Eastern Connecticut State University had a hallmark year in 2012–13. It was a year of beginnings, accomplishments and milestones.

This past year the University’s 2008–13 Strategic Plan drew to a close. Despite struggling state and national economies for much of the previous five years, 95 percent of our objectives in the plan were met. As the 2008–13 Strategic Plan was completed, the University community engaged in an intensive planning process to create a new plan to usher in our next five years.

By the time the academic school year had ended, the campus had created a new blueprint for its future that focused on five goals: maximizing the value of an Eastern degree; strengthening academic programs; enhancing learning by providing students with additional experiential learning experiences; providing personal and professional development opportunities for all members of the campus community; and increasing public awareness of the University’s unique public liberal arts mission.

Amidst these extensive planning efforts, Eastern students, faculty and other members of the University engaged in a wide range of scholarly activities. The pages of this report highlight examples of new academic programs; student and faculty awards; innovative projects; and institutional recognitions.

We were especially pleased to reach several student-centered milestones—our four-year graduation rate is at an all-time high; we reached $500,000 in scholarship awards to deserving students; and students interested in STEM careers can now take advantage of the statewide Health and Life Sciences initiative of the Board of Regents; Eastern is the only Connecticut State University involved in the project.

Eastern continues to be committed to providing our students with an outstanding public liberal arts education that is grounded in applied learning. To find out more about how we met this commitment in 2012–13, please take a few minutes to review this annual report. Thank you!

Elsa M. Núñez
President
INTRODUCTION

The past year has been highlighted by progress on numerous fronts across Eastern Connecticut State University. The energies of faculty, staff and students have been directed toward new ideas, new programs and services, and new facilities. It has been a time of renewal and a time to look to the future. Students, faculty and staff worked together on and off campus to create a community built on knowledge, research and solving the problems of the world today, while meeting the education demands of the 21st-century. Intellectually engaged by a broad-based interdisciplinary liberal arts curriculum, students also found an increasing number of opportunities to apply their skills in practical settings.
UNIVERSITY RECOGNITIONS
For the third time in four years, Eastern was named to President Obama’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the University’s work in serving local communities through volunteer programs and other activities. The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities. The award program celebrates the transformative power and volunteer spirit that exists within the higher education community. In all, Eastern students, faculty and staff donate 106,000 hours of time annually to local communities, a value of $2.3 million.

For the third year in a row, Eastern was ranked in the top 30 public universities in the North Region in U.S. News and World Report’s 2013 edition of Best Colleges. Eastern was the highest-ranked university among the four Connecticut state universities. Eastern was also in the top 100 regional universities -- both public and private -- in the region. In August, the Princeton Review announced that it also has once again rated Eastern as one of the “Best in the Northeast” in its feature “2013 Best Colleges: Region by Region.”

For the fourth year in a row, Eastern was named by the Chronicle of Higher Education as a “Great College to Work For” in 2012. Only 103 colleges out of 5,800 institutions of higher education in the United States were awarded the honor for specific best practices and policies. Eastern won honors in three categories this past year: “Collaborative Governance”; “Compensation and Benefits”; and “Facilities, Workspaces and Security.” The program is the second largest workplace recognition program in the country, after Fortune Magazine’s “100 Best Companies to Work For” program.

Eastern was also named one of the nation’s most environmentally responsible colleges in the United States and Canada, according to The Princeton Review and the U.S. Green Building Council. In their profile on Eastern, they highlight Eastern’s Climate Action Plan, detailing its commitment to achieving a zero carbon footprint by 2050, and cite the University’s effort to create a campus-wide culture of sustainability through green operational initiatives; green-minded education for first-year students; and its Environmental Earth Science and Sustainability Energy Studies majors. This is the third year in a row that Eastern has received the designation.

The University was also one of only seven colleges and universities in the nation selected to participate in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Campus Resilience Pilot Program (CR Pilot). The project is designed to help develop and pilot an emergency preparedness and resilience planning program, facilitated by community engagement, local stakeholders, campus leadership and students. The CR Pilot brought together school officials, students and members of the local community to discuss new, innovative approaches to campus resilience and emergency planning, and build upon Eastern’s existing efforts in this area.
NOTABLE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

McKenzie Hyde ’13 was the sole recipient of the Friends and Alumni of the London School of Economics Scholarship to attend graduate school at this prestigious university in England. Hyde is studying international development with a goal of working in the international NGO (non-governmental organization) and nonprofit community working in developing countries. During her time at Eastern, Hyde interned with Senators Blumenthal and Lieberman, worked in the State of Connecticut’s Attorney General’s Office, volunteered on the rebuilding efforts in Haiti, taught schoolchildren in Ghana, and worked in spring 2013 to help save young women from the sex trafficking trade in India.

Nicholas Denegre, an environmental earth science major, was selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Energy’s science laboratory internship (SULI) program at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington State. Denegre spent the summer of 2013 working on a Rooftop Unit Network Savings Analysis project, where he evaluated the operational efficiency of these units, the energy use, carbon emissions and cost savings from various retrofits.

The international relief and development organization Oxfam America named Nicolle Hill, a junior majoring in communication, as a participant in a year-long program designed to educate students on creating realistic solutions to poverty, hunger and social injustice in the global community. Students in the program commit to engage with Oxfam for an entire academic year beginning with a weeklong advocacy and leadership training program.
Eastern students **Laura Kathryn Hilton '13** and **Suzanne Slater '13** were two of 12 state university students honored at the 25th Annual Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Award Dinner on April 23 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

Slater, an early childhood and psychology major with a 3.97 GPA, was actively involved in community service projects on campus. She was a member of the Big Brother Big Sister Program and the Education Club, for which she volunteered in a kindergarten classroom; and served as chairperson of People Helping People’s Child and Youth Committee, where she planned numerous events and programs, including book drives, a Sports Day and a Pen Pal Program that paired club members with local fourth-grade students to serve as mentors and pen pals.

A biology major and anthropology minor with a 3.86 GPA, Hilton was inducted into Beta Beta Beta, the National Biological Honor Society, and Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society. She was enrolled in the University Honors program, made the Dean’s List every semester, and received numerous awards recognizing her accomplishments as a biology major. She was also a member of the Biology Club, Eastern Outdoors Club, the Marine Ecology Journal Club, 180 Christian Fellowship, People Helping People and the Pre-Med Society.

The winners of the Second Annual Library Research Award for 2013 were announced in May. The award was established to recognize and celebrate exemplary student research projects that demonstrate the ability to locate, evaluate, select and apply information from appropriate library resources. Primary emphasis is placed on the creative and effective use of library resources, services and collections encompassing print, microform and online databases.

**Daniel Kowalsky** won in the freshman/sophomore category for his paper, “The Psychology of Psychics: Why We Believe.” Kowalsky’s work was reviewed and recommended by **Mika Taylor**, assistant professor of English. **Margaret Pallis ’13** won the prize in the junior/senior category for her paper, “Authority Figures in Conversion Narratives.” **Barbara Little Liu**, associate professor of English, recommended Pallis.

Associate Librarian **Janice Wilson** chaired the Library Research Award Committee. Other members included associate librarians **Carolyn Coates, Carol Reichardt and Hope Marie Cook**; Biology Professor **Elizabeth Cowles**; Associate Professor of History **David Frye**; and **Kristalyn Salters-Pedneault**, assistant professor of psychology. **Heidi Roberto**, administrative assistant in the library, provided organization and logistical support for the committee.
Fifteen students and staff from Eastern attended the National Association for Campus Activities conference at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Eastern’s student Campus Activity Board (CAB) coordinators took home honors for several categories including Excellence in Programming, Best Poster, Best Themed Campaign and Best Traditional Promotion for their division.

Participating students included Amy Dillon, Samantha Codding, Sydney Hanlon, Dane Paracuelles, Giancarlos Perez, Keith Sunthorn, Thomas Balestracci, Solinda Keth, Jessica Johnson, Melissa Groccia, Emilee Blais, Samantha Stevens, Lauren Hopper, Kimberly Perna and Alexa Senia.

Students in Professor of Visual Arts June Bisantz’s Graphic Design 2 class, in partnership with the Willimantic Screen Project, the Willimantic Brewing Company, Thread City Development Inc. and the Town of Windham, contributed to a video project titled “Green Lights,” which ran through March. “Green Lights” was a video projection of approximately 40 different interpretations of green light on the façade of the Willimantic Brewing Company.

Participating in the project were students Kara Berglund, Melissa Blazejak, Christina Broccoli, Cory Carabetta, Laura Cardeno, Samantha Cohen, Braden Herrick, Lindsay Hopkins, Lauren Hopper, Solinda Keth, Michael King, Hannah Lewis, Cassandra Marion, Alyssa Reilly and Julie Vega.
A total of 288 students were inducted this spring into Eastern’s chapters of national honor societies, which recognize excellence in academic scholarship and achievement in a variety of majors, including biology, Spanish, political science, sociology, social work, psychology, English, mathematics, marketing, history, physical education, computer science, business information systems, economics, communication and business administration.

Eight Eastern students, all members of the Economics Club, along with Assistant Professor of Economics Behroz Baraghoshi, traveled to San Diego, CA, from Jan. 4-7 to participate in the annual Conference of the American Economic Association (AEA). Students attended sessions of their interest on a wide range of economic topics and ask questions or make comments. Attending the conference were Dean Bonney, Julie Correia, Tony DeLuca, Mackenzie Fannon, Nicole Gaona, Teddy Straub, Stephanie Venuti and Bailey Wilber.
FACULTY/STAFF
ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

On Aug. 9, 2012, more than 4,300 ecologists from around the world were on hand in Portland, OR, when the Ecological Society of America (ESA) honored Carmen Cid, dean of Eastern’s School of Arts and Sciences, at the annual ESA conference. The society presented Cid with its America Diversity Award in appreciation of her 20 years of ongoing work in promoting diversity among current and future ecologists.

On Aug. 25, 2012, the Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC) presented Cid with the “Latina Citizen of the Year” award at its annual award ceremony in New Haven. Cid was honored by LPRAC for two decades of work to enhance the career development of Latinas in the sciences.

Professors from Eastern’s Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and Department of Education presented papers at conferences and conducted research around the globe.

Anthony Aidoo, professor of math and computer science, traveled to Valencia, Spain, to the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Conference on Applied Linear Algebra, where he presented the paper, “A Solution to the Inverse Eigenvalue Problem for Certain Singular Hermitian Matrices.”

Biology Professor Ross Koning was honored with the 2013 Distinguished Professor Award at the University Meeting in May. Excellence Awards were presented to Political Science Professor Nicole Krassas for full-time teaching; to Kathryn Niemasik for part-time teaching in Performing Arts; and to Performing Arts Professor David Belles for creative activity. Shirley Audet, associate director of fiscal affairs; Suzanne Dowling, counselor in psychological services; and William Leahy, executive director of the Institute for Sustainable Energy, received Excellence Awards for Service.

Roberto C. Fernandez, an LPRAC Commissioner and director of the Quinebaug Valley Community College Center in Willimantic, presents Cid with the “Latina Citizen of the Year” award.
Mathematics Professors Marsha Davis and Sita Koirala and Education Professor Hari Koirala traveled to the International Conference on Mathematics Education (ICME-12) in Seoul, South Korea. Davis and Hari Koirala presented the paper, “Secondary Teacher Candidates’ Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching as Demonstrated in Their Portfolios”; Pete Johnson, associate professor of math and computer science, was also one of the authors. In addition, Davis, Sita Koirala and Hari Koirala presented the poster, “Students’ Achievement in Introductory and Intermediate College Algebra,” which included Kim Ward, associate professor of math and computer science, as one of the authors.

Bonsu Osei, associate professor of math and computer science, traveled to Greece to deliver the paper, “Evolutionary Algorithms and Eco-informatics: A Myth or Reality.” The paper was rated number one in its field this past year. Osei also hosted a session on “Education and Development of Ghana.”

Christian Yankov, associate professor of math and computer science, traveled to the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia, Bulgaria, where he conducted joint research with members of the Institute’s Analysis, Geometry and Topology Department.

Reginald Flood, associate professor of English and coordinator of the African American Studies Program, was named the recipient of a Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Librarian Kris Jacobi collaborated with several other Charles Darwin Research Station volunteer librarians to publish a peer-reviewed article titled, “Cataloging in a Remote Location: A Case Study of International Collaboration in the Galapagos Islands” in a special issue of Cataloging & Classification Quarterly. The article was the result of Jacobi’s spring semester 2008 sabbatical as an international volunteer librarian working at the Research Station in the Corley Smith Library on Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos.
Students, faculty, staff and friends packed the Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Conference Room in the J. Eugene Smith Library on Dec. 6 to say farewell to Executive Vice President Michael Pernal, who retired on Feb. 1, 2013, after more than 43 years of distinguished and dedicated service to Eastern. Eastern President Elsa Núñez hosted the retirement reception.

The Center for Early Childhood Education (CECE) was awarded a prestigious Telly Award for the production of “Investigating Balls” in the Internet/Online Video Education category. The Telly Awards honor outstanding television, video and film production programs, focusing on the technical quality, rather than on content.

“Investigating Balls” is part of the newest series of videos from the CECE, which highlights how teachers at Eastern’s Child and Family Development Resource Center (CFDRC) implement engaging projects on a variety of topics.

Individuals responsible for developing “Investigating Balls” included Julia DeLapp as author and producer; Ken Measimer as director of the video; students Sean Leser and Ross Page as videographer/editor and music composer respectively; and Nick Napoletano ’07 in animation. This is the third Telly Award that the CECE has received. The first two were awarded in 2010 and 2011.
Eastern participated in an international education trade mission to Brazil from Aug. 30 to Sept. 6, 2012. **Christopher Dorsey**, associate director of admissions, joined Francisco Sánchez, undersecretary of commerce for international trade, on one of the country’s largest education missions in history. In addition to participating in college fairs in Brazil, Dorsey visited the American School of Brasilia; Colégio Porto Seguro in Sao Paulo; and The American School in Rio de Janeiro. ●

**Carmen Cid**, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and Eastern alumna **Mary Lou DeVivo ’60**, president and owner of Willimantic Waste Paper Co., Inc., were recognized by Girl Scouts of Connecticut at the Centennial “Woman of Merit” Gala at the Hartford Marriott on Sept. 12, 2012. The 19th Annual Woman of Merit Benefit Dinner celebrated 100 years of Girl Scouting and honored 100 women, men, groups and organizations.

Cid was recognized in the Trailblazer category while DeVivo was honored as a Community Champion. Trailblazers are recognized as pioneers who have opened doors for other girls and women to follow. Community Champions have made significant contributions to their home communities. ●
President Elsa Núñez was honored as the recipient of several awards in 2012–13. On Sept. 20, 2012, the Hartford Courant/Fox 61 announced their Top Workplaces Awards for 2012 at the AquaTurf in Southington. Based on the ratings of Eastern employees, Núñez was honored as the Top Leader in the Large Organizations category.

On Nov. 3, she received the 2012 Transforming Lives Award from Hartford-based Family Life Education during its 25th anniversary gala at the Connecticut Convention Center. Family Life Education is an independent, non-profit organization that empowers inner-city families in the Hartford area through partnerships with corporate, civic and social organizations.

In presenting the award, Family Life Education’s Executive Director Candida Flores called Núñez “a powerful example of career achievement” and “an outstanding role model for young girls and young women,” and noted that “she has devoted her entire career to the field of education; with special attention to supporting communities of color obtain access to higher learning, including the development of a program identifying Hartford students who have the capacity to succeed academically.”

On Nov. 15, Liberty Bank officials presented Núñez with the 2012 Willard M. McRae Community Diversity Award at a gala reception in the Betty R. Tipton Room attended by more than 300 friends, family members, students, faculty, Eastern staff, bank officers and community leaders.

“In choosing the recipient of the award, we look not just for people who have given their time in service to community organizations, but for those who have made it their mission to make opportunities available to all,” said Chandler Howard, president and CEO of Liberty Bank. “There is not a shadow of a doubt that Elsa Núñez is such a person.”
ACADEMICS

Faculty and student researchers named DUPLO bricks, a toy made by the LEGO Group, as the 2012 TIMPANI Toy (Toys That Inspire Mindful Play and Nurture Imagination). Eastern researchers announced the results of the 2012 TIMPANI Toy Study on Nov. 16, 2012, in the University’s Child and Family Development Resource Center (CFDRC).

This annual study, conducted by Eastern faculty and students through Eastern’s Center for Early Childhood Education, examines how young children in natural settings play with a variety of toys. Toys are selected for the TIMPANI study based on recommendations from parents, teachers and faculty. After the toys are chosen, they are placed in the CFDRC’s preschool classrooms and rated on three subscales: thinking and learning, cooperation and social interaction, and self-expression and imagination.

Eastern students Jamie Vallarelli ’13, Jenny Wolff ’12 and Marley Koschel ’13 were responsible for videotaping the toys and coding the videos according to the evaluation rubric. The three students joined Professor Jeffrey Trawick-Smith, Eastern’s Phyllis Waite Endowed Chair of Early Childhood Education, to present the results of the study at the National Association for the Education of Young Children conference in Atlanta on Nov. 10, 2012.

Eastern’s School of Arts and Sciences held its 13th annual Student Research and Exhibition Conference on April 13, 2013, in the Science Building. More than 100 students, supported by more than 50 faculty mentors, presented projects and presentations showcasing nine departments in the School of Arts and Sciences. The exhibits included digital art, prints, paintings, drawings, sculptures and books created by Eastern students. The projects ranged from presentations such as “Artificial Structures in Marine Environments: Do Materials Influence the Success of Invasive Species?” to “CIRC DU TAROT: The symbolism of the Major Arcana through Circus Illustrations.”

More than 150 students, supported by 11 faculty mentors, participated in the School of Education/Professional Studies and Graduate Division 13th Annual Excellence Expo on April 24 in the Student Center. Presentations covered Communication Marketing and Advertising Campaigns; final projects from the Economics Senior Seminar; and a photography exhibit of framed prints and color slides. Poster research projects included topics on Communication Law and Ethics; Sport and Leisure Management; Early Childhood Education; Technologies, Societies and Communities; and Systems Analysis.
Fifteen Eastern students and alumni were among more than 140 presenters at the Third Annual Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference, held on Oct. 26, 2012, in the Betty R. Tipton Room. The conference was sponsored by the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC).

Participating in the COPLAC conference were Erin Conn, a biology major; MacKenzie Robert ’12, a biology major; Thomas Farnsworth ’12, a psychology major; Eric Lindquist ’12, an environmental earth science major interning with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Rosie Manzo ’12, who majored in sociology and minored in Spanish and Renewable Energy; Charles Hooper ’12, a non-traditional student who majored in business information systems (BIS); Nels Frantzen, a political science major; Raena Beetham ’13, a psychology major; David Stein ’12, a biology major; Ariel Levesque ’12, an early childhood education and psychology major; Erin Murphy, an early childhood education and psychology major; Suzanne Slater ’13, an early childhood education and psychology major; Margaret Pallis ’13, an English major; Vincent Aloia ’12, a visual arts major; and Carolina Galvez ’12, a visual arts major.

Faculty mentors included Biology Professor Patricia Szczys; Psychology Professor James Diller; Fred Loxsom, retired chair of sustainable energy studies; Sociology Professor Kimberly Dugan; BIS Professor Don Petkov; Philosophy Professor Hope Fitz; Psychology Professor Alita Cousins; Education Professor Sudha Swaminathan; English Professor Maureen McDonnell; and Biology Professor Joshua Idjadi.

Last year, the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education approved a new major in Women’s and Gender Studies, which became available to all Eastern students in the fall 2012 semester. Eastern is the only public Connecticut college offering a degree in Women’s and Gender Studies. Grounded in the liberal arts, the major provides an interdisciplinary approach to stimulate the examination and analysis of how factors such as race, class, culture and sexuality work together to impact the complexity and challenges of women and other groups in the United States. The new major is rigorous, requiring students to take 36 credits from a wide range of academic departments, and weaves in research and experiential learning components. Fourteen full-time faculty teach Women’s and Gender Studies courses.

Rosie Manzo ’12
Six Eastern Connecticut State University students, and an equal number of faculty members, attended the Northeastern Section of the Geological Society of America (NEGSA) Conference in Bretton Woods, NH, from March 18-20, 2013, to attend presentations on a wide range of geological topics. Students attending the trip included Christopher Lorentson, Jon Burdacki, Laura Markley, Rachel Dern, Mackenzie Fannon and Lindsey Belliveau.

At the conference, students attended sessions and participated in a follow-up question and answer session. Four faculty members gave oral presentations. Belliveau joined Drew Hyatt, chair of the Environmental Earth Science Department, to speak about meltwater erosion marks in bedrock at Bailey’s Ravine in Connecticut.

Four Eastern students who are members of the Eastern Math Club, along with Peter Johnson, associate professor of mathematics, attended the eighth annual Spuyten Duyvil Undergraduate Mathematics Conference at Manhattan College in New York City on April 6.

At the conference, students discussed mathematical topics with other undergraduate students in a professional setting. Kyle Courtemanche ’13 presented his honors thesis, “An Application of Markov Chains to Cross and Circle Games,” which is a mathematical model on the game “Sorry.” This was the first time an Eastern student has presented at the conference.

Other students who attended the conference included Ricky Magner, James Chadic and Joe Nolet.
THE WORLD IS OUR CLASSROOM

Several groups of Eastern students traveled overseas and out-of-state this past year to participate in Global Field Courses. Such international experiences provide students with opportunities to broaden their world view and appreciation of other cultures, enhancing their personal perspectives and professional prospects.

Seven Eastern Connecticut State University students, accompanied by Assistant Professor of Theatre j.j. Cobb, traveled to Oahu, HI, from Jan. 1-13, to perform a series of theatrical pieces ranging from scenes to monologues to readings. The trip was the culmination of the Site-Specific Theatre course the group had taken during the fall semester, when they wrote their performances and learned about the history and culture of Hawaii.

In June 2013, six Honors students joined Richard Jones-Bamman, associate professor of music, on a 17-day tour of Sweden. The trip was the culmination of the spring 2013 course, “Nationalism and the Arts,” which explored the impact of art and music in the development of modern Sweden. Highlights included visits to the Nordic Museum in Stockholm, the Folk Music House in Dalarna and the home of noted 19th-century artists Carl and Karin Larsson. The Eastern travelers also attended the nyckelharpa (‘keyed fiddle’) festival in Österbybruk and the Midsommar celebration in Umeå. A trip to Jokkmokk above the Arctic Circle included a stop at the Ájtte Museum, devoted to the Sámi people.

Business students had the opportunity in May 2013 to participate in a 10-day global field study course held at ESDES School of Business, Université Catholique de Lyon, a top-ranked international business management school in Lyon, France, one of the major academic and cultural centers of Europe. The course, led by Business Professor Branko Cavarkapa, consisted of learning about French business practices, cultural environments, and economic integrations in Europe, and also included visits to various businesses, international organizations, museums and other cultural institutions in Paris, Avignon and Geneva.
Communication Professor César Beltran led a group of students to Budapest, Hungary, from May 28-June 10 to investigate how the present-day Hungarian media represents the Holocaust. Students attended lectures held at the Budapest campus of McDaniel College that were presented by specialists from renowned European academic Institutions; visited the state-run television network, Budapest’s Jewish Quarter and the Dohany Street Synagogue; and took an overnight excursion to the Nazi concentration camp located in Mauthausen, Austria.

Students enrolled in the Communication Department’s “International Advertising and PR” course visited British advertising agencies such as international advertising giant McCann-Erickson and the BBC as part of a trip to England and France in May to study media from a multi-cultural perspective. The global field course was led by Associate Professor Olugbenga Ayeni and Professor Terri Toles-Patkin. An additional group of students enrolled in a course on women studies also toured London and Paris with Communication Professor Denise Matthews to learn about the influences of French and British feminists on the current status of women in France and the United Kingdom and to study the participation of women in media production.

Education students accompanied Professor David Stoloff to Jamaica during the January wintersession and spent a week serving as teaching aides at primary and high schools in Jamaica, correcting papers, helping out with lessons and interacting with the students.

Biology students explored one of San Salvador’s coral reefs as part of their Tropical Biology field course, which provided hands-on field experience on the concepts of tropical ecology, island biogeography, and the natural history of marine and terrestrial fauna and flora. Leading the trip were Assistant Professor Joshua Idjadi and Professor Ross Koning.
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

In line with its tagline “A Liberal Education, Practically Applied,” Eastern offers experiential learning opportunities that encourage independent thought and decision-making to help students prepare for a career or graduate study. Students apply the skills they have learned in the classroom through internships, service learning, paid co-ops, research projects and other practical experiences.

Eastern students have interned in all corners of the country in industries and organizations ranging from Pratt & Whitney, the U.S. Department of Commerce and Electric Boat to Animal Planet, Disney World and the XL Center. Students also have the opportunity for paid internships with private sector clients right here on campus in the University’s Work Hub, located in Winthrop Hall.

In July 2012, Ian McCary ’12 and Steve Nathan, assistant professor of environmental earth sciences, participated in a field trip to the Bighorn Basin in Wyoming. The trip was sponsored by ExxonMobil Corporation and the Geological Society of America and provided hands-on field experience under the guidance of globally renowned exploration geologists. Participating students worked in teams and one-on-one with experts to learn how to read the rocks and determine the suitability of a hydrocarbon prospect.

Physical Education major AJ Audet ’14 interned in the Child and Family Development Resource Center on campus, teaching preschoolers balance skills, improving upper body strength and coordination, and enhancing motor skills. “The kids’ eyes lit up every time I came,” he said.
Top left, Megan Sherrick, a history and social science major, completed a semester-long internship at the Slater Museum in Norwich, where she learned how to organize and install historical pieces for exhibits in the museum’s collection.

Top right, Seven Eastern students worked in paid internship positions for CIGNA Insurance at the on-campus Work Hub, performing a variety of computer programming and business information functions. In addition to earning sizable hourly salaries, most of the students were hired by CIGNA upon graduation.

Bottom left, Amanda Conkey spent her fall 2012 semester interning at Disney World in Orlando, FL, as part of the University’s ongoing internship program there.
STUDENT SUPPORT
On April 10, Eastern announced its participation in a new national initiative called the LEAP Employer-Educator Compact. The compact was developed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) and by employers working with AAC&U to ensure that today’s students are well prepared for economic, civic and global challenges.

Participating campuses and employers will work together through 2014 to showcase employer support for the aims and outcomes of a broad liberal education and to show how higher education is helping students connect college learning with their roles as professionals, citizens and members of the global community.

As part of the compact initiative, Eastern is partnering with Webster Bank, the Mohegan Tribal Council, Savings Institute Bank and Trust, Blum-Shapiro, Farmington Bank and the Willimantic Waste Company to underscore the economic value of liberal education and to provide students with more hands-on learning opportunities to connect their campus learning with real-world contexts and problems.

On Oct. 2, 2012, Eastern joined more than 460 other public colleges and universities across America in signing the “Commitment to the Future” which calls for increasing the number of undergraduate baccalaureate degrees by 3.8 million between now and 2025. The goal of the campaign is to increase the percentage of American adults with college degrees to 60 percent of the nation’s population.

The School of Continuing Education has created a “Reverse Internship” program, offering help to adult students who want to gain college credits towards their degree for skills and knowledge they have learned at work and can validate. The program, titled “The Reverse Internship: Converting Banked Applied Learning into College Credit,” was formed with the help of a $25,000 grant from the American Council on Education (ACE). The program offers adult students a way to turn their previous work experience into college credits, equivalent to a standard internship.

With the help of faculty, adult students take an online, interactive, reverse internship tutorial which requires them to reflect upon their experiences, identify what they have learned in various categories and then document how they acquired that learning.
From June 2-July 12, 2013, Eastern served as host to a six-week summer health sciences research program involving six other Connecticut colleges. The Health and Life Sciences Undergraduate Research Program Initiative gave students an opportunity to gain vital knowledge and experience with basic laboratory skills, while exposing participants to job opportunities that will position them competitively in Connecticut’s health and life sciences job market.

Students worked directly with Eastern faculty who teach and work in the modern life science fields, including biochemistry, organic chemistry, biotechnology, biology, health education and environmental earth sciences. Each week focused on an area of modern scientific inquiry, allowing students to gain scientific skills and knowledge. Specific areas of study included critical scientific skills and basic concepts of investigation; molecular identification of nervous system progenitors; and physical activity epidemiology and health, to name a few.

Students also received training on how to develop a résumé; be involved in mock job interviews; visit Connecticut health and life sciences industry and graduate school facilities; and interact with graduate and medical school students in the state to learn how to prepare for a job within these fields.

The summer research program was the result of a three-year Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Careers Training grant (TA-ACCCT) from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration that is being managed by Norwalk Community College.

Participating colleges included Norwalk Community College, Gateway Community College, Capital Community College, Middlesex Community College, Manchester Community College and Charter Oak College.
In September 2012, The Education Trust, a national education advocacy group, announced that Eastern ranked number one in a national study of the improvement of six-year graduation rates of Hispanic students among public universities and colleges, according to their report, “Advancing to completion: increasing degree attainment by improving graduation rates and closing gaps for Hispanic students.”

For the class of full-time, first-time students entering in fall 1998, the six-year graduation rate was barely 20 percent for Hispanic students at Eastern. However, for those Hispanic students entering in 2004, the proportion who had graduated by 2010 was 57.8 percent, the largest improvement among the 228 public institutions in The Education Trust study.

Hispanic and other Eastern students have benefited from funding from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation and a U.S. Department of Education Title III grant that has helped the University create and improve its Student Success Model. The model features additional advising staff; a revised, four-tiered advising system; faculty mentors; and a one-stop Academic Services Center that provides tutoring, math and writing instructional support for more than 2,000 student visitors a year.

Thomas Broffman, assistant professor of social work, and five students in the Social Work program coordinated a gambling awareness campaign during the spring semester to educate the Eastern community on the warning signs and issues of problem gambling. The campaign was sponsored by the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling. It consisted of several events, including a discussion by Joe Turbessi, author of “Into the Muck,” on how his experiences with gambling led to problems in his social and financial life, and how he eventually recovered.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Five Eastern undergraduates, faculty and staff partnered with 13 students from Windham High School (WHS) on April 4 to coordinate a biodiversity expedition to Eastern’s Arboretum, as part of the Eastern/WHS Science Mentoring Program. The purpose of the expedition was to give high school sophomores taking Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses a chance to experience biology in action, reinforce their desire for STEM careers and welcome them to the Eastern campus.

On Nov. 21, 2012, Eastern hosted its sixth annual “Day of Giving Community Celebration,” a Thanksgiving dinner for more than 400 local community members who are patrons of local soup kitchens and other social service agencies. Chartwells Dining Services and its vendors donated the food, and staff volunteers prepared and served the meal. Eastern students, faculty, administration and alumni volunteered at the event. The Thanksgiving meal was held in Hurley Hall. This year’s event was organized by students Elise Davis ’13, Elliott Woolworth, Max Goto ’13 and Yollaine Kaja, who were supported by Eastern’s Center for Community Engagement (CCE); Jacqui De Cormier, volunteer coordinator and AmeriCorps VISTA with the CCE; the Office of Institutional Advancement; and the ECSU Foundation, Inc. ●
More than 100 Eastern students volunteered for the 34th Annual Windham Invitational Special Olympics Swim Meet, held on March 9 at Windham High School. According to Eastern Chemistry Professor Charles Wynn, who has been the meet director for 18 years, 180 athletes with disabilities from Connecticut and Massachusetts competed in the meet. Eastern’s student partners made sure the athletes got to their registered events; cheered them on; got them involved in activities when they were not swimming; and helped out with sports clinics, food service and water safety.

In April, the Eastern student chapter of Habitat for Humanity collaborated with the Connecticut Special Olympics on the annual Jail N' Bail fundraiser and brought in bonds totaling more than $8,000. The event began with warrants being issued to “arrest” specific students and faculty members. When the participants arrived at the “jail,” their bail was set by a “judge.” The prisoners were then kept busy contacting friends and family to come and bail them out. All funds raised were donated to Habitat for Humanity and the Special Olympics.

A number of Eastern students participated in Windham’s and Willimantic’s Town Pride, Town Wide event on April 27. Town Pride, Town Wide brings students and residents together with local nonprofit organizations and town parks to provide a helping hand giving the towns of Windham and Willimantic a face lift. One hundred and seventy Eastern students worked alongside community partners to sweep sidewalks along Main Street, plant trees and flowers in local parks and around town signs; paint the gazebo in Jillson Square; assist the Holy Family Home and Shelter with cleaning its attic; and many more projects. The event culminated with a celebration and lunch provided by local businesses.
On May 21, 22 and 23, more than 1,470 students in grades five through 12 gathered in the Betty R. Tipton Room in the Student Center at Eastern Connecticut State University to participate in “College Knowledge Days.” The students came from schools in Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Coventry, Bethel, Danbury, East Hartford, Ellington, Enfield, Vernon, Hartford, Manchester, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, Norwalk, Sandy Hook, Stamford, West Hartford, Storrs, Pawcatuck, Union, Watertown, Wethersfield, Willimantic and Gales Ferry.

The visiting students participated in a number of lectures and group activities facilitated by Eastern staff. The presentation, “Preparing for the Future,” instructed students on how to research and choose the college that is right for them. The presentation, “Financing My Future,” focused on paying for a post-secondary education. Group activities such as “When I Grow Up” gave visiting students the opportunity to discuss what they want for a future career and the process that it takes to attain that career.

Three Eastern students; Eastern’s intercollegiate athletic teams; the club rugby team; the University’s Food and Justice Committee; and Eastern’s public relations officer were nominated as finalists for the 2013 Connecticut Higher Education Community Service Awards. The award program is hosted each year by the Connecticut Commission on Community Service, Office of Higher Education. The award ceremony was held on April 23.

Brittany Cava ’12, Ashley Lovett ’13 and Suzanne Slater ’13 were nominated for the individual student awards. Eastern’s 17 varsity athletic teams, as well as the Food and Justice Committee and the club rugby team, were nominated in the student group category. Dwight Bachman, Eastern’s public relations officer, was nominated in the “Special Person” category.

More than 200 singers and orchestra members from more than 20 ensembles across Connecticut, including Eastern’s Concert Chorale and Chamber Singers, combined to present a memorial concert on Jan. 13 in Willimantic in honor of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. The concert was organized by David Belles, professor of music at Eastern, who conducted Faure’s “Requiem” and other selections. Eastern Performing Arts Professor Anthony Cornicello also composed work for organ that was dedicated and premiered during the concert.
Eastern and the Windham Textile and History Museum collaborated to present “The Latino Migration Exhibit,” which began March 22 and run through Dec. 8 at the textile museum.

The exhibition is a multi-media documentation of the cultural, religious, political and economic life of Latinos in Willimantic, the result of almost two years of collaboration between the museum’s board of directors and Eastern faculty and staff. The Latino Migration Exhibit is part of a series of ethnic exhibitions by the Windham Textile and History Museum to document the histories of immigration to Windham and Willimantic. The exhibit also acknowledges and celebrates the significant contributions that immigrants from Europe, Canada, and Latin America have made to the development and growth of the region since the 19th century. It showcases Latino artifacts, music, festivals, lectures, traditions, paintings, printmaking, sculpture and video kiosks, with images reproduced electronically.

Ricardo Pérez, associate professor of anthropology, was the guest curator. The exhibit was installed by Roxanne Deojay, interim director of the University’s Akus Gallery, and Art Professor Imna Arroyo. Other University departments supporting the project included Media Services, Institutional Advancement and University Relations.

For the second year in a row, the Center for Community Engagement sponsored two groups of Eastern students participating in Alternative Spring Break trips on March 22 and 23. This year’s trips offered students the opportunity to participate on environmental projects within Connecticut, including performing trail work on a portion of the Appalachian Trail; and disaster relief projects in several New Jersey communities that were affected by Hurricane Sandy. Those projects included removing sand from buildings and homes; rebuilding dunes; improving trails and parks; working in after-school programs; painting projects and working in community food banks.
On Nov. 27, 2012, members of Eastern’s field hockey and women’s lacrosse teams organized a toy drive, asking the campus community to bring at least one unwrapped toy to the men’s and women’s basketball games on Nov. 27. From Dec. 3-7, 2012, 56 members of Eastern’s softball and track teams collected 75 pairs of pajamas and $450 in donations to present to the local chapter of the local pajama program.

On Oct. 23, more than 700 Eastern students, faculty and staff, as well as alumni, friends and visitors from as far away as Massachusetts, participated in a bone marrow drive coordinated by the Eastern men’s soccer team and “Be The Match,” a non-profit organization specializing in helping bone marrow transplant patients and their families. The drive was held to increase awareness about the need for donors and specifically in response to the medical condition of Eastern student-athlete Jon DeCasanova, who is suffering from aplastic anemia and is in need of a bone marrow transplant. At the blood marrow drive, 624 new donors underwent a painless cheek swab to have their DNA added to the national registry.

Eastern’s Sixth Annual Dean’s Cup raised $3,500 for Windham Region Relay for Life this year. The Dean’s Cup is an annual competition between 12 residence halls, with each hall given the opportunity to display their commitment to personal and academic success along with hall and school spirit. The residence hall with the most points at the end of the competition is awarded the Dean’s Cup. This year, Nutmeg Hall walked off with top honors. Since the Dean’s Cup competition began, residence halls have raised more than $16,128 for Willimantic community agencies.
STUDENT ACTIVITIES
Students enjoy a rich array of activities on campus, ranging from student club events to events sponsored by the Campus Activity Board (CAB). In 2012-13, CAB sponsored 160 events ranging from concerts, comedians and cultural awareness events to music lounges, weekend trips and Late Night-themed events, with a total of 21,535 attendees. Numerous additional events were organized by clubs and organizations throughout the year. All told, the Student Center hosted 3,836 events, meetings and programs in 2012-13.

In addition, more than 1,500 students participated in more than 160 intramural teams during the year. The Student Government Association provided leadership and coordination for 72 student clubs ranging from the Accounting Society to the Visual Arts Club, involving a total of 1,189 students.
CAMPUS CULTURE

The Peace and Human Rights Committee (PHRC) hosted the panel “Ambassadors for Peace and Human Rights” on Oct. 4, 2012, in the Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Conference Room. The featured speakers were Eudora Pettigrew, a retired member of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) and former chair of the IAUP United Nations Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace; and Charles Prewitt, professor emeritus who taught Peace and Human Rights for several years at Eastern. Other speakers included Political Science Professor Christopher Vasillopoulos; Mary Curran, associate professor of geography; Gail Gelburd, professor and chair of the Visual Arts Department; English Professor Raouf Mama; Nicole Krassas, professor of political science; Stacy Close, interim associate vice president for equity and diversity; Philosophy Professor Hope Fitz; and graduate student David McLeod. Executive Vice President Michael Pernal moderated the panel.

Former “CBS News” anchor and “60 Minutes” correspondent Dan Rather opened Eastern’s 12th Annual Arts and Lecture Series in October 2012. Rather, who has more than 60 years of experience working in the media, spoke about the 2012 presidential race and the challenges facing the nation after the election. The Arts and Lecture series continued on Nov. 15 with a lecture by U.S. Marine Colonel Matthew Bogdanos, author of “Thieves of Baghdad: One Marine’s Passion to Recover the World’s Greatest Stolen Treasures.” In February, the U.S. Coast Guard Swing Band entertained a packed house in Shafer Auditorium with classics from the swing era. Veteran journalist and author Bob Woodward, who (along with Carl Bernstein) won the Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for their book, “All the President’s Men,” which helped expose the Watergate scandal and led to the subsequent resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974, wrapped up the series with a lecture in March that called on fellow journalists to “answer their calling and have the courage to hold people accountable.”

The Visual Arts Department hosted Nehru-Fulbright Award recipient Neeta Naik Omprakash of India, who spent the academic year as a Scholar-in-Residence at Eastern. Omprakash conducted a number of workshops to educate students about the culture of India, including “The Ganesha Festival in India and the Politics of the Festivals for Gods in India” and “Miniature Painting as a Reflection of the Mughal and Rajput Eras.”

Neeta Naik Omprakash and Amina Ahmed
Eastern hosted a debate between the candidates for Connecticut’s Second Congressional District on Oct. 22, 2012, in the Betty R. Tipton Room. All of the candidates on the ballot — Democratic candidate and incumbent Congressman Joe Courtney; Green Party candidate Colin Brolin; Republican candidate Paul Formica; and Libertarian candidate Dan Reale — participated in the debate, which focused on educational issues of concern to students and other issues of importance. Opinion Editor Ray Hackett of the Norwich Bulletin served as moderator; radio Station WJJF 94.9 FM broadcast the debate live, and the Connecticut Television Network (CT-N) taped and rebroadcast it.

On Sept. 17, 2012, Sila Calderón, former governor of Puerto Rico, visited Eastern for a series of appearances. In a keynote address in the Student Center Theater, Calderon urged students, faculty and staff to fully appreciate the value of giving back: “There is no purpose nobler than public service; no greater joy than serving others. When a person understands for the first time that he or she is worthy, valuable and must assume responsibility for his or her life, then, a transformation takes place. And once that takes place, there’s no going back.”

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Approximately 112 students who have compiled cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher, and an additional 20 students who have demonstrated exemplary co-curricular engagement across campus, were recognized at Eastern’s first Inclusive Excellence Student Award Ceremony in May. The award ceremony recognized the academic, campus-wide and personal success of African, Latino/a, Asian and Native American students at Eastern.

“Saluting the academic achievements of more than 100 students of color today, and the contributions they and other students are making to enrich the cultural diversity of this campus is not only a way to congratulate the students receiving this recognition, but it is a message to everyone on our campus and beyond – we are proud of the achievements and contributions of today’s awardees, because they deserve it, and because it reminds us of our core value of inclusion,” said Eastern President Elsa Núñez as she acknowledged the recipients.

Latoya Smith ’06, producer of multimedia content for Black Enterprise magazine, delivered the keynote address.

Julisa de los Santos, an Eastern residence hall director; John Torres, president of the Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders (BCYL); and Eastern student Federica Bucca ’13 received the University’s 2013 Cesar Chavez Distinguished Service Awards on April 24. The Cesar Chavez Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who have performed extraordinary service in support of the Latin-American community by either developing or contributing to programs or activities that focus on positive development of minority youth and/or foster minority educational opportunities and advancement.

On March 20, the recipients of the Ella T. Grasso Distinguished Service Awards were announced. Isaiah Roby ’13, a senior with a double major in psychology and women’s and gender studies; Ann Higginbotham, professor and chair of the History Department; and Ruth Washington, former professor of the University of Connecticut’s Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, were honored. The award recognizes leaders who have made contributions towards advancing women’s rights and issues of gender equality in memory of former Connecticut Governor Ella T. Grasso.

Eastern student Soely Barros ’13, a senior majoring in Spanish and social work; Indira Petoskey, assistant dean of the School Continuing Education; and the Honorable Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Lubbie Harper Jr. were recognized with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Awards at a reception on Feb. 27 in the J. Eugene Smith Library. Actress and poet Billie Jean Young delivered the keynote address. The awards recognize members of the campus community and community-at-large whose actions demonstrate distinguished service in promoting the ideals of King, and to further the goals of diversity and social equality.
Eastern’s Intercultural Center hosted its second annual Black and White Ball on Feb. 28 in the Betty R. Tipton Room in the Student Center. The celebration was held to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. **Fannie Brayboy ’08** delivered the keynote address, telling students “You are responsible for your actions and you alone. You can be whoever and whatever you say you are . . . Once you realize what an amazing gift you have in your ability to dream, to have hopeful ideas, your capacity for change and success can be endless. You are the master of your own destiny.”

During the event, the Intercultural Center also accepted donations for the No Freeze Shelter and the First Baptist Church.

**ATHLETICS**

Twenty-five Eastern student-athletes were named to the **Little East Conference All-Academic Team** for the 2013 spring season. Coupled with 23 fall academic qualifiers in five sports, and 18 in five winter sports, Eastern amassed a total of 66 All-Academic achievers during the 2012-13 academic year. This year’s total gives Eastern 441 qualifiers in the six-year history of the All-Academic program. To qualify for the team, a student-athlete must have reached sophomore athletic and academic status with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.30.

Eastern’s men’s basketball team scored a 74-60 victory over top-seeded Westfield State University in the championship game of the 2013 ECAC New England Division III Tournament at the Woodward Center in Westfield, MA. The ECAC title is the first in men’s basketball for Eastern. Junior forward **Mike Garrow** (Terryville) was named tournament MVP.

For the fourth time overall, the Eastern women’s swim team achieved Division III Scholar All-America status from the College Swimming Coaches’ Association of America (CSCAA). As a team, Eastern’s 25 student-athletes achieved an aggregate grade-point average of 3.13 this past spring.
Eastern was one of only four institutions nationwide and the only one from New England to have both its men’s and women’s soccer programs qualify for a 2012 National Soccer Coaches’ Association of America (NSCAA) Ethics Award. The Eastern men’s and women’s soccer team both qualified for a Bronze Team Ethics Award for accumulating 10 or fewer yellow cards and no red cards over the course of the 2012 season.

Arielle Cooper ’13 became the first third baseman in Eastern history to earn first-team All-America honors when she was named at that position by the National Fastpitch Coaches’ Association (NFCA). She was also named ECAC New England Division III softball Player-of-the-Year and LEC Player-of-the-Year.

Daniela Marchitto ’13 was selected first-team All-LEC in both women’s soccer and women’s lacrosse and was additionally honored as LEC Midfielder-of-the-Year in lacrosse.

Eastern senior forward Jamie Kohn ’13 and junior point guard Joe Ives represented Eastern on the 2011-12 National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Honors Court, which was announced in August 2012. A total of 469 men’s basketball players representing 203 Division I, II, III and NAIA institutions were recognized in the Honors Court for excellence in the classroom. Candidates must have reached junior status and have compiled a 3.20 cumulative grade-point average through the spring semester. Kohn and Ives were the only players to qualify from the Little East Conference.
In May, Eastern athletic trainer **Julie Glode Alexander '90** was selected as the 2013 recipient of the Athletic Trainer-of-the-Year Award by the Connecticut Athletic Trainers’ Association.

The 19th Eastern Connecticut State University E-Club Hall of Fame class was inducted during ceremonies on Oct. 21, 2012. Inductees were **Erin (Byrnes) Klemyk '01** (women’s lacrosse), **Scott Chiasson** (baseball), **Norman Worthington '90** (baseball), **Michelle Cunningham '09** (volleyball and softball) and **Donna Poyant '93** (softball). **Everett Watson '54** and Dr. Gerard Lawrence were presented with the Michael A. Atkind Exceptional Service Award during the ceremonies.

**Brittany Garnelis '13** and **Julie Pietrycha '13** and junior **Stephanie Johnson** were named as 2012-13 recipients of the Holly E. Zimmerman Memorial Award. The awards were presented between games of a Jan. 26 women’s and men’s basketball doubleheader at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.
THE GENEROSITY OF EASTERN FRIENDS

On April 4, Eastern recognized several individuals who have made exceptional contributions to Eastern, their local communities, the State of Connecticut and beyond at the President’s Leadership Awards Luncheon. Anna (Stankewich) Alfiero ’62 received the Alumni Association’s 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award. Sandy Roth, who created a scholarship to support history majors in memory of her late husband History Professor David Roth, was the recipient of the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award.

The Hermann Beckert Friends of the University Award was presented to Professor Emeritus Stephen Kenton. Following a teaching career at Eastern of 38 years, Kenton helped start an endowed scholarship in his honor. The scholarship has raised $51,000 to support math and computer science students.

Receiving the ECSU Foundation’s Distinguished Donor Award was Steve Watts. In 2010, Watts established the LeClaire B. Watts Endowed Scholarship in memory of his wife, Lee, who taught Spanish at Eastern for many years before she passed away in 2009. Watts also serves on the Board of Directors for the ECSU Foundation.

On April 11, 325 Eastern students filled the Betty R. Tipton Room to attend the annual ECSU Foundation Competitive Scholarship reception. The ECSU Foundation awarded the students competitive scholarships totaling $500,000 to 325 students for the 2013-14 academic year. The competitive scholarship awards are based on merit and, in many cases, unmet financial need. The scholarship process is coordinated by the Office of Institutional Advancement in concert with the Office of Financial Aid. Juniors Sarah Mooney and Kyle Nitz were selected to read their award-winning essays.
EASTERN ALUMNI GIVE BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY

Eastern inducted its fifth class of Alumni Fellows on March 6. Inductees were Kathleen Kennedy ’74, executive director, America’s Head-Recruiting Delivery with UBS Financial Services; and Kathy Gentilozzi ’81, senior vice president of human resources for Aeropostale, a specialty clothing retailer.

During a panel discussion in the Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Conference Room, Kennedy and Gentilozzi gave students tips on making it in the real world. “When you go on interview, make sure you do your homework on the companies that you are going to be speaking to, because that’s a sign of respect, and you should be able to ask questions about their business,” said Gentilozzi. “Don’t be caught off guard by that.”

In September 2012, as part of Otis Elevator’s celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, President Elsa Núñez spoke about the achievement gap and Eastern’s Dual College Enrollment Program (DCEP) at the annual United Technologies Corporation (UTC) Diversity Council fundraising gala for Otis Elevator and other UTC employees. The DCEP received half of the proceeds from the event.

Adriana Bacellar and Janice Claudio-Morales from Otis Elevator present President Núñez with a check for $3,700.
On April 16, Carolyn Kurth ’97, director of forensic accounting, auditing and consulting at Sheptoff, Reuber & Co., PC, delivered the keynote address at the 19th Annual Accounting Banquet. Her topic was “Evolving with a Global Economy—Never Stop Learning.”

On May 11, more than 1,100 people — graduating seniors, their families and various alumni classes — visited campus for the annual Eastern Celebrates festivities. The Jubilee Class of 1963 was treated to tours of campus and a refreshing lunch in Burr Hall before joining other reunion classes at a special reception in their honor in the Student Center Café. Later in the afternoon, alumni mingled with the Class of 2013 under the Big Top Tent to enjoy barbeque, a live band and the company of other members of the Eastern family.

On May 14, 1,256 undergraduates and 41 graduate students celebrated their achievements at Eastern Connecticut State University’s 123rd Commencement exercises at the XL Center in Hartford. Carlotta Walls LaNier, the youngest member of the “Little Rock Nine” students who desegregated Central High School in Little Rock, AR, under military escort in 1957, gave the Commencement Address, telling the graduates to have the same commitment: “Finish whatever goals you have set for yourself. Find the strength, fortitude and determination to see it through. When you see injustice, how will you respond? I hope you take the heroic stand.” LaNier was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the Commencement Exercises.
Nearly 100 students gathered in the Betty R. Tipton Room on Nov. 14, 2012, to hear six alumni talk to students about what it takes to successfully land a good job in today’s economy. The presentation, “Leap into Leadership,” featured Roger B. Boucher Jr. ’95, pathologist assistant at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital organ and tissue recovery specialist and resident anatomist, Lifenet Health, Inc.; Dannika Byrd ’02, assistant director for student affairs and registrar for the Physician Associate Program at Yale School of Medicine; Bonnie Edmondson ’87, education consultant for the Connecticut State Department of Education; Peter McDevitt III ’88, parole officer with the Department of Correction; Kevin Reese ’01, veteran radio personality with CBS Radio, and certified holistic health coach and detox specialist; and Victor Thomas ’01, business development and marketing manager for the eGovernment Applications Division at PCC Technology. The Leap into Leadership Series is sponsored by the Office of Student Activities, Center for Internships and the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Malloy compared Soto, a double major in early elementary education and history, to legendary Connecticut educator Prudence Crandall and American patriot Nathan Hale. “You could not find a finer person to want to emulate than the one whose life we celebrate today,” he said.

Soto’s younger sister Jillian recalled fond, fun-filled memories of Victoria, saying she was “always silly and spontaneous, and she made us so happy.” Rachel Schiavone ’08, Soto’s college roommate and best friend, said Soto’s “friendship was genuine and true, and if you were with her, you were going to have a good time.”

Other speakers included author Wally Lamb; Hari Koirala, professor and chair of the Education Department; Ann Higginbotham, professor and chair of the Department of History; and English Professor Daniel Donaghy. The Eastern Chamber Singers, directed by Performing Arts Professor David Belles; Performing Arts Professor Emily Riggs; Guitarist Coley O’Toole; Eric Ouelette; and other Eastern faculty, students and friends performed moving musical selections during the ceremony.

Soto was a dean’s list student while she attended Eastern and graduated with high honors. In her memory, the University has created the Victoria Leigh Soto Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund to support Eastern students studying to be teachers who have unmet financial need. ●
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) awarded Eastern a Silver Rating after the university submitted its Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report to the organization. STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. Eastern is the only public institution in Connecticut to be rated.

On Oct. 4, 2012, in the Science Building, Eastern President Elsa Núñez joined representatives from UTC Power, the Connecticut Energy Finance Investment Authority (CEFIA) and other guests to formally dedicate the University’s new fuel cell power plant. Speakers included Joe Triompo, vice president and general manager of UTC Power; Connecticut Colleges and Universities Board of Regent Chairman Lewis Robinson; Rick Ross, CEFIA senior manager of clean energy deployment; and Eastern alumna State Rep. Susan Johnson ’77.

Eastern uses 100 percent of the energy produced by the fuel cell system to provide a majority of the power required for the Science Building while maximizing the use of the heat output available from the plant.
The J. Eugene Smith Library Lighting Control System Upgrade was one of seven Connecticut energy efficiency projects acknowledged on April 9 in the first annual Power of Change Award program sponsored by the Common Sense Fund, the Hampshire Foundation, and the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation. Eastern earned First Honors in the Power of Change Fast Track Award category, which recognized the agencies that “got out front” by aiming for higher levels of efficiency.

In fall 2011, Eastern received a state grant funded by Governor Dannel Malloy’s Lead by Example state building energy efficiency program to install Encelium, an energy conservation system, in the J. Eugene Smith Library. Work on the project began in February 2012. Workers attached sensors to all of the lights in the building and also regulated the heating, ventilation and cooling system as well. Each floor of the four-story building was divided into multiple zones, which were wired in a way that the zone can be separately controlled for lighting. The Encelium system is not just a standard motion detection stem; it also can compensate for the amount of outside daylight in the room.

William Leahy, executive director of operations for Eastern’s Institute for Sustainable Energy, was a member of the 15-member regional committee of energy and conservation experts who judged the Power of Change awards.