



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **ECSU Professor Receives Fulbright Scholar Award**

Willimantic, CT — Lisa Rowe Fraustino, associate professor of English at Eastern Connecticut State University, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and consult on children’s literature at Mahasarakham University in Thailand from May 30 to Nov. 21, 2006, according to the U.S. State Department and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Fraustino will assist in the development of a new graduate program designed to train teachers in the use of children’s books to teach English. She is one of approximately 800 U.S. university faculty and other professionals who will travel abroad to some 150 countries for the 2006–2007 academic year through the Fulbright Scholar Program. Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the program’s purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

“Dr. Fraustino is the second Eastern professor to receive a Fulbright Scholar award this year and we are thrilled that she can share her extensive knowledge of children’s literature with the people of Thailand,” said Eastern President Michael Pernal. “Advancing relationships with the people of other countries is one of the goals of our University. Dr. Fraustino’s time in Thailand presents a wonderful opportunity to establish a meaningful connection with educators and students in that country.”

Fraustino has shipped 200 lbs. of children’s books to Thailand, most of them donated by her Eastern students, fellow professors, and friends who write children’s books. “These books will stay in Thailand to add to the lending library of my mentor, Dr. Wajuppa Tossa,” explained Fraustino. In her first few weeks in Thailand, she is taking an accelerated course in the Thai language, visiting historical sites, and adjusting to the climate and the cuisine — including grasshoppers! “They are quite tasty,” she said.

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The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. During the program's 60 years, more than 266,600 American and foreign university students, K-12 teachers, and university faculty and professional staff who have participated in Fulbright exchange programs.

Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields. Among the thousands of Fulbright alumni are Milton Friedman, Nobel Prize-winning economist; Alan Leshner, CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); Rita Dove, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet; and Craig Barrett, CEO of Intel Corporation.