

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

September

2022

9-28-2022

Daily Eastern News: September 28, 2022

Eastern Illinois University

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Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: September 28, 2022" (2022). *September*. 4.
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THE WEEKLY EDITION

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

'TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID'

September 28, 2022

MORE THAN A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

VOL. 107 | NO. 6

¡LA LUCHA SIGUE!

'The fight continues!'



Events planned for Latinx Heritage Month, pg 2

How LASO brings students together, pg 6

Football team's first win of Wilkerson era, pg 8

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Eastern is 'Unidos' for Latinx Heritage Month

By Cam'ron Hardy
Campus Junior Editor | @DEN_News

Latinx Heritage Month lasts from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, and Eastern is hosting events to honor it. The events that are being held or have been held include:

- Taco Giveaway Kickoff at Doudna Fine Arts at noon on Sept. 15
Grand Opening of the Latinx and Special Language Academic Hub at Coleman Hall Room 1150 at noon on Sept. 21
Latina/o, Latinx, Latine, Hispanic: What Do We Call Ourselves? at Coleman Hall Room 1150 at 5 p.m. on Sept. 21
What is it like to be a Latina/x/o/e in the LGBTQ+ Community? at Coleman Hall Room 1150 at 5 p.m. on Sept. 22
What I Wish I Knew as a First-Generation Student at Coleman Hall Room 1150 at 5 p.m. on today
What Is It Like to be Undocumented as a Student and Professional? at Coleman Hall Room 1150 at 5 p.m. on Oct. 5
The Experience of Latina/x/o/e Students with Disabilities at Colman Hall 1150 at 5 p.m. on Oct. 6
Dia de los Muertos Gala at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Grand Ballroom at 7 p.m. on Nov. 5

Yesenia Muruato, an education specialist for the office of inclusion and academic engagement and the chair of Latinx Heritage Month. Muruato is in charge of coordinating events and selecting members for the committee.

The taco giveaway took place in the South Quad by the library and in Doudna Fine Arts Center Muruato said. The event took place in Doudna as an introduction to upcoming events and what to expect, Muruato said.

The Latina/o, Latinx, Latine, Hispan-



BY YARI TAPIA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Students sell different flavors of Jarritos soda including pineapple, mandarin and strawberry in a kickoff celebration for Latino Heritage Month Sept. 15.

ic: What Do We Call Ourselves? event was a way for students and community members to understand why they call each other different names.

"For the upcoming year, we are hoping to change the name from Latino Heritage Month to Latina/o, Latinx, Latine, Heritage Month," Muruato said. "The reason that we want to change it to that is because we want to be inclusive."

Muruato expressed that she did not want there to be any pushback against the name change and wanted to make sure that members would be in agreement.

The What is it like to be a Latina/x/o/e in the LGBTQ+ Community? was a way for people to talk about often forgotten members such as the LGBTQ, undocumented, and disabled communities.

"We want to address these communities and create workshops for people to get informed about these smaller communities within the whole Latinx community because for our theme, we kind of want to tie it back to our theme which is Unidos, which basically translates to united,"

Muruato said. What I Wish I Knew as a First-Generation Student will also be combined with the grand opening of the Latinx and Spanish language academic hub.

The What Is It Like to be Undocumented as a Student and Professional? and The Experience of Latina/x/o/e Students with Disabilities will also be held to honor the month on Oct. 5.

Another event that will be held is the Dia de los Muertos Gala, which will take place on Nov. 5 in the MLK Jr Union Grand Ballroom from 7 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

A gala is an event to honor ancestors, Muruato said.

"[Gala] is the day of the dead," Muruato said. "It's traditionally celebrated Nov. 1 through the second, but we're pushing it back a little bit, celebrating it on Nov. 5, and we will be giving out awards to students, faculty, staff and community members."

Cam'ron Hardy can be reached at 581-2812 or at cahardy@eiu.edu.

FRONT PAGE COVER ART BY LUKE TAYLOR AND ASHANTI THOMAS

WHAT'S HAPPENING SEPT 28 - OCT 5

WEDNESDAY

- Accounting Fair
9 a.m. - University Ballroom, MLK Jr. University Union
Mindfulness Through Yoga
4:30 p.m. - Charleston City Hall
Student Government
7 p.m. - Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr. University Union

THURSDAY

- Council on Academic Affairs
2 p.m. - Witters Conference Room, Booth Library
Intro to Text Analysis with Voyant Tools
3:45 p.m. - Booth Library
Circle Mirror Transformation
8:30 p.m. - Doudna Fine Arts Center

FRIDAY

- Circle Mirror Transformation
7:30 p.m. - Doudna Fine Arts Center

SATURDAY

- Tragic Mary Lincoln
2 p.m. - Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site
Circle Mirror Transformation
7:30 p.m. - Doudna Fine Arts Center

SUNDAY

YOUR EVENT
COULD GO
HERE!
CONTACT US
WITH DETAILS

MONDAY

- In-Person Job & Internship Fair
1 p.m. - Grand Ballroom, MLK Jr. University Union
Mindfulness Through Yoga
4:30 p.m. - Charleston City Hall

TUESDAY

- Faculty Senate
2 p.m. - Witters Conference Room, Booth Library
Resiliency for Beginners
3 p.m. - Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr. University Union
Art Mix
3:45 p.m. - Tarble Arts Center

WEDNESDAY

- Mindfulness Through Yoga
4:30 p.m. - Charleston City Hall
Rubber Lovers
5 p.m. - Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr. University Union
Student Government
7 p.m. - Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr. University Union

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

About
The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published weekly on Wednesday, in Virden, 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 faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall.

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Alpha Psi Lambda raises funds after crash

By **Adriana Hernandez-Santana**

Features Junior Editor | @DEN_News

“We are a familia, we are here to support each other through good and bad, especially now during this time more than ever,” Bueno Benitez said. “We are all members for a reason, we decided to join for a reason. Being each other’s support system is a crucial part of that. We are building a bond and connection with each other. That is what we want others now and, in the future, to see that we are truly a familia.”

The members of Alpha Psi Lambda are trying to raise as much money as possible for everyone. Due to the accident, all the expenses for the families started to add up.

The donations made through the fundraising and GoFundMe will help pay for all the member’s medical expenses, their stays in the hospital, daily expenses like food, and any future expenses that the students cannot work and save up for.

The members of Alpha Psi Lambda have also been hosting several fundraising events recently to help raise money for medical bills and fundraising for Alpha Psi Lambda.

Bueno Benitez also mentioned how the recent elote sale was by far the most successful fundraising event.

“It was incredible to see the amount of people lining up to be able to get some elote,” Bueno Benitez said. “But thankfully, all of our fundraisers have been successful, and I would like to thank everyone for supporting us through these fundraisers.”

Bueno Benitez said that even though she has not been able to celebrate Latino Heritage month as much as she would like, that does not mean she doesn’t feel represented.

“I do feel like now more than ever I have been acknowledging my Latinidad and being proud of who I am,” Bueno Benitez said.

Adriana Hernandez-Santana can be



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Alpha Psi Lambda’s Assistant Associate Member Educator Tyeisha Mosley (left), a senior education major, and President Luis Paniagua, a senior graphic major, are both beneficiaries of Alpha Psi Lambda’s fundraising efforts after being in a crash in late August.

Students learn English with Amigos and Friends

By **Kyara Morales-Rodriguez**

Campus Reporter | @DEN_News



BY KYARA MORALES RODRIGUEZ | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Students help teach English to fellow students who don’t speak it Sept. 21 at the Newman Catholic Center.

the ‘amigos’ here work all day, and then they run home and get ready and they come to class because this is when they can do it,” Coffin said. “Our times are really set up around the times where each group or community can come.”

During these tutoring sessions, the learners are taught basic English words and phrases.

Harrison Hahn, a junior English language arts education student, started tutoring for Amigos and Friends this school year. Hahn said that so far, they have been teaching the days of the week, the months and numbers.

“Pretty soon, we’ll probably start going into questions, like conversational stuff,”

Hahn said. “It kind of all depends on what they want to learn.”

Coffin said that the tutors come from many different Eastern classes.

“There’s an [English as a second language] class where they’re learning how to teach [English], or Spanish classes, but then there’s also just students who want to come help, and I think that’s really awesome,” Coffin said.

Though some tutors are participating due to class requirements, many of them also said that being a part of this organization is about more than just a requirement.

For some tutors, like Audri Kauffman, a junior history education student, being

a part of Amigos and Friends has been a learning experience.

Kauffman said she joined the organization this semester because having an opportunity to teach interested her.

“I want to be a teacher, and something else I’ve been looking into is actually teaching English abroad, so this is a step forward,” Kauffman said.

Hahn said he is taking a course on how to teach English as a second language, and that being a part of Amigos and Friends helps him apply what he learns in class.

Hahn said he likes that hands-on experience, but that he has also been able to learn Spanish through these lessons.

“I feel like I’ve learned a little bit of Spanish too from talking to them or even just getting to know them or in conversation,” Hahn said. “It’s kind of like I’m learning both ways, like we’re both learning.”

One of the group’s missions is to “work toward developing respectful relationships between [learners] and their teachers,” according to the Newman Catholic Center’s website.

This organization is about more than teaching English, it is about creating bonds in the Charleston and Mattoon community.

Kyara Morales-Rodriguez can be reached at 581-2812 or at knmorales-rodriguez@eiu.edu.

EDITORIAL

Recognize Latinx heritage all year round

As Latinx Heritage Month approaches, we once again visit the topic of education on diverse cultures and peoples. As a campus filled with international students, students with diverse backgrounds, and students of all walks of life, we at The News feel there should be more education about diverse cultures and peoples.

With different history/heritage months, it seems the focus on the education of that certain month is only during that specific month. For example, Latinx history is the main focus right now, but may not be in June of next year.

Why is caring and learning about these diverse groups of people being treated like a trend? Shouldn't we care all year around?

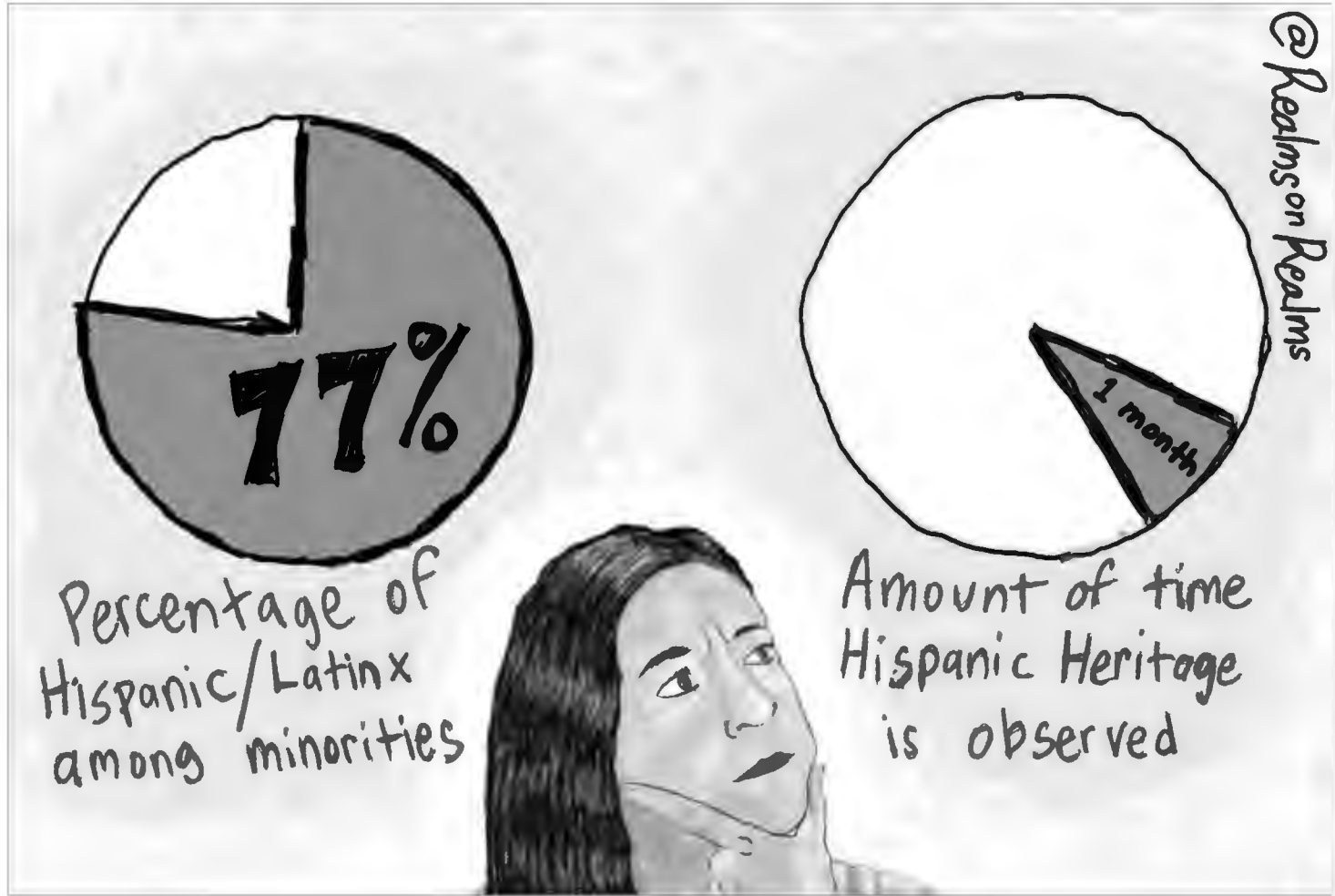
The "We are EIU" flagpole may catch people's attention when they notice a new flag is up, but what is really being done to educate students? Is this put up just to say we did something for that specific month?

What can be done to make a space where students of these certain groups can the space to gather, create, inspire, and educate themselves? Our board looks back at the efforts of Alpha Psi Lambda.

Towards the end of August, Alpha Psi Lambda broke away from the National Pan-Hellenic Council to form their own council as the Multicultural Greek Council.

We at *the News* see this a great start to creating a personalized space for people of different cultures and multicultural organizations, not just a flagpole.

People should have a place to dive deep into their heritage and express free-



Comic by Will Simmons

ly who they are without feeling pressured by an outside influence. This is why everyone on campus should feel like they have a place to go without judgment. After all, they are spending most of their time here on campus, so why should it not be a place where they feel accepted?

We need more education besides one month out of the year. We need to have more than a flag up for a month. It is

time to start taking off the blinders and looking at the melting pot of the world around us.

Coming to college opens your perspective and introduces you to new people, ideals, and ways of thinking. This should be learning about new cultures and ways of life besides your own. It is important to show that there are many diverse cultures around us and we need to appre-

ciate what they have contributed to our society.

It is time to go beyond the month. Year round, we should be celebrating different minorities who help create the world around us. It time to step up and advocate for those who voices are oppressed and ignored.

At *the News* we see you. You are valid. You deserve to be heard.

COLUMN

The dangers of stereotyping people around us

During my freshman year of college, there was a huge group of people in the library quad causing a commotion.

They had a sign with a long list of sins that they claimed us as college students would regret once we died. I briefly joined my peers in scoffing at the fact that these people were on our campus trying to tell us how to live our lives.

My sophomore year comes around, and yet again, the same group of people were on our campus again, telling women that they're "going to hell" for wearing leggings or shorts or crop tops.

Yet again, I briefly stopped to listen again. A lot of the things that Sister Cindy said were religiously motivated.

Almost like clockwork, Sister Cindy



Kyla Moton

and her crew were back on Eastern's campus recently ready to spread more of their word.

For me, the past two years that Sister Cindy has been on this campus, I can't help but wonder if it's completely okay for a group so hellbent on their religious views to come to a college campus and verbally demean students.

While working at the office of admissions here on campus a while ago, I was giving a tour to a very small group, one student and her father. We were asked a total of four times during our tour to take a pocket sized book that just so happened to be a copy of the New Testament.

I do not condone the mockery or disrespect when it comes to religious or even political views, but it gets very challenging for some people to not want

to generalize and entire group of people when one person is doing wrong.

Racists use the improper actions of one person of color to justify hating the entire race, right? But- it is not okay to do so.

I find that even aside from the religion or race argument, we tend to generalize groups of people every single day. It's not right to stereotype any group of people. It is better to get to know everyone for who they are and make those judgments based off of what you know.

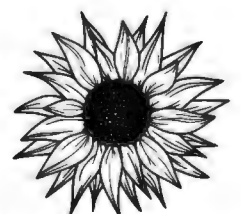
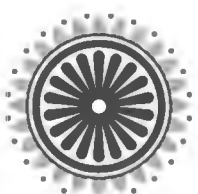
Kyla Moton is a junior English creative writing major. She can be reached at klmoton@eiu.edu or 217-581-2812.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

DOES EASTERN DO ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE LATINX STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF LATINX HERITAGE MONTH?

ANSWER THE POLL ON ...
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Autumn Schulz

Rob Le Cates

COLUMN

Which term is right: 'Latino' or 'Latinx'?

The term 'latinx', as Merriam-Webster notes, was created in the early 2000's as a gender-neutral means of describing people of Latin American descent. And despite the good intentions of people using the term, there is significant pushback.

A 2020 Pew research article explains that, among people who have heard of the term 'latinx', 65% of people think we should not use it with 12% of those people expressing "disagreement or dislike of the term." Pew goes on to show that despite the 'latinx' being known by 1/4 of people of Latin American descent, only "3% say they use it to describe themselves."

This debate is important because Spanish nouns and adjectives typically have a "grammatical gender" that English doesn't have: For example 'Camiseta' (t-shirt) is feminine, and 'perro' (dog) is masculine.

There is no neuter gender. Thus, 'Latina', is the adjective used to describe a woman or girl of Latin American descent. The masculine equivalent is 'latino.' Last, when describing a group of people that has both men and women, the masculine term is used.

Here, I examine the reasons for and against using the term, concluding that we should use 'latinx' most—but not all—of the time.



Ian Palacios

First, I'll dismiss a common—but rather weak—objection. "But 'latinx' isn't even a real word," the skeptic may claim. This objection misses the point. The question is whether or not we should use the term—not if we already use the term.

Furthermore, even if we all started using 'latinx' (thereby making it a "real word"), this still wouldn't tell us if we should continue using it. Secondly, every word ever has, at some point, not been a word—which would, if the skeptic is correct, mean we shouldn't use any words at all (which is obviously false).

Now, the Chad linguists reading this, however few they may be, may object by

claiming that my argument is an example of "linguistic prescriptivism"—that I'm telling others how to use language when really we should be describing language use—and should therefore be rejected. This objection fails because we aren't doing science: we are choosing which word achieves our rhetorical goals and ethical obligations.

A more serious objection is that 'latinx' is an anglicism of a Spanish word. Non-latinx people, the skeptic claims, are hijacking the Spanish language to impose their own liberal thoughts and values and appropriating the term 'latino' into 'latinx'.

First of all, it's not exactly clear that the skeptic's claim here is even true. As the aforementioned Pew research shows, 14% of women ages 14-29 self-identify as latinx. So, even if the term originated as from white liberals, a strong percentage of latinx people use the term.

Secondly, maybe these alleged liberal thoughts and values being imposed on the word are not so bad. We have an obligation to refrain from hurting people when it causes minimal drawbacks for us. Using necessarily gendered terms excludes gender non-binary persons from being represented.

So, by simply making a small change in our language, we can meet that obligation

by including gender neutral terms. This might be a little awkward to use, but that is normal and expected.

In most cases, we have an obligation to use gender neutral terms to avoid excluding any gender non-binary people.

Now, there are some cases I think we should avoid using 'latinx.' For many native Spanish speakers, the term 'latinx' is alien and sometimes offensive (think back to the 12% who actively reject the term). For communities that would not understand the term or think negatively of those who use it, we should lean towards using 'latino.'

Consider, for example, a government making a pamphlet for a new town hall building for a community with an 85% Spanish-speaking population. If the pamphlet uses 'latinx' for a community that actively opposes the term or does not understand it in the first place, it would not only make the readers frustrated, but cause more problems than it intended to solve.

So, we should use 'latinx' even if some people don't like it, as long as we keep in mind who the audience is.

Ian Palacios is a senior English and philosophy major. He can be reached at impalacios@eiu.edu or 217-581-2812.

Quote of the Week:

" If you have an opportunity to make things better and you don't, then you are wasting your time on Earth. "

- Roberto Clemente

COLUMN

'Tower Heist,' a fun and highly underrated comedy

Entertaining, comically harmless, and largely underrated are the three things that come to mind when talking about "Tower Heist" directed by Brett Ratner.

The 2011 film stars Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy, Casey Affleck, Matthew Broderick, Michael Peña, Tea Leoni, and Alan Alda.

It tells the story of a group of wronged workers of a large exclusive apartment building owned by a greedy businessman played by Alan Alda. When the shady businessman steals the employee's money, they plan to take back the money through a strategic heist.

To start, this film has an impressive cast, having currently well-established actors such as Ben Stiller and Casey Affleck while also involving seasoned comedic actors such as Matthew Broderick, Alan Alda, and the most comically prominent actor in the film Eddie Murphy.

They all have great and endearing chemistry, and each has funny and quirky as-



Drew Coffey

pects to their characters.

Eddie Murphy is the standout kicking the dust off and channeling the energy that made him so popular and influential in the 1980's with films like "Beverly Hills Cop" or "Trading Places."

Matthew Broderick is also an interesting return to form having very humorous tim-

ing and a sincere way about his character.

Alan Alda, mostly notable for the highly successful show "M.A.S.H.," is delightfully menacing as the greedy building owner who will use money to get out of every situation he is presented with.

The film is adequately paced in its runtime never having a dull moment that loses the viewers' attention which can be thanks to the sharp writing.

The film is fairly well written when it comes to the character's reasons for their actions but falters in the actual heist. In the film's resolution, the reveal of how the characters pulled off the heist comes off as stupidly convenient in a film that asks you to put aside several realistic inconsistencies.

The cinematography of the film is also fairly impressive and creative with a scene in which the characters are dangling outside of the high-storied apartment building showcasing the city of New York City during the Thanksgiving Parade.

The film costed around \$75 million to make and uses the New York City setting to its fullest advantages.

Something to respect about this film that sets itself apart from other entertaining "all ends well" films is the ending. "Tower Heist" ends with its main character having a fate that is largely unseen in feel good comedy films.

Overall, "Tower Heist" delivers on smirk humor, entertaining characters, and a story that moves at quick enough pace to keep the audience watching throughout.

The film does deserve more attention and praise as an easy-to-digest comedy heist film with acclaimed actors from all spectrums of comedy.

My overall rating: 3.5/5

Drew Coffey is a sophomore television and video production major. He can be reached at akcoffey@eiu.edu or 217-581-2812.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

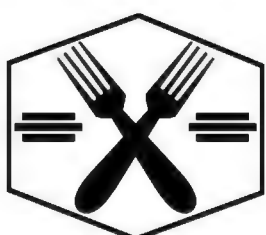
WE ASKED STUDENTS WHAT THEIR FAVORITE TYPE OF FOOD IS.

33% SAID AMERICAN FOOD.

33% SAID MEXICAN FOOD.

20% SAID ITALIAN FOOD.

15% SAID CHINESE FOOD.



LASO connects students to Latinx community

By Madelyn Kidd

News Editor | @Madelyn__K

The Latin American Student Organization, LASO, provides a space and community for Eastern Latinx students on campus.

LASO is a Registered Student Organization, RSO, focused on promoting and addressing current issues including educational, social and cultural aspects of Latinx communities.

Daniela Muñoz, the president of LASO and a senior fashion merchandising major, said LASO's goal is to educate Eastern's and Charleston's communities.

"For LASO our hope is to bring people together from the community here on campus and in Charleston to better educate and promote the culture and the different opportunities that LASO has to bring to the different students on campus," Muñoz said. "I think it's really important to engage in the cultural awareness and promote professional and social opportunities for the students here, and LASO is that gateway. And we want to promote that to make sure that people understand that we're here, and that we can help and we are a little home here."

An aspect of LASO that led to Muñoz joining LASO her freshman year was the way LASO promoted resources to minority students.

"I first started going to LASO my freshman year; I remember first going because I had older friends who had told me about it, and they let me know when the meetings were," Muñoz said. "And then I would just end up going, and they had really cool and fun events... So I started going pretty early on in my years here at Eastern."

"[LASO was] able to promote the different things and resources that were available for minority students on campus," Muñoz said. "And since I'm a minority, I really want to take advantage of that. So the reason that I kept coming was because it provided that for me, and I made it all the way to president now. A little shocking, I did not think I was going to be on the [executive] board, but I had a lot of fun and a lot of the people that I'm with now on the [executive] board had really encouraged me to do it."

"I think it's very important for LASO to be on campus because it shows the different Latino students that they can be part of something here in Charleston as well as on the university."

- Muñoz Flores

Kathya Muñoz Flores, a senior management major, said Muñoz has done a good job as president of LASO.

"I feel like [Muñoz] has done a really good job this year of making everyone interact and join and want to come back," Muñoz Flores said. "And so I'm liking it a lot."

Muñoz Flores said she joined LASO to meet more Latinx students on campus.

"I started attending LASO this year," Muñoz Flores said. "It's been very interesting to meet more Latinx students around campus and in my classes there's not really that many students. And it's been really cool to interact with different types of people who are also not Hispanic that want to be part of the Hispanic group."

Muñoz said she hopes LASO will conti-



BY CAM' RON HARDY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Daniela Muñoz, a senior fashion merchandising and design major, pulls a raffle ticket out of a bin during the Latinx social event sponsored by Eastern's Latin American Student Organization at the beginning of Latinx Heritage Month in the Library Quad. Muñoz is the President of LASO and said that she wants to expand the organization and educate others on the group's culture.

nue bringing more awareness to local communities.

"I really hope that LASO is able to become more of an awareness resource for the minority students and any students on campus because we welcome anyone," Muñoz said. "So I really want LASO to build a better and a greater foundation for students here."

Alexia Marian Guajardo Gonzalez, a freshman psychology major, joined LASO this semester.

"It's a very lively community that strangers walk in, and we just greet each other and already, it's like we're familiar with one another because we're all aware," Guajardo Gonzalez said. "We're all part of the same culture together. And so that helps us feel more connected, and it's very nice... It's just a way to have a good time with like minded people and explore your culture."

Guajardo Gonzalez said she joined LASO to create friends with a common culture as her.

"[I joined] because I don't really have any Latino friends at all," Guajardo Gonzalez said. "And I thought maybe joining would help with that because I attract so many white people, and they're great. I like my friends, but they don't really understand my personal struggles when it comes to my race and culture. And I'd like to have people like that."

Muñoz said interacting with others is her favorite part about being in LASO.

"My favorite thing about LASO is interacting with the people," Muñoz said. "I'm a people person, and I love talking. Sometimes I can't stop, so I just think that interacting with different people, whether it's like freshmen students, or people from different departments. I think to me that's so interesting, especially when we can come together into one space, which is LASO."

Muñoz Flores said LASO is important to bring the opportunity for different Latinx students at Eastern to come together.

"I think it's very important for LASO to be



BY CAM' RON HARDY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Students gather in the Library Quad to socialize and meet one another during the a Latinx social event sponsored by Eastern's Latin American Student Organization earlier this month.

on campus because it shows the different Latino students that they can be part of something here in Charleston as well as on the university," Muñoz Flores said.

Paola Cuatepitzi-Rojas, a junior early childhood education major, said LASO is an opportunity to be within a different community.

"Because it gives you a different way to look into a different community," Cuatepitzi-Rojas said. "If you come in you see how we interact and see how we are with our culture and stuff like that. You see a part of the community you don't get to really see out in the real world if you don't go out exploring."

Monica Ventura, a freshman pre-nursing major, is benefited by being in LASO because she is a first generation college student.

"It's also important, especially like I'm first gen," Ventura said. "This is my first time in college. First time for anyone in my family in college. So I just want to be with people who can also share that experience. And it's a good way to build a community; get to know people... And then just in gene-

ral, it's an open space, people are accepting no matter what."

Ventura joined LASO to get to know people on campus with similar experiences.

"I decided to join LASO because [Eastern] is way further from my house," Ventura said. "So I don't know many people nearby. And I just want to be close to some people who we least have one thing similar, or I can share experiences with... I really liked it a lot. It's really open that people are really nice, and I just like the atmosphere."

Cuatepitzi-Rojas joined LASO initially her freshman year, but has rejoined this year for her junior year.

"I joined LASO actually like my freshman year but I stopped going to it," Cuatepitzi-Rojas said. "It isn't until this year that I've actually stuck to it... In freshman year, I decided to join because I wanted to find a community that I can be a part of and this year, I just want to stay closer to it and actually commit."

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OVC volleyball teams open conference play

By Autumn Schulz
Sports Editor | @autschulz



BY HAN BYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Number 1, Ireland Hieb, a senior middle backer, runs then a student hype tunnel before the start of the volleyball game against the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Cougars at Lantz Arena. The Panthers won 3-1 against the Cougars.

Morehead State defeated OVC newcomer Lindenwood in two matches, both being a 3-1 victory.

In the second match, the Eagles were led by libero Peighton Isley on defense with 19 digs. Abby Hulsman had a double-double with 11 kills and 15 digs. M.E. Hargan led with 15 kills.

The Lions were led by Madilyn Dement who had 13 kills. Defensively, Jessie Seidel led the way with 15 digs while Abby VanBuskirk was close behind with 14 digs.

Tennessee Tech took on the third OVC newcomer, Southern Indiana.

The Golden Eagles defeated them 3-0 in both matches. The Golden Eagles were led by Taylor Dorsey who had 12 kills. Libero McKenna Young had 16 digs to lead the way and Jordan Karlen had 38 assists, a pair of aces, and eight digs.

The Screaming Eagles were led by Leah Anderson, who had six kills. Katherine Koch had 13 assists while Anna Ballengee had 16 digs.

The Panthers took on the Cougars to open conference play.

The two teams split the series with the Cougars taking the second match

3-2. Both teams are now tied for fifth place.

The Panthers were led by Giovana Larregui Lopez who had 22 kills and four aces. Lilli Amettis posted 17 kills. Christina Martinez Mundo had 20 digs.

The Cougars were led by Julia Treichel who had 17 kills. Sydney Hummert had 15 kills and defensively, the Cougars were led by Nicole Kijowski, who had 27 digs.

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COLUMN

Women deserve to thrive in the sports world too

It is 2022. Women belong in sports too. Why is this something that is still so foreign to people?

Growing up, I was fascinated by sports. I loved watching the Chicago Bears, playing catch with my brother in the yard, and playing Madden and 2K with him.

I played several sports: basketball, volleyball, cheerleading, track, soccer, and golf in my younger days and they brought me so much joy.

Of course, as I started seeking out my future career, I wanted it to be in sports.

When I began college, I felt lost not being a part of a team. I sought out getting involved with media at the community college I was attending.

It was pretty cool to be on the outside of the game looking in with my new media team.

This led to me filming games and directing our volleyball and basketball game streams. It helped build up my resume as a freshman and sophomore.

Once I graduated from there, I began my journey at Eastern where I am now a senior sports media relations major.

Sports media relations is a journalism concentration, so it was the perfect fit for me. I love media and sports, so combin-



Kate Stevens

ing those for me has been amazing and has led me to several opportunities here at Eastern.

I have filmed and photographed golf, football, volleyball, and soccer games here and I have learned so much more.

Working with the yearbook last year and adding the newspaper to my resume this year, it has been nothing short of exciting. I still feel like I am apart of all these games as I cover them now.

The one thing that has not been so great about all these wonderful experiences is that I have been either the only woman or have had just a few women in these programs.

We need more women in sports because our perspectives and our thoughts matter too. It can be very intimidating as it is a very male dominated industry.

When I talk about football or any other sport, sometimes I'll get the classic phrases:

"You don't know anything, you're a girl."

"Name a player on this team."

"Women belong in the kitchen."

I could go on. I have just heard them all, but boy are they wrong. I don't have to prove anything, but growing up loving and playing sports, I think I know a thing or two.

I really don't get why the thought of women knowing anything about sports or wanting to make a career in the industry is so inane. It honestly just blows my mind at this point.

Becoming the assistant sports editor for the DEN has opened my eyes for many reasons. It's awesome that Autumn, our sports editor, and I have been taking the lead and getting to cover sports for Eastern this year.

It's had its ups and downs, but I see a bright future for us both as we get stronger every day in preparation for our future careers.

The unfortunate situations we have run into as women leading the sports coverage has been interesting but have led us to become better at what we do.

It has brought us closer together and has made us an amazing team that will work tirelessly to bring you the best coverage of all EIU sports.

Women reporters deserve to have just as much respect as the guys that report and have careers in sports.

People in my family and people in my life have even looked at me weird and made me feel like I will fail in the industry when I tell them I am going into sports media.

For a while, I just told people I was going into strictly journalism and never mentioned the sports because people took it a lot better.

No one should ever feel like that. As women, we deserve to do what makes us happy. If men can do it, we can do it too. We work just as hard in this.

I love to see anyone thrive in the sports field because it can be difficult in many ways no matter who you are.

Don't let anyone tell you different. You can do whatever you set your mind to in this world. It's not about what other people think, it's about believing in yourself and taking your dreams and chasing them.

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Shoffner leads football team to victory

By Autumn Schulz
Sports Editor | @autschulz

Dom Shoffner answered the call.

When the Eastern football team needed a change in its offense Saturday night against Murray State, senior UNC Charlotte transfer quarterback Dom Shoffner took over without hesitation.

The race for the starting quarterback position in preseason was certainly a fight. Shoffner certainly proved why he deserved to be in the final three. His presence was known as soon as he took the field at Roy Stewart Stadium.

Shoffner's ability to run the ball and connect with his wide receivers when it was crucial led the Panthers to a 35-21 win over the Racers, the first win of the season and the first win of the Wilkerson Era.

24 of those points came in the first half alone.

Shoffner said that he has been treating everyday as if he is going to be slated in the starting position.

"I live by the motto just stay ready, so you don't have to get ready, and you know, I have been preparing like I'm going to be the starter since day one I stepped on this campus," Shoffner said. "I'm just loving the bond, I've engaged with all the guys and I'm just so excited that we caught our first win for the season."

Wilkerson said the decision to put Shoffner in as quarterback was something that was decided before the game, not in the moment.

"To be honest with you, this is something that we talked about last week going into the game at ISU and he certainly had his chance to perform against ISU and as a staff, we said he deserved an opportunity to have a series, and so we decided before the game that it would be the second series," Wilkerson said. "He took the offense right down the field and into the end zone. So, we said 'hey we gotta let go again' and he took him right down the field and went into the end zone again. So, we obviously finished the game with Dom tonight and those guys have been super supportive of each other and I'm looking forward to watching them continue to approve."

The Panthers had a remarkable rushing game with 339 yards as compared to last season's high of 130 yards against Dayton. The Racers had 83 total rushing yards with running back Jawaun Northington leading the way with 67.

The rushing game for the Panthers was led by sophomore running back Kendi Young, who had 8 carries for 160 yards. Shoffner was second on the team, rushing for 89 yards on 17 carries.

Young had suffered an injury earlier in preseason camp that had kept him from playing the first three games.

He said that it was more than ideal to be a part of such a high rushing game for the Panthers.

"It's incredible, especially when we got our first dub and to get the rush-



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Justin Thomas, a senior wide receiver, leaps over Franky West, a sophomore defensive back, to avoid the tackle. The Panthers lost to the Redbirds 7-35 Saturday night Sept. 17, 2022 at Illinois State.



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Nile Hill, a sophomore wide receiver runs after the catch at Saturday night's game vs Illinois State University. The Panthers lost to the Redbirds 7-35 on Sept. 17, 2022 at Illinois State.

ing yards, the majority of the yards were rushing, that's the best thing ever for a running back," Young said.

I truly was a time for celebration as there were two firsts in the game for the Panthers.

Firstly, the Panthers had not scored a rushing touchdown yet this season until about six minutes to go in the

first quarter.

The Panthers had marched their way into Racer territory and had made their way to the one-yard line. Shoffner faked the hand off to Benefield, leaving room for him to rush right up the middle for a touchdown, tying the game 7-7.

Another rushing touchdown came

in the second quarter as the Panthers were capitalizing on an interception caught by linebacker Jordan Vincent. The Panthers were at the Racers' 36-yard line before Young was able to rush up the middle of the field for a 36-yard touchdown, putting the Panthers up 24-14 at halftime.

It was also the first win for Wilkerson as head coach. Wilkerson said that the team remained calmer under pressure than it had been and as a result, the score spoke for itself.

"You know everything that we said from the beginning was that our focus was trying to improve our standing in the Ohio Valley Conference. So, to come on the road, and you know, take the next step was important tonight and we did that," Wilkerson said. "We talked about how we've already played with a little bit of physical presence, and we played with some toughness and some energy and enthusiasm but that we needed to remain poised a little more and that we needed to execute a little bit better, and we did that tonight and so I'm really happy for the players and coaches and for all of those that have been supporting us."

Shoffner had no trouble connecting with his wide receivers as he had five completions on 14 attempts with one touchdown pass.

Justin Thomas led the receivers with 46 yards on 3 catches.

Late in the first quarter, Cooper Willman had a 55-yard punt return to the Racers 33-yard line.

The Panthers continued to march their way to the endzone as Shoffner connected with wide receiver Nile Hill on a 16-yard pass.

The Panthers advanced to the two-yard line and Shoffner would then go on to hit wide receiver Justin Thomas on a two-yard touchdown pass.

Shoffner said that it is the extra work with the wide receivers that made his performance go smoother.

"The timing and the connection is definitely a very important piece. I try to stay after practice and just throw with all the guys. I get extra snaps in both centers, one and two, so they chemistry is still there. Just stay ready so you don't have to get ready."

The Panthers' defense was also having a day sophomore linebacker Colin Bohanek led the team with ten tackles.

Jordan Vincent had the lone interception for the Panthers while also having eight tackles.

Tim Varga added seven, including two solo tackles.

Stone Galloway continues to be successful this season as he has not missed a field goal for the Panthers. Galloway had two field goals against the Racers, one of them came after the final touchdown of the game for the Panthers in the fourth quarter, sealing the 35-21 win.

The Panthers will have a bye-week this week and will be back in action at O'Brien Field against Northwestern State on Oct. 8 at 2 p.m.

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