

President's Report
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents' Meeting
March 25, 2014

Eastern Michigan University is moving forward on our commitment to continue to enhance the safety and security of our campus community. Six new officers, announced in December, are part of the expansion of our Department of Public Safety that will add a total of 10 new officers; four additional officers will be hired. We will maintain the highly effective and extensive safety operations we have in place on Eastern's campus, while increasing our off-campus efforts in collaboration with the Ypsilanti Police Department and the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. Please welcome the new officers to our police force:

- Helaina Bell
- Bridget Bofysil
- Kevin Dorsey
- Michael Harhold
- Michael Richardson
- Emir Vila

I also would like to congratulate three of our new sergeants who have been promoted as part of these overall efforts:

- Jason Foor
- Darin Taylor
- Shana Thompson

I would like to welcome the following new employees:

- Kelly Brennan, Director, Presidential Events and Protocol
- Chris Creighton, Head Football Coach
- Chiara Hensley, Ombuds
- Stacie McMullen, Executive Assistant to the President
- David Turner, Vice President of University Human Resources

We are recommending three outstanding alumni to receive honorary doctorates at our spring commencement. Our morning speaker will be Dale Heydlauff, vice president – corporate communications, and president, American Electric Power Foundation. Our afternoon speaker will be David Provost, chairman, president and CEO of Talmer Bank and Trust, and president and CEO of Talmer Bancorp, Inc. We are recommending that the Board of Regents grant an honorary Doctor of Business degree to His Excellency Khalifa Mohammed Al Kindi, managing director of the Abu Dhabi Investment Council and chairman of the United Arab Emirates Central Bank.

Other announcements and accomplishments are listed in the Appendix of the full report which is on our website.

Thank you, Chair Parker.

Susan Martin

Events

- The **34th Undergraduate Symposium** at Eastern Michigan University – one of the oldest and largest celebrations of undergraduate student research in the nation – will be held on Friday, March 28, at the Student Center. More than 500 students, supported by more than 220 faculty members, will present their scholarly and creative work. The presentations, performances, posters and exhibits are the culmination of a year-long collaboration between the students and their faculty mentors.
- On Sunday, April 27, EMU will host graduates and their families for **Spring Commencement ceremonies**. Graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Technology will be recognized at the 9:30 a.m. ceremony. Graduates of the College of Business, College of Education and College of Health and Human Services will be recognized at the 2 p.m. ceremony.
- Eastern Michigan has a proud and lengthy history of success in Forensics, having placed in the top 10 nationally for over 40 years. We are proud to host the **National Forensic Association Nationals Tournament**, which begins Friday, April 18. Approximately 1,000 students, coaches and judges from more than 75 colleges and universities across the country will participate in the three-day event on Eastern's campus.
- Art history professor **Richard Rubenfeld** is curating the fifth in a series of shows at EMU devoted to original cartoon and comic art called **KAPOW!** Included are panel cartoons, comic strips, comic books and graphic novels with a broad range of subjects – some dating back to the early 20th century. The exhibit can be seen March 10 – April 15 at the University Gallery and Ford Gallery.
- EMU's annual **Orthotic and Prosthetic Activities Foundation First Swim, First Paddle & First Dive** event will be held on March 29 in the Jones Natatorium. These events provide introductory level adaption-recreation opportunities for amputees, people in wheelchairs, individuals with cerebral palsy and survivors of stroke or other physical challenges.
- The **U.S. Air Force Band** will perform at Pease Auditorium on April 9, 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature the United States Air Force concert band and the Singing Sergeants concert group.
- The **Scholar Athlete Banquet** will be held on April 14 at 6 p.m. at the Student Center Ballroom.
- EMU faculty and guest pianists kicked off a week of special performances in honor of **Steinway Week**, March 14-21. The weeklong event consisted of a variety of activities designed to further EMU's goal of becoming an all-Steinway campus.
- Ford Motor Co., Crain's Detroit Business and Bearclaw Coffee were among the winners in the inaugural **Business of the Year awards** sponsored by **College of Business** students. The event honored winners in 14 categories. The businesses were judged on profitability, strategic execution and level of social responsibility. The event was held Friday, March 14, in the EMU Student Center.

- Three of Michigan's top public law officials discussed human trafficking during a panel discussion at the Student Center. The March 11 event was sponsored by the **EMU Women's Resource Center**.
- **Lil Sibs Weekend** was held March 7-9. It is an annual program that gives students in residence halls the opportunity to invite younger siblings (ages 4-16) to campus for the weekend to see what life is like on campus.
- EMU professor and media ecologist **Christine Tracy** and her students celebrated the fifth annual **National Day of Unplugging** on March 7 by unplugging their phones and other devices from sunup to sundown. Tracy teaches a media ecology class that explores how we interact with the media and how it affects our lives.
- **EMU Day in Lansing** was held on March 5. A group of 43 EMU students, faculty, staff and alumni held small group meetings with legislators. More than 100 legislators and staff joined the EMU group for lunch.
- **Jock Jamz**, a student-athlete run talent show, was held Feb. 11 at Pease Auditorium. The funds from the show were donated to the Ypsilanti Community Schools Foundation.
- More than 600 video gaming enthusiasts came to EMU Feb. 8-9 to compete in one of the Midwest's premier charity gaming events, **Gamers for Giving**. The 24-hour, nonstop tournament allowed the group to raise more than \$20,000 to construct portable video game kiosks for use in children's hospitals.

Recognition

- EMU student **Ashley Childers** was awarded the Undergraduate Achiever Scholarship from HonorSociety.org for the Fall 2013 semester. The scholarship is awarded every semester to qualified students who performed well academically and are highly involved on campus or in their communities.
- Junior and public administration student **Jennifer Dumas** received EMU's highest award for student public service, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Humanitarian Award, given annually to a full-time student who has shown a strong commitment to promoting respect and improving the quality of life for people, consistent with Dr. King's ideals. **Asia Yarbough**, a freshman who plans on studying social work, was also honored for the exceptional potential she has already shown.
- EMU's **Forensic Team** won the overall Novice National Team Championship award with the highest point total at a tournament that included 25 colleges and universities from around the country. The students were led by Professor **Nick J. Romerhausen**. Five students on the team took home individual awards: **Tommy Barker, Jake Daily, Kayla Green, Sophia Mendez and Lee Stevens**.
- **Historic preservation students** from EMU will partner with the Michigan Historical Center to continue its work at the historic Mann House in Concord, MI, and expand efforts to include Walker Tavern, a state historic site in the village of Brooklyn, MI. The partnership includes three fellowship opportunities in 2014 to EMU graduate students at the Mann House, and two fellowships at Walker Tavern.

- Professor **Howard Booth** won a gold medal in the pole vault, topping the world's best in his age group at the World Masters Athletics Championship.
- Professor **Jean Bush Bachelis** has been honored for her work with the Association for Business Communication. She was presented with the Bernadine P. Branchaw Spirit Award at the Association's annual international conference. The award recognizes those who demonstrate a "spirit of friendliness and welcome and whose activities in support of that spirit contribute substantially to creating an atmosphere of welcome appreciation."
- **Jeannette Kindred**, associate professor in communication, media and theater arts, was recently honored by Michigan Campus Connect for her dedication and commitment to her community and for her efforts with the Academic Service Learning program at EMU. She has worked with students to develop strategies to ensure student success in their academic service-learning projects.
- Gov. Snyder has reappointed geography and geology professor **Ted Ligibel** to a four-year term on the State Historic Preservation Review Board.

Gifts & Grants

- EMU biology professor **Anne Casper** was chosen to receive a grant from the National Institutes of Health to study genomic instability in yeast cells in order to help understand how genetic changes can develop in certain tumor cells. She will receive nearly \$332,000 to support the project cost.
- A new \$4,000 scholarship is being offered in honor of EMU alumnus **Scott Torosian**. The scholarship, facilitated by a partnership between EMU and the Timothy Herbert Financial Group, is intended to encourage and reward students who have demonstrated the strength of mind to consistently work hard, overcome distraction and stay focused.

Of Note

- Members of **Beta Alpha Psi**, an honorary society, and the **Accounting Club** are offering a free tax preparation program for EMU students and members of the local community.
- EMU's online programs in the **College of Business** have been ranked for the first time in the annual list of top online graduate school programs compiled by **U.S. News and World Report**. The COB's program in Integrated Marketing Communications and a variety of other online certificates and courses were collectively ranked 164th in the country that included 230 colleges.
- A group of nine students in the **Student Funders Group**, all volunteers from **EMU's Nonprofit Leadership Alliance program**, will be awarding a \$5,000 mini-grant to an area nonprofit while learning to take a hard look at the realities of applying for grants. Public Administration Professor **Claudia Petrescu** is the program's director.
- EMU's School of Nursing will offer a **Nurse Practitioner track** through its master's degree program in nursing. The two-year program is designed to meet the growing need for advanced nursing professionals in the health care field.

- The new **Physician Assistant program** at EMU has met the qualifications to begin training students. The program was recently awarded its provisional accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. EMU's 24-month program is scheduled to start May 2014.

Athletic Highlights

- Basketball (Men): **Karrington Ward** has been named to the 2014 All-Mid-American Conference Third Team after an exceptional season. Senior center **Da'Shonte Riley** was named the MAC Defensive Player of the Year.
- Basketball (Women): **Cha Sweeney** and **Janay Morton** have been named to the 2014 All-Mid-American Conference teams. Sweeny was selected second team All-MAC along with earning All-Freshman team accolades, while Morton also earned a spot on the All-Freshman squad.
- Cross Country (Men): The men's cross country program has been placed on the **U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's All-Academic Team** honors list. The Eagles boast a GPA in the top 30 from a pool of 160 institutions.\
- Cross Country (Men): Three members of the men's cross country team have been named to the Academic All-MAC Team. Seniors and All-MAC First Team selections include **Grzegorz Kalinowski** and **Harry Dixon**. Sophomore **Willy Fink** is an All-MAC Second Team honoree.
- Cross Country (Women): The women's cross country program sits at the **fourth-highest team GPA** spot among 215 NCAA Division I programs that finished with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Cross Country (Women): Three members of the women's cross country team have been named to the Academic All-MAC Team: **Kayla Pfund**, **Amy Frauhammer** and **Victoria Voronko**.
- Soccer (Women): Six soccer players were named to the Academic All-MAC list. **Stephanie Clarke**, **Cara Cutaia**, **Emily Dzik**, **Marisa Kozikowski**, **Angela Vultaggio** and **Megan McCabe** were all recognized for success on the field and in the classroom.
- Soccer (Women): **Emily Dzik** and **Angela Vultaggio** were selected by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America to the All-Great Lakes Region Third team.
- Swimming & Diving: Both the men's and women's teams have been selected to the **College Swimming Coaches Association of America NCAA Division I Scholar All American Teams** list for the Fall 2013 semester.
- Track & Field (Men): **Max Babits** broke his own previously-held EMU school record in pole vaulting after clearing 5.41 meters (17 feet, 11 inches).
- Track & Field (Women): **Sarah Chauchard** finished sixth in the nation to earn First Team All-American honors and broke the school record for the third time this season with 4,229 points.

- Volleyball: Six volleyball players were named to the Academic All-MAC Honorable Mention list. **Alyssa Davis, Kelsey Jones, Stacey Perinar, Paige Roback, Erin Short and Corynne Smith** each received the honor.
- Wrestling: Head coach **Derek DelPorto** became the winningest coach in EMU wrestling history when the Eagles defeated Cleveland State. He now holds an 81-73-2 all-time record in his eight seasons at EMU.

* * *