OT Grad Achieves It All

ALISON TETROWSKI is a 2014 graduate of New England Tech’s Master of Science Degree program in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) as well as a 2011 graduate of NEIT’s Associate in Science Degree program in Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Technology. Alison is a remarkable young woman who has also mastered the art of parenting an 18-month old toddler and newborn twins while traveling from El Paso, Texas, to NEIT to complete her MSOT degree this past summer.

When Alison began the MSOT program in October 2012, she was working full-time as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) in Rhode Island. Her husband was about to deploy for the second time to Afghanistan, and they were expecting their first child. Their daughter was born in March, 2013. Alison stopped working in September, anticipating her husband’s return from Afghanistan and their move to his new post in El Paso, Texas.

The question now was whether Alison should complete her MSOT program with these changes in her life. After much thought, she decided to stay in the program even though she would now be living thousands of miles away. She had already completed half of the curriculum. Then, three months after the move, Alison learned they were now expecting twins! Ironically the expected delivery date of the twins coincided with the last quarter of classes. Alison stated, “Time management, finding eligible participants, and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less and prepare eligible participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill, in-demand occupations. New England Tech is the only college in Rhode Island to receive a TAACCCT IV award.

NEIT received its initial $2.5 million TAACCCT Grant in March, 2013, which is slated to train 400 SAMI participants with the skills needed in the shipbuilding/marine and advanced manufacturing industries. The additional funding will enable the college to increase enrollment related to advanced manufacturing, new courses and expanded classroom space, focusing on information technology capability. NEIT has recently completed several significant projects:

- The creation of an information technology workforce training initiative dedicated to meeting the 21st century information technology needs of the region’s employers.
- Accreditation renewal by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.
- Expansion of NEIT’s nursing simulation laboratory making the college New England’s largest and most comprehensive health science education facility.
- Working with the Town of East Greenwich and the State Department of Transportation, NEIT has completed two major transportation projects to assist with traffic flow in the campus area.
- Since 2005, nearly 12,000 students have graduated from NEIT securing employment with more than 4,000 companies, 2,000 of them in Rhode Island.
- New England Tech is proud to begin its 75th year of operation and will mark this milestone with anniversary events throughout the year. President Gouse concluded, “On behalf of our entire college community, I am pleased to announce this commitment to our students, faculty and staff. The first two phases in our campus development will represent a $250 million dollar investment in Rhode Island and our host community, East Greenwich. This economic development investment will place our college at the most advanced levels of workforce training for 21st century employment.”

Second $2.5 Million Grant Awarded To NEIT

NEW ENGLAND TECH received its second $2.5 million Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant from the United States Department of Labor. This funding will be used to expand the welding and advanced manufacturing programs currently being offered to unemployed Rhode Island residents through the college’s Shipbuilding/Marine Advanced Manufacturing Institute (SAMI), located at the college’s Post Road campus.

TAACCCT provides funds to community colleges and other institutions of higher education to expand and improve the ability to deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less and prepare eligible participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill, in-demand occupations. New England Tech is the only college in Rhode Island to receive a TAACCCT IV award.

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NEIT Embarks On $120 Million Expansion Project

NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY continues to grow! Now entering the second phase of its $250,000,000 development program at the East Greenwich campus, President Richard L. Gouse announced plans for expanding academic facilities and programs along with the construction of the college’s first on-campus residence hall.

Phase 2 of the expansion project will include the following improvements:

- More than 300,000 square feet of new facilities.
- A new 400-bed, on-campus residence hall.
- Expanded classroom space, focusing on information technology capability.
- A new student dining area.
- Expanded amenities for students including a fitness center.
- The development of a college ‘green’ open space area.
- Infrastructure upgrades to the college’s 226-acre campus in electrical, water, sewer, drainage, and traffic flow.

President Gouse stated, “This expansion will make New England Tech the region’s largest provider of collegiate level technology-driven training.” In addition, programs will be offered that will include advanced manufacturing, health sciences, architecture, engineering, and video/audio production. NEIT has recently completed several significant projects:

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What made you decide to attend NEIT?

The decision to attend New England Tech to obtain my MSOT stemmed from having graduated from NEIT’s OTA program. I felt that the supportive staff in the OT Department, the hybrid class schedule of the MSOT program, and because I was living in Rhode Island when I began the program, would make it a good fit for me.

How did you choose your program?

As a graduate of New England Tech’s OTA program, I was faced with the decision of where to attend a graduate program. Initially, I chose the OTA program because I had a friend in the program who educated me about OT as a career. I originally dreamed of going to pharmacy school and had worked as a pharmacy tech for 5+ years, but the prospect of attending college full-time for six years plus working full-time didn’t seem logical to me. The healthcare field is ultimately where I wanted to be, and I knew from my previous experience working with children and the one day I received a phone call from a local agency which I had never even applied to. I learned that the agency reached out to NEIT and requested resumes from recent graduates to fill an open position and mine happened to be one of them.

Tell us about your position.

Before we relocated to Texas, I worked as a pediatric COTA in a private school that provides children, suffering with severe and profound disabilities, medical rehabilitation and individualized comprehensive educational programs. I worked with students from 9-15 years of age who had been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Traumatic brain injury, and a variety of genetic and behavioral disorders.

What do you feel ultimately prepared you for your position?

I really think the lab time within the Occupational Therapy program is so beneficial. The lectures are measurable. Not only do students get a wealth of information, but having fieldwork built into the curriculum is important. I feel that the supportive staff in the OT Department, the hybrid class schedule of the MSOT program, and because I was living in Rhode Island when I began the program, would make it a good fit for me.

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Continued from page 1

From left, seated: Terri Sardelli (BS-'08), Regina Roberts (AS-'14), Gordon Briggs BS-'95, Courtney Crane (MSOT-'12), Bob Larrabee (BS-'06). Standing: Tim Daniels (BS-'08), Cheryl Booker (BS-'09), Rick Tobin (BS-'10), Cheryl MacDonald (AS-'13), Lucy Garcia (MSOT-'12), Scott Conley (MSOT-'12), Bethany Pratt (MSOT-'12), Rebecca Renaud (AS-'01), Chris Harrington (AS-'00), Joan Segerson, Director of Development/Alumni Relations. Other Steering Committee members not pictured: Carole Stiles (BS-'94), Michelle Pope (AS-'90), and Kelly Marot (MSOT-'12).

Attention Alumni! Announcing ‘Mission Re-Connect’

AS THE COLLEGE continues to grow and evolve, so does the need for an active Alumni Association to provide a strong conduit for grads to stay “connected” with their alma mater. Thus the birth of “Mission Re-Connect,” an effort to reconnect graduates with one another and with New England Tech.

Over the past several months, Joan Segerson, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, has invited graduates to join in a “conversation” to explore their desires and needs to stay “connected” with their alma mater. Over the span of four conversations with participants sharing their thoughts and perspectives on what their Alumni Association should represent.

“The comments were interesting,” said Segerson. “But, at the core of every conversation there was a strong interest in having a vibrant and active Alumni Association.”

From these conversations, and from a subsequent Alumni social gathering held on August 27th at NEIT, an Alumni Association Steering Committee was formed. The inaugural meeting of the 17 member Committee convened on October 2, 2014. It was clear from the conversations that Alumni are concerned about the community’s knowledge of New England Tech. “As important first step of the Alumni Association is raising community awareness that NEIT is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., our educational excellence and value, and the college’s non-profit status,” said Tim Danielison, (Architectural Building Engineering Technology) grad, class of 2008.

“The lines of communication are open and work has begun, said Segerson, “but it is not too late for other alumni to get involved and bring their ideas to the table.” The Steering Committee will develop a Strategic Plan establishing future goals for the Alumni Association. All alumni interested in getting involved in the evolution of NEIT’s Alumni Association are strongly encouraged to do so. The Steering Committee will meet again on November 1st at 5:30 p.m. at NEIT’s East Greenwich Campus. Contact Joan Segerson at 401-739-5000 ext. 3704 or via email at jsegerson@neit.edu if you would like to assist the Committee with this important work.

2014 Employee Campaign Begins

NEW ENGLAND TECH kicked off its 2014 Employee Campaign on October 22nd. The campaign will run through November 21, 2014; employees can make donations throughout the 2014-2015 fiscal year which runs from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

An Employee Campaign is a vital part of any college or university’s Annual Fund. It’s important for NEIT to show that its employees are committed to the college, its future goals, and the success of its students. Employees have the option of choosing where their donations will be utilized such as the employee scholarship fund, the construction of the college’s new residence hall, or a specific technology program.

While 100% participation is always the goal, the 2013 Employee Campaign achieved a 75% employee participation rate, an extraordinary accomplishment. “In 2015, New England Tech will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary and what better way to commemorate this milestone than by achieving a 75% employee participation rate,” stated Steve Kinchin, Vice President, Corporate Education and Training.

It Must Be Fate!

MASON BROUILLETTE is like many 19 year old young men trying to determine their future careers. He knew he wanted to learn a hands-on occupation but was uncertain which career to pursue. Then, his mother Jane told him about a program she heard about where he could learn the advanced manufacturing skills needed to be a machinist. There was a history of machinists in their family because Mason’s Uncle Steven was working towards his apprenticeship 27 years ago when he was tragically killed in a car accident in 1987. Mason decided to follow in his uncle’s footsteps.

Mason attended the advanced manufacturing orientation at NEIT’s Shipbuilding/Advanced Manufacturing Institute (SAMI), and began classes in July with lead instructor Todd Sposato. Mason was a quick learner, and after several weeks of hands-on classes in the SAMI lab, Mason was ready to continue his training with a local manufacturing company, Colonial Tool, in Coventry, RI. Soon after his training began, the company offered Mason a position.

Mason along with his instructors and family were thrilled.

Machinists use their own set of tools on the job so Mason asked his grandmother if he could use his Uncle Steven’s tools. He gladly turned the toolbox over to Mason which had been stored in his basement for the past 27 years. Mason brought the toolbox to class and explained to me that when Mr. Sposato read through my apprenticeship log book, he realized that he knew Steven back in the 80’s when they were both completing their apprenticeships. As Sposato stated, “Mason and I felt an instant connection.” He told Mason that he bought supplies to comply with their grandfather’s wishes. Steven’s tools were working families.

Mason Brouillette, left, with SAMI lead instructor, Todd Sposato.
More than 58 new international students and their families were welcomed to New England Tech on October 1st. Current NEIT international students Tiffany Samuels, Sherika Parfitt, Ziggy Dawkins, and Antonio Adderley served as peer leaders. Mark Seltzer, Director of International Admissions, along with Catherine Fabrizi, International Student Advisor, and Angela Marzolo, International Admissions Specialist, covered important topics with the students that included immigration, academic policies, transportation and legal issues. Nominated were Victoria Cornell, Interior Design, Freshman Residential Studio and David Nacci, Architectural Building Engineering Technology, Senior High Rise Studio with David receiving the award. His project was Capital Condominium/Hotel Tower located in Providence, RI.

The Grainger Foundation has generously donated $5,000 to NEIT to provide scholarships to students in the Associate in Science Degree program in Refrigeration/Air Conditioning, Heating and Gas Technology. The Architectural Building Engineering Technology program held the “Faculty Awards for Excellence in Design” on September 10. Faculty members nominate students who have excelled in design studio work demonstrating superior creativity, imagination, sensitivity and technical competency. Nominated were Victoria Cornell, Interior Design, Freshman Residential Studio and David Nacci, Architectural Building Engineering Technology, Senior High Rise Studio with David receiving the award. His project was Capital Condominium/Hotel Tower located in Providence, RI.

New England Tech Respiratory Care (RC) students completed a capstone project focusing on advocating for the Medicare Respiratory Therapist Reimbursement Act--HR2619. RC students met with Congressman James Langevin and David Cicilline to present their views on the importance of the HR 2619 Act. Both Congressmen were so impressed with the students’ presentations that they agreed to co-sponsor HR 2619. This capstone project will be submitted as a “Best Practices” model for Respiratory Care advocacy to the American Association of Respiratory Care.

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The Career Services Office held the annual Veterinary Technology Career Fair on September 16. Hospitals and clinics throughout New England attended to present with the Veterinary Technician Pin in recognition of completion of their course of study. The upcoming state competition is scheduled for the Rhode Island FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge hosted by New England Institute of Technology. The competition is well underway. The upcoming state competition is scheduled for November 22, 2014, December 6, 2014, and January 3, 2015, at NEIT’s East Greenwich campus, One New England Tech Blvd., to determine those teams advancing to the finals. NEIT’s Manager of Admissions, Outreach, and Events and the R.J. FIRST® Robotics Tech Challenge Affiliate partner, at 401-739-5000 or evflynn@neit.edu.
New Automation Lab Is Now Open

NEW ENGLAND TECH has collaborated with Rockwell Automation, Inc., Marlborough, MA, in the development of a new automation lab for students enrolled in the college’s Bachelor of Science Degree program in Electrical Engineering Technology. Rockwell Automation’s personnel and New England Tech faculty worked together to procure the equipment needed to create six new work stations. Through hands-on learning, students will acquire the high tech automation and control system skills required to function in a variety of industries.

NEIT also has added the Instron 5982 Advanced Mechanical Testing System to train students in the Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering Technologies. Using this equipment, students can evaluate mechanical properties of materials commonly used in a variety of industries such as automotive, aerospace, and major highway bridge construction.

For more information on the many associate and bachelor degree programs in Engineering Technology, call 800-736-7744, 401-467-7744 or visit www.neit.edu.

Alumni Benefits

All alumni are automatically registered as members of the NEIT Alumni Association. We value our graduates’ ideas regarding events, workshops, and benefits that may be made available to alumni. Please forward your suggestions to Joan Sepehorn, Director of Development and Alumni Relations at jsangepor@neit.edu or call 401-739-5000, ext. 7700.

A valuable benefits available to NEIT alumni is special insurance rates through Liberty Mutual Insurance and AFLAC. Liberty Mutual offers group discount ratios for auto and homeowners policies, condo, and tenant insurance. AFLAC provides supplemental insurance to cover costs of daily living expenses when unable to work due to illness or injury. Both Liberty Mutual and AFLAC are proud partners of the NEIT Alumni Association.

For more information about Liberty Mutual’s insurance programs, call 888-504-9400 or visit www.LibertyMutual.com.

To learn how AFLAC can protect you and your family, call 888-533-3410 or visit the NEIT/AFLAC website at www.aflac.com.

Alumni may also take advantage of savings on their electrical bill through Gulf Electricity. Gulf Electric offers low, fixed rates as well as reliable service to NEIT alumni. For more information, call 800-524-9400 or visit www.libertymutual.com/neitalumni.

For more information about the Alumni Association, please call 800-736-7744 ext. 7700 or visit the NEIT Alumni Association website at www.neit.edu.

On left, Virginia Tavares, Assistant Professor in Automotive Technology, with her classmates are

A Good Deed

JASON HICKS II AND PETER CONROY, 5th quarter students in NEIT’s Automotive Collision Repair Technology program, decided to work together on a community service project for the Cranston Fire Department. Their task was to transform a government surplus Hummer from a camouflage exterior to the traditional red fire apparatus. Jason and Peter had to first determine how they were going to paint something of this size. They used ladders and movable benches to reach the middle parts of the roof and rear hatch. “It was a great learning experience for the students because it was quite different from painting a normal size vehicle,” stated Ray Mann, Assistant Professor in the Automotive Collision Repair program. The students spent many hours of preparation and painting time to accomplish the task. They will receive credits through NEIT’s Feinstein Community Enrichment course.

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED NURSE EDUCATOR VISITS NEW ENGLAND TECH

NEW ENGLAND TECH’s Nursing Department hosted a lecture on September 11, 2014, featuring internationally known nurse educator, Kathie Lasater, Ed.D., RN, ANEF. Dr. Lasater presented her insights on the topic, "Thinking like a Nurse: Bridging the Clinical Judgment Gap" to nurses, nurse educators, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and respiratory therapists, who practice clinical reasoning as it pertains to making bedside patient assessments.

Dr. Lasater has served as both an academic nurse educator and a staff development/quality improvement specialist in practice. She holds a Doctor of Education Degree in Educational Leadership: Post-Secondary Education from the University of Oregon (a Master of Science Degree in Biological Dysfunction from the University of California, San Francisco; and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Oregon Health Science University OHSU School of Nursing.) Currently, she is a professor at OHSU. She is best known for the creation of the evidence-based Lasater Clinical Judgment Rubric, an assessment instrument widely used in simulation as well as clinical settings in academia and practice. She is a frequent presenter and has been published in numerous journals.

For more information on NEIT’s Nursing program or any of its health science programs, contact the Admissions Office at 800-736-7744, 401-467-7744 or visit www.neit.edu.
Meet new people! Learn new things!
Check out the list of student activities...

For information about any of these activities, events, or starting a new club on campus, please contact Melissa Hague, Student Activities Coordinator, at 401-739-5000 extension 3564, by email at mhague@neit.edu, or stop by her office on the East Greenwich Campus at the far end of the Food Court.

Student Clubs
There are many interesting student clubs on campus. Get involved, meet new people, have fun, and have something to add to your resume. Check out the student website at http://students.neit.edu for more information.

Glass Game Rooms
All NEIT students are welcome to use the glass rooms. Consider playing or watching the pin pong and pool tournaments that are held each quarter!

LOCATIONS: Pesc Road Campus: 1T Building, Student Lounge. The game rooms have two pool tables and a ping pong table.

East Greenwich Campus: The game rooms are at the far end of the Food Court seating area and has two pool tables and a ping pong table.

Upcoming Activities
NEIT has reserved the Kent County YMCA basketball gymnasium for the latter listed below, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., for the exclusive use of currently enrolled NEIT students! Students must bring their NEIT student ID and must wear sweaters or t-shirts to participate. The Kent County YMCA is located on ROD Centerville Road in Warwick. NEIT basketball will be held on November 7, 14 and 21, and December 5 and 12.

Game Room Tournaments
All NEIT students are welcome to join in the quarterly pin pong and pool tournaments held in the game rooms on the East Greenwich campus. Sign up by emailing Melissa Hague, Student Activities Coordinator, at mhague@neit.edu or drop in to play. Tournaments are free. Space is limited.

Pin Pong Tournaments - Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Polo Tournaments - Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Chess Sets
...are available for students to use in the Student Lounge. There are an average of 10 sets of chess. What if you have never played, or do not know what the rules are? Are you ready to learn? Check with Melissa Hague to see if you make the right college choices. Experience yourself in a game of chess. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to play!

Student Leadership Opportunities
NEIT students are encouraged to get involved in campus board volunteerism at NEIT events. Students who volunteer at NEIT events will receive a certificate of participation for each event and the opportunity to earn the CE101 credit. Involvement in college events looks great on a resume!

New England Student Orientation, Tech Notes, Quarterly Information Table, Career Fairs, and credit. Involvement in college events looks great on a resume!

National Honor Society and AP credit. Every student is encouraged to participate in a minimum of 20 hours of community service per year, and any hours you complete will count towards your CE101 credit.

£100.00

NEIT students are encouraged to get involved on campus. There were many creative and handmade items donated to the shelter drive conducted by the Student Nurses’ Association. Donations to the shelter drive conducted by the Veterinary Technology Club benefited the Providence Animal Shelter.

£100.00

The “Dunk NEIT Faculty and/or Staff” fundraiser continued to be a huge success. The proceeds from their dunks will help assist with the expenses to send SkillsUSA members to the SkillsUSA National Competition in Kansas City.

£100.00

The proceeds from the Student Nurses’ Association bake sale will assist in funding additional Nursing Club activities.

£100.00

Donations were made to the food pantry at St. Rita’s Church, Warren, RI, by the Surgical Technology Club with donations from the club’s food drive.

£100.00

New England Tech Golf Club
The New England Tech Golf Club hosted its Annual Student vs. Faculty Golf Tournament on September 19. The tournament began at the Narragansett Country Club in Cranston.

£100.00

Criminal Justice Club
On August 4, a guest speaker from the Central Falls Police Department came to discuss with the students new employment opportunities. On September 3, 15 Criminal Justice students became certified in adult/infant CPR and AED usage. On September 11, Sergeant William Dolan from the Massachusetts State Police came to speak with Criminal Justice students about the experiences he had while serving as a police officer in both his civilian and in a military setting. In particular, he is an investigator with the Bristol County District Attorney’s Office.

£100.00

New England Tech ROTARACT Club
The New England Tech ROTARACT Club has been busy! The club recently held a field trip to The New England Wireless and Steam Museum in East Greenwich, and also volunteered at the Museum’s Annual Steam Show held on October 4. On September 12, the club held a Tie Dye Event at NEIT, which was misty, but lots of fun! The tie dye was planning to donate the Tie Dye events in the spring 2015 quarter. On Wednesday, October 15, Rotaract Club members welcomed new students and their friends. The club also is planning barbeque events and most importantly made new students feel comfortable and very welcome at the college’s International Student Orientation.

£100.00

Surgical Technology Club
On August 25, the Surgical Technology Club had a guest speaker from New England Organ Bank.

£100.00

Student Occupational Therapy Assn.
Staff Sargent Brenda Ferreira spoke at the SOTA meeting on November 5. She was severely injured on March 9, 2010, by a suicide bomber on his base in Afghanistan. She was the only survivor. She shared her story of recovery and how occupational therapy has helped her.

£100.00

New England Health Care Management Technology
The New England Tech Golf Club hosted its Annual Student vs. Faculty Golf Tournament on September 19. The tournament began at the Narragansett Country Club in Cranston.

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