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The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CHARLESTON

MONDAY | 4.28.08

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EIU | SPOTLIGHT

Graduation Day

Mother and daughter will graduate at the same ceremony

By Emily Zulz
Activities Reporter

Rhonda McConnell's only worry on graduation day will be not tripping.

She does not have the same worries for her daughter, who will be walking across the same stage only a few moments before her.

Rachel McConnell, a senior public communications studies major, is terrified.

She's been in school for 18 years of her life. The daunting task of finding a job now lies before her while still balancing homework and graduating, she said.

Rhonda, in the Bachelor of Arts in General Studies Degree Program, said she's lucky she has none of that pressure to get a job because she already has one.

"All along, all these classes that I've taken, it's never been with this, 'I have to do this. I need an education so I can get a good job,'" she said.

That's what her daughter and other traditional college students go through, Rhonda said.

"I'm more nervous about just walking and not falling," she said.

"I'll laugh the loudest if you do," Rachel said.

"I bet you will," Rhonda said.

Along with the McConnells, about 1,662 others will walk at this Saturday's commencement exercises.

A short notice

It wasn't until March that Rhonda found out for sure she would be able to graduate.

"I wanted (Rachel) to graduate first and, honestly, I don't know that I ever thought that I would graduate," she said. "I just kept thinking I would take classes and it would never end up with a degree."

But in January, Rhonda father's cancer returned. She then decided she should try.

She first called Rachel to make sure it was OK with her.

"I was afraid she would feel like I was horning in on her big celebration," Rhonda said.

She couldn't have been more wrong. Rhonda said her daughter thought that would just be "the coolest thing."

"Some people laugh. They're like, 'With your mom?'" she said. "But we're really close, so to get to do something that not very many people get to do together, I think, is exciting."

Rhonda, who has taken classes at Eastern since Fall 2004, transferred her classes into the BGS program in January. It accepted all her classes, and she had all the requirements to graduate. That day, Rhonda applied for graduation.

A forgotten dream

Rhonda had forgotten about her dream she had in 1980 when she first started college — getting her bachelor's.

She went to college after she graduated from high school and said it was just assumed that she would finish.

But she dropped out, got married and had a baby.

She then went to Parkland College and got her associate's degree.

At that point, Rhonda said she never really thought she would go back to college. That is, until her daughter started at Eastern.

Rachel said the whole family was excited for her mom when she first started talking about going back.

"It was always her and Dad coming to stuff for me and my sister, supporting us," she said. "This gave us something else to support her in. Something to say, 'Hey, do this. We can go to your stuff. What can we do for you?'"

A supportive team

Rachel said when her mom first started taking classes, all she talked about was getting a 4.0 GPA. And she did.

"That's all she still talks about," Rachel said.

» SEE GRADUATION, PAGE 5

CAMPUS | FESTIVAL



KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

In a group right below the stage, Marjie Wilburn, a freshman art education major, blows bubbles to the tunes of American English, a Beatles cover band. American English performed Friday on the Library Quad as a part of Celebration festivities.

Celebration of life lightens up Quad

Art, music, food, games make up Eastern's weekend celebration

By Heather Holm
RHA Reporter

Tracy Rohr has sold jewelry at various art festivals for about eight years.

"I have had a lifelong interest in natural gemstones and have been collecting rocks since I was a kid," the Ohio native said.

This weekend marked Rohr's first time at Eastern's Celebration festival, but she said she partakes in 30 to 35 festivals a year.

Art, music and food were all celebrated at the annual "Festival of the Arts." The festival provided a host for many art vendors in the Charleston area and included a performance from American English, a Beatles cover band.

English professor Letitia Moffitt said she stopped at the festival to take a break from grading papers. But the festival was not just a relaxing break for some vendors and volunteers.

Brett Bensley, who works at

ONLINE VIDEO



See dennews.com for a video of American English from EIU's Celebration festival.

Information Technology Services, spent his weekend as an art vendor. He sold kaleidoscopes and stained glass, spanning from \$10 to \$50.

"For a long time, my wife and I used to do it regularly — and then we had kids," he said of selling items at the festival. "Now that we are a little older, we are going to try and start it up again."

Jeni Huckstep, educational services coordinator at WEIU, helped organize the booth that hosted Clifford the Big Red Dog. Clifford participated in the festival Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

"The kids loved him," Huckstep said. "We took about 110 pictures with him and the kids on Saturday, and we have goody bags for all the kids that come up."

On Saturday, about 50 people waited in line before Clifford arrived.

» SEE CELEBRATION, PAGE 5

UNIVERSITY | ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Foreign language proposal returns to CAA

Three credit hour requirement needs more consideration, says Blair Lord

By Nora Maberry
News Editor

Blair Lord has recommended to President Bill Perry that a proposal increasing the foreign language requirement be returned to the Council on Academic Affairs for further consideration.

"I have recommended to President Perry that he neither approve

nor reject the proposal as voted upon last week (April 17), but return it to CAA to address some logical and operational issues that did not get discussed fully," said Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The proposal was approved by CAA on April 17 and would have required students to complete three semester hours of a single foreign language with an average grade of C or better.

In lieu of college course work, the proposal said that requirement could be met by a variety of things, including the completion of at least three years of high school study of a sin-

gle foreign language with an average grade of a C or better.

The proposal passed CAA with a vote of 6-4 and was supposed to take effect in Fall 2010.

Julie Dietz, vice-chairwoman of CAA, said it was her understanding the proposal was being sent back to CAA.

"At this point, nothing is certain," she said regarding the proposal.

Lord said he believes CAA will revisit the proposal in the future.

"In my opinion, there also are many potential matters which need careful consideration before moving forward," Lord said. "The members of CAA seemed open to this

approach when I shared it with them."

CAA chairperson Christie Roszkowski said she believed the proposal was being returned to CAA for consideration of some issues that were not fully researched or discussed on April 17.

"I believe that these issues relate primarily to the impact and implementation of the proposal, not to the substance of it," she said.

Roszkowski said it is uncommon for proposals to be returned to CAA by the president or the provost.

Nora Maberry can be reached at 581-7942 or at nemaberry@eiu.edu.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRYCE PEAKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

EIU WEATHER

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WEATHER BRIEF

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For current conditions visit EIU WeatherCenter at www.eiu.edu/~weather

COUNTY | CRIME

Drunken driving in area decreases

By Jordan Crook
Senior City Reporter

More than a million drivers were arrested on driving under the influence charges in 2006 – one of the highest DUI arrest rates in U.S. history.

Of that million, 93 were arrested in Coles County.

This number has progressively decreased in the last two years, from 58 in 2007 to only 17 so far this year.

Kenneth Pollum, patrolman at the Charleston Police Department, said drivers involved in these cases represent a cross section of the Charleston community: a mix of both students and community members.

DUI case are more frequently seen during the weekend and the days preceding it, he said. University Police Chief Adam Due said these are the days when his department sees the most drunken driving cases as well.

If a UPD officer makes a DUI arrest, the offender will either make bail or be transferred to the county jail.

For either force, spotting an intoxicated driver is not easy.

“We can’t just look at a vehicle and tell if there is a drunk driver behind the wheel,” he said.

Pollum said there are a variety of indicators that are used to determine the sobriety level of a driver, the most obvious of which is erratic driving patterns. While there have been recent DUI cases in Coles County, Pollum said the number of those cases has decreased.

Though he could not say for sure,

Pollum said the decreases may be linked to anti-drunken driving programs and advertisements, which are regularly presented to drivers.

Brenda Sprague, a certified counselor in addiction and gambling, believes these kinds of educational programs and messages help.

Sprague, who works at the Walter DUI and Counseling Services, 1550 Douglas St., Suite 115 in Charleston, said she especially likes the recent buzzed-driving commercials on air because they show that any combination of alcohol and driving can result in disaster.

“Even after having one drink, your brain is affected,” Sprague said. “Driving under the influence is driving under the influence.”

These buzzed-driving commercials, she said, showcase how a person does not have to be stumbling drunk to be unable to drive. One drink can be enough to cause an accident or arrest.

Sprague counsels people who have been arrested for DUI and are now in treatment to satisfy court requirements or to help overcome an addiction to alcohol.

A DUI conviction can be devastating to a person’s life, especially students and those who live in rural areas like Charleston. Often, rural-dwellers rely on their driver’s licenses to get to vital places like work or school.

Men are more affected by the loss of their license because they often play the role of breadwinner for the family and need the license to get to work to make money, Sprague said. Women

respond more to the threat of losing custody of children because of a drinking problem than to the threat of losing their license.

She believes the current drunken-driving laws are effective, though she does expect them to get stricter – not necessarily because they punish offenders, but because they can help those in need.

“The laws are good in the sense that they are getting people into treatment,” Sprague said.

She said many of who come into Walter DUI and Counseling Services participate in one-on-one as well as group counseling sessions to help overcome the sorrow that goes along with a DUI. These groups help DUI offenders get past the depression that can be suicidal in some cases, associated with such a conviction.

Sprague said many feel ashamed and alone after they are arrested, and these groups help them realize they are not alone.

Though her counseling center does cater to DUI offenders, Sprague said the center helps anyone with a problem with addiction.

“You don’t have to get arrested to get help,” she said.

Students are especially vulnerable to alcohol addiction because of the drinking atmosphere in college. Students often fail to realize drinking can sometimes be the beginning of a very serious lifetime of problems, Sprague said.

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Contact any of the above staff members you believe your information is relevant to at their provided e-mail address. You may also call 581-7942 or visit the student publications newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

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PHOTO OF THE DAY

A Special thumbs-up



NORA MABERRY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Alexis Davis from the Graywood Foundation celebrates after competing in the 100-meter Walk Final Friday at the Special Olympics Area 9 Spring Games at O'Brien Stadium.

EXTENDED COVERAGE AT WWW.DENNEWS.COM



• **Photo Gallery** - Check out dennews.com for a photo gallery of the nearly finished Doudna Fine Arts Center, scheduled to open in August.



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ATTENTION ALL
Run an AD in the Back to School Guide **TODAY!**
This guide goes out to ALL newcomers of Eastern (i.e. incoming freshman, transfers and grad students).
3,500 guides are sent via mail and in orientation packets
It also comes out the first week of school with a circulation of 13,000.

LOCAL | MONEY

City looks at going green

Energy savings to maintain energy costs

By Matt Hopf
City Editor

The renovations of the Charleston Rotary Community Aquatic Center plugged a leak in the city's budget.

City Manager Scott Smith said the pool, whose renovations were completed in 2006, was losing 3 million gallons a year through all the leaks.

While some people believe the city doesn't pay for water, Smith said the pool actually has the largest water bill in the city because of the amount of water needed to fill the pool.

A couple options to save even more on energy are being looked at, such as using solar energy to heat water for showers.

The city is exploring options to maintain energy costs.

"I don't think there will be a significant reduction in costs," Smith said.

Fuel costs is one area the city is looking at to reduce costs. The city budgeted \$275,000 for fuel for the current fiscal year, up from \$193,000 budgeted for 2007-2008. In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, budget fuel costs were \$188,000.

Smith said the city will purchase fuel-efficient vehicles for the city's fleet. Currently, the city uses half-ton Dodge pickup trucks for water billing but will replace them with Ford Rangers.

"The fuel savings will help pay for the replacements," Smith said.

The older trucks have a fuel mileage of nine to 10 miles per gallon, while the Rangers will get 24 to 28 miles per gallon, he said.

The city council approved a Request for Proposals at its Feb. 4 meeting to search for firms to reduce energy costs in the city.

The city could enter into contracts with a firm to update equipment, which could be paid for through energy cost savings.

The process could involve upgrades involving fuel use, lighting, information technology and heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

The city also uses grants to lower energy costs.

In October 2007, Charleston received a \$6,250 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to upgrade indoor lighting at both fire stations, the Police Department and the Police and Fire Training Facility Building.

"Replacement of most of these fixtures will be done using in-house labor, and replacement will begin to take place over the next several months," said Assistant City Planner Steve Pamperin. "Replacement should be complete by spring 2008."

The city has also reduced energy costs with replacement of traffic lights with LED light bulbs, installation of insulated garage doors and additional insulation on the outside of City Hall.

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CAMPUS | MUSIC

LIVING THE DREAM

Jason Mraz rocks Lantz Arena for UB's Spring Concert

By Sam Sottosanto
Staff Reporter

Jason Mraz said the concerts he plays sometimes remind him of an amusement park ride.

"Because sometimes it can be a little rickety and rockety, like I don't know what's happening, and other times it can be quite psychedelic and joyous," he said.

But his performance Friday at Lantz Arena on Easter's campus went smoothly.

"As far as I know, nobody got hurt, and we ended it on time, we started on time; people seemed to clap along," he said.

Mraz was the headliner of University Board's Spring Concert.

He said he derives inspiration for his music from a number of sources.

"I get my inspiration from friends, family members, real people. I use real stories, real relationships," he said.

Mraz has been playing music since he was young but started performing publicly when he went to coffee shops and open mic nights.

Mraz described himself as a ham and a clown when he was younger.

"I was in musical theater and drama and chorus," he said.

After high school, he went to college for eight weeks as an undecided major. "I declared California as my new major and my new adventure," Mraz said.

Mraz got his big break five years ago when he was 23 years old with his single "The Remedy." In the vid-



KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jason Mraz and Billy "Bushwalla" Galewood perform as part of Mraz's "Music, Magic and Make Peace" tour at Lantz Arena on Friday.



SEE MORE ONLINE

Check out a slideshow online from the Jason Mraz concert.

www.dennews.com

concert was an engaging experience.

"You could tell everyone was up, dancing, you know, clapping their hands. Everyone was really engaged into

the music," Galligan said.

Megan Edwards, a junior family consumer sciences major, came to the concert with Galligan. She said her favorite song by Mraz is "You and I Both."

"I just like the lyrics. It's just a friendly song that a bunch of our roommates like to sing to us. It's fun," she said.

Anne Schnura, a freshman recreation administration major, said she enjoyed her time at the concert.

"You never knew what song was coming; they were really into the crowd," Schnura said. "They were excited to be here."

Sam Sottosanto can be reached at 581-7942 or at sstottosanto@eiu.edu.

UNIVERSITY | REMEMBRANCE

Former president remembered

Dan Marvin made friends with both students, dignitaries

By Jordan Crook
Senior City Reporter

Friends remember Dan Marvin as a man who inspired friendship and loyalty wherever he went.

Marvin died April 21 at the age of 69.

Marvin's funeral was Friday at The First Presbyterian Church in Mattoon.

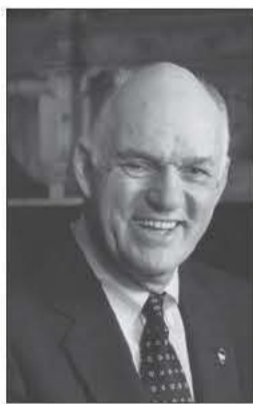
Marvin, who served as Eastern's president from 1977 to 1983, easily made friends with students, staff and faculty by treating everyone with respect and friendship.

After serving as president of Eastern, Marvin became president of First National Bank in 1983 before taking over the position of CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors at First Mid-Illinois Bank in 1989.

He served in this capacity until 1999, when he stepped down but continued to serve as a member of the board of directors until his death last week.

Throughout his life Marvin created friendships that would last a lifetime, putting an emphasis on treating colleagues and students with respect.

One of these friends is Bill Rowland, CEO and Chairman of the



Dan Marvin, former Eastern president, died April 21 at the age of 69. He was president from 1977-83.

Rowland, who worked closely with Marvin daily for 10 years, said Marvin was an easy man to get along with.

"He never knew a stranger," Rowland said.

Rowland said Marvin always tried to make people feel comfortable around him and easily created friendships.

He said Marvin was able to do this because he did not change the way he spoke to people based on their social status or their position relative to his own.

Marvin was as comfortable speaking to a student at Eastern as he was speaking with the president of the United States, Rowland said.

Marvin actually spoke with Pres-

ident Gerald Ford at a seminar he was giving at the White House when he was a research biologist.

Rowland said Marvin enjoyed speaking with Ford because he was well-attuned to the political system.

Marvin's background as a biologist gave him a unique perspective when it came to the business world.

Rowland said Marvin succeeded because he was able to look beyond the obvious causes of a problem

Marvin's philosophy on the business world was to not look at problems as problems, but to see them as opportunities.

"In business you will encounter problems," Rowland said. "But (Dan) saw problems as nothing (but) opportunities in work clothes."

Rowland said this was just one of many lessons he learned from Marvin.

Marvin was one of the most intelligent people he ever knew.

He and Marvin knew each other for so long and had experienced so many different things together that it would be impossible for him to pick just one story from that time to do their friendship justice, Rowland said.

Rowland said he and the community will miss Marvin greatly.

Marvin's family members could not be reached for comment on this story.

Jordan Crook can be reached at 581-7942 or at jscrook@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Exhibit features former President Marvin

An exhibit honoring late President Daniel Marvin is on display at Mary J. Booth Library. Marvin died April 21.

He served as Eastern's president from 1977 to 1983.

The display includes various pictures, newspapers articles and speeches of Marvin.

The display is located in the Marvin Foyer of the library.

Turn in textbooks before deadline

The deadline to turn in textbooks for the spring semester is 3 p.m. Friday.

Textbooks need to be returned to Textbook Rental.

Late textbooks will only be accepted for the following five days with a late fine of \$10 per book.

Contact Textbook Rental at 581-3626 for more information.

Awards given to TRiO achievers

TRiO Student Support Services recognized 2008 graduates, academic achievers, scholarship recipients and minority leaders of Eastern's campus Thursday night.

Bryan Range, a senior family and consumer sciences major, who is engaged to Ryan Goodall, a senior business marketing major, were two of the leading leaders recognized.

They both received multiple awards and were recognized for having cumulative GPAs above 3.0.

Range, who has been a part of the honors college for three and a half years, received a certificate for having a cumulative GPA above a 3.5.

The couple also received TRiO scholarships for next year. Range and Goodall said persistence and determination were key to their success.

Raquel Gantt, a sophomore psychology and business management major, was recognized for having a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above and being a TRiO Ambassador.

"These organizations represent strong individuals who will excel in every aspect of life," Gantt said.

Gantt's mentor, Michael Havey, a psychology professor, received the "Mentor of the Year Award."

—Compiled by Associate News Editor Stephen Di Benedetto and Staff Reporter Veronica Edmond

ON CAMPUS

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The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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THE POLITICS OF RECYCLING

Washington State U. — Walking to an early morning class the other day, I saw the guy in front of me finish off the soda he had for breakfast and lazily throw the can into a trash can.

"Hey," I said, "Why send that to the landfill when you can recycle it?" He mumbled a "Who cares?" and left.

Later that morning, I saw the trash being taken out in front of Washington State University's Bryan Hall Theater. I was appalled when I saw at least 50 percent of its contents were basic, everyday recyclables such as glass, plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

That guy who threw away the pop can probably thought of me as a tree-hugging hippie. But I don't think one has to be liberal, democratic or a tree-hugging hippie to be involved in recycling.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that recycling generates more than a million jobs and more than \$100 billion in revenue. Investments in recycling by businesses spur economic growth and sustainability.

Recycling also cuts down on greenhouse gas emissions while conserving and sustaining natural resources such as forests. Land that would otherwise be used for landfills is also saved, because recycling cuts down on the amount of trash.

Republicans and Democrats actually agree that recycling is good. A recycle-curbside.org study found that Republicans and Democrats participate equally when it comes to recycling.

John McCain, the Republican front-runner for the election this year, states on his Web site that he is committed to conserving and protecting the environment. It doesn't matter what side of the political dashboard you are, or if you don't care about politics at all, you can still do your part and recycle.

The Daily Evergreen

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial is the majority opinion of the DEN editorial board. Reach the opinions editor at: DENopinions@gmail.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in *The Daily Eastern News*.

The DEN's policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful. They must be less than 250 words.

Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to *The DEN* at 1811 Buzzard Hall. Letters may also be submitted electronically from the author's EIU e-mail address to DENopinions@gmail.com.

Drawn from the news | Dylan Polk



STAFF EDITORIAL

Changes we'd like to see happen next year

Finals start today, and many of us have already checked our brains out and are anticipating nearly four months of vacation or the steady paycheck that comes with a new job.

As we look ahead to next school year, here are some goals that we hope get accomplished during the 2008-09 school year.

In the upcoming school year, we hope to see Lou Hencken's dream become a reality when the new Textbook Rental facility finally breaks ground.

However, we would like the university to use orange safety fences instead of the ugly chain-link fences that have surrounded Doudna for years. We're adults; we understand a fence of any sort means do not enter.

We hope the Doudna Fine Arts Center opens as scheduled. The state-of-the-art building has been under construction for years and will cost an estimated \$63 million, including equipment.

The completion of the building will allow Eastern to finally give their fine arts students a permanent home, while hosting first-class music, theater and art events on campus.

After years of delays, fine arts students will finally have a permanent home on Eastern's campus. Another department that needs to find a permanent home in the upcoming year is Eastern's nursing program.

The program, started in 2007, is currently housed in Lawson Hall.

Come May, the program will be relocated, but to where is anyone's guess.

Thirty students are currently enrolled in the program. These 30 students deserve a spot to call their own on Eastern's campus by August.

There is one thing that Eastern desperately needs. We need a National Championship for football coach Bob Spoo. Spoo just finished his 20th season as head coach of the Panthers.

He has taken his team to the playoffs for three straight years, and the Panthers have lost in the first round those three years. This year, the team needs to break the first-round jinx and make it all the way to the championship game.

Do it for Spoo.

We think if it were at all possible and if his family agreed to it, Ken Baker would move into the Student Recreation Center.

The director of Campus Recreation has that much passion for his job. Even this year when he took responsibility of the athletic department as its interim athletic director, he still managed to keep a close tab on Campus Recreation.

That said, we would like to see the rather blandly named building known now as the Student Recreation Center changed to the Ken Baker Building.

Tony Romo donated \$100,000 to Eastern before Christmas this school year. A quarter of it went to the communication studies depart-

OUR VIEW

• **Situation:** As the 2007-08 school year comes to a close, we have many suggestions about what needs to be changed in upcoming years.

• **Stance:** Among the changes are finding a home for the nursing program, getting a new steam plant and more state funding.

ment and the other \$75,000 went to the athletic department.

We'd like to see an even bigger donation from the Dallas Cowboys' starting quarterback next year, and have him donate \$1 million to help improve and upgrade O'Brien Stadium, home of Eastern's football and track and field teams.

The money could be used to touch up some areas in desperate need of paint, replace the bleachers with chair back seats and give the light blue track surface a darker hue.

And we should also figure out a way to move the seats closer to the field, which would make going to a game there actually feel like a college football game.

Shared governance between the university and faculty is important, and that was not present within the Biology Department this past semester.

We hope everyone learns next semester that infighting will solve nothing. We believe events that promote exclusivity across our campus, specifically targeting "Greek" functions and organizations, should be abolished.

The Student Life Office lists its commitments as being the engagement, empowerment and exposure of students to services and programs — however, this is not possible.

Individual organizations within the student life sector are in opposition of the mission because determining admission is based on trivial social values, and they hold events that are based on this tenet.

Furthermore, excluding some students from certain activities undermines Eastern's "I am EIU" campaign for a united campus by creating "us" and "them" conditions.

Although exclusivity cannot be completely eradicated, it should not be based on social and economic identity, but on the competency and/or interest of all potential members.

And, of course, we hope Eastern can start building a new steam plant.

Without more funding from the state, we'll have to continue to rely on 1928 technology.

Jeff Cooley, vice president for business affairs, said it would cost \$14 million to repair the plant we currently have.

Because of the broken parts in the coal boilers, heat costs have increased \$125,000 this year.

And as always, we hope there's more state funding for higher education. But until there is, enjoy your summer and good luck on finals.



KATIE ANDERSON

Displaying gratitude

On the last day of first grade, my teacher, Mrs. Hoff, gave an award to each class member.

I remember sitting in my desk, listening as my friends had their names called. Jason was most artistic.

Sarah won "sweetest."

Christina received most helpful.

What else could there be for me? And then she called it — the polite award.

I accepted the paper award with a forced smile and a "thank you" (of course), and returned to my seat to stare at my award.

What a waste!

The polite award?

As a 7 year-old, I was confused and disappointed.

I had gotten an award for something everybody should do, for something I thought was basic and not award-worthy.

The teacher had clearly been tapped out of her creative juices by the time she had gotten to me.

Thinking back now 15 years later, enjoying my last days of college, I probably should call Mrs. Hoff and thank her.

By giving me the polite award, she reinforced a budding part of me that is still developing today.

Mrs. Hoff helped nurture the seed in me, which would develop into the ability to feel and display genuine gratitude.

Being polite is still important, and in my opinion, more people could do with saying a few more "pleases" and "thank you's" but gratitude is more than saying "thank you."

Gratitude is a warm feeling. It acknowledges a deed or thought.

Gratitude involves recognizing the importance of that specific deed or thought and takes into consideration the effort behind it.

Countless times during my four years at Eastern, this feeling has overwhelmed me.

Like when my teammates on the rugby team took care of the scared little freshman "from up north."

Or when the doctors at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center and Carle Clinic in Champaign saved my life my sophomore year.

And when the journalism department helped me pay for school so I could continue to pursue my new love for journalism.

When my roommate encouraged me to be a better me every day.

When my senior seminar class showed up ready to debate and seriously participate in every class discussion this year.

Some may say a "thank you" is not in order for a doctor who cures a patient, a student who shows up ready for class or a teammate who nurtures the newbie on the team.

They may say these are things everyone should do. "Thank you's" are not necessary for basic fulfillment of roles.

It would be easy to take all of these small parts of my education and life for granted.

Still, I just can't not say it.

Thank you.

Thank you because what you, my campus, my department and my friends, have done for me these past four years has had an effect on me in a profound way.

Katie Anderson is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENopinions@gmail.com.

» Celebration

FROM PAGE 1

"It was really cute," Huckstep said.

Courtney Mildren, a freshman elementary education major, went to see American English perform.

"I thought they were really good, and it was really funny because everyone was dancing around and everything," Mildren said. "I love the Beatles."

Dan Crews, publicity director of the College of Arts and Humanities, spearheaded the planning for the festival.

"I would have to say all the different kinds of music is my favorite aspect," he said.

"From the Beatles to the bluegrass music to the African band, it is all very enjoyable."

He said he plans the whole event throughout the course of the year and coordinates with faculty, students and people from the Coles County area.

"It is very time-consuming – but worth it," Crews said.

Heather Holm can be reached at 581-7942 or haholm@eiu.edu.



BRYCE PEAKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jack Cooke, a 45-year-old veteran of Ralph Stanley's Clinch Mountain Boy's, addresses the crowd through a single battery-powered sound system. The group performed an acoustic set Saturday because of a campus-wide power outage.

» Graduation

FROM PAGE 1

This is one of the accomplishments that Roundtable Media, the advertising agency where Rhonda works, is proud of.

"To be graduating with a 4.0 is an accomplishment at any age, and doing so while working full-time is just spectacular," said Janelle Niewinski, assistant media buyer at Roundtable Media.

Rhonda McConnell said Roundtable Media was so supportive of her while she took classes.

"Value of an education is very important to them," McConnell said. "They just stand behind all their employees and do whatever they can to help them achieve that goal."

A changing relationship

Rachel said her mom now understands why she gets so stressed out about school.

"Your parents always give you advice, but since she's doing it, she has that little bit more that she can say, 'I'm doing this at the same time. We can do it. We'll hold hands and walk across the stage if we have to,'" she said.

Rhonda said she feels supported having her daughter go through the graduation ceremony with her. It shows that her daughter is not a young girl, but more of an equal, she said.

"I think it's really a start of how our relationship will change," Rhonda said with a laugh. "Of course, I will always be the mother and always be right."

A proud mother

Rhonda still has a hard time believing she is actually going to graduate.

"For me, I think it's very surreal," Rhonda said. "I don't think I'll believe it until I'm walking across the stage."

Rachel has known for the past three or four years that she would graduate in May 2008, but Rhonda said she didn't know for sure that she would be graduating until March.

Even though Rhonda is proud of her own accomplishments, she doesn't think her graduating takes away anything from her daughter – or that her daughter's graduating takes anything away from her.

"I really am almost – and maybe it's the mother in me – more looking forward to watching her march," she said.

"That's been 22 years of my life that I've invested in this child, and to see her reach this marker in her life is pretty amazing, and I think every parent feels that," Rhonda said.

If something down the years comes up in her daughter's life, Rhonda said she hopes her daughter can say, "If mom can go back to school and get her degree, then I can tackle this. I can do this project."

"I am impressed," Rhonda said of her daughter's achievement. "A bachelor's degree took me 28 years; she did it in five."

Emily Zulz can be reached at 581-7942 or at eazulz@eiu.edu.

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UNIVERSITY | FACULTY FEATURE

Bringing culture back

Professor Jinhee Lee plays important role in Asian Heritage Month events

By Josh Van Dyke
Staff Reporter

Jinhee Lee may work in Charleston and live in Champaign, but her ideas are about Asia as much as they are about Illinois.

Her heritage, career and life have all made her especially aware of the effects of history and an awareness gap among entwined societies.

"She's sort of the epitome of the scholar and teacher," said history professor Sace Elder.

Lee was instrumental in the organization of the Asian Heritage Month Celebration events held on campus in April.

Lee, a history professor and chair of the Asian studies program, was raised in Incheon, the third largest city in South Korea.

Her family was poor but caring; her mother would use the old threads of sweater to make new ones in order to save the little money they had. The family of six slept in the same bedroom.

Early encouragement to learn about the history between Japan and Korea came from Lee's father's questions about the meaning behind everyday items.

It wasn't until her junior year at an American college that she came to appreciate her father's efforts.

JINHEE LEE | CHAIRWOMAN OF ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

"Life is too short to be wasted waiting for the day of death meaninglessly, and there are too many people whose lives can be touched to be ignored."

That epiphany, along with her new experience with a teaching style based on class discussion, inspired her to enter the field of history, Lee said.

"Asia is big and so influential in global economy, politics, security and cultures, and the importance will rise even more in the future," she said.

"Yet our education before college has been so limited in equipping us with Asian languages and cultures."

After teaching at two state universities in Illinois and Kansas, Lee found herself at Eastern three years ago, where she has aimed to enlighten her students about how historical accounts have some subjectivity and how important it is to learn about foreign cultures.

"She is a really energetic, dynamic person," said Shaukat Mahmood, a communication studies graduate student.

Mahmood recently joined the Asian American Association, an RSO dedicated to raise awareness of Asian-Americans.

"She's like the older sister of all of us," said Julie Morss.

Morss, a senior English major, acted as president of AAA this year.

Lee gives presentations on cam-

pus and acts as adviser for AAA and the Asian Cinema Organization, another RSO.

She has written several books on the subject of Asian history and modern issues.

Lee's actions three years ago resulted in an exchange program with several universities in Korea, Japan and China.

Two students from Seoul, South Korea, attend Eastern through the program, while an Eastern student is studying at Sogang, one of the top universities in Korea.

Lee has also been known to have guests from Korea stay at her home so they can attend school in America.

"I want to find out what is doable even for a small person like me in order to make our university and local communities a better place for people to live, and how I can utilize the training, health and competence I have," Lee said.

"Life is too short to be wasted waiting for the day of death meaninglessly, and there are too many people whose lives can be touched to be ignored."

Joshua Van Dyke can be contacted at 581-7942 or at jmvanDyke@eiu.edu.

STATE | BRIEFS

Man charged with hit-and-run death of 17-year-old boy

The Associated Press

CREVE COEUR — A 50-year-old McLean County man is free on bond after being charged in the hit-and-run death of a 17-year-old boy.

Ross Kindelberger was released from the Tazewell County Jail on \$10,000 bond on Sunday morning.

He is charged with leaving the scene of a crash with death.

Authorities say he hit 17-year-old Todd St. Cerny as he walked along Interstate 474. St.

Cerny's body was found early Saturday in a grassy area near the interstate. Tazewell County Coroner Dennis Conover says a preliminary autopsy shows the Pekin Community High School student died almost instantly.

Authorities say they tracked down Kindelberger after part of his truck fender was found at the scene.

Fatal crash still being investigated by police

CHICAGO — Chicago police are releasing few details about their investigation into a fatal crash of a semitrailer that ran into a Chicago Transit Authority train station.

Two pedestrians were killed in the Friday evening accident.

The 51-year-old truck driver was

briefly hospitalized after his truck careened off an expressway.

After his release, he was led away by police in handcuffs.

Police spokesman John Mirabelli says the driver hasn't been charged, but he wouldn't say Sunday whether the driver was still being questioned by investigators.

Authorities say 21 people were injured in the crash.

Former Iraqi official helps with Rezko's bail

CHICAGO — A former Iraqi cabinet minister who broke out of a Baghdad jail in 2006 pledged three pieces of property to help secure the \$8.5 million bail of his long-time friend, political fundraiser Antoin "Tony" Rezko, according to a published report.

The homes belonging to Aiham Alsammarae, Iraq's former electricity minister, comprise nearly one-third of the property and cash that make up Rezko's bail, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported in a story published Sunday, citing court records.

Rezko, 52, is on trial.

He is charged with scheming to use his clout with Gov. Rod Blagojevich's administration to launch a \$7 million kickback scheme and gain control of two powerful boards.

INDEPENDENT STUDY



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STATE | FUNDING

Budget shortfall cues cuts

Blagojevich proposes reducing funds for public universities

By Stephen Di Benedetto
Associate News Editor

Cuts in funding for Illinois public universities could be on the way.

Because of a budget shortfall for fiscal year 2008, Gov. Rod Blagojevich proposed cutting 8.3 percent of general revenue to public universities to attempt to solve the shortfall situation.

Blagojevich's proposed cuts, which would affect more than just schools of higher education, totaling around \$1.3 billion for the rest of the fiscal year.

Jeff Cooley, vice president for business affairs, said because the proposal was announced late in the fiscal year, cuts to projects and staff could be possible if Blagojevich's proposed cuts take effect.

"I see no other way to come up with that much at this period in the year," he said.

Cooley said it would be difficult

to recoup an 8.3 percent cut because the cut would have been for the entire fiscal year.

Because two months are left in the fiscal year, the university would have to come up with about \$400 million if the cuts went through.

"It would be next to impossible," Cooley said.

The university has received no notification as to when or if Blagojevich's cuts would take effect, Cooley said.

Blagojevich's proposed \$1.3 billion funding cut is also aimed to correct a \$750 million shortfall in the budget, said Rep. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet.

A shortfall typical exists when budget projections do not come through as expected.

The General Assembly has no idea where the 98.5 percent of revenues from fiscal year 2008 went, Rose said.

Senate President Emil Jones, D-Chicago, predicts the shortfall to be around \$400 million, Rose said.

The \$750 million number comes from the original fiscal year 2008 budget, not including Blagojevich's vetoes to the budget.

"The biggest reason is the numbers don't add up," Rose said. "There is something going on here. He is either creating this crisis or spent the money somewhere else."

Rose believes Blagojevich is either withholding vouchers to create a shortfall to force the General Assembly to pass a funds sweep legislation, or is spending the money in places where the money was not intended to go.

A spokesperson for Blagojevich could not be reached for comment.

Rose said the General Assembly's role in the Illinois Constitution is to appropriate funds.

The governor's role is to spend those funds.

The General Assembly therefore cannot authorize the spending of those appropriated funds, Rose said.

"Once we appropriate it, we have no control over anything," he said.

Because of this and Blagojevich's over-the-top cuts, he has talked with internal auditors to see where the 98.5 percent of revenues were spent.

Rose said that would be a difficult task because it would practically be a \$28 billion audit.

Nonetheless, there are several

audits pending that are coming forward that might put the spotlight on where the money is going.

"I'm going to wait and see what comes out from that," Rose said.

In another attempt to solve the shortfall situation, legislation designed to sweep \$400 million in funds from other areas of the budget passed through the Senate and now is in the House of Representatives.

The funds sweep legislation would take money from special funds.

Rose said he is opposed to the legislation because Blagojevich has given no indication to the General Assembly where that money would go.

"I have great reservations until I get some better assurance of what happened to the money we already have," Rose said.

The special funds are also dedicated to a purpose such as someone choosing to buy a novelty Eastern license plate, Rose said.

The add-on fee to that license plate goes to scholarships to help Eastern students pay for college.

Rose said that he fee is an example of what the funds sweep legislation would affect if the General

Assembly approved it.

"This is a fundamental, philosophical issue," Rose said. "You're basically stealing money out of these special funds to pay for things they weren't intended."

If these proposed cuts were announced earlier in the fiscal year, Eastern would have withheld from undertaking certain projects, Cooley said.

The majority of Eastern's budget is in personal service costs, and

Cooley said he does not know what kinds of non-personal service dollars the university could recover to prevent cuts to staff.

Eastern President Bill Perry said the cuts would be difficult to deal with.

The university would prioritize if Blagojevich makes cuts.

Eastern would first take care of its people, then the programs and then the facilities, Perry said.

"Clearly, in the face of any kind of cut for any reason, our first instinct is to take care of our people," Perry said.

Stephen Di Benedetto can be reached at 581-7942 or at sdibenedetto@eiu.edu.

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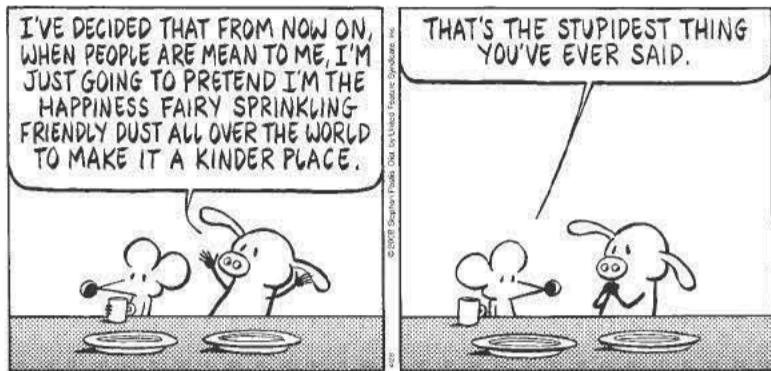
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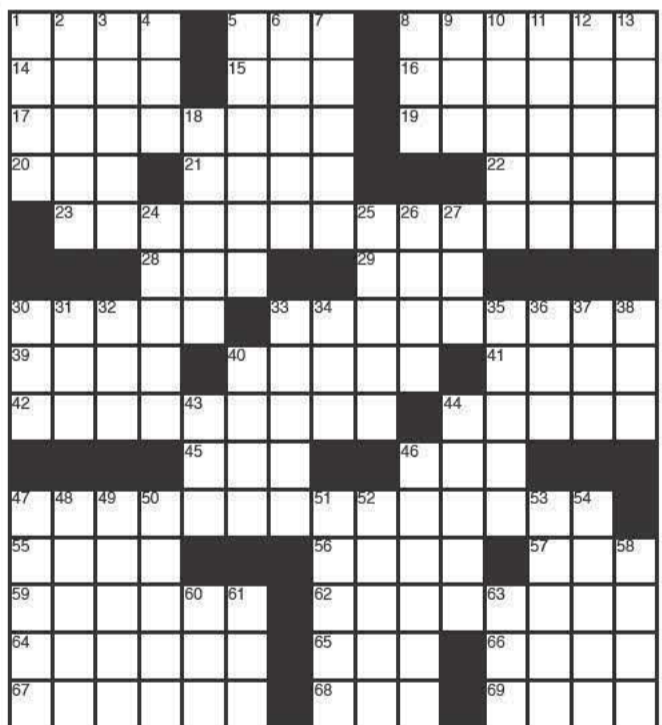


The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0317

- ACROSS**
- 1 "I saw ___ sawing wood ..." (old tongue twister)
 - 5 Lawn base
 - 8 Finally
 - 14 Outlaws
 - 15 "I won! I won!," e.g.
 - 16 Amp toter
 - 17 What President Washington said upon winning the lottery?
 - 19 Professor's goal
 - 20 "I've got a mule, her name is ___"
 - 21 Once around the sun
 - 22 Hidden valley
 - 23 What flagmaker Ross said ...?
 - 28 Colonial Franklin, familiarly
 - 29 Cheer to a matador
 - 30 Just watched
 - 33 What Miss Molly said ...?
 - 39 End in ___ (draw)
 - 40 In a huff
 - 41 Captain who said "Eat your pudding, Mr. Land"
 - 42 What Galileo said ...?
- DOWN**
- 1 Flows out
 - 2 Request at a medical exam
 - 3 Viewpoint
 - 4 Put to good ___
 - 5 Porch protector
 - 6 "Rock of Ages" accompaniment
 - 7 Hair colorers
 - 8 Picasso output
 - 9 Little piggy
 - 44 "I can't ___ satisfaction" (Rolling Stones lyric)
 - 45 "___ shocked ... SHOCKED!"
 - 46 Collide
 - 47 What the Big Bad Wolf said ...?
 - 55 Figure skater's jump
 - 56 Rocklike
 - 57 Clamor
 - 59 Overhaul
 - 62 What Noah Webster said ...?
 - 64 Aftershock
 - 65 Shepherd's locale
 - 66 Nylons
 - 67 High-school honey
 - 68 Directional suffix
 - 69 Ready for business



PUZZLE BY C. W. STEWART

- 10 Actress Jessica
- 11 Rated NC-17, e.g.
- 12 Fathers
- 13 Wee
- 18 Hand-wringer's words
- 24 Monk's home
- 25 Traffic noises
- 26 Merrie ___ England
- 27 Command to Rover
- 30 ___ Miguel, largest island of the Azores
- 31 Part of N.C.A.A.: Abbr.
- 32 Actor Robbins
- 33 Commercial prefix with phone
- 34 Row
- 35 "You're ___ talk!"
- 36 Rent out
- 37 Trio after K
- 38 "___-hoo!"
- 40 Slanted type: Abbr.
- 43 Sis or bro
- 44 Lighththeaded
- 46 Novelist Melville
- 47 Witches' blemishes
- 48 Put forth, as effort
- 49 Flood stopper
- 50 Transporter across the Andes
- 51 Not cut up
- 52 HBO's "Real Time With Bill ___"
- 53 Lottery winner's yell
- 54 Convalescent home employee
- 58 Biblical place of innocence
- 60 Hip, in the '60s
- 61 Delve (into)
- 63 "Sez ___?"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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» Berth

FROM PAGE 12

Eastern sophomore center fielder Denee' Menzione later added a home run in the top of the fifth to give Eastern its final score. Menzione's home run is the seventh of the year, which is tied for second place for most home runs in a single season. She now has 11 career home runs, and is tied for third in program history.

Eastern senior pitcher Karyn Mackie (8-8) kept the Eagles off-balance with seven strikeouts and limited them to four hits and one run in seven innings.

Saturday's first game Eastern 2, Morehead State 1 (10 inn.)

Jacoby wouldn't give up as the first game of Saturday's doubleheader stretched into extra innings, and neither would the Panthers.

Jacoby pitched a complete game and struck out six as Eastern defeated Morehead State 2-1 in 10 innings. In her career-long outing, she walked only two batters and gave up five hits and one run.

"It's just been a while since I've had that control," Jacoby said. "I was just hitting my spots."

Eastern sophomore Lauren Brackett scored the game-winning run thanks to a pair of sacrifice bunts.

Brackett, who was put on second base to start the 10th inning because of the international tie-breaker, reached third on a sacrifice bunt from Eastern sophomore shortstop Megan Nelson.

Eastern senior right fielder Robyn Mackie laid down a squeeze bunt, and Brackett snuck under the tag after the throw home from Morehead State sophomore pitcher Sarah Fun-

ston. Nelson was key in the bottom of the 10th, as she threw out Morehead State senior catcher Korey Ellis as Eastern senior catcher Ally Nolte applied the tag at home plate.

"That girl was out by a mile," Jacoby said. "I don't know what she was thinking."

Kevin Murphy can be reached at 581-7944 or at kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

Sunday's Game

Morehead State 4, Eastern 0

Inning by Inning	R	H	E
EIU (19-22)	0	0	0
MOR (30-14)	1	2	0

WP: Gjevre, A. (15-5) LP: Jacoby, K. (8-9)
 E: Holtz, K., 2 (8) -EIU; Bucher, B., (10) -MOR. LOB: EIU 4; MOR 7. 2B: Jonas, B., (6); Butler, R., (14); Cardenas, B., (2); -MOR. SH: Seiller, C., (7); Bucher (5); Quinn, K., (9); -MOR. SB: Bucher (5); -MOR. CS: Coppert, S., (4) -EIU; Butler (4) -MOR.

Key Inning: Bottom of the second
 The Eagles scored two runs to salvage one win in the three-game series.

Saturday's Second Game

Eastern 4, Morehead State 1

Inning by Inning	R	H	E
EIU (19-21)	0	0	3
MOR (29-14)	1	0	0

WP: Mackie, K. (8-8) LP: Quinn, K. (10-6)
 E: Nelson, M., (18); Coppert, S., (6); -EIU; Quinn, K., (5); Butler, R., (9); -MOR. DP: EIU 1. LOB: EIU 8; MOR 6.
 2B: Mackie, R., (4); Holtz, K., (5) -EIU. HR: Menzione, D., (7); -EIU. SH: Nelson (2); Nolte, A., (7); -EIU. SB:

Key Inning: Top of the fifth
 Eastern centerfielder Denee' Menzione put the game away with her seventh home run of the season, this one to centerfield.

Saturday's First Game

Eastern 2, Morehead State 1 (10 inn.)

Inning by Inning	R	H	E
EIU (18-21)	0	0	0
MOR (29-13)	0	1	0

WP: Jacoby, K. (8-7) LP: Funston, S. (5-3)
 E: Bucher, B., (9) -MOR. DP: EIU 1. LOB: EIU 10; MOR 6.
 2B: Honkofsky, A., (5); Archer, A., (4); -MOR. HR: Butler, R., (6) -MOR. SH: Mackie, R., (5) -EIU; Honkofsky (10) -MOR. SB: Nelson, M., (26); Coppert, S., (19); -EIU. CS: Brackett, L., (4); EIU.

Key Inning: Top of the 10th
 Eastern sophomore Lauren Brackett scored the game-winning run on a suicide squeeze bunt.

SCOREBOARD

OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Team	OVC	Overall
Jacksonville St.	19-4	32-14
E. Kentucky	15-9	26-18
E. Illinois	11-7	19-22
Morehead St.	13-9	30-14
UT-Martin	10-9	26-24
Tenn. Tech	9-10	25-28-1
Samford	11-13	20-27
SE Missouri	11-13	24-25
Tenn. State	8-16	16-35
Austin Peay	3-20	9-35

OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE BASEBALL STANDINGS

Team	OVC	Overall
Jacksonville St.	14-4	23-18
Samford	13-4	27-15
Tenn. Tech	9-9	29-15-1
Austin Peay	9-9	21-22
E. Illinois	9-9	18-23
SE Missouri	8-8	18-18
E. Kentucky	8-10	20-21-1
Murray State	7-10	16-22
Morehead St.	6-12	16-25
UT-Martin	4-12	8-31

EASTERN'S UPCOMING SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL GAMES

Softball
E. Illinois vs. E. Kentucky
 Date, Time: Saturday (DH) - Noon
 Location: Williams Field

Baseball
E. Illinois vs. SE Missouri
 Date, Time: Saturday (DH) - Noon
 Location: Coaches Stadium

» Richey

FROM PAGE 12

They are good football players regardless of what school they attended.

Tennessee State corner back Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie was the first FCS player to be selected when the Arizona Cardinals picked him as the 16th overall pick. Rodgers-Cromartie opened eyes with his performance at the Senior Bowl and the NFL Combine. He was called one of the best athletes available, and that's the truth.

He has incredible speed and field awareness. His interception return for a touchdown against Eastern in October proved that. There was no one on the field that could catch him as he weaved across the field before breaking free down the right side for the 69-yard touchdown at LP Field in Nashville, Tenn.

Rodgers-Cromartie needs to improve his coverage skills in pass defense, but he has the ability to turn heads on special teams. He might have the most influence on special teams in his first few years in

the league until he gains experience and expertise in the secondary.

Delaware quarterback Joe Flacco is a big-school guy in a small-school program. He transferred from Pittsburgh after two seasons, and that move turned into success at Delaware. He led the Blue Hens to the FCS title game this past season. The Blue Hens lost in the FCS title game, but Flacco was selected in the first round (18th overall) by the Baltimore Ravens. Flacco has all the tools to be a franchise quarterback in the NFL. He has the size (6-foot-6, 236 pounds) to see over the offensive line and find open receivers. He also has a cannon arm to get the ball downfield, which is what made him stand out at the NFL Combine compared to the rest of this year's quarterback class. What he needs, however, is more mobility in the pocket.

His size could work against him at times. But what about those small-school players who haven't had the same exposure as Rodgers-Cromartie and Flacco?

Players like Eastern linebacker Donald Thomas.

Thomas plays with one of the highest motors I've seen. His speed at linebacker makes him a valuable

commodity. But that's a commodity that might not get used.

There's one knock against Thomas, and that's his size. At 5-10, Thomas is not the ideal height for an NFL linebacker. Thomas' speed will make the difference between catching on with a team and ending a football career.

"That's one of my biggest assets - my ability to get east and west and north and south. That's one thing that defines me as a football player," he said. "(Eastern defensive coordinator) Roc Bellantoni stressed and always told me to get to the ball. I just have a nose for the ball."

Thomas does indeed have a nose for the ball. He got involved in every play from his position in the middle of the defense. His sideline-to-sideline speed makes him unique. He can chase down the fastest offensive players on the field. He just needs a chance at the next level.

NFL teams need to look past what is traditionally expected at certain positions. Height and size isn't everything. There should always be a place for heart.

Scott Richey can be reached at 581-7944 or at srrichey@eiu.edu.

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BASEBALL | WEEKEND RECAP

Eastern struggles at the plate as Panthers are swept

By **Scott Richey**
Sports Editor

The Eastern baseball team continued to struggle at the plate.

Eastern lost the third game of a three-game series against Samford 11-1 on Sunday in Birmingham, Ala.

The Panthers remain in a four-way tie for the third place in the Ohio Valley Conference. The Bulldogs scored 10 runs in four innings, and three hits from the Panthers (18-23, 9-9 OVC) were not enough to counteract a potent Samford offense that combined for 16 hits.

"To me, it all started yesterday in game one," said Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz. "We talked about a lot of things, and there was a lack

of focus. Offensively, defensively, pitching-wise, there was a lack of focus. You don't come down and play one of the top teams in the league like that."

The Bulldogs scored twice in the third, twice in the fourth and three times in the fifth to take a 10-1 lead. Samford (27-15, 13-4) added one run in the bottom of the seventh to close out its 10-run win.

"It was very disappointing in terms of effort," Schmitz said. "If this team doesn't get tougher, we're not going to end on a good note. We have nine games left against very good teams."

**Saturday's Second Game
Samford 2, Eastern 0**

Sophomore starter Tyler Kehrer

and junior reliever Brian Morrell walked four batters each as Eastern lost 2-0 in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader.

Kehrer's four walks came in 4 2/3 innings, and Morrell walked his four batters in 1 1/3 innings.

The two lone runs of the game came in the bottom of the fourth inning when Kehrer gave up a two-run home run to right field by Samford senior catcher Bear Burnett.

Samford senior right fielder Michael Rutledge singled to shortstop, stole second and then scored on Burnett's home run.

**Saturday's First Game
Samford 5, Eastern 2**

The Panthers out-hit Samford in the first game of Saturday's double-

header with seven hits to the Bulldogs' five.

But a three-run eighth gave Samford enough momentum to hold on in the top of the ninth for the 5-2 victory.

Scott Richey can be reached at 581-7944 or at srichey@eiu.edu.

Sunday's Game

Samford 11, Eastern 1

Inning by Inning	R	H	E
EIU (18-23)	0	0	1
SAM (27-15)	1	3	4

WP: Jerry, M. (2); IP: Darbak, R. (1-2)
E: Tokarz, J., (8); Kriek, J., 2 (18); Jeske, R., (2) -EIU; Burnett, B., (6) -SAM. DP: EIU 2, LOB: SAM 12; EIU 4, 2B: Marseco, M., (11) -SAM. HBP: Nommensen, B., -EIU. SF: Marseco (3); -SAM. SB: Johnson, M., (7); Swann, T., (1) -SAM.
Key Inning: Bottom of the third
The Bulldogs wrapped up the series sweep with four runs, five hits and an error in the bottom of the third.

Saturday's Second Game

Samford 2, Eastern 0

Inning by Inning	R	H	E
EIU (18-22)	0	0	0
SAM (26-15)	0	0	0

WP: Hill, R. (5); IP: Kehrer, T. (1-5)
E: Johnson, M., (11); -SAM. DP: SAM 1; EIU 3. LOB: SAM 8; EIU 7. 2B: Morgan, J., (9); -SAM. HR: Burnett, B., (6); -SAM. HBP: Kriek, J., -EIU; Rodriguez, M.; -SAM. SB: Restko, C., Facer, T., -EIU. SB: Johnson (6); Marseco, M., (8); Rutledge, M., (6); -SAM. CS: Key Inning: Bottom of the fourth
Samford scored two runs as runs were a premium.

Saturday's First Game

Samford 5, Eastern 2

Inning by Inning	R	H	E
EIU (18-21)	0	0	1
SAM (25-15)	1	0	3

WP: Stephens, J. (7); IP: Mueller, J. (4-5)
E: Wright, N., (1); -EIU; Marseco, M., (11); Rodriguez, M., (12); -SAM. LOB: SAM; EIU 10. 2B: Darbak, R., (10); Facer, T., (3); -EIU; Smith, B., (4); -SAM. HBP: Nommensen, B., Restko, C., -EIU; Morgan, J., -SAM. SB: Strang, C., (2); -EIU; Burnett, B., (4); -SAM. CS: Nommensen, B. Key Inning: Bottom of the eighth
The Bulldogs scored three runs to pull away.

TRACK | WEEKEND RECAP

Squads use meets as 'stepping stone' toward conference meet

By **Kevin Good**
Staff Reporter

The Eastern men's track team matched its performance from last year's Drake Relays with another fourth-place finish on Friday in Des Moines, Iowa.

Sophomore Wes Sheldon, senior Chris Wesson, freshman Justin Helpingstine and junior David Holm finished fourth in the 3,200-meter relay in 7 minutes, 33.18 seconds,

which was four seconds off the Eastern record set last year at the Drake Relays. Helpingstine was the only member of this year's relay team who was not on the team that set the Eastern record with a time of 7:29.43.

The four runners also ran the distance medley relay and placed 10th in 10:00.07.

Holm said he wasn't pleased with his own performance but said he was proud of the way his teammates

ran. He said the team is looking forward to the Ohio Valley Conference Championships, which starts Friday.

Senior jumper Obe Eruteya also competed at the 99th Drake Relays. Eruteya finished in 10th place in the triple jump with a mark of 48 feet, 6.25 inches.

The rest of the Eastern men's team competed at the SIU-Edwardsville Twilight on Saturday.

Senior sprinter Brenton Emanuel won the 200-meter dash. Emanuel

won the race in 21.49 seconds, his fastest time of the season.

Emanuel said he considered Saturday's meet a stepping stone for the OVC Championships. He said Eastern's success on Saturday was a confidence booster going into next weekend.

The Eastern's women's track team finished second at the SIU-Edwardsville Twilight behind first-place finishes from junior hurdler Chandra Golden and sophomore throw-

er Kandace Arnold. Golden won the 100-meter hurdles with a career-best time of 14.03 seconds and is now just six-hundredths of a second from the Eastern career record set by Candy Phillips in 1998 (13.97 seconds).

Arnold won the shot put with a throw of 46'1.5".

"Hopefully everything will just come into place," Arnold said.

Kevin Good can be reached at 581-7944 or at kgood@eiu.edu.

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FOOTBALL | NFL DRAFT DAY UPDATE

Rucker signs with Steelers

Wide receiver gets free agent deal with Pittsburgh

By Scott Richey
Sports Editor

Micah Rucker knew his fate in the NFL.

The Eastern senior wide receiver got a call from his agent with about 15 picks remaining in the draft and his agent told him that the Pittsburgh Steelers had offered Rucker a free-agent contract.

"(My agent) was saying if the Bears didn't pick me with their last few picks, I would be a Steeler," Rucker said.

The Chicago Bears drafted Arkansas wide receiver Marcus Monk in the seventh round of the 2008 NFL Draft with the 248th pick.

"It was just a sigh of relief," Rucker said. "I'm just happy to get an opportunity."

Rucker said he still has a lot of work left to do, but he said he was going to take the opportunity to play in the NFL and run with it. Rucker said he was not surprised with the free agency offer.

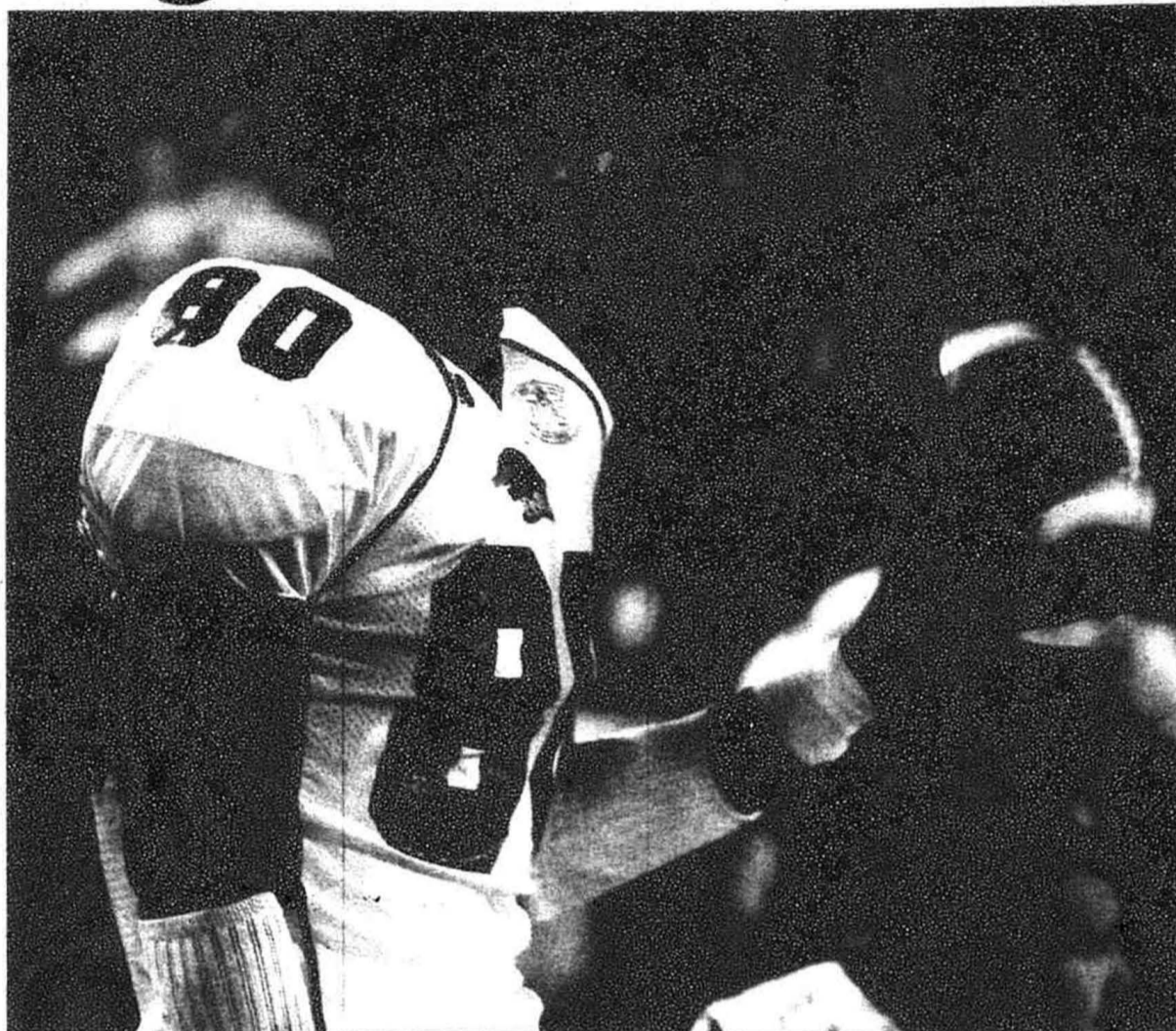
"From the whole get-go, I had heard and I was pretty much setting myself on being a priority free agent, and anything sixth or seventh round would be a blessing," Rucker said.

Rucker said he would be in a good situation at Pittsburgh because the Steelers had a need for a wide receiver.

Pittsburgh, whose wide receivers finished 21st in the NFL last season in receiving yards per game, also drafted Texas wide receiver Limas Sweed in the second round. If Rucker makes Pittsburgh's roster, he will be the Steelers' second biggest wide receiver at 6 feet, 6 inches and 221 pounds.

"It's truly going to be a blessing," Rucker said about the chance to play in the NFL. "It's something I've always dreamed of."

The Bears — who had four picks in



NORA MABERRY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern senior wide receiver Micah Rucker tosses the ball around during the 2007 season. Rucker signed a free agent contract with the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday. Rucker will attend rookies' mini-camp this week.

the seventh round — also had needs for a wide receiver, and Rucker said Chicago was a viable place for him to be drafted.

"I'm not sure if (Chicago) just didn't know me as well," Rucker said. "That's kind of hard to say. I guess they had a different need. I'm anxious to get a chance to play some more football."

Rucker said he would travel to Pittsburgh this week for a rookies' mini-camp from Thursday to Sunday.

He said he has been working hard on his strength, speed and wide

receiver skills like route-running and catching, and he said he told the Pittsburgh coaching staff he was ready to play.

"I've been working hard," Rucker said. "I just have to get acquainted to the way things work at this level. I'm just happy with the opportunity. I'm just looking forward to be able to take my game to another level. I'm just going to keep working my butt off."

Rucker finished the 2007 season with 777 receiving yards and nine touchdowns on 55 receptions.

He had 104 receptions, 22 touch-

downs and 1,743 yards during his two-year Eastern career after transferring from Minnesota.

Eastern senior linebacker Donald Thomas said late Sunday afternoon he had not received a call from an NFL team about a free agent deal.

He said he talked to his agent on Sunday morning and was expecting another call sometime early Sunday night.

"He'll tell me what's supposed to happen next," Thomas said.

Scott Richey can be reached at 581-7944 or at srrichey@eu.edu.

NATIONAL SPORTS

MLB
Chicago White Sox vs. Baltimore
1:05 p.m. on Comcast Sportsnet
MLB
St. Louis vs. Cincinnati |
7:15 p.m. on Fox Sports Midwest

TRIPLE THREAT



Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie

Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie (above) went to the Arizona Cardinals as the 16th pick in the 2008 NFL Draft. Rodgers-Cromartie had been projected to go as high as the 10 pick to the New Orleans Saints. Rodgers-Cromartie could be a steal as he was rated as one of the best athletes in the draft.

Here are three other 2008 NFL Draft steals.

1. Josh Johnson — Tampa Bay might have confused people by taking Johnson in the fifth round because it gives the Buccaneers seven quarterbacks on their roster, but the 6'-2" quarterback from San Diego had one of the most efficient seasons of any quarterback his senior season. He completed 206-of-301 pass attempts (68 percent) for 2,988 yards, 43 touchdowns and one interception.

2. Glenn Dorsey — The fifth pick in the draft might not sound like much of a steal, but the Kansas City Chiefs got just what they needed when they picked Louisiana State defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey. Many football pundits labeled Dorsey as a possible No. 1 pick, and for him to fall to fifth was a blessing for Kansas City, which had just traded its top defensive lineman (Jared Allen) to the Minnesota Vikings.

3. Steve Slaton — The West Virginia running back thrived in the Mountain East's spread offense and was a good pick by the Houston Texans in the third round. Slaton set the West Virginia rushing record his sophomore season (1,744 yards) and left after his junior season as the Mountain East's touchdown leader (50).

—Scott Richey



SCOTT RICHEY

FCS, FBS — Shouldn't matter in NFL

Don't look past small-school football players.

Those should be words of warning for NFL owners, general managers and coaches alike. Just because some players come from the Football Championship Subdivision — not to be confused with the Football Bowl Subdivision or the Bowl Championship Series or any other ludicrous college football acronym — does not mean they can't play the game on the grandest stage of them all.

Two FCS players have the chance to prove just that after being taken in the first round of the NFL Draft on Saturday. Both have the potential to be key contributors to their respective teams because they transcend the FCS-FBS line.

>> SEE RICHEY, PAGE 10

SOFTBALL | WEEKEND RECAP

Panthers clinch tournament berth

By Kevin Murphy
Associate Sports Editor

The Eastern softball team couldn't figure out Morehead State on Sunday.

The Panthers lost 4-0 in Morehead, Ky., and were shutout for the first time since a 1-0 loss against Samford on April 6.

The Panthers, however, did win two of three against the Eagles (30-14, 13-9 Ohio Valley Conference) and assured themselves a berth in the six-team conference tournament. The Panthers (19-22, 11-7) are in third place behind Eastern Kentucky (26-18, 15-9) and will play them in a critical conference series next weekend.

Morehead State sophomore pitcher Alex Gjevre (15-5) kept the Panthers off-balance Sunday. Eastern only managed two hits and struck out five times against the league's ERA leader.

"They just flat out beat us," said



KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern junior pitcher Kathleen Jacoby releases a pitch in a game last week at Williams Field. Jacoby went 1-1 this weekend, but only gave up three runs as the Panthers clinched a berth in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament despite a loss on Sunday.

Eastern head coach Kim Schuette. "(Gjevre) kept us on our heels."

Schuette said Gjevre had a nice curveball and screwball on Sunday.

The top two teams in the conference earn an automatic bye in the

OVC Tournament, but Schuette said the team couldn't get wrapped in the conference standings.

Eastern junior pitcher Kathleen Jacoby (8-9) agreed and said Eastern needs to focus on one game at a

time. Jacksonville State won the conference regular season title with a 13-0 win in five innings against Austin Peay on Sunday and will host the league tournament in Jacksonville, Ala.

Saturday's second game Eastern 4, Morehead State 1

Eastern found a way to get past Morehead State's strong pitching staff — which has a 1.23 team ERA — with six hits and four runs in a 4-1 victory in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader.

Eastern freshman third baseman Kiley Holtz singled to right field with the bases loaded in the top of the third to score two Eastern runners to give Eastern a 2-1 lead.

"I know she wishes her batting average was higher," Schuette said.

But Schuette said she was glad to see Holtz come through in the clutch.

>> SEE BERTH, PAGE 10

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK
Friday at OVC Championships |
All Day — Cape Girardeau, Mo.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK
Saturday at OVC Championships |
All Day — Cape Girardeau, Mo.

SOFTBALL
Saturday vs. Eastern Kentucky (DN) |
1 p.m. — Williams Field

BASEBALL
Saturday vs. Southeast Missouri (DN) |
1 p.m. — Coaches Stadium

SOFTBALL
Sunday vs. Eastern Kentucky |
Noon — Williams Field