

# Artist Shinnick connects with nature at EMU's Jean Nobel Parsons Center

By Carol Anderson

You think you have totally gotten away from the University atmosphere as you travel the back roads of Lake Ann, a small town just outside of Traverse City. Then, out of nowhere, Eastern Michigan University's green and white flag appears.

It's a clue that you have arrived at EMU's Jean Nobel Parsons Center for the Advanced Study of Arts and Sciences.

This past June, EMU named sculptor M. Catherine Shinnick its first artist-in-residence. Shinnick resided at the Parson's Center on the 86-acre wildlife preserve for three months, during which time she taught art classes; lectured on the art, biology and psychology connection; and created sculptures.

Shinnick said she starts a typical day around 6 a.m. strolling in the woods, listening to the birds and watching the day begin. By 8 a.m., she's in the studio

working.

"I love nature. It's my inspiration for being an artist," said Shinnick, who usually lives in the remote town of Bois Blanc near Mackinac Island. "My ability to focus is great here. I can be productive in isolation since I'm used to living with nature."

Shinnick is a ceramic sculptor who works in carved stone and pottery. Among the many sculptures surrounding her living quarters is a two-foot bust of an otter with an Egyptian queen, which looks similar to Nefertiti. The idea for the carved, stone creation came to Shinnick in a dream. She said this illustrates the connection between nature and people, which is a theme that runs through her artwork.

"We must respect nature," said Shinnick. "The interconnection between human beings and nature is so critical."

People long for this connection, she said. "By using our hands to work clay, we are in touch with the earth, she said."

Shinnick has been an ad-



**TRANQUIL SETTING:** Catherine Shinnick, EMU's first artist-in-residence at the Jean Nobel Parsons Center for the Advanced Study of Arts and Sciences, displays one in a series of horse sculptures. According to Shinnick, the horse is a symbol of freedom and the wheels represent the connection with civilization. Photo by Kathleen Shields

joint professor of ceramics at EMU since 2001. She received a master's degree from EMU and a bachelor's degree from the Rhode Island School of Design.

One of her sculptures created while in residence will be permanently housed at the Center. Shinnick has bronze and ceramic artwork on display

at the Peter Bartlow Gallery in Chicago and plans a one-woman show in Southern Pines, N.C., in October 2004.

"I've done this (sculpting) for 30 years," said Shinnick. "I'm the real thing."

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# Traverse City offers teaching alternative

By Kathleen Shields

One week. Three credits. No problem.

So reads the advertising material for the one-week courses that Continuing Education offers every summer in Traverse City, Mich. The ads, however, target students.

What's it like to teach a one-week course in Traverse City? Why do the professors and instructors that sign up once seem to go back again and again? Sure the lake, sun and sand are there. But, how do you enjoy them if you're teaching an entire semester's worth of material in one week?

For one thing, you come prepared.

"You bring everything with you — whatever you think you'll need," said Lori Burlingame, associate professor of English, language and literature, who taught this past summer, her third in a row. "Your car is a portable office."

What teaching tools you don't

bring, you find. Beth Johnson, associate professor of teacher education, takes advantage of the surroundings and encourages her students to use the resources available to them in Traverse City for

said.

If you're not prepared, you count on Shannon Ward, a program assistant in Continuing Education, to help you out. Ward sets up an office on-site for most



**NORTHERN WINE:** Eastern Michigan University students visit Chateau Chantal, a Traverse City vineyard and winery as part of their one-week course, "Euromarketing" with Matthew Sauber, professor of marketing. The students were able to watch the packaging and distribution processes, among others, in the operation. Professors enjoy a different environment for teaching and students can earn three credits for attending a one-week course in Traverse City.

their coursework.

Johnson, in her 12<sup>th</sup> year of teaching in Traverse City, had students in her "Enriching Teaching" course dress as "Goths" and wander into the downtown shopping district.

"It's good for them to see and feel what their teenage students are facing," she

of the summer and can be counted on for quick copies and emergencies alike.

"It's a regular college environment for the students," said Sally McCracken, professor of communica-

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# 'Killing Fields' survivor now helps Cambodian people meet basic needs

By Tom Perkins

At nine years old, she sat in her living room watching television. The next moment, her life's course was radically altered.

A man burst into the doorway with a machine gun and instructed her and her family to gather a bag of belongings and get out into the street.

It was 1975. Following the incident, she spent four long years of hard labor in the killing fields of the Khmer Rouge regime, a group that had just captured Cambodia after a bloody civil war. Only after the North Vietnamese Army dispelled the country's murderous government did the young girl escape to Thailand, before settling in the United States.

Sophal Leng Stagg spoke Oct. 28 at Eastern Michigan University's Halle Library Auditorium about her experiences and how they affected her and her work today. The event was part of EMU's celebration of International Week.

"I want the world to know there is still the concept of genocide," she said. "I want the world to know we still have to work for peace."

Cambodia is still reeling from the atrocities of more than several decades back. Millions of innocent victims

were killed in the holocaust-like chaos of the four years the Khmer Rouge held power, and remedy has been slow for the small Southeast Asian nation.

grasped the concept of such items, Stagg said.

"Nuclear Medicine, they just aren't ready for that kind of thing over here," Stagg said. "We're just at a very basic

or witnessed their parent's execution, she continued.

"Death was everywhere," Leng said. "We had no idea who was doing this and where they were taking us."

The end of the march led to the cruel labor camps where families were divided and put to work with little sleep, food, water or medical supplies. There was, however, no short supply of work, murder and disease to accompany the prisoners.

As a result, Leng said her hair soon fell out. She turned yellow from jaundice and regularly pulled worms out of her stomach through her throat.

"Twenty-five years later, and an understandable explanation still cannot be found," said Stagg of the camps, where roughly 1,000 people died daily.

The ground in the country still holds an estimated 5 million landmines, which provides a daily crisis for children there. Next year, the organization plans to build a medical clinic on land granted by the government to help ease fallout from such problems.

The organization can be contacted via e-mail at [Westagg@aol.com](mailto:Westagg@aol.com). Monetary donations can be sent to the SACMF, Box 283, Palm Harbor, FL 34682.



**OFFERING HOPE:** Sophal Leng Stagg and her husband, William Stagg, were on campus during International Week. Leng Stagg recalled her years in the Khmer Rouge "killing fields" of Cambodia. The two now run the Southeast Asian Children's Mercy Fund.

Leng's feelings of empathy and strong ties to her countrymen surviving from the period induced her to start the Southeast Asian Children's Mercy Fund with her husband, William Stagg.

The non-profit organization brings medical and sanitary supplies such as toothpaste or bars of soap to children who have never seen or

level."

Leng went on to relate the tale of the two-week march from her home to the killing fields.

"The heat was sweltering and everyone was urged to walk faster," she said.

Those who couldn't keep pace were gunned down and children screamed as they were separated from parents

## SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

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

### 30 years

Charlotte Stigler (36 years)  
office of the registrar

Raymond Cryderman  
(34 years)  
WEMU-FM

Rita Bullard (30 years)  
library-general account

### 20 years

Steven Porter (20 years)  
ICT-network and Web services

Donna VanRaden (20 years)  
accounts payable

Annie Williams (20 years)  
custodial services

### 15 years

Michelle Lockwood (15 years)  
HDC support services-housing

Pamela Tonda (15 years)  
custodial services

### 10 years

Candace Craig (10 years)  
HDC support services-dining

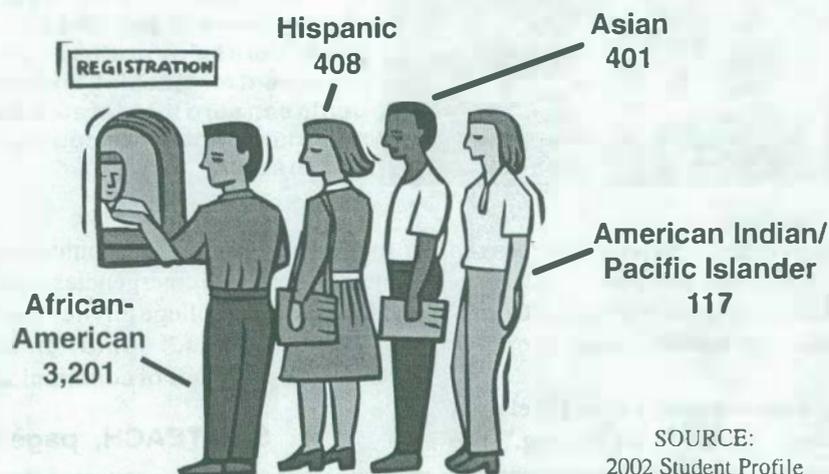
Debra Foss (10 years)  
ICT-application development

Daniel Harrison (10 years)  
custodial services

Mary VanDuzen (10 years)  
custodial services

## EMU BY THE NUMBERS

Eastern Michigan University is nationally recognized for the diversity of its campus. *U.S. News and World Report* has ranked EMU as one of the most diverse campuses in the nation three times (1997, 1998, 2000). Below are the four major Census categories and the number of undergraduate students at EMU in each for 2002.



## State of the Public Universities Address set for Nov. 12

The impact of the economy on public universities and vice versa will be the focus of the first-ever State of the Public Universities Address.

The address, which will take place in Lansing, will be simulcast live Wednesday, Nov. 12, 5 p.m., at Halle Library Auditorium. Additional seating will be available in Room 300 of Halle Library.

The event, sponsored by the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan, will focus on \$200 million to \$300 million in cuts expected for higher education as the result of the State of Michigan's recently announced \$900 million revenue shortfall.

The Presidents Council's message

will focus on the importance of Michigan's public universities relative to the state's future, including retaining more college graduates with four-year degrees; playing a key role in the Next Energy and Life Sciences corridor initiatives; and its role in driving improvements in early childhood programs, K-12 education, healthcare reform, homeland security, environmental programs and other areas.

According to a report commissioned by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Presidents Council, the state received \$26 back for every \$1 that was invested in Michigan's universities in 1999.

# Expanding public engagement remains high on strategic initiatives list

*Editor's Note: This is the third in a series about the implementation and funding of strategic plan initiatives for 2003-04.*

**By Ron Podell**

A reorganization of the Alumni Relations Office and adding staff to Academic Service-Learning and the American Humanics program are the main ways in which Eastern Michigan University hopes to bolster public engagement.

These two initiatives will receive the bulk of funding in the next year under Direction 3 of the University's strategic plan. Direction 3 states that EMU will become a model for public engagement and linkages with the local community, the Detroit metropolitan area, southeast Michigan, the state of Michigan and the region to address mutual concerns.

"Now that alumni affairs and development activities are under the direction of a vice president for advancement, we will greatly expand alumni involvement and communications strategies, bolstered by a strengthening and reorganization of the Alumni Affairs Office to better

position us for success and collaboration with the Foundation's development staff," said EMU President Samuel A. Kirkpatrick.

Alumni Affairs will undergo a major reorganization that will include a redefinition and reclassification of existing staff positions. Three additional staff will be added, including two full-time administrative staff positions and one full-time professional/technical position. The allocation includes \$15,000 for operating expenses.

"New friendraising and fundraising initiatives, including a major prospect identification system and a spread of fundraising responsibilities throughout the institution, also will characterize activities this year," Kirkpatrick said.

In addition, \$58,000 has been earmarked to add one full-time professional/technical position for Academic Service-Learning and American Humanics. This allocation furthers an initiative

launched during the last strategic planning cycle.

"This position will help our programs linked to community engagement, support for faculty involvement with Academic Service-Learning and assist with attracting external grant and foundation support," Kirkpatrick said.

Other funded initiatives under Direction 3 include:

- Approximately \$22,000 has been funded for outreach activities in Ford Gallery. The art department plans to add the circulation of one new traveling exhibit per year; tours of exhibitions at Ford Gallery for school-age children; and tours for exhibitions for seniors from the Ypsilanti Senior Recreation Center and the Ypsilanti Township Senior Center. To accomplish this, a graduate student will be hired part-time to serve as curator of public engagement.

The Emil Weddige stone lithograph collection is the first traveling exhibit with prints for sale, said Larry Newhouse, director of Ford Gallery. In his will, Weddige, an EMU graduate, stated that proceeds from the sale of

his work would go toward funding of scholarships for EMU art and music students, Newhouse said.

- The art department, in partnership with Continuing Education, will develop a non-credit certificate in Jacquard Weaving with one-time funding of \$18,000. Since 1997, the art department has owned a site license for JacqCAD Master, which is industrial jacquard design software that will drive most electronic jacquard looms, including the TC-1 the art department acquired in August 2002. EMU currently is positioned to become a center of excellence for instruction and research in Jacquard woven fabrics. The development of the non-credit certificate will provide the experiential base for developing a graduate certificate in Jacquard Weaving.

- One-time funding of \$20,000 has been earmarked to showcase faculty research, creative activities and publications in Halle Library.

*"Now that alumni affairs and development are under the direction of a vice president for advancement, we will greatly expand alumni involvement and communications strategies."*

— Samuel A. Kirkpatrick,  
President  
Eastern Michigan University

# Benefits Office encourages review of health coverage

In an effort to better control ever-rising healthcare costs, Eastern Michigan University's Benefits Office is encouraging those currently in other health plans to consider moving their health coverage to Community Blue PPO during open enrollment.

EMU's open enrollment period for health care is scheduled Nov. 3-14. During this period, EMU employees can make any additions, and decide whether to waive or keep their EMU health care.

"Nationally, health care is a major issue," said Jeanette Hassan, EMU's director of benefits. "The costs of technology, treatment and the cost of prescription drugs has all gone up."

Since 2002, health care costs nationwide have increased between 17-20 percent, Hassan said. We anticipate for 2004 another 17 percent increase nationwide."

For EMU faculty and police sergeants in M-Care, the University's costs will increase by 29 percent for 2004. The University also will absorb a 19.5 percent cost increase for those faculty in the Care Choices plan and 15 percent for police sergeants in Care Choices. By comparison, costs for the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan are anticipated to increase another 13 percent, Hassan said. These increases are estimates since the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan (Community Blue PPO and BCBS Traditional) is self insured.



Hassan

Administrators, professional/technical employees, clericals and maintenance/food service workers, campus police and 100 percent lecturers are enrolled in the Community Blue PPO, Hassan said.

Currently, there are 159 faculty who are enrolled in the BCBS Traditional; 49 with M-Care and 41 with Care Choices, Hassan said. Less than a handful of police sergeants are in healthcare plans other than BCBS.

The BCBS Community Blue PPO offers a number of benefits the other healthcare plans on campus do not, Hassan said.

For example, the Community Blue PPO offers an extensive optical coverage plan; the option to have prescription drugs delivered by mail order for up to a three-month supply with only one co-payment (\$10 co-pay for generic and \$20 for brand names); and includes a \$10 office visit charge. Those in Community Blue have the choice of seeing physicians in the plan's network or doctors out-of-network without a referral required, Hassan said.

"We encourage those faculty who are not in the PPO to look at the benefits of the Community Blue PPO and compare it to their plans," Hassan said. "Community Blue is very competitive. If they go to a Community Blue PPO, their benefits are enhanced and the University has a better chance of controlling the cost of health care increases."

## EMU SPOTTED

**ANYTHING BUT NORMAL:** Margaret Muir, the cover story subject of the July/August 2003 issue of "Faith," recently turned 107 and reflected on her life through three centuries. The feature mentions that in 1914, she and her sister, May, enrolled in a six-week teacher's training course at Eastern Michigan University when it was then known as Michigan State Normal School.

EMU Spotted is an occasional feature that appears in FOCUS EMU, noting the institution's name or individuals showing up in out-of-the-way places. If you have an EMU Spotted item, call Ron Podell at 487-4400.



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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.

### ARTIST, from page 1

Nature also was important to Jean Parsons, an art educator who died in January 2000. In 2001, the land for the Center and a \$1.3 million trust was awarded to EMU by her estate.

The trust specified the chosen educational institution had to create and maintain an educational research center and wildlife preserve on the land and be legally held off-limits to any future development. The agreement between

EMU and the trustees of the estate includes the hand-over of the property to EMU in 2008.

The center is a collaborative project among the departments of art, biology and psychology.

Future plans for the center include adding a nature trail, building additional housing and adding a classroom, laboratory and studio facility, said Tom Venner, head of EMU's Art Department.

### TEACH, from page 1

tion and theatre arts. "Most stay in the dorms there, and problems do come up. Shannon is very supportive, in every aspect of the program, and the program runs smoothly because of her."

McCracken is a long-time veteran of the program, and one of its strongest fans. McCracken said she first heard about teaching in Traverse City a year or two after the program started in the 1980s, thought it sounded like fun, and decided to give it a try. Now she goes back as often as she can.

"Religiously, it's like a pilgrimage," she said. "The classes I teach in Traverse City are consistently some of my best. Getting students and teachers out of their normal settings, into this environment, just makes for an incredible experience. We relate better to our students up here. It is a unique experience that only Traverse City can offer."

Through trial and error, Burlingame has learned to change the format of her "Native American Literature" course to fit the week-long format.

"Ordinarily, I would give several writing assignments," she said. "But you just can't grade that many writing assignments overnight. That first year, I tried."

In Traverse City, the students in Burlingame's literature classes take multiple choice quizzes and tests, and do a lot of in-class presentations. Even then, Burlingame says she does the bulk of her grading when she gets home.

Some professors, like Burlingame, require that students do almost all of their reading before they arrive. Others do a week's worth of lecturing and discussion, and send students home with a paper or project that they must turn in a week or two later.

What about those rumors that it's all play in Traverse City? Not true, they all said.

"This isn't 'speeches on the beaches,' said Michael Tew, professor of communication and theatre arts, who taught his fifth year in Traverse City. "Students will find that while the fun meets their expectations, a semester's worth of work will, too."



**Shirley Wentz**  
Administrative Secretary  
Office of the Dean  
College of Business

*"In addition to planning special events for the COB, I manage the dean's calendar, assist the associate dean and make all the travel arrangements for the dean."*

## Why I work at Eastern Michigan University

**T**here is room for growth on campus and it's definitely a challenging environment. Before coming to EMU, I worked with my husband in a tool and die facility. Having the same "boss" at home and in the office just wasn't working, so I quit and came to EMU.

I was in parking for 12 days before getting hired by COE's teacher education department, where I stayed for 12 years.

Just two years ago, I began working for the dean in the College of Business. My day can vary from taking notes in meetings to buying flowers for an upcoming event.

In addition to planning special events for the COB, I manage the dean's calendar, assist the associate dean and make all the travel arrangements for the dean.

My biggest fear was sending him to the wrong place – and I did once. (Former) Dean Potter arrived at National Airport instead of Baltimore. Since then, I have set up travel arrangements to India and China without a hitch.

One of Eastern Michigan's greatest opportunities for employees is education. Had I been here some 20 years earlier, I would have a degree now instead of only 46 credit hours.

I enjoy the great benefits that EMU offers, especially the time off, which I am taking advantage of this December. My husband and I are planning to spend Christmas morning in Paris.