

12-2-2013

## Daily Eastern News: December 02, 2013

Eastern Illinois University

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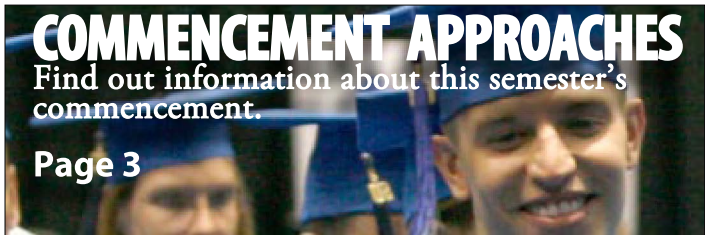




## TOPPLING DOWN

Eastern's men's basketball team took another loss to their record in Saturday's game against Western Kentucky Hilltoppers.

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## COMMENCEMENT APPROACHES

Find out information about this semester's commencement.

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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Monday, Dec. 2, 2013

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | ISSUE 71

## Eastern employees to petition pension plan

By Bob Galuski  
News Editor | @BobGaluski

With legislators expecting to discuss and vote on a newly released pension plan, members of Eastern's chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100 want to petition against the new plan.

As the Tuesday date for legislators to meet and vote on the pension reform proposal looms ahead, UPI members will be taking signatures Monday to present to Senator Dale Righter before the session meets.

The petition, in the form of a postcard, will be available from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday at the Food Court of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The proposal, which is being called the Leader's Plan, was announced Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving – giving legislators days to review it before going into session.

The proposal includes items such as anyone aged 45 or under, the retirement age will be increased on a graduated scale. For those 46 years of age and above, the retirement age will be increased by four months up to five years.

In addition, the proposal also details a funding schedule to reach 100 percent funding no later than the fiscal year 2044. Averaging costs over the pensioner's employment will certify contributions.

Supplemental contributions from the state are also taken into account in the new proposal.

The State will contribute \$364 million in the fiscal year 201 and will continue to contribute until the fiscal year 2045, or until there is 100 percent funding.

The proposal also has "pension abuse" stipulations against non-governmental organizations.

Ann Fritz, the president of Eastern's UPI chapter, said if the proposal is introduced and passed in the one-day session, unions would challenge it in court.

She said Article XIII, Section 5 of the Illinois Constitution states that "Membership in any pension or retirement system of the State, any unit of local government or school district, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, shall be an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired."

Fritz said the plan does not have a bill number yet, as it will be introduced Monday and voted on Tuesday.

Eastern's UPI Vice President Fern Kory said in a press release more than 160 retirees have already signed the postcard.

"Many have already been in touch with local legislators, letting them know that pension cuts would come on top of a 2 to 4 percent hike in health care costs that they did not plan for," Kory said.

Bob Galuski can be reached at 581-2812 or [denewsdesk@gmail.com](mailto:denewsdesk@gmail.com).



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern students' last class day for the fall semester is Friday. Winter break begins the day after final exams end on Dec. 14. The first class day of the spring semester is Jan. 13, making winter break approximately a month long.

## Calendar allows for extra week in winter break

By Ian Murphy  
Staff Reporter

For the first time in recent memory, Eastern will have a four-week winter break instead of the usual three.

Sue Harvey, the university's registrar, said her office does not keep track of the length of holiday breaks.

According to the university's academic calendar website, which displays calendar data back to 2006, no academic year had a four week Christmas break until this year.

Harvey said her office follows the calendar rules and uses those to set the breaks.

"At certain times, adjustments may have to be made if the holiday falls late in a week so staff may return to work and prepare for the next semester," Harvey said. "Such an adjustment had to be made to this academic year's calendar."

The additional week will push the first day of class and the first day of finals back a week next semester.

The first day of class will be Jan. 13, and finals will be May 5 to 9.

It also moves the first day of class for Fall 2014 to Aug. 25, which matches the first day of class at the University of Illinois.

"Such an adjustment had to be made to this academic year's calendar."

Sue Harvey, the university's registrar

"We follow rules that were set up by a University Calendar Committee regarding the number of days in each semester and the standard breaks such as Thanksgiving Break and Spring Break," Harvey said.

Harvey also said because of the calendar rules, each academic year is slightly different.

"It is not unusual for a semester

to end around May 9. For example, the finals for spring semester 2009 ended on May 8," Harvey said.

While Harvey said she had not spoken to any students about the change, the reaction has been mostly positive.

Joe Sibley, a senior communications major, said the extra week at

off because it will give him more time to train for the Boston Marathon.

Hollis said he has run eight half-marathons and one full, where he qualified for Boston. He said the next step is to compete well at Boston.

Hollis, who went to the University of Wisconsin for his undergraduate studies, will also make the 24-hour trek to Houston to visit extended family over the break.

Some students, like Christopher Kalinka, will just enjoy the break from studying.

Kalinka, a freshman biology major, plans to hang out with friends and spend quality time with family. He said the break is double the break he got in high school and said it will be a nice improvement.

Ian Murphy can be reached at 581-2812 or [itmurphy@eiu.edu](mailto:itmurphy@eiu.edu).

## Senate Speaker elected against bylaws

Staff Report

Student Senate members incorrectly elected the soon-to-be Student Senate Speaker for 2014 at the last senate meeting.

Hannah Edwards was elected against the student government bylaws. According to the bylaws, the speaker must be elected with 51 percent of the vote. Instead, Edwards was elected based on majority rule.

She only won by a handful of votes between the two other can-

didates, Brandon Goodman, a junior management major, and Chris Pickard, a freshman political science major.

Student Body President Kaylia Eskew said in an email the executive board, including her overlooked mistake during the meeting.

"There was no malintent or anything of that nature," Eskew said. "It was an oversight on our behalf, and I take full responsibility for it."

Eskew said they will be redoing the elections at 7 p.m. Wednesday

in the Arcola-Tuscola Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The candidates will give recaps of their speeches to refresh the senate members on their platform. There will then be a run-off election between Goodman and Pickard. Whoever wins that election will then run against Edwards for the position.

Eskew said this is the process that should have happened in the first place.

"After many discussions with our


adviser, it has been decided that in the hopes of making this as fair as possible that only senate members who were present and voting at the Nov. 20 election will be able to vote," Eskew said.

The election will take place of the mock meeting, which was scheduled for Wednesdays. The mock meeting was intended to train the new senate members to how the meetings proceed. It was rescheduled to the first week of the spring semester.




Local weather

TODAY



Partly Cloudy  
High: 52°  
Low: 43°

TUESDAY



Overcast  
High: 57°  
Low: 50°

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 Printed by Eastern Illinois University on soy ink and recycled paper.

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1802 Buzzard Hall  
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Chorus concert moved to Sunday



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Coles County Barbershop Chorus will perform a benefit Sunday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church and 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Mattoon. The group raises money for local homeless shelters, food pantries and high school music programs.

Fund to aid employee's home rebuild

By Bob Reynolds  
Staff Reporter | [@BobReynoldsDEN](https://twitter.com/BobReynoldsDEN)

Zoraida Irizarry first woke up to the sounds of a smoke alarm coupled with the sound of debris falling from the ceiling behind the wall where she was sleeping.

After the fire, the total damage added up to \$60,000 for Irizarry, a building service worker of 28 years.

A fund has been set up to help in the relief effort for Irizarry's house.

The fire on Oct. 6 started in the kitchen and spread to the attic. The damage was caused because of a failure in the refrigerator wiring from the back of the unit where the motor and compressor are located, Charleston Fire Chief Pat Goodwin said.

The house was not insured. The fund for Irizarry is being run through the St. Vincent De Paul Society group out of the Newman Catholic Center, who raises money to assist those in need throughout the Charleston area. Money donated goes toward things such as food, rent and utilities, John Titus, the pastor at Newman Catholic Center, said.

"The fund for Zoraida was set up to specifically help her during this time at the loss of her home," Titus said. "People throughout the community with no direct connection to Newman were interested in assisting, so we established this specific fund to help her."

Doris Nordin, who has been with Newman Catholic Center since 2002, said the fund started when someone

from the community who knows Irizarry's daughter brought to their attention that Irizarry's house had burned.

"We started praying, offering our support, helping her clean and advising her about a way forward," Nordin said.

Nordin added this is still an ongoing effort because Irizarry still has a lot of work to fix her house or build a new one, if necessary.

Since the fund started, Nordin said they have received \$1,130 to help out the Irizarry family.

"Of course, she will need more than that in order to accomplish some of the main projects at her current home," she said.

According to the letter Irizarry wrote in the Journal Gazette-Times Courier, they have received support and as-

sistance from the members of the St. Charles Catholic Church, as well as from Elizabeth's sorority sisters in Alpha Sigma Alpha at Eastern.

"They have been extremely kind and generous to me, Doris and the Newman Catholic Center and the whole community," Irizarry said.

Everybody is invited to donate. Checks should be made to the St. Vincent De Paul Society and write 'Zoraida's Fund' in the memo line.

Members of the Charleston community can also bring donations to the Newman Catholic Center.

Bob Reynolds can be reached at 581-2812 or [rjreynolds@eiu.edu](mailto:rjreynolds@eiu.edu).

Small Business Saturday helps community

By Michael Spencer  
City Editor | [@tmskeeper](https://twitter.com/tmskeeper)

Local resale stores participated in Small Business Saturday, a national initiative to support independent retail shops on the day after Black Friday.

Additionally, customers were invited to participate in the "Progressive Pickin' Party" that rewarded individuals who shopped locally by entering them into a drawing for prizes. Steve and Julie Runyon, owners of the Home-Again Consignment Shop, spearheaded the event.

Steve Runyon said the stores worked together to hold a progressive picking event at the end of last August and local owners saw an opportunity to facilitate a similar event on Small Business Saturday.

But small business owners said the real reason for the collective initiative was to bring their shops into focus for the residents of Charleston.

Runyon said his business was entering only its second year and that the holidays are just as important for him as they are for large chain stores.

"We are approaching the end of our second year of being open, and last hol-

iday season was very good for us, so we are certainly hoping that this holiday season is also good," Runyon said. "We're kind of taking advantage of small business day to do an event with the 10 resale shops in town to draw the community into the re-sale shop business."

And it is not just the consignment shop that needs help during the holidays.

Peter Quinn, owner of Ambero Antiques on the historic square in uptown Charleston, said his business relied on repeat customers to make a profit at the end of the calendar year.

"It's very important," Quinn said as he waved and thanked a group of customers leaving his shop. "I have very strong repeat local clientele, and I'm very thankful that in their Christmas shopping and Hanukkah shopping to come here to get something a little bit more unique and different, something that has a little bit of history to it that you might not find in other stores."

He said that shopping small, local businesses starts a cycle that is positive for the community.

"It's beneficial for everyone," Quinn

said.

Just up the way from Ambero is Persimmon Lane, a shop that specializes in vintage and retro items in addition to "upcycled" products.

"We call it upcycling because it probably would have been discarded [...] but we upcycled it; we gave it new life," said Duka Cornwell, co-owner of Persimmon Lane, as she stamped customer's progressive picking cards, essential for patrons who hope to win a prize for the "Progressive Pickin' Party."

Cornwell said she believes shopping locally at the holidays allows consumers to purchase items with a personal touch, but she warned that shops like hers have struggled to find traction in an economy dominated by large franchises and chain stores.

"If we don't take the responsibility to do some local shopping and come to some of the local businesses, then we won't have them anymore," Cornwell said. "I know for us it has been really difficult. We have to just decide, as a culture, if those things are important to us. If the personal touch and the 'mom-and-pop' stores are important then we have got to be responsible to

frequent them."

Just as Cornwell and her co-owner husband Todd hope to "upcycle" their inventory, so does Small Business Saturday hope to give "new life" to local stores.

But these local re-sale outlets do more than turn a profit for businesses and help the community from a fiscal standpoint – they also offer area families a chance to have a better holiday.

"It's tough for many families to go out and spend \$1,000 on a new sofa," Runyon said. "They can come into a resale shop and buy one for \$250 or \$400, and they're good with that."

And that is a niche for the local business owners who said the state of the economy has contributed to their recent success. But for owners like Runyon, more still must be done to keep the holiday season money local.

"We have to do a really good job with what we have to attract the local community to come in and shop with us," Runyon said.

Michael Spencer can be reached at 581-2812 or at [tmspencer2@eiu.edu](mailto:tmspencer2@eiu.edu).



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FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
Kelsey Klank listens to speakers during her graduation ceremony on May 5, 2012 in Lantz Arena. This fall's commencement ceremonies will be hosted at 10 a.m. for the Lumpkin College of Businesses and Applied Sciences and College of Arts and Humanities and 1 p.m. for the College of Education and Professional Studies, College of Sciences and School of Continuing Education in Lantz Arena.

# Commencement approaches for students

## Ceremonies at Saturday in Lumpkin Hall

By Bob Galuski  
News Editor | @BobGaluski

As Fall Commencement swiftly approaches, students should keep in mind a few of the important dates and items they need to know if they are graduating.

Commencement will be on Dec. 14, and two ceremonies will be performed.

The first will begin at 10 a.m. in the gymnasium of Lantz Arena.

This ceremony will be for the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences and the College of Arts and Humanities.

The second ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. Dec. 14 in the gymnasium of Lantz Arena.

This ceremony will be for the College of Education and Professional Studies, the College of Sciences and the School of Continuing Education.

Graduates need to arrive one hour prior to their graduation time and meet in the Lantz Field House.

Set up in the Field House will be chairs like in the gymnasium. Graduates should find their name card, and then they will progress to the gymnasium as a group.

Graduates are also warned not to bring any valuables with them to the Field House, as it will not be secured during commencement.

During the commencement, students need to adhere by a dress code.

Students cannot have messages on or attached to their cap and gown. Honors cords and Kente Cloths are permitted.

The only medallions allowed include those "Graduating with Distinction." They are the blue, white or gold ribbons for graduating Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude or Summa Cum Laude.

Cap and gown returns will take place after the ceremony. Graduates can return their cap and gowns in Court 1 of the Student Recreation Center.

Lisa Denson-Rives, the director of annual fund and commencement, said approximately 600 students will walk across the stage during commencement.

"Those 600 graduates will be divided between the morning ceremony at 10 a.m. and the afternoon ceremony at 1 p.m.," she said.

Denson-Rives also said the numbers for the Fall Commencement has stayed about the same between the last few years.

Bob Galuski can be reached at 581-2812 or [dennewsdesk@gmail.com](mailto:dennewsdesk@gmail.com).

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Work hard at surviving last class week

The week that comes after Thanksgiving break and before final exams is easily one of the most annoying weeks of the semester. The end of the semester is so close, yet so far away. One last week of classes, and the dreaded final exams separate you from yet another extended break.

The Thanksgiving break is such a 10-day tease. You have to come all the way back to Charleston, suck it up and put up with another week of classes before finals, just so you can head back home a little while after.

The last week of classes isn't a blow-off, just like the first week of classes isn't (and just like any week isn't really a blow-off week). Odds are, you've probably got a paper or two due, a PowerPoint to present and another group project that you've only met once for. It's easy to just forget about it all, go into a Thanksgiving turkey-induced coma and just become a hermit until the week of finals, but there's definitely a lot you can still be doing this week instead of wasting time.

Make a list for yourself of everything you have to do, and post it in a place where you'll always see it, somewhere like your refrigerator door or above your desk. Prioritize them in a way that orders them from most challenging to least. It doesn't just have to be school stuff, either. It can be little things like returning library books or tying loose ends like paying parking tickets. Once you complete one of the goals, take a thick black permanent marker to it and cross it off. Once you cross all the items off the list, tear the paper into a thousand pieces because you're done and you've earned it.

This way, you can dedicate the entire week of finals to cramming for that class you only went to a few times or to catch up on sleep, pack up your things to go home or whatever you need to do. Finals week should be as stress-free as possible. Do your best to free up your schedule the best you can now and over the rest of this week.

Organization makes everything a lot easier. There's no need to be more stressed than you have to be. The semester is almost over. Don't let it get the best of you.

Write a letter to the editor

You have something to say. Knowing this, *The Daily Eastern News* provides a place for you to say it every day.

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For extended letters and forums for all content, visit [dailyeasternnews.com](http://dailyeasternnews.com)

**Today's quote:**  
"It is never too late to be what you might have been."  
- George Eliot

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DRAWN FROM THE EASEL



SABRINA ANN DUNCAN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Don't forget what the season is all about

'Tis the season, and already so many people are forgetting what the "holiday" season is all about.

I am 23 years old, and through the years the meaning of what Christmas is truly about has almost become extinct. Not only has the meaning of Christmas become lost, the other holidays celebrated around the same time have lost some meaning, too.

During Thanksgiving break I watched people be thankful and nice, but as soon as 8 p.m. hit on Thanksgiving Day, people went crazy. The things that were on the news about people getting violent over presents and people getting hurt is ridiculous.

Why is it people feel the need to do that to others? They were thankful one minute and a crazy violent shopper the next? Something feels wrong with Christmas now.

Some people celebrate the religious aspects of Christmas like my family does, but others don't. Either way, it has never been about pres-



Emily Provance

ents in my home, and I don't think it should ever be that way in any other home. I have two nephews and a niece, and one of my nephews couldn't tell my sister what they wanted for Christmas this year because he has a lot already, but he did ask if the whole family was going to be there.

My family has always been close, and about four years ago one of my siblings moved to Texas with her husband and my niece and now they are not there for Christmas (and other holidays). Their absence is

hard on my family, and now that all of my sisters have significant others it's becoming harder to all get together.

My nephew hit the nail on the head when he asked if the whole family was going to be there because that is what Christmas should be about. Christmas and other holidays should have never gotten to the point it is now, where so many people try to top one another with who got the best, the most numerous or the most expensive presents.

Try to remember whom you are celebrating with and not what you get to bring home with you. Family is forever, but they won't always be there physically. Trust me, when traditions change, it feels like something is missing.

Make the most of the season, and remember what it is all about.

*Emily Provance is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com.*

Let's move away from getting, it's about family

As a child, I remember tossing and turning in my bed, listening for the sounds of sleigh bells and the sound of reindeer on the roof before falling asleep without hearing a sound that would announce that Santa had paid me a visit.

The next morning, I would wake up super early to see what I had under the tree.

Now it is that time of year again, but my focus isn't on what I've got under the tree. Instead, my focus is on my family, friends and anyone else I come into contact with.

The holiday season—no matter if it is Christmas, Kwanzaa, or any of the other holiday—is a time of giving and family.

Children focus on the receiving, it is about the gifts and toys they receive, it is about Santa Claus, Rudolph, Frosty the Snowman and "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

It is also about baking cookies for Santa and writing letters detailing all of the elaborate gifts that they want but know they won't receive, like the pony or a real racecar.

Now that I am older, I still love all of the above, and I think other adults do, too, once they look past all the shopping and cooking they have



Samantha McDaniel

to do.

I remember as a kid, I would spend Christmas Eve baking cookies, usually the sugar cookies with images on them or just good old chocolate chip.

My family would sit and watch any Christmas show that was on TV, and those times make up some of my favorite childhood memories.

Looking back, I probably couldn't give you one memory of opening gifts that meant more to me than when we were sitting in front of the TV together as a family to watch a snowman come to life or a shy and mistreated reindeer discover who he is and finding a place in the world.

Now, Christmas has become commercialized.

All the stores market for discounts for presents, including the infamous Black Friday where hundreds and thousands of people flock to the stores to get "the best deal of the season," even if that means camping out all day Thanksgiving Day.

There is more of a focus on the gift getting. Gifts are a wonderful part of the season, but they are not the most important aspect.

Christmas is a time of giving. Half the time I was more excited for others to open the gift I got them, no matter how small they were because nothing made me feel as good as I did when I gave a gift that made someone happy.

The most important thing about Christmas, or any holiday, is giving and spending time with family and friends.

We need to move away from the give me, give me, give me attitude.

It's not the memories of the toys or gifts that are going to stick with people as they age. It is the time together that will greatly impact our lives.

*Samantha McDaniel is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com.*



# From one home to another



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jake Haberer and Matt Dunavant, freshman kinesiology and sports studies majors, carry their luggage from Thanksgiving Break up to their residence hall rooms in Thomas Hall on Sunday.



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# Eastern awaits rematch against Tennessee State

By Aldo Soto  
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

The Eastern football team learned that it will be hosting Tennessee State for its first FCS playoff game at 1 p.m. Saturday at O’Brien Field following a 31-0 win by the Tigers over Butler in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Ohio Valley Conference match-up will pit Eastern and Tennessee State for the second time this season, as the Panthers defeated the Tigers 34-16 in Nashville, Tenn., on Oct. 26.

The Panthers earned a first-round bye in the postseason after securing their automatic berth into the playoffs with their second straight OVC title. On Nov. 24, Eastern gained the No. 2 overall seed in the FCS playoffs, which also handed the Panthers home field advantage throughout the postseason until the championship game.

### German back at quarterback

Tennessee State junior Michael German led the Tigers to a 31-0 win over Butler on Saturday, throwing two touchdown passes while completing 14-of-24 pass attempts that was good for 201 yards. German made his first start under center since Oct. 12, when he was injured against Jacksonville State. The Tigers’ running game was balanced as three running backs carried the ball at least nine times and eight players combined for 151 rushing yards.

The Tigers’ defense was stout in their shutout win, allowing only 257 yards of total offense to the Bulldogs while also intercepting Butler quarterback Matt Lancaster three times. Tennessee State also stopped Butler on all four of its fourth down attempts.

Tennessee State defensive back Daniel Fitzpatrick also scored for the Tigers; following an interception, he ran it back 26 yards for a touchdown that extended the lead to 24 with 10:35 left in the third quarter.

Ronald Butler, who had made the last five starts at quarterback until Saturday for Tennessee State, also saw time at quarterback against the Bulldogs. He threw a touchdown pass to Ryan Mitchell with 5:07 remaining in the third quarter, which closed out the scoring on Saturday. Butler completed 5-of-7 attempts for 62 yards.

Mitchell also caught the first touchdown of the game on a 25-yard pass from German in the first quarter. Wesley Samuels caught the other German touchdown in the second quarter,



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo rolls out of the pocket and looks for a receiver down field in a game against Jacksonville State on Nov. 16 on O’Brien Field. The Panthers won against the Gamecocks 52-14 and will play Tennessee State 1 p.m. Saturday at O’Brien Field.

which put the Tigers ahead 17-0 with less than a minute to go until halftime.

Eastern’s defense will see German at quarterback for the first time this season on Saturday.

### Eastern unbeaten in OVC

The 2013 Eastern football team became the first in program history to win 11 games in the regular season after the Panthers defeated Tennessee-Martin 70-22 in Martin, Tenn., on Nov. 23 in Graham Stadium.

With the victory, Eastern also finished the season 8-0 in the OVC.

Senior quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo finished his regular season throwing for 477 yards and six touchdowns, three apiece to Adam Drake and Jeff

LePak. Drake caught his three touchdowns all in the first quarter.

Without All-American wide receiver Erik Lora, who was not with the team, as he was resting a shoulder injury, and also without Eastern’s deep threat Keiondre Gober, who was also out resting a hand injury, Drake and LePak combined to catch 21 passes for 421 yards.

Drake set new career highs in catches and receiving yards with 14 and 225, respectively, while LePak did the same with seven receptions for 196 yards.

The Panthers were also without their starting running back Taylor Duncan, who has missed the last two games with an undisclosed injury, but

red-shirt sophomore Shepard Little picked up where he left off and rushed for 123 yards on 28 carries.

Little ended the regular season, rushing for at least 100 yards in the last three games, while eclipsing the 100-yard mark six times all year.

### OVC awards

Eastern quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo earned Ohio Valley Conference Offensive Player of the Year, following a 48-touchdown regular season. Garoppolo passed for 4,489 yards, completing 65 percent of his passes (320-of-492). The senior joins Tony Romo, Vincent Webb and Erik Lora as winners of the award as a Panther.

This is the second straight year an

Eastern player has won the OVC’s Offensive Player of the Year award, as Lora won it last season.

Eastern coach Dino Babers was also named the OVC Roy Kidd Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year. Babers established the best OVC record a coach has ever had in his first two years in the conference, going 14-1 the past two seasons.

Babers led this year’s Panthers to their first 11-win regular season in program history and remained perfect in home games after two seasons (10-0).

Aldo Soto can be reached at 581-2812 or asoto2@eiu.edu.

# Panthers take fifth, sixth place at House of Champions

By Dan Hildebrandt  
Staff Reporter | @DEN\_Sports

The Eastern men’s and women’s swim teams competed in the House of Champions meet on Nov. 22 - 24 during Thanksgiving break.

The men took sixth place out of seven teams while the women took home a fifth place finish out of eight teams.

The meet included diving events in which the Panthers did not compete. This caused their overall scores to be lower at the end of the three-day meet.

At the end of the meet, the men and women finished with 774 and 763 points, respectively.

Coach Elliot McGill was more than happy with the team’s overall performance.

“We did very well,” he said. “Overall, I was very pleased with our performances.”

Eastern’s effort throughout the tournament was very apparent, McGill said. Many swimmers broke personal bests, and one even broke a school and meet record.

“We had one school and meet re-



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman Paige Eavenson swims the freestyle stroke during a meet against Evansville on Nov. 9 in Padovan Pool. The Panthers lost 75-130.

cord, had over 15 all-time top 10 performances, and 50 some lifetime bests,” McGill said. “Also, 95 percent

of our swims were best times for this season.”

The school and meet record was

broken by freshman Harris Thompson in the one-mile freestyle. He clocked in with a time of 15:59.23.

Coach McGill said he was happy with the way the team made adjustments after their initial swims to translate to more success in final swims.

“We did a great job at making race adjustments from our prelim to our finals swims,” he said. “Coming back and swimming faster at night really was good.”

After the meet, Coach McGill said that he decided that it was best to give the team some rest after the House of Champions meet. Although the team had one practice the morning after the meet, McGill sent the swimmers home so they could spend the rest of Thanksgiving break with their families.

“We came home after the meet and practice on Monday morning,” he said. “We gave the kids the rest of the week to take care of business at home.”

The Panthers will compete again at USA Senior Nationals in Knoxville, Tenn. on Dec. 5 - 7. This will be the last meet before the end of the calendar year.

Dan Hildebrandt can be reached at 581-2812 or djhildebrandt@eiu.edu.



# Kangaroos down Panthers with second half run

By Bob Reynolds  
Staff Reporter | @DEN\_Sports

A 22-2 run by the University of Missouri-Kansas City to start the second half proved to be the difference, as it defeated the Eastern women's basketball team 69-62 in the UMKC tournament in Kansas City on Saturday.

The run for the Kangaroos gave them their biggest lead of the game at 17, and Panther freshman Kaycee Kaltenberger ended University of Missouri-Kansas City's run on a layup for two of her six points on the day.

Coming into this game, the Kangaroos had not won any of their first six games on the season and lost to Sam Houston State in the first game of the tournament.

The Panthers started to fight their way back into the game. Being down 17 late in the second half, Katlyn Payne hit a 3-point shot to cap off a 9-0 run, cutting the UMKC down to eight.

Payne said the Panthers went back into their zone defense to slow down the Kangaroos.

"We kept fighting and refused to give up," she said.

After University of Missouri-Kansas City raised its lead back to double digits at 12, the Panthers would go on a 13-3 run to cut the lead down to three capped off by a Sabina Oroszova layup.

Oroszova led the Panthers with 26 points on 12-of-18 shooting in 25 minutes. She was limited again because of foul trouble, playing with four fouls for most of the second half.

The first half went back-and-forth as no team had a lead more than three until a couple of free throws were made by Jordyne Crunk, giving the Panthers their biggest lead of the night at five.

Crunk, who scored nine points in



AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jordyne Crunk, a senior guard, looks for a teammate to pass to during a game against Western Illinois on Nov. 25 in Lantz Arena. The Panthers won 58-64.

the first half on 3-of-9 shooting, only finished the game with 12.

Payne said the biggest challenge of the game was forgetting what happened in the previous game against the University of Alabama-Birmingham, which blew out the Panthers 79-46 in the first game of the tournament on Friday.

"We needed to come back and re-

deem ourselves from yesterday," she said. "We're a great team when we play together and fight."

Despite the loss, the Panthers outscored the Kangaroos 26-24 in points in the paint and outscored them in bench points 14-11.

Eastern did limit its turnovers with 17, and UMKC only scored 13 points

off the Panther turnovers.

Kangaroo leading scorer Eiliese O'Connor scored 22 points in the game on 7-of-11 shooting, and going 8-of-8 from the free throw line.

Payne, who played the entire game, scored 10 points on 3-of-13 shooting.

The Panthers struggled shooting the ball in the first game of the tournament

against University of Alabama-Birmingham, as it shot 16-of-55, including 3-of-15 from 3-point range.

The Panthers are now 2-5 on the season and will head to Peoria on Wednesday to take on Bradley.

Bob Reynolds can be reached at 581-2812 or [rjreynolds@eiu.edu](mailto:rjreynolds@eiu.edu).

# Hilltoppers hand Panthers second straight loss

By Anthony Catezone  
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

Western Kentucky handed the Eastern men's basketball team its second consecutive loss Saturday 68-53 in Bowling Green, Ky.

Western Kentucky took a 28-24 lead into halftime off a 21-8 run to close out the first 20 minutes at E.A. Diddle Arena.

Eastern did not lead from six minutes left in the first half all the way to the end of the game.

The Hilltoppers continued their run as they came out in the second half and doubled the Panthers' scoring in the first five minutes, getting out to a 14-7 run.

Forward George Fant scored half of the Hilltoppers' first 14 points in the opening five minutes of the second half, as he finished with a game-high 20 points and five rebounds.

But the 11-point lead for the Hilltoppers dwindled down to four, following a pair of Keenan Anderson free throws for the Panthers with 12:40 remaining in the game.

Eastern once again came within four points of Western Kentucky, as it did four times in the second half, with less than eight minutes left after red-shirt junior guard Reggie Smith made two free throws, making it a 49-45 game.

Western Kentucky pulled away in the next three minutes as the Hilltoppers went on an 11-2 run, capped off by a jumper by Fant.

The Panthers could not recover from that Hilltoppers run and dropped their second road game of the year, while Western Kentucky remained undefeated at home through four games this season.

The Hilltoppers outscored the Panthers 19-7 in the final seven minutes

of the second half, with six points by guard T.J. Price and five points by fellow guard Kevin Kaspar.

Price and Kaspar finished second and third on the team with 13 and nine points, respectively.

Kaspar made a 3-pointer with six minutes remaining, as the Hilltoppers extended their lead over the Panthers back to double digits from 53-45 to 56-45.

Western Kentucky, despite shooting just 4-of-21 from 3-point range, would not allow Eastern to get back within single digits. Eastern dropped to 3-4 on the season, while Western Kentucky improved to 4-2.

Smith was the lone Panthers to score in double figures with 16 points off 4-of-9 shooting, including 2-of-4 from 3-point range. He also shot 6-of-10 from the free throw line.

Freshman Jake Verhagen was the second leading scorer for the Panthers with nine points, as he made 3-of-4 3-pointers. It was the 6-foot-6 forward's career high.

Fant, meanwhile, made 7-of-10 shot attempts for Western Kentucky. The Hilltoppers made 50 percent from the field, shooting 24-of-48 from the field, while Eastern was 18-of-45 (40 percent).

Eastern was also outscored 21-10 in points off turnovers, as the Hilltoppers forced 14 Panther turnovers. WKU also held a 26-18 advantage in points in the paint and a 29-20 advantage in bench scoring.

Eastern will return to the court to play Western Illinois at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in Macomb.

Anthony Catezone can be reached at 581-2812 or [ajcatezone@eiu.edu](mailto:ajcatezone@eiu.edu).



AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Dennis Green, a red-shirt freshman, goes for a lay up during a game against IPFW on Nov. 27 in Lantz Arena. The Panthers lost to the Mastodons 65-71.