

### Eastern Names Winners of Ella T. Grasso Award



*Above, Michael Pernal, executive vice president at Eastern, with winners of the 2010 Ella T. Grasso Distinguished Service Award, left to right, Alice Pritchard, Sonchery Hall '11, Carol Williams and keynote speaker Marcia McGowan.*

working poor. "It is fitting that we honor her leadership and activism through tonight's award program."

Hall, a student leader and an aspiring women's activist, won the student award. She has worked closely with the Women's Center coordinator on numerous programs and activities, leading group discussions; worked with Willimantic-based Perceptions and AIDS Project Hartford to secure speakers and collect information on the impact of HIV/AIDS on women globally; and worked to help establish a chapter of National Organization for Women at Eastern.

Williams was named the recipient of the faculty/staff award. She has been a long-time advocate for non-traditional students, many of whom are returning to college to upgrade skills and seek economic advancement. From 1980 to 2005, Williams was the primary organizer of "Day for Women," a daylong conference serving women in the Willimantic area. She has served on the production board and regularly hosted "What About Women," a public affairs television show on WVIT-TV/NBC that highlights women's issues and the advancement of women's rights.

Pritchard, executive director of the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF), was named the recipient of the community award. CWEALF is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering women, girls and their families to achieve equal opportunities in their personal and professional lives.

For more than two decades, Pritchard has conducted research, advocacy, training and technical assistance on issues related to education and workforce development. She oversees CWEALF's activities related to girls' education in science, technology, engineering and math, as well as promoting model programs for women's career advancement in technology, health care and early childhood education fields.

### Eastern's AITP Student Chapter Wins National Championship



At the 15th Annual Association of Information Technology Professional (AITP) National Collegiate

Conference in St. Louis, MO, on March 27, Eastern's student AITP Chapter won first place in the national Web-Database Team Project Contest sponsored by the Institute of Certified Computer Professionals (ICCP). The AITP is the largest association of information systems and technology management professionals in North America. Typically, more 100 universities and colleges of all sizes from across the United States and Canada take part in the conference. The Web Database Application Project Contest is a yearlong event with student teams submitting multiple project phase reports and designs to the national judging panel.

Eastern's ATTP student chapter designed, built and enhanced a dynamic database-driven website for the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic. In photo at right, in the front row from left to right, are Paul Doyle, director of Willimantic's Covenant Soup Kitchen; Stephen Welch '10; Lynn Bartmess '10; Kacy Shafiee '11; Gloria Rivera '11; and Eastern President Elsa M. Núñez. Back row, left to right, are Roberto Vasquez '10; Matt Thibeault '11; Ethan Harris '11; and Zach Flight '10.



### Eastern Professor Selected for U.S. Department of Education Trip to China



Elizabeth Scott, professor of business administration at Eastern Connecticut State University, has been chosen to participate with other postsecondary educators in a month-long Fulbright-Hays Seminar this coming summer. Scott will travel to China for the month of July to take part in "History, Culture and Economic Development in China," along with approximately 15 other college professors, administrators and curriculum resource specialists.

"I am pleased and excited to have been selected for this program," said Scott. "I am looking forward to visiting China to learn about its culture and social institutions. I hope to use my experiences to create a course on Chinese Business Ethics at Eastern."

Scott's trip to China is one of eight Fulbright-Hays seminars sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education this year; the other destination for postsecondary educators is the United Arab Emirates/Qatar/Kuwait.

"Being selected to participate in this international program is a significant honor for Professor Scott and Eastern Connecticut State University," said Eastern President Elsa Núñez. "The Fulbright-Hays Seminar program is highly competitive and her participation will support her research and scholarly work during her upcoming sabbatical. We look forward to Professor Scott sharing her experiences with the campus community when she returns."

### Aetna's Ron Williams: "The Strongest Don't Survive; The Most Adaptable Do."

Ron Williams, chairman and chief executive officer of Aetna Inc., recently returned to the Eastern Connecticut State University campus as Eastern's business executive-in-residence. He continued his discussion of the health care industry that he began last fall. Aetna, which serves 36 million people across the nation, has long been one of the leading advocates of health care reform in America.

Williams told a packed house in the Student Center Theatre that the challenges to the health care industry are providing health care access to 46 million people who are uninsured; making health care affordable; and delivering quality health care, which he said now happens only half the time. He said that leadership is the key to forging a bipartisan solution in the health debate taking place in Washington.



Williams encouraged students to adopt another view of leadership. "It is not the strongest who survive; it is those who are most adaptable to change. The world is a different place than it was just a few years ago. You are no longer competing with the kid next to you in gym class; you're competing with students from India and China. Many jobs in 2010 did not even exist in 2004. Remember that; your ability to change will determine your success in the world." Above, Williams, chairman and chief executive officer of Aetna Inc., delivers a speech on health care to students, faculty and staff at Eastern Connecticut State University.

### Eastern Inducts New Class of Alumni Fellows



Eastern inducted its second class of Alumni Fellows on March 18 in the Paul E. Johnson Community Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library. Inductees included Jeffrey Brown '79, Brett Harnett '84 and Kathleen Weidman '79.

Brown '79 earned his B.A. in public policy and government at Eastern and went on to receive an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is now the chief administrative officer for Webster Bank and Webster Financial Corporation. His responsibilities include overseeing the bank's operations, strategic planning, communications, public affairs, human resources and information technology functions.

Harnett '84 earned his B.S. in Business Administration at Eastern and completed his M.S. in Information Systems at the University of Cincinnati. He spent time in real estate and publishing before "falling in love with technology." After a stint as a programmer at Yale, he moved to Virginia Commonwealth University in 1999 to work on a NASA project, traveling the world to places like Kosovo, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Russia. Today he works in the field of medical robotics and related technology at the University of Cincinnati.

Weidman '79 received her B.A. in Economics and Business Administration at Eastern before earning her MBA from Babson College. She is currently president of Bright Systems, Inc. in Reno, NV, a company specializing in the preservation and retrieval of large-scale electronic files in the media recording technology field.

### Performing Ensembles Kick Off Spring Tour in Boston



The 18 Eastern students appearing as the Eastern Chamber Singers performed at the Doubletree Suites in Boston on March 20 as one of five stops on its spring tour.

A packed house of family, friends and alumni enjoyed the concert, which also featured the nine-piece Eastern Percussion Ensemble, also composed of Eastern students.

The tour also took both performing groups to Storrs, Norwich and Willimantic; Middlebury, VT; and Schenectady, NY. The tour was a first for the University's music program, and was designed to help raise the program's profile while recruiting new students to the fold. The students also gained valuable experience performing in front of a variety of live audiences. Above, left to right, Beth Vorchheimer, Chris Loveland, Brittany Gould, Stephanie Durbin, Alex Smith and Nick Parenteau perform "Stick Schtick" by Chris Brooks, a piece which uses 6 1/2 poles in the spirit of the Broadway group "Stomp." Also, Brittany Gould, left, and Valerie Thomson, perform "Wood Metal and Skin" by Josh Gottry.

## Eastern Declares National Problem Gambling Awareness Month



Eastern joined the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG) in a month-long campaign in March to increase public awareness of problem gambling. This is the second year in a row that CCPG awarded Eastern a mini-grant to support its problem gambling awareness campaign.

“Problem gambling is a public health issue affecting millions of Americans of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds in all communities at a significant and economic cost,” said Eastern President Elsa Núñez in declaring March 2010 “National Problem Gambling Awareness Month” at Eastern. “However, problem gambling is treatable and

treatment is effective in minimizing the harm to both individuals and society as a whole. In order to make a positive impact in the community, we need to be sure that the individuals and families who are in need of our services are available to access them.”

Thomas Broffman, assistant professor of sociology, and a team of five of his junior Bachelor of Social Work students are leading the university’s problem gambling campaign, which extends into April. Broffman said that college students are at high risk for problem gambling because of the proximity to the casinos, the prevalence of online gambling and their age range, which is prone to high-risk behavior.

A Hot Dog event is scheduled for April 13 from noon to 2 p.m. in front of Webb Hall as part of the campaign to end problem gambling. Literature on problem gambling will be available.

National Problem Gambling Awareness Week at Eastern is a collaborative effort sponsored by the National Council on Problem Gambling, the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators, the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling, Eastern’s Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work and the Office of Wellness Promotion

## Eastern Graduates Emergency Response Team

On March 23, 16 students, faculty and staff graduated from emergency response training they received at Eastern over the past two months. Graduates were sworn in by Windham Fire Marshall and Emergency Coordinator Mike Licata. Eastern President Elsa M. Núñez offered remarks at the graduation ceremony.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training was provided by Eastern’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Eastern is the first university in the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) to host the program, which was first developed by the Department of Homeland Security and is currently being used throughout the United States. “CERT is about readiness, people helping people, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number,” said environmental health and safety coordinator Eric Germain. “In the event of a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not always be able to meet all the demands for services,”



Above, Pam Starr and Deidre Fitzgerald extinguish a fire during a simulation at the ceremony, and Michael Licata, Windham fire marshal and emergency management director, swears in the class members.

### Center for Community Engagement Alternative Spring Break



Instead of hanging around home or traveling to the tropics this year, nine Eastern students decided to spend their time giving back to the environment on the Center for Community Engagement's Alternative Spring Break trip. With the guidance of the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association and the Appalachian Mountain Club, the volunteers built a bridge, cleared trails and completed a photography survey project along a six-mile stretch of the Blue Blaze Trail in Voluntown. The students included Courtney McBurney, Christine Dascanio, Jamie Sydoriak, Gregory Phillips, Rebecca Trapp, Thomas Przybylek, Calvin Underwood, Eliab Abarzua and Robert Closs.

### Individualized Majors Win College Bowl



*Above, the Economics and History Department teams battle during the College Bowl.*

Congratulations to students representing the Individualized Major! They won the championship match of the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Eastern College Bowl. Members of the winning team include Kyle J. Rockett, Stephanie Durbin, Carissa Sirois and Peter F. Hildebrand.

The College Bowl is a single elimination competition among teams representing various academic majors on campus. This year nine teams competed. The Individualized Major team defeated the team from Economics in the championship round. Other teams in the competition were from Mathematics, Biology, Biochemistry, Earth Science, Political Science, History and English. Questions are not specific to the majors of the teams competing in a given match but cover many academic areas such as the sciences, art, music and literature, the social sciences, mathematics, computer science, philosophy and history. Questions also deal with general knowledge, current events, sports, and entertainment. The competition is held in the Theater of the Student Center.

The College Bowl has been held in the spring semester every year since it began in 1977. Physical Sciences Professor Timothy Swanson started the College Bowl and has organized, run and emceed it all the years it has existed. Biology Professors Marty Levin and Gloria Colurso help Swanson conduct the College Bowl.

### Rene McNeal Performs at Eastern

"I have learned in my life to realize traumatic things happen that are really hurtful and painful but even in trauma, hurt and pain, beauty can be birthed." That was the message that Renee McNeal, award-winning playwright and international performing artist, left with a packed crowd of faculty, students and staff in the Betty R. Tipton Room on March 17.

During her presentation, McNeal portrayed a number of different characters: an elderly African-American woman on the day Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated; a young African American girl who befriends a white girl in a predominantly white neighborhood; and an enslaved woman who gets raped by her master. The presentation filled many audience members with laughter, but also brought many people to tears. McNeal ended the show with a revelation: "You thought these were fictional characters on a stage. No, these are the stories of me, my grandmothers and my mother. I am Reanae McNeal, and I am a rape and sexual assault victim."

### St. Mary's School in Putnam Visits Planetarium



Three Eastern alums brought their classes from Putnam Elementary School for a visit to the planetarium on March 15. Above, at right, pictured from left, are Sheryl Higging '02, Antaya Radding '08, Chastity Briquier '97, Physical Sciences Professor Zoran Pazameta and Nicole Sherwinsky '10. Sherwinsky is the first student to progress through the Physical Sciences Department's new minor in Astronomy Outreach and Public Presentation, the only such program in the country.

### Achievement First-Hartford School Visits Eastern



Eastern alum Scott Trepanier brought his fifth- and sixth-grade students from Achievement First School in Hartford to Eastern on March 18 to interact with Eastern students in Darren Robert's Elementary Games and Activities class. The event in the Francis J. Geissler Gymnasium was designed to provide a practice teaching session for Eastern students who plan careers in teaching, and provide some enjoyment and insight into Eastern for the Hartford students as well. Above right, Sarah Swann '10 teaches a First Achievement School student how to hula-hoop.

### Eastern Celebrates Earth Semester

On March 31, Eastern's campus began observing Earth Semester. The celebration runs through May 5, with the University hosting 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. Eastern's Sustainable Energy Studies Program in the Department of Environmental Earth Science is seeking nominations for the 2010 Earth Semester Awards. Five awards will be given, recognizing faculty, students and staff for specific and exemplary contributions to Eastern's reputation as an environmental leader. For more information about Earth Semester and submitting nominations, e-mail Norma Vivar-Orum at [vivarorumn@easternct.edu](mailto:vivarorumn@easternct.edu).

### Eastern Donates the Most

Eastern is acquiring a statewide reputation for being big-hearted in service to community, especially when it comes to giving the gift of life – supporting the American Red Cross blood drives that take place four times during the academic year. Productive pints generated this year include 166 in October, 117 in December, and 124 in February.



At left, Nicole Leal '10 talks with Sandy Grower from the American Red Cross while donating blood. Eastern's last blood drive for the semester will take place on April 20 from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Betty R. Tipton Room. Appointments can be made online at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) sponsor code Eastern, or by contacting Irene Cretella at (860) 465-0090, [cretellai@easternct.edu](mailto:cretellai@easternct.edu).

### Eastern Names Winners of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Awards

Eastern student Jordan Lorrius, Mathematics Professor Kim Ward and Lynn Frazier, a Windham High School teacher, were honored on Feb. 24 at Eastern's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Awards.

Lorrius, of Stamford, has taken part in student government; helped organize Eastern's first "Day of Giving"; helped to start the student run club "People Helping People"; and is a member of Eastern's "Habitat for Humanity. Lorrius also traveled to Serbia over the summer to shoot a documentary feature film about a handicapped girl in order to help fulfill her dream to be a world-recognized painter.



Kim Ward, associate professor of mathematics at Eastern, received the award in the faculty/staff category. She was instrumental in the creation and implementation of the Mathematics Achievement Center (MAC); has worked with the Summer Transition at Eastern Program/Contract Admissions Program (STEP/CAP) for five years; and has served as the program's math coordinator for four years, as well as teaching regularly in the STEP/CAP program.

Eastern presented the community member award to Lynn Frazier, a reading and language arts consultant and teacher and founder of the Young Poets at Windham High School. "The Young Poets" are a group of at-risk high school students that use their negative experiences as a tool of empowerment. They have appeared on "Good Morning America"; performed at the Bushnell Theatre; and published "The Streets Hold No Secrets." Left to right, Jordan Lorrius of Stamford; Kim Ward, professor of mathematics at Eastern; and Lynn Frazier, reading and language art teacher at Windham High School.

### Akus Gallery is Presenting Four Iranian Women Artists



Beginning March 25 and running through May 6, the Akus Gallery is presenting "Chahar Ghesmat," which means "four parts" in Farsi. The exhibit will show the work of four female Iranian and Iranian American artists working in a variety of media (film, photography, painting, collage) to portray women in Iranian culture. The artists include Taravat Talepasand, Afarin Rahmanifar, Mina Momeni and Farideh Shahsavaran.

There will be several events in April to celebrate this exhibition. A screening of the movie "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Paronnaud took place on April 8. For more information on "Persepolis," visit [www.persepolis.com](http://www.persepolis.com). A gallery talk by Iranian-born artist Samira Abbassy takes place on April 22 at 2:30 p.m. in the gallery. For more information on the Samira Abbassy gallery talk, visit [www.samiraabbassy.com](http://www.samiraabbassy.com). The public is invited and admission is free. At left, co-curator Afarin Rahmanifar, right, talks with Dahmani Farida, center, and Celya Farida, left, about installation of photographs by Farideh Shahsavaran.

## EASTERN BASKETBALL SCOOPS UP SEASON-ENDING HONORS



### Moriarty and Nedwick Defensive Player-of-the-Year and first-team all-conference awardees

Junior guard Jessica Moriarty (East Haven) and sophomore guard Nick Nedwick (Irvington, NY) headline a list of Eastern students honored by the Little East Conference in its season-ending basketball awards program.

Moriarty was named the women's Defensive Player-of-the-Year for the second time in the two-year balloting for the award, as well as being selected to the All-Defensive Team and as a first-team all-star. Nedwick joined Moriarty as the men's Defensive

Player-of-the-Year and as a member of the All-Defensive Team and first-team all-star.

On the women's side, freshman forward Tanisha Carter (East Hartford) and freshman center Lauren Kelleher (Dartmouth, MA) were named members of the All-Rookie Team, with Carter being named second-team all-star.

For the men, senior guard Edwin Ortiz (Hartford) repeated as a second-team all-star, while eighth-year head coach Bill Geitner was named Coach-of-the-Year for the first time. The men's team was also honored with the inaugural Team Sportsmanship Award.

For the second time in his head coaching career at Eastern, Geitner engineered one of the program's biggest season turnarounds. After finishing 12-14 overall and 6-8 and tied for fifth in the conference last year, Eastern won 20 of 30 games this year, recorded a program-record nine conference regular-season wins in 14 games, and shared second place in the final LEC standings after being picked for fifth in the pre-season. The team was named to a post-season tournament for the first time in ten years and reached the championship game of the ECAC New England Division III Tournament as the No. 1 seed.

Geitner, who has drawn to within two victories of his 100<sup>th</sup> win at Eastern, becomes the third different Eastern coach to be named LEC Coach-of-the-Year, following Barry Davis in 1999 and Dan Switchenko in 1988, 1990 and 1993.

### Eastern in the News

- The March 24 edition of the Hartford Inquirer ran a front-page story on the campus presentation to Eastern students, faculty and staff by Ron Williams, chairman and CEO of Aetna Inc. on health care in America.
- The March 24 edition of Connecticut Art Scene ran a featured story on Visual Arts Professor Sharon Butler.
- The March 11 edition of the New Britain Herald reported on a conference on Cuba-U.S. relations, which Eastern Sociology Professor James Russell helped organize.
- The March 9 edition of Indian Country ran a letter to the editor by Julianne Jennings, a Nottoway Cheroenhaka and adjunct professor of anthropology at Eastern.
- The March 6 edition of The (Willimantic) Chronicle reported on Eastern's celebration of Women's History Month.
- The March 4 edition of The (Willimantic) Chronicle reported on Eastern being named to the President's Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition for commitment to volunteering, service learning and civic engagement.
- The March 3 edition of The (Willimantic) Chronicle reported on Eastern's observance of Problem Gambling Awareness Month.
- The February/March edition of Art New England ran a feature story on "Ajiaco: Stirrings of the Cuban Soul," the Cuban art exhibition curated by Eastern Visual Arts Professor Gail Gelburd that also featured an exhibition, "Ancestral Passage," by Visual Arts Professor Imna Arroyo.
- The Feb. 26 edition of the Hartford Courant's iTowns reported on the winners of Eastern's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Awards.
- The Feb. 24 edition of Inquiring News ran a front-page story on Eastern's benefit concert to help Haitian earthquake victims.
- The Feb. 8 edition of Hispanic Outlook reported on President Nunez joining the Presidents' Trust.

- The Feb. 5 edition of the Norwich Bulletin reported on the Arts and Lecture Series presentation by actors Danny Glover and Felix Justice.
- The Feb. 5 edition of The (Willimantic) Chronicle reported on the Institute for Sustainable Energy winning three major energy grants from the U.S. Department of Labor.
- The Feb. 1 edition of the Norwich Bulletin reported on Eastern's participation in Connecticut's Annual College Goal Sunday, designed to help students and their families navigate their way through the federal application process for financial aid.
- The Jan. 21 edition of the New Haven Advocate reported on "Ajiaco: Stirrings of the Cuban Soul," the Cuban art exhibit curated by Eastern Visual Arts Professor Gail Gelburd.