

## EMU first institution in Midwest to offer a Legal Administration Graduate Certificate

Eastern Michigan University has become the first institution in the Midwest, and one of only a handful in the country, to offer a Legal Administration Graduate Certificate.

"The certificate is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to gain employment in the administrative aspect of the legal field," said Konnie Kustron, of EMU's business and technology education department. "The curriculum consists of five courses that address practical issues encountered in legal administration."

Kustron said the program

will help participants understand and evaluate the support roles performed in legal administration; the impact of technology on the practice of law and court systems; methods for solving problems in the administration of law offices; strategies for marketing legal services; and supervisory responsibilities for a court system.



Kustron

The certificate requires 16 credit hours of graduate level instruction. Completion of a master's degree is not required.

Course work includes: "Roles of the Legal Administrator," "Technology in the Legal Enterprise," "Designing Solutions to Problems in Legal Administration," "Judicial Administration," and an internship involving practical experience and/or a thesis.

Admission requirements for applicants include: meeting admission requirements of EMU's Graduate School; an undergraduate GPA of 2.75; a baccalaureate degree

from an accredited institution; computer proficiency; two letters of recommendation; a resume and a personal statement.

Students are not required to submit test scores from a standardized test such as the GRE.

Courses are offered at Eastern Michigan University's Livonia campus (I-275 and 6 Mile Road) and via the Internet. Classes are offered in the fall, winter and spring semesters.

"This advanced course work can be used for professional development, or to redirect a career," said Kustron.

### IT TAKES A DELICATE TOUCH



**HARPSICHORD HISTORY:** Paul Lehman, a piano technician in the EMU Music Department, "voices" or adjusts a harpsichord that will be used in a dedication recital in April.

The harpsichord, recently rebuilt by Lehman and Ann Arbor harpsichord maker David Sutherland, was originally made in 1942 in Ypsilanti by John Challis, the first American-born harpsichord maker.

Challis himself was a student of Frederick Alexander, whom the Alexander Music Building is named after. Sutherland was a protege of Challis.

## Degree Navigator scores big "hit" with students

Although it's only been online since mid-August, it appears EMU Degree Navigator® is a big hit — 53,387 hits to the Web site to be exact (as of Jan. 25).

This innovative degree auditing software lets students, faculty and staff track a student's academic progress toward graduation, and they can do so from virtually anywhere, and at any time.

"We've made Degree Navigator presentations to four of the five colleges," said Joy Garrett, director of the office of records and registration. "Their reactions confirmed for me that we chose the right program."

Garrett acknowledged that acceptance of the new software was practically guaranteed because the committee that helped select it consisted of people who ultimately would use it: students, academic advisers, University computing personnel and other staff members.

Christina Shell, project manager for EMU Degree Navigator®, said students and faculty like the software's point-and-click ease, and that it can be accessed from anywhere by going to EMU's home page at [www.emich.edu](http://www.emich.edu).

"I've heard that people with Web TV have accessed the system, so no matter what type of Web access you have, you can track your degree progress," Shell said.

The software's "What If I..." feature lets students explore other programs and apply their academic history to the new program. Another feature of Degree Navigator that wins points with users is the high level of security it provides.

"No student can access another student's account without their PIN number," Garrett said. "And faculty with access to the program must use a password to access a student's information."

Faculty and staff who need access to Degree Navigator for academic advising must request ISIS access from the University Computing Help Desk through their department head. Once an ISIS account is established, a Degree Navigator password can be requested. The process takes about a week, Garrett said.

For added security, "a built-in, time-out feature" quits the program if it isn't being used, Shell said. Because it's a view-only program, faculty and staff can access a student's account to help them chart their progress toward a degree, but they cannot make any changes or updates, she said.

"Changes can only be made by the Office of Records and Registration," Shell said.

Currently, Shell is working to add

**SEE NAVIGATOR, page 2**

# First full-time Greek adviser sees system's potential

By Shaun Horrigan

After a semester without a Greek adviser, the EMU Greek community has found its man. Jeremiah Shinn is the new EMU Greek adviser for the Inter-Fraternal Council, Panhellenic Council and Black Greek Council.

Shinn is the first full-time Greek adviser for EMU. In the past, graduate assistants were used to fill the position.

Originally from Russellville, Arkansas, Shinn received his bachelor of science degree in biology from Arkansas Tech, where he was vice president of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, the president of the Inter-fraternity Council, and the student body president.

It was that involvement at Arkansas Tech that helped Shinn decide he wanted a

career in university administration.

"(At Arkansas Tech) I got to see how a university worked," said Shinn. "I worked with students and the dean of students. I was able to see the university from both sides."

He continued his education at the University of Michigan and earned his master's in higher education. At the University of Michigan, Shinn continued to be involved, serving as the interim vice president of student affairs and also a graduate intern in the office of Greek Life.

After receiving his master's, Shinn said he chose to come to EMU because it reminds him of Arkansas Tech.

"I feel at home here, and I feel like I can relate to East

ern," said Shinn. "The university and Greek system have great potential and great things are going to happen.

Eastern's commitment to its students is phenomenal. I'd like to increase the role of the Greek system on campus."

Shinn first plans to settle into his new position and work on getting to know the University and its people better. He has three major goals set for the EMU Greek community, he said.

Shinn said he wants to improve communication between the Greek organizations, improve collaborations

between Greek chapters and Greek councils, and instill accountability within the chapters.

For example, Shinn wants the Greek system to be more involved with the Ypsilanti community than it already is.

Shinn also wants to work with the presidents of each chapter on accountability issues, such as values of individual organizations and keeping financial commitments. For example, he wants all members to regularly pay its dues to its respective organizations which, in turn, has to pay to the campus Greek councils.

In his spare time, Shinn said he is a huge sports fan and follows the Arkansas Razorbacks. He also enjoys the outdoors and likes hunting and fishing. But his real passion is music.



Shinn

In his office, a picture of Shinn and his alternative rock band, with a ticket from one of their shows, hangs in his office. During his undergraduate years, Shinn's band, *Linus*, played in the states as well as in Mexico and Canada.

"People think that we named the band after the (Peanuts) character, but I don't think we did," he said. "I wasn't there the day they decided on a name."

Shinn also said that his family is a big part of his life. He has two younger brothers and a younger sister.

"We're a typical close-knit, southern family," he said.

Shinn said his future plans include continuing his work in university administration and continuing his education.

"I would like to go back to school and get my Ph.D., or law degree," said Shinn.

## Neff finds personal success with first novel

By Rashid S. Umar

"If you are a teacher who writes, then you should write what you teach."

These are words Heather Neff, associate professor of English at Eastern Michigan University, takes to heart.

Neff recently had her first book published after writing it over a span of more than two decades. The novel, *BLACKGAMMON*, was published by Random House in October 2000.

"I began writing the book 21 years ago," said Neff. "I decided five years ago that I should publish it."

The book covers the lives of two African-American women, Chloe, and her sister, Michael, living in European culture. Both face a number of personal and professional challenges.

Unwilling to sacrifice the dreams they dared to make real, Chloe and Michael are forced to the limits of their strength and independence. They must gamble everything to recapture what they have lost in a dazzling game of *BLACKGAMMON*.

"It talks about African-American identification as blacks in European culture, such as dealing with love, romance, relationships, and growing older," Neff said.

The title, "*BLACKGAMMON*," emerged from the age-old African tradition of the game Backgammon, which consists of a special board of fifteen pieces, which move according to the throw of dice.

Neff's motives for writing her novel were simple and educational.



**FIRST TIME:** Heather Neff, an associate professor of English at EMU, proudly displays a copy of her first novel, *Blackgammon*.

The book depicts two African-American sisters living in European culture.

Photo by Stefanie Anderson

"I tried to show cultural connections and differences in people," she said. "The game of backgammon is a symbol of black heritage."

Born in Akron, Ohio, Neff was born to an Episcopalian clergyman and a music teacher. Neff and her family later relocated to Detroit, where she earned her high school education.

She majored in English literature at the University of Michigan and graduated with high distinction in 1978. After graduation, Neff moved to Paris, where she studied French language and literature at the Sorbonne from 1979-1981. She earned her doctorate in 1990 from Universitat Zurich in Zurich, Switzerland.

"My early life was defined by our family's experience of integrating an all-white suburb," said Neff. "As the only black child in my elementary school, I was often called up to explain the civil rights demonstrations of the era to my classmates."

In 1993, she accepted her current position at EMU, where she specializes in teaching Literatures of the African Diaspora.

While teaching at EMU, she also has worked with the Women's Studies Program, the Honors Program, Academic Service Learning and the Alcohol and Other Drugs Program. In 1997, Neff was appointed diversity specialist for the Faculty Center for Instructional Excellence.

"It has allowed me to develop training programs for university faculty on issues of race, gender and sexual orientation," she said.

Neff's future includes writing more novels.

"*BLACKGAMMON* has been successful enough to prompt Random House to buy my next novel, *WISDOM*," she said. "The new book, a thriller set in the Virgin Islands, is a romantic tale about Caribbean heritage with a hint of the supernatural."

### NAVIGATOR, from page 1

individual students' course substitutions and waivers to the program.

Use of the program should increase because EMU Degree Navigator® "How To" guides were included with progress reports that were mailed to students last October.

All Michigan community college counselors also received special guest guides, since they access the system to help students who are contemplating earning a degree at EMU. In addition, Shell conducted a training session for some 40 faculty and staff who were eager to use Degree Navigator to help students progress toward a degree.

The Degree Navigator project's \$427,000 budget covers hardware, software, a server, training materials, and "How To" guides.

"Part of the contract included the company putting the first catalog on the Web site," Garrett said.

The 1996-1998 catalog is online, and Shell has recently added the 1999-2001 catalog. Students can use either catalog, as long as it doesn't pre-date when they were admitted, Garrett said.

Records and registration also provides transfer equivalency information online.

Students can go to the EMU home page, click "records and registration" and then determine the EMU equivalency for courses taken at any Michigan community college, as well as some four-year colleges. — contributed by Karen Sanborn

# Fairchild takes successful strides as new track coach

By Rashid S. Umar

A prestigious promotion may come with the pressure of filling some big shoes. Just ask Brad Fairchild, who has succeeded legendary track coach Bob Parks.

Parks, who retired after the cross country season with his team placing 20th in the NCAAs, won 31 titles in his 34 years as EMU track coach. That's a tough dynasty to continue, but Fairchild is confident he can continue his mentor's ways. After all, Fairchild has been Parks' assistant the past seven years, time enough to learn a few things.

"He certainly was a great mentor and a great motivator," said Fairchild, 32. "He always had a great game plan. He's the master of track meeting (preparation). I consider him the John Wooden (college basketball's most successful coach who won 11 national championships at UCLA) of track."

Where some might be intimidated, Fairchild is optimistic about taking over for the legendary Parks.

"I'm excited; it's a great opportunity," said Fairchild, who becomes only the fourth head track coach at EMU since 1922. "With the job, there

"That's our goal every year," said Fairchild.

Fairchild's expectations are fueled due to the program's ability to recruit the best available athletes; the current team's familiarity with winning; and confidence in Parks' training philosophy.

And while Fairchild is no stranger to coaching successful athletes, he's also been one himself. He excelled in track in high school and walked on the Ferris State University track team, where he eventually became a Division II All-American hurdler in 1990.

After earning his business management degree from Ferris State that same year, Fairchild received his first coaching job at his alma mater.

"The assistant coach at Ferris got married and moved away, so I was named interim assistant coach," he said.

Fairchild later became a graduate assistant at Central Michigan University in 1992 before joining the EMU staff as an assistant coach a year later.

Now, he's calling the shots. And like Parks, his expectations are high.

"I feel good about the upcoming year; we will be out there to win," said Fairchild.



**FOLLOWING A LEG-  
END:** New EMU track and field coach Brad Fairchild recently began his first season at the helm of the men's indoor track team.

Fairchild took over for Bob Parks, who coached track and field and cross country at EMU for 34 years, and was recently named to the U.S. Track Coaches' Association Hall of Fame.

Thus far during the indoor track season, Fairchild has had two of his athletes post provisional NCAA qualifying times and his team is currently ranked No. 6 in the NCAA Division I power rankings for track and field.

*"It's going to be exciting, because it's fun going to meets with a target on your back." (discussing EMU's strong reputation in track)*

**Brad Fairchild,  
Men's Track and Field Coach  
Eastern Michigan University**

are a lot of expectations and I've inherited a great group of athletes."

And there are enough of them that Fairchild expects to be in the hunt for the Mid-American Conference (MAC) title.

"It's going to be exciting, because it's fun going to meets with a target on your back," he said. "The biggest challenge will be improving last year's outdoor competition after finishing in 4th place (EMU's worst-ever per-

formance at the outdoor meet)."

For the moment, however, Fairchild is more preoccupied with the indoor season.

Thus far, the team has had three meets (all unscored), but individual performances are improving and the team is currently ranked sixth in the NCAA Division I power rankings. Two athletes, Jalilu Mayo (60 meter hurdles) and Gerald Raysol (60 meters), have already met provisional qualifying times for the NCAAs.

"We're looking forward to more of our athletes getting those provisional times," he said.

Fairchild pointed to three key upcoming meets for those opportunities: the Central Collegiate Championships (ran this past weekend), an EMU Quad

Meet, and the Michigan Intercollegiate Championships.

However, his team may have a distinct advantage: all three meets will be or have been run on Bob Parks Indoor Track in the familiar confines of Bowen Field House.

Fairchild said he has received a boost with the hiring of an assistant coach, John Goodridge.

"John coaches the distance events, which Coach Parks was coaching, and I will continue to coach the other events (sprints and field events)."

"I think we have the guys on track," Fairchild said. "It helps that I was here seven years as an assistant. We're just trying to keep the ship straight."

# WW5

For a more extensive listing of University events, go to the Office of Public Information home page at [www.emich.edu/public/public\\_information/](http://www.emich.edu/public/public_information/)

## Smith, Coburn highlight Jiffy Mixes Series in February

Greg Smith, president of Ford Credit, North America, in Dearborn, Michigan, and General John Coburn, Commander, U.S. Army Material Command, Washington, D.C., headline the Jiffy Mixes Distinguished Speakers Series in February.

Smith presents, "Insights on Leadership from and MBA Alumnus," Feb. 12 and Coburn's topic, "Thoughts On Leadership: Lessons for Business and Industry," is scheduled Feb. 26.

The remainder of the Jiffy Mixes series is as follows:

March 19: "Four Steps to Self Leadership," presented by Darrell Cooper, chairman, Fernco Inc., Davison, Michigan.

March 26: "Developing Global Leadership Competencies," presented by John Gu, senior international relocation manager, Prudential, Troy, Michigan.

April 2: "Leadership by Storying Around," presented by Polly Bashore, manager, Engineering Technical Data, General Motors, Powertrain Group, Pontiac, Michigan.

April 9: "A Silicon Valley View of Leadership," presented by David M. Jones, president, Reasoning.com, Mountain View, California.

All lectures are at 6:30 p.m. in the EMU's Eagle Crest Conference Center, 1275 S. Huron St., Ypsilanti. All sessions, hosted by the College of Business, are free and open to the public.

For information, contact Stu Tubbs, 487-5875. or [Stu.Tubbs@emich.edu](mailto:Stu.Tubbs@emich.edu)

## American Indian Dance Theatre set for Feb. 18

As part of its Performing Arts Series, Campus Life and McKenny Union present American Indian Dance Theatre, Sunday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Pease Auditorium.

The dance troupe represents 11 tribes nationwide, including Comanche, Cherokee, Navajo and Sioux, performing authentic traditional dances staged as theatrical pieces. The group's cast album received a 1990 Grammy nomination, the first time a recording of Native American music was so honored.

Tickets are \$22/\$18 for the general public and \$18/\$14 for students. For tickets, call the Convocation Center, 487-2282, or Quirk Box Office, 487-1221.

# JOBSLINE

An Affirmative Action/  
Equal Opportunity Employer

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 5 p.m., Monday, Feb. 5. NOTE: LATE OR INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Vacancy information may also be obtained by calling our 24-hour Jobs Line at 487-0016. Compensation/Employment Services office hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## CLERICAL/SECRETARIAL

(Hiring Rate)

CSUR0105 CS04 \$21,369  
Data Entry Clerk II, Convocation Center (50% appointment, 2:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.).

CSEN0113 CS05 \$24,147  
Senior Secretary, Admissions.

## PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL

(Hiring Range)

PTSA0122 PT06 \$26,300-\$30,716  
Teacher, Children's Institute (REPOST).

PTSA0125 PT06 \$26,300-\$30,716  
Graphic Designer, University Publications.

PTEN0106 PT07 \$30,244-\$35,568  
Academic Advisor, Academic Advising.

PTAA0131 PT07 \$30,244-\$35,568  
Administrative Associate I Comer Schools Project, COE (GRANT DURATION).

## FOOD SERVICE/MAINT.

(Hourly Rate)

FMBF0137 FM06 \$8.08  
Custodian (REPOST) Strong, Mark Jefferson, Porter, Halle, Physical Plant (11 p.m.-7:30 a.m. Sunday-Thursdays)

FMBF0138 FM06 \$8.08  
Custodian (REPOST) Strong, Mark Jefferson, Porter, Halle, Physical Plant (11 p.m.-7:30 a.m. Sunday-Thursdays)

FMSA0115 FM10 \$8.57  
Cook/Stockkeeper, Dining Services (Appointment, Aug-April '01 variable hours)

## SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

These people are celebrating service anniversaries with the University in January.

### 30 years

Florence E. Stasiak (35 years),  
University Computing

Mildred Williams (32 years),  
Dining Commons ONE

Diana L. Clark (31),  
learning resources, library

Maria Ann Davis (30),  
learning resources, library

### 20 years

Susan L. Welsh (20),  
employee relations

### 15 years

Cheryl Guerra (15),  
World College, Academic Programs Abroad

Aida Beard (15),  
grounds, walks and roadways

Nanette White (15),  
administrative support services-mailroom

Timothy Cavanaugh (15),  
custodial services

### 10 years

Ross Wagner (10),  
health service general clinic

Jerry Campbell (10),  
administrative support-mailroom

John Bass (10),  
custodial services

Patricia Pahl (10),  
academic human resources

Linda Burilovitch (10),  
accounting

Elisabeth Morgan (10),  
foreign language and bilingual studies

## Why I work at Eastern Michigan University

I got my bachelor's and master's degrees at EMU and I am currently working on my doctorate. If you consider my time as a student on campus, I have been here about 17 years. I also work here at EMU.

I administer the programs and supervise the teachers who work in metropolitan Detroit UAW plants. Many people don't realize that EMU is helping workers continue their education by placing teachers at the factory sites to teach computer applications, math and English.

When I came to Eastern, there were three skills enhancement centers. Now, there are 14 Skills Centers that each year help more than 1,500 employees of the Big Three auto makers. We provide quality education programs to the metropolitan community.

We're not only employing people (with 36 staff in our programs), but we are also serving a population at these plants in the metro area. It is very satisfying to see people get promoted because we helped them learn Excel.

It is very gratifying to know we are enhancing people's dreams. We often hear UAW workers say that they would not have gotten a degree without our help. That is what keeps me here. I help build dreams.



Melanie Ferrin  
Director,  
Center for Management and Leadership  
Director,  
Skills Programs

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY™

Need the  
info?

Go to the public  
information Web  
site at [http://  
www.emich.edu/  
public/  
public\\_information/](http://www.emich.edu/public/public_information/)