

Annual Report | 2009–10



EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
A Liberal Education. Practically Applied.

President's Message



Since 1889, Eastern Connecticut State University has been serving the educational needs of Connecticut residents. Today, the University is a major economic catalyst in the state, contributing more than \$320 million annually to the local and state economies. With 90 percent of our graduates staying in Connecticut to become productive professionals and engaged citizens, Eastern's 27,000 alumni are making significant contributions to their communities and the economic well-being of the state.

Even as we play a major role in the economic vitality of Connecticut, Eastern continues to impact the lives of individual students — one at a time. This year's annual report is full of the personal successes of students, faculty and staff, each with their own unique stories, bound together by the shared values and commitment to academic excellence that are campus hallmarks at Eastern.

As we continue to focus on the success of each of our students by providing an outstanding liberal arts education, we have been gratified by the growing recognition across the region and our nation of Eastern's academic rigor. In this past year, we have been honored as one of the top 100 Regional Universities in the North by U.S. News and World Report; named to President Obama's Higher Education Honor Roll for Community Service for the second year in a row; recognized as a "Great College to Work For" by the Chronicle of Higher Education, also for the second year in a row; and included in the Princeton Review's list of the nation's 286 Green Colleges. These recognitions, which you can read more about on page 3, inspire our faculty, students and staff as they recommit themselves to making Eastern a premier public liberal arts university.

This is the first year that our annual report is being published exclusively online. Not only do we save money by eliminating printing and postage costs, we are also aligning our communications with an increasingly online audience. We hope you like this new version.

If you have further questions about Eastern, please feel free to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Elsa Núñez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elsa Núñez
President

The Liberal Arts Come Alive!

With faculty and student achievements, enhanced facilities, innovative academic programs and a vibrant campus life, Eastern saw great progress in 2009–10 as it moved ahead to realize its vision to become a University of First Choice.

The University's commitment to a liberal arts education continues to strengthen, with a focus on providing all Eastern students with a sequenced, interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Core Curriculum. Experiential learning, both on and off campus, builds upon this classroom learning, providing students with opportunities to develop intellectually while learning to become leaders and engaged citizens.

This experiential learning initiative, known as "Liberal Arts Work!" in the 2008–13 Strategic Plan, is being developed as a graduation requirement for all students. Pre-professional experiences, such as undergraduate research, creative

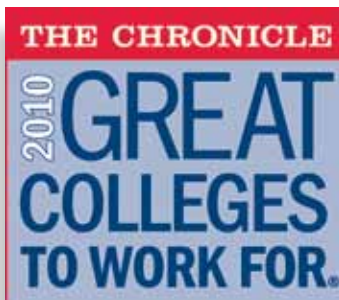
production, internships, co-ops or service learning, will help students apply theory to practice, clarify their career goals, develop their skills in real-world settings, and better prepare them for postgraduate work or studies.

In addition, the University's core values of academic excellence, engagement, inclusion, integrity, empowerment and social responsibility continue to guide Eastern's students, faculty and staff.

As Eastern continues to implement its 2008–13 Strategic Plan, it is positioned for future success as Connecticut's only public liberal arts university.



Notable Accomplishments.



Eastern has made great strides as the University moves ahead to realize its vision of creating an unparalleled college experience for its students and achieving national distinction.

Eastern is ranked in the top 100 regional universities in the North in U.S. News and World Report's 2011 edition of "Best Colleges." Eastern was the 28th top public institution on the list and was also the highest-ranked university among the four Connecticut state universities.

The North region includes colleges and universities from New England, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

For the second year in a row, the University was selected by the Chronicle of Higher Education as a "Great College to Work For." Only 97 colleges out of 5,800 institutions of higher education in the United States were awarded the honor. In addition to being recognized as a "Great College to Work For," Eastern placed in the top 10 among medium-sized colleges in the category of "Collaborative Governance."

Eastern's President Elsa Núñez was named to the Presidents Trust, a group of national educators formed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities to advance the cause of liberal education in the United States; Eastern is Connecticut's only public liberal arts university.

Eastern was also honored as a member of President Obama's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the second year in a row. This is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. Eastern was one of only five Connecticut institutions to make the honor roll, joining Wesleyan University, Fairfield University, Sacred Heart University and the University of Connecticut.

Eastern is also one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges, according to the Princeton Review. The "Guide to 286 Green Colleges," a collaboration with the U.S. Green Building Council and the nationally known education services company, selected Eastern for its commitment to the environment through campus infrastructure, activities and initiatives.

The Science Building won the top award for "best designed" for 2009 from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.



Outstanding Students.

Eastern embraces rigorous academic standards, intellectual inquiry, curiosity, integrity and social responsibility as benchmarks for educational achievement for all students. The expectation informs every mode of learning on campus.



Casey Bessette

Casey Bessette '10 and **Douglas Hackenyos '10** were named Eastern's Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Award winners for 2010. Bessette, a theatre major, distinguished herself as a performer in a wide range of dramatic and comedic roles. Her work as Celia in Shakespeare's "As You Like It" resulted in her being singled out as an Irene Ryan Scholarship candidate, for which she competed at this year's Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. In addition, Bessette wrote an original research paper on the history of regional theatre in Windham; and served as a publications assistant in support of Associate Professor **David Pellegrini's** work as book review editor for the *New England Theatre Journal*.

Hackenyos, a biology major and biochemistry minor, was named to the Dean's List every semester he was at Eastern. A member of Eastern's University Honors Program, he graduated after completing an honors thesis on the respiratory physiology of anadromous fish (e.g. salmon). Hackenyos served as captain of Eastern's men's lacrosse team for two years, helping the team capture the Little East Conference regular-season and playoff championships in 2009.

Students and faculty at Eastern won three out of five first-place awards at the annual Connecticut Department of Higher Education (DHE) Community Service Awards.



Douglas Hackenyos

Jessica Dybdahl '09 won the student award for her work at Lyon Manor in Willington. Eastern's chapter of the **Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP)** won first prize in the student group category for developing a computerized tracking system and website for the Covenant Soup Kitchen. The team also won first place at the 15th Annual National Conference of the Association of Information Technology Professionals for website design. **Alex Citurs**, assistant professor of Business Information Systems, was named recipient of the Special Award.



Assistant Professor Alex Citurs (center) and Lynn Bartmess '10 review features of a website created by Citurs' BIS students for the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic. Soup Kitchen Director Paul Doyle looks on.



Jonathon Knust '10 won the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) first prize for "Technical Craftsmanship" for the deer he created for Eastern's Fall 2009 production, "As You Like It."

Eastern theatre students and their productions were recognized at the annual Region I Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, held at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH, from Jan. 26-31, 2010. Director of Theatre Ellen Brodie; J.J. Cobb, assistant professor of theatre and acting; Robert Sweetnam, assistant professor of theatre and design; and Chase Rozelle, associate professor of theatre and technical director, accompanied 25 Eastern students to the festival. **Stephanie Armagno '13** and **Sarah Paprocki '13** were cast and performed in "One X Ten's," which are premieres of new plays. Paprocki was the lead actress in that production. **Kyle Charles '10**, **Jason Wadecki '11** and **Ryan Gearity '12** were chosen and worked as festival technical theatre interns. Guest Director Nora Cole and the cast of Eastern's Spring 2009 production, "The Black Girl in Search of God," won Merit Awards for "Best Ensemble" and "Best Storytelling."

Eastern Connecticut State University student **Jordan Lorrius** of Stamford, **Kim Ward**, associate professor of mathematics, and **Lynn Frazier**, a Windham High School teacher, were honored on Feb. 24, 2010, at Eastern's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Awards.

Casey Bandarra, assistant to the director of student center and student activities; communication major **Sarah Potrikus '11**, and the University's **Campus Activity Board (CAB)** received awards at the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) regional conference in November 2009.



Sonchery Hall, Alice Pritchard and Associate Dean of Continuing Education Carol Williams were named the recipients of Eastern's annual Ella T. Grasso Distinguished Service Awards. With them are Executive Vice President Michael Pernal (left) and English Professor Marcia McGowan (far right).



Kim Silcox, director of the Center for Community Engagement (middle), congratulates the winners of this year's Community Engagement Awards.

Soncheray Hall, a junior from East Hartford majoring in social work; **Alice Pritchard**, executive director of the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF); and Associate Dean of Continuing Education **Carol Williams** were named the recipients of Eastern's annual Ella T. Grasso Distinguished Service Awards during a reception on March 31. The award recognizes members of the campus and local community whose actions demonstrate distinguished service in promoting Grasso's ideals to advance women's rights and gender equality.

On April 21, the recipients of Eastern's 2010 Latin-American Distinguished Service Awards were recognized at a ceremony held in the Johnson Room. **Migdalia Salas '08** of New London; Eastern student **Amelinda Vazquez '10** of East Hartford; and **Jeanette Rivera**, assistant to the director of housing and residence life, were honored for their contributions to the community.

Winners of Eastern's Community Engagement Awards were announced on April 29. Communication student **Leo Gavarria** accepted the Community Event Award on behalf of Associate



Migdalia Salas, Amelinda Vazquez and Jeanette Rivera were honored for their contributions to the community. President Elsa Núñez helps congratulate them.

Professor **Denise Matthews**, who was recognized for supporting students **Matthew Fletcher**, **Kristin Copeland**, **Jason Evans** and **Gavaria** in developing two public service announcements created in English and Spanish to

support the 2010 Census. **Jennifer Succi '10** won the Student Engagement Award for a broad range of work in the community, including serving on the advisory board to establish a Pride Room at Eastern.

Faculty Achievements.

Eastern is supported by a strong teaching faculty, staff and administration that promotes intellectual curiosity, integrity and social responsibility. Faculty scholarship, research and teaching excellence are the bedrock of a liberal arts institution.



Margaret Martin and President Elsa Núñez

Margaret Martin, professor of social work, was awarded the Jerry G. Gaff Faculty Award at the 49th Association for General and Liberal Studies (AGLS) conference in St. Louis, MO, on Oct. 2, 2009. Martin was nominated for her leadership in facilitating the creation of a new liberal arts core curriculum at Eastern.

Two professors were named Eastern's recipients of the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) 2010 Teaching and Research Awards. **Daniel Donaghy**, associate professor of English, was presented the Norton Mezvinsky Trustees Research Award at the university level, while **Susannah Richards**, associate professor of education, was awarded the Trustees Teaching Award at the university level. Richards was recognized for her advocacy of students, her engaging style of teaching, and the incorporation of modern technology and concepts in the reading and elementary education curriculum. Donaghy is a published poet and scholar in contemporary British and American poetry who has won numerous awards and distinctions, and been published in literary journals throughout the country.



Susannah Richards, President Elsa Núñez and Daniel Donaghy

In the world of literature, English Professor **Raouf Mama** received Benin's 2009 Kwabo Trophy of Excellence and Merit in Literature, while Associate Professor **Lisa Rowe Fraustino** won the 2010 Milkweed Prize for Children's Literature for her book, "The Hole in the Wall."



Raouf Mama

Charles Chatterton, associate professor of health and physical education, finished running his 41st marathon at Skinner Road Elementary School in Vernon on Dec. 22, 2009. Chatterton's marathon project, "Taking Strides to Brake the Cycle of Poverty," was designed to raise public awareness about the 41 million people living below the poverty level in America. Associate Professor **Nanette Tummers** received the Professional Service Award from the Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance for her contributions to physical education and fitness during her career.



Charles Chatterton



Jennifer Brown and Dimitrios Pachis

Economics Professor **Dimitrios Pachis** and Assistant Professor **Jennifer Brown** received national media attention for their report that studied Connecticut Light & Power Co.'s impact on the state's economy.

Visual Arts Professor **Imna Arroyo** showcased her room-size multimedia installation, "Imna Arroyo: Ancestral Passage," featured at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London for five

months from September 2009 through February 2010. Associate Professor **Gail Gelburd** served as curator for "Ajiaco: Stirrings of the Cuban Soul," an exhibition consisting of more than 50 paintings, works on paper, photographs, sculpture, installations and audio works by 22 artists, which was on display at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum from Sept. 12, 2009 to Feb. 21, 2010.



Business Administration Professor Elizabeth Scott tours the Great Wall at Mutianyu in China. *Photo credit Mike Lucchesi*

In the international arena, Business Administration Professor **Elizabeth Scott** was awarded a Fulbright-Hays grant to participate in a month-long professional development program in China in July 2010. Business Administration Professor **Chiaku Chukwuogor** was invited to participate in the 20th World Economic Forum on Africa, held in May at Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



Imna Arroyo's Ancestral Passage

A Liberal Education. Practically Applied.

Through a variety of on- and off-campus practical experiences, Eastern students are able to apply their classroom learning and enhance their marketability in the job market after graduation.

In January 2010, Eastern student **Nick Shoenfelt** and Assistant Professor of Biology **Joshua Idjadi** visited French Polynesia to study the coral reefs, and to understand what can be done to help protect this valuable ecosystem. Shoenfelt, a biochemistry major from Gales Ferry, helped Professor Idjadi plant coral species on a reef in Moorea, an island six miles from Tahiti, as part of a project that aims to artificially induce competition between coral species and then measures

growth indicators such as photosynthesis, stinging cell density and skeletal growth. Idjadi returned in January 2011 with two other students to gather tissue samples, bringing them back to Eastern to analyze.

Students **Lauren Armistead** and **Connor Morrison** received NASA Fellowship grants to conduct fuel cell research. Armistead studied the use of ceramics to create miniature fuel cell components, while Morrison focused on the potential of aerogels as super-capacitors.

Students **Matthew Fletcher**, **Leo Gaviria**, **Kristin Copeland** and **Jay Evans** worked with Associate Professor of Communication **Denise Matthews** to produce a public service announcement (PSA) — in English and Spanish — that was used to promote the 2010 U.S. Census on Connecticut television stations.

On April 17, the **School of Arts and Sciences at Eastern** held its **10th Annual Student Research and Exhibition Conference**, showcasing 11 departments and 13 majors, with 105 projects by more than 95 students supported by 44 faculty mentors. Projects ranged from electronic resources for teaching a high



Assistant Professor Joshua Idjadi and Nick Shoenfelt '11



Connor Morrison '12



Governor M. Jodi Rell thanks Assistant Professor Terry Lennox, Leo Gaviria, Matthew Fletcher, Jay Evans and Associate Professor Denise Matthews for producing the census PSAs for the State of Connecticut.



Casey Bessette '10 runs through the audience at Windham High School during a performance of "The Norwich Nine."

school lesson on cellular biology to the impact of player position on the NFL draft to supporting literacy through technology.

On April 28, more than 200 undergraduate and graduate students participated in the **School of Education and Professional Studies Excellence Expo**, also celebrating its 10th anniversary. Students presented on such topics as music therapy, television and movie ratings, subliminal messages in movies, and alcohol advertising and the First Amendment.



Leah Hanrahan '11, a psychology major from Oakdale, worked in a special education classroom in 2009–10. Her internship and research focus is the "sensory diet" as an occupational therapy treatment. "This is a combination of sensory stimulation and sensory integration," said Hanrahan. "These include treatments like body brushing techniques, body rubbing, massage therapy, using a therapy ball and other similar activities. I have been testing the sensory diet on children with autism and measuring their learning and their behaviors that interfere with learning...Sensory diet is a very interesting treatment, but doesn't have a lot of empirical support, so I'm looking to add to the knowledge base."



Eastern's Theatre Program went on tour with the original Reader's Theatre play, "The Norwich Nine," the story of nine Norwich men who fought in the Civil War and died in a prisoner of war camp in Andersonville, GA.

The production was a collaboration between Eastern faculty, students and alumni. It was written by Associate Professor of Communication

Edmond Chibeau and alumnus **Matt Hulten '06**. History Professor **Barbara Tucker** and history students **Heather Brine '10**, **Kelly Harrison '09**, **Katie Lewinstein '09**, **Elizabeth Tefft '09** and **Jennifer Vickers '08** conducted original research on the play. The play was directed by Theatre Professor **Ellen Brodie** and theatre major **Shane William Keger**.

Barnard Scholar **Douglas Hackenyos '10** presents his honors thesis on gill ion transporters in Atlantic salmon at the 2010 Research and Exhibition Conference.

Supporting Student Success.

Aided by grants that have a significant impact on new campus initiatives, the University made great strides this past year in the area of academic support services. In all, \$7 million in outside grant funds were committed in support of Eastern's Strategic Plan.

The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) announced that Eastern will receive a \$1.5 million Title III grant over five years through DOE's "Strengthening Institutions" program. The federal Title



III grant was the first for a public university in Connecticut. Eastern is using the funds to improve students' achievement through their academic studies in the University's new Academic Services Center (ASC) so that more students complete their degrees in four years. The ASC consolidates and centralizes such academic support services as tutoring, academic advising, skill assessment, and math and writing instruction. Professional advisors

were added to the staff in the ASC, and the grant funds allowed for the hiring of an additional career counselor in the Office of Career Services. Visits to the ASC increased 48 percent in 2009–10, with more than 10,000 students coming to the center to take advantage of its services last year.

In addition to the Title III grant, Eastern received a \$300,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant, as well as \$50,000 from the Walmart Foundation, to increase the number of inner-city high school students attending college, through its "Dual Enrollment" program, a partnership between Hartford Public High School, Eastern and Quinebaug Valley Community College. Eastern was one of only 20 colleges and universities across the nation to receive a Department of Justice grant award.

For the University's ongoing efforts to help find solutions for low-income students trying to attend and graduate college, Eastern received a 2010 CollegeKeys Compact Innovation Award from the College Board for the Dual Enrollment program.

At College Goal Sunday, held on Jan. 31, 2010, more than 80 students and parents — 50 families in all — received help filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).



Kenneth Briggs, assistant to the director of financial aid, looks at the FAFSA online system with Wiley Dawson, 2010–11 SGA President.

Study Abroad.

Students studied abroad during 2009–10 in such locations as Poland, Australia and Japan, while approximately 95 students participated in faculty-led global field courses to England, Ghana, Spain, Australia, Italy and Costa Rica.

In May-June 2009, 16 Eastern students traveled to Australia with **Muriel Miller**, part-time professor of visual arts, and Biology Professor **Sylvia Halkin** of Central Connecticut State University. Students spent 29 days in various regions of the country, painting, drawing and conducting field studies in biology. In June, Associate Professor of Sociology **Dennis Canterbury** and Assistant Professor of

Mathematics and Computer Sciences **Bonsu Osei** accompanied 10 students to Ghana, West Africa, to study development theories and that nation's sanitation systems. The fieldwork experience included visits to local universities and community service in Kormantse-Nkum and other villages as well as a trip to Kakum National Park.



(Clockwise from upper left) Amanda Ardel and Keri Dumka take time from the "Summer in London" program to see the sights. Students in the program visit theatres, museums and historic sites while also receiving theatrical instruction from British acting professionals. Ra'Shaun Custis and other Eastern students donate books to schoolchildren in Kormantse-Nkum, Ghana. Environmental Earth Science student Veronica Hooker and Ingrid Sterud, a Political Science major from Norway, joined eight other students, as well as Environmental Earth Science Professor Fred Loxsom and Assistant Professor of Political Science Helma de Vries, to build a wind turbine for a high school in Jamaica during Spring Break 2010. Art student Lauren Hunter holds a kangaroo during a visit to Koala Park in Sydney, Australia, in June 2009.



Engaging the Community.

In its role as a public university, Eastern develops students who can become productive, engaged community leaders. One of the major elements of the University's 2008–13 Strategic Plan — community engagement — continued to evolve over the past year.

In September 2009, Eastern opened the **Center for Community Engagement (CCE)**. The new center expands upon Eastern's legacy of community service and provides a new focus on service learning that links students' classroom learning to their work in the community. Two VISTA volunteers, peer support provided by the People Helping People student club, and the leadership of **Kim Silcox**, director of the CCE, and her staff are providing students with new opportunities to enhance their skills through service learning and community volunteer projects.



Kim Silcox, CCE director, visits with Leigh Duffy of Generations Health Care during the CCE grand opening.

In 2009–10, upwards of 3,000 students contributed more than 12,000 volunteer hours while also earning academic credit for service learning. Projects ranged from writing business plans for local Latino-owned businesses to tutoring children in local after-school programs. Among the more unusual projects: a class of Eastern freshmen created a short civics course for third- and fourth-grade students at Sweeney Elementary School in Willimantic;



Samantha Bialy '13 tutors a student at Windham Middle School as part of the Math Brigade program.

the Sisterhood project for at-risk females led by Associate Professor of Health and Physical Education **Nanette Tummers** with Windham Public Schools; and a group of Environmental Earth Science majors built a wind/solar energy system for a high school in Lucea, Jamaica, in April 2010.

Approximately 400 local Willimantic residents enjoyed a special meal at Eastern's third annual **Day of Giving** on Nov. 25, 2009. Students, faculty and staff volunteers served the meal in Eastern's Hurley Hall, with food donated by Chartwells Food Services, local grocery stores and the ECSU Foundation, Inc. In addition to a Thanksgiving repast for community residents who might otherwise not have had a holiday meal, Eastern students led a month-long canned goods drive for local food pantries. The Day of Giving was created in 2007 by **Jason Budahazy '09**. The 2009 event was led by junior **Amy Gorman**, chair of the Day of Giving Planning Committee and president of the student club, **People Helping People (PHP)**.

Eastern students and faculty volunteered for the 31st Annual Windham Invitational Special Olympics Swim Meet, held on March 13 at Windham High School.



Eastern students have volunteered at the Windham Special Olympics swim meet since it began in 1979.

Eastern Professor **Charles Wynn**, who has been the swim meet director for the past 16 years, estimates more than 350 volunteers were at the event, making it the largest and most successful Special Olympics Swim Meet in Connecticut.

The evening of Feb. 5 was filled with emotion as students, faculty, staff and residents from the Willimantic community and surrounding towns showed

their support for the Haitian people in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that shook the island on Jan. 22. “Help for Haiti: A Night of Reflection, Inspiration and Action!” brought with it speeches, stories, tears, musical and dance performances, and a silent auction. In addition, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, in conjunction with the Eastern Athletic Depart-

ment, donated more than 300 first-aid products and shoes for the earthquake victims.

Instead of hanging around home or traveling to the tropics, nine Eastern students decided to spend their time giving back to the environment on the Center for Community Engagement’s Alternative Spring Break trip. The volunteers built a bridge, cleared trails and completed a photography survey project along a six-mile stretch of the Blue Blaze Trail in Voluntown. The students included **Courtney McBurney**, **Christine Dascanio**, **Jamie Sydoriak**, **Gregory Phillips**, **Rebecca Trapp**, **Thomas Przybylek**, **Calvin Underwood**, **Eliab Abarzua** and **Robert Closs**.

More than 200 Eastern students, area residents and community partners also participated on April 17 in this year’s Town Pride/Town Wide, which is a collaborative beautification project in Willimantic. The CCE coordinates the event. Despite the damp and cold weather, students worked to plant gardens, clear trails, clean up the sidewalks and help paint nonprofit buildings.



Amy Gorman '11, president of the student club, People Helping People, serves a local resident during the 2009 Day of Giving.



The Institute for Sustainable Energy continued its leadership role in providing outreach across the state on environmental issues. Through several U.S. Department of Labor grants totaling almost \$300,000, the institute was selected as a consultant on a project to provide “green collar” job training to unemployed individuals in Bridgeport, and also to provide job training in the installation of renewable energy systems.

(Clockwise from top left) Eastern students used their time during Spring Break 2010 to repair trails and bridges in Pachaug State Forest. Eastern student interns, staff members from the Institute for Sustainable Energy and a group of local high school science teachers visit the 1000-kilowatt wind turbine that powers Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort in Hancock, MA. Rain couldn't dampen the spirits of student volunteers during Town Pride/Town Wide Day in April 2010. Sociology major Robert Closs '12 of East Hartford puts the finishing touches on a new bridge on the Blue Blaze Trail in Voluntown during Alternative Spring Break.



Culture Comes to Campus.

One of the tenets of a liberal arts college is to enrich students' academic experiences by bringing different perspectives and cultural experiences to campus.

Through the University's Arts and Lecture Series, University Hour presentations, Chase Institute speakers series and stirring performances by Eastern performing arts students in campus productions, Eastern students, faculty and staff benefited from a broad spectrum of world-class speakers, poets, musicians, lecturers and performers in 2009–10.

Eastern's Theatre program performed Shakespeare's "As You Like It" in November 2009, in the Harry Hope Theatre. Directed by **Jerry Winters**, part-time professor of theatre, Eastern's production gave Shakespeare's plot a modern twist by replacing the original Elizabethan aristocracy with the media empire of Duke Frederick. Court entertainment was provided in the form of recorded and live video, which **Kara Williams '10** produced with the help of Associate Professor of Communication **Denise Matthews**. Additional theatre productions included "The Hasty Bauble" and "The Distance From Here."



Afarin Rahmanifar, part-time professor of art, (right) discusses the work of Farideh Shahsavarani with visitors to the Akus Gallery exhibition, "Chahar Ghesmat: Iranian Women Create," in spring 2010.

In December, Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker **Alex Gibney** spoke about his work, including his critically-acclaimed 2007 film, "Taxi to the Dark Side," which examines U.S.

torture and interrogation practices of prisoners in Afghanistan and Iraq. Students, faculty and staff were captivated by renowned Hollywood actor **Danny Glover** and stage actor **Felix Justice**,



Sophomore Adam Pender of Mansfield Center performs as Jaques in "As You Like It" in fall 2009.

who presented their performance, "An Evening with Martin and Langston," in February to close out the Arts and Lecture Series' ninth season.

From Oct. 15 to Nov. 25, 2009, Eastern's Julian Akus Gallery presented the exhibition "Wayfinding." Other Akus Gallery offerings throughout the year included "Sweet Tooth: Project Detonate" by renowned graffiti and fantasy artist **Yosiell Lorenzo**, which ran from Jan. 28 through March 11; and "Chahar Ghesmat," which showed the work of four female Iranian and Iranian-American artists working in a variety of media (film, photography, painting and collage) to portray women in Iranian culture.

On Oct. 20, 2009, Eastern's business executive-in-residence Ronald Williams, CEO and Chairman of Aetna, Inc., provided "A Perspective on Health Care Reform" to a packed Student Center Theatre audience.



Carlos “Go Go” Gomez and his band performs during Eastern’s weekly University Hour.

Among Eastern’s weekly University Hour offerings included a lecture by journalist **Dahr Jamail** on the subject “Reinventing Journalism: Thoughts of an Unembedded Reporter in Iraq”; a performance by world-renowned percussionist **Carlos “Go Go” Gomez** and the other four members of his band in September 2009; a presentation by **Julie Chávez Rodríguez**, granddaughter of labor and civil rights activist César Chávez and program director for the César E. Chávez Foundation in October; and a lecture on March 31 by **Dina Temple-Raston**, award-winning author and FBI correspondent for National Public Radio (NPR), about America’s war on terrorism.



President Elsa Núñez helps local children celebrate Three Kings Day on Jan. 6, 2010.

Eastern President Elsa Núñez, along with city officials and state legislators, greeted nearly 600 enthusiastic area residents on Jan. 6 as they converged on the Francis Geissler J. Gymnasium to participate in **Three Kings Day**. Area children received gifts; enjoyed pizza, sandwiches, punch and soda; saw a puppet show; and danced to music presented by a local band featuring Latino music.



Eastern held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in February for the Pride Room, a new resource room for Eastern’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

Eighteen Eastern students appeared as the Eastern Chamber Singers at the Doubletree Suites in Boston on March 20 as one of five stops on its spring tour. A packed house of family, friends and alumni enjoyed the concert, which also featured the nine-piece Eastern Percussion Ensemble, also composed of Eastern students. The tour also took both groups to Storrs, Norwich and Willimantic; Middlebury, VT; and Schenectady, NY.



The Eastern Concert Chorale and Chamber Singers presented a concert on Nov. 21, 2009, in Shafer Auditorium. The chorale is conducted by **David Belles**, director of vocal studies. Special guests included the Concert Choir of Northeastern Connecticut and the Woodstock Academy Chamber Singers.

Excellence on the Field...and off.

In the spirit of Division III athletics and Eastern's liberal arts mission, the University is committed to developing the intellectual and physical talents of its student athletes. Eastern athletes had a stellar year in 2009–10, achieving success at the team and individual levels — both on the field and in the classroom.



Eastern's softball team took home third place at the 2010 National Division III World Series.



Cory Tobler '13

After winning its first-ever Little East Conference (LEC) tournament title, the women's softball team qualified for the NCAA Division III national softball World Series in Eau Claire, WI, and netted a third-place finish. Owners of five national championships, the Warriors were returning to the Division III World Series for the first time since 1992.

The Eastern softball coaching staff, led by head coach Diana Pepin with assistants Peter Maneggia and Clyde Washburne and student assistant Bill Mullins, was voted as the New England Region Coaching Staff-of-the-Year by the National Fastpitch Coaches' Association (NFCA) in a balloting of the region's head coaches. Pepin was also named New England Coach-of-the-Year by the ECAC and LEC Coach-of-the-Year.

In addition to softball, the men's soccer team, women's soccer team and men's baseball team all participated in NCAA Division III regional postseason tournaments, while the men's basketball team participated in the ECAC tourney and the women's lacrosse team was conference tri-champion. The swimming team fin-

ished third at the New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving (NEISDA) Championships, their best finish ever.

The men's and women's soccer teams dominated the Little East Conference award selections. The women's soccer team had the Offensive (**Sarah Swann '10**), Defensive (**Lauren Hickey '11**) and Rookie-of-the-Year (**Daniela Marchitto '13**) awards while the men's squad claimed the Offensive (**Maxim Fantl '10**) and Rookie-of-the-Year (**Bradley Fletcher '13**) honors while also being named recipient of the inaugural Team Sportsmanship Award.

Also receiving LEC honors and all-conference selections at its season-ending basketball awards program were the men's and women's basketball teams. **Jessica Moriarty '11** was named the women's Defensive Player-of-the-Year, as well as being selected to the All-Defensive Team and as a first-team all-star. **Nick Nedwick '12** was chosen as the men's Defensive Player-of-the-Year and as a member of the All-Defensive Team and first-team all-star. **Tanisha Carter '13** and **Lauren Kelleher '13** were named members of the



Sarah Swan



Max Fantl



Molly Rathbun



Will Musson

All-Rookie Team, with Carter being named second-team all-star.

For the men's basketball team, **Edwin Ortiz '10** repeated as a second-team all-star, while head coach **Bill Geitner** was named Coach-of-the-Year for the first time. The men's team was also honored with the inaugural Team Sportsmanship Award.

A total of 25 Eastern student-athletes were named to the 2009 Little East Conference All-Academic Team, which recognizes student-athletes who have attained sophomore academic status or higher and who have compiled an overall grade-point average of at least 3.30 through last spring.

Men's soccer forward **Maxim Fantl '10** was named to the National Soccer Coaches' Association of America (NSCAA) Scholar All-America first team and was a second-team CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Team choice. He was one of only two selections from the Little East Conference. Fantl also headlined the ECAC New England Division III



A record 40 student-athletes received Scholar-Athlete Awards at the 2010 Athletic Banquet, joining a number of students receiving athletic awards.

All-Star Team as its men's Offensive Player-of-the-Year and as a first-team all-star. **Chris Bourdeau '10** was also recognized for academic achievement with an honorable mention all-region as part of the 2009 NSCAA/Adidas Men's College Scholar All-America program.

Fantl was also one of several Eastern players who were named to the NSCAA Division III all-region team.

He was joined on the elite All-New England West team by **Nicholas Boretti '10** and **Aaron Smiles '11**.

In women's sports, **Sarah Swann '10** was a NSCAA Division III third-team All-New England selection and **Lauren Hickey '11** of Southwick, MA, was voted to the fourth team. Swann was also named as a first-team all-star to the women's ECAC New England Division III All-Star Team, marking the first time that an Eastern soccer player was selected for ECAC all-star honors.

Women's lacrosse midfielder **Taylor MacDonald '10** shared the honor as ECAC

New England Division III women's lacrosse Defensive Player-of-the-Year. MacDonald was named to the ECAC all-star first team and was joined on the women's all-star team by third-team defender **Megan Barrett '12**.

Eric Vasil '11 was named to the 2010 United State Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) Division III All-America honorable mention team



The women's swimming team finished third at the New England Swimming and Diving Championships, their best finish ever.

and was a first-team selection to the ECAC New England Division III men's lacrosse team. Midfielder **Taylor MacDonald '10** was named ECAC New England Division III and Little East Conference Defensive Player-of-the-Year.

Molly Rathbun '12 was named a first-team National Fastpitch Coaches' Asso-

ciation (NFCA) All-America selection, NFCA All-New England Region, Little East Conference Pitcher-of-the-Year, and ECAC New England Division III Pitcher-of-the-Year. **Ashley Sullivan '10** was a second-team all-region and first-team all-conference pick.

In baseball, **Melvin Castillo '10** and **Jim Schult '11** represented Eastern

on the 2010 ECAC New England Division III All-Star Team. **Schult** was also named a second-team choice to the 2010 CoSIDA/College Division Academic All-District Team.



Molly Rathbun



Chris D'Ambrosio

Women's head soccer coach **Chris D'Ambrosio** was selected for induction into the Connecticut Girls Soccer Coaches Association (CGSCA) Hall of Fame.

Intramurals were also popular, with more than 1,600 students participating on 165 teams through the year.

Active Alumni.

Developing a strong, collaborative connection between the University and its alumni is fundamental to Eastern achieving its vision as a premier public liberal arts university. During the past year, the Office of Alumni Affairs continued to build new, supportive relationships with alumni through a variety of receptions, meetings, reunions and events.



Graduates “Make A Wish” at Commencement 2010.

The University welcomed more than 1,000 new alumni to the ranks when 1,106 undergraduate and graduate students celebrated their accomplishments at **Eastern’s 120th Commencement Exercises** on May 23 at the XL Center in Hartford. Approximately half of the undergraduates were the first in their families to earn a bachelor’s degree.

The **Eastern Fellows** program inducted its second group of alumni members in March 2010, when Jeffrey Brown ’79, chief administrative officer for Webster Bank and Webster Financial Corporation; Kathleen Weidman ’79, CEO and president of Bright Systems, Inc. in

Reno, NV; and Brett Harnett ’84, assistant professor in the Department of Surgery and associate director of the Center for Surgical Innovation at the University of Cincinnati, visited campus to describe their respective career fields and the value they placed on the liberal arts education they received at Eastern.

The Eastern Fellows program was established in 2008 to recognize and engage distinguished Eastern alumni in the life of the University. The program enriches the education of current Eastern undergraduates by exposing them to alumni who are able to share their work experiences with students.



Carol (Meikle) Moulton '60, Linda Kaminski, President Elsa Núñez and Mary Lou (Corbett) DeVivo '60 visit with the Warriors mascot at the Big Tent Barbeque on May 22, 2010.

The Office of Alumni Affairs also hosted a number of on- and off-campus alumni receptions and networking outings through the year, including events in Hartford, East Hartford, West Hartford, Fairfield, Willimantic, Wethersfield, Middletown, Windsor/Enfield and New Haven in Connecticut; New York City and Long Island, NY; northern New Jersey; Boston, MA; Los Angeles and San Diego, CA; and Washington, DC.

Alumni from the Classes of 1950 through 1985, along with alumni from the Campus Lantern newspaper staff (1980–86), came together on campus on May 22 for their reunions. Some of the groups met for lunch, while others arrived in the afternoon in time for a special reception hosted by Eastern President Elsa Núñez.

Later that evening, graduating seniors and their families, alumni, faculty and staff gathered beneath the “Big Tent” for a sumptuous barbeque as the culminating event on campus before Commencement. Smiles were the order of the day as the Class of 2010 looked forward to graduation ceremonies the next day, while alumni relived fond memories of their days on campus.



Eastern Alumni Fellows Jeffrey Brown '79; Kathleen Weidman '79; and Brett Harnett '84.



Jessica Ciparelli '00, Mark Zurzola '88, Umesh Vig '01 and Maribel Sanchez '04 catch up on Eastern news at the President's Alumni Reception in Wethersfield. More than 30 alumni attended the event, which was held on Jan. 27, 2010.

The Generosity of Friends.

Philanthropy remains a key element in Eastern's vision to become a University of First Choice. To continue to provide Eastern students with an exemplary, comprehensive liberal art experience, the University is focused on seeking more private funding to augment state support and tuition. Fundraising efforts focus on garnering financial and other support for private and public sources for the University, its programs, and its faculty and students.



This past spring, even with difficult economic conditions, 280 students were named recipients of \$334,000 in scholarship money during the ECSU Foundation, Inc.'s Annual Scholarship Reception.

The ECSU Foundation, Inc., continues to dedicate its efforts to matching the generosity of private donors to student and department needs. Despite the economic challenges facing our state and our nation, the number of donors steadily increased during 2009–10, with a record 2,852 individuals giving financial support to the University — an increase of nearly eight percent over the previous year. The number of alumni donors also increased by approximately 10 percent in just one year, with 1,580 alumni pledging gifts to their alma mater in 2009–10. The total amount contributed by those alumni climbed by a staggering 50 percent over the previous academic year.

“The increased financial support that we have received in recent years from our alumni, friends and faculty shows that our University community is reacting positively to Eastern's evolving liberal arts mission,” said **Kenneth DeLisa**, vice president for institutional advancement.

ECSU Foundation, Inc., financial records show that the foundation's assets have increased by 75 percent over the past three fiscal years to more than \$15 million. In addition, the University's Annual Fund increased by 57 percent from FY2006 to



Steve Watts, husband of the late Lee Watts

FY2009 to \$2.3 million. One strategy in particular that has been highly successful, according to DeLisa, is the creation of endowed scholarships in the name of longtime Eastern faculty members. In 2009–10, an endowed scholarship was established by Steve Watts in honor of his late wife, **Lee Watts**, professor of Spanish and founder of the Modern and Classical Languages Department. Additional endowed scholarships were established to honor **Sherman Clebnik**, **Henry Snider**, and the late **Raymond Smith**, founders of the Environmental Earth Sciences Department; and Professor Emeritus **John Lombard**, who was instrumental in establishing the economics major in 1975 and helped to create the Economics Department.

Other philanthropic initiatives included a new scholarship for student veterans, and the “High Five” program to encourage philanthropy among recent graduates.

The “High Five” initiative was implemented as an affordable way for seniors and new graduates to give back to Eastern. After a pilot program began with the Class of 2008 and the Class of 2009, the members of the Class of 2010 kicked off the initiative with the goal of funding a class scholarship.

HIGH 5

A total of 203 High Five pledges were received from the Class of 2010 in support of their class scholarship. This fiscal year Eastern also received 317 High Five pledges from young alumni (classes of 2000–2009). The classes of 2008 and 2009 have their own class scholarship and an Eastern Celebrates Scholarship was created for the other young alumni classes.



The ECSU Foundation, Inc.'s Annual Golf Tournament raised more than \$76,000.

The ECSU Foundation, Inc. Donor Recognition Luncheon was held on Oct. 23, 2009, in the Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Conference Room. **Professor Emeritus Ann Curran** received the Faculty Donor of the Year award, while **Luva Mead Hoar '42** was



(left to right) Mary Mattke, ECSU Foundation Board director; Sandra Roth '71, Foundation Board secretary; Kenneth J. DeLise, vice president for institutional advancement; Laurence Rubinow, chairman of the SBM Charitable Foundation Board; Eastern President Elsa Núñez; Luva Mead Hoar '42, Foundation Board director; and Michael Scanlon '75, Foundation Board president, at the Donor Recognition Luncheon on Oct. 23, 2009.

presented with the Donor of the Year award. **The SBM Charitable Foundation, Inc.** received the Board of Directors Donor of the Year award.

The annual ECSU Foundation, Inc. Golf Tournament to benefit the Athletics Department was held on June 21 at Lake of Isles in North Stonington, with 130 alumni, faculty, staff and friends in attendance. Since moving to Lake of the Isles in 2006, the tournament has grossed \$425,000.

Nearly 100 people heard renowned author **Wally Lamb** highlight a celebration of the life of local poet, publisher and Eastern faculty member Alexander "Sandy" Taylor on Oct. 24, 2009. Lamb read from his latest novel, "The Hour I First Believed." English Professor Raouf Mama also teamed up with folk guitarist Bruce John to perform. Funds raised at the event were used to help create an endowed scholarship at Eastern in Taylor's honor.



Sandy Taylor

Capital Improvements.

Using the Physical Master Plan that was approved by the Board of Trustees as its guidepost, Eastern is continuing the evolution of its campus as a residential, liberal arts college.

Despite difficult economic times, the state bond commission voted to fund the University's second parking garage. The commission also funded the architectural fees to begin planning the University's Fine Arts Building. Other projects in 2009–10 included renovating the Data Center and remodeling the basement of Burr Hall, the oldest building on campus (built in 1921).

Eastern's new synthetic turf field, located inside the 400-meter track at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex, opened in fall 2009. The field, a one-inch thick rubber pad, serves as the home facility for women's field hockey and men and women's lacrosse, as well as other athletic functions for the University. The first official home match on the new surface took place on Sept. 8, 2009, when the field hockey team hosted Babson College. **Nancy Tinker**, director of facilities management and planning said, "In addition

to providing safe and consistent playing conditions year round, the maintenance on the new field is minimal compared to that of a natural turf field."

On Sept. 24, 2009, President **Elsa Núñez** joined several dignitaries, including Connecticut State University System (CSUS) Chancellor **David G. Carter**; **Richard J. Balducci**, representing the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System; and Department of Public Works Commissioner **Raeanne Curtis** in celebrating the opening of the University's new police station.

The \$3.6 million, 8,500 square-foot facility houses offices for the chief of police, lieutenant and administrative assistant, and contains a community/conference and training room, holding cells and a central communications/control station that monitors all security and emergency systems for the campus.



The women's field hockey team played the first game on Eastern's new artificial turf field in September 2009.



DPW Commissioner Raeanne Curtis, Eastern President Elsa Núñez, SGA Vice President Corinne King, CSUS Trustee Richard Balducci, CSUS Chancellor David Carter and Chief of Police Jeffrey Garewski cut the ribbon to open the new Police Station on Sept. 24, 2009.

Moving Forward and Looking Ahead.

With a new fine arts building in the design phase; first-time inclusion in U.S. News and World Report's Tier One rankings; and recommendations for improvements from the October 2010 NEASC reaccreditation team visit, Eastern looks forward to 2011 as a new year of progress and accomplishment. The commitment of faculty, staff and administrators to providing an exemplary education with an experiential component to its students in support of the state's economy continues to be the hallmark of Connecticut's public liberal arts university.

