Eastern Goes West
Alumnus Hosts Interns
EASTERN
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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.
The cover of this issue of EASTERN magazine is exhilarating, even if you don’t whitewater raft. The photo shows how exciting learning can be at Eastern, both on campus and out in the community.

Throughout this magazine, you will be reading about alumni, students, faculty, and other members of the Eastern family. What stands out for me in all these stories, regardless of who are being written about or what they are doing, is that the people who study, teach, and work at Eastern are committed to making a difference in the world as they seek to connect their values to impact social issues.

This summer, Eastern’s interdisciplinary approach brought together History, Communication, and Business Administration students to visit China and get to know its people. Students traveling to Brazil researched very real social issues, including child labor and domestic violence. Additionally, communication students went to Mexico to make a film on the rainforest. These are just a few of the stories in these pages of how Eastern’s special brand of liberal arts education is expanding our students’ worldviews: the liberal arts work!

As much as we are proud of this liberal art focus, it is Eastern’s public nature that truly makes it unique. Our public mission plays out in several important ways. First and foremost, we believe in public access to higher education. We are proud of the fact that half of our students are first-generation college students: the first in their families to attend college. Ensuring that more people from modest backgrounds can attend college is sound public policy and a moral responsibility.

I also believe that, as a public institution, we have the responsibility to teach our students in an expanded public arena. In addition to theoretical knowledge shared in the classroom, our majors are encouraged to apply their learning in the real world. The experiences of our interns in Colorado this summer is just one example of how students can further develop intellectually when allowed to put their skills to work, and how Eastern alumni can stay connected to and truly support the University.

Finally, our public focus creates a strong purpose in serving the community, on campus and beyond. Our faculty and students are active in the Windham area, supporting the community in countless ways. They travel afar — to New Orleans, Guatemala, and elsewhere — to lend a hand to people in need. They recognize early on that they are here to prepare for professional and public lives in the context of a great democracy.

I hope this issue inspires you as it has me, as we continue to work for the ideals that, for over a century, have formed the foundation of Eastern Connecticut State University. Our community of students, faculty, and staff stand ready to continue this legacy that Eastern’s alumni have built.

Elsa Núñez
President
Eastern goes West
Interns in the Colorado Rockies

BY ANNE PAPPALARDO

There are many ways for Eastern Connecticut State University alumni to stay connected to the University. One opportunity that directly benefits students is participating in career development activities. In 2006-07, more than two dozen Eastern alumni did just that, conducting workshops and classroom presentations on campus or representing their employers at career fairs. Tom Sweeney ‘83, chairman and CEO of Incentra Solutions, Inc., in Boulder, CO, took it one step further. This summer, Sweeney hosted three Eastern students as interns at Incentra in what he hopes will become an ongoing internship opportunity.

(Above, left to right) Christopher Marion, Michael Buccino, Tom Sweeney ‘83, and Richard Bruneau
Accounting majors Richard Bruneau ‘08 of Bristol and Christopher Marion ‘08 of Terryville, and Economics major Michael Buccino ‘09 of Stamford, spent the better part of the summer learning the ropes at one of America’s fastest-growing information technology providers. In addition to offering Bruneau, Marion, and Buccino paid internships, Incentra arranged for generous accommodations for the students. “Incentra’s Human Resources Department provided us with a fully furnished, all-expenses-paid apartment for the summer,” explained Marion. “It had everything in it that we could ever ask for and then some.”

When they weren’t working, the three interns explored the mountainous terrain on bicycles, enjoyed the sights and sounds of downtown Denver, and went to a Colorado Rockies baseball game. “Colorado is a breathtaking place that has a lot to offer anyone who enjoys the outdoors,” said Buccino, describing the hiking, mountain biking, whitewater rafting, and rock climbing that he and his two friends enjoyed.

Although it is clear that the interns appreciated their time away from work, the focus of their experience was clearly their time at Incentra. “My internship provided me with a taste of a real day’s work,” noted Buccino. “Not only did I learn about what it’s going to take to make it in the financial field, I gained invaluable insights about professionalism and work ethics from top-level executives such as Mr. Sweeney, Tony DiPaolo (Incentra’s chief financial officer), and Matt Richmond (the company’s senior vice president for corporate development). Their support has been amazing.”

Sweeney noted that the hiring market for talented young people in the financial and business analysis fields is highly competitive: “There really are not enough good candidates. With our business growing so quickly, I wanted to expand our internship program. Hiring some students from Eastern who could represent themselves and the University made sense. The kids are highly motivated and are doing great work while they are here, so it helps them and it helps our business. It’s been a great summer for me personally. Everyone on my staff has taken the time to get to know these young gentlemen, and not just at work.”

One unforgettable, away-from-work experience was a 13.5-mile whitewater rafting trip down the Arkansas River that Sweeney hosted in July. Buccino, Marion, and Bruneau joined him and members of his executive team, who also brought along some of their own children. “It was great in every respect,” recalled Sweeney. “The interns enjoyed themselves, and my two sons and my executives had a great time — it was thrilling.”

What was it like working for Sweeney? “Tom invited us to his home the day after we arrived for a Memorial Day picnic,” said Marion. “He really is a self-made man and has worked really hard to get where he is today. I enjoyed working for him.”

“I wasn’t sure what to expect from a person who is the CEO and
the first day, I knew
that it was going to be a
great experience because
he was so kind and
polite to me."

Sweeney hopes to
continue the internship
program with Eastern
in the future,
and encourages other
alumni to find similar
opportunities at their own
places of business. "Being an advo-
cate and a resource for students is a
wonderful way to thank Eastern for
what they have given me," he
explained. "You get to say, 'Maybe I
helped a little bit,' and knowing the
students represent my University
means we are all heading in the
same direction."

Tom Sweeney '83 has used his
bachelor's degree in mathematics
from Eastern as a steppingstone to a
successful career in information
technology spanning more than two
decades. Sweeney's path has led him
to his position as chairman and
CEO of Incentra Solutions, Inc.,
in Boulder, CO. Incentra provides
information technology and storage
management solutions to mid-range
enterprises in North America
and Europe.

Right out of Joel Barlow High
School in Redding, CT, however,
Sweeney had been content to make
"a ton of money pouring concrete for
a construction company." His high
school sweetheart, Carolyn, had
other ideas, and encouraged him to
enroll at Eastern, which was noted
for its mathematics program.

Carolyn (who has been Mrs. Sweeney
since 1983), even enlisted his mother
to help Tom fill out his Eastern
admissions application. "Eastern
completely changed Tom's life," says
Carolyn. "He went from having no
direction to being really focused."

Sweeney describes his
Eastern experience in
glowing terms: "We had
only seven students in my
Honors Math classes.
Students would prove the
theorems and corollaries and the fac-
ulty would critique. It made the cur-
riculum interesting and challenging,
and created a special bond between
the students and the professors."

After graduating from Eastern,
Sweeney enrolled in a master's degree
program at Arizona State University
but left to begin working at MCI in
1984. Later stints with MFS,
WorldCom, and other technology
firms gave Sweeney a firm grounding
in sales, management, and business
development, which he used to run
or help manage several companies,
including Level 3 Communications,
Front Porch Digital, and Equity Pier.

Sweeney founded Incentra in August
2004. In addition to selling hardware
and non-application software solu-
tions, Incentra has the capability to
remotely monitor and manage a
company's IT infrastructure. The
company has 2,000 customers
throughout the world, and its 180
employees manage 53 global data
centers, all from the company's
Network Operating Center in the
Boulder area. In 2005, Deloitte and
Touche named Incentra the 55th-
fastest growing IT firm in the coun-
try; last year it was the fourth-fastest.
Sweeney plans to continue to grow
his company's footprint. "We want to
sell our IT solutions and services
cost-to-coast and establish a western
European presence, either through
growth or acquisition."

Sweeney also wants to continue his
relationship with Eastern by provid-
ing additional internship opportuni-
ties. "When I was 26 years old, I
worked for MCI Communications,
and its vice president for Pacific
operations took me under his wing
and gave me every responsibility
imaginable. I would like to give our
interns the same opportunity."
For more than 50 years, students at Eastern Connecticut State University have traveled abroad to conduct field studies, learn about other cultures, and prepare for lives as global citizens. This past June, a group of 22 Business Administration, Communication, and History majors continued this tradition when they and three Eastern professors spent two exciting weeks exploring the People’s Republic of China.

Since her arrival at Eastern 12 years ago, History Professor Catherine Lynch, has wanted to take students to China. She herself had spent almost six years working and studying there and knew what a wonderful experience it would be.

An opportune time arrived, and with the support of Dean Carmen Cid, Lynch immediately began making arrangements. She spoke with Weiping Liu, assistant professor of finance and a native of China, about offering the trip to History and Business majors. “I thought it would be interesting to pair them so they could interact and learn from each other,” explained Lynch.

The trip began in Shanghai, where the group visited the city’s pedestrian shopping mall and got a feel for the pronounced Western influence on the metropolis. From there they traveled to the city of Suzhou, where modern life blends with ancient traditions. The party stayed in dorms at Suzhou University, which boasts a student body of 50,000. Each Eastern student was paired with an English-speaking student from Suzhou University. This was a great opportunity for Eastern students to

(Above) Patricia Kleine, dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies (second from left) joins Eastern students Luke Guyot, Patrick Rameaka, Liangrong Tang, and Jacqueline Platt at the Great Wall. (Left) The traditional water town of Tongli, home chiefly to retirees, is dominated by river boats and protected as a historic community.
learn about the city through the eyes of their hosts. Eastern students also joined in enthusiastic games of pick-up basketball. According to Lynch, “It gave them person-to-person contact and integrated the groups.”

The Eastern students discovered that their Chinese counterparts loved American culture. “They loved the movie, The Godfather. They liked Avril Lavigne, Mariah Carey, and hip hop,” revealed Adam Gartside ’08, a History major from Vernon. Other students from Suzhou University were able to quote from Western poetry and American literature.

“I learned a lot about my culture by visiting someone else’s.”

China is evolving, with skyscrapers crowding the skyline and an explosion of cars clogging the streets. As China’s economy continues to grow, so does the problem of pollution. The Eastern travelers found that the humid, summer air left smog hanging in the sky and made it difficult to breathe. One professor they met told a story about his five-year-old son, who asked, “Why does everyone say the sky is blue? It’s white.”

While China grapples with the impact of development on the environment, the political atmosphere was surprisingly healthy. “Going into the trip everyone had the impression that China would be very conformist, left over from Tiananmen Square. We expected more of a military presence,” Matthews said. What the Eastern contingent found was a more laid-back atmosphere. The students making the documentary had no restrictions on where they could shoot footage, and found people very willing to talk and be filmed.

“Our country’s self expression and freedom is fascinating to them,” noted Denise Matthews, associate professor of communication, who accompanied three Communication majors making a documentary of the trip. “We had no idea what we wanted the film to be about until we arrived in China.” Once there, Matthews and her crew found plenty of inspiration in Chinese culture and daily life.

China is evolving, with skyscrapers crowding the skyline and an explosion of cars clogging the streets. As China’s economy continues to grow, so does the problem of pollution. The Eastern travelers found that the humid, summer air left smog hanging in the sky and made it difficult to breathe. One professor they met told a story about his five-year-old son, who asked, “Why does everyone say the sky is blue? It’s white.” The negative side of development — pollution and congestion — will take a while to fix. “Changing the environment is expensive, and it’s hard to change people’s lifestyles,” said Kerin Jaros Dressler ’09, a Communication major from Willimantic.

While China grapples with the impact of development on the environment, the political atmosphere was surprisingly healthy. “Going into the trip everyone had the impression that China would be very conformist, left over from Tiananmen Square. We expected more of a military presence,” Matthews said. What the Eastern contingent found was a more laid-back atmosphere. The students making the documentary had no restrictions on where they could shoot footage, and found people very willing to talk and be filmed.

“Exploring Suzhou and meeting new people educated everyone about China. They saw how the ancient and modern coincide and the rich and poor live side by side. Walking down the canal streets in Suzhou, one can peek into the dark windows and see women washing their clothes by hand or pass by an old, rundown barbershop. Turn the corner and one is face-to-face with a brand-new hair salon that looks like it might be a Manhattan transplant.

The generation gap in China is huge. Grandparents witnessed the
Communist Revolution, while their children grew up during the Cultural Revolution. This next generation has come of age in a highly Westernized culture, knowing only the freedom and capitalism they experience now. Today, they have opportunities to select their own careers. In the past, the Chinese people had been assigned jobs upon graduating from college. College graduates now can choose among vocations and have the luxury of charting a new path if their original one doesn’t work out.

To make sure that the Eastern students received a comprehensive view of China’s past, present, and future, Lynch, Liu, and Matthews arranged for the Eastern students to hear Suzhou University professors lecture about the history of the formal gardens in Suzhou and about business in China. The final lecture discussed current trends in China.

The students gained some firsthand knowledge of the country’s history and business. They also paid a visit to the Rogers Technologies Co., Ltd., an electronics manufacturer that once had operations in Willimantic. The students met the CEO and learned about some of his challenges and why he was successful in China. “This was a way to prepare the students for a global economy. They got to see that China’s economy is big and experiencing changes,” said Liu.

After exploring Suzhou, absorbing its culture, and visiting its museums, gardens, and shops, the group traveled to Beijing, where they stopped at the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City, and finally the Great Wall. “The students had been anticipating the Great Wall the entire trip,” said Lynch. “It met all their expectations.”

“The Great Wall was the best place I’ve ever been,” Gartside exalted. “I wish we had spent more time — I could have spent days there.”

China left quite an impression on the group of students, but they no doubt left an impression on their Chinese hosts as well. The Eastern professors received many compliments on how respectful and hard-working their students were. “Everyone commented, ‘your students were perfect,’” Liu said. Some of the students made lifelong friends while staying at Suzhou University. One group even pitched in to help one of their new friends replace her stolen bike.

With the success of this year’s trip, Lynch hopes to repeat the experience again in two years. In the meantime, we can expect Eastern students, bags packed, to start lining up early!
Building Homes. Raising Hope.
From June 17–30, 2007, eleven Eastern students, led by Kathleen Delahunty '07 and Julia Herchenroder '07, traveled to Izabal, Guatemala, to assist in building two homes for well-deserving families. The trip was part of Habitat for Humanity’s Global Village program, which focuses on giving participants the opportunity to visit a foreign country while helping those in need.

The students witnessed the living conditions and diverse culture of the area, where four languages other than English are spoken daily: Spanish, Garifuna, Quiche, and Hindi. Eastern’s students also visited a jungle swimming hole; participated in a boat tour of Rio Dulce; visited Antigua, where they hiked up a volcano; and saw caves and hot springs.

Both Herchenroder and Delahunty had been on previous trips: two summers ago Delahunty visited Zambia while Herchenroder went to Honduras, and their transformative experiences influenced them to lead a trip together. Other Eastern students on the trip included Allison Mangles, Nicole Henry, Shannon Boyle, Allie Willets, Julie Ward, Hannah Lacaire, Matthew Lennon, Patrick Mignault, and Shannon Murphy. “This was my first trip out of the United States, and it was humbling to see how people live in Guatemala. Constructing houses is hard work, but it was gratifying to know we were building homes for families in need,” said Henry, incoming president of Eastern’s Habitat chapter.

In the Wake of Katrina.
Six Eastern students accompanied Charles Chatterton, Jr., professor of physical education, to New Orleans on Feb. 23–28, 2007, to assist in post-Katrina rebuilding efforts and raise awareness that the task is far from over. “No matter what you do, there’s nothing that can mentally prepare you to understand what happened in New Orleans until you’re down there and it’s in front of you,” said Meredith Merchant ’08, sport and leisure management major.

Eastern students accompanying Chatterton included Michelle Bruneau, Ashley Gomes, Matthew Mitchel, M erchant ’08, sport and leisure management major.
rebuilding effort at a Habitat for Humanity site and presenting a check to aid in replacing equipment that was destroyed at City Park in New Orleans.

Even though the events of August 29, 2005, have faded into the memories of most people, for others, the reality of that day will never go away. On that day, Hurricane Katrina, the third-strongest hurricane to make landfall in the United States, and the sixth-strongest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded, devastated the north-central Gulf Coast, especially the city of New Orleans. While the city has worked hard to rebuild its tourist and business districts, devastation remains just minutes away. “It was hard to fully understand the widespread destruction that Hurricane Katrina left until we viewed devastated block after block, neighborhood after neighborhood, still struggling to come back, nearly a year-and-a-half later,” said Chatterton.

**Revitalizing the Willimantic River.**

Sarah Hemenway ’07 received the Volunteer of the Year Award at the June 4, 2007, annual meeting of the Willimantic Whitewater Partnership (WWP) for redesigning the WWP website and creating an online member management system. Eastern also received an award as Volunteer Organization of the Year for its continued involvement to the WWP cause. In addition to Hemenway’s work, Professor Eric Martin is a member of the WWP Board of Directors, and Eastern student Jacob Williams has created a video for the partnership, with the support of Professor Denise Matthews.

The WWP’s goal is to restore the Willimantic River waterfront for recreation, whitewater kayaking, and commerce. The group continued its positive momentum when it held a press conference on Aug. 1 to announce purchase of a property on Bridge Street that will become part of the Willimantic River recreational area. “This acquisition gives us momentum and leverage to help revitalize the Willimantic River and the entire Windham area,” said Windham First Selectman Michael Paulhus.

Joining Paulhus in celebrating the WWP’s accomplishments were State Rep. Walter Pawelkiewicz; State Sen. Donald E. Williams, Jr.; and Eastern President Elsa Nuñez. “Eric Martin, one of our professors and a member of the WWP Board, has inspired me, our students, and his fellow faculty,” noted Nuñez. “We want our students to get more involved in this community and in this project. It’s about asking the question, ‘What can I give to my community?’ This is a beautiful part of Willimantic and a great project for our students to get involved in.”
The transformative power of a liberal arts education was the theme of the two-day celebration surrounding Elsa M. Nuñez’s installation as Eastern Connecticut State University’s sixth president on April 12–13, 2007. Following an opening decree the morning of April 12 by University Senate President Martin Levin, the festivities continued with a President’s Luncheon honoring the Class of 1957.

President’s Jubilee Luncheon
During her keynote address at the luncheon, Nuñez reminded the audience of the carefree 1950s — hula hoops, poodle skirts, and coonskin caps. “It was truly a magical time,” she recalled. In fall 1957, however, as the Jubilee Class started teaching, Sputnik was launched and the Cold War began in earnest. “As school-teachers in this new era, you were counted on to help enhance America’s educational system while protecting our freedoms,” noted Nuñez. “For your leadership and courage in the face of a new threat to our country, I salute you.”

After the luncheon, Nuñez presented class members with their golden diplomas marking this special anniversary. As Morris Fishbone ’57, senior class president, noted, “Fifty-four years ago, a group of young students began a college education at what was known as Willimantic State Teacher’s College. Today, some 50 years later, Willimantic State Teacher’s College has become a major university with a beautiful campus.”

Academic Symposium
During the early afternoon of April 12, professors in early childhood development and in theatre opened their doors to the public while Eastern writers gave readings in the Child and Family Development Resource Center’s Joinery. Closing the day’s program was the symposium “Transforming Lives: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Liberal Arts,” featuring Environmental Earth Science Professor Drew Hyatt; Patricia O’Brien, deputy director of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, New England Association of Schools and Colleges; Thomas Purce, president of Evergreen State College; and Robert Spillane ’56, director of the CNA Corporation’s Education Center.

Hyatt discussed teaming up with Visual Arts Professor Andy Jones to blend earth science and art into “Art Rocks!”, an interdisciplinary course...
cluster they teach in the University’s First Year Program. “It’s a transforming experience,” says Hyatt.
“Students learn much more when they can personally discover and embrace a new perspective.”

In praising Eastern’s liberal arts mission, O’Brien encouraged Núñez “to speak the truth, to challenge long-held assumptions, and to encourage the best for those around you.”

Evergreen’s President Purce said an interdisciplinary approach is at the heart of his university’s academic programs. “We believe that students fall in love with learning for a lifetime when they experience collaborative learning rather than learn in isolation.”

“We need graduates with the intellectual flexibility/ability to go along with the changes that are taking place in society, politics, and culture,” said Spillane. “Only a liberal arts education can do that for you.”

Inaugural Guests Feted
An evening dinner on April 12, attended by symposium guests, President Núñez’s family, and Inauguration Committee members, closed the day’s proceedings. It was highlighted by Purce’s keynote speech and jazz selections performed by the Eastern Chamber Singers.

The Installation Ceremony
A beautiful day dawned brightly on April 13 as hundreds of dignitaries, academic faculty, and other officials convened on campus for President Núñez’s installation exercises, held in the Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. The gymnasium was transformed with banners celebrating the University’s honor societies and each guest received a commemorative history booklet about Eastern’s storied past, as well as the day’s program.

In addition to Eastern’s contingent of faculty, administrators, staff, and students, the audience also included a procession of 250 dignitaries and representatives of universities from around the country, dressed in formal academic regalia. More than 1,000 guests attended the event.

“President Núñez is the right leader at the right time for

Eastern Connecticut State University — an administrator with the vision and determination to lead the University to great achievement,” said David G. Carter, chancellor of the Connecticut State University System and former Eastern president. “Her commitment to the University community and passion for academic excellence and civic engagement demonstrate an unwavering dedication to ensuring that Eastern will continue to reflect the best of Connecticut.”

With their theme of “Transforming Lives,” President Núñez’s remarks were an inspirational message focused on Eastern’s liberal arts mission and its role as a public university.

“When our students grasp the liberating power of their education, when the ‘light bulb goes on’ — this is what we mean by the transformational power of the liberal arts. Armed with intellectual curiosity and citizenship skills, our students can truly make a difference in this world . . . The public liberal arts education we offer at Eastern brings the tools of citizenship and empowerment to people regardless of class, and has the potential of creating leaders from all walks of life.”
Eastern Students Explore Life in Brazil

From March 17–24, 2007, 16 Eastern students joined Sociology Professor Mary Kenny on a study tour to Brazil. The students, whose majors range from Social Work to Music, visited the state of Paraíba, located in northeastern Brazil, staying with native host families; studying Portuguese; and immersing themselves in the local history, culture, and language.

The students took a one-credit seminar prior to leaving so they would better understand the conditions, complexities, and varying cultures they were about to encounter. Once arriving, they participated for three hours each morning in a brief class of Conversational Portuguese. They also explored poverty-stricken areas, examined economic conditions, and researched domestic violence issues.

Linda Thomas ’07 returned this year for her second trip to Brazil. She participated in an independent study focusing on the effects of new domestic violence legislation recently instituted. Thomas wanted to see how hospitals and police stations were affected: “The old laws were extremely unfair and unjust toward women.” She said she returned because she “absolutely loved the first trip. The people were generous and accommodating; it was probably one of the best experiences I’ve ever had traveling anywhere.”

Nontraditional student Nick Postovoit ’07, a senior advisor at Pfizer, Inc., had an enlightening experience while in Brazil. “I was immediately affected by the diversity of the country, not just its residents but its appearance. Right down the road from our beautiful hotel with high-speed Internet was a poverty-stricken farm. I was amazed by the socioeconomic differences and the varied culture — there were very affluent people; the lower middle-class had servants; and the street kids were very engaging,” said Postovoit.

Kenny has spent more than 14 years in the urban areas of northeast Brazil interviewing children and observing how they play a key role in the local economy, in their households, in formal jobs, and in the thriving informal sector (e.g., washing cars, shining shoes). Kenny gave some of
the children disposable cameras to document their daily lives and included some of their pictures in her new book, *Hidden Heads of Households: Child Labor in Urban Northeast Brazil*. In it, she discusses how poverty shapes family and children, an important step toward understanding and solving economic and social inequalities.

**Anthropology Students Visit Arizona**

Eastern’s Native American Cultural Study program visited Arizona this past spring to explore and experience Navajo, Hopi, and Yavapai cultures. One goal of the program was to examine the material culture produced by these native peoples. The study group visited reservations, sacred sites, national historic monuments, historic trading posts, missions, museums, cultural centers, and archaeological sites. They also went to Diné College on the Navajo reservation in Tsaile to study the Navajo language, and spent time on a Hopi reservation at one of the few elementary schools in the area.

“All of these sites are expressions of historical and contemporary Indian identity,” said Christine McDonnell, adjunct faculty member and the tour coordinator. “While we were learning about these new people and sharing new experiences, those indigenous peoples were learning about Eastern Connecticut State University and our enthusiasm for other cultures, which is at the heart of anthropology.”

**A Special World Under the Sea**

For almost 40 years, faculty and students in the Department of Biology have conducted field studies in the Greater Caribbean, alternating among the barrier reefs and rainforests of Belize; San Salvador Island in the Bahamas; Jamaica; and Bermuda. In May 2007, Professors Chuck Booth and Ross Koning accompanied 14 students to San Salvador Island to study marine life. Students visited 18th century British plantation ruins; checked out a limestone cave; surveyed ancient coral reef and sand dune formations along the coast; and explored underwater coral reefs.

“For many of our students, the Tropical Biology program is their first excursion outside New England and for many more, it is their first international experience in a culture that is quite different from our own,” said Koning. “For most, it is their first intensive snorkeling experience.”

Added Booth: “Experiencing tropical ecosystems up close and personal gives students an understanding of biology that can’t be obtained from a textbook, video, or classroom lecture.” And with many of the world’s coral reefs dying, “The students who went to San Salvador could be one of the last generations of students to see thriving coral reefs.”
Documenting the Rainforest

Eastern students Gabriel Peterson, Saul Rodriguez, Kristin Chemerka, Heather Altier, Jacob Williams, and Julia Herchenroder applied their knowledge of videography to the world of ecology during a visit to the Los Tuxtlas Biology Station in Veracruz, Mexico, in late May 2007. They were accompanied by Jaime Gómez, chair of the Department of Communication, who has had extensive experience producing and directing documentaries in South and Central America and the Middle East.

"These students did not know each other well before our trip," explained Gómez. "It was rewarding for me to see how, through dialog and compromise, they were able to come together as a team."

As the students gained experience in the technical and creative process of digital video production, they created a documentary about the rainforest environment. In addition, Juan Nuñez-Farfan, an ecologist and genetic evolutionist from the Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM), and a team of UNAM instructors accompanied the students on extensive hikes in the rainforest, in addition to conducting tours of other ecosystems such as the Catemaco mangroves.

Art and Biology Professors Return to Australia

On May 21, five Eastern students and 16 students from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) accompanied Adjunct Professor of Art Muriel Miller and CCSU Biology Professor Sylvia Halkin on a 29-day art and biology tour of Australia. Miller and Halkin previously accompanied a student group to Australia in 2005.

The group toured Sydney’s Opera House; the Royal Botanic Gardens; Koala Park Sanctuary; and Sydney Aquarium, and then continued on to visit the Warrumbungles National Park, where they hiked to Aboriginal sites and viewing kangaroos and emus in their natural habitat.

The group toured Brisbane and the University of Queensland’s biological research station at North Stradbroke Island, also visiting a group of Aboriginal artists in their studio.

The final week of the course was at Ayers Rock in central Australia. "There the students saw how dry much of the continent of Australia is," remarked Miller. "We saw many salt lakes, and camels roaming the sands trying to eat the sparse vegetation of the desert. There are not many roads, especially in desert areas, and electricity, including electricity to run water pumps, is provided by on-site generators. In much of Australia, most telephones are satellite and water is a precious commodity."

Miller and Halkin’s next study trip will be to Ireland, Scotland, and England in May–June 2008. For more information, e-mail millermu@easternct.edu.
When Denise Matthews, associate professor of communication, premiered her documentary film, "Ask J. Edgar Hoover," to a campus audience, she wasn’t sure how it would be received. "I felt different making this documentary. It wasn’t about a historical event but was a very personal story. It felt risky," said Matthews as she explained her doubts throughout the filmmaking process. University Assistant Jeff Arias ’06 was the film’s editor. "Jeff was creative, organized, and brought intelligence and expertise to the film.

The 55-minute film depicts a white liberal family, the Harrisons, living in Greenwood, MS, during the 1960s. Sallie Ann Harrison’s father, Henry Frank Harrison, Sr., was mysteriously killed on Aug. 2, 1966.

When Matthews traveled to Greenwood to investigate Harrison’s death, she encountered many obstacles, including a lack of police records and little cooperation from local authorities. Matthew’s film reveals Harrison’s support for equality and justice for African Americans in Greenwood, which she believes led to his death.

The film’s powerful story and compelling production values have impressed critics. Matthews received the Best in Festival Award in April 2007 at the 52nd Annual Convention and Exhibition of the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) in Las Vegas, and was the winner of the 2007 Popular Culture Association Peter C. Rollins Documentary Award. “Ask J. Edgar Hoover” also won the prestigious Ron Tibbett Excellence in Film Award at the Magnolia Independent Film Festival in Starkville, MS, in February.

“T his is a great honor for our department and Eastern,” said Jaime Gómez, chair of the Communication Department, "and reflects Denise’s commitment to staff and students.”

Matthews, who has written, directed and produced more than 100 programs for PBS affiliates and other clients, says she got her inspiration to create the film from Bennett Miller, director of the documentary "Cruise." After seeing the craftsmanship, passion, and thoroughness that Miller poured into his documentary, Matthews said she wanted to create a piece that was equally stimulating.

“During an interview with Ms. Harrison, I recognized that she was a ‘verbal virtuoso,’ having not only the knowledge and commitment to solve the mystery, but the gift to verbally explain what had happened as well.”

While the documentary took several years to make, Matthews’s patience paid off, and not just because of the film’s recognition. “I now have more courage to follow my intuition.”
As a little boy, Brian Sullivan ’08 wanted to be “a writer or a CEO with a helipad on the roof of his mansion.” With a 3.96 GPA and a double major in mathematics and mathematical economics, Sullivan has a host of career options. He would still love to end up writing, but for now, he has his sights set on graduate school or law school at Harvard, Yale, the University of Virginia, or the University of Chicago.

Sullivan credits Eastern with helping him develop his leadership skills and academic interests. “The opportunities at Eastern — academic, social, personal — are endless. And my math and economics professors, as well as Astronomy Professor Russell Sampson, have been amazing. Dr. Khan (math professor) is definitely the most entertaining guy on the whole campus.”

The Wethersfield native says his election as Eastern’s student representative to the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) Board of Trustees has been his most rewarding experience while at Eastern. Learning about governance and public policy from his fellow trustees and former Eastern president David Carter, now the CSUS chancellor, has been enlightening. “Dr. Carter has been a mentor to me since my first day on campus. Working alongside him over the years has taught me a great deal about public service.”

Even more rewarding and fun for Sullivan is the opportunity to impact student life at the four state universities. “Serving on the Board has allowed me to actually do something about the issues that I believe are important to students.”

Sullivan also has enjoyed working with Eastern’s new President Elsa Nuñez. “Dr. Nuñez and I both started in our respective roles on campus about the same time. She asks for my input on University matters, and appointed me to the Committee on the Future of Eastern (COFE) so that a student voice would be heard.”

In addition to serving on the Board of Trustees and COFE, Sullivan is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Eastern’s honor society for student leaders. He also finds time to help people on and off campus. He founded and coordinated a program to help Windham High School students prepare for their CAPT exams; participated in the Math College Bowl; volunteered for the Cetacean Society International to help protect whales, dolphins, and porpoises; and has worked at the Willimantic Textile Museum to restore antique machines.

All the while, Sullivan has held down a part-time job as a teacher at Kaplan Test Preparatory Services in West Hartford, where he helps high school and college students take SAT, GRE, and LSAT exams.

After he earns his doctorate and/or law degree, Sullivan wants to continue public service as a government economics advisor, and perhaps eventually will teach at the university level, “right back here at Eastern!”
Zarings Donate Country Homestead

When you drive along Mansfield Road in Ashford, you can't help but notice the Church farm property — a stately, historic home complete with Doric columns, surrounded by acres of well-preserved woodlands, meadows, and gardens, and accented by a barn built in 1895.

The property’s visionary owners, Joseph and Dorothy Zaring of Washington, D.C., recently decided to donate the farm to Eastern, along with a financial contribution. The total gift to the ECSU Foundation, Inc., is in excess of $2.5 million, and aligns perfectly with the University’s liberal arts mission.

Per the agreement between the Zarings and Eastern, the money will be used to renovate and upgrade the property, transforming the Church farm into an educational center for the arts and sciences. The land will be used to enhance teaching and field research while showcasing creative activities. Carmen Cid, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, sees the property as the perfect place for science classes to explore and for visual arts and creative writing classes to follow their inspiration. “There is even a sunken garden that would be perfect for performing Shakespeare,” she said.

“During the summer there could be art festivals and concerts,” continues Cid. “It is also an excellent location for research projects. Because this is a protected area, students can study the land uninterrupted.”

The Zarings are as excited as Cid is to see their property developed into what they envision as a “community and education center for the creative arts, history, and ecological studies that will be the envy of the entire region.”

The Joseph and Dorothy Zaring Center for the Arts and Sciences in Ashford will provide the University with a beautiful, pastoral setting for educational and cultural activities.

President’s Legacy Society

The President’s Legacy Society was established to recognize individuals who have made a bequest, gift of life insurance, or a life-income gift to the University. Requests for anonymity are honored. Current members are as follows:

Anonymous
Dr. Jacqueline Abbott
Milton Anderson
Madeline Bernstein
Estate of Dorothy E. Brown
Dorothy ’56 and Cameron Carlyle
Dr. Fred Cazel
Estate of Olof V. Erlandson
Estate of Dr. Elizabeth Chappel Hansen
Estate of John Church Hicks
Luva Mead Hoar ’42
Jacqueline Holbrook
Estate of Paul Kaplitz
Ellen Lang ’81 and James Watson, M.D.
Kathleen McLaughlin ’88
Dr. Bertram Nussbaum ’63
Lori A. McLaughlin ’88
State Senator Edith G. Prague ’65
Dr. Charles Prewitt
Estate of Elizabeth M. Wright ’30
Dorothy and Joseph Zaring
Estate of Captain Karl O. Zittel

For Eastern supporters who are not in a position to consider an estate gift; contributions to the Annual Fund are needed and greatly appreciated, and can be made by visiting www.easternct.edu, or by calling Joe McGann in the Development Office at (860) 465-4514.
Grant Support on the Rise

Eastern has a new Grants Office, staffed by Grants Officer Mimi Hutson. Successful grant awardees include Peter Drzewiecki, professor of environmental earth science, who was awarded $21,262 from the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct research this past summer with students to map the bedrock of the Hartford South Quadrangle; Professors Max Ferguson and Robert Horrocks, who received more than $5,000 for a library collection on Canadian Studies; staff members Eric Germain and Jean Jacobowski, who were awarded $22,605 for fire safety training; and Professor William Lugo of the Sociology Department, who received a $255,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to conduct a study on how strengthening academic expectations may affect weekend drinking. Many other professors have pending proposals, and we expect to have more exciting news of grant awards in the next issue of EASTERN magazine.

First Schaeffer Scholarship Recipient Announced

English major Andrew Cooke ’08, the first recipient of the Tammy E. Schaeffer Memorial Scholarship, poses with Tammy’s brother, John Schaeffer, and President Elsa M. Núñez at the Scholarship Reception on May 9, 2007.

The scholarship allowed Cooke to travel with fellow students and Augustín Bernal, assistant professor of modern and classical languages, to Alicante, Spain, this past summer.

“It is through the generosity of Eastern donors like the Schaeffers that our students are able to embrace educational opportunities that may not otherwise be within their reach,” said Kenneth J. DeLisa, vice president for institutional advancement.

This year, more than 140 deserving Eastern students were awarded almost $150,000 in scholarship support.

Strike Up the Band

Through a generous gift of the late Olof and Florence Erlandson, the ECSU Foundation, Inc., presented a free outdoor concert of swing and big band music on June 6, performed by the little Big Band. Mrs. Erlandson ’76, and her husband had a love for music and outdoor concerts that they wanted to share with the University and the Willimantic community. The concert was held on the Shafer Hall lawn and provided an opportunity for Eastern and the Willimantic community to come together to enjoy an evening of summer fun in support of the Victorian Home Tour Weekend.
Fore!

The annual Eastern golf tournament benefiting the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics was held on June 18 under sunny skies at the Mashantucket Pequot’s beautiful Lake of Isles Golf Course in North Stonington. Two hundred golfers participated and a record $92,000 was generated for Eastern athletics.

Windham Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. and Barnes & Noble College Bookstores served as lead sponsors. “This event continues to grow each year, and I couldn’t be happier,” said Joyce Wong, director of athletics. “The money raised allows us to schedule more non-league games out of the region, to purchase needed equipment, and to host alumni reunion games each season.”

The 2008 tournament is planned again for Lake of Isles; keep your clubs clean and look for a “save the date” reminder after the New Year.

Annual Fund Reflects Increased Support

The ECSU Foundation, Inc., raised almost $2 million in FY07, with a record 1,600 donors participating. Eastern had only 1,100 donors at the close of FY03. Another $1.3 million was raised by the University from state and federal grant submissions.

“I am pleased with the 40 percent growth we have experienced with our donor base over the past four years, highlighted by alumni giving that increased 18 percent this past year,” said Kenneth J. DeLisa, vice president for institutional advancement. “We recognize that our competitive advantage is dependent in large part on ratings that are based on the level of alumni participation in the Annual Fund.”

Scholarship giving continues to resonate with Eastern supporters, accounting for $500,000 or 25 percent of total giving. “President Nuñez has emphasized that an Eastern education needs to be accessible to all students regardless of capacity to pay,” said DeLisa. “Donors are seeing the advantages of making endowed gifts with the 25 percent state match adding to the general endowed scholarship pool.”
Representative DeLauro Speaks At Eastern's Commencement

“Opportunity must not be taken for granted,” said Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro (D-Third District) to the class of 2007 during her keynote address at Eastern’s 117th Commencement on May 20.

Now serving her ninth term in Congress, DeLauro sits on the House Appropriations and Budget Committees and is chair of the Agriculture-FDA Appropriations Subcommittee. She informed the 1,167 students receiving diplomas that “the hard work does not end here, nor does the anxiety.” She told them to be aware that the world they are entering is vastly different from and “much less supportive” than their college campus, adding that temptations will arise “for you to turn away from new challenges and big risks.” DeLauro urged students to bring their values to the public arena and reiterated her message that freedom means responsibility.

The graduates also had the opportunity to hear David G. Carter, former Eastern president and current chancellor of the Connecticut State University System. Carter read from Kent Keith’s “The Paradoxical Commandments,” which encourages young people to “give the world the best you have and you’ll get kicked in the teeth, but give the world the best you have anyway!”

Two Eastern Students Win Henry Barnard Scholar Awards

Adam Lachendro ’07 of Enfield and Carter Anne Lennon ’07 of Manchester were among the 12 scholars who were recognized on April 25, 2007, at this year’s annual Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Award Banquet at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

The award is named for the first U.S. commissioner of education, Henry Barnard, a distinguished Connecticut educator who was the state’s first superintendent of schools and principal of what later became Central Connecticut State University.

Adam Lachendro majored in health and physical education and graduated with a 3.83 GPA. Completing her studies in only three years, the psychology major was president, vice president, and secretary, as well as project manager of “ECSU Hits the Streets” for the American Humanics Student Association; president of the Psi Chi psychology honor society; and volunteered in numerous other Eastern clubs and organizations.

“Adam and Carter represent the very best in our students at Eastern,” said President Elsa Nuñez. “They are bright, conscientious students who place a high value on scholarship and service to the community. They have distinguished themselves by maintaining superb academic records in the classroom and by displaying exemplary leadership roles in helping others. We could not be more proud.”

Eastern Comes Up Green

On June 5, 2007, Eastern was presented with a Green Circle Award from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Green Circle Award honored 70 Connecticut civic organizations, individuals, and businesses for their efforts to improve the environment. “The leadership provided by such Eastern faculty and staff as Professor Fred Loxsom, Bill Leahy, and Nancy Tinker has resulted in significant cost savings,” Nuñez said.

Lennon graduated this past May with a 3.95 GPA. Completing her studies in only three years, the psychology major was president, vice president, and secretary, as well as project manager of “ECSU Hits the Streets” for the American Humanics Student Association; president of the Psi Chi psychology honor society; and volunteered in numerous other Eastern clubs and organizations.

“Adam and Carter represent the very best in our students at Eastern,” said President Elsa Nuñez. “They are bright, conscientious students who place a high value on scholarship and service to the community. They have distinguished themselves by maintaining superb academic records in the classroom and by displaying exemplary leadership roles in helping others. We could not be more proud.”
and energy savings on our campus
and throughout the state,” remarked
President Nuñez. “This award is
another sign that Eastern’s collabora-
tion with other leaders in Connecticut’s
environmental community is being
recognized. We are very pleased and
honored by this recognition.”

**Campus Growth Continues**

Eastern’s cutting-edge facilities provide
students a safe, attractive, and highly
functional learning environment where
they can acquire a world-class liberal
arts education. The University’s out-
standing campus is the result of a long-
term commitment by the State of
Connecticut to ensuring the success of
Eastern students. Continuing that
commitment, a renovated and expand-
ed Student Center reopened in
August, enhancing the quality of cam-
pus life students already experience.

The new center has grown from
41,000 to 72,000 net square feet, and
features a café with a fireplace; a
spanking-new food court; a renovated
Betty R. Tipton Room with capacity
for 400 people; an expanded book-
store; a 4,000-square-foot
fitness center; a 150-seat
performance theatre with
surround sound; eight con-
ference/meeting rooms; and
office space for staff and all
student clubs and organiza-
tions. By bringing all stu-
dent organizations, student
activities, and cultural pro-
gramming together in one
central location, the $18.5-
million facility will create a
new campus culture in sup-
port of Eastern students’
liberal arts education.

The $46 million Science
Building, which will con-
solidate all of Eastern’s
science and mathematics
departments into one

**Microscopy Center.** The building’s
energy-efficient, environmentally sensi-
tive design qualifies for Leadership in
Energy and Environmental Design
(LEED) certification by the U.S.
Green Building Council.

Funding for design of a new Fine
Arts Center has been requested in the
state’s 2007–09 Biennial Budget.
Plans for the center include classroom
and performance spaces; an art
gallery; a 1,100-seat auditorium; a
350-seat concert hall; a smaller black
box theatre; and visual arts and per-
formance rehearsal studios. Sometime
this year, construction will begin on a
8,500-square-foot Public Safety
Building containing a communica-
tions center that will integrate all of
the University’s monitoring systems —
fire alarms, building monitoring
systems and card access, security
cameras, and emergency call boxes.
A second, 800-space parking garage
also is planned for this year; it will
be constructed on the site of the cur-
rent softball field, which will be relo-
cated at the University’s Mansfield
athletic complex.
Borromeo String Quartet and Astronaut Mae Jemison Highlight Arts and Lecture Series

The internationally acclaimed Borromeo String Quartet, which presented a breathtaking performance at Eastern three years ago, came back to campus on March 8, 2007, to again perform its special mixture of classical and modern music. The highlight of the performance, the third event in this year’s Arts and Lecture Series, was an interpretation of Steven Mackey’s “Ars Moriendi,” which, in Latin, means “the art of dying.”

Violinists Nicholas Kitchen and Kristopher Tong, Mai Motobuchi on the viola, and cellist Yeesum Kim constitute the quartet, which has performed hundreds of concerts in major venues across three continents.

Mae Jemison, educator, physician, and the first African American female astronaut to travel in space, closed out the sixth season of the Arts and Lecture Series on April 12 with a insightful and educational discussion of the impact of science and technology on developing countries. She told the audience, “I never limited myself because of someone else’s limited imagination.”

Eastern Unveils Portrait of President David G. Carter

Eastern unveiled a portrait of David G. Carter, the University’s fifth president and now chancellor of the Connecticut State University System.
(CSUS), on March 14 in the J. Eugene Smith Library. Artist and author Hans Weiss, an ECSU Foundation, Inc. board member, created the painting, which hangs alongside portraits of Eastern's previous presidents in the library. “The piece of your character that I admire most is that students say there wasn’t once when they met with you that they didn’t learn something,” Eastern President Elsa Nuñez told Carter. “The admiration the students have for you is the greatest contribution you have made to Eastern and a wonderful legacy for a college president.”

Looking to the Future

The University’s 2008–13 strategic planning process was launched on Jan. 26, 2007, with the first meeting of the Committee on the Future of Eastern (COFE). Co-chaired by President Nuñez and Ronald Lowy, professor of business administration, COFE’s 31 members include Eastern faculty, staff, students, administrators, and alumni, as well as friends of the University.

Through the work of COFE and its four subcommittees, hundreds of students, faculty, staff, administrators, and University friends have been actively involved in creating a new mission statement, core values, a vision for the future, and a set of strategic initiatives. The plan is currently in draft form and is being reviewed for final approval this fall. Themes include providing Eastern students with an even stronger campus experience; enhancing “active learning” opportunities on campus and in local, state, national, and international arenas; and providing more service opportunities within the local community.

“I am excited about the innovative and substantive ideas that have come out of our process to date,” said Nuñez at the COFE Stakeholders Conference on May 11. “It reflects the best thinking of the campus community.”

Art Rocks Providence Canyon State Park

Environmental Earth Science Professor Drew Hyatt and Associate Professor of Art Andy Jones recently traveled to southwest Georgia with Eastern video-grapher Craig Naumec and seniors Bethany Busch and Kristin Schroeder to collect digital imagery and create landscape art of Providence Canyon State Park. Jones used the spectacular park vistas as subjects for several paintings and sketches. The artwork will be combined with imagery and video in the interactive multimedia disk, “Art Rocks: Providence Canyon State Park,” in support of the popular course taught by Hyatt and Jones in Eastern’s First Year Program.

Two Eastern Professors Receive Research Awards

Elizabeth Cowles, associate professor of biology, and Eric Martin, associate professor of management in the Business Administration Department, were named recipients of a Connecticut State University’s Trustees Teaching Award and Trustees Research Award, respectively, at the May 2007 CSUS Board meeting.

Cowles was recognized for her ability to engage and motivate students; her skill in using technology in teaching and learning; and her encouragement of students to engage in independent research.

Martin was recognized for his work in management issues related to international development assistance; the evolution of inter-organizational relationships of media development and deployment; the privatization of state-owned enterprises; and refugee return.

Art Professor Andy Jones (far right) paints beautiful scenes of Providence Canyon State Park in Georgia.
Two Biology Graduates Keep Zoology Alive

Eric Lazo-Wasem '79, senior collections manager in the Division of Invertebrate Zoology at Yale’s Peabody Museum, and Adam Baldinger '88, curatorial associate in the Department of Mollusks at Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology, have turned their love of biology and their Eastern Connecticut State University education into highly successful careers.

Biology has always been a part of Lazo-Wasem’s life. His father was a biologist, and his own interest grew during their fishing trips together. Lazo-Wasem became fascinated by the crayfish and crabs they were using as bait. “By the time I reached high school,” says Lazo-Wasem, “marine biology was it.”

When it came time to select a college, Lazo-Wasem liked Eastern’s small class sizes, country setting, and independent campus. “It felt like a private school.” He didn’t bother applying to other schools. Baldinger also knew he wanted to pursue biology, and when looking at colleges he found that Eastern’s Biology Department had an outstanding reputation and he was impressed that the faculty taught their own labs.

Both men began college with an interest in biology, but it was the influence of Professor Michael Gable that gave them their passion and direction. As a sophomore, Lazo-Wasem began an independent study in invertebrate zoology with Gable that would last throughout his Eastern career.

Baldinger took a class with Gable in his freshman year, learning about the diversity of animals. His fascination grew, and he took the Tropical Biology course in Bermuda, later becoming Gable’s field assistant for the course in his junior year.

Baldinger went on to graduate school at San Francisco State University, the same graduate school from which Lazo-Wasem had received his master’s degree years earlier. They both returned to the East Coast to be closer to their families. Now they work as close colleagues, traveling together annually to work on a project on Guana Island, located in the British Virgin Islands. Primarily a wildlife sanctuary, the island’s owner wants to preserve the land’s natural habitat.

Lazo-Wasem is in the middle of moving the Peabody’s collections to a brand-new wing. The task isn’t easy, yet he also manages the use and activity of the collections. After so many years at the Peabody Museum, Lazo-Wasem has become its Invertebrate Zoology historian. “The best part of this job is that I learn something new every day,” he explains.

Baldinger’s typical workday is similar to Lazo-Wasem’s. He fields questions about different specimens and requests for loans from Harvard’s Mollusk collection and meets with other museum staff. Baldinger also likes to travel. So far this year he has attended a conference in Belgium and another in Hungary. “I enjoy getting together with people who are as excited about this as I am and meeting colleagues I had known only through e-mail.”
Amanda Adichie’s Star Rises

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie ’01 has continued her rise as a world-class writer with the publication of Half of a Yellow Sun, her new novel set in Biafra in the 1960s. The novel was favorably reviewed in the Sept. 18, 2006, issue of People magazine, which called Half of a Yellow Sun “powerful,” and said Adichie “masterfully” crafts a narrative that is full of “memorable characters.” The book won the Orange Broadband Prize and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Adichie wrote her first novel, Purple Hibiscus, while still a student at Eastern. Published in 2003, it met with critical acclaim and won several international awards. Adichie also received the Eastern Alumni Association’s 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Adichie studied communication and political science at Eastern and graduated summa cum laude in 2001. She fondly recalls Communication Professor Edmond Chibeau: “Dr. Chibeau had a keen sense of a large, complex world outside the confines of the college campus, and he was so encouraging. When I wrote a piece in the school paper, he asked the class to read it and underline the sentence that summarized my point. For me, that was a most spectacular faith in my writing.”

Chibeau is equally gracious in describing his former student: “She had her own sense of style and a sense of purpose while she was here. I would like to think that Dr. (Chris) Torockio and I helped her continue along the path on which she was already headed. We were not so much an influence as part of the supportive academic and creative community that is Eastern.”

At the Nation’s Capital

Alumni from the Washington, D.C., area came to the historic Old Ebbitt Grill just blocks from the White House for an alumni reception held on Feb. 28. Eastern’s first alumni reception in the nation’s capital was a big hit and many alumni in attendance were surprised to learn that there were so many fellow Eastern graduates in the area.

Alumni Get Together in Mystic

On June 21, Eastern alumni from the Mystic area gathered at the Seaman’s Inn at the Mystic Seaport for an alumni reception. Alumni ranging from the class of 1930 to the class of 2007 reconnected with old friends; made new contacts in their area; and met President Nuñez. Alumna Stella Ruddley ’30 stole the show, showing up with her original diploma from the Connecticut State Normal School at Willimantic.
Alumni Help Celebrate New Era in Softball

Former players and coaches from Eastern’s storied softball program gathered on April 21 to enjoy a pregame alumni barbecue, and to bid farewell to Howard Spector Field. The day featured a doubleheader against Little East Conference rival University of Southern Maine; Senior Day honoring the team’s three seniors; and the presentation of the Jeff Anderson Memorial Award to Karen Taber and her parents, Donna and Tom Taber. Next season the softball field will be relocated to Eastern’s Mansfield athletic complex.

Business Professionals Network at Hartford Club

Graduates of Eastern’s Economics, Accounting, and Business Administration programs were invited to an affinity group presentation featuring two successful Eastern alumni at the Hartford Club on Jan. 11, 2007. Fred Hughes ’87 and Jeffrey Wolf ’99, told of their experiences in business and how they were able to achieve success in their careers. Following the presentation, alumni asked questions of the presenters and engaged in professional networking.

Eastern Says Goodbye to Class of 2007

On May 19, nearly 400 graduating seniors, their parents and families, and returning alumni from 1963 and earlier years participated in the second “Eastern Celebrates” event at Eastern’s Mansfield athletic complex. The Eastern community enjoyed a mouthwatering menu of baby-back ribs, Cajun chicken, and lots of delicious BBQ, as Jay Crisante ’06, known locally as “DJ Flip,” entertained the crowd with music from the decades.

Perotti Hosts Annual Picnic

More than 25 alumni and friends from the classes of 1951 through 1954, as well as more recent years, gathered at Frank Perrotti’s house on June 21, 2007, for Perrotti’s traditional afternoon picnic and bocce ball tournament.
Eastern Grads Blossom on Stage

Eastern Connecticut State University’s Performing Arts Department was busy this past spring with productions of *Ondine* and *Short Stuff 2007*, but the department’s alumni were even busier.

**Dan Whelton ’03** starred in Ivoryton Playhouse’s “Brighton Beach Memoirs,” written by Neil Simon. He played Stanley, Eugene’s older brother, in the production, which ran in July. **Renata Almeida ’04** recently completed her MFA in Stage Management at the University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana and was hired as production stage manager for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet in New York City for their dance show “Deca Dance.” She will be traveling with the dance company on their yearlong worldwide tour.

**Jessica Donofrio ’04** begins her master’s degree in transpersonal counseling in art therapy this fall at Naropa University in Colorado. **Heidi Sterns ’05** was accepted into the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing graduate program at Chapman University in Orange, CA. **Simon Hunt ’06** played one of the New York Yankees in ESPN’s “The Bronx is Burning!” The eight-part mini-series, which starred John Turturro and other well-known actors, aired in July and August.

Recent graduate **Jaclyn Hart ’07** was accepted into the summer program of “Circle in the Square,” a prestigious professional theatre school in New York City. She was accepted into their two-year Acting Certificate program and begins her studies there in September.

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**Lacrosse Alumni Come Home**

Nearly 50 former members of the Eastern lacrosse team gathered at Nevers Field on April 28 to watch the current Warrior team take on U Mass Boston. Prior to the game, alumni enjoyed a barbeque lunch and the company of their former teammates. Team members from the club days through the 2006 season were in attendance to witness Eastern’s seventh win in the last home match of the regular season.

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**Grant House Becomes Home for Alumni Association**

Eastern alumni will be pleased to learn that President Elsa M. Núñez announced the opening of the Grant Alumni House at her April 2007 inauguration. Long awaited by alumni and friends of the University, the Grant House was refurbished over the past six months to provide a comfortable meeting place for small gatherings of faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.
Spring Teams Capture Three Conference Titles

After becoming the first team in conference history to go undefeated in Little East Conference regular-season play, Eastern’s baseball team won its sixth conference tournament title with a 4-3 win over Keene State College on May 12. The Warriors went on to win their fourth regional championship in five years — defeating Keene State again in the championship game — but their bid for a record fifth national title ended with two quick losses in the national tournament at Grand Chute, WI.

Tournament Most Outstanding Player Erin Calkins made two saves in the final 48 seconds as the women’s lacrosse team withstood a late Plymouth State University charge to post a 10-9 victory in the championship match of the conference play-offs, hosted at Eastern for the first time. The win gave Eastern its second conference playoff championship and second NCAA tournament berth in three years and completed a perfect conference season.

Seniors Will Kopplin and Matthew Zagura combined for 62 points in four throwing events and the Warriors won eight individual firsts in winning their sixth consecutive Little East Conference outdoor track and field championship at Fitchburg State College. In the shot, Zagura became only the fourth individual in men’s competition to win the same event in four consecutive seasons. Zagura completed his career with nine outdoor individual titles.

Eastern’s Cooney Catches on With Red Sox

Former Eastern Connecticut State University catcher Matt Cooney ’07 of Arlington, MA, realized a dream when he signed a free agent baseball contract with the Boston Red Sox on July 2. The right-handed hitter became the second Eastern player this year to sign with a professional organization. Right-handed pitcher Jason LaVorgna ’07 of North Haven signed with the New York Mets after being drafted in the 35th round of the First-Year Player draft on June 8.

Cooney, a lifelong Red Sox fan who grew up less than 10 miles from Fenway Park, is the 30th Eastern baseball alumnus to sign a professional baseball contract with a major league organization, but the first to ink a contract with the Red Sox.

The Mets took LaVorgna with their 38th pick, the organization’s only selection from a New England college.

“It’s kind of a dream come true for me,” said LaVorgna.

Matt Cooney puts on his red socks.

Eastern’s baseball team won their sixth conference championship in 2007.
DeVito Hired to Replace Innocent

Following two seasons as an assistant coach in the program, Greg DeVito has been named the fifth head coach of the men's soccer program. DeVito had served the last two years as assistant coach under Frantz Innocent, who coached a program-record 325 matches between 1990 and 2006 before announcing his retirement last spring. A native of Norwalk, DeVito had helped coordinate recruiting efforts the last two seasons under Innocent and also handled numerous administrative tasks.

Innocent finished second all-time in years of service and victories at Eastern; only Hall of Fame coach and program founder Tom Nevers coached more seasons (18 from 1961 to 1978) or won more matches than Innocent. "Frantz has been a tremendous asset to our athletic program," praised Eastern Director of Athletics Joyce S. Wong. "To be a part-time coach and dedicate the time and energy that Frantz did is a testament to his commitment to student-athletes. We will miss him."

Gilblair Named National Player-of-the-Year

Sophomore pitcher/designated hitter Shawn Gilblair was named NCAA Division III national Co-Player-of-the-Year this past spring and was joined on the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) All-America team by senior centerfielder Randy Re and freshman shortstop Melvin Castillo, both of Danbury. Gilblair repeated first-team All-America honors and was joined on the first team by Re. Castillo earned third-team accolades. Gilblair became the program's second national player-of-the-year, following Basilio Ortiz in 1991.

Axel Named Head Men's Lacrosse Coach

Justin Axel takes over the men's lacrosse program as the fourth head coach in the 12-year history of the program. Axel spent the last six seasons as a part-time assistant coach at Salisbury University, the nation's premier Division III lacrosse program. During that time, the Sea Gulls compiled a record of 115-7 and won four national championships. "Eastern has a strong sense of pride and tradition, and with the great facilities and strong academic reputation, I believe that we can be one of the top Division III programs in the country," noted Axel. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science and a Master of Arts in Teaching, both from Salisbury.

Gilblair Named National Player-of-the-Year

Eugene Julien Gets a Bobblehead!

Brockton, MA-raised Eugene Julien '06 was honored on June 16 when his likeness was handed out to 1,000 Brockton Rox fans at Eugene Julien Bobblehead Night. Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Julien starred for four years at Brockton High School, following that up with a stellar career at Eastern, including his role as the starting shortstop on the Warrior's 2002 NCAA Division III national championship team. For the past three years, Julien has been a member of the popular Brockton Rox of the Can Am independent baseball league. Julien is the first active Rox player in the franchise's six-year existence to be honored with a bobblehead promotional night. With an undergraduate degree in Spanish, Julien also is serving his hometown community as a substitute teacher.

2007 Student Athletes Honored

Hall of Fame Banquet

Five former athletic greats will be inducted into the Eastern Athletic Hall of Fame at the 14th Hall of Fame Banquet on Sunday, Nov. 4. The banquet begins at noon in the Betty R. Tipton Room in Eastern's new Student Center. This year's inductees include Christia Mohan Besko '90, Dennis Glynn '82, Basilio Ortiz '92, Tim Quinn '77, and Gene Vostinak '69. For ticket information, contact David G. Yeo at (860) 465-5166 or Scott Smith at (860) 465-4326.

A record 38 student athletes received an E-Club Scholar-Athlete Award at the annual Athletics Awards Banquet held May 13 at Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium.

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**Class Notes**

1936  
Carol Kimball is a retired teacher and local historian in Groton who writes a weekly column in *The Day* and has written several books. She is active in eight historical societies and is often called for speaking engagements.

1942  
Dr. Margaret “Peg” Toner and Luva Mead Hoar were guest speakers on the program of President Nuñez’s inauguration in April 2007.

1955  
Nancy Wilcox is enjoying her retirement.

1969  
Reisa Sweet is involved with professional development workshops at Ocean County College for teachers who are preparing to teach Holocaust curriculum in elementary and middle schools. She is also providing resources for students who are targeted due to racial, religious, or gender issues.

1962  
Dr. Victor Ferris, Senior Security Consultant with Jennings Smith Investigations, has recently been recognized for his continued support of Citizen Corps programs to enhance national security.

1966  
Elaine Sheehan is a local specialist for the Academy for Educational Development in the American Indian/Alaska Native Technical Assistance Network.

1970  
Noreen Zupnik opened Niza’s, an upscale women’s boutique in Mystic in January 2006.

1972  
Patricia Neely Mellin retired this past June after 35 years of teaching in the Woodstock school system.

1974  
Beth Larkins-Strathy received her doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Hartford on May 17, 2007. Don Richmond’s daughter, Amanda, graduated from the University of New Hampshire and works at the New England Center for Children. Richmond’s son, Todd, will be a junior at the University of New Hampshire.

1976  
Patricia Lawson is in her ninth year as an associate vice president at Gettysburg College.

1977  
Louis Pace, Jr., is a Clerk of the Court at Danbury Superior Court. His wife, Agnes Pace, is senior vice president of education and development at Union Savings Bank.

1979  
Mark Dressler and his brother, Michael Wettl ’88, are moving their company, D & W Development, to the former Ridges Outlet Building in Willimantic.

1980  
William Godburn has been named vice president of revenue management at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford. William Dickerson has retired and is having a ball! Dorothy Lewis is enjoying her retirement from the State of Connecticut.

1983  
Cheryl A. Calderado has been appointed vice president of human resources at Dime Bank in Groton. She lives in Chaplin with her husband, Mike, and their two children, Krystin and Megan. Brian Bohling is senior vice president of human resources for Hess Corporation in New York City. He lives in New Jersey with his wife, Jennifer, and their four children: Billy, Brooke, Lindsay, and Shannon.

1984  
Anthony Vito Savino has been inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. He is president of the board of directors for the Bristol Association for Retarded Citizens.

1985  
Elkin Spittle has joined the staff of Quinebaug Valley Community College as a Spanish instructor.

1986  
Sharon M. Tierney has received her second GE Light Brigade award, excelling in GE Lamp sales as a senior sales representative for Graybar Electric Co. Corinne Stauli is global operations manager for Cartus Corporation in Danbury. Jean Myers is a graduate of the Institute of Children’s Literature and has been writing children’s stories.

1987  
Peter Decker is the leader of the Northern Connecticut Management Team for U.S. Trust in Hartford as well as a board member of the Valley- Shore YMCA. In addition, he serves as chairman of the YMCA Theatre Benefit committee. Todd Picken was recently named vice president and assistant treasurer for The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. Prior to this appointment, Todd held various management positions with corporate banking; Hartford Investment Management Company; individual life operations; and corporate treasury over the past 18 years.

1988  
Michael Wettl and his brother, Mark Dressler ’79, are moving their company, D & W Development, to the former Ridges Outlet Building in Willimantic.

1989  
Michael Swaby-Rowe works as a photographer for a national school portrait studio. Carolee Norriss has been a teacher at Windham High School for the past six years and has been selected Windham District Teacher-of-the-Year. Michael Malow is president of a local environmental services company, Ramco Recovery Inc. He lives with his wife, Heidi, and their 8-year-old son, Aaron.

1990  
Linda Tipping of Manchester was recently named assistant director of development at The Hospital of Central Connecticut.

1991  
Deborah Selby is celebrating her 38th year at Pratt & Whitney.

1992  
Jeff Kotecki has been appointed assistant principal of West Side Middle School in Groton. Matt Hidek is a doctoral candidate at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, where his dissertation project has been funded by an award from the National Science Foundation. He lives in Syracuse with his wife, Melissa, and their daughter, Rachel. Mark Reimer has been inducted into the New Britain Sports Hall of Fame for his athletic contribution to baseball. Robert Coughlin recently graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University with a Master of Science degree in Educational Technology. Michael Fleming is an attorney with Cushing & Dolan and lives with his wife, Jennifer, and their two daughters, Bridget and Veronica. Brenda Mozdzierz and her husband, Jason Schulte, live in Charlemont, MA. She is an investigator for the Greenfield (MA) Department of Social Services. Jason is employed at ISO New England as a Tariffs, Schedules, and OASIS (TSO) administrator.

1993  
Stacey Bachman-Lawton was appointed deputy director of the Southeastern Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence with facilities in Lebanon, Norwich, and New London. She lives in Bozrah with her husband, Michael, and their two children, Ashley and Jacob. Natalie Clark is an accounting associate at Eastern Connecticut State University in the Office of Fiscal Affairs. She is also an Unfranchisee owner.

1994  
Derek Pollitt has started a new job as an information technology manager at Ezenia in New Hampshire. Tracy Lyon will begin a Ph.D. program through Capella University in Organization and Leadership.

1996  
Lori Lagace has joined Putnam Savings Bank as vice president and compliance officer.

1998  
Billie Charisse Leicht Stokes resides in Crestview, FL, with her husband and their two daughters. She is a realtor with Coldwell Banker JME Realty.

1999  
Yolanda Negron is working for the Department of Children and Family Services and is an elected member of the Windham Board of Selectmen. She serves on the Public Safety and Emergency Management Committee and the Arts/Culture/Parks and Recreation Committee. Negron also serves on the Windham Board of Directors. Dawn Morin is a national recruiter and team coach for Discovery Toys and has recently won a five-day trip to Brazil for her accomplishments. Betty Baillargeon was recently named vice president of resource development for the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut. Paul Chagnon recently earned his real estate license and joined American Homes Realty Team.

2000  
Pedro Santana is the assistant dean of students and director of the Educational Opportunity Fund at Richard Stockton College in New Jersey where he lives with his wife, Kewy Santana, and their two children, Angel and Idalis. Michael Sormurude has been hired as the new program director for the Police Athletic Activities League of Cape Cod. Erika Anderson has joined American Homes Realty Homes as marketing director.

2001  
Melissa Demaio has opened a new computer gaming center called Sector 1337 in Wilton. Teresa Gonzalez has graduated with her master’s degree in Education.

2002  
Melanie Mudry was named Miss Connecticut USA and competed in the Miss USA pageant on January 29, 2007. Cynthia Ezzell has been accepted into a master’s program in the School of Nurse Anesthesia at the University of New England in Maine.
2003
Nick Koutsopoulos was hired by Cronin and Company, Inc. as an assistant media planner/buyer. Joanna Auriantal works as a hall director in Occum Hall at Eastern Connecticut State University. She has a master's degree in Counseling from the New York Institute of Technology and welcomed her first child, Emilyn, in December 2006. Justin Beechwood is employed at Endicott College as a residence director.

2004
Jessica Donofrio will begin pursuing her master's degree in Transpersonal Counseling in Art Therapy in the fall at Naropa University in Colorado. Wilbur Velarde has graduated from the Naval War College in Newport, RI, with a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. Matthew Bone recently moved to New Brunswick, NJ, where he works as an institutional investment advisor. Kerri Plon is in her third year teaching seventh grade mathematics in Wolcott. Stephanie Laudone, Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at Fordham University, has been awarded a tuition scholarship to attend the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) Summer Workshop at the Minnesota Population Center. Amy Ingalis is a university assistant in the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention at Eastern Connecticut State University.

2005
Candia Kimberly Baptiste has been hired by Morgan @ The Park and Union Place Apartments as a leasing and service coordinator. Andres Hidalgo and Kenneth Bjork have started a bi-annual magazine called What's Hoppin' to assist Eastern Connecticut State University students in learning about activities and local attractions in Willimantic. Matthew Garitta is an information technology development coordinator for Otis Elevator in Farmington. Jennifer Kelley has recently accepted a position as director of human resources for Stonington Institute. Hector Pena is the controller for M.J. Daly LLC in Waterbury. He lives in Oakland with his wife, Kristen, and their two children, Luis Alexander and Emily Rose. Allyson Carter and her husband, David, are attending graduate school working towards master's degrees in Special Education. Anthony Bonetti has earned his master’s degree in Social Work at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work and is a director at the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. Daun Estey has completed a Master/Certification program in Early Childhood Education. She is working as an autism therapist at the Friendship School in Waterford. Andrew Bessette is the Hartford Sales Representative for Northeast Beverage of Connecticut. Heidi Stearns has been accepted into the MFA in Creative Writing graduate program at Chapman University in Orange, CA. Nicole Hammond is a special education assistant who tutors boys at ABC House of New Canaan and coaches JV field hockey and tennis. Elaine Alexander has published her first book, “Death at Deacon Pond.”

2006
Linda Nutter is employed as an art teacher at the Essex Art Center in Lawrence, MA, in addition to being a working artist.

Marriages
1988
Eileen Mulqueen and Mark Edward Ludington on July 14, 2007

1996
Carole Deshaies and Robert Czepas on April 11, 2007

1997
Matt Soucie and Delphine Pape on June 23, 2007

1999
Christine Marie Torino and Edward Michael Gierla on Oct. 13, 2006

2000
Sara Whitney Mason and Sean Michael Ladyga on Aug. 11, 2006

Erlin Beth Flanigan and Kenneth Charles Wolf on Sept. 30, 2006

Anthony Black and Katie Dubicki on May 25, 2007

Timothy Swaller and Amy Grandison on May 12, 2007

2001
Daniel Paul Montanabani and Meaghan Elizabeth Stacey on June 24, 2006

Sarah Cesana and Eric Jensen on Nov. 11, 2006

2003
Jennifer Duque and Christopher Kelly on Sept. 15, 2006

Kara Jankavich and Michael Gonzalez on June 23, 2006

Holly Arruza and John C. Dozier on June 16, 2007

2004
Dominic Tafuto and Denise Fasano on July 8, 2006

David Carter and Allyson Malo '05 on July 8, 2006

2005
Christina Furness and Brian Fenn on Sept. 2, 2006

Michael Vace and Amy Bernier on Oct. 7, 2006

Allyson Malo and David Carter '04 on July 8, 2006

Andrew Bessette and Linda Shafer on Oct. 7, 2006

Civil Unions
Anthony Bonetti '05 and Matthew Perra, on April 17, 2006

Births and Adoptions
Jill Pera '01 and her husband, Joseph, announce the birth of a baby girl on Jan. 11, 2007

Heather Andreae '94 and her husband, Robert O’Connor, announce the birth of a daughter on Dec. 9, 2006

Jessica (Hart) Reinhart '00 and Jeffrey Reinhart '01 announce the birth of a daughter, Reese Elisabeth, on March 20, 2007

Jessica Reed '00 announces the birth of a daughter, Kiera Noell, on Dec. 28, 2006

Corinne Stalb '86 announces the birth of a daughter, Abbygail Morgan, on Aug. 11, 2006

Anthony Bonetti '05 and his partner, Matthew Perra, announce the adoption of a daughter, Audrey Cecile.

Andrew McRory '95 announces the birth of a son, Liam Andrew, on March 4, 2007

Nicol Ortiz '01 and Ramon Ortiz '04 announce the birth of their second son, Alexander, on May 14, 2006

In Memoriam
Florence Macfarlane '24 (1904-2007)
Bessie Marie Charr '33 (1911-2007)
Helen Stewart '35 (1941-2006)
Jean E. Godek '70 (1942-2007)
Henry Malinowski '73 (1949-2007)
Rondell Cruse '76 (1953-2007)
Mary Deszo '77 (1931-2007)
James Rogers Ill '80 (1948-2007)
John Steven Krashefski '80 (1957-2006)
Richard Ratte '84 (1940-2007)
Betty Jean Sullivan '86 (1929-2007)
Lorraine Berggren '88 (1930-2007)
Kather Merrill '89 (1934-2006)
Susan B. Bourque '89 (1956-2007)
Kathleen Earl Havranek '90 (1946-2007)
John Geissler '99 (1957-2007)
Dennis Monahan, Jr. '03 (1966-2007)
Dorothy Geissler, Friend of Eastern (1916-2007)
Mary Scalora-Deane, Friend of Eastern (1948-2007)
Tyler Cormier, Friend of Eastern (1986-2007)
Gary Tolisano, Friend of Eastern (1948-2007)

Alumni directory update...
Thanks to the many alumni who enthusiastically participated in our project to update the alumni directory with the assistance of Harris Connect, Inc.

We cannot thank you enough for taking the time to review and edit your information so that we have accurate records and can stay in touch with more of our Eastern family! For those of you who ordered a directory, Harris Connect informs us that you will receive your copy in the mail by the end of the year.

Please feel free to contact the Alumni Affairs Office at (860) 465-5238 if you have any questions. Thank you again.
The students, faculty, staff, and administration of Eastern Connecticut State University continue to be inspired by the support received each year from the University’s alumni and friends. This issue of EASTERN magazine demonstrates just some of the ways in which Eastern supporters are investing in the University as it seeks to become a premier institution of higher learning. We have been fortunate in the past year to receive several large gifts from individual donors, including the Zaring homestead in Ashford, as well as two estate gifts from the Brown and Hicks families.

These large donations total more than $10 million, doubling our existing endowment. They serve notice that Eastern supporters understand that private donations are essential if the University is to achieve national distinction as an exemplary public liberal arts college, evidenced by small class sizes; state-of-the-art facilities; an enriched residential experience for students; and an environment where world-class faculty members can devote themselves to mentoring their students. With advances in the academic rigor at Eastern, alumni can expect their academic credentials to grow in stature.

Not everyone can make large donations to the University, however. That is why I am excited by the growth in our Annual Fund, with more than 1,600 donors pledging almost $2 million in support of student scholarships and enhancements for our academic programs and services. Not only is this steadfast assistance vital in ensuring student success, it is also a reminder that the entire Eastern family can participate in supporting the University, regardless of the size of their gifts.

There are other ways Eastern alumni and friends can support the University, including visiting campus to enjoy the many cultural events we have on campus. This year’s Arts and Lecture Series is highlighted on the back cover of this issue of EASTERN magazine. Please review the listing for presentations that may be of interest to you.

Alumni who don’t live nearby can also help their alma mater, recommending Eastern to academically qualified students in their area, or, as Tom Sweeney ’83 did, offering internship opportunities to current Eastern students (see story on page 2).

As Eastern continues to develop its vision as a premier public liberal arts university, we hope you find your own special way to invest in the University. Broadening the support Eastern receives from private and public sources will bring educational access to more state residents, while also enhancing the quality of our educational programs and services for all who attend Connecticut’s public liberal arts university.

Kenneth J. DeLisa
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Attention Alumni

Have you moved or gotten married? Have you taken a new job or had an addition to your family? Interested in volunteering at alumni events or activities? Please send your information to:
Ryan Rose, Associate Director
Office of Alumni Affairs
Eastern Connecticut State University
83 Windham Street
Willimantic, CT 06226
e-mail: alumni@easternct.edu

Watch our web site for alumni receptions and networking events in Connecticut and out-of-state.

Interested in a new professional position, or looking to recruit a new graduate or student intern? Contact the Office of Career Services at www.easternct.edu/depts/career or call (860) 465-4559.

Willing to volunteer at college career fairs as an admissions ambassador? Call:
Christopher Dorsey
Assistant Director of Admissions
phone: (860) 465-4398
e-mail: dorsey@easternct.edu

Who is our oldest living alumnus?

We would like to know! Send a note and a photograph to: Edward Osborn, Director of University Relations, Eastern Connecticut State University; 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

Comments

Please send story ideas and “letters to the editor” to:
Edward Osborn, Director
Office of University Relations
Eastern Connecticut State University
83 Windham Street
Willimantic, CT 06226
phone: (860) 465-5735
e-mail: osborne@easternct.edu
2007 - 2008 Eastern Connecticut State University’s Arts and Lecture Series is celebrating its seventh season. Prior years have seen such world-class speakers and entertainers as Boston Celtic legend Bill Russell; Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough; “Bill Nye the Science Guy”; and renowned actor James Earl Jones.

Political satirists The Capitol Steps open the year on Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. in the Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium. On Oct. 10, ocean explorer Robert Ballard, best known for discovering such deep sea wrecks as the Titanic, the battleship Bismarck, and John F. Kennedy’s PT-109, will speak at 7 p.m. in the Betty R. Tipton Room. The Eroica Trio, one of the most sought-after trios in the world, will perform on Nov. 27, at 7 p.m. in Shafer Auditorium. Veteran actor Mel Johnson, Jr. performs as Frederick Douglass in his one-man show, In the Shadow of Slavery, on Feb. 12. Jazz conga player Poncho Sanchez and his band return to campus with a concert in Shafer Auditorium on March 6.

Tickets for Arts and Lectures Series events are $10 for the general public and can be reserved by calling (860) 465-0036 or e-mailing tickets@easternct.edu. For more information on the 2007-08 series, visit www.easternct.edu/ecsu/arts_lecture.