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EWU Board of Trustees – Student Members

In the late 1990s, the Washington Legislature gave the governor authority to appoint a student to the governing boards of the state's public colleges and universities. Katie Moffitt of Pasco is the current student member of the EWU Board of Trustees. There have been six before her. Here's an update:



Aaron Gutierrez

1998-99

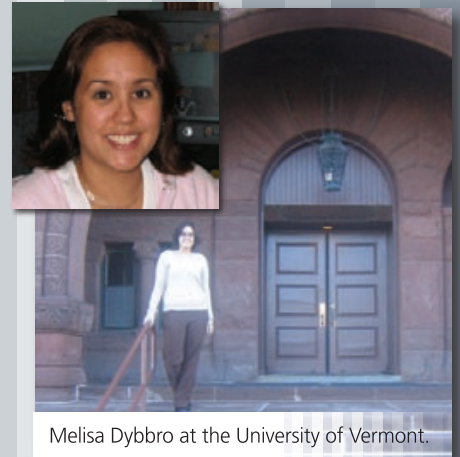
Aaron Gutierrez of Bothell, B.A. philosophy 1999 and M.P.A. 2002. He is a student at the University of Oregon School of Law in Eugene, Oregon, with a goal of becoming a civil and human rights attorney.

"Right around the time I became a trustee, EWU President Dr. Jordan invited me into his office and said, 'Do you realize you outrank me?' I said, 'I know that, but I'm still having trouble coming to grips with it.' He looked me right in the eye and said, 'Well, get over it, because people are counting on you.' I knew right then it was time to put up or shut up. I think of that day every time I feel overwhelmed – which I can assure you has happened several times since starting law school."

1999-00

Melisa Dybbro of Bremerton, B.A. interdisciplinary studies 2000 (M.A. higher education administration, State University of New York-Buffalo). Since 2002, she has been an assistant director for Student Life at the University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt.

"I recall Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich (EWU vice president for Student Affairs at the time, now Eastern's provost) calling me while I was at my student job in Eastern's Foundation Office to congratulate me on being accepted into the graduate program at his alma mater. Students usually get a phone call from a faculty member in the graduate program, but I was fortunate enough to hear it first from my mentor at Eastern. The genuine care that EWU administrators had for my success was exceptional."



Melisa Dybbro at the University of Vermont.



Kelly Behne at the Galapagos Islands.

2000-01

Kelly Behne of Coulee City, B.A. outdoor recreation 2001, now living in Skykomish, Wash. In the winter, she is a professional ski patroller at Stevens Pass; in the summer, she is rock climbing director/trip leader for the Boy Scouts of America, traveling to various locations in the country.

"As a student trustee, I had the opportunity to see a different perspective of the inner workings at Eastern. This has enabled me to look at each organization I work for from a broader view, which makes me a more valuable employee, I believe. Now, as I begin to work out some of my own business plans, I have found the knowledge I gained as a trustee even more invaluable."

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Jenna and Patrick Williams in their campus office.

2001-02

Jenna (Tinkle) Williams of Spokane, B.A. English 2002 and M.A. English 2004. She is an adjunct faculty member in the EWU African American Education Program. She was married in a ceremony held on campus to fellow Eastern alumnus Patrick Williams ('98 B.A. education - English, '00 M.A. English), who is a lecturer in the EWU English Department, and they have three sons – Josiah, 8; Zakkai, 16 months; and Hezekiah, 3 months.

"I realized after serving on the Board of Trustees and earning two degrees at Eastern, that I really wanted to stay here, to remain a part of Eastern. I've come to see how the administration, faculty and everyone really care about the students. This is not a business-as-usual place, it's a place that genuinely works to educate students."

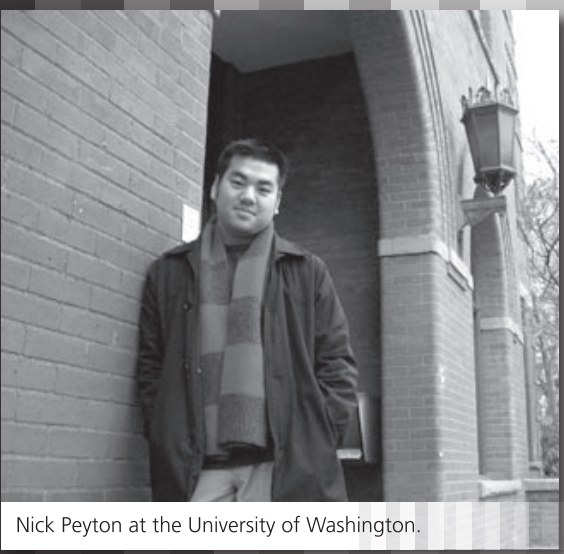
2002-03

Kennet Phillipson of Kent, B.A. government 2003. He is a second-year law student at the University of California Berkeley School of Law, Berkeley, Calif.

"I would not be at this law school right now if it wasn't for my experience on the Board of Trustees. The perspective I gained and the people I met while serving on the Board have opened doors that were previously shut. I think I gained more from the University and the Trustees than I ever could give back. But, hopefully, I will have the opportunity in the future to return to Eastern what it has given me."



Kennet Phillipson



Nick Peyton at the University of Washington.

2003-04

Nicholas Peyton of Richland, B.A. marketing 2004. He is a graduate student at the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington, Seattle.

"I remember the day after our NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament game in Kansas City last March, after the close game with Oklahoma State, when their fans treated ASEWU President Jason Clerget and me to a round of drinks to show their respect to our school. I am proud to be an Eagle and very fortunate to have been able to serve on the Board of Trustees."