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Eastern Illinois University

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FAKE IT 'TIL YOU MAKE IT

Fraternities and sororities competed against each other in a rock-off of invisible instruments and lip-synching for Air Band Saturday.

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TRIPLE THREAT

Eastern junior Brant Valach hit three home runs against Murray State, leading the Panthers to a 14-3 win at Reagan Field.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Monday, April 7, 2014

“TELL THE TRUTH AND DON’T BE AFRAID”

VOL. 98 | NO. 131

CUPB hears budget cut proposals

By Bob Galuski
Managing Editor | @BobGaluski

The three different subcommittees of the Council on Planning and Budgeting presented its various recommendations on how to cut \$7 million from the university's budget Friday. Each of the recommendations presented were listed in no particular order of importance.

Added onto the \$7 million is also \$1 million President Bill Perry requested be reallocated, totaling \$8 million.

Along with different solutions to reducing expenditures, the subcommittee also provided recommendations to enhance recruitment and retention in the areas of Career Services and Student Life.

For Career Services, the subcommittee proposed to add an additional 10-month position that will focus on “building relationships with large businesses and facilitate internship opportunities for students.”

This position would require one-on-one counseling sessions for students in order to reduce the wait time for a career counseling appointment, which they stated in their proposal is two to three weeks.

The Student Life area should have increased funding for programming so that more activities can be offered to students, the subcommittee recommended. These programs should especially focus on leadership development through training and applied learning opportunities, the proposal stated.

Along with a review of reassigned faculty time, the subcommittee recommended to increase online offerings where appropriate, including online licensure programs with demonstrated potential to draw enrollment.

The subcommittee wishes to review the discounting of tuition and perform modeling to find the most effective way of competitively recruiting students and strategically using financial resources. Along with the modeling of tuition, the subcommittee recommended examining the modeling to explore the value of lowering tuition and fees for all Eastern students versus discounting for selected students.

One area the subcommittee recommended cuts to come from was the contract length of employees in various areas, such as the Counseling Center. The contract lengths would be nine, 10 or 11 month periods.

PROPOSALS, page 5



CHYNNA MILLER | DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of Delta Delta Delta sorority sing patriotic themed songs during Greek Sing on Sunday in the Lanz Arena. The Tri-Delts won Greek Sing for the sixth year in a row.

Delta Delta Delta sorority wins Greek Sing

By Aaliyah Stephen
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

More than 19 sororities and fraternities filled the Lantz Arena for Eastern's Greek Sing Sunday with the Delta Delta Delta sorority winning - for the sixth year in a row.

Alexandra Lyewski, a psychology major and member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, explained that she believes that everyone is competition, but said she was confident the Tri-Delts would make their sixth win in a row.

“I feel strong about our performance. I know that in the end everything will work out,” she said.

She also said her sorority feels a connection to Greek Sing, in particular because of their winning streak.

“We have practiced for this event for hours at a time. Winning the Greek Sing means a lot to our house,” Lyewski said.

“We have been on Eastern’s campus for nine years and out of those nine years we have won five times in a row. This is our baby.”

- Alexandra Lyewski, member of Delta Delta Delta sorority

“We have been on Eastern’s campus for nine years and out of those nine years we have won five times in a row. This is our baby.”

However, the Tri-Delts had no specifics on competition. The other sororities such as Kappa Delta and Alpha Sigma Tau did.

Sara Rediehs, a freshman and member of Kappa Delta, and Molly Newland, a freshman and member of Kappa Delta, said the Tri-Delts were the only competition they were worried about.

“We heard that the Tri-Delts were the angels of singing and that they win first place every year,” Rediehs said.

The Kappa Delta sorority went on to win second place of the Greek Sing.

Allie Moran, a senior communication studies major, and member of Alpha Sigma Tau sorority, said she thinks everyone was competition, not just the Tri-Delts.

“Being the best is very important in Greek Sing and I am confident in our house,” she said.

The Alpha Sigma Tau sorority did not place in the Greek Sing.

The Lantz Arena became dark as they announced the winners of the Greek Sing.

GREEK SING, page 5

Microsoft Office 365 to replace Panthermail next year

Students to receive new email; faculty remains same

By Jarad Jarmon
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

As the 2013-2014 school year closes out, the Informational Technology Services team with the help from those in the Center for Academic Technology Support will be replacing Panthermail with Microsoft Office 365.

Students will have to switch to the new email service in May. Brian Murphy, the director of infrastructure technologies in ITS said they had been researching ways for additional functionality and capacity. Students soon will have 50 Gigabytes of storage instead of only 500 Megabytes, which is only one-half of a gigabyte.

“A number of alternatives, involving both hosted solutions and locally installed solutions were researched and reviewed,” Murphy said in an email. “At the time of the initial review, Microsoft was revamping their hosted offering and expanding their services, so EIU waited for that process to

complete.”

With the Zimbra email service licensing agreement ending in summer, the decision was made to pull the plug on the current email service and switch to Office 365.

ITS also chose to switch to keep operating costs lower. Eastern is currently paying for licensing that allows both students and faculty to use the Windows Operating systems software and the Microsoft Office Professional Suite.

Students, in turn, have access to the Office 365 service for free.

Students will also have access to 25 GB of storage in OneDrive, a cloud shar-

ing service where documents, photos and videos can be shared across multiple platforms.


They will be able to install the Microsoft Office Professional Suite on up to five devices for free as long as they are an active student.

During the migration to the new system, students will have to redo their calendar and briefcase information because it will not be transferred over unlike the all of the mailbox content and address book information.

MICROSOFT, page 5


Local weather

TODAY



Rain
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Low: 39°

TUESDAY



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For more weather visit castle.eiu.edu/weather.

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The Daily Eastern News
1802 Buzzard Hall
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920
217-581-2812
217-581-2923 (fax)



News Staff
Editor in Chief
Dominic Renzetti
DENeic@gmail.com
Managing Editor
Bob Galuski
DENmanaging@gmail.com
Associate News Editor
Jarad Jarmon
DENnewsdesk@gmail.com
Opinions Editor
Kyle Daubs
DENopinions@gmail.com
Online Editor
Jason Howell
Assistant Online Editor
Seth Schroeder
DENnews.com@gmail.com
Photo Editor
Katie Smith
DENphotodesk@gmail.com
Assistant Photo Editor
Dion McNeal
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Candidate hopes to improve campus spirit

By Jarad Jarmon
Associate News Editor | [@JJarmonReporter](https://twitter.com/JJarmonReporter)

University admissions recruiters spend much of their time going to high schools across the state selling their schools education to perspective students.

For Yazmin Rodriguez, the university enhancement committee co-chairwoman, seeing one recruiter sell her on going to college directed her to seek a career in the Admissions Department.

"I love selling something to (high school students) so when I am older I want to sell Eastern to them," Rodriguez said.

Higher education, in her eyes was one of the most important things a high school student should know about.

She would then find herself joining the Student Affairs preparation program that would eventually spark her interest in working in student affairs. This passion for student affairs would eventually lead her to become the one and only candidate to become the student vice presidency for student affairs.

While she has no physical opponent, she still has to deal with the looming "no confidence vote" two other candidates find themselves worrying over as well.

Rodriguez said her primary focus will be to increase school spirit especially at athletic games even when people like Jimmy Garoppolo, previous first string football quarterback have left Eastern.

She said she plans to find a way to make Friday spirit day, and hopes to get athletic players to wear their jerseys Friday. Dining hall are also a place she

thinks there is lack of spirit, something she plans to look into changing. She said she want incoming students to see a dining hall covered with Eastern themed decorations.

She would also encourage registered student organizations to wear Eastern themed shirts instead of just wearing their group shirts.

"People will finally stop wearing ISU and U of I T-shirts because man that kills me," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez planned to further the RSO Initiative, a plan that would open up more communication between the RSOs and the Student Senate. Darnell Tyms, the current student vice president for student affairs, said he hopes she furthers his plans for the initiative because he believed it would give more RSOs a bigger and better voice for student government.

"The RSO Initiative is going to allow students to branch out to all of the RSOs," Tyms said. "I want to see it implemented."

Rodriguez fully supports the initiative and she planned to encourage the senate to follow through with this plan that will be implemented for the next school year. She also planned to attend RSO meetings too and not leaving all of the responsibility on the senate members.

Student government elections start at midnight Monday until midnight Tuesday. Students will receive link to vote on their Panthermail account.

Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 581-2812 or jsjarmon@eiu.edu



KATIE SMITH | DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Yazmin Rodrigez is running uncontested for the student vice presidency for student affairs. She is hoping to encourage more school spirit if elected.

Kiosks installed to provide helpful information

By Ave Rio
Staff Reporter | [@DEN_News](https://twitter.com/DEN_News)

For the past few months touch screen kiosks have been cropping up in the Doudna Fine Arts Center and Old Main – all with the purpose to welcome and inform visitors to the campus.

Ryan Gibson, the university Webmaster, said that the goal of the kiosks is to inform the public with more information about the Admissions and Alumni offices.

"The kiosks provide a window into the campus and the facility in which they are located," he said.

The kiosks are for everyone, Gibson said, but especially for external visitors.

"We are certainly making sure they include a lot of information for alumni, prospective students and community members," he added.

The first kiosk was installed in Old

Main, before the start of the fall semester and the second was installed in Doudna in February, Gibson said.

The reason that the kiosks are in these two buildings is because they are the busiest. And they were placed in the location in each building where they thought people would use them the most, Gibson said.

"In Old Main, we felt like a lot of visitors will use the visitor parking lot and enter through the east doors," he said. "At Doudna, near the main entrance made the most sense."

Gibson said he thinks they will get the best return on their investment by starting in those two buildings.

Each kiosk costs about \$5,000, he said.

Not only do the kiosks provide a map of the campus, but they also share personal stories about students, faculty and alumni.

The kiosks can also give users directions to any room that the kiosk is in, Gibson said.

"Our stats show directions are the most used function so far, which isn't surprising," he added.

Another useful thing about the kiosks is that they can answer potential visitor questions.

"At the beginning of year, I used the map on the kiosk in Old Main to help me find my way around campus," said Josie Boyd, a freshman undecided major.

The stats show that the most usage occurs in the evenings when there may not be as many people around to guide visitors, Gibson said.

"I think having a place for visitors to not only get directions, but also get a glimpse of the great things going at EIU, is advantageous," he said.

The idea for the kiosks came from the Provost's Office and University Advance-

ment, Gibson said.

He said that they both "wanted to make sure every visitor was getting a great experience when coming to campus, even if their visit occurred after normal business hours."

The CATS Office designed and developed the interface and ITS assisted in managing the computer and network he explained.

Another kiosk is currently in the planning stages to be placed in the Lantz Arena, another high traffic area, Gibson said.

"Once that is deployed, we will step back and look at our usage stats and engagement on the kiosks," he said.

If it makes sense to install more kiosks, they will do so, he added.

Ave Rio can be reached at 581-2812 or agrio@eiu.edu

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Greeks take over Lantz Arena with song, dance

Fraternities, sororities fake rock stars for Air Band

By **Samantha Middendorf**
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

Lantz Arena was filled with a roaring audience of all ages Saturday night for Air Band, the first competition of Greek Week 2014.

Eastern’s fraternities and sororities took the stage to dance and lip synch their way to the top featuring themes of war, love, fire, house parties and songs from a wide range of decades and genres including the Backstreet Boys, Beyonce, The Beatles, Huey and The Beach Boys.

Sigma Phi Epsilon won first place for fraternities while sporting suits and carrying moneybags to represent their “Wolves of Wall Street” theme which included the songs “Black Skinhead” by Kanye West, “Howlin’ for You” by The Black Keys and “Versace, Versace” by Migos and Drake. The men eased between songs by lip synching quotes and acting out scenes from the film, “The Wolf of Wall Street.”

Alpha Phi and their “Strongest Girls on Campus” theme placed first for sororities. The girls performed to “Stronger” by Kelly Clarkson as well as Kanye West, lifting dumbbells and sweating it out

on stage.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon “ghost busted” their way to second place and Delta Delta Delta won second place, training at a boot camp.

Third place was awarded to Lambda Chi Alpha and Delta Zeta as they did their best to interpret house parties.

Greek Week King and Queen was also announced Saturday.

Brandon Madden, an elementary education major of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, was given the title of King and Natalie Kulacz, a family and consumer sciences major of Alpha Phi, was Queen.

Adam Sims, a psychology major of Lambda Chi Alpha, and Molly Toennies, a chemistry major of Alpha Gamma Delta, were the runner-ups for the King and Queen title.

The EIU Dancers also performed a dance entitled “100 Dollar Bills” at Air Band.

LeeAnn Reid, an early childhood education major and member of Alpha Sigma Tau, was proud of her sorority despite the fact that they did not place.

“I think Alpha Sigma Tau really made a new name for themselves when they went out in front of Greek Court Saturday,” she said. “Even though we didn’t place, I know our house and our Air Band team are proud of what they accomplished.”

The rest of the fraternities and



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of Alpha Phi perform their first-place dance and lip sync routine “Strongest Girls on Campus” during Air Band Saturday in Lantz Arena.

sororities that competed Saturday night also impressed Reid.

“It was very entertaining all around,” she said.

Stephanie Blessman, a freshman early childhood education major and member of Kappa Delta, said she enjoyed being able to perform their “fire” routine in front of the rest of the greek community and everyone else in the audience.

“I think we performed to the best of our ability and brought a lot of energy to the stage,” Blessman said.

The Greek Week awards banquet will be at 7 p.m. Monday, April 14.

Samantha Middendorf can be reached at 581-2812 or semiddendorf@eiu.edu

Interim dean of College of Arts, Humanities selected

Staff Report

Glenn Hild has been selected to serve as the interim dean of the College of Arts and Humanities.

Hild, who has been serving as the interim associate dean, is filling in while Bonnie Irwin’s per-

manent replacement is being sought. Irwin announced her decision to leave in February. She will be going to California State University Monterey Bay as provost.

Blair Lord, the provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, said the focus, now needs to be on

finding someone to tend to the associate dean duties.

“This too will be an interim appointment to serve the coming academic year,” he said in an email. “Therefore, at this time, comment nominations and-or expressions of interest pertaining to the position

of Interim Associate Dean of the College are being solicited.”

Nominations should include supporting statements, and expressions of interest should include a concise letter highlighting especially relevant experience and a summary resume. All correspon-

dence concerning the position needs to be submitted to Lord no later than April 18.

The staff of The Daily Eastern News can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com

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Cultural connection



KEVIN HALL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Audience members perform the "The Na- Na", on stage during the African Student Association's sixth annual fashion show, "An Evening of Exquisite African Attire" Saturday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. The audience displays their talent during a segment of the show where traditional African dances were compared to popular American dances.

» MICROSOFT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Students will also have to re-configure their mobile set-up when the time comes.

Other than that, the email will still be accessible through the Eastern Panthermail homepage.

Despite its release at the end of the semester, 16 students have volunteered and have had access to the new email service.

"This group came from a number of different areas, the Office of Student Community Service, as well as students recommended from the ITS student work force and those recommended from the Center for Academic Technologies and Instructional Support Specialists from throughout campus," Murphy said in an email.

This change will only affect students. Faculty and staff will still use the Zimbra mail service.

Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 581-2812 or jsjarmon@eiu.edu.

» GREEK SING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In third place, Sigma Chi and Sigma Pi fraternities tied.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity won for second place for fraternities while Kappa Delta and Alpha Phi tied for sororities.

For first place, the Sigma Phi Epsilon won for fraternities and the Delta Delta Delta won for sororities.

The announcement for all winners had the arena in screams and excitement. Chants were yelled throughout the arena and hugs were given.

Marissa Muskiewicz, a sophomore and member of the Tri-Delts, coordinated the Tri-Delts this year and last year at the Greek Sing.

"It is very relieving to finally get the Greek Sing over with," Muskiewicz said. Muskiewicz said that she wanted to try something different then what she did last year.

"We did something new this year in order to spice it up. We chose to sing everything a cappella. Only about 5 to 10 percent of our chapter actually can sing or have been trained in a chorus," Muskiewicz said.

The Tri-Delts practiced three days a week for two hours from February to April.

"Our biggest competition was Alpha Phi and Kappa Delta from what I had seen," Muskiewicz said.

Aaliyah Stephen can be reached at 581-2812 or aastephen@eiu.edu.

» PROPOSALS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They also recommended looking across the student affairs division for departments where the employee contract lengths may be shortened to nine, 10 or 11 months, rather than a full 12 months. Along with the shortening of current contracts, when hiring new staff, the lessened contract should also be considered.

The Academic Affairs subcommittee also recommended looking into a reduction of some service staff from 12 months to 10 or 11.

While the other two subcommittees are recommending a switch from 12 months to nine, 10 or 11 month contracts, the business affairs subcommittee recommended looking into the efficiency of the four and a half day work week during the summer sessions. Instead of using the four and a half day work week, they recommended going into a four day work week or the possible increased usage of facilities with a five day work week.

Along with the four day work week, the business affairs subcommittee also suggested a hiring freeze of a minimum of one year to examine the hiring of employees profiles in the context of the university mission and critical need.

The subcommittee also said to reduce the appropriated budget of intercollegiate athletics by 10 percent across the board, or by \$188,943. This includes Intercollegiate Athletics and Sports Information.

The student affairs subcommittee used 4 percent of the total \$8 million as a guide in recommendations. The student affairs division receives 4 percent of the university's appropriated funding.

The academic affairs subcommittee broke their recommendations into two groups: general recommendations and specific areas recommended for closer analysis.

Under the "general recommendations" category, the subcommittee presented the idea of conducting an analysis of administrative staff positions, which would include comparison to peer institutions.

They also proposed to clarify Eastern's enrollment goals and establish an optimal ratio of faculty to student before reducing faculty positions. Ratios of administrator to student and support staff to student should be reviewed as well for possible reductions.

The general recommendations also included reviewing possible duplication of services among course offerings and investigate possible savings for future retirements and departures.

The subcommittee also wants to reallocate additional funds to programs that can demonstrate they have more qualified applicants for admissions than they can handle with current levels of support. They also proposed the University Strategic Enrollment Plan to be consulted.

Along with a review of reassigned faculty time, the subcommittee recommended to increase online offerings where appropriate, including online licensure programs with demonstrated potential to draw enrollment.

The academic affairs subcommittee also looked into areas specific for closer analysis.

These recommendations included the efficiency of and possible duplication of services between the Student Success Center and all student academic support offices, the efficiency of the Study Abroad and the Minority Affairs offices and the staffing in the dean's and departmental offices.

Structurally, the subcommittee also recommended looking into CATS and ITS and technology support staff, which includes comparison to peer institutions, possible overlap of services and staff to student ratios.

Along with the academic affairs subcommittee, the business affairs, president's area and university advancement subcommittee also recommended a review of the way technology services are provided on campus and consolidate under a single department.

The potential savings, according to the subcommittee, would be a "minimum of \$500,000."

The business affairs subcommittee also stated to exercise caution in dedication of resources in the implementation of strategic plan goals along with to continue judicious use of equipment reserves funded appropriated and non-appropriated ledgers.

They also recommended to review all university maintenance agreements by procurement and corresponding departments to verify they are still needed.

The business affairs subcommittee also suggested a review of all Panthercard transactions for "like" purchases to find where bulk savings could be realized.

Carman Hall was also an area brought up by the business affairs subcommittee. They recommended an evaluation of Carman and any other building not in use for alternative uses.

The proposals will be brought to the Board of Trustees on April 25 after two more meetings with the subcommittees to further review these recommendations.

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

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Panthers improve to 26-11 3 in 1 weekend

By Kaz Darzinskis
Staff Reporter|@DEN_Sports

The Eastern softball team went 3-1 in its two home weekend doubleheaders against Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State.

During Saturday's action against the Eastern Kentucky, the pitchers reigned supreme. Eastern would lose the first game 2-1 in nine innings while winning the second game 1-0 in seven innings.

In the first game, behind a new school record, the Colonels won 2-1 in a contest which took nine innings, behind an 18-strikeout performance from Leanna Pittsenbarger.

Hanna Mennenga pitched well for Eastern, going nine innings, striking out 11 batters, while walking none in the loss.

All three runs were scored on solo home runs, as Hannah Cole led off the scoring by hitting her fifth home run of the season in the second inning.

For the Colonels, Christina Ciolek, who leads the team with a .333 batting average, hit one home run, while Krislyn Campos had the other, her first homerun of the season.

Campos tied the game in the fourth inning, while Ciolek put the Colonels ahead in the ninth inning.

In the second game, Stephanie Maday took the mound for the panthers while Hayley Flynn pitched for the Colonels. Maday would go on to pitch seven innings as the panthers would win 1-0.

Maday gave up two hits and two walks, while striking out 10 batters; she did not allow a run as she cruised to victory. Maday really settled in getting into a groove early, as she struck out the side to start the game.

Eastern's offense was dormant all day, but it did manage to emerge from the first doubleheader with a split.

On Sunday, the Panthers faced



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior Hanna Mennenga pitches in game one of a doubleheader against Eastern Kentucky on Saturday at Williams Field. The Panthers split the doubleheader 2-1 and 1-0. Mennenga recorded 11 strikeouts, 5 hits and 2 runs.

off against Morehead State. In the first contest against, Eastern would go on to win 8-1 behind Mennenga.

She pitched seven innings for the Panthers, giving up four hits while striking out nine batters. She also walked four batters in the game.

The Eagles started Megan Tymorek, who would pitch four innings, giving up nine hits, seven runs, three of which were earned.

Eastern's offense came alive on Sunday, as they collected 12 hits in the first contest en route to score eight runs, four coming in the second inning, the also got two runs in the fourth and fifth inning.

Jennette Isaac continued her

Ohio Valley Conference-leading consecutive games with a hit steak, as she went 1-4 with a RBI and a run scored in the opener.

She now has hit safely in 15 consecutive games. Brooke Owens also hit the ball well in the opener as she went 2-4 with an RBI and a run scored as well.

Owens had a hard single in the bottom of the first inning and she had a solo homerun in the bottom of the fifth inning, chasing out Morehead State starter Megan Tymorek.

Bailey O'Dell was 2-3 with an RBI, and a run scored, she also made a great diving play in the top of the sixth inning preserve the victory for the panthers.

In the final game of the week-

end, Eastern again faced off with Morehead State, this time Stephanie Maday would pitch for the Panthers, while Tanna Seufferer would pitch for Morehead State.

Eastern would win the game 14-0 as the contest ended in five innings because of mercy rule.

Stephanie Maday had her second career no hitter, as she struck out 10 batters, only walking one in five innings.

Behind the great pitching effort of Maday, Eastern's offense would explode in the final game of the weekend.

Hannah Cole was taken out of the lineup after the first inning, and was replaced by Amber Toenyes.

Toenyes, a freshman, had a sol-

id outing hitting her first career homerun in the bottom of the second.

Toenyes also had an RBI double coming in the bottom of the fourth, as she played a key role in two of Eastern's three big innings. Toenyes was 2-2 on the day with two runs scored and four RBIs.

Jennette Isaac continued her hitting streak, extending it 17 games as she was 2-2 with two runs scored.

The panthers are now 26-11 on the season with a 7-4 mark in OVC play.

Kaz Darzinskis can be reached at 581-2812 or kcdarzinskis@eiu.edu.

Track finishes 2nd, 4th at Big Blue Classic

By Blake Nash
Staff Reporter|@DEN_Sports

The Eastern track and field team's spring debut on Friday and Saturday saw broken records, cold, winter weather on Friday night was replaced by spring-like conditions on Saturday, and the Panthers were able to host their first home meet in more than a year.

By the end of the day Saturday, the Eastern men's team placed second, and the women finished fourth in a sixteen-school field, with Indiana State University taking home both first-place titles.

Calvin Edwards led Eastern with wins in the 200-meter and 400m dashes. Edwards time in the 200m dash was 21.16, while his 400m time was 47.23. He would become the Panthers only multi-winner in the Big Blue Classic.

Friday night with a temperatures hovering near the mid-30s, early 40s, the Panthers produced one of their best performances of the year.

"We performed pretty well on Friday, despite the weather, and our performances were much better this week, than they were at Southern," Eastern coach Tom Ak-



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Sophomore Calvin Edwards sprints to the finish line during the 200 meter dash at the Big Blue Classic held at Eastern. Edwards placed first in the event.

ers said.

Eastern also placed fairly well in the high field events, especially in the javelin throw competition. Junior David Johansson won the men's event with his longest mark being 191.9-feet.

A native of Sweden, Johansson defeated Indiana State's Brenner Stage who finished with a mark of 179.1-feet.

In the women's javelin throw, senior Condia Smith place second with a mark of 114'3". She was

defeated by Rebecka Anderson of Grand Valley State, who finished with a mark of 142'3".

Aviance King also placed for Eastern in field events. His height of 6-feet, 8-inches, earned him second place in the high jump behind Carbondale's Kyle Landon, who set a meet record with a height of 7-feet, 2.25-inches.

Landon was not the only record break at O'Brien Stadium this weekend. Katie Wise of Indiana State's 100m dash time of

11.34 broke the O'Brien Stadium record.

Former All-American Felisha Johnson won the women's shot put as an unattached competitor with a mark of 60-feet, 7.25-inches. This broke her personal record, which was also at the Big Blue Classic.

"Obviously we had some great conditions on Saturday, and some of our people stepped up, and just gave some great performances," Akers said.

It had been over a year since O'Brien Stadium hosted a track meet, which gave Eastern a comforting home-field advantage.

"Honestly getting them away from home, helps them keep away from their distractions," Akers said. "But it's just nice to be able to race at home, have family and friends come down, and especially having some decent conditions to compete in."

The Panthers will be on the road for the next two weeks before returning home for their Tuesday Tweener on April 22.

Blake Nash can be reached at 581-2812 or banash@eiu.edu.

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That brought home Sauer for his third run of the game and John Devito for Eastern's 14th run.

Murray State fell to 14-15 overall, while the Panthers improved to 9-22 this season.

Eastern has two midweek games scheduled, first a meeting against the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, which is slated to begin at 6:05 p.m. Tuesday in Mattoon at Peterson Park. Then at 3 p.m. the Panthers are back home Wednesday to play Illinois College at Coaches Stadium.

Wednesday's game starts a five-game home stand for Eastern, which includes a three-game series against Tennessee Tech starting at 3 p.m. Friday.

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



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Junior third baseman Brant Valach tracks his ball in the air in the Panthers' 23-15 loss to Jacksonville State on March 29 at Coaches Stadium. Valach hit three home runs against Murray State in Eastern's 14-3 win on Sunday at Reagan Field in Murray, Ky.

Eastern wins series behind Valach's 3 home runs

Panthers improve to 4-8 in OVC

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor|@AldoSoto21

The Eastern baseball team had a 4-2 lead heading into the fifth inning against Murray State Sunday at Reagan Field in Murray, Ky., and by the end of the afternoon the Panthers recorded a 14-3 win. Junior third baseman Brant Valach stepped up to the plate with teammates Caleb Howell and Dane Sauer standing at first and second base, respectively. Murray State pitcher Sheldon Baxter was one out away from escaping the fifth inning unharmed after Sauer reached on an error to start the inning.

After taking a called ball, Valach connected on a 1-0 delivery by the left-handed pitcher, sending the ball over the head of left-fielder Ty Stetson and over the left-field wall of Reagan Field for a three-run home run. Valach rounded the bases and stepped on home plate, meeting a throng of teammates, as the Orlando Park native had given the Panthers a 7-2 lead with his third home run of the game. Baxter got the final out of the inning, but was then replaced to start the sixth inning before Valach could get another plate appearance against him. The three home run, six-RBI

performance by Valach, led an offensive barrage for Eastern that consisted of 15 hits and two players with three runs driven in. Eastern coach Jim Schmitz said he was pleased with the offensive output, as the Panthers won their first OVC series of the season. "I'm happy how we came out aggressive with the bats," he said. Valach paced the Panthers, beginning with a solo home run in the second inning off of Baxter. Then in the fourth inning, Valach hit another home run to left field, with Demetre Taylor along for the ride, giving Eastern a 3-2 lead. Senior Joe Greenfield started for the Panthers and pitched six

innings, allowing three runs on nine hits, as he improved to 4-3 this season after making his second start of the season. Freshman Chase Thurston pitched the final three innings and only allowed two base runners coming from walks, as the right-hander recorded his first collegiate save. "Joe Greenfield and Chase Thurston were outstanding," Schmitz said. After Valach's third home run of the game, the Panthers continued to tack on runs against the Thor-oughbreds. Valach returned from a hand injury that he suffered against Ar-

kansas on Feb. 21. His first game back was against Jacksonville State March 28. Valach is still battling through the injury, Schmitz said. "The team knows he is playing hurt and appreciates his selfless attitude," Schmitz said. In the sixth inning, Sauer and Howell and hit RBI-singles and then in the seventh inning freshman Frankie Perrone hit a triple to left-center field that drove in Cameron Berra and Tyler Schweigert. The rout was capped off by Howell's third run driven in, as he singled to center field in the top of the ninth inning.

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Eastern splits conference action during weekend

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor|@AldoSoto21

The Eastern women's tennis team split Ohio Valley Conference action during the weekend, beating Southeast Missouri 5-2 and losing to Tennessee-Martin 5-2 at the Charleston High School Courts. Following a loss to the Skyhawks, Eastern bounced back to win Sunday afternoon against the Redhawks to improve to 9-4 overall and 3-4 in conference play. The 5-2 loss was Southeast Mis-

souri's fourth straight match defeat and dropped the Redhawks to 3-4 in the OVC. The Eastern women won four of the six singles matches, losing only at the No. 2 and No. 6 flights against Southeast Missouri. Senior Janelle Prinser and junior Sephora Boulbahaem each recorded wins in singles play at the No. 1 and No. 3 flights. The Panthers were able to capture the doubles point of the match, winning two of the three doubles matches.

Eastern has been successful in doubles play this season, winning most of the team doubles point in the OVC and in overall play as well. Prinser and junior Boulbahaem and sophomores Ali Foster and Hannah Kimbrough locked the doubles point, winning their matches 8-1 and 8-2, respectively. Foster and Kimbrough also added to Eastern's win total in singles competition, as the sophomore duo hit past their opponents in straight sets.

On Saturday, the Panthers lost the doubles point and lost four of the six singles matches. Freshmen Kamile Stadalninkaite and Kelly Iden won their singles matches at the No. 3 and No. 6 flights for Eastern. Tennessee-Martin had to fight its way to the match win, needing to go to three sets in two of their four singles wins. The Skyhawks are also 3-4 in the OVC after they lost Southern Illinois-Edwardsville Sunday. Eastern was scheduled to play

against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville Thursday, but the match had to be rescheduled to April 10. The Eastern women as well as the men's team will play the Cougars, starting at 1 p.m. Thursday at the Atkins Tennis Center, which is located in the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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