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Eastern Illinois University

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2nd Pantherpalooza receives mixed reviews

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Panthers look to extend streak

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CAMPUS



PHOTO BY KIM FOSTER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A car drives by one of the new speed zones at one of the crosswalks on Fourth Street Wednesday night. The new signs warning drivers of pedestrians were installed over winter break.

Sending mixed signals

Students share reactions to new safety signage on Fourth Street

By Kathryn Richter
Staff Reporter

Pedestrians and drivers alike have noticed the fluorescent yellow signs lining the center of Fourth Street that were installed over winter break, and have opened to mixed reviews.

Dan Nadler, the vice president for student affairs, said Eastern had been implementing new devices to make Fourth Street safer for pedestrians

and motorists in recent years. These changes include enhancing the lighting along the street, painting brighter striping on the pedestrian crosswalks and better monitoring people's speeds.

Nadler said the recent addition of the pedestrian crossing markers was a collaboration with the city of Charleston to ensure everyone's safety.

However, Nadler warns, the mo-

torists' speed is not the only variable that can lead to accidents. Nadler said distracted pedestrians who cross the street without looking or while distracted could be a danger as well.

He said that distracted pedestrians, especially those who do not use the crosswalks, could not be sure if motorists have seen them and therefore risk causing an accident.

The safety on Fourth Street is a partnership between the pedestrians

and the motorists, Nadler said.

"If everyone tries to use the crosswalk, it's much more visible to drivers," Nadler said.

Nadler said the new pedestrian crossing markers are not the only plan for Eastern's new safety measures.

"We've been looking at Fourth Street for a number of years," Nadler said. "It's been an ongoing concern."

SIGNALS, page 5

CITY

New law requires all passengers to buckle up

By Nike Ogunbodede
Associate News Editor

Passengers driving in a vehicle while not wearing a seatbelt will now be ticketed and fined up to \$25 for violating a new law that took effect in Illinois on Jan. 1.

Unlike the prior state-enforced laws, where only the driver and front-seat passenger had to wear a seat belt, House Bill 219, or the Occupant Protection Plan, mandates that all passengers must utilize the safety device.

Illinois is the 26th state to put such a law into affect.

The bill, which was approved back on June 27, was sponsored by State Rep. Mark Beaubien Jr. of Barrington Hills, who died on June 5.

This law also pertains to passengers in other modes of transportations such as taxicabs, according to the bill.

But, the law also states that an "officer may not search or inspect a motor vehicle, its contents, the driver or a passenger solely because of a violation" of the law.

Dave Chambers, deputy chief of the Charleston Police Department, said the CPD will continue to maintain "standard traffic procedure."

"When we make a stop we'll be looking to see if people are buckled in," Chambers said.

Chambers said the department is not planning to conduct at-random roadside safety checks, and do not plan to start any.

"Our enforce that we would do would be contained to activities of a normal for the taillight being out, running a stop sign or speeding," Chambers said.

BUCKLE, page 5

FINE ARTS

Doudna evacuated during reading

Faulty smoke detector interrupts poetry presentation

By Andrew Crivilare
Staff Reporter

Just as Wednesday poetry reading was heating up, the fire alarms went off in the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

The reception following the poetry reading of Cristin O'Keefe-Aptowicz was brought to an abrupt halt when the building's fire alarms began flashing.

A Doudna crew member initially reported that it was not a false alarm because of the presence of firefight-

ers.

Capt. Tim Meister of the Charleston Fire Department later confirmed that the alarm was activated by a faulty smoke detector in a lounge on the first floor.

Christopher Robins, a graduate student, was presenting his non-fiction tale of heart surgery as the building's siren started ringing.

"I was a little nervous," Robins said. "I was just getting into the flow of it."

The audience was not left completely unsatisfied.

Earlier in the evening, slam poet O'Keefe-Aptowicz read and performed her original works as part of the first installment of Eastern's English Department's Lions in Winter reading series.

POETRY, page 5



MIRANDA PLOSS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Poet Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz performs "Ode to Coffee" during the first installment of the Lions in Winter series Wednesday in Doudna Lecture Hall. Aptowicz's poetry covered themes ranging from unrequited love to coffee obsessions.

BLOTTER

Driver charged with hitting pedestrian on Ninth Street

Staff Report

A driver was charged in connection with hitting a pedestrian Tuesday on Ninth Street.

Danielle N. McCarther was driving southbound at the 2200 block of Ninth Street when she allegedly hit Peter Mbinglo when turning eastbound onto Edgar Drive, according to a Charleston Police Department press release.

Mbinglo was transferred to the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center for treatment after the incident.


McCarther was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of drugs and also received an additional citation for failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

McCarther was later released after posting bond, pending her court appearance.

Dave Chambers, deputy chief of the Charleston Police Department, would not comment on the case further than the press release.


EIU weather

TODAY



Flurries and Windy
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FRIDAY



Mostly Cloudy
High: 23°
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For more weather visit castle.eiu.edu/weather.

ONLINE

Celebrity Smack Talk



In the newest entry in the Celebrity Smack Talk blog, Sports Editor Dominic Renzetti elaborates on the ease at which Blue Ivy Carter crawled onto the top 100 of the Billboard charts. Carter, now known as B.I.C., is the week-old infant of music power couple Jay-Z and Beyonce.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

RHA plans for eventful semester

Events to include Social Justice and Diversity Week

By Elizabeth Grubart
Staff Reporter

The Residence Hall Association is back to planning events such as Kids and Friends Weekend and Social Justice and Diversity Week at its meeting today.

The members will be planning Kids and Friends Weekend, which will be Disney themed, and Social Justice and Diversity

Week. Dates for these will be discussed during the meeting.

Andrew Lilek, vice president of RHA, said he is excited to begin the new semester.

"The executive board is psyched to be back and we will be planning a lot of exciting events that everyone on campus can be involved in," he said.

The meeting, which will be today in Thomas Hall, will include the committees giving their event's reports, and representatives for each of the residence halls giving reports on their individual plans this semester.

The five committees of RHA

include the President's Council, Programming, Social Justice and Diversity, Community Service and Community Development committees.

RHA will also be planning an event for the spring called "Going Green."

Rachel Fisher, Interim Director of Student Community Service, will also be at the meeting talking about events such as Martin Luther King Service Day happening at 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 16 in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Featured service projects will last

from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Also coming up this semester are Panther Service Day and 29 Dollars for 29 Days happening in February.

The Illinois Residence Hall Association will meet following the RHA meeting.

They will be planning their upcoming conference at DePaul University along with about 13 other schools, Lilek said.

Elizabeth Grubart can be reached at 581-2812 or eagrubart@eiu.edu

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

CAA to begin bi-weekly committee meetings

Possible change in English requirements

By Amy Wywialowski
Staff reporter

The Council on Academic Affairs will be discussing changes to the English departmental honors admissions standards and the interdisciplinary film minor today.

The major change in the English Honor admissions, which if passed would take effect Fall 2012, is that students would have to take two additional English classes beyond the required ENG 1001 and 1002 prior to applying for English Honors.

Within the interdisciplinary

film studies minor, one of the major changes is possibly allowing students to count two of the classes for both their minor as well as their major of choice.

This is in contrast to the current policy, which states, "Students may take no more than six hours in their major area(s) and no more than six hours of elective courses in their major area(s)," according to the revision proposal.

Starting next week, the CAA will implement learning goals subcommittee breakouts, which will begin at 2 p.m. and are followed by a regular meeting at 3 p.m.

"We talked about it a lot last semester," said Rebecca Throneburg, chair of the University Learning Goals Committee. "We

will begin these meetings this semester breaking into the subcommittees of the four learning goals."

The four goals are for undergraduates to be able to speak and write effectively, think critically and function as responsible global citizens.

Each of the four subcommittees will be responsible for one of the learning goals.

"Basically we will be looking at and studying data concerning each of these goals," Throneburg said. "We will bring up concerns and figure out if we are being systematic enough about each of them."

Throneburg said some of the data she is talking about are course outcomes, but the subcommittees will probably also do

faculty surveys.

From there, the subcommittee members will make their recommendations to the CAA and then to other governing offices on campus.

"We are the curriculum body so we may make some changes such as doing more writing-based work on the strengths and weaknesses we find," Throneburg said. "We are going to look at our requirements such as general education courses and say 'are we happy with these?'"

The CAA meets today at 2 p.m. in Room 4440 in the Booth Library.

Amy Wywialowski can be reached at 581-2812 or alwywialowski@eiu.edu

NATION

Obama pledges 'Change will come'

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — President Barack Obama scooped up hometown campaign cash Wednesday, promising supporters that change can still come if they work even harder this time around as his potential Republican challenger solidified his standing.

A day after former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's convincing win

in New Hampshire's GOP primary, which established him as the clear front-runner to take on the president in the fall, Obama's visit home was all about summoning his backers' enthusiasm for the fight ahead.

"If you're willing to work even harder in this election than you did in the last election, I promise you, change will come," Obama said at the first of three evening fundraisers, a large event at the University of Illi-

nois at Chicago.

"You can't back down — not now. We won't give up — not now," Obama said. "We've got to send a message we are going to keep pushing and fighting for the change that we believe in."

Obama used the trip to restock his re-election finances while making a surprise visit to his campaign headquarters for the first time. A few hundred staffers listened as Obama

reminded about the early days of his Senate campaign and thanked campaign aides for their hard work. But publicly, the president was beginning to offer a contrast with Romney.

Obama's team has castigated Romney at every turn as a political opportunist willing to alter his views — on abortion, the environment and gay marriage — to serve his political purpose.



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STUDENT LIFE

2nd Pantherpalooza receives mixed reviews

By Nike Ogunbodede
Associate News Editor

Through the maze of tables and multicolored poster boards, Eastern students prowled in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union undeterred by the weather outside.

More than 100 Registered Student Organizations filled the ballroom for the second Spring Pantherpalooza on Wednesday.

Kaci Abolt, student vice president for student affairs, was in charge of organizing the student government run event.

Abolt, a junior communication studies major, also organized the fall Pantherpalooza that took place in the South Quad, but said this semester's event far surpassed its predecessor.

"The union is a central place and a lot of students want to just come in and see what (the RSOs) have to offer," Abolt said. "If we had this semester's Pantherpalooza in the (South Quad) the elements definitely would have been a factor."

Abolt said she thinks that the interactive event was a success because of the decision to incorporate a bingo game and a PowerPoint that gave the numbers of other organizations.

"(The map and PowerPoint) have been really helpful because people can look at where they want to go and it's not intimidating," Abolt said.

Jesse Green, a junior finance major and the president of Delta Sig-

ma Pi, said he talked to a lot of people by walking around the room and guiding those interested back to his table.

Green said he thought the rain was a factor in the attendance.

"Rain doesn't help and it probably made it a little more limited than expected," he said.

Heather Derby, a senior communication studies major, said she thinks low advertising contributed to what she said was low attendance.

Derby is a member of Public Relations Students Society of America.

"It didn't get a lot of buzz on campus and I didn't find out about it until my organization was asking for us to sign up for times," she said.

Derby also said she felt like the people already in the organizations were contributing a bulk of the signatures.

"The only people checking people out are people already working the tables," she said.

Sam Trigg, a freshman undecided major, is a member of the Harry Potter Club, which surpassed the average of three signatures per table by having 12 students sign up to learn more about it.

Trigg said she thinks the group's table presentation is what grabbed the attention of students.

Decorated with homemade wands, house ties and a laptop playing scenes from various Harry Potter movies, Trigg said students stopped once they saw the arrangement.

Trigg also said the wide appeal of Harry Potter has as a brand also gave



MARCUS SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Marcus Garrett, a freshman undecided major, passes time dancing at Pantherpalooza in the Grand Ballroom of Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Wednesday. Garrett is a member of Boyz of Poison.

the group an edge.

"Many people enjoy reading the books and watching the movies because we all grew up with the characters and it was nice to have," Trigg said.

Jacob Dallas, a sophomore applied engineering technology major, said he stopped by the table because

he enjoys Harry Potter.

"I just really like Harry Potter," Dallas said.

Dallas said he is glad he got to see the different RSOs that are on campus in one place.

Spring Pantherpalooza gives students information about clubs that they might not know about other-

wise, Trigg said.

"Not many people know that Eastern had its own Harry Potter Club," Trigg said. "It's great exposure."

Nike Ogunbodede can be reached at 581-2812 or ovogunbodede@eiu.edu.

STAFF SENATE

Senate discusses Illinois pension underfunding

By: Pablo Rodriguez
Staff Reporter

The Illinois pension reform was one the topics of concern at the Staff Senate meeting on Tuesday.

Angie Campbell, the president of Staff Senate, said the state has skipped out on making pension payments for more than a decade and that has caused a debt surpassing \$5 billion.

Pensions for Illinois employees are underfunded in five different systems: teacher, state, university, and judges and state employee re-

tirement systems.

"The state skipped payments and they borrowed as well, but now they are saying they can't pay the debt," Campbell said.

So far the state has not taken any formal measures, she said.

A pension reform bill known as the SB 512 is being analyzed in Springfield as part of finding a solution.

The staff senate members also received an update on the payoff of the 2011 Fiscal Year.

According to William Weber, the vice president for business affairs,

Eastern received payment for FY 2011 on Dec. 6, 2011.

Originally, the monetary installment was supposed to be received on June 30, 2011.

As far as fiscal year 2012 is concerned, Weber did not have any major updates.

Eastern has received \$15 million in appropriation out of \$46.5 million.

Weber also said that the state owes the university \$5 million worth of MAP Grant funds. Eastern is waiting on MAP Grant funds from the fall and spring semesters,

he said.

Michelle Payne, director of general funds at Eastern, made a friendly challenge to staff senate members.

Payne encouraged staff senate members to increase their participation rate in a project called the faculty staff campaign.

The faculty staff campaign seeks to provide students with an affordable education by helping them financially with donations from faculty and staff according to their website.

In 2011, the staff senate had a

participation of 54 percent; however, they were surpassed by the Faculty Senate and the Civil Service Council with approximately 60 percent participation in Faculty Senate and 84 percent participation in Civil Service Council.

In 2011 faculty staff participation increased from 20 to 35 percent.

The staff senate will be meeting again on Wednesday, Feb. 8 in the Martinsville Room.

Pablo Rodriguez can be reached at 581-2812 or jprodriguez@eiu.edu.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Seat belt law
will save lives,
worth hassle

As usual, with the new year comes in a slew of new laws that take effect on Jan. 1. One of those new laws requires all passengers, even those in the back seat of a vehicle, to wear a seat belt. Before this law was enacted, only those under the age of 19 needed to wear a seat belt, but now all passengers must.

The fine for not wearing a seat belt is \$25, and the violation does not give police a right to search the vehicle. It does not apply to back seat taxi passengers, authorized emergency vehicles or those issued a medical exemption.

It might seem like the law is going to be a pain, and the \$25 fine is definitely not something anyone just wants to give away, but in reality, the law is a good one. In the daily rush, many people don't even bother with a seat belt. Students who drive to class and around Charleston often make trips that are so short through streets that are so slow, a seat belt seems less beneficial and more of a hassle.

Folks should get over these excuses, and this law puts a financial incentive for them to do just that. Seat belts exist for a good reason. If you think about driving as, "the act of moving very fast on a narrow path in more than a ton of metal and glass, often in the opposite directions of other fast-moving metal-glass masses, some of which are piloted by drunks," the idea of a seat belt starts to sound downright reasonable.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, an injury occurs in a traffic accident every 15 seconds nationwide and a fatality in a traffic accident occurs every 13 minutes nationwide. In Illinois alone, there were an estimated 821 traffic crash fatalities in 2011. If this new law can reduce that number at all, it is worth all of the fines and frustration that result.

We have already experienced how important seat belts can be, with the death of former Eastern student, Julie Berls. Berls was killed in a car accident on New Year's Day when her car struck a utility pole. She graduated Eastern with a degree in elementary education 15 days earlier.

Though specific details of Berls' death are still unknown, what is known is that Berls was not wearing a seat belt at the time of her accident. A seat belt could well have saved the life of a recent Eastern graduate with bright future ahead of her. The goal of this law is to limit tragedies like this in the future.

So the next time you get behind the wheel, remember not only to buckle yourself up, but remind your passengers to as well. You could be saving them of something a lot more valuable than just 25 bucks.

The DAILY
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COLUMN

Republican primary a fertile field of delusions

Abraham Lincoln probably never said: "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and you can fool all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

Ironically, almost everybody believes he did, which sort of discredits the quote's wisdom.

Modern Republicans might offer an alternative ending to reclaim the line misattributed to their party's greatest president: "...but we can all fool ourselves all of the time."

After falling apart in 2008, Republicans began to accept and repeat any deranged notion that affirmed their frenzied paranoia over the new Anti-Christ-in-Chief.

The Chicken Little delusions helped them in the mid-terms, but presidential elections are won by appealing the wider American public, and Republicans have been too far from reality for too long to appeal to anyone but themselves.

The proof is in the primaries. Watch this motley crew of quacks and coots debate the issues. When they're not busy highlighting each other's absurd positions and failed careers (it's a fertile lot, to be fair), they're distinguishing themselves from a president who only exists in their kabuki carnival.

It is a point of pride for the GOP contenders that, unlike carnival Obama, they wouldn't run around the world apologizing for America, nor



Dave Balson

support sham elections in Iran. Real Obama, who lives in the land of facts with the rest of us, wouldn't and didn't do those things either.

They are all in fierce opposition to the socialist president's redistribution of wealth. Real Obama also opposes governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods ("socialism," according to Webster). He uses the same progressive income tax approach that the federal government has since Lincoln signed the Tax Act of 1862. (Lincoln really did that.)

This stuff kills at the debates because it gets the base worked up. They know (because they've been repeating it to each other) that Barack Hussein Obama won't stop destroying America until every rich man is dead and every church is replaced with an abortion clinic where gay illegal immigrants can get married. But it's a reaction to an America the rest of us just don't live in.

The GOP convinced itself, and then the rest of America, that government is inherently bad, that all regulation hinders prosperity and all tax cuts promote growth.

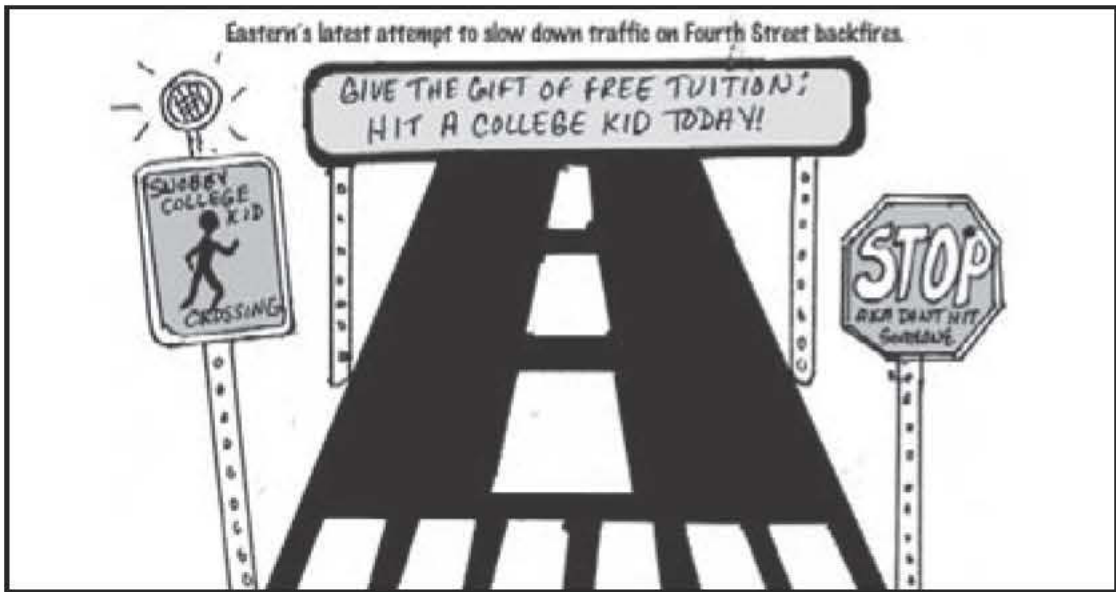
We tried the Reagan ideal. The experiment failed. In the last 30 years, income inequality exploded and the American middle class imploded, nearly decimating the achievements of New Deal Democrats. Meanwhile, corporate earnings rose to levels that would have made the Robber Barons blush and deregulation in the financial industry allowed a handful of people to send the world into a deep recession.

Mitt Romney will probably get the party's nomination because, although even they despise him, he is considered the most electable. His selling point is his time as CEO of a financial services company. His plan is to cut corporate taxes and repeal the meager regulations passed under Obama. He's been serving the interests of corporations for so long, he thinks they're people.

Outside the carnival, the rest of us are tired of being poor and jobless while the rich make record profits while sending the jobs overseas. We won't elect Romney. But you could fool a Republican.

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FROM THE EASEL



DOUG T. GRAHAM & SHELLEY HOLMGREN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

COLUMN

You will not have it this easy forever, enjoy it

If you ask a student about how their break was this week you will most likely get the same response: "it was over too soon." As a senior all-too-aware that I'm entering what should be my last semester, I made an effort to enjoy every single day of break. This conscious effort to be lazy turned out to be stressful because of how aware I was that the break was coming to an end.

There were obvious benefits to focusing on each day of break. For one, I realized how long break actually is, despite it not lasting as long as we'd want. Because my last final was on Tuesday, Dec. 10, my break was 25 days long.

This means in this one break I spent more days off than the average full-time American worker has the option of taking in an entire year. According to a November 2011 survey by Expedia, the average American worker earned 14 vacation days in 2011. Despite earning 14 days off, the average worker only took 12 of those 14 days off.

When my winter break was only half over I had already taken more days off than the average American had in one year.

Similar studies suggest American workers willingly take less than the maximum vacation time offered to them.



Doug T. Graham

A study by Hotwire found that the average American employee leaves 6.2 days of paid vacation days unused per year. JetBlue found most Americans will forfeit an average of 11 days and that 57 percent of working Americans have unused vacation days.

Workers in other developed countries don't have the same reservations with taking time for leisure. According to the Expedia survey, French, Brazilian and Spanish workers earned, on average, 30 vacation days in 2011 and didn't skip out on a single one.

Why do so many Americans give up their vacation time? Responders to the Expedia study's most cited excuse was they could not afford to travel. The second-highest excuse was a lack of planning.

I think the true answer to why Americans

knowingly give up vacation time is something deeper than the cost and lack of planning. Leisure should be a critical part of everyone's lives, and this isn't just the opinion of a college student coming off of a super-sized vacation.

A friend of mine who took the Recreation Administration Dept.'s class "The Challenge of Leisure" said they learned that Americans don't view leisure time as an essential part of their lives and instead see it as a luxury.

Leisure time is essential and anyone who tells you otherwise is trying to bore you to death. I hate old adages, but there is some truth to this one: "on your deathbed, no one regrets not spending more time at the office." Unless your job is painting swimsuits on supermodels, the most important moments of your life are going to be outside of the 9-5 grind and the work-week altogether.

Throughout the course of Eastern's academic year, students get more than three times the days off that we can expect to get in the workforce. Take advantage of the time off and make the memories you want to cherish forever.

Doug T. Graham is a senior journalism major.
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Letters may also be submitted electronically from the author's EIU e-mail address to DENopinions@gmail.com.

CAMPUS

Graduate School wins national, regional award

By Rachel Rodgers
Administration Editor

The Graduate School won a national award accompanied with \$20,000 to implement five proposed programs to strengthen the quality of graduate study at Eastern.

The "Educational Testing Service/Council of Graduate Schools Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education: From Admission through Completion" was accepted by Robert Augustine, the dean of the Graduate School, on Dec. 9 at the 51st annual meeting of the Council of Graduate Schools.

The school also received a regional award that led to the national award.

President Bill Perry said the national award is recognition of the high quality thinking in the Graduate School.

"I think it shows that the Graduate School with faculty, programs and administrative leadership have good ideas and they know how to implement those ideas," Perry said. "It makes our programs stronger and more attractive to graduate students applying here for study."

The first program is to better inform Eastern sophomores about how to prepare for future graduate study.

"There are certain activities that students should add to their curriculum if they plan to pursue a graduate degree," Augustine said. "One of them is to do an undergraduate research project, which really paves the way to graduate study, and another one would be to get involved with a faculty member by doing some sort of creative activity or research."

A video that will be available on the Eastern website will be made providing a list of activities students can engage in as a sophomore, he said.

The second program is to work to strengthen key partnerships with external universities where many graduate students come from.

Augustine said the partnerships include universities in and outside of Illinois such as the University of Illinois, Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, Indiana State University and Indiana University in Bloomington.

"We will be working more diligently to create some outreach programs that would ensure that students from those institutions learn about opportunities for graduate study at Eastern and to ensure that they apply here because we have had really good success from students from those institutions," Augustine said.

The third program is to work with local Eastern offices to provide specialized support services for first-year graduate studies students.

Augustine said the first year of graduate study is the hardest.

"It is the year that we typically lose graduate students because they can have unique challenges like having children, getting married and working full time," he said.

The fourth program is to provide graduate students with information about what they should be doing if they choose to pursue a doctoral degree including engaging in graduate-level projects and working with faculty.

"It is also very helpful for graduate students to understand how to

get funded to get a Ph.D.," Augustine said. "We want them to know how to be competitive for funds because it may take four or five years and it is important for them to know how to support themselves."

The last program to be launched is to implement a scholarly summer program for high-performing students who are looking for an opportunity to do more research.

It will take two years to create these programs and the \$20,000 will be used to fund several graduate assistantships to help with the Graduate Studies Institute.

The programs comprise the Integrative Graduate Studies Institute, which was developed after a year-long study of the Graduate School by the Enrollment Quality and Diversity Board.

"The committee led a year-long study of the graduate community here to try to understand why some programs were successful with efforts for recruiting and retaining high quality and diverse graduate students and if there was a way for us to share or use those success stories more broadly with the whole university," Augustine said.

The Graduate School won the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Regional Award in April from initiating a project called First Choice Graduate Programs developed about five years ago, which was a process to help strengthen the quality of graduate study at Eastern, Augustine said.

Rachel Rodgers can be reached at 581-2812 or rjrogers@eiu.edu.

SIGNALS, from page 1

The other options include in-pavement lighting in the pedestrian crosswalks that would illuminate when someone approaches them, that can sometimes be found in airports, Nadler said.

Nadler said he believes the in-pavement lighting would help against distracted driving because they grab motorists' attention.

Crystal Grissom, a senior physical education major, said she thought the signs were a much needed addition but she did have some concerns.

"I think they're awesome but I don't know if anyone will obey them," Grissom said.

The new speedometer signs also warn motorists of their speed before they reach dangerous limits, Nadler said.

Nadler said students seemed to have appreciated the efforts that the school

has made to provide a safe environment.

"Generally speaking, it has had a very positive response," Nadler said.

Nadler said the new pedestrian crossing markers cost around \$9,300 and the bill was split between the city of Charleston and Eastern.

Brenda Major, the director of admissions, said she thought the signs were good idea, but the amount of signs could be considered overkill.

"There are probably a couple too many," Major said.

Major also expressed concerned about how she had witnessed motorists stopping at each crosswalk even if no pedestrians were present, which Major said could inadvertently cause an accident.

Kathryn Richter can be reached at 581-2812 or kjrichter@eiu.edu.

POETRY, from page 1

O'Keefe-Aptowicz described herself to the audience as a nerd and trivia buff before showing off her love of history in a poem dedicated to William Howard Taft and his famous incident involving being trapped in the White House bathtub.

She said, "How long did he sit there, cold and silent, before he realized he needed help?"

In "Lit," she complained of Jason and biology majors "Self imposed illiteracy isn't a turn on", and that his "heart is so dark that even Joseph Conrad couldn't see it," in reference to Joseph Conrad's 1903 novella Heart of Darkness.

O'Keefe-Aptowicz gave advice to the audience members who are considering publishing their own works to think of failure not in a negative connotation.

"I went through a period of rejection

that was really dark," she said. "Even if you face rejection, see if you can repurpose it towards your goals."

Scott Crawford, professor emeritus of kinesiology, said O'Keefe-Aptowicz was vivacious on stage.

"She gave a very athletic performance," Crawford said. "She really connected with the audience."

O'Keefe-Aptowicz said presenting at Eastern was different from performing at other universities.

Andrew Crivillare can be reached at 581-2812 or ajcrivillare@eiu.edu.

For an in-depth version of this story, visit:
dailyeasternnews.com

BUCKLE, from page 1

Chambers said the new law is not supposed to infringe on the rights of Illinoisans, but further protect them.

"There is absolutely no question that wearing a seat belt has a higher propensity of saving you from injury or death than does not wearing a seat belt," Chambers said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, seat belts reduce serious crash-related injuries and deaths by about 50 percent.

John Jenkins, a junior sociology major, said he does not like to wear his seat belt while in a car because it makes him feel uncomfortable.

Jenkins said he does not see the necessity in wearing a seat belt if someone is traveling a short distance.

Angela Rogers, a sophomore art major, said she always wears her seat belt and thinks people will be more likely to follow the rules if they will be fined.

"I wear my seat belt because I don't want to fly through the front window, but I think that because there's a penalty people may think twice," Rogers said.

Brooke Jones, a junior kinesiology and sports studies major, said she finds wearing a seat belt tedious because of her small town upbringing.

"My parents never made me wear my seat belt in the backseat because I grew up in a town of 500 and I was always just getting in and getting out," Jones said.

Rogers said there is no excuse not to wear a seat belt.

Jenkins disagrees.

"Sometimes you are going around the corner and it's not really a safety is-

sue," he said.

Jenkins also said he does not like the work associated with trying to put on a seat belt while in the backseat.

"The belt is usually in the seat and if people are in the back with you, then it can get complicated," he said.

Americans ages 18-24 have the highest crash-related injury rates of all adults, and ages 18-34 are less likely to wear seat belts than adults 35 or older, according to the CDC.

Danielle Sanders, a freshman communication disorders and sciences major, said she thinks the new law is stupid.

"I just don't like to wear my seat belt in the backseat," Sanders said. "I like to move around."

Sanders said she especially does not like the way seat belts restricts her.

"I like to move around (in the car)," Sanders said.

The law will need to be enforced well to make an impact, or for people to adhere to it more, Sanders said.

Kiairah Lindsey, a senior health studies major, said she does not think the law will affect those determined not to wear the safety device.

Rogers said she feels like the benefits of utilizing seat belts should out way the possible discomfort.

Rogers said she has known a few people who have gotten into car accidents and were relatively unscathed.

Rogers said she credits their safety to their use of seat belts.

"I think if they weren't wearing their seat belts, their injuries would have been a lot more severe," she said.

Liz Moll, a sophomore communica-

tion studies major, said she is glad the law exists and hopes people with adhere to the law.

Moll said she realized how important how seat belts were when one of her best friends was involved in a collision that resulted in the deaths to people close to her.

"She was the only survivor from the crash and she lost both her dad and her sister," Moll said. "They were hit head on by a person that was intoxicated with 47 different substances—she barely survived."

The family was on their way to Canada and the sister did not have her seat belt on because of the long drive, Moll said.

"(The sister) went through the windshield," Moll said. "They decided to cut her off from life support because she was going to be a vegetable for the rest of her life."

Moll said the accident changed the way she sees driving-related circumstances.

"If my friends are like 'I'll be fine driving from the party' then I'm like 'no, give me your keys you are not driving home,'" Moll said.

Moll said her friend continues to have health issues because of injuries sustained in the accident.

"She was in the hospital for months," Moll said. "If she didn't wear (the seat belt) she would have been gone."

The University Police Department could not be reached for comment.

Nike Ogunbodede can be reached at 581-2812 or ovogunbodede@eiu.edu.

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7 [See circled letters]
14 Tart, in a way
15 Schubert masterpiece
16 Renée of silent films
17 '84 Super Bowl victor
18 [See circled letters]
20 Pinches
21 It comes in a chicken variety
22 Niña's title: Abbr.
25 Prefix with center
26 "Psst!"
27 Dash reading: Abbr.
30 Blotto
31 S'pose
33 Emotional outburst
35 [See circled letters]
37 Uncivilized
DOWN
40 Headquarters for UBS and Credit Suisse
44 Flock female
45 Sequence with two hyphens: Abbr.
46 Anderson who directed "Fantastic Mr. Fox"
47 Bird sound
48 Very willing
50 Half- (coffee order)
51 Rockefeller Center muralist
52 [See circled letters]
57 Went downhill
59 Neighbor of Suriname
60 Male gland
61 Santa's little
62 [See circled letters]
63 Rendezvous
1 Less convoluted

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Edited by Will Shortz No. 1208
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34 Gen
36 A in German class?
37 Do a dog trick
38 Cobbler's need
39 It has many rods
41 Ones at the pole positions?
42 Princess' headwear
43 Active military conflicts
46 W.W. II female
49 Use a divining rod
50 Algonquian tribe
51 How a card sharp plays
53 Bit of dust
54 Jason who sang "I'm Yours," 2008
55 90° from sur
56 Violinist Leopold
57 No. with a decimal
58 Celestial body

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Panthers enter Mid-Major Poll

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers look to extend streak

By Rob Mortell
Staff Reporter

Entering the game on a two game winning streak, Eastern's men's basketball team will look to continue its momentum against Ohio Valley Conference opponent Tennessee-Martin.

The Skyhawks have struggled mightily early in their conference schedule. At this point Tennessee-Martin is 0-5 in OVC games, while the Panthers have posted a 1-1 record. The Skyhawks are one of two teams in the OVC without a conference win. The only other team without a win is preseason favorite Austin Peay.

Last season the Skyhawks dominated the season series, winning both games, which was highlighted by a 19-point win in Lantz Arena. Tennessee-Martin leads the all-time series 17-15; however, Eastern head coach Mike Miller is 4-8 against the Skyhawks.

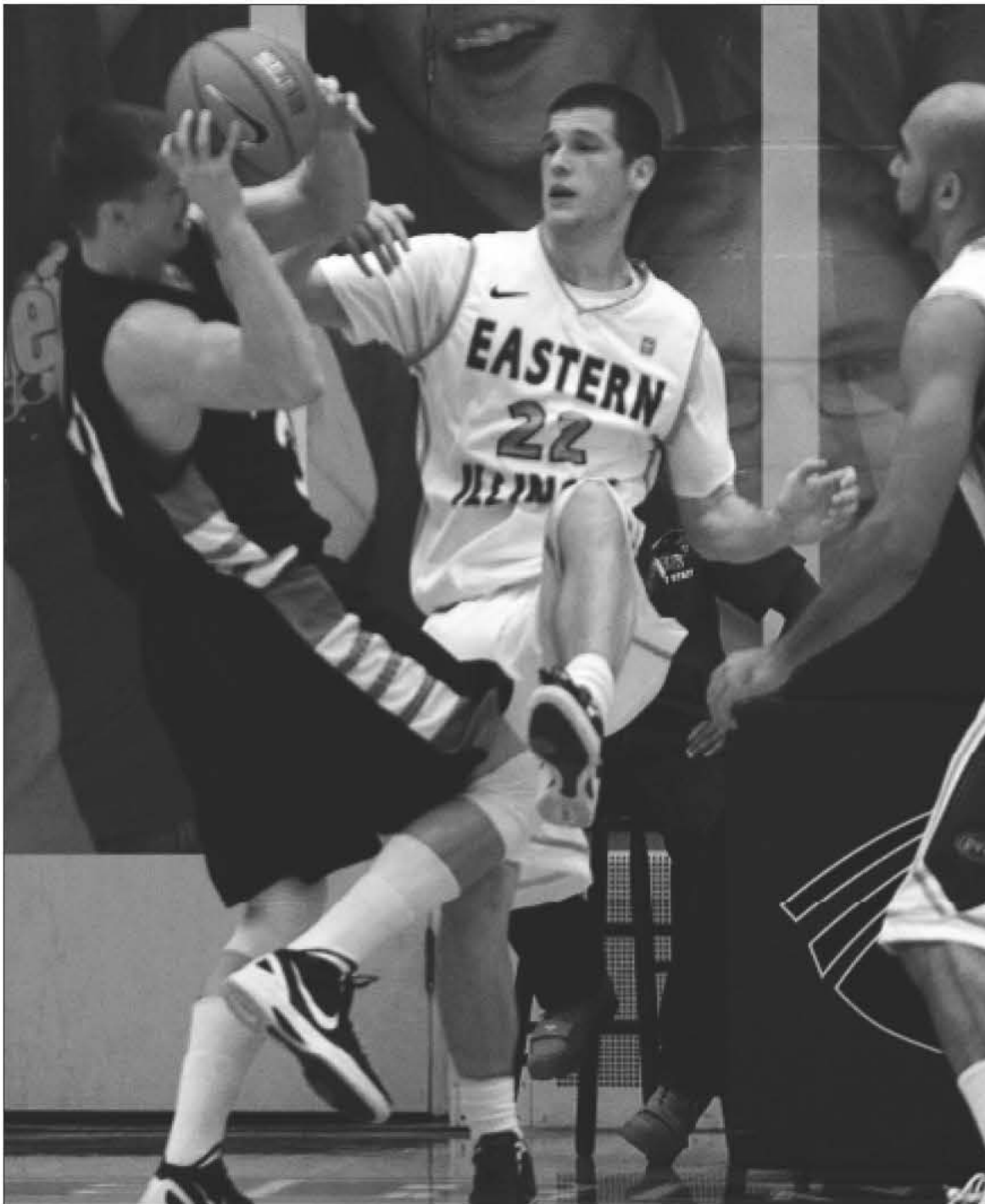
Tennessee-Martin is led by sophomore forward Mike Liabo. Liabo leads the team in points scored, rebounds and assists. He averages 15.1 points per game and provides the Skyhawks with a threat from beyond the three-point line, shooting 36 percent this season on 117 attempts.

Freshman forward Myles Taylor gives Tennessee-Martin a second scoring option. The 6-foot-7-inch forward is averaging 13.1 points per game, while shooting 51 percent from the field.

The Panthers have three players averaging double-digits in scoring: senior guard Jeremy Granger, sophomore forward Alfonzo McKinnie and freshman guard Joey Miller.

Granger, team captain, leads the team with 16.4 points per game, but has a knack for getting his teammates involved. He also leads the team with 4.1 assists.

STREAK, page 7



KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Red-shirt junior guard Taylor Jones defends Oakland City's junior guard Mitch Stahl during a Dec. 7 men's basketball game in Lantz Arena.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Former Panther enters Hall of Fame

Richter played for Eastern from '87 to '91

Staff Report

Former Eastern women's basketball player Kelly (Powell) Richter was selected to the Indiana High School Hall of Fame's Silver Anniversary Team.

Richter was one of 18 former Indiana high school basketball players selected to the team.

Richter played for Eastern from 1987 to 1991 and was a member of the 1987-88 Eastern team that won the Gateway Conference Tournament and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

Richter played in 84 games during her basketball career at Eastern. Prior to attending Eastern, Richter totaled 1,587 career points, set 19 school records and was named team MVP each of her four years at Silver Creek High School.

For her career she averaged 23.1 points, 10.9 rebounds and shot 57 percent from the field. Richter also excelled off the court, as she was named to the Dean's List and graduated Summa Cum Laude while at Eastern.

Following her graduation from Eastern, Richter attended the Indiana University School of Medicine before being named team physician for Vanderbilt University for the 2001-02 season. She currently works as the staff physician at Cleveland Clinic and serves as the team physician of Baldwin Wallace College.

SWIMMING

Panthers swim past competition over break

By Nick Blankenship
Staff Reporter

Eastern's men's and women's swimming teams had a busy winter break.

The Panthers had a month and a half break off from competitive swimming before their two meets over break. The Panthers have been off since last competing in the House of Champions Invitational on Nov. 11-12 of last year.

The teams returned to school on Dec. 28 and then took a ten-hour bus ride to Auburn, Ala., for an exhibition contest with the Auburn Tigers men's and women's swimming teams.

Junior Chacour Koop expressed that he enjoyed himself at Auburn and that he liked their facility.

"It was a lot of fun, the team was unified and supportive of one another," he said.

Koop feels that this team unity will make a difference with his men's team changing its 0-3 season around.

"It makes a world of difference when your team is engaged or disengaged."

After the trip to Auburn, the teams traveled to Tunica, Miss., for the Tunica Invitational where the women took first, and the men placed second.

The teams did not return back to school until this past Saturday.

Koop suggested that if they were to travel to another campus next season that it would be nice to travel to Stanford University or the University of California because those swimming teams are constantly competing for national championships.

Eastern, for the first time this season, had one of their own rewarded with the Athlete of the Week Award by the Summit League. Senior Matt O'Hagan won his first Athlete of the Week Award for his performance at the Tunica Invitational. O'Hagan won the 100 and 200-meter breaststrokes with times of 58.75 and 2:12.76. He was also involved in the swimming of the 200 and 400-meter medley relay teams.

The Panthers will compete in both a home and away match this weekend. They will first clash in Muncie, Ind., at 5:30 p.m. Friday at Ball State before returning home on Saturday to face their longtime rivals, Western Illinois. The meet is scheduled for 1 p.m. at Padovan Pool in Lantz Arena.

Nick Blankenship can be reached at 581-7942 or nrblankenship@eiu.edu.



DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Freshman Ryan Krug competes in the men's 1000 yard freestyle Oct. 23, 2011, during a home swimming match against Evansville in Padovan Pool of Lantz Arena.