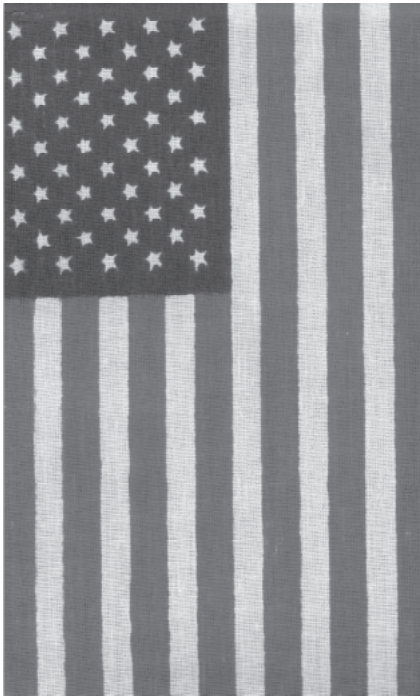


Calling 9-11



On Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, the nation stopped in its tracks and mourned as one. A sense of shock, mixed with fear and anger, was felt around the country. And then, as the days, weeks and months slowly passed by, people began to assess what had occurred, what reaction was called for, and to identify the people who had been affected most by this national tragedy.

In the weeks following the events of that day, Eastern alumni staff and volunteers began to contact EWU alumni who lived and worked in and around the 9-11 scene. One by one, their whereabouts were determined and most assured us that they were safe and well. Some took time to put their thoughts into words.

"All of our people at the Pentagon and the towers are accounted for. No injuries, just some really angry souls."

Captain Viktor Maykowskyj, BA '66
McLean, Virginia



"We're okay. Was not at the Pentagon that morning as I was in the second day of an HR conference at the University of Maryland. Have been going 16-18 hour days since and running the Casualty Operations for Defense Intelligence Agency. We have seven civilians and one Army Reservist who is a fireman in New York, unaccounted for at this time. Vicky was at Ft. Belvoir doing volunteer work, got trapped and didn't make it home for another three hours."

General Frederick Wong (retired), BA'64, MA '73
Falls Church, Virginia



"All OK here; my office is about five miles from the Pentagon, but I could see the smoke from my office window. I drove by the Pentagon on my way home Tuesday night; there is indeed a large hole in the west wall but not to the extent originally reported in the media. Reaffirmed my opinion of steel-reinforced concrete and the media."

Jeffrey Sinclair, BA '67
Falls Church, Virginia



"When a woman named Terry called from the alumni office, I was working at Ground Zero. I am a Red Cross disaster services volunteer and I have recently returned home to New Jersey after almost three weeks of volunteer work. In my "regular" day job, I don't work in New York, but many of my friends and relatives do (my undergraduate degree is from New York University, located on 4th Street in Manhattan). Miraculously, though I lost some acquaintances, everyone in my immediate circle of friends and family escaped – one by less than a block. Mostly what I did at Ground Zero was emotional support. On the surface, the Red Cross is there to distribute coffee, food, beverages and clothing to FDNY, NYPD, and other rescue workers; and financial, psychological and medical support to victims whose homes or families were affected. On a more fundamental level, what we're there for is simply being there. When people ask me what I did at ground zero for 12 to 15 hours each day, I usually answer, "Hold up firemen. Hug cops. Cry with them, pray with them, try to get them laughing about something." Being five-foot-two and having blond braids sticking out from under my hard hat was often enough to at least get a smile. I did ultimately get a letter from the president of NYU addressing this incident; I understand

that NYU has an alumni base of some several thousand graduates per year, as opposed to Eastern's smaller alumni base — but still I was very deeply touched by the fact that an institution three thousand miles away cared enough to phone me within six days, just to make sure I was okay. The NYU letter offered words of hope and community, but nobody asked me to contact them to let them know I'd made it out alive. I thank you for that. From a city that still feels violated and wounded, and probably will for a long time to come, that makes more difference than I can express."

Sara Jane Monahan, '96 MFA,
Creative Writing
Princeton, New Jersey



"Just six days almost to the hour, my father (retired EWU professor), my step son, brother-in-law and myself were sitting in a car right at the base of Tower One. We looked out the windows, up, in awe at the sight of the buildings. I'm sure my brother-in-law is still in disbelief that he was so close. This was his first trip to the east coast. My father hadn't been to the city in 30 years."

Richard L. Martin, BA '78
Cicero, New York



"A lady from your office called this evening to express her and your office's concern for us EWU alums here in New York. I appreciated her call very much. I wanted to get her name and to speak longer, but I started to get choked up. Very sorry about that. [I live in] Greenfield Center, New York — that's 35 miles north of Albany. I work in Albany and work with all counties and cities in the state. I had personal contacts and friends in the WTC. May we all be able to support the fight to disable terrorist groups."

John L. (Jay) Holcomb, MEd, '71
Greenfield Center, New York



"If I were needed I would serve again. I love my country and my freedom. I trust my president and the leaders of my country to do what needs to be done in whatever time it takes. God Bless America."

John Ralff, 1941, Fresno

