



TECH NEWS

NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SUMMER 2020

COMMENCEMENT 2020 GOES VIRTUAL

THE 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!*

AS
Associate
in Science Degree
BS
Bachelor
of Science Degree
MS
Master
of Science Degree
OTD
Doctorate of
Occupational
Therapy



Monica Mouradjian: BS



Rudy Williams: MS



Brianna Chace: BS



Arlington Forbes: BS



Gretchen Hyssong: OTD



Abigail Ruotolo: AS



Dayna Koukas: BS



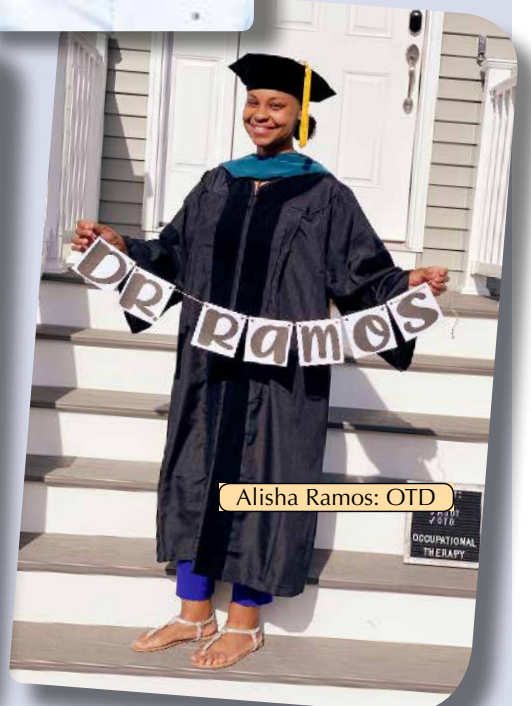
Kaylee Olsen: BS



Henry Trino: AS



Nicole Braga: AS



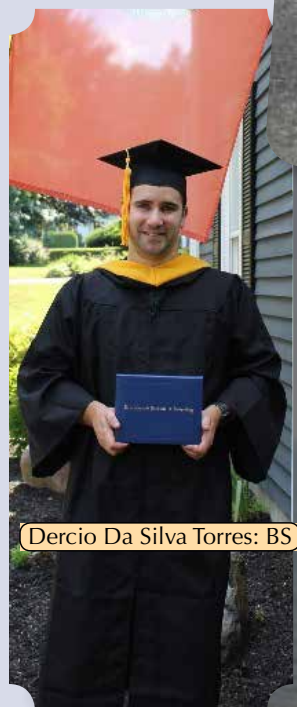
Alisha Ramos: OTD



Bryan Lopez-Rivera: MS



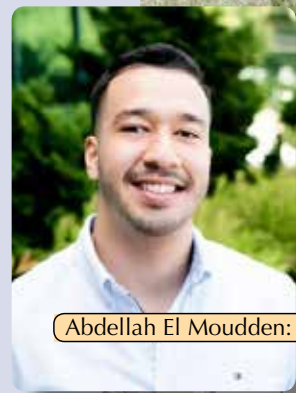
Wendy Torres: AS



Dercio Da Silva Torres: BS



Alyssa Cipollone: AS



Abdellah El Moudden: BS



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.

We congratulate the Class of 2020 as their achievements were honored at our first-ever virtual commencement ceremony due to the pandemic.

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.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

DEAN'S LIST

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!

Table listing names and graduation programs of students on the Dean's List, including Irina Abdabbah, Michael Adams, Zachary Adams, Susanne Aguiar, Bismark Aguocha, Frishta Ahmadi, Christopher Aldo, Dylan Ally, Marjorie Alvarado, James Alves, Michael Amaral, Emos Ameh, Anthony Amore, Liam Andriach, Isabella Anonuevo, Joseph Anselmo, Naveh Antelman, Connor Appleby, Brendan Arduca, Thomas Arsenault Jr, Michael Aspinall, Melissa Augaitis, Anne Augustin, Nate Augusto, Reese Babington, Mohamed Bader, Christian Bailey, Isaiah Baker, Gianna Baldino, Daejanni Baptiste, Devin Barber, Katherine Barnas, Amy Barrett, Kayla Barros, Nathaniel Bartone, Sophia Bassick, Ryan Beer, Taylor Beese, Richard Belton Jr, Kurtis Bennett, Olivia Benoit, Sarrah Berkery, Allyson Bettencourt, Adam Bevilacqua, Michael Beyer, Courtney Blais, Skyler Blake, Katherine Blanchard, Jenaya Blithe, Gloria Bongiorno, John Bonin Jr, Justin Borchardt, Sarah Borges, Penny Bossom-Seeger, Kylie Bouchard, Eithan Bousquet, Brianna Boyd, Samantha Boyd, Sean Breslin, Scott Briggs, Timothy Briggs, Andrew Brousseau, Makenzie Brown, Laura Buehler, Breanna Buker, Brent Burgess, Mackenzie Burns, Keith Burt Jr, Casey Butler, Victoria Calabro, Kevan Camacho, Courtney Camara, Francis Campbell, Madison Camper, Antonio Capozzo, Cara Cappelano, Anthony Garcia, Carlos Cardenas, Olivia Cardil, Justin Cardoza, Belkys Carias-Flores, Michaela Carnevale, Jesse Carreiro, Quinn Carroll, Seth Carson, Jillian Carter, Jacob Carvalho, Jeffrey Caswell, Edward Chalas, Filomena Chamberland, Adam Chandonnet, Chong Chang, Nathan Charette, Ryan Charette, Zacharie Chretien, Scott Clohecy, Gabriel Coelho, Amanda Coler, Fredrick Collins, Liam Collins, Lyric Comerford, Brian Conceicao, Ian Conway, Matthew Conway, Shannon Cooper, Tucker Cooper, Erick Coridon, Joshua Cormier, Linsey Cormier, Kyle Costa, Michael Costanza, Robert Costello III, Zachary Crabill, Alexandria Crouse, Azurae Cruz, Talyn Curry, Jordan D'Orazio, Jenna Daigle, Maranda Dailey, Aiden Davis, Jessica Davis, Tiffany Davis, Sherri Dayacap, Mariana De Almeida, Shana DeFusco, Jose DeLaCruz, Anthony Delvino, Tina Demers, Zachary DeRoy, Austin DeSantis, Ariana Deschamps, Matthew Desousa, Jose Diaz, Alexander DiBello, Michael DiBernardo, Ronald Dinobile, Tyler Divona, Darian DiVozi, Carly Dodd, Joshua Dones, Jonathan Doolittle, Isabelle Driscoll, Emily Dube, Michelle Dumsar, Antonette Duncan, Christopher Eagleson, Fidel Escalante, Angie Escobar, Sophie Exil, Norman Fay, Denjys Fernandez, George Ferrario, Mathew Ferrario, Nicole Ferrell, Dominic Finkel, Katmarie Finneran, Nicholas Fiske, Cameron Flanagan, Celia Florio, Bryan Flynn, Nathan Fobian, Steven Footman, Kelsey Forcier, Paulette Forcier, Richard Forcier, Alannah Forman, Olivia Forst, Laine Fountain, Nathan Fox, Kevin Franklin, Jessica Freire, Paula Frenette, Maxfield Friedman, Kiernan Fuller, Paul Fulmore, Connor Funaro, Joshua Galpin, Stephanie Garcia, Tara Gazder, Gabrielle Geter, Sandra Gettings, Meredith Ghizoni, Alicia Gifford, Alexandra Lamorte, Craig Lamoureux, Megan Langevin, Molly Lanoie, Brittany Lapiere, Paul Laprade, Seth Laput, Sebastian Lara, Brittany Larkham, Nikki Larocque, Stephen LaRose, Regina Lataille, John Latour, Nicholas Laudati, Heather Lavoie, Evan Lawrence, Savannah Le, Jessica Leach, Matthew Leary, Emily Ledoux, Austin LeVangie, Grant Lewandowski, Robert Lewis Jr, James Light, Kevin Ligouri, Dianne Linhares, Kevin Lofgren, Andrew Longobardi, Chenwei Lu, Joshua Luce, Patrick MacCarthy, Abby MacCue, Patrick Maguire, Madison Mahar, Sara Mallon, Jason Mandras, Alanna Maniatis, Alexis Manning, Melissa Maples, Shelby Mariano, Noah Marino, Ethan Markham, Evan Markley, Christian Martin, Gina Martin, Christina Marucci, Maja Mazierkowska, Brent McCarron, Megan McCarthy, Meredith McCartin, Maile McCloskey, Joseph McConville, Kevin McCue, Melanie McDonnell, Joseph McDonough, Daniel McGee, Samantha McKeever-Holtzman, Brian Medeiros, Kaia Medeiros, Giovanni Mele, Victoria Mello, Jermaine Mendez Jr, Yenifer Mendoza-Tobias, Katelyn Miles, Michelle Miller, Grace Miner, Abigale Misunas, Michael Mitchell, Rosdom Mkrtshjan, Ross Molzahn, Adam Moniz, Kendra Montero, Keri Moore, Jacob Moravec, Brandon Morris, Gregory Morse, Mya Mosher, Joseph Mucerino, Matthew Muldoon, Allison Murphy, Lily Murray, Samantha Murray, Stephanie Nagel, Danielle Nelson, Jack Nelson, Wayne Ng, Saimer Nieves, Ryan Nixon, Tyler Normandin, Alexander Norton, Catherine O'Brien, Donna O'Donohoe, Jonathan Olarte, Aimee Olivier, Wanda Olivo, Daniel Olsen, Tyler Ostrowski, Mikaela Pare, Edward Parent Jr, Danton Parlato, Alexander Parrillo, Riley Patton, Jaquari Paynter, Brianne Pearce, Sara Mallon, Marcus Pemberton, Evan Pennacchia, Owen Perkins, David Perry, Alexander Peterson, Cameron Petroccione, Vielka Pichardo, Adriana Pietrobuono, Griffin Pilla, David Podzon, Vasileica Politis, Drew Prosser, Juan Puello-Martinez, Tanner Purcell, Suzanne Pynn, Eric Raboin, Nathan Rafael, Thomas Raposa, Joseph Rapoza, Sara Rattey, Angelica Rayment, Shawn Ready, Glen Reichard, Jennifer Renzi, Peter Revinski, Michelle Reynolds, Benjamin Richtarik, Keith Riendeau, Lori Riendeau, Melanie Rios, Viviana Rivera, Danielle Robillard, Deon Robinson, Robert Rocco, Jorge Rodriguez Jr.

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 in-person 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	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Robert F. Baran – MS
ARCHITECTURAL BUILDING ENGINEERING Thomas M. Wall, Jr. – BS	INTERIOR DESIGN Alicia M. Gifford – AS
AUTOMOTIVE COLLISION REPAIR Robert N. Rocco – AS	Brianna L. Chace – BS
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION Andre T. Girard – AS	MARINE Connor S. Whelihan – AS
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT Anna Maria DiPalma – AS†	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING Lukasz Glowacki – AS
Denise M. DeBlasio – BS	Amber B. Levesque – BS
CIVIL ENGINEERING Samuel Rivera – BS	MEDICAL ASSISTING AND ADMINISTRATION Michelle L. Henderson – AS
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT Nicholas P. Schmall – BS	MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY Isabella C. Fiore – AS
Kenneth L. Johnson – MS	NURSING Nicholas E. Thibeault – AS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE Benjamin G. Richtarik – AS	Ian M. Lacombe – BS
Dayna A. Koukas – BS	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT Amanda J. Blevins – AS
CYBERSECURITY AND NETWORK ENGINEERING Khalid Saseh – BS	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY Jennifer J. Rhodes – MS
DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION Stephanie Garcia – AS	Amy C. Wheadon – OTD†
Kaylee M. Olson – BS	PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT Michael J. Corey – AS†
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING William Pereira – BS	PLUMBING/HEATING/GAS Clive C. Wright – AS
ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY Jermaine D. Golden – AS	PUBLIC HEALTH Katherine L. Daneault – MS†
ELECTRONICS, ROBOTICS AND DRONES TECHNOLOGY Colin Leach – AS	REFRIGERATION/AIR CONDITIONING/HEATING Zachary J. Taylor – AS
ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT Joshua N. Fontaine – MS	RESPIRATORY CARE Madison R. Allen – AS
GAME DEVELOPMENT & SIMULATION PROGRAMMING Kevin J. Jamieson – AS	SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY Jennifer E. Wrench – AS
Joseph A. Sepulveda – BS	VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY Kelsie L. Lamoureux – AS†
GRAPHICS, MULTIMEDIA AND WEB DESIGN Jason C. Trahan – AS	VIDEO GAME DESIGN Skye L. Whelpley – AS
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-NETWORK ENGINEERING Joseph T. Mucerino – AS	Nicholas J. DaRocha – BS
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-SOFTWARE ENGINEERING Talia S. Iannuccilli – AS	WELDING ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY Christopher R. Cawley – AS
John D. Lougee – BS	

BEST OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN WRITING IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Skye L. Whelpley – VGD/AS Stephan A. Maloney – ELT/BS

† — Indicates Tech Scholars

Leonel RosarioMGTH	Rashel Shulterbron..... CJ	Brian Thornton..... AAUT	Angie Watkins..... RC
Asmin Rosario Peralta Jr... ABTA	Tracy SibleyRNBN	Sean Thornton.....AAHP	Michael Watson.....PTA
Haley Rossi.....NUR	Jessica Silva.....CYNA	Eric Tift.....CMTB	Linda Watts.....ST
Danielle Roth.....OTA	Adam Simao.....RACH	Ian Tolosky.....AAHP	Aaliyah Webb.....DMPB
Chelsea Rozen.....NUR	Jamila Sisco.....ITBS	Hunter Tomick.....MCTB	Ashley Weber.....BSOT
Glenn Rumas.....CYNB	Jason Skillman.....GDSB	Anthony Torres.....AAHP	Korie Whalen.....RNBN
Jacob Russ.....AAHP	Alexis Smith.....PTA	Kenneth Tracey III.....CJB	Cheyenne Wheeler.....MAA
Molly Russell.....OTA	Benjamin Smith.....VET	Heather Traibman.....ST	Nathaniel Wheeler.....WEL
Edward Russo.....CYNB	Krysta Soulliere.....NUR	Michael Trongone.....RACH	Brigid White.....CJ
Vincent Russo.....ELTB	William Spahr.....CJ	Brandon Trumpold.....ITBS	Riley Wicks.....DMPB
Sean Rutherford.....ADMT	Erin Spring.....NUR	Declan Trus.....AAHP	Matthew Wilichowski.....MCTB
Sean Ryan.....DMPB	Matthew St. Germain.....MCTB	Wayne Turley Jr.....ELTB	Evan Willard.....MGTT
George Saban Jr.....ITA	Joshua St. Pierre.....AAHP	Charles Underwood III.....MGTT	Yuanicka Williams.....MAA
Amanda Sabetta.....RNBN	Matthew Stanton.....VGDA	Christian Urbina.....BSOT	Damon Wilson Jr.....CYNB
Jason Sadlier.....AAHP	Briana Stillson.....MGTH	Christian Urena.....VDEB	Cara Woloohojian.....NUR
Ronaldo Salguero.....ABTA	Alexander Strom.....AAHP	Cody Valliere.....PLBH	Brittany Wood.....RNBN
Jose Samayoa Juarez.....ABTA	Michael Stroz.....MCTB	Nicholas Vartabedian.....ABTA	Tyler Woodward.....PTA
Xavier Sanchez.....DMPB	Michael Stubbs.....DMPA	Francine Vasquez.....BSOT	Vichet Yan.....ELRE
Hailey Sango.....ITA	Kodie Stuber.....BSOT	Alexander Velasquez.....ITA	Luis Yera.....GMWA
Amanda Santos.....GMWA	David Swansey.....ITA	Melanie Vertentes.....BSOT	Leandro Ysiano Ortega.....ITS
Andrew Santos.....AAHP	Kalie Sylvester.....NUR	Heather Vickers.....NUR	George Zapata.....CYNA
Andrey Sarti.....BCD	Lauren Tamburro.....NUR	Brandon Vieira.....AAUT	Josue Zelaya.....ABTB
Zachary Satagaj.....GDSB	Manuel Tavares.....ELTB	Casey Viens.....ITA	
Jessica Semidey.....MAA	Marina Tedesco.....NUR	Marissa Vitale.....PTA	
Connor Shea.....GMWA	Kelsey Teixeira.....RC	Tiffany Waldron.....RNBN	
Zachary Sheehan.....ITA	James Thomas.....MCTA	Benjamin Wall.....MGTT	
Infinity Sheppard.....RC	Rachelle Thompson.....BSOT	Ronald Warner II.....CETA	
Joseph Sherry.....ITA	Anastasia Thomson.....BSOT	Charles Warren-Koumis.....CYNA	

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 hand-washing, 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 on-campus, 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. 3rd Row: Shelby Mariano, Molly Russell, Victoria Angell and Jennifer Jarvis

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:

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.

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 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."



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

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

THE DEPARTMENT of Homeland Security and 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.

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, MGT, 3/20, Business Management, Transportation Technology, is employed by CarMax

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

Zachary Sharron, ELY, 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 Semiconductor

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 Plansee USA

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.

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



NEW ENGLAND TECH STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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 in-person 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 Hague at mhague@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 Drosroll, 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.

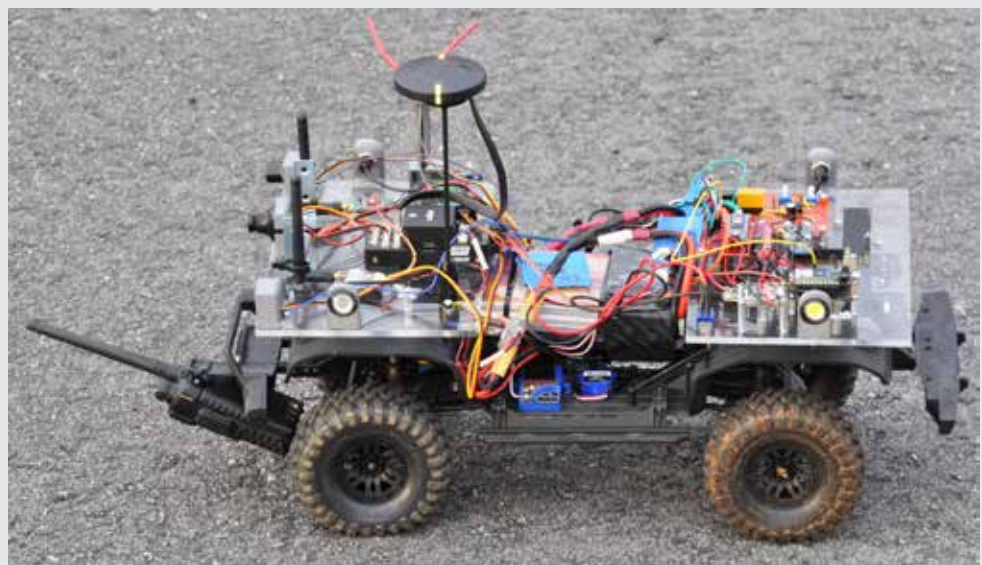
Rock Steady Boxing (RSB) is a national evidenced-based boxing program for adults living with Parkinson's Disease. Owned and operated by Carolyn Kosiba-Quiterio, RSB East Greenwich provides a non-contact boxing curriculum for athletes experiencing the physical and cognitive impact of this progressive 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."