

WNE

Magazine

WINTER 2021–2022

Powerful Preparation for

THE FUTURE OF WORK



A Joyous Return to Campus

After a much-needed summer break, excitement abounded as our Golden Bears returned home for the fall semester. From our first-year students moving in for the first time to the seniors who were soaking up every second of their last year, the sights and sounds of a bustling campus were invigorating. The time-honored traditions of our campus, such as Convocation and the Student Activities Expo, were held again. Student programming sprawled across campus and seats in the University Commons were occupied. Things on campus were just as they should be. And most importantly, the opportunity to be together again united our campus in a way that gave us hope and revitalized our spirits.



Move-in day is a family affair!



Advisor to the President Anne B. Sroka, Vice President for Enrollment Management Bryan Gross, and President Johnson serve up breakfast at the Pancakes with the President event at Friends and Family Weekend.



President Robert E. Johnson greets our students on campus.



Peer Advisors greeted our new students when they arrived on campus and encouraged them to show their #WNEspirit.



Undergraduate Convocation was held on August 30 to celebrate the first day of classes and kick off the new academic year. Student Senate President Megan Huertas encouraged first year students to make the most of their college experience.

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WNE

Magazine

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

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BE MORE Inspired



Did you know that Western New England University enrolls over 1,150 graduate students?

The University has over 30 graduate programs, and many offer a blend of online and in-person courses, with 16 programs that can be completed fully online.

If you aren't ready to commit to a full master's degree, our certificate programs are the perfect way to test drive the graduate student experience while earning credit that will count towards a master's degree. Choose from 11 certificate programs.

Programs in Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Law, and Pharmacy.

Take the next step to BE MORE.

Contact Graduate Admissions at **(800) 325-1122 ext. 1517**, **(413) 782-1517**, or **study@wne.edu**; or visit **wne.edu/grad**.

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND | **WNE**
UNIVERSITY

Doctoral, Master's, and Certificate Programs

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's always a great day to be a Golden Bear—and those days are only getting better.

Look at what we have achieved—in the midst of a global pandemic, social distancing, and working hard to protect one another, we've kept our spirits up and stayed the course.

Now we are back together in person and making those important personal connections. We are persevering through COVID-19 and showing our resilience to come back better and stronger.

During the challenges of the pandemic, it would have been easy to hunker down, bury our heads in the sand, and wait for the storm to pass. But we did not do that. Instead, we got to work and because of that, will emerge as a national university that is a “New Traditional University.”

In this issue, you will see evidence of this transformation. Through WNE Vision 2025, we have crafted a shared vision and drawn the roadmap to make that vision our reality. We are positioning ourselves to offer the best preparation for the Future of Work as a New Traditional University providing an Agile Mind Education with a personalized student experience.

Supporting this vision is our new leadership. On page 10, you will be introduced to Dr. Maria Toyoda, our Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, whose successes in cross-disciplinary collaboration, commitment to student success, procurement of grant funding, modernization of processes, and mobilization of faculty as partners in the recruitment process will be an asset to our academic offerings and the University.

We also welcome Basil Stewart as our new Vice President for Finance and Administration and look forward to his leadership and expertise in strategic planning.

As we continue to work towards a brighter future and shape the legacy of our University in its second century, know that the warm, close-knit community and traditions that have defined our Golden Bear family will continue on, better than ever. As the University continues to evolve and innovate, we will always be the institution you know and love. The WNE spirit is still very much a part of everything that we do and remains who we are at our core.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name.

Robert E. Johnson, PhD

We Are WNE

THIS IS OUR

WNE BOLDLY STAKES ITS CLAIM IN HIGHER EDUCATION

It's the start of a new era at Western New England University—but as the institution evolves and grows, the heart of our Golden Bear pride remains strong. It is on the foundation of our past and present that we will continue to build our future—which is one of exciting possibilities.

On September 17, 2021, President Robert E. Johnson stood on the lawn outside the University Commons and announced to faculty, staff, and guests what the future of the University will hold—what our stake in the ground will be as a national university.

The We Are WNE: This Is Our Future event was a culmination of a deep dive into the core of WNE, which resulted in a bold roadmap and a clear delineation of our unique identity and market position. With the vision established for the future

of the University, we must own it and apply it in all aspects of our work.

While Western New England University can mean many things to many people, in order to spread the word far and wide, it takes a unified vision, one that all of its stakeholders—from students to alumni, faculty to staff, benefactors to parents—can easily and instantly articulate.

“Everyone has to be saying it like a drum beat,” says President Johnson.

Central to that vision is that Western New England University must become the epicenter for preparing students for the future of work, to successfully navigate their career trajectories and to add value as a continuous state.

In his presentation, President Johnson illustrated our new position and detailed what it will mean for generations of Golden Bears to come.



FUTURE

BY MARY MCLEAN ORSZULAK '10 AND ALEX LYMAN '12/'16



Powerful Preparation for the Future of Work

A New Traditional University preparing learners and earners for the Future of Work, equipping them to create value and thrive in a complex and hyperconnected world.

WNE's position is delivered through three pillars. They are:

- A New Traditional University (as a new model for higher education)
- An Agile Mind Education
- Personal Exploration & Growth

Immediately following President Johnson's reveal, guests gathered for an outdoor celebration that featured beer from Loophole Brewing (cofounded by alumnus Jeff Goulet '88), including Second Encounter, the follow-up IPA to the Centennial-inspired First Encounter served at our Centennial Homecoming.

Excitement was palpable as attendees envisioned their roles in promoting the University's position of Powerful Preparation for the Future of Work, while celebrating the opportunity to be together in person for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

A Brighter Future as a New Traditional University

As Western New England University enters its second century, we reflect on our institution's rich history and cherished traditions, while boldly confronting the challenges and maximizing opportunities the future presents.

In the competitive higher education industry, institutions that can explore, experiment, and execute at the pace of change now reflected in our society will gain a competitive advantage. Western New England University will be such an institution.

We strive to be a pacesetter among national universities with the advantage of being comprehensive yet personal, private, and nimble. By respecting our traditions, capitalizing on our strengths, and with a willingness and drive to be entrepreneurial, we will differentiate ourselves in the marketplace.

We will be known as a 'New Traditional University,' defined by our agility and motivation to create value as we seek an intentional and enriching approach in all aspects of the academic and cocurricular student experience.

As one University with one vision and a shared ambition, we are poised to respond adeptly to the challenges and opportunities of the future. By so doing, all members of our University community—students, faculty, staff, and alumni alike—will benefit.

"This is a place where you come to explore, to understand your "why," to gain the skillset and mindset to thrive in the future of work and to evolve with a sense of humanity so you can transform the world," says President Johnson.

As we endeavor to create a brighter future for WNE and our students, there is no doubt that we have always been powerfully preparing students for the future of work. From experiential learning and research projects to leadership opportunities and student activities, WNE has given students past and present a foundation for being agile, forward-looking, and able to adapt and thrive. Now, we are taking ownership of and articulating what we do best while continuously building and improving upon our strengths—and the proof can be found all over campus.

“

Our vision is to be a 'New Traditional University' that is agile, grounded in professional studies, and enhanced by the liberal arts and mentored research, that provides graduates with the skillset and mindset to continuously create value throughout their professional career and assert their humanity in contributing to a global society.”

*Strategic Focus 2021–2025,
One University, One Vision*



WNE Class of 2025 Breaks Records and Continues The Golden Bear Legacy

Western New England University's newest class has surpassed opening day enrollment records at 880 and is among the largest, most diverse, and academically talented classes in the University's 100-plus year history. This year's recruiting cycle generated the second largest number of applications ever received at the University with 7,200 applicants.

The Class of 2025 boasts the largest group of first-year Engineering students in the College of Engineering's history at 188—seven students more than the school's record reached in 2014. The College of Arts and Sciences welcomed the largest group of incoming Psychology majors at 72—23 students more than its all-time record.

Twenty-six percent of students in the incoming class are from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, making this the third

most diverse group of students in the University's history. We also welcomed international students from countries including France, India, Nepal, Peru, Argentina, and Vietnam.

These Golden Bears boast the highest average test scores and the second-highest average GPA in the University's history. This year's average SAT score is 1250, 29 points higher than last year's average.

Our newest Golden Bears don't just want to succeed academically. They want to make a positive impact on the world around them. The Center for Social Justice and related scholarship will help them do that by engaging with programs taking place in the ABA-accredited School of Law.

"It goes beyond just what we see in the data," says Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing Bryan Gross. "We have one of the most talented groups of incoming students in WNE history, with students who, despite having the pandemic impact their high school career, come to us with remarkable accomplishments. We have business owners, entrepreneurs, fundraisers, star athletes, and social justice warriors in this year's class. They have proven to be incredibly resourceful and determined in overcoming various challenges. We feel we have a group of students who really strive to make a positive difference in the world."

WNE is the only national, private university in Springfield, MA. Ninety-four percent of all graduates last year were employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation.

This truly unique and record-breaking class, along with the growing retention rate for current students, demonstrates that the University is continuing to attract right-fit students who will join the ranks of the new traditional Golden Bears who graduate understanding their personal value proposition that will propel them to meaningful careers and lives.



WNE Sees Growth in *U.S. News And World Report*

Not only are our current students making a name for themselves, but WNE as an institution is making headlines in the world of higher education.

WNE has been ranked 4th of Top Performers on Social Mobility among National Universities in Massachusetts by *U.S. News and World Report's* 2022 "America's Best Colleges," which provides an in-depth look at more than 1,800 institutions of higher education nationwide.

The Top Performers on Social Mobility ranking measures the extent that schools enrolled and graduated students who received federal Pell grants (those typically coming from households whose family incomes are less than \$50,000 annually). According to *U.S. News and World Report*, economically disadvantaged students are less likely to finish college and some colleges are more successful than others at advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell grants.

"This category looks at the percent of entering students who are Pell-eligible and our six-year graduation rate among



Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. Maria Toyoda introduces President Robert E. Johnson at the We Are WNE: This Is Our Future event.

those receiving the Pell funding. Our number was 32% on the entering class and 58% on six-year graduation rate, which is a solid number compared to our national peers,” explains Gross.

The *U.S. News* rankings focus on measures of academic excellence, with schools evaluated on hundreds of data points covering up to 16 measures of academic quality. Individual colleges and universities are compared with institutions that share similar characteristics and academic missions.

“Having moved from the Regional to National University category in 2020, I am pleased to see Western New England climbing the ranks and now competing at a much higher level with some of our prestigious neighbors—Harvard, Yale, and Northeastern,” says President Johnson. The University improved its overall ranking to #213 in the nation this year, moving up 14 places from 2021.

Western New England University College of Engineering continues to be top-ranked in the Undergraduate Engineering (no doctorate) program category. The ranking is based on survey results conducted by *U.S. News* of deans and faculty members of

undergraduate engineering programs at peer institutions accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (ABET), the engineering accrediting body.

“A university educates leaders, problem solvers, and lifelong learners that will adapt, compete, and thrive in careers yet to be imagined,” President Johnson adds.

“

As a national university, we offer the breadth and depth of a comprehensive institution, supported by opportunities for personal exploration and growth. By embracing a distinctive and innovative institutional model as a new traditional university we provide the transformational educational experience that equips students to create value and thrive in a complex and hyperconnected world.”

President Johnson

LEAP-ing Into Photonics

The Western New England University College of Engineering Laboratory for Education and Application Prototypes (LEAP), a state-of-the-art optics/photonics training center, has been established through a grant of \$2,581,109 from the Massachusetts Center for Advanced Manufacturing. LEAP@WNE is part of a national effort to advance state-of-the-art manufacturing with the American Institute for Manufacturing Photonics consortium.

With the support of the grant funding, WNE partnered with Convergent Photonics in Chicopee, MA, and Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) for the development of the new advanced manufacturing center, located at Convergent Photonics. The LEAP lab, only the fourth of its kind in the state, will focus on product development, educational training, and collaborative research in the field of integrated photonics.

“WNE is grateful to receive this award with our partners Convergent Photonics and STCC as we aim to build a collaborative learning environment that focuses on training the next generation of highly skilled engineers. The LEAP facility will provide unique hands-on experiential learning that is the hallmark of a WNE education,” says President Johnson. “We look forward to strengthening our bonds with the western Massachusetts community as economic development continues to expand and provide opportunities for our students.”



WNE Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Stephen Adamshick '10 and CEO of Spark Photonics Kevin McComber tour the labs in Sleith Hall prior to Spark Photonics delivering its first educational photonic chips to the WNE LEAP facility.





SHARE THE WNE SPIRIT CAMPAIGN

Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni are the greatest ambassadors of the WNE spirit—that special sense of Golden Bear pride and community. Through the WNE & U—Share the Spirit initiative, we are inviting all members of our Golden Bear family to play an active role in recruiting new members to our community—from prospective students to new employees and friends of the University.

How can you help? By sharing our story, supporting our community, and showing your Golden Bear Spirit. Visit wne.edu/share-the-spirit to learn about all the ways you can Share the Spirit.

We all are part of the wonderful history of WNE—the foundation of who we are as a University today. Together, we can carry WNE into an even brighter future.

As a member of the University community, YOU are WNE and YOU are its future. Wherever you go, whatever you do, share the WNE spirit. 🐻

CSJ BY THE NUMBERS 2020-2021

MORE THAN
3,605
VOLUNTEER HOURS COMPLETED

225
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

NEARLY
\$750,000
PROVIDED IN FREE
LEGAL SERVICE

THE CONSUMER DEBT INITIATIVE (CDI)

223
CLIENTS SERVED SINCE OCTOBER

\$78,940
SAVED BY CONSUMERS

\$65,200
PENDING IN HARDSHIP
DISMISSALS

THE MASSACHUSETTS VIRTUAL SEALING & EXPUNGEMENT 2021 EVENT

18
LEGAL/CORI
CLINIC PARTICIPANTS

75
ATTENDEES

The Center For Social Justice: Advancing Social Justice Through Public Engagement

Launched in 2019, the School of Law's Center for Social Justice (CSJ) enriches the rigorous education and practical training that the School of Law currently provides, as well as actively enhances social justice advocacy in our community and beyond.

Under the guidance of Director Ariel Clemmer, the Center has achieved great success in accomplishing its mission of advancing justice through research, education, advocacy, innovation, and public engagement.

While educating and advocating on the WNE campus and within the greater Springfield community, the CSJ generates new opportunities and collaborations for all students, faculty, and community partners to not only research social justice solutions, but to put those ideas into action through active, in-house *pro bono* projects.

The Center's initiatives address issues such as consumer debt, the cost of gun violence in Springfield, and racially disparate sentencing outcomes, among others.

Law and Society junior Nashali Pagan has been working with the CSJ on its initiative of "Addressing Racism as a Social Determinant of Health Through Restorative Racial Healing Dialogue" to investigate the connection between racism and health disparities. She says that her research has been a meaningful experience for her, both professionally and personally and has the potential to create lasting change.

"Being involved with the Center for Social Justice has reinforced my passion for activism, social change, and restorative justice," she says. "I couldn't be more proud to be a Latina involved in something with so much potential to create change. Empowering minorities and women means a lot to me, and I couldn't ask for a better opportunity to do what I love."



Sharing WNE *with the World*

By Alex Lyman '12/G'16

Dr. Maria Toyoda has learned that carving out a path—whether academic, personal, or professional—isn't always a straightforward effort. It is the twists and turns along the way that lead you to where you are meant to be; and in her case, right to the WNE campus.

Her journey has led her across the country and around the world—from Stanford, Georgetown, Villanova, and Suffolk Universities to Tokyo and the Czech Republic. For Dr. Toyoda, the appeal of WNE was different from her previous institutions; and that, she says, was what made her decision to come here an easy one.

“When I first learned about WNE, I could not believe that it isn't more widely known,” Dr. Toyoda says. “It has so many wonderful attributes, yet it is a hidden gem. I feel like my job here is to make sure everyone knows about WNE.”

“One of the great secrets here is that we have a faculty that punches way above its weight class. The research that they conduct, the inventions they are producing, and their knowledge is really pretty incredible; we have to let that shine through.”

Dr. Toyoda isn't content to allow the University to remain a hidden gem; she wants to put it all on display. As she says, “Why should we hide WNE from the world?”

So how do we continue to put Golden Bear Nation on the map? For Dr. Toyoda, her own experiences inform her plans to deliberately prepare our students for the future, put them out in the world through global experiences, and teach them to be lifelong learners and introspective enough to boldly find their own directions.

Taking The Road Less Traveled

Before coming to Western New England, Dr. Toyoda pursued many academic and professional undertakings; her prolific résumé illustrates her rich interests and global ventures. However, it still took her some time during her academic journey to land in the right discipline.

While she jokes that her academic career is a cautionary tale, she also hopes it encourages students to pursue their interests and not worry so much about the outcome. Having a deep love for the sciences, Dr. Toyoda naturally was drawn to a biology major, which didn't just teach her about the human body, but also the human experience.

“Human biology also introduces the social-psychological aspects of biology, because you can't separate the two when you're talking about human beings,” she explains. “It tells you that most people don't have a straight path, which isn't a bad thing. When students start out in their first year, they are exposed to new depth and breadth, which is important for self-discovery.”



Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

DR. MARIA TOYODA

Crafts a Bigger and Brighter
Future for Golden Bears

Teaching Students at the Intersection of Academia and Industry

As the new Provost, Dr. Toyoda has a clear vision for elevating academics at the University in order to prepare our students for the future of work and for those careers that may not yet exist. She notes that we already have a broad range of academic programs, which are “good bones” that we can build upon. She says that her job isn’t necessarily to reinvent the curriculum or overhaul academic programs. She emphasizes that deans and faculty are critical in those areas. However, her role is to identify and implement the continual improvements that will keep us up to date and aligned with industry standards. Dr. Toyoda feels that often such adjustments are more focused on communication with potential students in terms of what they will receive from their education, and what employers may expect from our alumni.

“When we offer a major, we have to make sure that it is aligned with what industry demands are,” she notes. “We also want students to be able to go out there with a transcript that reflects the updated curriculum. Are we giving students the leg up that they need in terms of what we call our majors, the classes, the curriculum, and the particular skills and learning goals?”

A structurally sound curriculum, combined with language that communicates what our alumni are capable of, is vital to not only help our graduates get their foot in the door but see their own potential to adapt and pivot whenever needed.

“ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO DESIGN A CAREER IS TO THINK ABOUT WHERE NEEDS ARE,” DR. TOYODA NOTES. “EVERYTHING THAT I DID WAS BASED ON A PARTICULAR NEED THAT I COULD FILL. TRYING TO FIND UNIQUE SPACES IN WHICH YOU CAN WORK IS IMPORTANT. PEOPLE CAN DESIGN THEIR LIVES AND THEIR CAREERS AROUND NEEDS.”

“They don’t know how broad the world is and how many different opportunities there are.”

She maintains that by helping our students be open to new ideas and introducing them to a variety of options, we can lead them to outcomes they may have never considered.

Another benefit of a path that isn’t direct is that everything students pursue will shape them into who they are meant to be.

“Nothing is wasted; no experience is wasted, no class is wasted, no degree is wasted,” emphasized Dr. Toyoda. “An agile person should be able to take all of those experiences and synthesize them into something new. In that respect, I hope that is encouraging for a lot of people. It is classes taken just for fun or even to fill up credit hours that actually have an outsized influence on your life.”

This was certainly true for Dr. Toyoda. She eventually wound up leaving Human Biology and transitioning to Government and found herself passionately pursuing research in globalization, foreign aid, and banking. At Villanova University, she created her own niche over time, starting with teaching political science and starting an East Asian Studies program, and later chairing the department, and

becoming associate dean for interdisciplinary studies and global initiatives. She did this by taking her own abilities and combining them with what was in demand from students.

This strategy has certainly worked for Dr. Toyoda and is a concept that she hopes she can impart to our students to help them create value wherever they land.

Putting WNE on the World Stage

Dr. Toyoda’s fundamental question is “Why should we hide WNE from the world?” She cautions that we should not be overly protective of our resources, but rather we share what we have to offer—which is plentiful. She acknowledges that not only has global education and international work always been a thread running through her career, but our faculty also have deep ties to places around the world. This is an asset that is critical for us to use, especially when our faculty may have experiences that deeply connect them, their research, and their teaching to the global environment.

“I think there is a deep desire on the part of students to see more of the world, and it is a particular goal of mine to open



MARIA TOYODA, PhD was most recently Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Political Science at Suffolk University in Boston. Most of her career has been spent in areas of global engagement, and she is deeply committed to providing economic and political access and opportunities through higher education.

Dr. Toyoda was a Social Science Research Council Abe Fellow and a Foreign Relations/Hitachi International Affairs Fellow in Tokyo, where she worked at the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. She was a research scholar at Stanford University's Freeman-Spogli Institute (formerly Institute for International Studies), the Asia/Pacific Research Center, and the Stanford Japan Center-Research in Kyoto. She also served as a Program Director, Chair, Associate Dean, and Professor at Villanova University. Dr. Toyoda received her AB in Human Biology with Honors from Stanford University, and a PhD with Distinction in Government from Georgetown University.

To read more about Dr. Toyoda, visit magazine.wne.edu.

those opportunities up, especially for students who may come here not thinking they would ever have access to those opportunities," she says. "It is important to try and make them realize that it could create new pathways to success that they have not even begun to think about."

While using the word "transformational" when referring to study abroad experiences may be overdone and clichéd, Dr. Toyoda says she has truly seen travel completely flip the switch of curiosity and wonder in students.

"Once they've had that experience they want to keep going back for more," Dr. Toyoda adds. "They truly then start to view themselves as citizens of the world, with interests that are broader and more global and a perspective that's going to be necessary for the future of work."

"Americans tend to go abroad thinking they have things they should teach others. But whenever I have traveled with students, it has been the complete opposite. They really soak up the environment, they see things with fresh, new eyes, and they begin to then incorporate those learnings into their own lives."

This willingness to learn about other countries and cultures will better prepare our alumni for an increasingly global workforce, not to mention instill a passion and desire to see more of the world.

Teaching Our Students to Make a Life

When asked how we can teach our students to carve their own path, a task that is abstract at best, Dr. Toyoda pointed to having the confidence in our curriculum that our students are being taught what they need to know. The coursework in each area of study is aligned with best practices and up-to-date information, and students are being socialized into the values and behaviors of their desired industry. That alone will help them succeed in their profession. However, each of our students are destined for unique outcomes that they must explore for themselves beyond their coursework.

"How then do you find your own personal path?" she muses. "There is a certain amount of introspection and reflection that needs to take place. It's a combination of the curricular and cocurricular activities and the introspection and personal work that you

have to do in order to design your own life path. And this, by the way, doesn't end with Commencement. We're equipping you with the kernels and the seeds for the kinds of changes you are going to have to make throughout your life."

She says that it is even more important for universities today to teach people **how to learn** even more so than **what to learn**. By teaching our students how to learn, they can continue to do it for the rest of their lives.

"Being information literate, being discerning consumers of information, being able to write well, and being able to speak well," Dr. Toyoda notes. "Those are the sorts of things that fit into analytical, critical thinking. If we can cultivate those skills and those strengths in people, we will have created an agile mind."

As the future emerges, Dr. Toyoda is committed to not only creating a rich and abundant academic experience but also making WNE known for its wealth of knowledge and opportunity.

While the path carved for our campus and our students isn't likely to be entirely straight, it is one full of limitless possibilities to explore and embrace. 🐾

An Enduring Legacy

WNE'S FIFTH PRESIDENT DR. ANTHONY S. CAPRIO IS HONORED

By Alex Lyman '12/G'16



ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2021, THE CAPRIO ALUMNI HEALTHFUL LIVING CENTER WAS OFFICIALLY REDEDICATED IN HONOR OF OUR FIFTH PRESIDENT, DR. ANTHONY S. CAPRIO, WHO RETIRED IN 2020 AFTER A 24-YEAR TENURE.

The ceremony included a ribbon cutting and the presentation of a tribute book as well as reflections from Vice President of Advancement Beverly Dwight, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Ken Rickson '75, and President Robert E. Johnson. The event concluded with remarks from Dr. Caprio, whose vast legacy includes transforming the WNE student experience academically, athletically, and socially while simultaneously leading WNE to national recognition as a University.

"This building, this campus, this is the house that Caprio built," said President Johnson. "I am humbled to follow in your footsteps, by the things you have accomplished and the things you have done over your tenure."

Dr. Caprio noted that while buildings play an important role as the backdrop of our campus, it is the people and the work that happens within them that have meant the most to him.

"My name is engraved on this building, but I want you to know that you, who have been such an important part of my life for almost 25 years, are engraved in my mind and engraved in my soul," said Dr. Caprio.

"I'm so pleased and so proud to be part of this University. I'm so proud of everyone who is engaged in this enterprise and am so very grateful to be recognized and remembered in this particular way. We've all worked hard to transform this University and the future is bright."

Dr. Anthony S. Caprio
Fifth President of
Western New England University



President Robert E. Johnson, Vice President for Advancement Beverly Dwight, President Emeritus Anthony S. Caprio, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Ken Rickson '75 preside over the ribbon cutting for the Caprio Alumni Healthful Living Center.



“ Dr. Caprio has had a profound influence, directly and indirectly, on the lives of more than 24,000 students, representing more than one half of all WNE alumni. His leadership and devotion to WNE will be long felt and always remembered.”

Kenneth M. Rickson '75
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Dr. Anthony S. Caprio offers remarks on his tenure at Western New England University.



President Emeritus Caprio greets his guests at the reception held in his honor.

INSPIRING

THE NEXT GENERATION OF GIVERS

BY KATE BURKE



“You couldn’t ask for anything better than my experience at the School of Law. To have professors who were practicing lawyers or judges who had the experience of being on the bench, you were able to ask questions of full-time practitioners who appreciated the practical aspects of the law, not just the philosophical and educational aspects of it.”

HUGO RICCI L’74

The **Honorable Hugo Ricci L’74** credits his education at Western New England University School of Law, and the positive and practical influences of faculty mentors, for laying the foundation that defined his professional successes.

Through the development of the Hugo L. Ricci, Jr. Endowed Law Faculty Enrichment Fund, Ricci is paying it forward hoping to inspire, influence, and impact the next generation of educators, students, and donors. Now retired after 28 years of private practice and 15 years on the bench, highlighted by his accomplished tenure as Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Workers’ Compensation Court and his appointment to the Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline, Ricci intends for his gift to serve as an ongoing tribute to the School of Law.

“I look at the development of the fund as my thank you to the School of Law,” said Ricci. “My career is a credit to the law school that gave me this opportunity to give back.”

Through this Faculty Enrichment Fund, an endowment of \$100,000 will provide \$5,000 of support annually to a School of Law faculty member. The recipient will use the funds toward research in economic justice, good government, and the rule of law, with preferred emphasis on addressing issues related to consumer protection or election law. By providing financial resources for faculty to engage in more robust research, and in turn enhance the curriculum, Ricci is striving to continue to honor the legacy and the efforts of faculty—including Dean Maurice Kirk, Professor Anthony Santoro, and Dean Don Dunn—who were not only influential on his experience as a student, but who were also instrumental



Hugo Ricci L'74 and Kathy Ricci (center) with President Johnson, Dennis Ricci, Sandi Ricci, and Dean Sudha Setty

in the School of Law achieving the American Bar Association's (ABA) accreditation.

Ricci encourages current students and young law professionals to get involved in their communities and volunteer their services at law firms and clinics as much as possible, not only to get experience, but to understand how to apply what they're learning in the classroom to real-life situations.

"Society needs so much care today," he said. "Law students have the opportunity to be vigorous and move to challenge the system, within boundaries. This is the time to bring society together and recognize that laws are in place to protect.

Law students and law schools have the responsibility to pursue opportunities to make change."

In recognition of Ricci's generous gift, the School of Law hosted a dedication event this past August, naming a conference room in the Dean's Suite in his honor.

"The School of Law is incredibly grateful for the generosity of Judge Ricci and his family in creating a Faculty Enrichment Fund. Every current student and member of the alumni community knows that the School of Law faculty is unparalleled in its dedication to excellent teaching and research. The Hugo L. Ricci, Jr. Endowed Law Faculty Enrichment

Fund will help us support the faculty in their outstanding work," said Sudha Setty, Dean of the School of Law.

Intending to serve as an example of the importance and need for alumni to develop and support endowed gifts moving forward, Ricci and his wife Kathy hope other alumni will "do one better" and also make sizable donations to the betterment of the School of Law.

"I want the School of Law to continue to be recognized as a school that really cares about the community, a school that challenges students, and a school that ultimately prepares them to support their communities in any capacity," said Ricci. 🐾

To learn how you can support the University, visit alumni.wne.edu/giving or contact WNE Advancement at (413) 782-1400.

Western New England University and the John J. Duggan Academy—Neighbors Committed to Helping Students Succeed

Western New England University and the John J. Duggan Academy have been collaborating for the benefit of students for decades as neighbors. In early September, the leadership of both institutions made the partnership official by signing a formal agreement that reinforces the commitment to bridge public secondary education and private higher education. “I am excited about the possibilities of Western New England University partnering with Duggan Academy and helping our students and our community to evolve in all of its forms and facets. It’s about helping each and every one of these young people to realize their dreams, their goals, and their aspirations,” said WNE President Robert E. Johnson.

The partnership will bring Duggan students to the WNE campus for tours, athletic events, and other programs such as Cub Connections, which provides academic tutoring for Duggan students. WNE students benefit by having the opportunity to participate in service opportunities on the Duggan campus and act as role models.

“For us to succeed, we know we have to get them to graduation,” said Springfield School Superintendent Daniel J. Warwick. “We need partnerships with the colleges to make that happen for our kids and that is what we have here. The real winner is going to be the City of Springfield and our kids because they will have access to such a fine institution and be able to get going on their college path.”

Dr. Johnson acknowledged the Duggan students in attendance. “It’s all about possibility thinking,” he said. “We want to be a beacon of hope within the community to help you become doctors, lawyers, or even to become the next group of individuals, civilians, or maybe even astronauts that fly up to Mars.”

With the signing of this three-year partnership agreement (2021-2024), these partner institutions will continue to help students see the continuum that can take them from Duggan to college and beyond.



Duggan Academy Partnership Coordinator Mary Kay Brown stands with students from Duggan Academy while Executive Principal Michael Calvanese and WNE President Dr. Robert E. Johnson formally renew a three-year partnership agreement to help students envision their potential future in higher education.

NECHE Accreditation Invitation for Public Comment

Western New England University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit in March 2022 by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). NECHE is one of seven accrediting commissions in the United States that provides institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the

institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 220 institutions in the six-state New England region as well as several American-style institutions overseas. The public is invited to submit comments regarding the institution. To learn more

about NECHE accreditation or how to submit comments visit www1.wne.edu/about/accreditations.cfm. Public comments must be received by NECHE on or before March 9, 2022.

New Era, New Leadership

To help achieve our shared vision, WNE welcomed new members of the Leadership Team this past fall.



DR. MARIA TOYODA, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, PROVOST

Dr. Maria Toyoda was previously the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and Professor of Political Science & Legal Studies at Suffolk University in Boston.

As Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Dr. Toyoda will be the University's chief academic officer and oversee the academic integrity of all colleges, schools, and institutes on campus.



BASIL ANDREW STEWART, VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Prior to joining WNE, Basil Andrew Stewart was Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer for Lasell University and Assistant Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of Lasell Village in Newton, MA.

As CFO, Stewart will be responsible for WNE's finance and budgeting. He will serve as chief advisor to the president on financial and administrative matters and will provide the Board of Trustees with administrative support for its finance, audit, and investment committees.



CURT HAMAKAWA L'84, CHIEF OF STAFF AND SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Curt Hamakawa L'84 was appointed Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees after a year of service as Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

Hamakawa is a tenured Professor of Sport Management. Previously, he served as the Director for the Center for International Sport Business and Director for the Business Honors Program. Hamakawa has been with WNE since 2006.

Western New England University Set to Launch First NCAA DIII Women's Wrestling Team in New England

The Department of Athletics at Western New England University is pleased to announce the addition of women's wrestling to its athletics program. This will be the University's 21st varsity sport and the first NCAA DIII women's wrestling team in New England.

National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) Executive Director Mike Moyer is excited about the addition of the program at Western New England University. "We are forever grateful for the pioneering efforts of Western New England University to add women's intercollegiate wrestling to its athletics program," said Moyer. "This new women's wrestling program represents the first NCAA DIII-affiliated team in New England."

The women's wrestling program is planned to begin its inaugural season in the fall of the 2022-23 academic year.



Mary McLean Orszulak G'10

On a personal note, it has been an honor to work with Mary. Not only did I have the opportunity to learn from the best, but I was fortunate to witness her creativity, compassion, and personal integrity every day. She is a tough act to follow, but we all wish her the best on the next chapter in her life and cannot wait to see what she does next.

To see a gallery of Mary's past magazine covers, visit magazine.wne.edu.

What was your primary responsibility as the former head of the WNE Writing Team?

My job was to share the story of Western New England University with the world!

Your title at the University was Director of Copywriting Services. What did that entail?

I was the lead recruitment content or “copy” writer for the University for 22 years, supervising just one other writer. I oversaw all of the writing, editing, and proofreading for our admissions (Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Pharmacy, and Health Sciences) projects—everything from web content to brochures, email campaigns, ads, and billboards to video scripts for our 90+ programs. Working with our Alumni Relations partners, I also served as the editor of our alumni magazines, which included five issues a year of *The Communicator* and *Perspectives*, and now two of *WNE: The Magazine*. I’ve done 72 issues in total. The Writing Team also supports a wide range of messaging—internally and externally—including Commencement, SOAR, Open Houses, and more.

What was the most rewarding part of being a leading “Voice” of Western New England University?

I loved interviewing students or working with them early in their academic careers, and then watching their evolution to successful alumni. My goal was for our publications to speak with a unified voice and be authentic to the WNE academic brand. Hearing students in interviews or at Open House or SOAR panels, as well as alumni that I’ve met, voice the same talking points that I had written affirmed that I genuinely captured the unique spirit of the WNE experience.

When you were hired in 1999, admissions marketing efforts focused primarily on print. How would you describe WNE’s integrated approach to marketing its programs today?

Integrated marketing is key in today’s fiercely competitive higher ed landscape. The Marketing and various WNE Enrollment Teams,

in collaboration with outside partners, use data-informed communications strategies to build brand awareness that creates engagement. Since your typical high school student is inundated with emails and texts from colleges and universities, print and direct mail do still have their place in reaching them and their families in their homes. With WNE’s long-standing reputation for individualized attention, personal contact is also an important component. I can’t tell you how many times a student or alum has told me that it was getting a call from their dean or department chair that made them choose us.

In 2010, you earned your master’s degree from WNE. Why was that so important to you?

I really, *really* wanted that WNE grad year after my name to be counted among the more than 45,100 living alumni of this University. I’m a local kid who grew up in the Pine Point neighborhood of Springfield. I attended Duggan (then Junior High) across the street and remember gazing out the window toward the Blake Law Center and feeling as if it were a million miles away from my world. I never imagined that I would work here, earn my master’s, and have two of my sons, Alex Mazzaferro ’09 and Derek Mazzaferro ’16, graduate from here. Alex is now a professor at UCLA and Derek recently returned from two years in California and is working in marketing.

Projects you have worked on in your career have won more than 50 advertising and marketing awards. Can you describe your creative process?

In my work at WNE and ad agencies, I love playing with idiomatic expressions to turn a common phrase into something that captures your attention in a headline and makes you read more, engage, and take action—that’s the ultimate goal. Ads and billboards are two of my favorite things to write, like our long-running MBA campaign.

The best part about writing for the alumni magazines was the opportunity to share with our readers the accomplishments of the

amazing people who make up our community, not just alumni, but students, faculty, staff, and donors.

I also enjoyed stories that covered broader topics in which we showcased our alums or faculty working in fields such as social work, entrepreneurship, or sports. In *Perspectives*, I got to do fascinating research and interview alumni and faculty for stories spanning social justice, family law, immigration law, green law, same sex marriage, and more.

What were some of your proudest professional moments at WNE?

My two decades saw such tremendous growth during Dr. Caprio’s transformative tenure, which included earning AACSB International accreditation, opening the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and becoming a university in 2011. But I was never more proud to be a part of the Marketing Team than during President Johnson’s first year leading us through the pandemic. Our team has gone through a lot together—from losing two colleagues to terminal illness to various staffing changes. In 2020, with limited technical resources and unimagined logistical challenges, our team, led by Vice President Bryan Gross, produced a highly successful live virtual open house in just a couple of weeks. That was just the beginning of a year of incredible resourcefulness and creativity, which helped recruit one of our largest incoming freshmen classes in WNE history!

You retired early at 60 from WNE this past June. Will you continue to write?

Like my fellow alumni and colleagues, I found opportunity and community at WNE and for that I am eternally grateful. The pandemic accelerated my retirement plans, so sadly I left WNE earlier than expected. I’ve had many ideas for other forms of writing that I never had the time to pursue. I’ve taken some time to unwind after such a challenging final year, but stay tuned—I’ll be sure to report any news in Class Notes.



GOLDEN BEARS TRIUMPH THROUGH *Tribulation*

BY KATE BURKE



For college athletics across the country, the 2020-2021 competitive landscape quickly became uncharted territory amidst the pandemic, an unpredictable and unlikely opponent.

During the summer of 2020, Western New England University, along with all Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) schools, announced the postponement of all conference competition until after January 1, 2021. Though limited play resumed in the spring of 2021, the look and feel of college athletics was quite different, across all divisions, as schools and teams adhered to the required health and safety protocols set forth by each institution, conference, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

For coaches and athletes alike, both the suspension of activities and the limited return of play presented not only competition obstacles, but also training, skill development, and strength and conditioning challenges. Though the hurdles were high, WNE teams held true to the Golden Bear spirit and resilience, working together to coordinate virtual and limited in-person activity and to enhance focus on positivity and mental health.

"The coaches did a tremendous job and deserve the utmost recognition for their hard work and efforts working with student athletes on and off the field, modeling positivity, navigating remote learning, and being the support away from home for the student-athletes," said Associate Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator Lori Mayhew-Wood '95.

With unwavering emphasis on team and individual support, Golden Bear teams continued to thrive and triumph through the trials and tribulations of the pandemic, both on the field, in the classroom, and in the community.

TRIUMPHS ON THE FIELD

Overcoming cancellations and schedule changes, Golden Bear 2021 spring season teams rose to the occasion, highlighted by WNE men's golf clinching the CCC Championship and advancing to the NCAA DIII Championship; men's lacrosse achieving a six-game winning streak, posting a 9-1 regular-season record, and advancing to the CCC Tournament championship game; and softball earning a trip to the CCC Tournament and advancing to the championship series.

An additional triumph included a ruling by the NCAA that granted a blanket waiver allowing all student-athletes, across all divisions, to return in 2021-22 without losing the last year of eligibility or the opportunity to compete.

TRIUMPHS IN THE CLASSROOM

Rising to the challenges of remote and in-person learning, WNE teams maintained their academic focus with 91 student-athletes, including representation from all 20 Golden Bear teams, being named to the CCC All-Academic Team. WNE men's ice hockey and women's cross country set the bar as grade point average (GPA) team leaders with 3.565 and 3.551 GPA respectively, contributing to the athletics cumulative GPA of 3.218.

In recognition of student-athlete leadership on the field and in the classroom, WNE athletics also announced the induction of 47 Golden Bear student-athletes into the Chi Alpha Sigma National Honor Society, a national organization that recognizes college student-athlete leaders who make significant contributions to their teams while maintaining a 3.4 GPA or higher.

TRIUMPHS IN THE COMMUNITY

Through collaboration with campus, CCC, and NCAA student organizations, WNE student-athlete leaders, including the Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC), the Black Student Athlete Alliance (BSAA), and the Captain's Council continued to make an impact on campus and community service through virtual events, videos, and social media campaigns.



A SPOONFUL OF SUGER(MEYER)

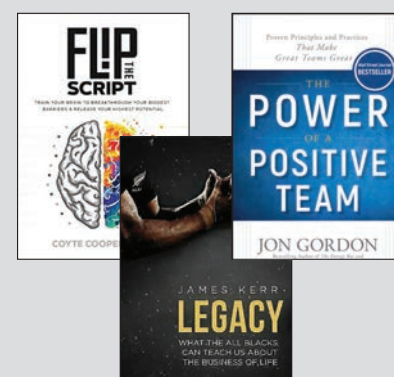
With in-person restrictions in place, coaches and administrators worked together to creatively and collaboratively coordinate practices while also taking advantage of virtual communication vehicles to stay connected with their athletes.

Coaches like Golden Bear Wrestling's Mike Sugermeyer G'17 turned practice limitations and competition cancellations into opportunities, placing emphasis on both physical technique and mental wellbeing development.

"Without competition, we were able to focus on things that we normally don't have as much time for, that are still really important," said Coach Sugermeyer. "We focused more on smaller techniques and spent a lot more time on what I call mindset training, the mental aspect of our training."

Through virtual readings, podcasts, and discussions, Coach Sugermeyer and the wrestling team enhanced their collective learning and real-time application and evaluation of leadership and team development.

TAKE A NOTE FROM THE WNE WRESTLING READING LIST



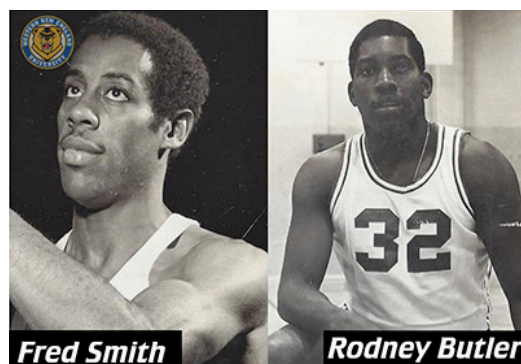
"We did a lot of virtual reading together over Zoom. Some of the topics we covered were about the power of your mind, how important it is to be grateful, and the need to have a positive mindset on not just athletics, but everything in life."

MIKE SUGERMEYER G'17

BLACK STUDENT ATHLETE ALLIANCE

In conjunction with Black History Month, Golden Bear Athletics introduced the newest student-athlete leadership group, the Black Student Athlete Alliance (BSAA), and the #BlackHistoryAlways social media campaign, celebrating the greatest Black student-athletes in WNE history. Through live and virtual workshops, Unity Days, and speaker events, the BSAA inspired discussion and education focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

With resounding successes in the organization's inaugural year, the BSAA received \$2,500 from the WNE Alumni Association Grants Program to support student-athletes for equality programming for the 2021-22 academic year.



NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

As part of the National Girls and Women in Sports Day, WNE hosted the Golden Bears' 21st annual series of campus events spotlighting activities celebrating girls and women in sports with the "Girl Power Challenge."

Throughout two weeks in February, WNE female coaches and student-athletes shared pre-recorded or live Zoom events including instructional videos, fun facts about their sport, trivia, inspiring messages, fitness programming, and the annual push-up challenge.

WNEGIVES

Additionally, Golden Bear teams came together to support WNEGives, the annual campus-wide day of giving.

Celebrating the impact of Golden Bear athletics and the student-athletes of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, WNE teams and over 1,400 donors collectively raised over \$167,000 to benefit all 20 varsity teams, the Golden Bear Athletic Fund, the Women's Athletic Council, and Recreation and Wellness initiatives.

A LOOK BACK AT HOMECOMING 2021

BY KATE BURKE

Western New England University kicked off the fall season in golden fashion with Homecoming 2021 taking place October 1-3. Blue and gold painted campus streets, buildings, and sports venues as alumni, students, fans, friends, and families joined in the three days of fun and festivities.

Special recognitions were featured throughout the weekend including honors for alumni from the 1975 men's soccer team, the past 50 years of WNE football, and the Class of 2020.

Take a look back at Homecoming 2021 at alumni.wne.edu/homecoming2021.

GOLDEN BEAR BOULEVARD

Leading up to the big game, Saturday's action was centered around Golden Bear Boulevard where there was something for everyone, including food trucks, balloon art, a kid's zone, yard games, Golden Bear merchandise, student organization and academic tabling, and great opportunities to meet, greet, and reconnect. A special classroom lecture series was also hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences in a number of buildings across campus.



Event celebrations started Friday with the Downes Hall of Fame honoring 2020 inductees including Alex Dos Santos '11 (Men's Soccer), Mike Rubino '13 (Baseball), Amy (Lorinovich) Denault '07 (Volleyball), and Jared Pabis '09 (Men's Lacrosse).

Learn more about honorees at wnegoldenbears.com/information/downes-hall-of-fame.



ALUMNI GAME DAY HONORS

Men's soccer included pre-game on-field honors for the 1975 men's soccer team, who were the champions of the New England Regional Championship and members of the 1975 NAIA National Final Four. Under Head Coach Bill Downes and captains Mark Staropoli '76, Dave Boino '76, and Glen Goldstein '76, the Golden Bears collected a record of 15-4-2 during the season.

Celebrating 50 years of football, the founding members of the Golden Bear football team were honored during a special on-field halftime recognition. Many of the members of the first decade of the program participated, including Murray Bauer '72, Clif Treco '73, Albie Ferullo '74, Peter Garafalo '74, Kenneth Olejarz '75, Deane Swanson '75, Alan Himmelfarb '76, Bill Moge '76, Rusty Cazalet '78, Charles Rocque Jr. '78, Terry Ryan '78, Ray Shamlian '78, Michael Sullivan '78, Kevin Jandreau '79, Wayne Murphy '81, and Mike Thompson.

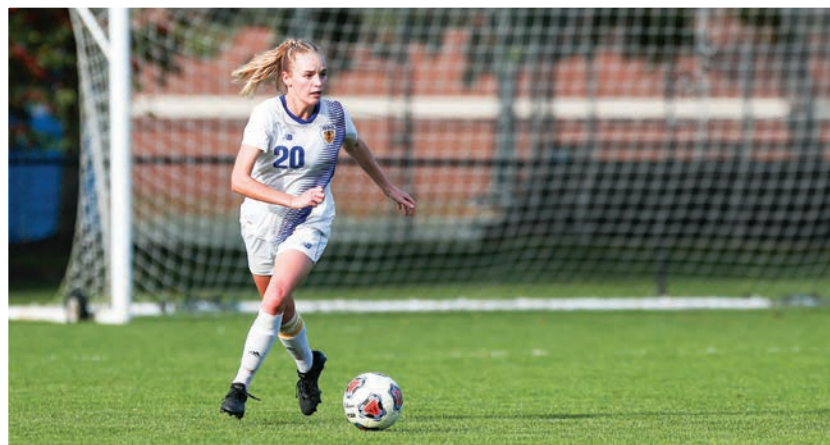




WEEKEND VICTORIES

Golden Bear teams scored weekend wins across the board with a 4-1 field hockey win over Salve Regina University, a 3-1 volleyball sweep over Eastern Nazarene, a 41-3 football victory over Salve Regina University, a 1-0 women's soccer victory over Suffolk University, and a 2-1 men's soccer win against Suffolk University. Alumni games also took place for women's lacrosse, men's lacrosse, men's soccer, and volleyball.

Follow all Golden Bear teams at wnegoldenbears.com.





CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020

Weekend festivities concluded with the celebrations for the Class of 2020 including a special Saturday night reunion and reception, as well as a Sunday morning brunch featuring President Emeritus Anthony S. Caprio, President Robert Johnson, 2020 Senate President Donna Montgomery '20, and Nick Newell '05.

Stay tuned to alumni.wne.edu for information about Homecoming 2022!



ALUMNI NEWS

52nd Annual Alumni Golf Tournament Raises \$22,000 for Student Scholarships

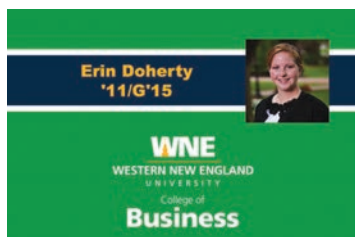
On Friday, May 28, 2021, more than 140 alumni and friends gathered at the Country Club of Wilbraham for the 52nd Annual Alumni Golf Tournament, sponsored by Health New England. Raising a record \$22,000 for student scholarships, the sold-out tournament was among the first in-person events hosted by the Alumni Association as pandemic restrictions were lifted. Learn more and view photos at alumni.wne.edu/news.



2021 Alumni Golf Tournament participants at play.

New Hub for Alumni News Shines a Spotlight on Alumni Success

The Office of Alumni Relations has launched a new hub for alumni and University news, helping you to stay informed on all things WNE. Visit us online at alumni.wne.edu/news for the best of Western New England University's people, work, and programs—including campus announcements, alumni accomplishments, our WNE@Work series, and more. To be featured, be sure to share your news and accomplishments with us at alumwne@wne.edu or (413) 796-2240.



Alumni-in-Admissions Volunteers Help Recruit the Next Generation of Golden Bears

The Office of Admissions is seeking alumni volunteers to help prospective Golden Bears learn about WNE. Share your experience through admissions communications, virtual programs, college fairs, and regional events as a member of the Alumni-in-Admissions team. This volunteer opportunity is best suited for alumni who graduated within the past five years and are comfortable interacting with high school students and their families. Learn more at alumni.wne.edu/volunteer or contact the Office of Admissions at (413) 782-1289.

LET'S CONNECT!

For the latest alumni news, events in your area, nostalgic #tbt pics, and more, follow [@wnealumni](https://www.instagram.com/wnealumni) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.





Western New England University Remembers Trustee Mike Serafino '77

by Kate Burke and Judy Curran

The Western New England University community mourns the passing of Michael A. (Mike) Serafino '77 and fondly remembers him as a remarkable man who made innumerable contributions to the University he loved. Mike passed away on October 28, 2021. His impact to the University is enormous and broad: initially as an excellent student, and then as a devoted alumnus, a caring trustee, a generous donor, and a cherished friend to many on campus and beyond.



Elected to the WNE Board of Trustees in 2001, Mike was a proud and true supporter of WNE. He served the campus community in a number of capacities including as Alumni-trustee from 1994-1996, President of the WNE Alumni Association from 1996-1998, and as a member of the Board of Trustees from 2001-2021.

"Mike contributed to WNE's success in many ways: as a mentor to many, as a generous benefactor, and as a devoted member of our Board of Trustees," said Chairman of the Board of Trustees Kenneth Rickson '75. "Mike's untimely passing creates a vacancy on our Board that will be difficult to fill, as his history and expertise were invaluable."

In his role as a Trustee, Mike chaired the Investment and Finance committees and served on the Executive, Development, Finance, and Audit committees. He also served on the University's 1996 Presidential Search Committee.

"Mike Serafino played a major role in my life as well as in that of the University itself," said President Emeritus Anthony S. Caprio. "An outstanding alum, a dedicated Trustee, and to many of us, a precious friend, Mike was generous, kind, warm-hearted, and fun."

Widely recognized for his commitment to WNE, Mike was awarded the 1997 Alumni Association Alumnus of the Year award and was also the guest of honor at the 2014 Athletics Golf Classic.

Further expanding on the impact he made within the WNE community, Mike and his wife Patricia '77 established the Serafino Family Endowed Scholarship in 2008. Because of their generosity, the scholarship has provided dozens of scholarships to students in the College of Arts and Sciences who participate in extracurricular activities devoted to the arts.

"Mike will be sorely missed, especially by those privileged to be touched by his generosity of spirit, but I cannot help but believe that Mike's family and those of us grieving his loss will be comforted by the tremendous legacy he left at WNE that will be felt for generations to come," said President Robert E. Johnson.

In addition to the impact Mike made at WNE, he was also highly acclaimed for his professional work as a 30-year veteran of the investment industry, including the last 12 years as the Senior Vice President of investments at Serafino-Moore Wealth Management of

Raymond James, and for his commitment to serving the Springfield community and beyond. Among his many community service endeavors, he was a Trustee and former Chair of MacDuffie School and was also involved with the United Way of the Pioneer Valley and Behavioral Health Network in Springfield.

Complementing his commitment to service, Mike was also an accomplished singer-songwriter and music aficionado, performing at community events and venues throughout the years. He released an album titled *Kid Stone*, that featured songs he wrote and then recorded with family and friends. His album release was a philanthropic endeavor with proceeds going to benefit Open Pantry Community Services, Inc. in Springfield, an organization that provides food and shelter to community members in need; and Behavioral Health Network, a regional provider of behavioral health services for adults, children, and families. 🐾

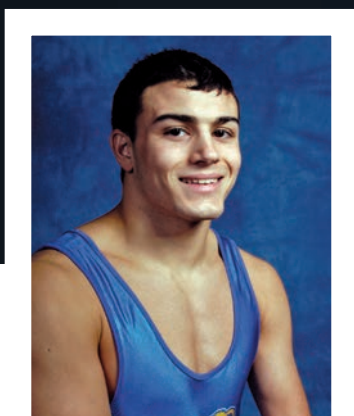
To honor Mike's memory with a gift to the Serafino Family Endowed Scholarship, visit alumni.wne.edu/serafinoscholarship or call (413) 782-1400. Checks may be mailed to Western New England University Office of Advancement, 1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01119-2684.

The Life Story of

NICK NEWELL '08

FEATURED ON THE BIG SCREEN

BY KATE BURKE



As an accomplished alumnus of the Western New England wrestling program and a highly touted professional mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter, the impact of Nick “Notorious” Newell’s athletic journey has extended beyond the ring to the big screen.

Released by Lionsgate in August 2021, Nick’s life story is featured in the film *Notorious Nick*, sharing his hard-fought journey and achievements as a one-handed fighter born with a congenital amputation of his left arm.

“I want to be an example to kids who are like me, or anyone facing adversity, that anything can be done and it’s not where you start, but where you finish,” said Nick. “When you face adversity or have something go wrong, just remember what you’re in it for. That message transfers over to everything in life. It’s not a fighting thing, it’s not a sports thing, it’s a life thing, a life lesson.”

Inspired at a young age by a chance meeting with Major League Baseball pitcher Jim Abbott, known for his athletic success despite having been born without a right hand, Newell inspires and encourages others to always give the best versions of themselves and to recognize that “there aren’t roadblocks in life, just speed bumps.”

Prior to his resounding success in the MMA arena, Newell was a member of the WNE Golden Bear family, recruited to wrestle at WNE by coach Jeff Peterson in 2004. Named captain his senior year, Newell was well known for his significant impact on the mat during college, including stepping up to compete and win matches in six different weight classes, but equally known for his selflessness, leadership, drive, and passion for improvement off the mat.

“Nick is no stranger to our program and the selfless personality he had as a student-athlete is the same way he is as an alumnus of the program. He is an inspiration and shows that the sky is the limit,” said Mike Sugermeier G’17, current WNE Head Wrestling Coach.

Throughout his college wrestling career, Newell, a native of Milford, CT, took advantage of off-season training

with his WNE teammates at the Fighting Arts Academy (FAA) in Springfield, honing not only their wrestling skills, but developing mixed martial arts, Jiu Jitsu, and kickboxing expertise. It was during those college years of training at FAA that he developed his drive to eventually pursue competitive MMA.

“I loved wrestling at WNE, loved going to college, had a lot of great friends, and made a lot of great connections,” said Newell. “Wrestling in college was the toughest because only the best of the best make it to the college level, everyone is a state champ and high level. College wrestling prepared me for MMA competition, polished my skills, and pushed me to get better.”

Newell joined the MMA professional ranks in 2009, spearheading his career with an 11-0 record fighting in promotions including the Xtreme Fighting Champions, the Legacy Fighting Alliance, and the World Series of Fighting. Initially retiring in 2015, he stayed connected to the MMA roots he established at the FAA in Springfield and opened his own branch of the FAA in his hometown. After time away from competition to focus on his gym, coaching, and family, he came out of



“I want to be an example to kids who are like me, or anyone facing adversity, that anything can be done and it’s not where you start, but where you finish.”

retirement in 2018, returning to the MMA cage as a featured fighter for BELLATOR MMA, a leading mixed martial arts and kickboxing organization.

Now having his story cinematically released worldwide, while concurrently training and competing in 2021 MMA promotions, Newell is contacted by the media more than ever before. He gives credit to his WNE education for preparing him with the communication skills needed for his real-world experiences, whether participating in MMA or movie interviews, developing and editing videos to promote himself and the FAA on social media, or speaking at motivational events.

“His commitment to WNE and the WNE wrestling program has never wavered,” said Sugermeyer. “We’re lucky and grateful to have alumni like Nick Newell, as a world champion, and Rodney Smith ’89/G’03, as an Olympic bronze medalist, as role models and leaders our guys can look up to and be an example that impossible is no object, that they

can accomplish whatever they want, and we’ve had great people with great success here at WNE.”

In addition to serving as a mentor and motivational speaker for the FAA and WNE, most recently speaking at the WNE Class of 2020 Appreciation Brunch this past October, Newell is also involved with a number of local and national organizations for youth and adults with limb deformities. He has hosted seminars and training sessions at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland for veterans who have lost limbs and has also worked to assist children and families through the Lucky Fin Project in Michigan and the Helping Hands Foundation in Massachusetts.

As he did at WNE, Newell continues to make an impact and define his legacy for his athletic prowess and success, but more importantly for his passion to spread his message of positivity and perseverance, no matter the obstacle. 🐾



Learn more about Newell's MMA career and watch the *Notorious Nick* film trailer at alumni.wne.edu/notoriousnick.

Class Notes

STAY CONNECTED

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

1970s

Robert Farrell G'76 (MBA) is an author, lecturer, ufologist, and retired associate professor emeritus from Penn State University, and has been traveling the country since 2004 presenting his lecture "The Science Behind Alien Encounters." Robert has also recently published a book, *The Science Behind Alien Encounters*.

Gregory Falk L'79 (JD) has been appointed to board of directors for Evercel, Inc.

1980s

Brian Ade L'80 (JD) has been named a 2021 New Jersey Super Lawyer. Brian is an attorney for Rivkin Radler LLP.

Thomas Blanchard L'81 (JD) was named the June 2021 volunteer of the month for his work with the American Red Cross. Thomas volunteers with the American Red Cross as a member of the Blood Transportation Team with the Syracuse Volunteer Driver program.

Frederic Clark '81 (Quantitative Methods) retired as president from Thule Inc.

Maria Gomes '82/G'84 (Business Administration/MBA) has been selected by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women as one of the Commonwealth Heroines of 2021.

Frank Wolak '82 (Mechanical Engineering) has been named president and chief executive officer of the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association.

James H. Fierberg L'83 (JD) has written a book, *Mentoring Lawyers: Finding Civility*. James spent 40 years as a lawyer in Massachusetts and Florida. He has also served as a Florida Supreme Court-certified civil mediator and law professor.

Brian Haynes L'83 (JD) has been included in the *2022 Best Lawyers in America* in his field of employee benefits law and tax law.

Henry M. Thomas III L'83 (JD) was awarded an honorary degree from the UMass Medical School at their Commencement ceremony. Henry is the president and CEO of the Urban League of Springfield, Inc.

Stanley Wilson '84 (Management) has been named director of the Department of Community Development for Fulton County, GA. Stanley has over 25 years of experience with community development, affordable housing, and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programming.

Linda Mast G'85 (MBA) has been elected to the Yavapai College Foundation Board. Linda is an associate dean for the School of Health Sciences at Northcentral University.

Lynne Wilson L'86 (JD) has been recognized among the *2022 Best Lawyers in America* in her field of real estate law.

Kevin Roche L'87 (JD) was included in the *2022 Best Lawyers in America* list. Kevin is a partner at the Halloran Sage law firm and is being recognized for his personal injury litigation—defendants practice.

William Cass L'88 (JD) is now flying with Pro Airways out of Boston in their Falcon 2000 and Beech jets. A lifelong pilot, instructor, and mission pilot with the Air Force Auxiliary and Civil Air Patrol, Bill retired into jet flying from a career in intellectual property and general litigation.

Jo-Ann Davis L'88 (JD) was elected to the Bay Path University Board of Trustees.

Robert Appleton L'89 (JD) has joined Olshan Frome Wolosky, LLP as a partner with the firm's White Collar Defense & Government Investigations practice.

1990s

Edward Hourihan L'90 (JD) has been ranked as a litigation attorney in the annual *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* directory in upstate New York. Edward was also included in *2022 Best Lawyers in America* for his work in commercial litigation, construction law, and litigation—construction.

The Honorable Robyn Johnson L'90 (JD) was named to the Connecticut Bar Foundation 2021 James W. Cooper Fellows Program. Fellows are nominated by their peers based on their outstanding service to the profession and larger community and are elected by the CBF Board of Directors. Judge Johnson is also the chairperson for The History of Attorneys of Color Project.

Christian Olsen '90 (Marketing) has been named the senior director of football administration with the Atlanta Falcons football team.

Lori Sheehan '90 (Marketing) has been appointed as the chief probation officer of the Northampton (MA) District Court Probation Department.

Martha Allard L'91 (JD) has been appointed as the administrative trademark judge at the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board within the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Janine Epright '91 (Business Administration) has become the chief financial officer for LL Global, the parent company of LIMRA, LOMA, and the Secure Retirement Institute. Janine previously was the chief financial officer for the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut and the Mohegan Holding Company.

Kelly Frederick '91 (Social Work) has been honored by Lowell Five Bank with the April 2021 "Make it Better" Employee Excellence Award. Kelly is the assistant vice president of Lowell Five Bank.

The Honorable Mark Goldstein L'91 (JD) has been appointed as the first presiding justice of the Gardner District Court.

Dolores Hamilton G'91 (MBA) is the new assistant town administrator for the town of Stow, MA.

The Honorable Maureen Walsh L'91 (JD) was sworn in as an associate judge of the Massachusetts Appeals Court. Maureen was nominated by Governor Charlie Baker.

Joseph DaSilva '92 (Business Administration) has been named vice president of administration and finance at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Robert Rhodes L'92 (JD) has recently joined FLB Law. FLB Law is located in Westport, CT, with legal services in litigation, real estate litigation, finance and development, banking and commercial transactions, employment law, family law, and trust estates.

John Rota '92/G'03 (Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice Administration) is a recipient of the 2021 Harvard Bradford Fellowship Program for Excellence in Public Administration. He will be attending the John F. Kennedy School of Government Mid-Career Master in Public Administration Program at Harvard University for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Kimberly Roy '92 (Government) is the director of external affairs for the Worcester County Sheriff's Department, and has been appointed as a commissioner for the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission.

Drew Hirshfeld L'93 (JD) is now serving as the temporary under secretary of commerce for intellectual property and director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He was appointed to this position in January 2021.

Amy LaBelle '93 (English) has been named to *New Hampshire Business Review's* list of top 200 New Hampshire Business Influencers. Amy is a co-owner and winemaker at LaBelle Winery, which has locations in Amherst, Portsmouth, and Derry, NH.

Kori Johanson L'93 (JD) has been hired as the new general counsel for a cybersecurity-focused insurer, Corvus Insurance.

Renne Marsjanik L'93 (JD) has been named senior vice president of the Wealth Management Department at First National Bank Alaska, the state's largest locally-owned community bank.

Charles Schue G'93 (Engineering Management) has been elected to the Ad Astra Rocket Company's Board of Directors. Charles is also founder and co-owner of a number of companies in the U.S. and Canada, the latest being a crispy jerky company located in North Billerica, MA.

Arthur Corey L'94 (JD) has been elected to the Connecticut Bar Foundation's Board of Directors.

Andrew Hamelsky L'94 (JD) joined Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young's Litigation department in July 2021. Andrew will be focusing his practice on life, health, disability, and ERISA litigation.

Thomas Richard Kasper '95 (JD) has been named president of the law firm Reid and Riege, P.C. Thomas will be the eighth president to lead the firm.

Jennifer Joakim '95/G'96 (Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice Administration) started a new position as the Saunders County (Nebraska) attorney.

Joshua Kelly G'95 (MBA) has been promoted to senior vice president for business development at OMG Inc. Joshua started at OMG in 1991 as a project coordinator and has held several positions.

Janeen DiGuseppi G'96 (Criminal Justice Administration) was selected to serve as the deputy assistant director of the FBI Training Division.

Thomas Downey G'96/L'01 (MBA/JD) has been made partner at the law firm of Pellegrini, Seeley, Ryan and Blakesley.

Allen Falke '96 (JD) is a member of the Business and Trusts & Estates group at Mirick O'Connell. Allen has recently been selected by his peers as one of the *2022 Best Lawyers in America* in the field of tax law.

Christopher Hulburt L'96 (JD) has joined the Penn State University Office of General Counsel as associate general counsel.

Rob Psholka G'96 (Mechanical Engineering) has been appointed to director of operations at Gaurdair Corporation, a leading manufacturer in the power-driven hand tool manufacturing industry.

Jay Seyler G'96 (MBA) joined the Greenfield Cooperative Bank as vice president of commercial lending.

Robert Tukey L'96 (JD) has joined the Gould-Larson law firm in Essex, CT.

Brain Cain '97 (Finance) joined Raymond James as managing director and complex manager.

Matthew Clancy '97 (Law Enforcement) has been named the new Maine Department of Public Safety Bureau chief and chief of police of Maine Capitol Police.

The Honorable Dana Lougher Doyle L'98 (JD) has been appointed by Governor Charlie Baker to a Massachusetts lifetime probate judgeship.

The Honorable Jessica Torres Shlatz L'99 (JD) was nominated in February 2021 to become a Connecticut Superior Court Judge, and was appointed to the bench on April 26, 2021.

2000s

John Carmichael '00 (Law Enforcement) has been named the chief of police for the Newton Police Department in Newton, MA.

Robert Emerson G'00 (Criminal Justice Administration) has been appointed as a commander for the Randolph (MA) Police Department.

Lawrence Calderone '01/G'04 (Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice Administration) is president of the Boston Police Patrolman's Association and chair of the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Policy Group. Lawrence was one of nine members named to the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission by Governor Charlie Baker and Attorney General Maura Healey following the passage of the Police Reform Legislation. Lawrence also recently completed a graduate degree in Public Administration from Suffolk University.

Fahd Cynndy '01 (Mechanical Engineering) has been appointed CEO of Saudia Aerospace Engineering Industries, a world-class maintenance, repair, and overhaul organization.

Anthony Ieraci '01/G'05 (General Business/MBA) has joined Excel Dryer as the new director of marketing.

Robert Kirchner G'01 (Criminal Justice Administration) has been appointed deputy chief for the Burlington (MA) Police Department.

John Van Zetta '01 (Environmental Sciences) was named director of safety at Delphi Construction.

Stephen Doherty '02/G'03 (Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice Administration) has been appointed as the deputy police chief of the Haverhill (MA) Police Department.

Robert Pistone G'02 (Criminal Justice Administration) has been promoted to police chief of the Haverhill (MA) Police Department.

The Honorable Danielle Williams L'02 (JD) was elected to the Bay Path University Board of Trustees.

Richard MacLean G'03 (Criminal Justice Administration) has been appointed lieutenant in the Amherst (MA) Police Department.

Javier Padilla L'03 (JD) has been named assistant vice president for human resources at Bay Path University.

Jonathan Harris '04 (Mechanical Engineering) was named the head coach of both the men's and women's cross country teams at Western New England University.

Daniel Kimball G'04 (Criminal Justice Administration) is a U.S. Air Force veteran who was recognized for his years of service by the Quilts of Valor Foundation and the North Orange Grange.

Randy Bilik '05 (Psychology) has joined Newfield Elementary School in Stamford, CT, as assistant principal.

Kelley C. Miller L'05 (JD) received the Thompson Reuters Everyday Hero Award and was named by *Law360* as one of the Most Influential Women Tax Attorneys in the United States. Kelley is a partner with the law firm Reed Smith.

Shelley Russo '05 (Finance) has been promoted from senior investment reporting analyst to lead investment reporting analyst at Symetra Investment Management Company in Farmington, CT.

Beth Ward '05 (Psychology) has joined MGM Springfield as the community affairs manager.

M. Dru Levasseur L'06 (JD) has been selected to be a 2021-22 Harvard Law School Wasserstein Fellow. Dru is the director of diversity, equity, and inclusion with the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association.

Pamela Zagorski L'06 (JD) is now serving as the executive director of the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging.

Mindy Tompkins L'07 (JD) joins Day Pitney LLP as partner in the firm's Healthcare Life Science and Technology practice.

Robert Abajian '08 (Law Enforcement) has been promoted to sergeant in the Bedford (MA) Police Department.

Michael Cardaropoli L'08 (JD) has been made partner at the law firm of Pellegrini, Seeley, Ryan and Blakesley.

Jennifer Dabrowski Hover '08/G'11 (Marketing/MBA) was inducted into the Plainville High School Sports Hall of Fame. Jennifer is an alumna of the WNE women's basketball team.

Stephanie Ganser '08 (Marketing Communications/Advertising) is now the director of adult and non-traditional student services at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Deana Reardon '08 (Political Science) has been appointed executive director of chemistry and chemical biology at Harvard University. Prior to this position Deana was associate director of administration. Deana has been leading administrative efforts at Harvard for thirteen years.

Eve Schatz L'09 (JD) was awarded the 2020 Access to Legal Justice Award by the Massachusetts Bar Association, honoring her work at the Berkshire Center for Justice, the nonprofit she founded while attending law school.

2010s

Carol Barton LLM'10 has been honored by the American Cancer Society (ACS) as the 2021 Sandra C. Labaree Volunteer Values Award winner for the Eastern New England Area of ACS. Carol is an attorney at Estate Preservation Law Offices in Worcester, MA.

John Paul Callahan '11/L'14 (Criminal Justice/JD) has been named stockholder of Reid and Riege, P.C.

Erin Doherty '11/G'15 (Sport Management/MBA) has been named the head coach for the Hollins University women's lacrosse team.

Nicole Halliday '11 (Biology) After eight years in the U.S. Army, Nicole has received her master's degree in Public Administration, and started a federal career with the Office of the Inspector General and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Jennifer (Pettit) Cowan '11 (Psychology) has joined American Savings Foundation as an associate program officer for grants. Jennifer has nine years of prior experience in grant management.

David Allosso L'12 (JD) has been promoted to partner at the Massachusetts-based real estate law firm Touchstone Closing.

Kory Grahl '12 (Biology) is now attending UNLV School of Dental Medicine's Advanced Education Program in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, where he will earn a certificate in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics in conjunction with a Master of Science degree in Oral Biology.

Mallorie Nai '12 (Psychology) has started a new position as director of middle school admissions at Brimmer and May School in Boston, MA.

Elizabeth Walsh '12 (Communication) was named director of Miami University's office of orientation and transition programs.

Jonathan Cohen-Gorczyca G'13 (Business Administration) has been promoted to manager at the Melanson accounting firm.

William Mason '13 (Communication) has been named head coach of the Bowdoin College men's lacrosse team. William joins Bowdoin after six seasons as head coach at Lasell University and two years as an assistant coach and defensive coordinator at Bates College.

Laura Penney L'13 (JD) joined a new start up firm, FLB Law, in Westport, CT earlier this year. She was later promoted to partner, with a focus on defense.

Andre Shaw '13 (Communication) has been named the director of men's basketball operations at the University of North Texas.

Christopher Erchull L'14 (JD) was named as one of the National LGBT Bar Association's *40 Best Lawyers under 40* for 2021. This award recognizes LGBTQ+ professionals under the age of 40 who have distinguished themselves in their field and have demonstrated a profound commitment to the LGBTQ+ equality.

Emily Fitzgerald '14 (Political Science) started a new position at Smith College as assistant director of regional volunteer engagement. Previously, Emily was the alumnae relations and reunion assistant at Smith College.

Kara Graves G'14 (Business Administration) has been promoted to employee benefit plan niche leader at Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

Joshua Lauzier '14/G'16 (Management/MBA) has been promoted to associate manager of Master Data Management & PLM Applications at Brooks Brothers.

Eric Sorenson '14 (Sport Management) joined the College of the Holy Cross men's hockey program as an assistant coach.

Michael Amoyaw '15 (Management and Leadership) has joined Google as a strategist. Michael previously worked in digital advertising, working on the IBM business with Ogilvy and GroupM.

Jasmine Chatman '15 (Psychology) accepted a position as assistant director of alumni relations at Springfield College in Springfield, MA.

Rose Colon L'15 (JD) has been named to the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Services Inc. board of directors. Rose is a Springfield-based criminal defense and personal injury attorney.

Salomon Louis L'15 (JD) has been named a board member of the New England Chapter of the Association of Certified E-Discovery Specialists (ACEDS). Salomon is also the eDiscovery program lead with MassMutual Financial Group and an adjunct professor at WNE.

Alex Wu PharmD'15 (Pharmacy) opened the Springfield Pharmacy in June 2019. This full service, family-owned, and independent pharmacy is located on Main Street in Springfield, MA and on High Street in Holyoke, MA.

Amanda Carpe L'16 (JD) has joined Bacon Wilson as an associate attorney in the firm's Estate Planning department.

Jordan Freeman L'16 (JD) joined the Defender Association of Philadelphia as an assistant public defender following years in private practice.

Tristan Hyde '16/G'19 (Computer Engineering/Electrical Engineering) received the Modern-Day Technology Leaders award at the BEYA STEM conference. Tristan is the software and configuration management principal investigator at General Dynamics Mission Systems in Pittsfield, MA.

Brian Rucki L'16 (JD) joined Bacon Wilson as an associate attorney on the firm's Real Estate team.

Patrick Brazel L'17 (JD) has started working at Goldberg Segalla as a part of the firm's Workers' Compensation group in Hartford, CT.

Claudia Quintero L'17 (JD) has been selected for the *BusinessWest* 2021 40 Under Forty class. Claudia is a staff attorney with the Central West Justice Center.

Natasha Mercado-Santana '17/G'19 (Marketing Communication/Advertising/Communication) recently started a position at WWLP-22News and *Mass Appeal* as a promotions producer.

Emily Trumbley '17 (Business Administration) has been promoted from associate to senior associate at PwC in Boston, MA. Emily has been with PwC for three years.

Chas Figueroa '18 (Sociology) has recently accepted a new position at the University of Cincinnati as a community coordinator in Resident Education and Development.

Hameed Bello '19/PharmD'21 (Pharmaceutical Business/Pharmacy) launched Agric Organics with the help of the Massachusetts Food Trust Program (MFTP). Agric Organics urban farm offers a community-supported agricultural program (CSA) that helps provide direct access to healthy food for communities in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Marie-Nicole Meak '19 (Neuroscience) has accepted a new position at AbbVie as a permanent manufacturing technician.

Megan Pantos '19/PharmD'21 (Pharmacy Studies/Pharmacy) was inducted into the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences' chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society.

Paulina Wysocka '19 (Marketing Communications/Advertising) was crowned the 2022 Polish Miss Massachusetts. Paulina is a special events and volunteering coordinator with United Way of Pioneer Valley.

2020s

Anne Blanchard L'20 (JD) has joined the law firm Kahan Kerensky Capossela, LLP as an associate.

Lisa Harty L'20 (JD) joined Bulkley Richardson as an associate.

Aidan Lanciani L'20 (JD) joined the Northwestern District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney in February 2021..

Madison Marilla '20 (Psychology) is the activities director and teaching assistant at Nathaniel Morton Elementary School in Plymouth, MA. Madison uses art therapy to connect with special education students through creativity-inspired activities and craft-related projects.

Karl Roberts G'20 (Sport Leadership and Coaching) has joined the Lycoming College football staff as the defensive pass game coordinator.

Toni Fiore '21 (Secondary Education/Mathematical Sciences) has been named the varsity head coach at North Salem High School in New York.

Anthony Frati '21 (Mechanical Engineering) has joined the Conval firm as product engineer.

SEE MORE ONLINE

For more Class Notes and our *In Memoriam* listing of alumni and community members who have recently passed away, view the online version of *WNE: The Magazine* at magazine.wne.edu.

Marriages



Cassandra Bonenfant '14 and **Nicholas Silvester '13**, May 21, 2021 in Hampton, CT
Front row: Molly Rowe, Ashley Miller '13, Cassie (Bonenfant) Silvester '14, Nikko Silvester '13, Rachael Lamson '13, Alex Solomon '14, Corey Brown '13, Joe Cicarella '12 **Middle row:** Joe Grieci '13, Dave Micu '13, Alex Miller '13, Dr. Rachel McNally '13/PharmD '15, Kristen Whitlow '13, Sonja Pustay '13, Joey Hendler '13, Warren Erdmann '13/G '16, Joe Cicarella '12 **Back row:** Brandon Ormsby '15, Colin Garry '13, Kyle Hunter '13, Josh Lamson '13, Jimmy Whitlow '13, Chris Mancuso '14



Emily Savino '13 and Kimberly Newman, June 26, 2021 in Stonington, CT



Sophie Cannon '17 and **Jacob Marini '16**, May 28, 2021 in Middletown, CT.



Marley Knysh '16 and **Jimmy Chase '17**, September 4, 2021 in Pittsfield, MA
 (L-R) Zachary Sondrini '07, Stephen Gair '17, Taylor Dubose '17, Jeffrey Fellion '16, Natasha Fellion '16, Jimmy Chase '17, Marley (Knysh) Chase '16, Brian Hellrigel '16, David Cedrone '16, Arianna Burkhard '16, Sean McGuire '15, Lauren Riley '16, Abigail Hunt '16



Elizabeth Morin G'18/PharmD '18 and **Eric Gernux '15**, May 15, 2021 in New Milford, CT
 (L-R) Shannon McGrane '15, Cassy McDermott '15, Tyler McCormick '15, Cody Wopschall '15/G'20, Mark Handfield '16/G'20, Dr. Daniel Jaracz '15/PharmD '17, Dr. Elizabeth (Morin) Gernux '15/G'18/PharmD '18, Dr. Abigail Graffam '16/PharmD '18, Neil Nicoll '69, Steven Nicoll '92, Eric Gernux '15, William Nicoll '93/G'98, Carolyn Gernux '84, Thomas Gernux '83, Lauren Robinson '18, Dr. Jonathan Mahoney '17/PharmD '19



Sarah Stevens '15 and AJ Salce, June 5, 2021 in Norwalk, CT
 (L-R) Sarah (Stevens) Salce '15, Kaitlynn Stevens '15, AJ Salce

Baby Golden Bears



Gwendolyn Paige, October 5, 2020 to **Jennifer Marshall '03** and Mark Hoy



Reese Catherine, April 11, 2021 to **Nicholas LoRicco '12** and Samantha LoRicco



Maya Rose, April 16, 2021 to **Chelsea (Vujs) Askew '16** and **Zackery Askew '16**



Wesley James, April 17, 2021 to **Heather (Coulter) Kemp '10** and **Jonathan Kemp '08/G'10**



Avery Rae, June 24, 2021 to **Amanda (DeCosta) Wagner '12** and **Jeffrey Wagner '12**



Amelia Lynn, November 2, 2020 to **Kara (White) Ormsby '09** and **Michael Ormsby '09**



Colin Thomas, November 21, 2020 to **Ashley (Lynch) Martin '10** and **Michael Martin '10**



Carter Kennedy, July 2, 2021 to **Talia Gee L'10/G'12** and Tyrone Kennedy

Accomplished Alumni Recognized at 2021 Law Alumni Awards Dinner



The WNE School of Law Alumni Association honored four accomplished alumni for their leadership, contributions to law, and commitment to service during the 2021 Law Alumni Awards Dinner on November 5.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Recognizing alumni who have made significant contributions, not only to the legal profession, but to society as a whole, the Distinguished Alumni Award honors those who exemplify leadership, ethics, and integrity while appreciating the impact the WNE School of Law has made on their accomplishments and successes.

ASCENDING ALUMNI AWARDS

Spotlighting the achievements of alumni who graduated from the WNE School of Law within the past 10 years, the Ascending Alumni Award honors alumni who have shown leadership, drive, and potential in their chosen fields and/or in the community.



KELLY HEUSER BONAFÉ L'14

Acting Senior Attorney
Kids in Need of Defense



TALIA LANDRY L'15

Litigation Associate
Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury & Murphy, P.C.

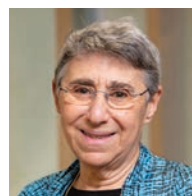


FRANK FITZGERALD '68/L'73

Partner
Fitzgerald Attorneys at Law, P.C.

DEAN'S ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Dean's Alumni Excellence Award recognizes the professional accomplishments of alumni who have a record of service to the school, community, state, nation, or world that demonstrates the core values of the Western New England University School of Law.



DOROTHY VARON L'95

Lead Counsel, Corporate Law
MassMutual



CLASS OF 2022 STUDENT LEADERS

HONORED WITH SKOOKUM

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

At the Skookum Awards Ceremony this past September, the WNE Alumni Association honored 15 members of the Class of 2022 with the prestigious Skookum Award of Excellence.

The Skookum Award was established by the Alumni Association in 1989 to recognize the outstanding achievements of students for their commitment and dedication to service through their leadership roles on campus, community service and volunteerism, and participation in athletics and cocurricular programs.



HAILEY MACDONALD
Major: English
Hometown: West Springfield, MA
Grand Skookum



SAMANTHA MCCLENAHAN
Major: Political Science
Hometown: Rhinebeck, NY
Royal Skookum



TAYLOR PEDLEY
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Smithtown, NY
Royal Skookum

SKOOKUMS



PEYTON CALVAO
Major: Pharmacy Studies
Hometown: New Bedford, MA



JAMAURIE JAMES
Major: Forensic Biology
Hometown: Franklin, MA



NIKO KARANTONIS
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Hometown: Salem, NH



JENSEN KEOUGH
Major: Social Work
Hometown: Whitehall, NY



JULIE MINER
Major: Criminal Justice
Hometown: Chicopee, MA



DARNELLA NYIRINKWAYA
Major: Economics
Hometown: Kigali, Rwanda



CATHY PHAM
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Springfield, MA



SOFIA PLAKU
Major: Marketing
Hometown: Bristol, CT



KELLY RAMOS
Major: Social Work
Hometown: Providence, RI



BENJAMIN RANICAR
Major: Marketing and Sport Management
Hometown: North Granby, CT



THOMAS THAYER
Major: Business Analytics
and Information Management
Hometown: Albany, NY



PAYTON WESTINE
Major: Criminal Justice
Hometown: Ansonia, CT

A color portrait of Professor John Anzalotti, an older man with glasses and a goatee, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue sweatshirt with orange text that reads "Anzals and Jeanne-Claude" and "The". The background is a blurred map.

THE CONSUMMATE PROFESSOR

Remembering Professor John Anzalotti

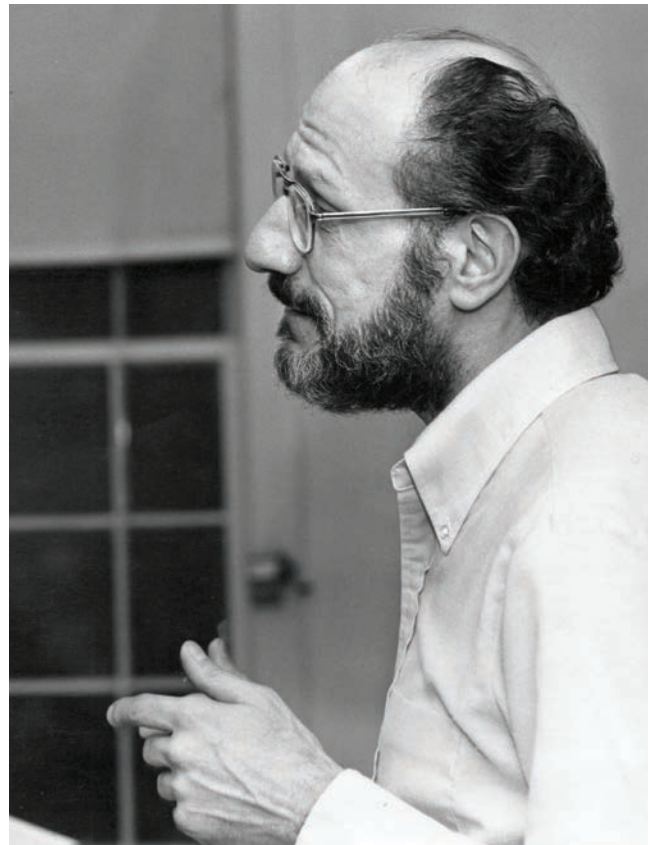
By Alex Lyman '12/G'16

Former Department Chair and Professor of History John Anzalotti passed away on July 20, 2021.

Professor Anzalotti was with WNE for 54 years, more than half of its lifetime. In fact, he could be considered the founding father of sorts for the second half of the University's first 100 years. From helping to draft the first set of bylaws for the Faculty Senate to becoming the first faculty athletic representative for the Department of Athletics and later being inducted into the Downes Hall of Fame, Professor Anzalotti paved the way for many of the policies and traditions of today.

As he was at the forefront of University development, Professor Anzalotti has been described as a "stabilizing influence." He believed in the traditional educational hallmarks of giving lectures, reading textbooks, and filling blackboards with lecture notes (although he later upgraded to digital slides for ease of access). To Professor Anzalotti, these foundational mediums were necessary roads to the participation in and application of learning. His adherence to these educational ideals made Professor Anzalotti beloved by his students and colleagues alike. In 2015, he received the President's Medallion and was named Professor Emeritus upon retirement.

Professor Anzalotti's devotion to and love for our campus was evident in the years he spent teaching and the amount of work he put in to make our community a better place. His presence was



reliable, and his love for teaching, especially American History, was limitless. WNE was such a large part of Professor Anzalotti that, upon his passing, over 50 WNE yearbooks were found in his home office—one for each year he was with the University.



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A large, white, sans-serif text overlay reading "WNE.EDU" is positioned in the bottom left corner of the image. The text is enclosed within a rectangular frame made of small yellow dots. The background of the entire page is a photograph of a modern university building with red brick and large glass windows. The building's glass facade reflects a large, stylized blue and yellow logo. Several people are walking on the steps leading to the entrance. In the foreground, there are green lawns, some trees with autumn-colored leaves, and black lampposts. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

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