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News for
Eastern Michigan
Faculty and Staff

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Engler to speak at commencement

Michigan Gov. John Engler and Michigan Sen. Alma Wheeler Smith will offer the commencement addresses when Eastern Michigan hosts graduation ceremonies for more than 2,400 students Sunday, April 25, at the Convocation Center.

There will be 1,750 undergraduates, 650 graduates and four doctoral candidates eligible to receive degrees. Presiding over ceremonies will be President William E. Shelton.

Commencement ceremonies for the College of Arts and Sciences will begin

at 10 a.m. Doors open at 8:45 a.m. Groups assemble at 9:30 a.m.

The featured speaker will be Gov. Engler, who became Michigan's 46th governor in 1990. Engler was first elected to public office in 1970 at age 22, defeating a seven-term incumbent state representative. Under his leadership, Michigan companies have added more than 765,000 new jobs since 1991. At four percent, Michigan's unemployment rate is below the national average.

Serving as grand marshal at the 10 a.m. ceremony will be Pat Ryan, who

recently retired as the administrative director of the Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Communities. Vocalist will be Glenda Kirkland, professor of music.

The Convocation Center will be cleared between the two commencements.

Commencement ceremonies for graduates of the Colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Services and Technology will begin at 2:30 p.m.

See GRADUATE, PAGE 4

HIGH PROFILE

New facility extends EMU's Learning Edge

By Ward Mullens

Eastern Michigan University is extending its educational reach - to Livonia.

The University's Continuing Education and Centers for Corporate Training will occupy the fourth floor of the Cambridge Center, 38777 Six Mile Road., which is scheduled to be open for spring semester in May.

"This is a turning point for us," said Carolyn Dahl, dean of continuing education. "We have offered off-campus coursework in someone else's space but never in our own facility. This is the first site of our own."

EMU's 12,845 square feet of the building will be home for 10-11 classrooms, including one PC computer lab with 22 workstations and an interactive Television Distance Learning classroom with a capacity for 30



SIGN IN: Workers clean up after installing the new Eastern Michigan University sign at the Cambridge Center in Livonia.

students. There also will be 8-9 regular classrooms with a combined capacity of more than 240 students.

"This is the spot where you are going to see EMU's newest ideas," said Walter Di Mantova, director of the Centers for Corporate Training. "We want to use this facility to showcase our creativity and

innovations. It's not going to be a new location for our existing programs."

Di Mantova said that the Centers for Corporate Training plan to use 25-50 percent of the facility, everyday. "We're planning to have 3-5 programs there a week for the entire business year," he said.

That will include new pro-

grams in creativity and innovation, leadership, mediation, and an experimental program in health and safety, Di Mantova said.

"We're projecting 3,800 hours for the first year with 75 percent of those credit hours being

See CENTER, PAGE 4

Distinguished colleagues!

Hafter, three others earn top faculty honor by helping students learn about life

■ See stories, page 2-3

By Pat Mroczek

Daryl M. Hafter overturns myths for a living.

And she's pretty good at it, too, or so say her colleagues in the Division of Academic Affairs who awarded her the Distinguished Faculty Award in Scholarly and Creative Activity during Salute to Excellence Week in March.

A professor of history in the Department of History and Philosophy, Hafter is delighted with the recognition. "This is totally thrilling beyond words," she said. "It is such a vote of confidence and

the highest class of honor you can get. I am very grateful to the University for this award, especially when your research is not on the beaten path."

For Hafter, her path has led to a different time and place. "I've been working on women's work in pre-industrial France. It's very important to give flesh to examples that women have always worked for money at the widest variety of tasks. And certainly not just inside the home.

"Before the 19th century, people didn't pay that much attention to keeping the home in order. People lived in modest housing and circumstances. Cleanli-

ness and child rearing weren't areas of consideration. The main point of pre-industrial life was eating today and eating tomorrow. It took much higher precedence than clean floors."

Hafter's research focuses on the period from the late 1600s to the early 1800s. "I have always been interested in the living realities of the past," she said. Her research offered her a puzzle, a chance to combine her interests in French history, the economic view of history and the history of technology. "It offers the appeal of understanding and translating a

See HAFTER, PAGE 3

1999 Distinguished

Service to others provides best reward for McCracken

By Sarah Mieras

What is service? Webster's defines it in 15 brief definitions which include the act of giving assistance to another, friendly help, professional aid or attention. Sally McCracken, the recipient of this year's Distinguished Faculty Award for Service to University, defines it as what life is really about, the act of simply finding something you like to do, and then doing it as best as you can.

"I was thrilled to get the award," said McCracken. "It said to me that service was the right thing for me to do. The service part of me has been verified."

A member of the communication and theatre arts department since 1968, McCracken has proven through years of dedicated service and leadership that there are a variety of things she likes to do.

"I started in one direction and just kept growing and changing," said McCracken.

Aside from teaching graduate and undergraduate classes and directing more than 46 theses and projects over the past 30 years, McCracken has been involved with the local American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the Faculty Council, ARRIVAL (an organization for students with disabilities), and the Skip Lawver Staff and Command Training for police and fire officers.

"I am a big believer that you have to give back," said McCracken.

McCracken first learned what service to others meant when she was a child. A volunteer at the local state mental hospital, McCracken was drawn to children with the most severe disabili-



**Sally McCracken,
Service to
University
Award**

ties.

"I just thought: 'I have to do more, because I have a lot going for me,'" McCracken said.

Empowering others to realize that they too have great potential has become one of McCracken's passions, both inside the classroom and in service to various organizations. In the classroom, McCracken tries to convince her students that their work here at Eastern is more than simply a class, a few papers and a grade. Instead she insists it is a practice run for the challenges they will face the rest of their lives.

"I want them to show up for class. I want them to show up for life," said McCracken. "The times I really get angry though is when I see someone not doing it, and I think deep down inside they can do this!"

In 1978, McCracken began working with ARRIVAL, a group for disabled students, and realized that all people must overcome obstacles to achieve a goal.

"Working with ARRIVAL gave me the real sense of making a difference," McCracken said. "And that is very important to me."

As a member of the Faculty Council and the AAUP, McCracken has definitely made a difference. A witness to the terms of four University presidents and countless negotiations between the union and the administration, McCracken has helped to facilitate good relations between the two groups, while improving the working environment for herself and her colleagues.

But McCracken's dedication to service doesn't stop at the edge of campus. Over the past 10 years, she has reached out beyond the walls of EMU to serve the community in a broader sense, teaching workshops for police officers and fire fighters, which focus on conflict resolution, interpersonal communication and listening behavior. Far from the average student, these professionals challenge McCracken to refine her communication skills to incorporate their needs.

"It has taken me eight years to really understand the psyche of the police officers," said McCracken. "They are much more guarded than your average student. They appear cold; they often see the wrong sides of us."

But as with all of her other students, McCracken maintains that she must first learn to like them as people, and then she can teach them.

After all, McCracken said, "This is my life, not just my job. When it is not rewarding anymore, then I'll have to quit."

Good communication, dignity cornerstones of Evans' career

By Linda Rider

Among the memorabilia hanging on the walls of Dr. Gary Evans' office is a photo from November 1965. In the photo Evans is congratulating a student on winning a public speaking contest.

The student is Dennis Beagen, who now heads up the communication and theatre arts department and is Evans' boss.

Another photo of the two could be added, but with Beagan congratulating Evans for receiving the Distinguished Faculty Teaching II Award.

"Dr. Gary Evans is an inspiring, caring faculty member," said Beagen. "He loves teaching and his personal energy, enthusiasm and willingness to do whatever it takes attests to his commitment to students and student learning."

Evans teaches required fundamentals for undergraduates, graduate courses via interactive television in Traverse City and weekend graduate classes for non-traditional students. And, for a man who did

not consider teaching as a vocation when he was a student, Evans has grown to become a sought-after professor at EMU.

"Other students told me that a class with Gary Evans was a must," said sophomore Lynda McCrystal, who also serves on EMU's staff as alumni relations coordinator. "His intercultural communications class is wonderful. He's fair, kind and genuinely wants us to learn, not just absorb facts."

However, it's clear that there's mutual admiration taking place in Evans' classes. According to Evans, his students are what make him an effective teacher.

"People come to classes with so many life experiences and from many disciplines at the University," said Evans. "When I read something, I want to talk to students about it because I know I'll see it in a whole new light when I get their reactions and we share ideas. They add a lot to my life and I try to add to theirs."

Evans holds a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University and both master's and doctoral degrees in com-

munications from the University of Michigan. His 35-year career at EMU has been augmented as a consultant and trainer on issues such as interpersonal communication, teambuilding and leadership.

Evans said his passions are to teach and to promote human dignity. He says that the University benefits from diversity and that in our daily interpersonal communication we need to be mindful of the terms we use.

"If I say someone is physically challenged rather than handicapped, I consider that an expression of dignity—not political correctness, which is a simplistic idea and a condescending term. I try to get students to look at those kinds of issues," Evans explained.

Evans, along with officemate and wife Katie Strand-Evans, has created the Strand-Evans Peace Award. Modeled after the Nobel Peace Prize, the \$1,000 annual award is designed to bring attention to interests of diversity at EMU. The first award will be given out at the 20th Undergraduate Symposium in 2000. Award criteria will



**Gary Evans,
Teaching II Award**

be announced in fall 1999.

"If there's just one thing I could share with students it's that they can make a difference in lives by the way they communicate. Human dignity is not something people learn, it is something we all have a right to because of our humanness."

Faculty Award winners

Having good teachers equals success for Besana

By Eleanor Loikits

Good teachers are usually influenced by good teachers. It's a simple equation and one that sums up Gian Mario Besana's experience. Besana, assistant professor of mathematics, is the 1999 recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Teaching I Award. The award is given to a faculty member with less than five years at Eastern Michigan University.

"I had a good math teacher at the high school level," he said. "She was very creative and inspiring. She was the first teacher who had the combination of challenge and reward. By the time I went to college I knew that math was my thing."

Besana grew up in Lake Como, Italy, and attended the Università degli Studi di Milano in Milan where he earned his bachelor's degree. "The graduate programs were just starting at the university in Milan and I wasn't sure of the quality. My professor had a contact at Notre Dame and encouraged me to go there, so I did," said Besana. He received both his master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Notre Dame. His post-doctorate work was completed at Oklahoma State University.

An assistant professor at Eastern Michigan University since 1996, Besana says EMU has a completely

different teaching environment than any other school where he's taught.

"Eastern Michigan is pleasant—strange in a good way. There is room for different profiles of faculty in the Mathematics Department. You must be a good teacher, but if you want to pursue other interests, there are venues here for that," said Besana.

Besana has been awarded both the Spring-Summer Award, the Provost New Faculty Award, two Graduate School Research Support Fund Awards and a Collegium for Advanced Studies Grant at EMU.

"The students here are interesting. My other teaching experiences in the States have all been classes with cookie-cutter students. Then I came here and said 'Wow, this is the real world', which I like. I teach a lot of evening classes so I have married students, older students—people with lives—in my classes. I like that, I find that challenging," said Besana.

According to Besana teaching classes like algebra and geometry pose interesting problems. But Besana doesn't just try to teach the math basics, he tries to teach students about life.

"I hope that students learn the ability to ask good questions—not only in math but in life. I want to give students the ability to learn independently.



Gian Mario Besana,
Teaching I Award

I hope to be able to put them in a mode where they don't need a teacher anymore, especially in math because many students feel so intimidated. I want to empower them," said Besana.

Besana said that he has many success stories about his math students. "There was a student in my Math 110 class,—that was full of math haters—who was very unsure of herself. The class had to work on a project involving spherical geometry and keep a

daily journal with not only the class work, but also personal thoughts and progress. At the end of class I collected the journals and this student had had an epiphany during this project. She wrote in her journal that when she came to this realization that she could figure this out it was like falling in love for the first time. Now she is a math major. I have a lot of stories like that."

Besana has not only concentrated on his teaching. He is constantly working on ongoing projects. He is currently working on a collaboration with a professor at Yale University entitled: "Polarized Surfaces of Low Degree whose Adjunct Bundles are not Globally Generated." And in his spare time he also is working on "Two Dimensional Scrolls Contained in Singular Hyperquadrics in Five Dimensional Projected Space," in collaboration with colleagues from Milan.

According to Besana he feels a certain amount of responsibility toward his students. "We math teachers have a responsibility to get rid of the bad reputation math has. If I could fight this, I would happily teach 17 classes," said Besana.

Research off the 'beaten' path leads Hafter to honor



Daryl M.
Hafter,
Scholarly
and
Creative
Activity
Award

HAFTER, from page 1

different culture into something accessible for students and historians.

"The idea that women have just begun to work in the 19th century with the Industrial Revolution is just not true," she said. "We didn't know that until

we got into the archives to see what we could find."

Hafter said it was British historians who supposed that women began working for salaries during the Industrial Revolution. "Women wouldn't have been able to work in the early Industrial Revolution if they didn't already have a historic background, working for piece work, getting a salary and doing something very basic," she said. "The truth is if you had a population that never worked, you'd have to do a whole lot to get them up to speed for the marketplace. Employers didn't have to, however, because they already had skilled workers who were accustomed to this work."

People who hear about this want to hear more, she noted. "In these early times, women were not legal adults in the law. They didn't have separate status, at least not married women. Women didn't even have adult status. From a legal point of view, women who wanted to go into business had to have their contracts okayed by their husband, an authorized adult guardian.

"It's really quite shocking when you realize these things in history," she said. "It's interesting to see how human beings turned themselves into knots to hold onto something. The law had to figure out a maneuver, a loophole to enable women to function as independent, economic actors. So they

made the law ambiguous," she said.

"On the one hand, no one wanted married women to be considered independent adults. They just had to function as independent adults," Hafter said. "But darn it all. These darn women had brains!"

In England, they created the legal maneuver of "femme sole," women alone, where married women could apply for a legal status which would allow her business dealings to be recognized. In France, the legal status of independence was "marchande publique."

Suffice it to say, Hafter continued, women were clearly capable of managing their own businesses. "My research has given me a great admiration for our human ancestors."

Hafter is currently on sabbatical finishing a book on two French cities, Rouen and Lyon. The favorite part of her academic work is going to French archives, spending time, digging out materials from centuries ago. "It's always a surprise to see what's in the next box. What confirmation or challenge of ideas will I find? What pithy comments will I dig out?"

"The whole system of research and faculty sabbaticals is essential," she added. "We should keep it up and support it even more."

CENTER, from page 1

new," said Dahl of continuing education's role at the Cambridge Center site. She said 14 programs have committed to use the facility and that graduate level and degree completion courses would be offered there. Dahl said that nursing would "be a big player" at the facility and that education and technology degrees also would be offered.

"We're trying to reach a new adult audience that

doesn't come to campus," said Dahl. "The Livonia location really matched our criteria. It's accessible from the freeway and it's strategically located to serve Wayne and Oakland Counties."

Another advantage of the facility, Di Mantova said, is that it is exclusive in the sense that it will be run by EMU and that area corporations are interested in such sites for meetings and conferences.

"We have a lot of interest from the Big 3 for a facility like this," Di Mantova said.

"To know that this is a site just for EMU programs means we can schedule as we need. The University is taking a step toward the corporate community."

Di Mantova said that the only other local facility of this kind with an educational connection to a university is the Michigan State University facility in Troy. He said the difference between that site and EMU's new facility is that the MSU site is just leased out.

"The focus here is to hold

EMU programs. We would be involved in the planning of the programming," said Di Mantova. "We've always had to go to the Marriott or Hilton and worry about room availability. What we are offering is a complete package."

GRADUATE, from page 1

Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Groups assemble at 2 p.m.

The featured speaker will be Sen. Wheeler Smith, who is serving her second term in the Michigan Senate. She represents

the 18th Senatorial District, which encompasses most of Washtenaw County including the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. She is the vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the first woman to hold a leadership position on that committee. She was a commissioner of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners from 1992-94.

Serving as the grand marshal at the 2:30 p.m. ceremony will be Ronald Oestrike, professor emeritus of health, physical education, recreation and dance. Vocalist will be Ernest Brandon, associate professor of music.

Music for both ceremonies will be provided by the EMU Symphonic Concert Winds, conducted by Max Plank. The Army ROTC will provide the Color Guard and Jeffery Pluta will be signer for the hearing impaired.

Four candidates will receive a doctor of education degree in educational leadership. They are Thelma Bowles of Jerome, Theresa Spencer of Harrison Township, Barbara Gorenflo of Ann Arbor and Rebecca Moore of Canton.

Why I work at Eastern Michigan University

Sherzer Hall was still smoldering early that morning in 1989. I cried. We lost a lot of valuable antiques in the fire that destroyed our historic observatory. Just by chance Eastern's original 1878 Alvan Clark telescope, once used by Thomas Edison in Wyoming, was in Strong Hall. So that piece of our history was saved.

I'm starting to feel like a piece of history here at Eastern myself. I came here as an undergraduate in 1973, following my brother and sister who have undergraduate and graduate degrees from EMU. It's become a family tradition.

I appreciate working here at Eastern. I've long had an interest in astronomy, ever since Santa Claus brought me my first telescope in the sixth grade. I was wide-eyed that Christmas morning and have been ever since.

My job keeps me engaged. One day I'm machining parts for a physics professor, the next day I'm searching for galaxies. I never know what my job will throw at me, that's what so nice about it. It's a rare job that you really enjoy what you do.



Norbert Vance ('79, '84)
Scientific Instrument Technician II
Lecturer, astronomy
Observatory Director

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JOBSLINE

To be considered for vacant positions, all Promotional Openings Application Forms MUST BE SUBMITTED directly to the Compensation/Employment Services Office and received no later than 4:45 p.m., Monday, April 26. NOTE: LATE OR INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

The Compensation/Employment Services Office announces the following vacancies.

Vacancy information may also be obtained by calling our 24-hour Jobs Line at 487-0016.

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(Minimum Hourly Rate)

FMBF9923 FM-06 \$7.58
Custodian, Physical Plant (Rec/IM). Hours: 11 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. Sunday through Thursday.

FMBF9924 FM-06 \$7.58
Custodian, Physical Plant (Sill Hall). Hours: 5 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

ATHLETIC COACHING

(Minimum Semi-Monthly Salary)

ACPR9907 AC-12 \$1,311.96
Assistant Coach: Men's Basketball, Athletics.

ACPR9908 AC-13 \$1,602.27
Assistant Head Coach: Men's Basketball, Athletics.

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