

President's Report
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
June 22, 2023

Madam Chair and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

Nearly seven years ago, shortly after I became president of this great university, one of the first goals the regents and I established was to plan and complete a comprehensive fundraising campaign. The Give Rise campaign began that very year and will officially end on June 30th. Our initial goal was to raise \$100 million towards three of the university's most important priorities:

- Supporting each student's success;
- Advancing our programs of distinction; and,
- Helping students excel beyond the classroom.

Shortly after the announcement, I heard from many people who were skeptical that we would succeed in a fundraising effort of this magnitude. To say there were doubters would be an understatement.

As I sit before you today, I am pleased to report that we have not only met the goal of \$100 million but also exceeded it. As of today, we have collected more than \$118 million – and with eight days to go before the end of the campaign, we are striving to achieve my personal goal of \$120 million.

As many of you know, two weeks ago, we celebrated the upcoming close of the Give Rise campaign with a full house of more than 240 donors. The outdoor venue at the Ypsilanti Marriott at Eagle Crest was an ideal setting – and the performances by our students in forensics and theatre were dramatic and powerful, moving some attendees to tears. Special credit to the Advancement team members who worked on planning the event for more than a year to make it a truly memorable evening – particularly Kelly Quilter, Matt Mortier and Celia Murkowski.

It takes a lot of time, passion, and commitment to bring a campaign of this size and scope to life. Please join me in thanking the EMU Foundation Board of Trustees, the Give Rise Campaign Cabinet, and our Board of Regents have all generously and tirelessly supported this campaign from day one.

On the morning of the event, many of us had the opportunity to join executives from Toyota North America, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, as Toyota announced a \$10 million grant to the University as part of its Driving Possibilities initiative. Led by our dean of the College of Education, Ryan Gildersleeve, Eastern will partner with Toyota to establish a STEM Institute in collaboration with our local school districts to invest in stem education and workforce development.

While we are on the topic of gifts, the University received another tremendous commitment from GameAbove last week. The alumni-led philanthropic group announced a \$1.6 million gift to the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology. The new commitment will support the launch of a Cybersecurity for Embedded Systems initiative and establish a dedicated Cybersecurity Certificate Program that will cater to students and business professionals alike.

Earlier this week, GameAbove announced another special commitment to the University. In collaboration with EMU, GameAbove has championed the design, development, and dedication of a statue of George Gervin, the Detroit native, NBA Hall of Fame member, and EMU Hall of Famer. The sculpture will stand outside the George Gervin GameAbove Center. An unveiling ceremony will take place in August and we'll let you know the details. World-renowned American sculptor Benjamin Victor was commissioned to design the statue. Victor is the only living artist with three sculptures in the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol.

Please join me in congratulating the students and faculty members recognized earlier today with Sabbatical Leave Awards, Faculty Research and Creative Activity Fellowships, and Winter 2023 and Summer 2023 Undergraduate Research Stimulus Awards. I encourage you to learn more about the awardees and their research interests on the Board of Regents website.

I would like to acknowledge the bargaining teams involved in reaching a tentative agreement in the recent contract negotiations with the University's Food Service and Maintenance employees. The approximately 130 employees covered under the agreement are important and valued and make the University a better place for our students, faculty and staff.

In closing, I am pleased to welcome and introduce our new Vice President for Enrollment Management, Katie Condon. Katie has been with us for over three weeks and has hit the ground running. Katie is a native Michigander and previously served at West Virginia University. Welcome, Katie!

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

Thank you, Chair Jeffries.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.
President

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Recognition

- The **U.S. Department of State** and the **Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board** announced that four Eastern students have received **Fulbright Awards** for the 2023-24 academic year. All four—**Ian Cook**, **Jacob Lanczk**, **Sara Plohetski**, and **Valentyna Stadnik**—received English Teaching Assistantships and will teach English, share knowledge, and foster meaningful connections across communities in Germany, Spain, and Thailand.
- The **Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program** awards scholarships to the nation's most talented college sophomores and juniors who are pursuing careers in engineering, mathematics, and the natural sciences. This distinguished, national scholarship provides up to \$7,500 per year to 400 sophomores and juniors selected from a pool of over 1,200 nominees. **Rosie Friend** was awarded this scholarship making it the second year in a row an EMU student has won this prestigious award.
- The **Forensics Team** placed second in the nation in the **National Championship Tournament** of the **National Forensics Association**. **Gavin Millard** was named **national champion in dramatic interpretation**, becoming Eastern's first national champion in this category. **Cedrick Charles** took second place in persuasive speaking, third place in duo interpretation with **Diontae Threats**, and fourth place in program oral interpretation and individual pentathlon. **Louise Engohang** placed second in rhetorical criticism. **Sarah Dubinsky** took fourth in dramatic interpretation, fifth in poetry, and eighth in the nation overall in individual sweepstakes. **AbdurRahman Elder** took fifth place in novice extemporaneous speaking. **Geoff Gauthier** took fifth place in extemporaneous speaking.
- Eastern's **Information Assurance Student Association (IASA)** has been ranked No. 1 in Michigan and No. 18 nationally by **Cyber Power**.
- The faculty-student research team at Eastern's **Coatings Research Institute** in the **GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology** has been awarded the **Special University Award** for their contributions to the advancement of novel and sustainable UV-curable coatings by **RadTech International North America**.
- Eastern recognized 44 faculty projects with **Summer Research/Creative Activity Awards**. **Sadaf Ali**, **Steven Backues**, **Brigid Beaubien**, **Hannah Blatchford**, **Leslie Blome**, **Adam Briggs**, **Sarah Cox**, **Omar Darwish**, **Margaret Dobbins**, **Brendan Fay**, **Xianghong Feng**, **Bilquis Ferdousi**, **Michael Foster**, **Catherine Gammon**, **Naomi Hashimoto**, **Jarrold Irwin**, **Dejuana Jackson**, **Raed Jarrah**, **Brandon Johnson**, **Andrii Kashliev**, **Matthew Kautz**, **Tareq Khan**, **Matthew Kirkpatrick**, **Michael Koscielniak**, **You Li**, **Dyann Logwood**, **Dustin London**, **Sheila Longpre**, **Elizabeth Loomis**, **Amanda Maher**, **Katherine Mason**, **John Mccurdy**, **Lon Mitchell**, **MeeAe Nam**, **Elizabeth Neilson**, **Cierra Presberry**, **Jenni Putz**, **Rachel Radina**, **Micheal Reedy**, **Joel Schoenhals**, **Rita Shah**, **Zuzana Tomas**, **Shu Wang**, and **Chuyang Yang** received awards.

- **Brigid Beaubien**, teacher education professor at Eastern, was recently named the new director of the **Department of History & Philosophy's Jiu-Hwa Lo Upshur Institute for Civic Education**.
- **Jennifer Kellman Fritz** was named the dean of the **College of Health and Human Services**.
- **89.1, WEMU**, Eastern's public radio station was named **Station of the Year in Michigan** for the Public Radio Group 1 category at the **Michigan Association of Broadcasters annual Broadcast Excellence Awards**.
- In recognition of its support to the local community, **Eastern Michigan University** has been awarded a **2023 Creative Campaign Awardee** by the **United Way Washtenaw County**. The award reflects Eastern's deep and long-standing commitment supporting community initiatives focused on education, health, and financial stability for citizens of Washtenaw County.
- Eastern's **Master of Science in Construction Management** program has been ranked No. 7 in the nation by **Intelligent.com**.

Of Note

- EMU alumna **Jacklyn Staffeld** has been awarded a **2023 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship**, which is valued at approximately **\$147,000** over three years. She will use the fellowship to pursue a Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience at Baylor University.
- **Swoop's Food Pantry** and the **John and Angie Sabo Food Pantry Room** remain vital to provide no-cost food and necessities for the Eastern community. The campus community and local leaders joined in celebrating a **\$130,000** gift from **EMU alumni group GameAbove** to expand Swoop's and fill an even greater need on campus.
- **Emily Dabish Yahkind** was selected among 14 entrepreneurs and awarded a **\$25,000** prize after pitching her idea to a panel of business leaders from the **EMU Center for Entrepreneurship**.
- Eastern was selected by **Toyota's Driving Possibilities** to collaborate with **Lincoln Consolidated** and **Ypsilanti Community Schools**, on an initiative to prepare youth for in-demand science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers.
- Eastern's **SMART Project** collaborated with the **city of Chelsea** to reimagine safety and security for the Washtenaw County community.

- The Eastern Michigan University collegiate chapter of the **National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)** traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, to attend the 49th Annual Convention. Students expanded their reach as a collegiate chapter, acquired internships and established connections with other Black engineers. The NSBE trip was funded through the **GameAbove Students Matter Most initiative**.
- The **Construction Management Alumni Chapter** has established an **endowed scholarship** to honor the late **Aishwarya Thatikonda**, the EMU graduate killed in the Texas mall shooting.
- **The American Council for Construction Education (ACCE)** has reaccredited Eastern's **construction management program** until February 2030. The ACCE is a leading global advocate of quality construction education and promotes, supports, and accredits construction management programs across the United States. Through hard work and dedication, EMU's construction management program has maintained its accreditation status with the ACCE since 1991.
- The **College of Arts and Science** is proud to announce the **Formosa Quartet** as the 2023-2024 **McAndless Distinguished Professor Chair** in the Humanities.
- Finalists from **EMUINVENT**, an invention competition composed of students grades second to twelve, participated in **Invention Convention Michigan**, a statewide inventors competition at **The Henry Ford**. Three of the five teams earned top awards at the state-level competition and will move on to the 2023 **Raytheon Technologies Invention Convention U.S. Nationals**.
- The new **Eastern Michigan University Lawn at Pine Knob Music Theatre** presented by Proud Partners United Wholesale Mortgage, Trinity Health and Ally will greet guests to the acclaimed amphitheater this summer. In addition to the naming of the lawn, the collaboration also features videos and animations that will be displayed on the digital screens inside Pine Knob Music Theatre.

Events

- Eastern's **Dare2Design** program will hold its student learning program at **SPARK East Innovation Center** from June 19-29.
- **Media Representations: The Simpson's Apu and Digital Black/Brown Face** was held on May 30. The event included a documentary viewing of "**The Problem with Apu**" and featured guest speaker **Dr. Sadaf Ali**.
- Students from grades first through eighth put their brains to the test during a **Math Facts Challenge** hosted by the **EMU Charter Schools Office** on May 30.
- **Digging Up Dessa**, a play for ages 10+, written by **Laura Schellhardt** and directed by **Emily Levickas**, was held in **Sponberg Theatre** from May 12-21.

- **Engage@EMU** and **Wayne-Westland School District** hosted an **Excursion Camp** for 800 fifth graders on EMU's campus from May 1-12.
- The **EMU Gospel Choir** held its **50th Anniversary Reunion Banquet, Celebration, and Concert** on May 5-6.
- A groundbreaking celebration for the new **Windgate Arts Complex** in the **School of Art and Design** was held on April 20.
- The **Women's Resource Center** held a **Sexual Assault Awareness Walk** on April 20.
- Students celebrated the end of the semester at the **Rock the Patio** event on April 19.
- The Japanese section of the **Department of World Languages** held a **Japanese Drum Taiko Workshop** on April 18.

Athletics

- Baseball (Men): **Matt Kirk** and **Josh Kross** were named to the **First Team All-MAC Honors**. **Josh Kross** was named **MAC Freshman of the Year**.
- Baseball (Men): **Luke Russo** received the **2023 MAC Medal of Excellence Award** which honors students who have distinguished themselves academically, athletically, and through demonstrated service and leadership.
- Baseball (Men): **Josh Kross** has been tabbed a **Freshman All-American** by **Collegiate Baseball Newspaper (CBN)**.
- Baseball (Men): **Nick Chittum, Aaron Dolney, Zach Gillig, Thomas House, Logan Hugo, Matt Kirk, Glenn Miller, Lake Russo, and Cory Taylor** have all been named to the **Academic All-MAC Team**.
- Football (Men): Hosted **Victory Day** inside "The Factory" at Rynearson Stadium on May 24. The event welcomed cognitive and physically impaired community members to take part in a day of football with Eastern Michigan players, coaches, and staff.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Cassie Bergin, Raisa Boris, Ella Chemotti, Haydn Crossen, Alana Fisher, Hannah Hartung, Emma Lewis, Anna Grace McCullough, Molly Paris, Sophia Rios, and Mickayla Stuckey** were named to the **Academic All-MAC Team**.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Ella Chemotti** and **Haydn Crossen** were named **Academic All-District Selections** by **College Sport Communicators**.
- Golf (Women): **Natai Apichonlati, Alyssa DiMarcantonio, Kyleigh Dull, Adeline Lau, Olivia Loberg, and Anna Watson** were all named to the **Women's Golf Academic All-MAC Team**.

- Golf (Men): **Patrick Deardorff** and **Cam Kellett** earned **Academic All-MAC Team Honors**.
- Lacrosse (Women): **Mackenzie Blackwell** was named **MAC Freshman of the Year**.
- Lacrosse (Women): **Tracy Grollman** and **Avery Schwab** have been named **Academic All-District Selections** by the **College Sports Communicators**.
- Lacrosse (Women): **Tracy Grollman**, **Olivia Halveson**, and **Avery Schwab** have earned **Academic All-MAC Selections**.
- Lacrosse (Women): The team honored **Patrick Schoonover Foundation** with a "**Play for Patrick**" game, and celebrated the "**Special Olympics Day**" on April 22.
- Rowing (Women): **Lily Wilhelm** was named **Academic All-District Selections** by **College Sports Communicators**.
- Tennis (Women): **Daniella Shved** was named to the **All-MAC First Team**.
- Tennis (Women): **Sabrina Brichackova** and **Perna Vichare** were named to the **Academic All-MAC Team**.
- Track and Field (Women): The Eagles took **second place** in the **MAC Outdoor Championships**. First places were earned by **Angel Gazaway** in the 100m Hurdles, 400m Hurdles, and in the 4x400 Relay with **Mair Edwards**, **Noriyah Johnson**, and **Chevonne Wheeler**. **Noriyah Johnson** won the 400m and **Chevonne Wheeler** placed first in the 800m. **Miranda Cadwell** earned second place in the Hammer event.
- Track and Field (Women): **Angel Gazaway** was named the **Most Outstanding Track Performer** at the **MAC Outdoor Championships**. **Mair Edwards**, **Angel Gazaway**, **Noriyah Johnson**, and **Chevonne Wheeler** were named to the **All-MAC First Team** and **Miranda Cadwell** received **All-MAC Second Team** honors.
- Track and Field (Women): **Angel Gazaway** set a new school record in the 100m hurdles at the **NCAA East First Round meet**.
- Track and Field (Women): **Chevonne Wheeler** received the **2023 MAC Medal of Excellence Award** which honors students who have distinguished themselves academically, athletically, and through demonstrated service and leadership.
- Track and Field (Women): **Isabella Brent**, **Miranda Cadwell**, **Mair Edwards**, **Alysse Wade**, and **Chevonne Wheeler** have all been named **Academic All-District Honors** by **College Sports Communicators (CSC)**.
- Track and Field (Men): The Eagles took **third place** in the **MAC Outdoor Championships**. First places were earned by **Payne Wylie** won the 110m Hurdles, **Marcus Kemp** for 800m, **Baldvin Magnusson** for 1500m, and **Brendan Hill** for the High Jump.

Second places were earned by **Kaleb Simpson** in the 200m, **Dante Lander** in the 400m Hurdles, **Toby Gualter** for 5000m, **Linus Vennemann** for the 3000m Steeplechase, and **Baldvin Magnusson** for 10,000m.

- Track and Field (Men): **Baldvin Magnusson** was named the **Most Outstanding Track Performer at the MAC Outdoor Championships**. **Mark Rinker** was named **MAC's Men's Assistant Coach of the Year**. **Brendan Hill, Marcus Kemp, and Payne Wylie** were named to the **All-MAC First Team**. **Dante Lander, Kaleb Simpson, and Linus Vennemann** were named to the **All-MAC Second Team**.
- Track and Field (Men): **Almighty Williamson** set a new school record 110m hurdles at the **NCAA East First Round meet**.
- Track and Field (Men): **Toby Gualter, Dontae Lander, Yvan Lopes-Ribeiro, Baldvin Magnusson, Callum Robinson, Richie Sadler, Kaleb Simpson, Newlyn Stephenson, Formula Thompson, and Almighty Williamson** competed in the **NCAA East First Round** events.
- Track and Field (Men): **Toby Gualter, Baldvin Magnusson, Newlyn Stephenson, and Almighty Williamson** have all been named **Academic All-District Honors** by **College Sports Communicators (CSC)**.
- For the 27th consecutive semester, EMU student-athletes posted an average term **Grade Point Average (GPA)** above 3.0. With 455 student-athletes, Eastern recorded a 3.354 winter semester GPA. There were 69 EMU student-athletes with perfect 4.0 GPAs last semester, led by lacrosse which had 12. For the semester, soccer led all sports with a term GPA of 3.779.
- The **Academic Progress Rate (APR)** marks are a four-year composite, covering the 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 school years, taking a real-time look at the academic success of scholarship student-athletes. The APR measures academic eligibility, retention, and graduation. The men's golf, women's golf, and women's tennis teams posted perfect 1,000 single-year rates in the latest report. Meanwhile, a total of six teams (men's cross country, men's golf, women's golf, women's soccer, women's tennis, and volleyball) had perfect single-year scores of 1,000 in 2021-22.

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