

EASTERN'S SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS RECEIVE "GOLD" RATING

Eastern has received its first "gold" rating for sustainability from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). Eastern was one of only three colleges in Connecticut to receive a gold rating and is one of 138 colleges and universities nationwide to be gold-rated by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

The rating is a way for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance in broad areas such as academics, operations, innovation and leadership, among others. The only other Connecticut institutions ranked gold are Yale University and Connecticut College.

Under President Elsa Núñez's leadership, the University has revised its Climate Action Plan and pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030, while advancing climate resiliency through participation in Second Nature's Climate Leadership Network. "I am very proud of Eastern's sustainability accomplishments,"



said Núñez. "While there is much work ahead, we have made good progress and will continue to increase the integration of sustainability into our curriculum, enhance campus and community engagement, and improve efficiencies and carbon-free initiatives in our operations."

"STARS provides a mechanism by which Eastern can prioritize actions to improve sustainable practices across all sectors of campus," said Patricia Szczys, executive director of

Eastern's Institute for Sustainability. "This achievement is the result of efforts of the entire community."

The gold rating is valid through 2025, at which point Eastern will submit a new report for review. The University's latest report was peer-reviewed by sustainability specialists at Connecticut College and Wesleyan University for quality control prior to formal STARS submission.



Soojin Kim

Professors receive North Star Fellowships



Khai Zhi Sim

Two assistant professors at Eastern, Khai Zhi Sim and Soojin Kim, have received fellowships from the New England Board of Higher Education's North Star Collective, which supports Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) faculty. The fellowships are designed to help junior faculty achieve promotion and tenure, with a special emphasis on writing, publishing and providing mentorship.

Sim, assistant professor of economics and finance, studies banking, macro and monetary economics, and applied game theory. During his fellowship, Sim will work on two research projects: One will

analyze the strategic interactions between financial institutions and policymakers, and the other, in collaboration with a Wesleyan University professor, will look at how bank bailouts incentivize banks' investment in complicated and opaque assets.

Sim's native language is Mandarin Chinese. "I believe that my participation in the fellowship would be a great help to me in writing the two research articles," said Sim in his fellowship application. "As a non-native English speaker, I am usually at a disadvantage when it comes to communicating my ideas through writing."

Kim, assistant professor of art and art history, will use her fellowship to work on

a limited-edition artist's book, "Granny Pants," exploring the cultural aspects of one of her early memories of Korean grandmothers wearing baggy pants, a holdover from what Korean women were once forced to wear by Japanese colonial authorities in the early 1900s. These "Mom Pae," a type of "balloon pants," were popular with her grandmother's generation in Korea.

Eastern was one of the North Star Collective's founding members in 2022. The collective now provides fellowships to 16 member colleges and universities, both public and private, in New England.

Early childhood education videos reach 5 million views

Eastern's Center for Early Childhood Education (CECE) reached a milestone on March 22 when it surpassed 5 million views on its YouTube channel. The center is a research and professional development institute focused on improving the quality of early care and education.

Center faculty and staff conduct research on child development and teaching strategies, and develop educational videos to train current and future teachers. Videos are hosted on the center's website and YouTube channel.

The center's YouTube channel has more than 250 videos featuring researchers and other experts, teachers, home day care providers, home visitors and program administrators. To date, more than 130 Eastern students have been involved in projects or research that led to videos or have served as production interns helping to capture and edit video footage.

Videos have been viewed around the world, with most views coming from the United States, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and India. Viewership also comes from countries such as the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and Pakistan.

CECE videos have received seven national Telly Awards for technical excellence in video production, most recently for "A Study of the Play of Dual Language Learners in an English-Speaking Classroom," featuring the research of undergraduate student Stefanie Dominguez '18.



Stefanie Dominguez '18 sits in front of the video recording equipment she used to conduct her honors thesis research on multilingual learners.

Allison Lundy '20, Jeffrey Trewick-Smith, Alyssa Berry '20, and Julia DeLapp show off high-scoring toys from the 2019 TAMPANI Toy Study after being interviewed by WIL's Wayne Norman.



"Chinatown Chronicles" captures vibrant community



Eastern's first exhibit of the spring 2023 semester was "Chinatown Chronicles." In collaboration with Charles Yu's "Interior Chinatown," Eastern's 2023 NEA Big Read book selection, the exhibit ran Jan. 18-March 9.

Taking inspiration from Yu's novel, Chinatown Chronicles "explores poignant themes of interior Chinatown through the work of 20 artists who offer unexpected connections and parallels for Yu's incisive portrait of a vibrant community that has thrived in the face of unrelenting stereotyping," explained Julia Wintner, director of Eastern's Art Gallery.

