



COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER - FALL 2023

WELCOME TO OUR NEW DEAN!

The Provost was pleased to announce the results of the search for a permanent Dean for the College of Health and Sciences. After an exhaustive search that resulted in a number of excellent candidates, the position was offered to Dr. Tracey Greenwood, and she accepted the position. Dr. Greenwood is an outstanding leader with strong gifts in collaboration, administration, and planning. She is also known as a person of deep faith and compassion whose values and aspirations reflect those of the University. Many thanks to the search committee for their tireless efforts to select just the right dean: Walt Huddell, João Monteiro, Leslie Gregory, Maria Fichera, and Denise Vanacore.

Tracey Greenwood, PhD



I am excited and honored to serve as the next Dean of the College of Health and Sciences. Having served 18 years as an Associate Professor of Exercise Science, the Exercise Science Program Director, CoAES, and Department Chair of Kinesiology has only solidified my desire to continue to give back to such a great institution. The faculty within the College of Health and Sciences are forward-thinking and visionary, and truly care for the student.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY!



Jeff Eicher - Assistant Professor, Data Science

Jeff graduated from Eastern's MS Data Science program and received his MA in Historical Theology from Westminster Seminary California. He has served on the College Board's AP Statistics Instructional Design Team, been an AP Statistics reader for many years and a consultant for the National Math and Science Initiative. His current research interests include using technology to advance statistics education and using cloud services in data science.

Sean Harris - Visiting Assistant Professor, Political Science

Sean received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Temple University in May 2023 with a focus on the fields of comparative politics and international relations. He earned his BA with honors in German Studies and Political Science from Drew University and then continued on to receive his M.A. at Lehigh University. Sean's research interests include nationalism, political parties, democratic political systems, European politics, and qualitative methodology.



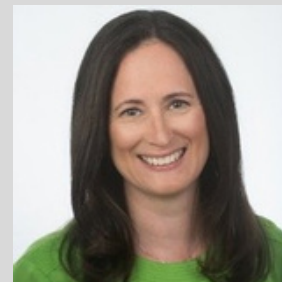
Carole Lorup - Assistant Professor of Nursing

Carole, who has chaired and served on dissertation committees for both EdD and PsyD programs, received her MSN from Walden University and her PhD in Nursing Science from Widener University. Her specialties include maternal newborn nursing, holistic nursing, health assessment and pharmacology. Her research interests are in qualitative research, cultural studies and maternity nursing.



Sandra McCammon - Lecturer and Laboratory Manager, Chemistry

Sandra has served as an adjunct at Eastern since 2017. She received her BA in Chemistry from Gettysburg College and her MS in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering from Villanova University. For 20 years she worked as an environmental consultant for Weston Solutions. Sandra, a proud member of the Paoli Presbyterian Church's handbell choir, has been married for 22 years and has 2 sons, 2 Siberian huskies, and 2 bee hives!



Sarah Ostroski - Visiting Assistant Professor, Kinesiology

Sarah has been a public health professional for over 20 years. She was an adjunct at Eastern from 2014 to 2018 while attending Temple University for a master's degree in Kinesiology and is currently a doctoral candidate at Concordia St. Paul University. Sarah lives with her husband and two children in Glen Mills, PA and enjoys playing with her dogs, snuggling with her cat, strength training, and hiking at the state park on the weekends.



SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL WORK



MSW REACCREDITATION UPDATE

The last phase of the accreditation self-study was submitted to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in September and a site visit took place in November. The CSWE Board of Accreditation meets in February at which time they will decide whether to grant EU accreditation. We expect to be informed of their decision in the spring of 2024.

BSW REACCREDITATION

It may seem like a long way off but the BSW program is due for reaccreditation in 2025. Our program first earned accreditation in 1974 and has maintained accreditation status continuously for nearly 50 years. Although we have every confidence we will continue to earn reaccreditation, it is a huge undertaking and requires a great deal of work. We will keep you updated on the progress.

NEW FACULTY



Devonne Allen
Assistant Professor of
Social Work

Dr. Allen has worked for more than 10 years in social work higher education, specializing in the areas of field education, human behavior, clinical practice, and program administration. Prior to that, she spent 13 years in clinical social work practice providing therapeutic services to children and families in the foster care system in Westchester County, NY. She currently has a private clinical practice, Desiring Wellness, which supports and educates individuals to care for their emotional wellbeing.



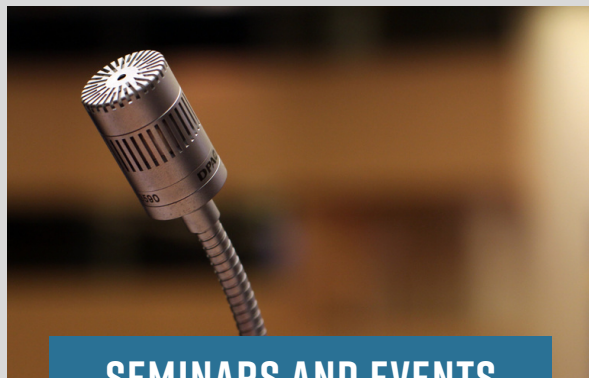
Cristyn Dodla
Lecturer of Social Work

Christyn came to Eastern University with over two decades of social work experience and has spent the last fourteen years as a school social worker. She started her career in child welfare working in foster care and adoption before shifted her focus to international adoption. She is an LSW and has an Education Specialist Certificate through the PA Department of Education.



SUMMER RESEARCH AT EASTERN

The Biology Department launched the **Summer of Academic Research (SOAR) in Biology and Environmental Science** program this year. Kaela Miles, a Biological Studies major, worked with Dr. Brian Alfaro on genetic and phenotypic variation in mustard plants and Nina Palumbo, a Biology major, assisted Dr. Kandace Thomas with her work on cardiac pacemaker cell biology using the embryonic chick as a model system.



SEMINARS AND EVENTS

The Biology Department started a **STEM seminar series** this year, aimed at preparing students for careers in STEM fields. Dr. Brian Alfaro spoke on October 20 about “The twelve unwritten laws of undergraduate research”. A seminar on November 8 featured a presentation by Eastern Biology alum, **Michelle Gallaher, Manager of Cell Banking and Manufacturing Services at Charles River Laboratories.**

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Friday, November 17, the Chemistry Department is hosting a seminar with **Dr. David Olsen, a Merck scientist**, who will speak on his research on Malaria treatments and careers in the pharmaceutical industry.

NURSING DEPARTMENT'S BLESSING OF THE HANDS

The blessing of the hands celebrates the symbolism of hands as extensions of ourselves, appendages with which we can show love and compassion, and which we can use to embrace those around us.



I anoint your hands in the name of the Father who created, loves and sustains you. The Son who redeems you and the Holy Spirit who empowers you. May these hands bring comfort and healing to those they touch. To the honor and glory of God.



STUDENT NEWS

During **National Chemistry Week (October 15-21)** Eastern chemistry students had the opportunity to visit the Science History Institute in Philadelphia for a presentation by **Carolyn Berlozzi, the 2022 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry**.

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The Chemistry Department hosted a Meet & Greet for pre-pharmacy students and the recruiter at **Howard University College of Pharmacy** who has partnered with Eastern for guaranteed entrance into their PharmD program.

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Several Math Sciences students partook in amazing summer internships including: **Evan Amey** worked in Aerospace manufacturing with **SPS Technologies**, a PCC Company. **Hailey Shreffler** had an internship with a SULI national lab. **Caden Coutz** had a cyber security internship with the **US Coast Guard**. **Samantha Peters** was an Information Systems Intern at a top wholesale distribution firm. **Sam Williams** did the Leadership Development Program with **Hersheypark**. **Nathan Billic-Gilbert** had a software development internship with a biotechnology company. **Jacob DeVage** participated in **Pfizer's** summer growth experience.

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The Student Engineering Society will be hosting several competitions and events this year to raise funds for club projects including: a spikeball tournament, a spaghetti bridge-building competition, engineering talks and a design contest in the spring semester, where students in teams will be presented with a design problem, and given parameters to come up with a solution. The teams presentations will be judged by a panel composed of relevant staff and peers.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Brian Alfaro, Assistant Professor of Biology, published a paper online on August 31, 2023 in *Ecology and Evolution* - Evidence of differential phenotypic plasticity in a desert mustard. Brian Alfaro & Diane L. Marshall
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10468984/>

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

The **Lambda Computer Science Club** hosted a **Video Game Playtesting** event last year in which **Math Department alum, Josh Hall ('10)** came to campus to talk with students about video game development and to showcase the video game he was currently working on. This semester, the club will be hosting him again to playtest a demo of his newest video game version.

DO YOU HAVE EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE? AN UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT? NEW RESEARCH OR PROMOTION? EMAIL CHSDEAN@EASTERN.EDU AND TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!