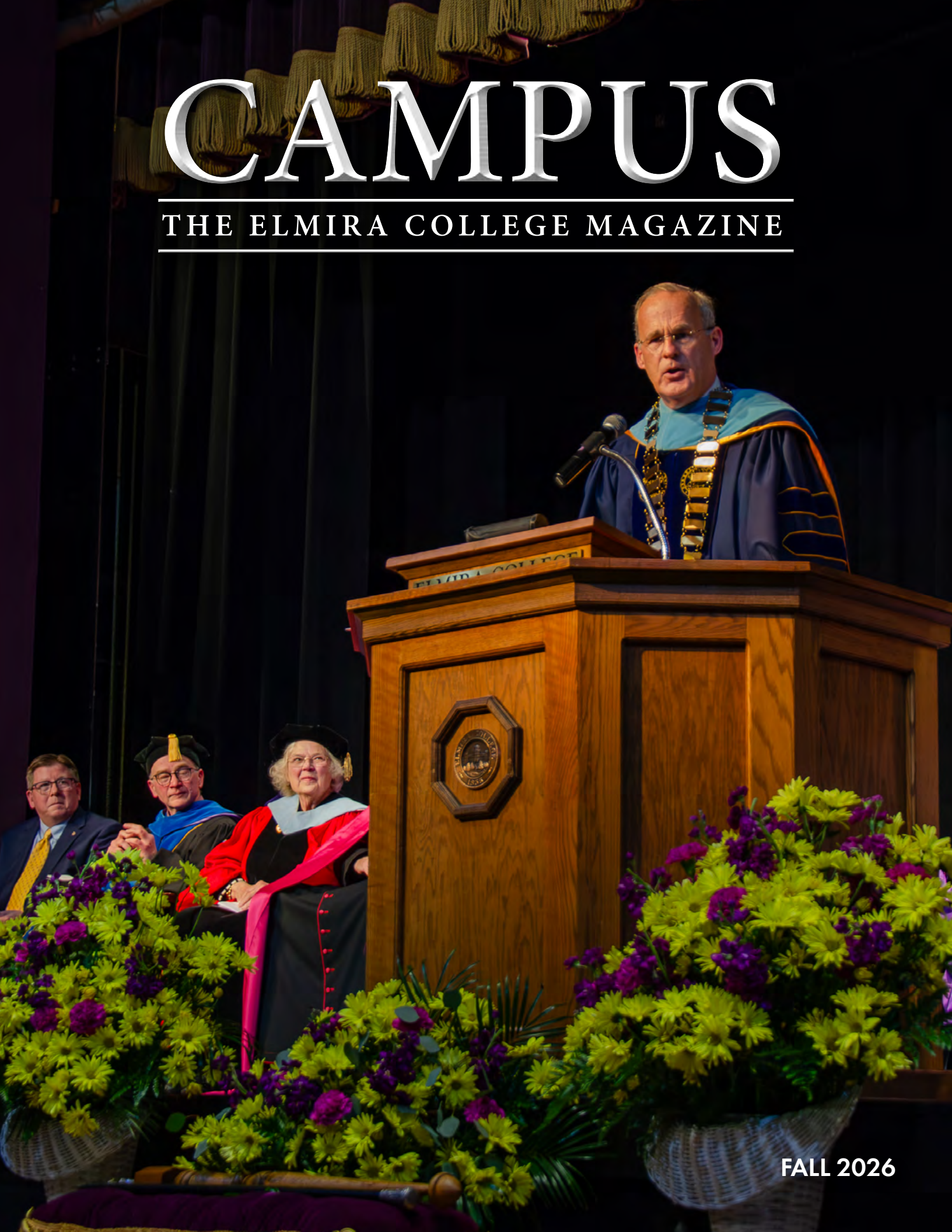
CAMPUS

THE ELMIRA COLLEGE MAGAZINE



FALL 2026

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Front cover image: President Dolan gives his inaugural address as Alumni Board President Rick Kozan '95; Dr. Charlie Mitchell, Professor of American History; and Board of Trustees member Dr. Mila Meier look on.

CAMPUS

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Which of the following would you prefer?

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Message From The President



This summer I joined Elmira College as the 16th President of Elmira College. My wife Marilyn and I are truly humbled and honored by the confidence the Board of Trustees has placed in us to lead this distinguished institution.

From the moment we arrived, we felt the warmth and generosity of the Elmira College and greater Elmira communities. It was overwhelming. We soon discovered that this spirit of hospitality is a hallmark of the Soaring Eagles community. We were thrilled to join in welcoming the Luminous Class of 2030 and their families at Fall Welcome. This year, the College welcomed 323 new students to campus. Far and away one of the largest entering classes in a decade. Total student enrollment is now 887, our highest level of enrollment in many years, which is supported by a recent and measurable increase in first-year retention.

Even more remarkable than these enrollment milestones is the academic strength of our entering class. Thirty-seven members of the first-year cohort earned straight A's on their high school report cards. Their decision to choose Elmira College reflects the appeal of our innovative programming in academics, student life, and athletics, which continues to combine the strength of the liberal arts with career-ready skills.

At the heart of all this momentum is what makes Elmira special: the transformative experiences students have here and the relationships that shape their lives long after graduation. Our commitment to a personalized education, meaningful mentorship, and opportunities to discover and pursue their passions remains as strong as ever. These are the foundations upon which we will continue to build Elmira's future.

Elmira's momentum extends beyond campus. Alumni engagement and philahthropy continue to grow, and the College experienced another solid year in securing the resources needed to deliver our unique student experience. The College was also recognized by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's best undergraduate and regional colleges, placing Elmira among the top 15% of more than 2,400 four-year institutions nationwide. Adding to this distinction, The Princeton Review featured Elmira on the cover of its annual publication.

Marilyn and I have met so many wonderful alumni, friends, and benefactors of the College. Everyone asks how they can help. I always respond with three requests. First, spread the word about Elmira's great momentum. Second, refer a student who would thrive here. And third, consider making a gift. Together, we can ensure that Elmira College remains accessible and affordable for generations of students to come.

Thank you for your support and for being part of this extraordinary community.

Be It Ever So!

John F. Dolan, Ed.D.
Elmira College President

Welcoming the Dolans

Elmira College celebrated the inauguration of Dr. John F. Dolan as its 16th president on November 6, 2026. The EC campus community was joined by alumni, local and state legislators, and delegates from other colleges and universities for the ceremony in Gibson Theatre, Emerson Hall.

Enjoy a recording of the Inauguration Ceremony on the EC YouTube channel at bit.ly/DolanInauguration.

Photos from the Ceremony and Reception are available at https://www.flickr.com/photos/elmiracollege/albums/



As the dust from the inauguration celebrations settled, we asked President and Mrs. Dolan to share a little more about themselves and their thoughts on Elmira College.

What drew you to Elmira College?

There were two primary factors that caught our attention about Elmira College.

First, we believe we are living in an age when it is increasingly difficult to know what is real and what is authentic. We live in a world of deep fakes, artificial intelligence, and social media, where even our relationships with one another and with our communities can sometimes feel less personal and less genuine.

Because of that, we believe this is the time of the small college.

It's the time for an educational experience that brings real people together, builds meaningful relationships, encourages genuine intellectual engagement, and connects students with faculty and alumni mentors who know them, believe in them, and invest in their future.

We believe the small college has something incredibly important to offer at this moment in our history: the opportunity to connect real people with a real education and a truly authentic student experience.

Once we reached that conclusion, we began looking for an institution that embodied those qualities. We found Elmira College—one of the premier small colleges, with a remarkable history, a distinctive educational tradition, and an extraordinary opportunity to deliver precisely that kind of experience.

That's what drew us to Elmira College.

And that's what continues to inspire, motivate, and keep us working hard every day for Elmira College.

Moving from Boston to Elmira meant getting to know a new community. What have you enjoyed discovering about the region? Are there any favorite places or experiences so far?

Moving to Elmira has been a truly eye-opening experience. And we're still very much in the process of discovering all that this beautiful region has to offer.

As someone who enjoys road biking, I have been absolutely amazed by the beautiful trails, scenic roads, and wonderful riding opportunities throughout the Chemung Valley. The hiking trails, parks, and natural beauty of the area are simply breathtaking.

Of course, along the way, you begin to discover your favorite places. The Hilltop Inn has already become our go-to spot. Great people, spectacular views, wonderful food, and a genuine sense of community.

Elmira and the surrounding region are truly a beautiful part of the world. Quite honestly, before moving here, we had not spent nearly enough time exploring all that upstate New York has to offer.

Marilyn and I are enjoying the journey, and as I often say, we're still a work in progress when it comes to discovering this special place. The more we explore, the more we appreciate the beauty, character, and warmth of the Chemung Valley and the people who call it home.

How did it feel to welcome your first incoming class of Elmira College students? Was there a specific moment that made the experience especially memorable for either of you?

The Fall Welcome and opening was a new and exciting experience for Marilyn and me. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to observe, participate in, and experience firsthand the many wonderful traditions that make Elmira College's new student orientation so special.

Of all those traditions, Candlelight stands out. It's one of those experiences that's almost impossible to describe adequately in words. You truly have to be there to appreciate its meaning, its beauty, and its emotion. For us, that evening was a defining moment. It was the experience that made us look at each other and realize that we had become part of a truly special place.

As you look back on your first five months, has anything about EC surprised you?

There have been some wonderful surprises along the way. We knew that the Elmira College community was welcoming, authentic, and engaging. What perhaps surprised Marilyn and me was discovering that those same qualities extend throughout the greater Elmira community.

As we've settled in, we've begun to build friendships with people in local shops, grocery stores, and businesses. We've also had the opportunity to work alongside city leaders on important initiatives, including our new agreement with the LECOM Event Center. Through these experiences, we've come to appreciate just how welcoming, caring, and genuinely invested people are in this community.

It has truly been eye-opening. Perhaps we shouldn't have been surprised, but we have been, in the very best way. The warmth, generosity, and genuine engagement of the Elmira community have made this transition especially meaningful for both of us. We feel increasingly fortunate to call Elmira home.

When you think about Elmira College's future, what are you most excited about?

Clearly my excitement is fueled by the tremendous momentum we're experiencing. From enrollment growth and increasing financial stability to the extraordinary work of our faculty, students, and staff, we're seeing progress on so many fronts. We're introducing new academic programs, expanding opportunities for our students, and adding important facilities through partnerships like the LECOM Event Center.

It's almost overwhelming when you step back and take it all in. At a time when higher education is facing some very significant headwinds, Elmira College continues to move forward.

And perhaps what excites me most is that I see no indication of this momentum slowing down. In fact, I believe we're just beginning to realize what's possible. The future is bright, and I could not be more excited about what lies ahead.

What do you hope every student experiences during their time at EC?

What I hope every student experiences during their time at Elmira College is that special moment when they realize that this place is home. For our newest students, that moment may still be ahead. They're finding their way, settling in, and discovering all that Elmira has to offer. But eventually, there is an epiphany—a moment when you look around and realize that Elmira College is a truly special place. You belong here. You are part of something meaningful. And you will leave this place prepared to go out into the world and do great things. But wherever life takes you, Elmira College will always be home.

What would you like alumni, donors, and friends of EC to know at this moment in the College's history?

I want every Elmira College alum, friend, benefactor, and all those who care deeply about this institution to understand that Elmira College is experiencing a renaissance. There is a sense of energy, excitement, and momentum on this campus that has not been present for some time.

This momentum isn't happening by accident. It's the result of many people coming together, working hard, believing in Elmira, and committing to moving this institution forward. Our faculty, staff, students, trustees, alumni, friends, and benefactors are all part of this important moment in Elmira's history.

We have an extraordinary opportunity in front of us, and we must continue to build on the progress we're making. We must keep this momentum growing and keep it moving forward.

What a great time to be part of Elmira College. What a great time to believe in Elmira. Forward, always forward.

Moo-ving Beyond the Classroom

Students Explore the Science of Cattle Health

A few grams of cattle manure might not seem like ideal samples to work with, but for Elmira College students Isabella Zurlo ’29 and Brenna Andersen ’28, those samples are an important part of their research.

The two are working with Dr. Sarah Hazelton, Assistant Professor of Biology, who is investigating how genetics may influence cattle's resistance to disease. Hazelton, who has a small dairy farm, helps gather samples for the students to use in the lab. With her assistance, they’ve learned to extract DNA, run laboratory tests, and compare genetic sequences. They hope their analysis will demonstrate whether genes play a role in a cow’s susceptibility to two common conditions: gastrointestinal parasites and mastitis, an infection of a cow’s udder.

Extracting DNA is detailed, sometimes tedious work. But Zurlo and Andersen aren’t fazed. They’ve enjoyed taking ownership of a research project and experiencing what it means to work through a scientific question.

Zurlo, a Pre-Vet major, wants to become a large-animal veterinarian. For her, the connection to her future career was an immediate draw.

"Once I heard that Dr. Hazelton’s research was based in animal care, I knew that I wanted to do research with her," she said.

Her project focuses on a specific gene to determine whether certain variations of the gene are associated with greater parasite resistance in cattle. Zurlo uses the fecal samples to measure the number of parasite eggs in each sample. She then works with DNA samples from the same animals, using lab tools like the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), gel electrophoresis, and DNA sequencing to examine the genetic material. The results help her establish possible relationships between genetics and parasite resistance.

Process repetition didn’t turn Zurlo away. Instead, she gained confidence working with laboratory equipment she was previously unfamiliar with, including microscopes, centrifuges, and thermocyclers.

"I was surprised by how much I enjoyed it," she said. "I had never really thought about parasites before and how scientists study them, so it was really interesting to get to do it myself."

Zurlo's project is one part of Hazelton's broader research into cattle health, which could have significant implications for the cattle industry. Mastitis and gastrointestinal parasites can affect animal welfare, productivity, and the industry’s financial health. According to a study by Dr. Philip Rasmussen, a researcher at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, clinical mastitis is estimated to account for $13 billion in annual losses worldwide.

Hazelton's research looks at whether genetic markers can help identify animals with greater natural resistance to these conditions. This could eventually help farmers make more informed animal-health decisions.

Where Zurlo is looking at parasites, Andersen's research focuses on mastitis. She’s examining whether particular genetic variations are associated with susceptibility or resistance to the infection. As a Medical Laboratory Science major, she was drawn to the opportunity to combine two of her interests: genetics and disease.

"Learning these techniques to work with DNA and looking at the correlation between genetics and disease will be valuable experience as I go into a career in clinical and diagnostic science," Andersen said.

Since beginning research with Hazelton during her first year, Andersen has developed many helpful lab skills. While process repetition has also helped her build confidence in the laboratory, she's learned that experiments don't always go as planned.





Top left: Isabella Zurlo ’29 discusses her latest research work with Professor Sarah Hazelton. Bottom left: Professor Sarah Hazelton uses manure samples from her own personal herd for work in the EC labs.

“Dr. Hazelton helps me troubleshoot whenever something doesn’t work, figure out next steps, and makes sure I feel comfortable with the techniques I’m performing,” she shared.

For Hazelton, the combination of technical skills and problem-solving is central to the undergraduate research experience. And she’s seen up close how much the students are growing.

“I watched a student teach a peer about a lab process, and I felt so proud as I watched her take ownership and demonstrate such patience,” she shared.

Hazelton and her students would enjoy getting enough data together to publish a paper. However, research takes time. Developing a large enough sample size to support meaningful conclusions requires collecting data over multiple terms and will involve successive groups of students.

In the meantime, Zurlo and Andersen are glad to have such a meaningful experience as undergraduates.



Brenna Andersen ’28 reviews data with Professor Hazelton.

"I think research is a great opportunity that everyone should try to get involved in," said Andersen. "It allows you to develop additional skills outside of class that will help prepare you for your future career."

This story was produced with the assistance of AI technology, with the author's involvement throughout drafting, reviewing, editing, and publishing processes.

A National Voice for Elmira

Elmira College has repeatedly been recognized by Phi Theta Kappa National Transfer Honor Society for removing barriers transfer students commonly face. Now that recognition has earned EC its own, national student ambassador, **Lulu McGowan ’30**, to help with transfer recruitment.



This fall, I joined Elmira College as the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Student Scholar in Residence. In this role, I’m helping recruit prospective PTK transfer students to EC. Each week, I meet and connect with PTK members to share insights into the EC experience. This opportunity is thanks to my PTK involvement, including serving as chapter officer, Heartland Region President, 2025–2026 International President, and student representative on the Board of Directors. I also represent PTK as an ambassador and guest speaker for various ceremonies and conferences.

I discovered EC through Heather Yush, my PTK college relations advisor. She helped identify transfer opportunities aligned with my unique educational goals. Elmira’s warm welcome sealed the deal. I’m excited to contribute to the growing partnership between PTK and institutions like EC that prioritize high-achieving transfer students. Elmira’s individualized studies program, study abroad opportunities, and close-knit community offer an ideal balance of academic flexibility and supportive guidance.

Reflecting on my first term, I feel immense gratitude, joy, and a renewed desire to keep learning and growing. With the help of my advisor, Dr. Martha Easton, I am developing an individualized course of study centered on sociology, anthropology, and international communication. I’m interested in international advocacy for women and girls experiencing menstrual poverty and in helping international students navigate administrative barriers to educational opportunities.

Beyond academics, I love how Elmira balances intellectual ambition with quirky campus activities. The recent hot dog-eating contest was a delightfully absurd reminder that campus life is about more than studying — I never imagined ten people could eat so many hot dogs in one sitting!

I feel incredibly fortunate to be at Elmira and intend to approach my role as Student Scholar in Residence with dedication, purpose, and care.

Celebrating 100 Years of Tompkins Hall



Celebrating its centennial year, Tompkins Hall holds a special place in the hearts of generations of Elmira College graduates. It is named in honor and memory of Sarah Wey Tompkins, a generous local resident, long-time benefactor of the College, and member of the EC Board of Trustees. She remembered the College through a generous bequest of $500,000, the largest ever received at the time.

To ensure this beloved residence hall continues as a home to future generations of EC students, please consider demonstrating your love of Tompkins by making an investment in its future, renovation, and restoration.

Learn more through our virtual tour of Tompkins Hall, as it stands today. Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/TompkinsTour

"I was a Gold Key for my entire Elmira College career, and talking about Tompkins Hall was one of my favorite parts of giving tours because it tied so beautifully into the history of the College. I would often tell prospective students that "Miss Tompkins" would never allow men beyond the first floor. I'd also tell them that even the goldfish the girls kept as pets had to be girls! I have absolutely no idea if that story is true, but it always got a laugh on my tours—and honestly, it made Tompkins even more memorable."

-Allii Fontaine '15

Tompkins Hall

It was my home, and it's still my Happy Place.
Even now, I walk through the door, and there it is - belonging. Possibility. Beauty.
It's where I lived when I finally, finally began to come into myself. Glimmers of who I actually was, at my core.
By no means 100% clear, of course, but a small inkling of what I might be made of.

Friendship. Safety.
Take a deep breath and inhale the history.
All those young women. 100 years of figuring it out.
Apart, but somehow together.
Linked by continuity and tradition, hard work and tears.
Wins, large and small. Losses, forever remembered or long forgotten.
THAT'S the ghost of Tompkins Hall, and all of us who lived there are part of it.
100 years and counting. Be it ever so.

-Lauretta Steenburg Weller '78



"My year at Tompkins made me fall in love with Elmira again. Living there felt romantic and an experience special to the College. I could sit in my room reading with the windows open, hear students walking around campus, the bells chiming the time. You could have your door open, friends popping in and out, living in a community with wonderful people."

-Megan Darby '01



"The building was elegant and breathtaking. We felt special living there in a fourth-floor suite our junior year. We loved the window seats at the end of each floor. One night a group of Cornell guys tried to drive a Volkswagen through the arch below us. It was quite loud and woke us up. Our mothers would not have approved of what we yelled down at them from our fourth-floor window that night."

-Laurie Kelechava '73 + Martha Niden Coleman '73
(roommates)

"One experience from living in Tompkins was hearing the warm-up music for volleyball and basketball blast through the bell tower speakers. One team played Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas" song, and every time I hear that song now, it brings me back to my year in Tompkins Hall and Saturday mornings working on homework.

-Skylar Pritchard '14



"Tompkins was truly one of my favorite experiences at EC. I worked my whole college life to be able to live there my senior year. It was so special. It holds so many memories. There are no screens on the windows, so when you opened the windows, nature came right inside! Leaves, bugs, birds, snow...The window of the room I lived in was and still is in a lot of the brochures/media for the College, so it's neat to know that I lived there."

-Whitney M. Bostic '00



My Hero, My Sister

How EC's Delaney McCandless '29 finds inspiration in her sister Kaelyn's courage

"Whenever someone asks me, 'Who is your hero?' I say my sister, Kaelyn McCandless," reflects EC student-athlete Delaney McCandless '29.

McCandless, a Childhood Education major, admires her sister for the strength and determination she's shown while living with brain cancer. Diagnosed at a young age, doctors warned that Kaelyn wouldn't make it to eighth grade, yet she recently began college.

"She doesn't always want to keep struggling, but she does," explained McCandless. "If I'm feeling like I don't want to do something, I think about her."

Although Kaelyn's health is more stable now, her initial diagnosis brought frequent hospital visits and uncertainty for the entire family. "A lot of my time growing up was spent watching Kaelyn go in and out of the hospital," McCandless explained.

Growing up, sports gave McCandless an opportunity to focus on something other than her sister's health. That drive is evident in McCandless's academic achievements - she's maintained a 3.7 GPA - and her dedication to basketball at EC.

She also found camaraderie among her teammates and support from her coaches. When McCandless told Thad Phillips, EC's Head Women's Basketball Coach, that she might have to leave campus if Kaelyn's condition changed unexpectedly, the response was immediate: family comes first.

But Kaelyn is thriving and McCandless is excited for her.

"I want her to do what she can and wants to do. I'll do the same. I know we will be close no matter what."



Left: McCandless (bottom) and her sister, Kaelyn, when young. Right: Kaelyn (left) and McCandless (right) today.



In October, Elmira's student-athletes presented Tommy Hilfiger with a proclamation and special numbered jersey as a thank you to Hilfiger and his family for their continued support of Elmira College.



On November 9, Elmira College announced that both the Men's and Women's Soaring Eagles Ice Hockey teams would make the LECOM Event Center their new home, beginning with the 2027-2028 season. Watch for information on activities during Athletic Alumni Weekend to commemorate the final season at the Murray Athletic Center.

44TH ANNUAL ATHLETICS ALUMNI WEEKEND

JANUARY 15 & 16, 2027

Register today at: bit.ly/AAW2027

2026 ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

OCTOBER 3, 2026

The Elmira College Department of Athletics inducted its 2026 Hall of Fame Class on Saturday, October 3, 2026. This year's inductees included eight former student-athletes representing eight sports.

- Pat Sullivan '00, Men's Lacrosse
- Trenton Tate '85, Men's Basketball
- Jess Zoltowski '14, Women's Basketball
- Jill Hubert '93, Softball
- Mike Haviland '90, Men's Ice Hockey
- Callie Black '05, Field Hockey
- Dylan Bellinger '17, Baseball
- Ashley Ryan '15, Women's Ice Hockey



Inductees Front Row, Left to Right: Jess Zoltowski '14, Callie Black '05, Jill Hubert-Simon '93, Ashley Magill-Ryan '15. Back Row, Left to Right: Pat Sullivan '00, Trenton Tate '85, Shane Haviland (on behalf of his father, Mike Haviland '90), Dylan Bellinger '17.



Each of this year's inductees received a trophy and replica jersey image at the Induction Ceremony.



Memorabilia on display from the EC careers of Dylan Bellinger, Trenton Tate, Ashley Ryan, and Callie Black.



Investments Fuel Forward Momentum

New donor investments are helping propel Elmira College forward, expanding opportunities for students and strengthening the campus community.



On October 16, 2026, a dedication ceremony celebrated the naming of the second floor of the Campus Center as The Chuck and Janna Lindsay Dining Commons. The space represents the close and personal connection President Emeritus Dr. Charles Lindsay and former First Lady Janna Lindsay shared with students, faculty, and staff. Pictured (l to r): Elmira College President Emeritus, Dr. Chuck Lindsay; former EC First Lady, Janna Lindsay; Jean Emery '53; current EC First Lady, Marilyn Dolan; and President John Dolan.



On October 17, 2026, the Campus Field was renamed Chemung Canal Trust Company Field in honor of the local bank's longstanding commitment to Elmira College. Pictured (l to r): Jeff Streeter, EC Board of Trustees; President John Dolan; Tom Tranter, EC Board of Trustees; Jeff Kennefick, Regional President with Chemung Canal Trust Company; and Scott Heffner, Senior Vice President, Director of Marketing with Chemung Canal Trust Company.



On October 17, 2026, the grandstands at Chemung Canal Trust Company Field were formally named the Joseph D. Posillico, Jr. Grandstands, in memory of the husband of EC alumna and Board of Trustee Whitney Posillico '63. Pictured (l to r): Rhonda Faunce, Director of Athletics; Whitney Posillico '63; and President John Dolan.



On November 6, 2026, the President's Home was officially renamed Malesardi House, Home of the President, in honor of alumna and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Doris Fischer '64, her late husband Robert Malesardi, and their combined generosity and commitment to Elmira College. Pictured (l to r): Jill Malesardi and Doris Malesardi.

For more October event photos, visit:
www.flickr.com/photos/elmiracollege/albums/

Reunion

2026 Reunion Annual Meeting

Several annual awards were presented during the Annual Meeting at this year's Reunion, which was held October 15-18.





Rick Kozan '95, EC Alumni Board president, presented Betsy Dalrymple MS '76 (left) with the 2026 Distinguished Service Award and G. Thomas Tranter, Jr. '76 (right) with the 2026 Distinguished Achievement Award.



The Honorable Steven Tekulsky '74 was recognized as the 2026 Bette A. Mammone '78 Memorial Academy recipient by Rick Kozan '95, president of the EC Alumni Board.



President John Dolan presented The Most Spirited Class Award to representatives of the Class of 1971. The award is presented annually to the reunioning class that shows the most school spirit, as demonstrated in a variety of ways.



The Class of 1976, this year's 50th Anniversary Class, enters Stephans Lounge in Meier Hall for the Annual Meeting.



Simeon the Soaring Eagle, Sydney Stringham '19 MSEd '21 MS '23, and The Caledonian Highlanders - Pipe & Drum Band led the Parade of Classes following the Annual Meeting.



Members of the Class of 2011 and their families joined the Reunion Parade of Classes, which weaved its way through campus and Octagon Fair.

Octagon Fair, Family Weekend



The 2026 Octagon Fair featured more than 100 vendors, including community businesses and organizations, student clubs and organizations, and food trucks.



The Chemistry Club's "roving molecules" were offering cotton candy for sale during Octagon Fair and Family Weekend.



The Luminous Class of 2030 had multiple fundraising activities, including a basket raffle and lottery board, at their Octagon Fair booth.



The EC Dance team raised money with a raffle at their Octagon Fair booth.



President John Dolan looks over artwork available at the Art CLub's Octagon Fair booth.



The newly named Joseph D. Posillico, Jr. Grandstands were packed to the brim for Family Weekend athletics events.

BEHIND THE BENCH

Nick Neary '19 found his path to the NHL through Elmira College—and now hopes to pay it forward.

Nick Neary '19 works in a rare field within the National Hockey League (NHL). He's Assistant Video Coordinator for the Boston Bruins, and there are only about 60 others in the NHL with similar job titles. For a long-time fan who grew up 30 minutes outside of Boston, working for his favorite team is a dream come true.

Working alongside Mat Myers, Head Video Coordinator for the Bruins, Neary helps give the team a competitive edge by collecting footage of opposing teams for analysis of strengths and weaknesses. But some of his most important - and stressful - work happens during the game itself: watching for plays that could warrant a coach's challenge. He has just 30 seconds to make that decision and alert the coach.

"That's the part of the job with the highest pressure," he explained. "It's satisfying when you can be part of the game plan."

Neary found that same satisfaction at EC, where the Business Administration and Political Science double major discovered a way to stay involved in hockey even when playing for the varsity team wasn't an option.

Neary played on the College's club hockey team, which helped him get to know former EC coaches Tim Crowley, Dean Jackson, and Mike Zannella, as well as Aaron Saul '98, current EC Men's Hockey Head Coach. While he recognized it would be hard for him to play on the varsity team, he knew he wanted to be involved somehow. That's when he started helping coordinate video for the Men's and Women's varsity teams.

The coaches noticed, and Crowley recommended Neary to a hockey camp that was looking for help coordinating video.

"Working at the camp opened many doors for me," he shared.

The experience helped Neary see a future for himself in sports, and the connections he made through EC and the camp led to work that ultimately brought him to the NHL.

While athletics played a significant role in his journey, Neary also gives his academic programs a lot of credit for his success.

> "They allowed me to thrive. EC was the first time in my life when I really enjoyed school."
>
> -Nick Neary '19

"Dr. Twombly taught me critical thinking and to put effort into research to reach a degree of certainty. He changed the way I think in a good way. Dr. Robert Shepherd in the History department taught me a nuanced approach to how I study things and to be thorough."

While Neary relies on the underlying critical-thinking skills he learned at EC, he was excited to learn about the College's new Sports Management major and recommends it to students interested in pursuing a career in the sports industry.

"My family wanted me to study something that had a direct path to a career," he explained. "A Sports Management major gives students a broader career net, giving them more options in the field to pursue. That would have been nice. I would have loved it as a student."

Looking back, Neary sees how his experience at EC helped shape his career, from the hands-on opportunities that introduced him to sports video coordination to the professors who strengthened his analytical skills. Now, he hopes to help current students find similar opportunities and build connections of their own.

"I think about it a lot, and EC is responsible for where I am today. I'm grateful to EC, and glad to pay it forward."



Nick Neary '19 watches as the Elmira College Women's Ice Hockey team played in the 2018 NCAA Division III championship against Norwich University. The Soaring Eagles beat Plattsburgh State 3-2 in double overtime.

Upcoming Events

From regional alumni-hosted events to student events, there are a lot of opportunities to engage with the EC community. Here are a few upcoming dates that we don't want you to miss. Details about these and other events are online at elmira.edu/events or in the Alumni Link eNewsletter. We hope to see you at an event soon!

January 15-16
Athletics Alumni Weekend, EC Campus

February 20
Men's Hockey at Manhattanville College in Rye, New York

February 21
EC Alumni Presidential Event in Southern Florida

March 24
Climate Teach-In, EC Campus

March TBD
EC Alumni Event in Tampa, Florida

March TBD
EC Baseball Tailgate in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

April 11
EC Alumni Event in Raleigh, North Carolina

April 21
Elmira Everlasting

May 23
Commencement

June 11-13
Reunion 2027: Celebrating Classes ending in "2" and "7"

September 24-26
EC Homecoming (Family Weekend, Octagon Fair, and the Bette Mammone '78 Memorial Academy)

Save the Date: June 23-25, 2028
Reunion 2028: Celebrating Classes ending in "3" and "8"

SOARING FORWARD CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

2026 TOTAL:

$104,993.25

We're grateful to everyone who donated to this year's Soaring Forward Campaign. Every dollar contributed helps our EC athletics teams enhance their programs and help student-athletes immerse themselves in everything our campus has to offer.



Elmira College Alumni Benefits

ONGOING ACCESS

to Office of Career Services and EC's Worldwide Alumni Association Network

Accomodations at the ALUMNI HOUSE
Based on Availability

20% DISCOUNT

at the College Store
Online and In-Store

20% DISCOUNT

- Online Courses
- Non-Credit Courses
- Certificates
- Facility rentals for those with an EC degree

GANNETT-TRIPP LIBRARY ACCESS
As a researcher or guest, including borrowing books and accessing available databases.

FREE

Auditing of Courses for Seniors

- Based on available space
- Application fees are waived
- Fees associated with the course are responsibility of the auditor

SOARING EAGLES ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

Opportunity to Join the Booster Club For Benefits Related to Soaring Eagles Athletics Teams/Events



SUBMIT CLASS NOTES

Now Accepting Submissions
Winter 2027 Edition of Class Notes

Deadline **January 8, 2027**

Images welcome, but space is limited. Please do not exceed 200 words. We reserve the right to edit submitted Class Notes.

Scan the QR code to submit your Class Notes or email them to alumni@elmira.edu.

ELMIRA EVERLASTING

SAVE THE DATE

Our annual 24-hour giving challenge will be on

April 21, 2027.

Help support future generations of Soaring Eagles with your generous contributions.



BE IT EVER SO

ALUMNI BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Rick Kozan ‘95, President
Katherine Slye-Hernandez ’12, Vice President
Joshua Poupore ‘02, Treasurer
Lauretta Steenburg Weller ‘78, Secretary
Laurie Kelechava ‘73, Trustee Representative

BOARD MEMBERS

Whitney Benes Bostic ‘00
Jacqueline Cohen ‘07
Megan Darby ‘01
Meagen Mulherin Donoghue ‘97
Alexandra Fontaine ‘15
John Hurley ‘71
Katherine Juliano ’15
Karl Koeppel ‘07
Laurie Kelechava ‘73
Richard Kozan ‘95
Lori Ceppaglia Kriegel ‘95
Alison Mandel ‘72
Krista Matia ‘09
Megan Metro ‘08
Cynthia Olson ‘78
Joshua Poupore ‘02
Dick Richardson ‘74
Jean Ryan ‘11
Rebecca Shaw ‘84
Christopher Shelanskey ‘08
Susan Bitensky Siegel ‘71
Wendy Slater ‘93, MSEd ‘98
Katherine Slye-Hernandez ’12
Lauretta Steenburg Weller ‘78
Heath Wilson ‘98



Rick Kozan ‘95, President of the Alumni Board, provided “Greetings from the Alumni” at President Dolan’s inauguration.



Chris Shelanskey ‘08 shares networking tips with students during an Under Wing Alumni Mentoring event.



John Hurley ‘71 and Susan Bitensky Siegel ‘71 lead the Class of 1971 during the Parade of Classes.



Jean Ryan ‘11 (purple shirt) mans the Alumni Board Cake Wheel at Octagon Fair 2026.

Stay In Touch Year-Round With

ALUMNI LINK

Scan here to update your records and receive the monthly email newsletter

IN MEMORIAM

As of October 31, 2026

Listed by primary Class Year, then alphabetically within each Class Year.

Kathleen Noon ‘47
4/13/2026
Nancy Dudley Thomen ‘48
1/8/2026
Virginia Veith Sanford ‘49
8/16/2026

Lucille Arikian Panosian ‘50
5/25/2026
Mary Louise Hanlon Poisson ‘51
7/2026
Edith Becker Horwitz ‘52
7/11/2026
Caroline Philbrick Bates ‘53
11/19/2025
Sylvia Watson Roy ‘53, MSEd ‘67
11/6/2025
Joan Miller Sandstrom ‘53
11/30/2025
Margaret King Wisdom ‘53
6/5/2026
Mary Marx Jackson ‘54
8/6/2026
Patricia D’Italia Pedulla ‘54
4/20/2026
Marilyn Nelson Bassett ‘55
11/5/2025
Loraine Herdeg Murray ‘55
1/22/2026
Lorna Clippinger Crocker ‘56
11/1/2025
Vivian Colivas Fotieo ‘57
12/2/2025
Bettyann Kinyoun ‘57
8/6/2026
Sonia Smith Olsen ‘57
4/15/2026
Nancy Christian Davis ‘59
8/19/2026

Pamela Duffy Fitzgerald ‘60
6/19/2026
Ann Goldberger Jurdem ‘60
9/23/2026
Janet Welch Beck ‘61
4/22/2026
Kathleen McKinnon Martin ‘61
1/1/2026
Lorraine Wulff Feingold ‘62
3/20/2026
Elizabeth Love Lynch ‘62
9/19/2026
Mary Garrick Bartolotta ‘64
9/7/2026
Cynthia Drummond Choate ‘64
2/16/2026
Joyce Betterbed Browner ‘65
1/9/2026
Margery Mosch Schornstheimer, MSEd ‘65
1/5/2026
Karen Sheer Stevens ‘65
1/2026
Susan Brewer Brandt ‘66
2/8/2026
Anne Moore Keller ‘66
10/31/2025
Carol Morse Carraway ‘67
5/16/2026
Barbara Gaidusek Classen ‘68
4/1/2026
Eileen Wood Sturman ‘68
3/6/2026
Michael Canestaro ‘69
3/28/2026
Judith Clark ‘69
5/27/2026
Thomas Dimitroff, MSEd ‘69
9/22/2026
Linda Lloyd Edgerton ‘69
1/21/2026
Sally Higginbotham ‘69
2/14/2026
Priscilla Williams Keefe, MSEd ‘69
1/4/2026
Stephanie Brown Kugelman ‘69
2/23/2026
Margaret Kalbacker Teitelbaum ‘69
5/13/2026
Pamela Rider Turnblom ‘69
10/31/2025

Marcia Morris Morrell ‘70
6/24/2026
Margaret Miller Cady ‘71, MSEd ‘73
12/6/2025
Wanda Daniels ‘71
3/2026
Ramon Chura ‘72
6/11/2026
Thomas Cicora ‘72
1/2/2026
James Davis, MSEd ‘72
7/22/2026
John Garlington, MS ‘72
6/30/2026
Deborah Bodensiek Glisci ‘72
1/14/2026
Donald McKinery ‘72
8/25/2026
Harry McLain ‘72
12/8/2025
John Ritts, MS ‘72
1/9/2026
John Ficke ‘73
4/5/2026
Carol Anderson Ingraham ‘73
12/26/2025
Susan Wallace, MSEd ‘73
9/13/2026
Kathryn Miller Wilt ‘73
6/3/2026
Jean Bilson ‘74
7/4/2026
Martha Colyer ‘75
12/31/2025
Jane Mudge, MSEd ‘75
9/7/2026
Kevin Cope, MS ‘76
7/7/2026
Richard Faulisi ‘76
4/10/2026
John McGuire, MSEd ‘76
7/19/2026
Sarah Grant Horvath ‘77
1/27/2026
Bonnie Foltman Keilbach ‘77
6/2026
Julie Miller, MSEd ‘77
2/21/2026
Alice Rogers ‘77
6/5/2026
Donna Savacool, MSEd ‘77
4/18/2026
Janice Kline ‘78
11/11/2025
Terry Decker Leene ‘78
12/7/2025
James Mattison ‘78
4/8/2026
Richard Merritt, MSEd ‘78
1/10/2026
Peter Gliha ‘79
1/18/2026

Ella Howell Alsheimer ‘80
4/8/2026
Mary Bates ‘80, MSEd ‘96
11/18/2025
Martin DeJoseph ‘80
12/18/2025
Edward Woodhouse ‘80
4/17/2026
Cheryl Cooper-Reynolds ‘81
6/8/2026
Jill Selleck ‘83
5/22/2026
Mark Browning ‘86
3/28/2026
Anna Steinhauer Giacobbe, MSEd ‘88
7/18/2026
Neil Austin, MSEd ‘89
5/1/2026
Elizabeth Killoran, MSEd ‘89
2/22/2026

Donald Reynolds ‘90
7/15/2026
Robin DeSarno Bloise ‘91
8/12/2026
David Forbes ‘91
7/11/2026
Douglas Sloan ‘92
5/21/2026
Tracey Forsman, MSEd ‘97
8/24/2026

Larry Caldwell, MSEd ‘01
9/7/2026
Vernita Bing, MSEd ‘02
6/3/2026
Katherine Prechtl ‘04
12/17/2025
Melissa Milazzo, MSEd ‘05
4/7/2026

Edith Scouten, MSEd ’12
11/7/2025
Craig Natoli ’16
5/11/2026

Elmira College
One Park Place
Elmira, New York 14901
www.elmira.edu

Mark Your Calendars

Based on alumni feedback, Reunion will return to June beginning in 2027. Our new Homecoming event (encompassing Family Weekend, Octagon Fair, and the Mammone Academy) will take place in the fall.

Reunion 2027

June 11-13, 2027

Celebrating the anniversary classes ending in 2 and 7 and our 50th Anniversary Class of 1977.

Watch for registration information in an upcoming Alumni Link!

Reunion 2028

June 23-25, 2028

Celebrating the anniversary classes ending in 3 and 8 and our 50th Anniversary Class of 1978.

Homecoming 2027

September 24-26, 2027

Family Weekend

Octagon Fair

The Bette Mammone '78 Memorial Academy

Athletics Tailgating

Everyone invited to "Come Home to EC"