



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

March 26, 2008

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: 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 or [Osborne@easternct.edu](mailto:Osborne@easternct.edu)

Tim Talley, Public Relations Assistant

(860) 465-0686 or [talleyt@stu.easternct.edu](mailto:talleyt@stu.easternct.edu)

## **Richard Parnas to Visit Eastern**

**Willimantic, Conn.** – Richard Parnas, director of the University of Connecticut's Biofuel Consortium, will visit Eastern Connecticut State University on April 16 as part of Eastern's University Hour lecture series. His lecture which will take place at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Theatre, will feature his research on developing biodiesel fuel from vegetable oil waste. The public is invited to attend. Admission is free.

Parnas worked at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the 1990s, and spent a year on a Fulbright Scholarship in Belgium before teaching at UConn in August 2001. He holds a bachelor's degree from MIT and a Ph.D. from UCLA, both in chemical engineering. Interspersed with schooling were brief stints with Exxon Research & Engineering (1980-82) and SRI International (1984-85). Parnas currently conducts research in protein-based plastics, fuel-cell membrane design, and biodiesel-process development. He recently filed a patent for a new reactor design and started a small company, RAMP Technologies Inc., to commercialize biodiesel processing equipment.

University Hour is Eastern's Wednesday afternoon cultural and educational series. For more information on this or any other University Hour events, contact Karen Karas at (860) 465-5245.

###

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.

# # #