



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

**September 29, 2006**

**For Immediate Release**

Dwight Bachman, Public Relations Officer  
(860) 465-5114 or [Bachman@EASTERNCT.EDU](mailto:Bachman@EASTERNCT.EDU)

Edward Osborn, Director of University Relations  
(860) 465-5043 [Osborne@EASTERNCT.EDU](mailto:Osborne@EASTERNCT.EDU)

Bette Giordano, University Assistant  
(860) 465-5115 [Giordanob@EASTERNCT.EDU](mailto:Giordanob@EASTERNCT.EDU)

## **Distinguished Actor James Earl Jones to Open Eastern's Arts and Lecture Series**

WILLIMANTIC, CT. – Distinguished, television, stage and film actor James Earl Jones, opens Eastern's Sixth Annual Arts and Lecture series on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

Jones' first big film role came with his portrayal of boxer Jack Johnson in *The Great White Hope*, for which he was nominated for a Best Actor Academy Award. Other film credits include *Field of Dreams*; *Dr. Strangelove*; *Cry*; *The Beloved Country*; *Patriot Games*; and *The Hunt for Red October*. Jones is also an accomplished stage actor, winning Tony Awards in 1969 for *The Great White Hope* and in 1987 for *Fences*. Jones' stage career includes a recent Tony Award nomination for *On Golden Pond*; several OBIE awards; and a Shakespearean career that goes back to 1959. His work in the television series *Gabriel's Fire* was honored with an Emmy Award in 1991. Widely recognized as the voice of Darth Vader in the *Star Wars* films, Jones also can be heard on CNN, as Mufasa in *The Lion King*, and as spokesperson for Verizon. He received critical praise in the literary world for his book, *James Earl Jones: Voices and Silences*. Jones holds honorary doctorates from Yale, Princeton, and the University of Michigan. Earlier this month, he was awarded the prestigious Normal Vincent Peale Award from the Blanton Peale Institute.

Bill Nye ("The Science Guy") will continue the series on Nov. 16. Nye's entertaining approach to science on his *Disney Presents* television series has made him well known among children, educators and parents.

Mae Jemison, educator, physician, and the first African American female astronaut to travel in space will speak at 7 p.m. on April 12, 2007

-more-

In addition to free admission to Eastern faculty, staff, and students, admission is free to all other middle school, high school and college students, and they are encouraged to attend. Admission to the general public is \$10 per ticket; tickets can be reserved by calling (860) 465-4693 or emailing [tickets@easternct.edu](mailto:tickets@easternct.edu). For information on the 2006-2007 Arts and Lecture Series, visit [www.easternct.edu//ecs\\_u/arts\\_lecture/](http://www.easternct.edu//ecs_u/arts_lecture/).

It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.

# # #

Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state's public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.