

Eastern Setting the Table for Second “Day of Giving”



On Nov. 26, Eastern hosted a second annual Thanksgiving dinner for community residents who are patrons of local soup kitchens and other social service agencies. The meal, called a “Day of Giving,” took place from noon until 3 p.m. in Hurley Hall on Eastern’s North Campus.

The Day of Giving is a project started last year by Jason Budahazy, a senior from Bridgeport majoring in sports management. Budahazy has enlisted the support of Eastern President Elsa Núñez; Chartwells, Eastern’s food service; numerous area grocery stores; and students, faculty and staff.

The project consists of two parts. The first is a canned food drive, which gathered more than 10,000 canned food items last year. This year, 20,000 cans were collected, and more than \$1,000 was raised. All the food raised during the canned food drive will go to local food charities such as the Covent Soup Kitchen, the Access Agency and Catholic Charities.

The second part of the project is the actual Day of Giving, a large scale Thanksgiving meal for members of the Willimantic and Windham community who otherwise would not be able to have a Thanksgiving dinner. Last year, Eastern fed more than 400 people, and a similar number visited campus this year to enjoy a special meal.

Eastern Helps Celebrates 25th Years of CSUS



On Nov. 13, Eastern students, faculty and staff joined its three sister institutions to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Connecticut State University System (CSUS), founded in 1983. Executive Vice President Michael Pernal and Student Government Association (SGA) President Sulthana Sayed gave remarks at a brief ceremony in the Student Center Atrium. They unveiled a time capsule that will be filled with memorabilia, sealed, and then opened in 2033. In addition, photos of activities and highlights of Eastern’s past 25 years were on display. In a formal ceremony in Hartford later that evening, speakers

Newsflash

and guests included U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney; Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal; Lawrence McHugh, chairman of the CSUS; and CSUS Chancellor David Carter. Representing Eastern, Sayed read a citation from Gov. M. Jodi Rell, and Physical Science Professor Tim Swanson reminisced about his 42 years of service as Eastern's oldest-tenured faculty member. In addition, Professor Jaime Gómez, chair of the Communication Department, shared his thoughts on the welcoming community he is part of at Eastern.

Eastern Celebrates Veteran's Day



On Nov. 11, on behalf of President Elsa Núñez, Executive Vice President Michael Pernal gave remarks at a brief ceremony in the Student Center on Veteran's Day, thanking all the current and past veterans at Eastern — students, faculty, and staff alike — who have served their nation on the battlefield. He indicated that this Veteran's Day was the 90th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I. He also reminded the audience that we have many servicemen and women making huge sacrifices and demonstrating great bravery in Afghanistan, Iraq and in other places. In all, more than 650,000 members of the U.S. Armed Services have lost their lives defending our country, and another 1.4 million have been wounded in battle. We have more than 25 million veterans living today. Donald Eckman, an Eastern student who recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, thanked the University for the show of support and said it meant a great deal to him personally to know that he and his colleagues in the Armed Services were being recognized on Veteran's Day. President Núñez also announced that Eastern will be opening a new Veteran's Center in the Wood Support Services Center this coming January. The center will include a plaque with the names of all Eastern alumni who are veterans. (Above, Pernal and Eckman cut a cake in celebration of Veteran's Day.)

Accounting Fair Draws Huge Crowd



On Oct. 9, more than 100 students attended the Office of Career Services fourth annual Accounting Career Fair in the Betty R. Tipton Room of the Student Center to learn more about internship and employment opportunities in accounting, finance, manufacturing, information technology, CPA career paths and graduate school. Left, among the 50 recruiters were 12 alumni who returned to Eastern to meet with the next generation of accountants. The event was sponsored by The Lyle Group of Manchester and New York City.

Learning Basket Weaving of America's First People

As part of her class on Native Americans, Julie Jennings, adjunct in sociology, had students engage in basket-making technologies of her tribe, the Virginia-based Cheroenhaka Nottoway. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the class will donate the finished basket, along with an \$80 gift certificate and dry food items to help a local Connecticut family in need. Above, Pam Cavedon '09, left, does a simple over-under weaving technique. Brandon Burns '09, right, looks on. Also, Jennings, standing, gives pointers to continuing education student Anne Walker while Rose Joyner '09, right, watches.



Homeland Security Expert Speaks at Eastern



On Nov. 6, in the Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library, Jay Cohen, under secretary for science and technology at the Department of Homeland Security, discussed the importance of teaching children math and sciences. "We are in crisis in this country. Young people are turning away from science and math in middle school."

Cohen laid out a grim picture America's future without advancements in science or math. "If we don't get this right, if we don't produce the requisite number of scientists and engineers for a technologically enabled society, we will not be a first world economy."

Cohen's own educational pursuits are a testament to his distinguished professional career. Cohen holds a joint Ocean Engineering degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and a Master of Science degree in Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture from MIT. He served in the U.S. Navy, becoming the 20th chief of naval research in 2000. In 2006 he was sworn into his current position as under secretary.

As under secretary for science and technology, Cohen's responsibilities include overseeing the activities of six primary divisions in the Department of Homeland Security including the explosives division, the chemical and biological division and the infrastructure and geophysical division.

Habitat for Humanity Raises Public Awareness on Homelessness



On Nov. 11, Eastern's chapter of Habitat for Humanity weathered the cold temperature in a cardboard shantytown outside Webb Hall for its annual Shackathon, which is designed to help raise awareness of homelessness and substandard housing. The funds that were raised support the Windham Habitat for Humanity affiliate and the chapter's Spring Break trip to Biloxi, MS. During the Shackathon, students are still required to attend classes and cover work schedules, but they are not allowed to bring any food or go back to their rooms, so they must rely on the kindness of people passing by. Most of the

pledges come in after Thanksgiving, but Habitat for Humanity Faculty Advisor Peter Bachiochi says more than \$1,000 has already been raised.

“Wing Fling” at Eastern



On Nov. 5, the Eastern student chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) had a huge turnout at its first “Wing Fling.” The purpose of the AITP Wing Fling was to raise campus awareness about the new club, and to raise money for the Willimantic Soup Kitchen. David Watson, who serves as chapter vice president of public relations, along with Chapter President Laura Kolar, Vice President Ryan Benoit, Secretary Mita Lad and Treasurer Sam Ambrose, organized the event.

The clubs invited five local restaurants — Chartwells, Fred's Brickhouse, Blarney's Café, Main Street Café, and Opus on Main — to compete for the titles of “Best Wings,” “People's Choice,” “Judges Choice,” and “Hottest Wings.” Each restaurant donated more than 20 pounds of wings. Students, faculty and staff were invited to taste each of the five restaurants' wings, and then get an additional 10 of their favorite wings for \$5. School of Education and Professional Studies Dean Patricia Kleine; Business Administration Professor Branko Cavarkapa; Executive Vice President Michael Pernal; Career Services Director Nancy DeCrescenzo; and VISTA Community Service Staffer Julie Cappa served as Eastern celebrity judges. Above are photographs of some of the wings presented by area restaurants. Also, AITP President and Wing Fling organizer Laura Kolar '09 encourages supporters to eat their fill of wings. On Dec. 10, AITP will bring President-Elect Barack Obama's Regional Campaign Director David Vorland to campus. Vorland will speak at 3 p.m. in Student Center to Eastern students, faculty and staff about the use of technology in Obama's successful campaign. Admission is free and the public is invited.



Eastern Celebrates Career Development Month



The Office of Career Services celebrated National Career Development Month in November. The month-long festivities started with a Kick-Off Picnic on Nov. 3. Jen Paradis, senior student staff in Career Services, wearing orange scarf, helped student participants with free career resources.

“Telling Maggie’s Story” at Eastern

On Oct. 23, activist and writer Susan Omilian visited Eastern to present “Telling Maggie’s Story,” an oral history of the plight of Omilian’s niece, Maggie, who lost her life to dating violence. The presentation took place in Eastern’s Student Center. Omilian’s discussion included how to spot signs of an unhealthy relationship and how to stand up against dating violence.

In 1999, Omilian’s career as a lawyer defending the rights of abused women took a devastatingly personal turn when her 19-year-old niece, Maggie, was murdered by Maggie’s ex-boyfriend. In 2001, Omilian created My Avenging Angels Workshops, free seminars that focus on helping abused women empower themselves and to help them move to the next step of recovery. For her role in creating the workshops, the Hartford Courant and Hoffman Auto Group presented Omilian with the 2004 “Woman of Character” Award. In 2005, she received the “Women Making a Difference” Award from the Greater Hartford Soroptomist Club, a women’s service organization.

Eastern Sports News

UP TO A CHALLENGE, COP MAKES MARATHON EFFORT



In her first road race, Eastern swimming captain completes the Hartford marathon.

While many college students enjoy relaxing during their summer break, Maureen Cop ’10, a Southington native and a member of Eastern’s women’s swim team, made other plans. Those plans involved training for her first road race. Despite having never run a road race at any distance, Cop’s initial venture was an ambitious one, to say the least. The goal she set last spring was to compete in the 26.2 mile ING Hartford Marathon, held in Hartford this past Oct. 11.

Newsflash

Between working a summer job and other summer activities, Cop trained by running around the country club in Hamden where she worked, and ran between four and five miles, six days a week. Competing in the 16-to -19 age division of the ING marathon, Cop placed in the middle of the pack with a remarkable time of 4 hours and 14 minutes, and finished third in her age group.

Although this year's swimming season is in its early stages, Cop feels that her marathon training has already carried over to her performance in the pool. "I'm surprised how much stronger I feel swimming, because of running," she pointed out.

Eastern in the News

On Nov. 14, Julia DeLapp, director of Eastern's Center for Early Childhood Education, with assistant professors Maureen Ruby and Ann Anderberg, discussed a multi-million dollar federal early reading grant on "The Wayne Norman Show" on WILI-AM Radio.

On Oct. 30, Eastern Director of Career Services Nancy DeCrescenzo discussed career development and job hunting on "The Wayne Norman Show."

The Nov. 1 edition of the Hartford Inquiring News reported on Princeton University's Cornel West presentation at Eastern. West spoke to a packed house in the Betty R. Tipton Room and an overflow crowd in the Student Center Theatre.

The Oct. 28 edition of the Norwich Bulletin ran an editorial on the impact of Eastern's new \$64 million science building, saying the facility, which will enable the school to provide enhanced educational opportunities in math and science, "bodes well for the region and its economy."

The Oct. 27 edition of the Norwich Bulletin reported on a presentation by Eastern financial aid administrator Kenneth Briggs to public speaking students at Norwich Free Academy about financing a college education.

The Oct. 27 edition of Marketwatch, the Wall Street Journal Digital Network, reported on the appointment of Paul McCabe '93 as Vice President, Private Equity Market for SecondMarket (formerly Restricted Stock Partners), the largest centralized marketplace for illiquid assets.

The Oct. 23 edition of the Manchester Journal Inquirer reported that students working for Eastern's Institute of Sustainable Energy will perform energy benchmarking for schools and town buildings in the Town of East Windsor.

The Oct. 22 edition of the Hartford Courant reported that William Leahy, chief operating officer of Eastern's Institute for Sustainable Energy, participated in a forum on energy efficiency and assistance programs at the Willington Hill Fire Department.

The Oct. 21 edition of the Norwich Bulletin reported that Brenda Severino '89 a fourth-grade teacher at Oakdale School who received her Master of Science degree in human relations, won Montville's Teacher of the Year for 2008-09.