

President's Report
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents Meeting
June 13, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

Today marks another milestone day for Eastern Michigan University – reflecting our ongoing and intentional strategy to prepare the University for future students and the market demands of the Michigan and national economy. For the first time since 1982, Eastern Michigan University's Board of Regents has approved a name change to one of our five colleges.

Today's action to rename the College of Technology in order to launch the new College of Engineering and Technology is an action rooted in our commitment to prepare students for the opportunities of today – and the opportunities of the future. It builds off the establishment of two new engineering programs in the last two years – Mechanical Engineering in 2017 and Electrical & Computer Engineering in 2018.

Our emphasis on adding engineering provides excellent career opportunities for students, as the demand for more engineers in Michigan is significant. According to estimates, our state's public universities meet only 40 percent of that current demand.

The name change coincides with a major, \$40 million renovation of the home of the College of Engineering and Technology. Sill Hall is closed this summer as the extensive renovations take place. When completed, the entire 92,000 square foot structure will be updated, with an additional 16,000 square feet in new academic space to be constructed.

The College supports a wide variety of distinct programs and areas of study in high-demand career fields, including artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, aviation, cyber security and information assurance, construction management, drone technology, hotel and restaurant management, interior design, military science, and simulation, animation and gaming.

Sill Hall is just one of many exciting construction and renovation projects on campus this summer, as you learned a few minutes ago in the presentation by our facilities team.

The level of activity is unprecedented – construction of the new health center in collaboration with St. Joseph Mercy Health System and IHA will be completed later this year; renovations to the Rec/IM, parking lots and roadways are underway; as is construction of the new Student-Athlete Performance Center; and, we continue to invest in improvements to classroom technology, campus wireless and security.

The General Fund operating budget approved today focuses on the priorities of the University, which are maintaining excellent academic programs and serving students' academic and career needs while responding to rapidly changing demographics.

The University also continued its focus on minimizing net costs for students by offering a high level of financial aid.

Faculty research is one of the cornerstones of the University. We celebrate the 56 faculty members selected for Faculty Research and Creative Activity Fellowships for research in areas such as cancer cell growth, hearing aids for autistic children, and the post climate change environment. I encourage you to review the full list of faculty research under the program – it can be found in the posted Board materials.

At the same time, 25 undergraduate students and 19 faculty members have received Undergraduate Research Stimulus Awards. Students receive a \$2,000 fellowship in support of their research efforts and collaborating faculty members may receive \$500, to be used for lab/studio supplies or equipment, professional travel, or other professional expenses.

Areas of research in the stimulus awards include analyzing brain activity of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, the effects of solar storms on Earth's magnetosphere, and assessing the impact of the Mediterranean Diet. A complete list of the awards also can be found in the posted Board materials.

We are pleased with the approval of two collective bargaining agreements – our food service and maintenance employees, represented by AFSCME Local 3866, and our clerical secretarial employees, represented by UAW Local 1975.

Thank you to the bargaining teams for their hard work in achieving each of the agreements. With the approval at the April Regents meeting of our faculty union contract, all bargained-for units at the University are now under contract as we continue to work collaboratively with our bargaining units and employees across campus to support our students and their educational experience.

Other accomplishments are listed in the Appendix to this report on the University website. Thank you, Chairman Webb.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.
President

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Recognition

- The **Occupational Therapy** master's program has been selected as one of the best in the Midwest by HealthGrad.com.
- The 58th annual **Alumni Awards** ceremony was held on May 18. Honorees included **Marissa Colston, Scott Frush, Maj. Gen. William Henderson, Jawan Jackson, Terry Kayser, Glenna Frank Miller, and Amalie Nash**. EMU alumna **Dara Munson** served as emcee for the event.
- **Nitro**, Eastern's first canine officer and an expert in explosives detection and patrol, and his partner EMU police officer **Bridget Bofysil**, were invited to represent Michigan and Ontario at the National Detector Dog Trials and Certification event in May.

Of Note

- Three EMU graduates appeared in **People magazine** in May. Three members of the **McGill family** – Pat, an EMU police officer, his daughter Regan, and his son Ryan, graduated together in the spring commencement ceremony.

Events

- **Aviation** students who are participating in the **Summer Quest 2019** challenge earn points for completing missions such as flying a specific flight pattern that shows up on radar as a block E. The challenge encourages students to build flight time and compete for prizes at the end of the summer.
- The sixth annual **Math Facts Challenge**, sponsored by the EMU Charter Schools, was held on May 29. More than 200 students from 14 charter schools in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Hamtramck, Grand Blanc, Southfield, Melvindale and Ypsilanti participated.
- The second annual **Healthcare Next Generation Event for Youth Career Exploration**, a collaboration between the College of Health and Human Services, Plymouth Canton School District, and the Canton Chamber of Commerce, was held on May 17. More than 120 students participated in four hands-on learning sessions led by EMU faculty and students.

Athletics

- Baseball (Men): **Zachary Owings** was named to the 2019 Google Cloud Academic All-District Baseball Team by CoSIDA. The award recognizes excellence on the field and in the classroom.
- Baseball (Men): **Zachary Owings** was named to the All-MAC Second Team and the All-MAC Defensive Team.
- Football (Men): The Eagles welcomed more than 200 cognitively and physically impaired community members to take part in its sixth annual **EMU Victory Day** on May 23. Student-athletes and coaches led participants in football related activities

- Golf (Women): The women's golf team earned the **APR Public Recognition Award** for excellence in the classroom. The Eagles scored a perfect 1000 APR and were in the top 10 percent in the nation in their sport.
- Golf (Women): **Kritsuda Apiwatthanadol, Maria Connelly, Penelope Guilleux, Katelin Lawson, Preaw Sripatprasite,** and **Julia Stephenson** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Golf (Men): The Eagles were named as **MAC Co-Champions** following cancellation of the final round of the tournament due to rain. **Beau Breault** was named MAC Golfer of the Year and **Bruce Cunningham** was named MAC Coach of the Year. **Zach Sudinsky** was named to the MAC All-Tournament Team.
- Golf (Men): **Beau Breault** and **Ty Celone** were named First Team All-MAC.
- Golf (Men): **Beau Breault** was presented the MAC Medal of Excellence Award for excellence in academics, athletics, leadership, and service.
- Golf (Men): **Beau Breault, Ty Celone, Cougar Collins, Tyler Rayman,** and **Zach Sudinsky** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Cortney Bezold** was named to the 2019 Google Cloud Academic All-District Women's-At-Large Team by CoSIDA. The award recognizes excellence on the field and in the classroom. Bezold was the only gymnast in the MAC to be honored.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Courtney Bezold** was named as a MAC Distinguished Student-Athlete to honor excellence in athletics and academics.
- Rowing (Women): **Amanda Flora** and **Addison Oblanas** were named to the All-CAA Team at the Colonial Athletic Association Championships.
- Swimming (Women): **Delaney Duncan, Casey Gavigan, Gabrielle Mace,** and **Sophia Tsafantakis** were named as MAC Distinguished Student-Athletes to honor excellence in athletics and academics.
- Swimming (Women): **Delaney Duncan** was presented the MAC Medal of Excellence Award for excellence in academics, athletics, leadership, and service.
- Track & Field (Women): **Sydney Meyers** won the 5000m for the fourth straight year at the MAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships. The team of **Kolby Ganther, Jessica Harris, Micah Johnston,** and **Brittini Mason** placed first in the 4x100 relay. The Eagles placed third overall in the championship.
- Track & Field (Women): **Kolby Ganther, Jessica Harris, Micah Johnston, Brittini Mason,** and **Sydney Meyers** earned First Team All-MAC honors. **Allyson Goff** and **Micah Johnston** were named Second Team All-MAC.

- Track & Field (Women): **Tiffany Cernej-Garcia, Kolby Ganther, Allyson Goff, Jessica Harris, Micah Johnston, Brittni Mason, Sydney Meyers, and Emily Smith** qualified for the NCAA East Regional Championships. **Ganther, Harris, Johnston, and Mason** finished 17th in the 4x100-meter relay and set a new EMU record. **Meyers** finished 16th in the 5000m and **Smith** finished 18th in the 3000m Steeplechase.
- Track & Field (Women): **Kadian Clarke, Sydney Meyers, and Gianna Salzbrunn** were named as MAC Distinguished Student-Athletes to honor excellence on the field and in the classroom.
- Track & Field (Women): **Kristine Bourg, Rebekah Carr, Kadian Clarke, Madison Distelrath, Allyson Goff, Allie Knoll, Savanah Luthman, Brittni Mason, Sydney Meyers, Catherine Mittiga, Gianna Salzbrunn, and Graysen Simmons** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Track & Field (Men): The Eagles placed second overall at the MAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships. **Tyler Underwood** earned Outstanding Track Co-Performer honors, and **Sterling Roberts** was named Assistant Coach of the Year. **Terrell Posada** won the 100m and **Tyler Underwood** won the 200m events.
- Track & Field (Men): **Terrell Posada and Tyler Underwood** were named First Team All-MAC, and **Elijah Barber, Sean Beckom, Melika Ghali, Owen Richardson, Treston White, and Derek Ziegenfuss** received Second Team All-MAC honors.
- Track & Field (Men): **Nick Herbert, Alex Jacobs, Terrell Posada, Owen Richardson, Tyler Underwood, and Derek Ziegenfuss** qualified for the NCAA East Regional Championships. **Herbert** placed 14th in the Triple Jump event.
- Track & Field (Men): **Sean Beckom, Owen Day, Hayelom Fitsum, Derek Jones, Owen Richardson and Austin Wicker** were named as MAC Distinguished Student-Athletes to honor excellence on the field and in the classroom.
- Track & Field (Men): **Sean Beckom II, Solomon Costa, Owen Day, Mike Hierholzer, Derek Jones, Skyler Lester, Zach Purcilly, Owen Richardson, Tyler Underwood, and Austin Wicker** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Volleyball (Women): The women's volleyball team earned the **APR Public Recognition Award** for excellence in the classroom for the seventh straight year. The Eagles scored a perfect 1000 APR and were in the top 10 percent in the nation in their sport.
- All of Eastern's 18 sports teams had Academic Progress Rates (APR) of 955 or higher, exceeding the NCAA's minimum score of 930. The women's gold and volleyball teams posted perfect 1000 rates, the highest in the MAC.

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