

## State Senator Beth Bye Discusses CSUS Reorganization



On March 9, faculty and students filled the Student Center Theatre to learn more about the proposed restructuring of the Connecticut State University System from State Sen. Beth Bye (D–West Hartford), co-chair of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee in the Connecticut Assembly. Eastern was the fourth stop on a tour that Sen. Bye was taking to CSUS campuses to inform students, faculty and staff about the proposal and to answer questions.



Students posed a myriad of questions ranging from how the proposed changes will affect their degrees to how dissolving the System Office would save money. Bye also fielded questions from faculty and staff who are concerned about how increased taxes and union concessions would impact employees; how the reorganization would save money; why UConn was left out of the money-savings scenario being proposed; and much more.

During their session, students wanted to know why the University of Connecticut would be exempt from the restructuring plans. Senator Bye reiterated the importance of maintaining the separate identities of the CSUS schools.

## International Women’s Day Luncheon



*Bessy Reyna*

In honor of Women’s History Month, the Women’s Center at Eastern hosted an International Women’s Day luncheon in the President’s Dining Room in Hurley Hall on March 7. Acclaimed poet and author Bessy Reyna shared her views on gender roles and read from some of her works. In 2009, the National Association of Hispanics in Higher Education named Reyna “Outstanding Latina in Literature and Publications.” In fall 2009, the State of Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission recognized Reyna as the “Latina Citizen of the Year.” International Women’s Day is a global event that marks the celebration of the historical achievements of women, past, present and future.

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## Eastern Actors Perform Vagina Monologues

Eastern students, faculty and staff performed “The Vagina Monologues” on Feb. 23 and 24 in the Student Center Theatre. The theatrical performance, put on by Eastern’s Women’s Center, included actresses from Eastern and the larger community, who brought to life monologues about women moving past violence, rejection and shame to fully accepting their bodies and reclaiming their sexuality.



All proceeds from the shows were donated to two local non-profit agencies — the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut and the United Services Domestic Violence Program, which provide services to women and children in the Willimantic community. V-Day stands for linking love and respect for women together with ending violence against them. This year the production showcased the violence that women and children experience in Haiti.

## Journalist Farai Chideya Speaks



Fari Chideya, a culture critic and correspondent for National Public Radio (NPR), discussed the current state of race relations and the role of African American women in politics and culture on March 9 in Eastern’s Student Center Theatre.

Chideya has served as a commentator on such television networks as Black Entertainment Television (BET), CNN, MSNBC, ABC and FOX News. She also anchored the prime-time program, “Pure Oxygen,” a TV magazine that focused on subjects such as parenting, business, health and entertainment.

## Cherokee Film Producer

On March 2, Heather Rae, who has produced more than a dozen documentaries and a half dozen feature films, discussed the images of Native peoples in the public media, film and popular culture as part of Eastern’s University Hour series. Rae, who is of Cherokee descent, recently produced the Academy Award-nominated “Frozen River,” which won the 2008 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize and was acquired by Sony Pictures Classics for \$1 million. Prior to “Frozen River,” Rae served as producer of “Out of the Blue,” a documentary about the Boise State Broncos’ dramatic January 2007 Fiesta Bowl win against the University of Oklahoma.



Rae has produced documentary films with CBS’s 500 Nations, Turner Broadcasting Company’s “The Native Americans” and the PBS series, “Storytellers of the Pacific.” In 2009, “Variety” named Rae one of “10 Producers to Watch” for her success with both independent and mainstream films.

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## National Gambling Awareness Semester



*Left to right, Jacqueline Ortiz, Matt Vezena, Tom Broffmann, President Núñez, Margaret Clemente, and Kylie Haggerty*

Eastern President Elsa M. Núñez has declared Spring Semester 2011 as National Gambling Awareness Semester at Eastern. In her proclamation, Núñez encouraged all members of the campus community to help educate themselves about the risks of gambling, social gambling, responsible gambling and problem gambling.

“Problem gambling is a public health issue affecting millions of Americans of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds in all communities at a significant societal and economic cost,” said Núñez. “Problem gambling is treatable and treatment is effective in minimizing the harm to both individuals and society as a whole.

“Our University as well as the University’s Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, Office of Wellness Promotion and the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling, invite all members of the Eastern campus community to participate in National Gambling Awareness Semester,” continued Núñez.

Tom Broffman, assistant professor of sociology, welcomed Núñez’s proclamation. “Based on previous research elsewhere, the rate of problem gambling among college students is twice that of the adult population, as gambling is a socially acceptable, readily available and legal recreational activity,” said Broffman. “Gambling addiction is a serious issue. The social cost of problem gambling, including addiction, bankruptcy and crime, was almost \$7 billion last year. This is a trap our community needs not to fall in.”

## Bowling for Buck\$ at Eastern: Annual Bowlathon



Eastern held its annual Bowlathon at 11 a.m. on March 5 at Willi Bowl on Route 6 in North Windham. The Bowlathon has become an annual tradition involving the Eastern community, alumni, local businesses and the general public to raise funds for scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to a minimum of five high school seniors who will enroll at Eastern next fall. Eligible students must attend a high school within a 20-mile radius of Eastern’s campus. A record 35 teams (140 total participants) participated, with Windham Pepsi and Charter Business again serving as lead sponsors.

“What makes this event so special is the outstanding support we continue to receive from the Eastern faculty, staff and students as well as the local business community,” said Ken DeLisa, vice president for institutional advancement. “We had a record number of participants helping us to raise critical scholarship dollars for local students attending Eastern with unmet financial need. It was indeed a special day.”

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## Analyzing Behavior

Nearly 40 Eastern students and alumni, led by Psychology Professor Deirdre Fitzgerald, participated in the Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis (CTABA) Seventh Annual Conference in Cromwell, CT, on March 4. They joined more than 200 behavior analysts, teachers, special education experts, birth-to-three providers, scientists, psychologists and students who listened to an array of prominent speakers talk about autism interventions, anxiety, behavioral assessment and effective educational practices. Fitzgerald served as conference chairperson and chaired three workshops. Psychology Professor James Diller chaired two sessions, and Professor Kristi Salters-Pednault was an invited speaker. Leah Hanrahan won the student poster award for her Honors Thesis, "Evaluation of the Effects of a Sensory Diet on Children with Autism." At right, Fitzgerald (left) with Eastern students Samantha James (center) and Katherine Markley (right.)



## Asteroids and Comets Impacts Eastern and Earth!



Eastern's Department of Physical Sciences hosted a show titled, "Asteroid and Comet Impacts on the Earth" on March 7, in the Robert K. Wickware Planetarium.

Russell Sampson, associate professor of physical sciences and assistant director of the planetarium, said a knowledge of astronomy is helpful for all people. "This star show entertained our students with the wonders of the universe and also demonstrated how an interdisciplinary education is important in the development of a good citizen. Understanding a little

astronomy is important in understanding how to protect our world and our civilization from asteroid and comet impacts. I hope our visitors will develop a better understanding of our place in the cosmos and how we are still at the mercy of the forces of nature. Asteroids and comets have impacted our planet in the past and will in the future."

## Graduate Division Holds Open House

The Graduate Division at Eastern hosted an open house on March 12 in the Student Center. The event was designed to share information with potential graduate students on Eastern's master's degree programs. More than 25 people showed up for this first open house for graduate programs.



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## Eastern Joins in Salute of Chancellor Carter



On Feb. 26, upwards of 20 Eastern faculty, staff and students visited Mather Hall on the Trinity College campus to join in honoring CSUS Chancellor David G. Carter Sr. and Leonard Paul Copes, two distinguished educators who are retiring from official public service. The event was hosted by the Greater Hartford NAACP and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Carter's 45-year career in education began in Ohio and included a remarkable 18-year tenure as Eastern's president from 1988–2006.

*(front row, left to right: Sociology Professors Dennis Canterbury and Eunice Matthews-Armstead; Visual Arts Professor Lula Blocton; Advising Center Director Susan Heyward; Carter, Constance Belton-Green, retired equity and diversity director; and Public Relations Officer Dwight Bachman. (back row, left to right): students Omar Rodriguez and Wiley Dawson; former student Kevin Archer; Alumnus Victor Thomas, Assistant Director of Career Services Cliff Marrett; Alumnus Kareme Murrell; Visual Arts Professor Andy Jones; Associate Librarian Janice Wilson; Biology Professor Yaw Nsiab, and Communication Professor Christopher Ayeni; Attorney James Sandler; and former Learning Center Director Floyd Bagwell.*

## Polish History in Willimantic

The Windham Textile and History Museum in Willimantic is featuring the exhibit “Polish Past in Willimantic and Windham” from Feb. 18 to June 18. This is the first in a planned series of exhibits on the history and culture of different ethnic groups in the area.

History Professor Anna Kirchmann, who is on the Textile Museum's board of directors, is co-curating the exhibit with Janice Knudsen, a senior history major who interned at the museum and has been working with Kirchmann. The exhibit also features census maps created by History Professor Emil Pocock.

“Poles were one of the largest ethnic groups in the area. Their history deserved to be preserved and the story needed to be told, and I am honored that I could do it,” said Kirchmann.

Polish immigrants began arriving in town in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in search of employment in the local mills. They quickly established their thriving community, complete with clubs, parish and other cultural organizations, sports teams, music groups and many businesses. Since the 1930s much of the social and cultural life of the Polish community revolved around the Polish National Home located on Pulaski Court. Polish Americans contributed to the area's many civic causes and business enterprises, served in the military and public offices, and actively participated in the political and cultural life of the community.

The exhibit features documents and records of local organizations, photographs documenting work and life in town, as well as many historical objects and artifacts. It was made possible through a donation from the Pulaski American Citizens Club.



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## Courtney Visits Campus



*Vice President for Institutional Advancement Ken DeLisa with Congressman Courtney.*

Congressman Joe Courtney, (D-U.S. District 2) visited the Eastern campus on Feb. 24 as a guest of the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce. He described the challenges facing the Congress and the political realities of the shift in power in Washington, D.C. following the mid-term elections this past fall. Courtney gave up some committee memberships when the Republican Party took over the House of Representatives, and now sits on the Agriculture Committee, in addition to continuing his Armed Services Committee assignment. He highlighted a number of tax-related bills that Congress passed at the end of the last session, including green energy credits; a depreciation allowance for capital improvements in business and industry; lower social security employee payments; continuance of the Bush tax cuts; and enhancements to the earned income credit. He also said that Pratt & Whitney is projecting thousands of new jobs in Connecticut due to the F35 Joint Fighter project. Another project for which Pratt & Whitney was named the contractor is the Air Force tanker project, which will have a significant positive impact on the Connecticut workforce.

## Bachman Talks History at Department of Children and Families

Dwight Bachman, public relations officer at Eastern, was the keynote speaker at the Department of Children and Families' celebration of African American History Month on Feb. 25. Bachman's historical perspective ranged from the Quakers to John Brown to the Civil Rights Movement. He also cited Neil DeGrasse Tyson of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City, Eastern's commencement speaker in 2010, and former CSUS Chancellor David Carter, as role models for African American youth.



*Left to right, Eastern alumni Carlos Toro, Alshlon Banks, Douglas Taylor, Monica Hernandez, Ama Tandoh and Laura Forrester, pose for a photograph with Dwight Bachman.*

## Eastern Hosts Best of the East Dance Competition

Eastern's student group, Men Achieving Leadership, Excellence and Success (M.A.L.E.S.) hosted the Fourth Annual Best of the East Dance Competition on March 12 in the Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. Eight dance teams came from throughout New England to show their stuff. More than 1,800 audience members were in attendance and more than \$2,500 in funds were raised for the MALES club.



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## Aardvark Jazz Orchestra Entertains!



The Aardvark Jazz Orchestra, led by music director Mark Harvey, performed “Celebrating Mary Lou Williams, First Lady of Jazz,” on March 16 in Shafer Auditorium. The performance was part of Eastern’s 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Arts and Lecture Series. Accompanying the orchestra on “Gloria” from William’s “Mary Lou Mass” was Eastern’s own Chamber Singers, led by Vocal Studies Director David Belles. In addition, the University’s Jazz Ensemble, led by Joe Tomanelli, joined Harvey and his band for William’s classic swing-era piece, “Roll ‘Em.”

## Eastern Softball Ranked No. 2 IN 2011 Pre-Season

With the return of seven starters from last year’s regional championship team, Eastern has been selected second in the 2011 National Fastpitch Coaches’ Association (NFCA) Division III pre-season poll. Eastern was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> nationally prior to last year’s NCAA tournament and No. 3 in the final national poll after finishing third nationally in the eight-team national tournament field. The Warriors return 12 letter-winners and seven starters from the 2010 team which won 39 games, lost six and tied one, tied the program record for wins, and captured 14 consecutive games through the Wellesley, MA, regional.



Under the direction of 10th-year head coach Diana Pepin (297-148-1), the Warriors look for their 18th NCAA tournament appearance (fourth straight) when they open the 2011 season with 10 games in six days March 19-24 in Clermont, FL. (The team was 6-0 at press time.) Eastern hosts the Coast Guard on April 12 and visits Brandeis five days later in doubleheaders.

## Eastern’s Women’s Swimming Break Records 15 Times at NEISDA!



Senior Amy Arisco of Wallingford broke 12 Eastern Connecticut State University individual and relay records in 13 races at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Division II-III New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Championships Feb. 18-20 at the Upper Valley Aquatic Center in Hartford, VT. Led by Arisco, Eastern broke eight individual records and seven relay records in totaling 805 points to finish fifth in the 21-team meet, won by Division II Bentley University (1,467 points). Eastern finished third among Division III institutions and second among five Little East Conference competitors.

Arisco and her cousin, freshman Amanda Rivers of Meriden, both earned All-New England accolades in all three of their individual events and as part of all three relays, while freshman Michelle Schapp of Torrington swam to All-New England honors in two of her three individual events (missing out by .09 in the third individual event) and with all three relays.

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## Mark Your Calendars!

### Salka to Speak on Afghanistan

On Monday, April 4, at 6 p.m. in the Otis Library conference room in Norwich, Bill Salka, professor of political science, will join former U.S. Representative Rob Simmons and Scott Bates, vice-president of the Center for National Policy, on a panel to discuss the evolution of the war in Afghanistan. The moderator will be Robert Farwell, executive director of Otis Library. To reserve your seat for this free program, please call (860) 889-2365, ext. 100. Otis Library is located at 261 Main Street in Norwich.

### Ancestral Memories: The Art of Imna Arroyo

From March 14 to April 15, Visual Arts Professor Imna Arroyo is presenting her work to the 192-member countries represented at the United Nations in New York City. The exhibition will be installed in the lobby of the U.N. General Assembly during the U.N.'s fourth annual commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, which takes place on March 25.

### Ella T. Grasso Distinguished Service Awards

The Annual Ella T. Grasso Distinguished Service Awards will be presented at a ceremony at 6 p.m. on March 30 in the Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Conference Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library. Awards will be given to a member of the community; a member of the Eastern faculty/staff; and a member of the Eastern student body. The award recognizes members of the campus and local community whose actions demonstrate distinguished service in promoting Grasso's ideals to advance women's rights and gender equality.

### The Gift of Life

The next blood drive at Eastern will take place on April 18 and April 19 from 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the Betty R. Tipton Room. People interested in donating may visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code: Eastern), or contact Irene Cretella at [cretellai@easternct.edu](mailto:cretellai@easternct.edu).

### Eastern in the News

- The March 7 edition of the New England Comcast Network reported on the State Bond Commission approving construction of a new softball field at Eastern.
- The March 6 edition of HTNP.com Staff Sunday reported on a Robert K. Wickware Planetarium talk focusing on the threat of asteroids and comets.
- The Feb. 22 edition of The (Willimantic) Chronicle reported on Eastern students Jordan Lorrius, Matthew Grosjean, Donald Palardy and Christopher Brechlin being given the 2011 United Nations Arts for Peace Emerging Artists Award, and Lorrius being named an U.N. Arts for Peace Goodwill Ambassador. The story also ran in the Feb. 21 edition of the Norwich Bulletin.

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- The Feb. 22 edition of the HartfordBusiness.com ran a story featuring Early Childhood Education Professor Sudha Swaminatha, showcasing her views on whether mothering styles have more to do with education and less with ethnicity.
  - The Feb. 20 edition of the Norwich Bulletin reported on Eastern's participation in the 32nd annual Windham Invitational Special Olympics Swim Meet at Windham High School in Willimantic.
  - The Feb. 13 edition of The Norwich Bulletin reported on History Professor Stacey Close's discussion of Juliette Phifer Bursterman, the first African-American professor in Connecticut. Bursterman taught at Eastern from 1948 until her retirement in 1974.
  - The Feb. 16 edition of The Norwich Bulletin reported that three Eastern students were honored for their humanitarian work for volunteering in Haitian orphanages in January.