Investing in the Future

Eastern Connecticut State University
President’s Annual Report & Annual Report of Donors 2002-2003
MISSION

Eastern Connecticut State University is committed to its mission as a public liberal arts university. As a predominately undergraduate institution, Eastern develops outstanding students for both civic and career success in a highly technological and rapidly changing world.

contents

PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL REPORT

Investing in Students 4
Investing in Faculty 8
Investing in Educational Excellence 9
Investing in Campus Life 16
Investing in Student Athletes 18
Investing in a Contemporary Campus 20
Investing in Technology 22
Investing in the Community 24
As Peter Ustinov has remarked, education is “but a process by which a person begins to learn how to learn.” At Eastern Connecticut State University, our mission as the state’s public liberal arts university is to give our students the tools they need to engage in a lifetime of learning and growing. Even as they expand their knowledge and hone valuable academic, social, and professional skills, our students are making a broader, more enduring investment in their future by learning to be problem solvers, critical thinkers, and engaged citizens.

We encourage our students to ask questions, evaluate alternatives, and test solutions. This spirit of inquiry and exploration is fundamental to meeting the challenges of tomorrow’s world, and it imbues the daily studies of Eastern’s students and faculty. We also encourage our students to participate in community service, for we believe that the first sign of leadership is service to others.

This is the world of Eastern — who are the people who invest in the future of our university and our students?

**Students.** Our students make the ultimate investment because they are committing their lives to becoming productive, responsible members of society.

**Faculty.** Our faculty invest their entire adult lives in pursuit of knowledge and learning in their chosen discipline. Of course, their primary focus is to support student learning, and that process of encouragement and mentoring unfolds daily across our campus.

**Parents and Family.** Most Eastern students receive support in some way from the caring, loving families in which they grew up. This investment by our students’ parents and other loved ones is an act of faith in Eastern that we take very seriously. Our goal is to advance the aspirations of their young adults while strengthening the University and the communities we serve.

**Donors.** Each year we devote a significant portion of this report to recognizing the financial support we receive from alumni and other individuals, families, corporations, and others who recognize the value of investing in Eastern Connecticut State University. We depend upon this private support, and we are humbled by our donors’ generosity.

I hope this report accomplishes its purpose of showing you how our students and faculty are working to expand their knowledge and make their contribution in this complex world. I hope it reaffirms the commitment of our many constituencies to invest in the future of Eastern. And I hope it makes you proud of our University and the people who work and learn here every day.

Read these pages, and enjoy.

David G. Carter
President
Attracting and retaining quality students is a team effort, and almost all of Eastern Connecticut State University’s administrative and academic departments are making contributions toward this common goal. Investing time and effort in enrolling prepared, motivated students increases the likelihood of students’ success at Eastern and in the real world, and is in keeping with Eastern’s liberal arts mission. The University’s commitment to academic excellence in the classroom coupled with a well-defined support system on campus provides our students with the assistance they need to maximize their academic experiences and fulfill their degree requirements.

Admissions
Eastern continues to be the institution of choice for a growing number of students from Connecticut and across the United States. An increase in on-campus recruitment events and individual admission interviews brought more than 9,500 prospective students, parents, guidance counselors, teachers, and guests to campus in the 2002–2003 academic year. In addition, the Admissions staff’s outreach activities included participation in upwards of 200 college fairs in the Northeast and visits to 230 high schools in the region.

More than 4,500 students and parents took part in four Office of Admissions-sponsored recruitment events: the Fall Open House for Prospective Students, with a record 2,400 participants; the Awards Reception for New Students; the Spring Reception for Admitted Students; and the Students of Color Reception. Admissions information sessions and campus tours attracted an additional 2,000 students and parents.

Twenty-nine “Project Awareness” campaigns brought more than 700 underrepresented students to campus for presentations and campus tours.

The Admissions staff also worked closely with Intercollegiate Athletics, the International Student Coordinator, the Office of Alumni Affairs, the Learning Center, the Honors Program, and other staff to identify and attract qualified students.

Fall 2002 applications for full-time admission increased 5 percent over fall 2001; applications for admission from first-time students, 4 percent; and inquiries, 13 percent.

Full-time undergraduate student enrollment grew by 1.59 percent in fall 2002 and 3.04 percent in spring 2003. Eastern’s student body included students from 27 countries, 23 states, and 164 of the 169 towns in Connecticut.

Despite the impact of 9/11 on international student enrollments at colleges and universities across the United States, new full-time, out-of-state, and international student enrollment held steady at Eastern, with 126 incoming students in fall 2002 and spring 2003 — 10 percent of all incoming students.

Recruiting prepared, qualified students also contributed to the University’s retention efforts, resulting in a 4.02 percent growth in full-time returning students in fall 2002.
First-Year Program
The innovative First-Year Program, which supports first-year students’ transition to the University community, recently received a 2003 Connecticut Quality Improvement Award. Established in 1999, the program places a group of incoming freshmen in learning communities of up to 25 students each fall semester. The students take a cluster of courses together and participate in other co-curricular activities with support from faculty mentors. First-Year participants had higher retention rates in fall 2002 (82 percent) than nonparticipating freshmen (75 percent). Seats in the program were increased by 25 percent for the fall 2003 semester.

Best and Brightest
Faculty and staff from the Health and Physical Education Department embraced opportunities and undertook initiatives to recruit and retain talented students into the department. As a result of focused contacts, correspondence, and on-campus visits, HPE faculty helped enroll 34 students of high academic caliber at Eastern Connecticut State University. The average freshman GPA of this population is 3.38, and the retention of students enrolled through this initiative is 88 percent.

Talented Student Recruitment Campaign
The Talented Student Recruitment Campaign worked to increase the number of academically talented students enrolling at Eastern, with a goal of attracting students from diverse backgrounds. Retention of these students is also an important goal. Academically talented students are those with high standardized test scores and admissions ratings in the excellent category. Prospects and applicants were identified and contacted by University personnel. Parents as well as administrators and staff at targeted Connecticut urban and suburban schools were also involved in the process. Guidance personnel in Greenwich, Norwich, Stamford, and New Haven were contacted as well to discuss scholarship opportunities for talented students. As a result, the number of incoming freshmen rated as “10s” in the admission rating system rose from 59 in fall 2002 to 85 in fall 2003.
Investing in Eastern’s Reputation

Current students, staff, and faculty, as well as alumni and community members, embrace Eastern as Connecticut’s public liberal arts university and are proud of the University’s strong reputation. One measure of our academic excellence is *U.S. News and World Report*’s annual ranking of colleges and universities. Eastern’s long-term goal is to become a Tier 2 institution in that ranking. This past year, we took a major step forward by moving from Tier 4 to Tier 3. In its process, *U.S. News* categorized Eastern as “selective” in admission, making Eastern the only CSU institution with this distinction.

Learning Center

The major focus of the Learning Center is to provide academic support to first-time entering college students. This past year, services included more than 4,500 tutoring hours to undergraduates, and to high school and middle school students. The Tutoring Program received national and international certification last year. More than 25,000 professional and paraprofessional counseling and advisement hours were delivered to college and secondary school students.

The Learning Center also promotes access to college in local high schools, with Eastern courses offered to high school students through the Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program (ConnCAP). After taking ConnCAP classes at New London and Willimantic sites, high school graduates have gained admission to Eastern, the University of Connecticut, Central Connecticut State University, the University of New Haven, and Howard University, to name a few.

Eastern students perform in “The Visit,” in the Harry Hope Theatre this past spring. The production was directed by British guest artist Christopher Ettridge.

Academic Advising Center

The Academic Advising Center continues to play a major role in the enrollment, persistence, retention, and educational development of Eastern students. In the past year it provided support services to 122 first-time freshmen and 62 Eastern employees in the University’s Mentor Program. The first Mentor Recognition Ceremony, in spring 2003, honored 102 mentors who have volunteered for the program since its inception in 1992.

The center also continued to improve the Transfer Compact Program with four state community colleges: Asnuntuck, Manchester, Three Rivers, and Quinebaug Valley.

A total of 1,262 new freshmen and transfer students were advised during 2002-2003, and academic intervention services were provided for 120 students in fall 2002. Student outreach services such as Early Warning and Mid-Term Review were expanded, and support services to faculty advisors were improved. The Faculty Committee on Academic Advising was reinstituted in March 2003 to enhance Eastern’s faculty-based advising system by partnering faculty with professional advisors.
“I was surprised by how easy the transition from high school to college was,” said Jhonnatan Ramirez, a first-year student from Norwalk. “I was ready for a tough transition, but Eastern’s freshmen orientation program was great. I met all the people on my floor and got a feel for campus before classes started.”

Ramirez is one of the students that Eastern actively recruited because he fit the profile of a promising scholar.

“I came to Eastern because of its strong psychology program, and also because I was offered a great scholarship,” said Ramirez. “All my classes are good so far.”

He especially enjoys Psychology Professor Wendi Everton’s introductory psychology course. “Professor Everton really makes it a point to get to know each student,” he said. “I sometimes stay after class to speak with her; she encourages students to stop by with questions or just to chat. I feel like I can ask anybody for help. The entire campus just seems very friendly.”

“My roommates are awesome,” continued Ramirez. “They are considerate when we study or sleep. The dorm is beautiful. Classes are fantastic. I am very enthusiastic about my upcoming four years here.”
Eastern faculty were the focus of a number of initiatives this past year designed to help them enhance the teaching environment and learning process.

Center for Educational Excellence
The Center for Educational Excellence provided a comprehensive orientation program for new full-time and part-time faculty, including a two-day orientation, a mentoring program, and a series of workshops and presentations throughout the year. Topics included advising, online learning, service learning, grant writing, diversity, cooperative learning, and other subjects.

The center also launched a Teaching Excellence luncheon seminar series in fall 2002 and followed it with a second offering in spring 2003.

The center also hosted the 8th annual conference of the Connecticut Consortium for Enhanced Learning and Teaching in November 2002.

Support Through Grants
The Grants Office assisted faculty and staff in the development of grant proposals submitted to private foundations, the federal government, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, and the CSU System. This support and the dedication of faculty paid off with almost $740,000 in grants awarded to Eastern during the 2002-03 fiscal year.

A Healthy Mind and Body
For the fourth year, the Health and Physical Education Department offered wellness classes to faculty and staff as part of the University’s commitment to fostering whole-life health; more than 50 members of the Eastern community participated.

English Department faculty member Dr. Marcia McGowan (left) was named ECSU Distinguished Professor for 2003. She is seen here with renowned poet Maya Angelou at the May 2003 Commencement.
Investing in Educational Excellence

To maintain and enhance Eastern Connecticut State University’s reputation as an excellent learning environment requires an ongoing investment in developing new programs and refining direct services to students to meet their changing needs, as well as a commitment to improving support systems and operational efficiencies.

**New Educational Programs**
The University responded to its goal of training students for work in a high-tech society by enhancing existing academic programs (majors and minors), and creating new ones. New programs included the implementation of the MS in secondary education, a BS in business information systems, and a BS in biochemistry. In addition, all three schools — Arts and Sciences, Education/Professional Studies and Graduate Division, and Continuing Education — engaged in collaborative efforts designed to promote faculty and student scholarship and creative activity. These efforts include a new approach to systematic student-learning outcomes, demonstrating the commitment to assessing excellence, and furthering enhancement of the reputation of Eastern as the state’s public liberal arts university.

**J. Eugene Smith Library**
Reflecting the University’s commitment to liberal arts, the library staff invested much time and talent in implementing its information-literacy initiative. The staff worked with faculty to integrate information literacy in all curricula, reaching 3,179 students in 162 classes.

**Bachelor of Social Work Program**
Twenty-five seniors graduated from the newly accredited and highly acclaimed B.S.W. program; 12 have been accepted into graduate school.

**The University Writing Program**
The University Writing Program has become so popular that it recruited a record number of new writing tutors to help provide students with writing experiences in their first year and later, within disciplines across the curriculum. Writing Program staff also continued their efforts toward establishing a University writing center.

**Psychology**
The Department of Psychology completely revised its goals and objectives for student outcomes and the general psychology curriculum. And, students participated in the CSU Psychology Day Conference, the College Youth Leadership Institute, and the Connecticut Latino Leadership Summit.

**Promoting the Study of Language**
Eastern again served as host to the annual conference of the Foreign Language Alliance of Eastern Connecticut, which has 130 members from area public schools. The all-day professional development workshop was offered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), the most prestigious national professional organization for the teaching of world languages.

**Diverse Hiring and Multicultural Programming**
The Office of Equity and Diversity has been unflagging in its proactive approach to facilitating equity and diversity as an integral part of the hiring process and student recruitment. Its efforts included workshops for faculty and staff on diversity, sexual
harassment, workplace violence, and related issues. Additionally, the office collaborated with all academic departments and the Offices of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs on multicultural programming during African-American History Month, Women’s History Month, and Latino Awareness Month. The office also initiated the Women’s Leadership Series and collaborated with the Office of Student Affairs on the Arts and Lecture Series, playing a key role in bringing Harvard scholar Lani Guinier and poet/author Maya Angelou to campus.

Arts and Sciences
All eleven departments in the School of Arts and Sciences have established methodologies to ascertain student outcomes and report a significant increase in the number of students with award-winning research performances at scientific conferences. Curricula also have been updated to enhance the use of technology in instruction and to fit the University’s liberal arts mission. Examples include new courses in English, a new biochemistry major, a new minor in geomorphology, and a revised major in psychology.

Department of Visual Arts
The Department of Visual Arts, which teaches art history, graphic design, painting and drawing, printmaking, and sculpture, had a marvelous year developing outstanding art programs. The Davis Laboratory was upgraded during the winter session, providing students with cutting-edge technology. New equipment purchases received over the summer were in place for the fall to support the painting and drawing programs. The department published the Visual Arts Journal, a newsletter updating students, alumni, faculty and staff, and the community-at-large on department activities and events. Twenty-five students received academic excellence awards; four were listed in Who's Who Among American Students in American Colleges; and fourteen won professional prizes for their artwork.

Student Art Goes Public
As visual arts students flourished, a number of their outstanding artistic contributions were recognized. Student works were hung as banners in the New London downtown district. Eastern’s Design Group worked on a collaborative restoration project in Wethersfield to re-create historic wallpaper for the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum. Students also took part in Windham’s Founders Day Frog Festival by creating a three-dimensional frog fountain, and took part in the Windham Mills Sculpture Project. Billboards created by senior design students were displayed in four locations in Windham. The Visual Arts Department cosponsored the Celebration of
“I’d like to visit every state in the United States, swim in each ocean — maybe just a boat ride in the Arctic — see the Seven Wonders of the World, sky dive, meet a president or pope, and live to see the Phillies win the World Series,” said Colleen Devine ’07, valedictorian of her graduating class at Northeast Bradford High School in Pennsylvania.

Traveling the world and experiencing as many different cultures as possible are just a few of the things on Devine’s mind. Her goals over the next four years include becoming a chiropractor. She wants to help others lead healthy lives, while living and leading a healthy and productive life herself. For Devine, Eastern fits the bill perfectly.

“It will give me great experiences and opportunities,” she said. “Being from a very different area and coming here broadens my views. The Health and Physical Education Department here is excellent, and I want the best education I can get.”

Devine said Neil Williams, her health and physical education professor, is already helping her pursue her dream. “His honesty, helpfulness, pleasantness, and enthusiasm for what he does is why I respect and like him so much. He is the reason I came to Eastern.”
Young Writers and Artists, an event that showcased the artwork of more than 100 high school students from 26 area towns. Student work also was featured in the inaugural Film, Video, and Animation Festival, planned as an annual event. Twenty students went to Cuba as part of the art and sociology course. Others traveled to Ireland and England as part of the art and biology course.

Department of Performing Arts
The most obvious area of growth and development in music was in performance. The hiring of a new director of the University’s choral program reaffirmed Eastern’s local and regional presence. The University’s choral group performed several times at University functions, including a highly successful appearance with the Aardvark Jazz Ensemble from Boston in the fall. In addition, the Eastern Community Band and Classic Brass Band continued to bring students and community members together for a series of concerts.

A performance of “A Dream Play” (fall 2002) offered students an opportunity to share a multimedia interdisciplinary project. “The Vagina Monologues” proved to be a popular success with more than four hundred students, faculty, and community members attending.

Department of History, Political Science, Philosophy, and Geography
Five new faculty members were hired in the Department of History, Political Science, Philosophy, and Geography, broadening the department’s capabilities in non-Western, European, and U.S. history. The department has also reestablished the History Club for students. The Political Science program was accepted as a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. The Political Science Club continued to be active, sponsoring student trips to the United Nations and Washington, D.C., during the year. Political science faculty also worked with the Student Government Association to sponsor a voter-registration drive on campus.

Department of English
The Department of English continued to enhance its program in literature, language, and writing during the 2002-2003 academic year. Modifications to the English major were approved and implemented for fall 2003. The department revived one of its traditions, “Thinking Teas,” which provided for informal faculty discussions of topics of interest such as motivating students and portfolio assessment. The department also hosted a number of readings by well-known poets and authors. English faculty sponsored student presentations at the 2003 Northeast Writing Center Association’s conference. These students received AAUP research grants for their research leading up to the conference. The English Club sponsored a trip to New York City and published Eastern Exposure, its literary journal.

The Department of Earth Science
Student/faculty projects highlighted a very productive year. Research included the hydrogeology of a Connecticut pool; glacial erosion in western
Greenland; and paleoclimatology in the Hartford area. A major project was the examination of sedimentary and geochemical records in nearby Andover. Students also participated in virtual field trips that examined landscapes in Connecticut, Georgia, and Greenland. The department developed a web site that allows educators to learn more about the geology of selected sites online, as well as on CD-ROM.

Math and Computer Science
New students in computer science were greeted with an enhanced computer science curriculum, complete with new state-of-the-art computer equipment. The Math and Computer Science Department instituted five tracks: database, hardware, networking, software engineering, and theoretical computer science.

Department of Education
Eastern’s Department of Education is the only department among Connecticut institutions with teacher-preparation programs to require the demonstration of competencies in educational technology of its preservice education graduates. The department’s master’s degree in educational technology was approved by the Board of Governors, and the first 23 students were enrolled in the 2002 summer session. The Board of Governors also approved a master’s degree in secondary education. Additionally, the department developed a master of science certification program in secondary education.

In fall 2002, the State Department of Higher Education recognized Eastern’s School of Education and Professional Studies review as the best state review in the past eleven years and approved Eastern’s education program for six more years. A visiting team from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) cited the work of Eastern’s Education faculty as exceptional. As of May 2003, the Department of Education had been officially recognized as having completed all nine of the NCATE precondition requirements. Sixteen students were inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, the honor society for education.

In conjunction with science faculty in the School of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Education completed the development of a rigorous integrated science major to encourage more students to enter science education. The Department of Education also worked with the Department of Modern and Classical Languages in the School of Arts and Sciences to develop an undergraduate teacher certification in world languages.

Department of Economics
The Department of Economics had a very successful year. Its students visited the United Nations, the site of the World Trade Center in New York City, and Newport, R.I. Ten students were inducted into Omicron Delta Epsilon, the national honor society for economics. Ten students received student excellence awards, and six were selected to be in Who’s Who Among College Students.

Department of Communication
The Department of Communication began seeking national accreditation through the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The renovation of the television studio, control room, and editing suites brought into being one of the finest broadcast production facilities.
at any New England university. The department created a chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the national communication honor society, and continued efforts to establish a chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Fifteen students were honored at the department’s awards ceremony, and a communication student won the prestigious Henry Barnard Scholar award.

Concurrent with the annual Alumni Weekend celebration, the Department of Communication hosted a Communications Gala, a series of events highlighting student skills from writing to live broadcasting. Included were a student photography exhibit and slide show, multilingual poetry readings, and “Festivideo,” which featured competitive student video productions from Eastern and schools throughout the country.

**Department of Biology**

Biology students received 11 top awards for their outstanding presentations at the Tri-Beta Northeast District Convention, the Eastern Colleges Science Conference, and the Northeast Algal Symposium, where they competed against other students from prestigious public and private colleges and universities. In addition, Eastern granted fifteen competitive scholarships to biology students in support of their research. Eleven new students were inducted into the Tri-Beta Biology Honors Society in spring 2003. The department obtained more than $28,000 in grants.

**Department of Business Administration**

The Department of Business Administration worked with the Office of Admissions to begin building direct relationships with high school guidance counselors to make them aware of the department’s offerings. Forty-five students were inducted into Delta Mu Delta, the national honor society for business. The new Institute of Management Accountants chapter at Eastern inducted twenty-one students.

**School of Continuing Education**

Several new initiatives are under way, including certificate programs in American humanities, environmental policy and management, sustainable energy studies, human resources, bookkeeping, command Spanish, online paraprofessional certificate programs, and an English Language Institute. The school is also expanding enrollment through a new evening and weekend college.

**Showcasing Student Excellence**

Eastern challenges students to achieve their highest potential, and our students respond by investing their time and effort in maximizing their talents. Numerous University events reinforced and acknowledged our students’ commitment to excellence.

More than 200 students participated in the School of Education/Professional Studies and Graduate Division’s third annual Excellence Expo. The Expo, which showcases students’ academic excellence and creativity, featured research projects, presentations, and interactive technology demonstrations across several disciplines. One of the highlights, the All Ears Radio Theatre Program, reached an estimated 5,000 listeners. Connecticut Public Broadcasting executives visited campus to explore the possibility of a joint broadcast of “Old Time Radio,” linking it with National Public Radio.
“At first, I was reluctant to come to Eastern,” said English major Andres Hidalgo ’05. “I thought I would end up transferring before I was a senior. But after a few short months of my freshman year, I had completely changed my mind. I can’t believe how fast the time has flown!”

This past summer Hidalgo received notice that he had been selected as the winner of the 2003 Albert Lepawski Memorial Essay Competition. Hidalgo was awarded $1,000 for his essay “Who Wants to Drive an SUV?”

“Rick Hornung in the Learning Center encouraged me to enter the contest and was a great help editing my essay,” said Hidalgo.

“What I like most about Eastern is its small community feel — the faculty and staff are really supportive. Whenever I need help or advice, there is never a problem finding someone to answer my questions.

“I have also enjoyed working in the Office of University Relations. I’ve gotten a chance to work on different publications, and have even received a byline in a few newspapers. I have learned almost as much there as I have taking classes.”
Events that followed included presentations by Keith Boykin, who worked with the Clinton administration, and by Mrs. Judy Shepard, whose gay son fell victim to a hate crime in Wyoming.

**Arts and Lecture Series**
The Arts and Lecture Series featured such notables as sports columnist Frank Deford, author Maya Angelou, the Aardvark Jazz Orchestra, and Harvard University scholar Lani Guinier.

Diversity Celebrations
Multicultural events marked African-American History Month, Women’s History Month, Latin American Awareness Month, and the annual International Festival. African-American History Month events included presentation of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes members of the campus and local community whose actions have promoted the ideals of Dr. King in the areas of diversity and social equality.

Promoting Social Responsibility
The Office of Student Affairs invested a great deal of time reenergizing the Town-Gown Committee. It began with the development of a strategic plan to develop a campus-community coalition. The coali-
tion, based upon a prevention model, increases the level of communication and understanding between University constituents and local community businesses, agencies, and residents.

**Promoting Health and Safety**
The Office of Student Affairs developed a standardized drug and alcohol policy to bring the University into compliance with federal law. The office worked to prepare the campus community for the implementation of smoke-free residence halls in fall 2003. For example, Health Services was chosen to collaborate on a project funded through the Connecticut Tobacco and Health Trust Fund and organized by the Connecticut Department of Health Services and the American Lung Association.

Housing and Residential Life also sponsored a very successful spring weekend in April that was attended by more than one thousand people.

**Job Fairs**
The Office of Career Services provided students with an automatic connection to businesses and community agencies statewide and nationally through its graduate and career fairs. This year it held its first graduate school fair, with 26 schools represented and more than 250 students in attendance. The office also held two successful career fairs — education and general; upward of 600 students, staff, and faculty attended the fairs. Staff also promoted Eastern and its students to employers at eight off-campus career fairs.

**Akus Gallery**
The Akus Gallery continued to present events and eye-catching art exhibitions reflecting the work of nationally and internationally recognized artists. The gallery also showcased works by students in the annual Student Art Exhibition and faculty in the Visual Arts Faculty Exhibition. Some of the highlights were Siona Benjamin’s *Spicy Girl, Fools’ Progress* by B. Lynch, and a collection of Papuan New Guinean artifacts donated by alumna Gloria Marie Caliendo.

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**Showcasing Faculty and Student Achievement**

Eastern’s faculty and students deserve recognition for their achievements, and the state’s residents deserve to learn more about Eastern’s investment in Connecticut's future. For years Eastern was known as “the best kept secret in Connecticut.” No longer. The word is out. Today Eastern is the talk of the state. The University is known as a quality institution, well established in the liberal arts, rich in diversity, with strong academic credentials and high standards of excellence. This is not an accident. The Office of University Relations continues to promote the image of the University through publications, public relations, and special events support. Well above eight hundred news stories about Eastern appeared in publications in Connecticut and throughout the country during the academic year.

News about Eastern appeared in such diverse publications as the *New York Times, Woman Magazine, Caribbean News, Virginia Review, Tennessee Citizen, Montana Standard, CASE Currents Magazine, Hartford Courant, Chronicle (Willimantic), Norwich Bulletin, Manchester Journal Inquirer, Hartford Inquirer,* and *West Indian American.* Topics covered were Eastern’s increasing enrollment, strategic partnerships, dedication of new facilities, successful alumni, and significant developments, among other things. In addition, more than two dozen students, faculty, and staff were featured on area radio and television programs. Including these interviews, Eastern was mentioned and/or discussed more than 200 times on 18 radio stations and 8 television stations.
Investing in Student Athletes

Conference Championships
The year 2002-03 proved to be another great year for the seventeen varsity sports teams at the University. All of the intercollegiate programs competed successfully in conference play. The women’s basketball team advanced to the championship game of the NCAA Division III championship tournament, losing a heartbreaker by two points to Trinity University of Texas. The men’s track team won the outdoor Little East Conference (LEC)/Alliance Championships.

The men’s lacrosse team won its third LEC title, receiving an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament for the third straight year. The women’s lacrosse team placed second in the ECAC tournament; the women’s softball and soccer teams participated in Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) tournaments; and the men’s baseball team won the LEC Championships and the NCAA Northeast Regional, placing third at the NCAA Division III World Series.

Academic achievements by student athletes continued to be noteworthy. Nine students received outstanding scholar athlete awards, and sixteen received scholar athlete awards. The men’s soccer team received the Faculty Athletic Representative Academic Award for achieving the most improved team GPA.

NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills Program
Services to the student athlete population continued through the efforts of the NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills Program, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, and the Drug and Alcohol Education program, as well as by way of two grants received through the NCAA (the Welfare Initiatives Grant and the STARR Grant).

Recreational Programming
The Intramural and Recreation program completed an exciting year with more than two thousand participants in sixteen different events. Several sports enjoyed their highest participation rates in years. A spring co-ed indoor soccer tournament was a new addition and drew an overwhelmingly positive response.

Other Highlights
Other items of interest include the continued use of athletics facilities by external users; the annual tennis tournament, golf tournament, and raffle sponsored by the E-Club; alumni games and activities for the sports programs; and the 14th Annual President’s Charity Game.
Ashley Gomes '07 is a member of the women's basketball team. Gomes, from Randolph, Massachusetts, came to Eastern with several life goals. "I want to make the most of my college experience, and when it is over I hope to be on the path to a successful career." She also would like to have a successful family life and teach her children all that her parents taught her. When Gomes is older, she wants to be able to look back on her life with a sense of fulfillment.

"Eastern was the one school that I applied to that satisfied my interests both academically and athletically," said Gomes. She selected Sports and Leisure Management for her major because it is interesting and she feels comfortable with it. As an added bonus, Gomes is excited about playing basketball. Many of the other schools that she applied to offered only one of the two important components she wants to make her college experience successful.

"My priority is my studies, but being able to play basketball is a bonus. The faculty support student athletes, but they also emphasize our academics."
Aided by state bonding support, Eastern continues to move forward with its vision to become a model campus for Connecticut. A number of building projects this past year advanced the vision, helping Eastern become a campus of distinction — one that embraces the newest technologies to provide students and educators with tools that will promote and enhance their learning environment and prepare them for leadership roles in the workplace.

Child and Family Development Resource Center
Total funding for the Child and Family Development Resource Center, including planning and design, is just over $12 million. The center will include a $2 million technology system, funded by a federal grant, to ensure state-of-the-art early childhood education. Half of the building will house the family resource center; half will accommodate classrooms, offices, and a distance-learning facility.

Science Building
Construction of the $63 million Science Building is moving forward. This state-of-the-art facility will be located just south of Webb Hall and will be the first academic LEEDe-certified (Leadership in Energy and Efficient Design) building to be constructed on a Connecticut State University campus. The University’s mathematics and science departments will be housed in this building.

University Center
The first phase of the University Center — Student Center addition and renovation — is in the design stage. The combined project will renovate and enlarge the existing Student Center and Sports Center in two phases. In addition to the construction of 46,000 square feet of new space, plans call for expanding the Sports Center by approximately 85,000 square feet to include an NCAA-regulation 50-meter pool, auxiliary gym, office complex, training room, shower and locker facilities, and space to support the academic programs of the Health and Physical Education Department. The new Student Center design includes a mini-mall, fitness center, performance space, and café. This venue will integrate student activities under one roof, using a one-stop-shopping concept to enhance socialization and interaction among the student body.

Eastern Connecticut State University

Investing in a Contemporary Campus
Residential Halls
The South Residential Village project will add three 250-bed residence halls south of the Library. Phase 1 has started and the contractor team Manafort/Perini has been selected. Utility and site work are under way. Building 1 will open in August 2004; Buildings 2 and 3 are slated to open in August 2005.

Another project involves an ongoing effort to improve the façade and interior of the Low Rise Apartment complex. Significant upgrades, including new doors, new floors in the bathroom areas, new vanities, interior painting, some new carpeting, and landscape improvements, were undertaken during summer 2003.

Fine Arts Center
The program for the Fine Arts Center is complete. Eastern officials anticipate receiving funds for design in July 2004. The facility will include classroom and performance spaces, an art gallery, a 1,100-seat theater that will serve the University and surrounding communities, a 350-seat concert hall, a smaller black-box theater, and visual arts and rehearsal studios.

Public Safety Building
The Public Safety Building brings with it a communications center that will integrate campus monitoring systems — fire alarms, building energy-monitoring systems, security cameras, building card access, and emergency call boxes. The site has been cleared and contract documents are complete.

Parking Garage
The 715-car parking garage on North Campus, one of two planned for the campus, was officially opened on May 5, 2003. It is flanked by new tennis courts and a plaza.

This artist's rendering of the Public Safety Building shows a modern facility that will integrate the University’s electronic safety and security systems.

Eastern’s South Residential Village will include three residence halls that will provide on-campus housing for 750 students, with 250 beds in each building. The first residence hall will be completed in August 2004 and the next two by August 2005.
Investing in Technology

A variety of collaborative projects have been undertaken at Eastern to engage faculty and students in the use of technology in the classroom and the exploration of new scientific fields.

The Institute for Sustainable Energy
The Institute for Sustainable Energy, the first of its kind at a public university in Connecticut, is pursuing its mission to become a regional resource for achieving a sustainable energy future. At the request of the institute, Connecticut Energy Day 2003, which coincided with International Earth Day, was proclaimed by Governor John G. Rowland and observed for the first time on March 21. Packets of information and posters were mailed to 1,300 Connecticut schools.

Online Master of Science Degree
The Department of Education introduced its online master of science in education and continued implementing its master’s degree in secondary education. Students can now take nearly two dozen courses online in pursuit of an undergraduate or graduate degree.

Promoting Web-Based Instruction
Eastern continued infusing teacher education with web-based instruction. The University’s efforts were supported by a U.S. Department of Education grant, in partnership with ThinkQuest, a nonprofit network group of students, teachers, parents, technology, and businesses. Across the University, 25 faculty and 500 students were involved in web-based instruction using WebCT technology. The online English Writing Lab served roughly 5,500 students during the academic year.

Supporting the Use of Instructional Technology
The Center for Educational Excellence (CEE), in cooperation with the Center for Instructional Technology, supported more than fifty activities related to the use of instructional technology. More than 300 faculty and staff attended workshops in online learning and teaching, wireless projection, television production, and other topics.

Online Courses in Business Administration
The Department of Business Administration introduced a new major in business information systems to reflect current cutting-edge business practices. The first students were enrolled in the fall of 2002, exceeding initial enrollment projections. The department also has significantly increased the number of students in both its undergraduate and graduate programs.

Other Technology Advances
The University moved to web registration for students, including scheduling adjustments during the add/drop period. Technology in 4 library labs and 14 multimedia classrooms was upgraded, and 13 portable multimedia systems were deployed. Audio systems in Shafer Auditorium and the library were upgraded.

Russell Smith, a member of Eastern’s Information Technology Services, works with students to construct an antenna for on-campus wireless communication.
“The worst experience I’ve had at Eastern was the first time I saw snow,” said Mayantha Perera ’05, an international student at Eastern. “I grew up in Sri Lanka, a tropical country, and I hate snow with a passion. Cold weather does not agree with me.”

Three years ago, Perera came to Eastern after many people in his home country had told him that it was a good school. “They were attendees of Eastern in the past and recommended it strongly.”

Perera has found it a great place to further his education. At the end of his freshman year, Perera applied for and was awarded a resident assistant position. “I love being an RA,” he said. “I get to meet a lot of people. I love meeting new people, experiencing new things, and gathering information. As an RA, I get to make a difference in people’s lives.”

Perera, a computer science major, would like to become a computer engineer who builds faster computers and hardware. Professor Huan-Yu Tu, who teaches math and computer science, is Perera’s advisor and favorite faculty member. “He is an awesome advisor and gives me great direction. If I get confused in one of his classes, he has no problem staying after to help me. He is willing to do everything he can to help me succeed.”
Investing in the Community

“Community” is not only the people you live and work with but also the people you can reach out and touch. Because Connecticut is relatively small, Eastern Connecticut State University’s “community” represents a significant portion of the state. Eastern supports this larger constituency by making a difference in peoples’ lives; it also enhances the learning of Eastern students by providing a real-life context for the knowledge they are acquiring on campus.

True to its teachers college roots, Eastern in its community service often looks to improve the lives of youth while advancing the professional preparation of future teachers. Other partnerships and initiatives broaden Eastern's sense of community.

Early Childhood
The Early Childhood Education (ECE) faculty has formed an innovative partnership with the United Technologies Corporation and the Hartford Public Schools to carry out a multiyear training and research project that stresses the use of technology in preschools. The ECE faculty has also established professional development sites at the Windham Preschool, the Windham Head Start Program, and Natchaug School.

Teacher Cadets
Giving motivated high school students a head start on their own teaching careers is the goal of the Teacher Cadet program. Eastern Connecticut State University faculty partnered with Hartford Public High School to support the Teacher Cadet program there. Department of Education professors worked with Yvonne Griffin at the high school to offer a three-credit Eastern course – Special Topics for Future Teachers – to high school students interested in being tomorrow's educational leaders.

Summer Institute for Teachers
The Summer Institute for Teachers program, funded by a Connecticut Department of Education grant, once again provided thirty high school students with a multicultural experience and a glimpse of what teaching is like in respect to science, math, and foreign languages during a July residential program at Eastern. In academic year 2002-2003, the program also supported the involvement of Eastern undergraduates as school assistants at Windham High School and in the 4-H Lift Program at Windham Middle School, as a way to encourage students from diverse communities to prepare for college and future teaching positions.

Future Teachers Convention
The 2003 Future Teachers Convention was held at Eastern Connecticut State University on March 27, 2003. It attracted more than 650 Connecticut middle and high school students, their teachers, and community members, who visited the campus to learn of innovative teaching methods and the challenges and rewards in prospect for tomorrow’s teachers.

Online Teaching
High school students throughout Connecticut were treated to the online seminar “Technology in the Classroom” during the spring 2003 semester. The seminar was supported by a grant to Eastern’s Institute for Future Teachers Using Technology, which also funded a weeklong seminar in media

**The Jamaica Connection**

Eastern Connecticut State University faculty and students concentrate their community service within the state, but also find ways to reach out beyond Eastern’s borders, even across oceans. In March 2003, President David Carter and other Eastern faculty and staff visited Montego Bay, Jamaica, to preside at the commencement ceremony of 68 Jamaican teachers who received their bachelor of arts degrees from Eastern in sociology and applied social relations. Their educational program included a summer residency at Eastern’s Willimantic campus, with 55 of the students receiving credit for life experience.

The Eastern partnership with the Jamaican Ministry of Education and the Hanover Education Foundation was established in 1999. Other Jamaican representatives at the ceremonies included the minister of information, the chief education officer, and members of Parliament. Radio personality Barbara Gloudon delivered the commencement address.

**Reaching Out Through Continuing Education**

Eastern’s School of Continuing Education (CE) is a testing ground for new ideas and new ways to serve credit and noncredit students. This past year saw many exciting initiatives launched by CE, in addition to the ongoing successes of previous years. A collaboration with the U.S. Navy College and Three Rivers Community College resulted in a computer science certificate designed for and offered at the Submarine Base in Groton. A new off-campus site in Groton was also established to provide more educational choices for the people of that area. Furnishing contract training to area businesses has been accelerated, with programming established in businesses such as the Mohegan Sun.

**Police Explorer Program**

The Department of Public Safety hosted the first college-level Police Explorer program on the East Coast. The program provided a unique opportunity for students to participate in and learn about law enforcement careers. Nearly 350 youths and adults from thirty police departments across the state participated in the police camp. Participants encountered a broad range of police training methods on what it takes to become a police officer. They also practiced driving police cars and taking biking classes.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal addresses more than 300 high school juniors attending the American Legion Boys State, a weeklong program designed to teach young people about democracy.

**Boys State**

Eastern hosted roughly three hundred high school juniors, as well as state legislators and other officials, for the 62nd American Legion Boys State. This is the sixteenth year the University has sponsored the program. The weeklong program is designed to educate students on how state and municipal governments operate. Participants engage in role-playing in which towns are represented, mayors lobby, and representatives and senators debate and enact legislation.
Small Business Support
Eastern Connecticut State University is home to the acclaimed David T. Chase Free Enterprise Institute. The Chase Institute continues to work closely with the Connecticut Small Business Development Center to support new and expanding small businesses through short courses, seminars, business counseling, and other assistance. Close to two hundred individual clients were aided by this partnership in the past year.

Community Service
Throughout the year students, faculty, staff, and administrators participated in more than three hundred community service projects as volunteers for such activities as the United Way’s Day of Caring, several Red Cross blood drives, safe Halloween parties for local children, the Covenant Soup Kitchen, the Windham AIDS Program, Camp Horizons (for children with disabilities), the Holy Family Home and Shelter, the YMCA, and the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry.

The University community also took part in community fund-raising events such as the March of Dimes WalkAmerica, the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life to aid cancer research, the State Employees Campaign, and the Habitat for Humanity’s Shack-a-thon during which students lived for three days in handmade cardboard structures.

Building Community
The Department of Public Safety continued to host and contribute to activities that promote a sense of community on campus and build connections with the Town of Windham, including the COPS Open Recreation Night, Take Back the Night, self-defense workshops, “Adopt a Cop” (liaisons for residence halls), and the alcohol and drug education task force.

TUNZA Conference
Eastern faculty and administrative staff worked closely with the International Coalition for Children and the Environment (ICCE) to advance the cause of environmental education. In addition to staff representation on the ICCE Board, selected Eastern faculty are responsible for developing workshops and field trips and selecting the workshop presenters at TUNZA, an international youth conference for six hundred schoolchildren from around the world that will be held at Connecticut College in New London in June 2004. The delegates to the conference will be selected on the basis of competitive proposals dealing with issues affecting the environment.