

Dear Member of the Eastern Family:

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of the School of Education and Professional Studies (SEPS), I would like to take a few moments to introduce myself and to provide you information on some exciting updates within SEPS. We hope that you have had a pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you on campus at upcoming events to interact with students and faculty.

Instructional and Program Updates

Several new majors will be available to undergraduate students in the fall. Among these are Finance, New Media, Health Sciences, Liberal Studies and Philosophy. SEPS majors are able to either major or study within a concentration for these new offerings. The Liberal Studies major is limited to new Early Childhood and Elementary Education majors to prepare them for the instructional demands of N-6 grade classrooms.

The Graduate Division hosted an orientation for newly admitted graduate students on Aug. 20, 2014. We would like to remind you as an alumnus of our graduate offerings in Education and Organizational Management. While some of our education programs lead to teacher certification, others do not. Our graduate programs are designed with flexibility in mind to meet the demands of working adults. Whether you seek personal development or advanced professional credentials, come back home to one of our esteemed graduate programs.

Strategic Planning

This fall, the faculty and staff will continue to engage in strategic planning to ensure the sustainability of program quality and to increase the marketability of program graduates. Students, employers and alumni will also be invited to provide feedback to inform updates.

Faculty and Personnel Updates

Please let us welcome our new full-time, tenure track faculty: K. Niki Kunene, Business Administration Department; Jehoon Jeon, Communication Department; Sonal Vats, Economics Department; and Mark Fabrizi and Tanya Moorehead of the Education Department.

Many thanks are owed to Jaime S. Gómez, who served as Interim Dean of the SEPS/Graduate Division from 2009-14. Under his leadership undergraduate research across majors within the School increased. Many students presented at the annual Excellence Expo. In order to ensure program quality, Dr. Gómez worked with faculty to increase the minimum GPA required for education majors and revised the admissions requirements for graduate programs. These and other initiatives occurred under his direction to expand high impact practices within the school. For these we are grateful and seek to expand upon.

In June, I assumed the role of dean for the school. Echoed by the welcome message of many of my new colleagues, I can definitively affirm that “Eastern is a great place to work and learn.” I am honored to join the Eastern family and the opportunity to work with faculty and our supporters to ensure continuous program effectiveness and improvement. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions you might have and/or to discuss ways to support our programs.

Let’s also salute Dr. Katalin Eibel-Spanyi for her many years of service to Eastern, as a professor in the Business Administration Department. Dr. Eibel-Spanyi will return to Canada to begin new endeavors. She adds, “At this turning point of my life, I would like to thank each of you for this wonderful journey of learning, collegiality, friendship and growth.” On behalf of the many students, industry partners, and colleagues she has worked with, we extend to her a hearty send off in the coming weeks.

We would like to honor Pat Kucharski, Administrative Assistant, for her many years of service to SEPS and Eastern. She will retire in early fall. We wish her the best.

Awards and Commendations

The following students and alumni were recognized for outstanding scholarship and professional service during the 2013–14 academic year: Nicole Brooks of Hebron was awarded the Connecticut Society of CPAs (CTCPA) Junior Award; Richard Gabriel of Uncasville was awarded the CTCPA Merit Award; Melanie Krol of Wallingford was awarded the BlumShapiro Award; Regene Abandula of Groton was awarded the O'Connor Davies Award; Fang Chen of Storrs and Kelly Labanara of Chaplin were awarded the Founders of Accounting Award; Thomas Giard, III '96, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Staff Development of Meriden Public Schools was awarded the Outstanding School Administrator Award, Teresa Maturino '05, curriculum coach in Manchester, was recognized with the Outstanding School Educator Award, and Chamari Davis of Hartford and Katie Levis of Gales Ferry were bestowed the Outstanding Young Professional Award.

Events and Community Engagement

This year's Poverty Awareness Marathon will be held Friday, Sept. 19, 2014 from 7 a.m.–noon. The event will start at the Student Center Patio on Eastern's campus. The event is designed to promote poverty awareness. Come run, walk or cheer. Participants are encouraged to bring a food item and/or a children's book to help the Eastern community reach a goal of 462 canned goods representing the 46.2 million Americans living in poverty. For more information, contact Dr. Charlie Chatterton at (860) 465-5183 or chattertonc@easternct.edu.

Watch, Learn, and Discuss: Topics in Education — The Curriculum Center of the J. Eugene Smith Library is hosting a monthly professional development event for education students, educators and community members. Participants will watch a DVD that pertains to issues faced by educators and discuss the topics, facilitated by a community expert. For more information contact Hope-Marie Cook at (860) 465-4456 or cookh@easternct.edu.

To learn more about upcoming events, we ask that you check the School's homepage frequently (scan the QR code below). There you will also learn of recent, national recognitions we have received for various programs. In addition, we invite you to join our professional network on LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com). You may search the School of Education and Professional Studies' LinkedIn group using the words "**Eastern SEPS.**" We will use our LinkedIn group to post alumni and program updates, job announcements and more.

Warmest regards,



Jacob Easley II, Ph.D.

Dean, School of Education and Professional Studies

