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Eastern Illinois University

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BASEBALL TEAM FALLS TO LOUISVILLE

Taking on its third straight ranked opponent, the Eastern baseball team surrenedered a 6-0 loss to Louisville on the road on Tuesday. PAGE 8



DAILYEASTERNNEWS

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | NO. 108

Budget request remains same

By Jarad Jarmon Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

The student government has proposed the same amount of money received during FY2014 for FY2015, which totals to \$43,735, from the Apportionment

The approved budgets for student government have consistently dropped since FY2012 when \$49,997 had been allocated to student government.

While student government is proposing the same figure as the year before, the Student Body President Kaylia Eskew said money has been moved around to open up room for more money to be allocated to other line items such a other contractual which is budgeted to have a \$962 increase for programs started by committees within student senate.

Eskew said they are not technically a programming group though. They are instead supposed to only have outreach pro-

Eskew added this line item would also be split up into smaller sections leaving a specific amount of money for each Student Senate committee. Eskew said this would hopefully encourage the committees to co-sponsor with other committees and RSO's. It might also push committees not doing much with their money to participate in other committees' events.

There are multiple increases in the requested budget other than the other contractional line item, which include an increase of \$550 to travel employee in state and \$138 to telephone. The travel employee in state is a new line item added to be available specifically for lobbying in Springfield, Ill.



Soup and Stories



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Rev. Wally Carlson, a Charleston resident and reverand at the Wesley United Methodist Church, enjoys garlic bread as he talks to his friends during Bowls of Hope Tuesday at the St. Charles Borromeo Church. Carlson was accompanied by his wife and friend.

Referendum could raise taxes

By Michael Spencer City Editor | @tmskeeper

The 1 percent sales tax referendum placed on the primary ballot for the March 18 election could result in a property tax increase in the event of revenue shortfalls within the Charleston school district.

Section C of the school facility occupation tax code indicates if the district is unable to pay the principal and interest on the bonds received as a part of the County School Facility Tax, it would necessitate an extension of additional property taxes.

Revenue shortfalls would allow the district to use an alternate revenue bond, which can only be implemented by the school board if revenue from the facility tax drops below 80 percent of the projected bond total. The Charleston school district estimates it would bring in an additional \$2 million in revenue if the tax were to pass referendum.

"If for some reason the sales taxes fell short of \$1.6 million, 80 percent of the \$2 million, then the school district would have the authority to levy on property taxes," said Jim Littleford, Charleston superintendent of schools.

However, the district would only be able to levy taxes to cover the difference up to, but not exceeding, 80

Ahead of the election, the Coles

Citizens for Responsible Education committee is working to defeat the referendum because of its potential to increase property taxes.

Wesley Combs, the co-chairperson for CCARE, said the group's aim is to inform citizens about the entirety of

Combs characterized the tax as a "signed blank check" for the school district to use for levying against

"Depending on the school's spending, there is a good chance, probably better than 50 percent, that they're going to get into the property tax," Combs said.

However, since the legislation legalizing the facilities tax passed in 2007, none of the seven counties that have approved the tax in the region have seen their property taxes in-

Each of the regional superintendents across central Illinois, including Macon, Douglas and Champaign Counties, confirmed that since the implementation of the policy in 2007, no levy on property taxes has ever taken place.

Littleford said this is because there is little deviation in sales taxes from year to year.

Even when the economy went bad, there was a little bit of a drop but not that much."

TAXES, page 5

Candidates for director of admissions, registrar to tour Eastern

By Jack Cruikshank Administration Editor | @JackCruik

The second and final candidate for the director of admissions position will tour campus Wednesday and

The candidate, Delphine Byrd, is the current assistant director and manager of the Detroit admissions office for the University of Michigan.

Byrd has acted in that position since August 2009 and has worked within the University of Michigan since February 2001.

She received a master of public administration degree, with an emphasis in grant writing from Western Michigan University in 1993 after receiving a bachelor of sciences degree in speech pathology and audiology from the same university in 1989.

Blair Lord, the provost and vice president for academic affairs, said Byrd and Ryan Cockerill were the only two candidates the search committee "saw fit."

Lord said Cockerill, who toured Eastern last week, was a good choice as a candidate.

"I thought the first candidate was a solid candidate," Lord said. "I always like to see a strong first candidate to start the process."

Lord said he thinks the search for a candidate will yield a candidate who can start by the end of the spring se-

In regards to the open position of registrar, Lord said three candidates will be on campus this week and

The first candidate, Jodi Olson, will be on campus Thursday and Fri-

Olson currently works as the admissions and records officer at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

Olson has two degrees from SIU-E, including a master of public administration and a bachelor of arts in anthropology, earning the degrees in 2007 and 2003, respectively.

Olson's schedule includes interviews with Mary Herrington-Perry, the assistant vice president for academic affairs, and Lord.

Olson's open session will be at 3:30 p.m. Friday in Booth Library Room 4440.

The second candidate, Reo Wilhour, is the current director of admissions and enrollment planning at Parkland College in Champaign, Ill., and will be on campus March 5.

Wilhour earned a Ph.D from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in agriculture economics in 1987, a master of sciences in agribusiness economics from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 1981, and a bachelor of sciences in agriculture sciences from Western Illinois University in 1977.

Wilhour's open session will be at 11:15 a.m. March 5 in the Effingham Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The third candidate for the position of registrar will be Amy Lynch, who is currently the assistant to the dean for student academic programs within the college of sciences at East-

Lynch earned a juris doctorate from the university of California-Berkeley in 1985 after receiving a bachelor of arts and humanities from the University of Minnesota in 1982.

Her open session will be at 3 p.m. March 6 in the Greenup Room of the

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

Local weather

TODAY

THURSDAY







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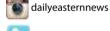
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Electric lady



AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Andrea Jenkins, a junior health studies major, channels her inner Janelle Monae by lipsyncing Monae's songs such as "Q.U.E.E.N." and "Tightrope" Tuesday during the Black Girlz Rock: 'Because I Am Queen' event for African American Heritage Month at the 7th Street Underground. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. hosted the event to honor today's black women.

Team plans events to combat hunger

By Mallory Winkeler & **Taylor Steward**

Staff Reporters | @DEN_News

The Hunger Action Team, a student community service group, will continue to combat hunger in Charleston and the rest of Coles County with several programs this spring.

The team will organize its "Eat" program, collect soda tabs, put on its weekly hot dog stand and continue serving the area food pantry during the week.

Desiree Dussard, the student head of the Hunger Action team, said each of the group's planned events work to raise community awareness about the issue of hunger in Coles County.

"You can't be blind to the world around you," Dussard said. "Hunger is not just an issue in third world countries but right here in our community."

"Eat" is a program that the team

puts on to fight hunger in the Coles County community on the last Saturday of every month. They partner with Standing Stone Community Center, and help deliver food to those in

The group will participate in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, a program where individuals try to go grocery shopping on a budget that is below the poverty line.

Additionally, they will collect resources and distribute assistance to combat the issue of hunger and raise awareness.

"We want to go to local super markets to shop on a SNAP budget to see what it's like, as well as see if we can get everything we need," Dussard said. "We also want to collect pop tabs in all campus housing and turn them in to collect money to donate. We want to get more statistics out in a fun, creative way. We are also planning on doing community nights. As well as another hot dog sale the weekend before They serve the local food pantry

three days a week. The food pantry is a place where students and other community members can go if they do not have enough food to eat. "Even if students don't think they

qualify for being food insecure or feel like they don't have enough food to eat, everyone is welcome," Dussard said. "All students have to do is bring their Panther Card and a meal will be provided for them.'

The Hunger Action Team is always searching for volunteers like Alex Haug, a senior sports management major, who said working with the organization is an extension of the philanthropic efforts she was a part of in

"I got pretty into volunteering," Haug said. "My dad worked for Feeding America, which is a hunger relief charity. I liked it because you really don't have to do a lot to help. I'd volunteer an hour at food pantries and package anywhere from 60 to 80 meals."

Though the team has only been around for two years, Dussard said progress is evident in the support from members of the campus community.

"There will always be a genuine concern among faculty and students," Dussard said.

If students are interested in working with the Hunger Action Team, they can talk to Dussard or one of the team's advisors, Rachel Fisher, the director of student community service, and Michael Gillespie, an Eastern sociology professor.

> Mallory Winkeler and Taylor Steward can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.



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Women of history to come to life

By Morgan Murray

Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

Joan Jett, Irena Sendler, Juliette Gordon Low and other famous women from history will be coming back to life as part of Women's History and Awareness Month.

The Living History Program will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Carnegie Public Library.

Students researched a woman of their choice, developed a 10-minute monologue, and made a costume. The event will be free and open to the public.

The characters portrayed are all powerful women from the past. These woman include Joan Jett, Irena Sendler, Genevieve (Audrey) Wagner and Juliette Gordon Low.

Along with the performance at the library, the characters will also attend elementary classrooms.

Melanie Mills, who is part of the Women's Studies faculty, will be returning for the fourth time to direct.

Mills started out as the driver for

the program and now directs.

"I strongly believe it's important for both boys and girls to learn about women in history," she said.

Mills said the program allows them to introduce very cool characters that often influenced other women in history.

Cayla Wagner, a history major, will be playing Genevieve Wagner. In her lifetime, Genevieve Wagnar, played on the Kenosha Comets during World War II.

Ashley Samoska, an English major, is playing Joan Jett.

Jett was a rock star that was in the band called the Runways, and had singles such as "I Love Rock 'n' Roll." Jett also performed as part of Joan Jett & the Blackhearts. She has paved the way for female musicians in a male-dominated industry, Samoska said.

Taylor Yangas, a history major, will be playing Irena Sendler. Sendler was a Polish nurse during the Holocaust and smuggled more than 2,000 Jewish children out of con-

centration camps.

Wagner, Samoska and Yangas have been involved for two years.

"The fact that students return to the program speaks highly of the experience they have in it," Mills said.

Other than Mills, there are other co-directors: Mildred Pearson, an education professor, Sace Elder and Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, both history professors.

Mills, Pearson, Edler and Schultz help with the advising, coaching and costumes of the performers.

Mills said the directors make the trading cards for the classrooms and programs for the public.

Also, they coordinate with the teachers to arrange for the performances.

The students are available for more than 150 individual performances for 20 minutes.

"With 20-some kids in each class, that's a lot of contact," Mills

Mills said the program allows for people to see what they will be doing in the classrooms. Also, it gives homeschooled students the chance

FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Elaine Fine plays the viola as a part of the A Concert of Women's Music on March 1, 2013. The Concert was part of Women's History and Awareness Month. Fine was accompanied on piano by John David Moore.

to see the event.

Girl Scout cookies will be at the event also which will bring the local scout troops into the program.

"Since one of our performers this year is the founder of Girl Scouts,

we expect we'll have some of them at this performance," Mills said.

Morgan Murray can be reached at 581-2812 or mnmurray@eiu.edu

Team plans spring events to combat hunger

By Vanessa Perez

Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

Faculty Senate reviewed the availability of open positions for the Elections Committee at their meeting Tuesday.

Members emphasized the importance of obtaining candidate approval by the senate after spring break. With so many open positions to be filled and the deadline approaching, the committee will approve candidates electronically and decided to

Jon Oliver, a professor of kinesiology and sport studies, encouraged committee members to recruit other faculty to run for various positions.

Oliver said there were 26 available open positions but only 21 petitions were received.

Open positions include the follow-

ing: two positions for the academic program elimination review committee, three positions for the admissions appeal review committee, three positions for the Council on Academic Affairs, three positions for the council on faculty research and three positions for the Council on Graduate Studies.

Other positions available include: three positions for the council on teacher education, two positions for the council of university planning and budget, two positions for the enrollment management advisory committee, two positions for the faculty senate, three positions for the sanctions and terminations hearing committee and four positions for the university personnel committee.

Grant Sterling, the chair of the faculty senate and a philosophy professor, said more emphasis should be put on the university personnel committee.

"(University personnel committee) has to be full," Sterling said.

Karla Sanders, director for Center for Academic Support and Achievement, and Danelle Larson, a music professor, presented recent assessment data for academic learning goals to the senate

Topics such as the Collegiate Learning Assessment and the Critical Thinking Assessment were discussed from a freshman to senior perspective. They discussed the following learning goals: Critical thinking, global citizenship, speaking, writing, writing and critical reading.

The CAA recently changed the global citizenship goal to responsible citizenship, but when the tests were administered during 2013, the goal was "global citizenship."

Based on the critical thinking as-

sessment summary, Sanders and Larson reported on the lack of growth from Eastern students from freshman year to their senior year in their ability to create arguments.

Sanders said many papers in the electronic writing portfolio are reflections or summaries as opposed to research-based writing.

"Students are better at critiquing arguments rather than creating their own," Sanders said.

The total Collegiate Learning Assessment score was "below expected," according to the report.

Sanders expanded on global citizenship and various reports under it. Based on the survey, Sanders said she found freshmen were a greater minority category than seniors.

Sanders also said students were asked about how they keep informed about daily news. She said that East-

ern seniors stayed informed by computer or other electronic devices, daily newspapers, TV news, or TV news entertainment shows.

Sanders also reported on the number of students who take advantage of educational opportunities such as study abroad.

According to the committee for assessment and student learning data, 51 percent of freshmen planned to study abroad, while 7 percent of seniors actually studied abroad.

The senate will be again at 2 p.m. March 18 in Room 4400 in the Booth Library.

The data also said 60 percent of Eastern freshmen planned to do service learning, while only 10 percent of seniors believed most classes incorporated service learning.

Vanessa Perez can be reached at 581-2812 or vperez@eiu.edu.











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PINION

PAWS UP/PAWS DOWN



MISS BLACK EIU: Alexis Lambert, a junior pschology major, was crowned the Miss 2014 Miss Black EIU recently.



GAROPPOLO: A former NFL general manager said Eastern quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo could be a first round pick in this year's NFL



WORLD: USA Today reported that dozens of students at a Nigerian College were killed from suspected Islamic militant attacks.



FLU: A flu virus kept 38 students at Mark Twain Elementary school.



EL CHAPO: The top Mexian drug lord has been captured, and has been recently charged for his actions.



SENIORS: The Eastern men's basketball team played its final home game Tuesday, while the woman play their final game on Thursday.

Quote of the Day

"If you want to kill any idea in the world, get a committe working on it."

--Charles Kettering

FROM THE EASEL



SABRINA ANN DUNCAN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Higher learning needs more focus

After four meetings reviewing programs where there might be wiggle room, the Council for University Planning and Budget, have final been bringing up issues with the way and speed to which they are finding \$8 million dollars to cut.

While there have been ideas brought up through the subcommittees, there has not been sufficiently big ideas that would cut anywhere close to \$7 million dollars.

Committee members brought up multiple issues like the problems with getting their information from program analyses. There was a clear biased in the writing of these analyses making it difficult for the members to find what to cut.

Everything sounded like the most important thing in the world.

Some also felt the subcommittees were not working and being efficient.

Whether this is true or not is not the

Going to college, in many ways, is like

Squarepants. Students walk into a bubble and

sist mostly of you going from your dorm, your classes, the dining hall, and the fitness center.

Sense of what is going on in the world out-

side your school is limited, which is the reason

news is so important. It connects us to the rest

Going to college can narrow your connec-

tion with the rest of the world which is unhelp-

ful because college is supposed to help prepare

Students hardly have time to turn on the

understand most of the problems going on in

We are sheltered inside our bubble. We

spend most of the time focusing on ourselves,

news and actually watch it long enough to

Interaction with anything outside from that

College can isolate you from your surroundings. You go to college and your days con-

walking into Sandy's house in SpongeBob

have the door closed right behind them.

The point is, they are paying attention to how they are running their meetings.

They should always be attentive to the efficiency of their meetings.

They have a limited time schedule to propose their ideas to the Board of Trust-

They need to go as fast as possible in finding cuts.

Summer break is fastly approaching and many of the council members will be gone making it crucial to finish most of their proposal by the end of April.

A lot can be done at these meetings, and there hasn't been much lately done to bring down the \$8 million that needs to be cut. It is good to know they realize this as a problem.

The problems are present and clear.

The next step is to fix them to make

each meeting really count.

Hopefully in the coming meetings they can find other ways to find more places, which can be cut if need be.

The council is making very good steps to revise the process to which they are finding money and they should keep going.

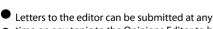
Deadlines exist and unfortunately their deadline is moving up quickly.

They have proven they admit to issues with the process of finding money to cut. Now all they need to do is act on these issues, to better understand what would hurt the least because with \$8 million dollars, there is no way the university will come out unscathed.

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

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Editorial Board

Editor in Chief **Dominic Renzetti**

Try to escape the school bubble

Jesssica Kozik

which is good because we are growing into the individuals we wish to be, but it is still important to stay informed with the news.

News should be made more accessible to the college student. Teachers should try harder to incorporate more current events into their les-

They need to relate what they are teaching us to real world around us. We need to be wellinformed on the problems society faces.

It will teach us how to handle ourselves better and what we can do to help.

Another possible way to induct news into the lives of students on campus is through the dining halls.

In the dining halls, the news should be playing as often as possible to inform students as much as they can in the limited time span of a

It may only be a short time, but it still could help. Whatever ways that are possible to educate students about current events, should be implemented.

We need to be informed as much as we can so we are prepared to deal with the circumstances of the real world.

We need to come out of college ready to handle the realities of the world. That is why we must stay informed and not be ignorant of the rest of the world.

College is a time for education.

What is more important than the education of the world that surrounds us on a current basis?

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

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seems to decrease.

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CAA workshop focuses on writing, critical reading

By Dominic Renzetti Editor-in-Chief | @domrenzetti

The Council on Academic Affairs presented the second workshop in its learning goal series focused on writing and critical reading.

CAA writing-reading learning goals subcommittee presented the second installment Tim Taylor, associate chair of communication studies, led the presentation, introducing the revised learning goal.

According to the presentation, Eastern graduates write critically and evaluate varied sources by creating documents appropriate for specific audiences, purposes, genres, disciplines and professions, as well as crafting cogent and defensible applications, analyses, evaluations, and arguments about problems, ideas and issues

According to the presentation, Eastern graduates also write critically by producing documents, which are well organized, focused and cohesive. The goals also focused on using appropriate vocabulary, mechanics, grammar diction, and sentence structure, as well as understanding questioning, analyzing, and synthesizing, complex textual, numeric and graphical sources.

The presentation reported 63 percent of seniors said they were asked to memorize facts and repeat information "very much" and "quite a bit." 42

percent of faculty reported the majority of their exam questions required primarily recall or comprehension.

After years of reviewing electronic writing portfolio submissions, the papers were found to often be focused on either summarization or personal reflection.

According to data from the Collegiate Learning Assessment, which is the program Eastern has chosen as its assessment tool through the Voluntary System of Accountability Eastern seniors are 24 percent to 38 percent below where they should be on tasks related to critiquing or making an argument.

Results from the CAA's faculty survey showed research papers and papers using multiple sources were the least common assignments. 28 percent of faculty also affirmed through the survey that they have never used a rubric or evaluation criteria when responding to student writing.

The workshop also took a look at the book "Engaging Ideas: The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom," written by John Bean, a professor of English at Seattle University.

The presentation used principles and practices illustrated in Bean's text, evoking a high level of critical thinking, and helping students with big questions, teaching disciplinary ways of seeing, knowing and doing.

Bean's general premise was broken down into eight steps, which starts with becoming familiar with the principles, and then designing courses with critical thinking objectives in mind. Once the objectives have been designed, tasks must also be designed for students to address.

Professors must develop a repertoire of ways to give critical thinking tasks to students and develop strategies to include exploratory writing, talking and reflection in courses, as well as develop strategies for teaching how the discipline uses evidence to support its claims.

Professors must also develop effective strategies for coaching students in critical thinking, and finally treating writing a process when assigning formal writing assignments.

The workshop focused on breaking the professors in attendance into small groups where they shared thoughts on what worked, what they want to try, and what other points or ideas have they incorporated into their own teaching. The professors then came back into a large group to further discuss different methods.

The next learning goals workshop will take place from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. March 3 in the Arcola-Tuscola Room and will focus on speaking and listening.

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

» TAXES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE1

The Oakland school district, which is split between Coles and Douglas Counties, will begin receiving money from the facilities tax this year because it has already passed referendum in Douglas.

Lance Landek, the superintendent for the Oakland school district, said it would require something extreme like a natural disaster in a main revenue area to force a property tax increase through the alternate revenue bond.

"For (Oakland) it would require something like a tornado to go through the shopping center in Tuscola," Landek said.

However, Littleford and Combs agree there is no way to guarantee those things will not become an issue in the future.

"When you talk about having to trust not only this school board, but all the school boards, it scares me," Combs said.

Littleford said he could only speak for the district under his administration.

"I can't speak for people that come after me, but right now we're being squeezed in a lot of ways from the state financially," he said.

The district has been prorated by the state of Illinois each year since 2011, resulting in the elimination of over 60 jobs such as staff, teachers and administrators.

The district plans to put the money towards facilities improvements such as heightened securi-

ty measures, roof repairs, road and parking lot construction and energy efficiency.

However, Combs said the committee and him also objects to the plan because it overlooks more pressing needs.

"In a bad economy, focus should not be on buildings and should be on the quality of education," Combs said.

"Unless you have a school that's actually putting children at a health risk, I think that school should be used until you have an economy that can afford this kind of an impact."

But Littleford contends passing the facilities tax will keep the district from being forced to levy health-life-safety bonds to replace schools, which have become structurally unsafe.

Those bonds would come from property taxes.

"If our schools go into disrepair, the school board can do health-life safety bonds without any approval (from the voters) and that is property taxes," Littleford said.

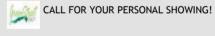
The facilities tax will non be added to groceries, medical supplies and items that are registered with the state.

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





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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26, 2014
THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS | SPORTS

STAT ATTACK



ESPN's NFL draft specialist Todd McShay has former Eastern quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo ranked as the *No. 5 best quarter-back* in the 2014 NFL Draft. Garoppolo is projected to go as early as the first round of the draft, despite a 40-yard dash time of 4.97 seconds, one of the worst among the 16 quarterbacks. However, Garoppolo's three-cone drill time of 7.04 seconds was third best among quarterbacks.

FOOTBALL

Eastern senior forward Sherman Blanford recorded his 13th double-double performance in two years with the men's basketball team. Blanford *scored 13 points* and grabbed 11 rebound in the Eastern's Senior Night win over Chicago State Monday night. The Panthers' only season has recorded eight double-doubles in 28 games this season, six of which have come in the last 12 games.

MEN'S BASKETBALL





The Eastern men's basketball team shot a season-high *61.7 percent* from the field in its 84-62 win over Chicago State Monday night. The Panthers had five players score in double figures with sophomore forward Chris Olivier leading with 20 points off 8-of-10 shooting. Eastern's previous best shooting percentage was 59.3 percent in a win over Roosevelt University on Nov. 23, 2013.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Eastern track and field team recorded 13 first-place finishes at the EIU Friday Night Special on Friday. Pole vaulter Peter Geraghty tied the track and field record in the men's pole vault with 17-feet, 10.5-inches, beating co-record holder Mick Viken on his way to a second place finish. Geraghty's previous career high was 17'6.5".





Panthers seeking tourney position

By Bob Reynolds

Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

The Eastern women's basketball team is on the verge of clinching a playoff spot in the Ohio Valley Conference tournament March 5-8 in Nashville, Tenn.

The Panthers are 7-7 in the conference and currently the fifth seed out of the eight teams that make the tournament.

The best-case scenario for the Panthers is that they win one of the next two games and clinch a spot in the conference tournament, but forward Sabina Oroszova said they have a different mindset.

We are definitely going with a straight goal to win both games," she said. "Both of the games are winnable and we were going to do everything to show it.

The Panthers next two games feature matchups with top-seeded Tennessee-Martin, 13-1 in the OVC, in Lantz Arena on Thursday. Their final matchup of the season is on the road at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville on Saturday.

Tennessee-Martin already clinched the one-seed in the tournament. As for Edwardsville, the Cougars are currently tied with Austin Peay for the eighth and final playoff spot with one game remaining.

Austin Peay plays top-seeded Tennessee-Martin on Saturday and must win to clinch a playoff spot.

Eastern, on the other hand, is coming off a three-game road trip, which it won two of the three games on the road, being Austin Peay and

Oroszova said the Panthers had great energy throughout the road

"We knew and remembered how to get a road win and we tried to get another one," she said. "We knew that all it takes is team work and listening to our coaching staff and following directions."

Eastern is now 3-9 away from Lantz Arena this season.

Eastern's top three offensive scorers have lead the charge as of late in Oroszova, Payne and Crunk.

Throughout the last two mustneeded wins for the Panthers, Payne has shot 9-of-20 from the floor, and 5-of-10 from the 3-point line, which has been good enough for 12.5 points a game over the last two.

Crunk has also scored 14 points and 12 points the last two games, respectively.

Although, Oroszova struggled in the win over Belmont, with eight points, she propelled the comeback in the win against Governors, with scoring 24 points on 11-of-18 shoot-

With these last two wins, the Panthers have put themselves in position for a playoff spot and won the games they have needed to win, and their coach Debbie Black said they like to have their backs against the wall.

"When we put our backs against the wall, these guys stand up and fight," she said.

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



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Mitch Gasparro, a sophomore infielder, slides to the base in a game against Murray state on April 5. 2013. Gasparro was 1 - for - 4 against Lousiville in Eastern's 6-0 loss Tuesday at Jim Patterson Stadium in Lousiville, KY.

Panther bats quieted at Louisville

By Aldo Soto

Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

Freshman Jake Sparger pitched 6.2 innings, holding the Eastern baseball team to four hits and no runs, leading to Louisville's 6-0 win Tuesday in Jim Patterson Stadium.

The Panthers' losing streak extended to seven — all coming to top-25 opponents, as Eastern dropped to 1-7, while No. 20 Louisville improved to 6-2 behind the right arm of its starter.

Down 6-0 in the ninth inning, Dane Sauer hit a ground ball to third base and was then promptly thrown out to end the game. Sauer left the bases loaded a scene all too familiar for the Panthers in Louisville, Ky.

Eastern struggled getting hits with runners on base, as the Panthers left 11 stranded. With runners in scoring position, the Eastern offense was 0-for-9.

Sparger was able to maneuver around jams in the second and third innings, when the Panthers had their best scoring chances against the right-handed pitcher.

Eastern freshman Marshawn Taylor in particular had a difficult time with runners on board.

After Jacob Reese was hit by a pitch to load the bases in the second inning,



Adam Casson popped out to second base for Eastern the freshman stepped up to the batter's box.

Taylor lined out to second base to end the scoring threat, leaving the bases full of Panthers

Eastern baseball coach Jim Schmitz said he does not understand why the offense is not sticking to the game plan when it comes to hitting when runners are on base.

"As a coach it kind of confuses you when we touched on it during the fall on how we do things and right we do not have the right approach," he said.

Schmitz said Eastern hitters are not going after the right pitches.

"Guys are taking the fastball and swinging at the change-up, which is definitely not the right mindset," Schmitz

In the fourth inning Taylor was at the

plate once again with two outs and runners at first and second.

Casson was walked ahead of Taylor on four pitches, before Taylor struck out swinging to end the inning and stranding two more runners.

Taylor is now batting .048 (1-for-21) in eight games this season, but Schmitz said the young shortstop would have to continue to fight through the early season struggles.

"He's going to have to ride through this and he's a tough kid — he'll be fine," Schmitz said.

While the Panthers struggled bringing in runners across home plate, Louisville also began the afternoon leaving men on base.

Although the Cardinals scored a run in the first inning off of Eastern freshman Jake Haberer, they also left the bases loaded, ending the inning with two strikeouts.

But Louisville answered with a threerun second inning, which was more than enough separation that it would need from the Panthers.

After giving up two singles to start the inning, Haberer was replaced by lefthander Ben Kennedy, but on the second pitch the lefty threw Louisville's Sutton Whiting tripled down the right-field line, driving in two runs.

Whiting then scored from an RBIgroundout off the bat of Cole Stergeon, which gave the Cardinals a 4-0 lead.

Haberer took the loss, as he was charged with three runs in his one-in-

Following a shaky start, Sparger cruised through the middle innings, not giving up a hit starting from the third until the seventh inning. Three Cardinals pitched the final 2.1 innings, allowing only two hits and a walk.

Eastern will now prepare for The Diamond Classic, which starts Friday in Starkville, Miss., where the Panthers wil play four games including two against No. 18 Mississippi State.

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

Coach proud of swim program after season

By Dan Hildebrandt

Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

With the completion of the Summit League Championships, Saturday, Eastern men's and women's swimming has come to a close for the 2013-2014 campaign.

The Summit League Championships provided good competition for the Panthers, as Eastern swimming coach Elliott McGill said was the best competition he

"I thought our swimmers competed very well against the fastest conference meet in my nine years here as an athlete and coach," McGill said.

Eastern was expecting a fast meet, but

it turned out to be faster than expected. Working in the offseason will help the Panthers along the way to make a few splashes at conference next year, McGill

"Every program in our conference got better," he said. "We need to work hard to improve this offseason so that we are the ones doing the surprising next year."

To go along with the sixth place finish in the conference meet, the Panther men accumulated a season record of 0-8, while the women finished the regular season with a record of 2-7.

Despite the losing records, the Panthers set 12 school records during the course of the season with 10 of those record-breaking performances coming at the Summit League Championships.

To go along with school records, there were a total of 60 top-10 swims throughout the 2013-2014 season with 35 of those happening at the conference meet

McGill said he was not disappointed in the season and praised the progress of the team that is primarily made up of under-

"Overall, we had 60 all-time top-10 performances and 12 school records – that's awesome for a team that is three

quarters freshmen and sophomores." To go along with a successful young class of swimmers, some of the older

swimmers also contributed greatly to the

Senior Colin McGill was the first Eastern swimmer to compete at Nationals for

Overall, McGill said he was more than pleased with the team as a whole during the course of the season.

"I could not be any more proud of this program," he said.

With 60 all-time top-ten performances, 12 school records and a U.S. Nationals, McGill ended his third season in charge of the Eastern swimming program.

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