

Emeritus Newsletter #94
February 2021

Hello Colleagues,

We welcome the following faculty and staff to our association. **Faculty:** Gary Hannan, Biology; Raymond Quiel, CMTA; and Raymond Rosenfeld, Political Science. **Lecturer:** Laurie Walker, English. **Staff:** Bobbie Bowling, Intercollegiate Athletics; Elizabeth Elcher, Financial Aid; and Brian Samuels, Chemistry.

COVID remains the dominant influencer of our lives as we go through this winter with the hope that vaccines will be available to all of our age group in the near future. Perhaps you have been fortunate to be vaccinated already but, for those of you still waiting, a medical doctor told me to sign up everywhere you can and take the first opportunity to get the vaccination. We are all looking forward to being able to gather and see one another later this year if we can do this safely. Our 2021 May general membership meeting and social are cancelled. At this point, EMU is tentatively preparing for a very gradual opening in the fall moving slowly from on-line classes to in-person classes. We will determine later this year whether or not we can hold our October general membership meeting in-person.

Emeritus Remembrances: Clayton Eshleman, English (01/29/2021), David Leopard, COT (01/20/2021), Andrew "Drew" Nazzaro, Geography and Geology (12/22/2020), John "Jack" Sheard, Health, and PE (01/11/2021), Paul Daniel "Dan" Trochet, Physics and Astronomy (12/24/2020).

The Washtenaw United Way campaign is underway and if you want to include your contribution with that of EMU please access the following website: [Please click here](#) to donate to support our local United Way as part of the EMU Campaign. Emeritus faculty and staff have long been generous supporters of this important campaign.

The EMU Board of Regents met on Thursday, February 18th. The highlights of the meeting are copied below.

Stay safe and healthy through this pandemic,

Sally McCracken, President
EMU Faculty and Staff Association

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To students, faculty and staff:

Below are news items and reports from today's (Feb. 18) regular meeting of the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents. The committee meetings and the regular

meeting, which were live streamed and available to the public, were held remotely because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

News items

In recognition of a new \$5 million gift in addition to \$15 million contributed over the past 15 months by GameAbove, the Eastern Michigan University alumni group, the University is renaming the engineering and technology college to the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology. The \$20 million represents the largest gift portfolio received in Eastern Michigan University's 171-year history. Details can be found in the news release:

A Big Gift and a New Name: Eastern Michigan University to rename its engineering and technology college to the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology, thanks to major new gift from the GameAbove alumni group

The Board also approved new room and board rates, further reducing the premium for a single room in residence halls.

Meeting the wishes of students and parents, Eastern Michigan University to again reduce costs for single rooms in residence halls as part of #EMUSafe initiative

Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Rhonda Longworth announced that longtime EMU administrator Ellen Gold, Dean of Students, has been named Interim Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

President's Report to the Board of Regents

In his regular report to the Board of Regents, President Smith welcomed two new members of the Board of Regents, Nathan Ford and Dr. Jessie Kimbrough-Marshall. "We truly benefit from the rich diversity and exceptional expertise of the members of Eastern Michigan University's Board of Regents, as well as outstanding leadership of our new Board officers, Chair Eunice Jeffries, the first Black woman to head the Board; and alumnus and Vice Chair Michael Hawks," President Smith said.

His report also touched upon the University's commitment and support of diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, as evidenced in the range of activities supporting Black History Month and January's 35th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. President Smith also thanked the many faculty, staff and students who helped to make the 2021 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration a success, offering special thanks to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History for its collaboration to present the keynote speaker, PBS White House correspondent Yamiche Alcindor.

President Smith spoke on how the University's #EMUSafe practices in confronting the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be its primary priority. Following an increase in positive cases in late January, the number of cases has returned to the low levels of last summer and fall. "We're proud of our efforts to keep cases among the lowest of Michigan's public universities," President Smith said. "This is due to the University's

determined adherence to safe practices and protocols. As outbreaks are identified, our response team jumps into action with contact tracing, strategic testing of populations that may have been exposed, and enacting quarantine and isolation for those individuals. The level of compliance for safe practices among our students, faculty and staff is critical to our success."

President Smith also provided an update on the University's COVID-19 Dashboard. In the seven days ending Feb. 16, the University administered 1,316 tests that resulted in eight positive tests, for a positivity rate of 0.61 percent. During this time, EMU confirmed a total of 16 positive cases. This compares to 43 cases the week of Feb. 3 and 82 the week of Jan. 27. Since August 12, the University has administered a total of 24,285 tests that resulted in 318 positive results for a positivity rate 1.31 percent. The data is updated regularly on the University's COVID-19 Dashboard.

It was also noted that Eastern is significantly expanding the free on-campus testing of students and employees, provided at University expense. EMU has relocated its testing site to a larger space in the Student Center and is testing more than 1,000 students and employees weekly.

"At the same time, we are proud to support the important community effort to provide vaccines to Washtenaw County residents," President Smith said. "We are pleased to provide the University's Convocation Center as a mass vaccination site – and we continue to work closely with the Washtenaw County Health Department and St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor to facilitate the vaccinations of hundreds of people each day."

In commenting on the landmark gift and naming of the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology, President Smith said, "We are extremely proud and gratified to honor the singular contributions of GameAbove with the renaming of our outstanding College of Engineering and Technology. GameAbove's extraordinary \$20 million in support to the University, over a 15-month period of time, represents the largest gift portfolio received in Eastern Michigan University's 171-year history.

"GameAbove's partnership with the University signifies a truly historic commitment that will be transformative in our efforts to provide world-class experiences in engineering, technology, cybersecurity, autonomous vehicles, drone technology, gaming, aviation, and many other related careers. We greatly value GameAbove's exceptional support of Eastern Michigan University students and faculty."