

## Eastern Students Shine at COPLAC Conference



*Church sculpted the cow shown above, while Pero constructed the moose, shown below.*

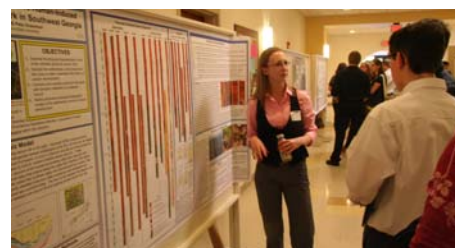


Visual arts students Leanne Church and Amber Pero were two of the eight Eastern Connecticut State University students who attended the Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference on Oct. 1-2 at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Other Eastern students at the conference included Theatre and Communication major Jason Wadecki; Theatre and Business major Stephanie Armagno; Psychology major Connor Patros; Environmental Earth Science majors Amberlee Nicoulin and Lauren Armistead; and English major Welles Purcell.

The conference, sponsored by the national Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, also featured the work of students from Ramapo College of New Jersey; Keene State College in New Hampshire; University of Maine-Farmington; the State University of New York, Geneseo; and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Eastern faculty attending the conference included Jaime Gomez, interim dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies; Art Professor Gail Gelburd; Psychology Professor James Diller; and Environmental Earth Science Professor Alla Smirnova.



*Amberlee Nicoulin*

## Eastern Sees 54 Percent Increase in Science Majors

During a press conference on Sept. 30, convened in Eastern's Science Building by the Connecticut State University System, Carmen Cid, dean of the school of arts and sciences, indicated that the number of science majors at Eastern grew 54 percent from 2005–09, largely due to the new 174,000-square foot science building. The building, a \$64.2 million investment by the State of Connecticut, opened in fall 2008 and has been a huge attraction for students who want to pursue careers in science-related courses of study. The facility also features \$4.3 million in new lab equipment, and consolidates all science and math instruction into one building; classes were previously spread out across seven different buildings on campus. Overall, the number of science majors across the CSUS system has grown 32 percent in the past five years, including 51 percent at Western Connecticut State University, which dedicated its new science building in 2005.

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Eastern President Elsa Núñez opened the press conference by noting that the United States continues to lag behind other nations in the preparation of students in the math and sciences. “We must respond to this urgent need for better science and math education across our nation.”



Admissions Director Kim Crone explained that with 93 percent of Eastern freshmen coming from Connecticut communities and 90 percent of graduates staying in the state to live and work, it is critical that the University show prospective students that Eastern is preparing students for successful careers in the state’s economy, including such growth industries as pharmaceuticals,

nanotechnology and alternative energy. Crone said that prospective students and their parents marvel at the new labs, green house, microscopy center and other state-of-the-art equipment found in the Science Building.

CSUS Chancellor David Carter said that the success of science programs at the four CSUS schools was proof that, “If we build it, they will come.

### **Chandler Howard Named New Business Executive-In-Residence**

Chandler Howard, chief executive officer and president of Liberty Bank, has been appointed by the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees as Eastern’s business executive-in-residence for the 2010-11 academic year.



Widely considered as one of Connecticut’s top banking executives, Howard held leadership positions at Fleet Bank-Connecticut; Connecticut Innovations, a quasi-public agency charged with promoting technology growth; First City Fund Corp; and Community Development Bank in New Haven, prior to coming to Liberty Bank.

Howard serves on the executive committee of The United Way of the Capital Area; the board of trustees for the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts; the advisory board of the Greater Hartford Urban League; and the board of the Greater Hartford YMCA. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Connecticut and a master’s degree in finance from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

As Eastern’s Business-Executive-in-Residence, Howard will visit campus during the academic year to share his insights and business experience with students.

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## Eastern Student Named HGTV's Community Crusader



Sophomore Avery Doninger was named HGTV's (Home & Garden Television) Community Crusader for September. Doninger, from Burlington, CT, designed her own major in international development and social justice with a minor in peace and human rights. Her career goal is to work with a nonprofit in international disaster relief.

"Volunteering and helping people is something I have always loved to do," says Doninger. "I think we all have a responsibility to contribute to our community. I don't want to leave Willimantic without making a positive impact." Visitors of the television network's website (<http://www.hgtv.com>) choose the HGTV Community Crusaders by sharing stories about local volunteers who dedicate themselves to improving their communities.

Doninger started volunteering at the Windham No Freeze Shelter last year before becoming a staff member at the shelter. She holds an on-campus job in the Center for Community Engagement. Doninger also is a weekly volunteer at the Covenant Soup Kitchen and is a member of the Windham Harm Reduction Coalition, Eastern's Habitat for Humanity, the Peace and Human Rights Club and People Helping People. This past summer, Doninger spent six weeks in Leogane, Haiti, providing disaster relief through All Hands Volunteers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing volunteers to disaster areas in order to provide assistance to the survivors.

## Gelburd and Liu Visit China



*Above, Gelburd and Liu share a gift from Hanshan Normal University in Guangdong with President Elsa Núñez.*

This past summer, Art Professors Gail Gelburd and Qimin Liu traveled to China under a CSU System research grant to review and research contemporary Chinese art to prepare to co-curate an exhibition in China and the United States. They also visited art schools in China to study their facilities and establish relationships with the goal of creating an exchange program for Eastern faculty and students.

Gelburd and Liu presented lectures and visited with the presidents, vice presidents, deans and department chairs of Shanghai Normal University; Hanshan Normal University in Chaozhou; Hunan University in Zhangzhou; and Qingdao University, broadening cultural and educational understanding between the two nations. They also visited art galleries, and have been invited to return as visiting professors and consultants at the universities they visited.

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Gelburd and Liu are creating an online joint project with each of the universities they visited and plan to invite faculty and artists and performers from the National Academy of Theatre Arts in Beijing to Eastern.

### Connie Green Feted at Retirement Reception

More than 80 people showed up at the Hartford Club on Sept. 30 to celebrate the career of Constance Belton Green, who retired on Sept. 1 as Eastern's chief diversity officer. Speakers at the event included President Elsa Núñez; CSUS Chancellor David Carter; Nancy Wyman, comptroller for the State of Connecticut; History Professor Stacey Close; and Green.



"I am looking forward to walking down unhurried paths," said Green, noting that her life and career had been guided by three simple beliefs — to pursue justice, to practice kindness and to demonstrate humility.

Remembering both professional and personal moments she had shared with Green, President Núñez lauded Connie's compassion and commitment to equality, and noted that Eastern had the highest percentage of minority faculty among Council of Public Liberal Arts College members — "That's because of you, Connie."



*Above, Nancy Wyman, comptroller for the State of Connecticut, presents Connie Green with a special drawing of the state Capitol building, and Hartford City Councilman Matthew Ritter shares a proclamation from Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra.*

"Connie Green is a woman of virtue," noted Chancellor Carter. "She was born to be a mountain climber, because there is no mountain she cannot climb. Connie has been willing to dream the impossible dream, to fight the unbeatable foe. She has touched all of us in this room."

Comptroller Wyman recalled times she had shared with Green in the General Assembly and told of how Connie had let her know when she needed to alter her course. "That's the sign of a true friend — when they are willing to tell you when you have made a mistake. Connie, don't stop giving me good advice!"

In honoring Green's outstanding public service, a Constance Belton Green Endowed Scholarship Fund has been set up in her honor. The scholarship will target students from Connecticut urban areas with unmet financial need who have demonstrated a commitment to diversity and inclusion. Current donations to the scholarship exceed the minimum endowment threshold of \$15,000, but contributions are still welcome. For more information, please contact Kyle Verona at (860) 465-0003 or [veronak@easternct.edu](mailto:veronak@easternct.edu).

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## Human Rights and Immigration



On Oct. 6 in the Betty R. Tipton Room, Attorneys Joshua Bardavid and Teresa Woods from the Vera Institute of Justice raised important questions about human rights and the use of immigration and detention laws within the United States. The presentation was part of Eastern's University Hour series.

Bardavid and Woods discussed their work as lawyers and advocates for immigrants. They shared stories of the individuals they have aided and represented, as well as their own treatment throughout the process.

Bardavid has been lead counsel in several precedent-setting appeals and has successfully litigated hundreds of immigration cases. Prior to working as an immigration attorney, he worked as a consultant to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Woods is a senior program associate for the Legal Orientation Program, which provides immigrants in detention facilities with information on their legal rights and pro-bono legal assistance. Previously, she worked as an associate resettlement officer with the

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees through the International Catholic Migration Commission in countries such as Tanzania, Cambodia, Nepal and Costa Rica.

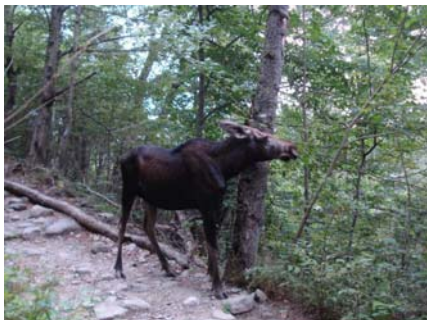


## When a Moose Crosses Your Trail!



Ten students from the Eastern Outdoors Club and their advisors recently traveled to the White Mountains in New Hampshire to climb Mt. Washington, New England's highest peak. All 12 hikers successfully made the 4.2 mile climb, 6,266 feet above sea level.

As they worked their way up the Tuckerman Ravine trail towards the summit, the group spotted a moose. "For most of the climbers, we had never encountered a moose before," said Michael Hislop, a senior from East Lyme and president of the Eastern Outdoors Club. "Our views at the summit were limited by clouds and rain, but this moose sighting more than made up for it!"



Future excursions for the Eastern Outdoors Club include hosting local hikes to Mashamoquet State Park and Valley Falls; attending the Connecticut Rock Gym; a camping trip to Pachaug State Forest; and a visit to Adirondack Extreme, an outdoor obstacle course/canopy tour.

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## Khurshed Rastomji Presents Lecture Recital

Khurshed Rastomji, a lecturer in the music program at Eastern and at the Pomfret School, presented a lecture recital on Sept. 29 in Shafer Auditorium. The presentation, part of the Eastern's University Hour series, showcased Spanish piano music that reflected the wave of nationalism that influenced the music of the late 19th century in Spain. Rastomji focused on composers Isaac Albéniz and Enrique Granados, whose music draws on the wealth of Spanish folk melodies, dances and rhythms.



## Eastern Students Take Back the Night



More than 100 students, faculty and staff participated in Eastern's Annual Take Back the Night on Sept. 21. The annual event rallies the campus community to end sexual assault and violence. Student clubs and organizations were also very active, as leaders from M.A.L.E.S., F.E.M.A.L.E.S., NOW and the Pride Alliance spoke out against sexual assault and violence.



Activities included a survivor's panel, a march led by student leaders on Eastern's campus, a musical performance by Sam Allesandrine and a one-woman presentation by Reanae McNeal. Women's Center Coordinator Raja Staggers-Hakim said she was very pleased with how sincere students feel about preventing sexual violence against women.

## FEMALES at Eastern Walk for Crohn's and Colitis Disease

F.E.M.A.L.E.S. (Females Excelling Maturing to Achieve Leadership, Excellence and Success), a student club that promotes leadership and unity among women on campus, sponsored its Second Annual "Take Steps." The event, a fundraising walk to support people suffering from Crohn's Disease and Colitis, took place on Sept. 26 at the Mansfield Athletic Complex.

"Our goal is to educate others about Crohn's and colitis and spread public awareness about what they entail," said Shawnese Cook, a senior from Windsor and co-president of F.E.M.A.L.E.S. "This event began last year in support of F.E.M.A.L.E.S. member, Amy Goldberg, who was the group's secretary at the time. We soon found many others are affected by these diseases throughout Eastern's campus-faculty, students and staff."

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## Theatre Students Perform “Quyne Paterson”



Students from Eastern’s Theatre program presented “Quyne Paterson” from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 at the Harry Hope Theatre. “Quyne Paterson” was written by Charlie Cheng, who attended Eastern for several years and graduated from the Academy of Arts University in 2002. The play takes place in a diner on Dec. 1, 1941, in Bakersfield, CA. Quyne Paterson hopes to speak with his father for the first time in 12 years, an hour before he is deployed to Japan. However, Paterson ends up sitting with a stranger about whom he knows more than he initially thinks.

Shane Kegler directs the play under the guidance of Ellen Brodie, director of theatre. The cast includes Kara Williams, Luke Reinwald, Gia Kilbrith, Ben Donnel, Shannon Delahanty and Corey Welden.

“The show is about looking into the past and accepting what happened,” says Kegler. “It teaches us to forgive those who may have hurt us in the past. It’s a great show, but it’s also a complicated one. The writer Charlie Cheng did an amazing job writing the story in such a way that you don’t see the twists and turns of the plot.”



*Playwright Charlie Cheng*

## Mark Twain House Hosts Staged Reading of “The Gilded Age”



Eastern’s Performing Arts Department presented a staged reading of “The Gilded Age” on Sept. 16 at the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford. Eastern’s Director of Theatre Ellen Brodie directed the play, based on the 1873 novel, “The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today,” by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner.

In collaboration with David Pellegrini, chair of Eastern’s Performing Arts Department, Brodie and Eastern theatre students made their audience aware of the relevance of the play’s 19<sup>th</sup> century themes. As a social satire, the work examines the greed in Washington, D.C., and the characters’ desires to get rich quickly.

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## The Need is Great!

On Oct. 4 and 5, Eastern students, faculty and staff conducted another successful blood drive in the Betty R. Tipton Room of the Student Center. If you are interested in donating blood during future blood drives, visit [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org). You also may call Irene Cretella at (860) 465-0090 or e-mail her at [cretellai@easternct.edu](mailto:cretellai@easternct.edu)



## Health, Wellness and Benefits Expo



More than 50 health agencies, vendors and representatives convened in the Betty R. Tipton Room of the Student Center at Eastern on Oct. 19 for the 18th Annual Health, Wellness and Benefits Expo. The program included demonstrations, performances and free health screenings throughout the day.



Free chair massages, free HIV and STD testing, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, body fat analysis and free health food samples were just a few of the offerings at this year's event. Among the day's activities were a variety of demonstrations and performances including Friends and Family CPR Training offered by Windham Hospital's Paramedics and yoga. In addition, representatives were on hand with information about retirement, finances, insurance and cancer prevention.

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Maulik Pancholy Kicks Off Arts and Lecture Series

Rising star Maulik Pancholy will open Eastern's 10th Annual Arts and Lecture Series at 7 p.m. on Nov. 15 in the Betty R. Tipton Room in Eastern's Student Center. Pancholy is among a handful of Indian-American actors changing the character and face of Hollywood. He stars in two of TV's most critically-acclaimed shows — the cable hit "Weeds" and the Emmy-award-winning "30 Rock." Pancholy has received a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) award for "30 Rock," along with two additional nominations — one each — for "30 Rock" and "Weeds." He played the lead role in



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“India Awakening” at the Samuel Beckett Theater, for which The New York Times praised his “charismatic...sexy and funny” performance. He also voices the character Baljeet on the top-rated Disney show “Phineas and Ferb.” His other credits include guest spots on “Law and Order: Criminal Intent” and “The Sopranos.” To reserve your seat, call (860) 465-0036 or e-mail tickets@easternct.edu.

### Eastern Sports



The Eastern softball program conducted its 2010 post-season awards banquet on Sept. 19. The Warriors won their 12th regional championship this past spring and finished third nationally in the NCAA Division III national tournament at Eau Claire, WI. Team award-winners included (front row from left in photo) freshman third baseman Arielle Cooper (Mystic), senior centerfielder Ashley Sullivan (Trumbull) and senior first baseman Katie O’Toole (Waterbury), and (back row) sophomore pitcher Molly Rathbun (Hebron) and senior catcher Nikki Mustin (Griswold). Cooper was named Rookie-of-the-Year, Sullivan Coaches’ Award, O’Toole Most Improved Player, Rathbun Most Valuable Player, and Mustin Gold Glove Recipient. The Warriors won their first Little East Conference tournament title this past spring, captured the Wellesley Regional championship, won three games in the national tournament, and tied the program record with 39 victories, 14 of them coming consecutively through the regional tournament.

### Eastern in the News

- The Oct. 5 edition of Columbia Today ran a story on Eastern’s “Project Doors” program, which helps minority and low-income students earn college credits.
- The Oct. 1 edition of Hartford Business reported on Liberty Bank president and CEO Chandler Howard being named as Eastern’s executive business-in-residence for the 2010-11 year.
- The Sept. 30 edition of the Hartford Courant ran a story on Eastern’s Outdoors Club run-in with a moose!
- The Sept. 29 edition of the Connecticut Mirror ran a story on the 54 percent surge in science majors at Eastern over the past five years.
- The Sept. 27 edition of The (Willimantic) Chronicle ran a story on musician Khurshed Rastomji.
- The Sept. 25 edition of The (Willimantic) Chronicle ran a story on Eastern students walking to raise money to support individuals suffering from Crohn’s Disease.
- The Sept. 16 issue of Identidad ran a full-page story on Visual Arts Professor Imna Arroyo being named Connecticut State University System Professor.
- The Sept. 8 edition of The (Willimantic) Chronicle ran a story on Eastern’s new bachelor of science degree in environmental earth studies.
- The September issue of The West Indian American ran a two-page story on the graduation of 45 educators from Jamaica who received their bachelor of arts degrees in sociology from Eastern.