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Eastern Illinois University

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

APRIL 29, 2010
VOLUME 94 | No. 146

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
CHARLESTON, ILL.

DENNEWS.COM



Tips for finding a summer job

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Bullpen blows lead; Panthers fall in extras

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PERSON OF THE YEAR

The Daily Eastern News Person of the Year

By Sarah Ruholl
Administration Editor

Paul McCann's daughter still remembers the speeches about believing in oneself that he gave to the softball and baseball teams he coached.

Though his role at Eastern as the treasurer and director of business services has prevented him from coaching the last two years, he has not ruled out returning to the teams.

"I'd like to, it kind of depends on when things slow down here," he said. "I love coaching the young kids in baseball and softball."

Throughout his high school and college career, McCann, who is *The Daily Eastern News'* Person of the Year, ran track and cross country.

"I would say they are my favorite sports, but it's hard to get involved with those sports at a local level," McCann said. "When my son

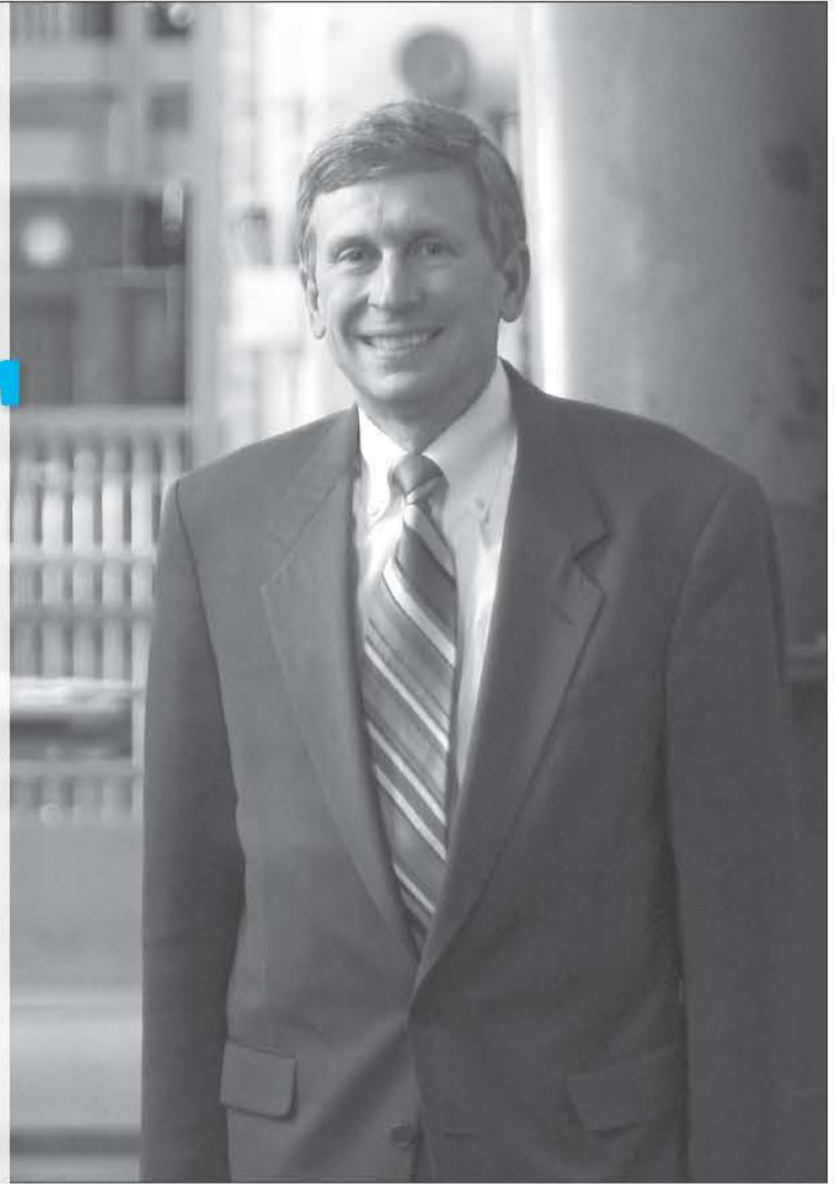
started playing, I would watch the coaches and I thought 'I think I can do this, and I think I can do a better job.'"

McCann's son is now 24 and lives in St. Louis. His daughter is a student at Eastern, and he said they try to have lunch together every Friday.

McCann resides in Decatur and commutes to Charleston daily. He has been involved with the Booster Club, Baseball Board and helps run concessions at Little League and McArthur High School games. He was also on the Macon Resources Board for several years.

"I grew up (in Decatur), and my parents are still there; it's just home," he said. "Three hours a day on the road is not all that productive, but it is what it is."

While trying to get approval for the Renewable Energy Center last year, McCann, Gary McCANN, page 7



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Paul McCann, treasurer and director of business services, was named *The Daily Eastern News'* Person of the Year for his efforts in helping Eastern through the Illinois budget crisis and in bringing the Renewable Energy Center to campus.

UNIVERSITY

More university funding comes in

Eastern now has little more than \$27M of \$50.6M total appropriation

By Sarah Ruholl
Administration Editor

Appropriated funds continue to trickle in from the state.

Two additional receipts have brought the total received to a lit-

tle more than \$27 million of the \$50.6 million total appropriation with just three months to go in fiscal year 2010.

"Cash flow right now is the single biggest problem we have," said Paul McCann, treasurer and director of business services. "It's not the same as not having enough money."

The university continues to closely monitor spending in order to meet payroll. McCann said the university has approached the situation by re-evaluating every pur-

chase before it is made.

"We all learn something, then maybe the cost becomes less acceptable or more acceptable," McCann said. "Just because we've always done it, we've got to think twice now about doing it."

The state has not passed a budget for fiscal year 2011, but the university expects a cut of about \$3 million. An approximate 6 percent tuition increase for incoming students was approved at Monday's Board of Trustees meeting to help combat this cut.

The increase of \$15 per credit hour will bring annual tuition to \$7,620 for full-time students.

President Bill Perry said the university's goal was to remain affordable despite the rough economic environment.

"We take the affordability issue very seriously," Perry said. "We realized this year that we can achieve more savings."

Sarah Ruholl can be reached at 581-7942 or seruholl2@eiu.edu

GRADUATION

Seniors prepare for graduation

By Heather Holm
Activities Editor

Students need to remember to do a few things before they can walk across the stage and get their diploma May 8.

Tickets will be handed out for the commencement ceremonies next weekend from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Herff Jones will distribute caps and gowns at the same time in the Charleston/Mattoon Room of the Union.

Graduating students received a postcard to remind them of these things, along with a series of e-mails.

There will be about 350 students at both the 9 a.m. College of Sciences and the noon College of Arts and Humanities and School of Continuing Education ceremonies. About 400 students will walk at the 3 p.m. College of Education and Professional Studies ceremony and about 500 will be at the 6 p.m. Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences ceremony.

Students at the 6 p.m. ceremony get six tickets each and seven tickets available to students at the earlier ceremonies.

Any extra tickets will be available at the ticket office May 7 in the Union, which will be first-come, first-serve.

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GRADUATION, page 7

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Sandidge elected new student speaker

By Erica Whelan
Student Government Editor

Junior Jason Sandidge was elected to serve as the new student speaker of the senate in the fall by a vote of 13-11-2 following a runoff against opponent Tommy Nierman, who tied him for the position Wednesday.

Before the final vote was taken, both candidates received 10 votes each, removing fellow opponent Alex Boyd, a freshman, from the running and requiring the senate to

cast additional votes.

Sandidge, current chair of the student government university development and recycling committee, originally ran for the position in December against his older brother Isaac Sandidge, who was ultimately voted to the seat.

Student Body President Michelle Murphy then commenced the final student senate meeting of the semester with the reading of the state of the university address.

Murphy spoke of the measures taken to cope with budget crisis fac-

ing Eastern, including senate support of the campus improvement fee and bond revenue fee increases. The funds generated from these increases will be dedicated toward constructing a new science building and improving Lantz Arena.

"We contributed unprecedented money spent for the greater good," Murphy said. "We could've complained and continued discussion for the next 10 years, and our reputation would've been so tarnished. Fortunately, we decided that wasn't an option."

Murphy continued to express gratitude for what she viewed as the senate acting as a family and said she was proud to report that the state of the university is strong and resilient.

"It's a true feat of strength that an individual student has not felt repercussions," Murphy said.

Isaac Sandidge then delivered the state of the senate address, in which he said the economic decline proved to be a trying time for the body.

WEATHER TODAY



Mostly Sunny - Breezy

HIGH 76° Very windy conditions today with gusts around 25 and 30 mph. These winds will continue to be strong through Friday as conditions continue to warm up.
LOW 58° Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected late Friday evening. Those will continue through the night into Saturday morning.

WEATHER TOMORROW

Friday
Evening T-Storms
High: 79°
Low: 62°

Saturday
Scattered Showers
High: 75°
Low: 59°

For more weather information: www.eiu.edu/~weather

BROADCAST

New WEIU FM, TV general manager named

Staff Report

Jack Neal has been named the new general manager of WEIU FM & TV.

Neal is currently the station manager of KUHT-TV (PBS) at the University of Houston.

Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs, broke the news to the WEIU managers in an e-mail Wednesday.

"He received very favorable reviews during (the interview) process, and brings some excellent experience to this position," Lord said.

A search committee began the initial screening process in February and interviewed four candidates selected from a pool of approximately 30 one month ago.

Lord said the new general manager is expected to begin his duties at the end of May, after making the transition to Charleston.

Neal's previous career experiences include six years as president and general manager of Blue Ridge Public Television, WBRA-TV, in Roanoke, Va., three years as station manager for the Public Broadcasting Council of Central New York, WCNY-TV, in Syracuse, N.Y., and 11 years with the Educational Television Association of Metropolitan Cleveland, WVIZ-TV, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Burying the loss



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior pitcher Mike Recchia sweeps up the dirt on the pitcher's mound after the Panthers' game against Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Wednesday afternoon at Coaches Stadium. The Panthers lost 8-6.

DENNEWS.COM



Commitment in relationships

Online reporter James Roedel talks about commitment in relationships. Read his relationships blog at DENnews.com



International Day

Online reporter Jennifer Brown takes a look through the lens to see what International Day is all about. Check out this slideshow at DENnews.com.

BLOTTER

It was reported Monday that a sexual assault had occurred in September 2008. The incident is under investigation, the University Police Department said.

Criminal damage to state property was reported Wednesday at Linder House. The incident is under investigation, the UPD said.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

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or fax us at:
217-581-2923

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3:30-7:30 pm
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(Rain Location: Rec Center)

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EMPLOYMENT

Students on hunt for summer job

By Jordan Cryder
Staff Reporter

It is not about what you know, but whom you know, or at least that seems to be the case when trying to find a summer job.

Family members can be a useful source when looking for summer jobs.

Eric Miller, a sophomore pre-business management major, did not have to look hard for a job last summer because he had a family member who was able to set him up with a job even before summer started.

Some students do not have the benefit of having family members who are willing to give them a job.

Ryan Hicks, a sophomore physical education major, said last summer he had a difficult time trying to find a job.

"I had applied to about 20 different places before finally finding a job," he said.

But if family members are willing to help, students need to take advantage of that opportunity, because it is hard to find a job without a little help.

College students need money, but balancing a full-time student schedule along with a full-time work schedule can be strenuous and difficult to balance, which makes the summer a perfect time for students to get away from all the schoolwork and make some money.

Linda Moore, director of Career Services, offered some helpful tips to help college students find summer work.

Do not wait until summer to ap-



Freshman elementary education major Ashley Klonowski, writes down a food order at Kahuna's, located on Fourth Street just south of Lincoln Avenue Wednesday.

ply; it is never too early to apply for a summer job. Moore said students need to start applying as soon as possible.

Students should also give their resume and information to their fam-

ily and friends back home to start getting their resume out there.

"Although a resume is not needed for many jobs, having a good resume makes you stand out from most applicants," Moore said.

If it is not possible to make the trip back home a lot of companies are also accepting online applications.

Some people may find their summer jobs through family members,

Summer job hot spot

Moore offered a list of hot spots to apply for a summer job:

- park districts
- swim clubs
- restaurants
- theme parks
- lawn companies
- schools maintenance
- baseball stadiums
- museums
- outdoor theater
- concert venues

but most people are not that lucky, which makes a first impression important.

A first impression has to make a lasting impact on the employer to separate from the rest of the pack. The best advice for making a good first impression is to look professional, Moore said.

"Go in clean-shaven, (wearing) decent clothes, smiling with a good handshake," Moore said.

Attitude is also important when making a good first impression, she said.

"Be prepared to show your energy and how you will help them provide their service, meet their deadlines and be very efficient," Moore said. "Be a problem solver not a problem maker and show the employer that you can responsibly finish whatever task they deem is most important for you to do."

Jordan Cryder can be reached at 581-7942 or jmcryder@eiu.edu.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Vehicle, stepping stone to student writers

More than 200 student pieces submitted this year

By Emily Steele
News Editor

For a writer, often the true test of literary worth is getting published.

For Danny Paquin, a first-year English graduate student, getting published in Eastern's literary journal *The Vehicle* is a form of recognition that shows he can take it further.

"It's kind of a stepping stone," Paquin said.

The spring 2010 issue of *The Vehicle* was printed Friday and selections were read by the authors Saturday at Celebration.

Lisa Myers, a junior English major, is the editor and review head for *The Vehicle*, which is produced by Sigma Tau Delta, the English honors society.

This semester, approximately 200 stories, poems, photos and works of art were submitted for publication, something Myers attributes to their new online submission option.

The chance to have one's work seen outside of class and to be published is something young writers and artists struggle to achieve, but *The Vehicle* gives them that opportunity.

"It gives students the opportunity to share their creative works with their

"It shows their work in public dissemination in a form that's professional, polished and artistic."

Letitia Moffitt, associate English professor

community, as well as give them a taste of how being published in such a journal feels — a feeling which I hope they all will experience again in their lives," Myers said.

Paquin is one of 25 students published in the soft-cover journal, and since writing is a solitary act, he found the opportunity to read his work at Celebration educational.

"Being able to read the story out loud will actually help write the story," he said.

Letitia Moffitt, associate professor in the English department, is the adviser to *The Vehicle*, which she said is a student's first step into the literary world.

"It shows their work in public dissemination in a form that's professional, polished and artistic," she said.

Doug Urbanski, a junior English major, has submitted pieces to *The Vehicle* before, but this was the first time his work was published. He won first place in prose for his short story "Coming Home," about an American spy living in Russia.

"I was inspired by the novel 'Child 44' by Tom Rob Smith, a mys-

tery novel set in Soviet Russia in the 1950s," he said.

Urbanski said he was glad to know people outside his close circle of friends and acquaintances would see his work and has been surprised by their reactions.

"I've been told I've got a voice for social satire, something that didn't quite strike me until I'd written a few poems in a row," Urbanski said.

Myers read every piece submitted, but cannot pick a favorite.

"It would be difficult to pick just one favorite; some pieces amused me, some moved me, and some really made me think," Myers said. "We had a very strong issue this semester, with a lot of quality writing and artwork."

Copies of *The Vehicle* are available to the public in Buzzard Hall, near the south entrance of Booth Library and on the free books stand on the third floor of Coleman Hall.

Emily Steele can be reached at 581-7942 or easteele2@eiu.edu.

SUMMER 2010

Freshman grow up, return home

By Steven Puschmann
Staff Reporter

Freshmen have little more than a week left before they finish their first year of college. For many freshmen, it only felt like yesterday when their parents were dropping them off for the first day.

The hardest part of living independently for most first-year students is when they move into their residence halls on the first day of college.

Meredith Jacobs, a freshman education major, found it difficult the first few weeks away from her family.

"I missed the privacy of having my own room to where I was sharing a room with someone else," Jacobs said. "I definitely felt homesick for the first couple of weeks. I wanted to go home, but my parents encouraged me to stay at Eastern on the weekends."

Most students agree that the one thing they develop is maturity and time management skills.

Lucas Snow, a freshman music education major, said he has become more responsible over the year.

"I have become more responsible this year as I have learned how to live independently and developed time management skills as well," Snow said. "I have also matured as a person, too."

When it comes to returning home, most freshmen cannot wait to get back to their hometowns and families. For some students, winter break was a chance for their families to recognize

"I have become more responsible this year as I have learned how to live independently and developed time management skills as well."

Meredith Jacobs, education major

the change.

Brenna Hand, a freshman family and consumer sciences major, said her family noticed she was different.

"When I returned home for winter break, it was relaxing to be back at home and good not to have any academic stresses," Hand said. "My parents keep telling me how I was acting more mature now than before I left for college."

Steven Puschmann can be reached at 581-7942 or srpuschmann@eiu.edu

IEWS



Doug T. Graham

Summer: A time for life lessons

As the semester winds down and the promise of summer draws nearer, I've been thinking a lot about the role of summer vacation in a student's life.

What practical purpose is served by letting kids out of the classroom for months at a time?

As a child, I was taught that summer vacation stemmed from a bygone era when children were needed to work on the family farm.

I think it's safe to say that months of child labor aren't quite as necessary to make it by today, though.

So, the question remains: Why let kids out of school at all? Why give them time to screw around, get into trouble and forget the lessons they learned in class?

That seems to be the line of thinking that prompts school administrators to push for both shorter summer breaks and additional summer school programs that keep students in the classroom practically year-round.

This reflects the way most "grown-ups" see summer — a time that doesn't benefit children; a time better spent learning in the classroom than out causing trouble, raising mischief and generally running amuck.

But if the summers of my childhood were any indication, then these education mongers and vacation haters couldn't be more wrong.

As a child, though, my summers were filled less with mayhem than mild boredom.

However, the boredom of my summers prompted me to learn many things I wouldn't have learned in class.

Would I have learned of the beautiful colors one can make when stomping a lightning bug on the concrete if I'd been made to do homework on July evenings? I doubt it.

Would I have learned to climb on the roof of my garage in gym class? A rope, maybe, but a garage roof, most certainly not.

Would I have learned of gravity's force and the tremendous, unavoidable pain of falling off said garage into the gravel-filled alley in grade school physics class? No, sir!

Lessons like these do not seem important to a "suit" making a curriculum, but lessons like those above have done more for me than the year I spent being taught how to write in cursive or memorizing my multiplication tables.

And I assure you, dear reader, I never would have contemplated anything existential while sitting in a classroom.

The first time I thought about my mortality was in the summer after second grade.

With no school to attend and Pokémon still months away from popularity, I decided to climb on my swing set to check on the birds I'd seen nesting there. As quietly as I could, I crept up the ladder and saw that mama bird was sleeping on her belly next to her empty nest. Only after crawling to within a foot of the bird did I realize she was not going to wake up.

Looking at this dead bird that had been so alive just the previous day showed me the absolute of death. When I asked my father about it later that day he said, "The only sure thing about life is death."

Perhaps this wasn't the happiest of childhood memories but these are the moments that we remember best. And moments like those form the foundation of the summer vacations America's youth loves, and needs, so dearly. After all, some lessons simply can't be taught in a classroom.

Doug T. Graham is a sophomore journalism major and can be reached at 581-7942 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid"

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

Person of the Year: Paul McCann model of leadership, dedication

Around this time every year, the Editorial Board here at *The Daily Eastern News*, lock ourselves away in our conference room and begin listing the names of people we think have had a positive impact on our university.

Whether they are students, administrators, professors or even members of the Charleston community, we weed through the names until we agree upon the one person who has single-handedly had the greatest positive impact on our university and our community over the past year.

Sometimes, deciding on one single person who has had the most influential impact on the well-being of the university and its students can be an arduous and tedious task, occasionally ending in a near-stalemate.

However, some years finding this person is as easy as speaking the name aloud.

Such was the case this year when the name Paul McCann, treasurer and director of business services, was mentioned. Within moments the decision was made.

And as such, it is our honor to name Paul McCann *The Daily Eastern News*' Person of the Year.

It will come as no surprise to any that the tumultuous economic situation Illinois universities have faced over the past year has made everything from ensuring students' financial aid to making sure employees actually receive a paycheck an exercise in nearly impossible endeavors.

However, while legislators have failed us at Eastern, it has been through the leadership of McCann that Eastern employees have made it through.

While many cringed and braced for the frightening possibility of furloughs, it was McCann who main-

"However, while legislators have failed us at Eastern, it has been through the leadership of McCann that Eastern employees have made it through."

tained the salary pool. While this meant constant monitoring on his part and sometimes telling departments they could not buy that new computer or informing people they would not get the additional funding they requested, it also meant those who feared layoffs or furloughs had nothing to fear.

In fact, because of McCann and the staff at the Office of Business Affairs, every Eastern employee received every paycheck on time and not one single person was forced to take an unpaid furlough.

When Eastern desired the Renewable Energy Center, it was McCann, and Gary Reed, director of Facilities Planning and Management, and Jeff Cooley, now-retired vice president for business affairs, to the rescue, traveling to Springfield to explain and clarify a complicated matter to legislators.

His incredible ability to explain the most intricate of information in a manner that all can understand played a vital role in getting legislation passed that has allowed Eastern to begin construction on the new energy center.

Without McCann and his steadfast dedication to job and university, many at Eastern may have missed pay or been sent home without pay because spending went unchecked.

Without McCann and his personable demeanor and communication skills, Eastern may not be preparing for the Renewable Energy Center that will help our school continue its impressive streak of environment-friendly initiatives.

It is for these reasons we thank you, Mr. McCann for your dedication and service and for these reasons we are proud and honored to call you our Person of the Year.

FROM THE EASEL

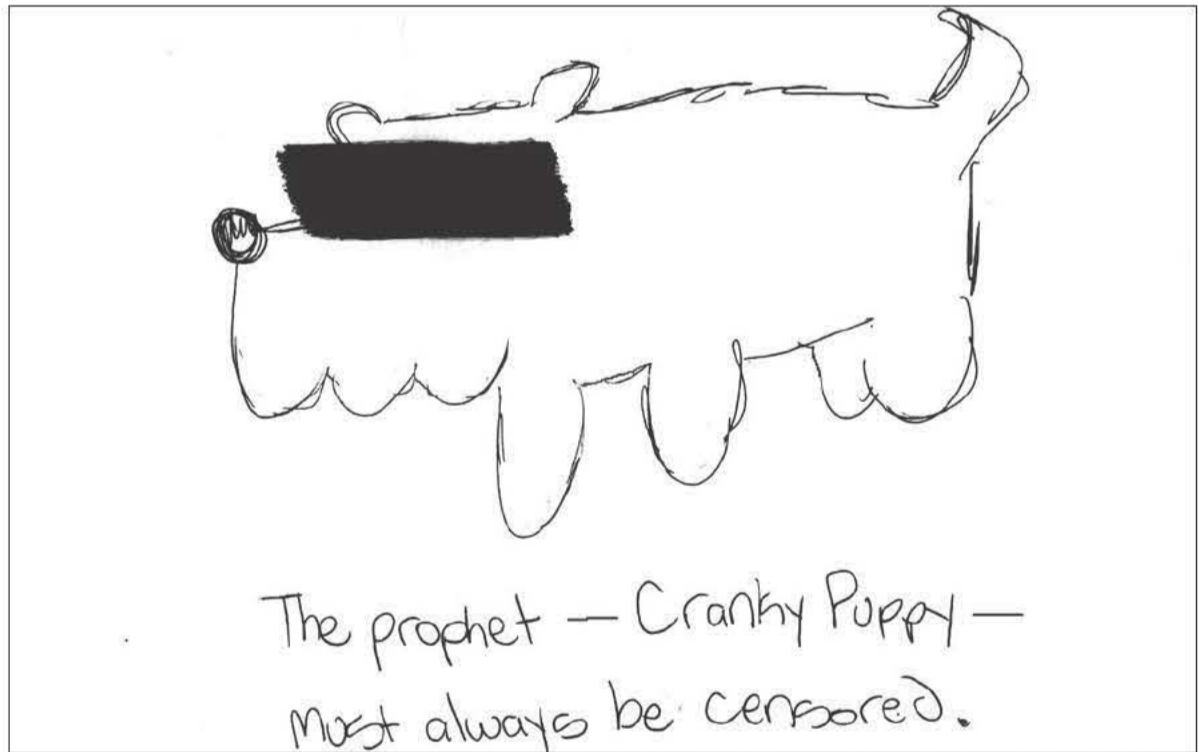


ILLUSTRATION BY DARIUS JUTZI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

FROM AROUND THE STATE

Comedy Central animates issues

By the *Daily Vidette* Editorial Board
Illinois State University

The television show "South Park" is no stranger to controversy, but the show's most recent episode has landed its creators in hot water.

The show from the Comedy Central network follows the fictional lives of the cartoon characters living in the town of South Park, Colo. Never missing an opportunity to push the envelope in terms of creative license, the episode that aired on April 21 apparently went too far.

At the center of the controversy was the episode's depiction of the Muslim Prophet Muham-

mad dressed in a comical bear mascot costume.

The episode aired in two parts beginning the previous week. Soon after the first installment, creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone received stern warnings from a radical Muslim group on the Web site RevolutionMuslim.com, including potential death threats if the second episode aired.

In response to the warnings, Comedy Central censored the episode by placing a large block over the image of the Prophet Muhammad character and bleeped out all references to the words "Prophet Muhammad."

Following the show's television broadcast, the network refused to allow the episode to stream

on its official Web site, southparkstudios.com, even though all previous episodes are put on this site.

We feel that Comedy Central's actions in regards to the censorship of the episode are inconsistent with their previous judgment in years past.

The television show "South Park" has parodied nearly every religious group for years, including elements from the Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Christian faiths, not to mention the countless episodes that deal with other sensitive racial, political and social issues.

To read more, visit DailyVidette.com

NATION

Vatican official left abusive priest as pastor

By The Associated Press

The pope's hand-picked replacement to oversee abuse cases at the Vatican did nothing to restrict a California priest after learning in 1995 that the priest had molested a 13-year-old boy a decade earlier.

Cardinal William Levada, then archbishop of San Francisco, said in a 2005 deposition obtained by The Associated Press that he did nothing and didn't contact police because he trusted the Rev. Milton Walsh would not re-offend and his predecessor handled the case adequately.

There were no known allegations of later abuse by the priest and a Vatican attorney says Levada acted appropriately under standards of the time.

When Levada learned of the abuse, Walsh had been pastor for six years at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, a parish of about 1,000 people.

He remained there for two more years and was removed from active ministry in 2002, when U.S. bishops passed a "zero tolerance" policy on sex abuse and police started investigating.

Levada is now the highest-ranking American at the Vatican and head of the office that defrocks pedophile priests.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger held the post before he became Pope Benedict XVI in 2005.

The Vatican's lawyer, Jeffrey Lena, says Levada handled the case properly by the era's norms, which have evolved significantly in recent years. The Holy See told bishops this month they should report abuse to police rather than keep cases quiet as had been the practice for decades.

"One thing the law teaches: it is fundamentally unfair to apply standards of conduct retroactively," Lena said. "And yet, even if one were to do

so, it must be acknowledged there was no re-offense by the priest. So in this case, the old approach did work."

Obama welcomes Senate breakthrough on finance bill

QUINCY, Ill. — President Barack Obama says he's pleased that Senate Republicans are agreeing to allow debate on a financial overhaul bill after days of stalling tactics.

Obama told a crowd in Illinois Wednesday that the bill will end bailouts, make banks accountable to consumers and bring complex Wall Street deals into the light of day.

He spoke shortly after news broke in Washington that Republicans would end a filibuster of the legislation and let debate go forward.

Obama said the legislation would ensure that taxpayers aren't on the hook ever again for Wall Street mistakes.

The president said: "The time for reform is now."

Obama was finishing up the second day of a two-day Midwest tour.

Report: Most Americans still live in unclean air

LOS ANGELES — Six in 10 Americans — about 175 million people — are living in places where air pollution often reaches dangerous levels, despite progress in reducing particle pollution, the American Lung Association said in a report released Wednesday.

The Los Angeles area had the nation's worst ozone pollution.

The report examined fine particulate matter over 24-hour periods and as a year-round average. Bakersfield, Calif., had the worst short-term particle pollution, and the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale area of Arizona had the worst year-round particle pollution.

The U.S. cities with the cleanest air were Fargo, N.D., Wahpeton, N.D., and Lincoln, Neb.

The report is accurate but doesn't show how far California has come, said Dimitri Stanich, a spokesman for the California Air Resources Board.

"More than 45 percent of the days in the 1990 ozone season were considered very unhealthy (in the South Coast area). Today, 45 percent of the days are clean, more than double the number of clean days during 1990."

"So while we are still not meeting the federal air quality standards, the concentrations that Californians are exposed to are coming down dramatically," he said.

In Arizona, Benjamin H. Grumbles, the state's environmental quality director, issued a statement objecting to the methodology of the report highlighting the Phoenix area's levels of particulates such as dust.

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* THE BACK-UP PLAN (PG 13)
4:50 7:40 FRI SAT 10:20 SAT SUN 1:50
* THE LOSERS (PG 13)
4:20 7:20 FRI SAT 9:50 SAT SUN 1:20

KICK-ASS (R)
3:50 7:10 FRI SAT 10:00 SAT SUN 12:50

DEATH AT A FUNERAL (R)
4:10 FRI SAT 6:50 SAT SUN 1:30

DATE NIGHT (PG 13)
4:00 6:40 FRI SAT 9:10 SAT SUN 1:10

THE LAST SONG (PG)
4:40 7:30 FRI SAT 10:10 SAT SUN 1:40

CLASH OF THE TITANS (PG 13)
3:20 6:30 FRI SAT 9:20 SAT SUN 12:30

HOT TUB TIME MACHINE (R)
FRI SAT 9:40 SUN - THUR 6:50

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG)
3:40 6:20 FRI SAT 9:00 SAT SUN 1:00

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GOVERNMENT, from page 1



DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Student Body President Michelle Murphy gives the state of the university address during student senate Wednesday in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

"The senate has seen better days, but we have continued to execute our function in working for the student body, and our efforts have not failed," Sandidge said.

He spoke of the improved leadership established in the form of a senate mentorship program at the start of the semester to transition new members into representative roles and said he witnessed senators working together in a more global effort on campus.

"The time for gathering information is over," Sandidge said. "The senate will likely encounter a similar budget next year."

He implored senators to think about what they accomplished for their constituents and what they have left to achieve.

After extensive debate, the senate also passed a series of bylaw revisions proposed by the Committee on Bylaw Revision Adoption.

Senate member Brad Saribekian

proposed several amendments to the proposed revisions, including one to strike the diversity affairs committee.

Saribekian suggested that the committee's responsibilities instead be executed under the University Board.

Kendall Jackson, co-chair of the internal relations committee, was among those who opposed the amendment because he said passing such an amendment would show students that student government is not in support of diversity.

After the amendment failed, Saribekian made a motion to table the resolution proposing the new bylaws indefinitely, which also failed.

The resolution ultimately passed by a vote of 23-3-1, amending the student senate bylaws for the first time since 2006.

The senate also voted unanimously to pass the bylaw revisions relating to the Student Action Team, led by Eric Wilber, executive vice president, as well as to establish an informal com-

mittee called "Senators In Training," which will be composed of two veteran senate members in the effort to generate interest in student government and prepare freshmen for leadership positions.

A resolution to allocate funds for the Student Action Team to travel to the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee conference was also passed.

Participants will travel to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for the weekend of May 29.

Both Wilber and Sandidge were officially honored with the unanimous approval of separate resolutions in recognition of their service to student government.

With regards to the achievements perpetuated over the course of the school year, senate members received a presentation on the progression of the new textbook rental center to open this summer by Dan Nadler, vice president for stu-

dent affairs.

"The new facility had been a dream for at least 20 years," Nadler said.

He told senate members the new facilities is one of 24 in the county and that the option to rent textbooks as opposed to buying them saves the student body approximately \$800 per year.

He added that the facilities were constructed with the environment in mind through the use of geothermal technology.

Wilber was the first student to test the new facilities by brandishing his Panther Card which pulled up his information and instantly scanned his stack of books.

"It's the difference between night and day," Wilber said. "From approving the fee back in my sophomore year to seeing it in action, it's pretty sweet."

Erica Whelan can be reached at 581-7942 or elwhelan@eu.edu.

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McCANN, from page 1

Reed, director of facilities planning and management, and Jeff Cooley, now-retired vice president for business affairs, spent about one day a week in Springfield, cutting back on McCann's travel time.

"They put in a lot of time trying to figure out how we could do it," McCann said. "We all brought an area expertise to the table. My expertise was being patient with the folks in Springfield and repeating a presentation that made sense. Almost no one understood what we were trying to accomplish."

In order to build the Renewable Energy Center, legislation needed to be passed that allowed the university to fund the construction using bonds instead of state funding.

The group was met with resistance from unions, legislators and other government officials.

The fight for understanding grew very intense at one point, before McCann's patient explanations got through.

"It was a blood bath," McCann said. "The union representatives and the people supporting various groups were after us. It was me against 13 or 14 of these union reps, and they were all against us. Gary (Reed) told me he was right behind me the whole time. They accused us of malfeasance down here and that we were just out for our own gain, and there was no basis for saying that."

McCann said he received an apology after the union representative understood the project and he went on to be one of its biggest supporters.

The lack of general revenue payments from the state has required McCann to closely monitor spending

this year.

"I spent a lot of time going back over how much we spent on a monthly basis over the last three or four years and what month we spent it in," he said. "Then I projected out where I thought we'd be in spending."

McCann and the business services staff's main goal has been to maintain the salary pool, so the university would not face furloughs, layoffs or other effects on employment. Evaluating every purchase and explaining to employees why it was necessary made this possible.

"Most people, once I explain to them that I'm interested in making sure we have enough for payroll, they're accepting, maybe not happy, but accepting that we have somebody looking at the expenses," McCann said. "If we're going to go out and buy a computer, that might be someone's paycheck."

Before assuming his role at Eastern in 2006, McCann worked as a certified public accountant, when he would spend three to four months a year auditing Eastern.

"Even though it was an adversarial relationship, it never felt that way," he said.

President Bill Perry, whose office is directly across the hall, called McCann detail-oriented and timely.

"He's always thinking of the best interest of the university in the decisions we have to make," Perry said. "He puts in long hours, works hard, and has a great sense of humor. He's a great colleague."

Sarah Ruholl can be reached at 581-7942 or seruholl2@eiu.edu.

GRADUATION, from page 1

Any tickets left from May 7 will be available May 8 in Lantz Arena.

The commencement department prepares for the ceremonies all year.

"There's stuff we do throughout the year with updates, (finding) commencement speakers and commencement and faculty marshals and getting all the plaques for awards," said Jonathan McKenzie, assistant director for Alumni Services.

McKenzie said most of the preparation work is done a month in advance.

Marty Hackler, public events supervisor, said a lot goes into the planning.

"I help organize the ceremonies, answer e-mail and phone questions," Hackler said.

She also deals with getting will-call tickets for people who cannot pick up their tickets before the ceremony and trains faculty, commencement and student marshals.

Commencement marshals bring in the mace for each ceremony while the student marshals, either students

"There's stuff we do throughout the year with updates, (finding) commencement speakers and commencement and faculty marshals and getting all the plaques for awards."

Johnathan McKenzie, assistant director for Alumni Services

from the Honors College or graduate students, make sure everyone gets in and out of Lantz Arena in a timely manner.

Faculty marshals carry the banner for each college that comes in for each ceremony.

The marshals, along with keynote speakers and awards winners, are either chosen by committees or the deans of each college.

The Lumpkin College of Business

and Applied Sciences ceremony will do something new this year.

Two ROTC students will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the army.

There will also be a Distinguished Faculty Award, which is always presented during spring commencement, to Janet T. Marquardt.

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

Commencement marshals:

Vincent Gutowski: 9 a.m. ceremony
William J. Searle: Noon ceremony
Scott A.G.M. Crawford: 3 p.m. ceremony
Deborah A. Woodley: 6 p.m. ceremony

Faculty marshals:

9 a.m.
Andrew McNitt (Graduate School, College of Sciences)
Gary Foster (College of Sciences)

Noon

Jonathon Kirk (Graduate School, College of Arts and Humanities)
Bailey Young (College of Arts and Humanities)
Kathryn Rhodes (School of Continuing Education)

3 p.m.

Heidi Larson (Graduate School, College of Education and Professional Studies)
Julie Dietz (College of Education and Professional Studies)

6 p.m.

Karla Kennedy Hagan (Graduate School, Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences)
Betsy Pudliner (Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences)

Keynote speakers:

H. Ray Hoops — 9 a.m.
Jeffrey P. Lynch — Noon
Timothy D. McCollum — 3 p.m.
Janet M. Treichel — 6 p.m.

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PROGRAM, from page 12

team is the inaugural *Daily Eastern News* Team of the Year.

"This is a great honor for our program," head coach Bob Spoo said. "Our team had a good season and the players are deserving of this honor."

The Panthers came out on fire in 2009, reeling off four straight wins to open the season, the most by a team since 1995. Leading the charge to that hot start were two newcomers: Quarterback Jake Christensen, a graduate student who transferred from Iowa, and Mon Williams, a junior who transferred from Florida. The duo combined for 254 of the team's 384 yards of total offense in a season-opening victory over in state rival Illinois State.

But while Christensen and Williams led the charge early on and invigorated an offense that struggled mightily in 2008, the veteran-led defense provided the groundwork for the early-season domination.

Defensive coordinator Roc Bellantoni's unit combined to allow just six points in the first two weeks and finished the season third in the OVC in scoring defense, second in total defense and second in passing defense.

Bellantoni said his unit improved because of changes the team made in tackling techniques and angles they were taking, but he credited the team's overall change in a brand new mindset.

"No. 1 was a change in attitude of the players," the ninth year coach said. "After the '08 season coach Spoo and the staff sat down and decided to get rid of some of the guys we thought were detriments, guys who dragged us down. Either we got rid of them or they weeded themselves out."

"Then we did some character education. We had coaches talk to players about different aspects and tried to develop leadership and character. I think that made all the difference in the world."

Bellantoni remembered the 2008 season as being a disappointment because the team experienced a letdown after a couple of big victories. The Panthers began that season with losses to Division-I Football Bowl Subdivision teams Central Michigan and Illinois in which Bellantoni said his team played competitive football.

They followed those games with victories against non-conference rivals Indiana State and Illinois State, the latter of which was the first victory against a Redbirds team the Panthers hadn't beaten since 2002.

"We beat Illinois State for the first time in a number of years and that was probably the worst thing that could've happened to us," Bellantoni said. "The upperclassmen that experienced the years of losing to them were used to going into the OVC and beating all of those teams and I think they got complacent. They forgot to realize that all of the guys we had beaten in the con-

ference were hungry to beat us."

That complacency ended in 2009. The Panthers once again rolled through a number of OVC foes. Despite hiccups against perennial conference contender Eastern Kentucky and another against Tennessee State on Senior Night, the Panthers won an outright conference title thanks to tough road victories, including an upset of Jacksonville State in Jacksonville, Ala.

In fact, the only road losses the Panthers experienced all season were to Big Ten powerhouse Penn State and the playoff loss to Southern Illinois-Carbondale.

But despite all the success, the Panthers are still hungry. The players have a sour taste in their mouths thanks to back-to-back losses to end the season against Tennessee State and the Salukis.

"With being the team of the year, as well as the OVC Champions, we feel as if we have to perform far better (next year) than we did (in 2009),"

said junior cornerback C.J. James, a First Team All-OVC performer in last season. "Getting to first and beyond is our goal. Anything less than that means nothing to us."

Bellantoni said with the success of 2009, complacency is the worry yet again, but a repeat of the 2008 letdown is unlikely.

"I think the hunger is there," he said. "You worry about if they're going to get complacent and you look for those signs, but I don't see it."

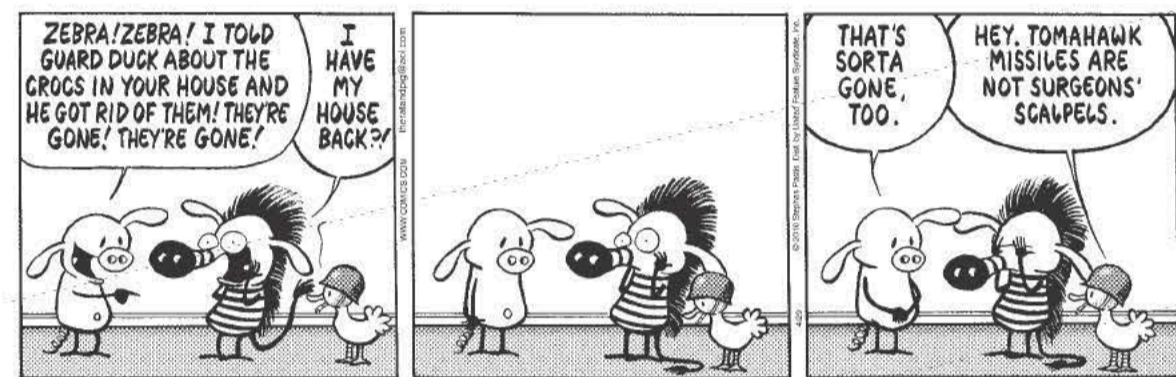
For James, the offseason has been grueling and he's already chomping at the bit to get back on the field.

"Offseason training has been the hardest since I have been here," he said. "We plan on unleashing that on every opponent next year, starting with Iowa."

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or cfwhitchurch@eiu.edu.

COMICS

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Campus clips

Special Olympics is this Friday, April 30th from 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the O'Brien Stadium, "Rain or Sunshine." Everyone must report to the Volunteer Table upon arrival.

4/29

PANTHER BRIEFS

Eastern assistant takes Green Bay job

Former Eastern assistant men's basketball coach Chrys Cornelius has accepted an assistant coaching job at Wisconsin-Green Bay to begin in the 2010-2011 season. Cornelius will be joining two recent hires to make up the assistant coaching staff at UW Green Bay.

Former North Dakota assistant coach Jimmie Fisher and former Marquette assistant Brian Barone will be joining Cornelius next year.

Cornelius has been a part of the Eastern staff for three seasons, under head coach Mike Miller. In his move to UW Green Bay, Cornelius will be coaching under head coach Brian Wardle.

"It's a young staff, but I think it's an experienced staff," Cornelius told the Green Bay Press Gazette. "Everybody has come from different ideas,

and everybody's had a lot of success at the places they've been. I think we can do a good job of putting everything together and coming to that common goal of winning a championship."

Men's golf finishes last

The Eastern men's golf team finished in ninth place in the Ohio Valley Conference Championships, which ended Wednesday in Dickson, Tenn.

The Panthers finished 15 strokes back of the eighth-place Tennessee Martin team and 47 strokes back of the first-place team, Murray State.

Murray State earned the automatic berth to the NCAA Regionals. Eastern combined for a total 48-over-par score in three rounds, while Murray State's team finished one-over-par.

The loss wasn't on the shoulders of sophomore Gino Parrodi, who finished the tournament in a seven-way tie for ninth place among all golfers with a score of five-over-par.

However, on par fours Parrodi was the second best golfer, shooting one-under-par on those holes. Parrodi finished with nine birdies in the tournament.

Eastern senior Matt Bird finished seven strokes back of Parrodi, putting in the second best three-day tournament among all other Panthers. Bird finished tied for 32nd. Junior Francisco Cherizola placed 36th. Sophomores David Lawrence and Kevin Flack finished in 40th and 41st, respectively.

—Compiled by Assistant Sports Editor Alex McNamee

SOFTBALL | RECAP

Weekend does not end as planned

By Alex McNamee
Assistant Sports Editor

Rain places burden on home series

Coming into the weekend, the Eastern softball team was pumped to play a three-game series against Austin Peay. However, all didn't go as planned.

The Panthers (21-23, 11-8 in the Ohio Valley Conference) and Governors (15-31, 7-12 OVC) only got two games in, with the second game of Saturday's doubleheader having to be finished Sunday.

The doubleheader was originally scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday but was moved up to 11 a.m. with rain in the forecast.

So, the Panthers got the first game in, winning 7-0, as junior third baseman Kiley Holtz was big at the bat for the Panthers.

But the second game went to the top of the eighth inning before it had to be postponed to restart on Sunday.

The two teams finished up the second game Sunday, with Austin Peay winning 5-3.

However, with more rain, the rubber game of the series was canceled after the completion of the second game on Sunday.

Holtz has huge series opener

Holtz dominated freshman pitcher Morgan Brewer and senior pitcher Abby Mabry in game one of Saturday's doubleheader.

As Eastern won 7-0, Holtz was 2-for-3 with six RBIs for the Panthers.

Four of Holtz's RBIs came on a grand slam, which was the Panthers' first this season.

Holtz has dominated Austin Peay before, too.

Last season she was 5-for-12 with two RBIs in three games against the Governors. In the first game of a May 2, 2009 doubleheader, Holtz was 3-for-5.

For Holtz's efforts this weekend, the junior third baseman was named OVC Player of the Week. The award is the third of her career.

Up and down weekend

In the first game of Saturday's doubleheader, junior pitcher Amber May didn't need any help on the mound, throwing a complete game, only giving up one hit.

In the doubleheader's second game,

May struggled as she entered the game in relief of freshman pitcher Natalie Wunderlich.

May pitched five innings, gave up seven hits, five runs and one walk.

Skyhawks dominate

The Tennessee Martin Skyhawks (37-9, 16-3 OVC) are continuing its dominance of the OVC.

This weekend, the Skyhawks played a doubleheader against Tennessee State on Sunday, routing Tigers by scores of 7-0 and 9-0.

The Skyhawks have a 2.5 game lead over the Morehead State Eagles (25-19, 14-6 OVC), who lost its weekend series 2-1 against Tennessee Tech, despite winning the series opener.

In winning its weekend series, Tennessee Martin broke its program's home run record, hitting its 56th bomb against Tennessee State.

OVC standings don't see change up top

Going into the weekend, the Panthers were in fourth place in the OVC and they remain there, after they split their weekend series against Austin Peay.

Jacksonville State (23-16, 10-6) is one game ahead of the Panthers, while Morehead State is in second and Tennessee Martin in first.

The Panthers can try to gain some ground on the three teams in front of them this weekend as they don't have any mid-week games this week, so they'll be preparing for Tennessee State all week.

The series will begin Saturday in Nashville, Tenn.

Game one of the Saturday doubleheader is set to begin at noon. The series will conclude Sunday with one game at noon.

Alex McNamee can be reached at 581-7944 or admcnamee@eiu.edu.

TRACK & FIELD | NOTEBOOK

Former Eastern runner takes notice at winning 1600 meter sprint medley relay

By Kevin Murphy
Staff Reporter

After the men's 1,600-meter sprint medley relay won at the Drake Relays on Saturday, a former Eastern athlete talked to current Eastern head coach Tom Akers.

That was current Northern Iowa head coach Dan Steele, and former NCAA champion for Eastern. The last Eastern athlete to win an event at the Drake Relays was former NCAA champion Dan Steele.

Steele was on hand to watch his own team compete in the event and caught up with Akers. Steele was the last Eastern athlete to win an event at the Drake Relays. He won the 400-meter hurdles in 1992 in 51.44 seconds.

The Eastern men's track and field program has won eight events at the Drake Relays. The women's program has had no winners at the competitive meet.

Akers unsure of injuries

Akers said some athletes pulled

some hamstrings, but they'll probably be ready for this weekend's Ohio Valley Conference championships.

"It's just a meet that really wears on ya," Akers said.

Senior Shawana Smith and freshman Jacob Mitchell both had to pull up in their relays because of hamstring issues. Also, junior Andrea Fabiano rolled her ankle.

Carter honored by the News-Gazette

Sophomore Tyler Carter was named the *News-Gazette's* Boys' Track and Field Athlete of the Decade on Sunday.

The Tuscola native was key on his high school track team and has made a dent on the Eastern track program.

He was the state runner-up in the triple jump as a senior. As a senior, he helped the boys' Tuscola track team finish third in Class 1A.

Also, former Eastern thrower and men's basketball player Austin Hogue was part of the all-decade team. The Tuscola grad finished second in the discus and third in the shot put as a

senior in Class 1A. Hogue ranks 10th all-time in the indoor shot put, seventh in the 35-pound weight throw and second in the javelin.

National rankings update

As on Monday afternoon, three Eastern athletes were ranked in the top 35 events nationally.

Senior Ian Winston is tied for 22nd in the nation in the high jump (7 feet, 0.5 inches). Winston holds the outdoor high jump record. Sophomore Megan Gingerich is ranked 32nd in the nation in the 800-meter run (2:07.55).

Gingerich is ranked second all-time in the 800-meter run in the outdoor season, and holds the second-best time in the indoor 800-meter run (2:13.50). Senior Kandace Arnold is ranked 19th (52 feet, 1.75 inches) in the shot put. Arnold has five throwing records.

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



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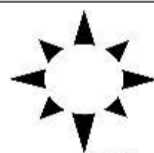
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Top Cat
with Zach Borenstein, sophomore third baseman

No secret: Borenstein is best hitter

Buffalo Grove native owned batter's box

By Bob Bajek
Sports Editor

Leading a baseball team's offense is not an easy thing to do, especially for a sophomore.

But sophomore third baseman Zach Borenstein is taking this leadership role in stride, coming off last week's performance hitting 7-for-14 with three home runs and six RBIs.

Last season, the Buffalo Grove native was a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American and on the Ohio Valley Conference All-Freshman Team. However, with players like Jordan Kreke, Zach Skidmore and Brett Nommensen leading the attack, Borenstein did not have to lead.

Now that all these players are gone, he has no choice but to step out. Borenstein leads the Panthers in home runs (9), RBIs (34), hits (51) and slugging percentage (.563).

Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz said his top hitter has some ups and downs like any other player, like when Borenstein went 1-for-9 and no RBIs.

"He was very frustrated after the Tennessee Tech weekend when he was swinging at a lot of balls," Schmitz said. "He has been asked to be the guy who carries us and that's a lot of pressure. You tend to want to do too much. He had some good counts (against Murray State) and got some good pitches and did a great job getting quality at bats."

It all began against Illinois April 21 at Grimes Field in Mattoon. In the bottom of the seventh, the game was tied 4-4. Borenstein faced Illini senior pitcher Mike Sterk (3-0, 4.08 ERA).

"I was ahead in the count and he threw me a fastball, so I hit a home run," Borenstein said.

More importantly, the 5-11, 190 sophomore had a dominant performance against Murray State. With Eastern 4-8 and in dead last in league standings, Borenstein and the Panthers had to sweep the series to get back in the conference race.

Saturday's doubleheader was rained out, so Sunday was going to be a doubleheader with both games being seven-inning affairs.

Borenstein had four hits in game one, going 4-for-5 which tied his career high, and was 6-for-10 with five

RBIs overall.

In game one, Borenstein had a two-run blast in the seventh inning off Racer senior pitcher Matt McGaha (2-1, 4.32 ERA) for an 8-4 lead with senior first baseman Alex Gee along for the ride. That would prove vital as Eastern junior ace Josh Muller (1-1, 4.54 ERA) allowed two Murray State runs in the seventh for a 8-6 win.

The second game had him launch the ball off Racer Jake Donze (5-5, 5.85 ERA) for a quick 2-0 lead. Eastern won that game 7-4.

"I just felt good at the plate I guess," Borenstein said. "They made bad pitches and I took advantage of them."

In the fourth inning of game one, Borenstein singled home junior center fielder Matt Kucharski with two outs to cut Eastern's deficit to 4-3 off Chris Craycraft (5-3, 4.69 ERA), the Pre-season OVC co-Pitcher of the Year.

Freshman pitcher Troy Barton (1-4, 5.87 ERA) was impressed with Borenstein's performance against the Racers when the Panthers needed these wins.

"It's not secret; he's probably our best hitter," Barton said. "When you are the best hitter, there is a lot of pressure on him, and he was huge last week. He produced and has been producing most of the year. If he keeps hitting like that in conference, I think we will be fine."

One area that Borenstein has been struggling with has been pitch selection. Schmitz has been working with Borenstein on his approach at the plate.

"The key thing is we talked to him about how other teams are pitching around him and he hasn't been selective," Schmitz said. "He is swinging at bad pitches and we can't do a whole lot to change his swing, but he needed to do a better job swinging at balls that were strikes."

Schmitz said the team asks him to produce and drive in big runs.

"He's just got to do a better job getting a good pitch to hit," Schmitz said. "He is still only a sophomore, so he is learning about getting a good pitch to hit and getting a strike. He was able to get certain pitches during the Murray weekend and had gotten OK counts."

Borenstein said he would have to be careful to not swing at pitches out of the strike zone the rest of the season and hopes to lead his team to an OVC tournament championship.

Bob Bajek can be reached at 581-7944 or rtbajek@eiu.edu.



DANNY DAMIANI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sophomore third baseman Zach Borenstein, from Buffalo Grove, is the Panthers' best hitter this season. Borenstein went 6-for-10 with two home runs and five RBIs against Murray State last weekend. He also had a key home run during the April 21 game against Illinois. Borenstein leads the team in home runs, RBIs, hits and slugging percentage.



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VIEWS



Alex McNamee

It is gut-check time everybody

It's safe to say this week has been a very good week for the Eastern softball team and it hasn't even played an inning against an opponent since finishing up game two of the weekend double-header Sunday.

Nonetheless, it has been a good, easygoing week. Unlike pretty much every other week this season, the Panthers don't have any mid-week games scheduled.

Usually, Eastern would be traveling Wednesday or Thursday to play a team like Indiana State, Butler or Saint Louis, but not this week.

This week, Eastern is resting. The season has been one long marathon and finally the team is available to get a drink of water.

One of the major benefits to this mid-week break is the Panthers have been able to rest their star junior pitcher Amber May.

This season, May has pitched 179 1/3 innings, which isn't bad if you compare it to last season's total of 250 2/3 innings. However, the reason May hasn't pitched as much is because she has had two solid back-ups behind her in Eastern's rotation.

Those back-ups, freshmen Natalie Wunderlich and Hailie Ray, pitched well when Eastern had an in-team scrimmage Tuesday during practice at Williams Field, according to head coach Kim Schuette.

So, that's one benefit to having the week free of any opponents or travel plans. Also, the Panthers have been able to solely focus on their weekend foe, Tennessee State.

Even though Tennessee State is one the Ohio Valley Conference's worst teams this season, that won't cause Eastern to lose focus on trying to sweep the Tigers.

This weekend is as important as any for the Panthers, who are fourth place in the OVC and have an opportunity to gain ground on No. 3 Jacksonville State.

Without a mid-week opponent, the Panthers have been given more than just one or two days to study up and prepare for the weekend series.

That is a reason why Schuette likes to schedule mid-week games early in the season and then let the season be weekend-to-weekend towards the end.

It's a great idea, and you should expect it to pay off this weekend.

With probably every student on campus cramming to finish final projects and begin studying for finals, the softball team can take a breath and understand that because they have had the week off. They will be more than prepared for their weekend opponent.

There are only two more opponents Eastern has to play, the Tigers and Murray State, so it's gut-check time for the Panthers. I think the Panthers know it, so that's a good thing.

Alex McNamee can be reached at 581-7944 or admcnamee@eiu.edu.

BASEBALL | SOUTHERN 8, EASTERN 6



AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior shortstop Cam Strang throws to first during the game against Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Wednesday afternoon at Coaches Stadium. Strang had one run and one hit.

Bullpen blows it yet again

Eastern's pitchers give up 3 homers

By Bob Bajek
Sports Editor

Despite leading 5-4 in the ninth inning, Eastern's bullpen blew another game, losing 8-6 to Southern Illinois Carbondale Wednesday at Coaches Stadium in 10 innings.

New closer, junior pitcher Mike Recchia, gave up a two-run double in the ninth and junior pitcher Dillon Roark (1-4), the losing pitcher, allowed a two-run home run in the 10th for another blown save.

Southern, in the top of the

ninth, had junior center fielder Chris Murphy popping out at short, but then junior second baseman Blake Pinnon and Serritella hit consecutive singles off Recchia.

Recchia forced senior designated hitter Tyler Bullock pop out to third. However, freshman right fielder Austin Montgomery drilled a 3-2 pitch into deep center for a two-run double but Montgomery was thrown out at third. His hit made it 6-5 Southern.

"Mike is a guy that the dugout feels that he can close a game," head coach Jim Schmitz said. "If you follow the game of baseball, you don't get it done all the time. Mike's going to be our closer this weekend and I'm not going to question that decision. He's the only guy who could do it."

The bottom of the ninth had junior shortstop Cam Strang single off Saluki senior pitcher Brent George. Sophomore third baseman Zach Borenstein struck out, but senior first baseman Alex Gee had a chopping single over Southern sophomore first baseman Chris Serritella to put runners at the corners.

"That closer throws 95 mph, so it's really hard to look," Gee said. "He started me off with two sliders and in the back of your mind, you have to know that he's got a very good fastball. So all I tried to do was to stay back and I was looking for that slider; but when I got fastball, obviously, I didn't have a great swing but I got enough for a single."

Sophomore left fielder Ben Thomas then hit a sacrifice fly to right-

center to score Strang to tie the game at 6. The Salukis got freshman pitcher Lee Weld in the game and he struck out senior designated hitter Richie Derbak looking.

The Panthers bullpen again did not hold up in the 10th. Junior pitcher Dillon Roark got freshman left fielder Nick Johnson and sophomore catcher Brian Bajer out, but then ran into trouble.

Southern senior third baseman Tony Lepore walked and then senior shortstop Michael Stalter blasted a two-run homer off the score-board for the 8-6 Saluki edge.

"He didn't pitch well last night or tonight," Schmitz said. "I'm not here to bash anyone... We came up short."

BULLPEN, page 9

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Quick program turn around turns some heads

By Collin Whitchurch
Managing Editor

The year 2008 was nothing short of a disaster for the Eastern football program.

Coming off three straight post-season appearances, the Panthers struggled toward the end of that nightmarish season, losing five of seven down the stretch to miss the playoffs for the first time since 2004.

Needless to say, change was needed.

And with new faces at quarterback and running back, as well as a revamped and experienced defense, that's exactly what the Panthers got.

A 6-2 Ohio Valley Conference record, outright conference title and a plethora of individual awards later, the program did a complete 360-degree turn.

That's why the Eastern football PROGRAM, page 9



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Eastern football team celebrates its 31-0 win over Indiana State Sept. 12 at Memorial Stadium.

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

Men's outdoor track
Friday - OVC Outdoor Championships
TBA

Women's outdoor track
Friday - OVC Outdoor Championships
TBA

Softball
Saturday at Tennessee State
Noon - Nashville, Tenn.

Baseball
Sunday vs UT Martin
1 p.m. - Coaches Stadium

Softball
Sunday at Tennessee State
Noon - Nashville, Tenn.

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MLB
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1:00 p.m. on WGN

MLB
White Sox at Rangers
1 p.m. on CSN

NBA - playoff
First Round
7 p.m. on TNT

NBA - playoff
First Round
9:30 p.m. on TNT

MINORITY TODAY

THURSDAY 04.29.2010

Minorities... More than race & gender

ALUMNA | SPOTLIGHT



COURTESY PHOTO OF FEMI PHOTOGRAPHY

Amanda Bush, who graduated in 2009, is an editorial researcher with the magazine publisher, BG+H.

Internships prepare alumna

Eastern graduate of 2009, Amanda Bush expresses the importance of patience and productivity after graduation. Bush is an editorial researcher with the magazine publisher, BG+H. Minority Today's Rashida Lyles-Cowan caught up with Bush.

Q: What was one of your most memorable moments in college?

A: My most memorable moment in college would be more like a semester. I'm most fond of my first semester of freshman year because it was a time that I had waited for, for many years. Finally, I felt like an adult, not knowing that in hindsight, I was just a mature child. That time was memorable for me because of the lessons I had ahead of me and the eagerness to begin a new chapter in my life.

Q: How did you manage and organize time during college?

A: My organization Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. instilled in me many things, but one of the first and most

difficult lessons I had to learn was how to manage time and balance things that are important to you. The order you complete your obligations should always be ordered by priority.

Q: How did you find internships?

A: Rather than taking the internships I was offered by career services, I was creative in brainstorming on places more interesting to me. I knew that any entertainment venue, network, or activity that people indulge in had to have employees, which usually called for an employee Web page. That is where most internship contacts are as well. Once I completed one internship, I let my supervisor know that I would be looking for another one soon and they would call on those they knew based on my good employment history with them. It did not take long to realize that the entertainment industry is a small world. Everyone knows someone who can direct you, if they can't direct you themselves. So by putting myself out there, and persistently following

up, I landed six internships.

Q: Where were your internships?

A: Bad Boy Entertainment, Janice Combs Publishing, Iris Talent and Modeling, Nickelodeon, etc.

Q: What type of experiences, training did you learn at your internship?

A: From those six internships I learned almost every aspect of the entertainment industry well enough to qualify for an entry level position in talent management, marketing, publicity, casting, scouting, publishing, production and on camera. I did not learn all of these skills from one internship in particular but the glory of doing more than one internship in your industry of interest means you get to learn the basic essentials of different industry fields. But it was the specific skills that I learned that are transferable into any industry.

See INTERNSHIPS, page 3

CAMPUS | NEWS

Minority Affairs office says goodbye to grads

By Spenser Nobles
Editor in Chief

The Office of Minority Affairs at Eastern will be losing five graduate assistants on May 8. They have worked with either the TRiO Student Support Services program or the Gateway program.

The TRiO program currently has two graduate assistants, LeeAntwann McCline and Leah Reeves. In addition the Gateway program has three graduate assistants including; Karen Armour, Rhonda Bowdry and Sarah Carpenter.

The five will be graduating from their degree programs in May and five others will be filling their positions.

Mona Davenport, director of Minority Affairs views the student-filled positions to be very important.

"Having graduate assistants serves as a two-fold," Davenport said. "They get experience that may help them to get a job and we get to train them to work and do some things that, normally, full-time professionals would do."

Armour said she enjoyed the time she worked for the Gateway office.

"I enjoyed the close connections that I had with not only the staff, but with my students and faculty," she said. "It was always a pleasure to take part in different things."

Armour also said the time spent working for Gateway helped her develop a newfound sense of dedication

and perseverance.

The assistantship helped her to realize that the work hours don't always end like a traditional job but that you do have to do your part, she said.

Yolanda Williams, an advisor of the Gateway program, said graduate assistants in the Gateway program are responsible for advising students and are treated as though they are professional advisors.

"They have a caseload of about 20 students and they do intrusive advising all week," she said.

Williams said the assistants also participate in many events that are sponsored by the Office of Minority Affairs, these tasks include; parts of the planning process and, helping during the actual event.

"They are a very intricate part of our program as well as our department," she said.

Because of the nature of the graduate assistantship program, there is a relationship that is formed between the full-time faculty and the graduate students who are serving.

Williams said the transition from one group of students to another is difficult.

"It's a two-year relationship and then they're gone and they are starting a new part of their lives," she said.

William said each new group of students bring in a new dynamic and changes the vibe of the office.

Spenser Nobles can be reached at 581-7942 or at snobles@eu.edu.

CAMPUS | PROFILE

Asian American Association wraps up heritage month

By Zinika Livingston
Staff Reporter

Eastern is collaborating with the Asian American Association in the celebration of its fifth year of Asian American Heritage Month.

AAA was to act as an aide and social group for Asian-American students. The group was founded in 2003 by Krishna Thomas.

Thomas is of Filipino descent. She came to Eastern in 2001 and noticed that not too many students were of Asian descent.

"I wanted to find people who looked like me," she said.

Thomas and three others started AAA as an outlet for the study of Asian culture and food.

Thomas said getting use to the American dining hall food was hard because she was raised on traditional Asian food.

"The first couple of years were hard,

but it definitely has paid off," she said.

Thomas is still active in AAA and now the co-adviser.

Ayaka Hisanaga, a senior psychology major and president of AAA, said AAA made her feel more at home.

Hisanaga, was only 18 years old when she first traveled alone to America from Japan in order to finish college.

Hisanaga said she experienced culture shock her first year at Eastern because of language barriers and the unfamiliarity of a new place.

"My English was not that great," she said. "There was a lot of miscommunication."

During her freshman year, some members of AAA approached Hisanaga.

"And I've been a part ever since," she said. "Being a part of AAA has helped me with my English and encouraged me to meet different people."

See HERITAGE, page 3

COLUMN | SPENSER NOBLES

Editor in chief bids final farewell

We're just about a week away from the end of the school year now, which means this will officially be the last issue of *Minority Today* until the upcoming Fall semester.

This year, the *Minority Today* staff has been able to cover a variety of topics and have received a wide range of responses for our work.

For the 2010-2011 academic year, the publication will be under new supervision as Rashida Lyles-Cowan takes over as editor-in-chief.

This year, the publication was printed online along with the other publications that appear on the *Daily Eastern News* website, something that had not been done before.

Throughout the year, the publication also had some plans that were not as successful as we would like.

We attempted to develop a blog site, but were unable to get it up and running and consistently updated.

We also attempted to develop



Spenser Nobles

healthy relationships with many of the multicultural registered student organizations, but were unable to fully establish the connections necessary to achieve that goal.

Lyles-Cowan will continue in pursuit of achieving the goals that

we were unable to achieve over the past academic year, as well as doing some other things that will benefit the publication, such as developing a bigger staff.

She also plans on developing and doing more in-depth stories about

"THIS YEAR, THE PUBLICATION WAS BE PRINTED ONLINE ALONG WITH THE OTHER PUBLICATIONS THAT APPEAR ON THE *DAILY EASTERN NEWS* WEBSITE, SOMETHING THAT HAD NOT BEEN DONE BEFORE... WE ALSO ATTEMPTED TO DEVELOP HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH MANY OF THE MULTICULTURAL REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, BUT WERE UNABLE TO FULLY ESTABLISH THE CONNECTIONS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL."

-SPENSER NOBLES, MINORITY TODAY EDITOR IN CHIEF

diverse issues that are relevant to Eastern's campus.

She will also be working on becoming a much more consistent publication, both in terms of story quality and publication frequency.

Lyles-Cowan has been very involved around the campus, working as a deejay for Hit-Mix 88.9 WEIU,

the news editor and a reporter for *Minority Today* and also working as a reporter for the DEN.

She will also gain experience as managing editor for the DEN during the summer term.

Spenser Nobles can be reached at 581-7942 or at swnobles@eiu.edu.

COLUMN | RASHIDA LYLES-COWAN

Editor: Voice counts no matter who you are

Minority Today is an important asset on Eastern's campus because it is an outlet for minorities' voices to be heard.

Minority is defined as the smaller in number of two groups forming a whole.

The term minority can also be a group or party having fewer than a controlling number of votes.

In addition, a minority can be a racial, religious, political, national, or other group thought to be different from the larger group of which it is part.

Lastly, it is a group having little power or representation relative to other groups within a society.

Therefore, all of us at one time or another falls into the minority.

As next year's editor in chief, I want to hear the voice of everyone on campus. This isn't about race, creed or gender. I want to hear the people, their stories and their voices. And it's simple.



Rashida Lyles-Cowan

E-mail us. Call us. Whatever it takes. I'm here to listen.

I believe more students, faculty, and staff should become involved with this publication and help create change among the campus.

I have heard several times "Why should I care, no one else does?"

Or the common question "Why should I try to improve the publication, it hasn't been doing that well anyway?"

These questions can all be simply

answered as followed; if you do not care who else will? If people continue to have that I don't care attitude then who will care about our voices, rights, etc. Yes, the *Daily Eastern News* covers topics of diversity but not like *Minority Today*. *Minority Today* is geared toward minority issues and increasing diversity on and off campus. So, all I am asking for is the cooperation of the entire campus in order to help *Minority Today* develop and reach its

"THESE QUESTIONS CAN ALL BE SIMPLY ANSWERED AS FOLLOWED; IF YOU DO NOT CARE WHO ELSE WILL? IF PEOPLE CONTINUE TO HAVE THAT I DON'T CARE ATTITUDE THEN WHO WILL CARE ABOUT OUR VOICES, RIGHTS, ETC. YES, THE *DAILY EASTERN NEWS* COVERS TOPICS OF DIVERSITY BUT NOT LIKE *MINORITY TODAY*. *MINORITY TODAY* IS GEARED TOWARD MINORITY ISSUES AND INCREASING DIVERSITY ON AND OFF CAMPUS. SO, ALL I AM ASKING FOR IS THE COOPERATION OF THE ENTIRE CAMPUS IN ORDER TO HELP *MINORITY TODAY* DEVELOP AND REACH ITS FULL POTENTIAL. FOR THE READERS WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HELP *MINORITY TODAY*. THANK YOU."

-RASHIDA LYLES-COWAN, MINORITY TODAY NEWS EDITOR

full potential.

For the readers who continue to support *Minority Today*. Thank you.

Rashida Lyles-Cowan can be reached at 581-7942 or at rnylescowan@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS | SPOTLIGHT

Varela, Taylor honored with awards

By Spenser Nobles
Editor in Chief

Kara Taylor and Rosa Varela will be graduating from Eastern this spring and on April 22 they, along with other soon-to-be graduates were recognized for their achievements during their college careers.

Taylor, a senior psychology major, was awarded the Ona Norton scholarship. The award is eligible only to an African American student who has achieved at least a 3.5 GPA and

who has rendered significant service to the university and/or the Charleston community. Taylor made herself eligible for the award by achieving a 3.74 cumulative GPA.

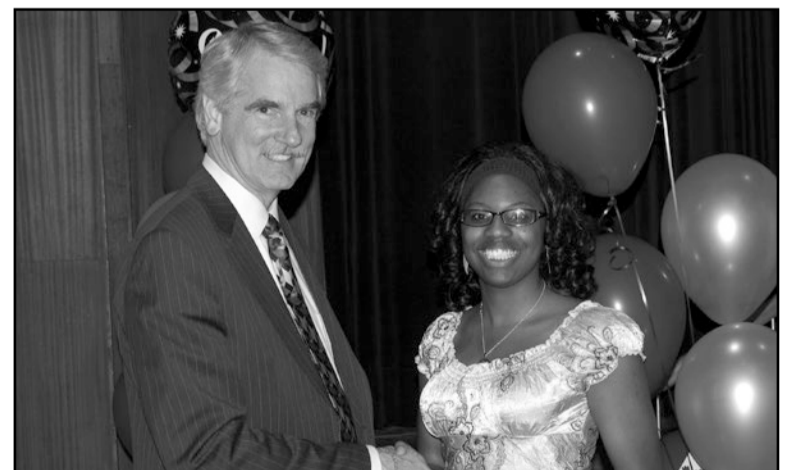
"I do well in my classes, but I never thought that I would get an award for doing well in them," Taylor said. "It's something that I really work hard to do so to be recognized for it is rewarding."

Varela received the Peer Tutor of the Year award, which she said she was very honored by.

"I didn't even know that I was going to get an award for it," she said. "It's good to know that people recognize your hard work and that you're doing something good."

Varela, Foreign Language major, is a Spanish tutor for the TRiO program and spends an average of five hours per week tutoring students that come to TRiO for help. She also received the Minority Affairs Peer Leader award and an award for being a TRiO ambassador.

See AWARDS, page 3



COURTESY PHOTO

Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs, shakes hands with senior psychology major Kara Taylor. Taylor received a scholarship.

**MINORITY
TODAY
STAFF**

Editor in Chief: Spenser Nobles
News Editor: Rashida Lyles-Cowan
Designer: Kevin Murphy

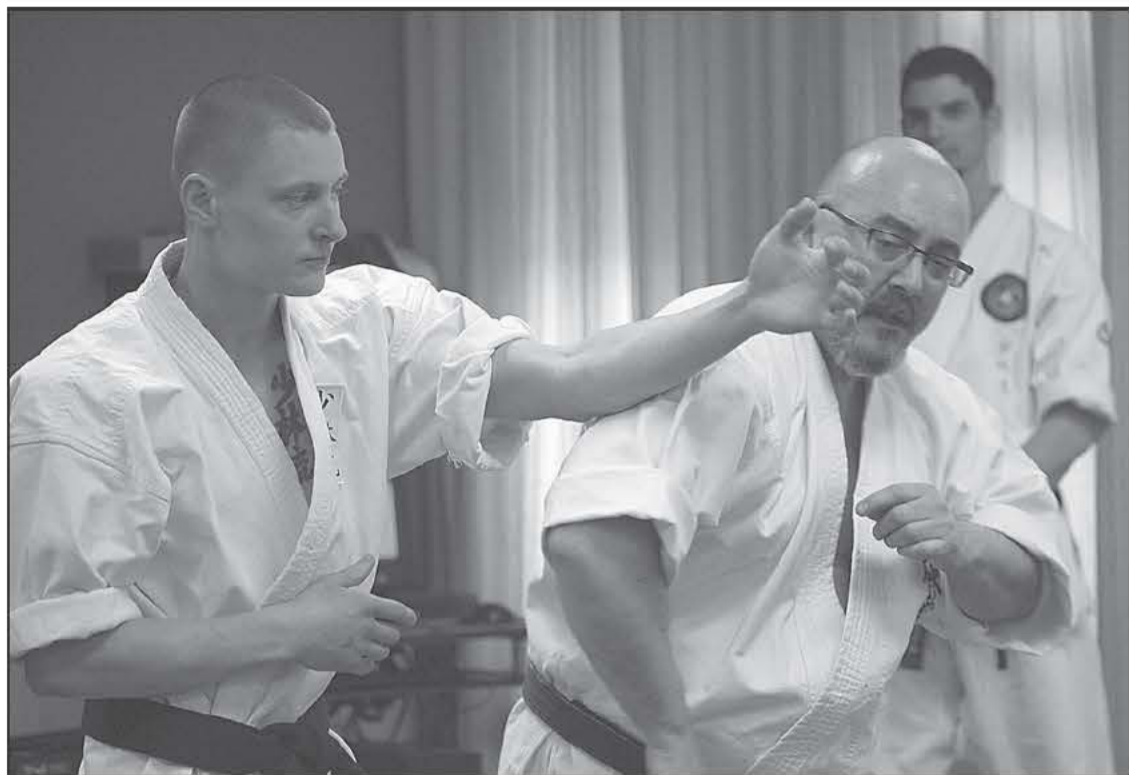
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CAMPUS | EVENT



AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Greg Bosich, a student at the Classical Martial Arts Academy in Frankfort, and Gustavo Albear, a secondary education and foundations teacher at Eastern, demonstrate karate techniques Friday afternoon in the Arcola/Tuscola Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Bosich has been involved in martial arts for six years, he said he started learning karate to "find meaning in my life."

Professor demonstrates more than martial arts

By Madeline Smith
Staff Reporter

Continuing the celebration of Asian American heritage month, Gustavo Albear hosted a karate demonstration on Friday in the Arcola Room at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Albear, an assistant professor of secondary education and foundations, said the event will introduce the truth about karate not the movies' adaptation but, a hands-on demonstration of what karate is.

Albear, a black belt, demonstrates and illustrates using strength from within; the mind and body to obtain greatness.

A black belt is the highest rank a student could achieve.

"The student has advanced in their technique and understands the methodology of the level they have achieved," he said.

Albear said in order for a student to receive this honor they have shown great dedication and determination.

"I've been studying karate for 41 years and karate is a way of life. If you stop that means it wasn't for you. We live our lives around our understanding," he said.

During the demonstration Albear showed various karate techniques

"THE STUDENT HAS ADVANCED IN THEIR TECHNIQUE AND UNDERSTANDS THE METHODOLOGY OF THE LEVEL THEY HAVE ACHIEVED. I'VE BEEN STUDYING KARATE FOR 41 YEARS AND KARATE IS A WAY OF LIFE. IF YOU STOP THAT MEANS IT WASN'T FOR YOU. WE LIVE OUR LIVES AROUND OUR UNDERSTANDING."

-GUSTAVO ALBEAR, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION AND FOUNDATIONS

that will save a person's life.

Some of the techniques include; a variety of self defense tactics. These tactics are geared toward keeping predators away and helping the individual protect themselves without suffering any bodily harm.

In addition, during the demonstration the instructors taught about crucial points in the body that send off an electrical magnetic force throughout the body.

Other elements introduced in the event included; kihon, kata, and kumite.

Kihon is the basic form of karate an individual needs to know such as kicking, blocks and sticks. Kata is the learning process of distinct movement, which focuses on coordination and

balance. Kumite is kihon and kata combined into one unit of defense.

Ben Johnson, a junior elementary education major, said he came because my professor recommended the event.

"I figure I would take the opportunity to see something I wouldn't normally see, and to also see what my professor is so passionate about," he said.

Kristin Brice, a junior elementary education major, said she learned the importance of karate.

"It was interesting learning all the different types of techniques in karate," she said.

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AWARDS, from page 2

As a peer leader, Varela helped two freshman and one transfer student get acquainted to the campus. She said that she was able to help the students with some things that students may not be aware of when they first arrive on campus, like locating other places that may be helpful to them, like the Writing Center.

Taylor has also done extracurricular work to get herself ready for the career that she plans on pursuing. She has been involved in ICCS Teen Reach under the

Minority Internship Program and has also done community service projects as part of campus organizations.

"When I was in high school I looked for someone similar to that (social worker) and I couldn't find one," Taylor said. "I decided that I wanted to be the person that I couldn't find all those years ago."

She says that this event impacted her life and career goals greatly.

"Had I not been searching for someone, it probably wouldn't be as much of a passion," Taylor said. "I

don't think I would have realized how important it is."

After graduation, the two women have different plans for their futures. Taylor will be attending Washington University in Saint Louis to pursue a graduate degree in the social work program.

Varela's plans are to find a job and resuming her education later so she may pursue a master's degree.

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NEWS | EVENT

Festival showcases Japanese culture

By Alesha Bailey
Staff Reporter

The efforts of eliminating the cost of obtaining and watching expensive anime were accomplished during the Japanese Animation Film Festival held in Lumpkin Auditorium on Saturday.

Amber King, the host of the event said anime is a result of manga, which is Japanese comics and cartoons.

"Anime in itself has a little interesting story history; it's sort of like Disney," she said.

King, a senior psychology major, created the film festival as an idea that she and one of her friends had last year. During the event two Japanese animation movies were shown with English subtitles.

The first film titled "Revolutionary Girl Utena: Adolescence Apocalypse" is based on a TV series.

King said there is a lot going on in that movie.

"On the surface it's more of a post-modern fairy tale," she said.

However, King said the movie is more of an adult fairytale.

"It involves princesses, princes, witches, but it's actually done in such a way where it makes you question pretty much everything about fairy tales," she said.

The second film was shown is entitled, "Millennium Actress."

"Millennium Actress" is about an actress that goes through her career chasing a war rebel she falls in love with. The film depicts her travels with a combination of scenes from her movies and real life situations.

Jasmene Valentine, a freshman undeclared major, said she attended the film festival because of her interest for Japanese culture and language.

"There's always twists and turns in animated films, especially by the Japanese culture," she said.

Valentine said her interest for Japanese animation began at young age when she watched anime with her brothers.

"It might have started with either the Dragon Ball Z series or the Sailor Moon series," she said.

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HERITAGE, from page 1

Amber King, a senior psychology major, and the only African-American member, said she has learned a lot about Asian culture through AAA.

King, vice president of AAA, said she grew up immersed in Asian culture so she feels at home.

"There's black culture on one hand, then there's Asian culture on the other hand," she said.

King participated in AAA's fashion

show Saturday afternoon in the Library Quad.

She wore a long pink Kimono dress. It was AAA's last event of Asian Heritage Month.

The show featured traditional Asian clothing from Kimono dresses to Sherwani jackets for men.

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INTERNSHIPS, from page 1

Any intern is going to have to do administration; answer phones, mail invoices, order inventory etc. And every internship requires interns to be computer literate. All of my internships gave me the opportunity to implement the skills I learned while attaining my degree.

Q: What was one of your favorite moments during your internship?

A: One of my favorite moments was leaving a talent showcase with the A&R (talent director) from Bad Boy and him asking me what I thought about all of the artists begging for us to listen to their demos. All of them spoke with much conviction and promised that we would agree he or she was the next big star. Standing in the rain that night waiting for a cab and looking up into the New York City streetlight he said, 'Everybody thinks they are hot. And some of them are right. But its too bad were not looking for whats hot. We are looking for something special.' That not only rang true as wisdom every unsigned artist should know but something that I can translate into my career and personal life as well.

Q: What obstacles did you face during the transition of being a college student to the working world?

A: Considering all of my accomplishments by senior year, I felt pretty confident about graduating and beginning my career. A year after graduation I now know that post

grad is definitely a life transition. When people told me the economy was bad, I heard what they were saying but did not understand how that would affect me. But even with all that I have accomplished finding the job that I wanted was tough and more than anything frustrating. After proving yourself worthy of a degree, it's like being a freshman in the world all over again. Having a degree and some practice living on my own in conjunction with not having the refund checks or job I wanted to support the way I wanted to live was/is tough.

One unexpected part of the transition is the effects post grad has on your relationships. Everyone is stressed trying to begin their career and it can add strains on friendships, especially when all of your friends are transitioning at different times.

Q: What is some valuable advice to give future graduates?

A: My advice to graduates about to face the post grad transition is be patient, yet proactive. Some may come out with a job, most will not. Be proactive in your job search. If you only find five jobs you qualify for, search harder for the sixth because that sixth is the one that the less active seekers will find. Lastly, do not be discouraged. With the economy being this bad, it has nowhere to go but up.

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SPORTS | SPOTLIGHT

Baseball player: It's just a fun game

Bracken returns after injury

By Bob Bajek
Staff Reporter

Red-shirt freshman centerfielder Daniel Bracken is the lone African-American player on the Eastern baseball team, but that does not bother him.

The Louisville, Ky., native has dealt with that his whole playing career.

"It's always been like that, so I'm used to it now," Bracken said. "The areas I grew up, there weren't any baseball fields; there were open fields and basketball courts."

Eastern head baseball coach Jim Schmitz said if one looks at college baseball around the nation, it has been an ongoing struggle to get more minorities into the game.

"I don't have the answer," Schmitz said. "It's definitely in the top three sports — football, basketball and baseball. Statistically, it's been a shame that there aren't many blacks playing college baseball and it has been hard to figure out."

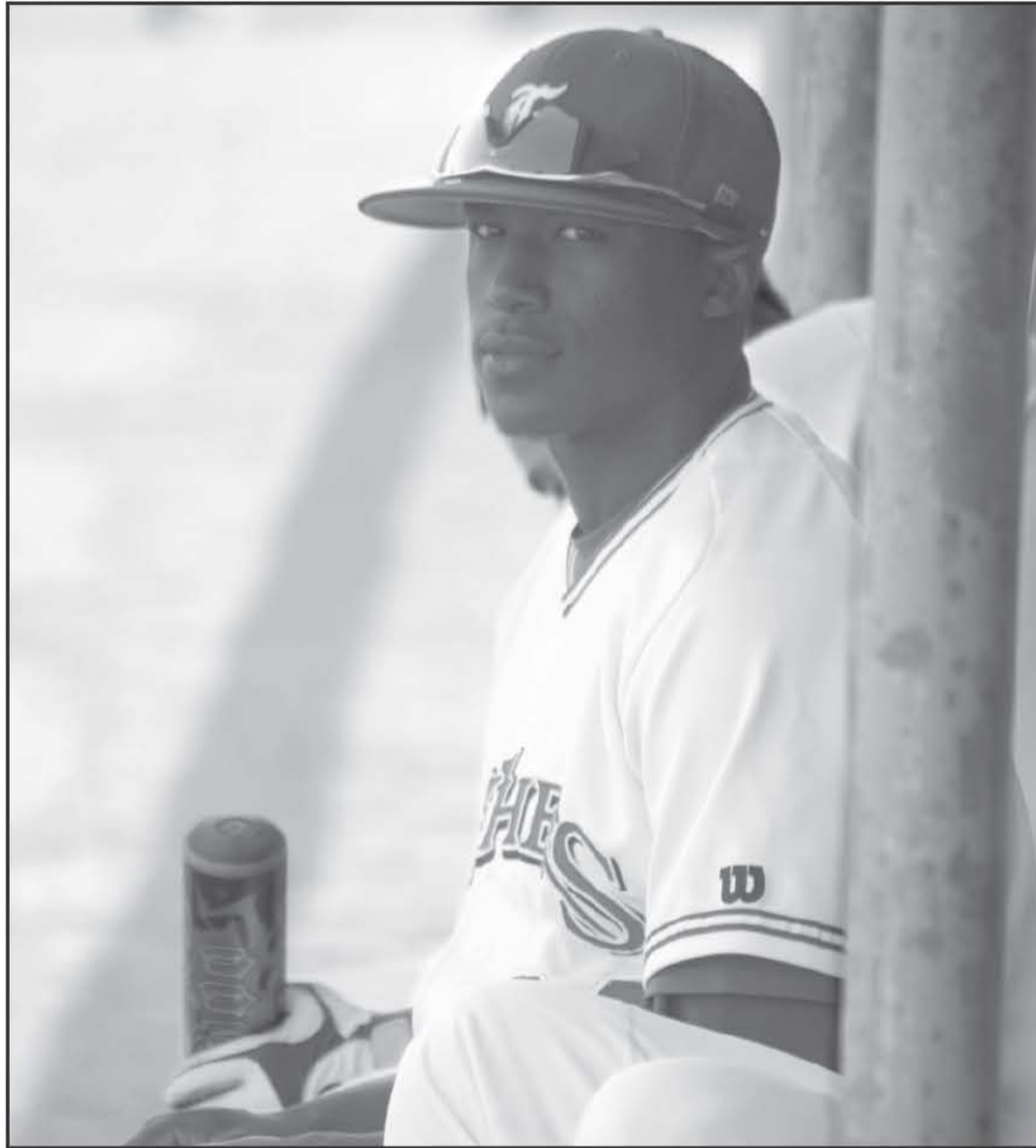
The statistics never made Bracken quiver.

The basketball courts or the football field at his Fern Creek High School (Kentucky) did not dissuade Bracken from pursuing baseball.

Ultimately, No. 29 picked the baseball diamond rather than the gridiron even though he was a top wide receiver and kick returner because Bracken thinks speed has more value in baseball.

"There pretty much is not a difference," Bracken said. "There's more fast guys in football than there are in baseball. If you're fast in baseball, you will stand out more."

After a solid baseball career at Fern



AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Red-shirt freshman Daniel Bracken is the only African-American baseball player on Eastern's baseball team this season.

Creek, the 5 feet, 9 inches, 160-pound speedster was recruited to play for the Panthers by pitching coach Skylar

Meade. Meade played for Louisville, and Bracken watched Meade perform. "Daniel is a phenomenal guy

to coach," Schmitz said. "He has a tremendous amount of energy. He is always positive."

"STATISTICALLY, IT'S BEEN A SHAME THAT THERE AREN'T MANY BLACKS PLAYING COLLEGE BASEBALL AND IT HAS BEEN HARD TO FIGURE OUT."

-JIM SCHMITZ, EASTERN BASEBALL COACH

His freshman year was derailed after three games into the 2009 season when he tore his right labrum in his throwing arm.

"We thought he had a chance to help us out a little bit last year, but I think we made a really good decision on (having surgery) so it could be fixed so he was healthy for this year," Schmitz said. "In the fall, he struggled with his arm, but it has started to gradually come back and (he's) throwing the ball very well."

The injury challenged Bracken physically and mentally. He said he had to do arm band and weight exercises while resting his arm.

Now, Bracken can again play baseball the game that he loves. The centerfielder just has a simple and youthful joy about playing ball.

"It's just a fun game," Bracken said. "It's difficult to watch when you don't know what it's all about, but once you are playing, it's one of the funniest games you could play."

Bracken has played 22 games while starting four this season. He is 2-for-21 and has three walks. Bracken's goals for this season include continual healing, getting better on the field and helping his teammates.

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ORGANIZATION | SPOTLIGHT

LASO works hard to elevate group's status

By Zinika Livingston
Staff Reporter

Alice Caceda said getting adjusted to Eastern her first year was hard because she didn't see anything that reflected her Peruvian culture; that was until she joined Latin American Student Organization.

Caceda, a senior psychology major and president of LASO, said the organization's goal is to make students feel at home no matter what race they are.

LASO began on Eastern's campus in 1991 but died off after a couple of years, Caceda said. Jenny Feliciano brought LASO back in 2006.

There were only a few members then, but Feliciano was dedicated and committed to LASO, Caceda said.

"It was hard for her to bring it back, but she did it and now our goal is to make it better and bigger," she said.

Caceda has been president for a year-and-a-half and she said it has been a lot harder than she ever imagined.

Last year, Caceda said many people judged her for having different races in LASO.

"LASO is not about race. It's about making LASO a better organization and educating people about Latin

culture," she said.

Elizabeth Smith, a junior corporate communication major and secretary of LASO, is one of the many African-American members of LASO.

Smith joined the organization after a friend brought her two years ago. Smith said she never felt out of place even though she isn't Hispanic nor does she speak Spanish.

"It feels like family here," Smith said.

Smith said she has not forgotten about her African-American culture but feels all minorities should get along and learn from each other.

"We could all benefit from one another," she said.

Caceda said because LASO is so racially diverse, everyone has different views on issues but it all comes together.

"Our members are very positive. They look for solutions rather than problems," Caceda said.

Mark Valencia, a senior psychology major and vice president of LASO, said he went to both a grade school and high school where the majority of students were Caucasian, so he was used to not being around Hispanic culture.

When he joined LASO four years



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Latin American Student Organization is trying to elevate its status, according to LASO president Alice Caceda.

ago, it gave him an opportunity to reconnect.

"I love the people. It's who I am," Valencia said.

Caceda said LASO's goal for the future is to get all races involved and interested in Latin culture.

Caceda said LASO has fun during their social events but they also give

back. "We love community service," she said.

In January, LASO raised \$500 for Haiti by selling handmade ribbons. They have also volunteered at an animal shelter as well as the Special Olympics.

LASO meets Wednesdays in the Martinsville Room of the Martin

Luther King Jr. University Union at 7 p.m.

"I've been here a long time and have had a lot of good moments," Valencia said. "I can say every moment has been memorable, as cliché as that sounds."

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