Eastern Illinois University The Keep

January 2014

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Eastern Illinois University

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TOP CAT

Calvin Edwards, a sophomore sprinter, recorded three first-place finishes in Eastern's last track

www.

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DAILYEASTERNNEWS

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2013

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | NO. 90

Census reports 942-student decrease since fall

Staff Report

Eastern's enrollment has decreased by 942 students, from 9,775 last fall to 8,833 this spring.

Overall, the 942-student decrease is contributed in part to the 660 students who graduated in December, according to a press release sent out by Vicki

Woodard, the coordinator of public information.

Although the overall enrollment decreased, the number of international students is 223, an increase from 137 who enrolled last spring.

Kevin Vicker, the director of International Students and Scholars, said Eastern's computer technology graduate degree "continues to attract students," according to the release.

"Our reputation in India, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Nepal has grown quickly as many more students from these countries and others are choosing EIU due to our personal approach, scholarship options or attractive programs," Vicker said.

He said they regularly receive students from universities in South Korea after establishing partnerships with them within the past few years.

The census also showed minorities, which include American Indian-Alaskan Native, Asian, Black, Hispanic and Native Hawaiian-Pacific Islander represent nearly 24 percent of the total enrollment.

There are currently 1,308 freshmen, 1,351 sophomores, 1,949 juniors, 2,858 seniors and 1,318 graduate students.

Added up, those equal 8,784, while the total enrollment was announced as

Blair Lord, the provost and vice president for academic affairs, was not avail-







KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

LEFT: A sprinkler pipe bursts around 12:40 p.m. Wednesday in the lobby of Taylor Hall. All occupants were required to evacuate the building, and the entrances for both the residence hall and dining hall were prohibited until the Charleston Fire Department could remedy the situation. TOP RIGHT: Firefighters of the Charleston Fire Department respond to the pipe burst. The water leaked into a nearby elevator, causing a potential need for repairs. BOTTOM RIGHT: A puddle of water leaks on the ground. Cold air from outside caused the pipe to burst, which is something the residence hall had to deal with previously.

Pipe bursts in Taylor Hall; students evacuated

By Michael Spencer City Editor | @tmskeeper

 $m{\Lambda}$ water pipe connected to the emergency sprinkler system on the ground floor in the north tower of Taylor Hall burst at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday as students were forced to evacuate the building.

Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining Services, said the pipe had been exposed to cold air from the outside of the building and when it ruptured the sprinkler system was activated, which tripped the fire alarms.

The Building Service Workers did an awesome job," Hudson said, adding workers responded quickly and worked with the

Charleston Fire Department, who was also dispatched by the alarm, to contain the leak and shut off the water to the sprinkler system.

Students were allowed to return to the residence hall less than two hours after the incident.

BURST, page 5



ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

For coverage of Gov. Pat Quinn's 'State of the State' address,

dailyeasternnews.com

Concerns raised after 4th lawsuit for pensions

By Jack Cruikshank

Administration Editor | @DEN_News

With the filing of the fourth lawsuit questioning the constitutionality of pension changes, President Perry said the outcome of the lawsuits collectively could affect Eastern

Perry said while Eastern recruits faculty from around the nation, the ongoing pension turmoil could cause a potential faculty member to choose another state.

"In the long run, (the pension reform) could hurt us," Perry said. "Whether they (faculty) are in the early part, middle or late part of their career, one of the considerations is what the retirement plan is. Changes might put us at a disadvantage and we might miss out on faculty.'

Perry added that the fact there are multiple lawsuits concurrently could prove difficult for the courts.

He said one option for the courts is to combine the lawsuits and make them into

"In general, the fact that multiple groups are filing suits indicates the seriousness of state employees and retirees (about the current pension changes)," Perry said.

PENSIONS, page 5

New sexual assault policies to affect college

By Katie Smith Photo Editor | @DEN_News

President Barack Obama tackled the issue of sexual assault awareness and prevention for the safety of women and girls by working to establish a task force to protect students from sexual assault.

The memorandum from the White House Office of the Press Secretary was sent to the heads of executive departments and agencies on Jan. 22.

Obama stated in his address that the "prevalence of sexual assault at our Nation's institutions of higher education is both deeply troubling and a call to action . . . There are a number of federal laws aimed at making our campuses safer and the Departments of Education and Justice have been working to enforce them."

By law, Eastern is required to have initiatives in place regarding the prevention and reporting of sex crimes, which are discussed and expanded upon monthly by the university's sexual assault task force.

Section three of the memorandum, however, stated that the White House task force will develop and submit proposals and recommendations to Obama within 90 days of Jan. 22, which will later be forwarded to universities in an attempt to aide them in the creating of safer campuses.

This process put forth by Obama's administration is similar to the smaller scale efforts put forth at Eastern.

On a list of sexual assault and violence prevention and intervention recommendations released on April 26, 2013, Eastern students, staff and faculty listed in bullet points the programs and improvements they felt necessary to create a safe working, learning and living environment.

The list included a request for the hiring of a sexual assault and violence prevention and intervention officer as well as a request for the development of a social norm and bystander intervention program.

President Bill Perry said since then, many of those requests have been fulfilled or are in the process of being ful-

Most prominent of these achievements are the hiring of Jaquelyn Hines, the associate director of sexual assault prevention, and the hosting of regular

bystander intervention programs.

In March of 2011 The Council on Women and Girls, a White House task force dedicated to the prevention of violence against women, released a comprehensive compilation of data regarding the United State's female population. Stated in this informational booklet, "Women in America: Indicators of Social and Economic Well-Being," was the fact that in 2008, state or local law enforcement agencies made an estimated 22,300 arrests in which rape of a female by a male was the most serious

POLICIES, page 5

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS | **NEWS** THURSDAY, JAN. 30 2014

Local weather

FRIDAY



Sunny High: 36

Possible Snow High: 35° Low: 25° Low: 28°

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

The Daily

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



News Staff **Editor in Chief** DENeic@gmail.com **Managing Editor** Bob Galuski DENmanaging@gmail

Associate News Editor Jarad Jarmon

DENnewsdesk@gmail. com **Opinions Editor**

Kyle Daubs DENopinions@gmail. **Online Editor**

Assistant Online Editor

Seth Schroeder **Photo Editor** DENphotodesk@gmail

com **Assistant Photo Editor** Dion McNea

City Editor Michael Spencer **Administration Editor** Jack Cruikshank **Sports Editor Assistant Sports** Edito

Aldo Soto

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FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Participants in the 2013 Relay for Life hold a banner before the race on April 7, 2013. The Coles County division of Relay for Life received an award from the American Cancer Society for earning \$20,000 more than last year for a total of \$120,000.

Relay For Life accepts award; raised \$120,000 in 2013

By Michael Spencer City Editor | @tmskeeper

The Coles County Relay For Life organization received a special honor from the American Cancer Society for raising \$120,000 last year.

The award was issued to programs, which entered the top 10 percent nationally among communities of similar size.

Relay organizers said the success is a product of an up-tick in participation, publicity and better fundraising across the board.

Ultimately, the success is directly related to members of the community who have been affected by cancer.

"In Coles County, there are a lot of

passionate people, specifically the people who are on the (Relay For Life) committee and the team captains, they all have a passion for finding a cure for cancer," said Alicia Pettyjohn, the American Cancer Society representative for Coles County.

Jason Wyatt, the sponsorship and publicity chairman for Relay For Life, said the success was a product of advertising and participation among all members.

'We got a little more publicity, we got a few more teams involved and we got a lot teams that were actually fundraising, not just showing up to be there," Wyatt said.

There were 54 teams who attended in 2013 and Wyatt said he hopes to see the figure grow again.

Relay For Life is an international fundraiser organized by the American Cancer Society, which facilitates fundraising through grassroots organizations. Since it began in 1985, it has spread to more than 5,000 communities and 25 countries.

Committees rally community members to form teams and raise money. The process culminates with an all-night "relay" in which team members trade off walking around a track encircling the site while selling goods, which raise money and awareness for the program.

This year, the Coles County organization hopes to raise the bar, setting its goal at \$128,000 for 2014.

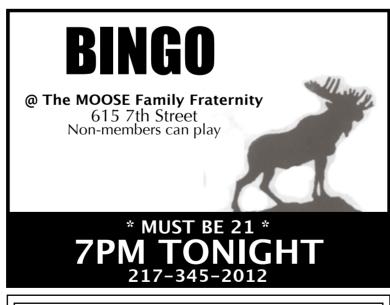
Additionally, the current venue, Peterson Park in Mattoon, might have to be changed if it continues to grow, something organizers say would be a welcomed reality.

This is because the ultimate goal is to defeat cancer.

"Everyday somebody is diagnosed and it touches somebody," said Kathy Beals, the Coles County Relay For Life co-chairwoman. "It may not be a friend that lives in Coles County but you know a friend or a neighbor is diagnosed with it. We all want to put a stop to it."

The organization is planning a kickoff event on Mar. 17 for the 2014 relay on Aug. 23.

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





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Dance production to traverse time periods

By Bob Galuski

Managing Editor | @BobGaluski

Set against the backdrop of the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, the Thodos Dance Chicago company will bring an era gone by to life as they arrive at Eastern.

But that is only for the first act.

The entire production of "The White City" is what Melissa Thodos, the choreographer and artistic director, calls a "dance through the eras," going from the Victorian era into the 1960s and then contemporary times.

Thodos Dance Chicago will perform "The White City" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Theatre of the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Tickets are \$7 for students, \$12 for seniors and Eastern employees and \$15 for general admission.

The book by Erik Larsson, "The Devil in the White City," which recounts the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, inspires the first act of "The White City."

Dressed in period attire, the dancers will explore the World's Fair and its history against classical music with a string quartet.

Thodos said while the first act is inspired by Larsson's book, it is all of Chicago that helped transform the piece.

"I'm a native Chicagoan," she said.
"But apparently there are folks not aware of the history of (the World's Fair), like students in school."

What she calls "the best of the best and the worst of the worst," is a story not told to many – and one Thodos felt needed to be told.

"It's an unsung story," she said. "It's not at the forefront of history."

She said while other Chicago events such as the Great Chicago Fire were well-known, it was not until she began exploring different research mediums that she found the history of the World's Fair.

Moving the audience into the 1960s from the Victorian era, Thodos said there would be an act based on the early works of Bob Fosse, a cinematographer for films such as "Damn Yankees" and "Cabaret."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thodus Dance Chicago will be performing "The White City," inspired by Erik Larsson's book "The Devil in the White City." The production will feature different eras, from the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago to contemporary times. "The White City" will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Ending the time traversing production will be a contemporary piece to finish in modern times.

Thodos said mixing the time periods and bringing to life the World's

Fair was accomplished through a blend of different ideas.

"We took our own styles and adapted contemporary dance to the social status," she said.

Thodos added that the World's Fair in Chicago helped change the face of Chicago, an irreversible mark of its history. By the sheer size of the event, it would be history making.

"It was the party of the world," she

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

IBHE spokesman explores issues affecting education

By Jarad Jarmon

Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

An IBHE spokesman visited Eastern for the second time, bringing up issues the Illinois Board of Higher Education has been dealing with and will deal with in the coming months.

Jonathan Lackland, the deputy director for advancement, external and governmental relations, said the primary issue for IBHE, as well as the many institutions in the state, is retaining funding and keeping the budget stagnate or even have increases.

Last year, IBHE received flat funding in fiscal year 2012 and Lackland said he hopes to see it again.

"Over the past decade, state appropriations for higher education, so op-

erations and grants, has decreased from the all-time high of \$2.4 billion in (fiscal year) 2002 to less than \$2 billion in (fiscal year) 2014," Lackland said.

This excludes the retirement and pension plans.

Situating the budget for this year, Lackland said, would take a four-step process ending with an expected 6.3 percent increase in the overall budget. This increase would make up for decrease in federal dollars lost previous years.

"We are hoping for no more cuts because we just can't sustain them," Lackland said.

He said it is important they justify what makes higher education so important. Lack of funding might cause a decrease in students in the state. Students might seek education in other states and maybe even work in those states, Lackland said.

The Board will vote on the budget this coming Tuesday to send to Gov. Pat Quinn. The final approval of the budget is expected to be finished in May.

Aside from stressing the need for limited to no budget cuts for IBHE's budget, Jonathan Lackland, the deputy director for advancement, external and governmental relations also talked about a bill, the state authorization reciprocity agreement, IBHE is still finalizing.

This bill would provide a more simple standardized way to provide online courses in other states. Currently, if these institutions wish to provide education to other states, they must pay a fee in each state as well as follow the separate laws, which dictate each state.

With this agreement, they would be

able to provide these online courses for one flat rate to students in states who already have an agreement with the bill and would not have to deal with the laws of each state. Lackland said there would be a uniform policy regarding these courses and programs and it will help tremendously in cutting state authorization costs.

The 'idea behind the bill has become a movement throughout the states wit many working on changing policies regarding institutional authorization in the state, Lackland said.

He also brought up a bill, which has been under IBHE watch since State Representative Linda Chapa La-Via introduced it on Jan. 22. The advanced placement exam-credit bill will mandate public universities and colleges have to accept students who have a score of three or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement.

"The institutions argument is we already have a policies in place. It is this statutory mandate that in a lot of people's estimations is useless because the state institutions are already doing it," Lackland said.

Lackland said much of the interest in this bill comes from other states doing it. He added many institutions want to be trusted in providing a standard and handling it without government regulation deciding how it should be.

"The ultimate question is: is this needed and the answer is no," Lackland said.

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

RHA board to propose revised constitution

By Jarad Jarmon

Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

The Residence Hall Association executive board will be proposing new revisions to their constitution at their meeting at 5 p.m. Thursday in the National Pan-Hellenic Council building in Greek Court.

Patrick Morrow, the RHA president, said most of the revisions involved the election process for the presidency. He added they want to make it a more seamless process if the president needs to resign for whatever

circumstances.

They reworded the constitution to make it easier for the vice president to step up if the president cannot, such as at the previous meeting when Morrow was elected president.

Committees were also revised in the committee section of the constitution. Like with the budget, which was voted on and passed on Jan. 16, the community development committee was removed. Morrow said their man purpose was to plan ROCFest, which is not necessary anymore.

"The executive board has been do-

ing ROCFest for the past few years," Morrow said.

They also added new responsibilities for the treasurer. In the revised constitution, the treasurer would be the liaison for RHA to the University Board homecoming committee.

"(The treasurer) really doesn't have much of a overlying role," Morrow said. "Granted it is an important role but he doesn't have much in the constitution"

He added this would keep the treasurer active in the meetings instead of just stating the budget.

While it will be proposed this week, the constitutional revisions will not be voted on until the following week on Feb. 6.

After the meeting, Morrow said they will be talking to committee chairs after the meeting to talk about accountability and duties involved with being a committee chairmen.

"It is basically a communication screw up," Morrow said.

In the constitution, it states if an RHA representative misses one-third of the meetings, then their voting rights will get revoked.

"We don't have the attendance sheet as to who is at the meetings," Morrow

It is a duty of the chairmen to take attendance a keep track of the their committee members.

Kate Mokry, the RHA secretary, said it is their duty to handle this sort of thing and they plan to instill it in those responsible. She added they plan to work on it in the upcoming meeting.

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

See you next year, resolutions



Jessica Kozik

First day back at school and my friends and I walk into the student recreation center, which is any usual Monday for us. What was unusual was the overwhelming amount of people that were there. Who are these people? The resolutioners.

The resolutioners are the people who are in front of you at McDonald's that order two double cheeseburgers, a large fry, but a diet coke. They are the ones who sip their milkshakes on the way to yoga class, and they are ones who keep swearing each day that they will start their cleanse tomorrow.

While these qualities may be annoying, the one that's the worst is how they overfilled the rec center the first week. Every machine was taken. Every mat was filled. There was so much time was wasted waiting for resolutioners to

Day by day though, something started to happen. The number of the people at the Rec slowly started to drop, bringing a smile to my face. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for living a healthy lifestyle and I definitely promote it. I also promote dedication. If someone really wants to change their lifestyle then it's going to take consistent hard work and devotion. The drop in the number of people at the gym revealed those who were truly committed and made it much easier for me to get my workout done in a more timely manner.

What I am trying to say is that although I respect people who are trying to be healthier, I just don't like waiting for machines at the gym. To those who really are devoted, but are struggling, let me go on to say that if you do want to become healthier, try doing it in baby steps. My advice is to build up the amount you change in your life in a slow progress, so that it is easier to stick with it, and you can achieve your goals.

To all the people who made the resolution to be healthier this year and stuck to it, congratulations. You beat the odds. To those who gave up, well, at least you tried and see you in January 2015!

Jessica Kozik is a freshman English and sociology major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com

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Dominic Renzetti



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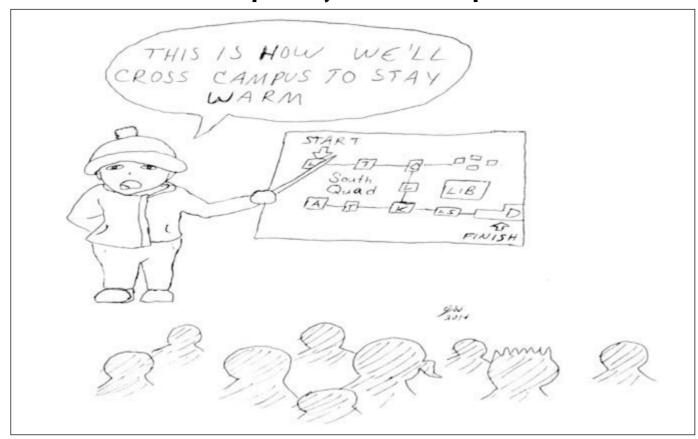
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A map to stay warm on campus



JOSH WILLIAMS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Obama needs specific plan for new year

The picture painted by President Barack Obama in Tuesday night's State of the Union address was one of broad strokes.

The President's address covered a multitude of topics, but offered few specifics on what was in plan for the future of America.

There certainly were ambitions, but the question remains: are there the tools?

Income inequality was a major topic on hand for discussion in Washington. The President talked about that despite the growths in the economy, there were still problems with income inequality, saying 'Today, after four years of economic growth, corporate profits and stock prices have rarely been higher, and those at the top have nev-

But average wages have barely budged. Inequality has deepened."

Obama announced a raise in the minimum wage for federally contracted workers to \$10.10 an hour, but it is tough to tell how he will achieve his goal of raising the national minimum wage as well.

"We should be able to get that done," Obama said on raising the minimum wage.

Phrases like that were common throughout his speech, along with phrases like "that's something we should be able to do," or "We can get this done." These are the lack of specifics that we should be worried and concerned about heading into 2014 and beyond.

There was a lot of optimism, which was good, but that only goes so far.

Complex issues like these are serious and require more than just optimism.

They require real strategy and leadership in order to accomplish them.

If we are in it for just giving people what they want to hear, such as to boost approval ratings, that's one thing, but if we actually want to do something about it, that's another issue.

There needs to be a plan of action heading towards the future, and if you listened to the president's speech, you might be a tad skeptical with what you heard.

What the president wants to accomplish is certainly worthwhile of its cause, but it's going to take a lot more than "should be

It's going to take a lot of hard work by Obama and his staff, something that we hope is already being planned for. Hopefully, the future is as bright as

Obama hopes, but it won't be a reality without the plans in place.

If Obama really wants to make 2014 a "year of action," it has to start with him.

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

Be your own gatekeeper with news

Last week an absolute tragedy happened. Most of the nation, if not the world is still in shock over it, and women and children are completely devastated. No one really saw this coming and nothing will ever be the same for this country ever again.

Tears have been shed and continue to be shed for the future of what could be.

I am of course referring to the arrest and detainment of Justin Beiber for a DUI he received in a rented Lamborgini, drag racing at four in the morning, on Jan. 23.

This news story was not only important enough for Andrea Mitchell to cut off Congresswoman Jane Harman on MSNBC midsentence on the topic of NSA wiretapping and surveillance, but also completely overshadowed a different news situation elsewhere.

The same day the "Beliebers" were weeping over the possiblity of the Biebs himself either going to prison or joining the Marine Corps, Ukraine had reached a tipping point. Halfway across the world in Eastern Europe, protesters acting against the government are threatening Civil War between President Viktor Yanukovych, his Cabinet, and the people.

Five protestors have already been killed with



Sean Copeland

several hundred lining the streets of Kiev, having taken over multiple government buildings. The Cabinet has been removed and so has the Prime Minister Mykola Azarov. These concessions have been made in part to avoid a bloody conflict, while also trying to pacify the Ukraini-

Meanwhile, Justin Bieber has been issued an ultimatum and if he screws that up, he gets deported back to Canada.

The American public needs to be more concerned about NSA Surveillance and world conflicts and less concerned about idiotic pop stars and their bad life decisions. Consider the fact that MSNBC would interrupt a politician to tell you about Bieber's arraignment.

Then, on the day Bieber was arrested, MP

Leonid Kravchuk said, "all the world acknowledges and Ukraine acknowledges that the state is on the brink of civil war." Instead, it was buried because it's just not as relevant as a Canadian superstar being arrested for drunken drag

It seems awfully convenient that the news keeps switching to the less important news item.

It is everyone's duty to keep the government on its toes and the first line of the public's defense is a journalist. We are the gatekeepers and the watchdogs; we decide what is newsworthy and what is not as guardians of the public weal.

Sometimes, journalists forget that, and would rather tell you about what you want to hear instead of what you need to hear, so that they stay more relevant. Our news values are based on cold calculated general topics. If you don't seek out the most important new and give it to the press, or become your own citizen journalist, it may never see the light of day.

Sean Copeland is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

5

University furthering panther statue project

Staff Report

The Student Senate university enhancement committee chairwoman announced updates regarding the panther statue, which has been worked on for the past few months.

After surveying students about what they might want a panther statue to look like, Bianca Tomlin, the chairwoman for the university enhancement committee, found out students were wanting a panther, which was standing "proud," or growling. For this information, she sent out emails before Winter Break to Glenn Hild, the chairman of the art department, looking for

sketches from students on the design of the statue.

She only received three submissions from Earl Boyce, an art major, Scott Mitchelson, an art major and Garrett Goben, an art major, and Jaime Olsen, an art major, who worked as a team on their sketch.

Tomlin said she was disappointed by the turnout.

"I am actually surprised that more people didn't send (sketches) in just because I really think it is a unique opportunity," Tomlin said.

She said while they did technically have a deadline, they are still looking for submissions. The chosen design has not been decided.

» POLICIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

These numbers are equivalent to about 15 arrests per 100,000 men.

Additionally, in a five-year period between 2004 and 2008, the National Crime Victimization Survey reported that 54 percent of women who reported having been victims of rape said the police were not notified.

With the issue of sexual assault on college campuses having been widely and publically talked-about issue at Eastern during the 2012-2013 school year, the reporting process of sexual assault in Charleston has been a frequent inquiry, said David Closson, the University Police Department crime prevention officer.

At a public university such as Eastern, certain staff members are considered mandated reporters, required to report crime including sexual assaults to the necessary authority via chain of command, even if the

report is anonymous.

"The Clery Act requires that we include data regarding crimes reported anonymously or confidentially," Closson said. "In this context, 'confidential' means that the report was received by a confidential resource on campus, such as a staff member at the Counseling Center."

Even with federal laws in place requiring mandated reporting and swift investigation of alleged assaults, Obama said in his memorandum that he doubts universities' full cooperation.

"Survivors of rape and sexual assault must also be provided with information on how to access the support and services they need," he said. "Reports show, however, that institutions' compliance with these Federal laws is uneven and, in too many cases, inadequate."

Eastern's annual security report for 2012 reported five sex offenses on campus, three of which occurred in a residence hall.

Since those reports, Perry said Eastern has worked to compose a comprehensive and easy-to-navigate webpage on the university's site, connecting survivors to all necessary and available resources on campus.

Additionally, Eastern's sexual assault task force last met Jan. 24, where they discussed further room for improvement regarding educating the student body on the issue.

These initiatives include plans to amend AlcoholEdu to be more inclusive of debunking rape myths as well as hosting a "sexual assault talk show" in collaboration with the HERC to work toward a similar goal.

Eastern's sexual assault task force meets next on Feb. 21.

Within one year of Jan. 22, Obama's task force will provide a report to the president with plans on how to implement the recommended efforts in regard to the memorandum.

> Katie Smith can be reached at 581-2812 or kesmith2@eiu.edu.

Rollin' around



OLIVIA S. DIGGS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Shondell Bohanan, a sophomore psychology major, and Salonje Dorsey, a pre-nursing major, roller skate at Silver Star Rink on Wednesday. Black Student Union sponsored this event.

» BURSTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marcus Banks, a witness to the flooding managed to capture video of it. Banks said when the pipe burst, parts of the ceiling were dislodged and water began to spill across the floor.

"The ceiling was falling," said Banks, a freshman exercise science major.

Hudson confirmed reports of damage to ceiling tiles in addition to minor flooding in the rooms for several students.

The sprinkler system will be repaired as soon as possible and repairing the ceiling will probably happen at some point in the next week.

Hudson said the issue of cold air on that particular waterline has not been a problem in the past.

The Taylor dining hall will be open for dinner and any planned events will take place as scheduled.

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

>> PENSIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Aviva Bowen, the director of

communications for the Illinois Federation of Teachers, said the IFT hopes the lawsuits will be able to reverse changes signed into law by Governor Pat Quinn in December 2013.

Our suit makes clear that pension theft is not only unfair, it's unconstitutional," Bowen said. "We believe it will be overturned by a court, and thus, will save the state nothing and send us back to square one. It didn't have to be this way. Lawmakers could have passed a legal plan and actually solved the problem."

As for a timeframe, Bowen is hopefully of a quick action by the

"We will be working for an expeditious resolution of this important matters it heads to court," Bowen said

Bailey Young, a history professor and the chairperson of the University Professionals of Illinois political and legislative action committee, said would he like to see the legislature raise funding another way.

"The only way to solve the fiscal problem is by enhancing revenues, not by cutting public spending further, as it has already been cut to the bone," Young said.

Young elaborated that a progressive tax would be one way to "fix" the ongoing pension issues.

"I believe that the present flat tax is the chief culprit, and my alternative would be a graduated state income tax," Young said.

Perry said he has heard employees who have concerns about the pension changes about the "impact on benefits."

"The system is broken," Young said. "The way to fix it is reasonable, fair and up-to-date tax reform to bring in the necessary revenues to pay for the services which most citizens of Illinois (want) from their government."

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





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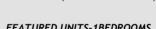
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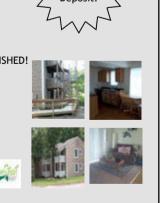


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DON'T BEAR THE



Record-breaking freshman makes early splash

By Dan Hildebrandt Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

As a freshman moving to Charleston from Iowa City, Iowa, Harris Thompson has definitely made a splash here at Eastern.

He only started swimming when he was in junior high so his career is still very young. Once he started to dedicate himself more to the sport in high school, he started to flourish in it and eventually turn that into a college career on the Eastern men's swimming team.

Thompson seems to be very happy with his decision to come to Eastern.

"I chose Eastern because when I visited the campus and the team, I got this family-type atmosphere that I didn't really get when visiting other campuses," Thompson said.

Choosing Eastern has definitely paid off for the 18-year-old freshman from Iowa City so far. Thompson broke the school record in the 1,650-yard freestyle on Nov. 22. Not only was this a school record, but it was also a House of Champions Meet record.

Thompson clocked in with at 15:59.23, cracking the 16-minute mark by 77 hundredths of a second. Not even Thompson expected he would do so well.

"I was just shocked I got under 16 minutes," he said. "I was pretty pumped about that."

As he finished the race Thompson was certain that he had come away victorious, but did not expect to hear the next announcement.

"I looked up and I knew I won the race so I was pretty excited about that," Thompson said. "They announced that I had just broke the meet record, but I had no idea I broke the school record too until later. I was still just excited that I won the race."

Senior swimmer Colin McGill provided the motivation for Thompson prior to the meet.

"He really gets me and everyone else pumped before meets," Thompson said of McGill's premeet speeches.

Motivated and prepared prior the House of Champions Meet, Thompson still did not see a record-breaking performance coming.

Greg Freebeck previously held the record, which was set in 1984. Freebeck swam the



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman swimmer Harris Thompson broke the 1,650 freestyle record at the House of Champions on Nov. 22, 2013. Thompson also placed first Friday in the 1000-free and the 500-free during the meet against Western Illinois at Padovan Pool.

1,650-freestyle with a time of 16:06.80.

Thompson beat that time by more than seven seconds.

Not only did Thompson break the school record in the 1,650-yard freestyle, he also has the eighth-best time in school history in the 500yard freestyle and also the third-best school time in the 1,000-yard freestyle.

Thompson thought he would come to Eastern expecting to contribute to the team as a freshman, but putting his name in the record book was not on his radar.

"I thought I could come here and help out right away," he said. "But I never thought I would break a record this early into my college

The way Thompson is swimming now, none of those records are safe.

Thompson still has three more years to find out what is in store for him.

> Dan Hildebrandt can be reached at 581-2812 or djhildebrandt@eiu.edu.

Hockey club to play Missouri State in 2-game series

By Dominic Renzetti Editor-in-chief | @domrenzetti

The Eastern hockey club will hit the road again this weekend to take on the Missouri State Ice Bears in Springfield, Mo., for a twogame series starting Friday and ending Saturday.

Eastern is coming off two losses to Arkansas, while Missouri State is coming off two wins over Missouri. Eastern's previous loss on Saturday saw it give up the most goals it has given up all year, with Arkansas putting 14 goals in the net behind senior Andrew Teske.

The Panthers and Ice Bears have played a number of common opponents so far this sea-



7 P.M. | FRIDAY 7 P.M. | SATURDAY **MEDIACOM ICE PARK | SPRINGFIELD, MO.**

nois, Illinois-Urbana Champaign, Arkansas, Southern Illinois-Edwardsville and Iowa.

Missouri State split with Northern, swept the Illini, swept Arkansas, split with Edwardsville and was swept by Iowa. Eastern was unable to split with Northern, but was swept by all other opponents. The team's biggest combined loss of the season came against Edwardsville, where it was outscored 23-6.

The Panthers scored four goals in their series son, with both clubs taking on Northern Illi- last week with Arkansas, with freshman Steve Kinnison scoring two of them. Kinnison had the club's only goal in the 14-1 loss in game

The Ice Bears have scored five or more goals in each of their last seven games. Junior forward Jack Ryan leads the team with 19 goals and 16

The two clubs played in December 2012, with the Ice Bears sweeping the Panthers by scores of 7-4 and 14-0. Of the four players who scored in the series, the only one remaining on the roster is senior forward Andrew Maronich. Maronich had one goal in the Panthers' series against Arkansas last weekend.

The series will be the fifth straight series on the road for Panthers, having not played at their home ice in Danville since the team's two game sweep of Eastern Kentucky on Nov. 8 and 9.

Eastern will finally return home Tuesday for its rematch with the Illini's Division-II team. The Panthers and Illini first played on Sept. 20, when the Panthers lost 11-6.

Both games this weekend will start at 7 p.m. at Mediacom Ice Park in Springfield, Mo.

> Dominic Renzetti can be reached at 581-2812 or dcrenzetti@eiu.edu.

» SPRINT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"Every practice I always try my best to hit all the time and push myself harder," Edwards

Edwards' rise to the top of the conference rankings is are of little importance compared to the goals he has in mind at the moment.

"By the time I graduate I want to become a career record holder at Eastern and two number one spots in the Ohio Valley Conference, other than the one I'm currently holding,' Edwards said.

He is already fourth on the Panthers all-

time sprint list with a 21.52 finish in the 200m dash, but that is not enough for Ed-

He said that all of those goals are what motivate him on and off the track.

"Looking back at these years when I'm all fat, knowing what I accomplished like graduating, success on the track and repaying the people who mean the most to me, are what I look forward to in my future," Edwards said.

Nothing inspires this promising athlete more than those personally close to him.

"All of my family, friends, and teammates are always there for me," Edwards said. "They're always in my corner and I never have to go looking for them because they always find me."

Edwards has already won the OVC championship MVP award last season and if he continues his hard work and sacrifice, it won't be long until he adds one or more to his cre-

For now he'll have settle for this weekend's meet, when he and the Panthers visit the University of Northern Iowa.

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

» PAYNE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Brown said the team is going to have a little work to do, but she does not know why the team has been struggling to come out with wins.

"Maybe it's because our shots haven't been falling like they used too," she said. "Hopefully we can come together and get through it as a team because I know how good we can be if we can

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





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

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
DAILYEASTERNNEWS.COM
THURSDAY, JAN. 30, 2014
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KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore sprinter Calvin Edwards recorded three first-place finishes in the 200-meter dash, 400m dash and the 4x400 relay at the EIU John Craft Invite Saturday. Edwards is the reigning Ohio Valley Conference championship MVP.

Sophomore sprints to success

By Blake Nash
Staff Reporter LaDEN Sports

Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

Calvin Edwards has not become acquainted to the phrase "sophomore slump."

The sophomore sprinter from Joliet has won or placed second in every race during the relay team.

still-young indoor track and field season.

This includes a 200-meter dash time of 21.92 and a time of 49.14 in the 400m dash Saturday at the John Craft Invitational.

Edwards won both of races and was a member of the Panthers' first-place 4x400m relay team.

Despite having a successful freshman season last year, Edwards did not want to dwell on the past in his quest to make his mark as a Panther — causing him to begin his indoor track season five months before Eastern even

started competing.
"For me the season started in August," Ed-

wards said. "Seeing all the new, talented freshman I knew I couldn't dwell on what I did last year. I had to do better than that."

The Panthers have one meet every week, but that does not stop Edwards from giving everything he has every practice.

SPRINT, page 7

Payne breaks out for new career record

By Bob Reynolds

Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

Eastern women's basketball player Katlyn Payne's shooting performance Monday should not be overlooked.

She shot 9-of-18 from the floor and 7-of-16 from 3-point range, which was good enough for 26 points---her new career high, which she said lifted a lot of weight off her shoulders

She also tied a school record for most 3-pointers made in a game.

In four of her previous five games, Payne shot less than 28 percent from the floor, which included a 1-of-10 against Tennessee State on January 13th and a 2-of-13 performance against Southeast Missouri Saturday.

Eastern coach Debbie Black said teams were not doing anything different to guard Payne at the time.

"She has made those shots a thousand times," Black said. "She has gotten pretty good looks. The ball didn't go in. I think Katlyn has to focus on her defensive end of the game and let her offense come to her. The only thing we know is defense and rebounding you can control. Whether the

ball goes in, you never can control that."

Payne said the shooting slump was beyond frustrating.

"I am the shooter on the team," Payne said. "I felt like I was letting my team down because I could not score."

In the game against Murray State on January 20th, Payne started the game 0-of-4, but finished the game 4-of-4 and gave all her credit to freshman Erica Brown, who calmed her down and told her to be confident

Brown said it was great to see Payne provide a good push for the Panthers in the loss on Monday.

"She's been struggling lately with her shot and to see her come through that and hit a few was great," Brown said. "It was just nice to see her back. Those shots helped us in the game a lot. Even though we didn't win, it gave us a good push."

The Panthers had their best shooting performance of the season, shooting 60 percent from the floor in the game and 70 percent (17-of-24) in the second half against Tennessee-Martin Monday.

"We realized that we could have any shot we wanted if we were patient and that



Katlyn Payne, a red-shirt junior guard, looks for an open teammate during the game against Austin Peay University on Jan. 18 in Lantz Arena. Payne scored 26 points against Tennessee Martin. Payne averages 14.1 points per game this season.

worked out for us taking a lot of good shots at a high percentage," Payne said.

The Panthers have lost five of their last six games.

PAYNE, page 7