

President's Report
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents Meeting
April 23, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

In five days, Eastern Michigan University will celebrate the milestone of the academic year – our spring commencement ceremonies. All told, more than 2,300 students will walk across the stage Sunday at the Convocation Center to become Eastern graduates.

Eastern also will welcome thousands of family members and friends who will join the students for the ceremonies and participate in the joy and pride-filled experience.

Our commencement speaker is a well-known entrepreneur – Mr. Dave Zilko – the man who helped create the most popular salsa brand in North America, Garden Fresh Gourmet. After serving as Vice Chairman for 13 years, he sold the company to the Campbells Soup Company for \$231 million. Today, he is CEO of FUEL Leadership, a digital media property. At Sunday's ceremonies, he will be presented with an honorary Doctor of Commerce degree.

I would like to thank and acknowledge Eastern's esteemed faculty and staff for the incredible work that takes place in supporting our students to reach this important milestone. Sunday will be a truly remarkable day!

In the spirit of collaborating to support the success of our students, I would like to thank our faculty union leadership in the EMU-AAUP, the Faculty Senate and all Eastern faculty members for working with Provost Longworth and her team on the two-year extension of our labor contract that was approved earlier in this meeting. Working together to support our students has never been more important. I thank each and every faculty member for their ongoing role in the success of our students and the success of Eastern Michigan University.

Eastern's faculty continues to do great things – and the University continues to support their fine efforts. This is evidenced by today's approval of summer research awards, which provide 40 faculty researchers with \$12,000 stipends to pursue their summer research and creative projects in lieu of summer teaching assignments. I encourage you to review the entire list of faculty receiving awards and their research topics—they are listed in Section 12 of the Board materials.

On a similar note, it was wonderful to recognize our Week of Excellence Faculty Award recipients a few minutes ago. I add my sincere appreciation for the fine work of the 12 faculty members honored.

I would also like to congratulate Professor Vijay Mannari on obtaining his sixth U.S. patent - the most recent for his work on corrosion resistant coatings. It is the University's 29th U.S. patent – Dr. Mannari's work is testament to the overall quality of innovative research that takes place at Eastern Michigan.

If you pass by the corner of Huron River Drive and Oakwood, you will see construction well underway for Eastern's new primary and urgent care health center in collaboration with St. Joseph Mercy Health System and IHA. Crews continue to work on site and utility infrastructure, and structural steel installation is now visible. Construction of this part of the facility is targeted for completion this November, with the connected facility for Eastern's Counseling and

Psychological Services (CAPS), Psychology Clinic and College of Health and Human Services programs set to open in mid-to-late January.

Crews are currently working on Sill Hall, home of our College of Technology. When completed, the entire 92,000 square foot structure will be renovated, with an additional 16,000 square feet in new academic space to be constructed. On May 1, we will present to the State's Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee our request for funds for the expansion of our technology and engineering complex to the now vacant Jones Hall. This project will provide much needed space for our growing engineering, cyber security and technology programs.

We have started work on a complete overhaul of the REC/IM building – recognizing a longstanding wish of our students and employees. The REC/IM project is targeted for completion by fall 2020.

The Student-Athlete Performance Center located in the north end zone area of Rynearson Stadium is nearing completion. The facility will open this summer and will provide state-of-the-art space for sports medicine, performance and equipment operations. The project is heavily supported by fundraising efforts.

On a final note, I want to share my personal appreciation and respect for Dr. Chiara Hensley, who was recognized a few minutes ago as this year's recipient of the EMU-ACE Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award. Dr. Hensley is a wonderful colleague and someone I deeply value for the depth of her insight into student affairs and her support of our students. I hope you will join us following today's Board meeting for a reception in her honor next door in the Tower Room at McKenny Hall.

Other accomplishments are listed in the Appendix to this report on the University website. Thank you, Chairman Webb.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.
President

* * * * *

Recognition

- Eastern **Accounting** program students from the College of Business offered free income tax preparation help to low income residents from the Ypsilanti community through the VITA (voluntary income tax assistance) program from March 9-April 13.
- The **EMU mock trial team** placed second at a regional tournament with 22 teams from the Midwest, including the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Northwestern, University of Toledo, and Valparaiso University. Eastern's other team was awarded the Spirit of American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) Award, which goes to "the team that best exemplifies the ideals of honesty, civility and fair play."
- Eastern's **MBA program** has been named among the nation's "Best Graduate Schools" by U.S. News and World Report in its 2020 ranking of part-time MBA programs. Eastern is ranked 168th nationally and among the top six programs in the state of Michigan. It's the first time Eastern has been ranked in the prestigious national listings, which are regarded as the gold standard of such comparative recognition.
- The **College of Education** has been ranked among the fourth in the state in U.S. News & World Report's annual listings of the country's top graduate programs in education, and is also in the top 150 colleges nationally.
- The **Ford Motor Company Fund** has selected Eastern Michigan University as one of just 10 universities in the world to receive a special \$10,000 scholarship, to be awarded this coming academic year. The **Alan Mulally Leadership in Engineering Scholarship** will be awarded to a student in the **College of Technology**. Along with EMU, the other U.S. based institutions to receive the scholarship for the 2019-2020 academic year were Carnegie Mellon, Michigan Tech, Georgia Tech, and Purdue.
- EMU Philosophy professor **Brian Bruya** has partnered with C.C. Tsai, one of Asia's most popular cartoonists, on an illustrated adaptation of "The Art of War."
- **Megan Moore**, associate professor of anthropology, was featured on the April 8 broadcast of Smithsonian Channel's "America's Hidden Stories: The General Was Female?" Her expertise is featured in episode six in which her team solves a big question about the sex and gender of General Casimir Pulaski, a Revolutionary War hero.
- **Martin Shichtman**, professor of English and Literature and Director of the Center for Jewish Studies, will deliver the keynote address at the **2019 Official State of Michigan Holocaust Commemoration**, in the rotunda of the State Capitol on April 23.
- Faculty and staff who have distinguished themselves through thoughtful and dedicated work at and around the university were honored at the annual **Distinguished Contributions Awards**, part of Eastern's 42nd Annual Week of Excellence. Recipients included: **Joseph Breza, Tana Bridge, Susan Campbell, John Carbone, Karen Craig, Nozomi Craft, Evan Dority, Carla Harryman, Janet Hinz, Dar Mayweather, Kyle Martin, Aunmar Mohammad, Wanda Monks, Megan Moore, Barry Pyle, Jennifer Tremawan, Shayna White, and Tsu-Yin Wu**. Also honored were the Enterprise Application Services (EAS) Programmers and Business Analysts: **Russ Blanton**,

Andrew Daniels, Ron Elam, Debbie Foss, Zhen Fu, Nathan Jackson, Subbu Kilangodi, Janet Lyle, Sapna Maheshwari-Bajaj, Janet Min, Kathy Robertson, and Paul Welke; and, the ORDA group of **Phyllis Britton, Caryn Charter, Sonia Chawla, Jennifer Glass, Cynthia Monzon, Brian Moynihan, and Tracy Pytlak.**

- **Pamela Cardell Cato**, assistant managing director for the EMU Theatre, has been honored with the annual **Michigan Thespians Standing Ovation Award** recognizing outstanding contributions to the state's theater community.
- Eastern Michigan University and members of the surrounding community honored exceptional community engagement efforts on April 12. The event was hosted by **Engage@EMU's Office of Academic Service-Learning, Institute for the Study of Children, Families, and Communities (ISCFC), the Non-Profit Leadership Alliance, and VISION.** Award recipients included **Sadaf Ali; Maureen Lynch; Chalice Randazzo; Concentrate Media's On the Ground Ypsilanti, with journalists Sara Rigg and Patrick Dunn; Michigan Advocacy Program/Family Law Project; and, The Collaborative; Ypsilanti YMCA Early Childhood Development Center.**
- The **2019 Alumni Awards** ceremony, scheduled for May 18, carries on a tradition of recognizing outstanding EMU alumni who have distinguished themselves in their respective professional fields and within their communities. This year's head of ceremonies will be alumna **Dara Munson (BS96)**, who is currently the CEO of the Chicago Child Care Society. This year's Alumni Award recipients are **Marisa Colston, Scott Frush, Maj. Gen. William A. Henderson, Jawan Jackson, Terry Kayser, Glenna Frank Miller, and Amalie Nash.**

Of Note

- The Eagle Flight Center, EMU's aviation partner, has recently acquired two new flight simulators that will be used to train students enrolled in EMU's **Aviation** program. The new software application features state-of-the-art technology, including wireless database updates, visual approaches, map overlays, faster map rendering and advanced weather radar.
- The **Fermentation Science** program has released its first commercially brewed collaboration beer. The Ypsi Alehouse and students and faculty from EMU partnered this winter to design and brew their version of a Berliner Weisse, a lightly sour wheat beer that originated in Berlin.
- **EMU Professional Programs and Training (PPAT)**, part of Engage@EMU, is launching a new online, non-credit **Lean Six Sigma for Health Care** course, a 12-week professional program offering 4.5 Continuing Education Units.
- The **Pen Pals Program**, overseen by the **VISION Volunteer Center**, paired Eastern students with fifth graders from Estabrook Elementary to write letters back and forth during the academic year to sharpen communication skills, introduce the young students to college life, and culminated with an EMU campus visit on March 22. The students were hosted by the EMU Rec/IM staff, met their year-long EMU Pen Pals in person, enjoyed a campus tour, and received EMU T-shirts from EMU Athletics.

- EMU is serving as a **beta site for a new energy efficient window**, as a part of sustainability initiatives. Guardian Vacuum IG units, manufactured by **Guardian Glass**, can bring significant benefit for retrofits in older, historical buildings. The windows were installed in the Sherzer, Quirk and Briggs classroom buildings this academic year.

Events

- The **Manhood Project**, a youth-development program that seeks to link young men in southeastern Michigan with positive influences and experiences to empower them to achieve and discover their true potential, visited EMU on April 13. The visit included a welcome at the Student Center, a campus tour, a mentor mingle and lunch with faculty and staff, activities at the Rec/IM Building and attendance at the spring football game.
- EMU hosted 500 high school girls for the annual **Digital Divas** conference on April 12, teaching girls about careers in technology, engineering and math along with the expanding field of cyber security.
- Students who have encountered mental health challenges themselves or through others close to them expressed their unique experiences through a variety of performances during the second annual **Mental Health Monologues** on April 9. The event was presented by the student group called **Active Minds at Eastern Michigan University**. Active Minds empowers students to change the perception about mental health on college campuses. The group promotes mental health awareness, raises awareness of suicide prevention, promotes a seek-help culture and combats the negative stigma of talking about mental health.
- Eastern students and community members tackled timely and challenging questions in a stimulating and distinctive event called **Solve EMU**, on April 5. The first time solve-a-thon event was a one-day thinking competition that required participants to take part in innovative and engaging problem solving by offering a platform to create solutions for community-based challenges.
- The 39th annual **Undergraduate Symposium** was held on March 29 and featured the exceptional academic work of EMU undergraduate students, showcasing their research and creative projects from a wide variety of disciplines. For this year's Symposium, 109 faculty members served as mentors to 337 student participants.
- Eastern hosted the 11th annual **Gamers for Giving** event, founded by EMU alumnus Zach Wigal, at the EMU Convocation Center on March 23-24. Donations from the event fund its "Project GO Kart" and "Player 2" programs, which provides gaming recreation to more than 1.1 million children annually in hospitals across the U.S.
- **Anita Martínez**, executive director of the Michigan Hispanic Collaborative, served as the keynote speaker at EMU's 11th annual **César Chávez Day of Celebration** on March 20.
- The annual **Sesi Midwest Entrepreneurship Conference** was held on March 15. The conference also included the **Skandalaris Business Plan Competition**, in which college and high school students compete in separate categories and present their business plans.

Athletics

- Baseball (Men): **Zachary Owings** was named a **2019 National Strength and Conditioning Association All-American Athlete Award** recipient.
- Basketball (Women): **Courtne Lewis** was named to the Academic All-MAC Conference Academic team.
- Basketball (Men): **Paul Jackson** was named to the Academic All-MAC Conference Academic team.
- Basketball (Men): **Jalen King** was named a **2019 National Strength and Conditioning Association All-American Athlete Award** recipient.
- Cheer (Women and Men): EMU's cheer squad finished in **fourth place at the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA)/National Dance Association (NDA) Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship**. The squad tallied a 93.7542 to finish behind Pittsburgh (94.7958), Florida International (94.2458), and Akron (93.9333).
- Cross Country (Women): EMU junior **Abbi Stemple** has been selected to attend the 2019 NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum. She is one of two Mid-American Conference student-athletes selected to attend the event that is focused on the development of attendees professionally and personally.
- Cross Country (Women): Seniors **Sydney Meyers** and **Natalie Cizmas** were honored for their academic success as the U.S. Track and Field and Cross country coaches Association (USTFCCCA) recognized the harriers as **All-Academic Individuals**.
- Cross Country (Men): The EMU men's cross country team was named a **Division I All-Academic Team** by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA).
- Football (Men): **Blake Banham, Jeremiah Harris, Jeremy Hickey, Tyler LaBarbera, Ville Vilasti,** and **Tyler Wieggers** were named to the 2019 National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Sydney Audet, Courtney Bezold, Carly Clark, Emili Dobronics, Cali Harden, Megan Hultgren, Bri Price, Jada Rondeau,** and **Allie Smith** earned MAC All-Academic Team honors.
- Gymnastics (Women): **Courtney Bezold** was named First Team All-MAC and **Emili Dobronics** was named Second Team All-MAC.
- Rowing (Women): **Sarah Anderson, Meagan Bond, Priscilla Brom, Jennifer Bucci, Grace Burke, Michelle Deering, Erica Dubke, Haley Dutton, Chloe Elwell, Anna Eschenburg, Karissa Fald, Brianna Gracey, Brynna Harder, Mary Hemgesberg, Michalyn Hiltz, Alyssa Hood, Leah Huyser, Chelsea Justice, Baylee Kinkade, Antinique Kirksey, Kayla Kuhfeldt, Stephanie Lamphear, Karson Mahaney, Ashly Matzek, Eve Melody, Calley Muir, Addison Oblanas, Jordan Reed, Caitlin Rodanhisler, Alicia Schmidt, Diana Spokas, Carly Szymanski, Hannah Taylor,** and

Breanna Wirth were named to the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll.

- Soccer (Women): **Kristin Hullibarger** was named a **2019 National Strength and Conditioning Association All-American Athlete Award** recipient.
- Swim and Dive (Women): Senior **Delaney Duncan** placed second in the 100 Breaststroke at the **NCAA Championships**.
- Swim and Dive (Women): **Claire Young** placed second in the 100 Backstroke at the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America's **National Invitational Championship**.
- Swim and Dive (Women): **Delaney Duncan** was named a **2019 National Strength and Conditioning Association All-American Athlete Award** recipient.
- Swim and Dive (Women): **Amelia Armstrong-Grant, Bethany Berger, Marcella Da Costa, Emilie Desnoyers, Delaney Duncan, Casey Gavigan, Hunter Ignasiak, Brielle Johnston, Stephanie Johnston, Carlee Jones, Gabrielle Mace, Marissa Marion, Abby Rapien, Kaitlynd Scanlan, Micaela Schempf, Meike Staffeldt, Rachel Stark, Ali Staver, Avrie Stewart, Kylie Sutherlin, Nicole Swartz, Sydney Thomas, Sophia Tsafantakis, Dora Vrcic, and Claire Young** earned Academic All-MAC Conference honors.
- Track and Field (Women): **Rebekah Carr, Kadian Clarke, Madison Distelrath, Allyson Goff, Jessica Harris, Micha Johnston, Savannah Luthman, Brittni Mason, Sydney Meyers, Catherine Mittga, Michaela Nelms, Gianna Salzbrunn, Graysen Simmons, and Ashleigh Simonis** were named to the All-MAC Academic team for the indoor season.
- Track and Field (Men): **Derek Ziegenfuss** set a new school record in the Javelin Throw event at the Tennessee Relays.
- Track and Field (Men): **Sean Beckom II, Solomon Costa, Owen Day, Hayelom Fitsum, Mike Hierholzer, Derek Jones, Zach Purcilly, Owen Richardson, Tyler Underwood, and Austin Wicker** earned Academic All-MAC honors for the indoor season.
- Volleyball (Women): Head Coach **Darcy Dorton** was named one of the 2019 American Volleyball Coaches' Association's **Thirty Under 30 Award** recipients.

* * *