

President's Report  
**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
Board of Regents  
June 10, 2021

Madam Chair and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

I was pleased to begin this week with the major announcement about a transformational \$1 million gift to the University from alumnus, entrepreneur and auto racing legend Jack E. Roush. He is chairman of the board of Roush Enterprises, and founder, CEO, and co-owner of the NASCAR racing team, Roush Fenway Racing.

This generous gift will play a critical role in increasing access for students to math instruction, with particular emphasis on students desiring to pursue engineering, computer science and other STEM majors. It also will support automotive programs in the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology.

In making the announcement, Mr. Roush noted his lifelong commitment to learning, from receiving his master's degree in scientific mathematics at EMU in 1970 to founding and chairing a company so heavily committed to technical excellence. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree in December 2019.

The gift is part of the University's [Give Rise campaign](#), the comprehensive fundraising campaign. With a goal of \$100 million, Give Rise is the largest comprehensive campaign in University history.

I would like to acknowledge the fine efforts of Dean Mohamad Qatu, EMU Foundation Vice President and Executive Director Bill Shepard, and Senior Director of Development Lisa Comben for working with me, and Mr. Roush, to make this gift a reality.

As the nation emerges from the pandemic, we must do all we can to help students and their families as they work to get back on track in their education and their futures. That's why it gives me great pleasure today to thank the members of the Board of Regents for their support of the \$3.5 million increase in financial aid for students in the upcoming school year. This brings our total financial aid commitment to students for the 2021 school year to \$54.8 million.

Over the last 14 years, the University has increased financial aid by 156%. This commitment reflects the University's mission, as outlined in our strategic plan, to be an institution of opportunity with the state's most diverse student body among Michigan's public universities.

Today's approval of block tuition pricing will further help our students by providing an incentive to take more credits, graduate earlier, and get a head start on their careers. Under this model, which is used by the majority of public universities in Michigan, undergraduate students pay the same amount for up to 16 credits hours as they pay for 12.

Our adoption of block tuition is designed to encourage students to complete their degrees in four years by incentivizing the student to take a full course load. Additional details about the plan can be found by clicking the block tuition link on the EMU Today web page.

The landmark partnership with Beibu Gulf University in China to establish a joint college of engineering that was announced last week further expands Eastern's international footprint and will add as many as 1,200 new students to our overall enrollment.

The 15-year cooperative partnership will begin with up to 300 students being enrolled in the new program in China this fall. Upon successful completion, students will receive degrees from both Beibu Gulf University and Eastern Michigan.

The Beibu Gulf campus is in the city of Qinzhou, which is located in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China. The Eastern Michigan-Beibu Gulf partnership represents the only international joint college in the region, which has a population of more than 50 million people.

The plans developed by the two universities offer excellent career preparation for students, and create a new stream of students for EMU and the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology that further enhances Eastern's global presence and the rich diversity of our campus.

Faculty will have the opportunity to teach classes on a limited basis at Beibu Gulf in each of a student's four years of study, but will primarily concentrate their teaching in a student's fourth year as students at the cooperative institution become more advanced. Students in the program also can pursue their fourth year of studies here at Eastern.

Finally, our faculty, staff and facilities teams are busy preparing for the fall semester and the return of a large number of students to our campus. We are very much looking forward to welcoming them!

For many, it will be their first look at the \$40 million revitalization and expansion of Sill Hall and the dynamic \$16 million renovation of the Rec/IM, that includes new workout equipment and a renewed focus on overall health and emotional wellness.

There's nothing like fall on Eastern's campus and all of the academic experiences and activities that take place. We're looking forward to enjoying that experience again.

Additional information and accomplishments are listed in the appendix to this report on the University website.

Thank you, Chair Jeffries.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.  
President

## Recognition

- **L'Meese Greaney**, graduate student in English Linguistics, finished in the top eight in the **Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools** competition with her oral summation of her master's thesis.
- **Stephani Hicks**, a senior Arts & Entertainment major, **Paul Katokwe**, an MBA graduate student, and **Taylor Williams**, a senior Management major, participated in the Royal Roads University Design Thinking Case Competition. The students' challenge was to devise new ways for the Wilderness Tourism Association in British Columbia to serve its local community during the pandemic.
- **Kevin Alschuler, Carrie Clark, Derrick Coleman, Bynarozell Elliott, Farah Harb, Jasmine Lee, Christina Miller, Chad Newton, Gregory Peoples, Bette Warren, and Zach Wigal** were honored at the **60<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Awards**.

## Of Note

- The **School of Art & Design** received a **\$2.2 million grant** from the **Windgate Foundation** to support construction of a new 3D Arts Complex.
- **GameAbove** donated a **\$500,000 gift** to the **GameAbove College of Engineering & Technology** to fund a senior research engineer position and expand exploration for advancement of autonomous, connected-vehicle technologies and mobility solutions.
- Students in the **Fashion Marketing Innovation program** have used a CAD system to program a CNC machine to cut thousands of fabric squares which are then given to the volunteer group **Preemie Pals** who sew them into quilts for babies in the NICU at **Mott Children's Hospital**. To date, more than 10,000 fabric squares have been produced.
- **EMU, GameAbove**, and Reggie Jackson's **Mr. October Foundation** celebrated the joint STEM outreach progress made in Detroit area K-12 schools at Hope Academy, an EMU charter school, on May 25.
- The **Engage@EMU** office is collaborating with the **University of Michigan's Ginsberg Center** to launch **Digital Connecting Corps**, a program to help older adults in Washtenaw County learn technology skills.

## Athletics

- Baseball (Men): **Taylor Hopkins** and **Mike Monahan** earned **First Team All-MAC** honors. **Davis Feldman** was named **Second Team All-MAC**.
- Baseball (Men): **Mike Monahan** is the recipient of the **2021 MAC Medal of Excellence** for outstanding academics, athletics, service and leadership.
- Basketball (Women): **Jenna Anecchiarico, Natalia Pinedo, and Ce’Nara Skanes** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors for the 2021 season.
- Cross Country (Men): **Baldvin Magnusson** recently set an **Icelandic record** in the 1500m. He also owns the Icelandic record in the 3000m and outdoor 5000m.
- Golf (Men): **Cougar Collins** earned **All-MAC Second Team** honors.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Courtney Bezold, Hadyn Crossen, Shannon Gregory, Cali Harden, Carly Kosanovich, Molly Parris, Brianna Price, Jada Rondeau, Caitlin Sadler, and Mickayla Stuckey** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors for the 2021 season.
- Soccer (Women): **Alia Frederick** has earned **CoSIDA Academic All-District** honors.
- Soccer (Women): **Amanda Cripps** and **Sabrina McNeill** were named to the United Soccer Coaches **All-Midwest Region Second Team**. **Sabrina McNeill** also earned **North/Central Scholar All-Region Team** honors.
- Soccer (Women): **Chelsea Abbotts, Sarah Ash, Simone Chiodo, Marla Cobetto, Kylie Frantz, Alia Frederick, Kennady Kuhlman, Sabrina McNeill, Tessa Osborne, Lindsey Shira, Haley Tausend** and **Laura Wheeler** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors.
- Swimming & Diving (Women): Diver **Bethany Berger** won both the 1-meter and 3-meter diving **MAC Championships**.
- Track & Field (Women): **Graysen Simmons** is the recipient of the **2021 MAC Medal of Excellence** for outstanding academics, athletics, service and leadership.
- Track & Field (Outdoor) (Women): **Quintella Johnson** placed first in the High Jump and **Alysse Wade** took first in the 100m Hurdles at the **MAC Championships**. The 4x100m Relay team of **Alyson Davis, Kolby Ganther, Micah Johnston, and Brittni Mason** were the champions of their event.

- Track & Field (Outdoor) (Women): **Quintella Johnson** qualified for the **NCAA Outdoor Championships**.
- Track & Field (Outdoor) (Women): **Tiffany Cernej-Garcia, Kadian Clark, Quintella Johnson, and Nina Ward** qualified for the **NCAA East Preliminary Championships**.
- Track & Field (Women): **Nicole Bow, Miranda Cadwell, Brenna Cavanaugh, Tiffany Cernej-Garcia, Kadian Clarke, Alyson Davis, Madison Distelrath, Mair Edwards, Ariel Floyd, Keypathwa Gibson, Morgan Iverson, Quintella Johnson, Maura Lane, Savannah Luthman, Lexi Seifert, Graysen Simmons, Kaitlyn St. Bernard, Alysse Wade, Nina Ward, and Chevonne Wheeler** were named to the **Academic All-MAC** team.
- Track & Field (Outdoor) (Men): **Baldvin Magnusson** took first in the 5000m Run and **Payne Wylie** placed first in the 110m Hurdles at the **MAC Championships**.
- Track & Field (Outdoor) (Men): **Taige Bryant** qualified for the **NCAA Outdoor Championships**.
- Track & Field (Outdoor) (Men): **Kappa Bedoui, Taige Bryant, Chris Devaney, Chukwusom Enekechi, Zach Harkey, Dante Lander, Baldvin Magnusson, Baboucar Sallah-Mohammed, Kaleb Simpson, Newlyn Stephenson, and Payne Wylie** qualified for the **NCAA East Preliminary Championships**.
- Track & Field (Men): **Ronald Brandal, Taige Bryant, Ian Cook, Solomon Costa, Owen Day, Chris Devaney, Chukwusom Enekechi, Toby Gualter, Terrance Hinds III, Joe Ingram, Derek Jones, Dante Lander, Baldvin Magnusson, Kyle Martin, Andy Payne, Noah Perrin, Owen Richardson, and Eddie Zuercher** were named to the **Academic All-MAC** team.
- Volleyball (Women): **Krista Blakely, Raeven Chase, April Houston, Alayna Jansky, Jayden Otto, and Kamryn Stilwell** earned **Academic All-MAC** honors for the 2021 season.
- **Cali Harden** (gymnastics), **Courtnie Lewis** (basketball), and **Luis Pelayo** (tennis) were selected to participate in the NCAA Career in Sports Forum.

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