

Dear Colleagues,

2012, my first year at EMU, has passed by quickly and I have enjoyed it so very much. I am grateful to all of you for your support and patience as I learned about the campus and its people. My experiences confirmed to me what a truly special place Eastern is. I am thrilled to be a part of the Eastern Michigan University community and look forward to working together for many years to come.

As the end of the semester fast approaches, I wanted to update all of you about the various initiatives we have been working on this past year. The list is long and shows great progress on many fronts. Our work was aimed at supporting quality scholarly and creative work by our faculty, as well as an outstanding educational experience for our students. I want to thank everyone for their hard work and worry in advancing EMU forward towards a very bright future. In 2012, we saw:

- The newly named Division of Academic and Student Affairs grew to include the areas of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, along with the Division of Information Technology. Though the structures of these organizations remain largely the same, assembling them together fostered new working relationships that have already yielded substantial benefits. I am very grateful to everyone for working so hard to make this important transition go smoothly.
- EMU welcomed the largest new undergraduate class in its history. The Honors College also saw record enrollment of over 1000 students. But it was not just about the numbers. The Fall 2012 class was also one of the most academically prepared and diverse in our history. That is what we are aiming for – quality enrollment growth. We are currently in the process of building the Fall 2013 class. Applications are up over 30% from our record 2012 numbers. Student preparedness and diversity are continuing their positive trends as well.
- President Martin authorized 37 new hires for Fall 2013 - one of the largest faculty searches in recent years.
- Two new deans named this year. Dean Michael Tidwell joined us this past July to lead the College of Business. Also, Dr. Wade Tornquist, formerly Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, is leading the College of Technology as its Interim Dean.
- A national search began for the newly-created position of Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research. This position will be responsible for university-wide oversight of graduate programs and the Office of Research and Development. This re-organization and investment is aimed at reversing recent declines in graduate enrollment, fostering scholarly/creative efforts on campus, facilitating externally funded research activities, as well as advancing the national reputation of graduate education at EMU. The search will be completed this upcoming Winter semester and is chaired by Dr. Wade Tornquist.
- Major investments in process improvements and technology to improve the efficacy and efficiency of undergraduate and graduate recruitment/admissions significantly, on track to be completed by mid-January. Key outcomes include major improvements to the electronic processing of undergraduate applications, and the creation of an online graduate application system with supporting management tools.
- The Science Complex achieved completion of Phase II renovation. The energy-efficient building is fully ADA compliant, with modernized classrooms and labs, improved lighting and acoustics, and up-to-date chemical storage facilities.
- Major improvements to the Graduate School website to significantly enhance its appearance/functionality and support quality enrollment growth in our graduate programs. Visit it at <http://www.emich.edu/graduate/index.php>.
- Completion of major milestones associated with the implementation of redLantern degree evaluation software. The degree audit/progress to degree module “went live” on November 1. Efforts continue to complete planning guides and redLantern transfer guides as part of this implementation.

- Fall orientation and welcoming activities ramped up to accommodate the largest new undergraduate class in EMU's history. L.I.V.E. Welcome Week co-curricular, social and community engagement events included approximately 2,400 members of the EMU and surrounding community, including current EMU students, faculty/staff, alumni and representatives from area businesses, service providers and community agencies. This outstanding participation by so many in our community represents ~167% increase from 2011, the first year of the initiative.
- Over 2,500 new students and their families experience Fusion: First Four New Student Orientation, September 1-4. 156 amazing New Student Orientation Assistants (NSOAs) volunteered for a total of 11,700 hours, and over 440 students from fraternities, sororities and other student organizations assisted families with move in on Saturday, September 1.
- A new and innovative student advising center approved to open in the Student Center. The center's location is part of a move to "take advising to the students". Opening this summer, the center will incorporate a quick-response service model aimed at significantly reducing wait times while ensuring highly accurate information. Modeled on the concept of an Apple store, the center will have an open, modern, paper-reduced design with roving advising support personnel as well as a "Genius Bar" to assist in solving more complex advising needs. The Center's creation was jump-started by a generous gift from Regent and Chair-Elect Francine Parker.
- Eagle Study Tables established in McKenny Hall. This place for quiet study brings tutors, technology, and course coaches to our students - all under one roof. Also, QR code technology is being used to monitor attendance at the Tables and to support data analysis aimed at improving progress-to-degree rates. The use of QR code technology will soon be expanded to collect attendance data for Learning Beyond the Classroom events.
- In June, 2012, the EMU Board of Regents approved \$1.0 million in Classroom Technology upgrades and \$0.9 million in Campus Wireless upgrades. Based on a schedule that prioritizes academic and student buildings, wireless upgrades are in progress campus-wide. The Classroom Technology Project is using the baseline classroom recommended by the Educational Environmental Facilities Committee to direct plans to refresh classrooms routinely. A training room and a demo room will provide instructor training on classroom technology and then allow for hands-on use of the new technology in a model classroom. The goal is to upgrade 25 rooms in the Winter semester and an additional 75 rooms by Fall 2013.
- The College of Technology charged with developing a forward-thinking strategic model to guide its efforts and advance its competitiveness. Their work began by investigating new models of contemporary colleges of technology and engineering. In October, as part of this effort, six COT faculty and staff visited the Arizona State University College of Technology and Innovation.
- At the December Board of Regents Meeting, a capital appropriation of \$1.7 million was approved to support extensive upgrades to the Halle Library's ARC environmental control systems. The development of an engineering solution to remediate mold propagation were exhaustive and inclusive of several departments, including Physical Plant, Library Faculty and Staff, and Environmental Health and Safety. The system upgrades are to commence immediately. As the work is extensive, the ARC is expected to re-open for normal operations this Fall.
- University Administration and the AAUP concluded successful negotiations resulting in a new 3-year collective bargaining agreement. The new contract highlights changes in health care, expanded support for research and grant activities, as well as phased-retirement options for faculty. Reaching agreement two weeks prior to the contract end date, was recognized by union and university leadership as evidence of a highly collaborative process and a cooperative forward-thinking union-administration relationship.
- The Physician's Assistant Program positioned to obtain accreditation in the spring. Dr. David Vanderberg, MD was hired as Medical Director, and Mr. Michael Guerra, MS, PA-C (Associate Professor) and Mr. Eryn Smith, PA-C (Assistant Professor) are the program's first faculty members. They join Mr. Jay Peterson, Program Director, and Ms. Rebecca Glaser, Administrative Assistant. \$3

million in renovations have been approved for the Rackham building, to convert space there into classrooms and labs, slated to begin construction in 2013.

- Welch Hall and the Provost's Office are now a showcase for faculty art. Thanks to Colin Blakely, Art department head, and Greg Tom, Gallery Programs Director, a faculty sculpture by Brian Nelson, Professor of Art, is now displayed in the Welch Hall Central Foyer. Also, original faculty artwork is exhibited in the Provost's Office. The faculty artists are Brian Spolans, Jason Ferguson, Maria Ruggiero, Amy Sacksteder, John DeHoog, and Colin Blakely. These faculty have all been previously recognized with the Provost's New Faculty Award, given in support of their artistic projects. Please stop by and view the display.

In closing, at Eastern Michigan University, there is much to be proud of ... and great things ahead!

My best wishes to you and yours for a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Kim

Kim Schatzel, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President