the University. Recent technology investments have increased the ease of donating, added new channels for sharing how donated funds are used, and enabled more targeted communications around philanthropic opportunities.

TAPPING INTO THE APPEAL OF CROWDFUNDING

Crowdfunding is a method of fundraising for specific Western New England University projects through the collective effort of alumni, family, friends, and donors. This approach leverages the broad networks of University supporters using social media and other digital platforms to achieve greater reach and exposure.

Since the University invested in the crowdfunding platform, it has proven a successful tool to engage alumni and friends. For donors, crowdfunding makes giving easier and more transparent. They know exactly where their gift is going and how it will be used. And for student groups and academic departments, crowdfunding provides an avenue to reach alumni as well as others who may be interested in contributing to their cause, who otherwise might never have known of the need.



In 2019, members of the WNE chapter of the the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) raised \$1,160 through Crowdfunding to defray costs of attending the Regional NSBE Conference

In a crowdfunding project, the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) raised funds to help offset the cost of attending a regional conference in Danvers, MA. Gifts totaling \$1,160 helped with transportation, food, and conference registration fees for the participating students.

In fiscal year 2019, 11 groups hosted crowdfunding projects through the platform, collectively raising nearly \$18,000 with gifts from 233 donors. As of April 2020, 14 fiscal year 2020 projects have generated more than \$80,000 in new gifts, and the volume of activity is expected to continue growing.

Recent crowdfunding projects have included WNE Wrestling travel to the NWCA National Duals Championships (January 2020), the Golden Bear Racing Baja Club enhancing its Baja vehicle design and programming (2020), and student participation in the Grace Hopper Women in Computing Conference (October 2019), among others.

More crowdfunding projects are added regularly. Visit crowdfund.wne.edu to view current projects.



TEXTING DELIVERS THE PERSONAL TOUCH

With technology as a core part of the engagement strategy, the University has also launched a text communication platform to better connect with alumni, with early results showing promise. Texting delivers a personalized message, including event invitations, volunteer opportunities, reminders, and invitations to give. Many young alumni prefer a text message over a phone call, and the ease of texting allows them the flexibility to respond when it is most convenient for them.

STUDENTS BENEFIT WHEN WNEGIVES

Another initiative that taps into the spirit of being a Golden Bear is WNEGives, the University's annual community giving event. Launched in 2016, the event promotes 1,919 minutes of giving in honor of the University's founding year. WNEGives has continued to grow each year, attracting more individual donors, larger gifts, and increased engagement from volunteer Social Ambassadors.

In its first year, WNEGives raised more than \$100,000 from 336 donors. In just a few years, the event has grown to attract more than 1,100 donors with collective giving exceeding \$260,000. While much of the growth can be attributed to inspiring donor challenges and expanded communications, there is no doubt that the University's investment in a dedicated software to manage the giving day and the Social Ambassadors program have played a key role in the continued success.

The online system allows visitors to make a gift, observe the overall progress of the giving day, monitor progress on individual causes and challenges, see who else donated, and interact with a social media activity display. A key feature of the site is the ability for volunteer Social Ambassadors to share WNEGives with their networks.

WNEGives supporters can also host challenges—a donation of matching funds or a fixed amount contingent upon achieving a donor goal to a particular cause. Participating in WNEGives appeals to many donors, as the online system allows them to feel part of something much bigger than themselves.

[Learn more about WNEGives 2020 results in the Alumni News \(page 32\).](#)



**WNEGIVES RAISED
MORE THAN
\$260,000
IN UNDER 48 HOURS**



The Alternative Spring Break program (ASB) raised \$2,167 through Crowdfunding to help fund their trip to New Orleans to work with the NOLA Tree Project in 2018.

THE FUTURE OF FUNDRAISING IS HERE

As we continue to work to strengthen the Golden Bear network and donor base, we do so with the future of the University in mind. When alumni and donors continue to invest in Western New England University, they create opportunities not just for today's students but for generations to come, laying the foundation for a second century of promise and excellence. 🐾

HOW TO HIT A

GRAND SLAM IN BUSINESS

**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR MATT LABRANCHE AND DR. MARY SCHOONMAKER
ADVISE FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS TO TAKE A PAGE FROM SPORTS**



BY EMILY MCGUINNESS '20

Attendees of the 2019 Grinspoon, Garvey & Young Entrepreneurship Conference heard from a powerful pairing of WNE experts on the importance of mindset in overcoming challenges, when **Matthew LaBranche**, director of athletics, and **Dr. Mary Schoonmaker**, assistant professor of marketing, presented a workshop titled “Entrepreneurial Resiliency: Lessons from America’s Pastime.”

Drawing 500 student participants from the Grinspoon Entrepreneurship network of 14 colleges and universities, the conference was held last November at Springfield’s MassMutual Center. The annual conference is designed to encourage entrepreneurial activity in the Pioneer Valley. Workshop presenters focused on a range of topics, from how to fundraise, to how to pitch. Keynote speaker Emily Levy, CEO and cofounder of Mighty Well, shared her own entrepreneurial success story.

LaBranche and Schoonmaker’s presentation centered on entrepreneurial resiliency, citing parallels between success in sport and in entrepreneurship.



“In this day and age where a lack of resiliency can create significant personal and professional challenges for young people, each of our student-athletes is gaining valuable skills through their participation in athletics that prepares them for a bright professional future.”

MATT LABRANCHE
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



“First and foremost the foundation of resiliency is committing to positive personal mental health habits,” said LaBranche. He impressed upon the audience that focusing on the result is a surefire way to fail. Like athletes, he says, entrepreneurs should focus on preparation and developing a quality process that ultimately will yield success. He also encouraged them to view failure as a necessary step on the road to success. And just as athletes need good teammates and coaches to succeed, he told them: “Entrepreneurs need to surround themselves with strong collaborators and inspiring mentors.”

LaBranche drew easily from his experience as the long-time baseball coach at WNE to provide illustrations of these concepts and to hone in on some of these key ideas. “As a game that is wrought with failure, baseball specifically forces its participants to remain confident in the face of potentially overwhelming failure,” he explained. “It is important that players remain mentally and emotionally on an even keel and not allow failure to define who they are as people.”

Through his various baseball analogies, LaBranche highlighted how his messages can be internalized by an athlete or an entrepreneur to encourage grit and a growth mindset.

Co-presenter Dr. Mary Schoonmaker, assistant professor of marketing, spoke to the high level of interest in the topic, stating “the conference organizers felt a session on resiliency would help train these nascent entrepreneurs about how to handle the ups and downs on the entrepreneurial journey. Matt’s baseball analogies were perfect for this.”

Student development has been an important area of focus for LaBranche throughout his career. Since returning as director of athletics, he has invested in three important areas where student-athletes can develop off the field of play. LaBranche reinstated the Captain’s Council, which engages team captains as leaders within the athletic department. He also strengthened support for the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, which




focuses heavily on service learning, on campus and in the community. Furthermore, he reinvigorated the Life Skills Mentoring program, a collaboration between Athletics and academic support designed to accelerate student-athlete achievement in all areas.

With these experiences, the University’s 500 student-athletes are able to develop the critical leadership skills needed as aspiring professionals while achieving their athletic potential.

LaBranche and Schoonmaker’s participation in this conference not only showcased Western New England’s expertise in academic and athletic programs, but also demonstrated the University’s dedication to student-athlete development. Their presentation highlighted our leading-edge athletics department as one that teaches students how to be successful through the establishment of a resilient growth-mindset on the field and in the classroom. Through the medium of athletics, students are able to develop essential skills for professional and personal success, and the lessons learned from sports can be translated into broad terms to apply to almost any entrepreneurial endeavor. Participating in the Grinspoon Annual Conference gave LaBranche and Schoonmaker a platform to illustrate the training, thought, and dedication that goes into the teams and athletes, and their immense impact on the future of these students. 🐻

KEEP UP WITH NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

For all the latest, visit wnegoldenbears.com, and follow WNE Athletics on social media:

-  @Western New England Athletics
-  @WNE_GoldenBears
-  @WNE_GoldenBears

DOWN UNDER

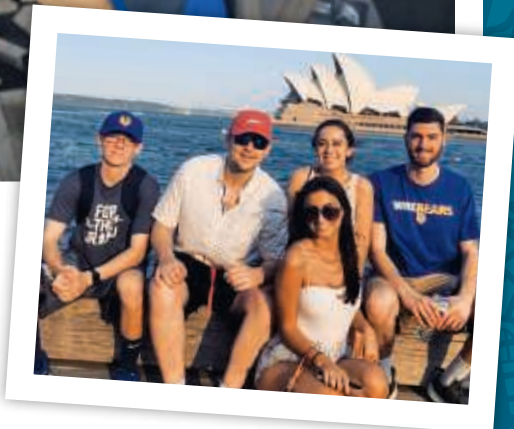
HOW I SPENT MY WINTER VACATION

BY ALEX LYMAN '12/G'16

Ten College of Business students had a Winter Break they'll never forget when they and Director of the Center for International Sport Business and Professor of Sport Management Curt Hamakawa L'84 traveled to **Sydney, Australia** for an exciting January term study abroad seminar.



Students show their WNE pride at the gates of the University of Notre Dame Australia, where most of their classes were held.



The students, wanting to make the most of the opportunity, arrived in Australia early to get a head start on sightseeing and begin the new decade by enjoying New Year's Eve at the world-famous fireworks display atop the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge.

After the festivities were over, the group got down to business with their classes, which were held at the University of Notre Dame in Sydney as well as on site at the Clovelly Bowling & Recreation Club. The programs consisted of lectures on International Business in Asia Pacific as well as 15 presentations from senior executives of companies and government agencies, including Australia and New Zealand Braze, Pfizer, Google, the U.S. Consulate, Virtual Room, New South Wales Rural Fire Services, and others.

Two alumni living and working in Sydney, **David Fitzpatrick '12** and **Diana (Sigona) Doddrell '08**, took the time to meet up with our students. Doddrell, who works for PricewaterhouseCoopers

Australia, welcomed the WNE group at the company's new headquarters building in Bangaroo and gave students a tour of the offices and a briefing of her work for PwC.

Students also spent an entire day at Australia Walkabout Wildlife Park where they were able to take a walk on the wild side and get up close and personal with animals native to Australia, including kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, dingoes, emus, and pythons. They learned about the park's origin and were briefed on eco-education, and indigenous medicines and culture, including learning how to throw a boomerang! Several WNE students even worked up the courage to participate in the Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb, and four others took the opportunity to sky dive over Sydney.

From international educational experiences and professional networking to plenty of outdoor adventure, our College of Business students had the January term of a lifetime! 🐾

“

This course has driven me to open my mind even further and pay attention to more parts of the market. Normally I would pay attention to what is going on at home. Now I know the world outside those walls is massive and has a plethora of shifting parts.

DYLAN GRISWOLD '20

General Business

It was interesting to hear from these business professionals who work in the global market of the Asia Pacific at familiar companies like Google and Costco, along with small businesses and large corporations based in Australia. The global business world is much more complicated than running a business in the U.S. alone. I enjoyed hearing about international business from the speakers' point of view because they conduct business with other countries all over the world every day.

SAMI DION

Rising Senior, Marketing Communication/Advertising

This course gave me a significant global outlook, especially with the wildfires that were going on. I never truly understood the effects and the degree of events like those in other countries until I came here.

WAYDE KENNEY

Rising Senior, Sport Management and Marketing

Each day we heard from credible business professionals who gave us valuable information. This trip has enhanced the tools and skills I will need moving forward. One of the coolest journeys in my lifetime.

BEN SHEA '20

Sport Management

This course made me want to travel more. I absolutely loved the people and culture of Australia and I would love to find similar experiences across the globe.

EMILY SAJDAK

Rising Junior, Accounting

ALUMNI NEWS

The Spirit of Giving on Display During WNEgives

On March 10–11, 2020, Western New England University hosted its fourth annual community giving event, WNEgives. Alumni, parents, friends, faculty, and staff gave more than \$260,000 in support of the University's most urgent priorities. A total of 1,124 individual donors participated, representing 61 different class years, and residing in 443 cities in 36 states and 5 countries. Together, they supported 91 different areas of the University, including teams, programs, departments, and colleges/schools. Athletics claimed the top

spot on the leaderboard, raising \$86,789.18 with gifts from 750 donors. There were 107 volunteer Social Ambassadors who helped encourage their own networks to give back through social media posts, text messages, emails, and personal phone calls. The 1:1 outreach was the key to this year's success, helping raise 27% more dollars and while engaging 13% more donors than 2019. Alyra Donisvitch, assistant director for alumni programs, spoke to the critical role of Ambassadors, stating "Without our amazing team of

Social Ambassadors, WNEgives would not have been possible. Their help spreading the word about WNEgives ensured that we were able to engage our alumni, students, staff, faculty, families, and friends in this important community giving event. I cannot thank them enough!"

Adding to the excitement of the day, 26 donor challenges were offered to inspire giving to a part of campus or by a type of person.

To learn more about WNEgives, visit wne.edu/giving/wnegives.cfm.

#WNEGIVES
1,919 MINUTES OF GIVING
\$260,000 RAISED



61
DIFFERENT
CLASS YEARS



36
STATES



\$86,789
RAISED BY ATHLETICS



1,124
INDIVIDUAL DONORS
PARTICIPATED



91
DIFFERENT AREAS OF
THE UNIVERSITY



5
COUNTRIES



27%
MORE RAISED
THAN 2019

WNE.EDU/GIVING

Hartford Yard Goats' Tim Restall Hits Home Run with WNE Students

Tim Restall, president of the Hartford Yard Goats, spoke at Western New England University February 19 in the "For the Love of the Games" program presented by the Center for International Sport Business and sponsored by the WNE Alumni Association. Students heard from Restall about his unconventional path to become president of the Yard Goats, working in a family amusement park in New Hampshire, and serving as a food and beverage manager, and later as a general manager of an event catering and hospitality services company. Restall talked about leading the transformation of the New Britain Rock Cats to the Hartford

Yard Goats in 2016 and overseeing the construction of the team's home field, Dunkin' Donuts Park, in 2017.

"For the Love of the Games" is funded in part by the Alumni Association Grants Program, which supports programs hosted by student organizations, faculty, staff, alumni or other members of the University community. Since launching the program in 2007, the Alumni Association has awarded 354 grants, totaling more than \$506,000 in support of education and campus life.

Missed this event? View the recording on our WNE Alumni Youtube channel.



Alumni Celebrate and Honor the Class of 2020 in Virtual Greetings

As the University continues to respond to COVID-19, many of our cherished traditions have been impacted, including Commencement. In order to celebrate and honor 2020 graduates who worked so hard to reach this milestone, the Alumni Association and Law Alumni Association each launched virtual message boards for the Class of 2020. Alumni, faculty, staff, and friends shared notes of encouragement, advice, and congratulations with the newest members of our alumni family.

Visit wne.edu/alumni to learn more.

Golden Bear Superheroes Serve on the Front Lines of COVID-19 Pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, Western New England University alumni could be found helping on the front lines of the response. Using #GoldenBearSuperhero, alumni working on the frontlines were recognized and celebrated, including:

NANCY CHIAIA '82, Clinical social worker on the Palliative Care Team in Fairfield County, CT

DOUGLAS CLARKE '87, Line firefighter and public relations officer for the Rocky Hill, CT Fire Department

MATTHEW COHEN '10, Police officer in Williston, VT Police Department

ANDREA LONGO '13, Operating room and ER nurse at Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco, NY

AMY MASI '14, 5th grade special education teacher in Springfield, MA

Read more about our #GoldenBearSuperhero project in the digital edition at magazine.wne.edu. To let us know about a WNE alum working on the front lines, email alumwne@wne.edu.

LET'S CONNECT!

For the latest alumni news, career resources, alumni benefits, and more, follow @wnealumni on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.





Class Notes

STAY CONNECTED

Your classmates want to know about the milestones in your life. Send your news including career changes, accomplishments, publications, weddings, births, and adoptions to the Office of Alumni Relations at alumwne@wne.edu or online at wne.edu/alumni.

1980s

JANE SCHUSSLER L'81 (JD) has recently retired from Stock and Leader, and was presented with the Jane Alexander Award by the Women in Law Committee of the York County Bar, for extensive advocacy of women's rights through example, education, and activism in the legal community.

JAMES FIERBERG L'83 (JD) has recently published a book, *Mentoring Lawyers: Finding Civility*. This book emphasizes the use of a strong moral compass to succeed. It can be found on Amazon.

CHERYL SMITH L'83 (JD), general counsel and title IX coordinator at Western New England University, was nominated and honored for her community leadership and forward thinking at the 15th Annual Leader in Law event presented by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*.

DOUGLAS CLARKE '87 (Mechanical Engineering) was recently promoted to public relations officer within the Rocky Hill Fire Department. He will continue to serve as a line firefighter alongside his new duties. He has been serving in Rocky Hill, CT, within this department for 11 years. Outside of the fire department, he is also a mathematics instructor at H.C. Wilcox Technical High School in Meriden, CT.

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM F. MARTIN L'87 (JD) is now an associate justice in the District Court in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1990s

PAUL HEBERT '91 (Liberal Studies) has been elected Barnstable Town Council President. He has represented Precinct 3 in Centerville for the past six years prior to this election.

ANDREA GASPARDINO KOVACHY '92 (History) has accepted a position at George Washington University as director of volunteer programs and services for the Alumni Relations and Annual Giving offices.

STEPHEN ZAJCHOWSKI '94 (Psychology) has been named the new director of human resources and organizational development for D&T Reliable Transportation in San Antonio, TX.

PABLO MADERA G'96 (Criminal Justice Administration) joined Elms College as the director of public safety. He had been an officer then chief of the Ludlow Police Department for 37 years prior to this role.

RITA AQUILIO L'97 (JD), matrimonial and family law attorney with Lawrence Law, spoke at the NJICLE Hot Tips in Family Law program. She discussed confidentiality obligations for lawyers when blogging.

KELLY (ANGYAL) KUNKEL '97 (Psychology) joined ProBiora Health in Phoenix, AZ as the education network program manager, responsible for growing the company's network of dental hygienist educators.

JULIANN FLAHERTY G'98 (Criminal Justice Administration) has been appointed as Arlington, MA police chief. Flaherty is the first woman appointed to this position.

CHRISTINE BROOKS '99 (English) has written and published a book, titled *The Cigar Box Poems*.

DANIEL DESCHAMPS '99 (Criminal Justice) has been promoted to deputy chief of the Eastham Police Department. He is a 20-year veteran of the department.

JENNIFER EATON '99 (Mathematics) has accepted a new position at Hudson Valley Community College, as the faculty liaison and coordinator of the Center for Effective Teaching.

SHENANDOAH TITUS L'99 (JD) has written and published the book *The Whistleblower: Defeating Bullies, Harassers & Management Gang Retaliation*. The book is published by Outskirts Press and is available on Amazon.

2000s

JOSEPH BENNET '00/G'02 (Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice Administration) has been promoted to Hopkinton police chief after serving the department for more than 27 years.

KATE (HARRINGTON) MCAFEE '00 (History) has been named associate commissioner of the Hockey East Conference within the NCAA.

TIMOTHY COHOON G'01 (Criminal Justice Administration) has been promoted to deputy chief of operations after 24 years serving in the Braintree Police Department.

CHRISTINE HORNBY G'04 (Criminal Justice Administration) has been promoted to sergeant officer of the Dennis Police Department. She has served in the Dennis Police Department for 19 years, and is the first female in its history to become a sergeant officer.

LUKE RYAN L'05 (JD) was featured in the Netflix docuseries "How to Fix a Drug Scandal" for his important work in the western Massachusetts drug scandal involving drug lab technician Sonja Farak. He was also interviewed by *Rolling Stone* magazine and a variety of other news outlets for his involvement in the series.

KELLY TRAHAN L'05 (JD) has recently been promoted to partner at Shipman & Goodwin LLP in the firm's Stamford, CT office.

JOSEPH BURGE '07 (Law Enforcement) has retired from the Greenfield Police Department after serving the town of Greenfield in various police roles, most recently as lieutenant, for the last 28 years.

ANTHONY CINGRANELLI '07 (Finance) is now sales director for Ironside Insurance Group in Boston. Anthony has over 12 years of experience in insurance sales.

JEFFREY MOGAN L'07 (JD) accepted a position at MassMutual as the head of human resources compliance and employee relations.

MARJA BARR G'08 (MBA) was promoted to associate director, contracts at United Health Group.

STEPHANIE (BARROW) LYON '08 (Management Studies) was promoted to director of human resources and joined the executive leadership team at SAERTEX USA in North Carolina.

DUNCAN MARKOVICH '09 (International Studies) just marked the one year anniversary of launching Better Ways LLC, in Branford, CT.

2010s

EMILY LAUB '10 (Business Management) has been promoted to associate administrator of human resources and faculty affairs in the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation at the Yale School of Medicine.

ANDREA (MOMNIE) O'CONNOR L'10 (JD) has been appointed to the panel of Chapter 7 Trustees for the District of Connecticut by the United States Trustee Program.

KRISTI (FANELLI) REPEL L'10 (JD) has been promoted to partner at Olinsky Law Group in Syracuse, NY.

ISAAC MASS L'11 (JD) and his wife, Angela Mass, have acquired the Greenfield Garden Cinema. They will be the third owners in the history of the 90 year-old landmark business.

SHAUNA FOSTER '11 (Social Work) was recognized as a New Hampshire 40 Under Forty award recipient for her contributions to the field of social work.

KAYLA (MARTIN) MORALES '11 (Psychology) accepted a school social work position at Putnam Valley High School, in Putnam Valley, NY.

ALEXANDRA LYMAN '12/G'16 (Communication/Organizational Leadership) received a Gold Award from the 2020 Educational Advertising Awards and a Silver Award from the 2019 Collegiate Advertising Awards, along with Matt Reilly, multimedia design & technical director, for their work on Western New England University's Lead Piece, which is sent to prospective students and their families. She has appeared on two podcasts: Marketing Mistakes (and How to Avoid Them) from Hollywood Branded; and the Be Awesome! Podcast.

JONATHAN BRETON L'13 (JD) was recently named shareholder at Bacon Wilson P.C.

JOHN MINDEK '15 (Criminal Investigation) graduated from the 84th Recruit Training Troop for the Massachusetts State Police in June 2019.

ALICIA JACOBS G'16 (Communication/Public Relations) was presented with the 112th NYS Assembly District Women of Distinction 2020 Award. This honor is symbolized by a formal Proclamation from Assemblywomen for outstanding volunteer work and positive impact on the quality of life in the community.

TEREMAR RODRIGUEZ VAZQUEZ '16/L'19 (Criminal Justice/JD) was promoted from law clerk to associate at Morrison Mahoney LLP, with the passing of the bar exam.

DANIELLE CHYLINSKI '17 (Public Relations) joined the minor league baseball team the Hartford Yard Goats as promotions and marketing manager. Additionally, in 2020 Danielle launched Chylinski Media, LLC where she is the CEO.

WILLIAM LLOYD '19 (Mechanical Engineering) accepted a position at Barnes Aerospace as a process engineer.

VERONICE SANTANA L'19 (JD) accepted a position as District Court Prosecutor with the Northwestern District Attorney's Office in Massachusetts.

CORRECTION

KEVIN WILLIAMS L'81 (JD) was selected as a 2019 Georgia Super Lawyer by *Super Lawyers Magazine*. He is a partner at Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial in Atlanta, Georgia. This note was incorrectly attributed to **KEVIN WILLIAMS L'05** in a previous publication.

SEE MORE ONLINE

For more Class Notes and our In Memoriam listing of alumni and community members who have recently passed away, visit magazine.wne.edu.

Marriages



SARAH STEPHENS G'19 and Alexander Lepage, October 19, 2019 in Belchertown, MA
(L-R) Deborah Davison Antinori, Laurie Barber G'19, Mark Jurkowski '91, Kristen Gernux, Eddie Ortiz, Alex Lyman '12/G'16, Sarah Stephens G'19 (bride), Alexander Lepage (groom), Tom Quinlan '17, Katie Farrell '16/G'18, George Knapp '15



JOSHUA LAUZIER '14/G'16 and Melissa Lindsay, October 12, 2019 in Ware, MA



TAIANY GOULART '11 and **JEFFREY DINI '11**, September 28, 2019 in Lenox, MA
Kapioanueue (Fin) Kaeka, Mitch Nichols '12, Christopher Stoddard '11, J. Alexander Swan '11, Evan Desorbo, Evan Michaud '11, Kaitlin Gibbons '11, Bridget (McCabe) Soper '10, Luke Brown '11, Aubrey Babcock '10, Pamela Dini, Brittany Mason, Jeffrey Dini '11 (groom), Taiany Goulart '11 (bride)



ANDREW CARPENTIERI '02 and Sarah Poulin, October 5, 2019 in Middlebury, CT
(L-R) Philip Scuderi '03, Andrew Arace '02, Sarah Poulin (bride), Andrew Carpentieri '02 (groom), Mario Arena '01/L'07, Christopher Cutler '02, Professor Jack Claffey



CARLA LYNCH '13 and Zachary Hancock, January 18, 2018 in Monroe, CT
(L-R) Danielle Caron '13, Dr. Carissa Anacona '13/'15PharmD, Coach Andrea Daley, Elise Carrington '12, Carla Lynch '13 (bride), Courtney Fitzpatrick '13, Christine Fairbanks '13



KATEY AMARAL '14 and **OLIVER MESTRE '14/G'19**,
August 3, 2019 in North Kingstown, RI



NICK LORICCO '12 and Samantha Lyman, December 7, 2019 in Sturbridge, MA
(Back) Chance LoRiccio '20, Dave Baldyga '13, Joe Bender '12, Tom Phillips '12/G'14, Mike Grinaski '12/G'18,
Mike Breault '12, Brian Dutra '12/G'15, and Greg Colby '12/G'16. (Front) Samantha Lyman (bride),
Rachael Marlin '12, Alex Lyman '12/G'16, Lauren Kohn '12, Jackie Rosa '12, and Nick LoRiccio '12 (groom)



MARISSA MASSA '11 and Christopher Cirillo, October 4, 2019 in Hunter Mountain, NY
(L-R) Danielle Remigio '11, Katie (Grogan) Staron '10, Steve Genovese '11, Brian Seidl '11, Ben Senderling '11, Sean Staron '12,
Marissa Massa '11 (bride), Christopher Cirillo (groom), Nick Polito '11, Alison Castellano '03, Brett Castellano '04



CARMEL SOTTO '11 and Ronald Gautreau,
August 10, 2019 in Brewster, MA



CASSANDRA DEAL '14/G'16 and Gregory Weston, February 15, 2020 in Branford, CT
(L-R) Jackie Buczkowski '12, Andrea O'Connor '14, Michael Cialdea '14, Cassandra (Deal) Weston '14/G'16 (bride),
Gregory Weston (groom), Ryan Graywacz '14, Brianna Levesque '14, Audra (Smyrski) Graywacz '14



CYNTHIA HOWE '14/PHARMD'16 and Brian Drzyzga,
August 23, 2019 in Sturbridge, MA

Marriages



LINDSEY STEWARD '11 and **JOSHUA GOLDBERG '11/L'14**,
March 24, 2019 in Wading River, NY



ALESSANDRA D'ATILLO '12 and **LEONARDO BARTOLOMEO '12**,
August 10, 2019 in Norwalk, CT

Baby Golden Bears



Chase Matthew, November 29, 2019 to **ELYSE (GAUVIN) DUDZINSKI '11** and **RYAN DUDZINSKI '11**



John David, December 23, 2019 to **CHRISTINA (LONGTO) BORDEN '10/G'11** and **STEVEN BORDEN '10**

Baby Golden Bears



Natalee Julia, January 23, 2020 to **MEGAN (MCNATT) BIELSKY '10** and **ROBERT BIELSKY JR. '09**



Francis, December 15, 2018 to **DANYELLE (BIGDA) MINDEK '15** and **JOHN MINDEK '15**



Mason, June 29, 2019 to **CHRISTINA (FARESE) SCHAPP '10** and **MICHAEL SCHAPP '10**



Scarlett Rose, November 2019 to **JOSHUA BOUFFARD '13/PHARM D '15** and Bianca Carbone



David, September 4, 2019 to **ANGELA (MONACO) MCCARTEN '11** and **DAVID MCCARTEN '11**



Fiona Meline, March 19, 2019 to **KAYLA (MARTIN) MORALES '11** and Chris Morales.



Patrick Barton, October 24, 2019 to **KATHARYN (VOGL) ORVIS '11** and **SAMUEL ORVIS '11**

GOLDEN BEAR

Class of 2020

We know how hard you have worked...

to attend Senior Formal, Spring Event, and Senior Week

to proudly wear your robe of blue and tassel of gold

to share Golden Bear hugs with friends and family

to shake Dr. Caprio's hand one last time...

and to hold your diploma with pride.

Together, we will find a way to celebrate.

#WNEGRAD

When it is safe to do so, the Undergraduate Class of 2020 will be warmly welcomed back to campus for a traditional commencement ceremony. Graduate students may have a traditional or celebratory event geared to an individual school/college or program.

CAPRIO CHALLENGE

**Celebrating the Impact and Influence
of President Anthony S. Caprio**



After 24 years of distinguished leadership, President Caprio will retire from Western New England University. The longest serving president in our history, his career at the University comes to a close at the intersection of the recent celebration of our Centennial and the beginning of our second century.

\$1 Million Caprio Challenge

Launched in February of 2020, the Caprio Challenge is a fundraising initiative to recognize President Caprio for his leadership, dedication, and service to Western New England University. A group of trustees and benefactors has offered up to \$500,000 in matching funds for gifts in honor of President Caprio.

Honor Dr. Caprio with a gift in support of his fundraising priorities, or direct your gift to the area of the University that is most important to you. Your gift will help us access \$500,000 from our Challenge Leaders and move us toward our \$1 million goal in honor of President Caprio's retirement.

Learn more about Dr. Caprio's legacy, fundraising priorities, and our Challenge Leaders at wne.edu/caprio.

THANK YOU TO OUR CHALLENGE LEADERS

John J. Brennan '71
Janet Johnson Bullard '69
Kevin S. Delbridge '77/H'19
Michael J. Flynn '82/G'83
Stanley Kowalski III '92
Kenneth M. Rickson '75
Roger W. Wade L'82
Kathleen A. White '78
Lyman and Leslie Wood

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Get the latest alumni news and learn about resources and benefits by visiting wne.edu/alumni. You can also read our expanded digital version of *The Magazine of Western New England University* and share stories with friends and family on your favorite social media platforms at magazine.wne.edu.

An aerial night photograph of the Western New England University campus. The image shows several large, multi-story brick buildings with white trim and windows, illuminated by warm yellow lights. The campus is surrounded by lush green trees, and a winding path leads through the grounds. The sky is a soft mix of orange and blue, suggesting dusk or dawn. In the bottom left corner, the text "WNE.EDU" is displayed in a white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a yellow dotted rectangular border.

WNE.EDU