# Eastern Illinois University The Keep

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# Daily Eastern News: Feburary 12, 2014

Eastern Illinois University

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# DAILYEASTERNNEWS

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | NO. 99

# CUPB receives member

By Jack Cruikshank Administration Editor | @JackCruik

The Faculty Senate appointed Jonathan Blitz, a chemistry professor, to the Council on University Planning and Budget Monday.

The opening came after the resignation of Ahmed Abou-Zaid, an economics professor.

Three professors submitted applications for the position: Blitz, Steven Daniels, the chair of the physics department and Andrew McNitt, a political science professor.

In order to vote on the proposal, senators wanted to know if they could close the meeting to the public and the press in order to conduct the ballot in secret.

Steven Sher, a psychology professor, said he did not like the idea of secrecy, and said he wanted the senate to proceed in the open, because he felt the senators should be responsible for their votes.

"I think we should have the courage of representing our constituency," Scher said. "I would like to proceed in the intended way (of voting in the open)."

The final vote ended with Blitz having nine votes, McNitt having three and Daniels having two.

There was one abstention in the vote. As well as appointing a new CUPB member, the senate discussed the weather-closing policy with President Bill Perry, and he said he was happy to talk to the senate, as he feels it is important for everyone to be informed of the processes.

The senators discussed the difference between students having the benefit of the doubt, while faculty does not always have that luxury.

Sher said the policy raises a "philosophical question" in regards to students not required to attend classes because of cold, but faculty still being required to show up or take a personal day due to

Perry said the whole issue of when faculty should and should not report to the university is "complicated" and he said he will "engage the vice presidents and find out more about it."

Scher also said he sees students who are commuting more than in previous

Perry said it would be "reasonable" to review the policy for closing the university, as the current policy was last amended in 2004.

"I'll talk to the President's Council about talking a look at (the cancelation policy)," Perry said.

In the Provost's report, Blair Lord reported a record number of RSVPs for the upcoming open house on Monday.

He said that is the greatest number of RSVPs since the university has held similar open houses.

He said the facilities will be "stretched thin" on Monday.

Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or jdcruikshank@eiu.edu.

# Up in smoke



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Officers with the University Police Department address students outside the Giffin apartment complex in University Court after a smoke alarm sounded around 5:10 p.m. Tuesday. The alarm was caused by someone smoking marijuana in a basement closet. The officers asked the assembled students who did it, but no one came forward.

# Driver crashes into Papa John's storefront

### No one injured in accident outside pizza restaurant

**By Bob Galuski** Managing Editor | @BobGaluski

A woman driving a white 2000 Montero Sport crashed into the front of Charleston's Papa John's Pizza at approximately 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Dorinda Kirkpatrick, 55, from Toledo, Ill., told police she was unsure of what happened, but as she was pulling into the parking space her vehicle jumped the curb and struck the front of the building.

Neither Kirkpatrick nor her passenger or anybody inside Papa John's was injured at the time.

Jacob Campton, the manager on duty at the time, said he was able to witness the last part of the accident.

"I was on the phone, changing an order when I heard her hit the window," Compton said. "I threw the phone and went to see if everyone was OK."

Campton said the woman was not injured at the time.

She backed the car out of Papa John's and into a parking space and



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A white Mitsubishi Montero Sport sits in the parking lot after the driver accidently hit the gas pedal and drove through Papa John's on Tuesday.

requested that Campton call the police.

The car slammed into the front door, crushed the doorframe, fractured the window and sent shards of glass and metal into the restaurant area.

The "Open" sign hangs, bent inward from the collision.

Campton said the front of the

building would be boarded up for a few days until different companies – including a window company – could come out and fix the dam-

Campton added business would not be affected by the damages, and normal hours would still ap-

"It just might be a little cold un-

til the window's boarded," Campton said.

Bob Galuski can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com. THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS | NEWS WEDNESDAY FEB. 12, 2014

**TODAY** 

**THURSDAY** 







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# The Daily "Tell the truth and don't be afraid.

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# Local weather Food insecurity widespread in Coles County

By Michael Spencer

City Editor | @tmskeeper

Editor's Note: This is the second in an on-going series about poverty in Coles County.

In Coles County, two in every five people do not know when or where there next meal will come or if it will be enough to sustain daily activity.

At 40 percent, the number of people who are food insecure in Coles County is more than the state average of 28 percent and the national average of 30 percent.

Those figures include the one in five individuals in Coles County that live in poverty.

Food insecurity in Charleston is rampant, reaching as many as threefourths of people in some sections of the city.

The reason for the above-average rates is a product of two issues: the lack of well-paying employment opportunities and the gap between those eligible for food stamps and those who do not know where they will get their next meal.

'There's this phenomenon that happens in the social safety net where your eligibility to receive federal food assistance as an individual ends at a level of income that is 130 percent of the poverty line," said Michael Gillespie, a sociology professor. "The risk of food insecurity, not knowing where your next meal will come from, is 185 percent."

Gillespie is a statistician who has spent much of the last four years compiling data from the U.S. Census Bureau on poverty in the area.

He said the individuals that fall into the gap between food stamp eligibility and the safe space above 185 percent of the poverty line must rely

With poverty rates and food in-

security rampant in Coles County,

the Hunger Action Team, an Eastern

student led community service orga-

nization, works to combat the issue

by raising funds, awareness and or-

there that Charleston isn't just this

community that just holds East-

ern; it's deeper than that," said De-

siree Dussard, a senior political sci-

ence major who has been with the

program since its conception in the

the "Hunger Challenge," an annual

program that takes place every No-

vember to combat the issue of hun-

The program began by organizing

"It is about getting the word out

ganizing volunteer work.

fall of 2012.

**By Michael Spencer** 

City Editor | @tmskeeper

Food Insecure Individuals in Charleston, Illinois

Individuals Living Below 185% of Poverty as a Percent of All Individuals

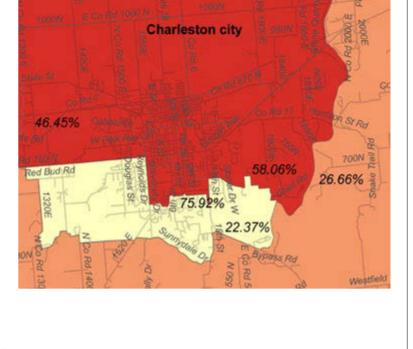
Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

Life Sciences Research Office, The Journal of Nutrition, Vol. 120 (1990)

#### Legend



Michael D. Gillespie, Ph.D. Eastern Illinois University Department of Sociology/Anthropology Coles County Poverty Data Project



Charleston, Coles County, Illinois by Census Tract

2008-2012 Average

Data: U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder 2008-2012 5-Year Estimates Table C17022

on community resources just to obtain the food they need to survive.

Poverty rates and food insecurity manifests itself in local school districts as well, where area schools provide free and reduced lunch to a large percentage of students.

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, the highest rate for Coles County is at the Arland Williams Jr. Elementary School where 489 of the 740 students enrolled qualify for free meals. Another 29 students are eligible for reduced price meals.

In all, 70 percent of students at Arland Williams qualify for the freeand-reduced lunch program.

Those that are not in the school district must rely on area food banks and other free services that Gillespie said have been depleted by an uptick in requests.

"The only thing that really exists, universally, are food pantries," Gil-

But an aspect of charity that Gillespie said is intrinsic in human nature hinders support for food bankspeople are more willing to give time

Hunger Action Team works to make impact

and items than they are to open their checkbooks.

Giving money to food banks is more effective because food banks can obtain food from the area food bank at cheaper prices than individuals can in a grocery store.

"The best thing we can do for food insecurity is give money to a food pantry or give money to an organization that buys food from a regional food bank," Gillespie said.

Michael Spencer can be reached at 581-2812 or at tmspencer2@eiu.edu.

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"(The Hunger Action Team) put on the 'Hunger Challenge' and through some discussion now it does other things throughout the rest of the school year."

Among those duties is visiting food banks, fundraising for charities and even serving hot dogs on the corner of Fourth Street and Lincoln Avenue.

The program was spear headed by Rachel Fisher, the director of the student community service department, and Michael Gillespie, a sociology professor.

Fisher and Gillespie decided that a partnership between students and the community service department would be a proactive way to raise awareness and help combat the issue of food insecurity in Coles County.

Dussard said Fisher worked with the Panther Bus company to organize a weekly food pantry route that carries students and community members to the area pantry where they can obtain the goods they need after the work day is done.

"There is a shuttle that goes to the food pantry on Thursdays between 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.," Dussard said. "You just have to call in and let them know that you want to go to the food pantry. It not only helps Eastern students but it also helps those community members who work."

Two in every five people in Coles County are food insecure, meaning they do not know where their next meal will come from.

Additionally, there are some individuals who qualify as food insecure but are ineligible for food stamps meaning that programs such as local food pantries are crucial supplement their income.

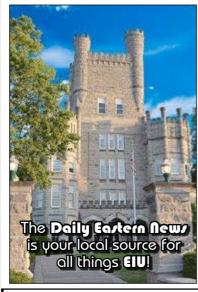
"The only thing that really exists universally, are food pantries," Gillespie said, adding that the ones in Coles County have been tasked with providing resources for even more people as more community members need their services.

Dussard will graduate at the end of this semester but she said she would like to see the organization do more to combat hunger on campus by raising awareness.

It is a problem Gillespie said is often overlook by members of the community.

"I think the community would be really surprised at the types of struggles and lives that our students actually do live," he said.

> Michael Spencer can be reached at 581-2812 or at tmspencer2@eiu.edu.



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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12, 2014 THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

# They've got the golden ticket!



**DION MCNEAL | DAILY EASTERN NEWS** 

Chocolates from around the wold were presented in the "Cultural Chocolate Factory," in the Grand Ballroom Tuesday. The event featured chocolates from 11 countries, a photo booth, Valentine's Day cards, decorations and Troy Ganser of T.A.G. Art Company as "Willie Wonka."

# Student government plans to announce budget plan

By Jarad Jarmon

Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

The student body president will be presenting her student government budget recommendations at the Student Senate meeting.

The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Arcola-Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Kaylia Eskew said she planned on presenting her plans to the senate earlier but Wednesday's meeting was canceled because the university

She said she did not cut anything in the student government budget, but did reorganize to the budget to be more easily understood for the senate and to increase the committee accountability.

Currently, the committee chairs take funds from a portion of the budget called "Other Contraction-

In her revised budget plans, Eskew would give a set amount of money to each committee. She said she hopes this would not only encourage committees who have not done as much to use their money for events. It would also entice them to co-sponsor with other committees and committees outside of the

In the recommended budget, Eskew combined the webmaster position and the public relations and marketing position into the social media marketer. Eskew said would cut a paid staff position.

Eskew said she hasn't cut any money from the budget and hopes to keep it that way. She will be presenting her budget proposal to the apportionment board Thursday who will then review it and send it

back to her to cut anymore if need be. They do not say what to specifically to cut, but that a certain amount needs to be cut. Eskew will again present her revised budget with the boards demands in mind Feb. 27.

If the board approves it, the senate must then approve the budget.

Eskew said she will just keep having to revise it if the senate or the board does not approve it.

Darnell Tyms, the student vice president for Academic Affair, will also announce changes to made involving registered student organizations including replacing the Student Organization Council with the RSO visitation initiative. Student Senate Speaker Brandon Goodman said this new initiative will require senators to keep in close contact with the four RSO's they are assigned to. Goodman added it is just

a revised version of SOC. "He is modifying the structure," Goodman said. "He is going to make four organization required; that (senators) visit them twice."

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



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# STAFF EDITORIAL The News isn't going anywhere

While The Daily Eastern News is a student publication run by students who are still learning, there is still a matter of professionalism, which we try to instill into every new reporter eager for a story.

While we are not big, The News should be respected as press, something that is lacking from the Council on University Planning and Budget members.

Last week, the council members brought up shutting out reporters from the council meetings and subcommittee meetings.

Even at Faculty Senate on Tuesday, senate members tried to close their meeting for to vote on a council appointment.

Public meetings, despite the argument to the contrary, are open public forums. The only meetings closed to the public are executive meetings. Even then though, executives are required to explain what they reviewed or talked about and are not allowed to make any motions or actions.

Even when reporters went to the meeting, some council members tried to convince them not to record the subcommittee meetings on Friday.

Members in the council severely overreacted to the whole situation.

This was unacceptable behavior on behalf of those wishing to close out the meetings to the public. Not only was it against state law, it was blatant bullying.

Council members were trying to take advantage

The News even had James Tidwell, the director of the journalism department, corroborate the fact that it is against the law to close those meetings. It is ridiculous to think we even had to receive help from

During the council meeting, the chairman consulted Rob Miller, the general counsel, on whether The News could record the meetings. He quickly sent a correspondence back saying the reporters could, in fact, record the meetings.

There shouldn't have been a need to bring in other parties for consultation on the matter.

The law does not state meetings involving public bodies are open unless it is touchy for the members in the meetings. Despite the reasoning, students and faculty should know where these cuts are going and the process it took them to get to that point.

The council's reasoning was because they would be in charge of cutting \$7 million plus an additional \$1 million, which will be re-appropriated back into Eastern's budget. The council said the cuts are sensitive material. Ultimately, the members did not want their names to be a part of it.

Even though it is an understandable concern for those involved with cutting, it is still public, as well it should be. The cuts affect everyone on campus and it is *The News*' job to report on the actions being taken during these meetings.

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of The Daily Eastern

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Editor in Chief **Dominic Renzetti** 

### Sometimes it's even colder in the car



SABRINA ANN DUNCAN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

# Putin is unfair to gays in Olympics

The late gay rights activist Harvey Milk once said, "It takes no compromise to give people their rights..."

Never have I heard a quote that more perfectly sums up the atrocity that is taking place in Russia currently.

Russian President, Vladimir Putin, has stated that gay athletes are welcome and safe at the Winter Olympics in Sochi.

"Just leave the kids alone, please," Putin

According to ESPN.com, if you are caught wearing a pro-gay rights pin in Russia you can serve up to 14 days in jail and pay a \$3,100 fine.

In an interview with the BBC, Putin said that gay people are more likely to abuse children thus the reasoning behind the laws to ban propaganda.

Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), claims that while he does not believe these laws will be enforced at the Olympics he would not tell his gay and lesbian friends to go to the games.

"Putin is being totally and completely irresponsible when he connects homosexuality and pedophilia. He shows this when he tells gay people to stay away from children," Murphy said in an interview with ESPN.

When I think about the Olympics I think about the opening ceremonies.

All of these athletes coming together to



#### **Mike Wolbers**

show off how proud they are to be representing their respective country, their families and themselves.

In 1936, at the Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany, African-American athletes were depicted as being inferior to the white athletes.

Jesse Owens quickly proved that to be

Owens would win four gold medals in Berlin and was the most successful athlete of the 1936 games.

The same goes for the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City when Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists during the national anthem.

Many believed that Smith's and Carlos' was just an example of a "Black rights protest," but the two athletes called it a "human rights protest."

The 2014 Olympics and the games after them are similar because they mark a turning point for LBGT rights.

The international stage that the Olympic Games present is an opportunity for the LBGT community and its supporters to have

This too is not about gay rights per se. This is about human rights.

This is about not being discriminated against for simply being who you are and further more being proud of whom you are.

Why should a member of the LBGT community be afraid to be who they are?

The thing that has always been great about the Olympics is that we get to see how far the world has come.

So far, this Olympics has done nothing, but shown how narrow minded much of the Russian political cabinet is.

Martin Luther King Jr. said in his "I Have a Dream" speech, ""We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.'

The LBGT community must continue to march forward and not allow Russia's anti-gay laws and other discriminations they may face to turn them back.

> Mike Wolbers is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or denopinions@gmail.com.

# witter opens new age of romance

Nowadays with technology so advanced, simple romantic gestures have been ignored. Writing poems, songs, and love letters have become lost arts. Some people criticize this, but maybe it's not such a bad thing. Take it from me, a total hopeless romantic, that classic expressions of love are still very much worth trying, but so are more modern ones.

Just because people engage in more modern forms of communication like text messaging and Twitter does not mean they have lost their ability to be romantic.

Modern day romantics embellish in loving acts like sending "Good Morning" and "Goodnight" texts, dedicating their #MCM or #WCW to their significant others, and using Flipagram to capture themselves and their significant other's sweetest moments.

We use what we have. Our generation is surrounded by technology and it is incredibly accessible to us so it makes sense that it is what



### Jessica Kozik

we turn to when wanting to express our emo-

Some may think it is easier to use technology than traditional methods but both require a great deal of thought and emotion. The idea that you want to express how you feel about someone is the same, the method is all that has changed.

Recently, Penguin Teen asked their followers to create a #TwitterLoveStory to win a set of young adult novels and the results were rather sweet. My personal favorites were: "'I don't mind being alone," she says, glancing up at him. "Then I'll be alone with you." He touches her hand.

#TwitterLoveStory" from @bookrevels: "Do you love me," he asked. "Yeah, look, I saved you half of my Twix," she said. He laughed and kissed her. #TwitterLoveStory" from @tessaando, and "she looked away from the crowd, and caught his eyes searching for her from afar. He smiled. She felt like coming home. #TwitterLoveStory" from @susansuhargo.

These simple, but sweet love stories had to be conveyed in 140 characters or less. To be able to express love and romance in that tight of a frame proves that our technology driven generation are still very much romantics.

Jessica Kozik is a freshman journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or denopinions@gmail.com.

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12, 2014 THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS | CAMPUS

# Suspects arrested on invasion, burglary

#### **Staff Report**

The Eastern Police Department arrested an Arcola man after responding to a report of home invasion Saturday.

Police arrested Caleb S. Hackler, 27, for alleged home invasion at approximately 1:14 a.m. Saturday at the home in the 200 block of Polk Avenue. Charleston police also responded to the report.

Hackler was placed under arrest and transported to the Coles County Safety and Detention Center pending posting of bond.

Charleston Police Department apprehended and arrested a man after a report of residential bur-

Police responded to a report of residential burglary in progress at approximately 2:58 p.m. in the 300 block of "B" St.

Dustin S. Brady, 23, was apprehended in the immediate area and placed under arrest. Brady was incarcerated at the Coles County Safety and Detention Center pending the posting of bond.

# Students address intolerance issues



DION MCNEAL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jeniece Mitchell, a first-year graduate student, and technology training and development, gave her opinion on the use of the n-word at the "Are You My N!gg@," event hosted by Megiste Arete Christian Fraternity, Inc. After being called the n-word by an Eastern staff member at her job, she stated that the word is not acceptable among any race.

# Presidential scholar interviews offered to students

**By Brian Weaver** 

Staff Reporter | @DEN\_News

The Honors College is preparing to host interviews leading to the selection of the first-ever recipients of the Pemberton Presidential Scholarship.

This addition to the current Presidential Scholarship will have five of the incoming Presidential Scholars chosen to receive the benefits of a Presidential Scholarship to Eastern with the added bonus of free room and board.

With the added benefits of the Pemberton Scholarship come even

The Presidential Scholarship has a minimum criteria of a 30 ACT score, a 3.5-4.0 GPA (or top 10 percent of class) or a 28 ACT, 3.75-4.0 GPA (or top 5 percent of class).

For the Pemberton Presidential Scholarship, recipients will be required to have at least a 31 ACT and a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher.

Each applicant is also judged on his or her transcript, extracurricular activities, volunteer activities, an essay and a recommendation from a high school teacher.

Thomas Spencer, the director of

Honor Student Affairs said the interviews serve an important part of the selection process.

He said the Honors College uses the interview process as a chance to look for leaders among the potential

To help the Honors Council get a sense of applicant's leadership skills, each candidate will take part in both individual and group interviews over the two-day process.

The Pemberton Presidential Scholarship was added after a review of oncampus scholarships revealed a disparity between what other area universities provided and what Eastern offered. The new Pemberton scholarship is intended to attract an even higher level of applicant to Eastern.

"This allows us to be more competitive," Spencer said.

Other activities open to the Pemberton scholars are a first-year seminar (equivalent to EIU 1111, University Foundations), a faculty mentor and priority for space in the new honors housing starting this fall in Thom-

Changes to the interview process include location, as well as the establishment of a new dean of the Honors College, Richard England, who started as the dean in Summer 2013.

In previous years, the interviews were conducted in Booth Library, but because of the Honors College's new location in Pemberton Hall, the interviews will be orchestrated at the Honors College.

The interviews, to be conducted by the Honors Council, will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday during the university-wide open house.

> Brian Weaver can be reached at 581-2812 or btweaver@eiu.edu.



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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12, 2014

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS | SPORTS

# Panthers take on Racers in Ohio Valley matchup

# Eastern vs. Murray State



Saturday | 5:15 P.M.

CFSB Center | Murray, Ky.

WATCH ONLINE
OVC DIGITAL NETWORK



By Bob Reynolds
Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

The Eastern women's basketball team will be heading on the road for its next three games, with the first coming against Murray State at 5:15 p.m. Saturday.

Eastern has struggled on the road in the Ohio Valley Conference season, as the Panthers have not recorded a win through four games away from Lantz Arena.

Eastern coach Debbie Black said changes are going to be made heading into this road trip.

Black said she will have her team practice before heading to Murray State and then shooting around once the team gets there.

"We kind of have to change the landscape a little bit as far as not being in the rooms too long and spending a little more time with the players, making sure they are focused," Black said. "I think it's a little bit mental, but you also can help prepare them that we need to win on the road."

On Saturday, the Panthers will face the Racers, who they defeated on Jan. 20, 80-74.

Eastern had five players who scored in double figures, including freshman Erica Brown, who posted her best game of the season scoring 13 points on 5-of-8 shooting and collecting six rebounds.

Brown said the main thing the Panthers need to focus on for Saturday's game is to play their "In a few of our past games, we were not playing the way we could have or should have," she said. "On Saturday, we have to be able to repeat our last performance against them, especially since we are playing on their court."

Murray State has been struggling as of late, as they are 1-9 in the OVC and have lost seven straight games.

According to the *Murray State Ledger*, Racer's coach Rob Cross confirmed on Feb. 4, that they had lost freshman Julia Fox to a season-ending injury with a torn meniscus.

Fox averaged 10.4 points this season in OVC play and started six of the 10 conference games for the Racers, while playing 23.6 minutes per game.

That was the fourth player the Racers lost for the season. Keiona Kirby, Toni Neibler and Andrea Dickerson are also all out for the season for the Racers.

Kirby, who only played the first 16 games of the season, was the Racer's leading scorer averaging 18.3 points per game.

Eastern guard Katlyn Payne said the Panthers would not worry about the Racers' shortcomings.

"We do not look at teams stats or whom they have beat, because anybody can be anybody on a given day," she said

Black said she has been impressed with Payne's and Jordyne Crunk's play during Eastern's last three games, as Payne has aver-



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior guard Jordyne Crunk goes up for a shot against Western Illinois' Rebecca Henricson (15) and Sophie Reichelt (44) Nov. 25, 2013 in Lantz Arena. The Panthers won by a score of 68-64, as Crunk finished with 17 points and seven assists.

aged 22 points per game, while Crunk has an assist-to-turnover ratio of 3-to-1.

"Jordyne's assist-to-turnover ratio has been absolutely fantastic," Black said. "I think that helps a player like Katlyn as well, because Katlyn feeds off a player that can get her the ball. I think Katlyn is starting to develop into not a one-dimensional player."

The Panthers and Racers will

tip-off at 5:15 p.m. Saturday in Murray, Ky.

Bob Reynolds can be reached at 581-2812 or rjreynolds@eiu.edu

# Track teams head to Grand Valley State

## **By Blake Nash**Staff Reporter | @DEN\_Sports

With its season heading toward the biggest meets of the year, the Eastern track team is focused on the next

meet at Grand Valley State.

The Panthers came away with only two wins last week, but showed a strong-willed effort against superior universities coach Tom Akers said.

Despite not having as great of a weekend as they've had this year, Akers said the Panthers have peaked in time for the Ohio Valley Conference championships.

"Our training is all set up for peak performances at the OVC's and the NCAA's where applicable," Akers said. "Hopefully each week we perform better no matter who we compete against."

Eastern's pole vaulters appear to be one of those units who have peaked. The Panthers have won several of those events this year, mostly by Mick Viken.

Viken has taken the gold in four out of the five meets for his team this season. His teammates Eric Gordon and Peter Geraghty have had close competition with him in several of those meets, with Geraghty even taking the first at the University of Illinois meet in January.

"Mick, Jade (Reibold), Geraghty, and Gordon have been terrific this year," Akers said. "A lot of schools do not put much emphasis on that particular event, and some even choose not to have it. We are very stacked, and hope to score a lot of points at Grand Valley State and other meets, as well."

At several meets this year the Panthers have used different combinations of runners for this event.

"Relay teams are a very fluid item," Akers said. "We look at who is ready to go at the end, who's healthy, who we need to see race, and who are competition is."

With the OVC championship's looming, it can be expected that some of the athletes could be looking ahead on their schedule. However, Akers is trying to keep his team's focus on the next few meets.

"Our focus needs to be a 24/7 type of thing," Akers said. "Every little thing you do has an impact on your performance."

The meet begins at 10 a.m. while events begin again at 11 a.m. Saturday in Allendale, Mich.

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

# Tennis team remains unbeaten

#### By Aldo Soto

Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

The Eastern women's tennis team remained undefeated to start its season after defeating Southern Illinois-Carbondale 4-3, Saturday at the Danville Tennis Center, improving to 3-0.

Not only are the women 3-0 for the first time since 2008, but also Eastern defeated Southern for the first time in program history.

The Panthers won two of the three doubles matches, which gave them the important doubles point in the match.

Senior Janelle Prisner and junior Sephora Boulbahaiem paired up in the No. 1 doubles match and beat the duo of junior Natasha Tomishima and senior Korey Love.

The 8-3 win by the Eastern pair was followed by a Southern win at No. 2

doubles by freshman Meagan Monaghen and senior Anita Lee over sophomore Ali Foster and sophomore Hannah Kimbrough, 8-4.

The decisive match in doubles play was won by Eastern freshmen Kelly Iden and Kamile Stadalninkaite 8-4, over junior Ariadna Cairo Baza and freshman Polina Dozortseva.

In the six singles matches, both teams split, as Boulbahaiem, Foster and Kimbrough each recorded wins for the Panthers, giving Eastern a 4-3 match

John Blackburn, Eastern's women's tennis coach, said it was a team effort in Carbondale.

"This was exciting because we had contributions from all over the lineup to help get the job done," Blackburn said in a press release. "Even more importantly we continue to make improvements from match to match."

Prisner said it was an exciting win for Eastern because the Panthers were able to persevere through tough matches.

"The win just shows that we're taking steps in the right direction and that's all we aim for," she said. "We're happy we won, but we're never satisfied."

Despite the three straight wins to start the season, getting better is still a priority for Blackburn.

"As a team we played well in some big spots (Friday), but I see so much room for improvement, which is exciting but also a challenge for us," Blackburn said.

The women's team will play at 7 p.m. Friday on the road against Evansville.

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

# >> PITCHERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"To be a closer you have to have one dominant pitch," he said. "They both have the mentality to be a closer, but Matt has a better blend of pitches. He can go to the change-up, the curve ball, where Joe is pretty much a power pitcher despite working on his change up."

Barring injury, Eastern's starters would pitch in the following order: Borens, Slazinik and Barton.

Although Barton and Slazinik are the top two pitchers for Eastern, as Schmitz said, the Panthers are going back to their plan of working backwards when it comes to their starting pitchers.

Last season, in mid-March against Illinois State, Schmitz switched the order of when his starters would pitch – placing his No. 3 starter in the first game of a series and having the best starter pitch the series finale.

Schmitz said he did this because it puts Eastern's best pitcher against

theoretically the opposing team's third-best pitcher, giving the Panthers an advantage.

"That was the best way that we thought we could come away with winning one or two games in each series," Schmitz said. "It takes ego out of it. Everyone has a way to win and this is how we feel we're going to win"

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

**Sports Editor Anthony Catezone** 217 • 581 • 2812 DENSportsdesk@gmail.com

# Barton, Slazinik back in starting rotation

By Aldo Soto

Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

In 2013, Eastern baseball coach Jim Schmitz thought he would have two top of the line pitchers headlining his pitching rotation.

The Panthers had Troy Barton and Christian Slazinik slated as the team's No. 1 and No. 2 starting pitchers, but the hope Schmitz had of a strong pitching team quickly deteriorated in less than a week.

First, on Feb. 11, Barton was ruled out for the entire season, needing Tommy John surgery to repair the ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow — Schmitz and Barton found out four days before the first game of the

Then, Slazinik started the final game at the Jackson State Tournament on Feb. 17. He threw one pitch in the season's fourth game and was then pulled because of an injury to his right knee.

Slazinik threw only that one pitch

Now, Barton and Slaznik are back, and the excitement Schmitz had last season has returned.

Barton and Slazinik returning is not the lone reason Schmitz said pitching is the strongest part of Eastern's team, it's what their absence meant for young pitchers last season and the experience gained.

"Our pitching staff did well last year and now we have Slaz and Barton back and (Jaden) Widdersheim, (Garrison) Stenger, (Ben) Kennedy and (Jake) Johansmeier, they all pitched through the league a little," he said. "With that experience and being healthy we feel we're 10-deep and that's very rare.'

Widdersheim, Kennedy and Stenger all pitched in community college prior to 2013, but because of the injuries last year they ended up pitching more innings than expected.

Stenger and Kennedy exclusively worked out of the bullpen, appearing in 24 and 23 games, respectively, which was the most and second most appearances from relief pitchers for

Widdersheim spent a brief time as the closer, but was then relegated to relief work, prior to starting four games last season.

As a freshman, Johansmeier started eight games and pitched in 20 total. After the season, he was named to the All-Ohio Valley Conference Newcomer Team, posting a 3.70 ERA, with a 3-4 record, while pitching in 48.2 in-

But with Barton and Slazinik penciled into the rotation, Schmitz had a couple of options for his No. 3 starter.

Joe Greenfield led Eastern in innings pitched (93.1) and had the lowest ERA out of every starting pitcher last year for the Panthers at 3.66 in 14 starts and 18 total appearances.

Now, Greenfield will return to his original position — closer, which he was supposed to be since last year.

Meanwhile, Schmitz decided to have junior Matt Borens as the No. 3

Ultimately, choosing the third starter came down to Greenfield's and Borens' skill set, as Greenfield has a more dominant fastball and Borens can rely more on his secondary pitches, Schmitz said.

PITCHERS, page 7



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore Jake Johansmeier gets his pitch in full swing against Murray State on April 5, 2013 at Coaches Stadium. The Panthers went on to beat Murray State 6-3. Johansmeier was named to the All-OVC Newcomer Team in his freshman season. He will be the only sophomore pitcher in the Panthers' lineup this season.



2013

\* \* \* NO. 31 \* \* \*

## TROY BARTON RED-SHIRT SENIOR PITCHER

HEIGHT: 6'6" | WEIGHT: 225 | THROWS: RIGHT | BATS: RIGHT HOMETOWN: LIBERTYVILLE, ILL.

BARTON WAS SIDELINED LAST YEAR AFTER HAVING TOMMY JOHN SURGERY ON HIS RIGHT ELBOW. IN 2012, BARTON POSTED A 9-5 OVERALL RECORD, WHICH INCLUDED GOING 5-4 IN THE OVC. HE WAS PART OF THE BEST PITCHING STAFF IN THE CONFERENCE THAT SPORTED THE LOWEST ERA AT 4.14, AS HE HAD A 3.20 ERA – SIXTH BEST IN THE OVC BARTON'S LAST PITCH CAME AGAINST AUSTIN PEAY ON MAY 27, 2012

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\* \* \* NO. 29 \* \* \* CHRISTIAN SLAZINIK

**RED-SHIRT JUNIOR PITCHER** 

HEIGHT: 6'0" | WEIGHT: 190 | THROWS: LEFT | BATS: LEFT HOMETOWN: ST. LOUIS, MO.

THE LEFT-HANDER THREW ALL OF ONE PITCH LAST SEASON THAT RESULTED IN A RIGHT KNEE INJURY IN EASTERN'S FOURTH GAME OF THE SEASON AGAINST JACKSON STATE. HE WAS GRANTED A MEDICAL RED-SHIRT AFTER NOT BEING ABLE TO RETURN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON. THE LAST TIME HE PITCHED FOR A FULL SEASON, HE FINISHED SECOND ON THE PITCHING STAFF IN STRIKEOUTS WITH 68

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	GAMES											
2013	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CAREER	30	122	8	11	26	127	88	66	97	62	4.87	



NO. 28 \* \* \*

# MATT BORENS

**JUNIOR PITCHER** 

HEIGHT: 6'7" | WEIGHT: 185 | THROWS: RIGHT | BATS: RIGHT HOMETOWN: MONEE, ILL. |

BORENS HAD 65 STRIKEOUTS IN 2013, THE MOST OUT OF ANY EASTERN PITCHER. FOLLOWING A 4-4 SEASON, BORENS WAS NAMED TO THE PRESEASON ALL-OVC SECOND TEAM. LAST SEASON BORENS WON OVC PITCHER OF THE WEEK TWICE - FIRST ON APRIL 22, THEN ON MAY 20. BORENS PITCHED TWO COMPLETE GAMES, WHILE ALSO RECORDING HIS FIRST SHUTOUT ON MAY 17, AGAINST TENNESSEE-

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2013											
CAREER	31	111.2	5	4	16	128	76	57	77	45	4.59

#### THE BULLPEN

LEFT HANDERS | BEN KENNEDY (SR), GARRISON STENGER (JR), NA-THAN UPCHURCH (FR)

RIGHT HANDERS | LUKE BUSHUR (SR), JAKE JOHANSMEIER (SO), JADEN WIDDERSHEIM (SR), ANDREW GRAHN (JR), JOE GREENFIELD (SR), CHASE THURSTON (FR), JAKE HABERER (FR), ALEX CAIN (FR)

#### **UPCOMING ROAD GAMES** NO. 14 LOUISIANA-NO. 25 ARKANSAS

**LAFAYETTE** 

FEB. 14-16

FEB. 21-22

NO. 20 LOUISVILLE







**GRAPHICS BY DOMINIC RENZETTI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS**