

## Forensics students continue hot streak

EMU team's fifth-place finish puts it in top 10 nationally for 34th straight year

By Carol Anderson

Three Eastern Michigan University forensics students captured individual awards and the team finished fifth nationwide at the National Forensics Association Championships April 15-19 at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Ill.

"It's huge. The competition is vicious, but we (the team) have moved up one notch each year since 2000," said Brendan Kelly, EMU assistant director of forensics.

EMU's forensics team has finished in first place nationwide 10 times since 1973. This year's effort marks the 34 consecutive years EMU has placed in the top 10 nationally.

EMU's Jacob Hodgson, a senior from Southfield, won for interpretation of prose. Michael Marion, a junior from Belleville, and Nina Brennan, a junior from Ann Arbor, won for dramatic duo.

Hodgson's prose interpretation, or storytelling, was a 10-minute performance of an 80-year-old man who read out of a notebook to his wife who had Alzheimer's disease. It was their anniversary and he was concerned that she wouldn't remember him.

"The whole point of prose interpretation is to communicate a message," said Hodgson, who has competed for four years. One judge at the competition, whose grandmother died of Alzheimer's disease, thanked Hodgson for his treatment of the disease saying, "I thank you and my grandmother thanks you."

"I wanted to touch someone's life some way, and I guess I did," Hodgson said.



**HARDWARE HAUL:** Three Eastern Michigan University forensics students proudly display trophies they won at the National Forensics Association Championships April 15-19 at Western Illinois University. (from left) Jacob Hodgson, a senior, won first place for interpretation of prose. Nina Brennan and Michael Marion, both juniors, won first place for dramatic duo. Brennan and Hodgson won fifth place for dramatic duo.

Brennan and Marion condensed the play "Apartment 3A," by actor Jeff Daniels, into a 10-minute performance.

"We did different scenes and cut certain characters, but kept the main message which is believe in yourself and others around you," said Brennan, who has been on the foren-

sics team for three years. "Forensics is more personal than acting and I like the intimacy with the audience."

The top five teams, in order of finish, were: Western Kentucky University, Illinois State University, Bradley University, Arizona State University and EMU.

## Retirement only part of forecast for EMU's weatherman

By Carol Anderson

Thunderstorms with lightning, high winds and rain or "wet and wild" is the way Carl Ojala likes his weather. He also enjoys all four seasons. So, don't expect him to pull up stakes and head to Arizona to retire.

An EMU geography professor for almost 34 years, Ojala retired at the end of the winter 2004 semester and said goodbye to "ancillary stuff" such as meetings, committees and reports, he said. But he will still be running the weather station for the National Weather Service and teaching "Interpreting the Weather," a new online graduate course for teachers.



**STATION MANAGER:** Carl Ojala, professor of geography at EMU for 34 years, is officially retiring Aug. 1. Ojala stands next to a hydrothermograph, an instrument that measures temperature and relative humidity. Ojala has faithfully taken readings from the instrument, located outside Strong Hall, every day for the last 20 years.

In the fall, Ojala will be teaching three online courses. The difference is that he can teach the courses from home, Minneapolis or China, he said.

"I can do anything at any time now. And I want to do (certain) things before I'm too old," said the 62-year-old.

The first thing on his to-do list is already done. He headed to Minneapolis right after finals

to visit his first grandchild, who was born March 3.

One thing he said he'll miss is his colleagues. Ojala and fellow geography professor C. Nicholas Raphael, who died suddenly during the winter semester, had planned a joint retirement.

"We were talking and joking in the morning and, in the afternoon, he was dead," said Ojala.

"I also love teaching and will miss the students. I was on the front line for a long time teaching earth science to undergraduates," said Ojala. "I always taught the class with enthusiasm and generated many (geography) majors."

He estimates that he has taught thousands of students

**SEE OJALA, page 6**

# Music Academy offers opportunity for community to honor musical talents

By Kathleen Shields

When 10-year-old Joshua Hunt expressed an interest in playing the violin, his mother, Laura, started to research local music teachers. After following up on all her referrals, she had no success. But then she spied a flyer about Eastern Michigan University's Community Music Academy tacked among many others on a billboard at a local music store.

"As it turns out, the Community Music Academy is just what we were looking for," Hunt said. "The classes are structured but not high pressured, and it's not too expensive."

The Community Music Academy is a fee-based outreach program of the University's music department. Music faculty, adjunct instructors, graduate students and the occasional exceptional undergraduate music student offer group and private music lessons to community members of all ages.

Rachel Zirk, the academy's director, said the Hunts' experience is pretty much the norm for Music Academy clients.

"Most of our students do find us by word-of-mouth," Zirk said. "We're somewhat of a secret to the campus and



**MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC:** Violinist Addie Skinner, 7, of Pittsfield Township, is accompanied on the piano by Rachel Zirk, director of Eastern Michigan University's Community Music Academy. Skinner was one of a number students who put what they learned in their lessons to the test in front of an audience in the Alexander Recital Hall April 23. Photo by Craig Watson

the community."

Classes currently offered include music learning theory for elementary-age students, group violin and piano, and private lessons in orchestral instruments, voice, guitar, harp and organ. Trumpet classes will be added in the fall and Zirk is hoping the academy can add more instrument courses in the future.

At the end of each series of lessons, the academy hosts a recital for the students. Joshua's

mother said that her son likes that the recitals are small.

"It's a very non-threatening environment," Laura Hunt said. "So many recitals are in front of 200 or more people."

To Zirk's delight, several of the adult academy students performed in their first recital in April.

"Because some students come to us for help in preparing for music competitions, we teach performance skills, too," Zirk

said. "Adults often shy away from recitals. They think they are just for children. It was great to have them work up the nerve to perform and, of course, they did great."

The Community Music Academy has scheduled a workshop, "Music Moves for Piano," June 21-23 in the Alexander Music Building. The workshop is for music teachers. For information, call Garik Pedersen at 487-4380.

## Nominations sought for top employees

Eastern Michigan University employees who have made significant contributions that reflect the institution's values and strategic directions have an opportunity to be rewarded monetarily for their hard work.

The Second Annual Institutional Values Awards are designed to honor full-time EMU faculty and staff in all employee groups whose contributions to EMU's strategic directions and articulated values are exemplary. Each of the awards carries a \$3,500 monetary stipend funded by the EMU Foundation.

"The response to the program last year was overwhelmingly positive and it was heartening to see so many people in the EMU family recognized for their tireless efforts and long-term commitment to the institution," said Martha Tack, senior executive for presidential initiatives and chair of the Reward and Recognition Committee. "We need to do more recognitions like this and this year we will add to the growing list of names that deserve to be recognized."

While full-time EMU employees may be nominated in more than one category, nominees are not eligible to receive more than one award in any given year. Awards will be given in up to six categories. They are:

- Continuous improvement, innovation and/or customer service.

**SEE AWARDS, page 6**

## EMU BY THE NUMBERS

EMU-Brighton opened in fall 2003 with five programs. Less than one year later, EMU-Brighton had 137 students enrolled for winter 2004 in the five programs, as well as special topics courses, workshops and spillover classes. The top four programs, by enrollment, for winter 2004 were:

**Educational Leadership (master's) 27**

**Common Learnings (master's) 24**

**Early Childhood Education Endorsement 23**

**Special Education (master's) 15**

Source: EMU-Brighton

## HAPPY GRAD



**LOOK MA, I MADE IT:** This EMU graduate is all smiles as she proudly displays her diploma for all to see during graduation ceremonies April 25 at the Convocation Center. Approximately 2,200 students were eligible to walk.

# Bird closing in on half century at EMU

By Carol Anderson

There was a time when Pray-Harrold was a football field and the Pine Grove Apartments was only a pine grove.

P. George Bird, professor of communication and theatre arts and technical director of theatre at EMU, remembers those days and says he has seen many other changes on campus since his arrival in 1955.

When the fall semester opened, Byrd had the distinction of having the top seniority – 48 years – on campus.

Quite a run for a man whose initial intention was to stay only a couple of years before returning to Wisconsin to finish his doctorate.

Shortly after accepting a position at



EMU, he was offered a major role in designing a new theatre on campus. He accepted and the Quirk Theatre opened in 1958, replacing Roosevelt Hall as the location of EMU's theatre productions.

"Quirk is the theatre to work in. If I do say so myself, it's well designed," Bird said.

Bird doesn't admit to any favorite productions, saying that each play is his favorite when he is working on it.

"There are no two plays or actors that are alike. There is always something different," said Bird, who recently finished directing a run of "An Italian Straw Hat" for EMU's 2003-2004 theatre season.

A talented student body is one reason that 75-year-old Bird has enjoyed his nearly half-century on campus teaching, directing and handling all aspects of technical production.

He points out that one former student

who has gone on to become successful in television is Dann Florek, who currently plays Capt. Donald Cragen on NBC's "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit." Bird remembers Florek playing the lead role in EMU's production of "Peer Gynt."

Most theatre majors don't go into theatre after graduation, he said, but the skills they acquire lend themselves to other professions such as business, where team-

Bird also credits his very interesting and creative colleagues for keeping him on campus. They take directing and teaching seriously and encourage non-theatre majors to explore taking theatre classes, he said.

Bird estimates that he has directed some 200 plays, but admits he hasn't ever actually counted. When he isn't directing, teaching or involved with the technical



**FOR THE LONG TERM:** George Bird, professor of communication and theatre arts, takes time out from working on a set design at Quirk Theatre. Bird, who has worked at EMU for the last 48 years, helped design Quirk, which opened in 1958.

work is essential, or teaching.

"Many people think teaching is performing," Bird said.

Bird has noticed a difference in students over the years. Today's students are much more hesitant to learn than in the past, he said. Their attitude is 'I dare you to teach me,' he said. And teach he does. His classes include a history of theatre, history of scene design and an introduction to technical production.

aspects of theatre production, Bird enjoys taking care of his 350 rose bushes and collecting American antiques.

He and his wife, Laura, who is director of theatre at Concordia University, live in Ypsilanti, have two children and two grandchildren.

"If I don't love what I'm doing, I'll leave," said Bird, who has no plans to retire any time soon. "I'm not much for the rocking chair."

## WEMU meets spring pledge drive goal early

By Linga McClair

WEMU reached its goal of \$115,000 for its spring pledge drive. And the station did it a day early.

The pledge drive started March 26 and ended as soon as the goal was hit at 6:15 p.m. April 3.

"We ended a day earlier than last spring and last fall, which was encouraging," said Mary Motherwell, WEMU's marketing and development director. "What made this one successful was an advance, online campaign. We raised almost \$14,000 online before the pledge drive began, which made a difference in hitting our goal faster."

The pledge drive raises money to help the station with day-to-day operational expenses.

In exchange for listener pledges, WEMU always offers a variety of premiums to donors and this year was no exception. A trip for two to New Orleans, with tickets to attend the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, was the prime gift given away. WEMU and Breakaway Travel in Ypsilanti shared the cost of hotel accommodations and airfare. The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival donated their

tickets to the winners.

The idea for a trip giveaway was a last minute brainstorm of Motherwell's. Since it was such a success this spring, she said she plans to offer a different trip for upcoming pledge drives. An Ann Arbor resident won the trip, which isn't surprising to Motherwell.



"Roughly 85 percent of our listening audience is in Ann Arbor," she said. "That doesn't mean we don't have donors from Ypsilanti. We had about 200 volunteers answer phones during the pledge drive, including a lot from campus. Some were students, but primarily faculty and staff."

This spring's pledge drive featured a number of special guests, including Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje; Mr. B, a jazz pianist; and Paul Keller of the Paul Keller Orchestra.

WEMU is a National Public Radio (NPR) station, and also broadcasts jazz and blues music.

"We have a great community of listeners and donors who always contribute and that's what keeps us on the air," Motherwell said.

## SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

**These people are celebrating service anniversaries with the University in May.**

### 30 years

Kathleen Cramer (34 years)  
ICT- application development

Larry Ward (34 years)  
physical plant office

Dian Henson (30 years)  
budget management

Sandra Tanner (30 years)  
Coatings Research Institute

### 25 years

Cindy Hall (25 years)  
parking

Nancy Halmhuber (25 years)  
special education

### 20 years

John Charles (20 years)  
communication and theatre arts

### 15 years

Roy Rose (15 years)  
custodial services

Cheryl Gregg (15 years)  
custodial services

Orville Gregg (15 years)  
custodial services

Amy Singer (15 years)  
library-general account

James Johnson (15 years)  
custodial services

### 10 years

Dawn Stovall (10 years)  
administration internal operations

Charles Achilles (10 years)  
leadership and counseling

**Need the info?**

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# EMU employees honored for their innovation

By Carol Anderson

"Eat for education" could be the motto of EMU's Children's Institute.

Whether it comes from a box of Wheaties or Lucky Charms, The Children's Institute receives 10 cents for every General Mills box top it collects. Participating schools can earn up to \$20,000 each year from General Mills, the program's sponsor.

The Children's Institute and 10 other EMU departments were awarded grants by EMU Innovagacy to fund innovative ideas at a "Best of the Best" luncheon April 16. EMU Innovagacy was launched in 2000 by the Department of Student Affairs to find creative ways to meet the needs of EMU students.

Vice President for Student Affairs Jim Vick awarded the funding and handed out a certificate to 11 winners from 37 submissions. Awards ranged from \$10,000 for Access Services to \$400 for Student Media.

During the ceremony, The Children's Institute received \$1,022 to buy 200 containers that will be placed throughout campus to collect the small, colorful squares labeled "Box Tops for Education." Each box top square is worth 10 cents.

"All of the money collected will go toward child-care scholarships and to hire a student worker to collect, package and coordinate the box top program," said Chris Aris, director of the Children's Institute.

Starting in fall 2004, their goal is to earn \$20,000 from collecting 200,000 box tops, Aris said.

For a complete list of products in the program, go to [www.boxtopsforeducation.com](http://www.boxtopsforeducation.com).

Access Services, with its top award of \$10,000, will train students to serve as personal assistants to students with disabilities.

"I have a number of requests from students (for personal assistants)," said Don Anderson, director of EMU's Access Services. "There are only a handful of campuses nationwide who offer this service and none are in Michigan."

Starting with the fall semester, EMU may have six to eight trained student personal assistants. They will help disabled students in residence halls with bathing and dressing, in the REC/IM to get around, on campus (to guide blind students) and as readers, Anderson said.

Most of the personal assistants will be from the Col-

■ **\$3,750 for student Web development team.** Goal: Create and maintain a student-run Web site for departments.

■ **\$3,000 for student orientation.** Goal: create an orientation for students with disabilities on policies and services.



**BOX TOT:** Alexia Williams, 5, from Canton, promotes the collection of product box tops. The Children's Institute can receive up to \$20,000 from General Mills from the box tops, with the money earmarked for child-care scholarships for EMU students with children. The project was one of 10 awarded grants by EMU Innovagacy.

lege of Health and Human Services and include students in nursing, social work and occupational therapy, he said.

The other nine Innovagacy projects and funding are:

■ **\$5,000 for student training** by the Washtenaw Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution. Goal: a student mediation center where 14 students participate in peer-to-peer conflict resolution on issues such as roommate disputes or student worker conflicts.

■ **\$5,000 for instructional swimming.** Goal: swimming lessons for all ages and improvements to the pool.

■ **\$4,600 for Student VOICE (VOLunteers Involved in Civic Engagement) House.** Goal: collaborate with Academic Affairs to create a living and learning center for citizenship and service learning.

■ **\$600 for a markless magic wand.** Goal: To purchase supplies and make 25-30 wands (tennis balls on a stick) for the custodians in dining, housing and student affairs, who will use them to buff scuff marks from floors. During fall 2004, a luncheon is planned to introduce the custodians to these scuff erasers.

■ **\$500 for a parent program.** Goal: allow parents to participate in programming designed to ease the transition to college for first-year students.

■ **\$400 for workshops on newspaper operations.** Goal: better access to the Eastern Echo student newspaper for students, faculty and staff.

For more information, call Vicki Bagherzadeh, facilitator of Innovagacy, at 487-4190.

## Sixteen faculty earn sabbatical leave awards

By Summer Wilhelm

Sixteen Eastern Michigan University faculty have been awarded Sabbatical Leave Awards for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Awardees may apply for a full-year leave at half pay or a half-year award at full pay. Leaves may be taken for many purposes, including artistic, scholarly and creative activities, community service, professional development, program development and research.

Sabbatical Leave Award winners, their home departments and their projects for the 2004-2005 academic year are as follows:

One-Semester Sabbatical Leave Award Winners are:

■ **Linda Burilovich**, accounting and finance, "A Study of the Risk of the Reclassification of Debt."

■ **Shenghui Kathy Chu**, mathematics, "Professional Development in Bioinformatics."

■ **Maria Milletti**, chemistry, "Theoretical Modeling of Nitrogen-Containing Compounds."

■ **Ross Nord**, chemistry, "Theoretic-

cal Modeling of Catalytic Oxidation of Carbon Monoxide."

■ **Joe Ohren**, political science, "Faith-Based Delivery of Services Funded through the CDBG Program."

■ **Diana Pancioli**, art, "Glaze Forward."

■ **Tracy Tillman**, industrial technology, "Develop the Foundation for the SME/IIIE/Shingo Lean Manufacturing Professional Certification Program."

Two-Semester Sabbatical Leave Award Winners are:

■ **Cheryl Cassidy**, English, "Women and Empire 1750-1930: Primary Sources on "Gender and Anglo-Imperialism, India 1830-1930."

■ **Margaret Davis**, art, "Decoding."

■ **Cristina Jose-Kampfner**, teacher education, "Si Se Puede - It Can Be Done: Advancing Adolescent Latinas in Mathematics."

■ **Steven Kirby**, foreign languages and bilingual studies, "A Glossary to the Old Spanish Libro de Buen Amor (Book of Good Love) by Juan Ruiz, Arcipreste de Hita."

■ **Judith Olsen**, associated health



Chu



Nord



Oren



Pancioli



Jose-Kampfner



Olsen



Tillman



Rengan

professions, "The Phenomenon of Early Expulsion and Occupational Therapy Services."

■ **Krish Rengan**, chemistry, "Accurate Measurement of Fission-Product Yields."

■ **Alice Jo Rainville**, human, environmental and consumer resources, "School Lunch Cost Comparison: On-Site vs. Fast

Food vs. Home-Prepared."

■ **James Thornton**, economics, "Is Increased Spending on Medical Care Worth It?"

■ **Jose Vites**, chemistry, "Methods Development for Multi-Element Analysis by HR-ICPMS for the Study of Mercury Speciation and Transport in the Environment."

## PEOPLE

## Brown-Chappell helps foster social work bill in Senate

■ **Betty Brown-Chappell**, associate professor of social work, was instrumental in the recent passage of Senate Bill 189 in the Michigan House of Representatives and Senate. As president of the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Brown-Chappell traveled the state to encourage members of the profession to advocate for the bill.

The bill, which will protect the public from unqualified

persons representing themselves as social workers and requires licensed social workers to obtain 45 continuing education credits every three years, has been sent to Gov. Granholm for signature.

■ **Suzu Merchant**, head women's basketball coach, was named Women's College Coach of the Year by the Basketball



**Brown-Chappell**

Coaches Association of Michigan (BCAM).

Merchant's squad captured the program's first Mid-American

Conference (MAC) West Division title, MAC tournament championship and an NCAA tournament appearance.



**Merchant**

■ **Valerie Polakow**, professor of teacher education, was one of four editors of "Shut Out: Low Income Mothers and Higher Education in Post-Welfare America." The State University of New York Press has scheduled the book for a May 1 publication date.

■ **Nora Martin**, professor of education and coordinator of the Comer Schools, received the



**Martin**

Professional Club of Ann Arbor April 17.

■ **Alena Frey**, an EMU senior from Sterling Heights, received an Outstanding Community Impact Award from the Michigan Campus Compact at its annual Student Service Award ceremony in Lansing April 17.

Michigan Campus Compact is a Lansing-based organization that supports Michigan colleges and universities in the development and implementation of service initiatives on campus. The Outstanding Community Impact Award honors students who have made community service an integral part of their college experience.

Frey, an administrative management major, has been involved in EMU's VISION (Volunteers Incorporating Service

Into Our Neighborhoods) program for four years, participating in Alternative Winter Break, Habitat for Humanity and Best Buddies.

■ Four Eastern Michigan University students recently competed in and won first place in the 3-D Unigraphics Design Competition. The event, which took place at Macomb Community College, was hosted by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and co-sponsored by EDS PLM Solutions.

The Eastern team of computer-aided design majors includes: project leader **Milon Wild**, **Brian Bovair**, **Daniel Wozniak** and **Jody Conley**. Russell Rhoton, lecturer in the industrial technology department, was faculty adviser.

The students received the SME Great Lakes Region 6 traveling trophy and a Zire PDA. They also were invited to present at the SME Annual Conference in June and to give a technical presentation for the Senior SME Chapters of Region 6 in Detroit.

■ **Vic Chiasson**, assistant professor in health, physical education, recreation and dance, is working with the Ypsilanti Recreation Commission to conduct a survey and to raise funds for recreation programming in the city. Chiasson's work was reported in a recent issue of the *Ann Arbor News*.

■ **Ron Williamson**, associate professor in leadership and counseling, recently received the Gruhn-Long-Melton Award for Distinguished Service and Leadership in Middle School Educa-

tion at the National Association of Secondary School Principals Conference in Orlando, Fla.

The award has been presented only 13 times in 21 years. Williamson was recognized for "changing the conversation about middle-level reform to focus intensely in improving the educational experience for all students."

■ **Madonna Emond**, an EMU student and the current Miss Michigan, is featured in a documentary film with 14-year-old Haley Crabtree of Saginaw. Crabtree has cerebral palsy.

The 107-minute movie was shown seven times in March on the local community access tele-



**Emond**

vision channel (17).

Emond and Crabtree were featured in an article about the movie that appeared in the *Ann Arbor News*.

■ **Ian Haslam**, department head of health, physical education, recreation and dance, has been selected for inclusion in the eighth edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

■ **Leah Adams**, professor emeritus of teacher education, recently returned from Hong Kong, where she participated in the Sixth International Conference of OMEP-Hong Kong.

Adams gave a keynote address and was on a panel with early childhood leaders from Ni-

geria, Australia, China, Switzerland and Columbia. While

in Hong Kong, she also participated in the Executive Board meetings of the World

Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP). Adams is the vice president for North America and the Caribbean.

■ **Jeffrey Bradley**, an EMU alum and teacher at Slauson Middle School, received a Presidential Award for Mathematics and Science Teaching. He was among 95 teachers nationwide (one of only two from Michigan) selected for the honor, which includes a \$10,000 cash prize.

■ **David Calonne**, lecturer in the English language and literature department, published a book of interviews of the American poet and novelist Charles Bukowski. The book, "Sunlight Here I Am: Interviews and Encounters, 1963-1993," was released in October 2003. Calonne spent four years collecting the interviews and put 34 of his 60 findings into a text. He also wrote an introduction to give readers a perspective on Bukowski's career.

"I really enjoyed the work," he said. "It became somewhat of a treasure hunt for me."

## EMU schedules activities for National Employee Health and Fitness Day

By **Linga McClair**

It's never a good idea to gamble with your health. Unless, of course, you take the poker walk as part of Eastern Michigan University's salute to National Employee Health and Fitness Day May 18.

In addition to the walk, the University's Employee Wellness Committee has planned a number of activities — including free massages, wellness information stations, light refreshments and prizes — for faculty and staff. The event is scheduled 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at University Park.

National Employee Health and Fitness Day is considered to be the largest work site health and fitness event in the United States, with thousands of companies, community organizations, universities and schools participating.

"National Employee Health and Fitness Day is a fun way to motivate employees to be physically active and healthier," said Eric Ward, EMU's health education co-

ordinator. "It also is a great way to introduce a low-cost, high-return program in which everyone benefits. When employees feel better, they come to work more often and are encouraged to live healthier, more active lifestyles. Everyone is a winner!"

The poker walk starts at The Lake House in University Park. Poker walk participants will receive cards at the beginning of the walk and will have the option to discard them at different stations, in order to see who has the best poker hand at the end of the walk, Ward said. The person with the best poker hand wins a prize. Ward hopes



to be able to give everyone prizes as an incentive for participating. In case of inclement weather, the walk will take place in Bowen Field House.

Ward was hired in 2002 as health education coordinator as a part of EMU's employee wellness initiative to promote healthier employees.

"The Employee Wellness Committee — a group of faculty, staff and representatives from different unions from all over campus — is a nice collective group of individuals with the sole purpose of promoting health and wellness on campus," Ward said.

The Wellness Walkers group and the first-ever ergonomics fair are activities that had tremendous participation in the winter, he said.

"There are a lot of nationally recognized holidays for certain groups," Ward said. "This one is nice because it includes all employees. This is a big group celebration and EMU is looking to make this a tradition here."

## 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, May 17. **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.

### CLERICAL/SECRETARIAL

(Hiring Rate)

CSEN0412 CS05 \$26,640 Library Assistant III, Library.

### PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL

(Hiring Range)

PTSA0407 PT06 \$27,631-\$32,271 Manager, Apartments/Facilities Coordinator, Housing (REPOST).

PTEN0408 PT08 \$36,226-\$43,490 Project coordinator, Learning Center, Holman Learning Center. Live-in during programs is mandatory.

### An Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Employer

PTIT0405 PT08\* \$38,039-\$45,666 College Technology Specialist I, Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

### FOOD SERVICE/MAINTENANCE

(Hiring Rate)

FMSA0423 FM06 \$10.73 Custodian, Buell/Custodial Prorate, 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Friday.

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### OJALA, from page 1

who are now all over the map — from the local Outback restaurant where the hostess greets him by name to Mackinac Island where a band's lead singer greeted him with "Hey, Dr. Ojala, how are you doing?" The singer had been one of his students some 15 years earlier, Ojala said. No matter where he goes, there are students who know him, he said.

The local media also know him as an expert on weather, in particular tornados. He said he

constantly gets calls from local reporters looking for an insightful quote or sound bite, or people wanting to know what the weather will be like six months down the road.

"I have no faith in long-term forecasts (more than three days out)," Ojala said. "I always answer 'there's a 50 percent chance that it will be warmer and wetter.'"

In the near future, he plans to complete research projects on lightning and tornados, global warming and Indian summer. He said he may even write a book.

Ojala's honors include Outstanding Michigan Earth Science Teacher, the EMU Distinguished Faculty Senior Teaching Award, the United States Department of Commerce/National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Environmental Hero Award and the National Weather Service Special Service Award.

He is a member of the Association of American Geographers, the Michigan Academy of Science, the American Meteorological Society (southeast Michigan) and the National Lightning Safety Group.

He earned his doctorate and master's degree, both from the University of Georgia, and his bachelor's degree from Kent State University.

"It's been a great career at EMU," he said. "I'll just leave quietly into the night."

### AWARDS, from page 2

- Contributions to the quality of student learning experiences.

- Diversity, human dignity, multicultural/international involvement.

- Public engagement and community service.

- Support role in teaching, learning, scholarship, research and/or creative activity.

- Team excellence. This award is divided equally among team members.

Nomination forms and instructions have been sent through campus mail to all full-time faculty and staff. Nomination packets must be submitted no later than June 30, 2004 to Martha Tack, chair, Reward and Recognition Committee, 202 Welch Hall.

For more information about the nomination process, go to [www.emich.edu/iva/](http://www.emich.edu/iva/). For more information, call Tack at 487-2211 or April Flanagan at 487-4998.



*"While teaching, I encourage African American students to participate in theatre as actors and theatre technicians, and I let them know that there are many opportunities for experimentation."*

**Wallace Bridges**  
Associate Professor  
Communication and  
Theater Arts

## Why I teach at Eastern Michigan University

I came to EMU in 1992 and every semester I've taught undergraduate theatre and speech classes. I tell my students that acting is tough. Less than 1 percent of working actors are able to support themselves.

While teaching, I encourage African American students to participate in theatre as actors and theatre technicians, and I let them know that there are many opportunities for experimentation. More importantly, I am working to encourage my colleagues to advance African American theatre at EMU by offering annual African American theatre productions.

I also like directing and feel I have a sensibility to direct African American plays, but welcome the opportunity to direct a wide range of plays and musicals.

I directed the successful "In the Blood" as well as "Fiddler on the Roof," "Oedipus the King," "Crimes of

the Heart," "The Boys Next Door" and "A Raisin in the Sun."

Teaching at EMU expands my professional acting experiences, which includes television commercials, such as a voice-over about gambling for the Michigan Department of Community Health and an Obie Trice music video. I also will earn my Actors Equity Association membership while acting in the upcoming local production of "Duck Hunter Shoots an Angel."

I also was one of the pioneering online educators at EMU where I developed and taught online courses. I hope to continue to advance African American theatre at EMU, mentor student actors, teach online courses and integrate the electronic courses with the traditional classes.

*Wallace Bridges*