Donors Step Up During #WNEGIVES, the University’s First-ever Community Giving Event

The University held its first-ever community giving event, #WNEGIVES, last December to a resounding success. “The response was overwhelming,” said Deidre Swords ’05, associate director of annual giving. “It showed what the University community is capable of achieving when it rises to a challenge.”

The goal of the two-day initiative was to receive 300 gifts. #WNEGIVES accomplished what it set out to do—and then some. The University received 336 gifts supporting The Fund for Western New England University for a total of $101,799.

In honor of the University’s founding year, 1919, the event spanned 1,919 minutes on December 1 and 2, 2016, and it certainly resonated with donors, prompting gifts from alumni, employees, students, parents, and friends. The excitement was contagious, from 100% participation on the part of the hockey team (each player made a gift of $20.17), to gifts from many first-time donors.

“We had donors who had already made their annual gift this year—and then they made another gift because they wanted to take part in #WNEGIVES,” said Swords.

The Advancement Division made use of postcards, emails, social media, and on-campus events to promote the event, which yielded quick and impressive results.

“I think this kind of giving event is a great way to get involved in the causes you care about,” said donor Ryan Courtemanche ’00, who said he made a gift because the University will always hold a special place in his heart. “My experience at Western New England University shaped the underlying way I approach problem-solving and provided me the foundation for continuous learning and development,” he said. “I have enjoyed watching the campus change over the years, and I was excited to be able to provide students with additional resources to help them reach their full career potential.”

Giving back and helping students was also on the minds of other donors, including Julie (York) Phillips ’91 and her husband Todd Phillips ’88. “The quality of education...continued on page 2
and the personal relationships with faculty and advisors really made a difference for both of us as students and as young adults trying to find our way,” said Philips. “We know our gift to The Fund for Western New England University will help other students build their lives, starting at the University. It’s our way of paying it forward.”

Donors had the option of making gifts in support of the area of the University that is most meaningful to them. Olivia Mazzarella ’10, a volunteer donor at the faculty/staff gathering, said that she chose to donate to the College of Business “because I recognize the high quality of education that prospective students will receive, and I wanted to pass on the opportunity for them to have the great experiences that I had. I thought it was a good time to give back to my alma mater, especially leading up to the centennial celebration of Western New England University.”

If you didn’t get a chance to be a part of the first #WNEGIVES, you can still make a gift to The Fund for Western New England University at wne.edu/giving/thefund. You can also make a gift by calling 1-800-325-1122, ext. 1335, or make a check payable to:

Western New England University
Advancement Division
1215 Wilbraham Road
Springfield, MA 01119-2684

Remember, every gift is important, regardless of size. Donations, no matter how large or how small, help to increase the University’s giving participation rate, which helps secure grants from corporations, foundations, and the U.S. government.
Career Webinars Series
This series, presented every Wednesday, is free to all Western New England University alumni and students. To see the full schedule of speakers and topics, or to register to participate, visit alumnicareerservices.org/wne.

Some upcoming career webinars include:

May 10
Create a Career Plan for Your Job of a Lifetime
Presenter: Jane Falter, career coach and consultant
8:00 p.m., EST

June 7
Cracking the New Job Market
Presenter: William Holland, career management author
8:00 p.m., EST

Upcoming Events
April 2017
28 Mark Coffey Memorial Golf Outing
Tekoa Country Club
Westfield, MA
29 Wilmington, NC Alumni Get-together / 5:00 p.m.
JohnnyLukes KitchenBar
Wilmington, NC

May 2017
4 Blue & Gold Alumni Reception in Boston / 5:30-8:00 p.m.
Boston Marriott Long Wharf
20 Undergraduate Student Commencement
Alumni Healthful Living Center
21 Graduate Student Commencement
Alumni Healthful Living Center
26 49th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament
The Country Club of Wilbraham

Alumni Art Sought for Campus Exhibit
Do you like being creative, working with your hands, and making things? If so, you are invited to participate in the National Arts & Humanities Month Exhibition in the University’s Art Gallery this October. Creative works, including paintings, sculptures, photography, drawings, collages, papermaking, mixed media, ceramics, needlework, or other crafts, will be accepted.

Please contact Patricia Jenks, Gallery Curator, at pjenks@cox.net to receive a Call for Entries sheet with complete information and deadlines, along with a submission form.

wnegoldenbears.tv

Get Online: It’s Game Time!
With help from an Alumni Association grant, Western New England University Athletics now offers live streaming video for many home contests, including football, soccer, hockey, basketball, lacrosse, field hockey, and volleyball. Catch all of the exclusive action at wnegoldenbears.tv. Get your game face on—you’ll feel like you’re back on campus!
Call for Downes Hall of Fame Nominations

The Department of Athletics is seeking nominations for the Class of 2017 Downes Athletic Hall of Fame. Candidates must have played a varsity sport at Western New England and have earned his/her degree not less than five years ago. All nominations must be received by the Department of Athletics by June 9, 2017.

Nominate an Outstanding Golden Bear
Downes Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2017

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<th>Athletic Nominee</th>
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<td>Sport(s) Played</td>
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<td>Nominated by</td>
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Submit nominations to: Michelle Luciano, Staff Assistant, Department of Athletics
Western New England University, 1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01119-2684
Fax: 413-796-2121 • Email: michele.luciano@wne.edu

Alumnus/a of the Year Award
The Alumnus/a of the Year Award is presented to an alumnus/a who has displayed an extraordinary commitment to professional achievement, civic responsibility, high personal standards, and Western New England University with a spirit of knowledge, integrity, and service.

Young Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award
The Young Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes an alumnus who has demonstrated a commitment to Western New England University and its mission in conjunction with contribution and service to society or accomplishment and leadership in their profession.

For both awards please submit:
- A list of the nominee’s Western New England University, civic organization, and professional accomplishments
- A statement of why you think this person is deserving of the Alumnus/a of the Year.

Alumnus Award

NOMINATION FORM

You may nominate as many individuals as you like.

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<td>Name of Nominee</td>
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<tr>
<th>Young Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award</th>
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<td>Name of Nominee</td>
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<td>Nominated by</td>
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Return nominations to: Linda Rogers
Western New England University, Office of Alumni Relations
1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01119-2684
Email: linda.rogers@wne.edu

Deadline for submission is June 30, 2017.
A Message from the President of the Alumni Association

Stay Connected!

Spring is a time of change and renewal. There are so many things going on within your University and we are very excited about these changes, both on campus and within our own Alumni Association. If you’ve been to campus lately, you’ve probably noticed the construction of our new Dining Commons. Our campus and university continues to grow, in large part due to your support.

It is so important to stay connected to the University, whether it be playing in—or volunteering at—the Alumni Golf Tournament, or attending Homecoming, or one of the other events we have planned. You can also get involved by hosting a student intern at your company or organization, mentoring a student, or speaking to a class about career opportunities within your field. If you have the time, please stop by one of our Blue & Gold Alumni Receptions, which are being held throughout the spring. Members of the Board will be there, and we would love to hear how we can best serve you.

One of the main goals of the Alumni Association over the next few years is to increase engagement and interaction between alumni and students. To that end, elections to the Board of Directors are being postponed for a year because the Board of Directors is currently conducting a review of the Association’s bylaws and organizational structure. This will better position us to move forward to meet the immediate goals of the Board, as well as plan for years to come. This may include an expected change in the length of terms of service for elected Board members, in order to maintain consistency in thought and process, and allow time for Board projects to be completed. The next elections, with the amended bylaws in place, will be in the spring of 2018.

As always, we thank you for your loyalty and support. Hope to see you soon!

Ed Lavoie ’99
President, Alumni Association

START YOUR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND EARLY

SAVE THE DATE
49th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament
May 26, 2017
9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
The Country Club of Wilbraham
Wilbraham, MA
All of the proceeds benefit the Alumni Golf Scholarship Fund.
To be a sponsor, or to register, contact Kristina Oleksak at kristina.oleksak@wne.edu or 413-782-1557
Homecoming 2017

Save the Dates! September 23–24, 2017

You won’t want to miss a single minute of Homecoming festivities, including reunions, children’s activities, and plenty of opportunities to reconnect with your old friends and professors. Golden Bear Boulevard’s new location, the Pine Grove, is closer to all the athletics action: cheer on Golden Bear football and other teams. Homecoming is kid- and family-friendly and a great opportunity to rekindle your Golden Bear spirit.

There is something for everyone at Homecoming—it’s the perfect time to come back to our beautiful campus and enjoy fun, food, and plenty of events. It’s time to relive great memories and make some new ones. Come back to where your future began: Western New England University.

For more information, contact Kristina Oleksak at 413-782-1557 or kristina.oleksak@wne.edu.