

# newsflash

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

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## The Changing Face of America

Public Broadcasting System (PBS) National News Correspondent Ray Suarez gave Eastern students, faculty and staff some straight talk about immigration on April 20, when he was the final presenter in Eastern's 2003-2004 Art and Lecture Series.



"We're in the midst of fascinating change," Suarez told the audience. An increasing flow of Hispanic immigrants into the United States is being ignored by the nation, on one hand, and being blamed for the loss of jobs by Americans, on the other. "If the immigrants stay home, they steal American jobs; if they come here, they steal American jobs. It's hard to know exactly what they are supposed to do."

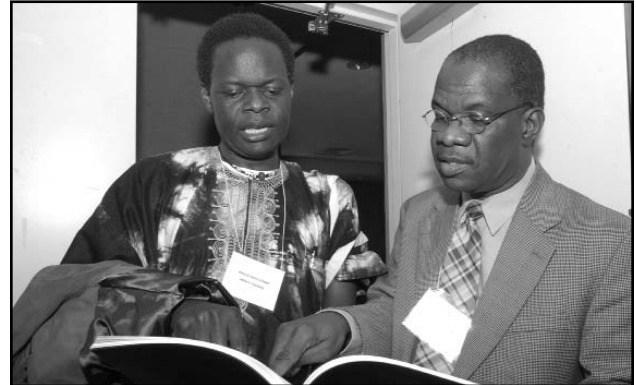
Suarez said that "if no one would hire them, they would not come," but he observed that employers saw their ability to stay in business linked to hiring cheap labor.

Suarez recalled how well the United States assimilated immigrants from Poland, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Ireland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Greece, Belgium, France, and elsewhere in Europe, during the period of 1850 to 1930, in contrast to the current immigration from Latin America, Africa, and other developing areas.

In the opinion of Suarez, public institutions like Eastern must view changing demographics as a given and react appropriately. "If people are here, isn't it better that they be trained rather than untrained? The extent to which they are deemed just a bunch of arms and backs is the extent to which they will remain isolated from the culture, unable to learn new skills, and less likely to raise children who will grow up to be productive, taxpaying Americans."

## New York African Studies Association Conference Convenes at Eastern

More than 150 scholars and educators of African Studies converged on Eastern's campus for the New York African Studies Association 28th Annual Conference, April 16-17. The theme of the conference was "Engaging Africana Studies:



Production, Control and Dissemination of Knowledge in Africa and the African Diaspora."

The Hon. Una Clarke, the first Caribbean-born woman to serve in the New York Legislature, was the keynote speaker.

Floyd Bagwell, director of the learning center, received the association's Service Award. Bagwell has more than 35 years of experience in higher education administration. He has played a significant role in helping students transition from high school to enroll and graduate from college.

Dennis Canterbury, assistant professor of sociology; Eunice Matthews-Armstead, professor of sociology; and Stacey Close, professor of history, organized the conference.

## Dollars roll in from Bowlathon

Organizers raised more than \$12,000 for Eastern in the 10th Annual Eastern Bowlathon held at WilliBowl on March 13. 35 teams participated.

"This was the best year ever," said Chris Carollo, coordinator for the event. "We raised the most money and had more teams participating than in prior years."

Money raised at the bowlathon goes to scholarships to benefit first-year students. "This is for a great cause - the students," said Eastern President David G. Carter. "You are investing in the future and that's the best investment you can make."

This year's winners included Team Walmart with a two-game total of 1,418. The top female bowler, Michelle Malaro of the ECSU Bowling Club, scored 434 in her two games, while top male bowler, Bob Miderno, had a two-game total of 464. The top fund-raiser, Kellie Schimmelpfennig, raised \$500.



*Gerald Overton*

## Student Cyclist Sets High Expectations

Anthony Eisle, a senior majoring in health and physical education, is a biking enthusiast. A competitive mountain biker since the age of 14, he aspires to become a professional cyclist and compete someday in the Tour de France.



Eisle has risen quickly to the status of semipro and recently completed training in Hawaii to join the New England-based Cogwild cycling team. The Cogwilds are a road racing team whose competitions are unlike the mountain biking trail competitions in which Eisle has been competing to hone his skills. Some of his recent events include racing Cannondale bicycles on

the SOBE Head Shock Team. "Mountain racing is brutal on the body and the bike, and there is no technical support except yourself when you're out on the course," said Eisle. "Moving onto a road racing team will give me the benefit of having technical support throughout a race."

Initially Eisle will be one of the team's workers who carry water bottles and other support materials to the team member who has the best chance to win. He and other team members ride along and make sacrifices so that the team's leader can "draft" off them to save energy for a breakaway or sprint finish.

Keep your ears open and eyes peeled for Eisle as he follows his dream! Big races this season are the Green Mountain Stage Race and the Mount Washington Hill Climb.

## Research Conference Tremendous Success

More than 100 students participated in the School of Arts and Sciences Fourth Annual Student Research and Exhibition Conference on April 24. Majors range from the visual arts to computer science, history, social science, biochemistry, and graphic design. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges has cited this conference as an excellent way to showcase the talents and scholarship of students.



*Student Research and Exhibition Conference 2004—A trilingual children's book produced by Susan Bohman is being read simultaneously by three persons in English, Spanish, and French. Faculty mentor is Michèle Bosković.*

## Three Named Latin-American Distinguished Service Award Recipients

The award is presented annually to an Eastern faculty member, an Eastern student, and a member of the community. Walter Diaz, director of career services, was selected for the faculty award; Katherine Ramirez, a sophomore from Hartford, won the student award; and Peter M. Rosa, vice president for student affairs at Central Connecticut State University, won the award for service to the Latin-American community.



*Walter Diaz, faculty award;*

*Katherine Ramirez, student award;*

*Peter M. Rosa, community award*

The award recognizes the recipients for contributing to positive minority youth development, serving the needs of the Latin-American community, and/or promoting educational opportunities and advancement for members of minority groups.

## Nonprofits Hear Fund-Raising Options

The School of Continuing Education at Eastern recently hosted a Nonprofit Leadership and Philanthropy Initiative Luncheon to give representatives of nonprofit organizations an opportunity to speak with one another and share funding strategies.

Richard M. Steinberg, founder and principal of Steinberg Governance Advisors, Inc., gave the keynote address. He told the audience that because charitable giving has declined since the attacks of 9-11, nonprofit organizations need to investigate new options for raising funds.



*Richard Steinberg stresses options and strategies needed to be successful in raising funds in the non-profit sector.*

## Poyan Shojaiyan and Kristina M. Zizik Named CSU Barnard Scholars

Poyan Shojaiyan of Willimantic and Kristina M. Zizik of Oakdale have been named the Eastern Connecticut State University recipients of the Connecticut State University System's Barnard Scholar Award for 2004. The 16th annual ceremony took place on April 20, at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez was the keynote speaker at the dinner.

Shojaiyan plans to study medicine in his adopted homeland of Sweden. He has made the Dean's List in all eight of his semesters at Eastern and was presented with the Highest Achievement Award in Biology in each of the past four academic years. He also has received seven competitive scholarships during his academic career. Since September 2002, Shojaiyan has been working as a student athletics trainer at Eastern. His duties include assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of common injuries in athletics.

Kristina M. Zizik will graduate in May 2004 with dual degrees in history/social sciences and in public policy and government. Zizik has been a member of Eastern's honors



*Kristina M. Zizik and Poyan Shojaiyan at the Capitol on Collegiate Day*

program since 2000 and has maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA). She has received five scholarships, among them the Isaac Palmer Scholarship and the Lauter-Greer Competitive Scholarship for Academic Achievement. She was inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society in May 2003.

### Developing Partnerships



*Hon. Thelma Askey*

The Hon. Thelma Askey, chairperson of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, spoke with students and faculty on April 20. The presentation was sponsored by the David T. Chase Free Enterprise Institute. Askey discussed the agency's mission and its role in promoting development through public-private partnerships.

### Jack Flynn Appointed to Three-Year Safe Schools and Healthy Students Project

Jack Flynn, academic grants officer, has been named the statistical consultant for a \$9 million dollar federal project that will target several critical areas in Hartford's Public School System. Flynn will work with a team of psychological and educational statisticians and program evaluators to enhance school and community mental health prevention and treatment intervention, early childhood psychosocial and emotional development, and educational reform.



### Career Fairs Draw Crowd

More than 300 students participated in a General Career Fair and Education Career Fair in April. Employers from a wide range of companies convened on campus to talk to students, administrators, faculty and staff members, alumni and the public about employment opportunities. Some of the companies represented were Aetna, AFLAC, Camp Horizons, Inc., and the Connecticut State Police. The Education Career Fair was designed to help those interested in pursuing a teaching career. EastConn, a Regional Educational Service Center (RESC), and the public school systems in Bloomfield,

Danbury, and Glastonbury were on hand to discuss employment opportunities with Eastern students.



*Photos: Career Fair (l-r) Matthew Smith, American Express provides information to Chang Yank, '04*

*Education Fair (l-r) Jim Murray, Waterbury Public Schools shares information with Danielle Polchinski, '99*



### Easternpalooza a Success: Mixing Fun with Responsibility

On April 25, the housing staffs of Burnap, Crandall, Mead, and Winthrop halls and the Creating Awareness and Responsible Energy (C.A.R.E.) mixed fun and responsibility when they hosted "Easternpalooza." The festivities ran from noon until 6 p.m. on the Hurley Hall lawn. Students were seen on the "Human Sticky Wall" and the "Extreme Chaos Obstacle Course." Local bands provided entertainment. Eastern students competed to become Eastern Idol, a spin-off of the hit television show, American Idol. Students were given T-shirts to mark the event and won prizes including: TVs, DVD players, stereos, cameras and Eastern memorabilia. Food and drinks were provided throughout the day, compliments of Hurley Hall and Sodexo Food Services.



*A student experiencing the "Human Sticky Wall"*

### Co-op Student of the Year: Jill Greenwood

Senior Jill Greenwood, Monroe, CT, receives the 2004 Connecticut Cooperative Education Student of the Year Award from Walter Diaz, director of career services. Her co-op experiences included working as a marketing assistant at Oxford Health Plan and as a public relations intern at Stew Leonard's in Norwalk.



*Jill Greenwood receives award from Walter Diaz, director of career services*

## Biology Honors Society Induction

On April 16, 20 biology students were inducted into the Eta Omega Chapter of the Beta Beta Beta ("Tribeta") Biology Honors Society.

Keynote speaker Lori L. Badura, a neuroscientist at Pfizer Global Research and Development, gave a talk entitled, "One Scientist's Evolution: The Road to Finding What Fits." Eastern inducted Badura as an honorary member of the Eta Omega Chapter.

The goals of the society are to promote scholarship in the biological sciences, to promote the dissemination of biological knowledge, and to encourage research.



*Front row L-R: Amy Whittenburg; Shweta Chhetri; Brenna Traver; Dr. Carmen Cid, faculty advisor; Roshan Karki, vice-president. Middle row L-R: Jennifer Durnik; Kelly Barrett; Courtney Smith; Sarah McDonald; Sarah Bacchiocchi; Tammy Gendron; Phillip McArdle, Christopher Overend, Sarah Galbraith, Cara Kneser; Misha Jivan, Secretary; Kymberly Dragon, President. Back row L-R: Philip Desrosters; Thomas Christina; Kyle Santos; Yovani Soto; Nicholas Murdock, treasurer; Justin Piro, historian.*

## America Hurrah

The Department of Performing Arts and the Drama Society presented Jean-Claude van Itallie's America Hurrah! on April 20 - April 25. America Hurrah! is composed of two one-act plays, The Interview and Motel. The Interview was directed by guest director Nora Cole; Motel was directed by Larry Hunt, a mask artist. The performers were all Eastern students.



*Matthew Mello (in foreground) with Kelly Schreier and Nicole Dutram (in background) in America Hurrah!; Interview written by Jean-Claude van Itallie, Directed by Nora Cole, Theatre Guest Artist, Kat Bacon (Woman) and Elanya Delacruz (Motel Keeper); in Motel written by Jean-Claude van Itallie, Directed by Larry Hunt, Theatre Guest Artist.*

## Eastern supports WalkAmerica

This year's March of Dimes WalkAmerica, held on April 25, included members of the Eastern community. Michael Pernal, executive vice president at Eastern, spearheaded the college's participation. He is shown here with the team.



*Front row, (L-R) Julie Motolo, Geeta Pfau, Nanette Tummers  
Standing, (L-R) Richard Pfau, Janice Patry, Warcat, Allie Pinault,  
Robert Jennette, Michael Pernal, Irene Cretella.*

### Correction:

In the April 5 edition of *Newsflash*, the caption under the photograph Institute of Sustainable Energy Receives Award was incorrect. Pictured with Bill Leahy was U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham, not Kyle McSlarrow, deputy secretary of energy. *Newsflash* regrets the error.

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