

President's Report  
**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
Board of Regents Meeting  
April 20, 2018

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

It is with great pride that I offer my congratulations to our graduating students as they approach one of the most important days of their lives. Tomorrow marks graduation day for the Class of 2018. Commencement is the single day that represents the totality of the work of our students, as well as the expertise and talent of our outstanding faculty and staff who help guide our students every day in their pursuit of this milestone.

More than 2,660 degree candidates have registered for tomorrow's ceremonies.

Eastern continues to graduate a greater number of students. A total of 4,596 degrees were awarded during the 2017 academic year, reflecting steady 10-year growth and an increase of 7.5 percent from 2008.

During that span, the amount of undergraduate degrees awarded increased 13.5 percent and doctoral degrees more than tripled.

Our increasing number of graduates contributed to Eastern scoring among the highest in the State of Michigan performance metrics, in which we were tied with one other university for the highest score in the state.

These graduates will go on to do great things – whether in Michigan, where the vast majority of our graduates work and live, or those who will be returning to their homes in other states or other countries.

We are pleased to share the stage tomorrow with our distinguished commencement speakers, the honorable Congresswoman Debbie Dingell who will speak at the afternoon ceremony, and leading automotive executive and two-time Eastern alumna Donna Inch, at the morning ceremony.

This month, we also announced an important partnership with the YMCA and Ypsilanti Schools to open a new childcare center in the community. This will be of great value to our students and the community and we are proud to partner in this important community project.

I congratulate our 40 faculty members for their outstanding research ideas – and the award of \$12,000 to each of them to support their work. The Summer Research/Creative Activity Award encourages and supports the research, creative, artistic and scholarly endeavors of faculty over the summer months. The expertise of our faculty is at the heart of everything we do.

I would like to acknowledge the more than 400 students and their faculty mentors for the amazing research and presentations at this year's Undergraduate Symposium on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was a truly outstanding display of student/faculty work in action.

Last week we hosted more than 600 young women from high schools across southeast Michigan in our eighth annual Digital Divas program. The event provides a wonderful opportunity to engage young women in STEM education and career opportunities.

The budget actions we have taken are painful, but necessary, as we work toward a balanced budget. The challenges, and our actions, are not unlike those happening at many universities around the country.

In just the last two weeks, Eastern Kentucky University announced it was suspending several academic programs, eliminating 153 positions, and cancelling two sports, men's and women's tennis, in response to a \$25 million budget shortfall. The University of California Berkeley announced it is considering cutting sports to achieve a balanced budget, stating that current spending is not sustainable. And, Wright State University in Ohio announced it is cutting another \$10 million, after implementing \$30 million in cuts just last year.

We greatly respect our student-athletes in the affected sports and we are deeply sorry to have had to make this decision and for the impact it has on their lives. We are doing everything we can to support them in the transition. We will honor their scholarships if they wish to stay here and complete their degree, which we hope they will. If they choose to transfer to another school to continue their sport, we will fully support them in that effort.

We will continue to work hard to be as efficient and strategic with our resources as possible. The actions we are taking are with a focus on ensuring we are building for the future -- new academic programs that meet the needs of today's students and employers, enhanced facilities, and responsive and helpful student services.

Eastern Michigan has 169 years of greatness in our past, and we are headed to another 169 years of greatness in our future.

Thank you, Chairman Webb.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.  
President

## Recognition

- Freshman **Kayla Cieslak** was one of only 20 musicians selected through national auditions to take part in the United States Air Force National Collegiate Symposium.
- EMU students recently competed in the fifth annual scholarship competition, sponsored by ISACA, an international professional association focused on IT governance. Two EMU teams placed third each in their categories. The two teams were: Master of Science in Information Systems students **Paridhi Sethi, Jis Thomas, YunTing Yeh**; and, Bachelor of Business Administration-Computer Information Systems students **Lena Basata** and **Lauren Rinkus**.
- Eleven students stepped into the shoes of financial advisors from Northwestern Mutual and showed off their skills as they convinced a potential client (played by a judge) to commit to a savings and disability plan. This competition, the annual Northwestern Mutual Sales Contest, took place on March 2. **Alexander Jewell, Garrett Warner,** and **Bria Woods** placed first, second and third, respectively.
- The second annual **Distinguished Contributions Awards Ceremony**, which recognized faculty and staff for their efforts in the areas of student engagement, leadership, innovation, community service, teaching and research, was held on March 21. Award winners included: **Eric Acton, Tana Bridge, Lolita Cummings Carson, Anne Casper, Alissa DeLong, Noel Dockett, Perry Francis, Esther Gunel, Caroline Horst, Brandon Johnson, Lisa Lauterbach, Dawn Leighton, Ethan Lowenstein, Matt Mortier, Sharon Nelson, Bin Ning, Kim Rankins, Michele Rich, Susan Schanne, Sara Shea, Norbert Vance, Sharon Vance,** and **Andrea Workman**.
- The National Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) recently notified the EMU College of Business that its **Master of Business Administration, Human Resource specialization program** aligns with the society's standards, an important step for students seeking to quickly advance in the profession. Students will be able to apply to take the SHRM certified professional exam during their last year of coursework rather than wait until they accumulate work experience in the field.
- **Eric Brown, Nicole Brown, Jose Gabriel Galinato, P.T. Muldoon, Craig Voll Jr.,** and **Sally Young** will be honored at the 2018 Alumni Awards celebration on May 19.
- The student food pantry was renamed the **John and Angie Sabo Swoop's Food Pantry** in a special ceremony on April 9. The endowment will partially fund operations of the pantry in perpetuity.

## Events

- Eastern's annual **Multicultural Graduation Celebration** was held on April 20.
- **Digital Divas**, a bi-annual science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) career conference for young women was held on April 13. More than 650 young women from local high schools participated in networking and hands-on workshops.
- A new exhibit, designed and curated by EMU graduate students in the **Historic Preservation** program, opened in **McKenny Gallery** on April 12.
- The 10th annual **César Chávez Celebration Luncheon** was held on March 28. The keynote speaker was Felipe Lopez-Sustaita, executive director of the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan. More than 300 Latino/a students from six Michigan high schools were special guests.
- The 38<sup>th</sup> annual **Undergraduate Symposium** was held on March 23. The event featured presentations by more than 400 students who were mentored by 205 faculty members.
- The **Nonprofit Leadership Alliance's** annual campus conference in partnership with the **AMPLifying the Arts** Student Organization was held on March 9.
- The Orthotics and Prosthetics program hosted its annual "**First Swim, First Snorkel and First Dive**" event on March 4 to provide introductory level adapted recreation opportunities for amputees, people in wheelchairs, individuals with cerebral palsy, and survivors of strokes or other physical challenges.
- Eastern celebrated **Black History Month** with a variety of events during February.

## Of Note

- A new **Unity Mural** was unveiled February 28 in McKenny Hall. The mural is a visual, artistic timeline that reflects the ways in which our EMU community historically holds true to our tradition of uniting in the face of adverse situations. Several hundred students, faculty, staff and Ypsilanti community members participated in the planning, design, creation and installation of the mural.

## Athletics

- Basketball (Women): The Eagles competed in the quarter-final round of the **MAC Championship Tournament**, before ending their season against CMU.
- Basketball (Women): **Nailah Mitchell** was named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Basketball (Men): The Eagles made it to the semi-final round of the **MAC Championship Tournament**, before ending their season coming up short against Toledo. The team participated in the **CollegelInsider.com Tournament** in post-season play, making it into the second round before their season ended.
- Basketball (Men): **James Thompson IV** was named to the All-MAC First Team. All-MAC Defensive Team honors went to **Tim Bond** and **James Thompson IV**.
- Basketball (Men): **Paul Jackson** was named to the MAC All-Tournament Team. **James Thompson IV** was named to the NABC All-District 14 First Team, his third straight year receiving the honor.
- Basketball (Men): **Paul Jackson** was named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Basketball (Men): **James Thompson IV** was named to the Lou Henson All-American Team.
- Cheer (Women): The EMU Cheer team placed fifth in the intermediate Division I division at the **National Cheerleaders Association Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship**.
- Football (Men): **Sergio Bailey II, Jason Beck, Dan Buschman, Juan Giraldo, Luke Maclean** and **Johnnie Niupalau** were named to the National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society.
- Gymnastics (Women): Eastern placed fourth at the **MAC Championships** this year. **Lacey Rubin** earned second place individual honors in the uneven bars event. **Emili Dobronics, Lacey Rubin** and **Kendall Valentin** earned individual bids to the NCAA Regional Championships.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Kendall Valentin** was named a semi-finalist for the American Athletic Inc. Award, honoring the most outstanding senior gymnast in the country. Valentin is one of 14 semi-finalists in the running.

- Gymnastics (Women): **Emili Dobronics** was named to the All-MAC Second Team.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Carly Clark, Emili Dobronics, Kirsten Gendron, Megan Hultgren, Megan Marino, Lacey Rubin, Jules Schwartz, Allie Smith and Kendall Valentin** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Rowing (Women): **Amanda Flora** and **Delaney McGuire** have been selected to represent the U.S. at the World Rowing Championships in August.
- Rowing (Women): EMU Rowing **Head Coach Kemp Savage** has been selected to lead the U.S. Rowing women's team at the World University Championships in Shanghai, China, Aug. 10-12. The U.S. team will utilize Eastern's boathouse and Ford Lake for its training camp starting in May, and up until they leave for China.
- Rowing (Women): A new **crowd funding initiative** to raise funds for a new 8+ boat for the team is underway.
- Swimming & Diving (Women): EMU earned second place honors at the MAC Championships. **Nicole Swartz** was named Co-Most Outstanding Swimmer. **Mikela Schempf** was named Freshman Diver of the Year. **Buck Smith** was named Diving Coach of the Year.
- Swimming & Diving (Women): **Nicole Swartz** won the 1650m Free and **Casey Gavigan** the 200m Back, at the MAC Championships. **Delaney Duncan** defended her 100m breast title, and **Nicole Swartz** won the 400m individual medley title.
- Swimming & Diving (Women): New school records were set by **Delaney Duncan** in the 200m individual medley, and **Nicole Swartz** in the 400m individual medley and the 500m freestyle, at the MAC Championships.
- Swimming & Diving (Women): **Delaney Duncan, Casey Gavigan, and Nicole Swartz** were named First Team All-MAC. **Brielle Johnston** and **Claire Young** were named Second Team All-MAC.
- Swimming & Diving (Women): **Delaney Duncan** finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100 Back and 14<sup>th</sup> in the 200 Back at the NCAA Zone Championships. Diver **Alli Shereda** placed 15<sup>th</sup> in the 1-Meter event at the meet.

- Swimming & Diving (Women): **Marcella Da Costa, Emilie Desnoyers, Delaney Duncan, Casey Gavigan, Brielle Johnston, Michal Liberman, Molly Miller, Hannah Newell, Abby Saddler, Alli Shereda, Rachel Stark, Nicole Swartz, Sydney Thomas, Sophia Tsafantakis, Dora Vrcic, Chase Walker, Rebecca Winnert and Claire Young** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Swimming & Diving (Men): EMU earned second place honors at the MAC Championships. **Carter Swift** was named Co-Most Outstanding Swimmer and Freshman Swimmer of the Year. **Al'x Pierre** was named Most Outstanding Diver and Freshman Diver of the Year. **Buck Smith** was named Diving Coach of the Year.
- Swimming & Diving (Men): **Tosh Kawaguchi** placed first in the 100 Back, and later won the 200 Back at the MAC Championships, with **Matan Segal** taking second. **Carter Swift** placed first in the 100 Free and the 200 Free, and **Jake Tyson** placed second in both events. **Parker Saladin** took first in the 200 Fly. Divers **Al'x Pierre, Tom Gillis** and **Noah Gulluzzo** took first, second and third in the 3-Meter event. **Al'x Pierre** also placed first in the 1-Meter event, with **Peter Rusenias** taking second place.
- Swimming & Diving (Men): **Logan Burton, Al'x Pierre, Tosh Kawaguchi, Parker Saladin, Carter Swift,** and **Jake Tyson** were named All-MAC First Team. **Noah Gulluzzo, Chris O'Shea,** and **Peter Rusenias** were named All-MAC Second Team.
- Swimming & Diving (Men): **Al'x Pierre** placed 14<sup>th</sup> in the 3-Meter event at the NCAA Zone Championships.
- Swimming & Diving (Men): **Lance Bergmann, Logan Burton, Noah Galluzzo, Tom Gillis, Aaron Hendry, Connor Johnson, Josh Kreider, Mark Krusinski, Matthew Martin, JF Murphy, Peter Rusenias, Parker Saladin, Matan Segal, Matthew Tsenkov** and **Jake Tyson** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Track & Field (Women): The team won its fifth **MAC Indoor Track and Field Championship**. **Alsu Bogdanova** was named Most Valuable Performer and **Jasmine Jones** was named Most Outstanding Track Performer. Head Coach **Sue Parks** was named Coach of the Year, and was also named NCAA Great Lakes Region Coach of the Year by the USTFCCCA.
- Track & Field (Women): **Jasmine Jones** won the 200m Dash and the 400m Dash at the MAC Championships. **Jenna Wyns** won the 800m Run, with **Natalie Cizmas** placing second. **Cizmas** placed first in the Mile Run, followed by **Sydney Meyers** in second and **Alsu Bogdanova** in third. **Meyers** placed first in the 3000m, with **Bogdanova** taking second. **Bogdanova** won the 5000m, with **Jordann McDermitt** placing second. The distance medley relay team of **Cizmas, Keypathwa Gibson, Meyers** and **Wyns** also earned first place honors.

- Track & Field (Women): The distance medley relay team of **Alsu Bogdanova, Natalie Cizmas, Jasmine Jones** and **Jenna Wyns** placed 7<sup>th</sup> at the **NCAA Championships**, and earned First Team All-American honors. **Alsu Bogdanova** placed 11<sup>th</sup> in the 3000m event and earned Second Team All-American Honors.
- Track & Field (Women): **Alsu Bogdanova** set a new EMU record for the 3000m, and **Natalie Cizmas** set a new school record in the mile run. Both times rank in the top 15 nationally.
- Track & Field (Women): **Alsu Bogdanova, Natalie Cizmas, Keypathwa Gibson, Jasmine Jones, Sydney Meyers**, and **Jenna Wyns** were named First Team All-MAC. **Micah Johnston, Jordann McDermitt**, and **Michaela Nelms** were named Second Team All-MAC.
- Track & Field (Women): **Alsu Bogdanova, Rebekah Carr, Natalie Cizmas, Dace Dreimane, Allyson Goff, Elisa Hendriksen, Micah Johnston, Brittni Mason, Claire Mesa, Sydney Meyers, Gianna Salzbrunn** and **Jenna Wyns** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Track & Field (Women): At the Raleigh Relays, **Natalie Cizmas** set a new school record in the 1500m run.
- Track & Field (Men): The EMU team won its **15<sup>th</sup> MAC Indoor Track and Field Championship**. **Owen Day** and **Nick Raymond** were named Most Valuable Players, and **Owen Day** was named Freshman Track Performer of the Year. Head Coach **John Goodridge** was named Coach of the Year, and **Sterling Roberts** was named Assistant Coach of the Year.
- Track & Field (Men): **Nick Raymond** won the 5000m individual title at the MAC Championships, with **Lahsene Bouchikhi** placing second. The distance medley relay team of **Hlynur Andresson, Tom Jozwiak, Mitch Lenneman**, and **Dennis Manyeah** also earned first place honors. **Tyler Brown** placed first in the 400m Dash, **Owen Day** in the 800m Run. **Owen Day** placed first in the Mile, with **Hlynur Andresson** placing second. **Nick Raymond** placed first in the 3000m Run, with **Lahsene Bouchikhi** placing second and **Mitch Lenneman** third. The team of **Tyler Brown, Tyler Johnson, Owen Richardson** and **Tyler Underwood** won the 4x400m Relay.
- Track & Field (Men): **Hlynur Andresson, Tyler Brown, Owen Day, Tyler Johnson, Tom Jozwiak, Mitchell Lenneman, Dennis Manyeah, Nick Raymond, Owen Richardson**, and **Tyler Underwood** were named First Team All-MAC. **Lahsene Bouchikhi** and **Devonte Findlay** were named Second Team All-MAC.



- Track & Field (Men): **Sean Beckom, Austin Hazek, Caleb Hess, Mike Hierholzer, Tom Jozwiak, Mitchell Lenneman, Trevor Marcus, Csafa Matko, Travis McCuaig, Zach Purcilly** and **Jannik Schmitt** were named to the All-MAC Academic Team.
- Wrestling (Men): The team placed third at the **MAC Championships**, and **Kayne MacCallum** won the individual title at 184 lbs. **Zac Carson, Gage Hutchison** and **Kyle Springer** placed second in their weight classes. **Derek Hillman** and **Sa'Derian Perry** earned third-place finishes.
- Wrestling (Men): **Zac Carson, Gage Hutchison, Kayne MacCallum, Sa'Derian Perry** and **Kyle Springer** earned qualifying spots in the NCAA Tournament. Sa'Derian Perry earned an 8<sup>th</sup> place finish at 141 lbs. and earned **All-American** honors.
- Wrestling (Men): **Zac Carson, Noah Gonser, Derek Hillman, Kayne MacCallum** and **Kyle Springer** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- Wrestling (Men): **Head Coach David Bolyard** was named MAC Wrestling Coach of the Year.
- Wrestling (Men): **Head Coach David Bolyard** was named a finalist for the NWCA Theraworx Division I Wrestling Coach of the Year.

\* \* \*