

newsflash

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter for Employees of Eastern Connecticut State University

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Shining a Little Light

Eastern has installed electronic marquee signs outside the Sports Center and Shafer Hall to alert students and community members to upcoming campus events. The Shafer Hall sign promotes events at the Akus Gallery and Harry Hope Theatre, as well as programs offered by Continuing Education. Once the data links have been completed, the information can be entered from authorized computers.



The University is exploring the new signs' capabilities, including multiple messages and graphic displays. Two other new event signs, for pedestrians, are located at the Student Center and at the Sports Center. These event signs are part of the overall way-finding project that includes building signs, vehicle and pedestrian directional signs, street signs, pedestrian kiosks with maps, and bus stop signs.

"With the campus growing so fast, students — especially new students — and visitors now can easily find their way around campus," said Dennis Hannon, vice president for finance and administration.

The bus stops will soon be improved in another way. Facilities Management and Planning received a grant from the state Office of Policy and Management to install solar lights on campus. All of the bus shelters will soon be lighted at night. The solar lights will provide area lighting without the expense of installing underground electric cables. Eastern saves energy and dollars by using solar technologies.

Eastern Blood Drive Exceeds Expectations

The Red Cross blood drive held at Eastern on Feb. 23 and 24 was the most successful drive Eastern has ever held. The goal of 140 productive pints of blood was far surpassed, with 190 productive pints collected by the Red Cross. Eighteen people also donated double red cells, a process that takes two hours, as opposed to one, but yields twice as many red blood cells, the most important element of donated blood.

Jaime Gomez Brings Light to Carnival

Communication Professor Jaime Gomez thoroughly enjoyed his two-week stay in Colombia, South America, after being named director of communications for the Carnival of Barranquilla, which took place Feb. 21-24.

Recognized for his video productions, Gomez was asked to play a leading role in making this event one that would capture, via television media, the beauty of a cultural heritage influenced by the blending of its European, African, and indigenous peoples.

The carnival takes place over the four days prior to the beginning of Lent each year and can be traced to the European carnival rites brought to Colombia during the colonial period. The carnival gradually was transformed to reflect local Hispanic traditions and the music of the West African slaves.



Congo Dancers at the Grand Parade: A traditional folk dance group that has become one of the symbols of the carnival. Their act is based on African movements that tell the history of their black ancestors in Africa, their sad memories of slavery, and the subsequent abolition of slavery.

Latino Conference a Big Success

More than 200 students from colleges and universities all over New England converged on Eastern's campus for the Second Annual New England Latino Student Leadership Conference. Highlights of the event included lectures by distinguished scholars, music, dancing, discussions, and more.

The keynote speaker, Emmy Award-winning journalist, poet, and performer Rubén Martínez, discussed why Latinos need to work together in order to gain equality in the United States. Martínez also told the audience that Latinos must be vocal to assure their stories are not only told but heard.

Martínez is a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and has written a novel, *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail*. It traces the lives of migrants over several years.

Estela R. Lopez, vice chancellor of the Connecticut State University System, also addressed attendees.

Meetings on topics ranging from Latinos and voting, to media portrayals of Latinos, to Latinos and jail were held where students could discuss the very important issues concerning Latinos in the United States today.

Students Win Theater Award

Congratulations go out to students Dan Whelton and Jill Luberto for having achieved semifinalist status at the Irene Ryan Acting Competition at the American College Theatre Festival at Rhode Island College. Professional agents and casting directors offered excellent feedback to the two, and the future looks even brighter.

Choir Selected to Play Carnegie Hall

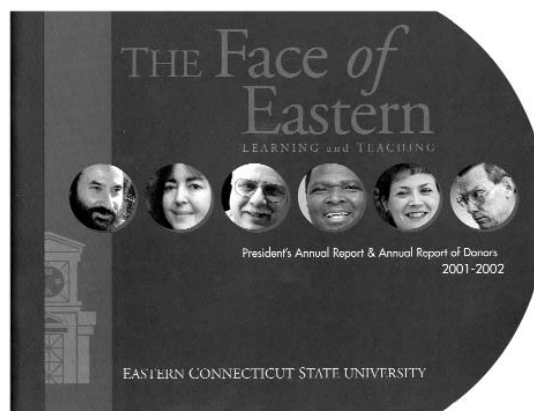


Director of Vocal Studies David Belles and Eric Ouellette, piano accompanist, joined the Eastern Concert Chorale in performing "Of Peace and Praise" on Feb. 7 in Shafer Auditorium. The Gospel Choir also shared the stage.

The Eastern Concert Chorale will perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Sunday, Nov. 14. A total of six universities from around the country have been selected to perform Mozart's Mass in C major, K.317. Earl Rivers, director of choral studies at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) and a nationally acclaimed conductor, will lead the vocalists in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Congratulations to the Concert Chorale on it's being extended this special invitation.

University Relations Receives Two Awards

Kevin Paquin, graphic design specialist in the Office of University Relations, recently received notification of national awards bestowed on two Eastern publications. Eastern's 2001-02 Annual Report received a first-place Gold Award from *Admissions Marketing Report*, the national magazine for people in the field of college and university admissions marketing. The University's 2003 wall calendar received a first-place Gold Award from the Service Industry Advertising Award contest. The SIAA awards program is the first advertising awards designed to recognize the achievements of the service industry.



Eastern's 2001-2002 Annual Report received a national award for design.

Two Eastern Employees in Who's Who Among America's Teachers

Margaret Hebert, assistant director of Eastern's Learning Center, and Lisa Zowada, writing specialist/learning specialist for the Learning Center, have been selected for recognition in the eighth edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. Cary Caraballo, a former STEP-CAP student, nominated Hebert for the honor. Zowada's nomination was from a former student, Elona Bala, who had been enrolled in two of her courses at the University of Connecticut.



Margaret Hebert, associate director, and Lisa Zowada, writing/learning specialist, both of Eastern's Learning Center, are in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Who's Who Among America's Teachers is the nation's only publication with the sole purpose of paying tribute to worthy educators. Nominations come from students who believe their teachers have made a lasting impact on their life.

Hebert and Zowada enjoy working with students and developing relationships outside the classroom. According to Hebert, "seeing students progress" pleases her the most. Zowada states, "I love the interaction with my students."

Larger Than Life!

A familiar face to the faculty, staff, and students of Eastern is quickly becoming recognizable to residents of Connecticut and Massachusetts. The works of June Bisantz Evans, associate professor of visual arts, can be seen on billboards and

continued on page 3



June Evans good-naturedly offers her personal plan for self-improvement as part of her public art project.

buses throughout the Connecticut River valley as part of her public-art project “5 Easy Steps.”

A sequence of five images are displayed on 17 billboards and 17 buses in the Connecticut and Massachusetts area. The project begins on billboards in Willimantic and proceeds to several locations throughout Massachusetts. The final destination for the project is in North Adams home of the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (Mass MoCa), a museum known for exhibiting unusual and large-scale works of contemporary art. Bisantz Evans created the images by combining photos of herself with preexisting scenarios.

One image includes a vintage photo of downtown Willimantic, Bisantz Evans’s hometown. The five steps include “Start Here”, “Take Action”, “Don’t Panic”, “Be Marvelous”, and “Claim Your Prize”. This project was made possible by a Connecticut State University (CSU) Research Grant, a grant from the Berkshire Artist’s Trust Fund and a Foundation Women’s Grant.

Lessons on success

Grant W. Kurtz, chief executive officer (CEO) of the Advest Group and Eastern’s distinguished executive professor for the 2003-2004 academic year, offered personal reflections on the qualities necessary to achieve personal and professional success on Tuesday, March 9. His presentation also covered merger-related issues.



Grant W. Kurtz

Kurtz has been in the securities industry for more than 38 years, and has developed a reputation for helping individuals, families, and businesses learn investment strategies.

He joined Advest in 1985 as regional sales manager, and was elected president two years later. Kurtz continues to be active in the community, serving on the Connecticut Council on Economic Education, and is also involved with the Hartford Club and the Connecticut River Council of Boy Scouts of America.

In memoriam

Dr. Otto Sardi, 71, of Columbia passed away on Feb. 26, 2004. Born in Hungary, he emigrated to the United States in 1956 during the Hungarian Revolution. A university professor for 30 years, Sardi taught at the University of Dayton, Cornell University, and Eastern Connecticut State University. He retired from Eastern in 1997.

Sardi was one of the first scientists to evaluate lunar rock samples returned from the Apollo 11 mission to the moon. He held a master’s degree in geology from Miami University, Oxford, OH, and a doctorate in mineralogy and crystallography from Indiana University, Bloomington. He also held two patents in high temperature ceramics and had numerous publications to his credit.

Institute for Sustainable Energy Receives National Award



Above: Bill Leahy received the 2004 Energy Star Award from U.S. Department of Energy on behalf of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., March 8. Pictured with Leahy(r) is Kyle McSlarrow (center), Deputy Secretary of Energy and William White (l), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

I am not a monster!

The timeless tale of *Frankenstein* is known worldwide for its tragic monster. What is not as well known are the circumstances surrounding the book, the true meaning of the novel, and its teenage author Mary Shelley. *Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature*, is a traveling exhibition that takes you behind the surface of Shelley’s tale of horror to reveal the novel’s true meaning and the reasons for its lasting impact. The exhibition began on March 17 in the J. Eugene Smith Library and will run until April 30. After the exhibition’s stint at Eastern, it will make further stops across the United States.

Eastern receives grant to fight alcohol abuse

Eastern has been awarded an \$85,000 grant for each of the next three years to combat alcohol abuse. The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) will administer the funds. Eastern will address alcohol abuse using a three-part approach; serving individual students, the campus community, and the extended commu-

nity. Faculty and staff are currently researching various programs to determine which will be the most helpful in reaching Eastern's specific goals. "People appear to be aware of the harsh reality of substance abuse in our culture," said Tom Szigethy, Eastern's substance abuse prevention coordinator. "This grant will help the University address the substance culture and how it affects our campus. My hope for this grant is to make the University more effective in showing each individual student that she/he is worth more than what alcohol and drugs will do to them."

Arts and Lecture Events Bring Dance and Song to Eastern



Above Left: The dancing performers above are members of Donald King's Providence Black Repertory Company. "We have created a theater with a dual mission: community service and artistic achievement," said King. **Above Right:** Mezzo-soprano Pamela Dellal sings to a large audience of music admirers in the Shafer Hall Auditorium on March 9 during the Ensemble Chaconne's performance.

Charlie Wynn Cited for Community Service



Left: Charles Wynn has been named to the Connecticut Special Olympics Hall of Fame for his dedication and commitment to Special Olympics. Wynn is shown at the annual swim meet which was held at Windham High School on March 13 to benefit Special Olympics.

Women's History Month — A Big Success



Above: Kristen Pavlik, shown with the pie graph above, gave her presentation, "A Canon of One's Own," as part of the Women's History Month Student Symposium. She explored why women authors have to be sought out in undergraduate English classes.



Above Left: Faye Wattleton, President of the Center for Gender Equality, speaks as Women's History Month's featured speaker on March 10, in the Betty Tipton Room. Wattleton's discussion was entitled "Life on the Life". **Above Right:** Jenn Winnem, shown above, discussed "Sexual Abuse and the Feminist Perspective," in her presentation at the Women's History Month Student Symposium. Winnem used Paula Vogel's "How I Learned to Drive," to make her points.



EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

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