

achievement





Cover: (lower left) Eastern's 2004–2005 Distinguished Faculty Member Ann Higginbotham mentors Allen Wagner '09, a student in her First-Year Program history course. (middle) Theresa Marrotte '07 and Joseph Sorvillo '08, summon their muses during drawing class. (top right) Marie Sansone '05 uses a survey transit in her environmental earth science class.

Inside Front Cover: (lower left) With the completion of Nutmeg and Laurel Halls, the three residence halls in the South Residential Village help the University move closer to its goal of having 70 percent of students living on campus. (middle left) Burr Hall opened in September 1921 as the school's first dormitory. It is still used today as a residence hall. (middle right) These two youngsters peer out from the faux tree located in the Marketplace section of the new Child and Family Development Resource Center. (upper right) Sculptor and Visual Arts Professor Claudia Widdis created the beautiful Healing Curtains to grace the west wall of the reading room in the J. Eugene Smith Library.



an atmosphere of achievement

As you read this President's Annual Report, you will see that Eastern Connecticut State University had a very gratifying year in 2004-05, replete with faculty achievements, student awards, institutional milestones, and many other indicators of excellence.

When I listen to my colleagues at Eastern talk about their achievements, I am struck by how often they deflect personal attention from themselves and focus instead on the atmosphere on campus that fosters and supports their accomplishments. It is a singular atmosphere that inspires each member of the campus community to excel, to grow, and to serve.

I believe this spirit of collaboration and commitment makes this University a special place. Members of the Eastern community share a

common curiosity. They seek new ways of doing things and discover fresh knowledge they can put to use to make this world a better place. As a small residential campus, Eastern has a sense of connectedness. It is further strengthened by the cultural diversity of its faculty, students, and staff, who can be found sitting together at on-campus lectures, jazz concerts, and other enrichment activities that enhance the campus spirit of shared learning.

Eastern also benefits from the focus afforded by our public liberal arts mission. As faculty, staff, and students have given life and definition to this mission over the past several years, the result has been a shared academic vision that has inspired the entire campus community.

Shared vision, shared goals, shared experiences — this is the atmosphere of support and encouragement that you will find at Eastern Connecticut State University. I truly believe it is this supportive, yet challenging environment that has brought out the best in so many members of our campus community this past year. I invite you to read about their accomplishments in the following pages and share my sense of pride.

With warm regards,

David G. Carter
President



“At Eastern, we have an atmosphere that embraces excellence and achievement...”

professor of the year:
rhona free



A very special moment for Eastern occurred on Nov. 18, 2004, when Professor of Economics Rhona Free was honored as the 2004 U.S. Professor of the Year for Master's Level Colleges and Universities, a category that includes more than 600 institutions of higher education. One of only four U.S. professors so designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Free received her award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., hosted by the Carnegie Foundation and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), administrators of the program. In announcing Professor Free's award, CASE President John Lippincott applauded her innovative teaching style, which combines lessons taught from films, television, poetry, observations of people in everyday life, and field trips to teach students the real-life application of economic principles. Lippincott also noted that Free is one of those few professors who enjoy teaching freshmen and was a campus leader in the creation of Eastern's interdisciplinary First-Year Program for entering students.



“At Eastern, we have an atmosphere that embraces excellence and achievement throughout the institution. It is present in everything we do — in faculty publications that you would usually find produced only at research institutions; at the opening of the faculty art exhibit; at events we have on campus such as the Iraq Perspectives forum; and most important, it's obvious in the support that we get for good teaching. Although there is always room for improvement, there is an understanding at Eastern that whether it is getting computer equipment, library resources, or technical support, everybody who works here operates with a shared understanding that our job is to provide the best education possible for our students.”

Rhona Free



the scholars of eastern



(top right) Adult students at Eastern's Groton Center find the University's bachelor's degree completion programs ideal for meeting their educational needs.

(above, left to right) Frances Rabinowitz, associate commissioner for the Connecticut State Department of Education, speaks with Patricia Kleine, dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies, and Eastern President David Carter at a reception on Sept. 21, 2004, celebrating the accreditation of Eastern's initial teacher certification programs. Eastern is the first among public higher education institutions in Connecticut to receive accreditation on its first attempt from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.



Eastern Connecticut State University strives to instill a sense of shared values across its campus, with faculty, students, and staff coming together as a learning community to do their very best every day. This commitment to excellence was borne out in 2004–05 by a number of individual academic achievements and institutional milestones.

Maintaining high standards. The Social Work program was accredited for eight years in June 2005 by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education. The Department of Sociology also learned that the Sociology and Applied Social Relations program offered in Jamaica had been accredited by the Jamaican Council of Higher Education, just in time to usher in a cohort of 70 new students. In addition, the biochemistry major was accredited by the Board of Governors for Higher Education in Connecticut and saw its first program graduates in May 2005.

Curriculum growth. In addition to the creation of new minors in Sustainable Energy Studies and Sport and Leisure Management, 2004–05 saw an increase in student participation and in the number of course clusters in the First-Year Program. A new General Education core was developed and approved by the faculty. In addition, the Department of Computer Science implemented a new core curriculum based on national standards.

Responding to the marketplace. One of the roles of the School of Continuing Education is to respond quickly to the educational needs of working adults in eastern Connecticut. This past year saw the creation of a new line of “Fast Track” degree-completion programs that give adult students credit for previous courses and work experience. Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) programs in management, environmental management and policy, and business information systems are now open in Groton. The management program also is offered in Vernon. A special BGS program in human services administration, featuring Saturday-only classes, is now available in Willimantic.



Justin Piro '05, one of the first graduates of Eastern's new biochemistry program, is attending graduate school at Dartmouth College.



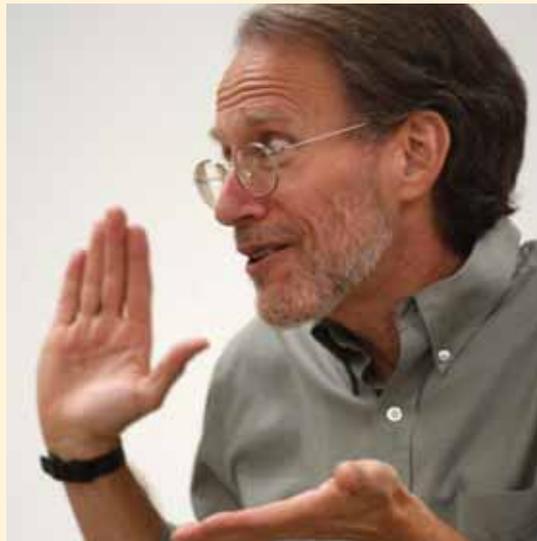
“This is the kind of environment where a scholar’s work can flourish.”

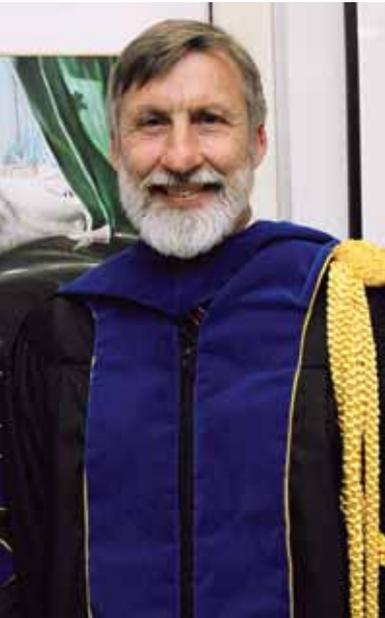
csu professor:
jeffrey trawick-smith

On Oct. 13, 2004, Eastern’s President David G. Carter hosted a reception to honor Professor of Education Jeffrey Trawick-Smith, who was named Connecticut State University Professor by the CSU Board of Trustees. Trawick-Smith, a member of the Eastern faculty since 1982, is a widely recognized and respected authority in the field of early childhood education.

“We attract such a fascinating, diverse student body to Eastern. They challenge and surprise me. They obliterate all preconceived notions of what college students are like. They make me laugh. They have taught me so much about learning, teaching, families, and the course of human development. Their lived experiences — their own triumphs and difficulties, their perseverance, sometimes in the face of hardship — have truly enlightened my work. At Eastern, we have a culture that inspires, in Eleanor Duckworth’s words, ‘the having of wonderful ideas.’ Eastern is a place of innovation, where no approach or perspective is too peculiar or controversial to be considered. We don’t think outside the box here, we think outside the universe. This is the kind of environment where a scholar’s work can flourish.”

Jeffrey Trawick-Smith





Eastern distinguished professor. Phillip F. Elliott was named Eastern's Distinguished Faculty Member of the Year at the May 2005 University Meeting. The award is presented annually to a faculty member whose excellence in classroom teaching and devotion to scholarship bring recognition to the University and positively impact the lives of students. A member of the biology faculty since 1977, Elliott directs the tropical biology field course in Belize and is director of the Honors Program at Eastern, mentoring students, motivating them, and raising the standard of scholarship reflected in honors theses. In praising Elliott's teaching ability, a former student says, "He teaches courses that are difficult, and expects nothing less than excellence from students who take his courses. He teaches us to think, rather than memorize."

Barnard scholars continue tradition of excellence. "My family, friends, professors, and the entire Eastern community have played a major part in my reaching my dream of going to graduate school."

The small university setting has allowed me to become close with several history and political science faculty members who not only challenged me academically but also took an interest in getting to know me on a more personal level." [Excerpted from Robyn Rodriguez's acceptance speech at Barnard Scholarship Banquet, April 13, 2005. Robyn is in a doctoral program in history at Ohio State University.]

"As a result of my education at Eastern, I have come to place the utmost value on the variance in lifestyles and viewpoints that characterizes the human race. I have also gained confidence in my ability to empathetically understand these differing perspectives." [Excerpted from Bruce Desmarais acceptance speech; Bruce is attending Duke University's graduate program in economics.]



(left) Phillip F. Elliott is Eastern's 2005-2006 Distinguished Faculty Member. Elliott directs the University's tropical biology field course in Belize and also is director of the Honors Program.

(top middle) Barnard scholar Bruce Desmarais '05

(top right) Barnard Scholar Robyn Rodriguez '05

(right) On Sept. 20, 2004, the University presented a Chase Medallion to Governor Mark Warner of Virginia. Warner (center) is shown here with Eastern President David G. Carter (left) and Lawrence McHugh (right), chairman of the CSU Board of Trustees.



(top left) Accounting students Heather Branch and Gina Guarino were named two of the four statewide recipients of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants' Junior Awards. Shown here are Associate Professor Richard Silkoff, Department of Business Administration; Branch; Accounting Professor Moh'd RuJoub; Guarino; Jill Wise, liaison for the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants Educational Trust Fund; and Eastern President David G. Carter.

(top right) The Excellence Expo, sponsored by the School of Education/ Professional Studies, celebrated its fifth year with more than 300 student exhibits and demonstrations; judged by local businesspeople, government officials, and other local professionals. The Research and Exhibition Conference, sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences, featured the work of 125 students, with the support of 58 faculty mentors.

(below) In 2004–05, Eastern students traveled around the world — to Egypt, Brazil, Belize, Thailand, Australia, and other locales — as they learned about the people and culture of other lands in the context of their studies in such majors as history, sociology, biology, and art.



Cid named arts and science dean. Dr. Carmen Cid (above left), long-time biology professor and chair of the Department of Biology, was named dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Cid also was selected to lead the K-12 subcommittee of Project NEON, a six-year national project to integrate environmental data into K-12 classrooms. The project is being funded by a National Science Foundation grant.

Other signs of excellence. The Foreign Language Alliance of Eastern Connecticut, founded by the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, awarded 167 certificates to area high school students with four years of foreign language studies this past year. The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CSCPA) announced its junior awards in April 2005, and Eastern's accounting faculty were pleased but not surprised when Heather Branch '06 and Gina Guarino '06 were announced as two of the four statewide winners. In 2004–05, the Department of Communication established two new campus chapters, one of the American Advertising Federation and the other of the Public Relations Student Society of America. A new honors society chapter in history (Phi Alpha Theta) was created, and Omicron Delta Kappa, the honor society for student leadership, was reconstituted.





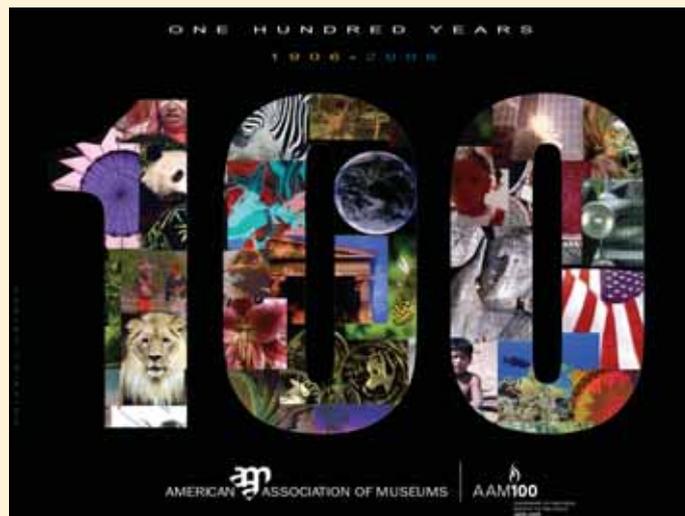
“I personally work best when I feel comfortable and confident – that’s how I feel at Eastern.”

national contest winner:
ashley crispino

A poster designed by Ashley Crispino '06 of Southington was selected by the American Association of Museums (AAM) to help celebrate the association's centennial. In addition to having her poster appear in museums throughout the United States, Crispino received a cash award. Paige Howarth '06 of Willimantic joined Crispino as one of only five national finalists in the poster contest. The AAM is the nation's largest association of museums, with more than 3,100 members, including art, history, science, military, maritime, and youth museums as well as aquariums, zoos, botanical gardens, arboretums, historic sites, and science and technology centers. Crispino and Howarth are graphic design students of Professor of Visual Arts June Bisantz-Evans.

“When I received the news about the poster that I designed, I was absolutely stunned. I could have never expected to win a national competition like that. It was by far the best accomplishment during my studies at Eastern. This has made me optimistic about pursuing a graphic design career in the future. I feel that the small classroom atmosphere and personal attention that Eastern is able to provide its students is why great success in and out of the classroom is possible. I personally work best when I feel comfortable and confident — that is how I feel at Eastern.”

Ashley Crispino '06



reaching out. lifting up.



As a public university, Eastern is committed to promoting educational access to qualified student applicants and providing on-campus support services to ensure their success. A number of programs at Eastern are designed to provide access to underrepresented populations. In addition, a wide range of student services augments and supports the University's academic programs.

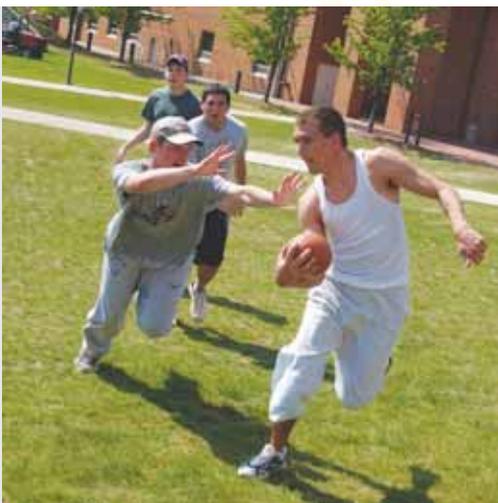
Increasing educational access Eastern's Transfer Compact Agreement with five Connecticut community colleges won a silver Connecticut Quality Improvement Award for Innovation in October 2004. The Transfer Compact Agreement, which was implemented in 2001, offers students a smooth transition from their community college to Eastern. The agreement is already showing success in increased transfer student satisfaction and higher grade point averages for students who participate, according to Kimberly Crone, director of admissions and enrollment management. The initiative has been so successful that it has inspired other universities to establish similar agreements with community colleges.

(upper right) Kimberly Crone and President David G. Carter display Eastern's Connecticut Quality Improvement Award.

(right) Luckily for this person being dunked, OccumStock '05 was on a warm day in May. Tie-dyed t-shirts, inflatables, and other activities marked what was one of many fun-filled student activity events in 2004-05.

(left) Touch football never grows old on college campuses.

(bottom left) Earth Day 2005 raised campus consciousness on energy conservation and environmental issues, and included displays, a solar powered musical stage, and alternative energy demonstrations such as the one shown here.





*“Students thrive in this environment
and see that they can be
all that they can aspire to be.”*

connCAP: *coming up taller*



On Dec. 14, 2004, Eastern's ConnCAP program was honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) as a recipient of the 2004 Coming Up Taller Award for using art and other creative strategies to prepare youth for college. More than 300 nominations were received for this year's award. Accepting the award at a Washington, D.C., ceremony was ConnCAP Director Floyd Bagwell, who received a plaque and a \$10,000 contribution to the program from First Lady Laura Bush, who serves as honorary PCAH chair. For the past nine years, ConnCAP has given hope to students in grades 7–12 from New London, Norwich, and Windham through an academic enrichment program that combines theater and other arts with science, math, and humanities courses to teach on-campus academics during the summer to as many as 100 high school students. The program also provides after-school tutoring and other follow-up support services during the school year. It is funded by a grant from the Connecticut Department of Higher Education's Minority Advancement Program. The program works: more than half of the active ConnCAP participants at Windham High School made the honor roll in a recent marking period.

“I congratulate this year's Coming Up Taller Award recipients for the exemplary work they are doing and the outstanding opportunities they are

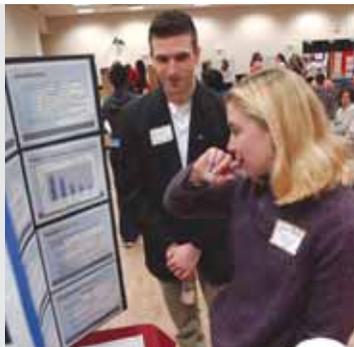
providing to enrich the lives of young people,” said Mrs. Bush.



“When I learned that Eastern had received the Coming Up Taller Award, I felt pride and joy for the dedicated students, parents, staff, and faculty who have worked so hard over the years to make ConnCAP a success. I felt our investment in human souls had come almost full circle and all the ‘diamonds in the rough’ were sparkling. Students thrive in this environment and see that they can be all that they aspire to be, without obstacles being placed in their way. Learning to provide for yourself and your family, having a faith and exercising your belief in that faith, being a good citizen in your town, state, and country — that’s what ‘coming up taller’ means to me.”

Floyd Bagwell





(far left) For the first time Eastern hosted the CSU Psychology Day, and 80 students from across the CSU System presented research on such topics as self-esteem, depression among college students, and treatment programs for sexual offenders.

(left) On March 30, 2005, U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd visited Eastern to gather input on legislation aimed at assisting low-income college students with young children so that they can afford on-campus child care.

Developing tomorrow's leaders. The Division of Student Affairs continued its efforts to support student development, especially for the sizable on-campus resident population. Seven overnight Student Orientation, Admission, and Registration sessions (SOARS) held during the summer gave entering students and their families a clear vision of Eastern's special brand of liberal arts education and what services and opportunities are available to them. SOARS activities included inspirational speakers, social activities, entertainment, and even some fun for parents.

Another major student affairs program in 2004–05 was Eastern's emerging leadership development program. Forty-eight students were inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, the national student leadership society. A related 14-session Student Leadership Development Program taught students valuable leadership skills that they immediately were able to apply in their on-campus clubs and student organizations.

Supporting student success. The range of support offices within the Division of Student Affairs continued to provide exemplary services to students in 2004–05. The Career Services team held the Third Annual Graduate School Fair, with more than 180 students in attendance, and also held three successful career fairs for more than 750 students. The Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention used high-visibility events such as HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, multimedia presentations, and peer education to educate students on making healthy decisions. The Financial Aid Office administered more than \$24 million in student aid, and the counseling staff held 2,400 individual counseling sessions, a 20 percent increase from the year before. This past spring, Pam Starr, director of the Office of AccessAbility Services, shared her program at the International Conference on Education in Hawaii, attended by more than 1,000 academicians and professionals in related fields. She showed her workshop audience how Eastern makes persons with disabilities feel welcome on campus.

(right) More than 200 fifth-grade students from elementary schools in Hartford were on campus as part of the Fifth Graders Go to College program, which saw more than 1,500 Hartford students visiting 11 college campuses in April 2005.





“The opportunity to serve the Student Government Association has taught me skills that will last a lifetime.”

student leadership: *in action*

In January 2005, Lorelei Richey, 2004-05 SGA president; SGA senator Ben Kirk; SGA senator Shelley McCauley-Browning; and SGA senator Kendall Exume attended two days of rigorous leadership training in Las Vegas, sponsored by the American Association of Student Government Associations. All four students passed the final national exam of the two-day student leader certification program.



Kendall Exume



Lorelei Richey



Shelley McCauley-Browning

“I have really enjoyed my experience at Eastern. I had wanted a school far enough away from my home in New Haven so that I could have a little independence, but one that was small enough so that I could be part of a community. That is Eastern — we are very close-knit here. I have made new friends, learned a lot about leadership, and have developed close relationships with my professors — Drs. Matthews-Armstead and Wolf in sociology and social work and Dr. Chirico in English, to name a few. I want to get my master’s degree in social work and eventually start my own private practice. I would like to be part of social reform in this country and influence public policy in this important field.

Last year I was on the SGA Board as the chair of the Budget and Management Committee. The trip to Las Vegas to the national student leadership conference was exciting and rewarding. We learned how to be more effective leaders — listening skills, how to run more effective meetings, organizational management — and when we returned from the conference, I felt we were more organized. The opportunity to serve the Student Government Association has taught me skills that will last a lifetime.”

Shelley McCauley-Browning '07



Teaching kids the world over: The 2004 UN International Children's Conference for the Environment (top right) brought 600 children from around the world to New London in July 2004 for a week of seminars, workshops, and field experiences. Eastern was in charge of developing the educational program for the conference. The students in the picture above learn the basics of producing electricity using an unlikely power source – a potato!

Recognizing pioneers: Each February during Black History Month, Eastern recognizes three people — a member of the faculty, an Eastern student, and a member of the community-at-large — for their commitment to social equality and service to the community. Named in honor of the memory of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the 2005 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Imna Arroyo, professor of art; Kendall Exume '06, business information systems major; and Hartford social activist Darrell Garner.

On April 21, 2005, as part of Latino Awareness Month, two members of the campus community and a local high school teacher were honored at Eastern's annual Latin American Distinguished Service Awards ceremony. Receiving the award in the student category was Social Work major Joanna Rivera '06, a resident assistant at Eastern and a Minority Undergraduate Fellow. Sandra Matthews '01 received the award in the faculty/staff category. Matthews is the advisor for the Organization of Latin American Students. Karen Lapuk, a teacher in Windham High School's bilingual program, received the award in the community member category.

(top left, left to right) Kendall Exume '06; Imna Arroyo, professor of art; and Darrell Garner, long-time Hartford social activist, were the recipients of the 2005 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Awards.

(middle) Students from all walks of life meet and greet each other during the fall 2004 Welcome Weekend.

(lower, left to right) Karen Lapuk, a teacher in Windham High School's bilingual program; Joanna Rivera, a junior majoring in social work; and Sandra Matthews '01, area coordinator for Noble Residence Hall and OLAS advisor, were recipients of the 2005 Latin American Distinguished Service Awards.

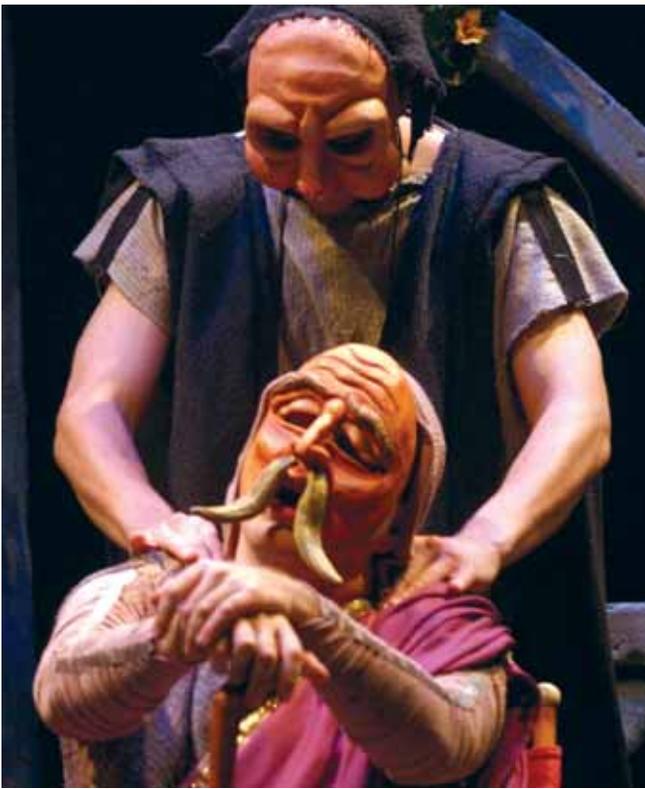


a vibrant campus community

With more than 60 percent of the University's undergraduates living on campus, Eastern students enjoy the benefit of a close-knit residential community. Students, faculty, and staff are invigorated by the many cultural, athletic, and leadership opportunities available. At the same time, steady enrollment growth over the past 15 years has prompted a major building campaign that saw great progress in 2004–05 toward creating an exemplary campus environment.

A rich campus experience. The Department of Performing Arts delighted campus audiences once again with several innovative productions during the 2004–05 academic year, including a contemporary adaptation of *Electra*, based on the classic Greek plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, directed by Professor of Theatre David Pellegrini; *The Brothers M*, based on *The Brothers Menaechmus* by Roman playwright Plautus, which was used as the inspiration for William Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors*; and the Romanian folktale, *By the Willow*, which inspired Harry Hope Theatre audiences in February 2005 with the magic of guest puppeteers Andrea Rubenstein of Brazil and Faye Dupras of Canada.

In 2004–05, the University Hour Series brought 24 guest lecturers and performers to campus for the benefit of the campus community and the public. Guests included tabla master Sandip Burman (right) and Korean musician Moon Jin-Choi (above left) performing on his kayagum (zither). The Akus Gallery hosted six exhibits in 2004–05, featuring 19 artists from four different continents, including the six artists featured in "Transfigurations." (above right) Eastern theatre students (left) used the age-old ruse of mistaken identity to keep their audience in stitches during this performance of "The Brothers M."





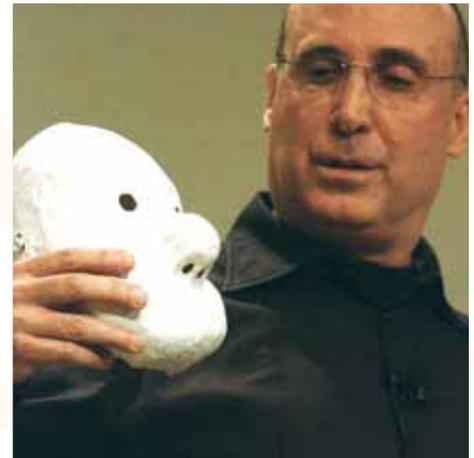
World class guests. In its fourth season, the ever-popular Arts and Lecture Series entertained and delighted campus audiences with presentations and performances by media critic Eric Alterman, CNN anchor Soledad O'Brien, jazz master Poncho Sanchez, and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough (above). On Nov. 9, 2004, McCullough told a standing-room-only crowd that he still uses a manual Royal typewriter he bought 40 years ago to write his books. "I like the physical connection — seeing the keys strike paper, changing the ribbons."

Clear as a bell. The Eastern Concert Chorale (left) had the opportunity of a lifetime on Nov. 21, 2004, when it showcased its vocal talents during a performance of Mozart's Coronation Mass in the Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The chorale, comprising nineteen students, six faculty and staff members, and five members of the community, joined four choirs from other universities to sing Mozart's "Coronation Mass." There were about 250 singers on stage, according to David Belles, director of the Concert Chorale and vocal studies at Eastern. "For students who are serious about their singing careers, I can't think of better motivation than performing at Carnegie Hall."

(right) Poncho Sanchez, master of the conga drum, brought his eight-piece band to campus on April 7, 2005 to share his special brand of Latin jazz.

(far right) Peruvian puppeteer Augusto Cabrera demonstrates the drama behind simple mask forms. Cabrera was one of the 24 entertaining guests brought to campus as part of the University Hour Series.





(upper left) The Child and Family Development Resource Center uses Willimantic's historical frog motif to bring a lighthearted touch that children and adults alike can enjoy.

(upper right) Using skills from his earlier career as a mason, President David G. Carter demonstrates his "hands-on" leadership once again while laying a few bricks at the Child and Family Development Resource Center.

(below right) The \$56 million South Residential Village provides on-campus housing for 750 students.

(below left) Workers install the cupola on the Child and Family Development Resource Center.



Building Eastern's Future. In the face of increased enrollment during the past decade and a half that has seen Eastern's student body expand 42 percent, the campus continues to grow. Several major construction projects were finished in 2004–05 and others were either begun or were being planned.

On Aug. 27, 2004, the first students moved into the new South Residential Village (SRV), their parents helping them deposit duffel bags, laptops, CD players, and other belongings into their brand-new "home away from home." Now officially Constitution Hall, SRV1 greeted almost 250 new students with beautiful double suites. Construction of Buildings Two and Three was almost completed in 2004–05; what are now Nutmeg and Laurel Halls were occupied this past August 2005.

On Oct. 14, 2004, Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell and Eastern President David G. Carter led a long list of dignitaries when Eastern broke ground for its Child and Family Development Resource Center at the construction site on the North Campus. The 40,000-square-foot center opened in early 2006 for children ranging from infancy to age 4; it includes a separate classroom building that houses faculty and students in Eastern's early childhood education program.

Other campus growth in 2004–05 included the start of a major construction project to remodel and expand the Student Center; completion of a 400-meter outdoor track; and preparations to begin construction of a new Science Building.





(top left) Kara Bradley '07 and Mo Deegan '05 (lower left) were named to Inside Lacrosse's Division III All-America team.

(upper right) Eastern's men's track team enjoyed another fine season, winning its fourth-straight Little East Conference title.

Excellence on the field. Eastern student athletes had a banner year in 2004–05, with numerous athletes receiving individual awards and eight teams qualifying for conference or postseason tournaments — men's and women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse, softball, field hockey, baseball, and volleyball. The men's track team won its fourth-straight Little East Conference (LEC) title, winning six individual championships and both relays at the conference meet. The women's lacrosse team defeated top-seeded Plymouth State University for its first-ever LEC championship; head coach Kathy Railey was named LEC Coach-of-the-Year; and Mo Deegan '05 and Kara Bradley '07 were named to the NCAA Division III All-America team.

In June 2005, baseball standout Ryan DiPietro was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the sixth round, the first player chosen from Division III and the second pitcher selected by the Royals. DiPietro was voted National Division III Pitcher-of-the-Year in 2004, and was selected to the NCAA Division III All-America team for the second year in a row in 2005.

Not only did Eastern's teams excel on the field in 2004–05, they demonstrated that they are students first. Eastern's student athletes have higher retention and graduation rates than the University average, and the women's soccer program earned the Faculty Athletic Representative Award for compiling the highest grade-point average (3.20) among Eastern's 17 intercollegiate programs.



(middle right) Ryan DiPietro, two-time All-America pitcher for the Warriors, was drafted by the Kansas City Royals of Major League Baseball.

(lower right) The women's lacrosse team is all smiles as they earned their first-ever Little East Conference title.





“(Professor Bisantz-Evans) made me feel like I was special and that they wanted me to come here...”

sportsperson-of-the-year:
julie motolo

The swimming team experienced its sixth-straight winning season, led by freshman Sarah Barber of Meriden, who received the Female Rookie-of-the-Year Award, and Julie Motolo of Suffield, who shared the prestigious Bonnie J. Edmondson Senior Female Sportsperson-of-the-Year Award with volleyball standout Jessica Leifert of Winsted.

“My coach understands if we have a huge exam, we aren’t going to be ourselves at practice that day. She realizes we are going to be stressed or tired. Sometimes she’ll let us miss a practice or come late to practice. In my senior year, I had a class that required me to miss one practice each week, so I came in earlier in the day on my own. It wasn’t always easy, but Coach was very supportive — at Eastern, our schoolwork comes first.

I decided to come to Eastern because of the reception I received here. Professor June Bisantz-Evans sat down with my mother and me when I was still a senior in high school. She made me feel like I was special and that they wanted me to come here to study visual arts.”

Julie Motolo '05





giving makes all the difference

Giving back to the community, serving others, protecting the environment, and supporting future generations of students are citizenship skills taught daily at Eastern.

Serving others. Students at Eastern Connecticut State University are encouraged to serve their community through volunteer service and cocurricular club activities. In 2004–05, Eastern students, faculty, and staff provided more than 20,000 hours of volunteer service to more than 40 local social agencies and service organizations.

Among the many beneficiaries of Eastern goodwill were the American Red Cross, which holds on-campus blood drives throughout the

year; the March of Dimes WalkAmerica event, in which Eastern walkers raised the second-highest total in the Windham area; Toys for Tots, which benefited from Eastern's holiday wreath sale; the Windham/Eastern Community Action Network, which supports local neighborhood programs and has significant Eastern faculty involvement; and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, which is hosted each year at Eastern. In last year's 24-hour event, more than 3,000 people walking in more than 100 teams raised \$197,000.

And going beyond Connecticut's borders, Peter Bachiochi, professor of psychology, led a group of students on a trip to New Mexico to build houses for Habitat for Humanity.



(upper left) Eastern's Campus Police and the Willimantic Police Department joined more than 3,500 other law enforcement officers and Special Olympic athletes in Connecticut for the annual Torch Run to help raise funds for Special Olympics.

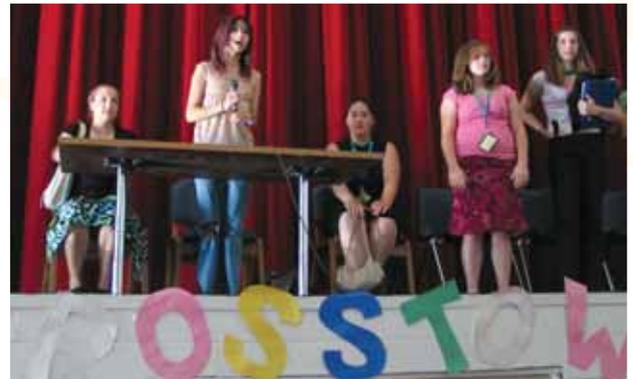
(upper right) Upwards of 3,000 people walked in the 2004 Windham Area Relay for Life in support of the American Cancer Society.

(left) Eastern student and basketball player Antoine Key reads to students at a nearby elementary school. Key passed away unexpectedly in January 2005.



Following the horrific tsunami that hit the Indian Ocean region on Dec. 26, 2004, the campus community collected medical supplies, clothing, and more than \$2,000 during a three-day vigil led by Azard Mahamoon, a senior from Sri Lanka. At the same time, Dilini Gunasekera '92, Tharanga Gunaratne '92, and Nalin Karunatileka '92 were working in Kandy and Colombo, Sri Lanka to aid relief efforts in their native land.

For the first time ever, Eastern hosted the Connecticut Laurel Girls State program in June-July 2005; 164 young women from around the state visited campus. Another program in which University faculty and staff participate is the Connecticut State Employees' Campaign each fall in support of various nonprofit and charitable organizations. In 2004, Eastern achieved its highest-ever totals for number of contributions, amount contributed, and percentage of employees who contributed.



(upper left) Azard Mahamoon '05 of Sri Lanka with some of the medical supplies, clothes and money he raised for his native country to aid in the tsunami relief.

(lower left) Eastern students Kate Delahunty (left) and Bevin Titcomb (right) huddle in a cardboard box overnight during Habitat for Humanity's Shack-a-thon. The event raises money to help build houses for the needy.

(above) Eastern was the site for Laurel Girls State for the first time in 2005.



“There is a legacy of excellence and good people we want to be a part of.”

century club members: *bill & joan goba*



Patricia Goba-Churchill '05

Bill and Joan (Russoniello) Goba are pleased to tell you that they have been married for 39 years. They finish each other's sentences, speak glowingly of each other's accomplishments, and share proud memories of their life together. One of the sources of that pride is daughter Patricia Goba-Churchill, who received her master's degree in early childhood education at Eastern this past May, only a few weeks after giving birth to her second child. Goba-Churchill had received her bachelor's degree from Eastern in 1998. Another source of pride is the growth and progress the Gobas have seen over the years at their alma mater; Bill '71 and Joan '69 preceded their daughter as Eastern graduates, both receiving their master's degree in secondary education.

Now retired, Joan finds time to work with the Windham Hospital Auxiliary and the United Way. She also has recently been appointed to Eastern's Naming Committee to provide advice on naming some of the University's new facilities.

Following a successful career at Lyman Memorial High School, Bill is now working with adult education and English-as-a-Second-Language programs in Norwich. He sees students from all over the world — China, Haiti, Turkey, Brazil — with most of

them seeking English language skills for jobs in the area's casinos and other places of employment. “It's been a great end-of-career experience,” says Bill. “It's a lot like Eastern is, small yet vital and alive. And the people there are some of the best I have ever worked with.”

The Gobas are Century Club members and are proud to be part of the University's support network. “There's a legacy of excellence and good people we want to be part of. That's why we are generous with our contributions. We also try to get to as many of the lectures and other events as possible.”

Joan says that, while the campus has grown enormously over the past 30 years, “It still seems to have that same homey atmosphere.”





(upper left) More than 100 participants raised \$26,000 in support of Eastern athletes during the annual "Makin' the Green" golf tournament held on July 20, 2004, at Tunxis Plantation Country Club.

(upper middle) An honorary degree was conferred on Eastern supporter James Sandler at the 2005 Commencement ceremonies.

(upper right) Elena Tapia, chair of the Department of English, congratulates Vangella Buchanan and Marcea Ewald, recipients of the 2004 Constance Campo Memorial Scholarships.

*(lower left) Dr. Carter visits with friends of the University during the annual Fun*Ding.*

(lower right) March 12, 2005, turned out to be a snowy morning, but the 2005 Bowlathon at Willi Bowl in North Windham was a tremendous success. The event attracted a record 144 bowlers and raised more than \$14,000 for the ECSU Foundation Community Youth Scholarship.



Supporting the University. Tremendous private support of Eastern's public liberal arts mission continued to be demonstrated in 2004–05 as alumni and other donors provided critical funding for scholarships and other essential University services and programs. The ECSU Foundation, supported by the Office of Institutional Advancement, experienced record-breaking events such as the annual Fun*Ding, which featured performing artist James Taylor and brought in more than \$200,000; the annual Bowlathon, which supports scholarships for 14 local students; and the annual "Makin' the Green" golf tournament.

One of the highlights of Commencement 2005 was the conferring of a honorary degree to Hartford attorney James Sandler, a steadfast supporter of the University who has been instrumental in garnering private support for Eastern over the years, principally through his efforts with Fun*Ding, the University's major fundraising event each year.

Hundreds of Eastern students are supported by scholarships administered by the ECSU Foundation. One scholarship that has great meaning for the Department of English is the Constance Campo Memorial Scholarship, named after Connie Campo, an administrative assistant in the Department of English, who died at age 43 in 1993 after a sudden illness. In addition to being on the staff, Campo was a nontraditional student pursuing her bachelor's degree at Eastern at the time of her death, and her interest and commitment to diversity and gender is the focus of the scholarship named after her. In December 2004, two Campo scholarships were awarded, one to Vangella Buchanan, a writer for a West Indian newspaper in Hartford who juggles classes, a full-time job, and parenting her 12-year-old son; and the other to Marcea Ewald, also a nontraditional student and an advocate for students with disabilities.





*“Eastern is an amazing place.
There is a spirit and openness here
that is rare at any institution.”*

stewards of the earth: *bill leahy & fred loxson*

“Energy is a topic that is constantly in the news, and should be a major subject of learning and research at every university. This is especially true in a liberal arts environment where students can explore not only technical impacts and solutions but also the political, economic, and societal impacts. The Institute for Sustainable Energy is using the campus and our clients in state and local government as a model laboratory where environmental best practices are being developed for regional application at the same time that Eastern students are learning to conserve natural resources and become ecologically conscious citizens.”

*William Leahy, Director of Operations
Institute for Sustainable Energy*



Stewardship of precious natural resources. In 2004–05, Eastern took a number of steps to advance its longstanding commitment to energy conservation and environmental management. In August 2004, Eastern President David G. Carter introduced the University’s first endowed chair, Fred Loxson, to the campus community. Loxson is the new director of the Center for Sustainable Energy Studies, and brings with him more than three decades of environmental research, teaching, and leadership. One of his first steps was to create an academic minor in Sustainable Energy Studies.

In March 2005, the University’s Institute for Sustainable Energy received the Northeast Region Environmental Merit Award from the Environmental Protection Agency for its work in providing technical assistance to Connecticut municipalities seeking to manage energy costs and conserve energy. A highlight of the year was Eastern’s celebration of Earth Day on April 20, 2005. Sponsored by Roots and Shoots, a new student club, the day featured speakers and live music on a solar-powered stage; demonstrations and displays from regional environmental groups, including a hybrid-powered automobile; and tours of Eastern’s arboretum, the geothermal heating plant at the University’s on-campus High Rise Apartments, and the new South Residential Village, which has received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.



“Eastern is really an amazing place. There is a spirit and openness here that is rare at any institution. I don’t know why everything works so well at Eastern, but it does. I suspect it starts at the top with a president who really likes students and wants the University to treat them well and offer them an opportunity for a real liberal arts education. With the help of the remarkable faculty and staff here, we have been able to make very rapid progress. The interdisciplinary minor program in Sustainable Energy Studies is just one of the initiatives we have been able to establish in the first year of the center.”

*Professor Fred Loxson, Endowed Chair
Sustainable Energy Studies*



Alumni success Eastern recognized several generations of Easterners in honoring alumni this past year for their accomplishments and service to the community. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie '01, Ruth Rosebrooks '54, and Professor Emeritus Charles W. Prewitt, Sr., and his wife, Virginia, were honored at the President's Leadership Dinner Gala on Oct. 21 at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford. Adichie, whose first novel, *Purple Hibiscus*, has drawn rave reviews from literary critics around the world, received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Rosebrooks received the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her 37 years of teaching in the Granby Public Schools, and volunteer activities that have included a half century of service to the Red Cross Blood Drive, volunteering in a local nursing home since 1991, and serving at the local food bank. The Prewitts received the Hermann Beckett "Friends of the University" Award for their creation and support of the Peace and Human Rights Studies Endowment fund at Eastern.



(middle left) The beautiful Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts was host to the President's Leadership Dinner Gala on Oct. 21, 2004. During the gala, three distinguished alumni awards were presented, including one to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie '01, shown speaking with Mrs. Maureen Pernal (left).

(top left) Charles W. Prewitt, Sr. and Ruth Rosebrooks

(top right) The Alumni Gala held on June 18, 2005, transformed the Wood Support Center into "Club Eastern," a swinging hot spot in the tradition of '30s-era New York supper clubs.

Achievement

postscript

There you have it. We have shared with you what I hope has been an informative collection of individual achievements and institutional accomplishments at Eastern Connecticut State University in 2004–2005. You have read of personal joy, public recognition, and collective progress. You have seen some of the drama and excitement of our campus brought to life in pictures. And you have read the thoughts of a number of Eastern faithful as they have described in their own words the inspiration that our community brings to its members.

It is a story of a campus full of connections — individual inquiry, close-knit relationships, and a University-wide commitment to collaboration. This foundation of support and encouragement allows individuals to succeed and the University to prosper. I urge all who cherish this University to continue building on that foundation.

In addition to an atmosphere of collegiality, people visiting Eastern also note a spirit of involvement and dedication. Throughout the years, I have encouraged our students and faculty to fully tap their potential because I have always felt that, through hard work, great things can be accomplished. Even so, we do not perform good deeds for their own sake. We perform them to inspire one another. And we do them for the sake of the common good. There is no more noble a task before us.

An Iroquois song tells us, “I hear the Eagle bird pulling the blanket back off the Eastern sky.” I say to you now, soar with the eagles. Pull the blanket off. Let the light of the East shine for all to see.

David G. Carter, Sr.



During production of the President's 2004–2005 Annual Report, the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System announced on December 16, 2005, that it had appointed David G. Carter, president of Eastern Connecticut State University since 1988, to the position of Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System. Dr. Carter assumed his duties on February 1, 2006.



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