



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Eastern Student Studies in the Windy City**

**Willimantic, Conn.** – Eastern Connecticut State University student Allison Kelley '10 of Cheshire is living her dream in Chicago, Ill. She is attending a comedy studies program at Columbia College in Chicago, offered in conjunction with the Second City Entertainment Company. The school has turned out some of America's best-known improvisational comedians, including John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd, Gilda Radner and Bill Murray. Students in the program attend shows at a variety of improvisation and comedy venues, network with theater artists, explore Chicago's unparalleled theater and arts world, and present their work in a showcase.

Kelley will receive college credit for five classes, which she takes four days a week. The classes include writing comedic scenes, history and analysis of modern comedy, and creating scenes through improvisation. "Basically I'm here to learn how to be funnier," said Kelley. "My concentration at Eastern is writing with a communication major, so here I'm interested in the writing aspect as opposed to being a performer."

When the two Chicago institutions joined forces and created the Comedy Studies program, they had one element in their mind — making great comedy. Their technique is to use compelling content, strong point of view, comic timing and the ability to harness creativity, which sets apart the average humorist from a real comedian.

“They do it better than anyone else,” Kelley stated. “Unlike any other course of study in content, scope, or resources, it provides a unique opportunity to study full time at the nation’s center of comedy and satire.”

Last summer Kelley was a summer orientation counselor at Eastern. She also performed one of her original acts in the Eastern one-act festival, “Short Stuff.” Recently, Kelley won an honorable mention in the 2008 *Connecticut Review* Leo Connellan Poetry contest.

“I’ll be doing things in Chicago, which will be exciting and interesting at the same time,” said Kelley. “My goal down the road is to write for a sitcom, write sketch comedy, or just write in whatever venue I’m in.”

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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.

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