

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

This is the Edwin O. Smith Foundation's second electronic newsletter. Along with many other organizations, we decided last year to go electronic to save printing and distribution costs. We hope you find the content interesting. We welcome your comments and suggestions about how we might improve.

Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded over \$125,000 for innovative programming through the teacher grant program and \$25,000 in scholarship support. This past year alone, the Foundation raised over \$30,000 collectively from the bi-annual Pantherpalooza event, our annual appeal, and other miscellaneous donations. In May and June we returned nearly this same amount to the school: about \$20,000 to teachers for innovative programs through the Foundation (Teacher) Grants Program and \$6,000 in scholarships to deserving graduating seniors. Included among the scholarship awards is the Edwin O. Smith Award which is now

administered through the Foundation. Additional information about other scholarships and a list of the teacher grant recipients and their projects is included in this newsletter.

We would like to be able to reach most, if not all, E. O. Smith graduates with our newsletters, but at this time we have only about 2,500 alumni e-mail addresses. If you know of anyone who should be receiving the newsletter but is not, please forward his/her name, e-mail address, and graduation year to our new Executive Director Jean Woods (jean.s.woods@gmail.com). We look forward to an exciting new academic year in 2014-15!

Fran Archambault,



Chair

Edwin O. Smith Foundation Board of Directors

## The EDWIN O. SMITH FOUNDATION is thrilled to announce the recipients of TEACHER GRANTS for 2014-15!

Denise ABERCROMBIE and Linda MATHES – EOS Reads Program (visiting scholars and writers)  
 Aaron BURGESS - On-site visiting composer  
 Suzanne DESJARLAIS - Storyteller for World Civ  
 Cheryl GRANGER - VEX robotics equipment  
 Diane HANNON - On-line science programming for high-achieving students  
 Cassie ROWETT - Three weight training vests  
 Armand SACCOMANNO and Shawn SANTASIERE - Breakfast for Bike to School week  
 Sarah SMITH and Shannon CARTIER – Girl-to-Girl Self-Esteem programming.

*The following awards were cost-shared with the E. O. Smith school, thanks to the generous efforts of Superintendent Bruce Silva:*

Cheryl GRANGER - Up-dated clicker system for science  
 Diane HANNON - 12 Chrome Books  
 Christine LEE and Heidi ZABILANSKY - Kitchen Cart for STAAR  
 Brad MARTIN - 2 Data Projectors for Depot Campus  
 Steve ROBICHAUD - New crew rowing equipment  
 Jon SWANSON - MICE science project



**Left:** E. O. Smith Teachers receiving 2014 award letters. **Right:** VEX robot (awarded to C. Granger, w/C. Briere).

## Who is involved in the Edwin O. Smith Foundation?

Foundation Board members come from the community, and usually have a personal association with the school—whether as alums, parents (past, present or future), and/or community members. If you would be interested in serving, please contact Fran Archambault (francis.archambault@uconn.edu), the current chair.

### EDWIN O. SMITH FOUNDATION BOARD

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## With your help, the Foundation is on its way to \$1 million!

In 2006, the Foundation established an endowment to provide continuing support for students, programs and staff. Through gifts and investment returns, the endowment is on its way to reaching our \$1,000,000 goal. In addition, through fund-raising events and

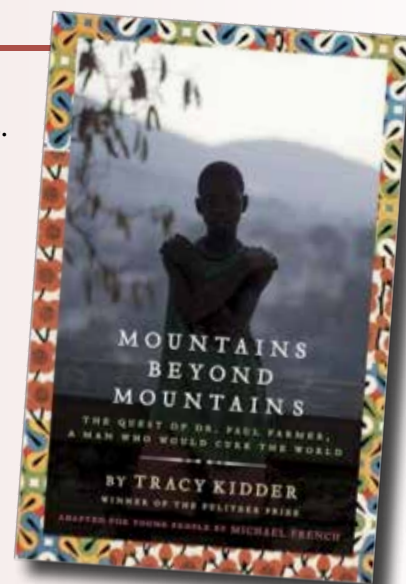
our annual drive, we have been able to distribute over \$150,000 to support teacher projects and student scholarships.



## E.O. Smith Reads

This summer's book selection, Tracy Kidder's *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, is part of E. O. Smith Reads, a school-wide initiative modeled after UConn Reads. In September, students will have a summer reading activity/assessment on *Mountains Beyond Mountains* in their respective 9-12 English classes, with ongoing conversations about the book and related topics in other courses. The goal is to promote college readiness through reading across the disciplines and interdepartmental collaboration, over a common book. With a generous grant from the Edwin O. Smith Foundation, the English Department will host a range of writers, scholars, performers, artists, and scientists whose work relates to *Mountains Beyond Mountains*.

*Tracy Kidder, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, is a "master of the non-fiction narrative." Mountains Beyond Mountains shows "how one person [Dr. Paul Farmer] can make a difference, as Kidder tells the true story of a gifted man who is in love with the world and has set out to do all he can to cure it...At the heart of this book is the example of a life based on hope and on an understanding of the truth of the Haitian proverb "Beyond mountains there are mountains, as you solve one problem, another problem presents itself, and so you go on and try to solve that one too."*



## E. O. Smith Alumni News

**Class of 1961** • *Michael Schwarting* attended Cornell University and studied Architecture and Urban Design in graduate school. He received a Rome Prize and studied for 2 years at the American Academy in Rome. He works with Campani and Schwarting Architects in Port Jefferson, NY. Michael has taught architecture for 40 years and is presently a professor at New York Inst. of Technology in NYC. • **Class of 1976** • *Richard Ivry*, and his wife, Ann Lacey, have been living in the San Francisco bay area since 1991. He is enjoying all the pleasures of northern California life. His two kids, Henry and Sam, have flown the coop but come by for regular visits. He has not been back to Storrs for a few years, but is always open for excuses to get a dose of New England fall foliage. Contact him at [ivry@berkeley.edu](mailto:ivry@berkeley.edu). • **Class of 1980** •

*John Trapp* retired from the U.S. Air Force after 26 years of service, at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He is presently the Sales Manager of Key Accounts at Ward Leonard Electric in Thomaston, CT. • **Class of 1987** • *Elise Orringer* recently celebrated her 20th year as a librarian at the Boston Public Library. For the last 2.5 years, she has been working as an Adult Generalist at a small, urban branch, where there is a large Cape Verdean and Hispanic population. Elise reports that it has been a fun challenge to schedule cultural and informational events. She is looking forward to touring Portugal this fall; every year she tries to visit a different city or country for fun. • **Class of 1988** • *Kelley Kubasek Donaby* has worked for Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield for 13 years; she was recently promoted to unit supervisor. Her



daughter Haillee graduated from high school in June. Thomas Woodring entered the US Air Force in 1995, and will be celebrating 20 years of service in January of 2015. • **Class of 1990** • *Brett and Hannah Clifton* are the proud parents of Rhys Dawson Clifton, born in August 2012. Brett teaches AP U.S.

Government and courses in history at a regional public high school in Massachusetts. • **Class of 2001** • *David Hauslaib* lives in

LA with his fiancé Rade Radakovich and their dog Nigel Barker, a White German Shepherd. Together, they own and operate Greystone Relocation Concierge, a high-end home relocation firm. They were engaged in May. • **Class of 2006** • *Dipayan Ghosh* is presently working at the White House as a policy advisor after having interned there. UConn and Cornell published stories about it while he was still an intern; he has provided links to the articles. He completed his PhD in electrical engineering at Cornell in 2013.

<http://www.ee.uconn.edu/blog/dipayan-ghosh-from-storrs-to-the-white-house.html>

[http://www.engineering.cornell.edu/engineering2/news/index.cfm?news\\_id=65212](http://www.engineering.cornell.edu/engineering2/news/index.cfm?news_id=65212)



**Class of 2008** • *Jessalyn Salisbury* is presently teaching math intervention in grades 5-8 in Ashford. She is also attending Saint Joseph's University working toward her graduate degree in Curriculum and Instruction. • **Class of 2011** • *Emily Briere*, a rising Senior at Duke University, was selected for the Robert H. Goddard Memorial keynote speech at the National Space Club and spoke to reporters at the National Press Club (DC) about her student-led crowd-funded "Time capsule to Mars." This effort will upload digital photos/text from people around the globe to a Cube-sat to be launched and landed on Mars.

<http://www.timecapsuletomars.com/>

TIME CAPSULE  
TO  
MARS

## Message from the Principal, Lou DeLoreto

Greetings to all Members of the E.O. Smith Family! The start of a new school year is an exciting time for us. Summer is fun—but having all of that energy, enthusiasm and potential walk through the door again is what makes working at E.O. Smith so incredibly gratifying. We look forward to unveiling some new initiatives this year that will add to existing academic and co-curricular programs. It seems every year the list of learning opportunities for our students and their families grows longer, and we work hard to keep this trend moving in the right direction. The September issue of **Connections** (monthly Guidance Department newsletter) offers information about the new dual enrollment courses we offer, including UCONN, MCC and ECSU. This expansion of the dual enrollment program reflects the healthy relationships we have formed with our surrounding colleges and universities. Please check out the newsletter to see just how many courses are available for students interested in earning college credit, as well as other thought provoking issues surrounding education today!



### *Message from Lou DeLoreto, Cont.*

In other news, lights have been installed on the outdoor athletic facility, and we anticipate hosting a variety of contests, performances and community events at this wonderful facility. Funding for the athletic field lights came through a state grant, and the hard work of our superintendent Bruce Silva. We are now able to make full use of this multi- purpose facility. The Storrs-Downtown project has been welcome addition to the E.O. Smith experience. Providing access to a variety of establishments, the center will soon be a venue for new Learning Through Internship programs (previously reserved for Depot and STAAR students, but now more accessible for students at the main campus). We

look forward to establishing more partnerships with our neighbors across the street, and welcome them to our community. Finally, the E.O. Smith website ([www.eosmith.org](http://www.eosmith.org)) has been updated to make it more user friendly and informative. Also, we are reaching out to our students and alumni through our twitter feed. To receive updates on game scores, performances and a host of other activities, follow us @EOSmithHS.



## Departmental Success Stories! E. O. Smith 2013 - 14

### Athletics

E. O. Smith Athletics enjoyed great success in the Central Connecticut Conference and CIAC state competition. Championship Teams in Central Connecticut Conference East Division include: Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, Boys' Cross Country, and Girls' Outdoor Track and Wrestling. • E. O.'s Ice Hockey team - E. O. Smith-Tolland Bucks - advanced to the CIAC Division III final, finishing the season as state runner-up. • E. O. Smith was named CCC East Division Sportsmanship recipient for the Fall, Winter and Spring seasons. E. O. Smith was also awarded the overall Sportsmanship honor for the entire conference (32 schools) for the 2013-14 school year. • Siobhan Dale (EOS Junior) was the CIAC Class L and Open champion at the state meet in Girls' Swimming. • Holly Worski (EOS Senior) scored 1,005 points (career) for the Girls' Basketball program. • Karina Larson (EOS Senior) finished second in the CIAC Girls' Golf tournament. Karina competes with the Boys' team during the regular season. • Boys' Soccer coach, John Blomstrann, was inducted into the CT High School Coaches Hall of Fame. • Boys' Basketball coach, Ron Pires, won his 500th career game at E. O. Smith.

### English Department

Over 130 E. O. Smith students, along with thousands of students from around CT, participated in the 9th Annual CT Poetry Out Loud. This national contest encourages high school students to learn about poetry through memorization/recitation. Students

practice public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary heritage (see [PoetryFoundation.org](http://PoetryFoundation.org)). Liam McLean (E. O. Smith senior) placed among the top 5 CT finalists in the Recitation Contest at CCSU, competing with 31 CT high school champions. • Rachel Horowitz-Benoit (EOS Freshman) won first place in the prose category at the 17th Annual Connecticut Young Writers Awards Ceremony. This competition is the state's longest running literary contest dedicated to encouraging youth literacy and creative expression (300 entries from around CT). Rachel received a cash prize of \$ 500 and will participate in the Yale Writers Conference. • The Leffingwell House Museum of Norwich welcomed Ian Ohlsson (EOS Senior), who entertained visitors with a superb staged reading of "The Ballad of the Frogs at Windham in 1758." • Thanks to Greg and Cam Farlow for inviting our students to participate in historic presentations at the Leffingwell House Museum ([www.leffingwellhousemuseum.com](http://www.leffingwellhousemuseum.com)).

• Doris Jenkins (EOS Junior) was selected as a Sunken Garden FreshVoices Poetry Competition finalist. There were nearly 100 entrants and only 15 finalists. Doris read her poems before judges in Hill-Stead Museum's Makeshift Theater (Farmington, CT). Doris was also selected to attend the prestigious New England Young Writers' Conference at Bread Loaf, in the 30th year of bringing together professional authors and talented student writers at Middlebury College. • Liam McLean (EOS Senior) also won first place in the Early College Experience category of the 51st Annual Wallace Stevens Poetry Program.

### *Departmental Success Stories, Cont.*

Award winning poets were honored and treated to a lively reading by acclaimed poet Paul Muldoon at UConn's Alumni Center. Liam's poem "Magellan's Foil" was showcased in the program. •Regan Rowley, Martha Aborn-Paribello, and Erin Powers-Bigler worked closely with professors Steve Straight and Dave Cauldwell as part of the MCC College Readiness Partnership during the 2013-14 academic year. •Tiffany Smith and Regan Rowley will continue the collaboration this summer, as part of expanding dual enrollment opportunities in the English Department.

#### **English Department Cont.**

•Max Manin, Laura Craig, Tiffany Smith, and Denise Abercrombie attended the National Council of Teachers of English Convention in Boston. •Tiffany Smith presented a workshop on young adult literature at NCTE's ALAN Conference. •Regan Rowley earned certification as UConn Early College Experience instructor and will teach 2 sections of UConn ECE English 1101 this fall. •Marge Fortier received a 2014 Teacher Consultant fellowship to attend the Connecticut Writing Project Summer Institute at UConn. •Pat Baruzzi was selected as "Region 19 Teacher of the Year."

#### **Agricultural Education Department**

The Agricultural Education Department reports that the new Turf Grass Program is going great, with an increase in Agricultural student numbers projected for 2014-15. The Department received \$2,500 for chickens to supply the

"Feeding America" program through the Windham Food Bank. The Department competed in 14 Career Development Events FFA, including Nationals 2013-14 (Ag. Sales, Ag. Marketing, Natural Resources -- All Top 20 Teams), and State (1st Marketing, 2nd Ag. Sales, New England Floral Exposition 1st placing, 3rd Nursery Landscape Design, 4th Floral Design, 3rd Prepared public speaking, 4th Ex-Temp, 3rd Creed, all others top ten).

#### **History Day**

At 4 p.m. June 17, Assistant Principal Karen Paruolo received a text from Jonas Burkhard and Tim Nolan -- "On the ground, landed safely, en route to Jorgensen!" She breathed a sigh of relief. Tim and Jonas, on their return from National "History Day," would not miss high school graduation! At the end of the ceremony they announced their Group Documentary entry - "Neutrality? Bombs, Gold and Swiss Support of the South African Apartheid Regime" - made Finals. They would return to U Maryland the next morning, after attending the Safe Grad Celebration. The trip was well worth it. Tim and Jonas finished eighth in the nation, and were awarded the top senior entry in the state of CT. It was an outstanding result for the two, whose goal was to better their previous year's finish of fourteenth in the nation (entry "A Country Held Hostage: the CIA in Iran in 1953"). Jonas heads to the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, and Tim will attend the University of Connecticut. Jonas was also the recipient of a Foundation scholarship -- the Jack Cohen Science award. Tim plans to mentor future History Day participants at Mansfield Middle school.

## **Student Scholarships, June 2014**

World travel, influential mothers, serious long-term goals, a passion for learning -- these terms describe scholarship winners of the Class of 2014. And they are as unique and individual as one would expect of E. O. Smith students. Each year the Edwin O. Smith Foundation sponsors 6 scholarships -- the most prestigious being the E. O. Smith award, which is given at graduation. Scholarship winners were announced at the Senior Awards Night held at Rome Ballroom (UCONN campus) on May 23. All information was provided by award recipients; missing information reflects the inability to reach some individuals.

•**James Allard Award (2)** -- *Zach Paquin and Madison Picard.*  
 •Zach is a Willington student who found his passion of accounting because of two teachers -- Ms. Rondeau and Ms. Biren -- along with his active participation in DECA. Zach travelled to the DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta this past spring as a finalist in accounting applications.

While at E. O., he helped DECA raise money for soup kitchens and for Sandy Hook, as well as volunteering at the Mansfield Senior Center. Zach will attend Manchester Community College for his A.S. in Accounting, and then transfer to the UCONN School of Business for his bachelor's and CPA. The award will help Zach pay for books and tuition.

•**Herbert J. Segar Award (2)** -- *Luciana Mueller and Justin Vanover.*  
 •Luciana Mueller from Willington has been accepted as an electrical engineering major in the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Honors program at SUNY Stony Brook. She is following her maternal grandfather, who was a professor of history at Stony Brook, as well as various other family members who studied there. She is passionate about her academics -- "I hope to get the most out of my experience in college." Luciana would also like to join an orchestra and play intramural soccer, and eventually hopes to get an internship at the Brookhaven.

### *Student Scholarships, June 2014, Cont.*

National Laboratory. •Justin, an Ashford resident, identifies chemistry as his passion, along with long-boarding and drumming. His experience in chemistry (including Ad Chem) convinced him to pursue chemical engineering at Arizona State University. Justin also found a creative outlet in jewelry making with Ms. Bunnell “who allowed me to push the envelope in my jewelry creations.” He has pursued his love of drumming through his church, where he has played for the past two years. The scholarship “will go towards purchasing textbooks. This will make a huge difference for me... [as] any dollar I save is going to help in the long run.”

**Edwin O. Smith Foundation Scholarships (2)** – *Emily Denis and Rachel Perras*. •Rachel Perras’s passion is working with animals. As a student in the Ag. Ed. Program, she credits Ms. Chotowski as her inspiration who “helped me through everything and never gave up on me.” During her four years at E. O. Rachel volunteered at the Coventry Farmers’ Market grooming dogs for free. She will go to Manchester Community College and then transfer to UCONN for agribusiness. She plans on becoming a business manager in agribusiness, “where I can show my passion for animals and have a successful career out of it.”

**Jack Cohen Science Award** – *Jonas Burkhard* •Jonas is the most internationally focused of the award winners. He was born

in Basel, Switzerland, and moved to the U.S. at age 8. He plans to return to Europe to study at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, where he will pursue a degree in teaching English. His volunteer work with the adult ESL community, as well as Ms. Loughran and her social dedication, have inspired him to work in developing countries, and to “be a global citizen and to pursue [my] passion for learning about different cultures.” He will use the award to help offset expenses associated with studying abroad.

**E. O. Smith Award** – *Vanessa Lusa*. •Vanessa epitomizes all the qualities one admires - from academics to community service to sports participation to leadership. Her drive, determination and commitment to her community go well beyond most of her peers. Despite involvement in sports and volunteer activities, she kept an almost perfect academic record. Everyone seems to recognize her willingness to “go beyond,” and to juggle a myriad of activities. She was particularly active in the Spanish National Honor Society, and spent her junior year abroad in Spain as an international Rotary youth exchange student. Here she was treated as a typical Spanish student, and teachers were not lenient because of the language barrier. This forced her to work hard in order to succeed. This experience, as well as her volunteer time in Foodshare, has given Vanessa a more open and empathetic view of the world. Vanessa will attend Duke University in the fall.

**VFW Award** - *Cayla Sanetrik*.



*Scholarship winners: Left (from L): R. Perras, C. Sanetrik, Z. Paquin, J. Burkhard. Middle: J. Vanover. Right: L. Muelle*



## **E. O. Smith Welcomes Lacrosse**

There is much excitement and anticipation with the dawning of a new era in E. O. Smith sports. A growing group of local boys who have been learning the game during the past five years are now asking to build a lacrosse tradition at E. O. Smith. Pending approval by the Region 19 School Board for a JV team, this spring (2015) will be the inaugural season. They will play a schedule of games against other schools from around the area. Funds are currently being raised to help make E. O. Smith Lacrosse a success this year and beyond.

If you wish to help build a strong foundation for this burgeoning program, please donate to the Edwin O. Smith Foundation with a notation that your contribution is for E. O. Smith Lacrosse.

# PANTHER PALOOZA 2014

The Foundation's fourth "bi-annual" Pantherpalooza took place on Saturday, May 7, 2014 at the North Windham Sports Bar (thanks to the continuing generous donation of space, music, and food by bar owners Nick and Costas Liapes). Over 300 friends of the high school enjoyed sampling hors d'oeuvres prepared by the E. O. culinary classes, dancing to music from many decades, and catching up with former classmates.

One of the most popular activities of the evening was the extensive silent auction (over 125 items) that featured vacation homes, sports memorabilia and a variety of goods and services from local businesses. The enthusiasm of the crowd to bid up many items, along with ticket sales, a raffle, and our sponsors (see the list below), ensured our most successful fundraiser ever. You helped us raise over \$30,000 all of which goes toward teacher grants and student scholarships.



*Co-organizer Matt Raynor with Matt Gidman.*



*Former Executive Director Nancy Silander and new Executive Director Jean Woods.*



*Faculty Suzanne DesJarlais and Kathy Ryan-Gidman.*

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