

2-27-2014

## Daily Eastern News: Feburary 27, 2014

Eastern Illinois University

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TOP CAT

Eastern pole vaulter Peter Geraghty has tied the record with fellow pole vaulter Mick Viken, earning him this week's Top Cat.  
Page 8



TOIL & TROUBLE  
Eastern's theatre arts department performs opening night of the production "Macbeth."  
Page 3

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 "TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID" VOL. 98 | NO. 109

Rec Center asks to keep budget steady for 3rd year

Student staff heavy focus for upcoming year, budget

By Jarad Jarmon  
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

The Student Recreational Center has proposed a budget request asking for \$211,000 from the Apportionment Board for FY2015.

The Rec staff has requested the same funds for FY2013 and FY2014 as well. Sarah Daugherty, program director and lead manager for Campus Recreation, said they were already working on a tight enough budget, with a limited staff for the size of the Rec and the programs within.

Most of the AB funds go towards student payroll. Daugherty said about 97 percent of the funds goes towards the students working and running the facility.

Currently, three full-time employees and six graduate assistants run the entire facility and programs within it.

There are also 140 undergraduate student workers who are doing handling cleaning the facility.

Daugherty compared what the Rec runs on to Western Illinois University, which has roughly the same enrollment, Rec center. There are currently 13 graduate students "doing the same job" as the six Eastern graduate students do in the same type of program.

The student payroll and the grad assistants cost \$204,000.

The other \$7,000 pays for the maintenance agreement with Direct Fitness Solutions.

The agreement covers four service calls.

On these calls, the maintenance worker vacuums and repairs any damaged equipment.

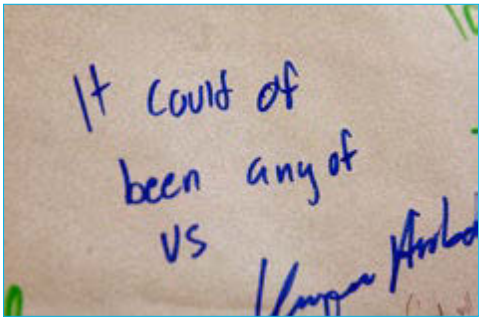
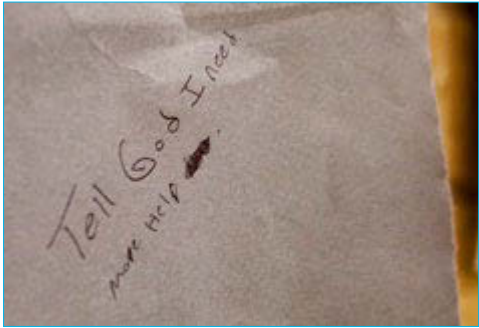
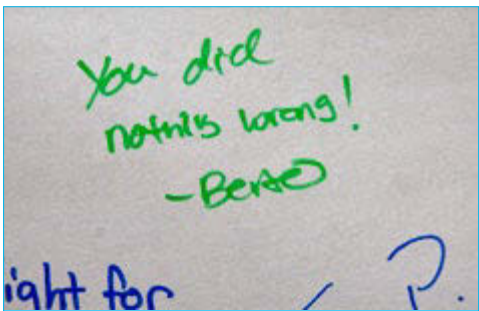
BUDGET, page 5

Eastern pays tribute to Trayvon Martin



PHOTOS BY CHYNNA MILLER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern's Black Student Union welcomed students and faculty members to sign a banner in honor of the anniversary of the death of Trayvon Martin Wednesday in Coleman Hall. Martin was 17 years old when George Zimmerman of Lake Mary, Fla. shot and killed him, seeking protection under Florida's Stand Your Ground statute. Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch coordinator of his gated community at the time, faced trial for second-degree-murder and manslaughter. The case ended in acquittal. Wednesday acknowledged the two-year anniversary of Martin's death. Students across campus left messages such as, "You did nothing wrong," and "I am you," to honor Martin's memory and express ideas they would have liked to tell Martin. The banner-signing was followed by a later event titled, "UnVALE-ing the truth: Does racial profiling still exist?" Attendees watched the movie Fruitvale Station and then discussed prevalent issues concerning the safety of minorities' safety from violence.



MAP grant deadline extension announced

By Jarad Jarmon  
Associaite News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

The Executive Vice President announced the Monetary Awards Program grants submission deadline has been moved up to Thursday.

At the student senate meeting, Mitch Gurick said the deadline to apply before the suspension of the program for 2014 to 2015 had been moved up because of growing state budget difficulties. The unprece-

dentented amount of early applications also warranted the Illinois Student Assistant Commission, who handles the MAP grant budget, to bump up the deadline.

MAP grants provided state funding for students in need of financial aid. Gradually but continually, the amount of MAP grants awarded to students has decreased for the 2014-2015 MAP start-up formula by 5 percent.

To receive the MAP grant award,

students must file the 2014-2015 Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Due to the immediacy of the deadline, students should file it online at the FAFSA website.

Gurick said this is one of the many reasons why the Student Action Team and the lobbying trip to Springfield is crucial.

Dan Nadler, the vice president for student affairs, announced he will be proposing there to be no increase in student fees for the next school

year at the Board of Trustees meeting Friday. While some of fees were decreased, others were increased to even out the same amount for student fees, which is \$59.69 per semester credit hour.

The senate also approved the budget for Gurick to head to Columbia College in Chicago, Ill., in order to attend the Illinois Board of Higher Education- Student Advisory Committee at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

DEADLINE, page 5

Coles county poverty presents a factor in tax debate

By Michael Spencer  
City Editor | @tmskeeper

With the primary election less than three weeks away, taxes and other forms of revenue have been up for debate among candidates and acting government officials alike.

One in five people in Coles County live in poverty, complicating the issue of increasing or decreasing tax revenues.

Candidates for the state representative race have debated the merits of a flat income tax and a graduated income tax. Meanwhile, county school boards have placed a referendum on the ballot that would raise the sales tax by one percent.

Darrell Cox, the out-going Coles County sheriff and one of the three GOP candidates for the local state representative seat in the General Assembly, said he supports the continuation of Illinois' flat income tax because the constituency is in favor of the policy.

"The majority of people in this district want a flat tax," Cox said.

His competitors in the primary election said they concur to a certain extent, but believe there are other taxes to be tended to first.

Kevin Garner, another Republican candidate, said he would like to see the broader application of sales taxes, rather than dependency on income and property taxes.

"I would rather see a sales tax across the board so that everybody, whether you're a landowner or not, are paying your fair share at the counter," Garner said.

Meanwhile, Reggie Phillips said legislators should first look to sunset the corporate tax, which he also said costs communities the sort of jobs, which could employ those who make a lower income.

"(The General Assembly) got the corporate tax money and squandered it," Phillips said.

Michael Gillespie, an Eastern sociology professor, said the most important aspect of taxing the poor comes down to finding a system, which does not disproportionately impact people living in poverty.

Gillespie, who has spent much of his four years at Eastern collecting data on poverty in Coles County, said a flat tax impacts the poor in a way that is disproportionate to the way it affects those in other tax brackets.

"Any tax that taxes people of different income

levels disproportionate to their income level is eventually going to hurt people who don't make a lot of money," Gillespie said.

Teshome Abebe, an Eastern economics professor, said that fairness is a primary pursuit of any tax system. Moreover, he said a true flat tax could offer fairness by closing loopholes, resulting in a more proportionate revenue distribution.

"Conceivably, the flat tax rate would also close all these other measures and schemes; and as long as people do not create new means of hiding their incomes from the tax authorities, it could be viewed as more fair than other tax structures or systems," Abebe said.

One way Gillespie said the flat tax impacts those in poverty unfairly is through tax credits, which can be more accessible to those with the money to pay for an accounting service who also have more assets that make tax credits easier to obtain.

Kelsey Swing, a partner at Gilbert, Metzger and Madigan, a local accounting firm, said tax software could allow a person to capture all the eligible tax credits.

"They might be missing out on credits if they're filing their tax returns on paper," Swing said. "They might not be aware of the credit."

The 1 percent sales tax referendum placed on the ballot by county school boards to improve facilities is typically considered a regressive tax, but Gillespie and Abebe said they think this tax is different.

"These sorts of taxes are generally regressive in that the rate decreases as the amount subject to tax increases," Abebe said. "As a result there is greater burden on the 'poor' than the 'rich.'"

However, the way the tax contributes to education while not taxing necessities like groceries and medicine changes the scenario.

"In this instance, I believe that while the form of the tax is regressive, it has a progressive aim in that its purpose is to provide for a future investment in skills and education that society needs desperately, including the poor," Abebe said.

For Gillespie, improving the education is about more than just conveying information. It is about taking pride in the school system.

"The type of environment that you learn in has a direct impact on what you're able to do and what you are able to produce," Gillespie said.

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



## Local weather

TODAY



Sunny  
High: 15°  
Low: 6°

FRIDAY



Snow  
High: 30°  
Low: 24°

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## THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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## Women's History and Awareness month begins



CAYLA MAURER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Ashley Samoska, a sophomore English major, sings, "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" during a Living History performance Wednesday at the Charleston Carnegie Public Library. The event was a premier to Women's History and Awareness Month, which officially begins in March.

## CAA to vote on requests from departments

By Jack Cruikshank  
Administration Editor | @JackCruik

The Council on Academic Affairs will vote on 20 requests from various departments around campus at its meeting at 3:00 p.m. Thursday in the 1895 room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The departments of physics, study abroad, music, military science, business and finance all have requests before the CAA Thursday.

The department of physics will review the option in engineering physics to amend it to allow students to complete an engineering degree at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

According to the degree revision request form, the addition of the Carbondale degree as satisfying the Engineering Degree requirement of the program adds more options for students in the program.

"Transfer acceptance into the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign college of engineering program has become more difficult, so this gives students a greater number of opportunities to complete the degree program," according to the request form.

The request, if approved, will change a "catalog error" to add PHY 4712, Experimental Physics II, as a requirement for the major.

Study Abroad will be revising its capstone course for students who have studied abroad before taking the class.

The class, STA 4000G, Study Abroad Capstone, serves as an option for students to take as opposed to a more traditional capstone course.

The CAA will then review a proposal to revise six courses within kinesiology and sports studies, all within Recreation Administration.

After those six proposed revisions, the music department will propose a new course, MUS 2443, Choral Methods, which, according to the course proposal form, "prepares the instrumentalist to teach choir in the middle school and high school classrooms."

According to the proposal, "Currently, our curriculum doesn't adequately address the choral component for instrumentalists enrolled in the music education degree plan. More and more middle and high school music programs include choir as a job description for the full-time music educator."

The music department will also request to amend its option in performance.

After the music department, the Eastern Reserve Officer Training Corps will allow students to select from a variety of history courses.

According to the proposal, "this requested change (will) allow students more flexibility in selecting a suitable history course to, in part, fulfill the requirements of the military science minor."

The school of business will request to remove MAR 3550, Marketing as a Profession, as another course, BUS 3470, Principles of Marketing, will soon meet the same qualification for the marketing major.

According to the degree revision request form, "This course will (once implemented) replicate much of the content and rigor that MAR 3550 currently provides, thus the marketing major would experience duplication across their curriculum experience if the course remains."

The council will also hear proposals to add a new business course, BUS 3100, Survey of Marketing Principles, and revise a current course, BUS 3010, Management and Organizational Behavior.

### 5 departments to make 20 requests to CAA at meeting

Department of physics  
Department of study abroad  
Department of music  
Department of military science  
Department of business and finance

GRAPHIC BY EMILY PROVANCE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The school of business will then request to amend the business administration minor to include the new BUS 3100 course.

The final act at the council meeting will be to approve revisions to four finance courses.

The council has 11 items pending for a future meeting.

Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or [jdcruikshank@eiu.edu](mailto:jdcruikshank@eiu.edu).

# The 2014 Summer Schedule will be in the

## March 4th edition of

## THE Daily Eastern News

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# ‘Macbeth’ interweaves murder, power, betrayal

By **Olivia Diggs**  
Staff Reporter | @DEN\_News

Sitting in the audience, Jordan Dekker felt like she was in Scotland for “a wee bit.”

As the play drew on around her, with murder, betrayal and a struggle for power, Dekker, an art major, said the fight scenes in particular were well done.

Wisps of smoke, plaid costumes and Scottish accents were part of what brought Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” to life on the Theater stage in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on Wednesday.

During Dekker’s first time seeing “Macbeth” on stage, she said she wished the castles had been researched a little better – but above all else, it was just a small detail in an enjoyable play.

Hand-crafted red, yellow and gray “bricks” were painted on the castle set that sat on top of a grey turnstile, which was turned many times during the play to show different sides of the castle, giving a sense of foreboding and danger throughout the show.

Dekker said, however, she felt the stage could have been made better. However, these were just petty details compared to the overall enchantment of the production.

The start of the play begins with the beating of a kincardine, a Scottish drum, and then the entire cast comes to the stage raising their swords and let’s out three battle cries.

The play was very prop heavy with authentic swords, faux fire lighting, fake blood, which was painted on Michael Jachowicz, a freshman communication studies major, that played the role of Banquo.

Josh Keck, a student from Charleston High School, said his favorite part was Macbeth’s hallucinations. After the death of Banquo, Macbeth hallucinates that Banquo is in the castle with him and guests, making for an amusing scene.

Riley Cutright, a student at Charleston High School, said she liked the play with the exception of a few stumbles in the dialogue in the beginning, however a few aspects of the play drew a negative reaction from her.

“Even though it is a pretty serious show, I feel like there could be more energy,” said Cutright.

Jessica Kozik, a freshman sociology and English major, said that any scene with the character Macbeth, played by Jacob Cole, a junior theater major, on stage was very good.



SETH SCHROEDER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Holly Robisch, Imani McDaniel and Mackenzie Buob perform as the Three Witches during Eastern’s performance of William Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” Wednesday in The Theatre of The Doudna Fine Arts Center. Additional performances of “Macbeth” will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday in The Theatre.

“I think you would want to put a lot of effort into making sure it is the best version of Macbeth that could have been done because it has been done so many times,” Dekker said.

“Macbeth” will be performed until Sunday. Shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday’s performance will be at 2 p.m. in the Theater.

*Olivia Diggs can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.*

# Hit Mix might receive Woodie

By **Jarad Jarmon**  
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

WEIU Hit Mix 88.9 was nominated for an MTVu Woodie Award for the Best College Radio Station.

This is the first time Hit Mix has been nominated for the award.

Hit Mix is one of 10 who have been nominated for the award.

The other nine include Ball State University WCRD-FM, Boston University WTBU-FM, East Stroudsburg University WESS-FM, Indiana University WIUX-FM, Texas State University- San Marcos KTSW-FM, University of California- Berkeley KALX-FM, University of Illinois- Champaign Urbana WPGU-FM, University of South Carolina WUSC-FM and William Paterson University WPSC-FM.

University of South Carolina WUSC-FM and William Paterson University WPSC-FM.

The winner of this award is decided entirely by those who vote on the MTVu website.

Anyone interested in voting must sign in or make an account online. There is no limit to the amount of times one can vote.

Voting closes on March 6.

This is the seventh year this category has been awarded to colleges throughout the country.

Hit Mix and the University of Illinois- Champaign WPGU-FM are the second and third Illinois university radio stations to be nominated for this award.

WZRD-FM, Illinois State University’s campus radio station was nominated in 2013.

Hit Mix consists of roughly 20 students on-staff playing hits ranging from oldies to pop to country to rock to adult contemporary to Motown, along with today’s chart toppers, according to the University Newsletter.

The Woodie Awards will air at 8 p.m. March 16, but the awards will be hosted March 13 in Austin, Texas during the South by Southwest Music Festival.

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

## 10 Nominees for MTVu’s Woodie Award for Best College Radio Station

- Eastern’s WEIU Hit Mix 88.9
- Ball State University WCRD-FM
- Boston University WTBU-FM
- East Stroudsburg University WESS-FM
- Indiana University WIUX-FM
- Texas State University- San Marcos KTSW-FM
- University of California- Berkeley KALX-FM
- University of Illinois- Champaign Urbana WPGU-FM
- University of South Carolina WUSC-FM
- William Paterson University WPSC-FM

GRAPHIC BY EMILY PROVANCE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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STAFF EDITORIAL

# Don't spend money just to spend it

In the current state of Eastern's necessary budget cuts, increased budgets among different organizations might not be the best option.

With wanting to have an overall increase in money for the new school year, the University Board is just one example of maybe rethinking how the money is dispersed.

Instead of wanting to draw students into the room of certain events, organizations should focus on keeping the students they do have – and cutting their losses with the ones that are not doing so well.

Times are tight, no doubt about that, but superfluous spending in order to raise attendance rates at a university with a steadily declining enrollment is counterproductive.

In truth, each of the organizations that want to have an increase should first look at their attendance rates, and take a hard look at what should be cut.

If certain organizations only gets a handful of people interested in it per semester, versus one where there is quite more interest, focus should be placed in that event, rather than beefing up the lower-attendance aspects.

By cutting costs at the bulk rather than going with the adage "spend money to make money," the short game will be solved. If organizations are shoveling cash into areas that yield little to no profit just on the hope that when enrollment increases so will the revenue, there will be no money to spend once enrollment does go up.

Asking for money to save a dying program or area will only lead to more problems down the line. Throwing money into a broken car will not automatically make the car run again. Sometimes organizations need to figure out what should be cut to improve their overall program.

Looking at the steady decline in enrollment should be a factor in what gets cut and what doesn't. Obviously bigger events, for instance, Welcome Back Weekend and Homecoming yield bigger rates of interest. However, if it is a program on a Tuesday night, a lecture or something else of that nature, organizations – any organization – should make that a variable in deciding what to ask money for.

And with the Apportionment Board reviewing the budget proposals, the members should also take that into account. Unless the event gives something back to warrant putting money into it, it should not be a factor. If the budget is based on a possibility of bringing in more interest, then that possibility should have some backing to it. Do not spend money just to spend money – especially in these money-tight times.

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

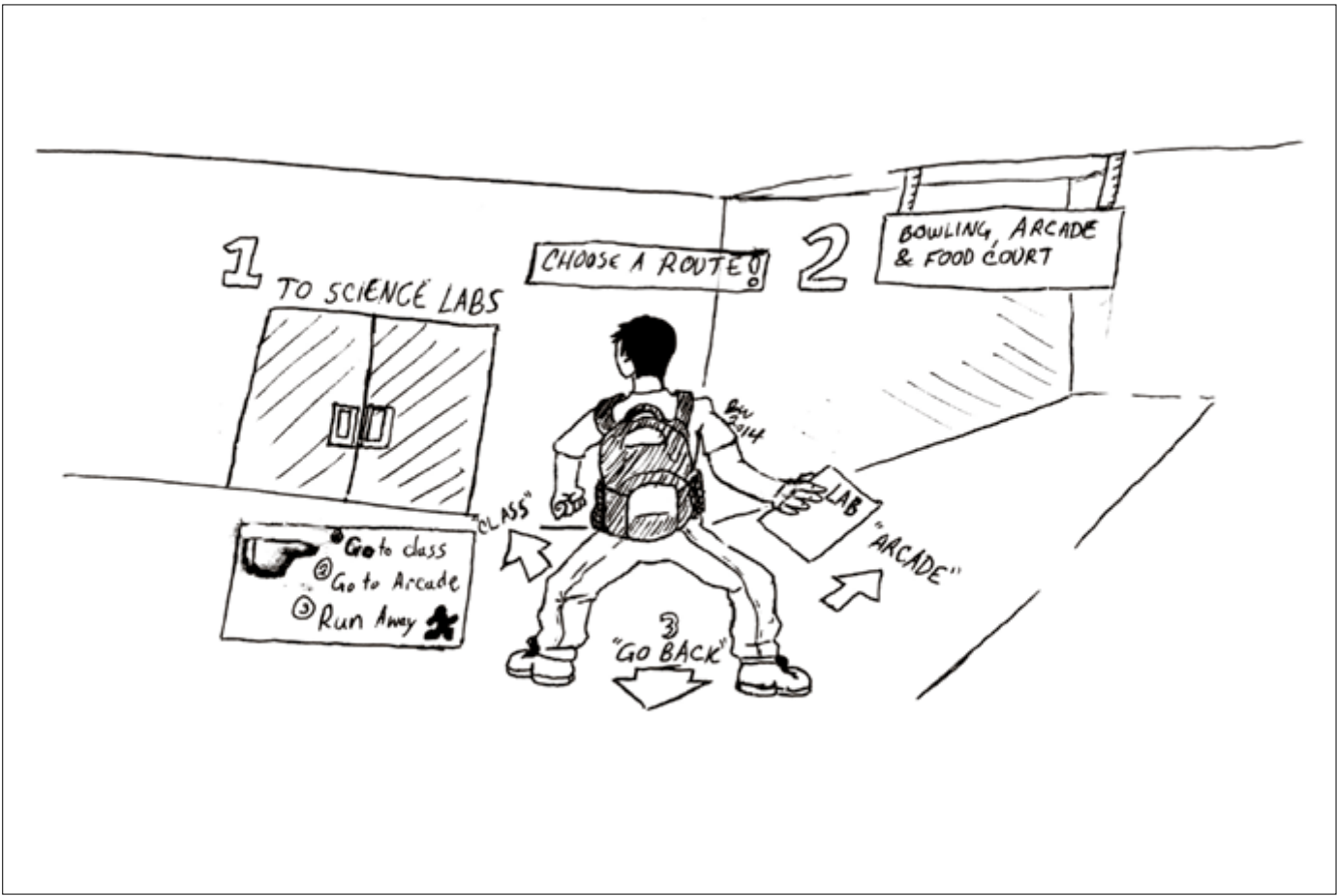
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## DRAWN FROM THE EASEL



JOSH WILLIAMS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

# Run toward your own paradigm shift

A few weeks ago I went to Champaign for a driving safety class as recompense for my first speeding ticket, which I received a few months ago.

The class was filled with university students mostly from Indiana, Ohio and my home state of Illinois. The two guys directly in front of me were given tickets for the illegal transportation of alcohol. Both of whom were wearing snapbacks, basketball jerseys and an air of smugness about them.

Up in front of the conference room, the police officer looked like the stunt double of Bob Saget dressed as a cop if the world stayed exactly the same post-“Full House” both socially and culturally.

He even made a generalization about Asian women drivers in front of a young Asian woman at the end of the second row.

In short, the class was pointless, except for comedy material gleaned from all of the chaos. However, the police officer also explained the concept of the “paradigm shift.”



Sean Copeland

The term “paradigm shift” was developed by scientist Thomas Kuhn as a way of explaining events and anomalies outside of the conventional theories in contemporary science.

However, it can also define people's choices in life. The overarching idea being that those events and ideas in our lives that alter us the most are “paradigm shifts”, things that drastically and often dramatically change are views on life.

As I near graduation and begin to come to terms with friends moving to other states,

finding jobs across the country, while our time together becomes finite; college is seen just as a stepping stone to other paradigm shifts.

Make the most of these moments and when the opportunity presents itself. Take the path less traveled, carve your own, and sprint towards these paradigm shifts.

There is no limit to the infinitesimal possibilities at your disposal.

Don't limit yourself to what you think should or could happen. Be open to new experiences, people, and life events past college.

It will ultimately change who you were and are, but it will also represent who you can be and these events only serve to make us stronger, smarter, more noble people.

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

# Collins' coming out is OK to be recognized

Jason Collins made his return to the NBA Sunday, suiting up for the Brooklyn Nets after signing a ten-day contract with the team who was looking to add a player to help with rebounding and defense.

Collins finished Sunday's game at the Staples Center against the Los Angeles Lakers with no points, but played 11 minutes in the win.

In the post-game press conference, media (much more than who would have usually been at a regular season NBA game) swarmed to cover the historic day in sports.

ESPN's Sportscenter program made Collins' presence the focal point of its coverage when showing the highlights of the game. There was also discussion and analysis throughout the show on his impact, not only of the game, on sports as a whole.

The Internet began to bring up the point of if we really are going to treat gay and lesbian people “just like anybody else,” then why does Collins deserve so much attention?

His performance wasn't that spectacular.



Dominic Renzetti

Brooklyn's Deron Williams, who scored 30 points that night, was much more instrumental in the Nets win than Collins.

I think we need to take a step back here and take a look at a few things. First, sometimes I think when people complain about how ESPN talks about the same things over and over again on Sportscenter, they don't realize that they're watching the same episode on repeat, only with different anchors.

A big misconception, but one that I've been guilty of doing. The transitions are sneaky and well played. It's probably what keeps you from turning the channel. It's good marketing, and I can admit, I've fallen for it.

More importantly, I see the point that, yes, in our progressive, ever accepting, forward thinking society in the year 2014, a gay athlete, theoretically speaking, shouldn't be a big deal. We're past the point where a person's sexual orientation should matter. Oh, so-and-so is gay? We shrug our shoulders and keep moving, or at least I think that's the way we think that we think.

In the future (a future that I do not think is too far away), I can totally see a gay athlete not being a big deal. He or she checks into the game, or comes off the sidelines, and they're just any other player, but this is different. Collins is the first to do so, and this is certainly history. We should acknowledge it, and yes, it should be covered.

Eventually, this stuff won't be news to us, but right now, it is, and it's perfectly OK for it to be.

*Dominic Renzetti is a senior family and consumer sciences major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or denopinions@gmail.com*

### Editorial Board

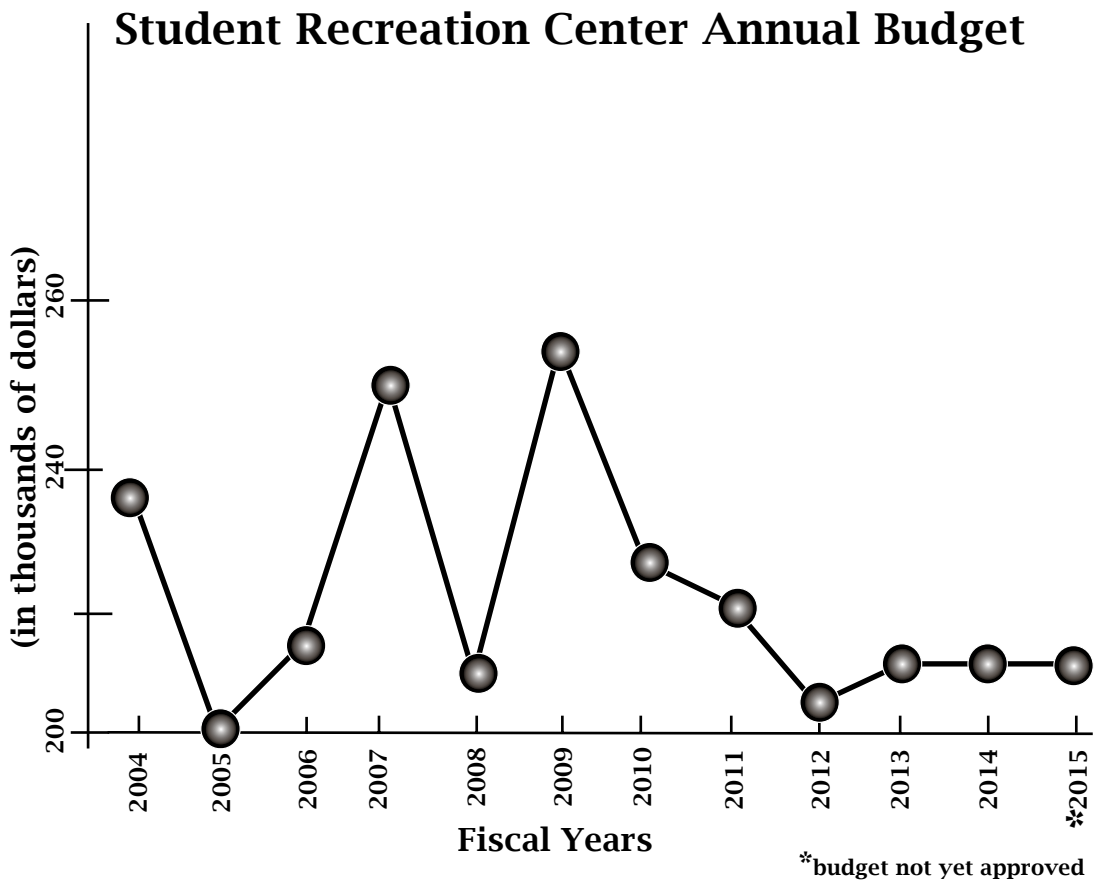
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GRAPHIC BY MEGAN IVEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

For the past three fiscal years, the budget for the Student Recreation Center has remained the same at \$211,000. The Student Recreation Center received its highest budget in 2009, totaling \$258,497.

» **BUDGET** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Unlike the other three budgets covered by student fees including student government, University Board, and AB, The Rec receives \$6,000 in state appropriations and \$75,000 from membership fees to the Rec. This money is used for supplies for the three professional staff members, cleaning and office supplies as well as other miscel-

laneous things like special programs. Daugherty said if the AB recommends cuts, they would use the funds from the self-generated funds to make up the difference. She added the Rec staff wanted to make it a point to maintain the current number of staff. She said they are what make the Rec what it is and they cannot be left without.

Daugherty said in her nine years working at the Rec she has not seen their current budget request be denied and required to cut more. She added she hopes he same for this budget as well but one cannot tell what AB might do. She said she trusted them though in their decision. “They are good stewards with the money,” Daugherty said.

AB is working with \$500,000 and will discuss whether to approve the four budgets as is or not at its meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Arcola-Tuscola Room in the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union.

Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 581-2812 or [jsjarmon@eiu.edu](mailto:jsjarmon@eiu.edu)

» **DEADLINE**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gurick said he will not be using much of the approved budget because he will be taking a train. He will only be using \$170.

He said he did not want to use the university van putting at risk the lives of the other senate Student Action Team members and himself with the rough weather to come in the upcoming days.

There is expected to be more than 10 inches of snow falling later this week north of Charleston.

MAP grant funding is one of three things talked about at the meeting. They also looked over points to be made when they lobby like the need for state appropriated funds for higher education.

The Student Body President made a point to make sure the Student Senate understands their responsibilities and the importance of fulfilling their roles at the senate meeting Wednesday.

Kaylia Eskew went through each one of the duties of a senate member from pointing out they need to do such things as attend meetings and complete there hours. She said the senate meetings in particular have been too informal and inefficient.

The senate also approved a budget of \$44 for blow-pops to handed out on Tuesday in the Booth Library. Kathryn English, the student vice president for academic affairs, said this gets the student government name out to the students and will remind students of midterms starting Monday. She said when she was doing this in past years students legitimately were unaware of midterms.

They also approved the Student Action Team by-laws, which had a few minor changes since it was proposed at their last meeting. It was clarified that a Student Action Team member should be in good standing with the university while maintaining a 2.5 GPA.

The bylaws now clarify that the senate must approve of the termination of a team member. Eskew said the member will be notified if there is interest in removing them from their position. Other than these changes the rest of the changes proposed at the last meeting are the same

The senate will meet again at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Arcola-Tuscola Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 581-2812 or [jsjarmon@eiu.edu](mailto:jsjarmon@eiu.edu).



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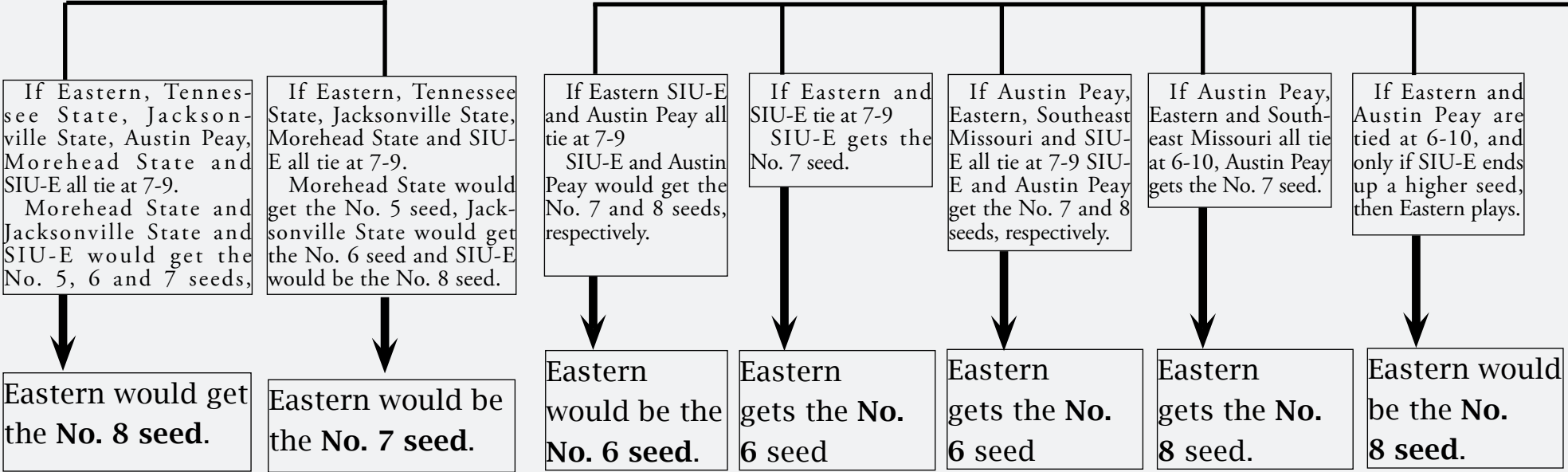


# Eastern's road to the



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## MEN'S BASKETBALL



GRAPHIC BY BOB GALUSKI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

# Panthers inch closer to OVC tournament berth

## Eastern hosts Skyhawks in home finale

By Bob Reynolds  
Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

The Eastern women's basketball team will be looking to clinch a playoff spot in the Ohio Valley Conference with a win over top-seeded Tennessee-Martin Thursday in Lantz Arena.

On the Panthers' Senior Night, Eastern will play Tennessee-Martin for the 41st time, with the Skyhawks leading the series 23-17.

The Panthers enter their final home game of the season at 7-7 in the conference, which is good enough for the No. 5 seed in the OVC tournament.

Eastern is on a two-game winning streak, with both victories coming on the road against Austin Peay and Belmont, respectively.

The Panthers overcame a half-time deficit in their win over Belmont and defeating the Bruins 54-48 on Saturday.

In the game the Panthers had 13 assists and a season-low in turnovers with seven and outscored the Bruins 19-3 in points off turnovers.

In Eastern's first meeting against Tennessee-Martin on Jan. 27, the Panthers scored a season-high 84



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Katlyn Payne, a redshirt junior guard, looks for a pass in a game against Southeast Missouri State University Feb. 8 in Lantz Arena. The Panthers go up against University of Tennessee-Martin at 7 p.m. Thursday in Lantz Arena.

points, but lost 103-84 in Martin, Tenn.

The Panthers shot 60.4 percent from the field (29-of-48), which is also a season-high, outshooting the Skyhawks, who shot 57.6 percent from the field (37-of-64).

Heather Butler and Ashia Jones led the Skyhawks with 55 points combined on 21-of-39 shooting, aiding Tennessee-Martin to the win.

They along with Katie Schubert and Jasmine Newsome scored in double digits as well for the Sky-

hawks score 100 or more points in seven games this season.

On Wednesday, Butler and Newsome were named finalists for the 2014 Nancy Lieberman Award, which recognizes the top point guard in women's NCAA Division I college basketball.

Butler is averaging 23.2 points per game, which is No. 1 in the OVC.

The Skyhawks are first in the OVC in scoring as a team with 82.9 points per game. They also have the biggest scoring margin

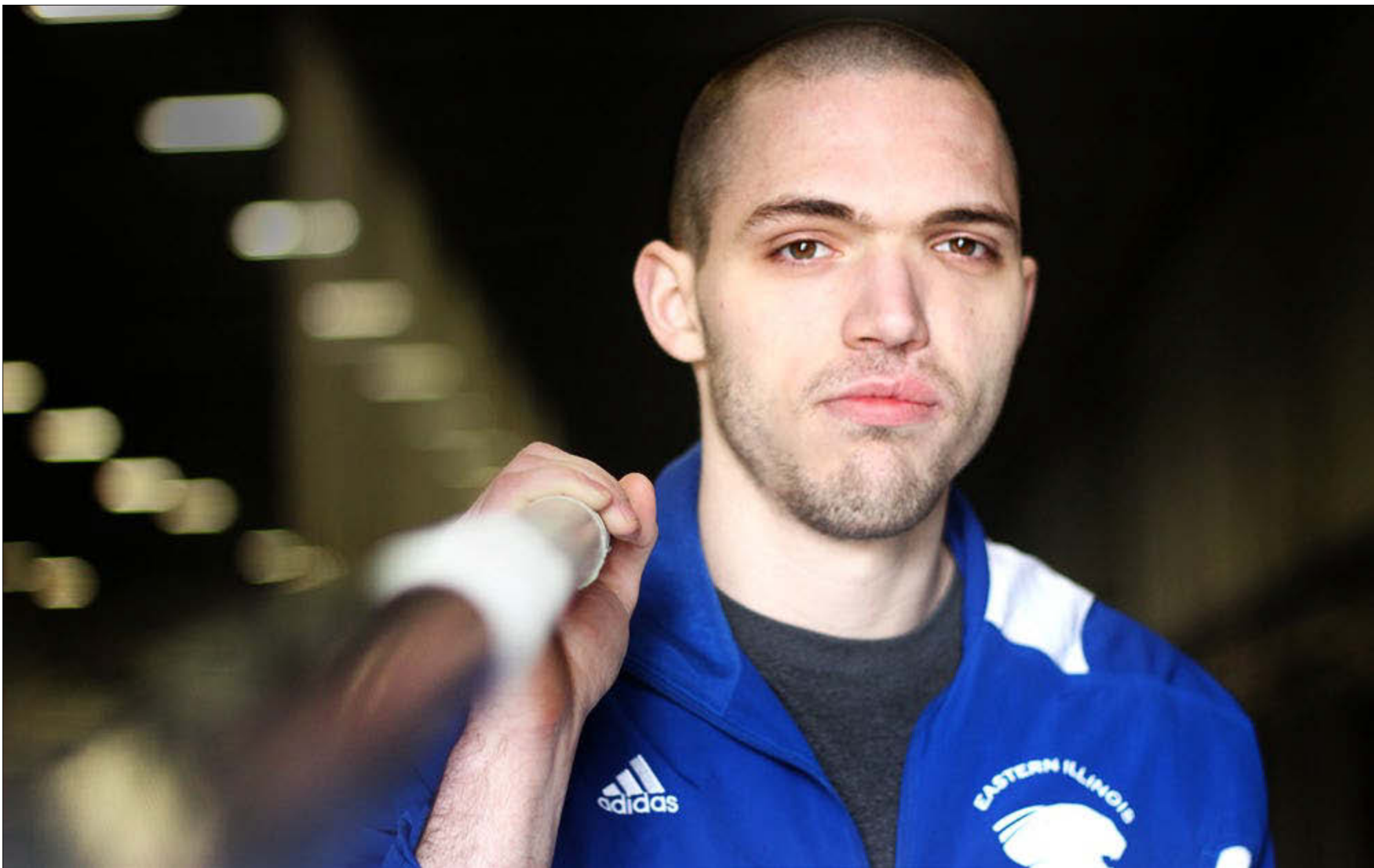
among OVC teams at plus 10.2 a game. Also, the Skyhawks lead the conference in field goal percentage at 43.5 percent per game.

The Panthers, however, come into the game ranked second in scoring defense at 67.5 points allowed per game.

The Panthers and Skyhawks will tip off at 7 p.m. Thursday in Lantz Arena.

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





KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern pole vaulter Peter Geraghty tied the track and field record with a height of 17-feet, 10.5-inches at the EIU Friday Night Special on Friday. Geraghty is red-shirt senior transfer from North Central College, a Division III college, where he was a two-time National Champion.

## ‘Air’ to the throne

### Geraghty ties teammate for pole-vaulting record

By Blake Nash and Anthony Catezone  
Staff Reporter & Sports Editor

It has taken less than a month for Peter Geraghty to etch his name in the Eastern track and field record books.

The senior pole vaulter transferred to Eastern this season from North Central College, where he was a two-time Division III National Champion.

Geraghty tied teammate Mick Viken’s record of 17-feet, 10.5-inches at the EIU Friday Night Special on Friday in Lantz Fieldhouse, while also beating Viken to claim second place in the event.

“I’ve just been trying to get the height we’ve estimated — that we’re pretty sure will get us to nationals,” Geraghty said. “(Friday) I did that, so that’s a pretty good weight off my shoulders.”

While it is a weight off Geraghty’s shoulders, some may believe it is an added weight on Viken’s shoulders, but Viken disagrees — what matters most is where the two seniors rank on the national scale.

“We’re both competitive people, but it’s more about the national level and how high we place there,” Viken said.

Along with becoming a co-record holder, Geraghty has now moved up to the No. 10 pole vaulter in the country, while Viken’s season-high height of 17’ 9.25” has him ranked No. 16.

Eastern and the University of Tennessee are the only two colleges to have two pole vaulters inside the nation’s top-30.

“It’s exciting to see because EIU is continuing its trend of such dominant pole vaulters,” Viken said.

Geraghty, a red-shirt senior, is in his last

semester of athletic eligibility. And despite having several Division I programs recruiting him, Viken said, by choosing Eastern, it has also brought an unheralded competition to practices and meets.

“It’s been really beneficial to train with someone at the same level as me,” Viken said. “We haven’t really had that in my time here, but Peter (Geraghty) brings that.”

Geraghty said his height of 17’ 10.25” (or 5.45 meters) is what the pole vaulters and their coaches have estimated to qualify for nationals.

“There’s a good chance it’ll get to that mark, so hopefully I can stay confident and be one of the top-16 vaulters at nationals,” he said.

With both Geraghty and Viken ranking inside the top-16, it has not only poised the Panthers to have both qualify for nationals, but Viken said he can’t deny it has also brought competition inside Lantz, despite mainly

staying focused on nationals.

“Neither of us likes to lose, so it’s created a bit of friendly competition,” Viken said.

Next week’s Ohio Valley Conference championships have been circled on the Panthers schedule since their season began.

Eastern, defending OVC champions, return to this year’s annual conference showdown with great expectations.

But after a return to the first-place podium last week, Geraghty said he is not nervous for his first ever OVC championship meet and is approaching it like any other meet.

“It’ll be a lot of fun, and hopefully I can get some more weight off my shoulders,” said Geraghty.

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## Undefeated, ranked Panthers head to Indianapolis

By Aldo Soto  
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The Eastern women’s tennis team was named the No. 71 ranked squad in the country by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Tuesday, as the Panthers returned to the top-75 for the first time since 2008.

At 5-0, the Eastern women have matched the program’s best start to a season since 2008, when the Panthers were rated the No. 74 best team in the nation.

Now, they head to Indianapolis, where the Panthers have a chance at extending its winning streak to six and remain the only team in the Ohio Valley Conference to be in the ITA top-75 rankings.

Eastern is also the only undefeated team in

the OVC.

On Saturday, the Panthers play the Greyhounds, who are coming off a 7-2 win against Rockhurst on Feb. 16.

Although Eastern is undefeated, John Blackburn, Panthers’ women’s tennis coach, said the team could still play better.

“We know after last weekend we still have room for improvement in order to be the kind of team we want to be as the season continues,” Blackburn said in a press release.

Eastern last played Sunday, when it beat Chicago State 5-2.

The Greyhounds have not played in two weeks and are 2-2 this season. Eastern and Indianapolis have both played Illinois State, as the Panthers beat their in-state rival 4-3 to start the season. The Greyhounds, however,

lost to the Redbirds 7-2 on Feb. 8.

Last year, Eastern defeated Indianapolis 9-0. The Panthers won all six singles matches and three doubles matches, but the Greyhounds did not roll over in the loss, taking four of the singles matches into three sets, including three of those going into tiebreakers.

One of Eastern’s strengths this season has been its ability to win doubles matches. Through five matches, the Panthers have accumulated a 13-2 doubles records, losing one match apiece to Illinois State and Southern Illinois-Carbondale, respectively.

Through its first four matches, Indianapolis is 8-4 in doubles play.

Senior Janelle Prisner and junior Sephora Boulbahaem lead the Panthers this season with a perfect 5-0 doubles record. The duo has

also combined for a 7-3 record in singles competition.

Blackburn said he would use the ranking as a way to inspire the Panther women to do that much better.

“Hopefully this should be motivation to believe in what we’re trying to accomplish and to work even harder to improve,” he said. “We try very hard not to focus on records and rankings, but instead to make our goal to improve every day to have more toughness, courage, intelligence and to be great competitors.”

First serve is scheduled at noon Saturday in the UIIndy Tennis Center in Indianapolis.

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