

newsflash

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

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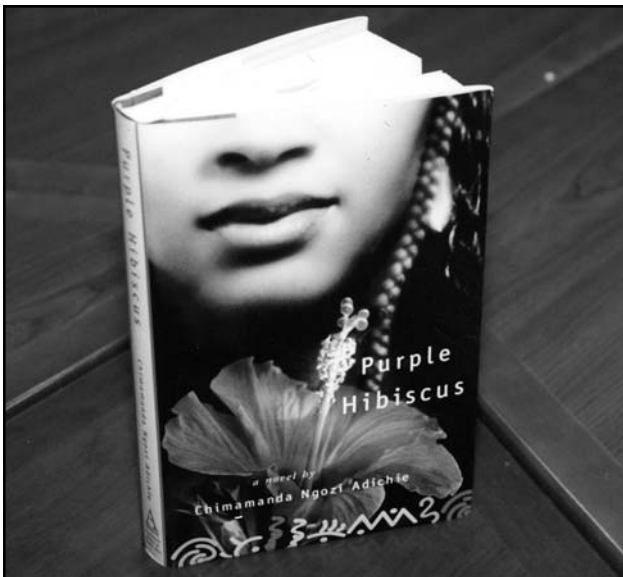
January 5, 2004



Violinist Nicholas Kitchen demonstrated a fluid yet passionate mastery of his instrument during the Borromeo String Quartet's performance.

Borromeo String Quartet: Breathtaking!

If you were unable to attend the concert by the internationally acclaimed Borromeo String Quartet on Dec. 3, you missed a masterful performance. The group, which has received numerous top prizes in string quartet competitions and been hailed as "outstanding" by the *New York Times* and "simply the best" by the *Boston Globe*, lived up to its billing. The brilliantly presented chamber music filled Shafer Hall with a lively mix of classical sounds. The concert was the third in Eastern's popular Arts and Lecture Series. Next up is the Feb. 25 tribute to poet and author Langston Hughes by the renowned Providence Black Repertory Company. You won't want to miss that. Additional information about the string quartet can be found at www.borromeoquartet.org.



Purple Hibiscus — a tale of family life in Nigeria.



Communication Professor Edmond Chibeu hosted Ms. Adichie's visit. Christine Guarnieri '03 (right) also was one of Chibeu's students.

Purple Hibiscus. Proud Alum.

If you want to know how valuable a degree from Eastern is, ask alumna Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie '01. Within two years of graduation, she has become a nationally acclaimed author touring the country to promote her new novel, *Purple Hibiscus*, published by Algonquin Books in association with Workman Press. Adichie returned to campus in November to a warm reception to say thanks to everyone involved with her development, and of course, to read from her book and sign copies of it. More than 40 students, faculty, and staff attended the reception. After the reading, Communication Department faculty and students recorded a half-hour program for ECSU-TV/Channel 22 and for WECS.FM. Adichie has promised to visit Eastern again.



President David G. Carter (right) joins Executive Vice President Michael Pernal (left) in congratulating Nancy Tinker, director of facilities management and planning, and David Lebel, capital projects engineer, on their CQIA Award.

Aspiring to Excellence

Two programs at Eastern have been cited for their standard of excellence by the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award (CQIA) Partnership, Inc. Receiving a silver award was the



(from left) Dr. Dimitrios Pachis, Dr. Martin Levin, and President David G. Carter with the CQIA award given to the First Year Program.

University's collaboration with Aztec Engineering on the design and implementation of a geothermal heating and cooling system for Eastern's residence halls. A second silver award recognized the First Year Program, designed to increase first-year student retention.

Comment Va Tu? Hola!

More than 70 public and university foreign language teachers are employing new and interesting ways of teaching modern languages after attending a recent, daylong professional development workshop on Eastern's campus. The workshop, offered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), was designed to promote the study of world languages from kindergarten through college.

Deborah Espitia, instructional coordinator of foreign languages in the Howard County (MD) public school system, led the workshop. She offered workshop participants a wide variety of activities to accommodate multiple student needs.



Deborah Espitia, instructional coordinator of foreign languages in the Howard County (MD) public school system, offers new ideas on teaching modern languages.

"The workshop was not only productive but fun for participants," said Dr. Lee Watts, retired professor of modern languages at Eastern.

The workshop was hosted by the Foreign Language Alliance and the Modern and Classical Languages Department and funded by a grant from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, the Office of Academic Affairs, and the deans of Education/Professional Studies and Arts and Sciences.

Breaking Ground in the Future

Eastern Connecticut State University shared the excitement of its new South Residential Village in an upbeat groundbreaking ceremony in October. Guests included Governor John Rowland, CSU Board of Trustee Chairman Lawrence McHugh, Department of Public Works Commissioner James T. Fleming, and more than 100 other dignitaries.



This artist's rendering of the South Residential Village shows how the three buildings will be configured around a park-like commons.

The \$49 million project consists of three brick buildings with cast stone accents. Building One, a five-story, 66,759 square-foot traditional residence hall with two bedrooms sharing a bathroom, will be completed in August 2004. Buildings Two and Three are apartment suites, and will be finished in August 2005. Building Two is a six-story, 91,953 square-foot facility, Building Three is seven stories and occupies 97,244 square feet of space. Each residence hall contains 250 beds.

Let's Take in a Movie, an Eastern Flick

The next time you see Kevin Gilbert and Max Moraga, tip your hat. The creative work of these two Eastern students was featured from November 6-16 at the International Independent Film Festival at Madison Square Garden in New York. Their film, "Desert Queen," was the only music video showcased at the festival. It received top honors and was featured at the festival's opening ceremonies. Gilbert and Moraga have produced several other films. Their film "Demon Killers" was featured on www.ifilm.com for more than a year after it was released in February 2002.

Habitat for Humanity: Gotta Have a Home

Twelve Eastern students and two professors crawled into cardboard boxes and braved the outdoors for 24 hours to raise \$1350 for Habitat for Humanity during the 2003 Shack-



(front row; from left) Nicole Criscuolo, Northford, Early Childhood; Kristen Elliott, Colchester, Elementary Education; Heather Fletcher, Putnam, Psychology; Emily Brown, Putnam, Psychology. (back row, from left) Anna Boyle, Lebanon, Secondary Education; Professor Peter Bachiochi, advisor, Psychology Department; Sara Brown, Putnam, Psychology; Allison Mongles, North Haven, History.

a-Thon. Students solicited donations from other members of the Eastern family. The goal was to raise public awareness on the plight of homeless and raise funds for a trip to a Habitat for Humanity location to build a home during spring break.



Chemistry Professor Charles Wynn (right) chats with Psychology Professor Peter Bachiochi.

Charlie Wynn Does It Again!

Chemistry Professor Charles Wynn loves to teach chemistry. He loves to tell stories about it as well. Wynn has just published *The Five Biggest Unsolved Problems in Science*, the third book in his science trilogy. In the book, Wynn explores a problem from each of the fields of physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and astronomy, and the reader learns what efforts are being made to solve these puzzles.

"It's all about relationships!"

"Mutual respect, trust, and honor are critical to ensure the success of relationships — including the relationship between a corporation and its customers," said Grant W. Kurtz, chairman of the board of directors of Advest, Inc., to a packed house at Webb Hall recently. Kurtz, who also is



Grant W. Kurtz, distinguished business executive-in-residence for 2003-2004, makes a point during his presentation of corporate responsibility.

Eastern's distinguished business executive-in-residence for the 2003-2004 academic year, spoke about corporate ethics, accountability, and responsibility. "His remarks were illuminating," said economics professor Ken Parzych.

Eastern's David T. Chase Free Enterprise Institute and the Business Administration Department sponsored the symposium. Kurtz has been in the securities industry for more than 38 years and has developed a reputation for helping individuals, families, and businesses learn investment strategies.

Relay for Life: Making a Critical Difference

Twenty-nine Eastern students, faculty, and staff participated in the Seventh Annual Windham Community Relay for Life, helping thousands of area citizens, area groups and businesses raise nearly \$35,000 to help the American Cancer Society. The event began at the track around Eastern's baseball field. Eastern Facilities Department staff member Nita Indars coordinated the event and helped make it a success. Two highlights of the event included the "survivor's lap," the opening lap of the relay, which is dedicated to people who have overcome cancer, and a candle-lighting ceremony that placed candles around the track and lit them to read the word "hope" as a commitment to the continuing fight against cancer.



"Relay for Life" participants at Eastern's baseball field keep up the pace in support of the American Cancer Society.

Graduate Fairing Well

Hundreds of current Eastern students will eventually move on to graduate school. They took their first step by meeting graduate school representatives during the Office of Career and Experiential Education's Second Annual Graduate School Fair held in October. Some of the universities and colleges represented included Albertus Magnus College, Massachusetts School of Law, Saint Joseph's University, Bryant College, Tufts University, and of course, Eastern's own graduate programs in organizational management, education, and accounting.

A Message from Dr. Carter

The dawning of the new year carries the afterglow of the holiday season, resolutions of new beginnings, and for those of us in academia, preparations for the rest of the academic year. As we embark on the new year, I want to share some information with you.



Good news. Our vision is to grow our campus into a world-class facility, and with the help of state officials and others, the vision continues to flourish. The South Residential Village is well underway, and we will break ground on the Child and Family Development Resource Center in February. I am hopeful that the Science Building will also proceed as planned, with this \$60+ million project likely to be in the ground by October 2004. Just as Eastern took the lead in energy conservation and environmental consciousness with the geothermal heating project, the first of its kind at any institution of higher education in Connecticut, so will the Science Building be one of the first Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED)-certified buildings on a Connecticut college campus.

Challenging news. Eastern is a wonderful place to work and learn, and we know we have many good times ahead. But we are part of a state university system, and Connecticut – like most of the United States – is still suffering from an extended economic downturn. In a nutshell, we are in the second year of lowered state investment in the Connecticut State University System, and we anticipate that the 2004-2005 fiscal year will extend that decline. We project a state funding level for 2005 that is \$2.8 million less than fiscal year 2002.

Even if the legislature adopts the Board of Trustees's proposed 12.5 percent tuition increase for CSU students, Eastern will


be \$939,000 short of our expenditure projections for next year, based on expected state revenues and additional tuition revenues. Other aspects of our financial status that you will find of interest:

- CSU continues to be funded at a lower level than either the community colleges or UConn (53 percent for CSU institutions vs. 60 percent for UConn and 67 percent for the community colleges)
- At the same time, CSU is the best value in Connecticut higher education, with the cost per full-time student amounting to half that of Trinity College, and lower than the other 14 colleges and universities in the state.

Those of us who have been around for awhile know these things come in cycles, and I truly believe that the long-range promise for Connecticut and Eastern is positive. Indeed, some will tell you that we are already on the path of economic recovery. In the meantime, please keep in mind — unlike the federal government, Eastern Connecticut State University can't spend money we do not have.

My commitment must be to those faculty and staff already employed at the University. Other than positions for the new Child and Family Resource Development Center, the new residence halls, and any grant-funded positions, we have stopped all current searches for new positions. We also have asked all budget authorities within the University to work even more diligently to manage their budgets during the remaining months of this fiscal year.

Working together, we will get past this dip in the road. With the dedication of our faculty and staff, with the energy and spirit that our students bring to campus, and with the support of donors, legislators, community leaders, and other friends, Eastern will continue to advance its goal of being a world-class, public liberal arts university. Thank you all for your contributions to the effort.


David G. Carter
President

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