

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

March

2022

3-23-2022

Daily Eastern News: March 23, 2022

Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2022_mar

Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: March 23, 2022" (2022). *March*. 3.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2022_mar/3

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the 2022 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in March by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

THE WEEKLY EDITION

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

'TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID'

March 23, 2022

MORE THAN A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

VOL. 106 | NO. 80

WHAM!



The Daily Eastern News
 1811 Buzzard Hall
 Eastern Illinois University
 Charleston, IL 61920
 217-581-2812
 217-581-2923 (fax)

News Staff

Editor-in-Chief
 Corryn Brock
 DENeic@gmail.com

News Editor
 Madelyn Kidd
 dennewsdesk@gmail.com

Multimedia News Editor
 Luke Taylor
 dennewsdesk@gmail.com

Photo Editor
 Ashanti Thomas
 denphotosdesk@gmail.com

Associate Photo Editor
 Rob Le Cates
 denphotosdesk@gmail.com

Sports Editor
 Adam Tumino
 densportsdesk@gmail.com

Assistant Sports Editor
 Autumn Schulz
 densportsdesk@gmail.com

Opinions Editor
 Theo Edwards
 denop.eds@gmail.com

Faculty Advisers

Editorial Adviser
 Joe Gisondi

Photo Adviser
 Greg Cooper

Publisher
 Joe Gisondi

Business Manager
 Betsy Jewell

About

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published weekly on Wednesday, in Virdon, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and online during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per week is free to students and employees. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall.

Advertising

To place an advertisement or classified ad in The Daily Eastern News, call the ads office at 581-2812 or fax 581-2923. Visit our online advertisements at dailyeasternnews.com/classifieds.

Comments / Tips

Contact any of the above staff members if you believe your information is relevant.

Corrections

The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds or is made aware of by its readers will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find to Editor-in-Chief Corryn Brock at 581-2812.

Employment

If you would like to work for The Daily Eastern News as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

Get social with The Daily Eastern News

The Daily Eastern News

thedailyeasternnews

@DEN_news

Visit our website: dailyeasternnews.com

Attention postmaster: Send address changes to:

The Daily Eastern News
 1802 Buzzard Hall
 Eastern Illinois University
 Charleston, IL 61920



Graphic by Luke Taylor

Women to be celebrated March 30

Women's History and Awareness awards ceremony to wrap-up WHAM celebrations

By Madelyn Kidd
 News Editor | @DEN_news

A University of Illinois professor of history will speak at the 2022 Women's History and Awareness Month awards ceremony and keynote presentation on March 30 at 5:30 p.m. in Coleman Hall Auditorium.

Leslie Reagan, a history professor at the U of I, will have a presentation at the WHAM awards ceremony hosted by Eastern's Women's, Gender and Sexuality program.

This year's WHAM theme is feminism and health justice, which plays a part in the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies program's decision of who will be invited as a keynote speaker.

Jeannie Ludlow, a professor of English and coordinator of the Women's, Gender and Sexuality program, explained how Reagan was invited to the event.

"Each year, we have a keynote speaker, a scholar or activist whose work is related to our theme, to share their thoughts with us," Ludlow said. "Reagan writes about a variety of health justice topics, from reproductive rights to mothering to the health effects of Agent Orange (an herbicide used by the U.S. military during the Vietnam War) on the children of war veterans. Given the important Supreme Court cases (about Texas and Mississippi) being decided right now, and the fact that there have been more than 500 state laws proposed in more than 40

states just since January 1, 2022, that would restrict abortion rights."

Reagan's topic during the presentation will cover abortion and U.S. laws throughout the presentation and answering the question: Is the past going to be our future?

A change to the WHAM awards ceremony compared to years previous is that the keynote presentation and awards ceremony are being combined to one event this year rather than two.

"This year, mostly because of the COVID pandemic, we chose to schedule our keynote speaker and our awards ceremony at the same time," Ludlow said. "That way, if some new variant had caused us to need to reschedule, we would only have one event to reschedule."

Madelyn Kidd can be reached at 581-2812 or at mekidd@eiu.edu.

On the cover

The cover contains photos of Alexandra Tinagero, Anne Flashery, Beth Heidebrandt, Betsy Jewell, Haylee Brickley, Jasmine Yusuf, Jeannie Ludlow, Joyce Madigan, Judy Gorrell, Kelly Miller, Kyra Morales-Rodriguez, Laura McLaughlin, Marisol Gamboa, Marjorie Worthington, Meagan Burton, Quinn Hoover, Sara Thomas, Shawn Peoples, Tanya Willard and Yolanda Williams. Photos were taken by Rob Le Cates and Corryn Brock.

WHAT'S HAPPENING MARCH 23-30

WEDNESDAY

Student Senate Meeting
 7 p.m. - Stevenson Hall
 Calmed: A Veteran's Mission
 12 p.m. - Charleston Carnegie Public Library

SATURDAY

YOUR EVENT COULD GO HERE- AND ON OUR ONLINE CALENDAR!

MONDAY

Tai Chi
 4:30 p.m. - Kiwanis Park

THURSDAY

Council on Academic Affairs
 2 p.m. - Witters Conference Room, Booth Library

TUESDAY

SUNDAY

CONTACT US WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

FRIDAY

WEDNESDAY

Tai Chi
 4:30 p.m. - Kiwanis Park
 Student Senate Meeting
 7 p.m. - Stevenson Hall

Send your event information to dennewsdesk@gmail.com to be added to our online and print calendars!

First Miss Black EIU reflects on legacy

By Corryn Brock

Editor-in-Chief | @corryn_brock

More than fifty years ago, Debbie Minter Jackson left her mark at Eastern by being crowned the first Miss Black EIU.

A sophomore English major at the time, she said she was unaware of the long-lasting impact that first pageant would have on the Black community at Eastern; she just wanted to create a space for Black students.

"It was very nourishing and nurturing to have something that we could just say this was ours," Minter Jackson said. "This is how we're going to display our talent, what we're about and make that happen."

Like many recent Miss Black EIU contestants, Minter Jackson likened the scholarship pageant to a sisterhood.

"(It was a) foundation of women who, all together, realized the issue was not who was going to win, it wasn't competitive, as much as 'let us all hold hands and get out there and be together and show something,'" Minter Jackson said. "There was a solidarity that I didn't see other places."

The pageant's power went much further than creating a bond between contestants. It made a declaration: Black is beautiful.

"We were showing what we were about individually and in a solid unit," Minter Jackson said.

She said her biggest statement was wearing her natural hair with pride.

"The whole hair thing was a major event. I could barely wear my natural (hair) when I was coming out of high school into college," Minter Jackson said. "I had to make that as a statement to my family and friends, 'This is who I am or what I'm about.'"

Looking back, she said she loves photos of herself, featuring an Afro, from the night she was crowned.

"I love the crown nestled on this Afro like, 'wow, that was a statement,'" Minter Jackson said. "The look and the gowns, we were trying to be Afrocentric."

In the time around when Minter Jackson attended Eastern, the campus and surrounding community made much progress in the emergence of space for the Black community, but it was met with resistance from some.

The Black student population was seeing unprecedented growth, creating a space for Black students to thrive.

Seven historically Black fraternities and sororities were chartered at Eastern during the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Black Student Union was founded in 1967 to promote unity among Black students and the Afro-American Studies program was founded in the fall of 1970.

At the same time, Black students protested for equal treatment by the university, a cross was burned on the lawn of the Black fraternity that sponsored the first Black woman to win a Homecoming Queen election at Eastern, Black residents' homes were shot at and the sign of newly-named Martin Luther King Jr. University Union was defaced on multiple occasions.

In what Minter Jackson described as a "tumultuous" time, she said it was important to have examples of solidarity within the Black community at Eastern.



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Debbie Minter, the first Miss Black EIU, is presented roses by Darnell Williams, Black Student Union's executive secretary for the pageant planning in 1971.

"We just kind of felt that there was going to be a tough road, no matter where we turned, and so we found real solace in having that support with each other in the 70s," Minter Jackson said.

Now, fifty years after finding herself as the first-ever Miss Black EIU, Minter enjoys life in Washington D.C., writing for D.C. Metro Theatre Arts.

After graduating from Eastern she earned a Master's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and performed on stages across the Midwest and Washington, D.C. She has also found success as a writer, with her scripts being commissioned and produced by the old Source Theater and festivals in New York.

Whether it be on the stage performing, vying for Miss Black EIU or fighting against injustice, Minter Jackson paved the way for a variety of Black women at Eastern to thrive and continue creating spaces for Black students on campus.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at deneic@gmail.com.

Flaherty empowers women as VPSA

Story By Katja Benz

Campus Reporter | @katjabenz1

Eastern's Vice President of Student Affairs says that she would not be where she is today without the strong role models she has had in her previous roles.

Vice President Anne Flaherty, who was a resident assistant while completing her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa, says that her positive experience as a resident assistant mixed with wanting to work with students originally got her interested in student affairs.

Throughout her career, Flaherty has worked in various student affairs roles, such as director of student wellness and diversity, dean of students and interim associate vice chancellor before joining Eastern's staff in July 2020.

Flaherty oversees 11 different departments and is one of the highest-ranking officials at Eastern. She describes her role as someone who supports the well-being and health of students.

Even though she oversees 11 departments, Flaherty wants to remove barriers for both her staff and students so they can be successful.

"Honestly, every day looks very different, but it typically includes meetings, the best ones are the ones with students, attending events/programs, strategic planning, budget management, and addressing problems whether it be related to the COVID pandemic, a student crisis, employee issues, etc.," Flaherty said. "I try to remove barriers to help my staff be able to do their work and remove barriers for students, so they can pursue their educational goals, be engaged on campus and find a sense of belonging."

Even though she tries to lower barriers for students, Flaherty has a set of her own as a female in higher education.

Despite these barriers, Flaherty said that she feels very lucky to be in her role.

"There is only one VPSA at each school, therefore, it is really an honor to be selected to serve in this role," said Flaherty. "I am grateful to be a part of the team working to create the best possible experience for students and employees at EIU. I like to say that I have the best job on campus."

Flaherty says that she wants to always be there for students and staff even if she is under immense pressure. Her job also provides her with satisfaction.

"As an executive leader, there is a high level of responsibility on a daily basis, even when you are not physically on campus or working, you are connected through email and text," Flaherty said. "With 11 departments in my division, there are a lot of competing interests for my time. While the concept of the 'buck stops here' is often reserved for the president of a university, often student-related issues do stop with the vice president for student affairs. My guiding philosophy is to always do what is best for students and to provide the best possible work environment for your employees, so they can provide the best service. While there can be a lot of pressure, there is also a high level of satisfaction and joy through interactions with students and staff."

Flaherty has moving office hours to hear from students, including one on March 28 in Booth Library from 2 to 3 p.m.

Anne G. Flaherty, Vice President of Student Affairs, poses for a picture.

Flaherty thinks that even with her high role at Eastern, and with the amount of strides women have made, there is still a gap in the field of higher education.

"While women have made huge strides in moving into senior leadership roles in higher education, there are still more males sitting at the senior table," Flaherty said. "And because men's and women's leadership styles tend to be different, women still need to work hard to be sure their voice is always heard. Also, as reported previously by the DEN, there are

salary differences between male and female leaders. For women who chose to become a mother, I have two teenage sons and one in college, there is the added challenge of balancing family responsibilities and work life. While the gender balance for work/family life seems to be improving, I believe women will continue to take on a larger share of this balance. The pandemic has illustrated this with a much higher percentage of women leaving the workforce as part of the 'great recession.'"

However, Flaherty says that she is

available for mentorship and wants women on her teams.

"I am a feminist, and I am intentional with other women to be sure they know I am available for mentorship and sponsorship," Flaherty said. "It also happens through individual interactions, ensuring that women are equally represented on committees and in decision-making opportunities."

Katja Benz can be reached at 581-2812 or at kkbenz@eiu.edu.



ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS



PHOTO GRAPHIC ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Identical twins Ashley and Haley Mlinar pose outside of Buzzard Hall. The twins share similar styles, interests and, of course, appearances with each other.

... And they were wombmates

Seeing double? It may be Ashley and Haley Mlinar.

The twins, both freshman studio art majors, have made a name for themselves at Eastern, often being seen wearing matching clothing, taking the same classes or enjoying the same hobbies, like reading and playing video games.

Ashley and Haley say their similar interests and styles started when they were young, with the exception of kindergarten when they would wear similar clothes in different colors.

"After that, we were like 'no, we want to dress the same,' so we've just been dressing the same because it's just fun," Ashley said.

They say their similar interests were

formed more by their shared upbringing and life experiences rather than their connection as twins.

"Since we're the same age and were raised the same way most of our interests and things are the same," Haley said.

As the twins continued their education together, they say it made the transition easier.

"I would say it definitely made it easier because I had my sister with me so it wasn't too different, just like a different location because she was still there," Haley said.

"And we weren't coming here with no one that we knew," Ashley said. "We had someone who's our roommate, but is also our sister so it made it extremely easy. But this is easier having your sister with you."

As the twins have so many similarities, they often deal with misconceptions surrounding who they are as individuals.

"We do have a lot of the same interests, but we are individuals," Ashley said.

In high school, they said few people tried to learn the difference between the two of them, which has carried over into college with some talk of them on social media referring to their similar styles.

And while being a twin and around other twins in their family has made seeing twins normal for them, they think their similarities may come off as strange to those who are not from the same background.

"(When we got to Eastern) we were walking together and seeing people like side-eyeing and looking back and forth between us to see that we were like looking the exact same, it was kind of funny," Haley said.

"I never considered this before, but because we're so used to being twins we don't think that it's strange to other people to see two people that look exactly the same walking next to each other," Ashley said.

But, how can you tell who is Ashley and who is Haley?

For starters, Ashley's favorite color is a toss-up between pink and blue, while Haley's is purple.

Being mirror twins, a type of twins that are mirror images of each other, also opens them up to other differences.

Hayley parts her hair on the left and her dominant hand is her left hand. Ashley parts her hair on the right and her dominant hand is her right hand.

Haley is slightly taller than Ashley and Ashley has freckles whereas Haley does not.

The twins say as people spend more time around them, it becomes easier to find ways to tell them apart, saying it is nice when people take interest in learning about them as individual people.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at deneic@gmail.com.

Female students, professors talk being a woman in STEM

By Ryan Meyer

Campus Reporter | [@meyer_ryan_twt](https://twitter.com/meyer_ryan_twt)

As of 2019, women made up less than 30 percent of STEM workers, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Those numbers have increased from 1970, when women only accounted for eight percent of STEM workers and 38 percent of the workforce.

Jaedah Franks, a sophomore studying biology pre-medicine, said that she hasn't experienced anyone treating her differently as a woman in her field because her classes have more female students.

"I want to say no, only because it's a lot of women in the classes that I've taken, and many times we step up and we give answers, we ask questions, we're always at the extra study sessions, we're always at the practicals where we get to study before the actual practical," Franks said.

Ruth Chesnut, a science professor at Eastern, said she is seeing more women in her classes as well.

"Especially here at Eastern, where I think I probably have two-thirds women in many of my classes," Chesnut said.

This change occurred throughout

Chesnut's time in the scientific field, which includes nearly 30 years of teaching.

"I think things have changed a lot over my lifetime," Chesnut said. "I know that when my mother was in medical school 70 years ago, she was one of the very few women in the class, and the guys sort of looked down on them. But that's much less true now. Last figures I heard more than half of medical students are women. So it's really turned around a lot."

According to the Pew Research Center, women received more bachelor's degrees in STEM courses of study than men but less in the research doctoral field.

"Women earned a majority of all bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees awarded to U.S. citizens and permanent residents in the 2017-2018 school year. But they accounted for 53 percent of degrees in STEM fields at the bachelor's level and 48 percent at the research doctoral level. Women made up a larger share, 60 percent, of master's degree recipients in STEM fields, especially in health-related degree programs such as nursing."

Chesnut said that in her time in her field she received "very little pushback" for being a woman.

"I've been very fortunate," Chesnut said. "Many women have had an opposite experience. They have faced definite discrimination just because of being a woman, but I haven't. I've been very thankful for that."

While Franks said being a woman in science hasn't led to a lot of adversity, she said that when it does she plans on sticking up for herself.

"And when that comes, I will just have to try my magic," Franks said. "Or just speak up and stand up for myself. Although I am a woman, I am just as smart as a man, I can do just as much as a man can."

Franks advised women in STEM to stick to their goals and remain persistent.

"Keep going," Franks said. "Because STEM itself is hard and being brought down by another person, especially by a man, can make you feel belittled, but I feel like you have just the right to be there as him. You can do it. I really think following your goals and actually sticking to it will get you a long way."

Chesnut had similar advice, telling women to find supportive peers in their fields and to not pigeonhole themselves into discriminatory environments.

"If you want to be a scientist, go for it," Chesnut said. "There's nothing stopping you. There may be some pockets of discrimination out there, but surround your-

self with supportive people. You get into a lab where women are being put down, get out and go find somebody else. You don't have to be stuck there."

Alejandra Alvarado, the associate professor of mathematics at Eastern, said in her time in college she experienced adversity from professors and peers doubting her.

"I started to notice it probably in the middle of high school and definitely by college; I noticed there was a lot less women," Alvarado said. "And I just remember that's just how it was. But then at some point you start to realize, wow, it's not just in math, but it's in most of the sciences, physics, chemistry, engineering."

Alvarado's advice for female students who might be experiencing similar problems is to find faculty members outside of their department to act as mentors and to not let doubtful peers define them.

"Within class, that can be tough when there's another fellow student who maybe doubts this student's ability, and the one thing to keep in mind would be just to not let that person, don't let those one incidents define who you are," Alvarado said.

Ryan Meyer can be reached at 581-2812 or at rameyer@eiu.edu.

Women of Eastern



ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Above) Jessica Nantes, a sophomore TV and video production major, poses for a photo.
Below) Karsyn Wetzel, a sophomore history major, poses for a photo.



JANIYA FAIR | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Kyla Moton, a sophomore english creative writing major, poses for a photo to be in the Women's History Month Edition of the Daily Eastern News. She says, "To me, being a woman means being able to embrace the talents that I have, the qualities that I exhibit and being able to overcome the challenges that I face on a daily basis. Women have been doing the impossible for decades, things that people have told us that we wouldn't be able to do, so being a woman to me means going the extra mile to accomplish whatever we put our mind to. The women who inspire me everyday are my friends and my mother. My mom is someone who has been through a lot, so growing up and having her there to raise me has molded me into the woman that I am currently and I aspire to embody the woman that she is. My friends are amazing goal-oriented women that push me to be my best everyday. Meeting them is one of the best parts of my college experience has been getting to know them and seeing them blossom and do amazing things."





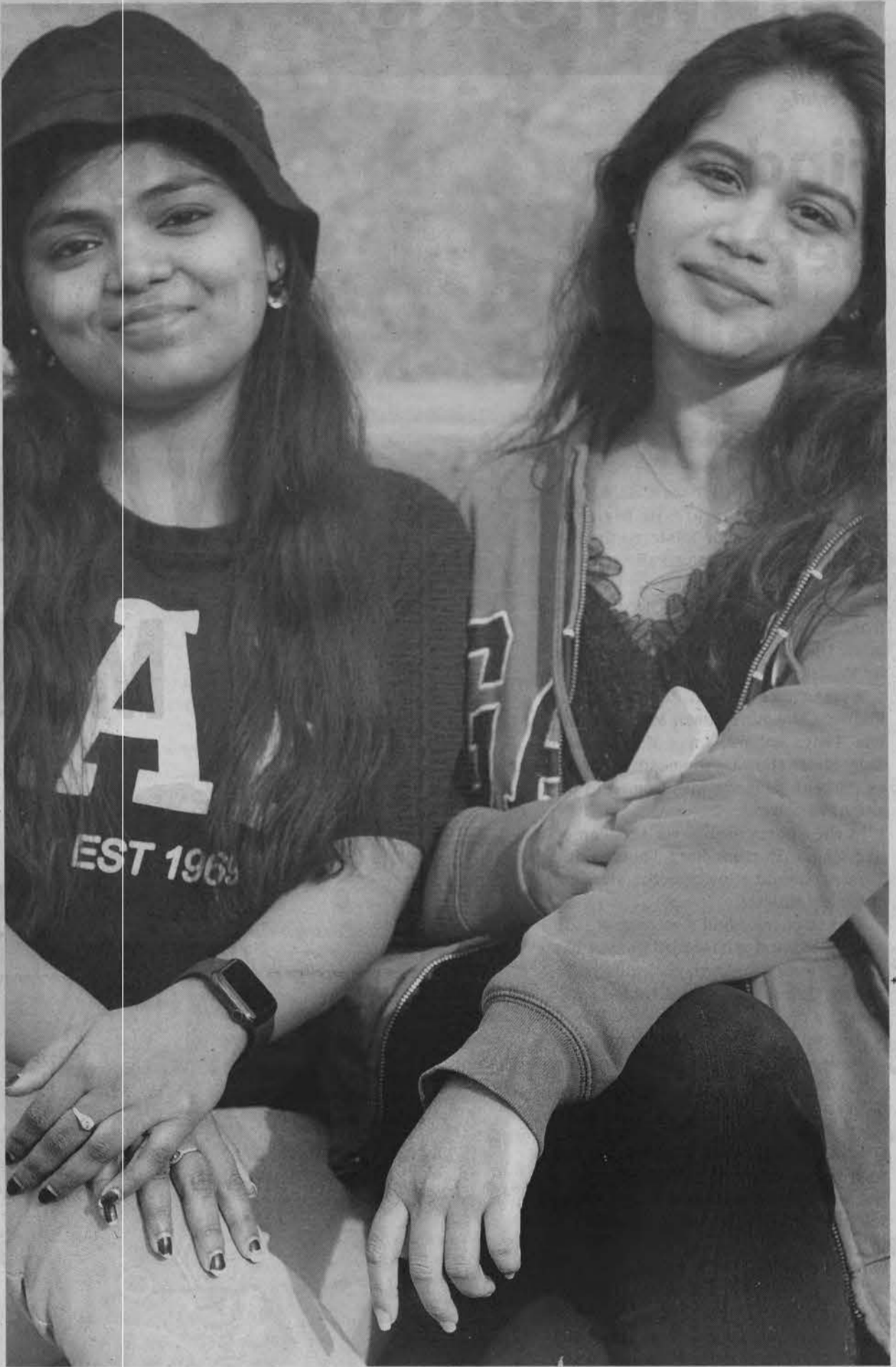
JANIYA FAIR | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

(Above) Sierra Townsend, a sophomore hospitality management major, poses for a photo. (Below) Nevaeh Smith, a sophomore music education major, poses for a photo.



ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Lou Camara, a senior biology major, poses for a photo. She says, "A woman has so many faces that being a woman for me is challenging but most of all rewarding. She can carry and give birth to a child, while taking care of the household and the people she loves. I admire those women who because of religious principles take care of everything in the house (children, cooking, cleaning) before the man comes back from work so he just has to relax. Like we say, the man is the head of the family but the woman is the rest of the body. I also admire women who succeed to carry and to give birth to many children (7, 10) while I know that a pregnancy is hard to support."



ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

(Above) Supriya Gaddam, a computer technology graduate student, and Akshu Reddy, a computer technology graduate student, pose for a photo on the Mellin Steps outside of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

(Below) Isabella Nantes, a freshman public relations major, poses for a photo.



Editorial

Find your Betsy Jewell and thank her

In a world built for men, strong female role models are in high demand. And lucky for Eastern, there is no shortage of women worthy of being looked up to on this campus.

In this issue, we highlighted women from all walks of life in an attempt to show the variety of women who make up Eastern's female population.

Women like Shawn Peoples, Anne Flaherty, Jasmine Yusef, Marisol Gamboa, Tanya Willard, Joyce Madigan and Kelly Miller show us the positive changes that can be made with women in positions of power.

In the sports arena, we see women like Megan Burton, Sara Thomas and Tara Archibald showcase the strength of female athletes.

Women of color find a voice in organizations led and advised by women like Kyara Morales-Rodriguez, Alexandra Tinajero, Quinn Hoover and Yolanda Williams.

On a similar note we see women like Jeannie Ludlow and Marjorie Worthington giving a voice to women's issues.

Even those who often find themselves in the background play an essential role and keep our campus running with their work on a daily basis. Beth Heldebrandt, Sheila Simons, Judy Gorrill and Laura McLaughlin are all perfect examples of women who do not get enough credit for the work they do.

Another example, and one that is very near and dear to us, is Betsy Jewell, our business manager. Betsy keeps our paper going with her dedication to the Daily Eastern News and her love and support for us.

We cannot thank her enough for all she does for us.

And it makes us think, how many Betsy Jewells are at Eastern that we have yet to learn about? How many women go unnoticed in their positions and do not receive the recognition they deserve?

For the remainder of the month, we at the Daily Eastern News encourage everyone at Eastern to find their Betsy and thank her for her work. Whether it be a BSW you see cleaning a classroom, an office manager keeping a department running smoothly or a member of the kitchen staff in the dining halls, women can be found all around Eastern's campus who deserve more praise than they receive.

Pay them a compliment, offer them a helping hand or spread the word about the work they do, but whatever you do, don't let them go unnoticed.

WOMEN'S HISTORY AND AWARENESS MONTH



Graphic by Corryn Brock

Editorial Board

Corryn Brock

Theo Edwards

Madelyn Kidd

Luke Taylor

Adam Tumino

Ashanti Thomas

Social Commentary

Dear society, this is womanhood in America

Women's History and Awareness Month started earlier this month. While we have made great strides in equality for all gender identities, there's something that hasn't been so equal: safety.

When we see women in the media, they are always alone.

And by alone, I mean they can be in public alone with no risk of being injured or worse.

As a little kid, I was told to never talk to strangers because you never know who they are or where they could take you.

However, as I've gotten older I've noticed that it has become less and less a reality, especially for women.

As I've gotten older, if I see another woman being followed, I come up to her and help her to check to see if she's okay.

That, unfortunately, is not the case for some women. Just because women should doesn't mean they do.



Katja Benz

There were times last semester where I would walk home from the newsroom alone at midnight.

While I wasn't particularly worried about myself, I still held my keys through my fingers to use them as a weapon just in case I needed to.

At points in that same semester, I wasn't the last person to leave the newsroom.

On one occasion, I remember our Editor-in-Chief, the Associate News Editor and Photo Editor, who are all female identifying, were still in the newsroom after I left around 11:30 p.m.

I was more worried about their safety than my own.

There are so many ways that any of them could have gotten hurt and if they were alone, I would have felt awful if they were.

I see so many women carry pepper spray in their purses.

Here on campus, I see female students have pepper spray or sharp objects on their lanyards to protect themselves.

That rhetoric is a scary one. Women shouldn't have to worry about getting followed anywhere they go.

Another scary rhetoric is what happens when a woman says no to a man after being asked out.

While this has never happened to me, it's happened to my friends.

Every time, they get scared for their life, especially because they were being followed or worse.

It scares me to think about the fact that women always walk around with this fear.

If this fear starts at young ages when we can't defend ourselves, then how are we supposed to know how to handle it when we're older?

We don't.

And there needs to be something to change.

We can start by treating women with the same respect we give men automatically.

By doing that, we even the playing field for everyone, regardless of gender identity, race or ability level.

How does this sexism help anyone?

It doesn't and it shows.

Katja Benz is a junior English major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or kkbenz@etu.edu.

Philosophy

Honoring Nina Simone, a powerful feminist and civil rights activist

Nina Simone is an important Black musician and political activist of the 20th century. Born February 1933, Simone excelled at music, learning piano at three years old. As an adult, she was a singer, pianist, and songwriter, playing blues, gospel, and classical music.

Her music is relevant because of its contribution to political activism, which focuses on sexism and racism. Simone is distinct for her far left-leaning views, which were uncommon as they were unpersuasive towards moderate audiences: she notes in her autobiography, "I Put a Spell on You," that "[we] never talked about men or clothes or other such inconsequential things when we got together. It was always Marx, Lenin, and revolution—real girls' talk" (p.86-7).

Simone expresses this urge for revolution in her two most influential songs, "Mississippi Goddam" and "Four Women."

Simone wrote "Mississippi Goddam" as a response to the 1963 bombing of Birmingham Church



Ian Palacios

in Alabama that killed four African-American girls. In it, she demands immediate change. She sings, "They keep on saying, 'Go slow!' / But that's just the trouble / 'Do it slow.'" Simone argues that clear inequalities exist, equalities that have even caused her to "stop believing in prayer," and yet people are demanding change be made incrementally.

This incremental shift, however, just "bring[s] more tragedy," whose

sluggish progress allows for continued oppression. And yet, Simone doesn't ask for much: "You don't have to live next to me / Just give me my equality," she sings.

Simone claims that civil rights progress is made out to seem anti-American. When protestors use "picket lines, school boycotts" they are labeled as advocating "a communist plot."

This critique is particularly pertinent because, as professor Lerone Martin from Washington University notes in a Gazette article, "You can claim someone is a communist and that means they are anti-America and you can completely write off their claims as anti-American." This is present in MLK's being falsely identified as a communist, despite publicly denouncing it.

Simone takes an intersectional approach in "Four Women," showing the interplay between race and gender for women of color. Each of the four song sections begins by asserting a person's race, which shows that a person's foremost identifying

feature is their skin color.

Following race, Simone points out a kind of "male gaze," where women are objectified as sexual objects: "My hips invite you / My mouth like wine / Whose little girl am I? / ... My name is Sweet Thing." Simone characterizes a view where women are seen as being created for men, whose body parts do the talking — not the actual person.

Furthermore, Simone's diction of "wine," "girl," and "Sweet Thing" establish women's perception as being a kind of naïve, but intoxicating treat.

For more information on Simone, Ruth Feldstein, professor at Rutgers University, has a great essay as an introduction to Simone's work entitled, "I Don't Trust You Anymore": Nina Simone, Culture, and Black Activism in the 1960s," which can be accessed freely through Booth Library.

Ian Palacios is an English and philosophy major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or at impalacios@etu.edu.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

HOW SAFE DO WOMEN FEEL ON EASTERN'S CAMPUS?

CHECK OUT DAILYEASTERNNEWS.COM TO SEE WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

OVC baseball teams on verge of conference season

By Adam Tumino

Sports Editor | @adam_tumino

Conference season is on the horizon for the baseball teams of the OVC, and many of the conference's teams have found success in nonconference play this season.

Six of the conference's 10 teams have records over .500 so far, with five of those teams being seven or more games over .500.

Eastern has the best nonconference record in the OVC at 13-4. The Panthers have won 10 of their last 11 games, including a nine-game win streak.

Southeast Missouri has the next-best record at 14-5 followed by Tennessee Tech at 13-5.

Murray State and Belmont are both seven games above .500 with the Racers at 13-6 and Bruins at 14-7. Southern Illinois-Edwardsville is the last OVC team above .500 with a 10-8 record.

The final three teams in the conference all have seven wins, with Tennessee State at 7-11, Morehead State at 7-12 and Austin Peay at 7-15.

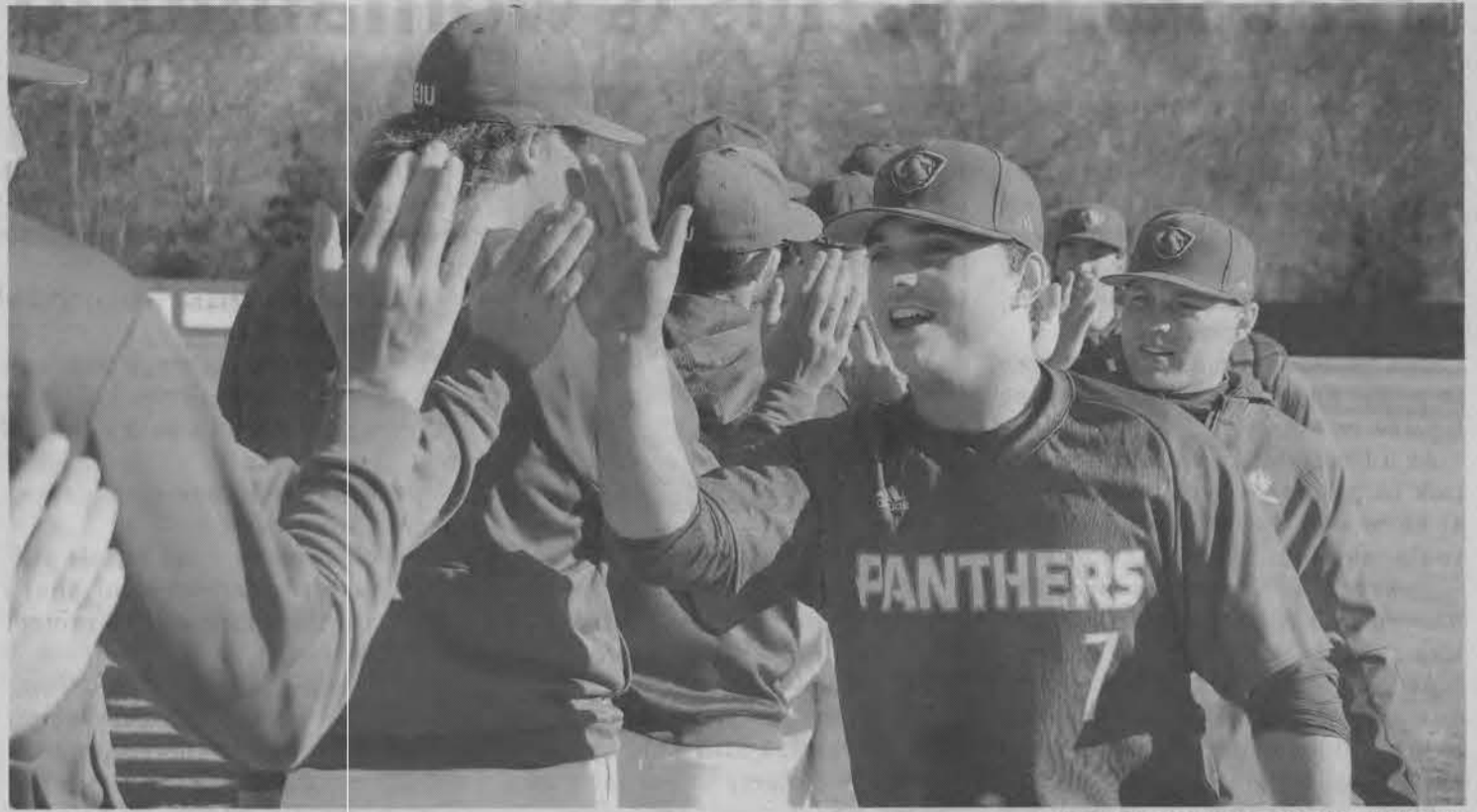
Statistically, Tennessee Tech is leading the conference with a team batting average of .319.

Eastern's average of .275 ranks sixth in the conference but is only 11 points behind second-ranked Southeast Missouri and its .286 team average.

Eastern's pitching has been a major part of its hot start. The Panthers' team ERA of 4.02 ranks third in the OVC, just barely behind Belmont's 3.97 team ERA and conference-leading Murray State at 3.96.

Tennessee-Martin's lineup has struggled. The Skyhawks rank last in the conference with their .240 batting average and 103 runs scored.

Austin Peay's pitching staff ranks last with a team ERA of 8.12.



BY BRYAN BUND | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern utility player Ryan Ignoffo (7) high fives his teammates after the Panthers' 3-2 win over McNeese State on March 18. The Panthers won the series to improve to 13-4 on the season.

Individually, Tennessee Tech's Ed Johnson leads the conference with a .460 average with 87 at bats. Eastern's Ryan Ignoffo ranks third with a .416 average.

Southern Illinois-Edwardsville's Brett Johnson leads the OVC with nine home runs and 63 total bases.

Eastern's Trevor Nicholson leads the conference with his 0.39 ERA, allowing just one earned run in 23.1 innings pitched. He also ranks first with 38 strikeouts while only walking five batters.

Tennessee-Martin pitcher Rhett Fetner leads the conference with a 4-1 record and ranks second in innings pitched.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or ajtumino@eiu.edu.



BY BRYAN BUND | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern pitcher Cameron Doherty winds up for a pitch in the Panthers' game against McNeese State on March 19. Doherty was credited with a loss in the game, which the Panthers dropped 6-3.

COLUMN

Women's tourney certainly worthy of 'March Madness' title

Powerhouse programs are not the only thing getting upset in the 2022 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament: haters are feeling the heat as well.

The women's tournament is finally allowed to use the title of "March Madness," a right awarded to only the men's tournament for decades by the NCAA.

There was backlash from people who view the women's tournament as less exciting and exclusively dominated by a handful of indomitable basketball powers.

This has been proven false beyond a doubt this year, as stunning upsets of some of the top teams in the nation has created as much, if not more, drama than the men's tournament this season.

It started in the opening round with eight upsets, six of which featured double-digit seeds picking up big wins.

Two No. 12 seeds, Belmont and Florida Gulf Coast, picked up wins.

Florida Gulf Coast beat Virginia Tech and Belmont took down Oregon in double overtime.

The Belmont win was perhaps less sur-



Adam Tumino

prising to people who have watch OVC women's basketball in recent years that it was to others, but it was still a thrilling upset.

They then followed it up by nearly beating Tennessee in the second round, losing 70-67.

The No. 1 seeds did dominate their opening-round matchups, with South Carolina, Stanford, Louisville and NC State winning their games by an average score of 84-44.

But a few near-upsets also occurred, with No. 13 IUPUI only losing to Oklahoma by six points and No. 14 Jackson State coming close to knocking off No. 3

LSU and legendary coach Kim Mulkey, with the Tigers winning 83-77.

The chaso continued in the second round, with No. 10 Creighton beating No. 2 Iowa 64-62, a fun upset that unfortunately ended the sophomore season of Iowa star Caitlin Clark.

The Bluejays held Clark to 15 points in the game, which sounds like a solid performance but was somehow a season-low for Iowa guard. It would have been fun to see Clark could do deeper in the tournament, but we'll have to wait until next season for more 40-point, 10-assist games from her.

The most shocking upset in the women's tournament also happened in the second round, with No. 10 South Dakota taking down No. 2 Baylor in convincing fashion, holding the Bears to just 47 points.

Baylor had made it to at least the Sweet 16 in every tournament since 2009, the fourth-longest streak in tournament history.

Of course the men's tournament has

also had some exciting upsets and great storylines, namely the unlikely run of No. 15 St. Peters to the Sweet Sixteen.

Other upsets have been less exciting, however. Iowa State beating Wisconsin, Miami beating Auburn and North Carolina beating Baylor are certainly upsets, they are hardly on the level of David vs. Goliath.

It is a shame that the men's and women's tournaments are compared to each other so often. We should be able to enjoy both of them independently for what they are.

But since so many comparisons have aimed to belittle the women's tournament as inferior, it is well beyond time for favorable comparisons.

The women's tournament has been appointment viewing for years now, and hopefully its popularity and reputation will continue to grow. Embrace the madness.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or ajtumino@eiu.edu.

Sweeps galore as softball teams begin OVC play



BY ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern pitcher Alexa Rehmeier releases a pitch in the first game of a doubleheader against Morehead State on Sunday at Williams Field. Rehmeier threw a one-hit shutout in the game and recorded 10 strikeouts. Eastern won the game 4-0.



BY ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern shortstop Megan Burton attempts to place a tag on a Morehead State baserunner in first game of a doubleheader on Sunday at Williams Field. Eastern won the game 4-0.

By Ryan Meyer
Softball Reporter | @DEN_Sports

Every OVC softball team is either winless or undefeated in conference play, as the first weekend of conference play wrapped up with sweeps up and down the standings.

Murray State, Tennessee-Martin, Belmont, Southeast Missouri and Eastern Illinois are all 3-0, and Tennessee Tech, Austin Peay, Tennessee State, SIUE and Morehead State are 0-3, meaning that there are five teams tied for first and five teams tied for last.

Each unbeaten team has a win streak of at least four, with Eastern and Murray State tied for the longest at nine.

Murray State has the two pitchers with the lowest ERAs in the conference, Jenna Veber with 1.08 in 65 innings and Hannah James with 1.20 in 75.2. The Racers also have the lowest ERA out of all the teams in the OVC by a wide margin.

In 28 games the Racers have only allowed 31 runs and walked 34 batters. The next closest team is UT Martin with 58 and 48, respectively.

Rachel Rook of Southeast Missouri has recorded the most strikeouts in the OVC, with 103 in 76.1 innings, 17 more than the second-closest, Murray State's James.

Tennessee-Martin leads the OVC in batting average at .318 and slugging

percentage at .480 in 23 games.

Morehead State has the highest ERA in the conference at 7.30 and the second-lowest batting average, hitting .213 as a team.

Lexi Osowski of Austin Peay leads the conference in batting average for hitters with 40 or more at-bats, batting .458 in 83 plate appearances. Osowski also leads the OVC in hits with 38. Austin Peay is on top of the conference with 236 hits.

Eastern's Hannah Cravens leads the OVC in home runs with 10, which also puts her in the top 20 in all of Division I. Cravens is second in the conference in RBIs with 26, trailing only Haeli Bryson of Tennessee Tech. Cravens is also second in doubles with 10.

Cravens' 26 RBIs contributes to Eastern's conference-leading 152.

Eastern has scored the most runs out of all the OVC teams with 167, leading the next closest, Tennessee Tech, by nine. The Panthers are also second in the conference in hits with 219, trailing Austin Peay by 17.

With 110 walks drawn, the Panthers lead the OVC by a wide margin, with the next closest again being Tennessee Tech with 75.

The next OVC matchup will be Saturday, when Eastern travels to Nashville to play Tennessee State.

Ryan Meyer can be reached at 581-2812 or rameyer@eu.edu.



BY ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern second baseman Hannah Cravens lifts a fly ball to left field in game one of a doubleheader against Morehead State Sunday at Williams Field. Eastern won the game 4-0.

Athletes of the Issue

ALEXA REHMEIER



Freshman pitcher Alexa Rehmeier continued her strong start to the season over the weekend of conference play.

Rehmeier pitched in three games, going 16 innings with 24 strikeouts and not allowing an earned run. She threw a one-hit shutout Sunday against Morehead State and was named OVC Co-Pitcher of the Week on Monday.

JAYLEN PRICHARD



Freshman outfielder Jaylen Prichard was one of the offensive standouts in the Eastern softball team's weekend sweep of Morehead State to open conference play.

Prichard started in center field all three games, going a combined 4-of-7 from the plate with two doubles, two walks and four runs scored. She is hitting .333 on the season with five doubles.



BY ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS



BY ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

* Eastern softball coach Tara Archibald claps after relaying instructions to the team during the first game of a doubleheader against Morehead State March 20 at Williams Field.

Eastern volleyball coach Sara Thomas high fives middle hitter Kameryn Sillmon before a game on Nov. 13, 2021 at Lantz Arena.

Archibald, Thomas embrace roles as women coaches

By Autumn Schulz

Assistant Sports Editor | @autschulz

Many people recognize the month of March as the start of March Madness but neglect to recognize the start of Women's History Month, even when it comes to recognizing women in sports.

There have been many powerful women figures throughout history and women today that deserve to be recognized and appreciated for their contributions to society. As for sports here at Eastern, we can turn to head women coaches during this Women's History Month.

Head softball coach Tara Archibald and head volleyball coach Sara Thomas are not only women themselves, but they lead and coach their respective groups of women in the world of collegiate sports. Archibald feels that women, from athletes to head coaches, have become more accepted in sports.

"I definitely think women are more accepted in the world of collegiate and professional sports," Archibald said. "It has been very exciting over the past several years to watch women having increased success, recognition and opportunity in both collegiate and professional sports."

Thomas said that women have become fearless in a society that is dominated by men and that younger generations have a great example to look up to.

"I think that this world needs more women, and it has been such a man's world and now here come fearless women that take on multiple hats," Thomas said. "It should just be something that

the young generation can really see for a good example of how and what they want to become, and I just feel that if you're a woman and you have that role like me and like other coaches, whoever you are, should take advantage of it and help the younger ones."

Although Archibald and Thomas are role models themselves for their teams, they both have had women sports figures throughout their lives that have stuck with them during their times as head coaches.

"I was lucky enough to have many. My head coach in college, Kerri Blaylock, was definitely a role model for me and helped me to see the possibilities of coaching at the collegiate level," Archibald said. "As a player, I loved watching Dot Richardson and the Olympic softball athletes who were tremendous role models and examples of what it looked like to compete at the highest level in softball."

Thomas said that her aunt has played a large role in the coach and woman that she has become today.

"Of course, my mom, my mom's sister who was my aunt, she was my high school volleyball coach," Thomas said. "We played volleyball at the same college. I coached with her, went back and coached with her in high school. And then she's just someone that has always been there for me not just for sports, but just for life."

There are many things that can make women feel empowered throughout their life. For Archibald, being head coach

"It has been very exciting over the past several years to watch women having increased success, recognition and opportunity in both collegiate and professional sports."

-Tara Archibald

"I think that this world needs more women, and it has been such a man's world and now here come fearless women that take on multiple hats."

-Sara Thomas

and showing their respective women's teams that they can accomplish it all has been one of the most empowering experiences.

"Being able to pass it on to the future generations. I love being able to show our female athletes you can do it all," Archibald said. "You can be successful in the career of your choice, have a family, be a mom and accomplish anything else you choose to put your mind to and work hard to achieve."

Thomas said that preparing her players to go out into the world and become successful outside of volleyball is what brings her the most joy.

"Throughout my playing career, and then I coached high school afterwards, and then got into college and just seeing how these young women can blossom into strong, independent women through a sport is what actually brings me the most joy," Thomas said. "I am probably the most competitive, one of

the most competitive people ever, but the bigger picture is, what are they going to do after college? How can we prepare them for this real world and seeing them grow, and then graduate and then become successful businesswomen or entrepreneurs or whatever they want, their heart desires, is what brings me the most joy."

For Archibald, sending her players out into the world with bounds of confidence is her number one priority.

"In our program we try to teach our young women the power of great work ethic, confidence, discipline, belief and purpose," Archibald said. "It is my number one priority to send them out into the world with confidence in who they are and belief that they can accomplish anything they set their mind to and work relentlessly to achieve."

Autumn Schulz can be reached at 581-2812 or acschulz@eiu.edu.