The Women’s Philanthropy Council continues to have a profound impact on female leaders at Edinboro University through scholarships, mentoring, study-abroad opportunities and research grants. Together, we are empowering and inspiring women to become change agents – both at EU and beyond!

Member Highlight

Dr. Jerra Jenrette

Why support the WPC Scholarship?

Someone asked me recently why I support the Women’s Philanthropy Council Scholarship. The question was easy to answer because it speaks to the heart of many of the problems in today’s society. Women continue to experience discrimination and harassment and are held below the glass ceiling. One day, I believe – thanks to scholarships like this one – some woman will break that glass ceiling, and when that happens hopefully it will remain broken forever. When I was a student, there were NO such scholarships for female students (and faculty), so the individuals who had the desire to create this award should be commended in providing for current and future students and faculty.

As a first-generation college graduate, I support this scholarship because so many women have not been given the same opportunities their male counterparts receive. I support this scholarship because changing the future means we have to work in the present to help open doors for change-makers. Women are change-makers, as so many have demonstrated throughout our long history. I support this scholarship because we might just have a Malala Yousafzai, Grace Murray Hopper, Eleanor Roosevelt, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, or even a female president walking amongst us who just needs that extra bit of money to have the experience of a lifetime.
Student Research Grant Recipients: Jordan Gregor and Halie Lewis

Women in Physics and Experiences that Inspired Them

“Last year, we received a $2,000 grant from you, and we would once again like to thank you for choosing our project to fund. In the time since the grant was awarded, we have made significant progress in our research, and we wanted to provide you with a brief update at this time. Our research project focuses on successful women in physics and the experiences that inspired them.

We spent the summer of 2017 interviewing 51 different women from 32 different institutions. While many of these interviews were conducted via video conference, the grant you provided allowed us to travel to several different universities where we were able to hold on-site interviews. This allowed us to visit universities such as Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland and University of Pennsylvania. It was a very good experience for us, as we were able to see other physics departments and interact with the women participating in our project.

The data collection portion of our research wrapped up in August 2017, and we are now reviewing the video from each of the 51 interviews in order to compile and complete the written notes we each took during the interviews. Once completed, the data analysis phase will take place.

In the near future, we will be applying to attend the Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics, which takes place in January 2018, as well as the April 2018 meeting for the American Physical Society. Additionally, we are working to identify conferences and publications sponsored by the American Association of Physics Teachers in order to disseminate our results. The conference travel is where we anticipate spending the funding that remains.

We would like to thank you for your support, and we look forward to sharing our findings with you. If you have any questions about our project, please don’t hesitate to contact us.”

Jordan Gregor, Halie Lewis and Dr. Corinne Schaeffer, faculty advisor
Dear Dr. Lloyd,

I am writing in response to a collaborative study between the department of Physics and Technology and the department of Mathematics and Computer Science, at Edinboro University. I recently came across the research study into *Successful Women in Physics and Experiences that Inspired Them* currently being performed by two physics undergraduate students, Halie Lewis and Jordan Gregor, with support from Dr. Schaeffer of the Mathematics and Computer Science department.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that we benefit from diverse groups participating in STEM activities, and that diversity within our organizations will help to preserve the US as a world leader in science. This effort will help to give them a good foundation from which to build their careers as the next generation of physicists. With Dr. Schaeffer’s and your mentorship, I’m sure that they will succeed in publishing their results in a prominent scientific journal. Please also encourage Ms. Lewis and Ms. Gregor to apply for the Department of Energy’s SULI internship program, a valuable experience for students seeking a career in STEM.

I find the design of the research to be sound and the students exceptional. It is good to see Edinboro University supporting this research and its students.

Sincerely,

Christina Swinson, PhD.

Accelerator Physicist & Facility Scientist
Accelerator Test Facility, Brookhaven National Lab.
WPC Leadership Award recipients

Eight Jewelry/Metalsmithing majors participate in symposium in North Carolina

Co-Presidents: Courtney Powell and Alyssa Rodibaugh

Metals Club Faculty Advisors: Suzanne Amendolara and Cappy Counard

Our goal as women and students in the metalsmithing field is to expand our knowledge and our craft, preparing us for our future careers. The Jewelry and Metalsmithing program at Edinboro University has many female members striving to expand their technical and conceptual knowledge of the field. Eight female students in the EU Metals Club attended an important conference in the metalsmithing field, the East Carolina University Material Topics Symposium.

By deconstructing the boundaries of traditional processes, perceptions of value and the idea of adornment itself, each of the artists ECU selected to present redefined what it means to be a metalsmith. This invaluable experience enabled us to learn directly from these professionals who are at the top of the metalsmithing field, particularly as many of the speakers are women and metalwork is a historically male profession. The EU Metals Club was also awarded the opportunity to exhibit our work at the symposium in the form of a pop-up exhibition that was shown for the entirety of the conference. We all brought valuable information back with us to share our knowledge with the rest of the art department.
Student Research Grant Winners

• **Elena Tran**, a Biology Pre-Med undergraduate student, received a grant for a research project to grow and observe *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) on Tryptic Soy Agar (TSA) plates that are infused with spices like cinnamon and turmeric and use oxidative gases, such as ozone and peroxide, produced by Radiant Catalytic Ionization (RCI) technology, to eliminate *E. coli* growth on the plates.

• **Marie DeWerff**, a Jewelry/Metalsmithing graduate student, received a grant for a project exploring stone-setting in forged jewelry, including three neckpieces, two earrings and a brooch.

Faculty Research Grant Winner

• **Dr. Mary Paniccia Carden**, chairperson, English and Philosophy Department, received a grant for her manuscript *Women Writers of the Beat Era: Autobiography and Intertextuality*. Her book-length study focuses on women writers associated with the Beat movement of the 1950s-1960s, writers who have been largely ignored in popular and scholarly accounts of the Beats and of the social and literary innovations characteristic of Beat cultures.

Dr. Mary Paniccia Carden

WPC Partners with ATHENA International to Create Leadership Program

This academic year, the WPC teamed up with Athena International to create the Athena Connections College Leadership Program. Edinboro University is one of the first colleges in the country to partner with Athena International on this mentoring and leadership program for women. The first class of 20 students and 10 facilitators began this fall.

Pictured are several of our current students, along with two alumna: Linda Jo Thornberg, '02, president of the Pittsburgh Business Show and vice president of Corporate Communications and PR at Higher Images, Inc. (fourth from left) and Aubry Regan DeMarco, '15 (third from right), community manager for Radius Co-Work in Erie, owner/strategist of Mindfully Social Co. Aubry and Linda Jo co-facilitated session four of the program, "Act Courageously."

From left: Victoria Manzano, Deborah Chapman, Lauren Schroeder, Linda Jo Thornberg '02 (facilitator), Ashley Troutman, Emily Bieber, Aubry Regan DeMarco '15 (facilitator), Taylor Allison and Ulalo Dzekedzeke
A gift to WPC is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

As we continue to celebrate accomplishments of women on our campus, please consider a gift to one of the Edinboro University Women’s Philanthropy Council funds. Your gift will help future female leaders develop their confidence and discover untapped potential through scholarship, research grants and study-abroad opportunities. We hope you will pay it forward today!

In just five years, the Women’s Philanthropy Council (WPC) has made a significant impact on women at Edinboro University! Thanks to you, we have provided scholarships, funded research and enabled travel and study-abroad opportunities for EU students and faculty members.

To date, your gifts have provided:

- 8 scholarships
- 9 study abroad grants
- 8 student research grants
- 4 faculty research grants
- 31 leadership awards

Please visit www.edinboro.edu/donate to make your online donation.

Making a planned gift is simple and doesn’t have to cost you anything today.

1. Bequest: Remember the Women’s Philanthropy Council in your will.
2. IRA: Name the Women’s Philanthropy Council as a beneficiary on your retirement account.
3. Charitable Remainder Trust: Create an income stream for your life while also making a gift to the WPC.

For more information about the Edinboro University Women’s Philanthropy Council and the fund that support student success and leadership, contact Julie Chacona at jchacona@edinboro.edu or (814) 732-1779.