

President's Report
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents Meeting
Oct. 25, 2018

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

Welcome to Homecoming week! This week represents a tremendous time of engagement for all who are connected with our wonderful University. It is a time for students, alumni, faculty and staff to celebrate our rich traditions and embrace the positive impact Eastern Michigan University has had on generations of students, graduates and citizens since our founding in 1849.

Among the Homecoming highlights are tonight's annual Green and White Ball, Friday night's Block Party and Pep Rally, and Saturday's football game against Army – we hope you can join us! The full schedule of Homecoming activities can be found on the [Homecoming website](#).

As we enter the final stages for completion of the renovation of Strong Hall, as the third phase of our Science Complex, we are pleased to push forward with plans to revitalize our College of Technology to prepare for continued expansion in engineering and high-tech disciplines.

The additional 70,000 square feet of academic space would allow the University to continue expansion of engineering programs beyond the mechanical, computer and electrical engineering programs currently being offered to include the expected addition of future civil, chemical and industrial engineering programs. Given increasing demand, the College of Technology projects a 65 percent growth in enrollment in the next 10- to 15-year period.

The renovation of Jones and Goddard Halls, now closed, will be submitted to the state as the University's capital outlay request for fiscal year 2020.

Earlier, the Board of Regents approved a new academic program in K-12 Bilingual Education. Eastern becomes the first university in Michigan to provide the program, which is vitally necessary given our increasing global environment.

Other recent academic highlights include:

- For the 16th consecutive year, Eastern was named a "Best in the Midwest" university by The Princeton Review;
- The master's program in Educational Psychology was ranked third best in the nation;
- Our master's program in Clinical Research was ranked fourth best in the nation;
- The Paralegal Studies program was ranked 12th best in the nation;
- Our Theatre Arts program was ranked 15th in the nation;
- We were ranked among the top 25 universities in the nation for service to students on the Autism Spectrum; and,
- Eastern was the top-ranked university in Michigan as one of the nation's most inclusive campuses for LGBTQ students.

Our continued support of students and families is evident in the \$52.6 million financial aid package announced for the 2019-20 academic year. During the past 10 years, Eastern Michigan has doubled its student financial aid, reflecting our central mission of an institution of opportunity and supporting students in their academic success.

The University is making powerful strides in energy savings. The new co-generation system, advance natural gas purchases and other initiatives are gaining state and national recognition for Eastern in terms of sustainability. The new co-generation system alone is generating savings of \$2.8 million annually, while reducing carbon dioxide emission by more than 21,000 tons annually and decreasing nitrogen oxides by more than 110 tons annually.

We're pleased to announce prominent businessman and Eastern Michigan alumnus Frank Sickelsmith as commencement speaker during our fall ceremony on December 15. Frank is the Global Director of Brand Development and Strategic Partnerships for the Autogrill Group.

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

James M. Smith, Ph.D.
President

Recognition

- The team of Eastern physics students who placed second in a national Student Design Challenge hosted by NASA were invited to participate in the annual Biocene Conference in August. **Larry Borum III, Sam Carano, Andrew Richardson, Rosalie Tezak, Ryan Walker,** and **Kyle Wilhelm** participated in conference activities and connected with other professionals in the field.
- Eastern's student chapter of the **Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM)** has once again been named an **Outstanding Student Chapter** for the 2017-2018 academic year. Only twelve schools nationally were chosen for the honor, and is the only chapter in Michigan to be honored.
- The **National Student Speech and Hearing Association** has awarded EMU's student-run chapter **Silver Chapter honors** for its efforts in raising the standard for advocacy, leadership, and education for future students in the **Speech-Language Pathology program**.
- **James Berry**, professor of educational leadership, was honored with a Living Legend Award by the **International Council of Professors of Educational Leadership (ICPEL)**, an organization focused on serving the interests and needs of professors of educational leadership and practicing school administrators as they seek to help students succeed.
- **Steven Pernecky**, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of chemistry, has been appointed to the **Michigan Environmental Science Advisory Board**. The Board advises the governor and the state of Michigan on issues affecting the protection of the environment and the management of natural resources.

Of Note

- Eastern has received a **NIH grant of nearly \$4.5 million** to develop a predictive tool that tracks early development in children from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Institute of Child Health & Human Development of the National Institutes of Health. The five-year grant is the first R01 grant ever received at Eastern. The project director/principal investigator, **Renee Lajiness-O'Neill**, professor of **Psychology** in the College of Arts and Sciences and co-director of the **Neuroscience** program, worked on developing the idea with a multidisciplinary team that includes co-investigators **Judi Brooks**, professor of **Dietetics & Human Nutrition**, and **Angela Lukomski**, professor of **Nursing**, from the EMU College of Health and Human Services.
- **Anne Casper**, associate professor of **Biology**, received a grant of \$441,000 in August from the **National Institutes of Health** for the study of complex genomic rearrangements by BIR and mmBIR.

- The **College of Technology** recently purchased five Robots for Education, built by **FANUC Corporation of Japan**, for use in Engineering Technology courses. **FANUC America** provided a gift-in-kind package valued at nearly \$400,000 to support the robot technology.
- **Jamie Cornelius**, assistant professor of **Biology**, received a grant of \$266,585 in July from the **National Science Foundation** for the study of social modulation of migratory timing and endocrine mechanisms of migration in two flexible migrants.
- **Joseph Breza**, assistant professor of **Psychology**, received a grant of \$143,264 from the **National Institutes of Health** for the study of an optogenetic approach to uncover the role of Type I cells in salt taste transduction.
- The **Arts Management & Administration program** is celebrating its **40th anniversary** this year. The celebration began on June 8, with an event that brought back more than 40 alumni of the program. In 1978, Eastern Michigan was one of the very first institutions of higher education to create a major in Arts Management.
- **Management** professors David Victor and Kimberly Barker, **Finance** professors Mahmud Rahman, Al Diallo, and Asrat Tessema, and **Marketing** professor Matt Sauber visited Malaysia in June to participate in the **Global Advances in Business Communication Tricontinental Conference**. Eastern is one of five partners in the GABC initiative, and hosted the first GABC Conference on its campus in 2008. The GABC initiative began as a three-university collaboration among EMU, the University of Antwerp in Belgium and the Technological University of Malaysia (UTM). Over the last decade, the collaboration has grown to include the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education (ITESM) in Mexico, and the Delhi School of Business in India.
- Eastern is the first Michigan University to join the **Age-Friendly University network**, a global network of universities who have endorsed 10 age-friendly principles, with the goal of contributing to the social, personal, and economic benefit of students of all ages.
- EMU has introduced a new scholarship program that provides students with free tuition for their final two years. **The 4WARD Graduation Scholarship** is designed to simplify and reduce cost considerations for parents and students as students begin their college enrollment. The scholarship will begin in fall 2019.
- Eastern launched the **TRUEMU Global Rate Tuition Plan**, providing in-state tuition pricing to all new incoming undergraduate international students. The plan expands the University's in-state tuition rate for students from anywhere in the United States.

- EMU, one of the nine founding universities to launch the **#YouAreWelcomeHere** campaign, has now been joined by nearly 50 additional institutions who are participating in the program. Beginning in fall 2019, EMU will offer **two annual, renewable scholarships** that will cover a minimum of 50 percent of recipients' tuition, to support international students.
- The second season of **"EMU Today TV"** has begun running on Xfinity On Demand and on the EMU YouTube channel on October 4. The program features positive programs, events, and initiatives at Eastern.

Events

- The 4th annual "Stories of Service" veterans' storytelling event will be held at Hill Auditorium on November 5. EMU professor and Army veteran **Wallace Bridges** will direct the event. **Dan Patrick**, a Marine veteran and EMU student, is the director of Outreach and Community Engagement for Fisher House Michigan, which provides free accommodations for families of service members and veterans during procedures at VA healthcare facilities. EMU student and Army veteran **Nate Eroh** will capture the stories on video to support the social media campaign for Fisher House Michigan.
- The **College of Technology** celebrated **National Manufacturing Day** on October 5 with 200 students from Plymouth-Canton Community high schools. EMU faculty and graduate students led sessions on virtual reality, information assurance, engineering, product development, simulation animation and gaming, and other programs.
- **President James Smith** gave his first annual **State of the University address** on September 17. Smith spoke about topics including Eastern as a University of Opportunity, enrollment and student persistence, sustainability, finances, fundraising, and the University's Strategic Plan.
- EMU held a **Ceremony of Remembrance** at its 9/11 Memorial on September 11. The event was attended by first responders, students, faculty, staff and the community.
- A ribbon cutting was held on September 10 for the **College of Technology's virtual reality laboratory**. The lab is an immersive and active virtual reality environment integrated with the state of the art hardware and software.
- Eastern's **Aviation** program hosted a hospitality tent on August 25 as part of the Thunder Over Michigan Air Show. Proceeds from the event went to support the **Lt. Col. Charles S. Kettles Aviation Scholarship**.

- The **EMU Police Department** hosted a **Bicycle Rodeo** on August 11 for the campus and community. Participants were taught bicycle safety, received free safety checks and inspections, practiced skills, and learned the rules of the road.
- Eastern alumni gathered on July 28 to **commemorate activism and the takeover of Pierce Hall**. Alumnus Robert Smith led participants in a public recollection that will serve as the foundation of an **Oral History Project** for University Archives.
- The **School of Nursing** hosted two contingents of **student nurses from Taiwan** in July, continuing a recent tradition of collaboration between the University and its international partners. The student nurses studied nursing practices and pedagogy in the United States during their month-long stay.

Athletics

- Baseball (Men): **Luke DeVenney, Nick Jones, Zachary Owings, and Max Schuemann** were selected as **MAC Distinguished Scholar Athletes**.
- Baseball (Men): The **annual alumni game** was held on September 15. Before the game, kids were also encouraged to take batting and field practice.
- Basketball (Men): **Paul Jackson** was named to the **National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors Court**, which recognizes hard work on the court and in the classroom.
- Cross Country and Track & Field: More than 100 student-athletes and coaches from the **men's and women's track and cross country teams** volunteered at the **JDRF One Walk** on September 23, at the Hudson Mills Metropark in Dexter, Mich.
- Football (Men): The football team was joined by 100 of its youngest fans following its practice on August 11 as they hosted their fifth annual **Youth Day**.
- Golf (Women): **Thelma Beck, Maria Connelly, Katelin Lawson, Pattraporn Sripatrprasite, and Julia Stevenson** were named to the **All-American Scholar Team** by the Women's Golf Coaches Association.
- Golf (Men): **Beau Breault** won the **2018 Michigan Amateur Championship**, one of only two EMU golfers in history to win the championship.

- Golf (Men): **Tyler Lewis** has been selected as a **MAC Distinguished Scholar Athlete**.
- Golf (Men): **Beau Breault, Tyler Lewis, and Nic Ross** were named as **Srixon/Cleveland Golf All-American Scholars** by the Golf Coaches Association.
- Golf (Men): The Golf Coaches Association of America announced that the men's golf team was the recipient of **18Birdies All-Academic Team honors** upon the conclusion of the 2017-2018 season.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Sydney Audet, Megan Benzie, Cortney Bezold, Emili Dobronics, Cali Harden, Megan Hultgren, Megan Marino, Brianna Price, Jada Rondeau, Lacey Rubin, Jules Schwartz, Allison Smith, and Kendall Valentin** earned **Scholastic All-America honors** from the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association.
- Rowing (Women): Eastern was well represented on the U.S. team at the World University Rowing Championships in Shanghai, China. EMU Head Coach **Kemp Savage** and Assistant Coach **Julie Quoss** led the U.S. team. EMU junior **Amanda Flora**, and assistant coaches **Delaney McGuire** and **Emily Wasz** competed in several events, with Wasz earning a bronze medal.
- Rowing (Women): The Rowing team acted as host for the **2018 Special Olympics Michigan State Fall Games Kayaking Events** at its boathouse on Ford Lake.
- Rowing (Women): **Amanda Flora** led her boat to a third-place finish and **Delaney McGuire** placed fourth in her event at the **U.S. Rowing Club National Championships**.
- Soccer (Women): Sophomore **Alia Frederick**, and alumnae **Megan Trapp** and **Rachel Washburn** were named to the **United Women's Soccer All-Midwest Team of the Year**. Frederick was a First Team selection, while Trapp and Washburn were Second Team honorees.
- Softball (Women): **Amanda Akles** has been selected as a **MAC Distinguished Scholar Athlete**.
- Swimming & Diving (Women): **Delaney Duncan** and **Alli Shereda** garnered **First Team CSCAA Scholar All-America** honors. **Bethany Berger, Casey Gavigan, Brielle Johnston, Molly Miller, Micaela Schempf, Nicole Swartz, and Sophia Tsafantakis** were named **Scholar All-America Honorable Mention**.

- Track & Field (Women): **Alsu Bogdanova, Dace Dreimane, Micah Johnston, Brittni Mason, Jordann McDermitt, Sydney Meyers,** and **Janina Pollatz** were selected as **MAC Distinguished Scholar Athletes**.
- Track & Field (Women): The women's track and field team earned **United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic honors** for both indoor and outdoor track and field seasons. Individuals on the team also honored were **Alsu Bogdanova, Natalie Cizmas, Dace Dreimane, Jordann McDermitt, Janina Pollatz,** and **Jenna Wyns**.
- Track & Field (Men): **Caleb Hess, Nick Raymond,** and **Tyler Underwood** were selected as **MAC Distinguished Scholar Athletes**.
- Track & Field (Men): The men's track and field team earned **United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic honors** for both indoor and outdoor track and field seasons. Individuals on the team also honored were **Owen Day, Nick Raymond,** and **Owen Richardson**.
- Volleyball (Women): For the 14th consecutive season, Eastern's volleyball team was recognized by the American Volleyball Coaches Association for academic excellence with the **AVCA Team Academic Award**.
- The Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) served as leaders during the **NCAA Diversity and Inclusion campaign** the week of October 5. The goal of the national campaign was to start the discussion, speak out on, and promote diversity and inclusion as key elements of student-athlete success.
- Track and field alumnus **Donald Scott** captured the **triple jump national title** at the 2018 Outdoor USA Track and Field Championships in June.
- Five new members were inducted into the E-Club Athletic Hall of Fame on September 28. The class of 2018 includes **Virgie Bullie** (women's track & field), **Jordan Desilets** (men's track & field, and cross country), **Catherine Fortin** (women's golf), **Korey Mahoney** (men's golf), and **Andrew Wellock** (football). The E-Club also presented **Eric Walline** with the Ron Oestrike Distinguished Service Award.
- The Athletic Department announced the launch of a new podcast, **The Eastern Insider**. The podcast is hosted by Associate Athletic Director **Greg Steiner** and Assistant Director **Kyler Ludlow**, and will include coach interviews, student-athlete interviews, feature segments, and a look back at the action from the previous week.