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COMPOSER COLLABORATION

Students gathered pieces of music from artists of their choice, and other students to help bring a composite production to life.

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BANGED UP

Demetre Taylor, leftfielder for the Eastern baseball team, has fought through a number of injuries during his time as a Panthers.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014

“TELL THE TRUTH AND DON’T BE AFRAID”

VOL. 99 | NO. 66

Eastern’s graduation rate above national

By Debby Hernandez
Administration Editor | @DEN_News

Eastern is above the national average in graduation rates for four-year institutions offering bachelor’s degrees, and within the average rate for Illinois institutions.

Eastern’s four-year graduation rate is at 33 percent; the five-year rate is at 55 percent, and the six-year rate at 59 percent.

The 2014 national average is at 23.6 percent for a four-year graduation rate, 38.9 percent for a five-year rate, and 43.7 percent for a six-year rate, according to ACT’s National Collegiate Retention and Persistence to Degree Rates report.

The average graduation rate for four-year bachelor’s degree granting institutions in Illinois is 4.6 years, according to a new organization called Complete College America.

Mary Herrington-Perry, the assistant vice-president for academic affairs, said Eastern’s graduation rate for 2014 follows the norm in Illinois Institutions for non-transfer students.

There is a four-year myth rate of graduation, in which only 26 percent of students in four-year institutions not considered top schools in the state of Illinois, graduate on time, according to Complete College America.

GRADUATION, page 5

Lord expands budget issues

By Luis Martinez
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

The Faculty Senate met for the last time this semester to talk about the Tuition Recovery Model as well as the elimination of the John Wiley periodicals and recent budget cuts.

Blair Lord discussed the recent cuts and how these budget concerns were going to affect Eastern’s funds in the long run.

Lord spoke about how the budget ambiguity in Springfield could have an effect on funding during year.

Lord also talked about how within the past two weeks, the president received an email from the executive director of the IBHE. The email detailed how the university should be expecting in a 20 percent cut in funds in 2016, as well as explaining how they should be prepare to take another 10 percent in cuts.

BUDGET, page 5



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

TOP: Sophomore biological sciences major Janesha Gully stands with Performing Arts Effective Civic Education President Shamera Richards at the gates at Old Main on Tuesday. **LEFT:** Senior accounting major Travon Moore hands out tea light candles in Old Main before marching to the front gates.

RIGHT: Students light tea light after marching with Dan Nadler, vice president for student affairs, from Carmen Hall to the gates at Old Main.

Students march for peace

By Roberto Hodge
Multicultural Editor | @BertoHodge

In the midst of the of the frigid night, about 20 students gathered in front of Carman Hall holding signs reading “black lives matter” and a list of black men with one thing in common — death at the hands of a white man.

Each marched from Carman Hall to Old Main in solidarity, protesting the trial decision from Ferguson, Mo., Tuesday evening.

Shamerea Richards, the presi-

dent of Performing Arts for Effective Civic Education, said the event was spontaneous, but it needed to happen to show the Eastern and Charleston communities they care about the situation.

Last August, Darren Wilson, a white Ferguson police officer, fired six shots at 18-year-old Michael Brown, a black teenager.

The case was brought to a grand jury and the decision was made not to indict Wilson, which was followed by a series of looting, riots, protests and arson.

“We’re here and we care,” Richards said.

Richards, who originally planned the event at an earlier date, canceled it because she felt not many would come out; however, when the crowds of people did show up, Richards said she felt blessed and thankful.

The students walked in unison across campus, holding up signs while shouting and chanting, “hands up, don’t shoot,” and “no justice no peace, no racist police.”

Once the students arrived at the gates, they huddled together, praying

before lighting tea-light candles.

Richards said being proactive rather than reactive is the message that should be taken away the march.


Brad Chatman, a senior communication studies major, said the march was a great example of people coming together in unity and being proactive.

Chatman said people should be treated equally instead of being seen in a negative light based on a stereotype.

MARCH, page 5


Local weather

WEDNESDAY



Partly Cloudy
High: 40°
Low: 25°

THURSDAY



Cloudy
High: 36°
Low: 33°

For more weather visit dailyeasternnews.com

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."




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Repping the residence halls



JORDAN GAY | DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Hunter Hill, a junior biological sciences major and transfer student this year, gives a speech about getting more involved for RHA on Tuesday in the lobby of Stevenson Hall. She was elected to RHA.

Zetas to ‘dominate’ during operation

Roberto Hodge
Multicultural editor | [@BertoHodge](https://twitter.com/BertoHodge)

Beginning the first week of December, Zeta Phi Beta sorority commenced their Blue Empire Operation Domination for their Zeta Week.

Diamond Robinson, the Zeta Phi Beta president, said they began their week with a blanket donation at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Bridge Lounge, which was coordinated by the organization’s service chair.

The Zetas collected blankets and warm clothing items to be donated for those in need.

The same day, the Zetas held a Baby Shower Party in the Casey Room, which was an event raising awareness of premature births.

One out of every nine babies are born premature in the United States and more than 450,000 premature births happen in the U.S., according to the March of Dimes website.

March of Dimes is an organization developed to help mothers bring their children to full-term through donations and research; the Zetas have been assisting this organization for more than 40 years.

The goal is to raise \$300 for March of Dimes, Robinson said.

Robinson said during the shower, the girls played different games dealing with themes of babies.

She said one game the girls played was diaper-poop.

The game consisted of melting a piece of chocolate on a diaper and the girls needed to smell



CHYNNA MILLER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., perform their step routine during the NPHC Step Show in McAfee Gymnasium on Nov. 8.

and identify what kind of chocolate it was.

The Zetas will have a bonfire of expressions at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Campus Pond. There will be music, singing and a space for whoever wants to perform a poem, Robinson said.

“(It’s) something to relieve people of finals stress,” Robinson said.

Robinson said this week allows a way to show the campus and the community that they care and they are a sorority that gives back.

Recently, five women crossed over into the Zetas and Robinson said this is a good way to show the new girls the ropes when it comes to service projects.

Brownies and cookies will also be sold during their bake sale at 1 p.m. in Coleman Hall for \$1.

All donations will go March of Dimes, but also to support breast cancer.

Robinson said the Zetas would also be posting inspirational quotes throughout the campus Friday on post-it notes helping students get through the week.

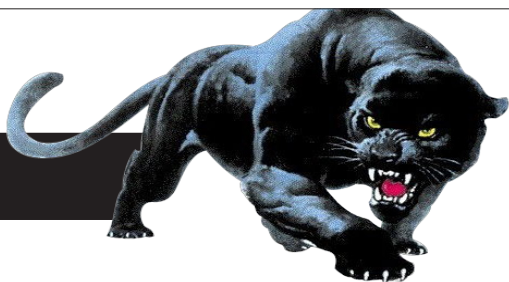
They will also have a pop-up shop in the Union at 3 p.m. Saturday on the third floor Arcola-Tuscola Room, where a woman who is a friend of the Zetas will be setting up a mini shop selling things from her personal store.

The Zetas will end their week with a Blue Finale Neon union party at 10 p.m. Saturday.

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STAFF EDITORIAL:

Striking down the pension law will bring better ideas

If we’re being honest, we all knew the pension reform law didn’t stand too much of a chance once the lawsuits started pouring in. If we’re being really honest, the pension reform bill Gov. Pat Quinn signed into law a year ago shouldn’t ever have happened. Instead it acted as an instigator fueled by angry state employees over the fact that, essentially, their money was being stolen.

And now, as of Nov. 21, the pension reform law was ruled unconstitutional — a move that serves as a blessing to the state employees.

Realistically, when a law goes against the Illinois Constitution, which states pensions are “an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired,” it stands little chance of ever making it fly.

From the start, Quinn’s pension reform bill was never a quality solution to easing Illinois’ financial burden. Instead, what the focus should have been on was redirecting the money not from the state employees but other venues.

While the law still needs to be shot down by the Supreme Court, if Sangamon County Circuit Judge John Belz’s ruling is an indication of how it will go, then we shouldn’t worry about it too much.

However, what the focus should now be on is what the future has in store for pension reform in Illinois. Obviously this version didn’t quite work out the way we hoped, and the fact remains, Illinois pension debt is the worst in the nation.

Lawmakers need to now figure out a way to alleviate the debt without stealing money from our state employees. But, of course, it won’t happen overnight.

While Illinois’s debt is the worst in the nation, it, by no means, is the only state with financial woes. Other states across the US have had the same turmoil as Illinois, and maybe modeling ourselves off of them wouldn’t be the worst idea.

Alaska, who faced a similar problem, took employees off of a defined benefit plan, and instead transferred employees after 2006 to a 401(k) plan.

A 401(k) plan is something used for numerous years by employers in the private sector. It could transition well over to the public sector, as it gives more flexibility in investment options and mobility between public sector jobs.

However, that might not be the best solution either, as state problems change from state to state. What matters is now, with the pension reform law being squashed on every corner it turns, the conversation can now direct itself to a more beneficial reformation.

The idea of digging Illinois out of its pension hole by going against the state constitution and its employees is a bleak one, but it also almost became a reality.

Moving forward, we should strive to find a better solution, rather than backing up on the people who deserve their hard earned money.

Don’t think it will be solved in one day though. No matter what, the amount of employees on this pension plan that brought us to debt will still outnumber the employees who will be on board with a new reformation plan.

But it’s the start of a better plan.

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.



JOHN WARD | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

It’s time we call science deniers what they are

Yesterday, the *New York Times* released a report in which they detailed the state of global carbon emissions that said this:

“...it now may be impossible to prevent the temperature of the planet’s atmosphere from rising by 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. According to a large body of scientific research, that is the tipping point at which the world will be locked into a near-term future of drought, food and water shortages, melting ice sheets, shrinking glaciers, rising sea levels and widespread flooding—events that could harm the world’s population and economy.”

The report, which came ahead of a weeks-long summit in Lima, Peru to curtail global warming, continued:

“Even with a deal to stop the current rate of greenhouse emissions, scientists warn, the world will become increasingly unpleasant. Without a deal, they say, the world could eventually become inhabitable for humans.”

There it is, in black and white, everyone: global warming is very, very real. And it’s almost beyond repair.

But have faith, America (and, really, the other 6 billion people on Earth)—because Rep. Jim Inhofe has got our backs. Inhofe is slated to take control of the Senate’s subcommittee on Environmental and Public Works Committee in January, and has already announced his intentions to strip bare any regulations on carbon emissions.

In 2012, Inhofe penned a book called “The Greatest Hoax: How the Global Warming Conspiracy Threatens Your Future.” In it, he accused the United Nations of fabricating global warming to “shut down the machine called Amer-



Robert Downen

ica.”

The same year, Inhofe doubled-down on his lunacy, citing a passage from Genesis as proof that global warming simply can’t exist:

“Well actually the Genesis 8:22 that I use in there is that ‘as long as the earth remains there will be seen time and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, day and night.’ My point is, God’s still up there. The arrogance of people to think that we, human beings, would be able to change what He is doing to the climate is to me outrageous.

The 80-year-old Oklahoma Republican, who prides himself as a “one-man truth squad” on climate change, has compared the Environmental Protection Agency to the German Gestapo.

He previously touted the benefits of global warming for comfortable living, and has continually vilified “Hollywood elitists” and the Weather Channel for manufacturing climate change (which—and this should go without saying—has been proven time and time again, by an overwhelming scientific consensus, to be real).

Oh, and he also received a half-million dollars in campaign contributions

from the fossil fuels industry. But that’s neither here nor there.

But this begs an important question: at what point can we discard all the buzzwords of American discourse and call cretins like Inhofe what they are? Which is delusional, stupid, detached, corrupt, moronic, cancerous, etc.

As the gap in partisan affiliation in America widens, I’ve largely refrained from dealing in platitudes or finger pointing, but if ever there was a time, it’s now.

For years now, the Republican Party has been at the forefront of bastardizing climate science, bending it at their will to line the pocketbooks of the same oil profiteers who, coincidentally, finance GOP campaigns. It’s a beautiful reciprocity, provided you don’t care for clean air, mass extinction or, well, life after 2100.

It’s what happens when a large portion of the electorate is either too complacent or wholly misinformed to realize what they’re voting for.

Sadly, though, the *Times’* report will likely fall on deaf ears. The writing has long-since been on the wall, we’re all just too stupid to read it.

Sadly, come this January, Inhofe and his cohorts *will* take control of the environment of the world’s largest emitter of carbon emissions.

And when they do, let’s all pray that stubborn faith Inhofe has in God pays off. Because it’ll take divine intervention to keep us from the Hell that we’ve created.

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Retired art



JEHAD ABBED | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Retired art professor Jeff Boshart (front) and retired Dean James Johnson (back) strap down a sculpture to a trailer Tuesday outside of Doudna Fine Arts Center. Boshart’s pieces that sit between Doudna and Buzzard Hall are all set to be removed by next summer.

» **MARCH**
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One woman, who was in the crowd of students huddled together in front of the gates of Old Main, said “Don’t let this (movement) stop here.”

Richards said she understands why the black residents of Ferguson reacted in such a way toward the overall situation of both Brown’s death and the case.

She added the anger and protests were their natural reaction to the situation.

Richards, who has younger brothers, said the issue hit her close to home because she does not want the same act of violence to happen to them; she also wants to be a mother someday.

“It hurts me because I hope to one day bear a child,” Richards said.

While on a plane coming back from Las Vegas, Richards overheard a man talking about the trial’s outcome and he was very upset about it.

She said she researched the case and based on what she knew, she understood why he was not indicted, but she did not agree with it.

“I felt like there was no justice,” Richards said. “If you feel like something needs to be changed you need to make it happen.”

Roberto Hodge can be reached at 581-2812 or rlhodge@eiu.edu.

» **BUDGET**
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“At this point, nobody has a clue of what’s going on,” Lord said. “I do know that IBHE had a meeting today somewhere in Chicago. The president went there this morning to talk about what their liaison have heard.”

One of the senate members, Jeff Ashley, responded to Lord’s report by asking what reductions have been made the vice president, the dean and even the president’s offices.

“We’ve had FTE reductions every single year for the last seven years,” Ashley said. “We’ve had some significant ones in the past and it looks like we’re going to have another one.” Lord said the dean’s office has had many positions become open and has not filled them, the same being said for the departmental offices.

Lord overviewed the Tuition Recovery Model. The Tuition Recovery Model is a program that helps college departments develop academic programs for outside the school year.

The Tuition Recovery Model is how Eastern manages to spread funding to the four different colleges. The model takes profit made from non-major courses designed to gain students and then send them out to different colleges.

The funding this year, however, is nearly half of what it was last year.

“The idea of TRM is seems wonderfully simple,” Lord said. “You plan all the coursework and all the things you’re going to do with faculty you have on salary and you have all this assignment to work on.”

He mentioned the memo that was signed back in 2010.

“The bulk of this memo is identical to the one drafted by Dr. Weber,” Lord said. “The only things that’s changed in this version of it, and there are two bullet areas that talk about when the distribution will be made to the departments.”

Luis Martinez can be reached at 581-2812 or lpmartinez@eiu.edu

Want ads inspire Tarble abstract exhibit

By Bob Galuski
Editor-in-Chief | [@BobGaluski](https://twitter.com/BobGaluski)

An oversimplified sentence in a *Thrifty Nickel* magazine advertisement sparks the creative muse within Shane Rodems, fueling his abstract art.

And from the words used in the advertisement, Rodems creates art — art that is now in the Brainard Gallery of the Tarble Arts Center until Dec. 14.

Rodems’s exhibit, titled “All for Sale 2000 O.B.O.,” is part of the Tarble’s 2014 artist in the schools residency artist and is visiting four area schools. Between Nov. 11 and Dec. 11, Rodems will be visiting schools four area schools in the duration of his program.

Kit Morice, the Tarble’s curator of education, said the works are inspired by the want ads in *Thrifty Nickel*, and from the “nonsensical sentences,” Rodems brings out an abstract piece using mixed media as his materials. Morice said there is a sense of playfulness to the art.

“You can tell he has fun with the materials,” she said.

Although described as an “abstractionist,” Morice said Rodems art gives off a visual word play, since it is from words, slogans and lingo, which may be a bit out of place given its nature.

The materials used will never be spoken out loud to the viewer, Morice said. She explained Rodems would rather have the materials be a mystery for others to

figure out. However, he uses common items to help pay tribute to the “slightly used” feeling the want ads bring out, she said.

Morice added during the residency artist program, Rodems, in addition to visiting the area schools, also works with children at the schools and takes them through the mixed media creative process.

At the end of the program, there will be a reception for parents of the children and the campus and Charleston community to come out and see Rodems’s works.

A 2009 Eastern graduate, Rodems worked in the Tarble during his undergraduate years. As someone who worked with Rodems while he was in school, Morice said it was great to see the change

es Rodems made as he grew as an artist.

“He was always interested in the human figure here, but I think during his graduate program, he was opened to the abstract,” she said.

Rodems has exhibited his work throughout the Midwest, which includes the Peter Miller Gallery, Chicago and the Union Street Gallery in Chicago Heights. His artwork has also appeared in the publication *New American Paintings No. 99*.

The Champaign resident received his bachelors from Eastern, while doing graduate work from Indiana University.

Bob Galuski can be reached at 581-2812 or deneic@gmail.com.

» **GRADUATION**
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Complete College America is an organization that provides information on graduation rates and retention statewide and nationwide, and it advocates ways to help increase graduation rates and reduce student’s time to graduate.

For full-time students in Illinois, 17 percent graduate on time while 39 percent graduate in six years, accordant to its website.

“Colleges habitually report their graduation rates in six-year increments,” Herrington-Perry said.

Students do not graduate within four years because they tend to earn extra credit hours from what the state requires, according to the Four-Year Myth report from Complete College America.

The average graduate in non-top public colleges in Illinois, such as Eastern, completes up to 130.8 credit hours, according to Four-Year Myth report.

Eastern’s 2014 average for credit hours to degree is 138.

“On average, our majors require students to complete 123 hours,” Herrington-Perry said. “By state law, a bachelor’s degree has to have 120.”

Herrington-Perry said one of the reasons why the number of credit hours Eastern students take is high is because of

students’ choice to increase their knowledge.

“Majors want to have some ability to study in areas outside their major to complement what they are doing,” she said. “Our programs are not requiring them to take way more than the average.”

Herrington-Perry said in order for Eastern students to graduate in four years, they need to take 15 credit hours each semester to obtain a total of 120 credit hours.

“On average, our students finish less than 13 credit hours a semester,” she said. “Students have got to get used to thinking about 15 hours a semester on average if they’re going to graduate in four years.”

Only 50 out of more than 580 public four-year institutions in the U.S. have graduation rates at or above 50 percent for first-time graduates, according to the Complete College America website.

Another factor contributing to graduation rates is retention.

Herrington-Perry said members of Eastern’s Center for Academic Support and Assessment have gathered data in the last two years about the

characteristics that will determine if an incoming student will remain at Eastern.

“What they find is that the most common indicator is financial,” she said.

Herrington-Perry said the financial factor depends on how large the gap is between financial aid granted and the cost of attendance.

“The larger that gap in unmet need, the more likely a student is to not be retained,” she said. “We are really trying to reach out to students make them more aware of what their responsibilities are and what the alternatives are in getting their bills paid.”

The two extra years it takes most students in the U.S. to graduate causes a 70 percent increase on student debt among borrows, according to Temple University and the University of Texas-Austin.

Herrington-Perry said Eastern has initiatives for students to graduate in four years.

“We have all kinds of measures in place to help our students,” she said.

She said while all Eastern majors have four-year degree plans, the university also offers a four-year program

and a two-year program.

“Both of these are intrusive advising programs (that) are designed to help students who want to graduate in four years stay on track to graduation,” Herrington-Perry said.

Herrington-Perry said Eastern has mandatory academic advising to ensure students choose the right courses and take the right number of credit hours.

“Eastern is still reasonably unique in requiring our students to meet with an academic adviser before they can register for courses,” she said.

Easter also allows students to run their own degree-audit, which shows students what they need to take next, what they have left to take, and courses the student has taken but do not fall under their requirements.

Herrington-Perry said she is pleased with Eastern’s current graduation rate.

“I don’t anticipate there will be much difference, we have held pretty steady,” she said.

Debby Hernandez can be reached at 581-2812 or dhernandez5@eiu.edu.

» INJURIES

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So, Taylor went to work, hitting the books and trying to stay healthy.

“I couldn’t really rehab, so I basically hit the books hard, prayed hard and I just trained on my own, put myself on a diet so I didn’t gain any extra weight,” Taylor said. “I played it smart and I didn’t want to rush anything with the healing process. I just stayed off my foot and did what I was told.”

Taylor wore a protective boot from Oct. 4 to Nov. 21 before it was taken off. When he was initially told about the fracture, doctors said he would not be back to full strength until January or February.

When he went to go see his doctor last week, before Thanksgiving break, he was told that the bone had healed and that his boot could be removed.

“I just believed in God, believed in me and believed in my body,” Taylor said. “I’m ahead of schedule. I won’t be running full speed until January, but I’ll be back with the team after winter break.”

On Tuesday, Taylor spoke with Eastern coach Jim Schmitz, who was surprised to learn that Taylor had recovered from his injury.

But maybe it shouldn’t have come as big of a surprise because Taylor, who was instructed not to participate in any

baseball activities while in his boot, still managed to sneak his way into the batting cages.

“Schmitz told me I shouldn’t be hitting and the trainer would say you can’t do it, but I would just give them a look that would basically say, ‘I don’t really care if you tell me not to, I’m going to do it anyway,’ so Schmitz let me,” Taylor said. “Every time, Schmitz would ask if I was OK and I would just give him a thumbs up and smile at him.”

Taylor said Schmitz liked his mental attitude, but was more worried about getting the outfielder back 100 percent healthy even if it took longer than Taylor coming back quicker but being at 80 percent.

Nonetheless, Taylor continued to hit every Monday and Wednesday with his boot on and now he’s ready for the start of next season.

“I know that if there was a game tomorrow, I would be starting in left fielder – I would be somewhere in that lineup,” he said.

Last season, Taylor led Eastern in home runs, with seven, RBIs, with 53 and slugging percentage at .536. The junior said that although he missed time during the fall, when the team does the bulk of its preparation, he felt that it was a positive for him despite the

different injuries he had to battle.

“It gave my body a rest and I don’t think the time off will affect me, I just got some good rest,” he said.

Taylor stayed in Charleston for Thanksgiving, but is heading back home to Tampa for winter break, when he plans on starting to run on the beach to get back running at full speed. He said he would take it slow even after the New Year, but is fully expecting to be ready for the start of the season on Feb. 13, 2015, when the Panthers play at Northwestern State in Troy, Ala.

But even then, Taylor will have to deal with his broken left middle finger, which he suffered playing summer ball.

As a member of the Quincy Gems, which are a part of the Prospects League, Taylor broke his middle finger that he first broke back in high school during his junior year playing football.

Taylor said that he was going to stop playing because of the broken finger, but Quincy lost more players and were short, so he decided to play anyway.

“Every game I would have three Advil, four Ibuprofen and 2-3 Tylenol,” Taylor said. “It would be reddish and then purple. It got so swollen that it got to the point that I had to

cut holes in my batting glove so that I could fit my hand inside. That s*** was painful. On a scale of 1-10 that was an eight and my foot was a 10, well actually my foot was a 20.”

Taylor kept playing and he had no choice, as Quincy advanced into the playoffs and eventually won the Prospects League Championship.

Taylor was scheduled to have surgery on his broken finger sometime during the fall, but because of his cyst it was pushed back.

Then his foot injury occurred. He plans on playing the season with the broken finger and said it doesn’t really affect gripping his bat, feeling only a slight discomfort when throwing a baseball.

“I’m tired of going to the hospital and I’ll get surgery sometime in the summer,” he said. Taylor has taken it all in stride, even laughing about everything that has happened to him in the last six months.

“Boy, it was a rough deal for me this semester,” he said as he smiled. “I’ve had a rough semester, but hopefully everything will be good.”

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

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Panthers go .500 during Thanksgiving break

By Bob Reynolds
Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

The Eastern women's basketball team split its four games during Thanksgiving break, which included three road games and a home game.

The Panthers played in the North Texas tournament at North Texas University from Nov. 21-23.

Eastern ran into a hot-shooting Florida State team in its first game of the tournament and lost 91-55.

The Seminoles shot 58 percent in the game, also shooting 8-of-10 from the 3-point line in the first half.

The Panthers shot their best of the season with making 55 percent of their field goals in the game, but were 2-of-7 from the 3-point line.

In the Panthers' second game of the North Texas tournament, they defeated the Mean Green in overtime 59-57, after coming back from 12 points down in the second half.

That was Eastern's first overtime win since 2012, when it defeated Sacramento State 72-67.

The Panthers struggled in the first half against North Texas, shooting 33 percent from the field and did not make any of their 3-point attempts.

In the comeback attempt, the Panthers held the Mean Green to four points in overtime on just 1-of-9 shooting and held them to 10-of-26 shooting in the second half.

Eastern shot 16-of-30 in the second half and over time combined.

Sabina Oroszova finished with 17 points and 15 rebounds on 8-of-16 from the floor and had five steals in the game. Arnisha Thomas finished the game with 11 points on 3-of-7 shooting, leading the Panthers to their first win of the season.

Grace Lennox finished with seven

points and six assists in the victory for Eastern.

In the lone home game during the break, the Panthers took on a struggling Northern Illinois team.

The Panthers shot 44 percent in their 55-46 win at Lantz Arena, the day before Thanksgiving.

Eastern forwards Oroszova and Erica Brown led the Panthers with 16 points apiece on 11-of-20 shooting combined, including 9-of-11 from the free throw line.

The Panthers led for a total of 38:52 in the game and were up by 15 at one point.

Eastern shot 70 percent from the free throw line, and Lennox made all seven of her attempts at the free throw line.

Finally, in Chicago, the Panthers took on Loyola-Chicago, which coach Debbie Black called a winnable game for her team.

The Panthers struggled mightily from the floor as they shot 28 percent, which included 6-of-22 in the first half in the 63-52 loss.

Eastern did convert 23-of-30 attempts from the free throw line, but struggled from the 3-point line as they shot 3-of-11.

Oroszova finished the game 2-of-13 from the floor.

With the Panthers not having a game until 6 p.m. Friday at Lantz Arena against Nebraska-Omaha, Black said the one thing she wants her team to work on is its offense.

The Panthers are averaging 53 points per game - the fewest out of 12 teams in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Bob Reynolds can be reached at 581-2812 or rjreynolds@eiu.edu.



Kevin Hall | The Daily Eastern News

Jalisha Smith, a freshmen forward, attempts a lay-up with two defenders trailing in the women's basketball game Saturday against Kansas City in Lantz Arena.

UPCOMNG SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 5TH 7 P.M.	VS. OMAHA
DECEMBER 10TH NOON	@ MILWAUKEE
DECEMBER 12TH 7 P.M.	@ WESTERN ILL.
DECEMBER 14TH 2 P.M.	VS. ILL. CHICAGO
DECEMBER 20TH 4:30 P.M.	@ NORTHWESTERN

Belmont begins season with strong start

By Jihad Abbed
Staff Reporter | @Jehada

The Belmont University men's basketball team currently sits at the top spot of the Ohio Valley Conference as the early stretch of non-conference games continue.

Behind junior guard and conference leading scorer Craig Bradshaw, Belmont has a 6-1 record.

Bradshaw is averaging 22.3 points on the season while also leading the conference in three pointers made at 3.4 per game.

The Bruins' only loss came in their first game at the hands of Wright State University.

Eastern Kentucky University boasts a 4-1 record after the first month of play comes to an end.

The Colonels are the No. 1



scoring offense in the conference putting up 91 points per game.

They are outscoring their opponents by an average of 32.6 points. Senior guard Corey Walden anchors the defense with 3.4 steal per game.

Jacksonville State University is sitting at 4-3 on the year and are holding opponents to just 27 percent from behind the three point line..

The Gamecocks are on a four-game win streak after losing their first three including a 49-point loss to a now No. 7 ranked Louisville.

Tennessee Tech University is 3-3 this season and has found success by crashing the boards.

The Golden Eagles are leading the conference with 40.3 rebounds per game.

They are outrebounding other teams by an average of 10 behind junior center Charles Jackson who is pulling down 11 boards per

game.

At a 4-5 record, Morehead State University has played the most game of any team in the OVC.

Morehead's first loss came in its season opener against a traditionally tough University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

The Eagles' defense leads the conference holding teams to 40 percent on field goals.

Tennessee-Martin has a 3-2 record so far. The Skyhawks have scored the second most points by an OVC team in a single game this year during a 115-29 win against ACCA Champion Baptist College.

Senior forward Nino Johnson and his 12.3 points per game have led Southeast Missouri to 3-3 record heading into December.

The Redhawks are only connecting on 4.8 three-pointers per game. That is only more than two other teams in the conference.

The conference's worst rebounding team is Murray State University. The Racers are 3-4 so far and are being outrebounded by 5.7 boards per game.

Despite troubles on the glass, Murray State has two of the top six scorers in the OVC.

Eastern is currently 2-5 after a stretch of games that coach Jay Spoonhour said was about as hard as the Panthers would want to start.

The Panthers are holding teams to an average of less than 60 points per game, but their biggest issue is outscoring them.

Tennessee State University is on a four-game losing streak that brought its record to 2-5.

The streak began with two 30-plus point losses, one of which was to number nine nationally ranked University of Virginia. The Tigers seem to have troubles sharing the ball averaging a conference worst 9.7 assists per game.

Another conference team with 2-5 record, Austin Peay State University is struggling heavily on the defensive end.

The Governors are giving up more points than anyone else in the OVC at 73.9 points per game with opponents shooting nearly 50 percent.

Southern Illinois-Edwardsville has played and won fewer games than any other team in the conference.

The Cougars are just 1-3 right now. While they lead the conference in blocked shots, they are also allowing teams to shoot nearly 40 percent from outside the 3-point line.

Much like Eastern, most of the Ohio Valley Conference games will not be in full swing until the beginning of January.

Jihad Abbed can be reached at 217-581-2812 or jabbed@eiu.edu

Baseball player battles through injuries

By Aldo Soto

Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

If a broken left middle finger during summer ball wasn't already something to be worried about for Eastern baseball player Demetre Taylor, a near-fatal cyst growing inside the throat of the Panthers' left fielder certainly did not help his cause.

A week before Eastern opened its doors for the fall semester in August, Taylor first spotted a growth near his throat, but he thought nothing of it initially.

"I noticed it a week before classes started and I was like, 'what the heck, I can't get any girls with this,'" he said.

One of the reasons he did not pay much attention to the mysterious lump was because his beard was growing over it and he could not detect how big it actually was.

Yet, he did know something wasn't right because every time Taylor tried to eat and swallow his food, his throat would hurt.

He went to Health Services on Aug. 22, when he was given antibiotics, but after the weekend the lump grew instead of shrinking. On Wednesday, Aug. 27, Taylor returned to Health Services, as he could no longer swallow his food.

"It was a different doctor the second time and the first thing he said was, 'Demetre, what seems to be the...holy s***,'" Taylor said.

The doctor was stunned to see the size of the cyst on Taylor and immediately told the junior that he needed surgery to remove the growth that same day.

"He told me, that if I would've waited a couple more days, or if when I was eating and would have thrown up I could've died from suffocation," Taylor said. "I was just in f***** shock when he told me. It didn't really hit until after surgery."

Taylor had the cyst removed, which had grown to the size of a baseball.

"My surgeon said that when she cut it open it exploded everywhere, puss and everything," he said. "They had a tube sticking out of my neck,

draining all the puss. Nasty."

During the time of his cyst removal, the Eastern baseball team was beginning its fall training, preparing for the 2015 season. Taylor missed three weeks of fall ball with the Panthers, recovering from the surgery but he was finally able to return to action, although it wouldn't last for long.

The Eastern baseball team had its alumni weekend starting on Oct. 3. During that weekend the Panthers played a friendly game, but unfortunately for Taylor it was his last time running the bases this year.

"I was just rounding third base, not really going fast and one or two of my spikes went in to my cleat and it snapped my bone in half," Taylor said. "I kept running and I heard like a ripping sound and I was thinking to myself, what the heck was that?"

Once he landed on his left foot again after taking another stride, Taylor said he quickly felt the pain.

"Nobody really thought anything about it," he said.

Somehow, he continued to play during the game, but in his next plate



FILE PHOTO BY JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern left fielder Demetre Taylor takes a swing against Jacksonville State at Coaches Stadium on March 30. Taylor led the Panthers with seven home runs and 53 RBIs in the 2014 season.

appearance he was no longer able to put up with the pain.

"I tried to go hit again, but it hurt so bad that I couldn't push up on it like I wanted to," he said. "It felt like a railroad spike was just being pounded into my foot or like a long spear going into my foot."

Taylor was told at first that it was a bruised bone and that he should stay off of his left foot until the pain went away, so he was given crutches. That was before any x-rays were taken on Oct. 6.

"My coach texted me and I told him it was just a bruised bone and I'll be all right, but that was before the x-rays," Taylor said. "After I got the x-rays back I was like, 'oh, s*** I'm not going to be all right. I might be out a couple of weeks during the start of the season.'"

Taylor said he already had a sprained ankle before returning to fall action with the baseball team and that he probably should not have played, but decided to anyway because he had already missed time because of his cyst.

"I taped it up and wore a brace and kept playing, and I had already missed three weeks, so I couldn't miss anymore time," he said. "I've played on a sprained ankle before in football, so I thought I could do it."

After he received the x-rays that revealed a fractured bone in his foot, Taylor was advised to have surgery, which consisted of inserting a screw to connect his broken bone.

Taylor was in shock at first and did not know where to turn, or who to talk to.

"I didn't really talk to any of the baseball guys because I was so torn, so mentally torn," Taylor said. "I just couldn't believe how something so little turned out to be so big. I didn't really talk to anyone. I closed. I mentally closed like a shell."

Standing at 6-foot-3, anyone who has seen Taylor take at-bats at Coaches Stadium can tell that the Tampa, Fla., native has a football background. Being one of the biggest and strongest players with the Eastern baseball team, he said he was more closed off after the injury because he could not

deal with how he was injured.

"I was more embarrassed than anything because I'm the biggest, strongest guy on the team and all my strength came naturally, I'm naturally gifted, naturally talented and I just couldn't believe that I got hurt the way I did," he said.

Taylor finally spoke with his mother and father, who both told him to avoid the surgery. He was set on his decision after he talked with his father, Michael Taylor.

"My father was a big help, he said at first that I should get the screw, but then he thought about it and said don't get the screw because there's life after baseball, there's life after sports," Taylor said. "That was the big thing that he said. 'You're going to have problems with that screw when you're old.'"

On Oct. 10, four days after surgery was given as an option, Taylor decided not to have the procedure, instead choosing to let the bone heal naturally.

INJURIES, page 6

High-scoring Cardinals fly into Lantz Arena

By Aldo Soto

Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

Following a 1-3 record at the Emerald Coast Classic during Thanksgiving break, the Eastern basketball team returns home to host Ball State University at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Lantz Arena.

The Cardinals (2-2) enter the game with nine days of rest, playing last on Nov. 24, when they beat Grambling State 88-46 at Worthen Arena in Muncie, Ind.

Eastern (2-5) goes up against Ball State for the first time since the 2010-11 season, when the Cardinals won both ends of the teams' home-and-home series.

At 2-2, the Cardinals have used 3-point shooting to invigorate their offense. Against Grambling State, Ball State made 50 percent of its

field goals from 3-point range, making 14-of-28 attempts.

The Panthers' opponents have shot 38.5 percent from long distance this season, while the Cardinals go into Lantz Arena with the third best shooting percentage from 3-point range in the country at 46.9. Only Duquesne (52.8 percent) and Portland (50 percent) rank ahead of Ball State.

In Eastern's five losses this season, its opponent has shot 50 percent from 3-point range three times

and has lost by a combined 38 points. After losing three straight in the Emerald Coast Classic, the Panthers' defense forced Southern University to shoot 2-for-10 from long range, as Eastern won the game and allowed a season-low 43 points.

Junior guard LeTrell "Snoop" Visser said the Panthers have to be all over the Ball State shooters Wednesday night to make it more difficult for the Cardinals to get good looks at the basket.

"We just have to get down and defend like no other," Snoop said. "We have to run their shooters off the three and contest every shot. We have to make every shot they take uncomfortable."

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



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior forward Luke Piotrowski maneuvers towards the basket during the Panthers' 81-51 win against the Eureka College Red Devils on Nov. 17 in Lantz Arena.