

newsflash

A Newsletter for Employees of Eastern Connecticut State University

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Two Eastern Graduates, Retired Professor, and his Wife Win Alumni Awards

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Class of 2001, Ruth Rosebrooks, Class of 1954, and Charles and Virginia Prewitt received Eastern's 2004 ECSU Alumni Association Awards at the President's Leadership Dinner Gala on Oct. 21 at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford.

Adichie was presented the Distinguished Alumni Award. She has written and published more than a dozen short stories, both fiction and nonfiction, mostly about Nigeria, and garnered rave reviews from literary critics around the world with her first novel, *Purple Hibiscus*.

Rosebrooks received the Distinguished Service Award. She taught fourth and fifth grade in Granby Public Schools for 37 years. Her community service includes 50 years of service to the Red Cross Blood Drive; volunteering at a nursing home since 1991; helping out at the *Granby Drummer*; and working at the local food bank.

Charles W. Prewitt Sr. and his wife, Virginia, received the Herman Beckett "Friends of the University" Award. Prewitt, who accepted the award on behalf of his wife, taught at Eastern for many years before retiring in 1979. The Prewitts have established a Peace and Human Rights Studies Endowment fund at Eastern to fund materials for classes in peace and human rights and scholarships for students.



Left to right: Dr. Carter, Chimamanda Adichie, Charles Prewitt, Ruth Rosebrooks, and CSU Chairman Lawrence McHugh.

2004 Open House Draws a Crowd

More than 2,400 prospective high school students and their families converged on campus Sunday, Oct. 24, for the 2004 Open House. They were treated to songs from around the world by Eastern's Concert Chorale, and a motivational welcome from President Carter, who encouraged them to "enroll at Eastern and leave in four years, ready to make a difference in the world." The students attended informational sessions on athletics, residential life, and financial aid and were able to meet with every academic and service office in the university.



Sarah McInnis, a senior at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol, and her parents Brian and Karen McInnis, chat with President Carter during Open House.



Communications Professor Jaime Gómez describes opportunities in his department to an interested family.

Distinguished Business Executive-in-Residence

On Oct. 19, Elaine A. Pullen, distinguished business executive-in-residence for the 2004-2005 academic year, told a room full of students, faculty, and staff that three major forces drive today's economy: China, the rapid growth of ink jet printing, and innovative emerging companies. Pullen, president of Gerber Scientific Products, said China, with nearly a billion and a half people and lower labor costs, represents a huge market for U.S. companies. She also said ethics will play a key role in the survival of corporations. Pullen will be presenting several talks during the year on aspects of management, free enterprise, and leadership.



Left: Elaine Pullen proudly displays Eastern attire.



Elaine Pullen provides students with details on the Chinese market.

Media Critic Entertains Eastern Audience

"Flat out good!" That's the way one observer described national best-selling author Eric Alterman's presentation on Oct. 13 in the Betty Tipton Room. Nearly 400 students, faculty and staff and area residents would probably agree. Alterman kicked off this year's Arts & Lecture Series with an informative and entertaining accounting of current media activity regarding this year's presidential election. He drew a hoot from the crowd when he said, "We shouldn't even be having an election this year," citing what he believes to be President Bush's incompetence. But he also said an encounter with Kerry frightened him as well. And he called Ralph Nader "our suicide bomber."



Relay for Life

2,890 people walked and helped raised more than \$180,000 in this year's Windham Area Relay for Life, held Oct. 16 - 17 at Eastern's Sports Complex.



Making a statement of affirmation and resolve, dozens of cancer survivors kicked off the event.



Trawick-Smith Honored

On Oct. 13, President Carter presented Jeffrey Trawick-Smith, professor of education, with a plaque for being named Connecticut State University Professor by the CSU Board of Trustees. Trawick-Smith is a widely recognized and respected authority in the field of early childhood education, has written seven books and numerous articles on the subject and has received more than \$4.5 million in grants that have contributed to the development of programs to enhance early childhood education in Connecticut.



Students Learn about Current Jobs



Connecticut Department of Education staff member Nancy Walsh shares job openings at her agency with career fair participants during Eastern's Jobs Fair on Oct. 5. She said she was highly impressed with Eastern. "This facility is wonderful. So was lunch. Everything was well organized and the staff was very helpful!"

Governor Rell Speaks at Groundbreaking Ceremony

On Oct. 14, Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell and Eastern President David Carter led a long list of dignitaries when Eastern broke ground for its new Child and Family Development Resource Center at the construction site on Eastern's North Campus. "My administration is committed to creating an early childhood education system that is the best in the country," said Governor Rell. "Eastern's new Child and Family Development Resource Center is consistent with this vision."



Following the groundbreaking ceremony, rain forced dignitaries to gather in the Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Conference Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library to dedicate the South Residential Village. Connecticut State Department of Public Works Deputy Commissioner David O'Hearn said, "It has been a delight working closely with Eastern as we continue the remarkable progress made by this administration in modernizing and expanding this outstanding university."



President Carter, University Senate President Martin Levin, DPW Deputy Commissioner O'Hearn, SGA President Lorelei Richey, CSU Chancellor William Cibes, and CSU Chairman Lawrence McHugh cut the ribbon at the SRV Dedication.

Eastern's Health, Wellness, & Benefits Expo a Big Hit

Eastern's 12th annual Health, Wellness and Benefits Expo on Oct. 12 in the Betty Tipton Room was another huge success. More than 50 area health and human resource-related vendors were on hand to provide students, faculty, staff, and members of the community with information on health issues and how to prevent illness.



Booths like this one on poisons provided a host of health-related information at this year's Expo.

Electra 2004 Goes Back in Time in Eastern's Harry Hope Theatre

From Oct. 12–16, Eastern's Department of Performing Arts presented *Electra 2004*, a new adaptation of the *Electra* story based on the plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides in the University's Harry Hope Theatre.



The production, directed by Theatre Professor David Pellegrini, took the audience on a trip through the ages as this classic story is seen through the lens of contemporary times. The set for the show was designed by guest artist David Regan. Stephanie Hawks

designed the costumes, and Debra Siegel planned the lighting for the show.

Eastern Faculty Wins First Prize in Exhibit

Muriel Miller, adjunct professor of visual arts at Eastern recently won a first prize cash reward at "A Toast to Whimsy," a group exhibition held at the Essex Art

Association in September. Miller submitted an acrylic painting entitled, "Crystal Ball."

Miller has been an adjunct professor at Eastern since 1995, teaching courses in painting and drawing. She specializes in color theory and is a landscape artist.

In 2003, Miller was named the recipient of the 2003 Excellence in Teaching Award from Eastern. An active member in the Connecticut State University Studies Abroad Program, she has traveled with Eastern students to places such as England, Ireland, and Australia.

Yankees/Red Sox Car bashing

Blame the Yankee loss on the residents of Burnap Hall. Brian Ohler, president of the Burnap Hall Council, says he's not certain, but he believes a week before the final end came, Red Sox fans living in Burnap Hall spooked the Yankees by out bashing Yankee fans in a car-bashing fund raiser. Students bought the cars for \$150 from a local salvage yard, but made a profit of more than \$400. Ohler said it was worth every penny!



Eastern Concert Chorale Travels to Carnegie Hall

On Sunday, Nov. 21, the Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) Concert Chorale will perform at New York City's Carnegie Hall. The Concert Chorale will join five other university choirs from across the country to perform Mozart's Coronation Mass. Earl Rivers of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music will lead the vocalists, and the New England Symphonic Ensemble will provide accompaniment for the performance.

