

## McKenny Union expansion under review

By Ron Podell

Overflowing student traffic in the lobby and bookstore, lack of meeting space and endless, meandering lines at the food court are familiar scenes at McKenny Union. A recent study by the Association of College Unions International confirmed what was pretty much known to the naked eye: McKenny Union is too small to adequately handle the needs of a campus of 24,000 students.

"We're managing the union at twice its capacity," said Glenna Frank Miller, director of McKenny Union and Campus Life.

The College Union and Student Activities Evaluation Program of the Association of College Unions International conducted an assessment study of McKenny Union May 17-19, 2000.

The purpose of the visit was to assist EMU staff to evaluate and plan for a student union renovation and expansion, and to focus evaluation on services, programs, facilities, staff and budget. The ACUI evaluation team met with 85 EMU faculty, staff and students. Results of that study were made known



**LUNCH LINES:** This long line of students waiting to buy lunch is a familiar sight at McKenny Union. Future expansion of the University hub is expected to be discussed at the June 19 Board of Regents meeting.

to EMU last fall.

"McKenny Union is abysmally insufficient for the meeting and programming needs of EMU," the report concluded.

The ACUI evaluation team has recommended that "the current facility be renovated and expanded." In addition, the ACUI consultants recommend:

- staff be added, including a facilities service manager, evening/weekend manager, coordinator for service learning, coordinator of commuter programs and additional personnel for orientation programs;

- McKenny Union have annual capital improvement funds along with the operation budget to maintain an acceptable standard "for this visible historic building";

- McKenny Union operations be funded by a student fee;

- the program staff gather information regarding how other institutions manage the allocation of student programming funds; and

- staff increase the number of programs targeting commuter and adult students.

The McKenny Union Expansion Needs Assessment Statement is now complete and Miller expects to provide an update at the June 19 Board of Regents meeting.

Standards advocate 10 square feet of

**SEE MCKENNY, page 4**

## Douglass returning to Africa on Fulbright



**GHANA GROUP:** Richard Douglass (third from right), a professor of health administration, went to Ghana two years ago to study the survival of children who have experienced near-death starvation. He will return to Africa in September with the aid of a Fulbright Scholarship.

Richard Douglass, professor of health administration, has been out of Africa for two years but will return to Ghana with the aid of a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship.

When you get the Fulbright, it means "that you're at the top of your game," Douglass said.

"The Fulbright means a serious mission to continue to problem-solve while I'm there (Ghana)," said Douglass, who has taught at Eastern Michigan University since 1987. "Hopefully, I'll continue doing that."

Douglass is the 12th EMU professor to be awarded a

Fulbright since 1981, according to information provided by the Council for International Exchange Scholars.

Approximately 750 senior scholar Fulbrights are awarded annually by Congress to college and university faculty and professionals, said Bekah Ekstrom, a publications associate with the Council for International Exchange Scholars in Washington, D.C.

Douglass faced stiff competition to win the Fulbright, competing against his wife, Brenda. Brenda didn't win a

**SEE AFRICA, page 2**

## EMU receives \$360,000 gift in partnership with Bell University of China

Eastern Michigan University and Bell University of China are partnering to create a new program for Chinese students who want to study in the United States.

"Eastern Michigan University has many great international ties. This simply strengthens our academic exchanges with the People's Republic of China," said Drew Nazzaro, interim associate director for EMU's World College.

This initiative developed through the work of Dr. Weidian Shen (EMU Physics Professor) as a World College Fellow. His relationship with his former mentor, President Fujia Yang of Bell University, was crucial.

As part of the new partnership, two Chinese businessmen will contribute \$360,000 toward a scholarship fund for Bell University students. The donors are Mr. Chikong Shue, CEO of SDSC Global Foundation; and Mr. K.C. Kun, CEO of Hong Kong S&T Ltd.

"The 2 plus 2 program being designed for the Bell University students is into two academic programs at

EMU," said Nazzaro. "One is computer science and the other is business administration. Essentially, the Bell students complete the first two years of their programs at Bell University and then come to EMU to complete the last two years of their programs. This arrangement calls for careful course matching between our two institutions, which is currently underway."

The first group of eight students are expected to arrive at EMU this fall.

Upon the successful completion of all requirements for their chosen degree programs at EMU, Bell students will receive, in China, a diploma issued by EMU.

The five-year agreement of cooperation between Bell, a school of 1,300, and EMU will also provide teaching, research and professional development opportunities for professors of both institutions, Nazzaro said.

Bell University, located in the city of Jiangyin, Jiangsu Province, is a private university that was founded in 1999.

# Study shows striking results about Michigan lightning

By Ron Podell

When you think of a state that has a lot of lightning, Florida quickly comes to mind. But it may come as a surprise that Michigan ranks second behind the sunshine state in combined lightning fatalities and injuries, according to a recent study, from the period of 1960-2000, compiled by Carl Ojala and Bob Ferrett.

The two updated a lightning study they started a decade ago and found that 2.4 deaths occur annually in Michigan as a result of lightning. In Michigan over the past 40 years, 94 persons have been killed by lightning — more than the 86 who were killed by tornados in the state during the same time period. During that same time period, 644 persons in Michigan were injured by lightning.

The study's results are timely, coming out shortly before National Lightning Week, which runs June 18-22.

"You'd think Oklahoma, Alabama or Mississippi would be (ranked) second," said Ojala, an EMU geography professor with teaching and research interests in climatology and severe/unusual weather. "We're in second place. That's the astounding thing."

Ojala and Ferrett, director of the Center for Instructional Computing, have come to some conclusions

as to why Michigan ranks so high in lightning-related deaths and injuries. First, the state is bordered by 3,000 miles of Great Lakes coastline and water activities are really dangerous to be doing when lightning is present, Ojala said.

"Everybody and their brother has a boat out in the water," said Ojala, who referred to Michigan as a major recreational state. "They're out in their boats for sun or for fishing."

Second, multitudes of Little League, softball and soccer leagues mean thousands of children are outdoors playing sports, with many more parents and family members watching. Games often continue even when it's raining or thunder can be heard, Ojala said.

"Lightning is random, capricious and unpredictable," Ojala cautions. "The worst time to be outside in a thunderstorm is just before the rain starts and right after it ends."

He advises people to use the "thirty-thirty" rule. If you see lightning and hear thunder in 30 seconds or less, seek safe shelter.

"Don't resume your outdoor activity until 30 minutes after you see the last flash of lightning," he said.

And third, Michigan is a prime agricultural state, which means farmers are typically found driving their tractors in the field, often miles from home.

## LIGHTNING STRIKES



**LIGHTNING LECTURE:** Carl Ojala (right), an EMU geography professor, talks with Channel 7 anchor Jerry Hodak (seated, middle) and videographer Marlon Falconer about a lightning study he and Bob Ferrett recently updated.

The study shows that Michigan, behind only Florida, has the second-most lightning-related fatalities and injuries during the past 40 years. The study is timely, considering June 18-22 is National Lightning Week.

## LIGHTNING FACTS AND FICTION

**Fiction:** If it's not raining, there's no danger from lightning.

**Fact:** Lightning often strikes outside of rain areas and may strike as far as 10 miles away from the storm.

**Fiction:** Rubber shoe soles or tires will protect against lightning.

**Fact:** Rubber soles and tires provide no protection from lightning, but the metal

frame of an enclosed vehicle does provide some protection.

**Fiction:** Lightning always strikes the tallest object around.

**Fact:** While lightning often strikes the tallest object, many times it will hit a lower object nearby.

**Fiction:** Hand-held lightning detectors will give plenty of

warning about lightning.

**Fact:** These detectors are useful but will not detect the first strike in a developing storm. They should not be a substitute for common sense, including using the 30-30 rule.



For Ojala, a member of the Washtenaw County Emergency Management Response Force, the most frustrating aspect of trying to keep people safe from lightning is that they are apathetic and don't pay attention to warnings.

"Show a little respect for lightning," said Ferrett, who agreed. If you can hear or see

lightning, get indoors."

Ferrett said the study shows that most lightning strikes occur between noon and 6 p.m., and just before midnight. July is the most likely month for lightning fatalities or injuries, with May and August close behind, he said.

Ojala and Ferrett previ-

ously created a map of Michigan's "tornado alley", which landed them on Detroit's WXYZ-TV last year.

The newest information compiled by the two has been sent to the National Climatic Data Center in North Carolina and the World Meteorological Center in Switzerland.

## AFRICA, from page 1

Fulbright because the award cannot be awarded to two people in the same family.

The scholarship covers Douglass's full salary, transportation costs for him and his family, living costs, and tuition education for his stepson.

"We found out at the same time that we (both) didn't get (a Fulbright)" Douglass said. "We're both still going to Ghana, but it's bittersweet. We're happy that one proposal was funded."

Douglass was in Ghana with his wife in 1999 for five weeks, studying the survival of children who have experienced near-death starvation.

Douglass focused on a type of malnourishment known as kwashiorkor that usually occurs when the second child is born.

"It's a classic world-wide form of

malnutrition when the toddler's belly swells and hair turns red. Usually, they don't have sufficient amino acids," Douglass said. "In Ghana, 50 percent die from it and, worldwide, 80 percent do."

*"When you get a Fulbright, it means that you're at the top of your game."*

**Richard Douglass,  
Professor  
Health Administration**

Kwashiorkor is prevalent everywhere in Africa and Asia with high levels also in Iraq and Sierra Leone, Douglass said.

"It's one of the horrors that children in developing countries face," Douglass said.

As they conducted research, Douglass and his wife asked what was it that kept these children. They found that the presence of a grandmother and grandfather often increases life expectancy. Douglass will return for five months, beginning in September through January 2002.

"Five weeks is an adventure," Douglass said. "Five months is more than an adventure. (The first trip to Ghana) was one of the best times I have ever had."

Douglass and his wife will be working on a different branch of the same study.

"She'll focus on the role of the grandparents and great grandparents, and I'll focus on the factors of success and failure," he said.

Douglass was a junior in college when he made his first trip to Africa. He studied in Ethiopia and said it changed his life.

"I sucked in Africa like a sponge and used the information to guide my life and career," Douglass said.

In Ghana, he said sewage, sanitation and crowding problems arose as the rural population moved to the city.

Douglass recalled meeting Emmanuel, a 19-year-old man, who sold baggies of water for a penny a bag and it cost a half-cent to make each bag.

People who have been in Africa appreciate what they have when they return to the United States, he said.

"I think it's good to get back to the basics," Douglass said. "You have an opportunity to be a part of life with renewed focus on what matters." — contributed by Tricia Couture

## Twelve faculty earn research awards

Twelve Eastern Michigan University faculty have been awarded Spring-Summer Research Awards for 2001.

Faculty award winners are paid 20 percent of their normal base salary to conduct a major research or creative project during the period of May through August. Awardees, who were recognized during EMU's Week of Excellence, are not permitted to teach or accept other remunerative employment during the four-month award period.

Spring-Summer Research Award recipients, their departments and projects are:

■ Elizabeth Butch, chemistry, "The Regulation of Protein Kinase in Cellular Signaling Pathways."

■ Kevin P. Blake, geography and geology, "The Michigan Drumlin Project."

■ Daniel Clemans, biology, "Secreted *Haemophilus influenzae* Modulins and Respiratory Inflammation."



Hanson

Corporate Governance, and Film Performance."

■ Veronica Grondona, English language and literature, "Language Documentation in the Chaco Region in Argentina."

■ Roy Johnston, art, "Roderic O'Connor in Brittany."

■ Diana Pancioli, art, "Introduction to Ceramic History: A Source Book."



Pancioli

■ Maria Serena Poli, geography and geology, "Deep and Intermediate Water circulation in the Western Northern Atlantic During the Climate Extremes of Oxygen Isotope Stages 11-12 (c. 360,000-470,000 Years Ago)."

■ Ulrich Reinhardt, biology, "Design of Integrated Fish Barriers to Avoid the Spread of Exotic Fish Species."

■ Lauren Sickels-Taves, geography and geology, "Materials Conservation Laboratory: A Michigan Need."

■ Heather Neff, English language and literature, "Revising Wisdom: Exploring Cultural Links between African Americans and the Caribbean."

■ Robert S. Winning, biology, "The Role of rho GTPase in Signaling Events in Amphibian Embryos."



Neff



Butch

## Chiasson wins state recreation award

By Rashid S. Umar

"Service to others is the price we pay to live on the planet, assign yourself." These words, from Marian Wright-Edelman, are ones that Victor Chiasson relishes.

Chiasson, assistant professor of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Development (HPERD), was recently presented the Fellowship Award for his service with the Michigan Recreation and Park Association. The award recognizes service to organizations and a variety of committees.

"I was very honored to be recognized by my peers," said Chiasson.

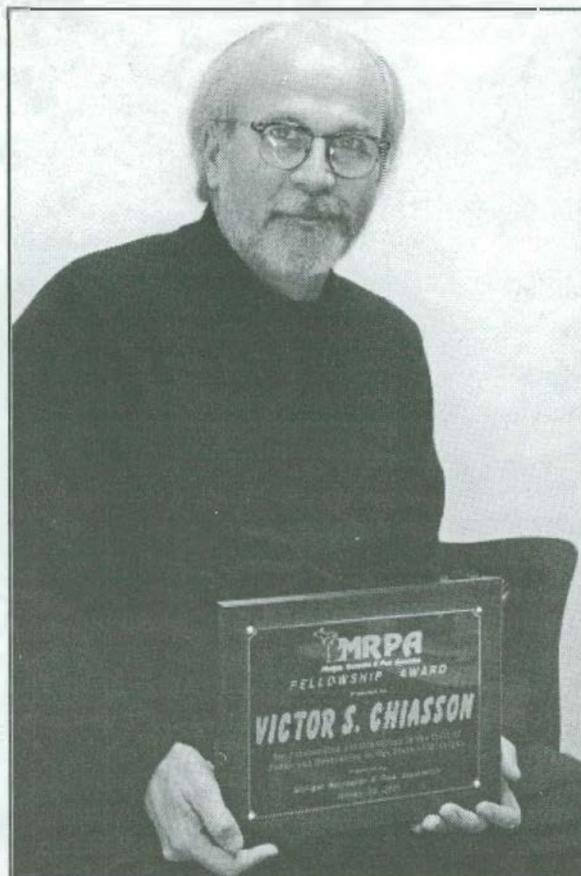
"Our fellowship award is the highest award our association gives each year," said Caryl Mitchell, membership/marketing manager for the Michigan Recreation and Park Association.

Chiasson has been a member of the MPRA since 1972. He served as president in 1996, and has also been a second vice president and director at-large.

He has co-chaired Walk-Michigan; has been president of the National Recreation and Parks Association and the student committee; as well as a member of several other committees. He has received the Innovative Programming Award and Program Leadership Award from the association.

Chiasson also has worked for the City of Wayne, and both Oakland and Wayne Counties. He was responsible for organizing events such as the tug a war across the Detroit River during the annual Freedom Festival; put together an alternative to the Easter egg hunt by dropping 50,000 marshmallows out of an helicopter for kids; and organized Daddy/Daughter Night for Valentine's Day.

"I had his classes and he's inspired everyone in life in recreation," said Jason Camis, a 1999 EMU graduate and a recreation camp manager for the



**RECREATIONAL PURPOSE:** Victor Chiasson, assistant professor of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, poses with his Michigan Recreation and Park Association's Fellowship Award.

Detroit Recreation Department. "He's really well known for the marshmallow drop."

"I'm here to try to get kids to express their creative side so that the world can be a better place; so that they can create ideas," Chiasson said.

# W5

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/)

### Regents slated to meet June 19

The next Board of Regents meeting is scheduled Tuesday, June 19.

The committee schedule is: Student Affairs, 8 a.m., 205 Welch Hall; Faculty Affairs, 8 a.m., 201 Welch; Educational Policies, 9 a.m., 205 Welch; and Finance, 10:30 a.m., 201 Welch.

The regular Board of Regents meeting begins at noon, 201 Welch Hall. The meeting will recess at 12:30 p.m. for lunch and reconvene at 1:30 p.m. For information, call 487-4400.

### EMU to host Alternative Break Citizenship Convention

Eastern Michigan University students have had opportunities to improve their community and others through participation in the Alternative Break Citizenship (ABC) program, which includes Alternative Spring Break. Now, EMU has the opportunity to host others at the National Break Away Training Student Leaders Convention, scheduled July 7-13 in McKenny Union.

Kelly McSween, an alternative spring break coordinator at EMU who is currently working as an intern for Break Away in Tallahassee, Florida, said EMU was chosen to host the event because the University has a strong alternative spring break program and has a good relationship with Break Away. She expects 50 participants and at least four EMU representatives.

The convention will show how to teach a thriving Break Away program and participants will spend time in downtown Detroit helping neighborhoods in need.

### Artrain USA volunteers needed

Eastern Michigan University will host the Artrain USA at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, Aug. 17-19. Volunteers are needed for 4-hour shifts to welcome visitors and to serve as tour guides during the Artrain's three-day stay. A required orientation will be provided Aug. 14 at the Freight House in Depot Town.

To volunteer or for more information, call Wendy Kivi, 487-3198, or e-mail her at [wendy.kivi@emich.edu](mailto:wendy.kivi@emich.edu)

### Correction

In a story about The Holman Learning Center's Faculty and Tutor Appreciation Day in the April 24 issue of FOCUS, Sharon Erenburg's name was inadvertently omitted. Erenburg received a faculty award for outstanding supplemental instruction.

# 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, June 18. 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)

CSAA0148 CS04 \$21,369  
Secretary II, Psychology (REPOST)  
(start date: 8/24/01).

CSEN0117 CS05 \$24,147  
Account Specialist, Financial Aid  
(REPOST).

CSEN0118 CS05 \$24,147  
Account Specialist, Financial Aid.

CCAA0103 CC06 \$26,333  
Administrative Secretary Academic  
Human Resources.

CCAA0101 CC06 \$26,333  
Administrative Secretary, Associate  
V.P., Academic Affairs (REPOST).

## PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL

(Hiring Range)

PTAA0135 PT06 \$13,150-  
\$15,358 Program Assistant I, Con-  
tinuing Education, EMU Livonia  
(50% appointment) (REPOST).

PTSA0129 PT07 \$30,244-  
\$35,568 Lead Teacher, Children's  
Institute (REPOST).

## ADMIN./PROFESSIONAL

(Hiring Range)

APBF0102 AP14 \$81,333-  
\$96,509 Executive Director, Hu-  
man Resources.

The pay rates stated above reflect the hiring rate or range for a newly hired EMU employee. The pay rate or salary for current employees will be established according to the respective employee group union contract, and/or University salary administration policy guidelines.

## MCKENNY, from page 1

union space for each student enrolled in a college or university. McKenny's 119,000 square feet doesn't begin to meet the needs of EMU's 24,000 students, Miller said.

"Our campus needs a building with two to three times more dining room space," Miller said. "We need a lot more meeting room space. We have minimal storage; we move tables and chairs from room to room. EMU needs a performance facility that is very flexible and has multiple uses."

Miller said some possibilities for an expanded McKenny Union include:

- building additional dining space on the north side of McKenny Union and/or build another level of dining space over the existing food court area;

- building a ballroom that can accommodate 1,000 in flexible space. McKenny Union's existing ballroom can hold 400.

- eventually moving Student Affairs offices from King Hall to an expanded McKenny Union;

- creating a welcome center and a commuter student center that could include a lounge and Web-based support;

Central Michigan University's "student service court" in its student union is about the size of the McKenny Union Bookstore and is staffed with four professionals who provide cross-training, advising, admissions and financial aid assistance to students, Miller said.

"You could take care of business quickly and in one location," Miller said. "You could pay a library fine or get quick advice on getting into a class."

McKenny Union was built in 1931 from alumni contributions. The facility underwent a renovation in 1992, but that work did not expand the building's size, Miller said.

"We wouldn't want to tear down McKenny or do anything that would disturb the beautiful, historic sense of this place," Miller said. "In another sense, though, the building needs to be expanded dramatically. Our vision for McKenny is to be a busy, vibrant pulsating campus center."

## Why I work at Eastern Michigan University

I came here as a student in 1978 to get my bachelor's degree in business administration/accounting. After I graduated, I went out into the work field. I later saw a job in the paper for a senior accounting position for housing at Eastern Michigan University. I thought it would be a wonderful way to get a master's degree while I work.

I began working here in 1987, completed my master's degree in 1995 and I have stayed because I love it here. I currently prepare, analyze, and direct the \$26 million dollar operating budget for Housing, Dining, and Conferences. I enjoy the diversity of my job duties and the challenges and opportunities that I am provided at Eastern Michigan. I like the opportunity to utilize my analytical skills and financial knowledge in the business environment of auxiliaries and also be part of an educational process and interact with students. It provides lots of challenges and I thrive on challenge.

I think wherever you work, you should be allowed to ignite your creative spark. Working in the division of student affairs at EMU allows me this opportunity. I am on the innovation task force, strategy council and the interdisciplinary crosscutting committee. There are many outlets for creative ideas which draw you to EMU and keep you here.



Vickie Bagherzadeh  
Director, Budget Operations  
Housing, Dining and Conferences  
Division of Student Affairs

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