

U.S. News Ranking Tops Fall University Meeting



On Aug. 27, President Elsa Núñez proudly announced that for the first time Eastern had entered U.S. News and World Report's Tier One rankings as one of the top 100 regional universities in the North; Eastern is the 28th top public institution on the list. She said that Eastern was again ranked among "Best Colleges in the Northeast" by the Princeton Review and also named to President Obama's National Honor Roll for Community Service for the second year in a row.

Also, for the second year in a row, Eastern was named a "Great College to Work For" by the Chronicle of Higher Education. President Núñez said the award "signifies that we have a strong collaborative spirit on our campus — an enhanced capacity to do great work together."

Núñez noted several other exemplary developments that underscored the progress being made on the University's 2008-13 Strategic Plan, pointing out that more than 10,000 students visited the Academic Services Center this past year, a 48 percent increase over the previous year. In addition, incoming freshmen who were ranked in the top 25 percent of their class increased from 28 percent to 32 percent over the past two years.

In addition, the College Board recognized Eastern's Dual Enrollment initiative with Quinebaug Valley Community College and Hartford Public High School with an Innovation Award for the New England Region; the first-to second-year retention rate has moved up, most recently from 74 percent to 78 percent for our 2009 cohort; and the six-year graduation rate (2009 figures) is at 51 percent, up five percent from the previous year.

The president also provided the audience with an update on the University's budget, noting that fiscal challenges will be even greater during the state's next biennial budget.

Núñez noted that the State of Connecticut is looking at a budget shortfall of almost \$3 billion for Fiscal Year 2012, and said the departmental sacrifices that have been made, along with innovative Works-\$mart cost saving initiatives and frugal spending habits, must continue.

Still, more good news — the University is reviewing architects to design the new Fine Arts Instructional Center, and, come December, will have 808 new parking spaces will be available when the new garage is finished.

During the University Meeting, several individuals were recognized for their years of service to the University. Sharon Smith, library technical assistant; Sonya Kutschker, residential life administrative assistant; Carla Sheldon, visual arts secretary; John Bazin, assistant to the director of student center/activities; Sharon Butler, associate professor of visual arts; Dennis Canterbury, associate professor of sociology; Charles Chatterton, associate professor of health and physical education; Wendi Everton, associate professor of psychology; Meredith James, associate professor of English; William Salka, associate professor of political science; John Toedt, associate professor of physical sciences; Huan-Yu Tu, associate professor of math and computer science; Darrell Koza, associate professor of physical sciences; Qimin Liu, associate professor of visual arts; Eunice Matthews-Armstead, associate professor of sociology; Anthony Cornicello, associate professor of performing arts; Zosia Carlquist, physical sciences secretary; Nicole Lynn Balkus, custodian; and Deborah Simpson, library technician were presented with awards for 10 years of service.



Dwight Bachman, public relations officer (left); Yaw Nsiah, associate professor of biology (right); Raouf Mama, professor of English (not pictured) and Roy Wilson, professor of environmental earth science were presented awards for 20 years of service.

Patrick Christadore, painter in maintenance and facilities (not pictured), and Ann Higginbotham, professor of history and department chair, were honored with 25-year service awards.



Charles Rommel, professor of math and computer science; Diane Devine, university controller; and Constance Green, chief diversity officer, were honored as they retired from University service.

Martorell Brings the 'Isle of Enchantment' to Eastern



Renowned Puerto Rican artist and personality TV/radio Antonio Martorell presented a lecture at Eastern on Sept. 13 in the Science Building Amphitheatre. The lecture was part of Eastern's Artist Talk series.



Martorell showed images that play a significant role in Puerto Rican identity both on the island and in the Diaspora. "The images capture a diversity of techniques, concepts and formats striving to ask, answer and manifest our quest for dialog between the particular and the universal, the here and there," said Martorell.

Martorell has Latin American Fellowships at Harvard University, Cambridge and several other institutions. He won the award for Best Installation granted by the Puerto Rican Association of Art Critics in 1991. Some of his recent exhibitions include Tables for Behind the Sofa (1999) and Carbon Copy (2000).

Eastern Energy Staff Helps Uruguay



When the country of Uruguay wanted to improve its military's use of energy, it turned to the Connecticut National Guard, which has an information partnership with the Uruguan government's military. The national guard, in turn, called on energy experts at Eastern. On Aug. 24 and 25, Michael Desjarlais, maintenance supervisor; Renee Keach, associate director for design and engineering in facility management and planning; and William Leahy, associate executive director of Eastern's Institute for Sustainable Energy, gave a presentation on energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy to representatives of the National Guard and the Uruguayan Armed Forces and Energy Office. The group also toured campus to see the advanced technologies in the mechanical room of the Science Building and the geothermal heating and cooling system in the High Rise residence hall, the largest geothermal system in Connecticut. Above right, Michael Desjarlais, maintenance supervisor, discusses the geothermal system with Connecticut Guard Major and U. S. Army escort officer Marc Saphir, Col. Gualdemar Guitierrez and Uruguay Col. Fernando Ariel Ciaran Velasquez.

Joe Courtney Supports Dual Enrollment Initiative



On Sept. 7, U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney announced a \$300,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant to help support Eastern's Dual Enrollment Initiative with Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) and Hartford Public High School. The program allows students to take nine credits in their first semester at QVCC and one course at Eastern, while living in Eastern dorms and acclimating to a college environment. The students then begin full time at Eastern in the second semester. Seven of the nine students who enrolled in fall 2008 are now juniors; nine of the second 10 who enrolled in fall 2009 are now sophomores, and a third group of 10 began their studies this semester. Eastern recently won a College Board regional award for the program's innovative approach to providing access to college to inner-city youth.

Italy this Summer!

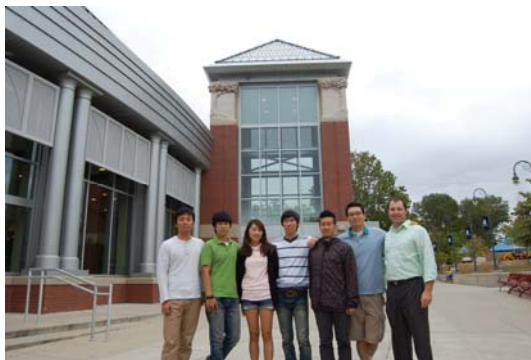


This past July, 22 students traveled with English professors Chris Torockio and Dan Donaghy to Florence, Italy. The students participated in Torockio's fiction class and Donaghy's poetry class. The Italian culture and landscape inspired their creative work, which culminated in a public reading at the end of the study tour. The Eastern group held class at the Studio Arts Centers International (SACI) Florence campus. Each Sunday, the group went on field trips to nearby cities such as Siena, Pisa, San Gimignano, Lucca and Volterra. Pictured from left to right, top row: Chris Torockio, Peter Hildebrand, Andrew Garaventa,

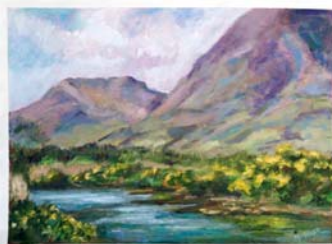
Conor Gereg, Christina Glass, Miriah Petruzzi, Brian Eastwood, Dan Donaghy, Amanda Nagle, Sigrid Vanderburgh, Kellin Atherton. Bottom row, left to right: Holly Gonzalez, Mike Rouleau, Kate Harner, Joelle Lombardo, Christine Smith. Not pictured, Katie Cote, Rachel Cocola, Sarah Dorsey, Garrity Thompson, Ed Charamut, Christine Dascanio, Lindsay Galpin and Danielle McGrath.

Korean Students Visit Eastern

Kinesiology students from Yeungnam University in Daegu, South Korea, visited Eastern on Sept. 16. The students are visiting sport management programs in the Northeast with their professor, Joon-Young Han. The Korean students visited Professor Gregory Kane's research methodology class and talked about the cultural differences between the United States and Korea. They also shared gifts with Professor Kane's students and invited them to visit them Korea. The tour group will also be visiting universities and sport venues in Boston and New York.



Miller Exhibits Art



Muriel Miller, lecturer of visual arts, is being featured in an art exhibition at ArtSpace Windham on Main Street in Willimantic. The exhibit opened on Sept. 10 and runs through Sept. 25. Paintings being featured are work from a recent trip Miller took to Ireland and Scotland. All of the images were painted on location.

Soccer Anniversary Reunions in October

Eastern soccer anniversary reunions are planned for the men's and women's programs in October. The men's 50th Anniversary season event is scheduled for Oct. 10 at 3 p.m., while the women's 25th Anniversary season gala is scheduled for Oct. 16 at 9 a.m. in the Student Center Café. All former players and coaches are invited.

As part of the men's 50th reunion, a dinner and speaking program will conclude at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by the current team's 6 p.m. home game against Kean University at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex. Players and coaches from the program's club team in 1960 and first intercollegiate team in 1961 will be recognized at halftime.

The women's reunion will feature a breakfast and speaking program, which will conclude at 11:30 a.m. and will be followed by the current team's 1 p.m. home game against Rhode Island College at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex. Players and coaches from the program's club team in 1985 and first intercollegiate team in 1986 will be recognized at halftime.

In 49 seasons, the men's program has enjoyed 26 winning seasons – including consecutive undefeated regular seasons in 1968 and 1969 – has won four New England championships and has competed in 15 postseason tournaments. In 24 years, the women have enjoyed 19 winning seasons, competed in 11 postseason tournaments and won six Little East Conference titles.

Alumni and former coaches planning to attend must RSVP to the Eastern Alumni Office at (860) 465-5302 or at alumni@easternct.edu. The deadline to reply for the men's reunion is Oct. 4. Deadline for the women's reunion is Oct. 11.

Mark Your Calendars

Akus Gallery Celebrates American Artists



Beginning Aug. 26 and running through Oct. 7, the Julian Akus Gallery is presenting the art of Sheila Pree Bright, Dave Cole and Amin Swessi in the exhibition, "A Candid World: American Visions." Each artist incorporates imagery of the American flag into their work as a contemporary commentary on American culture.

A University Hour talk on the presentation took place on Sept. 15 in Shafer Auditorium, followed by a reception in Akus Gallery. As part of the Year of the Arts celebration at Eastern, organized jointly by the Departments of Performing Arts and Visual Arts, all Akus Gallery exhibitions for 2010-11 will celebrate American artists.

Bright's "Young Americans" is a series of large-format, chromogenic prints of people aged 18 to 25, each holding the American flag in some manner reflective of their sense of identity in the United States. Cole, who is known for his massive site-specific, knitted installations, carefully takes apart and reconstructs American flag imagery, using such diverse media as toy soldiers, flags and bullet casings, literally piecing together elements to recreate the American flag to its regulation size and color. Swessi has created a "barcode flag" emblematic of American consumer culture. This design, which began as a graduate school project, has evolved into a mass-produced image sold through Urban Outfitters.

Akus Gallery also is hosting a kiosk for Eastern's VETS Center during the run of this show, which will include information regarding the program "Cell Phones for Soldiers"; Warriors for Warriors bracelets available for purchase; and other information regarding services for veterans. All proceeds for sales of items at the VETS Center kiosk will go to the Eastern Veterans Scholarship Fund.

The Akus Gallery is located in the lower level of Shafer at the corner of Windham and Valley Streets in Willimantic. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1 to 7 p.m. on Thursday and 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information regarding this and other exhibitions at Akus Gallery, call (860) 465-4659 or visit www.easternct.edu/akusgallery.

FEMALES "Take Steps"

F.E.M.A.L.E.S. (Females Excelling Maturing to Achieve Leadership, Excellence and Success) is sponsoring "Take Steps," a fundraising walk to support people with Crohn's Disease and Colitis. The event takes place on Sept. 26, 2010, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Mansfield Sports Complex. Sponsorships include \$30 for a student club or sports team, \$5 for an individual, or \$3 for an Eastern student. For more information or to sign up, e-mail females@my.easternct.edu.



Actor Maulik Pancholy Opens Art 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 show time 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 "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."

Eastern in the News

- The September 2010 edition of the West Indian American ran a feature story on the graduation ceremony for 45 Jamaican educators who received their bachelor degrees in sociology at Eastern. The story also ran in the Hartford Courant (Aug.13) and the Jamaica Gleaner (Aug. 11).

- The August 23 edition of The New Haven Register ran a feature story on Eastern's new textbook rental program.
- The August 21 edition of the (Meriden) Record-Journal ran a story on Eastern's ranking in the top 100 regional universities in the North in the U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges rankings.
- The August 21 edition of The Norwich Bulletin ran a feature story on Eastern's second appearance in the Princeton Review. Eastern was recognized as one of the top universities in the Northeast.
- On Aug. 16, Andy Geremia, founder and president of Food Runners CT, discussed the program on the Wayne Norman Show on WILI-AM Radio. In the program, Eastern students pick up food from corporate donors and deliver it to the Willimantic Salvation Army and the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic.
- On Aug. 8, Eastern Sociology Professor Dennis Canterbury, along with Math Professor Bonsu Osei and student Soncheray Hall, discussed their recent research in Ghana on the Wayne Norman Show on WILI-AM Radio.
- The July 29 edition of The (Willimantic) Chronicle ran a feature story on Assistant Professor of English Benjamin Pauley's research grant with Google.