

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

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

It is my distinct honor to share with you, and with the entire Eastern Michigan University community, some of the important developments that are taking place at the University.

I begin with Sunday's Commencement celebration. More than 2,300 graduating students are eligible to participate in the ceremony. This includes students who completed the requirements for graduation this fall, and those who completed their requirements last summer.

It promises to be a packed Convocation Center. We are honored to welcome U.S. Senator Gary Peters as our Commencement speaker – he also will receive an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree.

And, we are proud to welcome Jack Roush, an Eastern Michigan alumnus who is one of the foremost motorsports executives in the country. He will receive an honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree.

Graduation festivities begin today with the Multicultural Graduation Celebration at 4:30 p.m. at Pease Auditorium. The celebration, presented by the Center for Race & Ethnicity, brings together our diverse student body to celebrate the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of minority students at our great University.

I am proud to highlight several examples of faculty and student success.

We are honored to support the work of EMU faculty in this year's James H. Brickley Endowment for Faculty Professional Development and Innovation. This year, 15 projects are being funded, with at least one award to faculty from each of the five colleges and the library. More than \$56,000 is being distributed to support these efforts. Since the first award cycle in fall 2017, 72 individual projects have received funding. A full list of awardees and projects from this year can be found online.

For the 16th consecutive year, The Princeton Review ranks the College of Business as one of the nation's best business schools.

Interior design students won the top three places in the student-rendering category in a nationwide CET Designer contest sponsored by Configura, a major Swedish software company. Megan Wilbur took first place, Farah Nassereddine placed second and Pei Huang came in third.

A team of graduate students from the College of Business took third place at a recent Minority Case Competition held in Washington, D.C. The winning team included Nana Adomako, Orlando Kamaj, Alex Kivali, and team captain Banafsheh Sadeghi.

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And, Eastern students won a Best Overall Delegation award and an Outstanding Delegate in Committee award for the General Assembly Second Committee at the American Model United Nations conference in Chicago that took place in November.

Over the past month, several significant gift developments deserve recognition. The alumni group, GameAbove, made an initial gift of \$3.5 million to support faculty development and the academic and program needs of current and future students. Earlier this week the group made a gift of \$500,000 to support an important community partner, Ozone House.

Today, GameAbove announced an \$8 million gift to fully fund the construction and 12 years of operating costs for a new golf facility, the “The GameAbove Golf Performance Center” – dedicated to Bruce Cunningham, EMU men’s golf coach.

GameAbove is a team of passionate alumni who desire to make a difference for the University. They include former Eastern Michigan student-athletes, current entrepreneurs and successful businesspeople, and EMU Athletics Hall of Famers and select EMU coaches.

Visit the [GameAbove website](#) for full details and to learn how to apply for funding opportunities under the program.

The University once again held a successful #GIVINGTRUEDAY event on December 3 that generated more than \$827,000 from 927 donors. Supporters gave to a variety of scholarships and programs, and to 89.1 WEMU, our NPR affiliate. This year represents the largest number of donors since we started #GIVINGTRUEDAY. Congratulations to all!

Just in time for the holidays, the University Choral Program will present Candlelight Concerts tomorrow (Dec. 14) at Pease Auditorium, and on Sunday (Dec. 15) at Detroit’s Orchestra Hall. Details and ticket information can be found on the [Candlelight Concerts webpage](#).

To wrap things up – we are excited to participate in this year’s Quick Lane Bowl at Ford Field at 8 p.m. on December 26. To be able to play in what is essentially a home game for our football student athletes – 33 of whom are from Michigan – is a wonderful opportunity for all of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters to celebrate Eastern Michigan’s football success. With three bowl games in the last four years, we have much for which to be proud. I hope you can join us.

Tickets can be purchased online at the [EMU bowl information website](#), or by calling 734.487.3669.

Other accomplishments are listed in the appendix to this report on and the University website.

Thank you, Chairman Webb.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.
President

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Recognition

- Seventeen EMU students and alumni were chosen as directors and actors to debut new plays in Theatre Nova's 2019 Michigan Playwrights Festival.
- The **Master of Arts Philosophy program** at Eastern has been recognized by Great Value Colleges as **one of the nation's 50 most affordable** Master's in Philosophy Degree programs for 2020. EMU was ranked 18th in the list and is one of only three programs in Michigan on the list.

Of Note

- **Kroger donated \$20,000** to EMU Swoop's Food Pantry to help eliminate food insecurity among students.
- **Dean Ditto**, an Eastern alumnus who served four years in the Marine Corps, including Desert Storm, spoke at the annual **Fisher House Michigan's Stories of Service** to raise money for families to stay together when veterans require in-patient care at a VA Hospital.

Events

- On December 5 the EMU **Cannabis Education Coalition** hosted a panel event titled "Let's Be Blunt About Marijuana Legalization," which focused on the marijuana law, risks, benefits and side effects.
- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** served as the morning keynote speaker at the fifth annual "**Let's End Campus Sexual Assault**" summit, hosted by EMU on December 3, as the state of Michigan continues to prioritize this critical public health and safety issue.
- The **School of Communication, Media and Theatre Arts** and the **Critical Disability Studies** Minor at Eastern hosted a free symposium on **Disability Arts and Culture** on December 2-3.
- The **College of Health and Human Services** held its third annual **Interprofessional Education Simulation Day** on November 15. Students from a variety of health programs, including nursing, physician assistant, dietetics, orthotics and prosthetics, occupational therapy, health administration, and social work, participated in a day of scenario practice and review with simulated patients.
- EMU's annual **Digital Marketing Workshop**, focusing on how the transition to digital has made rapid, data-driven decision making a critical component in marketing, business, and government, was held November 15.

- **Digital Dudes**, a conference for middle school boys, was hosted at EMU on November 8 to help them learn about careers and college programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
- On November 7, members of the **Eagle Engage Corps** hosted a panel discussion for local high school students. The panel discussed their own experiences as first-generation students and offered tips for success.
- The **IHA Health Center at EMU** had its community open house on November 2. It opened for patients on November 4.
- EMU held the **Digital Divas conference** for middle school girls to learn more about careers and college programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) on November 1.
- The **Aging Studies Program** hosted its annual wellness fair and lecture on October 30. **Dr. Katherine Marx** from the John Hopkins University Center for Innovative Care in Aging Research Associate served as a guest lecturer.
- The **ypsiGLOW** street festival was held on October 25 and provided opportunity for students to interact with the local community and artists.

Athletics

- **Women's Cross Country:** The team captured its **fifth consecutive Mid-American Conference Championship** in DeKalb, Ill. The Eagles scored a team total of 60 points as they became the first women's cross country program in MAC history to win five straight team titles.
- **Women's Cross Country:** **Natalie Cizmas** earned an individual bid to the NCAA Championships.
- **Men's Football:** **Vince Calhoun** was named All-MAC First Team. **Mike Glass III, Arthur Jackson III, and Brody Hoying** were named All-MAC Second Team. All-MAC Third Team honors went to **Kobie Beltram, Dylan Drummond, and Kevin McGill**.
- **Men's Football:** **Mike Van Hoeven** was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team.
- **Men's Football:** **Hassan Beydoun** was one of 83 players nominated for the 2019 Burlsworth Trophy.

- **Football:** Jake Julien has been named to the Ray Guy Award final candidate list by the Augusta Sports Council.
- **Men's Cross Country:** The team claimed the **Mid-American Conference Championship** with a team total of 59 points in DeKalb, Ill. The Eagles extended their own MAC record with their 23rd conference title, and 13th over the last 15 seasons.
- **Men's Golf:** **Cougar Collins** has been selected as a member of Team Canada's National Amateur Squad.
- **Women's Lacrosse:** Eastern Athletics is going to add women's lacrosse as a varsity sport. The program will play its inaugural season against NCAA Division I competition in the 2021-22 academic year.
- **Women's Soccer:** Sabrina McNeill was named to the named to the All-MAC First Team, Lindsey Shira was named to All-MAC Second Team, and Amanda Cripps earned All-MAC Second Team and All-Freshman Team honors.
- **Women's Soccer:** Sabrina McNeill was named to the All-Midwest Region Third Team by the United Soccer Coaches.
- **Women's Soccer:** Alia Frederick was announced as a CoSIDA Second Team Academic All-District selection.
- **Women's Volleyball:** **Raeven Chase, Julia Fisher, Mackenzie Garis, Cassie Haut, April Houston,** and **Camille Schomer** were named to the Academic All-MAC Team.
- **Women's Volleyball:** **Cassie Haut** was named First-Team All-MAC and **Raeven Chase** was named All-MAC Freshman Team.

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