

CAMPUS

THE ELMIRA COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A new academic year is well underway at Elmira College, and I am pleased to report many things have returned to normal on campus. From Move-In activities, including Candlelight, to Mountain Day singing and chanting, to a robust Octagon Fair, EC traditions are once again full of life and student involvement. A big congratulations to the 2022 Elmira College Athletics Hall of Fame inductees who were honored on October 1. It proved to be an evening of camaraderie and EC pride as we welcomed back 76 inductees, alumni, family members, and former coaches.

This sense of optimism has carried over into other areas of the College as well. The College experienced an uptick in freshmen enrollment this fall, was awarded a \$1.85 million grant from the US Department of Education to support IT infrastructure and classroom technology, and introduced several new academic programs that combine the liberal arts with professional skills and hands-on learning.

After more than two years of planning and working with the New York State Charities Bureau, the College developed a plan that allows access to additional funding from our endowment to help move us through current financial challenges. The College will access the additional funds over the course of the next three years. The funds accessed will be borrowed from the endowment and paid back on a set schedule.

While this was a long and arduous process, the plan provides Elmira College with focus and targeted goals for moving forward. As we near the end of the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, these goals will be woven into the development of the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. Over the next several months, the Long-Range Planning Committee will reach out to the campus community and alumni for input on priorities and goals for the next five-year cycle. Your input is invaluable to this effort and I thank you for your participation.

As you read through the following pages, you'll see that the features that made an Elmira College education special to so many continue today. Close connections to faculty, undergraduate research, and innovative programming all continue to provide experiences that connect alumni throughout the years. While EC continues to face challenges like many small private colleges, I am confident that we are heading in the right direction and look forward to a bright future for Elmira College.

Yours,



Charles W. Lindsay, PhD
Elmira College President



2023-2028 STRATEGIC PLANNING

MISSION STATEMENT

Grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, Elmira College provides a collaborative and supportive environment that enables students to become active learners, effective leaders, responsible community members, and globally engaged citizens. Proud of its history and tradition, the College is committed to the ideals of community service, and intellectual and individual growth.

VISION STATEMENT

Elmira College will be recognized as a leader in broad-based, interdisciplinary education, offering innovative programs that combine experiential learning, on- and off-campus leadership opportunities, and community engagement. The College's curricular and co-curricular programs will demonstrate a commitment to diversity, inclusion, and global awareness with a strong emphasis on the interconnectedness of world cultures and the historical exchange of ideas.

HISTORY AND CHARACTER

Elmira College was chartered at a time when ideas about human rights, as illustrated by the women's suffrage movement, permeated much of the thinking in Upstate New York. It is this spirit that led the institution's founders to establish the first American college offering academic programs equivalent to those available to men at the time.

Today, the College continues the tradition of offering a strong, high-quality academic experience for students studying at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Providing students from all walks of life with the opportunity to reach their full potential is at the heart of EC's educational mission.

PRESENT DAY CHALLENGES

Higher education has been beset by many challenges over the past few years, including a declining number of traditional-age college students, increasing government regulation, the erosion of public confidence in the value of a college degree, and a worldwide pandemic. In response, the landscape of higher education is changing. And colleges and universities must prepare and adapt or face grim consequences. This thinking is at the forefront as Elmira College enters the planning phase for its 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.

2023-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

As with the previous five-year plan, two primary goals over the next five years will be to increase enrollment and enhance the College's financial health. Increased enrollment will make for a richer, more diverse campus environment and allow the institution to continue providing a quality educational experience. An improving financial picture will provide the resources necessary to ensure that employees are compensated fairly and for the institution to offer competitive programs and services.

Over the next few months, members of the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) will reach out to the EC community for input regarding priorities and goals for the next five years (2023-28). As part of this work, students, faculty, staff, administration, and alumni will be asked to complete an online survey and participate in focus groups.

Once the surveys and focus groups are complete, the LRPC will utilize the results and recommendations to establish key goals in line with the College's mission for 2023-28. These goals will be shared with the EC community in the spring and presented to the Board of Trustees for approval in June of 2023.



POINTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON EC'S THEATRE PROGRAM

Elmira College's Theatre program and its annual theatre season have long been stalwarts of the College's educational opportunities. Now, Associate Professor of Theatre and Director of the Theatre Program, Rebecca Rich, wants to inject the program with new ideas and practical measures to entice more involvement among students. Rich, who joined the faculty just before the start of Term I, brings with her more than 20 years of experience and a fierce dedication to making theatre more inclusive.



"I'm excited to have my expertise valued," she said. "I have an understanding of theatre and an understanding of what it takes to build an academic program."

One of Rich's first professional experiences was touring the country, performing in the musical, "Guys and Dolls." Since then, she's performed in the U.S.

and abroad in small and large theatre houses. She's acted, directed, sung, and played musical instruments. She learned to "show up" and to be persistent. Like when she went uninvited to the auditions for an Off-Broadway show called "Zombie Prom." Once the director and choreographer saw her, they made sure to find her a role in the show. This led to additional job opportunities with the same director.

Because of her experiences, Rich is guided by inclusive principles. She wants to create a curriculum that invites the methods and stories of people from historically marginalized backgrounds. She spends extra time sourcing video clips that feature diverse people. She's thoughtful about the language she uses in class, and she introduces students to theatrical methods and plays from around the world, going beyond the Greco-Roman classics and their descendants.



For example, Rich holds a certification in and teaches the Michael Chekhov technique, a "psycho-physical" approach that uses imagination to connect the body, mind, and spirit of an actor to the character and the text of the play. Chekhov is the nephew of the famous playwright, Anton Chekhov. The Chekhov Technique fosters the creative individuality of actors. In exercises, students use their bodies, gestures, and imaginations to explore and call forth sensations, actions, and emotions. In one imagination exercise,

Rich had half of the students imagine they had tiny feet, like those of a mouse, and the other half imagine they had gigantic feet, like those of an elephant, and then switch. The exercise helped students explore how their bodies and thoughts adjusted, which informed the movements, sensations, relationships, and emotions that came about. These types of exercises may even prompt students to think about cultural and physical differences, and inform relationships among characters.

But while the Chekhov method is one of the main techniques Rich uses, she'll invite guest artists into class to co-teach techniques like SoulWork, which was developed by Dr. Cristal Channele Truscott and is rooted in African-American theatrical performance methods and techniques.

And Rich is applying her principles and her pragmatism to the department's theatre performances. This will be the first year the department will put on three performances - one in each term - since the start of the pandemic. As the only full-time faculty member in the department, Rich has had to be creative to balance the costs and the time needed to produce three plays.



For the fall performance, she created a show called, "Theatre Unmasked - A Revue" where the cast members performed their own narratives using a process based on Ping Chong's interview-based theatre technique where community members tell their own stories about identity and belonging. A Theatre major will likely direct the Term II play as part of an independent study and Rich will soon announce the musical for Term III.

Ultimately, Rich wants to grow the academic program. She's starting by "invigorating" the Theatre minor. She'll make it easier for students to pair the minor with other programs by reducing the credit hour requirements, bringing the program in line with other minors. Also, she'll teach foundational courses annually so students taking the minor - and transfer theatre majors - can be certain to fulfill the requirements.

"Moving forward I'll advocate for more faculty, design resources, and production budgets," she said. "With pandemic restrictions hopefully behind us, I want to bring the theatre program back stronger and more inclusive than before."

ELMIRA COLLEGE STUDENTS GET A STEP AHEAD WITH UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

When asked, students and alumni often say they're grateful that they began research right from the start at Elmira College. They enjoyed the chance to delve deep into topics and gain skills often reserved for upper-level or graduate students at other colleges and universities.

"Research is amazing if you're a person who likes to ask why," said Christian Zwierlein '23, a Biochemistry major. "You can learn about yourself as a person and learn about the world around you."

The Mathematics and Natural Sciences department particularly lends itself to the investigative process and students pursuing these majors often present their findings at conferences and sometimes get their work published in journals. Here's a quick look at some of the newer research being conducted this year by both faculty and students.



Environmental Science: Students in the Environmental Science program are learning to assess the baseline conditions of a region to understand the impact of natural and human changes. They're first learning to track flood patterns and measure water quality, microplastic abundance and locality, and sediment and mineralogical composition in the Chemung River. They'll later apply these techniques and understanding to a tropical setting in St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands in the spring of 2024.

"In order to understand the impact of climate change and other stressors we must first understand how the natural systems are intended to function. This gives students a better view of how humans have altered natural activities and then develop solutions to fix broken systems," said Dr. Trevor Browning, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science.

Biology: Students working with Dr. Elisabeth "Abbi" Paulson, Assistant Professor of Biology, are using small (~1 mm), transparent worms called *Caenorhabditis elegans* to study the cell biology of autism-associated genes. The *C. elegans* live in soil and feed on microbes such as bacteria. They're useful in this research because they have about 78% of the more than 100 genes currently linked to autism in humans. Paulson and her students are interested in finding genes that regulate the biology of the intestine to better understand the relationship between certain intestinal problems - often referred to as "leaky gut" - and autism.

"I like that we're not just seeing the genes on a line of a piece of paper," said Zwierlein. "We're seeing the phenotypes in real life and seeing how these gene changes affect things in real life."

"So far, students in my lab have screened ten autism-associated genes," said Paulson. "We have identified three that cause worms to accumulate fluid in their body cavity. This could be due to a leaky gut or a defective excretory cell - which acts like the kidney for the worm. Follow-up studies are in progress."



Chemistry: The Chemistry department has three new faculty members who are working now to establish their research at Elmira College.

Dr. Veronica Moorman, Associate Professor of Chemistry, is a biochemistry/biophysicist, utilizing tools from across biology, chemistry, and physics. She's currently working with Paige Stilts '23 to investigate the interactions between flavonoids - common antioxidants in foods like tea and wine - and proteins. They hope to understand better why flavonoids have health benefits. Moorman will enlist additional students to help her research better ways to measure acidity in non-water-based solutions like oil and the use of PETase, a fungal protein, to break down plastics. Moorman is also helping three seniors complete research they've been working on for a couple of years investigating a protein complex called 9-1-1 that's important for recognizing DNA damage and making sure that the damage gets repaired correctly.



Dr. Samantha Bidwell, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, is recruiting students into her lab to work on a variety of projects including computational chemistry investigations and STEM education development. Bidwell's computational work involves the analysis and development of chemical pathways critical in the development of new industrial, medicinal, and environmental processes. Using computer programs and quantum chemistry in her work, she is able to look at the electronic structures of molecules and examine their bonding behaviors. For example, Bidwell is looking at how to successfully bond CO₂ molecules to metals containing compounds to aid in their capture from within the atmosphere. At the same time, most of Bidwell's career has focused on education research and considering ways to improve student success, specifically in STEM. In this research, she is looking for students to assist in projects involving the implementation of self-reflection tools into introductory courses and the development of topic-related supplemental materials.



Mathematics: "Research is built into our program," said Dr. Ryan McCulloch, Associate Professor of Mathematics.

For example, students in the Statistical Methods course get to construct their own research question, collect their own data, and analyze this data to draw conclusions for their final projects. Some of the students will use math models to address industry-related problems. But McCulloch also encourages his students to use math to "discover the beauty of things," like patterns that show up in nature. For example, in a recent article in the *Journal of Integer Sequences*, McCulloch used pure mathematics—the area of abstract mathematics that is studied without concern for immediate applications—to examine patterns in a two-player coin flip game called Penney's Game.

This type of research is less focused on modeling problems related to industry, but still requires students to develop the rigorous methodologies and communication skills required in other types of research projects. And, because math is so foundational to understanding our world, applications for this work can potentially be discovered in the future.



Dr. Michael Selig, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, spent much of his 14-year career focused on converting organic waste into fuels or materials that can be used medically. He has also done work in the food sciences and some of his current projects are investigating ingredients used in foods that provide additional health benefits known as functional foods. He's currently working with students on developing novel food-safe bioplastics, the isolation and stabilization of plant-based pigments for use in foods and bio-based solar cells, and a joint project with Dr. Browning collecting and identifying microplastics in sediments from the Chemung River and other local waterways.



ELMIRA COLLEGE TO HOST ENTREPRENEURIAL COMPETITION IN MAY

On May 6, Elmira College will host 607 Soaring, an entrepreneurial competition sponsored by IncubatorWorks, a regional business incubator. Students from Elmira College and Corning Community College will form teams and work with industry and academic mentors to prepare a business plan and presentation outlining their ideas. Like the popular show, *Shark Tank*, the teams will pitch their ideas to a panel of area business leaders.

The Grand Prize winners will take home \$5,000, the second prize team \$2,500, and the third prize team \$1,000.

"The competition will help cultivate the entrepreneurial spirit within the college students and teach them how to turn an idea into a business. Through using the business model canvas, students will learn a unique way to dissect a problem and solve it – something that we hope they will use after graduation and for the rest of their lives," said Ashleigh Madison, Executive Director, IncubatorWorks.

CAREER SERVICES TEAM BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

The two-person Office of Career Services team has been especially busy over the past few months. Rachel Redmond, Director, Center for Academic & Professional Excellence (CAPE) and the Office of Career Services, and Melanie Moon, Career Services and Community Engagement Coordinator, have introduced several initiatives that increase access to career success for all Elmira College students and alumni.

What have Redmond and Moon accomplished so far?

Moon and Redmond recently opened a Career Closet on campus. Students in need of professional clothing ahead of a job fair, interview, or internship can contact Career Services and browse for the right clothing, shoes, and accessories. While students make selections, Moon and Redmond coach them on how to build an affordable, professional wardrobe.

"We'll talk to students about how to find items they can mix and match," said Moon. "The goal is for students to express their own personalities and sense of style while aligning to the norms and professional standards of the fields they are entering."



Because the students keep the clothes they select, Moon will track the Closet's inventory to make sure she always has popular items in stock and that she has the right range of sizes available. Moon hopes to have money set aside to use in case a student needs an item that isn't already in the Career Closet.

Another initiative for Moon and Redmond is leveraging grant money to conduct personality and career assessments like Myers-Briggs Type Indicator®, Strong Interest Inventory®, and CliftonStrengths.

"We've seen a lot of success with the assessments," said Redmond. "They help students figure out aspects of their personalities and align those with their career pursuits. They help students see personality traits in a different light, changing their views on aspects of themselves they may have viewed negatively before. They also give students vocabulary to use in cover letters and in interviews."

The assessments present another opportunity for Redmond and Moon to guide students and give them career education.

The duo also recently launched Handshake. According to the Handshake website, the application is used by more than 1,400 higher-ed institutions and is the leading way for students to find jobs. In the app, users can find a curated list of job and internship opportunities based on their interests and attend virtual information sessions and job fairs.

The Handshake app will help Career Services streamline communications to and from students and alumni. It will also become a central repository for educational materials, like resume and cover letter templates, interview tips, and more.

Handshake compliments another recent initiative for Career Services, AlumniFire. Redmond worked with the Office of Alumni Engagement to launch the web-based platform for current students and alumni. Think LinkedIn but only for Elmira College. Members can message each other, join groups, and use the job board and map features.

"The map feature is helpful to both students and alumni who are moving to somewhere new," said Redmond. "They can send a message to connect with someone who lives in that location and possibly connect about potential jobs."

Handshake and AlumniFire align and work together, with the key distinction between them being that AlumniFire connects students directly with EC alumni and Handshake connects students directly to companies.

In all of the services, the team said they rely on a core advantage of Elmira College, "our ability to form close relationships."

"We play a supportive role in our students' college experience," said Moon. "For me, guiding students is about making ourselves approachable and providing a comfortable space where everyone feels welcome."

"It's about equity," said Redmond. "We want to provide as many opportunities as we can for students to succeed. We have students and alumni living all over the world and many of our current students want to try living in new places in the U.S. and abroad. We want to help them rise to that goal by using our successful alumni network to pull up the next generation."

GET INVOLVED!

1. Join the AlumniFire network and share job opportunities and career advice.
2. If you are involved with recruiting, leverage Handshake to source potential candidates for open roles.
3. Donate to the Career Closet. You can donate clothing items by contacting the Office of Career Services at eccareers@elmira.edu or (607) 735-1830. If you want to give money, go to www.elmira.edu/give. When indicating what you want to support, select "Other - See Designation Below" and write in "Career Closet."

OH, THE PLACES MATH CAN GO!

“There’s so much you can do with a Math degree!”

That’s true for at least three Elmira College alumni, including Kate Holden ’14, a project manager and survey analyst for SullivanLuellin Group. She and Emily Hardy-Shephard ’15 and Michael McCormick ’16 MS ’18 all majored in Mathematics, yet each of them went in very different career directions. The tie that binds them together? Problem-solving skills they learned from studying math at Elmira College.

Holden took a pretty typical career route for people with Math degrees. She became a statistician. She helps healthcare institutions conduct surveys to get insight into patient satisfaction and healthcare worker wellness. She uses her math skills to then analyze the results.

“But there’s a ton of problem-solving and troubleshooting skills that I probably use more than the math,” she said.

Holden explained that her clients, who are researchers, will often do their own analysis and she double-checks the work. When she finds errors she has to do painstaking digging in a trial-and-error fashion to work out where things went wrong. The work is similar to completing a peer review, which Holden learned how to do in the Elmira College Obler Summer Research Program.

“I use that experience a lot,” she said. “Our project wasn’t an official peer review but we spent the whole summer going through research, trying to replicate results, and finding errors.”

McCormick veered a bit from typical Math-degree careers and went into the math-adjacent field of Computer Science. He is Chief Information Officer at Lourdes University. He joked, “I came to higher education and never left.”

McCormick’s role requires plenty of algebra and applied mathematics skills to be successful. For example, he uses differential equations to determine the best return on investment when purchasing computer equipment for the campus. And he relies on metrics and data analysis to create reports for his key stakeholders. But McCormick said the true value of his Math degree was that it “taught me how to think.”



Michael McCormick '16

“With math, we learn that there’s an infinite number of problems but a finite way to solve them,” he said. “We learn how to approach problems in a methodical, uniform way.”



Kate Holden '14

Hardy-Shephard echoed this sentiment often. “My Math degree taught me about problem-solving and using an analytical approach to things,” she said.

Hardy-Shephard is a Marketing Communications Supervisor with the Science and Technology division of Corning Incorporated. Her career is a less obvious fit for a Math major and is more typically associated with Communications, English, and Sociology degrees.

“Having a more linear mindset helps with creating timelines and meeting deadlines, which are critical to a communications role,” she said.

And her math background has come in handy in other ways. Hardy-Shephard has tracked the Communication department’s metrics and helped to convey financial information to investors, who want information packaged in very straightforward terms. Conveying such complex information in simple ways is never easy and requires a deep understanding of the information. Here again, she credits her Math degree with giving her the needed skills.

“In class, we were pushed to question that $2+3 = 5$,” she said. “We were taught to understand why something works, not just that it works.”

Holden, McCormick, and Hardy-Shephard all hope future students with an interest in mathematics will dive boldly into a Math degree.

“Even if you love math but don’t know if you want to go into a math-heavy job, your ability to learn really difficult things is attractive to employers,” said Holden.

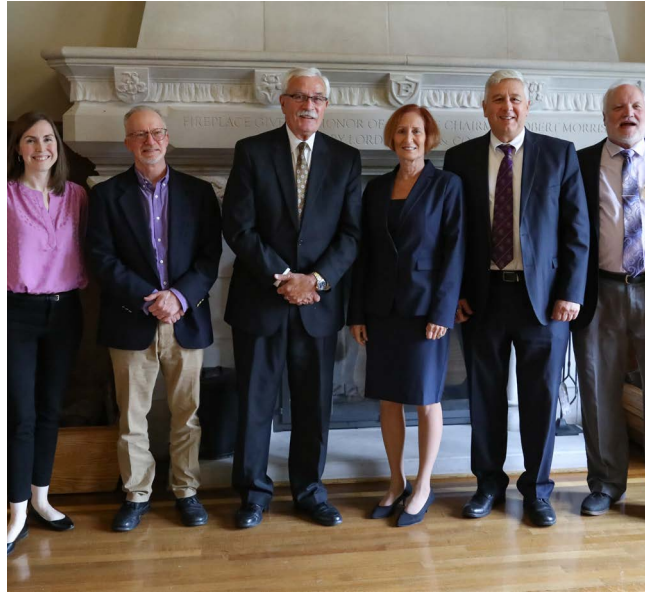
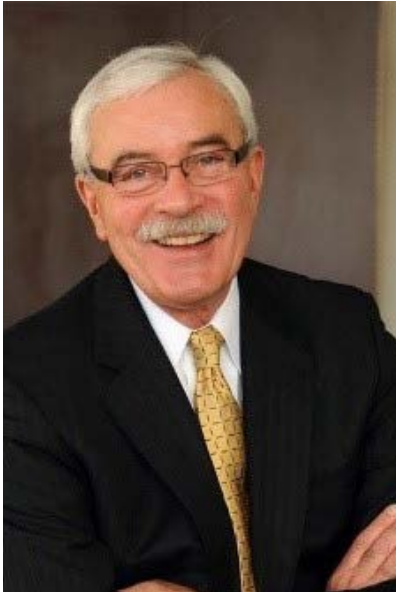
“Math is foundational, so you can pivot to go nearly anywhere,” said Hardy-Shephard.

“Chances are when you graduate, your entry-level job will not be the same job as the one you will have when you retire, and the job you have when you retire probably doesn’t even exist today,” said McCormick. “That’s why it’s important to be a well-rounded individual.”



Emily Hardy-Shephard '15

JOHN ZELLER '73 AND SUSAN PETTORINI-D'AMICO '80 RECOGNIZED FOR BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



Each year, Elmira College alumni select an alumnus or alumna who is exceptionally successful in business, leadership, community, educational, or philanthropic endeavors to become an honoree of the Bette A. Mammone '78 Memorial Academy. This year, alumni selected two recipients: John Zeller '73 and Dr. Susan Pettorini-D'Amico '80.

In order to qualify, recipients must have received their undergraduate or graduate degree from Elmira College and have achieved a high level of professional success in a minimum 20-year career. Recipients travel to Elmira College to facilitate a discussion, a lecture, or master class, and participate in a networking event with students, alumni, guests, and members.

Zeller '73, of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, began his college career at Corning Community College, graduating with an associate's degree in 1971. He then attended Elmira College and graduated in 1973 with a bachelor's in General Studies. He soon returned and received his master's in Education in 1978.

Zeller has stayed connected to higher education throughout his career, including a role at Elmira College. Zeller has shown great aptitude for development work, recently retiring from his position of Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations at the University of Pennsylvania. He launched many successful fundraising campaigns, including the Power of Penn Campaign, which raised \$5.4 billion, exceeding the campaign's goal. Zeller also launched the Making History Campaign, which also beat its goal, raising more than \$4.3 billion.

Zeller is a member of the Association of American Medical Colleges, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, National Society of Fund Raising Executives, and Penn Club in New York City.

In 1998, Corning Community College awarded Zeller with the Distinguished Alumni Award, recognizing him as a positive role model who is involved in his community and for exhibiting accomplishments in his field.

Pettorini-D'Amico of North Haven, Connecticut, received a bachelor's in Biology from Elmira College in 1980 before getting her Registered Nurse degree from St. Vincent's College in 1992, her master's in Nursing Administration from the University of Hartford in 2010, and her doctor of Nursing Practice from Sacred Heart University in 2013.

Pettorini-D'Amico currently serves as the Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Trinity Health of New England. While in her role, the small rural hospital went from recently bankrupt to turning a profit of \$7.5 million. She is also an adjunct professor at Sacred Heart University and at the University of Hartford.

Among her notable achievements, Pettorini-D'Amico received a Leadership Award from the Organization of Nurse Leaders in New England.

The Mammone '78 Memorial Academy was established in 2018 by the Class of 1978 in the spirit of giving and as part of their traditional 40th Reunion gift. Following the untimely passing of a beloved classmate, Bette A. Mammone '78, in June 2017, the Class decided to make Mammone's dream of creating a forum where alumni could share their knowledge and experience with students as they prepare to meet the challenges and complexities of the world.

LAUREN THOMAS '14 COMES 'HOME' TO COACH AT ELMIRA COLLEGE

Finding a career path that you love is not always the easiest of things. Yet Lauren Thomas '14, Elmira College's new Field Hockey Head Coach, not only gets to do a job she's passionate about, but she's doing it at her alma mater.



"I first started playing field hockey going into my freshman year of high school," said Thomas. "At first it was something to keep me busy, but I turned out to really like it."

As high school progressed, Thomas began attending camps and clinics including the USA Field Hockey Futures Program. At the time, the sport wasn't very popular in the region, but that gave her an advantage, making it more likely she could play in college.

As she was searching for schools, she wasn't sure what career path she wanted to take. She did know that she wanted to leave her home state of Massachusetts, which is how Elmira College landed on her radar.

"The Purple & Gold is what drew me in. The pride that students and staff take in the institution, along with having the opportunity to grow as a person made Elmira College the perfect fit for me."

While attending EC, Thomas served as the Soaring Eagles' starting goalkeeper for four years (2010-13) and earned All-Empire 8 Athletic Conference honors twice. She finished her career ranked second in school history for saves (652) and minutes played (3,500), and is 4th all-time in saves percentage (.781). Thomas also holds four of the top-ten single-season save marks in program history, recording at least 150 saves in each of her four seasons. In all, Thomas' name appears in the top-ten, single-season, and career record books for goalkeepers at Elmira College an astonishing 16 times.

Her success with and love for the game gave her the inspiration for what to do next.

"I knew that I didn't want my senior year at Elmira College to be the last time I was involved with field hockey." Following her time at EC, Thomas went on to serve as a Graduate Assistant for DePauw University (Greencastle, Indiana) before assisting at Ohio Wesleyan College (2015-18). Her coaching journey returned her to Depauw, where she earned her first head coaching position with the Tigers from 2018-2021.

But then Thomas saw the Head Coach position open up at Elmira College. Pride played a big role in her decision to apply for the position in February. "Outside of my professional career, I have family that I'd like to be closer to and life I want to experience. But a big part of this field hockey experience was that I've always felt

compelled to come back here. The pride to be an athlete here is still very strong."

Since taking on her new role, Thomas has taken on additional responsibilities within athletics, including co-advising the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), as well as compliance duties. "I really enjoy interacting with athletes outside of my team. Being able to go out to other games and know other student-athletes on a personal level makes the job really fun."



And Thomas advocates for students to fall in love with the same traditions she adored as a student. "It's been fun hearing how traditions have continued here. Sharing my experiences with things like Mountain Day to my athletes, I try to relay the importance of soaking it in and forgetting about the day-to-day grind of being a student-athlete even if it's just for a day."

Long-term, Thomas is looking forward to working with those who will continue helping field hockey to become a more competitive entity, while developing a program of her own.

"A big part of my coaching philosophy is mentorship. Getting to work with student-athletes on personal and professional development over their four years here will ultimately help position the program in a positive way."



WELCOME 2022 HALL OF FAME CLASS

The Elmira College Department of Athletics enshrined its third group into the Hall of Fame during a ceremony held on October 3. The 2022 Hall of Fame Class includes Robert Barsamian '82 (Men's Soccer), Bernie Herceg '87 (Men's Golf), Tony Bego '94 (Men's Basketball), Sasha Zavadska '13 (Women's Volleyball), the 1977-78 Men's Ice Hockey Team, and the 1999 Women's Volleyball Team.

Robert Barsamian '82 (Men's Soccer) - Barsamian '82 left Elmira College with his name etched in several different areas of the men's soccer record books. His 107 career points rank fourth all-time, his 37 goals rank fifth, and his 33 assists are tied for second. Since graduating, Barsamian has involved himself with various non-profit organizations and city youth programs.

Bernie Herceg '87 (Men's Golf) - Herceg '87 was one of the most decorated golfers to call Elmira College home. An Academic All-American, he graduated magna cum laude and would go on to play professionally. A winner at the 2000 Boilermaker Open, he also played in the 1993 B.C. Open. As the head golf coach at Binghamton University, Herceg has guided the Bearcats to over 75 tournament victories.



Tony Bego '94 (Men's Basketball) - Bego '94 holds several program records for men's basketball and left Elmira College as the all-time leading scorer with 1,884 points. One of the most accurate shooters for the Soaring Eagles, Bego finished his career shooting 57.4 percent from the field and averaged 17.4 points per game, both of which are program records. Since graduating, he has worked with the East Asia Super League.



Sasha Zavadska '13 (Women's Volleyball) - Zavadska '13 was a three-time AVCA Division III All-American and back-to-back Empire 8 Player of the Year for Elmira College. Second in career

kills (1,967) and third in career digs (1,506), she helped lead the Soaring Eagles to the 2011 Empire 8 regular season championship. Following graduation, Zavadska played professionally in the Slovak Republic for KV MSK Oktan Kezmarok and works for the European College of Sports Science.

1977-78 Men's Ice Hockey Team - Coached by Barry Smith and Al McCormack, the Soaring Eagles would go on to capture the first-ever ECAC West Championship and play in the NCAA Division III Third-Place contest against Mankato State. Tim Strasdasukas '80 set a single-game record for most assists with six, while Jeff Cristina '80 set the single-game points record with eight (8) against Sheridan College. Elmira finished the season with a 26-6 overall record and a 16-1 record at the Murray Athletic Center.



1999 Women's Volleyball Team - Coached by Rhonda Faunce, the Soaring Eagles would put together a run to the NCAA DIII Tournament and finish the season with a 30-10 overall record. Elmira would go undefeated on its home court (10-0) with all ten victories being 3-0 sweeps. The 1999 squad won its opening-round matchup at the NCAA Tournament against Merchant Marine 3-0 before falling against nationally-ranked SUNY Cortland in the next round. Leah Malliris '01 would go on to earn AVCA All-Region First Team honors after recording 586 kills, 163 total blocks, and 102 solo blocks.



PLANS FOR HALL OF FAME WALL

The Elmira College Department of Athletics will soon introduce its new Hall of Fame Wall. To design and implement the wall, Athletics partnered with VSP Graphic Group (Buffalo, New York) and Rocket Alumni Solutions (Middletown, Delaware). VSP, named the 10th fastest-growing business in Western New York in 2017, served as the official graphic provider for the Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Sabres. VSP previously worked with Elmira College Athletics to give Emerson Hall added branding for its athletics programs. Rocket Alumni Solutions provided the software for the 55" touchscreen that will hang on the new wall and will feature all of the Hall of Fame inductees and other athletic-related information.

Completion of the first phase of the Emerson Hall branding project is expected within the coming months. You can help with the Hall of Fame Wall efforts by giving online at elmira.edu/give and designating gifts to Athletics.



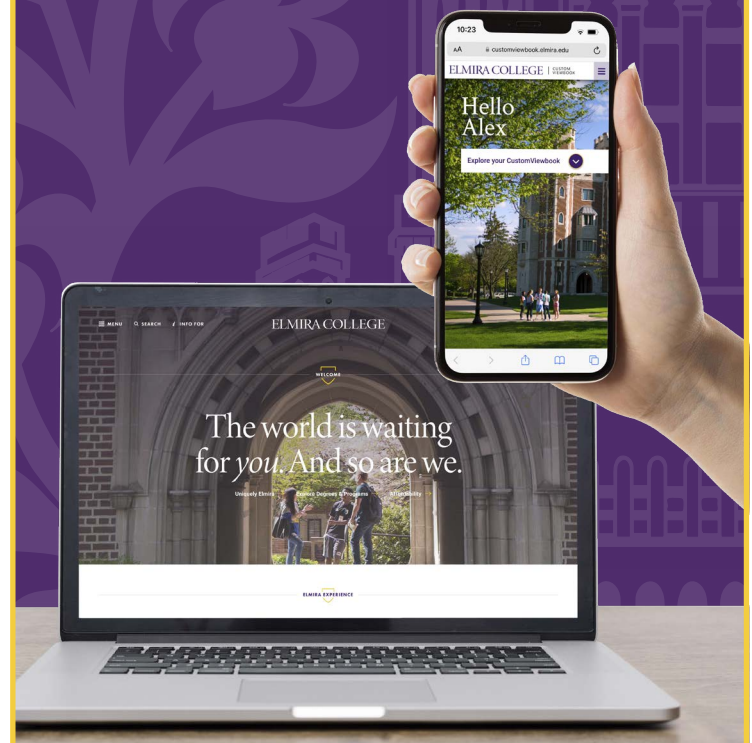
SOARING FORWARD CAMPAIGN SUCCESS



We're grateful to everyone who donated to the Soaring Forward Campaign. Every dollar contributed will help the sports teams enhance their programs and help students immerse themselves in everything our campus has to offer.

Have family or friends getting ready for college?
Eager to tell them about Elmira College?

Let them know about our new online viewbook, available at elmira.edu. This digital guide is easy to use and gives them a personalized view of the topics they care the most about.



REUNION 2023

SAVE THE DATE | JUNE 22-25



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MARCH 2023



ANY QUESTIONS?

Office of Alumni Engagement

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FOR FAMILY, FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS PER ACADEMIC
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*Undergraduate applicants who are dependents, grandchildren, or siblings of
Elmira College alumni are eligible for the Legacy scholarship.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Armand Battisti '77 received the 2022 Distinguished Achievement Award during his 45th class reunion in June. The award recognizes Elmira College alumni for distinguishing themselves and the College by making a difference in society by improving the quality of life in their local, national, and global communities, and have demonstrated success as a leader in their professional and community work.

Battisti, of Wilmington, Delaware, graduated from Elmira College with a bachelor's in Environmental Sciences. He completed his master's in Community Services Administration at Alfred University in 1981.

Battisti spent 42 years in professional fundraising, beginning his career at Alfred University as Director of Giving. During the course of his career, he was employed by four Universities and the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum. He held several senior-level positions including Vice President for Advancement at West Chester University - where he led their first capital campaign - and Deputy Director of Development at Winterthur Museum. Before opening his own consulting firm in 2013, Battisti directed the University of Delaware, College of Engineering Campaign whose goal was \$100 million.

Before retiring, he was a private consultant for a variety of small non-profit organizations including the P.T. Barnum Museum, the Chester County Hospital, the Delaware Community Foundation, and the Historic Odessa Foundation. He also taught two self-designed graduate-level courses in Development and Non-Profit Boards at the University of Delaware.

In addition to this recognition, Battisti was named the 2011 Fundraising Executive of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Committed to philanthropy himself, Battisti has served on the Boards of the YMCA, and the Delaware Humane Association where he served as Board President. He currently mentors young students at Wilmington's Johnson Elementary School. During his acceptance speech in June, Battisti recognized Elmira faculty, staff and board members that gave him sage advice and guidance during the early years of his professional career.

Battisti has also been an active alumnus of Elmira College. He was formerly a Class Agent and Alumni Board member. He has hosted Elmira College events and attended many EC events and Reunions.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

At Reunion 2022, Alison Mandel '72 received the Distinguished Service Award, awarded annually. Mandel has graciously given her support to the Elmira Chapter of the Alumni Association and attends and helps with numerous College events. She also served on the Elmira College President's Council and is a member of the Alumni Board of Directors.

Mandel advocates for community engagement and in 1994 she founded the EC chapter of Circle K and has remained its advisor since its founding. In 2017, Mandel was the recipient of the Elmira College President's Council Award for exemplary service to the College and the Elmira community. She also received the 2020 Jefferson Award and the 2006 Elmira Kiwanis Club Hixson Award. Mandel is now retired and in October she passed the gavel to a new president of the Kiwanis Club of Elmira.



PLANNED GIVING Q&A WITH ROBERTA “BERTIE” MARTIN HOFFMAN ’57



“Where would I be without EC?” is what Roberta “Bertie” Martin Hoffman ’57 asked herself when thinking about her estate plans. Bertie tributes her four years at Elmira College to her lifelong success and couldn’t think of a greater way to give back to an institution that gave so much to her. We recently sat down with Bertie to talk more about her time at Elmira College and her plans for giving back.

Why did you choose to attend Elmira College?

I had offers from other colleges, but Elmira agreed to match my \$350 scholarship, giving me the opportunity to attend tuition free. My father knew Dr. Eldridge and we thought it would be a good fit.

What are some of your favorite memories from your time at Elmira College?

I enjoyed all the music, the Merry Chanters; it was all wonderful. I remember our traditions like Father’s Weekend and Mountain Day too. I loved living on campus, although I didn’t think the curfews were so great. I had wonderful professors like Dr. Dannenfeldt who gave me a liking for history. I especially remember his class called Contemporary Civilizations that I found especially interesting.

Why does Elmira College mean so much to you?

Elmira College gave me experiences and opportunities that I wouldn’t have had elsewhere. I had an opportunity to instruct swim lessons, which sparked my interest in teaching and gave me the confidence I needed to take education courses. I did my student teaching at Booth. I felt very prepared to student teach and even had a job offer before graduation. My learning at EC was experiential, experiences I wouldn’t have had if I hadn’t been at EC.

I returned later for a Master’s Degree while also being a mother and wife with a house and children to care for. Looking back, I don’t know how I did it. I suppose I separated my time into proper zones and just did it. I’m so grateful for EC and the teachers I had, they gave me more than just an education.

Why do you enjoy giving to EC?

EC is the key to my life success, happiness, and well-being. I’ve had a good life. Without the education, I wouldn’t have had the opportunities I’ve had. Many benefits in my life were directly derived from my Elmira College education.

What prompted you to make a planned gift?

I’m a very frugal person and have saved quite a bit. I have enough from my Required Minimum Distribution to pay for the things I need and give annually to my charities. When I think about my estate, I think of my three daughters, which I want to give to equally. After providing for them, there is an extra ten percent left in my estate. I thought, “What to do with the extra?” I first looked to my faith and church. Then I looked to Elmira College because, ‘Where would I be without EC?’ So I decided to split the remainder between the two.”



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Alumni Board Members on campus for the 2022 Key Award Luncheon

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June 30, 2022

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William Mecum '82
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