



COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Happy Spring! As the vibrant energy of the season returns to Eastern University, I am incredibly proud of the transformative work happening throughout the College of Health and Sciences. There is so much activity right now; our Natural Sciences labs are buzzing with faculty research and hands-on student mentoring. That same spirit of innovation is alive in our Computational Sciences, where students in Mathematics, Computer Science and Data Science are building the technical excellence and data-driven insights needed to tackle complex, real-world challenges.

We are also seeing incredible technological growth in the Health Sciences thanks to our new 3D Anatomage Tables. This state-of-the-art tool, funded by the McLean Contributionship, is a total game-changer for the student learning experience, effectively bridging the gap between textbook theory and clinical reality. However, we know that scientific and technical progress is at its best when viewed through the lens of the Social Sciences. By focusing on social justice and ensuring our findings are applied equitably, our social science programs continue to break down societal barriers and honor the dignity of every individual.

Whether you are studying anatomy, running a lab experiment, writing code or advocating for those in need, your work is a living testament to Eastern's mission of faith, reason, and justice. Seeing all these diverse disciplines come together fills me with pride and makes me deeply honored to serve as your Dean.



Tracey Greenwood, PhD

WELCOME NEW FACULTY!

Jaclyn McAlester

Assistant Professor of Data Science



Jaclyn brings over a decade of experience as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, along with extensive global humanitarian and mission work. A Rotary Peace Fellow alumna, her work is shaped by interests in peacebuilding, social justice, and complex systems. Her research interests focus on the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health, with particular attention to zoonotic diseases and ethical data use. She is especially interested in how statistical modeling and data-driven analysis can inform policy, improve health outcomes, and illuminate the disproportionate impacts of zoonotic diseases on vulnerable communities.

CHS PROGRAM UPDATES

The Computer Science major within the School of Mathematics and Computational Sciences has introduced three new concentrations:

- **Cybersecurity** - this concentration will build upon a solid foundation of Computer Science, diving more deeply into the fields of networking, operating system hardening, security, and threat analysis. In addition, students will be prepared for careers such as information technology, cybersecurity analyst, and network security engineer.
- **Game Development** - this concentration will gain hands-on experience with video game design in game engines. Students can also tailor this concentration to their areas of interest with course options like Creative Writing, Physics, The Art of Film, or Music Production.
- **Mathematics** - While the Computer Science curriculum bridges the gap between abstract mathematics and computational applications, students in the Mathematics concentration will spend more time with the mathematics that underpins Computer Science. This concentration prepares students for careers in encryption, data science, and analytics as well as further study in graduate school.

CHS FACULTY AND DEPARTMENT NEWS

COLLABORATION

Criminal Justice faculty **Drs. Katie Farina and Vivian Smith** joined **Dr. Molly Scarlato** from the Nursing department to conduct a joint reentry simulation. Capstone students from both programs worked in mixed groups, navigating a virtual environment to better understand the complexities of life after a term of incarceration.

.....

Dr. Tracey Greenwood and Dr. Anne Filippone represented Eastern University at the 2026 AAC&U Conference on Learning and Student Success (CLASS). Together with other university leaders, they presented "*Courageous Care in Times of Closure: Supporting Student Success through Mergers, Acquisitions and Closures.*"

GIVING BACK

In 2019, Eastern's School of Nursing donated 1,500 pounds of books to the Bugongi College of Nursing and Midwifery in Uganda. In 2024, they donated an additional 22 sets of ATI books. The last of these books arrived in Uganda and the director shared that the donation of books has "boosted the status of the college's library and is now well known in the region because of the books!"

PRESENTATIONS IN THE FIELD

Dr. David Bradstreet, Astronomy and Physics faculty, gave a talk at Wayne Presbyterian Church on February 25 entitled "Is Your Faith Strong Enough to Be a Christian? - My Life in Astronomy as a Christian." The talk was well received and can even be viewed on YouTube! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeF3PFTO5iE>

.....

Criminal Justice faculty members, Dr. Katie Farina and Dr. Vivian Smith presented at the American Society of Criminology held last semester. Dr. Farina presented "The Role of School Sector in Explaining Student Reports of Crime and Victimization" and Dr. Smith presented "Starting Over: Navigating Academic Transitions as an Afro-Latina Scholar" and the other "Healing Beyond the Hospital: A Case Study on the Paterson Healing Collective."

.....

Dianna Montgomery, Social Work faculty, presented "Active Learning Strategies for Creating an Inclusive and Collaborative Learning Environment" on February 27 at *Lancaster Learns*. This was an inperson interactive workshop that introduced participants to practical active learning strategies and pedagogical tools that foster respectful conversations in diversity-focused courses.

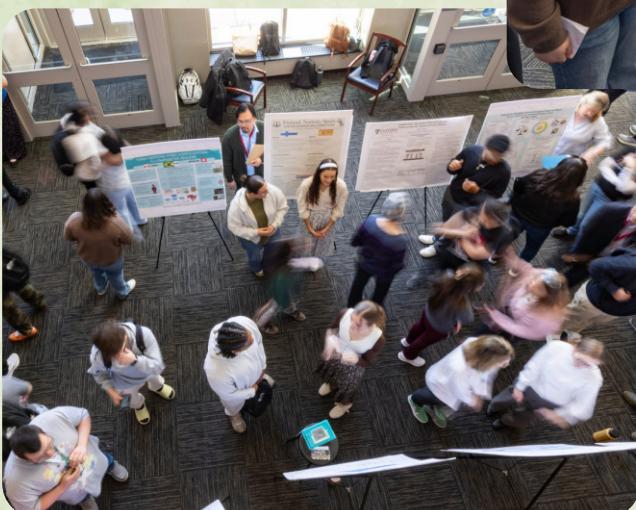
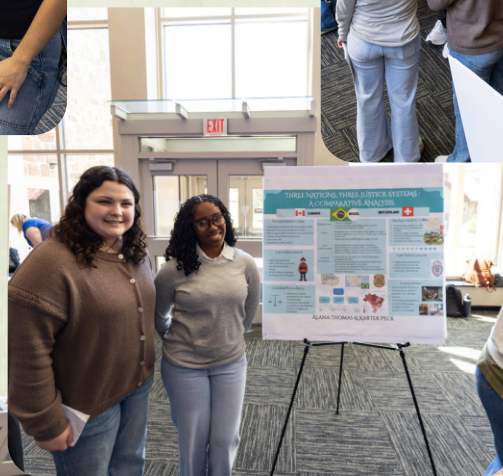
CHS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 11, 2026

Innovation was on full display at this year's Research Symposium, featuring over 25 poster submissions, representing a vibrant cross-section of academic disciplines. Students presented their research findings to a large audience of peers, staff and faculty. It was a wonderful representation of the research culture and community here at Eastern!

The following awards were presented at this year's symposium:

- **Best Visual Design Award** - Karter Peck and Alana Thomas – *Three Nations, Three Justice Systems: A Comparative Analysis*
- **Quantitative Excellence Award** - Vesa Pema – *Light Curves and Analyses of Eclipsing Overcontact Binary NSVS 9482391*
- **Qualitative Excellence Award** - Jaden Ricketts – *Pushed Out? Alternative Education and the Pathways into the School-to-Prison Pipeline*
- **Social Justice Award** - Patricia Kay Burak and Valentina Aquino – *The Opioid Crisis & Community Intervention*



STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Sigma Zeta, the math and science national honor society, inducted 26 undergraduate students from the College of Health and Sciences this semester.

.....

Mackenzie Laub, a senior Biology major, was accepted into Thomas Jefferson's MS Program in Clinical Research and will start in the fall.

.....

Criminal Justice students recently accepted internships including **Edy Martinez** with the Chester Police Department and **Liana Ocasio** with Philadelphia Probation and Parole.

.....

Tyler Truex, a Biology major, was accepted into the 2026 Pfizer Futures Summer Internship Program in Clinical Immunology and Diagnostics in Pearl River, NY.

COLLABORATION

Seniors within the Social Work and Nursing programs completed an interprofessional community simulation together this month. The students focused on learning to use their unique knowledge and strengths to serve the client/patient together.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Criminal Justice alumni, **Tyler Zeck '25**, began a job with the Capitol Police in December 2025.

.....

Tyler Foote '25, an Environmental Science graduate, will receive her Master's from Cornell University in Earth Science and Engineering this month and was accepted into the University of Arizona's Planetary Science PhD program at their Lunar and Planetary Laboratory.

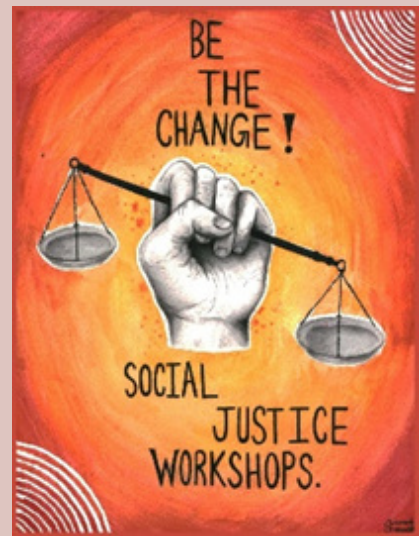
SCHOLARSHIP

Abigail Laird, a senior Math major and Astronomy minor, was awarded a \$40,000 scholarship to attend St. Andrews University in Scotland in September 2026! She will be working on a Master's degree in Astronomy. She won this prestigious scholarship based on her excellence in her major and her research work on binary stars.

.....

Kade Seip, a senior Biochemistry and Templeton Honors College scholar, received the prestigious HPSP Scholarship through the Army and was accepted to Boston University's Goldman School of Dentistry.

**BE THE CHANGE:
SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP
STUDENT REVIEW
BY SARAH SMITH**



On February 21, 2026, the Campolo Institute for Applied Research hosted a “Be The Change” event providing a vital interdisciplinary space for examining systemic inequality and pathways for transformational change. The event was created in partnership between students and faculty. The day opened with a poignant performance by fellow student Amari Dickerson, currently a senior Theater major and Psychology minor.

Being enrolled in an online graduate program with students from all over the world limits opportunities for in person connection and networking. This event created opportunity to meet local students and faculty. Breakout sessions were offered on a variety of topics including Violence and Safety, Faith and Labor, Borders and Belonging and Housing Justice. Through meaningful dialogue amongst undergraduate/graduate students, members from the local community and instructors from multiple disciplines, these sessions offered an opportunity to tackle a variety of social justice related issues from a variety of perspectives.

The panel discussions led by experts Reverend Dr. Kimberlee A. Johnson, David Kaib and Shane Clairbone all offered nuanced viewpoints about the complexities of active changemaking in our current political climate. I was particularly struck by the number of young students so eager to learn and understand how to navigate the complexities we face as a society today and an eager desire to take action. While the world can often feel heavy, their passion, critical thinking skills and authentic desire to act ignited a great deal of hope for me about our future.

At times, it can be difficult to find a space to process and navigate how to best transform words into action in response to long standing injustices that impact our local and global communities. If you are looking to find that space, I strongly encourage you to consider attending this annual event in the future!

**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!**

