

### Commissioner Meotti is Commencement Speaker



Michael Meotti, commissioner of higher education for the State of Connecticut, will deliver the commencement address at Eastern's 120<sup>th</sup> commencement exercises on May 23 at the XL Center in Hartford.

Meotti was appointed commissioner of higher education in March 2008 by the Board of Governors for Higher Education. His department develops higher education policy, conducts research and analysis, provides licensing and accrediting oversight, regulates private occupational schools, and makes recommendations regarding public college and university budgets and tuitions and fees. Meotti's office also directs the alternate route to teacher certification and manages several student financial aid and college-preparatory programs.

As an ex-officio member of the Connecticut State Board of Education, Meotti works closely with policy-makers and education officials on P-20 issues such as high school reform and teacher certification. He is also a member of the New England Board of Higher Education.

### Eastern Faculty Recognized at Connecticut State University System's Teaching and Research Awards

Two professors have been named Eastern's recipients of the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) 2010 Teaching and Research Awards. Daniel Donaghy, associate professor of English, was presented the Norton Mezvinsky Trustees Research Award at the university level, while Susannah Richards, associate professor of education, was awarded the Trustees Teaching Award at the university level. The awards were presented by the CSUS Board of Trustees on April 8 at Southern Connecticut State University. Eight faculty members throughout the CSUS were recognized.



Richards was recognized by the university community for her advocacy of students, her engaging style of teaching, and the incorporation of modern technology and concepts in the reading and elementary education curriculum. She is known for her ability to reinvent courses and create collaborations with colleagues in the improvement of curriculum.

Donaghy is a published poet and scholar in contemporary British and American poetry whose authenticity and clarity of poetry have earned him a prize at a top-ranked university press; finalist distinctions in a highly prestigious national poetry contest; and frequent publication in some of the most widely read literary publications in the country.

"The CSUS Trustee Awards received by Drs. Richards and Donaghy reaffirm their stature on our campus," said Eastern President Elsa M. Núñez. "They both have national reputations in their fields — Dr. Richards in the fields of reading education and innovative classroom technology, and Dr. Donaghy in the world of poetry — but they are equally dedicated to their students. Through these much deserved awards, Suzannah and Dan have brought honor to themselves, their professions and their colleagues at Eastern."

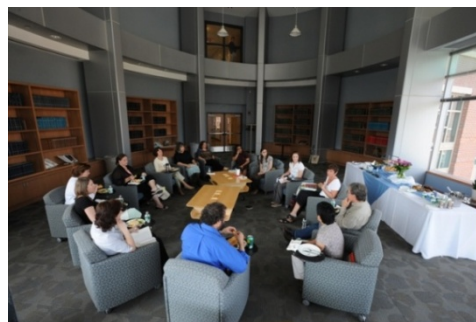
"The caliber of teaching and research at Central, Eastern, Southern and Western is truly remarkable, and the level of scholarship by these faculty members is both inspiring and significant," said Board of Trustees Chairman Karl Krapek.

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### Eastern Celebrates Earth Semester

From March 31 through May 5 the University is observing “Earth Semester” by hosting a series of events and lectures around campus that will raise public awareness of bio-fuels, global warming and other energy-related issues.

Eastern’s Sustainable Energy Studies Program in the Department of Environmental Earth Science presented five Earth Semester Awards recognizing faculty, students and staff for specific and exemplary contributions to Eastern’s reputation as an environmental leader.



On March 31 in the Student Center Theatre, the Sustainable Energy Studies Program hosted a workshop for homeowners, “Conservation and Solar Energy for Homeowners.” Fred Loxsom, endowed chair of sustainable energy studies at Eastern, and Peter Governale, president of Tuscany Design Build, Inc., led the workshop. Also on March 31, students, faculty and staff took an educational hiking trip at Mansfield Hollow in Storrs.

On April 8 in Room 301 of the Science Building, Early Childhood Education Professor Theresa Bouley led a discussion of Colin Beavan’s book, “No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process.” The book chronicles Beavan’s year-long effort to leave as little impact on the environment as possible. During the year, Beavan relinquished motorized transportation, gave up many modern living accessories including electricity and even toilet paper, and began volunteering with environmental organizations.



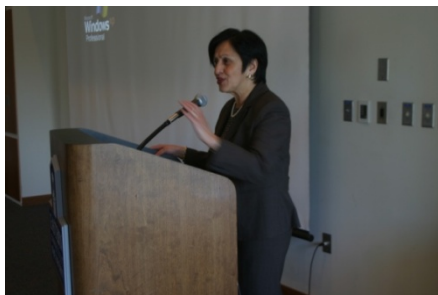
On April 10, the Fourth Annual Earth Day Three-Mile Trail Run and Earth Semester Challenge took place at Mansfield Hollow State Park. Proceeds from the race benefitted the “No Student Left Inside” campaign initiated by the Eastern Outdoors Club. For every female student, staff or faculty member over 40 years old who beat Academic Affairs Vice President Rhona Free in the race, a \$50 donation was made to the ‘No Student Left Inside’ initiative.

### Professor Chukwuogor to Visit Africa

Business Administration Professor Chukwuogor-Ndu has been named to the list of international scholars to participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> World Economic Forum on Africa in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, from May 5 to 7. Held for the first time in East Africa, the meeting will convene a multi-stakeholder community of political and business leaders, top academics and civil society leaders who will tackle the region’s most pressing challenges and explore the opportunities to unlock Africa’s future growth, under the theme *Rethinking Africa’s Growth Strategy*.



### Faculty on Sabbatical Leave Next Year



President Nunez congratulated 14 faculty members who will head off on sabbatical leaves during the 2010-11 academic year. “It is no secret that the quality of a university’s faculty directly supports the institution’s reputation and effectiveness,” said Nunez. “When faculty members embrace activities that improve their teaching, the entire university benefits. And if you accept the assumption that faculty quality reflects institutional quality, then faculty development activities at Eastern must be seen as essential to maintaining the University’s standard of excellence.”

Faculty members taking sabbatical include Business Administration Professor Elizabeth Scott, Business Administration Professor Jeffrey Schaller, English Professors Meredith James and Rita Malenczyk, Visual Arts Professor William Jones, Psychology Professor Peter Bachiochi, Psychology Professor Carlos Escoto, Environmental Earth Science Professor Peter Drzwiecki, History Professor Anna Kirchman, Physical Science Professor Darrell Koza, English Professor Jian-Zhong Lin, Performing Arts Professor Chase Rozelle, Health and Physical Education Professor Neil Williams, Mathematics and Computer Science Professor Bonsu Osei. For more details on specific sabbatical research projects, visit <http://www.easternct.edu/> and click on “News Wire/More News.”



### Laura Hilton Wins 2010 Chemistry Achievement Award



Laura Hilton '12, a Biology major from West Haven, has been named the recipient of the 2010 CRC (Chemical Rubber Company) Press Chemistry Achievement Award. The award is sponsored by the CRC Press; it includes a commemorative scroll and a copy of the “CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics.” Hilton is in the Honors Program at Eastern. Her career goal is to attend medical school and become a pediatrician.

### Jain Book Collection Coming to J. Eugene Smith Library



This summer, Sulekh Jain, president of the Jain Foundation of North America and Program Director of the International Summer School of Jain Studies (ISSJS) in India, and Cromwell Crawford, ISSJS’s academic director, will donate several hundred books on Jainism to the J. Eugene Smith Library.

### Pat Strickland Wins Jain Studies Scholarship to Study in New Delhi

From May 30 to June 19, Patricia Strickland, administrative assistant to Executive Vice President Michael Pernal, will study Jainism for a month at the International Summer School of Jain Studies (ISSJS) in New Delhi, India. Professor Cromwell Crawford, ISSJS's academic director, and Philosophy Professor Hope Fitz, who also is a member of the North American Academic Council for Jain Studies, recommended Strickland for the scholarship.



Strickland's scholarship is the seventh Jain Studies scholarship awarded to members of the Eastern community. Prior to Strickland, three scholarships were given to professors and three to students. Strickland is an active member of Eastern's Peace and Human Rights Committee. Students who have taken a course in Asian Philosophy or ethics, and a course or independent study in Jainism, may apply for scholarships. Interested persons may email [fitzh@easternct.edu](mailto:fitzh@easternct.edu) for more information.

### Governor Rell Thanks Students

On March 3, Governor M. Jodi Rell personally thanked Eastern students and faculty for helping to promote her Complete Count 2010 Census project. Eastern students researched, wrote and produced public service announcements targeting Connecticut's English speaking and Hispanic populations. The highly professional spots are being viewed on television stations throughout the state.



Communications Professor Denise Matthews said none of the students were paid or earned credit for their work: "They just said let's give it a try," after being asked to do so by William Gammell, associate vice chancellor for strategic planning at the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) Office. "Visual Arts Professor Terry Lennox selected three excellent Communication students –Leo Gaviria, Matt Fletcher and Kristin Copeland; Jason Evans '10, a Visual Arts/Graphic Design student; and Luis Ramos, a talented actor fluent in Spanish. With this team, we were able to be successful, and the governor appreciated our work." Above, left to right, are Professor Lennox, Leonardo Gaviria, Governor Rell, Matt Fletcher, Jason Evans, and Professor Matthews. Not pictured, Luis Ramos.

### Poet Natasha Trethewey's Powerful Poetry

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Natasha Trethewey read from her book of poetry, "Native Guard," and a new manuscript on April 14 in the Science Building. The event was sponsored by the English Club.

Daniel Donaghy, assistant professor of English, called Trethewey's reading a "personal thrill," since he admires her poetry and students "love Natasha's work whenever I teach it in class."



Trethewey read poetry ranging from her "figurative musing on our inability to go home after we've traveled somewhere else" to her thoughts concerning the death of her 41-year-old mother. In her poem titled "Monument," she describes an anthill on her mother's grave as a source of guilt she felt for not erecting a monument herself: "This mound is a blister on my heart." Trethewey also read poetry inspired by colonial Mexico's casta paintings, which were created to represent the different ethnic combinations, such as mestizo and mulatto. These paintings struck a chord with Trethewey, who was painfully aware of her mixed heritage growing up in the deep South, where "roads are named after Klan members and where they rendered my birth illegal."

During the question and answer, Trethewey told the audience that her father helped inspire her to become a writer. His poems were some of the first with which she connected deeply. When asked if she relies on others to critique her writing or knows innately when her poems are done, Trethewey replied that she used to read them to her father as well as a friend over the phone, but now she usually asks her husband for his opinion. "I know if I read a poem to him and he can't see the image I'm trying to get across, then there is a problem and I need to fix it," she said.

### National Public Radio Correspondent Discusses Terrorism, Integrity in Journalism



Dina Temple-Raston, award-winning author and FBI correspondent for National Public Radio (NPR), addressed America's war on terrorism on March 31 in the Betty R. Tipton Room of the Student Center. Temple-Raston also discussed her latest books, "In Defense of Our America" and "The Jihad Next Door," the latter of which is about six Yemeni-American friends who were convinced by a recruiter that they should be good Muslims and go to Afghanistan to prepare for holy war. Upon returning to America, they were arrested and charged with supporting terrorism. In "The Jihad Next Door," Temple-Raston explains the steps that led to the men's imprisonment.

"Finding out what to do to get to the drive-way moment, where the listener is hooked and can't leave the car because the story is too compelling, is the key goal to being a good journalist."

### Nicole Rousseau Discusses “Black Woman’s Burden”



Nicole Rousseau, assistant professor of sociology at Kent State University, discussed her book “Black Woman’s Burden: Commodifying Black Reproduction” on April 7 in the Student Center Theatre. The book focuses on the historical exploitation of Black Female sexuality and reproduction in the United States. Rousseau’s work on the structural and institutional roots of race, class and gender inequalities has been cited in numerous publications in the United States and South America.

### Visual Art Department Presents “The Distance from Here”



*Left to right, Hilary Osborn, Adam Pender (top), Gabriel Luxton, perform in the play.*



*Shane William Kegler, left, and Casey Bessette.*

The Performing Arts Department presented Neil LaBute’s play, “The Distance from Here,” on April 6-11 at the Harry Hope Theatre. The performance was directed by J.J. Cobb, assistant professor of theatre and acting. The contemporary play centered around Darrell and Tim, two youths trapped in a society that refuses to give them a chance at the American dream. Darrell’s dysfunctional family does not help his self-confidence. His young mother, Cammie, neglects Darrell and lives with her Gulf War veteran boyfriend, Rich. The audience learns that Rich has sexual relations with both Cammie and her stepdaughter Shari, a young mother of a baby who constantly cries for attention that he is never given.

### Chase Lecture Features Connecticut Review Editor



On April 6 in the Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Conference Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library, Steven Lanza, executive director and editor of the Connecticut Economic Review and a recognized, extensively published expert on the Connecticut economy, discussed the present and forecasted changes in the state economy and the impact upon budget-related issues and long-term economic growth.

### Career Fair a Success



*Joanne Michelle Ocampo '11 looks over a brochure at the fair.*



*Edward Brown '12 talks with Marrakech Inc.'s Lisa Pharr.*

Eighty-five recruiters, 12 alumni employers, and more than 300 students seeking jobs attended the Office of Career Services annual Spring Career Fair on April 1. Sixty tables filled the Betty R. Tipton Room, each offering internship, employment and graduate school opportunities in a wide variety of industries. Many students left the event with interview invitations. Greg Fanska '10, a business major graduating in May, said, "This was Eastern's best fair ever! I've got an interview with CIGNA next week!" The School of Education and Professional Studies co-sponsored the career fair.

### Social Work Students Brighten Futures at Natchaug School



On April 15, six social work students from Eastern worked with the faculty and staff at Natchaug School to host a "Let Your Inner Star Shine Far" educational career fair. Jessica Bachand, Erica Holloway, Lisa Johnson, Jonathan Myette, Samantha Sorensen and Heather Wheeler wanted to provide third- and fourth-grade students at Natchaug School with valuable information to get them thinking about their futures and to encourage pathways to higher education and sustainable careers. In addition to brightening Natchaug students' futures, "Let Your Inner Star Shine Far" also provided Eastern

students with real-life experiences to aid them in their common goal of becoming social workers and making the world a better place.

### Butler's Blog Wins Award

Sharon Butler, digital art and design professor, recently received a 2010 Mindshare Award by <http://www.elearners.com> for her blog, "Two Coats of Paint." Butler's blog won third place in the Visual Arts category. The eLearners Mindshare Awards recognize innovative websites that support life-long learning, creativity, professional skills and social responsibility. Butler also considers her blog to be a community for painters and writers of art. Blog posts consist of excerpts from articles about painting and related topics. "I hope the awards help increase awareness among academics that the best blogs and online journals make terrific additions to traditional course materials, as well as providing respectable publishing alternatives for research and scholarly articles," said Butler.

### Vandermeer Chosen to Coach Eastern W-Volleyball



Veteran volleyball coach Fran Vandermeer will fill the vacancy as head women's coach at Eastern Connecticut State University. She has been named as the sixth permanent coach in the program's 35-year history and will serve in a part-time capacity. Vandermeer succeeds Peter Viteritti, who compiled a two-year record of 32-30 in a part-time capacity over the past two years. The head volleyball coaching position is the third in the 13-year head coaching career of Vandermeer, who has won 318 and lost 128 (.713) at Williams College and Trinity (CT) College. She compiled an overall record of 254-73 in nine seasons (2000-08) at Williams after winning 64 and losing 55 in four seasons (1996-1999) at Trinity.

### Eastern in the News

- The April 9 edition of Mansfield Today reported on Eastern's observance of Earth Semester.
- The April 4 edition of the Hartford Courant's itowns ran a story on the winners of Eastern's Ella T. Grasso Distinguished Service Award.
- On April 2, Rugby Club players Patrick Dyson, Brendan Benway, Cameron Weeks and Chris Jones discussed the Rent-a-Ruger Program on WILI-AM Radio with host Wayne Norman.
- The April 2 editor of the Norwich Bulletin ran a story on several Connecticut senatorial and gubernatorial candidates who visited Eastern on April 14.
- The March 31 edition of the Hartford Courant reported on the Julian Akus Gallery exhibit showcasing the work of four Iranian Women.
- On March 31, Psychology Professor Jeffrey Danforth talked about children's mental health issues--including depression, anxiety, hyperactivity, autism, conduct disorders and child abuse on WILI-AM Radio with Wayne Norman.
- On March 30, Bill Leahy, director of Eastern's Institute for Sustainable Energy, was cited in a WNPR (National Public Radio) report on the push for green jobs.
- The March 29 edition of Berlin Citizen ran a story on Eastern alum Michael DeLorenzo winning the Volunteer of the Year award in the Town of Berlin.
- The March 28 edition of the Norwich Bulletin ran a story on "Jameela's Big Adventure," a new children's book by Denise Howard '89.
- On March 15, Sociology Professor Tom Broffman, along with students Amon Gitau and Victor Jorge, discussed problem gambling in Connecticut on the eve of "March Madness" with Wayne Norman on WILI Radio.
- On March 1, History Professor Anna Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, John Lescoe, and Ed Holda traced the history of Polish people in Windham on the "Wayne Norman Show" on WILI Radio.