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Eastern Illinois University

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COMPOSER COLLABORATION

Global Traditions celebrated many holidays Tuesday in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union

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AFTERNOON DELIGHT

The Eastern women's basketball team travels to Wisconsin to take on the University of Milwaukee at noon Wednesday.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 99 | NO. 71

Pension reform opponents challenge speedy appeal

By Bob Galuski
Editor-in-Chief | @BobGaluski

Public labor unions and other opponents of the 2013 pension reform law protested on Tuesday the speeding up of the Illinois Supreme Court's normal procedure, which they call unconstitutional.

The motion, filed by State Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office last week, would have the Il-

linois Supreme Court hurry the appeal Sangamon County Court Judge John Belz's Nov. 21 ruling, requesting oral arguments as soon as Jan. 22 and no later than March 10.

The pension reform law, which was signed by Gov. Pat Quinn a year ago, was quickly attested and ruled unconstitutional by Belz earlier this month.

The Illinois Federation of

Teachers stated they have asked the Supreme Court to "adhere to its normal schedule for hearing appeals, allowing all parties adequate time to respond."

The filing by Madigan's office states that it needs time to properly plan out the fiscal-year 2016 budget, which begins July 1, 2015.

"The Court should accelerate this appeal to facilitate a res-

olution enough in advance of the May 31, 2015 deadline for passage of the State's fiscal-year 2016 that the General Assembly and the Governor may take the Court's decision into account when adopting the fiscal-year 2016 budget," the motion states.

However, the union coalition's motion states the defendants have "failed to establish that the normal appellate process is inadequate

here."

"Their motion rests upon a false sense of urgency that is not supported by the history of this litigation or by any factual record," the motion opposition states. "In addition, their motion attempts to impose an emergency briefing schedule that would be manifestly unfair to the plaintiffs."

PENSION, page 5

President responds to student protests

By Bob Galuski
Editor-in-Chief | @BobGaluski

President Bill Perry sent an email to students Tuesday, commending them on how they have handled the issues relating to Ferguson, Mo., including the peaceful protests and demonstrations.

"They have done so with resolve, reason and clear communication, reflective of, I believe, our faculty's and staff's teaching and mentoring aligned with our educational mission to enable our students to refine their abilities to reason and to communicate clearly so as to become responsible citizens and leaders," he said in the email.

The email also focused on his individual meetings with students, faculty and staff regarding matters of diversity, which he called, in the email, "encouraging."

"The meetings have not only focused on understanding issues and addressing problems, but also on ongoing efforts that are indicative of progress," he said in the email. "Of course other individuals in the administration are working with groups on different aspects of diversity and that work will continue."

Perry later said he has been learning from the discussions, which he called "candid," and he said he will continue them next semester as well.

Perry also said while he has not been able to make it to a demonstration so far, because of his travel schedule, the impressions from press coverage and from comments from individuals present are that the demonstrations have been effective.

He said though that Dan Nadler, the vice president for student affairs, had been present at some of the demonstrations and told him that the students had been responsible and the demonstrations were productive.

PROTESTS, page 5



CHYNNA MILLER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

President Bill Perry, shows students the Christmas ornaments made from the Burr Oak Tree that was cut down over the summer during Peppermint with the Prez event Tuesday in Old Main.

Students enjoy a 'very Perry' Christmas

By Chynna Miller
Photo Editor | @Den_News

'Twas the week before finals and in the lobby of Old Main, celebration for Christmas had begun its reign.

The last of the 'Prowlin' with the Prez' events, "Peppermint with the Prez" took place Tuesday in the lobby of Old Main.

Students gathered around the assortment of Christmas trees and decorated sugar cookies while drinking hot cocoa.

Among those students were the members of the Association of International Students who sponsored this year's premiere event.

Kevin Vicker, the adviser for AIS, said the Student Government was very kind to let them be involved and help make the international students feel welcomed.

"It's really great for the international students to get to have a personal interaction with the president of the university and bring up any issues or concerns they have," Vicker said.

President Bill Perry proceeded to open the floor for the international students to discuss what holidays were important for them back in their native countries.

Sunrose Maskey, a freshman psychology major from Nepal, took the opportunity to explain to everyone about his country's holiday, Yamary Purnima.

"Yamary means dish and Purnima means full moon," Maskey said.

During the holiday they gather at the oldest member of the family's house and make a steamed pastry, 'Yamary,' while the full moon is out.

Perry said these events are bene-

ficial to get to know about diversity that takes place on campus.

"It's very important to recognize how rich our diversity is, our culture is, and our nations are," Perry said.

Shirmeen Ahmad, student vice president for academic affairs and coordinator of the events, said she wanted everyone to feel as if they were getting an opportunity to hang out with the president.

"Eastern is all about getting to know students on an individual level," Ahmad said. "That's why there are always activities so students can do things with him, not just talk, but actually hang."

At the last 'Prowlin' with the Prez' event and the final year in his presidency, Perry said he will miss the relationships with student body that he has made and the relationship with the Student Government

leaders the most.

In return members of Student Senate expressed what they would miss about him once his reign is over.

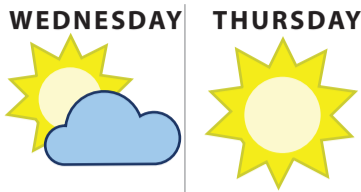
"I'll miss his presence," said Brianna Johnson, a sophomore family and consumer sciences major. "The environment on campus will be different without him."

Ahmad said Student Government hopes to continue the 'Prowlin' with the Prez' events with the president next year as well.

"I think this will be something that's carried on who ever the next president is," Ahmad said. "EIU values getting to know their students, and this is a good opportunity."

Chynna Miller can be reached at 581-2812 or cdmiller3@eiu.edu.

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Low: 27°

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Graduate shows mixed-media gallery

By Bob Galuski
Editor-in-Chief | @BobGaluski

Shane Rodems, the artist behind the gallery at the Tarble Arts Center, reads the Thrifty Nickel every chance he gets. As he scours the pages he looks for something others don't see: inspiration for his next work.

And hidden in the pages are advertisements, want-ads displaying their slogans, that give Rodems, an Eastern graduate, the next idea for his mixed-media piece.

"I've always read the want-ads because it seems like there are so many treasures in there," he said. "I started reading them front to back one summer and realized that there were tons of things that I had to Google to know what they were selling."

His mixed-media pieces reflect the slogans of the want-ads, but the obstacles in bringing out the art comes from showing what the advertisement says.

"The challenge lies in not making something literal, but also conveying the feeling of what the ad says," Rodems said.

Rodems' gallery, "Shane Rodems: All For Sale 2000 O.B.O." is on display at the Tarble until Sunday. The gallery is part of the Tarble's artist residency program, and allows for Rodems to travel to different area schools and teach children about mixed media.

Rodems said he has always loved to teach, and the residency program helps reinforce that passion.

"Man, it has been really rewarding," he said. "Just (Tuesday) kids were mixing paint for the first time. So many of them were discovering how to make secondary colors from the primaries. They were so excited to find these new colors. It made me so excited."

The process of creating mixed-media pieces from slogans is a constant

process for Rodems. A list of advertisements is in his studio that he adds to and edits.

"For this body of work I always do the reading first and then filter them through my imagination and make what I need to," he said.

Although mixed media means using different elements to create the artwork, Rodems never reveals which materials he uses—he would rather have it be a mystery to others.

Rodems said he has several reasons for wanting to shroud his materials in mystery.

"I use so many different things in the work that listing them would give them more power than they need to have," he said. "They are used and they are there to see, but I don't want the materials to be more important than the work itself."

He also said the words "mixed media" have lost their meaning during the years, which is another reason he keeps the materials used a secret.

"Frankly the words 'mixed media' just don't have the luster that they had 10 years ago. I've witnessed them so frequently that those two words together don't make sense anymore," Rodems said. "There is so much work using alternative media that I don't think it's a necessity anymore."

Even though he works with mixed, or alternative, media now, Rodems began his career as an undergraduate at Eastern, working with the human figure.

The figure was Rodems' introduction to painting, so it helped him learn technique. However, he said he always struggled with what the work meant.

"All the things that I was trying to say with the work seemed a bit 'soapboxy,'" he said.

It wasn't until he began graduate school at Eastern that the doors to the abstract opened up for Rodems, and he began pushing away from the fig-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Shane Rodems has different mixed-media art on display in the Tarble Arts Center until Sunday. The gallery, "Shane Rodems All For Sale 2000 O.B.O.," is part of Tarble's artist residency program.

ure. "Many of my peers were making abstract work and I was interested in the conversations that they were having," he said.

While "Shane Rodems: All For Sale 2000 O.B.O." hangs in the Tarble for now, Rodems has future plans already made, which includes participating in the Peoria Art Guild.

"I always have big plans to show in galleries and be rich and famous, so I work hard to get my work across as many gallerist's desks as I can," he said.

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

UB to offer hot cocoa, holiday karaoke

By Roberto Hodge
Multicultural Editor | @BertoHodge

For the University Board's final Mainstage event of the semester, it will host a Cocoa and Karaoke night at 7 p.m. Wednesday in 7th Street Underground.

Tylen Elliott, the mainstage coordinator, said those who participate in the event will be able to sing holiday songs with hot chocolate and cookies. He said anyone who comes to perform is encouraged to wear holiday attire while participating.

Elliott said this is the first time the event is happening as far as he knows, and he is hoping for a good turnout.

Normally, the UB would have some sort of event with popcorn, but Elliot wanted to do something different by having a relaxing event.

The goal is to have a large amount of students at the event and allow them to take a breather before finals and relax enjoying the end of the semester, Elliott said.

Elliott said the UB has had a successful turnout for all of its

events this year, with this one being similar to the first event, which also featured karaoke.

He added Vegas was Mainstage's largest event of the semester.

He said Vegas was an enjoyable event, but stressful to put together, so Cocoa Karaoke is a way for students to wind down.

Because of Vegas's success, the event will be hosted again next year, Elliott said.

Cocoa Karaoke is also one of the holiday-themed events put on this year, earlier the UB had Nightmare on 7th Street.

"They're fun and they appeal to a larger diverse audience," Elliott said.

Elliott said the event is important for students because it is a way for them to showcase their singing talent and connect with others in a fun environment.

The event is free to everyone with students being able to have hot chocolate and cookies for treats while they perform.

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

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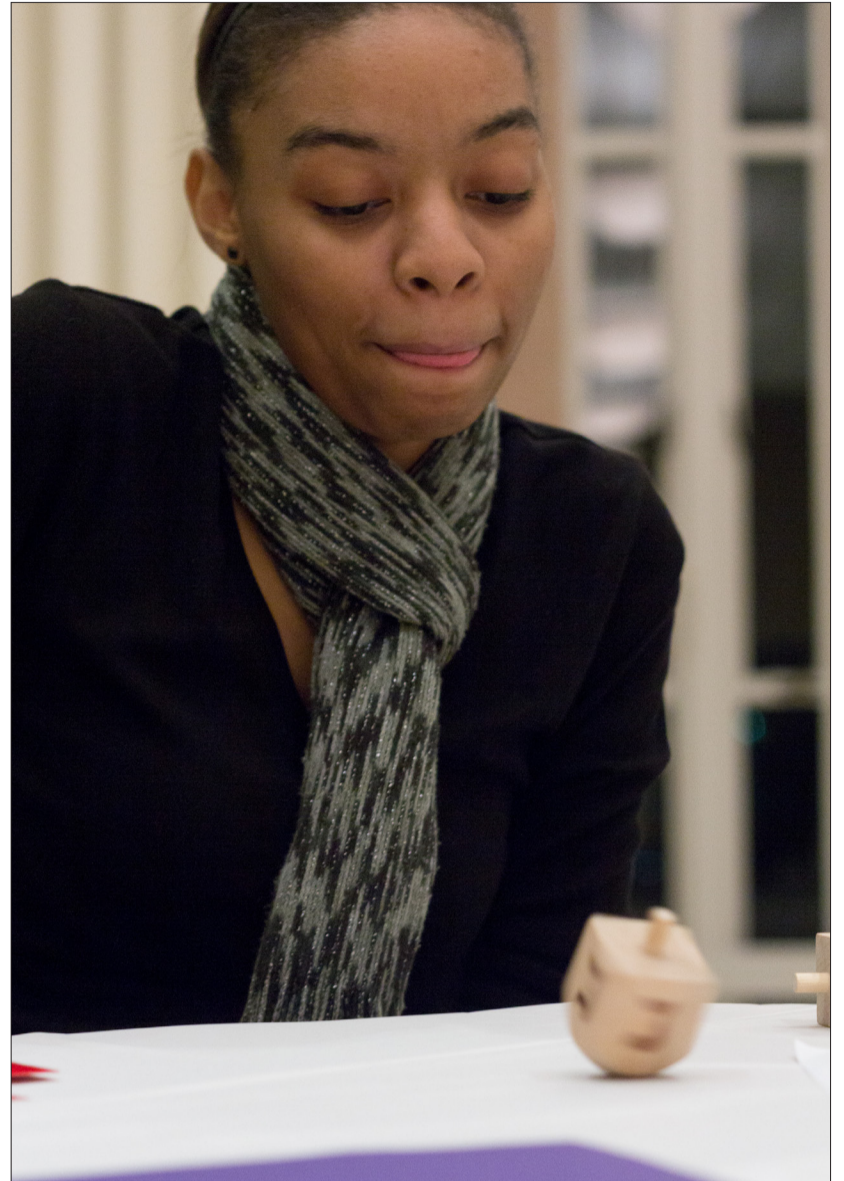
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Holidays away



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

TOP LEFT: Sophomore nursing major Blanca Aragon and sophomore applied engineering and technology major Sandra Coleman make decorations during the Global Traditions event on Tuesday in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Aragon was making a reindeer ornament while Coleman was making a Where Am I? board.
BOTTOM LEFT: A dreidel, a spinning top played during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, lies next to chocolate gelt during the Global Traditions event on Tuesday in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.
RIGHT: Junior pre-business management major and UB cultural events coordinator Jessica Ashley spins a dreidel in hopes of winning gelt (chocolate coins) during the Global Traditions event on Tuesday in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

EIU Talks to explore discrimination through poetry

By **T'Nerra Butler**
 Staff Reporter | @den_news

An event bridging the gap of social topics such as racism, sexism and everyday discrimination will be explored during “EIU Talks” at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Students taking the Communication, Race, and Ethnicity course in communication studies are putting together the event.

Linda Scholz, a professor of communication studies, said she had a course similar to EIU Talks last year by the name of: “Journey to Hate Free Communities.”

Scholz said her students are organizing the event, but she is guiding them through the process.

Personal narratives and various stereotypes served as inspiration for the event.

EIU Talks will incorporate poetry, visuals and separate workshops, while trying to vocalize student opinions.

The goal for not only the students of Eastern, but the town of Charleston as well to be self-aware of sexism and racism, Scholz said.

The event is supposed to be informative and serve as a vocal outlet for students.

“We often have discussions in class where people find it hard to say exactly what’s on their

mind,” said Logan Swallas, a communication studies major.

EIU Talks is meant to provide an open dialogue for those who have faced certain prejudices, and for those who have their own prejudices to voice their opinions.

The talk will include present-day topics beyond Eastern as well, such as the Mike Brown case and similar topics.

Shamera Richards, a communication studies major, said students will be educated on the use of language at Eastern and holding discussions on what people think about the climate of race, gender and ethnicity.

“We want to let people know that these issues

should be talked about and being scared to say the wrong thing is not the best choice to make,” Richards said.

Swallas said participants want this event to be like a forum where every one can respectfully exchange notions and views on matters going on at Eastern; however, the students will also explore their thoughts on what diversity really means to students.

Scholz said she wants students to come with respectful words and an open mind.

T'Nerra Butler can be reached at 581-2812 or tabutler@eiu.edu.

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Table Exhibits | 10 AM - 5 PM
 Illinois Biennial Drawing/Watercolor & Frankie Flood: Machines that Work both on display

English 5000 Symposium | 7 PM
 First-year grad students present their research in this public forum; Coleman Hall 3732

DePue Brothers Band: A Magical Grassical Christmas | 7:30 PM
 Many of your favorites plus a few original Christmas songs; Doudna FA Center

Check out more upcoming events at www.dailyeasternnews.com

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Katie Smith

In the grand scheme, this week will seem a distant (but terrible) one

This week and next we will review our one five-subject notebook with half-hearted scribbles about Nabokov and log rhythms and have moments of epiphany when we think, “What am I even studying anymore?” And the answer of course, is always either everything or nothing. We are either earning three minors, a double major with concentrations in each or spending our semesters in bowling and Introduction to Law and Order SVU (which incidentally meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1 a.m. on my couch.)

Whether or not you are actively studying everything or nothing at all, if you feel unprepared for your finals and time is running out, don't despair.

From now until the end of the semester people will feed you lies about how it is important to get a full night's sleep and relax during study breaks. These people are conspiring against you and they do not want you to succeed.

If you are nervous about your finals it is important to stay in that frame of mind. Don't talk yourself down from that headspace. Don't plan some cacophony study schedule that would have been effective if you stayed in every Saturday and reviewed your notes and read ahead. You didn't do that. It's time to stock up on caffeine during the day and put it to good use at night.

Staying awake for two days straight has already been proven to me this week as a terrible decision, but I would never dream of not preparing for finals week as though I had a test in a class I have never been to. The second you get too comfortable, you think you know more than you actually do. If you usually study at home, go somewhere else. Strangers will not let you off easily for procrastinating the way you do at home, in public. There are no boxes of bagel chips to eat your feelings with at the library.

Don't do all your studying alone. Even if you feel like you are fitting quality library time into your schedule visit your professors' office hours and study with a group of people from class. As much as I wish it did, filling out a study guide does not count as studying, and those answers you came up with are no good if they are all terribly and humorously wrong.

There have been moments this semester where I sincerely thought I was going to have a heart attack from the amount of work to be done. At this point more than ever you will want to listen to the propaganda people have been feeding you about sleeping well and eating right, and the next time you open a book you might tear up a little with self-loathing and regret.

At this point all you really need is a power nap and a little tough love. Just do it. Just study. Just write your paper. Everyone is nervous and we've all begun to accidentally develop really questionable sleeping patterns. That take home final doesn't have to be the most brilliant thing you've ever written, but it needs to be finished, so just do it and get it over with. And then when it's finished and you've passed, remember you have a month off.

Caffeinate, stay up late, push through and then repress it deep into the confines of your memory, and 20 years from now realize that this one week hardly mattered at all.

Katie Smith is a senior journalism major and can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com



DEANNA TADLOCK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Illinois: Land of the Broke, Corrupt and (now) Blind

In the wake of recent national events, one might presume that governments were doing everything possible to empower their citizens against gross and overt injustices. The last few months in American discourse have been largely consumed by the question of disproportionate police force, a conversation capped off with a resounding gasp as a New York City jury failed to indict a cop for, well, literally choking a man to death.

That non-indictment, pathetic as it was, has prompted an important national conversation into the filming of police, both by citizens and officers themselves, the idea being that such records beget accountability with begets a tendency to *not* kill unarmed civilians. It's a difficult question to have—one filled with delicate social and racial nuance—but if America is to truly move forward, it's a conversation we need to have.

Except for Illinois, apparently.

Earlier this week, the Illinois General Assembly passed a bill that, more or less, makes it illegal for citizens to record police officers. Boggled in ambiguous language and subtlety, the bill is just the newest push by Illinois legislators to deny basic tenants of transparency to their citizenry.

It's a pathetic and ridiculous curtailing of a very simple, yet substantial medium by which authority figures might be held to even a modicum of accountability. Coupled with last week's

attempt to complicate Freedom of Information Act requests by non-media citizens, it becomes abundantly clear that the agenda in Springfield is as much about barring rights to the state's citizens as anything.

That might sound like hyperbole, but it's not, as is evident by the overwhelming majority of lawmakers who voted in favor of the bill (106-7 in the House; 46-4-1 in the Senate).

Through a series of recent bills, Illinois lawmakers have repeatedly tried to chip away at rights that form the basic foundation for transparency in democracy. Barring the filming of police only serves one group of people: those with something to hide.

That isn't to say most police officers are corrupt, or really are deserving of constant video surveillance (again, we cite the aforementioned nuance and complexity of this very conversation). However, to actively deny citizens the basic right of filming any injustice, whether perpetrated by regular citizens or police officers, is a direct attack on transparency, more fit for some Orwellian dystopia than a supposedly free and just society.

This is an absolutely shameful bill, and Illinoisans should be ashamed of their representatives for it.

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

Chalk up another win for pointless nostalgia

If you want a sign of how our generation is pathetically clinging to childhood in some attempt to put off growing up, look no further than the obsession with 90s nostalgia.

I was born in 1992, which I guess technically makes me a kid in the 90s, even though I don't think I was really consciously aware of pop culture until the early 2000s, but whatever.

I feel like when we were kids the only thing we wanted to do was grow up, but now we're here, the future is now and now we're all trying to scramble back to a much simpler time.

But I'm no better than you. I've indulged in my fair share of nostalgic acts. I've probably played more Nintendo 64 in college than I did when I was kid. I stayed up late and watched all those old “Keenan and Kel” reruns when they started being re-aired again.

But I can't help but think we left those things in the past for a reason. We were ready for change. We were ready for something new. We needed to move on



Dominic Renzetti

(and apparently, some of you still do).

90s kids can rejoice because they've won another battle in the war for turning our adulthood back into our childhood because now you'll be able to enjoy French Toast Crunch for breakfast again.

According to General Mills, the sugar cereal offshoot of Cinnamon Toast Crunch will be making its return to shelves because you (yes, you) “demanded” it.

So, there you go. Here's to waking up to another morning of unemployment because you're too afraid to head out into the real world and start that post-col-

lege life and wash down all that shame with a big bowl of French Toast Crunch. Man, being a kid was great. What a way to start the day.

I didn't hate the 90s when I was a kid because, of course, I was a kid and being a kid is great, but my own generation is making me very annoyed with the way we seemingly pretend we were the only generation to play outside and scoff at kids younger than us who are always on their cellphones, even though we are too.

I can't wait, though, when 10 or 20 years from now when people will be begging Taco Bell to bring back the waffle taco breakfast or whatever whenever that gets phased out.

You'll be happy and Taco Bell will be happy because they'll get to sell you a product again for the sake of nostalgia. It's worked for the McRib.

Dominic Renzetti can be reached at 581-2812 or denopinions@gmail.com

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A smile a day...



MACKENZIE FREUND | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Blake Rowe, a freshman biology major, gives his speech about why smiling is the best medicine at the Speaking Contest Tuesday in the auditorium of Buzzard Hall.

Graduate School accepting applications for scholarship

By **Debby Hernandez**
Administration Editor | @DEN_News

The Graduate School is accepting applications and nominations for the University Professionals of Illinois Graduate Annual Scholarship for all graduate students in a degree program.

Applicants and nominees will be required to write a 2,000-word essay about the significance of organized labor.

The winner of the essay contest will receive \$200 in a scholarship, and will be recognized and awarded for their work during the Distinguished Graduate Students Awards Ceremonies.

The application or nomination package must consist of a letter from the applicant verifying their enrollment into a graduate program, a letter of recommendation from a faculty member who is part of the UPI, and a 2,000-word essay.

All graduate students applying

or nominated for the award must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

John Allison, the former president of EIU University Professionals of Illinois, established the scholarship in 2012 to provide financial support to graduate students.

Ann Fritz, the president of UPI, said no one applied for the award last year, but she hopes to see a better turnout this academic year.

"Sometimes students as a graduate or undergraduate just don't know about this award," she said. "Here is a possibility to apply for an award based on your work."

Fritz said graduates from all majors are welcome to apply.

"One of the things we take for granted in our workday (such as) an eight hour workday, safe working conditions, and five-day a work week," Fritz said. "There is really a lot of interesting connections that can be made across disciplines that kind of broaden our knowledge about the scope in organized

labor. It's something that could be a very interesting piece of work for a graduate."

She said applying for the essay contest could serve as a good opportunity for graduate students.

"When you go through a competitive process and your essay is being worthy of an award, the money involved is not as important as that recognition," Fritz said. "I think it is something important when graduate students are seeking employment or going on to PHD programs."

All essays will be reviewed by members of the Council on Graduate Studies Scholarships Committee, and will choose a winner based on the highest ranked essay.

Applications or nominations will be due at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 27, 2015, and must be submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School.

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

» PENSION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The motion for accelerating the appeal process also states that the circuit court's ruling creates uncertainty about whether the State must find alternative means to cover the budget shortfall if the contribution reductions provided by the Act are unavailable.

The motion also argues that "prompt resolution of this appeal will therefore facilitate critical budget-related decisions that depend on whether the Act is valid, including whether the State must make corresponding long-term reductions in other spending or increases in taxes."

The motion opposition, however, states the defendants made "no effort to consult with plaintiffs on any agreed briefing schedule prior to filing their motion. The reason is obvious. The defendants seek to impose a manifestly unfair briefing schedule on the plaintiffs."

The widely controversial pension reform law, signed last year, was almost immediately met with a lawsuit, as union coalitions declared the law unconstitutional.

In his ruling in November, Belz applied *Kanerva v. Weems*, a Kansas case that decided whether or not retiree health benefits can be reduced, to the pension reform law.

Belz also struck down the argument that the pension reform law is an exercise of Illinois' reserved sovereign powers and policing powers.

"The Court finds as a matter of law that the defendants no legally valid defense," Belz stated in his ruling. "The Pension Protection Clause contains no exception, restriction or limitation for an exercise of the State's police powers or reserved sovereign powers."

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» PROTESTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In his email, Perry also praised the student body for not reacting as others have on social media sites.

"I know that social media contain inflammatory language. Our students have not responded in kind," he said in the email. "Rather, they have been responsible in their actions, as I am confident they will continue to be."

Perry later said one of the efforts being made involves Making Excellence Inclusive, which is a faculty-lead effort that has been in place for about a year and a half.

He said during the EIUUnity Diversity Conference in February, information about the effort was presented.

The information included the four components of Making Excellence Inclusive, which is focusing on student intellectual and social development.

Cross-campus collaboration in support of enhanced student learning.

Attention to cultural differences learners bring to their educational experiences.

Also, creating a welcoming community that engages diversity in support of student learning.

Perry said he has met with Making Excellence Inclusive group and is "very supportive of their goals and work."

Perry also encouraged open dialogue in his email, which included the administration working with groups.

"Of course other individuals in the administration are working with groups on different aspects of diversity and that work will continue," he said in the email. "I encourage continued dialogue. Together, we will make progress."

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» **RECRUITS** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

McCormick, who was first at the US Naval Academy, will play at Parkland College in 2015.



“Mike is an important part of our recruiting class,” Schmitz said. “We love the young talent-

ed players in this class, but needed a big experience arm to carry the load on the weekends.” McCormick played his high school baseball at Speedway High School in Indiana, where he was 10-1 with a 1.07 ERA and 107 strikeouts as a senior. He was named a first team All-State selection and a member of the Indiana North/South All-Star team.

“He has an outstanding slider and can really dominate a game,” Schmitz said. “He means business when he gets on the mound and we are excited to bring his work ethic to this program.”

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Tyler Tesmond



From Neuqua Valley High School, Tyler Tesmond, stand-

ing at 6 feet, plays in the outfield. As a junior, Tesmond hit .362, driving in 22 runs, while hitting 11 doubles.

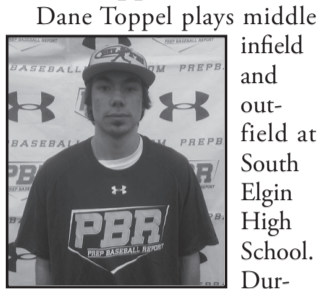
He was a first team All-Upstate Eight selection after leading the team in batting average. Tesmond earned All-Area honorable mention.

“Tyler is one of the most complete outfielders we have signed at EIU,” Schmitz said. “He combines power, speed, arm and great defense. We are losing two outfielders for the

2016 season, so we are expecting Tyler to come in and play.”

As a sophomore he became the team’s designated hitter during the playoffs, as Neuqua Valley finished fourth in the ISHA Class 4A state playoffs.

Dane Toppel



Dane Toppel plays middle infield and outfield at South Elgin High School. Dur-

ing his junior year, he hit .411; helping his team place third in the IHSA Class 4A state playoffs.

Schmitz said Toppel has the chance of competing for several positions because of his versatility. “Dane brings instant speed to our team which is one of our many needs,” he said. “He can play either infield or outfield and we will give him a shot at both positions.”

Toppel was an All-Conference and All-Area selection scoring 36 runs with 38 stolen bases and 19 RBIs.

“Dane’s ability to steal bases and disrupt a game is fun to watch,” Schmitz said.

Austin Warrem



The lone left-handed pitcher Eastern signed was Austin Warrem, who comes from Mattoon High School. The lefty is a two-time All-Apollo Conference selection, posting a 6-1 record with a 1.75 ERA as a junior.

As a sophomore he appeared in ten games finishing with a 5-4 record and 1.68 ERA.

“Austin has a good feel for pitching and is such a competitor on the mound,” Schmitz said. “He pitched in all the big games for Mattoon High and his American Legion team. He really knows how to pitch.”

In two seasons, Warrem has 128 strikeouts in 122 innings of work.

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Eastern prepares for afternoon game

By Bob Reynolds
Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

The Eastern women's basketball team looks to continue its hot streak against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at noon on Wednesday in Milwaukee.

The Panthers have won their last 3-of-4 games, including a 77-66 win at home against Nebraska-Omaha, where they scored their most points of the season. Head coach Debbie

Black said the confidence level of the team is really high at this point in the season because of the hot streak her team has been on.

"I think they are feeling more comfortable in my system," she said. "I have a lot of new players that are starting to feel like I am allowing more things. I think the confidence level is much better now than it was at the beginning of the season."

Milwaukee comes in with a 2-5 record overall and having just lost to Omaha 64-61 on a 3-point buzzer beater shot. Being three games under .500, Black said do not take Milwaukee lightly.

"They are very talented," she said. "They have a lot of weapons. Everyone can shoot the three on their team. They are going to switch everything. They just came off a loss, which they probably are very disappointed in, so they are going to very focused on this one at home. We are really going to have to be ready to play."

One of those weapons Black mentioned was Ashley Green, who is aver-

aging 23.3 points a game this season. She is shooting 13-of-25 from the 3-point line and 50 percent from the floor. She also has a 79.1 free throw percentage.



Nebraska-Omaha guard Brianna Bogard powers to the basket against freshman guard Bh'rea Griffin during the Panthers' 77-66 win on Friday at Lantz Arena.

aging 23.3 points a game this season. She is shooting 13-of-25 from the 3-point line and 50 percent from the floor. She also has a 79.1 free throw percentage.

Milwaukee is averaging 67.3 points per game, while allowing 70.4 a game to opponents. In the last game against Omaha, the Panthers were just shy of having six players in double figures, and had 16 assists.

Black said she was impressed with the way her team shared the ball and was able to put points on the board.

"When we share the ball, when we defend, when everyone gets involved, we are a good basketball team," she said. "I think we are just starting to feel that, so hopefully that continues."

Eastern forward Sabina Oroszova came out of her slump in the game on Friday.

She scored 19 points and corralled 12 rebounds, and moved into the top 20 in two NCAA statistical categories. She ranks 18th in the nation in rebounds per game with 10.9 and also 18th in double-doubles per game with her fourth of the season coming on Friday.

While struggling to start the season and now returning back to her old form, Black said Oroszova just needs

to relax and play the game.

"Now that everyone contributed last game, I think that helps Sabi more," she said. "It helps, because it makes her feel like the weight is not all on her shoulders. Anytime you can extend the defense, you are playing good basketball."

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Panthers stick together after 1-5 start

By Aldo Soto
Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

The Eastern football team finished its first season with coach Kim Dameron with a 5-7 overall record and 5-3 mark in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Although the Panthers were in position to make a third straight postseason appearance before their trip to Jacksonville State, they fell short losing the last two games of the season.

Finishing below .500, Dameron said Eastern did not underachieve or overachieve. Instead, he likened the Panthers' season to the philosophy of former NFL coach Bill Parcells.

"I'm a big believer in what Bill Parcells always has said is that, you are what your record says you are," Dameron said. "So, being a team that won five games we have to find a way to win more games than that especially in the conference. I don't think the team underachieved or overachieved. We were what we were."

The Panthers began the season under an umbrella of question marks. With an entire new coaching staff than the previous regime that won two OVC titles in a row, a new offense and a new defense was implemented. Eastern saw its most successful quarterback go to the New England Patriots in the second round of the NFL Draft in early May and later that month Jalen Whitlow transferred to the Panthers, fueling a quarterback battle.

It wasn't until Eastern hosted Austin

Peay on Sept. 20, that Dameron decided to make Whitlow the full-time starter.

"Once we did say, 'it's your job,' his confidence level rose," Dameron said. "He wasn't worried about looking over his shoulder and all that."

Whitlow led the Panthers to a 5-2 conference record, before getting injured against Jacksonville State that forced him to sit out Eastern's season finale against Tennessee-Martin. In OVC play, Whitlow was the fourth-rated passing quarterback, averaging 205.9 yards per game.

In his first season at Eastern, Whitlow threw 14 touchdown passes. He was also the No. 6 ranked rusher in conference play. Whitlow scored 10 rushing touchdowns, which was the third most by anyone in the OVC and led the Panthers. The Kentucky transfer finished with 534 rushing yards this season in conference and 792 overall.

Whitlow earned All-OVC second team honors at the end of the season.

It was a slow start for Whitlow and the Panthers, though, as they lost three straight games and began the first half of the season 1-5.

Dameron said he was most proud of the players not quitting after tough first half of the year.

"It showed a lot of fight, a lot of character," he said. "It showed to me also that these players responded to us as a staff and never gave up on us and continued to believe and work."

Eastern rattled off four straight con-

ference wins before losing 27-20 to the Gamecocks on Nov. 15.

"The biggest thing was that we stuck together," Dameron said. "We never let go of the rope. These kids continued to believe and work hard and it paid off winning five conference games."

Following a record-setting season in 2013 offensively, Eastern followed it up with another big season under offensive coordinator Greg Stevens. In his pro-style offense, the Panthers' running game flourished, ending the year with the second best ground game in the OVC. Against their conference foes, the Panthers averaged 286 rushing yards, led by red-shirt junior Shepard Little and red-shirt senior Taylor Duncan along with Whitlow.

The Panthers had three offensive linemen earn All-conference honors, as red-shirt senior Collin Seibert was on the first team. Joining him on the second team were Nick Borre and Evan Kanz.

Red-shirt senior Adam Drake ended the season as one of the top receivers in the country, having ended his collegiate career ranked in the top-five in every receiver stat category in the FCS.

Drake was selected to the OVC first team, leading the conference with 93 receptions and 1,321 yards. He also had 12 touchdowns, which were the second most in the conference.

The Panthers will be without Drake next year as well as three other receivers in Joe Powell, Stephen Bravo-Brown and tight end Jeff LePak.



Junior quarterback Jalen Whitlow runs with the ball down field against Austin Peay on Sept. 21 at O'Brien Field. Whitlow set an Eastern record, with 137 rushing yards by a quarterback, as the Panthers won 63-7.

"The guys who catch the ball are going to be our biggest losses going into next season," Dameron said.

But, for Dameron this year's defense, which allowed the second fewest points in OVC play at 19.9, had the third best overall defense giving up 364.2 yards per game and surrendered the second fewest touchdowns at 16 has the potential to become more dominant.

"It was a marked improvement from the defense from the year before statisti-

cally and I think next year even more so we'll continue to get better," Dameron said.

Eastern had two players earn first team All-OVC honors in linebacker Kamu Grugier-Hill and safety Jourdan Wickliffe, while defensive lineman Dino Fantini and linebacker Robert Haynes were named to the All-OVC second team.

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Aggies' shooting stumps Panthers

By Blake Nash
Staff Reporter | @Banash5

California-Davis defeated the Eastern men's basketball team 80-70 Tuesday for the second time this season.

The Aggies' Corey Hawkins, the son of NBA great Percy Hawkins, led UC-Davis, which finished the game shooting nearly 60 percent from the field. Hawkins ended the game with 19 points.

The loss dropped the Panthers to 3-6 on the season and 0-3 on the road. The Aggies, predicted to finish seventh in the Big West conference, moved to 7-1.

Senior shooting guard Reggie Smith did not start, but led the Panthers in scoring with 16 points, including 10 in the first half. Forward Trae Anderson and Chris Olivier finished with 12 points apiece for Eastern. However, Anderson picked up his fourth foul with 18:46 left in the second half.

He fouled out with nearly six minutes remaining. Anderson only played 14 minutes.

Before he fouled out, the Panthers missed on four of five possessions, forcing Eastern coach Jay Spoonhour to call timeout. The timeout resulted in a layup by point guard Cornell Johnston, but Hawkins continued his solid night with a pair of jumpers.

The Aggies, who started the game on a 5-0 run, took advantage of that situation for a 6-0 run to start the second half, giving them a 41-32 lead. Dylan Chatman gave the Panthers their first points in the half on a



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Cornell Johnston, a guard, looks to pass the ball in the game against Ball State University Wednesday in Lantz Arena. Johnston had 7 assists in the win.

three, but UC-Davis responded with a pair of jump shots for a 45-35 lead.

That is when LaTrell "Snoop" Viser hit a 3-pointer after a couple of Panthers' buckets to bring Eastern back within two, but Hawkins responded with a three of his own, giving his team back a five-point lead. Two possession later, he hit another to give the Aggies a 55-48 lead.

The Panthers switched from a 2-3 zone to a man defense to slow down the Aggies' surge. It helped spark the offense to a 4-0 run, making it a 59-55 ballgame, after a pair of free throws by Olivier. Anderson returned into the game and responded with a layup to make it a 61-57 Aggie lead.

The Aggies offense shot nearly 70 percent of their shots in the second half. Spoon-

hour was forced to have the Panthers press them at the end, but the clock became an issue.

Like Anderson, Josh Ritchart was the Aggies' leading scorer when he was hit with four fouls in the second half. His absence in the post enabled Anderson and Olivier to pick up second chance rebounds to trim the deficit.

The Panthers' bench once again had a solid night, outscoring the Aggies by four points, 24-20. The Panthers next game starts at 7 p.m. Saturday at Lantz Arena against Northern Illinois.

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Baseball team adds 9 players to 2016 recruiting class

By Aldo Soto
Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

The Eastern baseball team signed nine players for its 2016 roster, which includes three pitchers and six position players.

The three pitchers who committed to Eastern are Cole Berry, Michael McCormick and Austin Warrem, while the position players who signed on to the Panthers are, Jordan Flint, Zack Forney, Jimmy Govern, Nick Maton, Tyler Tesmond and Dane Toppel.

Eastern's pitching coach and recruiting coordinator Jason Anderson was able to have his first full year of recruiting after being hired prior to the 2013 season.

"The hardest part of the recruiting process is getting out on the road and identifying good players that fit well into our program," Anderson said. "We really did well with this class and we have high expectations for the group."

Anderson said Eastern was able to nab a couple of players who were receiving calls from bigger programs in the area.

"Nick Maton and Cole Berry are guys that received attention from Big Ten schools, but decided that EIU was where they wanted to play," he said.

Despite being able to convince a couple of highly recruited players, Anderson said there are always cases where the team thinks that a cer-

tain recruit will sign, but ultimately decides to go in a different direction.

"You always have some surprises throughout the process, you make offers to players based on an assumption that is a good fit for both sides," Anderson said. "Sometimes players don't always see things the same way and commit to other places."

Eastern coach Jim Schmitz said Anderson did a great job recruiting the state of Illinois.

"This was Jason's first full year recruiting and through his relationship building were able to land some top players from top programs in the state," Schmitz said in a press release. "We are really excited to land such a great class."

Cole Berry

Out of St. Joseph-Ogden High School, Cole Berry is a 6-foot-4, right-handed pitcher. He was a first team All-Sangamon Valley Conference selection last season and special mention All-Area.

"Cole is probably the sleeper in this group," Schmitz said.

The right-hander appeared in 13 games as a junior with an 8-1 record and 1.42 ERA. Berry allowed 11 hits

in 29.2 innings, while striking out 48 batters. He also hit .500 with 20 runs scored, nine doubles, 28 RBIs and 10 stolen bases.

"He is a big kid that has been up to 91 mph," Schmitz said. "He pitched for St. Joseph-Ogden who had a top arm last year and he was overlooked until late in the recruiting process. We project him to be a top arm in the future."

He helped lead his team to the IHSA Class 2A Regional finishing with a 32-3 record.

Jordan Flint

A corner infielder and catcher, Jordan Flint hails from Bartlett High School. He hit .306 with three home runs and 17 RBIs as a junior, helping lead his team to a IHSA Class 4A Regional appearance.

After the 2015 season, the Panthers will lose Brant Valach to graduation. With the loss, Schmitz said he views Flint as the ideal player to fill in the hole at third base after Valach leaves.

"We are counting on Jordan to fill some big shoes," Schmitz said. "He has soft hands and can really run for a big guy. Jordan is a prototype third baseman, as he stands 6-foot-4 and hits with power."

Flint also played football and was the starting quarterback in high school.

Zack Forney

At 5-foot-10, catcher Zack Forney plays for coach Don Sutherland

at Carey-Grove High School. He

played in the summer for the Pro Player Canes and had a breakout performance, hitting .360 with 14 runs scored, four doubles and six stolen bases.

Schmitz said Forney could help stop teams from stealing bases in the Ohio Valley Conference.

"Zach is a great catch and throw guy - in the OVC, many of the teams run a lot so he will be an asset in shutting them down on the base paths," he said. "He is an intelligent, hard nose ballplayer."

Jimmy Govern

From Libertyville High School, Jimmy Govern helped lead his team to the IHSA Class 4A Regional last year hitting .387 with 39 runs scored, eight doubles and 24 RBIs as the team posted a 36-5 record.

He earned first team All-Conference while being named honorable mention All-Area.

"I saw Jimmy play in the Illinois High School State Tournament as a sophomore and knew he was a Division I player," Schmitz said. "He not only plays a great shortstop but is ready offensively to hit at this level."

As a sophomore he helped Liberty High School reach the state finals for the second time in school histo-

ry. Govern hit .377 with 21 RBIs and was an All-Conference honoree.

Nick Maton

A 6-foot-2, shortstop Nick Maton currently plays for coach Pat Moomey at Chatham Glenwood High School. He hit .350 with 34 runs scored and 24 RBIs, earning first team All-Conference honors. Maton added 13 stolen bases and hit six home runs.

Schmitz said some of his current players were vital to recruiting Maton.

"He played summer ball with a few of our players and they helped convince him to come to EIU," he said. "He is a great defensive infielder who can steal bases and hit with pop. He will give us the power we will lose from the left side."

Maton also pitched and posted a 4-0 record with 45.2 innings pitched, compiling a 1.53 ERA. He struck out 46 batters, while allowing 35 hits.

Michael McCormick

Right-handed pitcher Michael McCormick began his collegiate career at the US Naval Academy. The 6-foot-2, pitcher will play for Parkland College in 2015, before joining the Panthers for the 2016 season.