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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Nationally Acclaimed Sportswriter Frank Deford Wraps Up
ECSU 2002-2003 Arts and Lecture Series**

Willimantic, Conn. -- Frank Deford, nationally acclaimed sportswriter, will give the final talk in the Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) 2002-2003 Arts and Lecture Series. **Deford will speak on Tuesday, April 8 at 7 p.m. in the Betty Tipton Room of the Student Center, located on Eastern's North Campus.**

Deford's roles include journalist, author of 14 books, commentator on National Public Radio, and correspondent for the HBO show, *Realsports with Bryant Gumbel*.

Throughout his life, Deford has been the recipient of prestigious awards, including the National Magazine Award, U.S. Sportswriter of the Year (six times), and named to the Hall of Fame by the Association of Sportscasters and Sportswriters. He has won both an Emmy and George Foster Peabody Award for his broadcast work.

“Frank Deford can only be described as a man who is blessed with the gift of sharing his life experiences, career accomplishments, and emotions with others through various

forms of media,” said Vice President for Academic Affairs Dimitrios Pachis,. “The Arts and Lecture series, which highlights world-renowned authors, poets, and musicians, is a means by which Eastern can provide the opportunity for an enriching experience to students, staff, faculty, and community members.”

Many of Deford’s attainments reflect his talent for sports writing, but he has won the hearts of people who daily struggle with cystic fibrosis, a chronic illness. For Deford, the battle hit close to home when his daughter fell victim to this disease. He managed this personal crisis by writing a book, which later became a movie, Alex: The Life of a Child. He also served as chairman of the national Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for ten years and is now its chairman emeritus.

The Arts and Lecture series brought the internationally known poets Maya Angelou, Claribel Alegria, and Ernesto Cardenal to campus this past fall, and the Aardvark Jazz Orchestra as well. Recently in February, it featured a talk by Harvard University scholar and author Lani Guinier.

Tickets for the Deford presentation are free for ECSU faculty/staff/students and \$10 for the general public. **For ticket information, call Margie Ouimette at 860-465-4693 or email tickets@easternct.edu.**

It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735. To allow accommodations to be made in a timely manner, please submit your request at least two weeks prior to the event.

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Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), located in Willimantic, Connecticut, is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) System.