



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

February 5, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Dwight Bachman

Public Relations Officer

(860) 465-5114 or Bachman@easternct.edu

Edward Osborn, Director of University Relations

(860) 465-5043 or Osborne@easternct.edu

Emily Bonoyer, Public Relations Assistant

(860) 465-0686 bonoyere@stu.easternct.edu

African American Storytelling and Food Tasting

Willimantic, Conn. – Eastern Connecticut State University will present African American storytelling and food tasting as part of its celebration of African American History Month. Originally scheduled for Feb. 3, the presentation, due to inclement weather, **will now take place on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Café.** The public is invited. Admission is free.

African, West Indian and African American students, faculty and staff will tell stories from their own personal lives at the event. English Professor Raouf Mama, an internationally-known bilingual storyteller, will be one of the featured guests. He will present, in English and French, indigenous tales from his native land of Benin in West Africa. Drawn from one of the richest oral traditions in Africa, Mama's stories have strong connections to African cultures on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mama has written several books: "Why Goats Smell Bad and Other Stories from Benin" (1998); "The Barefoot Book of Tropical Tales" (2000); "Pearls of Wisdom," (2001); and "Why Monkeys Live In Trees and Other Trickster and Sacred Tales from Benin" (2006).

###

Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state's public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.

#