



News for  
Eastern Michigan  
Faculty and Staff

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## MASA honors EMU alum O'Brien as Michigan's superintendent of the year

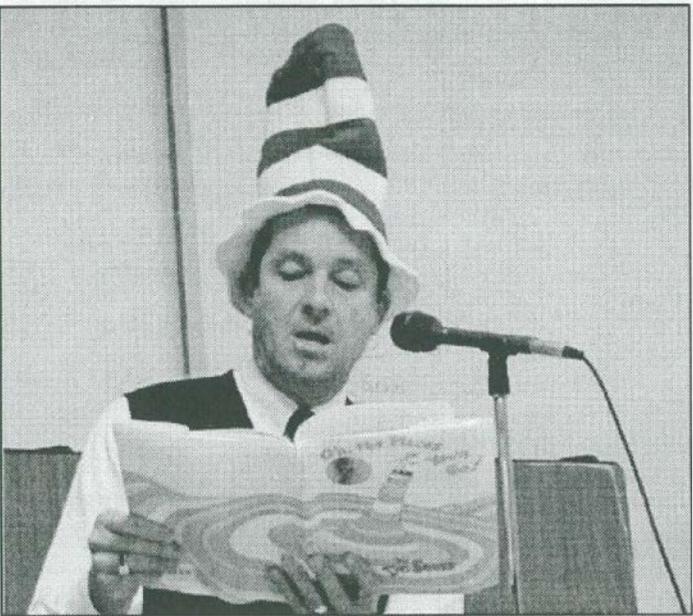
**By Carol Anderson**  
Students are a community's greatest treasure is the philosophy driving Eastern Michigan University alumnus Robert O'Brien. As superintendent of Huron Valley Schools, he gave the community a message of renewal and hope and then set out to improve the school district.

"The community was disengaged and had lost its funding," O'Brien said. "The students are our community treasures. As the children go, so goes the community."

O'Brien was recently named Michigan's 2003 Superintendent of the Year by the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA). His school district has 11,000 students from Milford, Commerce, Highland and White Lake townships.

MASA recognized O'Brien for his strong leadership, communication skills, professionalism, community involvement and for creativity in successfully meeting the needs of the students. His recognition as Michigan Superintendent of the Year also carries a \$1,000 scholarship for a student in his school district.

MASA is a statewide association that represents the superintendents and first



**OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO:** Robert O'Brien, superintendent of Huron Valley schools and an EMU alumnus, reads a Dr. Seuss book, "Oh, the Places You'll Go," to some students in his school district.

O'Brien was recently named Michigan Superintendent of the Year by the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA). He will be honored Jan. 29 at MASA's mid-winter conference in Grand Rapids.

line administrators of Michigan's local and intermediate school districts. The organization works to provide leadership and unity for continuous improvement of public education in Michigan.

O'Brien will receive formal recognition Jan. 29, 2003, at the Michigan Association of Superintendent Administrators' mid-winter conference at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids. As the Michigan honoree, O'Brien will be a candidate for

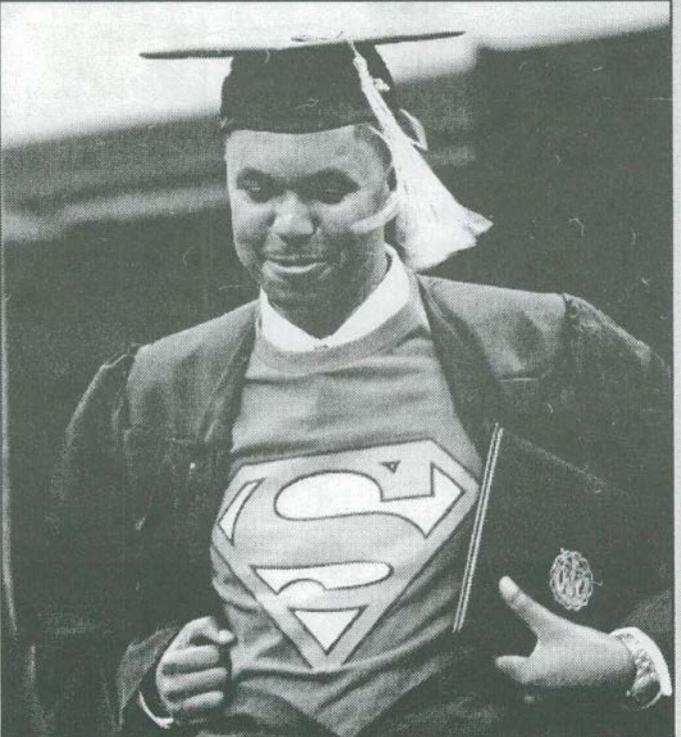
the National Superintendent of the Year, to be chosen Feb. 21 in New Orleans, La.

This marks the third time an EMU graduate has earned this honor in the past decade.

"We are always proud of our alumni getting special recognition," said Jerry Robbins, dean of EMU's College of Education. "This is his fourth year as super-

**SEE O'BRIEN, page 4**

### SUPER GRAD



**FEELING SUPER:** Eastern Michigan University senior Benjamin Coolidge Sanders III, from Oak Park, lets the crowd know he's in a super mood after receiving his diploma at EMU's commencement ceremonies Dec. 15. Sanders, a communications major, was one of approximately 958 undergraduates who walked down the aisle. In addition, 446 graduate students and 23 honors students were eligible to receive their diplomas. Steven Wild, former director of CBS/Fox Video's Studio and Technical Operations, was the keynote speaker.

## Marable set as keynote speaker for MLK Day

**By Summer Wilhelm**  
Manning Marable, founding director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University in New York City, will provide this year's keynote address at Eastern Michigan University's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Jan. 20.

Marable, professor of history and political science at Columbia, will speak briefly at the President's Luncheon, scheduled at noon in the Convocation Center. Later that day, he will present a one-hour lecture at 3 p.m. in Pease Auditorium.

Marable has authored and edited nearly 20 books and anthologies. Since 1976, he has written "Along the Color Line," a syndicated, political affairs series that regularly appears in more than 400 black-owned and black-oriented publications throughout the U.S., as well as Canada, the United Kingdom, the Caribbean and India.

His more recent works as

an editor include: "Let Nobody Turn Us Around: Voices of Resistance, Reform, and Renewal: An African-American Anthology," "Dispatches from the Ebony Tower: Intellectuals Confront the African-American Experience," "Black Leadership" and "Black Liberation in Conservative America."

Marable has headed several projects during the past few years. In 1999, he initiated work on "Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society." This quarterly journal, of which Marable is co-editor, examines key theoretical issues



**Marable**

**SEE MARABLE, page 3**

# Fifteen earn EMU's most prestigious student award

By Summer Wilhelm

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This story features five of the 15 Presidential Scholars. The second part of this story will be published in the Jan. 14 issue.*

The Board of Regents honored Eastern Michigan University's 2002 Presidential Scholarship recipients during its regular meeting Nov. 19, 2002.

The scholarship is a four-year award that pays 30 credit hours (15 per semester) per year of in-state tuition, housing, food allowance and mandatory fees. Students who receive the scholarship must live in the University residence halls the first two years of the award, with at least 15 credit hours per semester and maintain a 3.5 GPA.

Scholarship recipients are selected during EMU's annual Presidential Scholarship Competition. Awards are based on a competitive exam. To compete, high school seniors must have either a 3.7 GPA, or a 3.5 to 3.69 GPA with a minimum 25 ACT or 1,150 SAT. Each scholarship winner also must complete a successful interview.

Ten Presidential Scholars are usually selected each year, but 15 students were found deserving of the honor in 2002.

"The number of presidential scholarship awards has been increased gradually over time," said Mark Higbee, interim director of the honors program. "By increasing the number of scholarships, we are demonstrating the University's commitment to academic excellence with first-year students."

## Kevin Bonney, (Port Huron, Mich.)

Kevin Bonney was valedictorian of Port Huron Northern High School, where he earned a 4.01 GPA.

Along with being valedictorian, Bonney was editor of his high school paper and was involved in his high school drama club, philosophy club, creative expressions club and National Honor Society.

Bonney also volunteered for the Port Huron Area School District, Port Huron Hospital, St. Clair Council on Aging, and Meals on Wheels.

"After taking the scholarship test, I didn't think I did very well," said Bonney. "I was surprised when they called me back."

Bonney had been considering other schools. But after receiving the award, he decided to go with EMU.

After graduating, Bonney hopes to attend the University of Michigan's medical school and become a psychiatrist. He plans on opening his own practice in a city such as Ann Arbor or Chicago.

## Laura Butler, (Dearborn, Mich.)

Laura Butler was in the top five percentile at Edsel Ford High School, where she graduated with a 4.10 GPA.

While EMU was not Butler's first choice of colleges, she's really enjoying her time here and is glad she came.

"Eastern seems so small and friendly, and close-knit," she said.

Butler is majoring in biology, but only so she

*Presidential Scholars receive a four-year award that pays 30 credit hours (15 per semester) per year of in-state tuition, housing, food allowance and mandatory fees. Students who receive scholarships must live in university residence halls the first two years of the award, complete at least 15 credit hours per semester and maintain a 3.5 GPA.*

can minor in zoology, her true passion.

"I plan to work in the zoo," Butler said. "I'm really interested in animals and in working with them."

Butler was copy editor of her high school paper, secretary of the Ecology Club, captain of the field hockey team and a member of the National Honor Society.

When asked about the scholarship test, Butler admitted she didn't think she'd get a call back.

"I thought I did horrible and that I didn't get any right. I thought I failed it," she said.

However, after her experience, she does have some advice for students who are cautious about trying for scholarships.

"At first, I wasn't even considering taking the test," she said. "I didn't know how well I'd do. Now, I would encourage other people to try it, any kind of scholarship test, even if you don't think you have a chance."

## Will Chapman, (Livonia, Mich.)

When Will Chapman took his scholarship test, he had high hopes from the beginning.

"I thought I did pretty well," he said. "Current events was tough, but I was pretty confident when I went in."



Chapman

sociation Scholar-Athlete.

Chapman was on the cross country and soccer teams in high school and continues to be active in track at Eastern.

Among Chapman's future goals, two stand out. First, he would like to graduate with a degree in history and education.

"After taking AP U.S. History in tenth grade, I fell in love with American history and I hope to be



Butler

able to extend that love to others," he said.

His second goal?

"To graduate in three years."

## Jennifer Crescuillo, (Mt. Vernon, Ohio)

Jenny Crescuillo has led a very active school and community life. While maintaining a 3.68 high school GPA at Mt. Vernon High School, she did volunteer work for local organizations and had portions of her art portfolio publicized. Crescuillo also received several awards, including the Kiwanis Award for academic excellence.

While Crescuillo has a lot of community and academic achievements to be proud of, she considers her most meaningful accomplishments to be her friends. In her last year of high school, she began to view them as part of her family.

"It is difficult to get that close to anyone, let alone one's friends," she said. "I feel that those friendships have been my most meaningful accomplishment to date."

When Crescuillo isn't attending classes and studying hard to graduate with a degree in fine arts and art history, she can be found either reading or sleeping.

"I sleep a lot," she says. "It's hard to get to bed early to get up early."

As for her reading, she said, "I've been preferring non-fiction lately. It's hard to buy into a book if I don't find it believable."

## Brian Enright, (Canton, Mich.)

For Brian Enright, EMU was the only school he applied to.

"It's far enough away where I feel I'm at college, but close enough where I can run home if I need something," he explained.

After taking the test, Enright admits that he tapped into some teachings from high school.

"All the CP (college prep) courses in high school really helped me, like with writing an essay in 45 minutes," he said.

While he will be close enough to home in case he needs something, Enright did venture out much farther when he took a trip to Spain in high school.

"I surprised myself that I could actually be understood by Spaniards and was thrilled that I saw the Alhambra in person after we studied its architecture in humanities," Enright said.

Enright was very involved in theater at Plymouth Salem High School. By his junior year, he had worked his way up to head of the carpentry crew, which is one of his most valued achievements.

"The position enabled me to utilize my leadership skills directing students in set design projects, teaching students how to use tools safely, handling problems and stressful situations, and working with a dedicated group of people who felt proud to be part of a quality show," he said.

Enright is majoring in political science and, after graduating, hopes to teach high school government. When he isn't studying, Enright can be found playing guitar with his roommate or at his job on campus in academic programming.



Enright

# Winter music lineup includes 38 performances

By Summer Wilhelm

Bass will boom and trumpets sound when Eastern Michigan University's music department commences with its winter schedule of events.

With 38 scheduled performances by EMU students, faculty, alumni and guests, the winter lineup caters to people of all ages and tastes.

"There will be children's programs, classical programs, jazz programs. There's a lot to see," said Kristy Meretta, coordinator of EMU music events.

Some of the season's early highlights include:

■ **The FCMP Concert Series** presents cellist Hai-Ye Ni, winner of the Naumberg Competition in 1991, and recipient of the 2001 Avery Fisher Career Grant. Ni will perform Jan. 26, 4 p.m., in Pease Auditorium. Admission is free.

■ **The Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band** will perform a winter collage concert featuring student winners of the Third Annual William Stewart Performance Competition, Feb. 2, 4 p.m., in Pease Auditorium. Admission is free.

■ Graduate organ students and EMU alumni will perform an **Organ Recital** featuring 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century



**JAZZY TUNE:** The EMU Jazz Ensemble (left) will perform the Jazz Benefit Concert with special guests Wycliffe Gordon and George Benson Feb. 17 in Pease Auditorium. The department of music will sponsor 38 music events during winter term.

work on the recently restored Aeolian-Skinner 4,000-pipe organ, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., in Pease Auditorium. Ad-

mission is free.

**SEE MUSIC, page 4**

## MARABLE, from page 1

within black America, Africa and the Caribbean. The journal, distributed nationally and internationally, is published jointly by the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University and Taylor and Francis publishers.

In 2001, Marable started the "Malcolm X Project" at Columbia University. The research project includes the development of a Malcolm X e-course; an electronic multimedia version of Alex Haley's *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*; and a biography of Malcolm X.

As part of the research project,

Marable also edited "*Malcolm X: A Political Reader*," and "*Malcolm X in the Black Imagination: A Cultural Studies Anthology*."

In 2002, Marable launched the "Africana Criminal Justice Project," which encourages the development of civic capacity building and leadership training among former prisoners, and proposes fundamental legal reforms within the criminal justice system and prisons.

Marable was on the MLK selection committee's list of highly recommended people, said Melissa Ginotti, associate director of student activities

for Campus Life.

"He's nationally renowned as an intellect and a scholar on African-American issues," Ginotti said. "We're pleased to have him as our speaker."

Marable is featured frequently in the national and international media as an expert on the history and politics of race in the United States. He regularly appears on CNN's "Talk-Back Live," C-SPAN, NBC's "Today Show," "ABC Weekend News" and "The Charlie Rose Show."

Marable donates much of his time to fundraising and speaking on behalf

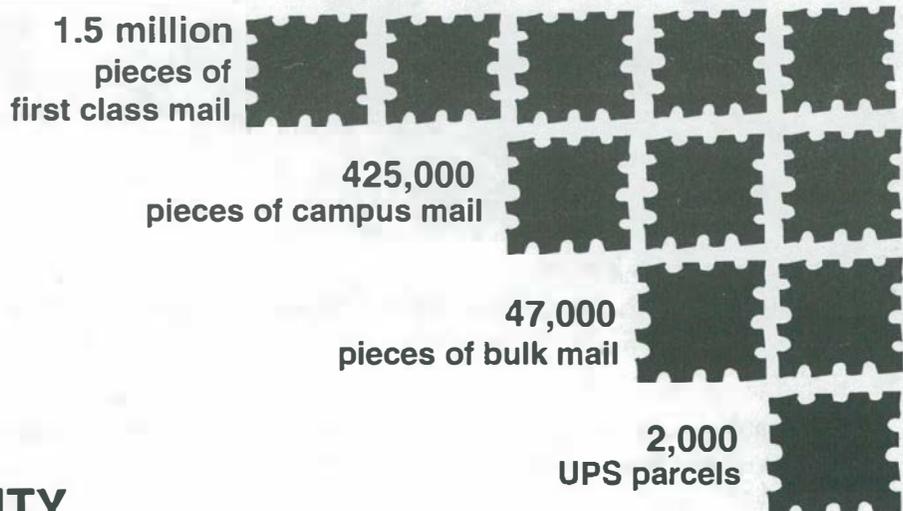
of prisoners' rights, civil rights, labor, faith-based institutions and many social justice organizations. He also lectures annually in Sing Sing Prison and Ossining, N.Y. in the M.A. program for prisoners.

He received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in 1976; his master's degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1972; and his associate's degree from Earlham College in 1971.

MLK Luncheon seating begins at 11:30 a.m. For tickets, call the Convocation Center box office at 487-2282.

## EMU BY THE NUMBERS

Eastern Michigan University Mail Services, located at 1215 Huron River Dr., serves 143 University departments in more than 40 buildings. Services include redistribution of inter-departmental mail, submitting metered mail to the United States Post Office, and assisting in preparation and design of non-profit bulk mail to qualify for postage discounts. The following are the types and amounts of mail handled by University Mail Services in calendar year 2002.



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## Clerical workers hone skills, earn credits

A number of EMU office staff recently completed the Office Professional Certificate Program (OPCP). This marks the second group of clerical staff that has been through the program. The first group of 11 graduated in 2000.

This unique program provides members of EMU's clerical staff with a professional development opportunity, while enhancing their abilities to help the University achieve its goals. Each employee earned credits in seven courses. Cost of tuition was covered through the employee tuition waiver benefit.

Those who graduated, along with their projects, are:

■ **Carol Erickson**, "Procedures Manual for the Halle Library Periodicals Department."  
 ■ **Kathleen Graham**, "Extended Programs and Continuing Education: Administrative Secretary's Procedures Manual."

■ **Darcy McBride**, "Records and Registration Student Employee Handbook."

■ **Mary Niehaus**, "2003 College of Business Student Handbook."

■ **Jennifer Potter**, "Continuing Education Procedures Manual for Registration."

■ **Kaye Stachlewitz**, "Procedures Handbook for S&D Program."

■ **Lois Whitehead**, "Cataloging Training Manual for New Hires at the Halle Library."

The OPCP was initiated through collaborative efforts of staff in Human Resource Development and Continuing Education, in cooperation with the department of business and technology education and the department of management. For information about OPCP, call Gene Bennion at 487-9801.

# 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, Jan. 13. **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)

CSAA0331 CS04 \$23,113 Secretary II, Teacher Education. Excellent communications skills, independent worker and familiarity with database programs.

CSAA0332 CS05 \$26,118 Senior Secretary, Economics.

CSAA0324 CS05 \$26,118 Senior Secretary, Continuing Education (REPOST). May require some evenings/weekends.

CSUR0302 CS05 \$26,118 Senior Secretary, Convocation Center.

CSUR0301 CS06 \$28,482 Account Specialist, Senior, Convocation Center (REPOST). May require some evenings/weekends.

## PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL (Hiring Range)

PTSA0315 PT06 \$27,089 - \$31,638 Teacher I, Children's Institute. Academic Year Appointment.

## ATHLETIC COACHING (Hiring Range)

ACPR0305 AC13 \$50,010-\$61,013 Assistant Head Coach, Football, Intercollegiate Athletics.

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.

## O'BRIEN, from page 1

intendent in the district and his first superintendency."

O'Brien said the goals for his school district were to achieve fiscal integrity, student achievement, community engagement and facility improvement. As a result, he said, the district eliminated a \$9.2 million budget deficit in two years to create a surplus, significantly improved student achievement, increased community engagement and led a successful \$104 million bond proposal to pay for building additions and upgrades. O'Brien also was cited for his extensive efforts to gain community involvement with the schools, Robbins said.

"Robert understands the business of education and how to work with people," said Joe Coyner, EMU associate professor, special education, and one of O'Brien's former teachers. "He's tuned into human behavior and can take what he knows about people and apply it to the situation."

Due to his sensitivity to children and his desire to make the world better, O'Brien specialized in emotional impairment as a special education major, Coyner said.

O'Brien graduated from EMU with a bachelor's degree in psychology and political science in 1972, a master's degree in special education in 1975 and an educational specialist degree in administration in 1982. He also has a doctorate in public administration from Western Michigan University.

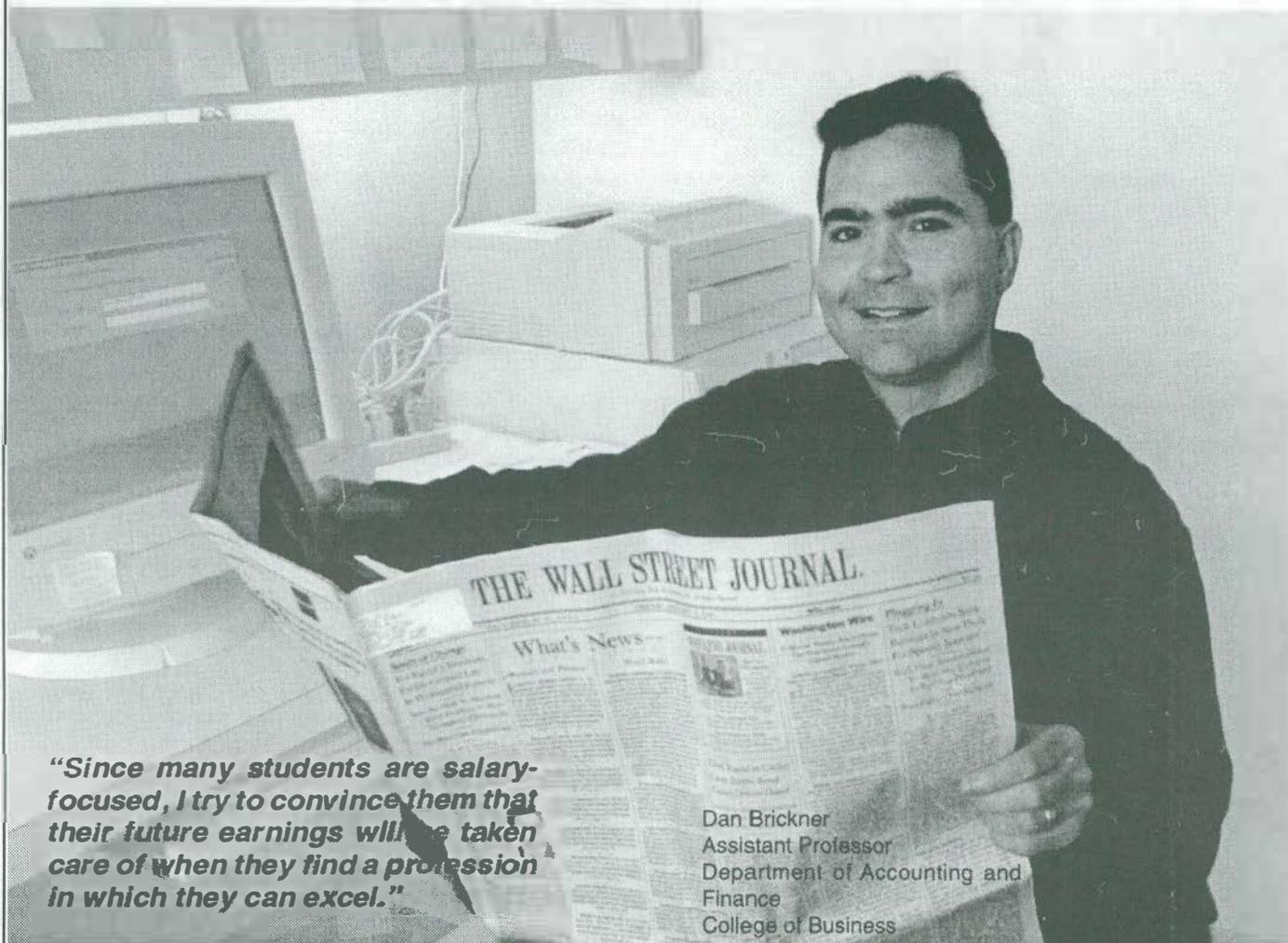
## MUSIC, from page 3

■ The EMU Jazz Ensemble, along with special guests Wycliffe Gordon and The Couriers, will take the stage for the **Jazz Benefit**, Feb. 17, 8 p.m., in Pease Auditorium.

Gordon, on faculty at the Julliard School and Michigan State University, has won international acclaim performing hard swinging, straight-ahead jazz.

The Couriers, a nine-member band led by Al Townsend, perform the Big Band sounds of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Count Basie. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Concert proceeds fund the Al Townsend Endowed Scholarship Fund.

## Why I teach at Eastern Michigan University



*"Since many students are salary-focused, I try to convince them that their future earnings will be taken care of when they find a profession in which they can excel."*

Dan Brickner  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Accounting and  
Finance  
College of Business

I like seeing a student's light bulb go on. Knowing that I made a difference is very rewarding.

I try to help students decide on a major by inviting the Career Services Center to my "Introduction to Financial Accounting" class. I want students to explore different areas and I emphasize that they should find an area for which they have a passion.

Since many students are salary-focused, I try to convince them that their future earnings will be taken care of when they find a profession in which they can excel.

After three years of teaching accounting classes at EMU, I've taught some brilliant students who obtain very good jobs right out of school. Many people do not realize the importance that companies place on good interpersonal and communication skills in the accounting professionals they hire.

I could see spending my career at EMU. It's a good fit for me. EMU stresses the importance of quality teaching and that was a very attractive feature in my decision to come here.