

President's Report  
**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
Board of Regents Meeting  
March 17, 2015

While we celebrate the arrival of spring and the countdown to the end of the academic year, our teams are hard at work building the Fall 2015 incoming class. As of March 15, Eastern has 13,357 applications from first-time freshmen as compared to 11,298 at the same time a year go – this is an increase of 18 percent. Admissions are at 9,605 as compared to 7,548 last year -- an increase of 27 percent. We are ahead of other Michigan public universities, which show an overall average increase in applications of 3.9 percent and admissions up 4.1 percent. The percentage of applicants in the 3.5 to 4.0 GPA range continues to increase, there is more diversity, and the number of international applications and admissions is up over last year. We look forward to a great fall class. Go Green!

Significant discussion has taken place among our faculty and staff over the past several months surrounding issues of classroom civility and conduct and social media such as Yik Yak. We will launch in Fall 2015 the “Respect Is What We Expect” campaign that will cover a broad range of institutional priorities including inclusiveness related to race and sexual orientation, how we treat one another, and appropriate classroom conduct. This programming will begin during freshman orientation.

The strategic plan is being implemented and updated across campus. In June 2013, the Board of Regents adopted the Mission, Vision, Values and four themes: Student Engagement and Success, High Performing Academic Programs and Quality Research, Institutional Effectiveness, and Service and Engagement. Since then, detailed goals and objectives under the four themes have been developed. Departments across campus are implementing the plan and mapping specific tasks and measurements to create a roadmap for our future. This is an ongoing process to be updated each year.

As President, I invite you to join me on Tuesday, March 31 at 11 a.m. in the student center auditorium for a university update from me and a financial update from CFO Mike Valdes. I will talk about what we have accomplished together and Eastern's future. CFO Valdes will provide detailed information on our financial status and challenges.

I am recommending a capital budget for fiscal year 2016 that includes renovations of historic Rackham to house our growing Health and Human Services programs, space for growth of the Honors college, renovation of Wise hall, classroom technology, and safety enhancements. I also am recommending a 4 percent increase in residence hall rates and a 5 percent increase for meal plans and apartment rates today to fund housing and dining.

I am pleased to welcome our new Dean of the College of Education, Michael Sayler, pending approval by the Board of Regents. Dr. Sayler has served as Senior Associate Dean at University of North Texas since 2011, and served as Associate Dean there since 2002. I also welcome our new volleyball coach Kimi Olson; her assistant coach Michael Shearer; and Jennifer Brown, associate athletic director for sports medicine. Welcome!

I am pleased to welcome Dennis Beagan and Michelle Crumm to their first Board of Regents meeting today. We will also thank Regent Emeritus Floyd Clack and Regent Emeritus Francine Parker. Their commitment to Eastern as regents had an extraordinary impact and they will each receive a special resolution.

We are also pleased to honor Professor Kay Woodiel she retires. Dr. Woodiel has served 17 years at Eastern as an exceptional leader and devoted mentor to many students.

I am delighted to recommend to the Board of Regents our commencement speakers for graduation on April 26. Our morning commencement speaker will be Sally Young, an Eastern alumna and Emmy Award winning producer of the TV series "Modern Family". Our afternoon commencement speaker will be Eastern alumnus and former football star Charlie Batch, who founded the "Best of the Batch Foundation" to improve the lives of children and families in distressed neighborhoods.

Other accomplishments are listed in the Appendix to this report on the University's website. Thank you, Chair Morris.

Susan Martin

## Recognition

- 17 students from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana were awarded **Presidential Scholarships** for the 2014-2015 academic year. Presidential Scholars are selected during Eastern's annual Presidential Scholarship Competition, held during December of a student's senior year in high school.
- **Dr. Rebecca Martusewicz** from the Teacher Education department was recently awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to work with faculty and doctoral students at the University of Tampere in Finland in 2015.
- **Dr. Valerie Polakow** from the Teacher Education department was selected as the recipient of the Critical Perspectives on Early Childhood Education Distinguished Career Contribution Award for 2015.
- **Dr. John Texter**, from the department of Polymers and Coating in the School of Engineering Technology, has recently been awarded a U.S. patent entitled, "Nanoparticle Dispersions With Ionic Liquid-based Stabilizers." Dr. Texter is a prolific researcher and has over 41 US patents.
- **Dr. Diane Winder**, cello player, music conductor, and EMU professor, was honored with the Michigan Administrator of the Year Award by the Michigan American String Teachers for her outstanding achievement and contributions as a musician, teacher, and arts supporter.
- The **Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching** recognized Eastern Michigan University for its deep level of community engagement.

## Gifts & Grants

- Director of EMU's Institute for Geospatial Research and Education, **Yichun Xie**, was awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to work with 120 Michigan teachers to integrate GIS applications into their curricula and enhance career possibilities for their students.
- Bill and Dee Brehm have generously donated another \$1 million to fund two additional **Brehm Scholars**. The ten scholarship recipients exemplify outstanding pre-professional skills in the field of special education coupled with a commitment to serve children and adolescents with special needs.

## Events

- **TRUEMU Day at Eastern Market** will be held April 25.
- The **College of Business 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** will be held Friday evening on April 10, in the Student Center Ballroom.
- On March 6, **Jim Streeter** was honored at the Men's Basketball game against Toledo for his nearly four decades of commitment to EMU. The Athletic Media Relations Office was renamed in his honor.
- On February 21-22, EMU hosted more than 1,000 video gamers for the annual **Gamers for Giving** charity event. During this 24-hour non-stop competition the gamers raised more than \$25,000 for portable video gaming kiosks for use in children's hospitals.
- EMU presented the **SESI Midwest Entrepreneurship Conference** on February 13<sup>th</sup> in the Student Center. Keynote speakers included Howdy Holmes, President of Chelsea Milling Company, and Todd Palmer, owner of Diversified Industrial Staffing Services of Troy. Both are EMU alums.
- Terry Collins, current manager of the New York Mets and EMU alum, was presented with the **Ron "OAK" Oestrike Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award** and was the keynote speaker at this year's Lead Off Dinner that occurred on February 7.
- The **29<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Celebration at EMU** was held January 15-19. Kicking off the event was the MLK Commemorative Walk, followed by a Day of Service, and ending with Afterglow Celebration. Keynote speaker Dick Gregory, leading civil and human rights activist, discussed non-violent social change.
- EMU hosted over 1,700 high school Marketing Education students during the **Michigan DECA competition** on January 8-9. Michigan DECA is supported by a project grant to the Department of Business and Technology Education in the College of Technology from the Michigan Department of Education.

## Of Note

- **WEMU** has kicked off its year-long 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
- The **EMU Legal Resource Center** celebrated its 10-year anniversary. More than 34,699 Washtenaw County community members have received assistance with court forms from EMU paralegal students as part of their University course work.

- Two EMU graduates, **Nathan Bomey** and **Katrease Stafford**, were recognized by the Michigan Press Association for their work in the field of journalism. Stafford won the 2014 Rookie Writer Award for her work as a breaking news reporter, while Bomey was honored with the MPA's Public Service Award. Both students currently work for the Detroit Free Press.
- Professor Emeritus **Henry Aldridge** explores the 80-year history of Ann Arbor's movie palace in his book entitled *The Michigan Theater*. In his novel he offers insights into how EMU's Department of Communication, Media and Theater Arts and its Historic Preservation program was pivotal in saving the theater.

### **Athletic Highlights**

- Basketball (Men): The men's team advanced to the **third round of the MAC Tournament** in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Basketball (Women): The women's team advanced to the **championship round of the MAC Tournament** in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Cross Country (Men): **Scott Bradley, Willy Fink, Caleb Hess, John Knox, Mitch Lenneman, Nick Raymond, and Cameron Trinh** garnered Academic All-MAC Honors:
- Cross Country (Men): The team was named to the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) **All-Academic Division I Team** list.
- Cross Country (Women): Five Eagles were honored with Academic All-MAC honors: **Amy Frauhammer, Taylor Knoll, Marina Manjon-Rivadulla, Rebecca Quaintance, and Victoria Voronko.**
- Cross Country (Women): The team was named to the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) **All-Academic Division I Team** list.
- Soccer: Fourteen Eagles received Academic All-MAC honors for the fall semester: **Stef Barcelos, Emily Dzik, Madison Hirsch, Hallee Kansman, Marisa Kozikowski, Molli Krick, Julia Lombardi, Gabriella Mancini, Megan McCabe, Chelsie Oddan, Michelle Rollins, Ellie Tillar, Megan Trapp, and Angela Vultaggio.**

- Swimming (Men): The men's team came from behind on the final day and won their 32<sup>nd</sup> **MAC Championship** in program history, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Coach Peter Linn's career.
- Track & Field (Men): **Donald Scott's** triple jump at the Meyo Invitational moved him up to the top of the NCAA leaderboard and to a fifth place in world rankings.
- Track & Field (Women): The team ended the 2015 Mid-American Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships in high spirits by bringing home the title. This is the program's fourth **MAC championship**.
- Volleyball: Seven Eagles earned Academic All-MAC Honors: **Jill Briner, Alyssa Davis, Dori Harrison, Kelsey Jones, Katie Krasowski, Devon Murray, and Corynne Smith.**
- The Fall 2014 semester saw EMU student-athletes combine for a 3.242 GPA, the best in school history. 33 of those student-athletes posted 4.0 GPAs while 343 student-athletes had a 3.0 GPA or better.
- The week of February 14 was **National Salute to Veteran Patients** and the Eagles were out in full force. Members of EMU's football, women's golf, and gymnastics team took time out of their busy schedules to stop at the Ann Arbor VA to visit with veterans and staff.

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