

NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Summer 2020

COMMENCEMENT 2020 GOES VIRTUAL

Monica Mouradjian: BS

Rudy Willliams: MS

Brianna Chace: BS

HE PLANNING was on track to conduct New England Institute of Technology's 2020 Commencement on May 3 at the Dunkin Donuts Center in Providence. Then the COVID-19 pandemic changed our world! An in-person ceremony was no longer an option, and it was clear that it wouldn't be for quite some time. Yet, it was important to celebrate and acknowledge the hard work of the NEIT graduates. A virtual commencement ceremony was the way to go while keeping the members of the NEIT community safe.

The virtual celebration aired on YouTube Premium on July 12, 2020 at the following link, *https://newengland-it.stageclip.com*, which will remain live for one year.

The ceremony began with a moving violin rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner performed by Kevin J. Lowther II of Westerly, Rhode Island, a full-time hip hop violinist known as Big Lux. He was followed by NEIT President Richard Gouse who shared his message about the importance of the graduates' decision to pursue degrees in programs that prepared them for vital and meaningful careers in today's workplace. Congratulatory messages were shared by Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo; U.S. Senator Jack Reed; Congressman James Langevin; NEIT Trustee, Mayor James Diossa; Business Management graduate, Sarrah Berkery; filmmaker and NEIT graduate, Tom DeNucci; Grammy Award winning audio engineer and NEIT graduate, Dacota Fresilli; master's degree Occupational Therapy graduate, Kelly Marot; and Student Activities Director, Melissa Hague.

Graduates appeared in their caps and gowns while their names were announced. Some graduates submitted videos in which they thanked those who supported them throughout their academic journey.

Although it wasn't the traditional commencement ceremony that we hoped for at the Dunkin Donuts Center filled with graduates, their families, and NEIT administration, faculty and staff, we watched the virtual ceremony just as proudly as if we would have had been there in person.



Congratulations to the 2020 graduates! We wish you success in your careers!



Abigail Ruotolo: AS



Henry Trino: AS





FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT RICHARD GOUSE

Greetings to All,

As we continue to adapt to the many changes in our lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the administration, faculty and staff at New England Institute of Technology remain committed to providing our students with a quality technical education while at the same time keeping the health and safety of our campus community at the forefront. This unprecedented time has presented many challenges, but our team has worked diligently to develop a detailed campus Reopening Plan based on recommendations set forth by the Rhode Island Department of Health and the office of Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo. We will continue to monitor our policies and procedures and adjust them according to governmental guidelines.

We congratulate the Class of 2020 as their achievements were honored at our first-ever virtual commencement ceremony due to the pandemic. As they move forward to a new career or continue their educational journey, we wish them a bright and successful future.

We all look forward to the start of our fall term on Monday, October 5, 2020. The Office of Teaching and Learning has worked closely with faculty and staff to establish a comprehensive class schedule that incorporates on-campus, online and hybrid courses. Each class will be delivered in a format that suits the material being presented while keeping the health and safety of all students and faculty a top priority. Administration, faculty and staff stand ready to assist students in any way they can to help provide a productive fall term.

I would like to thank all faculty, staff and students for successful spring and summer terms. By everyone doing their part, we have found solutions to many of the challenges presented by the nation's health crisis. As more individuals return to each of our three campuses, we must now, more than ever, continue to do our part to keep our community safe by following all protocols and procedures outlined in our Reopening Plan.

Please stay healthy and safe as we continue to work together in the coming months.

NEIT'S QUALITY SERVICE STATEMENT

Quality service for students, employees, and customers at New England Institute of Technology is knowledgeable and informed employees working as a team to provide more assistance and information than expected in a caring and professional manner in order to empower the students to achieve their goals.

Respiratory Care Grad Braves the COVID-19 Front Lines

Madison Allen, RRT, graduated from NEIT's Respiratory Care program in September 2019 and was a Best of Tech Award recipient. She quickly learned how the knowledge and hands-on skills she learned at NEIT would help her face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Madison believes working on the front lines at Westerly Hospital helping so many ill patients has made her a better therapist. She shares her experiences with Tech News readers.

What made you decide to attend NEIT?

When I was considering NEIT, my daughter was one and a half years old. I did not want to attend another school to do all my prerequisite courses and then wait to be accepted into a program. The fact that I could

start the program at NEIT and complete it in 18 months was a huge factor for me. I also liked all the experiential learning and high-tech labs that NEIT offered. My fiancé was also very supportive of my decision to further my education, so I decided to enroll.

Why did you choose your program?

When I first applied to NEIT, I was not looking into the Respiratory Care program. I was originally considering the Nursing program, but then met with an advisor to see what other options would be available in the medical field. When I learned about the Respiratory Care program, I decided to investigate it further. After doing research and talking with some of the respiratory therapists that I was currently working with, I decided that this may be something I would enjoy doing.

What did you do to get started with your career?

When I enrolled at NEIT, I had already been working at Westerly Hospital for a few years. When I graduated from NEIT, I began to prepare for my board certifications to become a certified respiratory therapist. Just as I passed my first board, one of the respiratory therapists at the hospital gave her two-week notice. At this hospital, I had to be a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) which meant that I needed to pass my next board exam. When the position became available, I applied for it. I then passed my next board exam, had



my interview and was hired as an RRT. At this point in time, I had worked at the hospital for five years as a float CNA in either the Emergency Room, Intensive Care Unit or medical/surgical floor and as ICU secretary right before I graduated.

Tell us about your current position.

When I was hired for my position in December 2019, I was working second shift taking care of ill patients in the Emergency Room, on medical floors and in the Intensive Care Unit. I recently accepted a night position which will work out better with my home life with my fiancé and daughter. I love my job and what I do. When I first completed my orientation, COVID-19 had just started to become an issue in the United States. As a new therapist I was scared, but I decided to make this a learning experience. No one really knew in the beginning what the best practice was for this disease, so we all were learning together. I feel like this pandemic has made me a better therapist.

What do you feel ultimately prepared you for your position?

The lab practice sessions and the open labs helped me to feel prepared. The ability to learn on the same equipment that was being used in hospitals was amazing. I could practice hands-on skills in the lab, go into the field and feel more comfortable not having to learn new equipment. The Respiratory Care faculty were very helpful and willing to take the extra time to review material that was difficult for me to grasp. Using the NEIT simulation lab was amazing so that we were able to practice our skills as we would in real-world situations.

Do you have any advice for graduates who are just beginning their job search?

Do not be afraid to ask questions even after you complete your orientation sessions. There are situations that respiratory therapists may not encounter every day, so it's okay to ask for help. Senior therapists have come to me and asked for advice because I was a new grad with all fresh knowledge. Two minds are always better than one, so work as a team.

What can current students do to better prepare themselves for jobs in this field?

Take the time in school to learn. Do research on pathologies to understand them. Use the teachers as a resource because they are there to help you. Take the clinical time you have and learn as much as you can from your instructors.

The following students have achieved academic excellence for the term ending July 11, 2020. These full-time students have been placed on the Dean's List for achieving a GPA of 3.6 or higher on a maximum scale of 4.0. Congratulations to all!

Andrew Brousseau.

Makenzie Brown...

Irina Abdrabboh	CJ
Michael Adams	
Zachary Adams	ABTB
Susanne Aguiar	RNBN
Bismark Aguocha	ELRE
Frishta Ahmadi	
Christopher Aldo	DMPB
Dylen Ally	CJ
Marjorie Alvarado	NUR
James Alves	CYNB
Michael Amaral	
Emos Ameh	
Liam Andriach	AAITT
Isabella Anonuevo	DNRN
Joseph Anselmo	
Naveh Antelman	
Connor Appleby	
Brendan Arruda	ABTB
Thomas Arsenault Jr	CI
Michael Aspinall	
Melissa Augaitis	RNBN
Anne Augustin	MGTH
Nate Augusto	MCTB
Reese Babington	ITA
Mohamed Bader	
Christian Bailey	CYNB
Isaiah Baker	
Gianna Baldino	
Daejanni Baptiste	
Devin Barber	
Katherine Barnas Amy Barrett	
Kayla Barros	
Nathaniel Bartone	ITA
Sophia Bassick	
Ryan Beer	
Taylor Beese	VDEB
Richard Belton Jr	ELTB
Kurtis Bennett	
Olivia Benoit	PTA
Sarrah Berkery	MGTB
Allyson Bettencourt	IDB
Adam Bevilacqua	
Michael Beyer	
Courtney Blais	PTA
Skyler Blake	AAHP
Katherine Blanchard	
Jenaya Blithe	
Gloria Bongiorno John Bonin Jr	KNDN
Justin Borchardt	
Sarah Borges	RNRN
Penny Bossom-Seeger	NIIR
Kylie Bouchard	NIR
Ethan Bousquet	
Brianna Bovd	MT
Brianna Boyd Samantha Boyd	RC
Sean Breslin	CYNB
Scott Briggs	CYNB

Timothy Briggs ...

ABTB	Laura Buehler	
RNBN	Breanna Buker	
ELRE	Brent Burgess	.DMPB
BSOT	Mackenzie Burns	RNBN
.DMPB	Keith Burt Jr	.GMWA
CJ	Casey Butler	GMWB
NUR	Victoria Calabro	NUR
CYNB	Kevan Camacho	RNBN
AAHP	Courtney Camara	
CYNB	Francis Campbell	BCD
CYNB	Madison Camper	CJ
AAUT	Antonio Capozzo	CYNB
RNBN	Cara Cappelano	
AAUT	Anthony Carcia	
AAHP	Carlos Cardenas	
. DMPA	Olivia Cardi	
ABTB	Justin Cardoza	
CJ	Belkys Carias-Flores	
GDSB	Michaela Carnevale	
RNBN	Jesse Carreiro	
.MGTH	Quinn Carroll	
. MCTB	Seth Carson	
ITA	Jillian Carter	
ELTB	Jacob Carvalho	
CYNB	Jeffrey Caswell	
ITA	Edward Chalas	
GMWB	Filomena Chamberland	
AAHP	Adam Chandonnet	
GDSB	Chong Chang	
RNBN	Nathan Charette	
RNBN		
	Ryan Charette Zacharie Chretien	
RC		
ITA ABTA	Scott ClohecyGabriel Coelho	AAIID
CYNB	Amanda Coler	AAAA
	Fredrick Collins	VDED
VDEB ELTB		
	Liam Collins	AAHP
VGDA	Lyric Comerford	
PTA	Brian Conceicao	
. MGTB	Ian Conway	PIA
IDB	Matthew Conway	
. MGTB	Shannon Cooper	
MT	Tucker Cooper	
PTA	Erick Cordon Jr	
AAHP	Joshua Cormier	ITBS
NUR	Linsey Cormier	
CJ	Kyle Costa	. MGTT
RNBN	Michael Costanza	
ELY	Robert Costello III	
ITN	Zachary Crabill	RACH
RNBN	Alexandria Crouse	
NUR	Azurae Cruz	
NUR	Talyn Curry	
.GMWA	Jordan D'Orazio	
MT	Jenna Daigle	. DMPA
RC	Maranda Dailey	
CYNB	Aiden Davis	
CYNB	Jessica Davis	
RACH	Tiffany Davis	VET

ST	Sherri DayacapRNBN
CJB	Mariana De Almeida RC
ST	Shana DeFuscoPTA
RNBN	Jose DeLaCruz ITBS
DMPB	Anthony Delvino MGTA
RNBN	Tina DemersMAA
GMWA	Zachary DeRoyDMPB
GMWB	Austin DeSantisITSA
NUR	Ariana DeschampsRNBN
RNBN	Matthew DesousaDMPB
NUR	Jose DiazGMWB
BCD	
	Alexander DiBelloVGDA
	Michael DiBernardo RC
CYNB	Ronald DinobileVGDA
ELTB	Tyler DivonaPLBH
ELTB	Darian DiVozziNUR
BCD	Carly DoddMGTB
OTA	Joshua DonesRACH
ABTA	Jonathan DoolittleITSA
	Isabelle Driscoll OTA
PTA	Emily DubeHSA
CYNB	Michelle DumsarNUR
MCTB	Antonette DuncanNUR
CYNB	Christopher EaglesonCYNB
DMPA	Fidel EscalanteITBS
DMPB	Angie EscobarMAA
CYNB	Sophie ExilRNBN
ITN	Norman FayAAUT
BSOT	Dennys Fernandez ITBS
PTA	George FerrariaCYNB
NUR	Mathew FerraroGDSB
PTA	Nicole FerrellMGTH
MGTB	Dominic FinkelRC
ITBS	Katimarie FinneranIDA
BCD	Nicholas FiskeELTB
AAHP	Cameron FlanaganCYNB
VDEB	Celia FlorioMCTB
ITA	Bryan FlynnRACH
AAHP	Nathan FobianRACH
RNBN	Steven Footman DMPA
ITSA	Kelsey ForcierMGTB
PTA	Paulette ForcierRNBN
ITBS	Richard Forcier MCTB
CYNA	Alannah FormanMCTA
ELTB	Olivia ForstVDEB
AAHP	Laine FountainBSOT
ITBS	Nathan FoxGMWB
BSOT	Kevin Franklin DMPA
MGTT	Jessica FreireRNBN
DMPB	Paula FrenetteRNBN
VGDA	Maxfield FriedmanBCC
RACH	Kiernan FullerRNBN
DMPB	Paul FulmoreAAHP
DMPB	Connor FunaroELTB
NUR	Joshua GalpinCJB
NUR	Stephanie GarciaDMPB
DMPA	Tara GazderRNBN
RNBN	Gabrielle Geter MGTA
AAHP	Sandra GettingsRNBN Meridith GhizzoniRC
HSA	Meridith Ghizzoni RC
VET	Alicia GiffordIDB

Kevin Giron Brenna Giroux	VDVA
Lukasz Glowacki	MCTE
Caroline Gonsalves	MGTA
Brett Gonzalez	ABTE
Andersson Gonzalez Sanc	hez
Dron Cooleles	ITBS
Ryan Goolsky Jasmine Gore	UTIVO STITR
Wesley Grady	CYNE
Kyle Gray	GDSE
Matthew Gray	ITA
Taylor Grillo	. DMPA
Gabriel Guerra-Mondrago)N
Seth Hackett	KNBN
Alex Haggert	DMPE
Meghan Hammar	PTA
Caitlin Hammond	RNBN
Joel Hanson	GDSE
Sean Harrington	
Kayla Harris	. DMPA
Liam Hartz Bianca Hawkins	MCIE. OTA
Kevin Hawley	AAHF
Kevin Hawley Alexander Hejna-Luque	. CYNE
Brooke Hendrick	RNBN
Paola Henry-Mejia	CJE
Edgar Hernandez Eric Hervieux	. AAHP
Eric Hervieux	DMPA.
Charles Hien Kathleen Hien	.KNBN RNRN
Erik Hildebrand	ELRE
Kalvin Hillock	C
Andrew Holdsworth	CYNE
Cory Holzworth	CYNE
Julia Hood	CJE
Evan Howe Valerie Howe	AAU1 DTA
Nicholas Huntley	CYNE
Graham Hurley	SI
Talia Iannuccilli	ITBS
Saif Izhar	. CMTE
Kevin Jamieson	GDSE
Matthew Jarret Jennifer Jarvis	. MCTE
Brooke Jewett	O 1.A. Par
Rachel Johannsen	
Anders Johnson	CYNE
Peyton Johnson	ELRE
Milo Joseph	. CMTE
Kyle Kane	.DMPE
Brittney Keeley Michaela Kelley	.ABTE
Aaron Kenney	AITE
Kelly Kenney	NITE
Daniel Kent	ITBS
Jessica Kenyon	. AAHF
Matthew Kenyon	
Alex Killeen	
Andrew Kirk Jesse Kirsch	
William Kirtlink	
Jason Kozin	GDSE
Amanda Kucukkaya	ST
Marcus Laflamme	ITA
Christopher LaFrance	
Douglas Lambert	UYNE DMD4
Zachary Lambert Logan Lamborn	DMPF

Sean Gimler.....

Alexandra LamorteIDA
Craig Lamoureux DMPA
Megan LangevinRNBN
Molly LanoieIDB
Brittany LapierreBSOT
Paul LapradeGMWB
Seth LaputAAUT
Sebastian LaraITBS
Brittany LarkhamWEL
Nikki LarocqueRNBN
Stephen LaRoseMCTA
Regina LataillePTA
John LatourWEL
Nicholas Laudati CMTB
Heather LavoieRNBN
Evan LawrenceCJ
Savanah LeWEL
Jessica LeachOTA
Matthew LearyDMPB
Emily LedouxGMWA
Austin LeVangieAAHP
Grant LewandowskiAAHP
Robert Lewis JrCYNB
James LightELRE
Kevin LiguoriELRE
Dianne LinharesPTA
Kevin LofgrenMCTA
Andrew LongobardiELRE
Chenwei LuMGTB
Joshua LucePAR
Patrick MacCarthyVDEB
Abby MacchioCJ
Patrick MaguireITS
Madison Mahar OTA
Sara MallonDMPB
Jason MandrasITA
Alanna ManiatisPTA
Alexis ManningMAA
Melissa MaplesMAA
Shelby Mariano OTA
Shelby MarianoOTA Noah MarinoCYNB
Shelby MarianoOTA Noah MarinoCYNB Ethan MarkhamITS
Shelby MarianoOTA Noah MarinoCYNB Ethan MarkhamITS Evan MarkleyELTB
Shelby MarianoOTA Noah MarinoCYNB Ethan MarkhamITS Evan MarkleyELTB
Shelby Mariano

Ross Molzahn

Kendra Montero	
Keri Moore Jacob Moravec	
Brandon Morris	WEL
Gregory Morse	CYNB
Mva Mosher	IDB
Joseph Mucerino	CYNB
Matthew Muldoon	MCTA
Allison Murphy	.GMWA
Lily Murray Samantha Murray	KNBN
Stephanie Nagel	CYNA
Danielle Nelson	
Jack Nelson	. DMPA
Wayne Ng	AAHP
Saimer Nieves	ITA
Ryan Nixon Tyler Normandin	IISA
Alexander Norton	PAR MCTA
Catherine O'Brien	BSOT
Donna O'Donohoe	. MGTA
Jonathan Olarte	RNBN
Aimee Olivier	
Wanda Olivo	
Daniel Olsen Tyler Ostrowski	DMDB
Mikaela Pare	GMWR
Edward Parent Jr	PLBH
Danton Parlato	. DMPA
Alexander Parrillo	. DMPA
Riley Patton	RNBN
Jaquari Paynter	. ADMT
Brianne Pearce Dominique Pellegrino	PIA
Marcus Pemberton	. MOTA CIR
Evan Pennacchia	
Owen Perkins	. CMTB
Alexander Perry	
David Peterson	CYNB
Cameron Petroccione Vielka Pichardo	VGDA
Adriana Pietrobuono	IIA NIIR
Griffin Pilla	ABTA
David Podzon	VGDA
Vasileios Politis	PTA
Drew Prosser	ITA
Juan Puello-Martinez Tanner Purcell	. MGTT
Suzanne Pynn	CYNB
Eric Raboin	GDSR
Nathan Rafael	CYNB
Thomas Raposa	. ADMT
Joseph Rapoza	MCTA
Sara Rattey Angelica Rayment	RNBN
Angelica Rayment	AAUT
Shawn ReadyGlen Reichard	PLBH
Jennifer Renzi	
Jenna Reposa	RNBN
Peter Rewinski	. MCTB
Michelle Reynolds	RNBN
Benjamin Richtarik	
Keith Riendeau Lori Riendeau	MITTE
Melanie Rios	
Viviana Rivera	
Donielle Robillard	
Deon Robinson	. CMTB
Robert Rocco	. MGTT
Jorge Rodriguez Jr	RCD

Adam Moniz

23rd Annual **BEST of TECH AWARDS 2020**

EACH YEAR, NEIT'S OFFICE of Teaching and Learning recognizes and rewards outstanding students for their academic and personal achievements. Although an inperson ceremony could not be held this year due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions, these exceptional students deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication.

During the Winter Term, students are nominated by their department chair to receive a Best of Tech award in their technical program of study. Nominees must be eligible for graduation in May and meet additional criteria that includes outstanding academic achievement and GPA, participating in extracurricular activities, volunteering in the community, overcoming obstacles, and demonstrating an ability to serve as a role model to past, present, and future NEIT students.

Receiving a Best of Tech award qualifies a student to apply for the more prestigious Tech Scholar Award. Tech Scholars are chosen from the Best of Tech award recipients by a panel of administrative staff and faculty who evaluate each candidate's application for the award.

The awards for Outstanding Achievement in Writing in the Humanities and Social Sciences are given to students based on the quality of their work in one or more courses, regardless of their degree program. Throughout the year, Humanities and Social Sciences faculty submit exemplary papers and projects from each 200-level or higher course. Submissions are evaluated and ranked, and the students with the highest rank at the associate and bachelor levels are selected for the Humanities and Social Sciences Awards.

Receiving these awards offers students the opportunity to note this achievement on their resume and provides them with a well-earned advantage as they seek future employment. Congratulations to the following exemplary students. The Best of Tech virtual ceremony may be found at: https://www.tribute.co/neit-best-of-tech-2020/.

ADVANCED AUTOMOTIVE Ethan Lopes – AS ARCHITECTURAL BUILDING ENGINEERING Thomas M. Wall, Jr. – BS AUTOMOTIVE COLLISION REPAIR Robert N. Rocco - AS BUILDING CONSTRUCTION Andre T. Girard - AS BUSINESS MANAGEMENT Anna Maria DiPalma – AS† Denise M. DeBlasio – BS CIVIL ENGINEERING Samuel Rivera - BS CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT Nicholas P. Schmall – BS Kenneth L. Johnson – MS CRIMINAL JUSTICE Benjamin G. Richtarik - AS Dayna A. Koukas – BS

CYBERSECURITY AND NETWORK ENGINEERING Khalid Saseh – BS DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION Stephanie Garcia – AS Kaylee M. Olson − BS ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

William Pereira – BS ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY Jermaine D. Golden – AS

ELECTRONICS, ROBOTICS AND DRONES TECHNOLOGY Colin Leach – AS **ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT**

Joshua N. Fontaine – MS GAME DEVELOPMENT & SIMULATION PROGRAMMING Kevin J. Jamieson - AS

Joseph A. Sepulveda – BS GRAPHICS, MULTIMEDIA AND WEB DESIGN

Iason C. Trahan – AS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-NETWORK ENGINEERING

Joseph T. Mucerino – AS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

Talia S. Iannuccilli – AS John D. Lougee - BS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Robert F. Baran - MS INTERIOR DESIGN Alicia M. Gifford - AS Brianna L. Chace – BS MARINE Connor S. Whelihan - AS

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING Lukasz Glowacki – AS Amber B. Levesque - BS

MEDICAL ASSISTING AND ADMINISTRATION Michelle L. Henderson - AS MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY Isabella C. Fiore - AS

> NURSING Nicholas E. Thibeault - AS Ian M. Lacombe – BS

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT Amanda J. Blevins – AS

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY Jennifer J. Rhodes - MS Amy C. Wheadon - OTD†

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT Michael J. Corey – AS†

PLUMBING/HEATING/GAS Clive C. Wright – AS PUBLIC HEALTH

Katherine L. Daneault – MS†

REFRIGERATION/AIR CONDITIONING/HEATING Zachary J. Taylor – AS

> RESPIRATORY CARE Madison R. Allen – AS SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY Jennifer E. Wrench - AS VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

Kelsie L. Lamoureux - AS† VIDEO GAME DESIGN

Skye L. Whelpley – AS Nicholas J. DaRocha – BS WELDING ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Christopher R. Cawley – AS

BEST OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN WRITING IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

† — Indicates Tech Scholars

Leonel RosarioMGTH
Asmin Rosario Peralta Jr ABTA
Haley RossiNUR
Danielle RothOTA
Chelsea RozenNUR
Glenn RumasCYNB
Jacob RussAAHP
Molly RussellOTA
Edward RussoCYNB
Vincent RussoELTB
Sean RutherfordADMT
Sean RyanDMPB
George Saban JrITA
Jacqueline SabettaRNBN
Jason SadlierAAHP
Ronaldo Salguero ABTA
Jose Samayoa Juarez ABTA
Xavier SanchezDMPB
Hailey SangoITA
Amanda SantosGMWA
Andrew SantosAAHP
Andrey SartiBCD
Zachary SatagajGDSB
Jessica SemideyMAA
Connor SheaGMWA
Zachary Sheehan ITA
Infinity SheppardRC

Joseph Sherry..

Rashel ShulterbronCJ
Tracy SibleyRNBN
Jessica SilvaCYNA
Adam SimaoRACH
Jamila SiscoITBS
Jason SkillmanGDSB
Alexis SmithPTA
Benjamin SmithVET
Krysta SoulliereNUR
William SpahrCJ
Erin SpringNUR
Matthew St. Germain MCTB
Joshua St. PierreAAHP
Matthew StantonVGDA
Briana StillsonMGTH
Alexander StromAAHP
Michael Stroz MCTB
Michael Stubbs DMPA
Kodie StuberBSOT
David Swansey ITA
Kalie SylvesterNUR
Lauren TamburroNUR
Manuel TavaresELTB
Marina TedescoNUR
Kelsey TeixeiraRC
James ThomasMCTA
Rachelle ThompsonBSOT
Anastasia ThomsonBSOT

Brian Thornton AAUT
Sean ThorntonAAHP
Eric Tift CMTB
Ian ToloskyAAHP
Hunter Tomick MCTB
Anthony TorresAAHP
Kenneth Tracey III
Heather TraibmanST
Michael TrongoneRACH
Brandon TrumpoldITBS
Declan TrusAAHP
Wayne Turley JrELTB
Charles Underwood III MGTT
Christian UrbinaBSOT
Christian UrenaVDEB
Cody VallierePLBH
Nicholas Vartabedian ABTA
Francine VasquezBSOT
Alexander Velasquez ITA
Melanie VertentesBSOT
Heather VickersNUR
Brandon Vieira AAUT
Casey Viens ITA
Marissa VitalePTA
Tiffany WaldronRNBN
Benjamin Wall MGTT
Ronald Warner IICETA
Charles Warren-Koumis CYNA

Angie Watkins	R
Michael Watson	P1
Linda Watts	S
Aaliyah Webb	DMP
Ashley Weber	BSO
Korie Whalen	RNB
Chevenne Wheeler	MA
Nathaniel Wheeler	WE
Brigid White	(
Riley Wicks	
Matthew Wilichowski	
Evan Willard	MGT
Yuanicka Williams	MA
Damon Wilson Jr	CYN
Cara Woloohojian	
Brittany Wood	
Tyler Woodward	P1
Vichet Yan	
Luis Yera	GMW
Leandro Ysiano Ortega	
George Zapata	CYN
Josue Zelaya	ABT
•	

Congratulations



Fall Classes to Begin on October 5, 2020

NEIT WILL WELCOME BACK students, faculty and staff as the fall term begins on Monday, October 5. Classes will be offered online, on-campus and in a hybrid format keeping the health and safety of all members of the NEIT community at the forefront. NEIT's goal is to continue to provide its students with a high quality, experiential learning environment while all members of the campus community work together to protect the health and wellness of one another.

NEIT's Reopening Plan was developed in conjunction with recommendations from the Governor's Office and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). The plan will be amended as needed as NEIT continues to adapt to the fluidity of the COVID-19 pandemic based on guidance from health and government officials.

Appropriate steps have been implemented as they relate to screening procedures, physical space utilization, cleaning and disinfecting, proper handwashing, wearing cloth face coverings, social distancing and taking personal responsibility to keep the community as safe as possible.

The fall term is scheduled from October 5, 2020 to December 19, 2020. Classes will be offered in various formats to reduce the number of students in classrooms and labs thereby mitigating risks and promoting a healthy environment. On-campus housing will be provided at approximately 50% occupancy, utilizing single rooms only. Assistance to locate off-campus housing will be provided to students as requested.

The dining center, student center, library and other places of public assembly will be open on a limited basis and will be operating in accordance with official government guidelines. Limited on-campus student activities will also be provided. All student support services and administrative offices will operate following official requirements.

"Our faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to provide well designed oncampus, online and hybrid programs while keeping the campus community as safe as possible," stated Dr. Douglas H. Sherman, Senior Vice President and Provost. "We are committed to supporting all students as they continue to achieve their academic and career goals during this challenging and unprecedented time."

Providence Business News Recognizes SAMI Program



CONGRATULATIONS to New England Tech's Shipbuilding / Marine Trades and Advanced Manufacturing Institute, SAMI, as the recipient of the 2020 Providence Business News Manufacturing Award for Workforce Development and Productivity. This recognition marks the second time that SAMI has received this prestigious award which was first presented to NEIT in 2015.

SAMI truly reflects NEIT's mission by preparing its participants for careers in the shipbuilding and manufacturing industries. Since its inception in 2013, SAMI has connected more than 1,200 individuals to manufacturing employment.

SAMI faculty and staff are to be commended for their efforts in workforce development and include Fred Santaniello, Bob Palumbo, Kathy Partington, Amanda Handfield, Henry Gold and Todd Sposato. This recognition is well deserved and reflects highly on New England Institute of Technology.



From left: 1st Row: Sheri Lough-OT Faculty Fieldwork Educator, Gabrielle McCarthy, Alan Ferla, Olivia Sauriol; 2nd Row: Kathryn DeCorte, Samuel Hurwitz, Kathryn Kite, Nandani Patel.

OTA Students Help the Community Virtually

WHEN TERM 2 Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) students learned that they would not be attending fieldwork in the community this past spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they chose to see this obstacle as an opportunity. Although they had been looking forward to their first experience working with clients at various mental health and substance recovery programs, they decided to be innovative by supporting others virtually.

Through guidance from their faculty fieldwork educator, Sheri Lough, OTR/L, multiple Zoom sessions were arranged with the members and staff of Hillsgrove House in Warwick, an accredited clubhouse program of Thrive Behavioral Health.

The students used active listening and empathy skills to discover how COVID-19 had impacted the meaningful activity of the members and quickly began creating an informative 30-minute video presentation titled: "Preserving Meaningful Activity During the COVID-19 Challenge" which was posted on https://youtu.be/8-eOjzQy6PA.

The students applied their OTA classroom knowledge to provide practical strategies for continued engagement in the important areas of every person's life, despite interruption. Since May was mental health awareness month, they also included resources such as smart phone apps and various organizations and hotlines that support mental health and substance use focusing on the whole person: body, mind and spirit. The video was shared with more than 40 Hillsgrove House members with very positive feedback, so it will serve as an ongoing resource.

The students are grateful to Tom Thibodeau, Assistant Provost, for his assistance with this project!

Ms. Lough stated, "We are very proud of our students for being flexible, creative, and problem-solvers under challenging circumstances. We know these skills will serve them well in the future!"

NEIT's Technical Expertise and Business Management Students Shine at the 2020 SAM International Business Conference

WITH THE unexpected COVID-19 crisis looming in mid-March, NEIT Business Management students' plans to travel to the Society for the Advancement of Management (SAM) International Conference in Nashville, Tennessee during break week were literally up in the air. Having spent the winter term preparing for this conference, the students were stunned by the sudden announcement that they could not travel to Nashville due to the pandemic.

In less than one week, with the invaluable help of NEIT's Department of Technical Services (DoTS), NEIT's Business Management faculty took the lead in working with SAM conference organizers to host the national conference online, based out of the New England Tech campus. Colleges from across the country expressed notes of gratitude to the NEIT team, led by Assistant Professor Henry "Hank" Johnson and Department Chair Christine Stevens, for offering students and academics alike the opportunity to compete virtually, despite the pandemic, in this highly-respected business competition.

Business Management students Sarrah Berkery (SAM Club President), Erika Sinesi and Kelsey Forcier competed in the Open division, having spent more than a hundred hours preparing for the competition. The Associate division team of Arly Guardado, Jennifer Catauro and Nicole Braga met weekly during the winter term at the NEIT Library to prepare and strategize.

The SAM team is open to all NEIT students. regardless of major. This year Arly Guardado, Respiratory Care student, had never taken a management course, but decided to join NEIT's SAM Club and become a member of this year's team. Arly reflected, "Having the opportunity to learn something outside of my major was very exciting. All of the members of SAM helped me get up to speed and I couldn't be more thankful."

Both teams' hard work paid off. These outstanding students won the International Business Skills Championship in both the Open and Associate divisions. This championship is the overall award for each division in which the total scores for all individual and team competitions are combined to determine the winning institutions. The students' determination to



Front Center: Sarrah Berkery; From left, 2nd row: Jennifer Catauro, Arly Guardado, Kelsey Forcier; 3rd row: Christine Stevens, Nicole Braga, Erika Sinesi, and Hank Johnson

participate in every possible event played a major factor in earning the overall titles for NEIT. This is the second year in a row NEIT has won the Open division.

The premiere event at the SAM conference is the team case competition, which is divided into a written case and a case presentation. This year NEIT's Open team won both the written case and case presentation competitions. The Associate team won the written case and placed second in case presentation competition. This marks the second time in three years NEIT has won the case competition, a feat very few schools in the history of SAM have accomplished.

Every student earned individual honors along with their team recognition:

Video Gaming Department Receives Masterclass Grant

VIDEO GAME DEVELOPMENT and Design (VGDD) students at NEIT returned to their online classes for the Summer 2020 term utilizing Zoom and other online networking apps. To help keep students engaged, VGDD faculty sent care packages to each student with letters of encouragement and humorous gifts. The packages were a welcome boost for the students helping them to re-focus for the homestretch of the term.

As an additional item to include in the care package, Professor Bill Culbertson applied for a grant from Masterclass.com which offers membership access for students and faculty. Masterclass.com offers online courses taught by 85+ experts in their respective fields, often by celebrities. The grant request was for a 48-hour membership access to the site for students as a weekend diversion, but much to the professor's surprise, NEIT received



Pictured here is Term 8 student Olivia Forst in the Video Game Design program's 3d Digital Sculpting class.

more than 100 one-year access memberships for students and faculty valued at nearly \$20,000! "We really wished we could have met with the students in person, but that just was not possible," said Culbertson. "Typically, we invite guest speakers from the gaming industry to come to campus and speak to students to supplement the curriculum. Since we could not meet on campus, I had a thought to investigate Masterclass.com. MasterClass.com is providing a resource to our department that will help to inspire and motivate our students during these

challenging times. We strive to provide the best learning environment we can for our students.

This grant will go a long way in helping us achieve that goal."

OPEN DIVISION

Sarrah Berkery: Individual Student Competition - Overall Champion Best Student Paper in the Organizational Studies Track Regional Outstanding Student (2019 national recipient) Extemporaneous Speech Competition-2nd Place Business Pitch Competition-2nd Place

Kelsey Forcier: Individual Student Competition—Tied for 2nd Place Recognized as National Outstanding Student Super Quiz Competition-2nd Place Business Pitch Competition-1st Place

Erika Sinesi: Individual Student Competition-Tied for 2nd Place Extemporaneous Speech Competition-3rd Place Super Quiz Competition-3rd Place Business Pitch Competition-3rd Place

ASSOCIATE DIVISION

Arly Guardado: Individual Student Competition -2nd Place Best Student Paper in the Social Issues Management Track Recognized as Regional Outstanding Student Super Quiz Competition-3rd Place Business Idea Competition-3rd Place

Jennifer Catauro: Individual Student Competition-3rd Place Nicole Braga: Extemporaneous Speech Competition-3rd Place

NEIT also finished second for best SAM Chapter in the country. This award is based on community service and other criteria. Professor Stevens and Assistant Professor Johnson also received a "Service to the Society Award" on behalf of NEIT for their efforts in bringing the competition online. Assistant Professor Johnson was also named Outstanding National Faculty Advisor for the third year in a row.

At least one NEIT student placed in the top three for every event, the only team to do so in the country. They also swept the Open Division Business Pitch Competition. Congratulations to these outstanding students for their exemplary performances and to their dedicated faculty for the continued support of their achievements. Thank you to Centerville Bank for providing the financial support to make this year's championship possible.

Homeland Security and National Security Agency Recognize NEIT's Cybersecurity Program

the National Security Agency have designated New England Institute of Technology as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE) through academic year 2025 for its cybersecurity and network engineering program.

New England Tech is one of 183 colleges and universities in the United States and one of 8 in the northeast that has earned this prestigious distinction. This recognition puts NEIT on the national map for cybersecurity education.

NEIT's Information Technology faculty worked tirelessly over the last two years to earn the CAE-CDE designation for its Bachelor of Science degree in Cybersecurity and Network Engineering. To demonstrate that the program covered the required knowledge units, topics and objectives, faculty and students had to meet extensive criteria such as providing examples of student work, hands-on activities, program assessments and participation in cybersecurity competitions. Evidence that additional NEIT programs incorporate cybersecurity concepts to demonstrate that cyber defense is a multidisciplinary practice at the university was presented.

NEIT also had to show that it implements

its own cybersecurity practices as well as operates an active Cybersecurity Center which may be found at https://dots.neit.edu/cybercenter/. Faculty and students had to perform cyber outreach in the community which included faculty presentations at outside facilities, student participation in internships, hosting cybersecurity events and training at NEIT as well as collaborating with other universities on cybersecurity projects.

As stated in a letter to NEIT dated June 25, 2020 from the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education, "Your ability to meet the increasing demands of the program criteria will serve the nation well in contributing to the protection of the National Information Infrastructure. A highly skilled cybersecurity workforce is a strategic national security advantage. Education is the key to promoting these ideals."

For more information regarding NEIT's Associate in Science and Bachelor of Science Cybersecurity and Network Engineering programs, please contact the Admissions Office at 800-736-7744 or by email at NEITAdmissions@neit.edu. Program information may be found at www.neit.edu.

MSIT Graduate Students Rise to the Occasion

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has certainly changed our lives in many ways, but NEIT students accept the challenges they face and accomplish the task at hand in very innovative ways. Two students in NEIT's Master of Science in Information Technology program presented their final projects using Zoom technology and were highly praised by their professors for an exceptional outcome.

• **DEBRA LASTER** invited 20 people to her Zoom presentation which included students, faculty, co-workers and friends. She

developed a business plan for a cybersecurity start-up company targeting small businesses. Here is a recap of Debra's project:

"Today's cybersecurity landscape rapidly changes as technology continuously evolves so I developed a plan to help small businesses and individuals navigate that landscape by keeping cybersecurity education a top priority. Knowing how to secure systems and data is of utmost importance. My business plan, Cybercrimes Defense



Systems, LLC (CDS), a non-profit local small business, helps individuals and local small businesses develop a culture of security awareness through education. CDS is passionate about helping small organizations with few resources and individuals in the aging population with fewer years to recoup losses in the event of a breach.

"A common claim that the weakest asset a company has is its people contradicts CDS's core beliefs. The weakest link is the training. CDS empowers them with the tools to build a strong culture of cybersecurity awareness training. In my business model, the company keeps up with industry best practices and changes in technology for the client. CDS creates a custom cybersecurity training program and includes seminars, newsletters, online resources and support for all clients. CDS also gives back to the community by offering free cybersecurity support and resources to other local non-profits. The plan is to be small and stay small but influence big."

• **BRIAN MATHER'S** project was the development of a new training and team provisioning system for Cox Communications. Brian won a Cox Gold Standard of Service award for his

outstanding work. Here is a recap of Brian's project.

"The Missing Provisioning Team: Team Building During A

Pandemic." The scope of my project was to define and implement a training schedule for the Cox Business Access Technician (CBAT) team, clear existing backlog and meet project Service Level Agreements (SLAs). I was an engineering resource to help this team and proposed this project to Cox leadership and NEIT. The timeline of the project implementation was from March to May 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic which forced this project to change



some of the deliverables, but the overall objectives were met. The Northeast CBAT data provisioning role is a new position established over the past three-four years. Engineers would assist the CBAT team when there was overflow, if someone was on vacation or if team members changed positions.

There are two team members. The first member is cross-trained with no previous knowledge of the systems. The other team member is familiar with the system but needed to learn the provisioning role and networking concepts. A new department manager started at the beginning of this project and was not familiar with the processes or work functions. I served as the project coordinator, program developer, team leader, subject matter expert and instructor during the project.

The team is working better than before by providing consistent documentation and delivering on all SLAs. The team completed 27 expedites in 45 days and more than 400 tasks. Learning is

the work and 70% was through on-the-job training. A continuous knowledge base was created by the team members to record trainings and to instruct future team members. The new team is operating independently and doing well."





Getting Creative with Online Classes

BECAUSE ALL CLASSES were offered remotely for the Spring 2020 term due to the COVID-19 crisis, faculty members worked diligently to present course material to their students in a creative and engaging way.

Electrical Technology faculty sent all Term 1 students "care packages" so they could complete some of their hands-on learning at home! Tools and residential electrical materials such as wire, boxes, switches and outlets were shipped to each student along with a small wall on which to mount parts.

Term 3 students in the Electronics, Robotics and Drones Technology program also received "care packages" so they could complete small electronics projects at home that included mini breadboards, digital devices and miscellaneous parts.

Electrical Technology, Electrical Engineering, and Electronics, Robotics and Drones Technology programs implemented new software simulations to replace some of the hands-on components of the programs.

Automotive Collision Repair Technology students learned some of the painting techniques required for auto body prep work via Zoom using ride-on toy cars as part of the demonstration.

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, faculty and students worked together to keep learning relevant and engaging.

Innovative Mechanical Engineering Students!

JUST BEFORE the winter term ended in March 2020, the Mechanical Engineering department held its annual Design Expo where Term 6 students designed and built their own unique projects/prototypes. The task for students was to identify a problem and apply mechanical engineering principles acquired in their previous terms to find a solution.

The projects below demonstrate the creativity of these students as they worked in teams to produce several unique engineering concepts. Congratulations on a job well done!

• Desktop Machine Shop

Ben Lamoureux and Evan Pennacchia are do-it-yourself enthusiasts and designed a low cost, small scale machine that can perform multiple machine shop functions. There are some smaller devices on the market that perform a single function, but none that perform multiple functions using limited space on a minimal budget. The "Desktop Machine Shop" fills that need. It clamps to a table and performs as a lathe, a drill press and potentially other functions for less than \$200.

• Automated Window Washer

Mathew Jarret and Dylan Sudol believe that everyone enjoys a clean home, but the most neglected part of the house are the windows and mirrors. They designed and built a prototype to attach to a surface by suction cups. With the push of a button, a microcomputer activates a motor, sprayers and a squeegee that clean the surface with little effort.

• Drink Mixer

Robert DeVincent III, Kenneth Piercesaw, Jr. and Michael Stroz, designed and built a prototype for mixing up to three different beverages in any ratio desired. The prototype accepts up to three 2-liter soda bottles and utilizes three solenoid valves, a pump, and an Arduino microprocessor with LCD display to allow the user to dial in the desired drink ratios.

• Inter-Vehicle Communications

Nate Augusto and Pierre Chamou questioned why, in our world of advanced communications, drivers still need to resort to hand signals, flashing signal lights and other means to communicate from one vehicle to another. They designed and built a device that would allow vehicles to communicate pre-determined messages between vehicles without distracting either driver using Bluetooth communications and a small microprocessor.



Left: Desktop Machine Shop

Right: Drink Mixer



Where your former classmates are

The Career Services Office can attest to the fact that they are working in very exciting jobs! We wish them continued success in their careers and all of their future endeavors.

Jeremy Dickman, RACH, 6/19, Refrigeration/AC Heating & Gas, is employed by M.A. Restoration

Dylan Levesque, CYNB, 3/20, Cybersecurity/Network Engineering, is employed by Raytheon

Alfred Villeneuve, CYNB, 3/20, Cybersecurity/Network Engineering, is, employed by East Providence Schools

Angelo Crespo, MGTT, 3/20, Business Management, Transportation Technology, is employed by CarMax

Julie Bagaj, NUR, 6/19, Nursing, is employed by Lifespan–RIH

Zachary Sharron, EIY, 3/20, Electrical Technology, is employed by D'Alio Electric LLC **Heather Gonsalves**, DMPB, 12/19, Digital Media Production, is employed by Whitman Hanson Community Access

Jeffrey Pierce, CYNB, 9/19, Cybersecurity/Network Engineering, is employed by Amica Mutual Insurance

Luke Barstow, ELTB, 9/19, Electrical Engineering Technology, is employed by ON

Alycia Pimentel, RNBN, 9/19, Nursing, is employed by South County Hospital **Madison Allen**, RC, 9/19, Respiratory Care, is employed by Westerly Hospital

Brendan Arruda, ABTA, 9/19, Architectural Building Engineering Technology, is employed by AA Precision Machine Co. Inc.

Patrick Asciola, ITBS, 9/19, Information Technology/Software Engineering, is employed by General Dynamics Electric Boat

Anne Augustin, MAA, 9/19, Medical Assisting & Administration, is employed by Dr. Solomon Primary Care

Joseph Bacon, CYNB, 9/19, Cybersecurity/Network Engineering, is employed by SAIC Andrew Bellucci, ITBS, 9/19, Information Technology/Software Engineering, is employed by PPWD

Katharine Boynton, ST, 3/20, Surgical Technology, is employed by Newport Hospital Luke Cavallaro, MCTB, 12/19, Mechanical Engineering Technology, is employed by AA Precision Machine Co. Inc.

Brian Colantonio, ITBS, 3/20, Information Technology/Software Engineering, is employed by Dynata

Hannah Fagnant, OTA, 12/19, Occupational Therapy Assistant, is employed by Riverview Healthcare Center

Zick Konte, MSEM, 12/19, Engineering Management, is employed by REXA **Jarret Leonard**, MT, 3/20, Marine Technology, is employed by Thayers Marine

Mary Mahoney-Pacheco, VET, 3/20, Veterinary Technology, is employed by Anchor Animal Hospital

Faolan McKeever, VET, 9/19, Veterinary Technology, is employed by Ocean State Veterinary Specialists

Cory Paige, CMTB, 9/19, Construction Management, is employed by Millwork One Christopher Reynolds, RACH, 9/19, Refrigeration/AC Heating & Gas , is employed by Steamworks

Michael Sousa, CJBX, 3/20, Criminal Justice, is employed by South Kingstown Police Department

Connor Strom, ABTB, 3/20, Architectural Building Engineering Technology, is employed by Creative Environmental Corp.

Wendy Torres, RC, 9/19, Respiratory Care, is employed by Charlton Memorial Hospital Nicholas Tricarico, MCTB, 9/19, Mechanical Engineering Technology, is employed by Plance LISA

Many NEIT graduates employ NEIT graduates. If you have an opening within your company or know of an opening that would be best filled by an NEIT graduate please contact Pat Blakemore, Director of Career Services, at 800-736-7744 or 401-739-5000. There is no fee for any referrals.

Graduates of New England Institute of Technology or New England Technical Institute are automatically members of the NEIT Alumni Association. Your participation in the Alumni Association is critical to its success. Please consider becoming an active member of this important organization. And the best news of all: there is no fee for membership. To join please call 401-739-5000, ext. 3704.



Student Activities Update for Fall 2020

We look forward to welcoming new and returning students to the fall term as NEIT begins an exciting season of student activities!

NEIT's student activities have all been inperson prior to the pandemic, but we are now excited to begin offering virtual activities as well. Some examples include virtual game shows, trivia contests, and painting sessions led by an artist who will walk students through each step. In the past, students who had never painted a picture before were so pleased with their paintings that many gave them to family members as gifts.

The in-person activities will be structured differently to comply with the procedures NEIT has set forth in its COVID-19 Campus Re-opening Plan. Some of these guidelines include limiting the number of participants in an activity, signing up for activities in advance, practicing social distancing and wearing face masks at all times. We are all familiar with these practices, so we can concentrate on having fun and getting to know new people!

We also look forward to re-opening our Esports Center, which is a great place to meet other students with similar interests, practice gaming skills or try a new game. Students should consider joining the NEIT Esports Club so they can compete with members of the NEIT community! For more information about the Esports Club, contact instructor and club advisor Jordan Dubreuil at jdubreuil@neit.edu.

The student activities schedule and additional information regarding the Esports Center will be available soon on the Student Website under the Student Life tab. As the sign-up period opens for each activity, be sure to register quickly to reserve your spot!

If you have an idea for a new student activity or any questions about upcoming activities, please contact the Director of Student Activities, Melissa Haque at mhaque@neit.edu.



Students in Term 5 are now completing Level II fieldwork at Rock Steady Boxing. From left: 1st Row: Devon Cruz, Bowen Daileader; 2nd Row: Madison Mahar; 3rd Row: Isabelle Droscoll, Bianca Hawkins; 4th Row: Danielle Roth

OTA Students and Faculty Making a Difference

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has impacted the world and is challenging the traditional path to the completion of academic requirements for many students. NEIT's Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) students were not spared but rose to the challenge. Due to continued efforts to maintain safety throughout the course of the statewide shutdown, many traditional fieldwork settings, like hospitals and schools, were unable to participate in the supervision of emerging OTA practitioners. This situation caused students and instructors to think "outside the box" and consider non-traditional settings combining advocacy for the occupational therapy field and collaborating with existing community-based programs. This is how the partnership between Rock Steady Boxing and the OTA program blossomed.

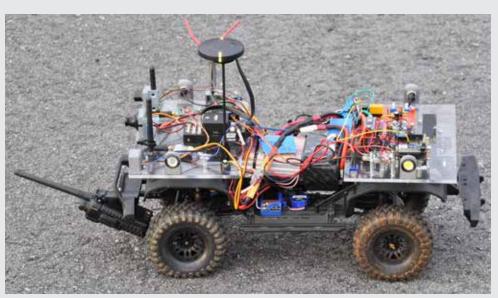
Rock Steady Boxing (RSB) is a national evidenced-based boxing program for adults living with Parkinson's Disease. Owned and operated by Carolyn Kosiba-Quiterio, RSB East Greenwich provides a non-contact boxing curriculum for athletes experiencing the physical and cognitive impact of this progressive disease. Term 6 students Maggie Kennedy, Andrea McGorman, Sasha Nobile, Jennifer Chaput and Hannah Ventura spent eight weeks at Rock Steady during the Spring 2020 term under the direction of faculty member, Elizabeth Remillard, MS, OTR/L. In collaboration with RSB, both individual and group OT sessions were offered that covered a variety of topics

including adaptive equipment, handwriting, cognition, sleep hygiene, and fall prevention. This non-traditional setting provided an incredibly informative, inspiring, and life-changing experience for these students that is continuing with Term 5 students this summer.

In addition, OTA students in Term 5, like all NEIT students, had to take their classes virtually for the Spring 2020 term. There were tasks that could not be completed online, so these students came to the East Greenwich campus for two days in July for intensive hands-on training. These students are now attending their Level II Fieldwork at three community-based settings. In addition to Rock Steady Boxing, other sites include Hillsgrove House, a clubhouse for individuals with mental illness, and Phoenix House, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center.

Special thanks are extended to OTA faculty members Joanne S. Jones, OTD, OTR/L Professor and OTA Program Coordinator; Cyndi Fuchs, OTR/L, Assistant Professor; Trish McGee, MS, OTR/L Assistant Professor; Karen Morgenstein, COTA/L OTA Lab Assistant; Julie Laird OTD, OTR/L Instructor; Elizabeth Remillard, MS, OTR/L, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and Sheri Lough, OTR/L Faculty Fieldwork Educator for their hard work in overcoming the challenges of presenting the course material in a virtual format during the spring term. Both faculty and students worked extremely hard to turn any obstacle due to the pandemic into a positive learning experience.

Search and Rescue Project Earns High Marks



Students in NEIT's Associate in Science degree program in Electronics, Robotics and Drones (ERD) Technology completed the Winter 2020 term with a search and rescue mission. Led by Bob Comerford, an instructor in the ERD program, the students developed a system utilizing unmanned aerial and rover vehicles to assist in locating a missing person and getting assistance to him/her. The students worked on this important project for the ten-week term.

The system was developed so that a drone equipped with a camera scans over a wooded area and takes hundreds of pictures. This information is brought back to a base camp and a virtual map is created. At this point, the missing person can be located. The exact location is entered into a four-wheel-drive rover which then drives itself to the target. The rover tracks real-time temperature data of its location and then sends live video of the trip back to the base camp. Once the rover arrives at the missing person's location, it delivers a handheld radio.

"The students were so excited about the project because they saw how it gave them a real-world end result as opposed to a lab activity," stated Comerford. "It ties in everything they've been doing in their associate degree program. They were able to solve a problem. The technology is still being fine-tuned but could easily be used in more large-scale search and rescue missions."