



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

March 17, 2008

For Immediate Release

Contact: Dwight Bachman

Public Relations Officer

(860) 465-5114 or Bachman@easternct.edu

Edward Osborn, Director of University Relations

(860) 465-5043 or Osborne@easternct.edu

Timothy Talley, Public Relations Assistant

(860) 465-0686 or talleyt@stu.easternct.edu

Eastern Celebrates Earth Semester

Willimantic, Conn. – Eastern Connecticut State University’s energy-conscious campus is continuing its observance of Earth Week which, has evolved this year, into an entire semester of activities. From April 12–25, the university will host a series of events and lectures around campus that will raise public awareness of bio fuels, global warming and many other energy-related issues. Admission is free and the public is invited to all events.

On April 12 at 10 a.m., the Earth Day Three-Mile Trail Run and Earth Semester Challenge gets under way at Mansfield Hollow State Park. Johnny Kelley, an Olympic runner and Boston Marathon winner, will be on hand for the beginning of the race.

On April 16 at 3 p.m., University Hour Speaker Richard Parnas, director of the University of Connecticut Biofuel Consortium, will lecture on bio fuels in the Student Center Theatre.

On April 19, Eastern students will “Hit The Streets” in a day-long effort to clean up litter in the community.

On April 21 at 7 p.m., Fred Loxsom, Eastern’s endowed chair of sustainable energy studies, will discuss the science of global warming, the threat of global climate change, and what the people can do about it.

On April 22 at 2 p.m., a tree planting and awards ceremony will take place outside of the Student Center. Mary Curran, associate professor of geography, will also give a lecture on the environmental implications of scientific endeavors, drawing from her own research on environmental issues in Montana and Kentucky.

The following awards will be presented following the tree planting: the Student Environmental Stewardship Award, given to a student who has demonstrated marked commitment to the environment through works exceeding standard expectations; the Student Recycling Award, presented to the person who carefully and responsibly demonstrates Eastern's environmental ethic through his/her efforts in the residence halls and the on-campus recycling program; the Faculty Environmental Leadership Award, given to the faculty member who has integrated Eastern's commitment to the environment and environmental ethics into his/her curriculum; the Facilities Environmental Stewardship Award, given to a member of the facilities staff for encouraging all members of the community to take responsibility for the environment; the Staff Environmental Stewardship Award, given to the individual who puts his/her efforts towards environmental stewardship; and the Community Member Environmental Stewardship Award, given to the community member who spends extra time actively providing stewardship for the immediate natural environment.

On April 24 at 11 a.m., a renewable energy demonstration will take place under Student Center tents.

Also on April 24 at 7 p.m., Mark Rodgers, communications director for the Massachusetts-based Cape Wind Associates, will describe the "Cape Wind Project" and explain its current legal status.

On April 21–25, a “Planet Earth” Film Series will be shown in Room 100 of Goddard Hall. On April 21 from 9–11:10 p.m., the film will focus on the North and South Pole, mountains and the ocean. On April 22 from 10–11 p.m., the series shifts to the Great Plains. On April 23 from 7–9:10 p.m., the subject is the jungles, fresh water and deserts. On April 24 from 9–11:10 p.m., the series looks at ice worlds and shallow seas. On April 25 from 7–10 p.m., the series wraps up with a look at seasonal forests and caves.

For more information concerning earth day events, please contact Fred Loxsom, associate environmental earth science professor at Eastern, at (860) 465-0368 or e-mail him at loxsomf@easternct.edu.

###

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.

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.

#