



Volume 24 Issue 1

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Aggie News

From the Editor,

I wish to thank the following people who helped with this newsletter; John Cloran, Class of 68 with his story about Mr. Bennett, Maryellen Rancourt and her work securing grants for the school, Jonathan Hallinan, Class of 2008, Robyn Harris Forse, Class of 1990. Both Jonathan and Robyn show courage each and every day.

In this edition we share stories of alumni, instructors and staff. While you may have never heard of any of these fine people before, I can assure you, we all have a connection to them because we went to the Aggie.

We have a story about the baby that is buried behind the FFA Farm Stand, an instructor who taught at the Aggie for 44 years, two excellent comfort food recipes, the building of Smith Hall and more.

Don't forget that the dues page. It is very easy to fill out and send back to Charlie Main, Class of 1956.

If you have a story you that would like to share about someone you would like to see in the spotlight, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Pete Tierney, Class of '75 email peter.tierney57@outlook.com phone 857-888-9924
Home address, 120 W. Grey Stone Street, San Tan Valley, AZ 85143

Newsletter graphic by Yetti Frenkel '78



Catherine Larkin Memorial Cottage Foundation October 8th, 2020

When I think metaphorically about our Aggie and Larkin Cottage, I think about changes for the future. Look at this photo above, what I see is a strong foundation, a ladder on which to climb and room to grow. We don't usually think of building becoming old and needing to be replaced, but some do. We don't think of ourselves as becoming old, but we do, at least physically. There will be more students to build upon this foundation and climb that ladder because of having the opportunity to attend the Aggie.

Ms. Larkin was thirty years old when she died. Before she was a First Lieutenant and Chief Nurse, she was an Aggie, one of us. At the time of her death she was helping to establish an advanced hospital in Calcutta, India.

I feel that I have accomplished more in the past 5 years than I have in the past 50 years prior. When I think of time passing, I often think of the song by Sandy Denny, "Who Knows Where the Time Goes".

*And I am not alone while my love is near me
I know it will be so until it's time to go
So come the storms of winter and then
The birds in spring again
I have no fear of time
For who knows how my love grows?
And who knows where the time goes?*

If you have not already done so, I am asking each of you to buy a brick. Help future Aggies before the time goes. I can tell you as the editor of this newsletter and speaking with so many alumni and their families, the Aggie has always been a place that we hold dear to our hearts. It is time to say thank you to our Alma Mater and open your checkbooks and chip in. Click on the link below, or copy and paste in your browser.

Thank you, Pete Tierney, President, Essex Aggie Alumni Association.

<https://www.thatsmybrick.com/essexaggieaa/design-brick.php>

School Notes July 1921

Wallace Moreland, Class 1921



Wallace Moreland

The idea of writing a letter to students on project was suggested to me by Wallace Moreland, class of 1921, now working at the Egg Laying Contest at Vineland, N. J. Moreland did mention something about going into the Merchant Marine, but that Vineland place turned up just in time so save Wallace from what might have been a watery grave. Can you imagine Moreland "hoisting" an anchor? No, but perhaps you can imagine him trap nesting or running the incubators.

Many of you fellows have been on project a month already. Just look back over the month. Are you satisfied with your work? You have the opportunity now to put your training into actual practice and as teachers, we have every confidence that you will succeed.

The boys now on project at the School are Barnes and A. Perkins in the Poultry Division; Ives and Anderson are taking care of the large and small fruits, while James Lord is doing well in the Dairy Division. Williams has charge of the small animals. "Bob" Ewing is doing excellent work with the boys on the Market garden. Some of the I's working with "Bob" are O'Keefe, MacCracken, Prescott, Wolfgram, Fossa and Brown. Oulton is also working in this division, having charge of the crop records. "Hank" Herrick is now in Mr. Wilson's division, working on the School grounds.

School Notes July 1929

Gilbert Edwin Tucker, Class 1919

Gilbert Tucker's herd of Holsteins in West Newbury won first place in production, according to the annual report of the Essex County Dairy Herd Improvement Association, which was just released by County Agent Smith of the Extension Service.

Mr. Tucker's herd averaged 9,760 pounds of four per cent milk, or fifteen quarts daily. Each cow returned a net profit above all expenses of \$102. His herd gave an average of 369 pounds of butterfat, and he thus will receive a special "Master Dairyman" certificate from the National Dairy Council.

Other herds on the Honor Roll with fat over 300 pounds are: Chester Abbott, Andover, Harvey Turner, Andover, W. D. Bragdon, Methuen; Essex County Training School, Lawrence Hardtcourt, Inc., North Andover, Mrs. W. A. Wood, Hat home, I. H. Sawyer, Topsfield.

These records are cost accounts kept on 312 cows in 16 herds in Essex County. These records show that the net profit over all expenses on a cow producing less than 7,000 pounds of milk a year was \$4.20, but from cows producing 9,000 pounds of milk the profit was \$102. One 9,000-pound cow was as profitable as 25 of the 7,000-pound cows.

Gilbert Tucker is the owner-operator of the Ordway Farm in West Newbury



School Notes 2020, Oct. 19-23, is the third annual Stem Week

Superintendent-Director Heidi Riccio Ed.D. wishes to highlight the work of Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School's seniors in its biotechnology program in recognition of STEM week.

This week, Oct. 19-23, is the third annual STEM week, a statewide initiative led by the Executive Office of Education, STEM Advisory Council and Massachusetts' nine regional STEM networks. STEM week seeks to promote access and student interest in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

This year's STEM week theme is "See Yourself in STEM," with the goal of encouraging more women, students of color, first-generation students, low-income individuals, English language learners and people with disabilities — groups that are historically underrepresented in STEM industries — to pursue STEM careers. This year's STEM week is also encouraging mentorship.

At Essex Tech 16 seniors in the biotechnology program are finishing an animal cell culture experiment this week in which they exposed Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells to varying concentrations of Juul e-liquid in the growth media. The students are studying how the liquid, which contains nicotine, affects the growth and viability of the cells.



Emily Enes of Peabody and Naidy Castro of Salem are seniors in the Biotechnology Program and took part in the CHO cell experiment this Fall.



Seniors Emily Enes, back left of Peabody and Helen Clark of Swampscott, participate in an experiment with CHO cells.

Biotechnology is the science of using living organisms, their products or their component parts for human benefit, and the use of technical applications that turn biological knowledge into products. Students in the biotechnology program often pursue career paths in biomedical engineering, molecular biology, microbiology, genetic engineering, immunology, as research scientists, in medicine, in bioinformatics, in agricultural food and science, in veterinary and forensic sciences, as laboratory assistants and as associate scientists. To learn more about the program, click [here](#).

"Our students and staff at Essex Tech know the value of STEM, and in recognition of STEM week, we wanted to highlight some of the incredible work our students are doing as part of

their studies in the biotechnology program,” Superintendent Heidi Riccio said. “Our students are excited about what they’re learning. They’re engaged, and they’re learning skills that they will be able to apply directly in a career one day. We’re thankful the Baker-Polito administration has been so supportive of STEM, and appreciate the opportunity this week provides to foster an interest in these fields in addition to expanding access.”

In order to conduct the experiment, students learned how to culture the CHO cells and use aseptic techniques so that the cells would not be contaminated. They monitored the cells for two days, at which time they harvested the cells and used a hemocytometer, a microscopic grid, to count their live and dead cells. The dead cells were also dyed blue. The students were able to determine the number of cells per milliliter they grew across the varying levels of their experimental groups, exposed to varying levels of e-liquid, in comparison to their control group, exposed to no e-liquid, as well as the percent viability or the percent of cells that were alive.

Students are preparing reports with their findings remotely, which they will share with their class in person next week. They began the experiment on Sept. 16. The students have also begun preparing tick samples they will study for the detection of the spirochete that causes Lyme Disease through nested PCR (polymerase chain reaction) in the coming weeks.

“Though the conditions of working with students have changed, we continue to offer interesting projects that foster scientific inquiry through hands-on experience,” said Arlyssa La Porte, a biotechnology teacher at Essex Tech.

Due to COVID-19, Essex Tech is currently pursuing a hybrid learning model where students are separated into grade-level groups, which will allow for approximately 50% of the students to be in the building at any given time on an alternating schedule.

Students are grouped into cohorts for their academic courses, and will resume their career, technical and agricultural education through their shops. They will follow a two-week rotating schedule for in-person and remote learning for both academic and vocational classes.



Seniors Anne Cary of Salem, Gianna Medrano of Revere and Isabella Hodges of Rowley work on their CHO cells experiment.

School notes from 2014

New-look Essex Tech hopes to start strong

Reprinted with permission from the Salem News, September 5th, 2014



Maria umanski photo
(From left), Danny Ramirez, Yordany Sanchez, Dan Bailey and Cris Nelson will serve as captains for the first-ever Essex Tech football team. The Hawks, as they are now known, were formerly the North Shore Tech/Essex Aggie Bulldogs.

It is a year of firsts for the Essex Tech football program.

Not only is the former North Shore Tech/Essex Aggie program going by a new school name, they're also housed in a brand-new facility and have a new head coach in Greg Haberland, who was an assistant last year for the then-Tech Bulldogs.

A hot start to begin the season would be ideal for the Hawks, as Haberland knows his squad needs to establish its identity.

"When you have a football program that succeeds, your football team is always in the spotlight. When it's noticed, people open their eyes to the team and the new school," explained Haberland of winning early on. "It could put us on the map and maybe open up the eyes of kids from other districts who'll say, 'what's that over there?' We need to solidify our identity as a school — and I think the football team can play a big role in that."

When it comes to guys best suited to cultivate the right kind of football culture for the Hawks, senior linebacker and running back Dan Bailey is high on the list. The soon to be four-

2014 SCHEDULE

does not include MIAA playoff dates

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Sept. 6	at Tri-County Tech	1 p.m.
Sept. 12	Blue Hills	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	Bishop Fenwick	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	Chelsea	7 p.m.
Oct. 3	Lynn Tech	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	at Minuteman	1 p.m.
Oct. 25	Mystic Valley	1 p.m.

year-starter was the defensive leader last year for a team that went 7-3 while rushing for 579 yards, five touchdowns and 6.9 yards per carry.

“It makes it easy for me because I almost have a coach on the field (with Bailey). He’s been out there so long that he knows the defense, how to call it and adjust it,” said Haberland. “Dan’s our on-field general. He’s one of those kids that has that competitive streak and refuses to make a mistake ... and refuses to lose.”

Offensively, the Hawks have opened up the playbook some after the team saw success in last year’s small school vocational championship loss to Blue Hills, when Ross Murphy was injured, and the team moved to a shotgun formation. Essex Tech will still have the Power-I and the two tight end sets, but Haberland also wants to get the ball in space to his best athletes — and feels the shotgun is a good way to do it.

Yordany Sanchez and Dan Ramirez are two of those athletes. Both guys had big second halves last year against Blue Hills when the team showed a spread formation look. Sanchez was adept at running the read-draw with Bailey, while Ramirez showed he can be a big-play receiver.

“We’re still going to be a smashmouth team, but we’re also going to try and utilize some of our athletic ability,” said Haberland.

“What you saw against Blue Hills, if the kids can execute, work hard and get stuff down we’ll put that on the field. We feel we have some players that can be effective in that offense. I’d like to distribute the ball evenly and be balanced in the pass and the run game.”

By Dan Harrison, Staff Writer, Salem News

HAWKS HIGHLIGHTS

- **Last year’s record:** 7-3
- **Head coach:** Greg Haberland (1st season, 0-0)
- **Captains:** Undecided as of press time
- **Top returning rusher:** Dan Bailey (84 carries, 579 yards, 5 TDs)
- **Top returning passer:** None
- **Top returning receiver:** Dan Bailey (6 rec., 90 yards)
- **Last league title:** 2013 (CAC Small)
- **Did you know?:** Essex Tech combines students from North Shore Tech and Essex Aggie as well as Peabody Vocational students in its brand new, state-of-the-art facility in Hawthorne (a section of Danvers).

A Fun Aggie Trivia Quiz

- 1) In the 1800s, the land that the Aggie is on was called;
 - a) Applewood Farm
 - b) Prescott Farm
 - c) Maplewood Farm
 - d) Putman Farm

- 2) Between 1913 and 1926 students took a train to the Aggie each day, the name of the station down the street originally called;
 - a) Hathorne Station
 - b) Maplewood Station
 - c) Asylum Station
 - d) Post Office Station

- 3) Which of the following is **NOT** true;
 - a) Anthropologist Margaret Mead spoke at the Aggie
 - b) An Aggie graduate started a tree service that now employs over 4,000 people.
 - c) One summer the Aggie took 12 juvenile delinquents from Chelsea to work on the Aggie Farm.
 - d) A student accidentally shot an Aggie herdsman with a shotgun.

- 4) This former principal played in the Sugar Bowl;
 - a) Richard Brown
 - b) Helen Hegarty
 - c) Raymond Potter
 - d) Dick Barbeau

- 5) Only one of these instructors did **NOT** graduate from the Aggie;
 - a) Nathan Clark
 - b) James Gallant
 - c) Jennifer Skane
 - d) Edward White

- 6) The official name of the athletic field is;
 - a) Bauer Field
 - b) Potter's Field
 - c) Smith Field
 - d) Alumni Memorial Field

- 7) The Aggie Campus has the following number of acres;
- a) 1913
 - b) 210
 - c) 572
 - d) 166
- 8) In 1988, the delegates voted to change the official name of the Future Farmers of America to;
- a) Future Feeders of America
 - b) National FFA Organization
 - c) National Young Farmer Association
 - d) Future Farmers of the World
- 9) The Aggie Homemaking School could have been considered hot because
- a) Their building received the most sun.
 - b) Two of their buildings caught fire.
 - c) The ladies were very pretty.
 - d) They served hot lunches every day.
- 10) The original address of the Aggie was;
- a) 75 Lovers Lane
 - b) 565 Maple Street
 - c) 562 Prescott Street
 - d) 562 Maple Street

(Editor's note; The year was 1971, fifty years ago, I can still recall my first quiz at the Aggie. It was given to the freshmen class in Mr. Townley's Natural Resource class. He asked to students to read over the instructions carefully prior to taking the test and we had 10 minutes to take the test. The instructions clearly stated to read the entire quiz prior to taking the quiz and make sure you print your name on the top left-hand side of the paper.

Well I, like so many others, I wanted to do my best on the quiz and started to fill in each answer as quickly as possible. I did not get to the last question which stated "place your name on the paper and turn the page over and raise your hand.")



***Instructor Dave Townley,
Class of 1961***

Answers: 1 = c, 2 = c, 3 = c, 4 = c, 5 = b, 6 = a, 7 = d, 8 = b, 9 = b, 10 = d.

Back to the Future from 1916 to 2020



In 1916 Electric Cars such as the one above had frequent service and half-rate-fares for these Aggie Students.

The Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School applied for and was awarded a grant as a part of the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program. With the grant Aaron Mace, our Plant electrician and Alan Goyette our Maintenance technician installed a total of eight ChargePoint Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. So, the installation was done during the COVID-19 shutdown by our in-house staff. The school also received significant funding from Danvers Electric to support the installation costs. The chargers that were installed are what is known as level 2 or EV-2. Without going into much detail about the difference of type of charges, let's just say that an EV-2 will give you a charge between 12 to 60 miles of driving range per charging hour. The current rate (\$) to charge your Electric Car is \$0.25 per kwh. Level 2 electric car chargers deliver 10 to 60 miles of range per hour of charging. They can fully charge an electric car battery in as little as two hours.

As of this publication the electricity is supplied by Danvers Electric. The school is evaluating a few different solar projects right now. One that is about 750kw and another that is nearly 2mw. There is a handicap accessible spot to charge a vehicle. If anyone is worried about new teenage drivers at the school bollards (posts) are being installed but if that happens hopefully the breaker would trip, and we would investigate and try to repair the unit.

The school is thinking about the future and will evaluate its usage as it pertains to adding more charging stations and hopes to add electric buses to our fleet!

Superintendent Heidi Riccio was pleased to announce the signing of a bill supporting clean energy generation and education at Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School.

Bill HR 4922, an act relative to clean energy generation at Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School, was signed by Governor Baker on Friday, Aug. 7, 2020.

The bill extends the amount of time Essex Tech may lease portions of the property for the purpose of solar, wind, geothermal or any other renewable distributed energy resource and any associated storage system for 25 years. These options better suit the long leases typically expected by clean energy sources.

Recent graduates Bailey McCaul, of Lynn, and Abigail Joliffe, of Rowley, presented a case for the need to teach renewable energy to students through applied learning and opportunities on campus in June of last year to the district. After several reiterations of a draft, legislative breakfasts, school committee approval, and planning meetings, the two students and a partner from Clean Light and Power presented to the State's joint committee.

The passing of the bill also follows efforts by Director of Facilities Joe St. Pierre and Natural Resources teacher Paul Crofts to bring solar and other renewable energy onto Essex Tech's campus. Leases on the school's property had previously been limited to three years. Renewable energy is embedded in the school's construction and environmental classes.



Faculty in the Spotlight /Mr. V. Byron Bennett

What can I say about Mr. Vernon Bennett? I met Mr. Vernon Bennett when representatives from Essex Aggie came to Eastern Junior High School in Lynn. When he started the presentation in the cafeteria, he called out my name to see if I was there. I let him know I was present. Giving up my spring break during a week in April 1964, I visited Essex Aggie school. Mr. Bennett was assigned to be my counselor. One thing he asked me if I was the John Cloran that had been writing to the Aggie since 1960. I said yes, I was that student. There was a committee of Mr. Bennett along with Mr. Powell and Mr. White (school principal) that would be the ones to decide after a week at the Aggie as to who would stay and who would return to their home schools until the following spring. All weeklong Mr. Bennett kept telling me to keep going and don't give up no matter what the assignment was for me to do if I really wanted to be at the Aggie for the rest of the year.



John Cloran, Class of 1968



Mr. V. Byron Bennett

Friday finally arrived and we were brought to the second-floor language classrooms and broken into two groups by our last names. The committee of Mr. Bennett, Mr. Powell and Mr. White were in a room down the hall. One by one they called us out to meet with them. You either got into the Aggie and were going to start the following Monday at the Aggie or sent back to the school you came from for that week. When my time came, I walked into the room. Mr. Bennett introduced me to the others as the student that started writing the Aggie in 5th grade. There was a lot of discussion between them as to whether I should stay or go. At the end Mr. Bennett asked me to answer one question: did I want to try again next year or stay there knowing if I didn't make the grade I could never come back to the Aggie. I said I wanted to stay, and Mr. Bennett told the others he believed in me and was willing to be my counselor the rest of my time at the Aggie. The others

agreed after that I could stay, and Mr. Bennett added one other thing to me staying. If I did not measure up to what he expected, he would send me back to Lynn the next day never to come back.

Mr. Bennett was like a flea on a dog with me for the rest of my time at the Aggie. When it came to summer work and the major I had picked was animal science, so I was sent off to Vermont to a dairy farm. Mr. Bennett made it out to check on us every other week. As the summer went on Mr. Bennett kept hinting maybe I should be looking at another major instead of animal science. When I started the fall of 1965, Mr. Bennett had changed my major to horticulture. He told me I would be more successful in that field than animals. The next summer he asked Mr. Clark to take me on for him. But Mr. Clark gave me back to him my junior year and Mr. Bennett got me a job at Rutgers University in New Jersey for the summer. Mr. Bennett kept pushing me to stay on the honor roll at that Aggie. Every time I started to slip, he was there to talk to me and see what he could do to help.

In the fall of my senior year, Mr. Bennett asked me where I wanted to go to college, and I said U Mass. He suggested I should look at other colleges that I might have a better chance at getting into than U of Mass. So, I followed his advice and applied to some other schools. I was accepted at most of them. However, New Mexico State University accepted me first and Mr. Bennett told me he thought it was a good fit for me. So that is how I got to NMSU.

During the summer, he sent me back to Rutgers to work but I quit after four weeks and returned home. Mr. Bennett came to see me and told me I needed to get a job, or I would not be graduating. He said maybe start your own business which is what I did. I started my own lawn care company and had 35 homes and 2 friends as my employees. Mr. Bennett said I knew you could do that if I pushed you.

It was about this time June of 1968 I got a group of 10 other students to get together and see if we could get graduation moved from October to August of 1968. Mr. Bennett worked behind the scenes feeding us information on who we needed to see besides Mr. Porter, Principal, and Mr. Gallant, Director, to try and get the date changed. When it looked like we were not going to get the change done he pushed us not to give up. Mr. Bennett never gave up and with his continued pushing we were able to get the board of Directors to change the date to August 1968.

In August when I went to NMSU for preplanning, my advisor, Dr. Wagley, told me that I would be part of the 1000 students to leave at the end of the first semester or year. I said no I will not be leaving and would graduate. As the years at NMSU went on, I asked him why he said that to me at the incoming interview and he said your counselor Mr. Bennett told him to say that to me because it worked at the Aggie to keep me on track and it worked.

Mr. Bennett stayed in touch with me as I went through college, then got my first and only teaching job here in Florida. He would visit us when he came to Florida as my family started to grow. We would go and see him when we were up visiting family in Massachusetts. My wife and I had the pleasure of meeting his wife and later his family members.

I can tell you that I used his same thinking many times on my own students in my 43 years of teaching here in Florida. To this day I feel very blessed that Mr. Bennett was willing to take an interest in me and give me the challenge to become the type of teacher I was here in Apopka. I also thank the Aggie for giving me the background knowledge so I could become a great teacher and FFA advisor. I credit Mr. Vernon Bennett with the philosophy I needed which led me to conclude my career by being inducted into the Florida FFA Hall of Fame.



Dr. Leon Wagley



I also work on providing Scholarships to FAA Students. Congratulations to Alyssa Terry of Apopka High School on receiving the CCP Agriculture Scholarship for \$1000.00. This scholarship is sponsored by me, Edward B. Coffie and James A. Parker, all three of us are retired Agriculture Instructors from Orange County Public Schools. This is my way of thanking Mr. Bennett.

Alumni in the Spotlight / Dora Winchester, Class of 1934
Farmerette



A lover of horses and keenly interested in horticultural pursuits, Dora Winchester, of Saugus, accepted a scholarship in September 1930 at the Essex County Agricultural School. Enrolling as a four-year student she at once set the pace in practical farm work as well as in academic studies for her male companions. In November 1934 she graduated, one of 3 girls in a class numbering forty. During her course she carried on four successful projects in vegetable gardening and floriculture which enabled her to maintain herself in school and establish herself in business.

While an undergraduate, Miss Winchester took an active interest in the Future Farmers of America, being elected secretary of the local chapter and the state association. Her work in the latter office merited the following comment from the state adviser: "Miss Winchester has been the best secretary we have ever had in the state association."

Miss Winchester won the coveted Honors' E awarded only to those students who reach a high standard in loyalty, scholarship and achievement. She won this letter twice during her four-year course.

She has demonstrated that girl students are entitled to everything vocational agricultural has to offer.

Dora's first ventures in gardening were confined to a small plot of land in the rear of her home. Here she constructed hot beds, raised her own seedlings, and did her own garden work even to marketing the products. She carried on this work for two seasons realizing substantial profits.

After taking up floriculture she accepted positions in commercial greenhouses in Wakefield and Saugus thereby getting real business experience in growing and selling. She was then prepared to launch a roadside project which proved to be successful from the start.

Dora did not let grass grow under her feet. On the Lynn Fels Parkway in Saugus she maintained a roadside stand, a gas station, and cared for two gardens, commuted from her home, one and one-half miles away, on her horse.

Early in April 1935, she leased a stand on the Lynn Fels Parkway and established herself in business. With the help of her father the stand was completely renovated, and the surroundings were attractively planted. The early spring sales consisted of rock garden plants and seedlings raised in her own beds at home. During the summer months, fruits, vegetables and cut flowers from her own gardens found ready sales and her stand drew new customers daily.

During the Christmas season Dora was busy making wreaths, baskets and center pieces to meet the demand for these Christmas decorations.

From April to December this young graduate has been engaged in work in which she delights, and which has given good returns for her labors.



Administrator in the Spotlight / Maryellen D. Rancourt, Ed.D

Essex Tech does not take Grant Money for Granted.

Maryellen D. Rancourt, Ed.D., is the schools' Grants Administrator, one who writes grants; however, many staff members also write grants including Superintendent Heidi Riccio. Maryellen typically writes the large dollar grants. Maryellen holds a doctorate in Leadership in Schooling from the University of Massachusetts - Lowell. Maryellen came to Essex Tech from North Shore Technical High School in 2011.



Grant proposals or responding to published grants is a skill. The person writing such documents needs a command of the English language and is able to collect details about what he/she is writing about. The grant writer needs excellent communication skills to communicate with both the people extending the grant and the people who will be receiving the grant. There are also deadlines to take into consideration.

Many grants come with a feedback protocol, in which the recipient will give feedback on not only how the money was spent but also include a detailed result portfolio.

Some of you may recall that, ENSATS was awarded the 100K for 100 Grant from the Cummings Foundation (www.cummingsfoundation.org) to support construction projects including the Larkin Cottage. We are honored to be part of this foundation with over 570 applications and 100 selected.

Maryellen is a trustee at Landmark College, which is a private college in Putney, Vermont and is the premier college in the country for high achieving students diagnosed learning disabilities, attention disorders, or autism.

Just a few more examples of Maryellen's excellent work;

1. Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School has been awarded over \$2.75 million dollars since 2017 as part of Governor Baker's Workforce Skills Capital Grant Program, which have supported the Advanced Manufacturing, Allied Health, Information Technology Systems, and Construction Craft Laborers programs and funded the renovation and equipment needed to establish a new veterinary clinic with MSPCA Angell Memorial Animal Medical Center.
2. Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School received \$166,840 from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Learn to Earn grant to provide students in the construction cluster with commercially based construction skills by renovating classrooms in the district's Smith Hall with clean energy technologies.
3. Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School was awarded one of six Mass IDEAS grants for \$150,000. This grant allowed the district to design and implement the CTAAC (Career Technical Agricultural Academic Content) Integration Model that fully integrates

learning experiences students have in their respective CTE majors with their academic content-area classes.

4. Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School has received Chapter 74 After-Dark and Partnership Planning and Implementation grants totaling \$230,000 to expand CTE opportunities in Construction Craft Laborer, Design and Visual Communications, Sustainable Horticulture, Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing and Advanced Manufacturing programs for students from Beverly, Gloucester, Peabody, and Salem. These students attend their local high schools for academics in the mornings and are then transported to Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School for their CTE experience in the afternoons, providing more students in the region with CTE industry recognized credentials opening career opportunities after high school.

(Editor's note; we have one more example of Maryellen's excellent work. This came in just prior to the publication of this newsletter)

Essex Tech Receives \$1.25 Million Skills Capital Grant

Superintendent-Director Heidi Riccio Ed.D. is pleased to share that Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School has been awarded a \$1.25 million Skills Capital grant from the Baker-Polito Administration.

These funds will allow the district to expand programming and equipment available to its day students and the NightHawks Adult Education students studying Advanced Manufacturing, Welding and Metal Fabrication and Plumbing. The expansion will also allow the school to accept more students into its midday Career Technical Education Partnership Program with Beverly, Gloucester, Peabody, and Salem where students in grades 11 and 12 attend a half day of academic classes in their home districts and come to Essex Tech for the second half of the day for workforce training.

“Essex Tech is fortunate to have received numerous capital skills grants in recent years that included expansion efforts in HVAC, Health Occupations, Dental Assisting, Engineering & Manufacturing, Information Technology, and Construction and Landscaping,” Superintendent Riccio said. “These funds will support the continued commitment of our school community to be a leader in vocational training and workforce development on the North Shore and will be used for Advanced Manufacturing, Plumbing, Metal Fabrication and Welding. We are truly grateful to the Baker administration for their commitment to strengthen technical education in the Commonwealth.”

As a result of the grant, which will be allocated over two years and was the largest award given today, the district will be able to purchase updated equipment as well.

Essex Tech is one of 47 educational institutions who were awarded Skills Capital grants by the Baker-Polito administration today. In all, \$11.7 million in funds were allocated to support the purchase of updated equipment and the growth of student enrollment in career and technical education programs.

Skills Cabinet grants are awarded to educational institutions that are able to showcase their partnerships with local businesses and whose curriculum and credentials seek to meet the demand of growing industries in the Commonwealth.

Through its Skills Capital grants, the Baker-Polito administration has worked to increase the number of students enrolled in programs where they can learn and train for occupations in high-demand careers. More than 300 educational programs have received financial support from the Skills Capital grant initiative, which has awarded approximately \$92 million and is overseen by Gov. Baker's Workforce Skills Cabinet.



Additional equipment for all students studying Advanced Manufacturing, Welding, Metal Fabrication and Plumbing will be available as a result of the grant funding. (Photo courtesy of Essex Tech)



Career Technical Education Partnership Program Students participate in the Essex Tech Advanced Manufacturing Program (Photo curtesy of Essex Tech)

A Message from our Alumni President:

Students of the (New) Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School are looking into forming their own Alumni Association. This is fine with a majority of our Board of Directors. We wish them well and will be happy to assist with their efforts. Also, we will continue to ask for donations, for graduating students of the (New) Essex Tech School. You may be surprised how many current students have ties to our Alumni.

As you can see in this newsletter, Larkin Cottage is coming along nicely. However, we still need financial support, which is tax deductible. You can buy a brick or just send in what you can. Every dollar helps. While there have been many changes at our Aggie in the past 10 years, with more to come, our support is needed more than ever.

Think of all the changes over the past 60 years. If you graduated in 1961, the McNamara-O'Shea Science Building and the Alumni Gymnasium was not built yet. The science building is now gone, and the Alumni Gymnasium is undergoing renovations. The school is renovating the stage area, the floor, the bathrooms, and have an [MSBA](#) roof building project underway. Current students will be doing most of the interior work. It is good to know that the student athletes still use the Alumni Gymnasium.

Things change, our support for each other does not. This includes the current students at the school.

In this edition of our newsletter this is a story about electric car charging stations on campus. I did mention to Superintendent Riccio that I thought that the hill where the orchard was would make an excellent area for a microgrid. It is a south facing hill, electric companies are now building what they call solar farms.

If the past is any indication of the future, I can tell you a little about the current students at the school. They will be able to think for themselves; start successful businesses, take calculated risks in whatever endeavor they pursue, know that the future is not only theirs but of their own making. They will have what it takes.

I am sure that if any of the current students say that "I go to Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School" the response is "Oh, you mean Essex Aggie". Our Aggie will always be the Aggie.

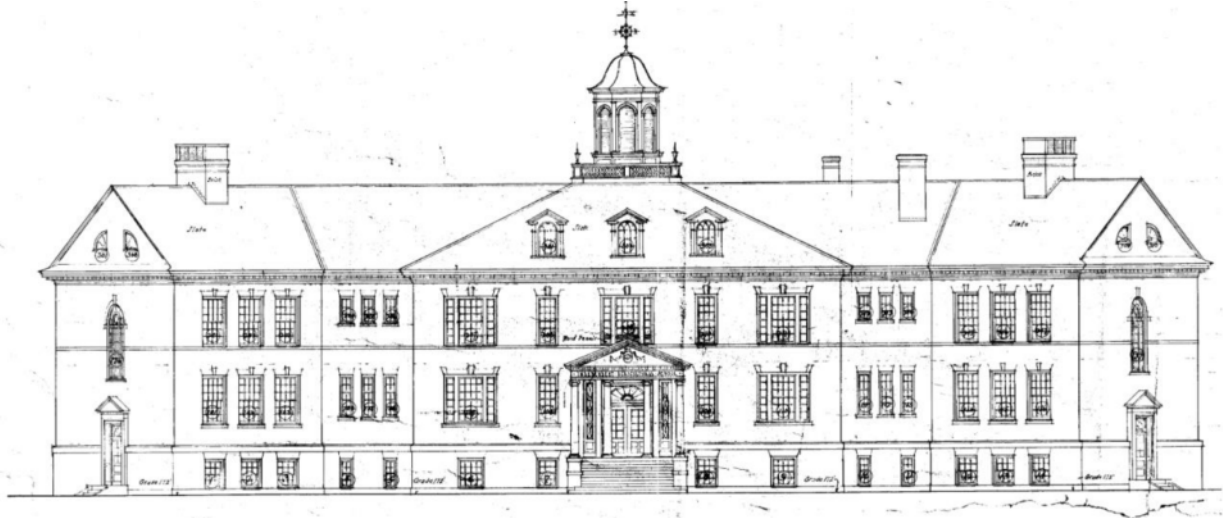
Sincerely, Pete Tierney 75' President Essex Aggie Alumni Association



***Essex, we cheer
for thee, True
we will ever be,
E-S-S-E-X
Rah, Rah, Rah***



The Building of Smith Hall, 1916



Blueprint Front Elevation

Essex Aggie was originally called the Independent Agricultural School of Essex County. The Architect of Smith Hall was John H. Bickford Co. of Boston and the Contractor was Louis H. McAloon of North Andover.

The bid called for a building about 60 x 200 feet, and to consist of a concrete foundation, brick wall, Terrazzo Maple Floor, wood partitions, and marble and wood exterior.

These are some of the details when the bid was awarded;

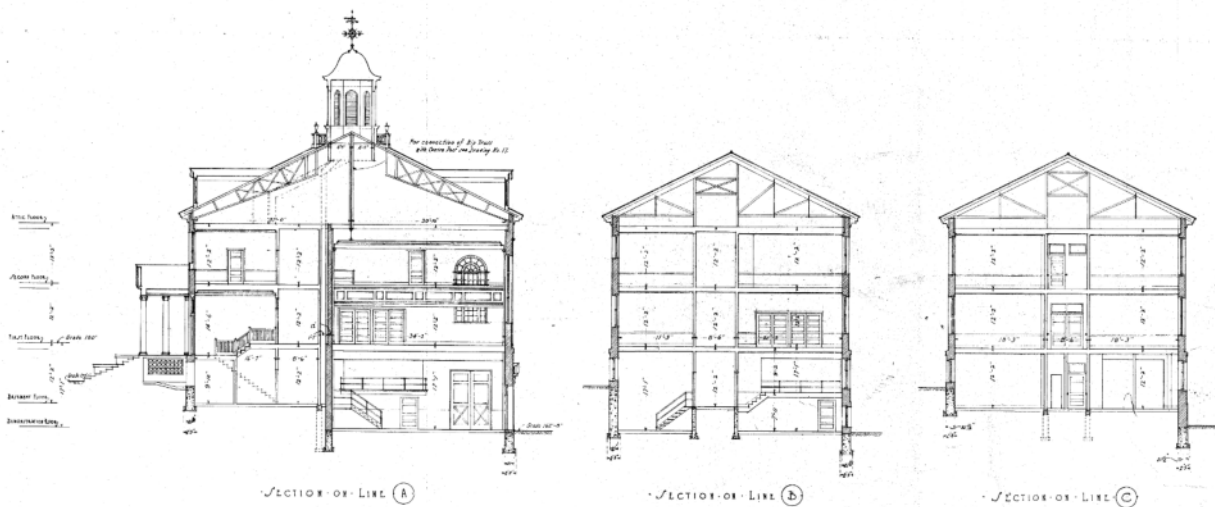
- 1) The central section will be 65 feet square.
- 2) Two wings each 48 by 56 feet, to be set at an angle of 22 ½ degrees in order to attain the best possible distribution of sunlight.
- 3) The classrooms will be 18 feet square designed to accommodate 16 pupils each.
- 4) There will be 11 classrooms, two large recitation rooms, 5 spacious laboratory rooms, a library, a reading room, kitchen and three storerooms.
- 5) In addition, there will be a assembly room with a balcony seating 450 persons.
- 6) In the basement there will be a large room to be used for demonstration of livestock and farm produce, also a gymnasium.

Also noted; The building is to be colonial style with simple wood and stone trimmings, a pillared portico, with granite steps, a slate roof surmounted with a cupola surrounded with a balustrade.

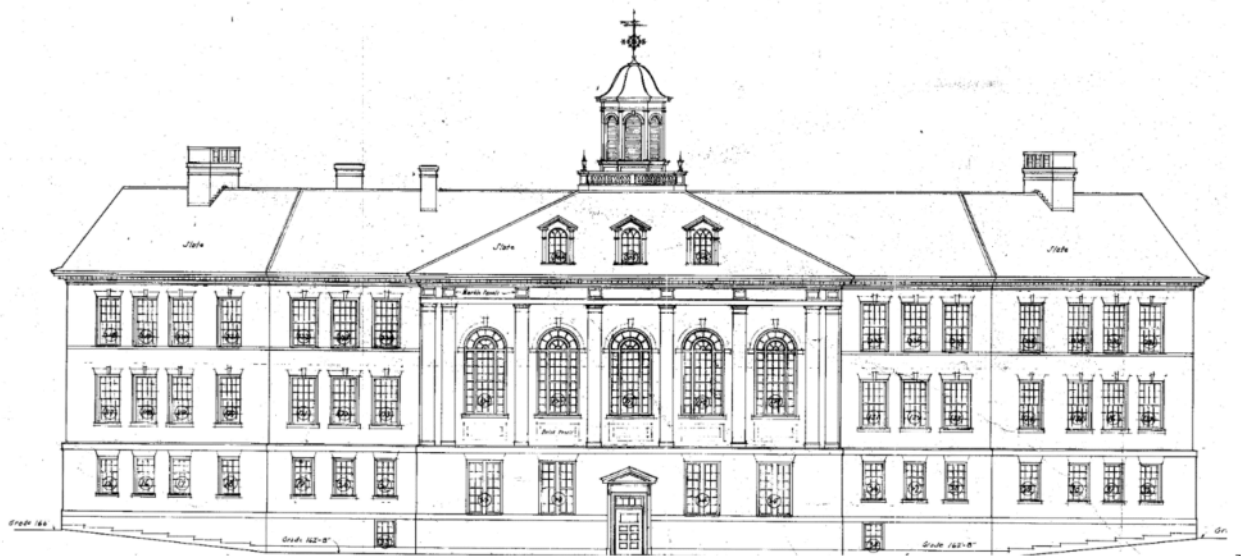
Mr. McAloon was awarded the bid to build the new school building. The winning bid was \$65,320 out of the eleven bids received. The contract called for the building to be completed in 250 working days. It called for Tapestry Brick with Dennison Interlocking Tiles and Sombroco Cast Stone trimmings. The design called for 16 classrooms / laboratories and an assembly hall with a balcony. By selecting the Fiske Tapestry Brick and specifying it the Trustees were able to cut \$350 from Mr. McAloon's original bid, so he took the job for \$64,970. Adjusted for inflation, \$64,970.00 in 1916 is equal to \$1,620,932.11 in 2020.

Louis McAloon was born in Lawrence and attended public schools there. At the age of 15 he moved to North Andover where he learned the carpenter's trade. At an early age he began taking on contracts of his own and quickly became a success. Besides Smith Hall, Mr. McAloon built the John Breen and the Oliver School in Lawrence, and the Essex County Training School. Mr. McAloon passed away in 1936.

John Bickford was born in Alton, New Hampshire in 1890, but grew up in Salem Massachusetts. He was educated in the Salem Schools and later studied electrical engineering and became a supervisor for the Salem Division of the Boston and Northern Telephone Company. Later he went into the architectural business. Besides Smith Hall, Mr. Bickford designed the Essex County Tuberculosis Hospital next to the Aggie. Mr. Bickford passed away in 1932.



Blueprint Transverse Section



Blueprint Rear Elevation

Alumni / Faculty in the Spotlight, John E. Eastwood, Class of 1917

This article is a reprint from the book, *Vocational Agricultural Education*, written by Rufus W. Stimson, a McMillan publication that is now in the public domain and was first published in 1919.

Subtitled; The Story of Eastwood's Agricultural Education



John Eastwood about 1928

John Eastwood went one year to his local high school. On the completion of his first year he told his parents that he wanted to be a farmer. His father was somewhat surprised, but he decided to try his son out. He hired an acre of land and set the boy to work. The garden was a complete success and Mr. Eastwood was convinced that his son should be given an opportunity to get an agricultural education. It was then decided to send the boy to the County Agricultural School.

At the county school he was obliged to carry an agricultural project each year. We will now see what each year's project was like. His first year's project was carried out at the school's farm. He had a half acre of vegetable garden and one Berkshire pig. When he was not working on his project, he worked on the school farm at general farm work. His accounts of this, his first project, were particularly good.

This young man's second year of farm work was what we call a substitute for a project; this is, he worked on a general farm that belonged to a gentleman in Peabody, Massachusetts – Boooksby Farm. On this farm he cared for thirty pigs, ten cows and about three acres of fruit. He cost-accounted the pigs and cows. Again, his accounting was most praiseworthy. Also, he won first prize in stock judging at the County Fair.

Eastwood's third year of farm work was also a substitute for a project. This was the management of a twenty-acre farm belonging to a Haverhill businessman. The work was done entirely by Eastwood, with the help of a small boy working part time. Eastwood worked from early morning until about seven o'clock in the evening. After seven o'clock he worked on his accounts. His work on this place won him what is known as the Bauer prize – a \$20 gold coin. Following is a brief description of the project: It consisted of the care of three cows and one heifer; two pigs; one hundred and fifty hens; the raising of three hundred chicks; ten acres of field crops; one-half acre of small fruit; one-half acre of large fruit; five acres of vegetables. The noticeable features of his work were the changing of the rations for the cows, pigs, and poultry, so that greater production was experienced; also, more frequent cultivation of the soil, which resulted in a yield of one hundred and twenty five bushels of potatoes on a half-acre of land. Let's us now look at his accounts. These accounts show the net income for each department on the farm. The total shows the amount of money he earned for the owner from May the sixth to November first, namely, \$898.32.

He

<i>Receipts</i>	
Poultry	\$507.27
Dairy	417.89
Garden	282.79
Field crops	472.20
Swine	53.00
Large fruit	55.13
Small fruit	57.48
Horse	93.14
Bees	21.50
Gross receipts	<u>\$1,960.40</u>

<i>Expenses</i>	
Poultry	\$ 297.88
Dairy	236.13
Garden	165.76
Field crops	162.79
Swine	48.89
Large fruit	11.63
Small fruit	31.44
Horse	83.84
Bees	23.72
Total expenses	<u>\$1,062.08</u>
Gross receipts	\$1,960.40
Total expenses	<u>1,062.08</u>
Profit	\$ 898.32

His fourth year finds him back at the farm in Haverhill. Now he has four cows, three heifers, and a large beekeeping project. He says he will practice more intensive cultivation this year, and that he will keep a better set of books. He plans to go the Agricultural College in the fall. The father says believes the boy really wants to be a farmer.

(Editor's note; Mr. Eastwood retired in 1966 after 44 years as an instructor at the Aggie.)



Alumni in the Spotlight / Jonathan Hallinan, Class of 2008
Reprinted with permission from the Salem News, September 3rd, 2018



Courtesy photoMembers of a crew of Department of Conservation and Recreation, MassWildlife and municipal firefighters at Lemhi Pass on the Montana-Idaho border last month. Jonathan Hallinan is in the back row, eighth from the left; Conor Clancy is in the back row, fourth from the left, and Ben Jennell is in the back row, sixth from the left.

Hallinan spent a big chunk of his fighting fires in the wilderness, first in Quebec and then, for the past two weeks, in Montana.

Hallinan, 28, of Ipswich, is a firefighter for the state's [Department of Conservation and Recreation \(DCR\)](#) and is also a call firefighter and EMT for the Topsfield Fire Department.

Last month, the state sent 20 DCR, [MassWildlife](#) and municipal firefighters, along with some communications staff, to assist in fighting a 9,500-acre wildfire in the Northern Rockies.

Besides Hallinan, the team included two other North of Boston firefighters, Newburyport firefighter Conor Clancy and West Newbury Assistant Fire Chief Ben Jennell.

"They were pretty happy to get our crew there," said Hallinan, who grew up in Peabody and graduated from Essex Aggie, then joined DCR as a firefighter in 2010.

With a dozen or so large-scale wilderness fires going on around North America this summer, resources were stretched thin.

"All the locations were just tapped out for resources," said Hallinan.

He arrived back home in Ipswich, where he lives with his wife of almost one year, Talia, on Saturday.

Earlier in the summer, he was part of a DCR crew that went to northern and then southwestern Quebec to battle fires there.

Then, last month, he went to Montana, where some 22 separate fires were burning out of control in the Northern Rockies.

His crew's job was to widen existing roads in the wilderness, which served a couple of purposes of enhancing the natural firebreaks that the roads created and making it easier for firefighters to access areas where fires could spread.

By thinning out trees and widening roads, "it serves as a stronger break," said Hallinan. The forest roads are 12 feet across. The crews thinned out trees along the side of the road closer to the fires, creating a 40-foot buffer.

"By thinning that out, it's less intense, and a lot easier to control," said Hallinan. Such tactics are necessary in an area with limited water sources, he explained. "We kept it pretty well buttoned-down," Hallinan said.

If it sounds like a lot of work, that's because it was. The crew's 14- to 16- hour days began at 6 a.m., starting with breakfast and a briefing, then a hike to the fire scenes and which were at altitudes of 8,000 to 9,000 feet above sea level.

"Nobody got altitude sickness and that's pretty rare but the first couple of days are tough, hiking-wise," said Hallinan, who also went to Montana in 2013 as part of a crew. "It's usually a wake-up call for the new guys. It's pretty thin air up here. Usually by the fourth or fifth day, (everyone's) acclimated." "We actually got snow up there," he said. "That was a first for me."



Jonathan Hallinan taking a well-deserved



Jonathan with co-pilot

The trips also give Hallinan a chance to meet other firefighters from all over, as well as local residents. "That's a cool little side feature," he said.

"We live right by the ocean, and a lot of them have never seen the ocean," said Hallinan.

But there were also things he doesn't usually get to see on the North Shore, like the "tons of cattle" he passed on his trips to and from the fire scene.

"We passed a lot of ranch land on this assignment," he said. "It's beautiful out there. Montana is my favorite state to go to as far as the landscape."

Mr. Hallinan is now employed by the Topsfield Fire Department.

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Michael Bonaiuto, Jonathan Hallinan, Captain Conor Brown, Department Chief Jenifer Collins-Brown

(Editor's note; Eddie Whitcomb, Class of 1974 passed away this past September.



Eddie Whitcomb

I personally knew Eddie he was a year ahead of me in school. I can tell you he was one of the most fearless people I have ever met. Eddie was courageous and smart, he served with the 82nd Airborne Rangers and graduated from Salem State College. Eddie worked for the Peabody Police and also was a Firefighter for the City of Peabody for fifteen years.

After his retirement from the Fire Department, Eddie worked for several years with his son Jon Paul, Class of 1998, at Whitcomb Tree Service in Peabody.

My dad always said, if a fireman works just one day a year, he/she has earned their pay.)

Alumni in the Spotlight / Robyn Harris Forse Class of 1990



(Editor's note) This story is written as a diary, keep this in mind as you read it.)

I recently found out I have stage IV Carcinosarcoma endometrial (uterine) cancer 2 weeks ago. (October 2019) I had surgery to remove most of the cancer. I had an amazing Doctor that did a great job removing as much as she could. I'm healing from the surgery and in a few weeks, I'll start chemo and I'll need some radiation to get rid of what couldn't be removed during the surgery. I'm still completely shocked...I'm mad...I'm terrified...I'm sad ...I'm scared. It's like I'm on this wild emotional roller coaster and it's not stopping--it's going full force and I'm just strapped in for the ride. It's difficult not to completely lose my shit over this. Not going to lie, I've come super close a few times ha-ha. Poor Jim. My Doctor said I have a fight ahead of me

Cancer doesn't have a face till it's yours or someone you love. I wish it wasn't my face, but here I am so I am asking you to please keep me in your thoughts and prayers, I could definitely use them. I'm extremely lucky to have the family and friends I do to help me! I need all the help/support I can so I can beat this. I definitely can't do this alone.

With the recent been diagnoses of stage 4 endometrial cancer.... surgery went well to remove a bunch of cancer and I need chemo and radiation for what they couldn't get. This cancer is practically rare for her age as it normally is found in women over 65yrs old. Normal women's health checkups wont detect this cancer so that's why it went undetected for so long. Please keep me in your prayers along cause I am in for a tough ride...good thing I come from a stubborn family that refuses to back down from any battle.

It is now the start of the holidays and I can't believe that I have to start a fundraiser on Facebook. times are hard for everyone. But if you find yourself able to give, I really would appreciate it. If you're not able to give- please just keep me in your thoughts and prayers and if you could share my post, I would be so grateful.

It's terrible the effect that cancer has on your entire family, especially when there is a delay in care just because of no insurance. I have applied but they have 180 days to decide I can't wait that long and then the insurance will not even cover everything I need. Compassionate Care can't be used until I have a denial letter about insurance. So, they have me stuck. I have called all the usual places you would when you have cancer and surprisingly, they can't help. They refer you to another place. That place sends to someone else that sends you to the best person to ask and in the end, I don't qualify for some reason. And the insanity of calling places starts again with another popular cancer site with someone else who may know of something the other place doesn't.

I hate I even have to post this on Facebook but our healthcare system beyond sucks and I need to start chemo treatment asap. Honestly, I'd love to say I'm some Badass that's going to beat this no problem, I'd say maybe I'm more half badass-ish ha-ha. But I do have a total badass family fighting behind me which is what I need! I won't lie. I'm extremely terrified cause I'm stage 4 Carcinosarcoma and the more I know about this type/stage of cancer and the longer the treatment is taking to start the harder it is to deal with.

That said, I am here to STAY, and I will fight this with all I have. It is going to be a very long hard expensive battle that I am definitely ready for -but It's just such a scary place to be right now- I really need a good fighting chance to get the right Doctors and treatment I need right now. I've got a great family support system but it's so expensive to treat cancer that any insurance I hopefully can get still won't cover everything. It's kind of sad that care comes down to what I can afford to save my life.

Thank you to everyone that has already donated and/or shared to help me get treatment! I am so extremely grateful for this. Much love to you all!! Seriously, so very thankful for everyone. I can't do this alone. I have my first appt tomorrow November 22nd to meet my medical oncologist and get a plan in place so I can start treatment. So excited yet absolutely terrified. I got this though.

Had my first oncology appt Friday! Jim, my mom and my son were there. #teamRobyn My treatment plan is set and now we're waiting to see where I'll be having my chemo. Thanks to everyone who has donated and shared. Don't forget to check out the video on Facebook that Mel made eating a very hot pepper when we hit the \$1,000 mark. I appreciate everyone's generosity and well wishes.

My port is in and good god I was awake the whoooooole time. I survived though. Happy Friday I have survived my 1st day after chemo. Feeling a little bit of the side effects but nothing terrible!! I got this!!! I am however counting down the days for a haircut. Dr Iannotti said hair loss at 18 days. We shall see lol.



December 20, 2019

Sadly, its exactly like this. We have the worst health care system. There's been delays in my treatment because of prior authorizations that they don't want to approve. I even had to fight just to get the insurance I have. My chemo was delayed. My port placement was delayed. And they really don't want to cover my meds that cost over \$880 for 3 pills I need every 3 weeks I have already started the pre authorization for my next one in 3 weeks so hopefully its actually ready when I need it keeps me from being violently ill after chemo. I really do need it.

We really need better health care for everyone.

It is June 2nd, 2020 and I'm still in shock. It's amazing. My scan shows NO evidence of active disease!!! If my numbers weren't high still, he would say I was in remission. I've got a referral for radiation, but he thinks I won't need it because there is nothing there for them to do radiation on. I will have to stay on a maintenance chemo because my cancer is super aggressive, and I have a very high chance of a recurrence.



But for now, I BEAT stage IVB rare cancer. I almost can't believe it. I wish to thank everyone that prayed for me and sent all those positive vibes! I still need them. I have about a 95% chance of a recurrence.

I'm so excited and still in shock. With how advanced and aggressive this cancer is, I was never expecting good results just with chemo! Time to celebrate!!! Sucks we are still on lockdown. We will have to celebrate when we can get together with everyone. I miss my kids and grandkids so much. Oh, I almost forgot, update on the hair. I have about an inch of fuzzy hair all over my head and I can see a couple eyebrow hairs. Getting there. I can't wait to have hair again lol.

Yes, that is my fuzzy hair sticking out everywhere and I am getting my eyebrows back and I have short itty-bitty eye lashes, but they are coming back!! Tomorrow I start the process for radiation they scan and mark me where they will radiate me, I believe I start next week

Thank you everyone again for your continued prayers and positive vibes. Even though I still have treatment the worst part of this is hopefully over. My Dr said radiation was easy peasy...that's the same thing the chemo Dr said, and it was definitely not easy peasy lol, but I'll be optimistic, I promise.

I have to say how lucky I am to have the family and friends I have. Everyone has been so supportive in my journey. Sadly, since COVID-19 I haven't seen my kids or grandkids, but they are always there for me. Most importantly I'm thankful for my mom who has taken me all over south Florida for my many



June 12, 2020

Drs appts. She used to sit in with me for every appointment, but COVID-19 has changed that and to my love Jim for taking such good care of me when I've been sick and unlovable. He slept in a little chair for a week when I had surgery, so I wasn't alone. He's amazing and He's always so positive even when I'm not, most importantly he still loves me even bald.

New chemo treatment Avastin number 1 Let's hope for little side effects I would love no nausea even though it hasn't kept me from eating obviously since I've gained 18 pounds ha-ha.

Chemo day! Honestly, I hate chemo day, but it is what it is. My new normal. It's weird because I'm good chemo day by night it all starts, and it lasts over a week. Then I slowly start to feel better and when I finally feel a little normal not so sick anymore more...it's time to start over again. My new normal sucks lol. Anyway, enough feeling sorry for myself

September is National Ovaria and Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month. There's no test for the cancer I have. I have carcinosarcoma. This is a silent killer for women. But I made it to the almost one year mark it is sad to have a cancer that starts recording survivors at a year, sad but true, some women last very little time because like me, it's usually stage 3 or 4 when they finally diagnose it and women don't last long..

Mine was stage 4 because it traveled everywhere. It was the end of September when my biopsy came back high grade critical. Took us a few days and being kicked out of 2 hospitals to get help and have surgery. But Jim was persistent and kept taking me because I was blowing up inside. It was so bad I honestly can't remember everything that happened. To any and all women here in Florida- Dr. Donna Pinelli in Jupiter is amazing she saved my life. She is the only doctor to see me and did my life saving surgery on October 7th, without insurance. Please be your own health advocate I had to fight and waste almost 4 months with the free health clinic I had been going to for 3 years. My gynecologist and primary care doctor said I was normal for my age and I had IBS (irritable bowel syndrome) I've never had IBS. And it's not normal for pain so intense u cry for hours, definitely not normal to eat 1 bite of food and be full and definitely not normal to have all kinds of symptoms for this cancer plus the CA 125 test, which is a test to detect Endometrial Cancer, be extremely high and your doctor tells you're fine go home meditate do yoga or pray but stop thinking I had cancer cause I don't.

That was beginning of September I took all records to a real doctor. After her biopsy I was told I had high grade cancer and I'm critical. This was the Cleveland clinic. They refused to do my life saving surgery because I had no insurance and I couldn't pay \$22,000 down before surgery....no payment plans nothing. I left totally devastated. Jim took me to Saint Lucie Medical Center where they treated my pain and sent us home to Google it...we said what do we Google. They didn't know so Jim took me to Jupiter hospital and they almost made me leave there too. But we showed all the tests and scans that show how bad I was, and they kept me and then admitted me finally and the next day I had a 5-and-a-half-hour surgery to remove as much as she could. I am ever so grateful to Dr Pinelli she still sees me even though my insurance doesn't cover seeing her she promised to see me through this, and she has. I'm so lucky to still be here. My name will be there as a 2-year survivor next year.

So, the Tumor board met and decided my fate. I will have chemo infusion every 3 weeks for the rest of my life because my First scan came back clear already and my numbers are great and I'm pretty healthy otherwise...which the doctor said was remarkable because she only had a couple of her patients be like this with having stage 4 cancer that spread, especially a rare aggressive one like mine. She's saving radiation for a rainy day. It will be a last resort for when it comes back because it will be the roughest time for me and limit my future treatments because I'm so young. I will be closely monitored every 3 months with blood work and scans and if something changes, we will go to immunotherapy or a new chemo cocktail. But she said I'm doing fantastic, so we are at the maintenance stage unless something changes. Because of the type and stage of cancer I have I will never be considered cancer free or in remission. I can never be cured, there will always be a huge chance of it coming back. They can treat me not cure me. I will fight this cancer the rest of my life. Any way we went with the treatment of me for this cancer was a risk. But the board decided this is the best way to proceed for now.

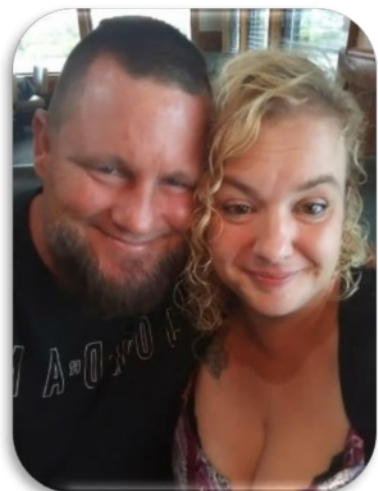
So, my new normal is chemo every 3 weeks for the rest of my life. I can deal with that. It's always little worse the first week and by the middle of the second week I'm starting to feel better and that third week I feel pretty good normal again.... just in time for my next chemo lol. It's a viscous cycle but I'm happy to still be here so I will take it. This chemo won't make me lose hair yay!! My nausea is still not under control we've tried everything, but I'm just learning to live with it. This chemo makes me ridiculously tired. Even like my arms are tired and feel heavy and I'm not doing a thing lol. I get some pretty bad headaches and that stupid neuropathy in my feet and fingers from the first chemo makes them hurt so bad and I'm a little more off balance and got a mad case of the dropsies lol oh and my chemo brain...its ridiculous cause it makes me forget stuff/words I shouldn't but it's also hilariously funny on occasion, but all stuff I can live with. We've replaced all plates and cups with plastic.

I'm hoping I'm a lucky one that this doesn't come back on me. Sadly, it's more like a when than an if but when it does come back, we will be ready to continue the fight!! For now. It's great news for me!!! Finally, my battle will never be over. But at least it's a little easier for now.

Thank you everyone for your love and prayers I still need them. This has been the hardest thing to go through, I have some good days and some amazing days and sadly I have days that I can't eat because everything hurts. Sometimes I cry all day and I don't want to get out of bed knowing it's not over, it never will be but I'm just super happy to still be here and I'll take every day as it is good or bad.

I would especially like to thank my dear better half Jim Leighton, who has not only been with my but saved me by not giving up in my time of need. I love him so much.

(Editor's note; I don't know anyone who has not been devastated by cancer. My dad died of cancer in 2003. I would personally like to thank Robyn for sharing her story. I am sure everyone reading this would as well. It is not everyday that we get to see what it is like to live with such a cruel disease. Robyn has shown us her courage and determination. Dear Robyn may you have many, many good days and years to come.)



Jim Leighton and me.

Alumni in the Spotlight, Joseph Raymond Mizzi, Class of '42

ONE OF MANY LETTERS RECEIVED

Everyday letters and cards are being received here at Essex Aggie from Essex Aggie men who are in the armed forces. It is impossible for us to print them all or to give you a complete list of those who are in the Service. The following is a letter from Ray Mizzi of Salem. Naval Training Station Bainbridge, Md. Dated January 21, 1943

Dear Mr. Cole:

I certainly enjoyed hearing from you and hope to be able to keep in touch with you and others at the Aggies.

It has been a fairly long time since I left school. At the time I had to decide a few problems that I thought were very important. They were; but not as important as the decisions that have to be made by all the millions of American boys today.

My nephew, Robert Mizzi, a former Aggie boy himself, is now in recruit training at the Naval Training Station at Newport, Rhode Island. We were Aggies together and I hope that we can be together again, fighting our enemy.

I often think back to my Aggie days, Mr. Cole, when the boys would get together every afternoon for football practice; when Conway, after limping around all week long, would make more tackles on a Friday afternoon than any other man on the field. It's swell to remember getting together with Bill Hawkes, Ralph Reynolds and Gene Burr for those few minutes before bell each morning and hash over Mr. Gallant's previous days lecture on heredity or Mr. Forman's very interesting talks on dairy husbandry. Or those quiet FFA meetings that would be held in the auditorium. Or the summer I spent on the school farm; milking, driving tractor, pitching hay or clearing land—it was really a wonderful experience.

I have been in the Navy for almost a year now and like it very much. Some boys haven't been as lucky as I, and already have forfeited their lives in our cause. Don Herron, a fellow Salemite and friend, has lost his life. Charles Mackey was killed in the performance of duty to his country. It is very hard to believe these boys are dead, but I know that many other Aggie students and graduates are ready to risk their lives, in order to assure those left at home of a peaceful, yet strong country—the United States of America.

Sea duty is the thing that we all, here in Maryland are looking forward to. A chance to get a "crack at the enemy" is what we want most. I'm sure, Mr. Cole, that you will be able to tell the boys at our fine school that we, in the armed service, are sure of ultimate victory— though the road will not be an easy one—and that even though we risk our lives in battle, it's up to those at home, in school and in the plants, to carry on the American ideas the way we have learned them. Our work will then be made a little less harder.

Would you please say hello to Mr. Mostrom for me; the instructors and students too. I'll try my best to "drop in" on you all, if I do travel in that vicinity soon.

I am happy to say that I do keep in touch with Mr. Abbott and would like to hear from all of you at Essex Aggie. Please remember all the boys in active service during the regular morning prayer.

Sincerely,
Ray Mizzi

ORIGINAL															
<p>CHECK TYPE REQUIRED (See Instructions attached)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FLAT MARBLE MARKER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FLAT GRANITE MARKER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> BRONZE MARKER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER (Please make out and return in duplicate)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p>ENLISTMENT DATE 7 May 1942</p> <p>DISCHARGE DATE 21 July 1944</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p>SERIAL NO. 6065897</p> <p>PENSION NO.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;"> <p>NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) MISSI JOSEPH R</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;"> <p>STATE Mass.</p> <p>RANK PLM 1C</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;"> <p>U. S. REGIMENT, STATE ORGANIZATION, AND DIVISION Third Marines, Third Division</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;"> <p>LOCATION (City and State) Salem, Massachusetts</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;"> <p>NEAREST FREIGHT STATION (City and State) Salem, Massachusetts</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;"> <p>POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE 97 Jackson St. Salem, Mass.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>ENLISTMENT DATE 7 May 1942</p> <p>DISCHARGE DATE 21 July 1944</p>	<p>SERIAL NO. 6065897</p> <p>PENSION NO.</p>	<p>NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) MISSI JOSEPH R</p>		<p>STATE Mass.</p> <p>RANK PLM 1C</p>		<p>U. S. REGIMENT, STATE ORGANIZATION, AND DIVISION Third Marines, Third Division</p>		<p>LOCATION (City and State) Salem, Massachusetts</p>		<p>NEAREST FREIGHT STATION (City and State) Salem, Massachusetts</p>		<p>POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE 97 Jackson St. Salem, Mass.</p>	
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<p>DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) 19 February 1919</p>	<p>DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) 21 July 1944</p>														
<p>NAME OF CEMETERY St. Mary's Cemetery</p>															
<p>SHIP TO (I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT THE STONE FROM THE FREIGHT STATION TO THE CEMETERY) Domenico Mizzi (SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE)</p>															
<p>DO NOT WRITE HERE</p> <p>FOR VERIFICATION MAY 20 1949</p> <p>ORDERED Columbus, Miss. 28 JUL 1949</p> <p>B/L 6299313</p> <p>SHIPPED</p>	<p>I certify this application is submitted for a stone for the unmarked grave of a veteran.</p> <p>I hereby agree to assume all responsibility for the removal of the stone promptly upon arrival at destination, and properly place it at the decedent's grave at my expense.</p> <p>Joseph Mizzi (Joseph Mizzi) 14 May 1949 APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE DATE OF APPLICATION</p> <p>ADDRESS (Street, City, State) 97 Jackson St., Salem, Massachusetts</p>														

The Sad Case of Baby John Richmond

John Richmond was born to Robert and Sarah Morrison Richmond on May 7th, 1859 and passed away on September 2nd, 1859. He was laid to rest just behind where the FFA Farm Stand was built. For older Alumni, the headstone was located in the herdsman's yard. Baby John died from Cholera Infantum. Today cholera infantum is very rare.

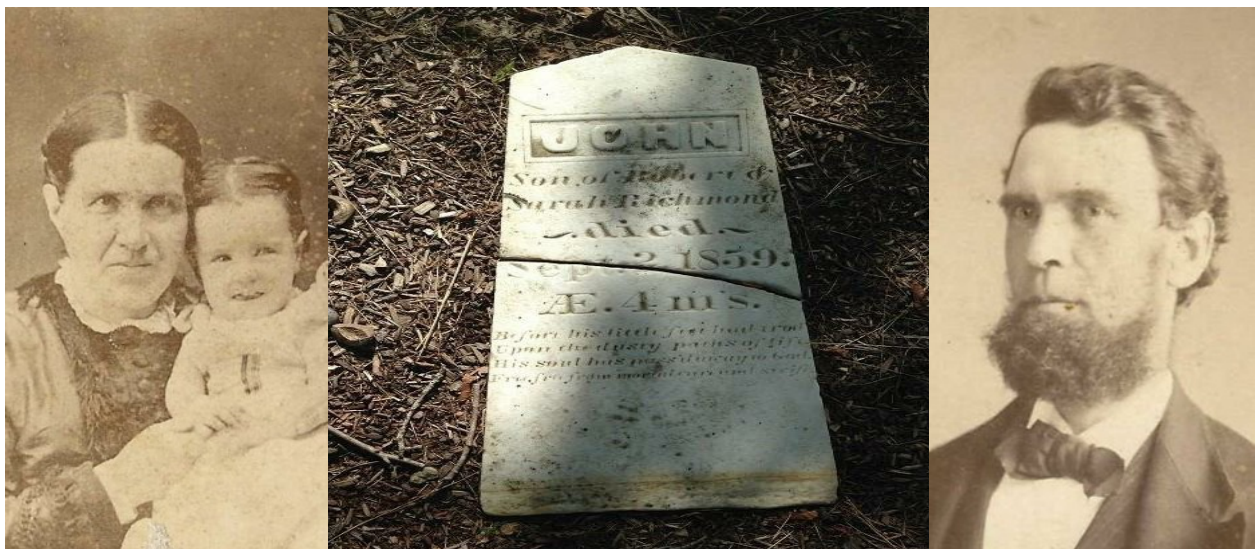
In 1851 Dr. Cummings wrote the following in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal;

“Of all the diseases to which children, and especially infants, are liable, particularly in the summer and the first months of autumn, cholera is by far the most fatal. It has been said that this disease is indigenous to the United States, as it has not been described in many, if any recent work of foreign authors. Even the late work of Dr. West, on the Disease of Children, though excellent in all other respects, contains no history of cholera infantum as it is seen by every practitioner daily, especially in our New England cities. But so extensive and frequent has this disease become among us, as to demand every attention that can be given to it by the profession. It is the scourge of childhood.”

Baby John's parents Robert and Sarah emigrated from Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland in September 1856. They had 9 children in the course of 20 years. One of those children, Sarah born in 1864 became a teacher, but is not the Sarah Richmond that the Holton-Richmond Middle School is named for. John's sister Sarah passed away at the age of 46 in 1911.

(Editor's note; Most of the family is buried at the Holton Cemetery in Danvers. On the family headstone at the Holton Cemetery does list Baby John, I just don't know if his remains were moved on not.)

Below is Sarah with one of her 9 children, the headstone of Baby John and Robert.



School Notes 1934, Esther Usher

The Roadside Stand on the Newburyport Turnpike is operating for the third season under the management of the Essex chapter of the Future Farmers of America. Kenneth White of Salem is the attendant this year and the stand carries graded products, using the Bay State Quality label. The semi-circular hedge set out two years ago by the ornamental division is in excellent condition and sets off the white buildings. The profits of the stand are used to further student activities in the Essex chapter.

An impressive candlelight service and motion pictures of recent activities marked the closing of the 4-H Club Camp in Boxford for the season of 1934. Over 100 4-H club boys and girls from all sections of Essex county participated in the various camp activities during the week and much credit is due Camp Director Shute and his able corps of assistants for completing another season so successfully.

At the candlelight service camp spirits chosen for next year were Esther Usher of Danvers and Proctor Houle of Newbury. Eight other campers were singled out as best representing the four ideals of club work namely, Head, Heart, Health, and Hand.

The school garden furnishes employment for twelve students of the freshman division. These boys are worked in the two-platoon system six boys working a week at the school and the next week at home. The garden is managed by Instructor C. M. Stearns, with Paul Marr as student foreman.

A crew of four students has been regularly employed in the greenhouse and on the flower beds and border gardens. The students have received valuable experience in raising and transplanting seedlings in addition to greenhouse management.



Esther Usher 1938

Esther Usher State Canning Champion

Esther Usher, of Danvers, has brought honor not only to herself but to the Essex County 4-H Club of which she is a member.

Recognized for several years as a young lady talented in canning fruits and vegetables, Esther recently reached a peak when she was awarded the state canning championship in competition with hundreds of other girls.

Six years a 4-H club member, she has recently won distinction not only in canning contests but for her skill in cooking and for her health record. She is rated as one of the healthiest girls in the state.

With money she has earned through her own garden and as a result of her canning and selling ability, Esther is planning to enroll in the four-year course at Simmons College this fall.

(Editor's note) Esther Usher went to Holton High School in Danvers, not the Aggie. She was however very active in the 4-H Club at the Aggie. She did go on to Simmons College and graduated in 1938.

From the Essex County Homemaking School Foods Notebook
A reproduction of the cookbook that was used in the Homemaking
School Foods class

Baked Apple

Select well shaped, firm, red apples. Wash, core and with a sharp knife make a 1/4-inch incision around the largest part of the fruit. Place 1/2 inch apart in a deep baking pan, fill centers with sugar or the following mixture:

1/2 cup seedless raisins
1/4. Tsp. cinnamon
1/2 cup brown sugar

Bake one hour at 300 degrees or until soft. Cool and serve plain or with cream. (Editor's note; I like it with ice cream.)



Brownie Pudding

Sift together flour, baking powder, salt, granulated sugar and 2 tbsp. cocoa, add milk, vanilla and shortening and mix until smooth. Add nut meats. Pour into a greased 8-inch square pan. Mix brown sugar and cocoa and sprinkle over the batter. Pour hot water over entire batter. Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees) for 40 to 45 minutes. This pudding makes its own fudge sauce as it bakes. (Editor's note; I like it with ice cream.)

1 cup enriched flour
1 tsp. vanilla
2 tsp. baking powder
2 tbsp. shortening (melted)
1/2 tsp. salt
3/4 to 1 cup chopped nut meat
3/4 cup granulated sugar
3/4 cup brown sugar
2 tbsp. cocoa
1/4 cup cocoa
1/2 cup milk
1 3/4 cups hot water





Old Friends

*Old friends, old friends,
Sat on their parkbench like bookends
A newspaper blown through the grass
Falls on the round toes
of the high shoes of the old friends*

*Old friends, winter companions, the old men
Lost in their overcoats, waiting for the sun
The sounds of the city sifting through trees
Settles like dust on the shoulders of the old friends*

*Can you imagine us years from today,
Sharing a parkbench quietly
How terribly strange to be seventy*

*Old friends, memory brushes the same years,
Silently sharing the same fears*

Simon and Garfunkel

Aggie Alumni who passed away

Janice Bishop, Post Grad

<https://www.odonnellfuneralservice.com/obituary/Janice-Bishop>

Paul Albert Bleau, Class of 1959

<https://www.itemlive.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf/digital-edition/April-29-2020.pdf>

Annette L. Bongette, Post Grad

<https://ccbfuneral.com/tribute/details/6735/Annette-Bongette/obituary.html>

Charles R. Carter, Class of 1960

https://www.cgfuneralhomegeorgetown.com/obituary/Charles-Carter?fbclid=IwAR27f_sntX8P_L3G45X5JemubjgFvCf96eJ7b5w5el_AKTLI9eeingPPbMg

Steven J. Englehardt, Post Grad

<http://hosting-24072.tributes.com/obituary/read/Steven-J.-Englehardt-108060520>

Amanda Ann Evans, Class of 1999

<https://www.dewhirstfuneral.com/obituary/Amanda-Evans>

Sheila Helen (Boland) (Guard) Facella, Instructor, Post Grad

<https://www.driscollcares.com/obituary/Sheila-BolandGuardFacella>

Eric A. Hartnett, Class of 1978

<https://obituaries.salemnews.com/obituary/eric-hartnett-1079530509>

Joan M. (Richards) Ferrante, Post Grad

<https://wilmingtonapple.com/2020/07/23/obituary-joan-m-richards-ferrante-89/>

Andrew J. Fowler, Post Grad

<https://www.salisburymass.com/forums/>

Lee H. “Peter” Gibney, Class of 1961

<https://obituaries.salemnews.com/obituary/lee-h-peter-gibney-1079466823>

LeRoy “Red” Hutt, Class of 1951

<https://obituaries.journal-times.com/obituary/leroy-hutt-1080376812>

John H. Lakus, Class of 1960

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ledgertranscript/obituary.aspx?n=john-h-lakus&pid=196562595&fhid=3732>

Marilyn Mills, Post Grad

<https://www.itemlive.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf/digital-edition/September-17-2020.pdf>

Frederick B. O’Brien, Class of 1952

<https://obituaries.journal-times.com/obituary/frederick-o-brien-1080986672>

Franklin D. Pabisz, Class of 1977

<https://massachusetts.funeral.com/2020/06/15/peabody-franklin-d-pabisz/>

Lawrence R. Peglow, Class of 1944

<https://obituaries.eagletribune.com/obituary/lawrence-peglow-1079289275>

Frederick E. Proulx, Jr., Class of 1949

<https://obituaries.salemnews.com/obituary/frederick-proulx-jr-1079019002>

Janet M. (Larkin) Rooney, Instructor

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/wickedlocal-heraldcitizen/obituary.aspx?n=janet-m-rooney&pid=196554465&fhid=15036>

Brian Bennett Shaw, Class of 1982

<https://obituaries.salemnews.com/obituary/brian-shaw-1080558611>

Alyson (DeAlmeida) Spence, Class of 2012

<https://obituaries.newburyportnews.com/obituary/alyson-spence-1080376800>

Edwin H. Stiles, Class of 1950

<https://www.localheadlinenews.com/north-reading-transcript-obituary-edwin-h-stiles-89/>

Claire Maxwell (Cadarette) Tatulis, sometime in the 1940s

<https://obituaries.themoreheadnews.com/obituary/claire-tatulis-1079942324>

Guy A. Vittorioso, Post Grad

<https://www.cataudellafh.com/tributes/Guy-Vittorioso>

Eddie Whitcomb, Class of 1974

<https://www.ehovita.com/us/obituaries/ma/peabody/eddie-whitcomb-11503759>



Bookends

*Time it was
And what a time it was, it was
A time of innocence
A time of confidences*

*Long ago it must be
I have a photograph
Preserve your memories
They're all that's left of you*

Simon and Garfunkel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YpK-qrGQrg>

Essex Aggie Alumni Association Membership Registration Form 2021

Membership dues for 2021 will still be \$20.00

Term of membership is Jan 1 to Dec 31

Please fill out the form below

We need your support



Member Name and Address: (Please Print)

Class of _____ High School Division (____) College Division (____) School Staff (____)

First Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

E-Mail _____

Please register my membership for 2021

I am enclosing my check for \$20.00 for 2021 Membership: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the General Fund: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the General Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the Richard M. Brown Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the V. Byron Bennett Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the Ellery Metcalf Scholarship fund: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed for membership & donations: \$ _____

(Essex Aggie Alumni Association is a 501(c) 3 organization and donations are tax deductible)

Your membership is important, and we hope you will send your dues today!

Check should be made out to: Essex Aggie Alumni

**Mail this form to:
Essex Aggie Alumni Association
c/o Charles Main
643 Main Road
Phippsburg, ME 04562**

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☐ Please deliver my newsletters via regular mail at the postal mailing address indicated above.