

Spike Lee: Do the Right Thing!



Acclaimed filmmaker Spike Lee stepped into Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium to a standing ovation on Oct. 6, and then captivated an audience of nearly 1,500 students, faculty, staff, and visitors for an hour and a half. Lee shared anecdotes of his own life experiences, some light-hearted and some more serious, and addressed several topical social themes that are near and dear to his heart. Lee urged African-American young people not to “dumb down” their ambitions and behavior in order to be accepted. He referred to the offensive imagery of “gangsta rap” that permeates today’s youth culture as “genocide” and urged all the young people listening to reject its violent, misogynistic themes. Lee’s message also contained many universal truths. He said nothing should get in the way of accomplishing one’s dreams. He urged students to believe in themselves, but reminded them that nothing is accomplished without “elbow grease.”

“Don’t wait for someone else to do it for you. Go out and create your opportunities,” he said.

The Beijing Opera: “Hao!” Simply the Best!



You missed a real treat if you missed the recent Harry Hope Theatre performances of the Beijing Opera. The four performers, sponsored by the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts, wrapped up two weeks of exhilarating performances on Oct. 2 to rave reviews, combining different artistic forms — martial arts, song, dance, acrobatics, and a historical play — in two separate pieces at each performance. In turn, enthusiastic audiences answered with whistles, handclapping, and even some stomping in response to the elegant choreography, singing, dancing, and presentation of martial art skills.

Eastern Student Wins National Poster Contest



A poster created by graphic design student Ashley Crispino '06 of Southington has been selected by the American Association of Museums (AAM) to help celebrate the AAM Centennial. Paige Howarth '06 of Willimantic joined Crispino as one of only five national finalists. The AAM is the largest association of museums in the United States, with a membership composed of 3,100 art, history, science, military, maritime, and youth museums as well as aquariums, zoos, botanical gardens, arboretums, historic sites, and science and technology centers. The posters were commissioned to celebrate 100 years of AAM accomplishments.

“When you realize that Ashley’s poster will appear in museums across the country and that the association felt her design best

represented their first 100 years —what an honor and an accomplishment,” said Eastern President David G. Carter in congratulating Crispino on her recognition.

“This has made me optimistic about pursuing a graphic design career in the future,” said Crispino.

President Carter: Justice, Fairness, and Equality = Humanity



“Justice, Fairness, and Equality Equals Humanity.” That was the message from Eastern President David G. Carter in a speech to the Middlesex County United Way’s conference, “Embracing Multiculturalism: A Roadmap to Personal and Business Success,” held at the Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown on Sept. 20. In a speech that brought both laughter and tears, Carter said discrimination costs America as much as \$20 billion dollars annually, a figure that doesn’t include the economic, social, and psychological impact of racism, sexism, or discrimination based on one’s religion, age, or disability. He concluded by saying, “We lose out on an infinite number of opportunities to grow individually and collectively as a society when we don’t view each other as human beings. What is important is to realize that we must all work together to promote and create a more just strong community. When we work for justice, fairness, and equality and achieve it, that adds up to humanity.”

Alumni and Producers of “Highway to Heaven” and “Bonanza” Visit Eastern

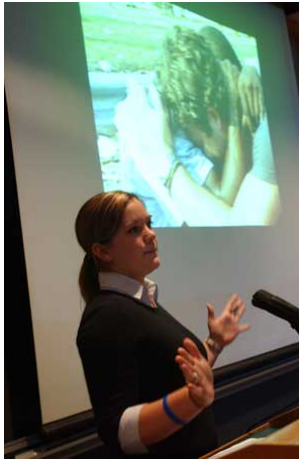
“It was a pleasure to host our good friends Kent and Susan McCray at the University recently,” said Eastern President David G. Carter, following the McCray’s visit to campus on Sept. 20. The couple are well-known Hollywood producers who have produced such television shows as “Bonanza,” “High Chaparral,” “Highway to Heaven,” and “Little House on the Prairie.” “We are pleased that the McCrays have offered to host a reception for Eastern alumni living in California, area guidance counselors, and potential students at their Malibu home. They are true friends of Eastern,” said Ken DeLisa, vice president for institutional advancement.





(from left to right – Chris Carollo, Joy Goff, Michael Pernal, Ken DeLisa, Kent and Susan McCray, Pam Roylance (guest of the McCrays and star of "The New Little House on the Prairie"), President Carter, Ellen Brodie, Robert Ritz and Dimitrios Pachis)

Hurricane Katrina Touches Amanda Berry and Bart Mazur



On Oct. 3, Amanda Barry '03 and current Eastern student Bart Mazur discussed their experiences as volunteers in the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. Barry was dispatched by the Red Cross to Houston to assist the victims there, while Mazur, a National Guardsman, said he couldn't say no when he was asked to help in New Orleans. Both said the experience was life-altering and encouraged Eastern students to try to help others in need.



83 Windham Street, Willimantic, Connecticut 06226 USA | Phone Number: 860-465-5735 Fax: 860-465-5083 | [Contact Us](#) | [University Disclaimer](#) | [ECSU Home](#)

Benefit Concert



Members of the Eastern Performing Arts faculty presented a stirring concert on Sept. 22 to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina. Richard Jones-Bauman, banjo; Eldon Downing, voice; Anthony Cornicello, jazz piano; Eric Ouellette, classical piano; David Belles, voice; Chase Rozelle, voice; and the Thread City Brass Quartet with Robert Lemons on trumpet presented a powerful mix of jazz, blues, classical, folk, gospel, and other musical genres to showcase Southern culture and society. David Belles, director of Eastern's Chorale, said, "We decided to use our talents to come together and honor New Orleans by presenting a faculty concert as a vehicle to support the much needed relief effort."

The Sylveen String Quartet



The Sylveen String Quartet performed in the Johnson Community Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library on Oct. 5 as a part of the University Hour series. The quartet played a myriad of musical styles including Bach, experimental classical, American Ragtime, gypsy folk music, and more, all with vigor and a contagious excitement that delighted the crowd of more than 100.

Alegria Returns to Eastern



Salvadoran poet Claribel Alegria, who delivered the Commencement address at Eastern in 1998, returned to campus on Sept. 28 to read from several of her anthologies. The selection of poems took the audience on a voyage through the milestone events in her life, including the loss of her virginity, fallen comrades, and the comforts of family. Alegria's works contrast the joys of humanity against the chaotic tumult of Latin America's political and religious violence.

Constitution Day: Responding to Social Change



“The Amistad Incident of 1839, which only happened 30-40 miles down the road from here, is a testament to the strength of our Constitution,” said Christopher R. Cloud, president and CEO of Amistad America, Inc. Cloud was one of a panel of speakers to honor the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 22 in the Paul E. Johnson Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library. The speakers provided students from Eastern Connecticut State University and Windham High School insight into the relevance of the Constitution historically and today. Frederica Gray, former executive director of Connecticut’s Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, discussed women’s rights, and Paulann Sheets, an environmental law attorney, explained the constitutional basis for protecting the environment.

Mark Your Calendars!

Honorable Jennifer Hillman to Speak At Eastern

The Honorable Jennifer Hillman, commissioner of the U.S. International Trade Commission, will speak at Eastern on Oct. 11. Commissioner Hillman’s address, sponsored by the David T. Chase Enterprise Institute, begins at 11 a.m. and takes place in the Paul E. Johnson, Sr. Community Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library. The public is invited. Admission is free.

Robert Kaplan to Speak



Noted historian and political writer Robert Kaplan will speak at Eastern on Oct. 12 at 3 p.m. His lecture is part of the University Hour series and will be held in the Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Conference Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library.

Eastern Professor to Present Documentary

Denise Matthews, associate professor of communication, will premiere her film documentary, “Ask J. Edgar Hoover,” at 7:30 p. m. on Oct. 13. The documentary will be shown in Room 110 of Webb Hall. The public is invited. Admission is free.

Relay For Life



Eastern students, faculty, and staff will again have the opportunity to raise money for cancer research in the Eighth Annual Windham Area Relay for Life on Oct. 15 and 16. The 24-hour event, designed to celebrate survivorship of cancer patients and raise money for American Cancer Society research and programs, begins on Saturday at 11 a.m.

Page [1](#) 2