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Editor’s note: In the Winter 2011 issue of EASTERN, a caption on page 4 misidentified the person in the photo with President Elsa Núñez as Artelia (Green) Williams ’72. The woman pictured is actually Shirley J. Gillis ’75 M.S. EASTERN regrets the error.

EASTERN magazine is published by the Division of Institutional Advancement for the benefit of alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of Eastern Connecticut State University.

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As America marks the 10-year observance of “9/11” and honors those who perished on that day, it seemed very appropriate to dedicate this issue of EASTERN magazine to members of the Eastern family — alumni, faculty, staff and current students — who provide public service to their communities and to our nation.

In these pages, you will read about Eastern alumni serving as firefighters, police officers and in other roles on the front lines of our society’s safety net. Others are serving in the National Guard, the Reserves or the Peace Corps. As important as first responders and military personnel are, we also have alumni serving our communities as social workers, child psychologists and other social service providers. While the nature of their service differs, members of the Eastern family are serving, protecting and making lives better wherever they live and work.

Dr. Martin Luther King once said, “Service is the highest form of leadership,” and so it is not surprising to see so many Eastern graduates in important roles in a variety of community organizations. Since its beginnings, Eastern has been dedicated to developing a service attitude among our students. To ensure that we continue this important tradition, we opened the Center for Community Engagement in fall 2009 to coordinate student volunteer efforts and facilitate service learning in our local community. As a result, a commitment to serving others continues to be a hallmark on our campus.

A month ago, we received further evidence that Eastern is on the right path. For the third year in a row the University was recognized by the Chronicle of Higher Education as a “Great College to Work For,” and a USA Today article rated Eastern the top university for the degree to which our students are committed to serving our local community. Having a healthy and positive workplace for our faculty and staff is not only good for those who work and teach on our campus each day, but it is also good for our students, alumni, visitors and friends. Equally so, it is gratifying to know that the commitment to service shown by our students is receiving national recognition. Such accolades reaffirm our determination to provide Eastern students with the intellectual tools they need to compete in today’s workforce, and to be active members of their communities and our free society.

While we are proud of our current students and their commitment to service, we also reflect on the serious work that so many of our alumni carry on each day in their respective communities, helping to make everyone’s quality of life better. Please join me in extending our appreciation and respect to these committed and selfless citizens.

Elsa Núñez President
In March, Eastern inducted its third class of Fellows, a group of alumni selected from the field of media and communication. Inductees included Rob Nieto ’96, senior open producer for the nightly news show “Inside Edition with Deborah Norville”; Carol Pandiscia ’89, senior vice president for technology program management and business planning at ESPN; and Paul Provost ’97, president and publisher of the Norwich Bulletin.

“Colleges and universities ultimately are defined by the success of their graduates,” said President Elsa Núñez. “For a liberal arts institution, it is especially important to showcase the rich diversity of career success that our graduates achieve. Each of the new inductees, having achieved the status of an Eastern Fellow, demonstrate the transformational impact of an Eastern degree.”

The Fellows visited classes taught by Communication Professor Terri Toles-Patkin and Business Administration Professor Kevin Synott to share their career experiences with students. In addition, during a panel discussion in the Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Conference Room, all three credited Eastern with success in their careers. Nieto encouraged students to make the most of internships, Pandiscia urged them to immerse themselves once they find a job, and Provost told them to “find something that excites you; something for which you have passion, and bring a solid work ethic to it.”

At right, Steve Shane ‘86, director of cost management for Aetna, was the guest speaker at this year’s Accounting Banquet on April 30. Steve visits here with Accounting Professor Moh’d RuJoub.

Ken Bedini, vice president for student affairs (center), visits with Brenda (Baltovick) Kobolski ’85 and Andrew Bessette ’05 at the alumni reception in Vernon on Feb. 24.
Back in the Day

Jeffrey Brandt ’93 served 17 years in the U.S. Army as an infantry captain and now works in the national defense industry. Brandt noted that his time at Eastern made him understand the need for community and public service and shaped him as an individual: “In order to maintain campus housing, we were required to perform four hours of community service per semester. During one semester, a sociology professor challenged our class to volunteer at a facility that was outside of our normal comfort zone. I found an opportunity to serve as a handyman at a center for abused women and children in the Hartford area. That opportunity opened my eyes to a real need in our communities, and I maintained the commitment long after graduation — and really, until this day.”

Today, Brandt continues to volunteer as a handyman through a program sponsored by his church in Mansfield, TX; as a basketball and baseball coach for disadvantaged kids in various cities; and also serves as a board member and as treasurer for a nonprofit charity that supports individuals in need in his community.

Victor Ferry ’62 has fond memories of his time at what was then Willimantic State Teacher’s College. He was involved with the sports program as a basketball team manager; served as sports editor of the Campus Lantern and as the “Willi-college” news reporter for several local newspapers; and was a member of several committees — all while working his way through school.

“Finding time to be active in events other than work or study was a challenge. I had to work to pay my own tuition, texts, room, board and other living expenses. I worked at one of the regional grocery chains as a meat cutter for an average of 20-24 hours per week from the age of 14 through to when I became a science teacher. The meat business was my paternal family’s long-time business and trade. By opting to become an educator I broke a long-held family tradition of well over a century and was on my own to get there. Given a similar situation I would opt to do it again, though I must admit, at the time the challenges faced were sometimes daunting!”

Victor Ferry retired in 1997 after 35 years as a public school educator in Waterford and served on the Emergency Management Advisory Council for 20 years.

The Brandt family (clockwise from left): Michael, Jeffrey, Jennifer and Matthew. Jeffrey is a value engineer at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in Texas.
Eastern Celebrates!

Eastern’s annual reunion weekend kicked off on May 20 with the “Bash for the Past” young alumni reunion, which was attended by members of the classes of 2001 through 2010. On May 21, alumni and guests from the five-year Classes of 1941 through 1986 returned to campus for their respective reunions, sharing memories and marveling at the changes that have occurred at the University. Reunion attendees were treated to tours of the campus and a special reception hosted by President Elsa Núñez. The Class of 1961 was also honored upon reaching the 50th anniversary of its commencement.

Later that day, the Class of 1961 led the grand “Alumni March” into the Big Tent to join 1,100 other guests, including graduating seniors from the Class of 2011 and their families, alumni, faculty and staff, for the annual “Eastern Celebrates Big Tent Barbeque.”

1. Gerald Cruson ’61 traveled from California to lead the “Alumni March” to the Big Tent Barbeque. He is flanked by classmates Donald Beerworth ’61 and Class President William Tobin ’61.


3. It was a spectacular afternoon for the Big Tent Barbeque.

5. Class of ’51: Front: Barbara Boucher, wife of Frank Perrotti; Francis Franz; Marjorie (Rice) Rousseau. Back: Kenneth Ring ’90, Frank Perrotti, Hazel (Merrell) Johnson, Elizabeth (Chalmers) Lowell, Kathleen (Daly) Ring, Dorothy (Hartwick) Young, Ralph Young, Tom Lombardo

6. Colette (Bibeau) Trailor ’61 and Roland Trailor ’61

7. Emma Cox ’11 pages through EASTERN magazine while enjoying the Big Tent Barbecue with her family.

8. From left: Omarli Layne ’10, Vicki De Los Santos ’11 and Andre Warren ’11

9. Gloria (Petruccelli) Drouin, Beverly (Alexander) Raymond, Paul Drouin, Frances (Alter) Pribish, Wendy (Willett) Figler, Louise Viens, Dean Viens

10. Class of ’64: Lawrence Colvin, Eleanor (Leandri) Campo, Carole (Hinckley) Barstrom, Ruth (Standish) Swift, Lucy (Shea) Sweeney, Elizabeth (Paradis) Henseler, Robert Henseler

11. More than 1,100 alumni, graduates, families and friends enjoyed the food, fun and music.

12. President Elsa Núñez congratulates Evelyn (Love) Roper ’41 while Evelyn’s daughter, Linda Jameson, looks on.
13. Ellen Lang ’81 and her husband, Jim Watson, with President Elsa Núñez

14. Mark Pfeffer ’11 and Sarah Pfeffer

15. Barbara (Torpy) LeBlanc ’76 shares a few family photos with Penny (Stanley) Tracy ’76

16. Alumni tour the J. Eugene Smith Library

17. Members of the Class of ’81: Ellen Lang, Stephen Ahern, Claudia (Sweetland) Ahern and Kathy (Leary) Gentilozzi

18. Roxanne (Williams) Jones ’76, Christine Jones, Dennis Jones

19. Carol (Inzinga) Puckett ’79 and Olivia Puckett ’11
20. David Pribish; Gloria (Petruccelli) Drouin; Barbara Boucher, wife of Frank Perrotti ’51; Paul Drouin ’71; Bill Raymond; Beverly (Alexander) Raymond ’71; Frances (Alter) Pribish ’71

21. Joseph Trocki Jr. ’61 and Gerald Cruson ’61 share a few laughs

22. James Naum ’61 (left) and Anna Naum ’76 participate in the Alumni March

23. Roxanne (Williams) Jones ’76 catches up with classmate Guy Glover ’76

24. Members of the Class of ’86: Nancy Post, Robert Boyce and Nancy Taylor Hatch

25. Class of ’76 (from left): Linda Kirsipuu-Bernier, Richard LeBlanc, Barbara (Torry) LeBlanc, Deborah (Gracy) Rodriguez, Mary Ann (Shencwitiz) Norman, Larry Rodriguez, Geraldine (Hunter) Swanson, Trenton Wright, Penny (Stanley) Tracy, Lawrence Marquis, Roxanne (Williams) Jones and Guy Glover
Throughout the country, Eastern graduates are showing dedication to their communities through work as firefighters and police officers. Each of these first responders is using their Eastern education to understand the complexities of their careers and the people they serve.

“Being a police officer is all I ever wanted to do,” said Patrick McMahon ’99, acting chief of police for Middletown. McMahon was eager to join the Norwich Police Department in 1984 after serving four years in the U.S. Marines. “I knew that if I wanted to move up the ranks I needed more education,” he said. McMahon studied criminal justice at a community college and then attended Eastern to major in public policy and government, all the while working full time and raising a family. His career since has taken him from Norwich to Groton to Middletown and included time spent earning a master’s degree in public administration from the University of New Haven.

Not every police officer dreams of being on the force as a child. Some are encouraged by a parent or friend, while others, like Lisa Maruzo-Bolduc ’82/’87 M.S., chief of police in Willimantic, fall into it almost by accident. “The unemployment office was a little confused,” she explained. While attending Three Rivers Community College, Maruzo-Bolduc worked full time at a reform school for boys in Lebanon. When the school closed, she went to an unemployment office looking for counseling jobs, with the ultimate goal of becoming a prison counselor. Instead, “they suggested the Willimantic Police Department and a few security jobs.”

It was 1979 and there were very few female police officers. Maruzo-Bolduc applied anyway, was hired and has been with the department ever since. “Once I started working here I got the bug. I wanted to make this my career,” she
said. She fell in love with not only the job but also the city of Willimantic, where she felt that she could make a real difference. “It was not my intention to be a chief just anywhere. I wanted to be a chief here,” she said.

It is variety in their work that each of these Eastern alumni crave, and variety that keeps them loving their careers. For Troy Wunderlich ’99, the criminals on his patrol in the city of Inglewood, CA, keep him on his toes. When working on patrol, Wunderlich can receive up to 30 calls in one night, often dealing with the gang violence and criminals that plague Inglewood. Wunderlich recalls a recent incident when he, along with his partner, attempted to pull over a car. The driver took off, running stop signs as they chased him down local streets and through alleyways. The car chase quickly turned into a foot pursuit after the suspect crashed into a wall. With the criminal in custody, Wunderlich and his partner retraced their steps and found the suspect’s gun. After three years on patrol, Wunderlich feels like he is making a difference. “I’m getting bad people off the streets.”

Getting to know the community and letting residents know how they can work with the police is what makes Dale Roath ’90 a successful sergeant with the Grapevine, TX, police department. “The department is very community oriented. There is a community relations division and we encourage community policing.” As a member of a small department, Roath wears many hats. He patrols his district, is trained for the SWAT team and is a firearms instructor. He puts in overtime and also works after hours, volunteering through the community relations department. “It’s worth it when you see that you have made a
difference,” he says. “I can show people that the system, though not perfect, does work. To show victims that the system works is very fulfilling.”

One of the best ways for an officer to get involved with the public is to work for the community affairs department. **Vickie Bedore ’84**, a police officer in New York City, works for the Community Affairs Bureau in Brooklyn, where she helps to foster police-community relations and works for the Police Athletic League. Bedore works closely with Brooklyn’s children through the athletic league, providing them with recreational, educational and cultural programs. “It’s rewarding when they buy into the program and see that police are human,” she said. She also works with area corporations to secure donations for the league.

It was her work in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that brought Bedore even closer to the city and the entire country. “I helped run the family assistance program from September through December and then guarded the public viewing area from January through March,” she recalls. She also went to the World Trade Center on her own time to help dig through the rubble and saw firsthand how the entire city and country came together. “We saw the worst that could happen but we saw the best in people. Everybody chipped in. People put everything aside to come together.”

**James Berry ’01**, the chief of police for the city of Paducah, KY, began his career in Hartford. As he moved up the ranks from patrol, Berry worked with the SWAT team, the bomb squad, and vice and narcotics, citing vice and SWAT as his favorite assignments. “It was a thrill flirting with danger,” he said. “Policing is different every day in general, but here it was on a whole new level.” Berry left the Hartford Police Department to become chief of security for the Hartford Board of Education’s school system, where he was able to work with Hartford’s children on a proactive basis. “I was getting to them before they got into trouble,” he said. Berry returned to policing and soon became chief of police in Manchester, before moving on to his current position in Paducah. Throughout his tenures as police chief, Berry has always worked closely with the communities that he served. “I love working with people. You can either make this job hard or easy on yourself, depending on how you treat people.”
Jim Grieco ’78 already had a career when he decided to become a firefighter. After graduating from Eastern with a degree in biology, Grieco drove west to Washington state in search of new locations for scuba diving. Once there he settled into a career with the Boeing Company that lasted for more than seven years. In his free time, Grieco volunteered as an EMT through his local fire department. “One night while assisting on a fire I realized that I wanted to be inside helping, not outside,” he said. Grieco first trained as a volunteer and eventually quit his job to become a full-time firefighter. The training was very physical, and as he moved up into his current position as captain he found that the job got more complicated. “There’s a lot to understand about the fire engine, and in management you’re dealing with budgets and salaries.” As captain with the Snohomish County Fire District 1, Grieco trains his crew, works with interpersonal dynamics, and responds to fire and medical calls. He has even been called upon to help deliver babies, proudly sharing that a happy and healthy baby was delivered every time.

Through all of their efforts, these Eastern graduates will continue to make a difference in the towns and cities for which they work, combining their education with a passion for what they do and a respect for the public that employs them. “This is the best job in the world,” said Grieco.
It was easy for Michael Purdue ’95 to enlist in the Connecticut Army National Guard in 1990, as many members of his family had served in WWII. "I was raised with a strong sense of service to one’s country. It seemed very natural," he said.

An accounting major at Eastern, Purdue was working as a financial analyst and was married with children on Sept. 11, 2001. Feeling that America’s sense of security had been ripped apart, he took a leave of absence from his job when his Guard unit asked for volunteers from security teams to serve at Bradley International Airport, where his platoon was assigned to security. His unit was later deployed to West Point, Fort Monmouth and Fort Drum, and finally to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The reality of war set in quickly for Purdue when his platoon arrived in Iraq in 2003. On the first day, his unit lost its first soldier. Two days later, a second soldier was killed. "I wrote a gut-wrenching letter home to my father asking him to help my children know me should anything happen. It was a long year that forever changed me," he said.

Seven years later, Purdue was deployed to Afghanistan as part of a mountain infantry battalion where his unit took on the difficult task of turning Afghan security forces into a self-sustaining force. "I have bandaged the wounds of children; watched as people stood in lines to vote for the very first time, undeterred by incoming mortar rounds meant to keep them from the polls; worked with the State Department, USAID, contractors and militaries from around the world; climbed mountains on the Pakistani/Afghanistan border; and sat with border police, sharing a meal and talking about our families and what it meant to be Christian or Muslim. I have tried to be that ambassador who showed what Americans can be," he said.

Col. Michael Sainsbury ’83 retired on Sept. 1 after serving nearly 24 years in the U.S. Army. His military service took him all over the United States and Germany, with additional combat tours in Panama and Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He also served a stint as a law professor on the faculty of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and with the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps, and was assigned to Baghdad, Iraq, where he trained and equipped Iraqi

Sainsbury now serves as a senior military attorney with the Department of Defense, advising soldiers and commanders on military issues and supervising junior military and civilian attorneys. He encourages Eastern students to consider serving in the Armed Forces. “The brunt of these two wars is being carried by less than one percent of the population and their families. Unlike WWII, where there was universal sacrifice by all families, there is virtually none of that in today’s society,” he said.

Brittany Bonneville, a sociology major from Vernon/Rockville, enlisted in the Army National Guard this past March. After basic training at Fort Leonardwood in Missouri, Bonneville will serve as a military police officer (MP) in the 143rd Military Police Unit in West Hartford and will be deployed to Afghanistan in October 2012. “Army core values are applicable in almost every aspect of life — loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honesty, integrity and personal courage,” she said.

A number of Eastern staff members have also served their country. William Kenney, retired chief warrant officer, W-4 in the U.S. Navy and support specialist in information technology services, enlisted in 1962 and remained on active duty until 1987. His specialty was helium-oxygen diving, salvage and submarine rescue.

He served as a diver, diving officer, navigator and operations officer on river patrol boats in Vietnam in the late 1960s, on several submarines and submarine rescue ships, and on a guided missile destroyer escort.

Associate Director of Athletics Mel Graf, a graduate of ROTC at Cornell University and the prestigious Army War College, is a full colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and has served more than 25 years as a civil affairs officer. Her father is also a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and served in WWII. “Patriotism and service to our country is something that was instilled in us at a very young age in our household and something that has always been a part of me. It is who I am,” she said.

At left: Col. Michael Sainsbury ’83 receives the Legion of Merit from Major General James Chambers at Fort Lee, VA, in 2009.

At right: LTC Sainsbury gets “welcome home” hugs from his son, Sam, and daughter, Clara, upon his return from Iraq in July 2005.
Graf, who served in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan, has commanded a battalion of more than 200 troops and served in combat. She has won numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service, the Bronze Star and Terrorism Expeditionary Awards. Today, she works to enhance the relationship between military forces and civil authorities in Iraq and Afghanistan and organizations such as the International Red Cross, indigenous populations and institutions, and in the private sector.

Eastern pays tribute to our men and women in uniform by providing veteran services on campus. Since 2009, the Veterans Education and Transition Services Center has been meeting the educational and transitional needs of veterans enrolled at the University. Staffed by both veteran and non-veteran student workers, the center provides a space for veterans to relax, socialize and use computers to access the resources available about Veterans Administration benefits and services. Funds are also being raised to endow a scholarship for veterans attending the University.
The men and women who join the Peace Corps come from across the United States and from all walks of life. Each brings a unique perspective, but what they all have in common is a sense of adventure and, most importantly, a desire to help others.

The Peace Corps traces its roots to 1960, when John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. Since its inception, more than 200,000 Peace Corps volunteers have served in 139 host countries to work on issues ranging from AIDS education to environmental preservation.

For several Eastern Connecticut State University alumni and faculty members, serving in the Peace Corps has offered the opportunity to make real differences in the lives of real people.

For **Stewart Brewster ’70**, a recent enlistment in the Peace Corps is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. Brewster retired in March from a 41-year career in the insurance industry — and promptly joined the Peace Corps. “I was in high school when President Kennedy launched the Corps. I first thought about applying 30 years ago, but I couldn’t make it happen then. My children were young and I was building my career,” said Brewster, who was a vice president and risk management consultant at Aon Specialty Group in San Francisco when he retired. “Life has been very good to me. I felt that now was a good opportunity to take time to give back.”

The average age of a Peace Corps volunteer is 28; only seven percent of volunteers are over 50. Brewster said at first he worried that he might be “too old” for the job, but said that former President Jimmy Carter’s mother provided the inspiration for volunteering. In 1966, Lillian Carter enlisted in the Corps at the age of 68 and served 21 months in India, where she worked with lepers. “A little grey hair goes a long way,” said Brewster.
adding that he believes his age gives him “more credibility” to do his job. “People here respect you a little more, because they know you gave up a comfortable life in the United States to come help them.”

In Armenia, Brewster has been tapped to work in the mayor’s office in the mountain city of Jermuk, a major tourist destination in the country. His job includes guiding the capacity building of the city’s tourism and small business development, as well as serving as an advisor at the Jermuk Youth Development Center to help local young adults develop career paths that will keep them working in their community. “This is a wonderful opportunity for me and I am very pleased to be of service to the Peace Corps in this fashion,” said Brewster.

Jason Budahazy ’09 is halfway through his two-year stint in Korca, Albania. Budahazy, who in 2007 was instrumental in organizing Eastern’s first-ever Day of Giving meal (an event which has become an annual University tradition), joined the Peace Corps because he saw it as a way to “combine my passion for traveling with my passion for helping people.”

In Albania, the sports management and business graduate has been working primarily on two large-scale projects that require skills in community, economic and business development. The first — structuring a municipal partnership between Korca’s Fan S. Noli University and the University of Arkansas that will focus on building capacities in the agriculture sectors — involves Budahazy serving as a liaison between the two academic communities and identifying local stakeholders for the project. In the second, Budahazy is working closely with organizations such as USAID to reshape the clothing industry in Albania and Macedonia so that local factories can penetrate foreign markets and create employment opportunities. Other, smaller projects include

writing a grant to build a research center in Korca’s public library and coordinating a pen-pal letter exchange between students in Korca’s local school and an elementary school in Windham.

“My experience has been truly invaluable,” said Budahazy. “Once you come here, immerse yourself in the culture, speak the local language with community stakeholders, and actually see how the supply chain functions, only then can you have a full understanding of the industries and figure out how to help.”

Over the years, the experiences of volunteers have evolved and changed with the times. When Chemistry Professor Charles Wynn signed up for his tour in Malaysia from

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1966 to 1968, the agency was still in its early stages. Wynn was a student at the University of Michigan when President Kennedy issued his challenge to establish the Peace Corps. During his tour, which he served with his wife, Jeanne, Wynn taught chemistry, history and the philosophy of science at a teacher-training college. Their oldest son was born in Malaysia during the tour, and Wynn remembers attending a child-naming ceremony hosted by a local tribe that included some of the former head-hunters of Borneo. “Each tribe sent its best dancers to the exhibition to do the ‘headhunter dance.’ I was selected to represent the Western volunteers. We were dressed in costume and trained in how to do the stylized dance, and then we did it in front of 100 or so tribesmen. There were actually old heads hanging in the rafters.”

Other faculty members served during the next few decades. David Stoloff, education professor and director of the Center for Educational Excellence, served in Zaire from 1973–75. Mary Kenny, associate professor of anthropology, was stationed in the Philippines from 1980–82. Lynn-Ann Steel, a part-time professor of environmental earth science, served in the Dominican Republic from 1981–83. Barbara Little Liu, associate professor of English, was stationed in Warsaw, Poland, from 1992–94.

For those who served in the years before cell phones and e-mail, life as a Peace Corps volunteer could get lonely. “You hit a wall and wonder why you’re there, and you think about what you’re missing at home,” said Stoloff. Added Kenny, “I spoke with my family twice in two years. Waiting for the mail, after everyone in the post office had already read it, was the highlight of the day.”

For those who can stick it out, however, the experience is both life-altering and life-affirming. “The Peace Corps is when I figured out that teaching writing is what I wanted to do. It’s hard to imagine being where I am today without that sequence of events,” said Liu.

“The Peace Corps provides examples that are international and diverse,” added Stoloff. “You understand society better, and you can bring the world into the classroom. To give that to your students — what could be more powerful?”
Eastern graduates who go out into the world of social services include social work, sociology and psychology majors, as well as students taking related minors in public health studies and social informatics. These students benefit from a variety of practical, hands-on learning opportunities. “The many field experiences students have in local schools, nonprofits and state agencies not only give them invaluable opportunities to practice and apply their skills,” said Rhona Free, vice president of academic affairs, “they also allow Eastern to assist and serve local organizations in the form of students’ expertise and time.”

Some people serve our country by defending our shores and protecting our streets. For the people who work in social agencies, service means defending children, the disabled, elderly and underprivileged from life’s worst challenges.

Some people serve our country by defending our shores and protecting our streets. For the people who work in social agencies, service means defending children, the disabled, elderly and underprivileged from life’s worst challenges.

Social Services at Eastern

BY ANNE M. PAPPALARDO

Eastern’s social work program integrates student classroom learning with practical field education under the supervision of professional social workers. “Our students are ready for professional practice and graduate study upon graduation,” said Margaret Martin, professor of social work and coordinator of field education. “They are ready to serve diverse client populations, especially those most vulnerable and oppressed.”

While at Eastern, Niece Hanna ’09, a graduate of Eastern’s Social Work program, completed field placements at Windham Hospital, Windham Heights Learning Center and Windham Middle School. Her senior capstone experience was with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families in Willimantic. Hanna then bypassed a full year of graduate school to enter directly into a one-year program at Columbia University where she studied policy planning. She graduated from Columbia in 2010 and is currently working as a

“*I believe we should all give back to our communities*
children and youth services program manager for a private nonprofit agency. “I always received great guidance and resources at Eastern and I felt well prepared for grad school and practicing in the field of human services,” she said.

In the Department of Psychology, majors have hands-on opportunities in field placements at EastConn, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, suicide prevention hotlines, prisons, various psychiatric service agencies and Natchaug Hospital in Mansfield. A special concentration in the psychology major is the psychology of children and youth. “We prepare students to work in child psychology careers rooted in a strong empirical focus in coursework and by helping them with state-of-the-art training in important settings,” said Jeffrey Danforth, professor of psychology. “These environments give students opportunities to experience a variety of psychological paths — guidance and clinical counseling, school psychology and applied behavior analysis.”

Recent Eastern graduate and 2011 Barnard Scholar Connor Patros ’11 is enrolled in Oklahoma State University’s Ph.D. program in clinical psychology. While at Eastern, his field placements included Connecticut Children’s Medical Center School in Wethersfield and the Joshua Center at Natchaug Hospital in Mansfield. Patros also worked as an educational assistant this past summer at Natchaug’s Norwich location, where he assisted a student with schoolwork and behavior-related goals.

The flourishing careers of social work and child psychology alumni serve to underscore the success of the programs. Many graduates ease into careers related to their majors within a reasonably short period of time after graduation. Chelsea Failla ’10 immersed herself in community service efforts while attending Eastern as a psychology of children and youth major and is currently working as an associate behavior therapist teaching cognitive, communication and social skills to children with autism. “At the heart of psychology, we are after the ‘why’ of individual behaviors. In my field, I am working every day to serve children and their families by bettering communication, social skills and cognition so that the learner is better equipped for preschool and life in general,” she said.

Senior Dan Lombardi has chosen an alternate route to a career in social services. A nontraditional student and U.S. military veteran, Lombardi completed field service requirements at McSweeney Regional Senior Center in Willimantic and Russell Mercier Senior Center in Hebron, while his senior practicum is at Alternative in the Community (AIC) in Willimantic, a community-based program that functions as a resource for the judicial system.

“I believe that as an educated practitioner of social work, I will be better able to have an enriching positive impact on individuals, the community and the world,” said Lombardi. “I believe we should all give back to our communities and serve others whenever we get the chance.”

and serve others whenever we get the chance.”

Dan Lombardi

Chelsea Failla
On April 12, more than 400 students heard Blake Mycoskie, founder of TOMS Shoes, close out Eastern’s 2010-11 Arts and Lecture Series in the Betty R. Tipton Room. Mycoskie explained the quick success of TOMS, a company that started in a garage in Argentina and Mycoskie’s studio apartment in California and then grew to a company featured in “Vogue” whose products now grace the shelves at Nordstrom’s.

The company donates a pair of shoes to children in need for each pair it sells. “Giving feels good, but it’s also good for business,” he said. “I truly believe that responsible business could help solve many of the world’s problems today.”

Eastern’s Annual Arts and Lecture Series

On April 12, more than 400 students heard Blake Mycoskie, founder of TOMS Shoes, close out Eastern’s 2010-11 Arts and Lecture Series in the Betty R. Tipton Room. Mycoskie explained the quick success of TOMS, a company that started in a garage in Argentina and Mycoskie’s studio apartment in California and then grew to a company featured in “Vogue” whose products now grace the shelves at Nordstrom’s.

The company donates a pair of shoes to children in need for each pair it sells. “Giving feels good, but it’s also good for business,” he said. “I truly believe that responsible business could help solve many of the world’s problems today.”

Eastern kicks off its 11th Annual Arts and Lecture Series with a presentation by author Salman Rushdie. The event will be held at 7 p.m. on Oct. 4 in the Betty R. Tipton Room of the Student Center.

On Nov. 14, actor Dan Lauria visits campus; Lauria is best known for his portrayal of Jack Arnold on “The Wonder Years.” On Feb. 15, 2012, the U.S. Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band performs in Shafer Auditorium. Veteran journalist Laura Ling closes out the season with a lecture on March 13, 2012.

Tickets are $10 and can be reserved by calling (860) 465-0036 or sending an e-mail to tickets@easternct.edu.
EASTERN students win national award for documentary

A team of Eastern students were named winners of the Best Student Documentary Short at the national Broadcast Educators Association Annual Media Festival Awards in Las Vegas in April.

Dan Young ’10, Michelle Jarvis ’11, Jason Wadecki ’11 and Estelle Crews ’11 worked on the film, “The Child Left Behind,” during their Documentary Production class in fall 2009, with producer Katelyn Forster ’10 completing the project during her spring 2010 internship under the supervision of Communication Professor Denise Matthews. Education Professor Maureen Ruby inspired the idea for “The Child Left Behind” after she shared her story with the students.

“The new initiative is unique and has not been tried elsewhere; we are creating a new paradigm,” said Eastern President Elsa Núñez. “It amounts to outsourcing to the University, not an off-site location. In our mission, we are committed to being an economic catalyst for the local business community and the region, and our strategic plan calls for providing experiential learning opportunities to all students. Supporting local commerce and small businesses while providing our students with practical experiences that prepare them for the professional workplace meets both of those objectives.”

The facility will also be available to the Center for Community Engagement for community-based projects, service learning courses, and other experiential learning opportunities.

Communication Professor Denise Matthews and Katelyn Foster ’10, producer

The documentary tells the story of Putnam, CT, parents of a middle school student with special needs who protested that their child had not been taught to read. This parental advocacy led the Putnam School District to hire Ruby, a reading specialist. Ruby provided training to Putnam Middle School teacher Fran Bousquet, with remarkable results.
Center for Early Childhood Education wins prestigious Telly Award

Eastern’s Center for Early Childhood Education (CECE) was recognized with a prestigious Telly Award in June for the production of “The Importance of Play,” an e-clip educational video featuring Education Professor Jeffrey Trawick-Smith. The Telly Awards honor outstanding television, video and film production programs. This year, the awards program received more than 11,000 entries from five continents.

The e-clips series was created by Communication Professor Denise Matthews and has involved a number of other Eastern faculty, staff and students. This is the center’s second Telly Award for an e-clips video. “Our original goal was to use the expertise of our early childhood faculty to develop powerful videos for training current and future early childhood teachers — and we’ve received very positive feedback about the video content from professionals across the United States,” said Julia DeLapp, CECE’s program coordinator.

The video series has also provided an important opportunity for involving Eastern’s communication students in developing professional-level videos under the direction of Matthews. “This award, which recognizes the technical quality of the video, demonstrates that Eastern students can gain meaningful professional experiences at Eastern when paired with committed faculty. We’re thrilled to have their collaborative efforts acknowledged by such a prestigious award,” said DeLapp.

In addition to Matthews, individuals responsible for developing the video include Ken Measimer, production coordinator; Trawick-Smith as content expert; student Kerin Jaros-Dressler, editor; student Jessica Barbieri, production assistant; and DeLapp as executive producer.

Cammisa named Harris Fellow at Yale University

Christina Cammisa ’11, a sociology and early childhood education graduate, has been granted a Harris Fellowship in Child Development and Early Childhood Education at Yale University. This fall, Cammisa began conducting research at Yale’s Calvin Hill Day Care Center/Kitty Lustman-Findling Kindergarten and the Yale Child Study Center.

Fellows have a teacher mentor at Calvin Hill and a clinical mentor at the Child Study Center. They regularly meet with their mentors for support, focusing on blending educational and clinical understandings of young children and families. Cammisa was chosen from a pool of nationwide candidates to receive the Harris Fellowship.

Eastern hosts visitors from China

President Elsa Núñez and Eastern’s Visual Arts Department hosted a delegation from Hanshan Normal University in Chaozhou, a city in Guangdong Province, China, during a visit to Eastern’s campus April 27-29. Following an agenda that included lectures in Eastern classrooms and campus tours, Núñez and Hanshan University Vice President Chen Sanpang met to sign a letter of cooperation. Eastern Visual Art Professors Qimin Liu and Gail Gelburd organized the visit. “We look forward to exchanging students and faculty as we build the relationship between our two schools,” said Núñez.
Nearly 1,100 undergraduates, along with 102 graduate students, heard the roars and cheers of family members and friends as they celebrated their accomplishments at Eastern’s 121st Commencement Exercises on May 22 at the XL Center in Hartford.

Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy delivered the commencement address. He reminded the graduates that the ceremony proved that, through hard work and effort, each of them could overcome adversity and achieve. He told the students they should believe in progress and in the future, and help to rebuild the state. “As the saying goes, a rising tide raises all boats. I need you to be that tide that sweeps across the state. Find a way to reach back and make stronger our society and our communities. If you do that, Connecticut will continue to be the great state that it is. Our nation will be stronger. We will all be better for it.”

Eastern President Elsa Núñez told graduates not to sit on the sidelines. “As you go out into the workforce and forge your own way, build your professional careers on the values you have been taught. You are now the next generation of citizen leaders in our state and in our nation. Together, you can be the force of change that can keep our country strong.”

Eastern also recognized Anthony J. Brandenburg ’75, chief judge of the Intertribal Court of Southern California, by conferring an honorary degree. In 2010, he was named recipient of the University’s Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Senior Class President Sarah Potrikus ’11 presented the class gift, a scholarship in the name of the Class of 2011, funded by donations from the graduating class. She encouraged the class to continue donating so that the scholarship would grow, telling the graduates, “Leave today knowing that every one of you made a difference to Eastern, whether as an All-American athlete, a community service volunteer, a student leader or an academic scholar. The accomplishments held by this class, both professional and personal, set even higher standards for future students than those who graduated before us.”
The annual ECSU Foundation, Inc. Golf Tournament to benefit the Athletics Department was held under sunny skies on June 20 at Lake of Isles in North Stonington. The tournament generated $75,000 with 144 alumni, staff and friends in attendance. Since moving to Lake of Isles in 2006, the tournament has grossed a half million dollars.

Chartwells once again served as the title sponsor, with Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, First Niagara Private Client Services and Webster Financial Advisors serving as breakfast sponsors. Charter Business, Manafort Brothers and SIBT rounded out the list of lead sponsors.

“We are grateful for the significant support we continue to receive from our lead sponsors as well as those businesses that send a foursome every June,” said Kenneth DeLisa, vice president for institutional advancement. “We are fortunate to have so many loyal friends of the University.”

The winning foursome with a score of 59 (13 under) was the Direct Energy team composed of captain Dave Gilbert, Tim Canavan, Al Lussier and Tony Polimono.

Team photo shows MGM Grand in the background.
SBM Charitable Foundation commits $250,000 to Dual Enrollment Program

The SBM Charitable Foundation will donate $250,000 to Eastern during the next three years, starting with a $100,000 gift made in May 2011, to establish the SBM Charitable Foundation Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program for students graduating from Manchester High School (MHS).

The Eastern Admissions Office, in conjunction with the MHS Guidance Office, will enroll five MHS students in this unique program each fall, beginning in 2011. This SBM Foundation grant brings the charitable foundation’s giving to Eastern to $750,000 since 2004, and will enable Eastern to expand upon a program that it started developing in fall 2007.

“Thank you! SBM Charitable Foundation

Students who will benefit from SBM Charitable Foundation’s donation to the DEI program include, from left: Earleatha Carter, Honesty Getfield, Courtney Callaway and Kevandra Amos.

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“The SBM Charitable Foundation is an invaluable partner whose impact on Eastern students has been transformational,” said Kenneth DeLisa, vice president for institutional advancement.

Since fall 2008, three groups of 9 or 10 Hartford Public High School graduates have enrolled in the Dual Enrollment Initiative (DEI) each fall. The program continues to establish a positive track record, evidenced by an impressive retention rate.

The students take remedial coursework at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Willimantic; enroll in one class at Eastern; live in Eastern’s residence halls; and work at on-campus jobs. The primary success factor of the program is the requirement that students reside on campus, allowing them to focus on the academic, campus and community aspects of their college experience.

Earlier this year, the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) selected the Dual Enrollment Initiative as the 2011 recipient of NEBHE’s Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement. Expanding the Dual Enrollment Initiative to Manchester High School, historically a key feeder school for Eastern, is another indicator of the program’s success.

“I am grateful to the SBM Charitable Foundation for this latest gift to Eastern,” said Eastern President Elsa Núñez.

“Bringing the promise of a college education to Manchester High School students extends the positive impact that the DEI is having in Connecticut. I am very proud of the faculty, students and staff who have been involved.

“We could not have accomplished this expansion of the program to Manchester students without the foresight and generosity of the SBM Charitable Foundation board and management team,” added Núñez.

Scholarship honors retired education professor

Professor of Education Richard Reynolds was feted with a brunch held in his honor on May 14 at the Student Center Café. Attending were senior administrators, a large contingent of Education Department permanent faculty and staff, former students of Reynolds and others. He retired after more than 20 years at Eastern — specializing in teaching foundations of education — preceded by a full career in education in Australia. A new scholarship fund for education students was launched in conjunction with the retirement ceremony, in honor of Reynolds and other education professors who plan to retire soon as well. Those interested in supporting the Retired Education Professors Fund are encouraged to contact Peter Dane, associate director of institutional advancement, at (860) 465-4513 or danep@easternct.edu.

Retiring Professor of Education Richard Reynolds enjoyed the proceedings during a May 14 brunch held in his honor at the Student Center Café.
ECSU Foundation, Inc. names scholarship recipients

A record 303 students were named recipients of $334,000 in scholarship money during the ECSU Foundation, Inc.'s Annual Scholarship Reception on April 28 in the Betty R. Tipton Room. More than 200 people attended the reception, including a number of key scholarship donors.

President Elsa Núñez greeted each new scholarship recipient as they entered the room. She addressed the increasingly important role that scholarships play in helping students finance their education and the role of the Division of Institutional Advancement in cultivating donors to launch new scholarships. Reece Painter-Payne ’11 provided a student perspective on how critical scholarship support is for the typical undergraduate student at Eastern who has unmet financial need and is trying to graduate in four years.

Justin Murphy ’98, an attorney with Kahan, Kerensky & Caposella, LLP in Vernon and currently the vice president of the ECSU Foundation Board of Directors, delivered the keynote address, which included the following excerpt: “Back when I was a student, I didn’t even know that there was such a thing as the ECSU Foundation. Now that I am lucky enough to serve on the Board of Directors of the Foundation I have a much different perspective. As a student at Eastern, the concept of making a charitable donation to my alma mater was relatively foreign to me. It wasn’t that I was opposed to it, I just hadn’t even thought about it.

“Just like all the scholarship recipients in the audience today, I was lucky enough to directly benefit from a donor’s generosity, yet it took me almost eight years after graduating before I made my first donation to the Foundation. It took me that long to recognize and appreciate just how much I had benefited from my time here at Eastern both professionally and personally. Without the skills and experience that I learned here at Eastern, I would not have had the ability to move between fields and careers as easily as I have.”
We make the call, you make the difference!

Sincere thanks to everyone who answered the phone, pledged to Eastern’s Annual Fund and fulfilled those pledges! Student callers (pictured above posing outside the Science Building) dialed more than 35,000 times in October and March this past fiscal year to raise more than $64,000 in pledges and donations from alumni, parents and friends. Many of these callers will return again in early October and are counting on you! So please, pick up the phone, share your Eastern experience with a current student and support the Annual Fund.

Annual Bowlathon raises funds for scholarships

One happy group at the annual Bowlathon in March at Willi Bowl was “Team Shared Governance,” composed of professors from four departments. They are, from left: Greg Kane, assistant professor of health and physical education; Patricia Szczys, assistant professor of biology; Maryanne Clifford, associate professor of economics (holding her son, Richard); and Bill Salka, professor of political science.
Hall of Fame induction set for Oct. 30

The 2011 E-Club Hall of Fame Reception and Induction Ceremony will be held at noon on Oct. 30 in the Student Center.

Six individuals representing five sports constitute the Class of 2011: Joe Funaro '95 (baseball) of Hamden; Amy Keane Steed '90 (women’s soccer) of Vernon; Kathy Kimball Tredwell '96 (women’s volleyball) of Flower Mound, TX; Missy Kowolenko Angle '94 (women’s basketball) of Killingly; Paul Martineau '09 (baseball) of Willimantic; and Shannon Sligo '00 (men’s lacrosse) of South Hadley, MA.

In addition to the inductees, local radio personality Wayne Norman will be presented with the Michael A. Atkind Service Award for his contributions to Eastern athletics since the early 1970s. Bonnie Edmondson '87 will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies.

The induction ceremony will be the 18th since the formation of the Hall of Fame in 1986. A total of 97 individuals representing 12 men’s and women’s intercollegiate programs have been inducted to date.

Tickets are $45. For more information, call (860) 465-5166 or visit www.easternct.edu/athletics/eClub/hall_of_fame.htm.

EIGHTY-NINE STUDENT-ATHLETES ACHIEVE ALL-ACADEMIC STATUS IN 2010-11

In the 2010-11 academic year, Eastern became the first institution in the four-year tenure of the Little East Conference’s All-Academic awards program to have the most LEC All-Academic Team achievers in each of the fall, winter and spring seasons. Eastern totaled 31 selections in the fall and 28 in the winter prior to boasting 30 this past spring, for a conference-high of 89 for the year.

All-Academic Team qualifiers must have reached sophomore academic and athletic status, be enrolled in their current institutions for one full academic year, and show a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.30.

Since 2006, 303 Eastern student-athletes have earned spots on the All-Academic Team — the second-most of any LEC institution.

Baseball at Eastern is a family affair

The 2011 baseball season was truly a family affair. With head coach Bill Holowaty (far right) are, from left: Bob Wojick '72, Chris Wojick, Mike Turgeon ’84, Tyler Turgeon, Mark Riemer ’92, Mike Riemer, Rob Roveto and Bill Roveto. Current assistant coach and former outfielder Bob Wojick is the uncle of 2011 player Chris; former shortstop Mike Turgeon (1975-77) is the father of 2011 player Tyler; former outfielder Mark Riemer (1976-79) is the father of 2011 player Mike; and former pitcher Rob Roveto (1982-83) is the father of 2011 player Bill. All played under head coach Holowaty, who completed his 43rd season this past spring.
The Eastern women’s softball team may not have won the Division III National Softball Championship tournament in Salem, VA, this year, but they hit a grand slam with local community members there.

During the tournament, held May 20-24, officials invited the Area 8 Special 8 Sox team to attend some of the NCAA games. One of those games featured the Eastern Warriors taking on Christopher Newport University in the first round. When the Special 8 Sox team began rooting for the Warriors, Eastern’s student-athletes decided to do something special as well.

The Eastern players signed a softball as a token of their appreciation and tossed it to the Sox team in the bleachers. After the game, Assistant Coach Pete Maneggia donated the individual trophy he had received from Eastern’s regional championship and had his players present it to the Sox team. In addition, seven of Eastern’s student-athletes visited the Sox players at their campus several days later, and exchanged e-mail addresses so they could continue to correspond in the offseason.

The team’s efforts made a huge impression on the Sox players and their families. “As the father of a son with disabilities, you will never know how much you touched me personally with your kindness,” wrote the parent of one of the Special Olympics athletes. “Your parents, coaches, athletics director and university should be proud of the way (the Warriors) represented them at this tournament.”

“The Eastern team did this out of the goodness of their hearts,” said Special 8 Sox Coach Scott Robertson. “The residents here loved it. Sometimes the simplest things you do have the greatest impact.”

Added Eastern Head Coach Diana Pepin, “Our team is very accustomed to giving back.”
46 Dorothy (Martini) Service lived with her husband in Florida for 28 years. They have now returned to Connecticut and are living at Suffield by the River in Suffield.

51 Dolores (Kelley) Gallon recently celebrated 59 years of marriage to her husband, Charles. They have a 1-year-old great-grandson named Chase. Richard Waterman met his wife, Margaret Graham ’50, at Eastern, and said “It was a match made in heaven. We were married on Dec. 26, 1951, so we will celebrate our 60th anniversary this year. We have five sons and several grandchildren, as well as two great-grandchildren.” Richard taught elementary school in East Lyme for 30 years and is still involved with educational programs in the school system as a member of the East Lyme Historical Society and the East Lyme High School History Club.

54 Barbara Castagnaro is retired and living in Lisbon. She taught third grade for 35 years, 29 of them in Lisbon.

56 Mary (Pedace) Mahler retired from her antiques business and moved to Stone Ridge, a retirement community in Mystic.

59 William Hargreaves, retired for more than a decade from his career as an executive with ServiceMaster Corp., now operates Great American Illustrator from an office next to his home in Stonington Village. He trades in the work of famous illustrators and other artists, mostly from the 20th century, and owns an original or print of nearly every cover illustration Norman Rockwell produced for the Saturday Evening Post. He is also a leader in the creation of the Class of 1959 Scholarship following their 50th class reunion.

61 William Ayer will be married to his wife, Mara, for 50 years in December 2011. They have nine grandchildren. Donald Beerworth has served on planning committees organizing previous class reunions, and frequently sees fellow Eastern graduates. He is a prior winner of the EClub Athletics Pioneer Award. Esther (Jones) Evans taught for four years after graduation. She received her master’s degree from the University of Connecticut in 1966 and moved to Washington that same year. Esther and her husband, Alden, raised their three children there, while Esther taught and substituted. The couple both retired in June 2005. Michael Gates taught English and history for six years following his graduation from Eastern. He then earned a doctorate in English Education and Curriculum and Instruction from West Virginia University and taught at Ohio University and the University of the Virgin Islands. Michael has served as a special consultant in the areas of motivation, learning and curriculum design for United Technologies, Aetna, Miles Pharmaceuticals, the Hartford Courant and the National Guard of Connecticut. Where he helped design a boot camp curriculum for school dropouts. It was the first boot camp in the United States designed to help students achieve their GED diploma. Michael Klapik is a member of the Connecticut State Bowling Hall of Fame. Nancy (Ferrigno) Buckle MacDonald raised four children and then spent several years as a substitute teacher, followed by 20 years writing manuals for submarine operation. James Naum has been retired for 19 years. He and his wife, Anna Naum ’76, have four grandchildren (two boys and two girls) between the ages of 2 and 6 years old. He enjoys attending UConn women’s basketball games and playing golf. James and Anna have been married for 45 years. Katherine (Inman) Nivison is a mother of four sons, grandmother of eight, and has been married for 46 years. She retired as an organist and choir director 10 years ago and now enjoys traveling the country and camping in Maine. Renate (Wegener) Rioux was a classroom teacher and reading consultant in South Windsor for 31 years. She is presently an ELL tutor in Manchester. Renate has two daughters and recently celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with her husband, Bob. Colette (Bibeau) Trailor and Roland Trailor live in Norwich. Both are retired: Colette as a superintendent of schools and Roland as a teacher and school administrator. They have four children and eight grandchildren.

64 Carole (Hinckley) Barstrom retired in 2001 after 37 years of elementary school teaching. She has six grandchildren and stays busy with gardening, travel, babysitting and making greeting cards. Nancy (Ferrigno) Buckle MacDonald retired as principal of Moriarty School in Norwich in 1999. She has been working...
Dorothy Aiksnoras-Vallee is now retired as a commercial pilot. She began her career with Northwest Airlines and finished with Delta Airlines after the two airlines merged. She has come full circle, working part time as a flight instructor at a small airport in Oxford where she previously logged the hours as an instructor that enabled her to become one of the first female commercial pilots. The mother of two grown sons, Dorothy keeps busy with her own horses and those boarded on her Oxford property. She also does some substitute teaching.

Gloria (Petrucelli) Drouin and Paul Drouin met at Eastern in 1967, married in 1970 and graduated in 1971. They moved to St. Petersburg, FL, where they both taught for 30 years before retiring in 2004. They have two adult sons. Paul and Gloria enjoy traveling and volunteering in their community and they love to visit Eastern when vacationing in Connecticut. Wendy (Willett) Figler became certified in elementary education in 1972 before receiving certification in special education. She has had a 30-year career in retail and human resources management, and has been with Moroso Performance Products in Guilford for 13 years. Wendy’s daughter, Rebecca, graduated from the Montserrat College of Art in Beverly, MA, in May 2011, earning a certification in art education with the dean’s highest honors. Frances (Alter) Pribish is married with two children and two grandchildren. She has been working for the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services for 21 years. Beverly (Alexander) Raymond and her husband, Bill, live in Vernon and have a son, Michael. Beverly retired in November 2010 from the Department of Correction after 20 years as a state school teacher. Adele (LaFlesh) Tarkowski sends well wishes to her classmates and has fond memories of fine friendships.

Mark Holowesko was inducted into the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame at a ceremony held in Farming-
ton in January. Joining him at the event were his wife, Sandra, and his youngest son, Ryan. His oldest son, Jason, was unable to attend as he was away at college; he attends Florida Tech.

75 Jane Ehrlich has been president and chief executive officer of Columbia Memorial Hospital in Hudson, NY, for nearly 18 years. She was a registered nurse who had also taken courses at Hunter College in New York when she came to Eastern, and was able to graduate with a degree in English in approximately one year. She subsequently earned an MBA with a specialization in health care from the University of Connecticut.

She lives in Valatie, NY. John Kearney is president and CEO of Titan Energy of New England, Inc., in Rocky Hill, CT, and Boston (with Citizens Energy Corp.), which supplies natural gas and electricity and provides energy management services to commercial and industrial customers in the Northeast.

He is also a repeat former president of Eastern’s Alumni Association. John and his wife, Laura, live in Rocky Hill. Michael Pisani works for the U.S. Postal Service and plans to retire in 2013 after 25 years of service. He has been married for 20 years to his wife, Diane. Their daughter, Tory, is 16 and an honor student at Haddam/Killingworth High.

Kathleen (Prince) Stango taught kindergarten for 14 years at St. Gabriel School and retired early to babysit her two grandchildren. Another grandchild is due Dec. 25. She has lived in Wisconsin for 29 years and continues to substitute teach for St. Gabriel School. Kathleen has been married for 34 years and has four children. Her niece, Michele Grom ’08, is also a graduate of Eastern. Laurence Marquis has worked as a pathologist’s assistant since 1981, spending the past 20 years at Vassar Bros. Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY. He is the divorced father of three.

Robert Mills is executive director of the Norwich Community Development Corporation, working to promote and assist new and existing businesses in Norwich. Though his degree from Eastern is in environmental earth science, he has been involved in business development throughout his career, and earned an MBA from the University of New Haven in 1999. He lives in Niantic.

Bobi Molchan, along with her husband, Bear Holcombe, was honored with Nutmeg’s Visionary Leaders Award at the annual Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters major donor recognition event. Karen (Leemon) Murphy has been living in Texas for the past 10 years. Geraldine (Hunter) Swanson and her husband, Marc, celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary on June 29. Katharina (Van Woerden) Thody retired in June 2009 after teaching in the Middletown Public School System for 33 years.

William Warzeka has worked in the environmental health field at the state, local and health district level. In 1983 he was hired as a geologist with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, serving as the geologist/hydrogeologist for the state’s environmental review teams. In the early 1990s he transferred to what is now the DEP’s Remediation Division, becoming a supervisor in 1997. William received his master’s degree in environmental management.

The family that teaches together...

When it comes to loyal Eastern families, it’s hard to beat the Mizaks. The family boasts six members who have either graduated from Eastern or are currently attending the University. And to top it off — all are teachers! Patricia L. Mizak paved the way, earning her master’s degree in 1983 and working as a reading specialist at Plainfield High School. She was soon followed by Charmaine (Alvord) Mizak ’88 M.S., who teaches chemistry, biology and botany at Fitch Senior High School in Groton; Kevin Mizak, who completed a fifth-year education certification program at Eastern after graduating from the Coast Guard Academy, and now teaches algebra and geometry at Grasso Technical High School in Groton; Drew Mizak ’09, who teaches social studies at Ellis Technical High School in Danielson; Drew’s wife, Cara (Brown) Mizak ’09, who teaches social studies at Wheeler High School in North Stonington; and current student Meghan Mizak, who will graduate in 2012 with a degree in English and secondary education.

“My family is full of teachers!” says Meghan, who reports that an aunt and two cousins are also teachers and that her grandfather, Al, served as a teacher, principal and superintendent in the Plainfield school system. “Those of us who attended Eastern chose it for its reputation for producing quality teachers. In addition, I personally chose Eastern because of its liberal arts feel, small class sizes, and the availability and high level of interaction with the professors.”
and policy in 1997 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He lives in Norwich with his wife, Kathy, and daughters, Emma and Haley. **Eric Williamson** is an adjunct faculty member teaching anthropology at Eastern and the University of Connecticut. In the summers he works in Kenya with a private relief agency. **Peter Wilson** has been employed at 3M Purification in Meriden for more than 30 years in the Technical Services group as a senior sales specialist. He continues to be interested in geology, traveling with his wife to national parks in California, Arizona, Utah and Wyoming. “Besides observing the stunning and spectacular vistas, having an understanding of how the forces of nature created those landmarks only added to my enjoyment,” he says. **Trenton Wright** received his black belt in Shaolin Kempo Karate in December 2010. He was recently promoted at Middlesex Community College where he is coordinator of institutional advancement and has completed 11 years of service.

**Gayle Bruce ‘77/’82 M.S.** lives on the east coast of Florida. She teaches high school during the day and nights at Indian River State College. **Paul Karrer** is a fifth-grade teacher and a writer. Recently his commentary, “*A Letter to My President, The One I Voted For,...*” went viral and appeared in The Huffington Post, Education Week, and *The Wall Street Journal*. It was translated into Chinese, posted on Facebook, and blogged and twittered from Utah to the national law firm Boies, Schiller and Flexner, working from the firm’s Albany office. He went to Georgetown Law School after graduating from Eastern. Michael specializes in major commercial litigation involving the banking, energy and insurance businesses, on cases that often have antitrust and securities law implications. As a government attorney in the 1990s, he was special counsel to the FDIC’s Drexel Task Force, where he worked on litigation against Michael Milken and Drexel Burnham Lambert, leading to recoveries in excess of $1 billion. Michael lives with his wife, Lisa Hafner, and their son and daughter in Loudonville, NY.

**Claudia (Sweetland) Ahern** and **Stephen Ahern** celebrated their 30th class reunion while their son, **Zachary Ahern**, graduated from Eastern with a B.S. in Communication in May 2011. **Michael Endler** is a partner with the national law firm Boies, Schiller and Flexner, working from the firm’s Albany office. He went to Georgetown Law School after graduating from Eastern. Michael specializes in major commercial litigation involving the banking, energy and insurance businesses, on cases that often have antitrust and securities law implications. As a government attorney in the 1990s, he was special counsel to the FDIC’s Drexel Task Force, where he worked on litigation against Michael Milken and Drexel Burnham Lambert, leading to recoveries in excess of $1 billion. Michael lives with his wife, Lisa Hafner, and their son and daughter in Loudonville, NY.

**Jeffrey Burks** has been in Parkland, FL, for the past 10 years after living in Denver for a few years. Jeff’s wife, Polly, is director of communications for Florida Atlantic University, College of Arts and Letters. Their oldest son, Jake, is a freshman at the University of Florida majoring in industrial engineering. Another son, Tucker, is a senior at the Pinecrest School in Ft. Lauderdale, and their daughter, Olivia, is a freshman at North Broward Preparatory School. For the past six years Jeff has been consulting, providing turnaround and workout services. **Michael Noel** works for Sage Payment Solutions out of his home in Lebanon, NH. **Jane Svejk** taught for 21 years before retiring and trying her hand at writing. Her first novel, “**Bells, Books, and Murder**,” was released on Dec. 28, 2010.

**David Whitehead** was named Backus Hospital’s president and chief executive officer and formally assumed his duties in July 2010. He joined Backus in 1999 and has served as the hospital’s vice president for planning since 2003. In addition to his work with Backus, David has been involved with many civic organizations and has worked for Garnett Co., Inc., as president and publisher of the Norwich Bulletin.

**Kenneth Barber** is the founding partner of Barber & Sharon, an East Hampton law firm offering counsel in family law, commercial law, probate, estate planning, civil litigation and other services. Kenneth was a police officer for more than a decade after graduating from Eastern, and was a sergeant in the Bloomfield Police Department while attending the University of Connecticut Law School. He lives in East Haddam with his wife, Michele, and their two daughters, Joanna and Lydia. **Josephine Pradelia** is the founder of TerraSource Chocolates. She has been working on getting solar cookers to Haiti since April 2010 and has used sales of her “Share Squares” chocolates to fund 58 solar cookers for Haiti. **Gail (Brown) Snow** has three children, two boys and one girl, as well as two grandchildren, both girls. **Jeffery Strother** is closing in on 30 years of service at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy food services division and enjoyed President Barack Obama’s visit at the academy’s graduation on May 18, 2011.
teenage daughters. Robert Bergsten was captain on the Hollister III barge, the ferry that travels between Rocky Hill and Glastonbury, for 15 years. As captain, Robert worked every May as a historical guide to area third graders, engaging students with local history. Before retiring to North Carolina, he agreed to be videotaped by two Griswold Middle School students so that future third graders can watch and learn about the history of the ferry and the river. Lori (Albarghetti) Politto has been a teacher in the Old Saybrook school system since graduating from Eastern. Now a second-grade teacher, she also has an administrative credential and is the curriculum coordinator for kindergarten through third grade. As such, she does some teacher evaluations, and has the support of a “partner teacher” who helps in her classroom while she handles administrative duties. Her husband, Robert Politto ’86, is senior vice president and director of government guaranteed lending at Webster Bank, overseeing a $140 million lending portfolio. The Politos live in Madison. Philip Toohy is a partner in Lampion, Toohy & Rucci, a New Canaan general practice law firm. Philip focuses on real estate, banking, partnership and land use law. He earned his law degree from the University of Bridgeport Law School (now Quinnipiac Law School) directly after graduating from Eastern. He and his wife, Deanna (Guglielmo) Toohy, a second-grade teacher in Shelton, are two of the partners in a Stratford restaurant, Stanza’s. The Toohys have two daughters and a son and live in Shelton. Andrew Zlonick is a partner in Fuss & O’Neill, a 300-person East Coast engineering and environmental consulting firm headquartered in Manchester, with regional offices from Massachusetts to South Carolina. He leads an assessment and remediation team of about 35 professionals and is general manager of the firm’s Trumbull office. In addition to a bachelor’s degree in environmental earth science from Eastern, he holds a master’s degree in hydrogeology from Wright State University in Ohio. Andy lives with his wife, Janice, and their son and daughter in Glastonbury.

Christopher Atkins is working for the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. Rosemarie (Covino) Belson arranged to have an ambulance filled with medical and educational supplies donated to Nicaragua in 1989. In 1992 she petitioned boards of higher education and the government to change curriculum to include courses on child abuse at graduate and undergraduate levels. Patricia Ferraro has served with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families for more than two decades, and is now children service unit supervisor at Riverview Hospital in Middletown, a psychiatric facility. She lives in Branford. Robert Hungerford has been married for 20 years and has two children. He is a crew leader at Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

Denise Hickey moved to New York City after graduating from Eastern. She worked at McGraw-Hill as a sales department secretary until 1999, lived in Boston for one year, and then moved back to Connecticut. She took a few art classes and earned an M.S. in Education from the University of New Haven. Denise now focuses on her art, painting scenes from her home in New London and running her small business, “Making Art Affordable to the Public.” Her paintings have been shown at the Hygienic Art Gallery in New London, the Mystic Art Festival, Bean & Leaf Cafe, Save Ocean Beach Craft Sale, the East Lyme Public Library and the Art for Life Auction at Mystic Art Center to raise funds for Alliance for Living in New London. Robert Zarnetske III was appointed the regional administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration’s New England region. In this role, Robert will oversee GSA operations in New England, including federal real estate and information technology. He will be responsible for an inventory of more than 47 federal buildings, 354 leased locations and 25 border station facilities serving entry points from Canada.

Melissa (Pariseau) Colli was elected to the board of directors of the Connecticut Adoption and Family Services, a nonprofit adoption agency serving the state. Melissa is a corporate officer/marketing coordinator at Dime Bank of Norwich. She volunteers as co-captain of Dime Bank’s Blue Crew, a group that reaches out in local communities with volunteer efforts. Melissa lives in Wauregan with her children, Samantha and Tim. Jennifer Davis-Muller has been named director of development for the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Inc. She will lead the Wallingford organization’s annual giving programs and special events, and will assist in furthering the foundation’s major gift efforts.

Scott Pawlisch has been named regional sales director for Michigan in the retirement services division of American United Life Insurance Company (AUL), a OneAmerica company. Scott will work out of AUL’s Detroit office where he will oversee all sales, marketing and service functions and provide support to 401(k), 403(b), 457, and defined benefit financial professionals throughout Michigan. Previously, he was vice president for institutional sales for Diversified Investment Advisors. Prior to that, Scott was managing director of institutional sales for MassMutual Retirement Services in Michigan. Cindy (Noyes) Smith ’91/’98 M.S., assistant principal at Nayaug Elementary School in Glastonbury, has been selected as the 2011 Connecticut Association of Schools Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year.

Kathy (Kunar) Tenney has been appointed assistant dean for student and career services at the Quinnipiac University School of Law. Formerly the director of admissions, she is currently responsible for planning, managing and evaluating activities for law students and oversees career services for Quinnipiac University School of Law. Kahir first joined Quinnipiac in 1996 as an assistant director of undergraduate financial aid. Stacy (Simeone) Schuttler has been named director of the Townsend Public Library in Townsend, MA. She was previously the children’s librarian and stepped in as the interim director in June 2010.

Mark Andrews was elected to serve as secretary for the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants’ 2011-12 activity year. Mark is a tax manager for ESPN in Bristol. He has served the CSCPA as chair of the Advisory Council and a member-at-large of the board of directors. He has also served as chair of the federal income taxation committee and a member of the state taxation committee. Mark is a member of American Institute of CPAs. Edwin Muenzner has been named to the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants’ (CSCPA) 25-member Advisory Council for the organization’s 2011-12 activity year. He is the owner of Edwin R. Muenzner, CPA, LLC in Norwich and an associate professor at Three
ATHLETICS CAMPUS NEWS PHILANTHROPY CLASS NOTES

Rivers Community College, Edwin will also chair the CSCPA’s Educators Interest Group for the coming year.

Holly Eccleston is a materials engineer at Pratt & Whitney, focusing on materials analysis and chemical processes and analytical chemistry. She lives in East Haddam in the area of the Eight Mile River and Burnhann Brook Nature Conservancy. John Natale is the head women’s soccer coach at the University of Hartford. He was also an advance scout for the U.S. women’s soccer team, working in Germany during the World Cup from June 24 through the final. John is in his seventh season as head coach at the University of Hartford, where he has led his team to winning seasons in three of the last four years.

James Girard is vice president of human resources for UTC Fire and Security, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation, in Lakewood Ranch, FL. James has been with United Technologies and in human resources his entire career. He, his wife, Lisa, and their two sons live in Lakewood Ranch. Susan Yanke is vice president of sales and marketing for Spa CredBions in Orange, CA, and was recognized by Cambridge Who’s Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in sales and marketing.

Tammy Gendron came to campus on March 16 to speak to students in the Pre-Med Society and the biology department about her work as a physician assistant with Mansfield Family Practice. Jessica E. King joined White and Williams, LLP, as an associate in the firm’s real estate and institutional finance practice group. She will work out of the firm’s Philadelphia office. Her practice focuses on complex commercial real estate finance transactions, and her clients include regional and national institutional lenders and investors. Jessica received her J.D., with honors, from Western New England College School of Law in 2003.

Donna Lefevre has been named to the Quinebaug Valley Community College Foundation. She retired from the college after 35 years of service, working as the executive assistant to QVCC President Emeritus Dianne E. Williams, as well as in community services and the academic dean’s office. Donna lives in Pomfret and serves as an associate member of the Pomfret Ambulance Service and a member of the executive board.

Charles Shabuno, a second lieutenant, has graduated from the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, GA. He received his commission as an engineer officer in the Army Corps of Engineers, and will continue his training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie has been named a fellow for the 2011-12 year at Harvard University’s Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. The author of “Purple Hibiscus,” “Half of a Yellow Sun” and “The Thing Around Your Neck” will be working on her next novel during the program. Winner of the Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction in 2007 and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 2008, Adichie was recently included in The New Yorker’s “20 Under 40” Fiction Issue.

Iain Baker was appointed as pre-opening operations manager for the new Boston Hostel by Hostelling International USA Eastern New England Council, Iain previously served as the general manager of the San Diego Downtown Hostel since 2006. Prior to joining the Hostelling International team, Baker worked as a managing member at Advant Software, LLC in Willington. Tyler Hewes and his wife, Abby, welcomed their first child, Henry Ara Hewes, to the world on March 15, 2011. He weighed in at 8 lbs., 3 oz. and 21 inches in length. Tyler has left his position as executive director of the San Diego Chamber Orchestra and joined Mainly Mozart as their associate director.

GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

We are proud to refer to Eastern as “Connecticut’s Public Liberal Arts University.” We hold a unique place within the state of Connecticut, and as one of only 25 state-designated public liberal arts universities in the nation, we hold a unique place in the country. Our climb in the national rankings of public universities serves as evidence of the important role Eastern plays in shaping our students to be productive and engaged members of our democratic society.

Our alumni offer all the proof we need that Eastern is truly fulfilling its mission of developing “students who can become productive, engaged community leaders.” This issue of EASTERN magazine features dozens of alumni who serve our nation and our neighborhoods, and I commend each of them for all they do to make life better. Thank you to everyone who responded to our call for stories of service!

As we all pause to remember the terrible loss inflicted on our nation 10 years ago on Sept. 11, 2001, let us also recommit ourselves to using our Eastern education to make our communities better places for ourselves and our children.

As a final thought, congratulations to all of our alumni who returned to campus in May for class reunions, especially to the Jubilee Class of 1961! And welcome to our newest alumni – the great Eastern Class of 2011! As I stated in my remarks at Commencement, “actively engage our alumni network. It’s a resource with unlimited potential. Be part of this network and use it now to grow your career. It can assist and ease your transition from student to successful professional – while helping you maintain and develop fruitful relationships.” To learn more, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (860) 465-5302 or at alumni@easternct.edu. | MARK BRADLEY ’90, PRESIDENT OF THE ECSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Eastern alums work to protect the U.S. Postal System

Mark Lopez ’85 and Brian Martineau ’99 both work for the U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General (USPS OIG). The USPS OIG is a federal law enforcement agency charged with protecting the U.S. Postal System from fraud, waste and abuse. The USPS OIG conducts felony-level criminal investigations related to the theft of mail and postal service property, narcotics, financial crimes, health care or contract fraud, computer crimes and technical investigations.

Lopez graduated from Eastern with a B.S. in biology and a minor in chemistry. He began his federal law enforcement career in 1983 working summer seasonal assignments for the National Park Service (NPS). He then accepted full-time employment as a park ranger with the NPS after graduating from Eastern in 1985, and subsequently worked as a special agent for the Office of Inspectors General at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Social Security Administration. In 2006, Lopez was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Northeast area field office of USPS OIG.

Martineau graduated from Eastern with a B.A. in public policy and government and a minor in criminal justice. He began his law enforcement career as a police officer with the City of New London. Several months after graduating from the Connecticut State Police Academy, Martineau, who had spent one year in an Eastern-sponsored internship at the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), received a call with a job offer as a special agent for NCIS. He then spent five years with the NCIS at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base in New London. He joined the USPS OIG in 2006.
Kathleen “Kay” Roan, 97, the longest-standing member of the ECSU Foundation Board of Directors, passed away on Sept. 5 surrounded by family. Kay served as the Foundation President in the early 1990s. In 1991 the Windham Region United Way presented her with the Maurice Heon Volunteer of the Year Award for her 40 years of volunteer work in Willimantic. “We will miss Kay’s engaging personality and exuberance for the Eastern mission as well as her friendship,” said Kenneth DeLisa, vice president for institutional advancement. “Kay got a full measure of personal satisfaction by giving back to the local community in so many ways.”

Anyone interested in giving to the Kathleen W. Roan Endowed Scholarship may send checks made out to the “ECSU Foundation Inc.” to the Development Office, Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226. On the memo portion of the check write: Roan Endowed Scholarship.
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• Victor Ferry ’62 has been involved in emergency management issues since he was appointed principal of Southwest School in Waterford in 1973. The school was the closest educational facility to a nuclear power plant in Connecticut. Most significant among his assignments in recent years has been the development of regional Citizen Corps Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) under the guidance of the Homeland Security/FEMA community emergency preparedness programs. Victor was also hired by Northeast Utilities to conduct emergency response awareness workshops for school administrators, and under the Connecticut Office of Emergency Management conducted a training program for graduating education majors at Eastern. Victor continues to serve on the SE-CT Regional Citizen Corps Council and as a volunteer fire police officer at Oswegatchie Fire Department in Waterford. • Alice (Pearlman) Dutton ’69 serves on the board of the Hartford Knights Youth Organization and has been the program chair for the past year. The organization began as a way to provide inner-city children with an after-school athletic program, and has evolved into working with the students to “polish up their high school resumes and target colleges that may be interested in their talents.” The Hartford Knights also tutors and counsels at-risk children and hopes to develop a concentration on academics by opening a residential academy in Hartford. • Stewart Brewster ’70 retired from the insurance industry after 43 years and recently left for Armenia as a Peace Corps volunteer. While there he will be helping people in Armenia with business development projects. • Frederick Souza ’70 volunteered as a Girl Scout leader when his daughters were involved. While they were in school he served on the school building improvement team, and throughout his life he has been on the feast committee of the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society in Stonington. • Zygmunt Dembek ’72 is an Army Reserve Medical Service Corps officer and was mobilized to active military duty in the Division of Operational Medicine at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) at Fort Detrick, MD, from November 2001 through January 2002. He was again mobilized from January 2005 through June 2011 in the Division of Medicine at USAMRIID, where he served as director of training and education and chief of biodefense epidemiology. Zygmunt has been a member of the board of directors of the North Central Health District from 1989 to the present, and served as a member and chairman of Suffield’s local emergency planning committee from 1988 to 2005. • Nancy (Gratson) Souza ’72 was recently named to the presidency of the Connecticut Reading Association (CRA), which she will serve for the next year. In the past she has served as president-elect, vice president and conference chair. She has also served as president and treasurer of the Southeastern Reading Council of the CRA. • Lorna Joseph ’74 volunteers for the Manchester Police Athletic League’s Homework Club, where she tutors second through fifth graders in math, English and reading. • Anthony Brandenburg ’75 is a chief judge with the Intertribal Court of Southern California and sits on the California State/Federal Judicial Council Indian Law subcommittee. He is a vice chair of the City of Encinitas Planning Commission and sits on the board of directors of the United States Marine Corps History Museum in San Diego, as well as the Palomar College Foundation. Anthony is president of the Olivenhain Town Council, is a council member of the Boy Scouts of America Council for San Diego and Imperial Counties, and has been a member of the Encinitas Rotary Club for 25 years. • Shirley Gillis ’75 M.S. is a member of the staff personnel committee for the City of New London, secretary of the New London Democratic Town Committee, and secretary of the New London Lions Club. She is a founder and board member of the Kente Cultural Center, a board member of the New London NAACP, historian of the National Council of Negro Women, a member of the Achieve Committee for Ledgepoint Health District and a member of the Connecticut State Department Teacher of the Year Committee. In addition, Shirley is a corporator for Lawrence and Memorial Hospital and is a board member for their auxiliary. • Claire Connelly ’76 is 75 years old and wheelchair-bound. She remains quite active, working as the president of Angels Depot Resource Center Inc. She has 25 years of volunteer counseling and social services to low-income persons and families in California and Connecticut, and for the past 50 years has worked with animal rescue and foster care. • Carol (Hammond) Wright ’77 returned to school in the 1980s and became a registered nurse. She currently works as a visiting nurse with VNA East in Mansfield and has been the VNA team captain for the Relay for Life for several years. The relay is held at the Eastern baseball field to raise cancer awareness and raise funds for research and treatment. • Terri Wilson ’82 has been on the Connecticut Red Cross board of directors for more than 10 years and is a blood donor, having provided five gallons. • Margaret Buckley ’83 lives in northern California near San Francisco. She currently serves on the American Pain Foundation’s board of directors and is one of the Northern California local leaders for Ehlers-Danlos National Foundation. Margaret had to leave the workforce in 1998 due to complications from Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a genetic connective tissue disorder. Over the years she has testified in California’s state capital and Wash-

EARLIER THIS YEAR, WE SENT A MESSAGE TO ALUMNI ON OUR E-MAIL LIST, ASKING THEM TO SEND US THEIR STORIES OF THE THINGS THEY DO TO SERVE OUR NATION AND OUR COMMUNITIES. THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI RESPONDED TO OUR CALL. WE THANK THEM FOR SHARING — AND FOR ALL THEY DO!
er within the training company. During his time with the MFD, he served as a firefighter, lieutenant, lead recruit instructor and EMT. Paul currently holds an EMT license with the State of Connecticut and a Connecticut State Fire Instructor I Certification. He works as an assistant vice president/account manager within the defined contribution practice of USI Consulting Group and has two young children.

Frederick Gordon ‘04 began as a firefighter with the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company in the summer of 1999. He remained a member throughout his college career at Eastern and was active during school breaks. After college he began work as a part-time fire dispatcher for the Simsbury Fire Department, and after living briefly in Los Angeles he returned to the Simsbury Fire Department as a firefighter and dispatcher. He was also hired as a public safety dispatcher for Central Connecticut State University. In 2006 Frederick was hired by the District of Columbia Fire Department as a firefighter and EMT.

Nancy Tinker ‘05 M.S. is the director of Facilities Management and Planning at Eastern and has served on the Thread City Development Board for four years, focusing on the improvement of downtown Willimantic. She has served on the Willimantic Inland Wetlands Committee for two years and was recently named to serve on the building committee for the Windham Magnet School construction project.

Jenna (Castle) Hoyt ‘07 is vice chair of the Tolland County Extension Council and is on the Tolland County 4-H Advisory Committee and 4-H Fair Association. She also volunteers as a co-leader with Willington Willing Workers 4-H Club.

Andrew Jepson ‘08 has been a New York City police officer for almost three years, working out of the 115th precinct in Jackson Heights, Queens.

David Gagnon ‘09 has been a CCD teacher and youth director for grades 6-12 at Sacred Heart Taftville for the past 15 years. He also coached the high school CYO basketball team from 1979-91, and has been on the Lisbon Planning and Zoning Commission since 1999, currently serving his last term. David is working at Kelly Middle School in Norwich. He began a walking club four years ago that meets every Wednesday afternoon. The club, which began with four children and has a current membership of more than 30, takes a scenic three-mile walk through Mohegan Park in Norwich.

Send Us Your News! Have you moved or married? Have you taken a new job or had an addition to your family? Have you had a “mini-reunion” with your former classmates? Please send your information and photos to:

Michael Stenko, Director | Office of Alumni Affairs
Eastern Connecticut State University
83 Windham Street | Willimantic, CT 06226
alumni@easternct.edu

This issue of EASTERN magazine has been a reaffirming experience for the staff in the Division of Institutional Advancement. We adopted the theme of “serving others” for this issue in honor of the many people who keep our country and our communities safe each day. In the process, we have discovered some amazing ways in which our alumni are serving their communities. We have encountered numerous stories of service and courage among first responders, military service personnel, health care professionals and others. It has been a proud and humbling experience to learn about the generosity and commitment to the well-being of others evident in so many Easterners.

We hope in reading about the service of alumni and other members of the Eastern community you also feel a renewed pride in the University. From where I sit, the support that the University is receiving from alumni and other friends has never been greater. We again are seeing increasing numbers of alumni and other donors stepping up in support of Eastern. This is a testament not only to the hard work of the staff in the Development Office but also to the dedication and faithfulness of our donors and alumni. You believe in the work of our faculty and staff and in the success and promise of our students. Thank you for that. In these very challenging economic times, your generosity has never been more important.

This increase in the number of alumni donors is welcome news for another reason. It goes without saying that we truly appreciate the generous financial contributions of our donors. However, we continue to remind our alumni that it is the percentage of alumni who give, not the size of their gift, which helps improve our rankings in the annual U.S. News and World Report ratings. Those ratings remain a key indicator for high school guidance counselors, prospective students and their parents. To make a further impact on this percentage, we are now encouraging students to pledge a modest amount to Eastern while they are still undergraduates, through our “Give Eastern a High 5” program. All of these efforts help support student scholarships and other University priorities while improving our academic reputation. For that, I sincerely thank the many individual donors who continue to support Eastern and our distinctive mission throughout the year.

Kenneth J. DeLisa
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

P.S.: If you have a moment and want to learn more about President Núñez’s vision of Eastern as a liberal arts college in the 21st century, read her recent opinion piece in the Christian Science Monitor, found at www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2011/0725/Liberate-liberal-arts-from-the-myth-of-irrelevance.
A degree from Eastern: How much is it worth?

Is it priceless? Perhaps, but that’s really up to you! There is no limit to the value of an Eastern degree … from the rise in national rankings to one-on-one connections, you have the power to dramatically increase the value of every Eastern degree, not just your own. Here’s how.

• **Raise the rankings.** One of the major criteria used by college ranking organizations such as U. S. News & World Report and the Princeton Review is the percentage of alumni who make donations to their alma mater — otherwise known as “alumni participation.” In short: the higher the number of Eastern alumni who give, the higher our rankings will climb. Why? Because the number of alumni who give back is seen as a measure of satisfaction with the education they received. The more satisfied alumni are with their experience, the more likely they are to make a financial gift.

Alumni, parents, friends, corporations and foundations support the public liberal arts mission of Eastern Connecticut State University in many different ways. The gifts received from private donors help ensure that Eastern students receive an outstanding liberal education. Each year, gifts to the Eastern Annual Fund support student scholarships, academic programs, technology enhancements, student life, intercollegiate athletics and many other programs. No gift is too small! Every gift, no matter the size, has a positive impact on the lives of Eastern students. The most convenient way to give is online by going to www.easternct.edu/advancement/development/onlinegiving.htm. So make your gift this year, next year and every year!

For more information, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (860) 465-5267.

• **Share your success.** When you do well, you raise the bar for all Eastern alumni! Submit a class note and a photo to EASTERN magazine and let all 27,000 alumni know how far you can go with a public liberal arts education from Eastern. Submit your Class Notes to the Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@easternct.edu.

• **Inspire the future.** Who better to inspire Eastern students — our future alumni — than you? Come back to campus to speak to a class, host Eastern students as interns, hire new Eastern graduates to work for you, and instill in them the importance of giving back to Eastern. For more information on how you can open doors to careers, visit the Office of Career Services at www.easternct.edu/career/.

• **Spread the word.** From the rise in our rankings to our academic success, Eastern’s achievements as Connecticut’s Public Liberal Arts University keep us on the media’s radar. But perhaps more meaningful are the multiple connections alumni seem to find wherever they go. Share your memories and keep up with alumni events and activities by joining our Facebook group (search “ECSU Alumni Association”) and posting regularly.

A degree from Eastern: How much is it worth?

A degree from Eastern: How much is it worth?
Plan now to come back to campus in 2012 as Eastern Celebrates! 

Friday, May 11, 2012 | Homecoming Party

Classes of 2002 through 2011  

Saturday, May 12, 2012 | Reunion Day | Jubilee Reunion Class of 1962


Saturday, May 12, 2012 | Big Tent Barbeque

All reunion classes will gather to welcome the Class of 2012 into the Eastern Alumni family! Call the Office of Alumni Affairs now and let us help you plan a reunion for your campus organization, club sport, residence hall or academic honor society! Contact us at (860) 465-5302 or alumni@easternct.edu.