

# Former state senator Lana Pollack to give keynote at commencement

By Carol Anderson

Approximately 2,200 students are eligible to walk during Eastern Michigan University's graduation ceremonies April 25 at the EMU Convocation Center.

Commencement ceremonies for the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Technology begin at 10:30 a.m. Doors open at 9 a.m. Ceremonies for the Colleges of Business, Education, and Health and Human Services begin at 2 p.m. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

Lana Pollack, former Michigan state senator (1983-1994) and the senate's only democratic woman for eight years, will be the keynote speaker for both ceremonies. Pollack currently is president of the Michi-

gan Environmental Council.

While state senator, Pollack served on the appropriations, finance, education, criminal justice and urban affairs committees. Her legislation covered education, civil rights and criminal justice as well as Michigan's Polluter Pay Law, which forced polluters to clean up toxins they dumped into the environment.

Pollack was founding publisher of Michigan Monthly, a 58,000-circulation, general interest magazine for the state's decision-



Pollack

makers covering Michigan business, politics, natural resources, travel and history. She has a bachelor's degree, master's degree and a doctorate, all from the University of Michigan. Pollack was recently elected into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2002.

Tickets are available through the Convocation Center box office (487-2282). All guests must have a ticket to be admitted. Handicapped seating is available and there will be a signer to aid those with a hearing impairment.

Stewart Work, emeritus professor of chemistry, and Leah Adams, emeritus professor of teacher education, will serve as grand marshals for the morning and afternoon ceremonies, respectively.

## Bernie's road to Rome

O'Connor receives appointment to Vatican

By Carol Anderson

Bernard O'Connor, or Father Bernie as most people on campus know him, will soon trade in his informal morning discussions in McKenny Union for a more international arena. He is headed for the Vatican in Rome where he can stroll through St. Peter's Square and greet people.

After a decade of teaching political science, serving as assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and counseling EMU students and staff as a Catholic priest and EMU ROTC chaplain, O'Connor is leaving Eastern Michigan University June 1.

Catholic priests are usually transferred every 6-12 years, so he expected a move, O'Connor said.

"My bishop was looking to move me to Australia or England, but said my experience pointed to Rome," said O'Connor.

By June 18, he'll be crossing many borders on his way to the Vatican to join Pope John Paul II's papal administration. O'Connor will officially take on the title of "Political Adviser and Consultant for the Congregation for Oriental Churches" as of July 1, 2004.

"'Oriental' refers to the eastern countries such as Egypt, Syria, Iran and Jordan," he said. "The Christian minorities (in those countries) have different political concepts and different backgrounds," said O'Connor, whose responsibilities will include helping the eastern part of the Catholic Church communicate with one another. He also will work with various governments on human rights concerns, he said.

Currently, O'Connor is busy renewing his Italian language skills. His bishop in Ottawa, who secured O'Connor's new Vatican appointment, told him to "get



**THE POPE'S CALLING:** After a decade at Eastern Michigan University, Fr. Bernie O'Connor will be leaving June 1 to take an appointment with the Vatican in Rome.

moving on learning Italian," O'Connor said. Since finding out about the appointment in March, he has been to the bookstore and has had an intensive two-week tutoring course to brush up on his mastery of the language.

"I speak just enough Italian to get into trouble," said O'Connor. "I can read Italian, but can't converse very well."

The freedom to wander and the ability to give console are two facets of his daily routine on campus that he said he'll miss, especially if he can't communicate in Italian with the people in Rome.

During a typical week, O'Connor would be in McKenny Union at 8 a.m. with the goal of meeting 20 new people every day. His EMU contract included a "20-per-day"

SEE ROME, page 2

## Mielke named COB dean

By Ron Podell

David E. Mielke, 58, has been appointed dean of Eastern Michigan University's College of Business, effective July 1, 2004, pending approval by the EMU Board of Regents.

Currently, Mielke is professor of accounting and dean of the Siedman School of Business at Grand Valley State University. Mielke will replace Nick Blanchard, who has served as interim dean of the COB since July 1, 2003. Blanchard took the helm after former dean Earl Potter accepted a position as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Southern Oregon University.

Paul Schollaert, EMU provost and vice president for academic affairs, said Mielke's background made him an especially good fit for EMU.

"Dean Mielke has demonstrated the ability to work well with the business community. He understands well the needs of the full spectrum of regional firms and he can help Eastern Michigan University continue to provide strong services to this community," Schollaert said. "Additionally, he understands the importance of preparing students for work in the global economy and I am certain that he will provide exceptional curricular leadership to this end."

"The College of Business (at EMU) has a strong tradition of excellence through their teaching and research and service," Mielke said. "The vision of President (Samuel A.) Kirkpatrick demonstrates the leadership that I think is essential for a university to excel."

Mielke said he plans to build on the COB's strong foundation by being actively involved in the business community.



Mielke

SEE MIELKE, page 4

# Children's Institute scholarships help students with children

By Kathleen Shields

Junior education major Kimberly Kwasniak is juggling more than the standard college workload.

After she is done with her classes, her studying and her part-time campus job, Kwasniak, a divorced mother of a 3-year-old daughter, heads to the Children's Institute to pick her up. For the rest of the day, Kwasniak is "Mom," and she says she's a better one as a result of a child-care scholarship she was awarded at the beginning of this semester.

Kwasniak, of Belleville, is one of 24 student/parents who were awarded child-care scholarships as a result of the University's Strategic Planning Initiatives. There has always been concern about child care as a major barrier for student-parents on campus. The Child Care Needs Survey commissioned by the Affordable Child Care Task Force and completed in 2002 pointed out that, more often than not, a lack of affordable, adequate child care kept student-parents from graduating on time, or at all.

Jacob Casteel, another EMU student who has a family, said the scholarship allowed him to accelerate his studies while having his son cared for on campus. As a result, he will be walking down the aisle at commencement this weekend.

"The child-care scholarship was huge for us," Casteel said. "Because of it, I was able to take another class and I'll graduate in April instead of December."



**STUDY TIME:** (above left) Eastern Michigan University student Jacob Casteel gets in some study time while his son plays under the couch at the Children's Institute. (above right) Off to his next class, Casteel says goodbye to his son. Casteel is one of 24 EMU students with a family who were awarded child-care scholarships from the Children's Institute. The scholarship helps make day care more affordable, allowing parents more time to pursue their degrees. Photos by Kathleen Shields

Casteel said it also is important to have his son cared for on campus so that he can spend more time with him.

"One of my goals is to miss as little of his growing up as possible," he said. "I don't want to turn around and have him be 16, with me wondering how he turned out like he did."

**"I can't say enough about what the scholarship has done for us this semester. Knowing that my daughter is well-cared for has relieved so much of my stress."**

Another parent, who requested anonymity, said he, too, will be graduating in April as a result of having the scholarship.

"Now, I can be out in the job market much earlier," he said.

Getting into a well-paying job as soon as possible was on Kwasniak's mind, too.

"I knew that it was all or nothing when I thought about going back to school," said Kwasniak,

is sometimes the case? It was really a tough decision. Most of all, I did not want to deprive my daughter of anything."

Kwasniak decided to roll the dice and enroll for a semester.

## Kimberly Kwasniak EMU student

She worried about the effect of day care on a child who had been home with her mother until the age of 3. When she saw how much her daughter enjoyed the Children's Institute, she worried that she wouldn't have the money to keep her there.

"I knew it would be tough, but it was really, really tough,"

Kwasniak said.

Kwasniak decided to give college one more semester. When she arrived back on campus after the fall break, she learned that she was eligible for a scholarship that would pay for a semester's worth of care at the Children's Institute while she attended school.

"I can't say enough about what that scholarship has done for us this semester," Kwasniak said. "Knowing that my daughter is well-cared for has relieved me of so much stress."

"Worrying about financial things is gone and I can really focus on school. When I'm done with studying and classes for the day, I can really focus on my daughter. But, the real gift is knowing that my daughter is in a good, safe environment, where she is thriving."

## EMU BY THE NUMBERS

Eastern Michigan University students, by their sheer numbers, spend a large amount of money off-campus that helps bolster the local economy. Here are some spreading of the "green" figures for 2002.



**Room and Board**  
\$55 million

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**Transportation**  
\$35 million

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**Books and Supplies**  
\$21.8 million

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**Miscellaneous**  
\$21.8 million

\$\$\$

Source: 2002 Annual Report/EMU Economic Impact Study Group

## ROME, from page 1

clause that he sometimes exceeded, he said.

He also will miss the political science department and its head, Rhonda Kinney, whom he said is remarkable.

"He has been an outstanding teacher, valued adviser, active scholar and trusted colleague," Kinney said. "Bernie's generosity and commitment to educating students has inspired us and we will miss him."

And, of course, he said he'll miss the students. In 10 years, he has taught 18 different subjects to an entire generation of young people. He has stressed civic education and constantly challenged students to explain what it is to be a responsible citizen in the United States, he said.

As a student himself, O'Connor lived in Rome from 1981-1986 when he was working on his doctorate.

In fact, when he returns to Rome, he'll

be living in the same area he called home then. Only this time, O'Connor will be living in a "big square box" of a house that is the former home of the Italian painter Raphael. That domicile is only a few blocks from St. Peter's Square, where he will be working. He estimates the distance is equivalent to walking from Welch Hall to Pray-Harold.

O'Connor's book, "Pope John Paul II: Papacy Diplomacy and the Culture of Peace," hits the bookshelves this summer.

O'Connor was ordained a Catholic priest in 1977. He earned a doctorate in systematic theology from the Gregorian University in 1986 and a law degree from the University of Tennessee in 1994.

He also has United Nations certifications in peace support operations, international humanitarian law, and peace-keeping and international conflict resolution.

# Buckson has long-time love affair with Trans Ams

By Summer Wilhelm

When he was fresh out of high school, Mathias Buckson bought something that would change his life forever:

He purchased a heritage brown, 1979 Trans Am with eight-inch snowflake wheels, four individual headlights and T-tops. After buying the car, he lost

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60 pounds, gained some points on his license and got a new feel for life.

While his first Trans Am was stolen, Buckson said his current one is a dead ringer for the original. He has owned eight Trans Ams in his lifetime and, until finding his latest one in 1997, was never quite satisfied.

"I had two Trans Ams at the time," said Buckson, a sergeant for EMU's Department of Public Safety. "One was mine, the other my wife's. I sold mine and she graciously gave up hers so that we could purchase this one."

That same year, Buckson began showing the car at car shows

around the state and at the Trans Am Nationals, the largest Trans Am show in the country, which takes place annually in Dayton, Ohio. Since 2000, his car has garnered many awards, includ-

place trophies," Buckson said. "Coupled with the trophies that came with the car when I bought it, my Trans Am has won more than 30."

However, despite the success

I always stress to my nieces and nephews is that people are more important than material possessions," said Buckson, who also is the deacon for the First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. "I feel

like to eventually open a studio and teach Kung Fu or Tae Kwan Do.

"I feel that martial arts is important for every young person to learn," he said. "Not only because of the self-defense aspect, but because you develop self-esteem and feelings of accomplishment."

Buckson, who started working for EMU in 1985 as a parking enforcer, was promoted to sergeant in 1987 and has been an active member of the University since. He has trained parking enforcers, taught basic self-defense courses and been involved in Student Eyes and Ears for University Safety (SEEUS), which provides escorts for persons walking alone on campus at night.

"One of the reasons I like working here is that EMU is a community within a community," he said. "Another unique thing about being a police officer here is being around the students. They keep me young and I learn things from them every day. Eastern is a great place to be."



**A FLASH OF THE SERIOUS:** Mathias Buckson, a sergeant with EMU's Department of Public Safety, poses with his 1979 Trans Am and the trophies he's won entering it in car shows. Since 2000, he has won 10 awards with the car.

ing two first place trophies; a High Performance Pontiac Editors Choice Award; the Jim Emmel Award; and a winner's circle plaque.

"I currently have 10 first-

of his car and his love for shows, Buckson said his life values are derived from church, family and community.

"As much as I like my car and enjoy driving it, one of the things

strongly about that and try to get the message across whenever I can."

He also tries to stress the importance of martial arts in the lives of young people and would

## Twelve female faculty awarded Keal Fellowships

By Summer Wilhelm

Twelve female faculty were recently named recipients of the 2003-2004 Josephine Nevins Keal Fellowship Awards.

Female faculty who won the fellowships, which are worth \$300-\$700, will or have used the award to study everything from indigenous languages of Argentina to tarantula biology.

"There's a wide variety of interesting topics," said Joanne Hansen, chair of the Women's Commission. "Many of the recipients are conducting research that hasn't been done much in the past. That's one of the aspects we were looking for when deciding on our candidates."

The award is named for Josephine Nevins Keal, a graduate of EMU around the turn of the 20th century. When she died, she left \$50,000 to EMU and Wayne State University.

Keal Fellowship winners and their projects are:

■ **Devika Dibya Choudhuri**, assistant professor, department of leadership and counseling. Choudhuri will conduct qualitative research using evocative images to elicit perceptions regard-

ing counseling.

■ **Ruth Ann Armitage**, assistant professor, department of chemistry. She will present a poster at the International Symposium on Archaeometry in Zaragoza, Spain in May.

■ **Veronica Grondona**, assistant professor, department of English language and literature. Grondona is currently working to digitize and archive legacy data on indigenous languages of Argentina.

■ **Margaret Crouch**, professor, department of history and philosophy. She presented a paper on developments in conceptions of sexual harassment in Canada, Europe and the United States at the Oxford Round Table on "Women's Rights" at Lincoln College, Oxford March 28-April 2.

■ **Virginia M. Lan**, associate professor, department of nursing. Lan is conducting research on the current knowledge, skills and attitudes related to

genetics of nursing faculty teaching in Midwestern schools of nursing. The study also will examine the influence of the nursing faculty's knowledge, skills and attitudes in infusing genetics content into the nursing curriculum.

■ **Christine Karshin**, assistant professor, department of health, physical education, recreation and dance. She is conducting a research study to help facilitate a partnership between local school districts and parents to promote healthy weight among school age students.

■ **Maria Clelia Milletti**, professor, department of chemistry. In March, she presented three posters at the "Computers in Chemistry" Poster Session at the National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Anaheim, Calif.

■ **Nina Nabors**, associate professor, department of psychology. In March, Nabors presented a workshop on African American women with disabilities at the Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology) Midwinter Conference in Seattle.

■ **Maria-Serena Poli**, associate professor, department of geography and ge-

ology. She presented a paper, "Changes in Benthic Foraminiferal Assemblages and Total Organic Carbon in Sediments at ODP Site 1058, Blake Outer Ridge During Marine Isotope Stages 11-12" at the American Geophysical



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Union 2003 Fall Meeting in San Francisco.

■ **Alice Jo Rainville**, associate professor, department of human, environmental and consumer resources. She will give a poster presentation, "Healthy School Nutrition Environment: Survey of School Personnel," at the 2004 International Congress of Dietetics in Chicago May 27-31.

■ **Karen Saules**, associate professor, department of psychology. She presented papers at the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco in Scottsdale, Ariz. Feb. 18-21.

■ **Cara Shillington**, assistant professor, department of biology. She is currently conducting research on tarantula biology with Dr. Fernando Costa at the Instituto de Investigaciones Biologicas "Elemente Estable" in Montevideo, Uruguay.



Choudhuri



Lan



Grondona



Milletti

## JOBSLINE

To be considered for vacant positions, all Promotional Openings Application Forms **MUST BE SUBMITTED** directly to the Compensation/Employment Services Office and received no later than 5 p.m., Monday, April 26. **NOTE: LATE OR INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Vacancy information may also be obtained by calling our 24-hour Jobs Line at 487-0016. Compensation/Employment Services office hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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### MIELKE, from page 1

"This means new educational program development, partnerships and the development of resources," he said. "The expansion of existing and new programs might include an emphasis on technology management, new product development, family-owned business, entrepreneurship, and small business and economic development. It also is important to develop new resources to support faculty research, especially as it applies to the business world."

Mielke earned his doctorate in accounting from the University of Wisconsin-Madison; his master's degree in finance from the University of Chicago; and his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis.

At Grand Valley State, Mielke is responsible for a \$12 million budget and more than 110 faculty and staff. Since coming to Grand Valley State in 1999, Mielke has started nine new academic programs. During his tenure, enrollment for undergraduate and graduate students increased more than 10 percent each year.

He also helped bring in more than \$12 million in external funding in 2003 and helped the college secure an award in 2001 to serve as headquarters for the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Small Business Development Center network.

Mielke previously was director of the International Business Studies Program at Marquette University from 1991-99. He was a faculty member there from 1980-99 and served as interim dean of its College of Business Administration from 1994-95.

In addition to his academic credentials, Mielke has extensive experience in commerce. He was secretary-treasurer of the Seven-Up Bottling Co. of Oshkosh, Wis., from 1974-77. He also worked for Robert W. Baird & Co., a Milwaukee financial services firm.

"Dr. Mielke was the candidate of choice for the majority of the faculty in the college," Blanchard said. "He brings a record of commitment to economic development and community outreach that is part of the EMU mission. He also has shown the ability to lead a good business school through the growth cycle that will take us to the next level."



*"My interest in sports and athletes through the years and my interest in students parallel. They both are seeking improvement and working toward goals, whether in education or athletics."*

**Bob Teehan**  
Undergraduate Academic Adviser  
College of Technology

## Why I work at Eastern Michigan University

In 1980, a friend told me that Eastern was a good school for veterans. So, with the G.I. Bill in hand, I came to EMU after seven years, seven months and seven days of military service. It took me awhile, but I earned my bachelor's and master's degrees at EMU while an employee.

Initially, 20 years ago, I was in the Veterans Office and found that many vets on campus needed help for their service-related disabilities. Therefore, in 1991, I started the Students with Disabilities Office, now known as Access Services.

As you can tell, I like starting things. But, during an employee evaluation, my boss, Betty White, decided that I also needed to complete things; specifically my master's degree. She noticed that I took courses all over the map, so she crossed out "pursue" and inserted

"complete" under the education section.

Now I'm an academic adviser for some 1,200 students in the College of Technology. I love what I do for a living: providing advice to students and helping them succeed. I can bask in their glory.

I have noticed that over the years, students have changed. Today, they are in more of a hurry to get out (of school) and fulfill their goals.

My interest in sports and athletes through the years and my interest in students parallel. They both are seeking improvement and working toward goals, whether in education or in athletics.

### EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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