

The Campus Lantern

The student newspaper of Eastern Connecticut State University

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Bob Woodward Speaks to Eastern

By Mallory Daley
News Editor

Bob Woodward gave the final lecture of Eastern Connecticut State University's 2012-13 Arts and Lecture Series on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 7:00 pm. The lecture, given in the Geissler Gymnasium to an audience of students, staff and the public, reflected on the influence of press on politics.

He went on to address the highlights of his career, noting the two Pulitzer Prizes and countless other awards bestowed on Woodward for his courageous work. Best known as the man who broke the Watergate scandal, he has been referred to as the best reporter of our time. He has also authored and coauthored twelve #1 national bestselling non-fiction books and has been a reporter and editor for the Washington Post since 1971. His latest book, "The Price of Politics" is yet another product of Woodward's thorough investigative work, something he explained was becoming harder and harder to do. "Too often the truth gets drowned out... we overlook details and reality."

A huge lack of transparency in political affairs was a common theme throughout the speech. To supplement his feelings on the government, Woodward shared an amusing anecdote about Al Gore, someone he is admittedly not too fond of. When he asked Mr. Gore how much the people know of what is going on behind closed doors at the White House, he replied, 1%. When Woodward asked how much he would know if he asked Mr. Gore right then what was going on behind closed doors, he replied, 2%. It is this lack of transparency that Woodward believes should frighten us all. "Democracy dies in darkness"



Bob Woodward

Megan Davis/The Campus Lantern

might be one of the most powerful statements made that night.

When Eastern student, Jordan Sakal, asked whom it is we

really should believe when reading and hearing news, Woodward also addressed the way the country has become divided. The strict partisan divide of the people in the country and in government is making it even more difficult to reach a common understanding. After asking Paul Ryan why he believed no one was seeing eye-to-eye, Ryan replied saying that the democrats "don't like us" and will not speak to one another. If there is no communication, nothing can be accomplished in a clean, cohesive way. When asked if he believed the scandals revealed at the time of Watergate could be uncovered now,

Woodward said he believed that while there is certainly less transparency, if someone is willing to do the investigative work, there will always be more clarity than if no investigation was done. His work is never done quickly. Woodward explains

that it takes years to do a thorough investigation, "We can't know history right away; the most important parts are what we find out later." Interviews, notes and documents need to be collected to back up facts.

When a small group of Eastern students spoke with Mr. Woodward before his lecture, he brought with him a copy of the school newspaper, The Campus Lantern. To explain the importance of the First Amendment, he brought up the self-coined "cartoon-gate episode" at Eastern. He spoke on the issue saying that it was the papers job to keep practicing our rights, and to never let the news slip into the same darkness our government has developed. According to The Mansfield Patch, he said he was going to take a copy of the Campus Lantern student newspaper, "Back to Washington DC to show them that the first Amendment is alive and well in Connecticut."

He was certainly an inspiration to all students in the conference and all were incredibly grateful for the opportunity given to speak with Mr. Woodward. Near the end of his lecture, Woodward answered questions from the public. In the answering of a question about the relation of the Watergate Scandal to uncover-

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Marilyn Nelson Reads Her Poetry at Eastern

By Ashley Kus
Editor-in-Chief

WILLIMANTIC - On March 12, 2013, former poet laureate of Connecticut Marilyn Nelson joined over fifty students and professors in the Science Building room 301 to read a few select poems from her collection. The reading began at 5:00 p.m. with a brief introduction by Dr. Donaghy from the English Department. Donaghy first gave an overview of Eastern's English department by highlighting the literary publication *Eastern Exposure*, and mentioning the Eastern Writer's Guild. He then went on to give a brief summary of the many books Nelson has written such as her most recent publication, a collection of old and new poems *Faster Than Light*, which all of her readings of the night would come from. Nelson took the podium and addressed the crowded room where people were sitting on chairs, the floor, and even window ledges. "Thank you for coming out in the rain, that was very nice of you," she said. The poet wasted no time in getting to her first poem "Millie-Christine." She explained that it was based on a true story about Siamese twins who were stolen as infants and taken to England "My poem imag-

ines Christine talking at the point of when Millie is dying," Nelson said. The room went silent as she read the poem, which made up seven sections and ranged almost seven pages.

Nelson then went on to read several other poems from *Faster Than Light* including "Little Dialogue with the Muse," "Second Alzheimer's Sonnet," and "Live Jazz, Franklin Park Zoo." She explained that most of her poems are based on true stories and that a significant amount of research goes into every one of them. During the reading of her fifth poem of the night "In the Waiting Room," Nelson explained it's inspiration. "I wrote it after a trip to Tahiti where hundreds of nuclear tests took place over time... often wind blew fallout to places where people were living," she said. She also summarized how the poem was a different version of Elizabeth Bishop's poem of the same name. The room listened intently as Nelson read the poem about a girl waiting in a Polynesian doctor's office for her aunt.

After the reading portion of the night, Nelson answered several questions from the audience. Several students asked how she got her inspiration for the poems and what they

meant to her personally. "Sometimes there are things I read or are interested in, or I get suggestions," she said. One of the examples of a suggestion she got was her poem "A Wreath for Emmett Till," "Someone suggested I should write a children's poem about lynching," she said. When asked where she writes all of her award winning poems, Nelson referenced Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*; "There's something powerful and magical about having your own space, especially internally. Meditation helps," she said. Nelson continued to be open in her responses especially when she confessed that she was not a good poetry reader. She was met with laughter and applause when she added; "Contemporary poets don't want to be understood." By six-fifteen, professors and students were still asking questions and Nelson continued to answer them. Dr. Donaghy wrapped up the night by asking what advice she could give aspiring poets, to which Nelson answered simply; "Ask the essential questions. Who, what, where, and why." For more information on Marilyn Nelson visit: <http://www.poetry-foundation.org/bio/marilyn-nelson>

Eastern Basketball Star Jamie Kohn at Home Playing Across the Pond

By Jonathan Mizger
Assistant Sports Editor

Jamie Kohn played his final collegiate basketball season at Eastern Connecticut State University last year. Now, the 23-year-old Kohn is playing professionally in a different nation. Kohn has always wanted to explore new horizons and play the game he loves. Now he gets to do both.

A stalwart on three straight 20-win seasons at Eastern - including last year's NCAA Sweet 16 qualifier -- Kohn is a guard/forward for the Tees Valley Mohawks (Division 1 and National Trophy) of Middlesbrough, England, in the England Basketball League. Middlesbrough is a large town situated on the south bank of the River Tees in north east England, that sits within the county of North Yorkshire.



Photo courtesy of David Kohn

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