



COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Spring is here!!! It is a time to thaw out from the winter frost, dust off our snow boots, and explore the outdoors. It is also a time to plant new “seeds” to provide joy and beauty in the tomorrows. I hope you will find something to revitalize yourself during this season.

First, I want to offer my congratulations to the Class of 2024! I hope that your experiences over the past several years have created a foundation for your future success and that you all take great pride in your accomplishments. I also hope you will be inspired to make an impact on the world stage.

As evidenced in this newsletter, our faculty, staff, students, and alumni, continue to excel in areas of teaching and learning, scholarship, and service. Through their ongoing efforts, I am continually amazed and encouraged by the resiliency and generosity of the human spirit. To continue our record of achievement, we need the ongoing support of our community, now more than ever. There is no better time to get involved with the College of Health and Sciences. Here is how you can help:

- * Mentor a student or recent graduate
- * Provide writing or tutoring support for classmate
- * Create an internship for a student
- * Hire a recent graduate
- * Introduce us to alumni we need to know
- * Spread the story of the College of Health and Sciences to others, personally and/or on social media
- * Participate in the Day of Giving

I look forward to connecting with you at one of the many upcoming events hosted by our College or our individual academic programs. Thank you for your continued partnership in our quest to educate the next generation of leaders who enact change and impact lives.



Tracey Greenwood, PhD

ACCREDITATION UPDATES

MSW ACCREDITATION

The CSWE Board of Accreditation has officially granted Eastern its MSW accreditation! Congratulations to the Social Work department and thank you to everyone involved for all of your hard work!

BSW REACCREDITATION

The BSW program is due for reaccreditation in 2025. The program first earned accreditation in 1974 and has maintained its status continuously for nearly 50 years. To celebrate this milestone year the Student Social Work Association will be bringing together the alumni this spring.

EXERCISE SCIENCE REACCREDITATION

The CoAES will conduct their on campus visit during the fall semester as the Exercise Science program at Eastern works toward their reaccreditation.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Eloise Meneses, PhD, Professor of Anthropology, had an article put into print in *Religion and Society*. The article is "A School of Thought in Christian Anthropology: A discussion on ontology, religion, and the limits of secularity."

STUDENT NEWS AND EVENTS

Chemical Science Student Research Symposium will be Friday, April 5. Our students are doing amazing work; all are welcome to attend!

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Social Work Identity Workshops are being provided by Dr. Sylvia Bekele to Eastern BSW and MSW students this spring. The workshops will focus on what social work is and where it came from, student's vision and mission as a social worker, social work values and the Code of Ethics, and professional identity development.

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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.

ALUMNI FOCUS

Gianna Daflissio '19, a Biochemistry and THC alum, is currently a 4th-year medical student at Penn State College of Medicine. She was awarded a prestigious research fellowship year with a top congenital heart surgeon in Boston that she just renewed for an additional year since the work is going so well!

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Abby Lipinski '22, a Biochemistry alum, was just accepted into a PhD program at Baylor College of Medicine to study immunology. She just completed her MS in infectious disease at the University of Pittsburgh.

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Josh Hall '10, a Math Department alum, came to campus last year to talk with students about video game development and to playtest a demo of his newest video game version.

BIOLOGY SENIOR THESIS

Senior Biology students Julianne Anemone, Lucas Mitchell and Ian McDonald assisted Kandace Thomas, Assistant Professor of Biology, with her research with cardiac pacemaker cells from the chick and Julia Snipes and Mercedes Lohman worked closely with Dr. Maria Fichera, on literature reviews and research proposals on coral bleaching and ozempic use for weight loss.



BIOLOGY STEM SEMINARS

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

NURSING DEPARTMENT'S PINNING CEREMONY



congratulations

GRADUATES

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| Florence Boadu | Eren Kwagbbee |
| Madelin Belanger | Jordan Laboy |
| Zachary Breig | Zackline Mendy |
| Kamillah Burnett | Eric Morrissey |
| Sarah Deardorff | Ke'moni Mosely |
| Shavay Ellis | Jonathan Nixon |
| Hailey Eppheimer | Natalie Onderko |
| Lois Han | Lily Planck |
| Madison Keckler | Amador Rolon |



WELCOME 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.



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.



WELCOME NEW FACULTY!



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.

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!