

# newsflash

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

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Student volunteer Marjorie Bondi, center, gives Judicial Officer Kim Silcox, left, and Coordinator of International Student Affairs Christiana Thomas a hand fitting a giant size Elmo into a bag during Eastern's teddy bear drive.

## Teddies for Tots

The holiday gift-giving season started a little early at Eastern this year. The Office of International Programs and the Office of AccessAbility Services combined forces to organize the Second Annual Holiday Teddy Bear (and Friends) Drive. The two-week drive collected 150 stuffed animals, which were given to the residents at the Holy Family Home and Shelter. As a result, the Eastern community brightened the holidays for many children. Congratulations to all involved in this successful community outreach activity.

## Eastern's Employees Give Freely

It was another successful State Employees Campaign for Charitable Giving at Eastern. The support of Eastern faculty and staff helps the communities we live in. Eastern contributions may fill an oil tank, provide counseling services, or put food on someone's table. Over the years, this has been Eastern's most successful campaign. Increases for 2003 were marked in many major categories. The total amount pledged reached \$27,169, with an average pledge of \$274.43. The number of \$500+ contributors rose to 26 — an increase of 6 from the 2002 campaign.

## Jamaican Educator Visits Campus



Dr. Ethley London

In early December 2003, Dr. Ethley London, executive director of the University Council of Jamaica, toured the campus and met with Eastern faculty and staff to talk about the collaborative efforts between Eastern and the Jamaican Ministry of Education. Dr. London was presented with a video created by Media Services that showcases the ECSU/Jamaican program.

The video is part of the marketing plan to recruit new participants and will be shown on Jamaican television.

The collaborative program includes a summer study program on Eastern's campus and instruction from Eastern faculty members throughout the year in Jamaica. During commencement ceremonies in 2003, 68 Jamaican teachers and principals earned bachelor's degrees in sociology from Eastern.

## Eastern Fetes December Graduates

On December 12, prospective December graduates attended a reception in the Betty Tipton Room held in their honor. A total of 334 students were expected to complete their degree requirements during the fall semester or January intersession. *(continued on next page)*



President Carter congratulates a student and her family during a ceremony held in honor of December graduates.



A happy student celebrates at December's graduation ceremony.

"The number of December graduates has grown steadily over the years and many of these students are unable to participate in the May Commencement ceremonies," said Dimitrios S. Pachis, vice president for academic affairs. "For this reason, it is important to recognize their accomplishments in a public gathering and provide them with the opportunity to meet with their professors, friends, and family members."

The Reverend Laurence A.M. LaPointe of the campus ministry led the invocation. Other speakers included President David G. Carter; Dr. Pachis; Senior Class President Christina M. Martinez; Edward J. Giard, president of the Eastern Alumni Association; and 2003 Distinguished Faculty Member of the Year and English professor Marcia P. McGowan.

### Calabrese Wins Campo Scholarship

Sharon Calabrese, a junior from Pomfret Center, is this year's recipient of the Constance Campo Scholarship, presented by the Department of English. Calabrese was selected for exemplifying Campo's spirit and work ethic, demonstrating excellence in her studies, and maintaining sensitivity to feminist and diversity issues.



English professor and chair of the English Department Elena Tapia congratulates Sharon Calabrese on being named the 2003 recipient of the Constance Campo Scholarship.

Calabrese was honored at the start of the department's Senior Seminar readings. During their senior year, English majors must take a two-semester course, at the end of which each completes a final paper. Four students, two from each class, were selected to present a portion of their papers at the Senior Seminar readings. Lacey Magowan of Preston and Matt Crouch of Voluntown read from papers they wrote in Chris Torockio's Novel-in-Stories seminar. Melanie Godbout of Willington and Patricia Pacharski of Norwich read on the subject of "Medieval Queens and Noble Women," a class taught in spring 2003 by Meredith Clermont-Ferrand.



### Dr. King Remembered

On January 19, in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Eastern presented a 12-part television series on the University's cable channel that looks back on the life and times of one of the greatest civil rights leaders of the past century. This year would have been King's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The series was originally researched, written, and produced in 1983 by Dwight Bachman, public relations officer at ECSU, when he was a news producer for the Connecticut-based Satellite News Channel.



Dr. King holds a press conference during the 1954 Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott. The television series, "Dr. Martin Luther King: A Look Back," aired on ECSU-TV (Channel 22) on Jan. 19.

"Dr. King changed the course of history not only for black and white America but the entire world," said Bachman. "The series begins with a look at the forces that brought this humble Baptist preacher out of his pulpit and pushed him into the forefront of the civil rights movement. I hope every person who views this series will enjoy it and recommit to King's idea of making this a more just world."

### Eastern Player Featured in *Sports Illustrated*

Allison Coleman, senior guard on Eastern's women's basketball team, appeared in "Faces in the Crowd" in the January 12 issue of *Sports Illustrated*. The news brief cites Coleman's recent accomplishment of becoming Eastern's all-time leading scorer.

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