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Meta’s Gift

How 45 acres of land in northern California have helped hundreds of EMU biology students
PARADE OF NATIONS

Flags of the more than 80 countries represented by Eastern’s student body provided color and context for Dr. James M. Smith’s inauguration as the 23rd president of Eastern Michigan University. In his inaugural address, Smith told the audience there is significant opportunity in growing international student enrollment. Citing recent data, he noted that the 33,848 international students coming to Michigan for postsecondary education results in $1.1 billion in revenue and supports 13,722 Michigan jobs. He also stressed the need to increase the number of U.S. students studying abroad, calling the twin priorities “essential to our future.”

LON HORWEDEL PHOTOGRAPHY
EMU students took in the Aug. 21 solar eclipse outside of Welch Hall, thanks to special eclipse glasses distributed by President Jim Smith.

PHOTO BY COURTNEY CARROLL
EMU alumna Ayanna Floyd Davis proclaimed herself a Hollywood writer. Then she became one.

How 45 acres of land in northern California have helped hundreds of EMU biology students.
Welcome to a New Academic Year

Highlights include large incoming class, strong focus on international initiatives

The start of fall classes on a university campus is always exciting. Many alumni participated in move-in activities. Just as important as your strength in carrying boxes, small refrigerators and TVs, was the warmth of the smiles and the kind words that I witnessed. Thank you for making our new community members feel welcome.

As we begin the new academic year, there are many exciting items to share as we continue to enhance our great university:

First-year student enrollment

We are proud to report that this fall Eastern Michigan University has enrolled the third largest entering first-year class in our 168-year history. The entering class continues our momentum of recent years, in which the University has grown in first-year enrollment in the face of declining demographic trends for high school seniors in the state of Michigan. Since fall 2011, Eastern's entering class has grown by 31 percent.

The entering first-year class also displays solid academic preparation with higher ACT scores and high school GPAs, reflects an increase in the number of international students and spotlights the strong level of diversity to be found on Eastern's campus, with 30 percent of our new first-year students representing diverse communities.

Higher GPAs and ACT scores

In addition to near record numbers, this year's incoming first-year class is well prepared academically, representing the highest average GPAs and ACT scores in recent history. The average GPA of the new incoming students is 3.29, an increase from 3.12 in 2011. Average ACT scores have increased to 22.4 from 21.06 six years ago. The largest number of new first-year students fall into the 3.5 to 4.0 high school GPA category, increasing more than 7 percent from last year.

Honors College growth

The Honors College, which accepts students entering with typically at least a 25 ACT score and 3.5 high school GPA, continues to grow. Enrollment in the Honors College enrollment is nearly double from six years ago.

Increasing diversity

The entering class also underscores the continuing level of diversity at Eastern. The number of newly enrolled African American, Hispanic, Native American and Asian American first-year students, totaling more than 800, makes up 30 percent of the entering first-year class.

More international and strong regional growth

International student enrollment in the entering freshman class showed a significant increase as well, rising more than 40 percent. The increase is attributed to a variety of factors, including our #YouAreWelcomeHere campaign, directed at supporting international students, and a strategic effort to recruit more international students as evidenced by my trip last spring to China to build further ties with Chinese universities. All told, Eastern enrolls nearly 1,000 international students from more than 80 countries. Students from India, China and Saudi Arabia represent more than half of our international population.

To meet this continuing global opportunity, Eastern will work to hire more faculty with a global focus, expand collaborative research with universities around the world, and identify more multinational partnerships to engage students and faculty. At the same time, we are committed to expanding study abroad opportunities for current students to create impactful international awareness that will benefit their future careers beyond graduation.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions at office.of.the.president@emich.edu.

James M. Smith, PhD
President, Eastern Michigan University
Eastern's Edison Connection

Telescope used by scientists during 1878 solar eclipse came from Michigan State Normal School

If you watched the recent solar eclipse, you likely used special solar filter glasses. But to see this rare astronomical event as it passed over North America in 1878, you needed some serious equipment. Eastern's Sherzer Observatory has an example of one of these rare instruments, made even more special by the man who used it.

In the late 19th century, astronomers were puzzled by the strange orbit of the planet Mercury. Today, we know its odd oblong path is due to the curvature of gravity. But back then, scientists theorized that an undiscovered planet called Vulcan caused the aberration.

To test the theory, a group of prominent scientists traveled to Rawlins, Wyoming Territory, to see if they could spot Vulcan during a total solar eclipse. Thomas Edison, who had become nationally famous for his recently patented phonograph, accompanied the group. He wanted to test his "tasimeter," a new invention that could detect infrared light and estimate the temperature of remote objects. Edison hoped to measure the heat of the sun's corona as the photosphere was blocked by the moon.

Edison's instrument failed, as it was too sensitive to handle the extreme temperature changes during the eclipse. The scientists also didn't find Vulcan, since it doesn't exist. But the group, including Edison, did view the eclipse through a brass Alvan Clark & Sons refractor telescope borrowed from Eastern (then called Michigan State Normal School).

The telescope has remained with Eastern as a proud possession in the observatory offices since its return. Luckily, it survived a fire at the original observatory in Sherzer Hall in 1989.

Alvan Clark instruments remain highly sought after by collectors and amateur astronomers. But there are few with the famous provenance of Eastern's example.

—Jeff Samoray
1. Stuff that in your six-shooter

The Wild West wasn’t just about cattle rustlers and gunslingers, says Kathleen Chamberlain, EMU history professor emerita. “Women actually had far more opportunity in the west than they did the east,” she says in Sex in the Old West, a recent American Movie Classics documentary. “There was the need to manage a ranch, or to manage a farm. A woman could set up a small business. In fact, women in the west got the vote way before women east of the Mississippi.”

2. T-REX LIVES ON

Extensive renovations to Strong Hall are underway. But don’t worry—Eastern will preserve the early 1980s murals depicting Earth’s history from the Jurassic era to the Space Age. EMU will reproduce the work of student artists digitally as a wall-protection product for a high-traffic area. Conference rooms will feature vinyl wall coverings of the artwork. So while dinosaurs are extinct, the iconic murals will dazzle well into the future.

3. Food for thought

In response to a student survey, Eastern has brought Chick-fil-A to McKenny Hall (one of just a handful of locations in Michigan) and moved Starbucks to a larger location on the first floor of the Student Center. The new Starbucks features an expanded menu, Wi-Fi, an adjoining patio and garage-style doors to create a relaxed, open feel. Just don’t dunk your chicken sandwich in your latte.

4. All-inclusive

For her research on Algonquian language revitalization and commitment to creating an inclusive campus community for underrepresented students and scholars, Assistant Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies Ashley Falzetti was named one of 10 Nancy Weiss Malkiel Scholars for 2017 by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.
5. Open arms
Eastern is supporting the national #YouAreWelcomeHere campaign welcoming international students and scholars with lightpost banners, T-shirts, an informational website and a promotional video. We proudly host nearly 1,000 international students from more than 80 countries.

6. High hope
Acrophobians, have hope. Overcoming a fear of heights (or any phobia) is a matter of staying put and slowly confronting your anxiety, says EMU Professor of Psychology Ellen Koch. In a live broadcast on ABC-TV's Good Morning America last February, Koch demonstrated her expertise in treating anxiety disorders by helping a 35-year-old woman climb a 25-foot ladder, swing from a trapeze and banish her fear of heights.

7. Bright ideas
To conserve energy on campus, Eastern has swapped outdated lighting for energy-efficient LEDs and retrofitted showerheads, aerators and toilets with low-flow fixtures. These and other energy conservation measures will save a whopping $195,000 annually.

8. STRAIGHT OUT OF THE JETSONS
A team of EMU physics majors finished in the top five in a national University Student Design Challenge sponsored by NASA. The students designed an aerial-based transit system for the city of Atlanta. The project includes a flying bus powered by electric fans.

9. Look out, HGTV
A group of EMU furniture design students exhibited their work this past spring at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair, one of North America’s most prestigious furniture design events. Among the items displayed were a freeform bent wood davenport, a meticulously crafted dining chair and a pair of children’s stools.

10. Flying high
Following a national trend, there are now 10 female pilots pursuing an Aviation Flight Technology degree at Eastern—the most in program history. More women are joining the profession to relieve the worldwide shortage of pilots.

—Jeff Samoray
Scott Wetherbee was named vice president and director of athletics on June 26. The 42-year-old Wetherbee, a native of Kalamazoo, has more than 20 years' experience in collegiate athletic administration. He spent the past four years at Mississippi State University, including serving as interim director of athletics from October-November 2016.

Q: What attracted you to Eastern Michigan?

A: When I started to really look into EMU, I realized that in the past few years the momentum in the athletic department and the university was shifting in a very positive direction. That started to get me excited about this opportunity. The icing on the cake was the Championship Building Plan. Knowing that I could come in and help make that a reality and touch so many of our student-athletes, well, I knew this was where I wanted to be. I learned about the challenges here, but I feel like I'm the right person to take them on and roll up my sleeves with our staff to work through them.

Q: What are the biggest challenges facing Eastern Michigan athletics?

A: One of the biggest challenges is ourselves, and not just in athletics. We need to truly believe this place can be special and successful. I want our entire department, entire student body, and the entire university to be excited about Eastern. Obviously, resources are always one of the challenges. We need students, staff, fans, and donors to believe in and support us now more than ever. With some hard work and commitment, we can transform this athletic department and this university in the next few years.

Q: What strengths do you feel you bring to the Eagle athletic program?

A: Every place I've been, we've had to outwork our peers. I started in the ticket office and worked my way up through marketing. My primary focus has always been on the experience, whether it’s a student-athlete, a fan or an employee. I want student-athletes to love being on an athletic team at Eastern, I want fans to love coming to our athletic events, and I want our staff to love to come to work every day. We are going to be as creative as possible in making our game-day fan experience the best in the MAC and, eventually, the country.
Q: How would you describe your leadership style?

A: Everything I try to do starts from my heart. I truly care about all of my staff and all of our 500-plus student athletes, and I want to create a family atmosphere that allows us to trust each other and know that we have each other's back. I try to hire really talented people and let them do their job. And our defining principles must always be kept in mind: focus on the student-athlete, possess great integrity and aggressively promote Eastern Michigan University.

Q: What is something EMU fans and alumni should know about you?

A: That I am one of them. I grew up in Kalamazoo in a modest home and worked extremely hard to earn this opportunity. I will give 100 percent to this university and this department.

—Greg Steiner

RAPID-FIRE QUESTIONS

If you hadn’t gone into athletics, what would you be doing? “Growing up, I always thought I would be a baseball coach or an accountant.”

What was your first job? “Besides mowing lawns and delivering papers when I was young, I worked in a factory pleating the paper for air filters.”

What is one song people would be surprised you know the words to? “My go-to karaoke song is ‘The Gambler’ by Kenny Rogers.”

Which is worse, no Internet or no phone? “Phone.”

Who is your personal hero? “My mom.”

What show do you binge-watch? “Criminal Minds.”

If you’re making dinner, what are we having? “Something on the grill. Probably ribs.”

What is the best advice you ever got? “It’s not about you, it’s about them.”

What is your proudest accomplishment? “Professionally, seeing people I’ve hired move up and be successful; personally, watching who my kids are becoming.”
Judy Davis’ book traces the path of trailblazers like Carol H. Williams, who built her career on the line “Strong enough for a man, but made for a woman” for Procter & Gamble Co.’s Secret antiperspirant.

Advertising Secrets, No More

Professor Judy Foster Davis’ new book celebrates the history of black women in the ad game

The hit AMC drama “Mad Men” told a story of Madison Avenue in the 1960s, but according to Judy Foster Davis, professor of marketing at EMU, it didn’t tell the whole story—not by a long shot.

In her new book, “Pioneering African-American Women in the Advertising Business: Biographies of Mad Black Women” Davis tells the stories of trailblazing African-American women who embarked on advertising careers during the 1960s, many of whom went on to achieve industry prominence, in some cases establishing their own agencies.

One such woman was Carol H. Williams, who was recently inducted into the Advertising Hall of Fame. As a student at Northwestern University she attended an American Association of Advertising Agencies’ class, then landed a summer job at Chicago’s Leo Burnett Company, now known as Leo Burnett Worldwide. Her creation of slogans including “Strong enough for a man, but made for a woman,” for Secret antiperspirant and “Say hello to Poppin’ Fresh dough,” for Pillsbury helped her become the agency’s creative director and vice president—the first woman and the first African American to hold those titles.

Now president, CEO and chief creative officer of Carol H. Williams Advertising in California, she remains one of most respected figures in the business.

Davis chronicles the significance of other black ad women, including the late Caroline R. Jones, and the way they coped with inequities common in the advertising profession.

“You heard right. But it’s made for a woman. Sorry, fella.”

“Those ad women’s accomplishments remind me of those women featured in the movie ‘Hidden Figures,’’ Davis says. ‘They, too, were college-educated black women who entered professions in the 1960s that were not always welcoming, and they went on to serve in ways that elevated the profession and provided role models for future generations of professional women.’

In February, Davis presented her research at Duke University as part of the 25th anniversary celebration of Duke’s Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising and Marketing History, in connection with their theme, Women in Advertising, and the occasion of Black History Month.

Davis earned her bachelor’s degree at Howard University, then her master’s and doctorate at Michigan State University. She chairs the faculty committee overseeing the online Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) master’s program, and has taught courses including advertising, promotional strategy, consumer behavior and integrated marketing communication strategies.

—Geoff Larcom
Lane bias.
No, it's not a traffic term, but rather a label for swimming against the current in swimming competitions. According to Andrew Cornett, EMU professor of exercise science, lane bias creates favorable or unfavorable conditions depending on which direction a swimmer is going in the pool.

Cornett and his research partners, Joel Stager and Chris Brammer of Indiana University, have concluded that lane bias can and does exist in elite-level swimming competitions, including the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio De Janeiro and the 2013 World Swimming Championships in Barcelona. Their extensive studies of swimmers' times in the events' pools determined that times were consistently slower when swimmers were churning towards the finishing end of the pool in lanes 1-4, while those in lanes 5-8 were faster heading toward the finishing end than away from it.

In a paper published in August, shortly after the Olympics, the researchers called on FINA, the organization that oversees international water sports competitions, to consider the evidence and implement rules to eliminate lane bias.

Cornett gained his expertise in the subject while doing his post-graduate work under Stager at IU, home of the NCAA's elite swimming program for many years. Legendary IU coach James "Doc" Counsilman, who coached Olympians including nine-time gold medalist Mark Spitz, established the Counsilman Center for the Science of Swimming, where Stager and Brammer serve as director and graduate instructor, respectively.

At Eastern, Cornett teaches statistics, human physiology, human anatomy and exercise physiology. He earned his bachelor's degree in kinesiology at DePauw University followed by master's degrees in exercise physiology and applied statistics and a PhD in human performance at Indiana.

"That's where the nature of this project makes sense," Cornett says of his extensive IU training. "There's the swimming, the statistics and the performance issues all coming together."

Now, having made the swimming world aware of lane bias, thanks in part to extensive coverage including an article in the Washington Post, the trio of Cornett, Stager and Brammer hope to see some action on the problem.

"Our goal all along has been to bring about awareness of lane biases in swimming in the hope that the problem would be addressed and then eliminated," they wrote last August. "While high-ranking members of the swimming world seem to be taking note, our data suggest the problem persists."

—Geoff Larcom
A few years ago, TV writer-producer Ayanna Floyd Davis (BS 93) tried to read the script she wrote as a student at Eastern Michigan University and couldn't. Her play, “From the Heart,” was sparked by the alumna's deep dive into notable black wordsmiths while enrolled in an African-American lit class. But Davis wasn't merely captivated by their writing—there, in that class, she realized that as a black woman, "I can write about black culture and black life from my point of view.”

Davis wrote "From the Heart” within a week in her Walton-Putnam dorm.

“It was just a whole new world,” she says, joyfully recalling her epiphany. “I said, ‘That’s what I’m gonna do—be a great American playwright.” Davis laughs like it wasn't possible, but even then, she was well on her way.

Bent on getting the script into the hands of a fellow African-American in the theater department—a tough feat, she says, considering “there were maybe one or two black people in that department”—her writing landed in the hands of Theatre Arts professor Wallace Bridges. Bridges immediately recognized Davis' passion for her craft and didn't just read her script—he wanted to direct it. "From the Heart” went into production and sold out two performances at Quirk Theatre.
When she returned to the script for the first time in two decades, she says, "I couldn't get past page three. It was just that awful." Still, Bridges, at the time, "was in it like he was producing a great American play," Bridges fondly recalls.

"It was less about the script and more about Ayanna's commitment to writing it and wanting to see it produced," Bridges says. "I believed in her and was glad to help in any way."

Because of Davis' ambition, not only did she play the lead in "From the Heart," but Bridges also cast her in the role of Calpurnia in "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Davis' mother, Nora Floyd, recalls her daughter wanting to impress Bridges so badly that when he asked her if she'd read the classic novel, "She lied, told him 'yes,' and read the book that night."

Minority representation on TV, including realistic portrayals of African-American life, was limited when Davis was growing up in Toledo, Ohio. Though she didn't realize until much later that she could harness the power to change that, she was already demonstrating that TV can cross race and gender lines.

As a teen, she got hooked on '90s drama "Homicide: Life on the Street," which she watched during weekly viewing parties with her girlfriends.

"It was such a strange show for all girls to be watching, and then all black girls, but we were so totally in love with this show," she remembers. Impressed by the series' storytelling approach, which was akin to a one-act play, Davis' interest in TV was piqued. "I would be like, 'Oh, that's what I wanna do right there.'"

Davis says she was "just average" and "never a super smart kid," with little interest in learning anything that wasn't related to her passions: film, writing and African-American lit. Her creative ambitions were lost on most people, especially her father, an engineer, and her mother, a factory worker at General Motors.

"I was a black girl talking about art and creativity and plays and TV shows and writing," she explains. "Nobody knew how to speak to that. Nobody knew what to do with me."

Davis convinced her mother she was on the right track in a letter she wrote to her while at EMU. In the manifesto, the then-21-year-old proclaimed, "I want to be a filmmaker and this feels good. I want to be a filmmaker and I don't care if I'm black, a woman and they say I can't do it—I say to myself and to them, I am Ayanna Floyd... (My family) raised a strong woman who sees what she wants and goes after it no matter who's done it, who's doing it and who couldn't get it done."

Davis was a persuasive young woman, and her mother never doubted she was bound for greatness. Writing was no exception—though Davis admits now, cracking up, "I didn't know what the hell I was doing!"

It did occur to her that, if someone "let me find a creative way to engage, I'm a superstar."

At family gatherings Davis stole the spotlight, cracking jokes and flashing her dance moves. In her manifesto, she wrote, "Ever since I was a little girl, my family said I deserve a place in Hollywood. I was destined. But a kid from Toledo, Ohio? Far from all the glitz and glamour of Hollywood."

At first, she figured broadcast journalism might be her ticket to Tinseltown, but during a journalism internship at WTOL Toledo, "I realized I didn't have the guts for it. I just couldn't pry the way I needed to pry, and I couldn't get the story."
Furthermore, merely rewriting national stories with a local angle in the newsroom suffocated her yearning to be creative. But her career began to flourish while telling original stories for the Eastern Echo, the university’s student newspaper. For the Echo, she wrote about a local Def Jam Comedy show, and insisted there be more stories from an African-American point of view.

“I can tell stories from any point of view because I’m a human being, but I do want to push stories that are culturally relevant, because I think we need more of them and that makes the world better,” Davis says. “And it informs people. And I’m black.”

After graduating with a telecommunications major and marketing minor from EMU and earning a master’s in Film and Video from Columbia College in Chicago, Davis set out for Los Angeles in May 1998, just days after receiving her MFA. Her parents, trusting but still unsure of where her future was headed, drove her to LA.

The following year, Davis was among eight writers selected from more than 2,000 candidates to participate in Walt Disney Studios / ABC Writers’ coveted Fellowship Program, which provides access to employment opportunities for writers from diverse backgrounds. She was the first-ever TV drama writing fellow that year.

In 2000, she scored her first TV writing gig with ABC’s medical drama “Gideon’s Crossing.” She then wrote and produced for a variety of other series, many of them medical dramas (Davis had wanted to be a nurse but couldn’t stomach looking at cadavers, says her mother): Lifetime’s “Strong Medicine,” “Private Practice,” “Medical Investigation,” “Hit the Floor,” “Hannibal” and Fox’s hit show, “Empire.”
Davis’ TV producing and writing credits include “Empire,” “Private Practice” and “Hannibal.”

In 2016, The Onion’s pop-culture platform, The A.V. Club, praised Davis’ writing for the episode “Time Shall Unfold,” which aired during the second season of “Empire.” “Credit is due to Ayanna Floyd Davis, the former “Hannibal” writer, who gets her script credit since joining “Empire” for season two. She has a strong grasp on what the tone of “Empire” should be,” critic Joshua Alston said.

Davis, once unsure of where her future would lead her, was ecstatic. “I couldn’t believe it, because he hated every single “Empire” episode!” she says.

“Then, he called mine out and named me. It was so crazy. Really sweet of him. I was like, ‘Thank you!’”

Davis’ instincts about her career goals were astute. Broadcast journalism (and behind the camera, as a filmmaker, an early pursuit that didn’t pan out because “all that carrying of the equipment—oh, god; no way”) wasn’t where she belonged, and she knew that.

“But I will sit in my pajamas at a computer or with a paper and pen and write all day—I’ll do that!” she says, laughing.

“LIVING HER DESTINY”

Since her professional producing and writing career took off, Davis has witnessed the changing tide of TV—and has been a part of that change. Though “Gideon’s Crossing” featured black characters, it wasn’t their story. “You sprinkled black supporting characters in there, but the show wasn’t from their point of view,” Davis notes about the lack of black representation.

Black-centric shows existed, but not
quite like "Empire," which was a game-changer for black visibility on network TV when it premiered in 2015. Davis served as co-executive producer the second season.

"It opened the door," she says, referring to a series with a black point of view. "It's evolved, as has the world."

That evolution has afforded Davis more opportunities to tell the stories she demanded be told while at the Echo: stories about the black community. "If you tell her the door is closed," her mother says, "she'll find a way to open it."

In the hopper: two projects steeped in African-American history.

Davis is writing a limited series for Fox on New York City's Cotton Club, a 1920s-era, mobster-run nightclub infamous for featuring black performers who performed for all-white audiences. It's a major undertaking, featuring a "pretty big power team." Her co-producers are Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, the Oscar-winning duo behind live-action TV musicals such as "Hairspray Live!" and "The Wiz Live!"; Broadway vet Kenny Leon, and L.A. Reid, the legendary music mogul.

In addition, she's written two scripts for Freeform, formally ABC Family, centered on the Freedom Riders, civil rights activists of the 1960s. R&B superstar Alicia Keys is set to produce.

"I look for stories that inspire me," Davis explains. "If there's something I want to write, it may come from something in real life that inspires me or it may be an article I read or a person that I met."

For instance, when she met a fellow student, Frank Stovall (BS94), at EMU, the two bonded about film and writing. As Stovall opened up to Davis about his hardships while growing up in Detroit, Davis envisioned a film about his life. She produced it, and two Detroit cameramen, Rodney "Hot Rod" Ferguson and Wendell "Wink" Burke—"great mentors to a few of us black students at EMU" that she met while they were visiting EMU—shot it. Their efforts resulted in a 10-minute documentary.

"Eastern just allowed me the freedom to come explore," Davis says. "No one would tell me 'no.' If I asked for (use of) Quirk Theatre, it was, 'Yeah, sure' (Or I'd) ask Wallace, 'Would you read this?' 'Yeah, sure. And I'll direct it.' When you're in college, you need people to just say 'yes' to you."

"It all started at Eastern," she continues. Consciously, yes. But, in fact, Davis was a writer before even she knew it, according to her mother. Nora has a photograph of Davis, age 2, stretched, tummy-down, on the floor. She was lost "in her own little world," writing, her mother recalls.

"When I look at it, I say, 'Oh my god, she's doing it,'" Nora beams. "Sometimes we have these gifts and we never get to tap into it. It was just a gift. It was buried deep and nobody knew it."

When Davis visited EMU again in the early 2000s, it was because she was mentoring a young woman, Brittany Cheers, a fellow Toledo native, who "had a rough life." She gave Cheers a lift to the campus, bought her books and hoped she might find her way if Davis gave her a head start like Bridges gave her. (She did—in 2014, Cheers received her bachelor's degree in psychology.)

"Time is oxygen," Davis wrote to her mother in her manifesto more than 20 years ago, two decades before the Hollywood scribe returned home to Toledo with her "Hannibal" earnings to buy her mother a brand new Chevy Malibu. "Use it now before it's gone."

Chris Azzopardi, a 2006 EMU graduate, is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in Vanity Fair, US Weekly and USA Today. He also contributes to Entertainment Tonight's EToonline.com.
Meta’s Gift

How 45 acres of land in northern California have helped hundreds of EMU biology students

by JEFF SAMORAY
Many of us remember a teacher who had a particular influence on our careers or lives. But how many continue leaving an imprint on students 30 years after dying, more than 80 years after retiring, more than 100 years after earning a college degree?

Meta Hellwig was one of those teachers.

After receiving a biology degree in 1913 from Eastern (then called Michigan Normal College), she brought her love of the natural world to Southern California classrooms. She gained her knowledge first-hand by hiking local foothills, carefully studying plants and animals, and exploring the grand vistas of America's recently created national park system.

In retirement, Meta became one with the land, living among the hills and continuing to widen young eyes at the wonders of nature.

Today, her legacy lives on through Meta Hellwig Biology Scholarships at Eastern. The awards fuel the aspirations of students—a new generation of teachers, researchers and entrepreneurs who fell under nature's spell, just as Meta did a century ago.
Meta (pronounced ME-tah) was born in February 1892 in Arbela Township, Michigan, about 25 miles north of Flint. She was the second of two daughters born to William Daniel (a Canadian immigrant) and his wife Elizabeth. Meta grew up in nearby Millington, where she likely spent countless hours observing plants and animals on her father's farm.

After completing high school, Meta enrolled at Michigan Normal College, then an institution primarily devoted to training teachers. She remained in Ypsilanti after earning her degree through at least 1916, working at the college as a teaching assistant.

By 1918, Meta had moved to Santa Ana, California, where she began her long career teaching biology, botany and science at Santa Ana High School. The school was known for its progressive method of handling student conduct. A 1922 Santa Ana Daily Register article notes parents were upset with the school’s “student self-government” system. Perhaps to appease the parents, the school offered tours of its science departments, including Meta's biological laboratory displaying numerous student exhibits.

Meta went beyond textbooks to engage her students, encouraging them to bring biological specimens to class for study. According to a 1927 Santa Ana Daily Register article, a student caught an eight-inch snake and proudly presented it to Meta and the class in a tin can. She removed the snake and let it crawl on her hand and arm—until venom fell from its mouth. After further examination at a safe distance, she identified it for the class as a small rattlesnake.

### Outdoor Adventures

Meta devoted many hours to hiking and other outdoor activities at a time when young women were starting to abandon the Victorian era’s constricting traditions. In 1926, she joined the Sierra Club, visited Yellowstone National Park and delivered a lecture about her trip to the club’s Los Angeles chapter. In 1928, she co-led a survey of rare trees in Santa Ana’s Birch Park. The following year, Meta traveled with Sierra Club members to Yosemite National Park. The group hiked about 200 miles, camping at various sites including Huntington Lake. In 1930, Meta hiked Trabuco Canyon in the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains; delivered a lecture about birds, using mounted specimens, at a local YMCA; and hosted a 15-minute radio program called “Local Bird Life” on station KREG.

Throughout this busy period of her life, Meta maintained strong connections with
the Santa Ana community. She was very active in the First Presbyterian Church and hosted church gatherings in her marigold-filled apartment.

At one point, Meta interrupted her career to pursue additional studies at Stanford University before returning to Santa Ana. She continued teaching at the high school through 1935.

After retiring, Meta moved north to Los Gatos, a small town near San Jose, 50 miles south of San Francisco. She married Harold Hellwig, who managed and later owned a prosperous ironworks in San Jose. The couple lived in a small one-bedroom cottage outside Los Gatos on just over 45 acres of hilly, undeveloped land originally part of an 1840 Mexican land grant. They had no children.

Meta led a quiet existence for the next four decades, tending to a small garden and apricot orchard, observing native plants and animals, and hiking her property with her dog Skipper. Although her husband was distant and often away from home, Meta didn’t join social groups or entertain many visitors—except for three lonely, impressionable young siblings.

“Everything was an educational experience with Mrs. Hellwig, but we never felt like we were visiting a teacher. She treated us as equals and made us feel very important.”

always a Teacher

“My family moved to Los Gatos when I was in the third grade,” says one of them, Geri Sorich-Teese, now 72, a retired registered nurse who now lives in Cameron Park, California. “We lived about two miles from town up in the hills, across the road from Mrs. Hellwig. We had no other playmates but discovered a fun opportunity close by. “We saw Mrs. Hellwig about three times a week during the school year and almost every day in the summer. She was very welcoming and spent a lot of time teaching us about plants and taking us on little hikes on her property. She taught us about different animals like rattlesnakes...”
and the importance of appreciating and not bothering them. She'd give us quizzes about what we learned the day before. She was pleased when we asked questions and showed how much we learned. I still remember many of the Latin names for the plants. She had a great sense of humor and always made us laugh."

Meta, who was in her 60s, took the solitary children under her wing, sharing her love for nature as well as stories and photographs of her life in Michigan. "I was fascinated by the clothing she and her friends wore in the old photographs," Sorich-Teese says. "She told us about the history of our area and how important it is. When I had a homework problem, I always felt I could go to her for help. She was good at making life more special, learning about botany, biology—even formal etiquette and how to properly set a dinner table. It was more than most kids our age ever had. Everything was an educational experience with Mrs. Hellwig, but we never felt like we were visiting a teacher. She treated us as equals and made us feel very important."

Meta also gave the kids lessons in off tackles and forward passes. "She often talked about Stanford, which made it a special school for us," Sorich-Teese says. "She loved Stanford football. During the season, she'd set her TV near her bed and had us climb up with her to watch the Stanford game. She taught us about the sport and made the games fun, offering popcorn and little glass bottles of Coca-Cola. My family wasn't sports-oriented, so football was a fascinating new thing for us."

In those days, Meta mostly wore gardener's clothes and heavy boots and used a hoe as a walking stick. But once a week, she transformed herself into a vision of a highly cultivated woman. "Each Wednesday, Mrs. Hellwig would take the train from Los Gatos to San Francisco for a spa day at Elizabeth Arden," Sorich-Teese says. "She would wear a beautiful suit and lovely jewelry on her special day. The change was amazing.

When she wasn't teaching, Meta took every opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors with friends.
to us kids. The next day, she'd be back in her beat-up gardening clothes. She was fascinating—not like any other adult we knew."

The deep appreciation of the natural world Meta instilled in the young children remains today.

"I took an interest in science and loved biology in school," Sorich-Teese says. "I got a nursing degree at San Jose State and spent most of my career as a cardiac nurse at Stanford. I often thought of Mrs. Hellwig while I was there. My sister has many memories of her and can recall plant names. And for the longest time, my brother kept pots full of plants. Today, he's a super gardener."

Meta continued to live on her property after her husband's death from cancer in 1962 at age 65. She became increasingly frail in the early 1980s and moved to a skilled nursing home in San Jose. She lived there for five years until her death in October 1987 at age 95.

"Visiting Mrs. Hellwig in the nursing home was sad," Sorich-Teese says. "The home was lovely and well-furnished, but she didn't have her outdoors anymore. It just wasn't her. I wish she could have lived out her life in her little cottage. Nature was the strongest focus of Mrs. Hellwig's life. She didn't care much for elegant social life, even though she could well afford that lifestyle. She was also ahead of her time. There are many environmentalists today, but back then there was no strong drive to preserve nature. She instilled in three lonely children something to care about, something of beauty that we might not have picked up on otherwise. I never forgot the things she taught me. When I take a walk and look at plants, shrubs and other natural things, she comes right to mind. I think of Mrs. Hellwig every day and can't look at a plant without thinking of her. She was always a teacher—she never got tired of it."

From Apricots to Vineyards

With no heirs, Meta's estate was put into probate. Many of her belongings—furniture, notebooks, letters, photo albums and other ephemera—remained in her small cottage and a larger unfinished home near a creek on the property.

By 1988, Meta's estate had fallen into decay when San Jose natives Marilyn and Frank Dorsa were seeking land in the hills for a getaway home. After seven years of searching, they had just about given up when their real estate agent called with some news.

"We had just visited our son, who was studying art in Assisi, Italy," Marilyn says. "Our agent called right after we returned and said we'd better look at this important property that had just come on the market. We drove up a dirt road and saw a tiny cabin off a dirt driveway. We continued making our way up the path and reached a terrain at the top. What we saw was breathtaking—it looked just like Assisi. We didn't know exactly what we would do with the land, but we wanted to buy it."

Struck by the beauty of Meta's property, the Dorsas made the purchase for just over $1 million. The terms of Meta's will stipulated that funds from the sale be divided equally. Half went to EMU for biology student scholarships; the other half went to the California Institute of Technology (which Harold
“We tried to honor Meta’s respect for nature by keeping land development to a minimum.”

Jellwig attended in the 1920s) for structural engineering student scholarships. Meta’s request of nearly $565,000 to Eastern was the largest gift the university had ever received at that time.

The Dorsas, who own a chain of car washes in Silicon Valley, visited the property every weekend for a year, basking in the beauty of the land and discussing how to use it. They also began learning more about Meta as they combed through the belongings she left behind, mainly in the unfinished home she and her husband never occupied.

“We found old photographs from her travels, notebooks filled with plant sketches, and many love letters between Meta and Harold,” Marilyn says. “In letters to her sister, Meta expressed her love of the land and saw it as nature’s expression of love. By all accounts she was an extremely kind and intelligent lady. And someone way ahead of her time.”

As the Dorsas planned to build a new 2,100-square-foot home on the foundation of the larger, unfinished structure, the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake that hit San Francisco also knocked Meta’s cottage off its foundation. The Dorsas cleared away the cottage remains, removed the overgrown brush and renovated the property into La Rusticana d’Orsa Vineyards. In addition to the main home, the property includes an art studio, a second smaller residence, a barn and a waterwheel.

Visitors to the site today experience what the San Jose Mercury News described as a “40-acre Tuscan technicolor dream.” The terraced landscape features statues and ponds, grassy areas and gardens, cypress trees and seating areas within hidden bowers. The vineyard produces wine for the gift shop. A lower area of the property remains undeveloped.

“We tried to honor Meta’s respect for nature by keeping land development to a minimum,” Marilyn says. “Besides the vineyard, we planted more than 250 olive trees for the olive oil we sell. We also host cooking classes and painting workshops, so the purpose of the land remains agricultural and educational.”

In homage to Meta, the Dorsas saved and restored the furniture she left behind. A photo portrait of Meta remains on display.

“Meta’s photo will always be in this house,” Marilyn says. “She’s very much a part of this property. I wish I had met her—she was such a special woman.”

Jeff Samoray is a Metro Detroit-based freelance writer.
Meet Some of Meta’s Scholars

by JEFF SAMORAY

Meta Hellwig’s gift to Eastern to support biology scholarships has benefitted hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students over nearly three decades. The original bequest is now worth more than $850,000 and it awards $34,000 annually. It remains one of the largest scholarships at EMU.

Three past Hellwig award recipients share details about their current activities, which mirror Meta’s passion for science and the natural world:

**STEFAN SCHNITZER (MS95)**

Schnitzer is Mellon Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences at Marquette University in Wisconsin. Between four and five months each year, he’s in Panama with his graduate students investigating the ecology of tropical forests.

“We’re testing theories about what allows various plant species to co-exist without one becoming dominant and displacing others,” says Schnitzer, 53, whose work relates to carbon dynamics and climate change.

Schnitzer’s Hellwig scholarship allowed him to purchase equipment to perform field work in wetland areas and complete his master’s research on plant decay.

“Meta Hellwig left a great legacy,” he says. “I’d like to see more people follow her lead and donate funds to support student research. Those projects could ultimately lead to some of the most important things we discover about how the world works.”

**PRIYA GOGOI (MS09)**

“All sciences have some relation to biology,” says Gogoi, 34. “I also love biology because it’s a perfect mixture of science and art.”

After emigrating with her family from India in 2005 and earning her master’s degree in cell and molecular biology, Gogoi worked for several months at a cardiovascular drug manufacturer. Then she leveraged her entrepreneurial skills by co-founding Celsee Diagnostics, a Plymouth-based developer of products in the emerging field of liquid biopsy.

“About 90 of cancers are detected by performing a tissue biopsy,” Gogoi says. “We’re creating a new biopsy method that traps cancer cells in filtered blood from patients. It can be applied to all carcinomas, not just blood cancers. We want to achieve our goal of making a difference in the lives of cancer patients.”

**QUENTIN TURNER (BS14)**

As a native Detroiter who didn’t go camping or summer at a northern Michigan cottage, Turner’s exposure to biological diversity was limited. Now, he’s seeking to bring nature to Detroit’s underserved.

“My passions lie in outreach and education,” says Turner, 28, who works for Vanguard Community Development and as an educator at the Michigan Science Center. “I want to excite people in urban environments about complex biology topics by making them accessible.”

Turner is one of 24 Creative Community Fellows for 2017-18, a program organized by National Arts Strategies. His proposed project involves launching a native plant nursery in a low-income Detroit neighborhood.

“The goal is to expose people to ecological diversity and supply plants to reduce stormwater runoff,” Turner says. “It’s a great way to make biology part of community consciousness.”
Reinhard Wittke remembers the first time he broached the idea of an overseas program at Eastern to the head of the graduate school. “He ignored me,” the emeritus professor of history says. “Two years later, in 1959, he came to me and said, ‘Prepare your itinerary.’ I said, ‘You mean I’m fired?’ He said, ‘No, we want to start an overseas program.’”
Wittke liked to spurn the classroom for what he called "history on the spot."
The first edition of Wittke's European Travel Study Program (which later became the International Studies Program) attracted 35 graduate students and teachers; the number of participants varied over the years from as few as 12 to as many as 55. In the 1970s, he conducted classes in Munich that were so highly regarded that they regularly attracted teachers employed by the U.S. Department of Defense from as far away as Belgium and Italy. Eastern's then President Harold Sponberg and his wife, Grace, twice visited the tour group in Munich.

That first tour was nearly the last. "When we got to Genoa, there was a Communist uprising and we couldn't get into the hotel for three hours," Wittke recalls. "When we finally got there, the central square was torn up, there was tear gas in the air, and all of us cried at dinner. When we got to Rome, we couldn't get into the hotel that we had booked because the group that was there already couldn't get out."

That was just the beginning: "Bologna was like a morgue; five people had been killed in a disturbance the day before we arrived. In Venice, all the porters were on strike and St. Mark's Square was flooded, so we had to carry our own bags across a makeshift plank walkway to our hotel. With the things that happened, you wonder why you did it a second time."
Not only did he do it a second time, but he eventually led 47 tours, mostly in Europe, but there were also ventures to Australia, China and New Zealand. In 2014, after his wife had passed away, he established the Reinhard and Bert Wittke Scholarship for International Studies to support participation in international travel and study abroad.

Sometimes, when the classrooms he normally used were unavailable or some government or other preferred he not teach about certain topics, he would lecture on the bus, in restaurants or, on one memorable occasion, in the beer garden in the Munich marketplace. "There were at least a hundred Germans listening to that lecture," Wittke recalls.

That was one of the times when he purposely spurned the classroom, in favor of what he liked to call "history on the spot." In Munich, for example, he would take the group on the "Hitler walk," visiting restaurants that Hitler frequented or the place where the Munich police crushed the Nazi Party's failed coup attempt known as the Beer Hall Putsch in 1923.

"I used to give a short lecture on all of this, standing in that square," says Wittke.

Wittke ran the program under Eastern's auspices until his retirement in 1990, then continued it on his own until 2007, when he was 86. The lasting friendships he made helped incentivize him—"I still have a great extended family today"—but "I quit because I couldn't see very well," he says. "Magoo wasn't a good tour leader."
Building for Success

Bill Shepard will help guide EMU through its next fundraising campaign

Much of Bill Shepard's life has been defined by Wright State University. He earned a degree there, and worked there—in Student Affairs and Advancement—for 30 years. His wife Cyndi and all three of their children are WSU graduates, too. So imagine his family's surprise when Shepard left those comfortable surroundings to join Eastern Michigan University as the new vice president of advancement and executive director of the EMU Foundation.

To Shepard, though, the transition makes perfect sense. In EMU, Shepard has found a like-minded university—one with vision and strong academic programs. In his first week on the job, the EMU Board of Regents gave the go-ahead for planning a multi-year, comprehensive fundraising campaign.

We sat down with Shepard to hear more about what to expect. Here's what we learned:

COMPREHENSIVE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS aren't just about capital. Strong campaigns include academic and programmatic initiatives as well. Eastern will go through a process to determine the priorities, and that will involve discussions with academic and administrative leaders across campus. According to the Board recommendation, the EMU comprehensive campaign will support, among other areas, scholarships, academic programs and facilities.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS will get a significant boost from a successful campaign. "I love what I hear when I interact with faculty, staff, and emeritus faculty and staff. I've learned a great deal about the strength of our academic programs; I could go college by college and identify programs that I think we're doing at a world-class level."

THE CHAMPIONSHIP BUILDING PLAN is just one piece of the puzzle. In fact, the bold athletics plan has already generated $9 million in pledges during a silent period. "I believe that the athletics project is going to be a very positive part of the campaign, along with many academic projects that cut across all of our colleges."

CAMPAIGNS TAKE TIME. Now that the process is officially underway, there will be a lot of planning in order to discover and articulate key priorities. A so-called quiet or leadership phase may take several years to complete.

PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENTS at Eastern truly impact the student experience. "The fact that we're an opportunity school means that a dollar invested in a scholarship program goes much farther here. With more private investment, we can really begin to transform the experiences our students have. There's also a huge opportunity to really transform the programs and facilities here."

STUDENTS ARE ALWAYS TOP OF MIND for Shepard, who started his career in student affairs. "I had a mentor once tell me that as long as my decision-making focused on what was best for students, I'd be fine."

DONOR NEEDS are important, too, though. "Most people think we're out there twisting arms. We're not. We're genuine in finding opportunities for donors that are good for them and that produce great results for our students. That's what I love about this work."

-Darcy Gifford
TRUE to the Game

Kenyatta Bynoe named one of the 35 most powerful women in sports

Kenyatta Bynoe (MS14) knows Spalding balls are hand inspected and laser engraved one by one.

Weight, bounce, appearance, circumference, air retention, rebound—all are painstakingly reviewed for discrepancies.

Balls that meet the strict manufacturer specifications of Spalding, the company where Bynoe serves as vice president of marketing, will be sold in retail stores and to teams around the world. Spalding sells baseballs, footballs, soccer balls, softballs and volleyballs worldwide, but is best known for its full-grain Horween leather basketballs.

"People are surprised when they learn of our quality-control process," said Bynoe, who earned her master’s degree from Eastern Michigan University’s Integrated Marketing Communication program in the College of Business. "We pay a high level of attention to the details."

Basketball is big business for Spalding. In 2015, Spalding sold more than five million in the U.S. alone. What’s more, the company has been the official basketball and backboard of the National Basketball Association for 32 years, providing every NBA team with 72 basketballs before the start of every season. As a result, Spalding’s profits continue to grow.

In her role, Bynoe leads management of the strategic partnership with the NBA. This includes contract negotiations, product fulfillment, and sales at arena retail stores. She is also responsible for marketing strategy, advertising production, media planning, experiential marketing, social media, e-commerce and public relations.

"I manage the consumer touch points," said Bynoe, who is a big fan of the NBA's Los Angeles Clippers.

Under Bynoe’s leadership, Spalding this year launched its #TrueBelievers marketing campaign, centered around the inner confidence that drives athletes to play their best game (visit truebelievers.spalding.com for details).

Throughout her 16-year marketing career, Bynoe has developed advertising campaigns ranked in the Top Five on the USA Today Super Bowl Ad Meter and received Effie Awards for marketing effectiveness. She was also named to the Event Marketer "Dream Team" in recognition of innovative experiential marketing programs. Before joining Spalding, Bynoe served in progressively more responsible marketing roles for global brands such as Jeep, Microsoft and Volkswagen.

Bynoe champions ideas that stretch conventional boundaries. She consistently deploys creative thinking and brand storytelling—developing compelling marketing and campaigns that build brand health while delivering sound return on investment. She credits her EMU graduate business education with improving her career, citing the advantages of learning practical knowledge and techniques from professors who are practitioners and looking at marketing from a more global perspective.

"The entire digital and social landscape is constantly evolving," she said. "It's grown into a dominating part of the overall marketing mix and is a lot easier to measure. That's where our consumers are living and consuming content. As a marketer, my eye has to be on the pulse of where the consumers are."

In recognition of her efforts, AdWeek named Bynoe among the 35 Most Powerful Women in Sports.

"There's no worse fate in marketing than being left out of the conversation, and Spalding was in such a spot when Bynoe joined the iconic sporting goods brand," AdWeek wrote. "In only two years, she changed everything, jump-starting its consumer advertising, hiring an agency, building an internal marketing team, redesigning the brand ID and launching e-commerce, along with overhauling Spalding.com and exploding social engagement. The global ad campaign, 'True Believers,' celebrating athletes’ hard work, went hand in hand with her revamped NBA endorsement roster. Bynoe, a 20-year marketing vet, delivered on her goal of taking the brand from a position of passive respect in the minds of consumers to 'active love in their hearts.'"

—Ted Coutilish
Made with Love

Wounded Warrior Quilt Project has produced hundreds of quilts for wounded soldiers

Physically, the twin-sized quilt with an alternating light and dark pattern is just 120 pieces of fabric, each of them 6.5 square inches. There are also, to be sure, stitches, backing, batting between the layers … and the four squares that bear special messages. As craft projects go, though, it’s pretty simple.

But to a young soldier waking at Germany’s Landstuhl Regional Medical Center to the reality of life with one leg instead of two, it became so much more. He began to sob when he reached down after his amputation to where his other leg had been. That’s when an attendant slipped the quilt around his shoulders. It brought him so much comfort that he asked to take it with him when he transferred stateside.

Since the death of her husband, a World War II fighter pilot named Joseph L. Ross, in 2005, Patrecia Ross (BS66, MA70) had worked tirelessly with some fellow members of her local chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America (BSMA) to make quilts for wounded American soldiers and ship them to Landstuhl. Now that group was disbanding, and Ross wondered if it was time to hang up her thimble.

But after she read the young soldier’s story in a letter from a nurse who had been there, quitting was out of the question. “Can I take my quilt?” Those five words kept me working,” says Ross.

Ross had sewn since her mother taught her how, but it wasn’t until after she retired that she came up with the idea of quilting for wounded soldiers. The first year, she worked with her mother over the winter and they produced 20 quilts between them. After her mother and her husband passed away, she became a snowbird, keeping a summer home in Marlette and travelling to Estero, Fla., for the winter months, where she connected with the BSMA to continue her growing passion.

It was seven years ago that Ross received that fateful letter, just as the BSMA group was breaking up. So she founded her own, the Wounded Warrior Quilt Project (WWQP), which is still going strong and has grown to a contingent of 50 retired women who live in Corkscrew Woodlands, the neighborhood Ross calls home from fall to spring.

“I found a lot of ladies who weren’t quilters but they had had careers, taught or did this or that,” says Ross, who taught language arts in Trenton for 40 years. “They had time on their hands in retirement and this project gave them a new purpose.”

To accommodate their skill level, Ross employed a method made famous back home in Michigan. She designed a quilting assembly line—complete with five sewing machines, four ironing boards and five irons—and taught each woman how to do an individual task, from cutting to tying, ironing and sewing. They didn’t need to learn to quilt, just to do one job.

For one woman, that job is to produce the four special patches that go on each quilt. Their messages are “Love to you, wounded warrior, from Estero, Florida,” “God bless America,” “Peace from God be unto you,” and Ross’ favorite, “In memory of Joseph L. Ross, WWII B-17 bombardier.”

So far, WWQP has produced 799 quilts, sending them to the VA hospital in Tampa, Fla., as well as Landstuhl.

Her perseverance reflects a lifetime of meeting and overcoming challenges.

Ross’ husband survived being shot down twice over the Pacific Ocean, then came home to a job as a teacher in a small town (Marlette). That’s where he met Patrecia, a high school student who was 12 years his junior.

“People said it wouldn’t last because of the age difference.” Ross chuckles. “We were married 52 and a half years. He was 90 when he passed and I took good care of him.”

She and her husband raised three children and, with his encouragement, she received her bachelor’s in education in 1966 at Eastern, then returned to earn her master’s in 1970. An accomplished pianist in addition to her other talents, Ross gave piano lessons to help pay for her coursework en route to a PhD from the University of Michigan in 1981.

“EMU made me who I am today. I’ve lived a good life,” says Ross.

Now her life is still dedicated to making the lives of others better, even if it’s just in providing the comfort of a quilt to those who are hurt and far from home.

— Sherry Owens
1940s

Shirley Spork (BS49), one of the 13 founders of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA), donated $15,000 in proceeds from the second annual Shirley Spork Pro-Am to the EMU women's golf team.

1950s

Delores Hartman (BA57) has retired and sold her business, Caseville Books and Gifts. The store was a fixture in downtown Caseville for 45 years.

1970s

David A. Sam (BA71, MA84) retired as president of Germanna Community College, Fredericksburg, Va., after 10 years with the institution. A published poet, author and grand prize winner of the GFT Press Chapbook Contest, Sam has placed work in 60 journals and publications.

Silverenia Q. Kanoyton, EdD (MA72) has been chosen, from a field of more than 700 nominees, as a 2017 Woman of Excellence by the Michigan Chronicle, Michigan's oldest African-American newspaper. Kanoyton is an assistant professor of research in the College of Education at Wayne State University.

Milton L. Mack, Jr. (BS72) was named the Michigan Guardianship Association's 2017 Judge of the Year for his work on behalf of vulnerable adults and people with mental illness.

Bob Holman (BBA74, HBA13), retired executive vice president and CFO of Discount Tire Company, has been named president of Pinetop Country Club in White Mountains, Ariz. The EMU honorary degree holder and 2013 commencement speaker will be responsible for the club's social, recreational and philanthropic programs. Recognized as the force behind EMU's Holman Success Center, he assisted thousands of students with counseling and other resources to foster happy and productive lives during and after college.

Dottie Davis (BS78, MA88) was awarded the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Women In Sports Leadership Award at the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Conference in Traverse City. Davis has served as a teacher, coach and administrator for 39 years, and is a member of EMU's Athletic Hall of Fame.

1980s

Edward Freysinger (BBA83) was named the new chief administrative officer at PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center in Ketchikan, Alaska. Previously, Freysinger served as chief executive officer at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, a critical access hospital in Hood River, Ore.

Bill Hendry (BBA83, MS89) was recently hired as director of human resources for Grand Traverse County. His appointment is the first step in the county’s plan to rebuild its HR department, as directed by the county commissioners.

Jamie Foster (BS84, MA91) has come out of retirement to serve as the city-wide athletic director for Northwestern and Southwestern High Schools in Flint. He retired in 2015 after more than 30 years as a teacher and athletic director for the Flint City School District.

Brendan Kelly (BS88, MA00) has been named the sixth chancellor of the University of South Carolina Upstate. He previously served as the vice president for university advancement at the University of West Florida.

1990s

Alaina Campbell (BS90) has been named president of the Rochester, Mich., Regional Chamber of Commerce. Previously, she served as the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, and as the Director of Business Development for the Legacy Center and Urban Air Trampoline Park in Oxford.

Penny A. Pasque (BS90) has been named head of the Department of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Human Development at North Carolina State University's College of Education. Formerly of the University of Oklahoma, she is also senior associate editor of the Journal of Higher Education. Pasque's most recent book is "Qualitative Inquiry in Higher Education Organization and Policy Research."

Michael O'Connor (BS94) has received the Brain Injury Association of Michigan's 2017 Chairman's Award for his volunteerism with the association's Capital Area Chapter Support Group. His private practice, O'Connor's Occupational Therapy Services, PLLC, provides services primarily to those with neurological impairments due to catastrophic brain, spinal cord or orthopedic injuries.

Dr. John Selmon (MA97, EDD05), has been promoted to executive vice president and provost at Muskegon Community College. He previously served as the institution's vice president for student services and administration.
**2000s**

*Deniece Dortch* (BA02) has been named director of the African-American Doctoral Scholars Initiative, a community-building program that supports African American PhD students at the University of Utah.

*Nhu Do* (MA06), principal of Washtenaw International High School (WIHI), traveled with an educational exchange group to Finland, where she participated in professional development activities, including tours of Finnish schools, to gain insight into the country’s educational culture.

*R.J. Cronkhite* (BA07) has joined the law firm of Maddin, Hauser, Roth & Heller, P.C. in Southfield as an associate attorney in its litigation and risk advisory practice group. Cronkhite attended the University of Chicago Law School, interned for New Mexico’s Supreme Court and was elected to the State Bar of Michigan’s Litigation Section Governing Council in 2016.

*Alison Roscoe* (BS07, MS09) has joined the Columbus Crew SC, Columbus, Ohio’s, major league soccer team, as vice president of corporate sponsorships.

*Dr. Alex Ofili* (MA09, SPA12) has been named principal of the Novi Community School District’s Village Oaks Elementary School.

**2010s**

*Kari Smith* (MS11), director of development and senior architectural historian for Arte Express and the Packard Plant Project, will lead the Packard Plant redevelopment project in Detroit. The $500 million project is slated to take more than 10 years.

*Abraham G. Tabry* (BS11) has joined the Detroit office of Gallagher Sharp LLP, a trial and business practice law firm. Tabry is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the Transportation Lawyers Association.

*Robert Chapin* (BS13), a pilot for Republic Airline, has been transferred to the company’s Miami base and is now a first officer flying American Eagle Embraer 175 jets.

*Casey “Walsh” Bllickenstaff* (BS15), on-air TV reporter for KIMT in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was awarded first place in the small market in-depth series category of the 2016 Iowa Broadcast News Association News Contest for his story, “Combating Veteran Suicide.” As a student, he was a reporter for The Eastern Echo and worked with the campus television station, E-TV.

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**EMU Wherever We Are**

*Andrea Cappa* (BBA12) was enjoying the sights and sounds of Mamutik Island (a small island in Malaysia) recently when James Gray (BS04, MA06) walked by and saw her drinking from her EMU water bottle. The two proud EMU alumni were pleased to find each other so far from home (the moment is captured in this picture between the two Eagles) and struck up a friendly conversation. Andrea has posted the encounter and photo on her Facebook page, stating “What? I found an EMU Alum in Malaysia!!!” and was delighted to meet Gray and spend time with him.

Cappa was spending a few days in the country before heading to Thailand, where she will be teaching fourth grade English, math and science. The water bottle that sparked the unlikely meeting was only a recent acquisition. “A friend (and EMU alumnus) had given me the water bottle as a gift before I left the United States to teach in Thailand,” said Cappa. “He told me to be proud to represent EMU all over the world. I am and always will be.”

--Paul Nucci

Compiled by Mia Milton, EMU Office for Alumni Relations.
Why Not Write?

While Jim Sargent mostly writes about baseball history, one of his novels was set at Michigan Normal College.

Jim Sargent (BS64) was a late bloomer when it came to EMU academics, and an even later one when it came to a literary career, but his bouquet of achievements just keeps growing.

After two years at Mott Community College in his native Flint, he transferred to Eastern in the fall of 1961, went back home after one semester to work for more than a year, and finally graduated in 1964. "I've always believed in community colleges as places to get a second chance," Sargent says. "I had a mediocre high school record, but I got a second chance and ended up with a PhD and 40 years of teaching at the college level. I think that's pretty good."

Sargent's PhD in U.S. history came from Michigan State University. The teaching was at Clemson, Ball State and, from 1977 until his retirement in 2010, at Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke, Va., where he served as chair of the social science division for the last 16 of those years.

"I've been writing ever since I got out of Michigan State," he says. "It's just that my focus changed over the years." That focus, naturally enough, was initially scholarly. His dissertation on the first 100 days of President Franklin Roosevelt's administration was published in 1981, followed by dozens of journal articles and a role in editing the memoirs of Raymond Moley, one of FDR's closest advisers.

Then one day in the early 1990s, he came across a magazine called Old Tyme Baseball News that was chock-full of historical articles. "I said, 'Hell, I can do this,'" Sargent recalls. Could he ever. Since then, he's had more than 200 sports articles published, all but about 50 on baseball. He also collaborated with long-time Michigan State baseball coach and former major leaguer Danny Litwhiler on his autobiography, and has authored 44 player biographies for the Society for American Baseball Research's BioProject.

He published two books last year—a nonfiction account of a memorable pennant race, and season, entitled "The Tigers and Yankees in '61," and "Curve Ball," a novel about a young big leaguer and his family in the mid-1950s. Another novel, "The Final Secret," which unfolds in Pearl Harbor during the months leading up to the Japanese attack in 1941, is slated for release this fall.

But his quiver is far from empty. He's finished three more novels that have yet to find publishers, the first of which, "The Long Pursuit," is set at Eastern in 1943, when it was still Michigan Normal College. In it, Mickey Mathews, also the hero of "The Final Secret," returns to his alma mater (class of '33) to investigate an attempt to blackmail Normal's president, in the course of which he uncovers Nazi espionage at the Willow Run bomber plant. While Mathews is sleuthing, he lives "in a bungalow I created on Emmet Street," says Sargent.

"I'm all the time writing, five or six hours a day," he says. "I'm still a Tiger fan, but what they're doing today is not as important to me as what they did in the '50s and '60s. I'm mostly a history guy. My ball game is history."

Although he hasn't written much about other sports, he did interview George Yardley, the first player in NBA history to score more than 2,000 points in a season, and all-time National Hockey League great Gordie Howe. "The most down-to-earth guy you'd meet in your entire life," Sargent says of Howe. "No wonder the fans loved him."

Sargent is pretty fond of Eastern, too. "I can only say good things about Eastern Michigan," he says. "I'm really pleased I went there, and I'm proud of the class ring I wear. That and a little letter opener, that I got for the spring dance in 1964, are two of my favorite possessions.

"I feel blessed, really. I got paid for 40 years to talk about American history. I thank Eastern Michigan for launching my teaching career, and teaching led to writing. That's the bottom line."

— Jeff Mortimer
"Beginning readers just need one thing to grasp onto—something concrete."
A Pinch for Good Reading

Alumna creates innovative way for beginning readers to learn long vowels

Imagine how hard it must be for a beginning reader to learn and understand when vowels are pronounced differently. Why is the “a” in the word “fat” different from the “a” in the word “fate”?

Long vowels, that’s why. But first grade teacher Jodi McMaster (BS02, MA08) knew her young readers were struggling to learn them, and she was struggling to teach them.

“I’d see students get confused and frustrated and want to give up,” she says. “And I thought, ‘This is crazy. I have to think of a concrete reading strategy that goes with all of the long vowels—something that kids can know and use when they get stuck on a word.’”

That’s how “Circus Vowels: The Long and Short of It” was born. McMaster created her own strategy to help students understand long vowels—the sounds they made and how they interacted with other letters. And she did it in a fun, colorful and innovative way, all set at a circus.

It’s a story that most parents and families can readily grasp.

As McMaster tells it, A, E, I, O and U are siblings and, like most children, it’s easier for them to behave when they’re by themselves. Add a sibling to the mix, and things change. The letter “e” in the word “pen” is pronounced differently from the letter “e” in the word “seal” because, in “seal,” the two kids were sitting next to each other, and the second vowel kid pinched the first one. This always happens. And the first vowel kid yells his own name after getting pinched. And the second vowel kid stays quiet, because he doesn’t want to get in trouble.

Imagine the “a” pinching the “e” in “seal” and you see how easy this can be for young readers to remember. To reinforce the concept, McMaster has created vests for each vowel for the children to wear, so they can act out the strategy—although she coaches her students to give more of a squeeze than a pinch.

Consonants in McMaster’s story are mom and dad, but kids can still reach around one of them and give a pinch. It’s only when mom and dad are both in between the kids that the pinching stops.

What was McMaster’s inspiration? All she had to do was think about going to church with her mom and sister as a kid.

“I would sit next to my sister, and I would kind of egg her on—pinch her or play with her hair,” she says with a laugh. “My mom would get really mad, and would come and sit between us, but I’d still reach around my mom and pinch my sister anyway.”

McMaster, who teaches at Saline Area Schools, has found so much success with this strategy that she’s written a book, “Circus Vowels: The Long and Short of It,” and has created an interactive long vowel reading strategy kit that includes vests, posters, word lists, worksheets and lesson plan ideas. She’s presented at conferences across the country and was featured on WXYZ-TV as part of National Reading Month 2017. Her success has turned McMaster into an author and entrepreneur as well as a teacher, but teaching is still paramount for her. She cherishes helping young readers.

“Beginning readers just need one thing to grasp onto, and this story and this strategy make it really concrete for them,” she says. “I know this works because when I’m working with a child, all I have to say is ‘Look at your vowels’ and they instantly know.

“The beauty of this is that it works for every type of learner: visual, auditory and kinesthetic. My students beg to put those vests on. It’s so cool to watch, because they’re engaged.”

—Darcy Gifford
THE BEST & BRIGHTEST

The 2017 Alumni Award winners, from left, James Grinias, Stacey Chamberlin, Charles Kettles,
Donna Inch, Bert Greene, Lisa Moore and N.J. Akbar gathered at the Student Center to celebrate their achievements.
Charles S. Kettles (MS 79) earned his master's degree in commercial construction, then went on to develop the EMU Aviation Management Program at the College of Technology. Charles graduated from the Army Aviation School in 1953 before serving in Korea, Japan and Thailand, and again in 1963 as a pilot in Vietnam. He received the Medal of Honor from President Obama in 2016, for saving the lives of 44 soldiers on May 15, 1967, during fierce fighting near Duc Pho, Vietnam.

N.J. AKBAR
OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS

Since receiving his master's degree in educational leadership, N.J. Akbar (BS 07, MA 09) has become a leading authority on diversity in higher education. He is the assistant dean of academic diversity success at Kent State University, leading recruitment and retention efforts for all 10 of its colleges. N.J. was named Akron's Harold K. Stubb's Humanitarian of 2016 for his efforts in education, and in 2017 he was dubbed a Significant African-American Male by the Ohio Black Women's Leadership Caucus of Akron.

DR. JAMES GRINIAS
OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS

Dr. James Grinias (BS 09) earned his doctorate in analytical chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His passion for his work earned him a National Science Foundation Predoctoral Graduate Research Fellowship and an Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. Now an assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Rowan University in Glassboro, N.J., James has returned to Eastern to sit on the Presidential Scholarship Committee, and to serve as a guest lecturer.
Stacey Nicole Chamberlin (BS01) earned her EMU bachelor's degree in political science, then went on to earn a master's in political management from George Washington University the following year. Since then, she has risen through the ranks as a key player in the world of D.C. politics. She currently serves as the vice president of the DC1 Group, which provides communications and advocacy services to corporations, trade associations, non-profits and governmental organizations.

Donna M. Inch (BBA78, MBA84) used her two degrees in business administration as a springboard to a distinguished career at Ford Motor Company. Starting out as an industrial relations analyst, she rose in the company through a series of positions in customer service, marketing and sales, and product development. She recently retired from her position as chairman and CEO of the Ford Motor Land Development Corporation, the real estate arm of the company.

Bert Greene (BS55) joined the ranks of the EMU faculty in 1963, serving as a professor of teacher education for 34 years. Among the classes he taught were the first EMU course on using the internet, and one of the first online courses offered by the University. He has served as acting head of the Department of Teacher Education and president of the emeritus faculty, and remains a valued mentor, cheerleader and all-around supporter of EMU.

Lisa Moore (BS11) earned a bachelor of science in interior design in the College of Technology, after which she rose in her new profession to become a senior designer and team leader at dPOP, a leading interior design firm in Detroit. As an original member of the firm, Lisa has seen it grow from five designers to 32, and has maintained ties with Eastern by providing internship and employment opportunities to EMU students and grads.
IN MEMORIAM

1940s

Juanita M. Cory (BS40) Davenport, Iowa, June 21
Mary L. (Boyden) Forester (BA40) Royal Oak, June 16
Eunice A. Bendall (BS42) San Diego, Calif., Nov. 7
Margaret C. Devall (BS42) Ann Arbor, Nov. 11
Delmar E. Crisp (BS43) Stuart, Fla., March 13
Ida J. (Woodbury) Kingston (BS44) Ypsilanti, Jan. 20
Fred H. Matthews (BS46) Jackson, Nov. 26
Mary J. (Golden) Peters (BS46) Lincoln, May 13
Beverley J. (Thomas) Snidecor (BS47) Tempe, Ariz., March 2
JoAnne Y. Cartwright (BS49) Petoskey, April 8
Richard D. Helppie (BS49) Dallas, Texas, March 20
Phyllis A. (Bond) Pingel (BS49, MA77) Ann Arbor, Dec. 20

1950s

Virginia R (Burley) Day (BS50) Perkasie, Pa., April 26
Daniel Eskin (BA50) Armada, Jan. 8
Lucie C. Gelill (BS50) Flushing, Nov. 14
Mary L. (Wagar) Gundrum (BS50) Annandale, Va., Jan. 28
Patricia A. Bracwell (BA51) Rochester, Dec. 27
Theresa A. Hamilton (BS51, MA57, SPA68) Ypsilanti, Nov. 30
Caryl K. Krause (BA51) Westwood, Maine, April 16
Elaine R. (Kniebes) Peters (BS52) Tucson, Ariz., Feb. 3
Vivian ( Voorhorst) Hoogland (BS53) Zeeland, March 9
Chris M. Danzeisen (BS54, MA58) Sylvania, Ohio, Dec. 7
Julian L. Gooch (BS54) Royal Oak, May 25
Robert W. Wasco (BS55) Folsom, Calif., Feb. 10
Basil C. Bobcock (BS56) Ann Arbor, May 31
Francis J. Mansfield (BA57) Pontiac, April 10
Robert M. McCrea (BA57) Southgate, March 17
Max T. McKinney II (BA57) Farmington, Dec. 27
Gerald E. Albright (BS58) Whippney, N.J., Feb. 28
Nancy R. (Pinkerton) Gray (BS58) Northville, March 25
Charlene M. (Cook) Wright (BA58, MA63, SPA77) Macomb, Nov. 25
Rodger J. Clifton (BS59) Phoenix, Ariz., April 2
Simone P. Eglin (BS59) Ann Arbor, May 7
Walter J. Ferguson (MA59) Pickeral, Wis., April 2
Frederick Kessler (BS59) Ypsilanti, Apr. 25
Carol F. (Lindsay) Fraser (BA59, MA67) Highland Park, Ill., June 13
Vina R. (Blivens) Krins (BS59, MA67) Wheaton, Ill., April 15
Lawrence E. Rickfelder (BS59, BA59) Elk Rapids, Jan. 12
Carol J. (Stark) Sovie (BS59) Ypsilanti, April 24

1960s

Opal M. (Pfeiffer) Graichen (BS60) Ann Arbor, March 21
Marjorie E. Power (BS60, MA66) Traverse City, Jan. 21
Judith A. (Swab) Bennett (BS61) Newhall, Calif., June 17
Gene D. Sale (MA61) Ontario, Canada, March 17
Virginia L. McClelland (BS61, MA67) Port Huron, April 20
Paul R. Richmond Jr. (MA61) Jackson, Dec. 12
Linda M. (Faust) Ingram (BS62, MA67) Saint Clair, Feb. 26
Richard W. Turnquist (BS62, MA68) Farmington, Jan. 6
John M. Gruden (BA61) Alpena, Jan. 31
Mary Kay (Harbron) Townsend (BS63) Lapeer, May 6
Carol A. (Campbell) Wildman (BS63) Bad Axe, Jan. 28
Jane M. (Bennett) Young (BS63) Lansing, March 4
Douglas B. Foster (BS64) Hastings, New Zealand, Oct. 29
Catherine C. (Marsh) Locke (BS64, MA68) Fort Gratiot, May 27

Onalee L. Matthews (BS64) Monroe, Feb. 5
Frances E. (Douglas) Cranmer (BA65) Bronx, NY, Feb. 22
Ann M. (Carr) Derleth (BA65) Seattle, Wash., May 19
Alan F. Esper (BA65) Monroe, May 17
Pauline R. (Smith) Kelley (BA65) Hudson, Feb. 9
Diane V. (Heger) Kwamee (MA65) Decorah, Iowa, May 12
Dennis J. Makulski (MA65) Detroit, March 29
Roy M. Smith (BS65) Grosse Pointe, Jan. 28
Madeleine C. (McGraw) Wozniak (BS65) Ann Arbor, Feb. 19
Edna F. (Blair) Boll (BS66) Avon, Conn., March 26
Frederick A. DeNault (MA66) Sterling Heights, Nov. 12
William F. Dent (BA66) Traverse City, May 13
William R. Hahn (BS66, MS72) Warren, June 17
Brent L. Hall (MS66) Kolispell, Mo., March 3
Lawrence R. Hawkins (BS66) Traverse City, Jan. 11
Richard R. Pearsall (BS66) Traverse City, Jan. 11
Dava E. (James) Szuch (BS66, MA72) Berkley, April 26
Sandra J. (Wohl) Ahleman (BS66, MA71) Ottawa Lake, Feb. 28
Linda J. (Kammer) Holladay (BS67) Monroe, March 5
Dorthea J. (Hamilton) Hoyt (BS67) Mount Morris, May 25
James E. Lee (BS67, MA72) Ypsilanti, Jan. 24
Nina J. Oxender (MA67) Ann Arbor, Nov. 22
Cuma J. Bryant (BS68) Cleveland, Tenn., July 23
Janet M. (Cummings) Coxon (MA68) Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 12
Ian L. Eggevemey (BS68) Alpen Park, March 22
Arlene L. (Weinlander) Kielund (MA68) Adrian, April 17
Anthony J. Kileyan (BS68, MA70) Colstrip, Mont., Feb. 13
Floyd McClennd (MA68) Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 25
Carroll C. Nadig (MA68) Saline, Jan. 29

1970s

Jack E. Allan (SPA69) Riverview, Feb. 15
Linda J. Bailey (BS69, MA78) Toledo, Ohio, April 27
J. Douglas Birchmeier (MA69) Longmont, Colo., March 26
Kathleen C. (Riley) Endress (MA69) Mason City, Iowa, June 19
Peter W. Jones (BS69, MA71) Washington, D.C., Jan. 10
Donald J. Piskor (BA69) Port Austin, June 3
Harry Grywak (BS69) Auburn, N.Y., April 12
David B. Smith (BS69) Bonita Springs, Fla., March 24
Robert E. Yount (BS69) La Salle, March 8

Bertha M. (Harrod) Booker (MA70) Saline, Jan. 10
Marie E. (Wing) Crouch (MA70) Jackson, Feb. 8
Charles A. Grace (MA70) Sharan, Pa., March 25
Darlene R. (Cler) House (BS70) Metamora, Jan. 10
Richard P. Jedele (BAE70) Burlington, N.C., March 1
Ronald D. Karoub (BS70) Gaylord, Dec. 11
William E. Ribich (SPA70) Ironwood, March 5
Linda M. (Schrock) Reinhart (BS70) Detroit, June 1
Alveta J. Timmons (MA70) Flint, Jan. 15
Robert D. Wagner (MA70) Tecumseh, March 1
John H. Sturmefels (SPA71) Minnetonka, Minn., March 27
Fern L. Tolan (MA72) Marion, Ind., April 13
Maurice L. Tolan (MA72) Marion, Ind., April 18
Paul Wurster (BS70, MA76) Evergreen, Colo., May 19
Arleen A. (Takacs) Higgin (BS71) West Bloomfield, May 15
Barbara A. (Trombley) Holguin (BS71) Los Cruces, N.M., May 17
Vonda G. (Anderson) Lichtenfelt (BS71) Lexington, Ky., March 8
Marcia C. Peters (MS71) Detroit, June 17
Lewis W. Slusher (MA71) Adrian, March 29
IN MEMORIAM

Bernard J. Wolf (MA71) Huletta, Wy., May 30
Theodore M. Demayer (BS72) Linden, Feb. 18
Diane L. (Stevens) Purnell (BS72) Indianapolis, Ind., May 25
LouAnn (Wyllys) Sadik (BS72) Livonia, Feb. 1
Donald L. D. Hunt (BS73) Donald, Feb. 12
Patricia A. (Miller) Johnson (BS73) Richland, April 28
Gerald R. Laskey (MA73) Cedar, Dec. 11
Thomas D. Leroy (BBA73) San Antonio, Texas, April 14
Robert E. Morris (BBE73, MA77) Ypsilanti, Dec. 5
William Ray Jr. (BBA73) Ypsilanti, June 7
Ted R. Stiger (BS73) Ossineke, April 25
Cathie A. (Rinaldi) Strand (BS73) East Lansing, Jan. 8
Lenore T. Croudy (MA74) Flint, Jan. 19
Gloria J. (Klepser) Downing (MA74) Brighton, Dec. 16
Peter B. Klein (BBA74) Ypsilanti, Jan. 6
JoAn M. (Fredericks) Alexander (BS75, MA79) Chelsea, April 25
Patrick A. Beck (BS75) Priest River, Idaho, April 10
Patrick E. Dustin (BBA75) Vero Beach, Fla., Dec. 12
Susan R. (Stephens) Barbie (BAE76) Marysville, July 1
Kerrin K. Buckley (BS76) Burlington, N.C., Feb. 10
Caroline M. (Bowsman) Gosun (BS76) Brighton, March 1
Christine L. (Holtz) Merritt (BS76) Romulus, Nov. 20
Stephen H. Sorrell (BBA76) West Bloomfield, Dec. 16
John J. Dellos (MA77) Richland, April 28
Glenn G. Depine (BME77) Elkhorn, Wis., April 28
Krista F. (Walters) Duncan (BBA77) Pinehurst, N.C., Nov. 29
Rick D. Feick (MA77) Monroe, Dec. 13
Richard R. Stetzer (BS77) Bear Lake, March 9
Frank L. Sulfaro (BBA77) Monroe, April 24
James M. Iocca (MA78) Jackson, June 13
Thomas J. Mackenzie (BS78) Hambur, Jan. 29
Kelley P. (Howarth) Reska (BS78, MA83) Washington, Pa., March 17
Mary E. Loewen (BS79) Ann Arbor, Nov. 18
William J. Meadowcroft (MA79) Jackson, April 23
Betty J. (Arcy) Roussely (MA79) Temperance, Feb. 20

1980s
Ann (Davison) Boone (MA80) Ypsilanti, Jan. 30
Thomas M. Stewart (BS80) Ann Arbor, June 1
Robert G. Clone (BBA81) Eaton Rapids, Nov. 29
Eunice R. (Wygocki) Maley (MA81) Ferrandina Beach, Florida, Feb. 5
Susan H. Gano (MA82) Louisville, Ky., Jan. 28
Sarah M. (Moore) Hemdal (MA82) Toledo, Ohio, April 2
Patricia A. (Hickey) King (BS82) Albion, March 27
Josephine C. Moore (HSC82) Vermillion, S.D., Nov. 11
Duward Strong (BS84) Wyoming, Feb. 12
Marilyn R. (Warren) Wagner (BBA84) Lincolnwood, Ill., Nov. 25
Catharine A. Trumbatore (MS85) Mount Clemens, May 23
Steve Busick (MA86) Otisville, May 27
Garry M. Harris (BS86) Indianapolis, Ind., March 24
Jeanne M. Pritchard (BS86) Cheboygan, Nov. 29
Richard C. Gardner (BBA87) Pinckney, May 4
Todd D. Harrison (BBA88) Lawrence, Kan., Jan. 10
Rand J. O'leary (MA88) Orleans, Dec. 9
Barbara-An (Kirchoff) White (BS88) Charlotteville, Va., Dec. 12
Donald D. Foster (BBA89) North Port, Fla., April 22
Patricia M. (Rix) Patton (SPA90) Ann Arbor, March 1

1990s
James D. Day (BBA90) Port Charlotte, Fla., Feb. 2
Robert M. Clough (BS91) Plymouth, March 25
James R. Lang (MA91) Saline, June 13
Pamela K. (Stephen) Welsh (BS93) Keenzetown, Va., Nov. 6
Barbara A. (Dailey) Kearschner (BS94) Terre Haute, Ind., Feb. 28
Michael N. Kelly (BS95) Brighton, March 1
Barbara K. Wise-McCallahan (BS95) Brighton, May 26
Shantell L. (Walker) Cook (BS96) Grandville, Dec. 7
Christine C. Maxey-Reeves (BA96) Frankfort, Feb. 7
Brad A. Haskell (BS97, MA02) Lake Orion, April 23
Jamesenna Tilman (BBA99, MBA06) Ypsilanti, March 1

2000s
Brenda G. Plokmeyer (MS00) Grant, May 27
Viriena C. Reed (BS00) Ann Arbor, Nov. 27
Michael T. Wolfe (BBA00) Detroit, May 14
Anna M. Hess (BS06) La Salle, Nov. 28
Matthew J. Wronikowski (BS07) Ann Arbor, Nov. 27
Patty H. (Hegwood) Shiffer (MA09) Waco, Nov. 13

STAFF:
Kevin J. Abbasse, manager of structural life safety systems at the Physical Plant, passed away Jan. 26 in Grand Rapids.
Marcus K. Adams (BS81, MA81) emeritus faculty (journalism), passed away March 9. Marcus was working at the American University Libraries and Digital Technologies in Cairo.
Marjorie K. Chamberlain, emeritus faculty (speech and language pathology) and former coordinator of the Speech and Hearing Clinic, passed away in North Fort Myers, Fla., on April 4.

James A. Dailey, who worked at EMU for 28 years (shipping and receiving), passed away Jan. 25 in Ypsilanti.
Bernard C. Decker Jr., emeritus faculty (journalism), passed away March 16 in Hanover, New Hampshire.
Werner J. Einstadter, emeritus faculty who taught for 25 years in the department of sociology, anthropology and criminology, passed away on Jan. 7 in Walnut Creek, Calif.
John W. Etsweiler, secretary at EMU for 32 years, passed away Dec. 5 in Ann Arbor.
Lee M. Hancock (BBA77), former director of IT, Operations, passed away in Winter Haven, Fla. on Jan. 9.
Sandra A. Hazlett, lecturer for aviation law courses and member of EMU's aviation advisory board, passed away in Ann Arbor on Nov. 16.
Margherita (Marge) Mustazza, former baker in dining services, passed away in Northfield, Minn. On Nov. 28.
Phillip L Parisian, former facilities maintenance director at the Physical Plant, passed away in Ann Arbor on Nov. 24.
Dr. Jay A. Weinstein, emeritus faculty (sociology, anthropology and criminology) and former department head (1986-2000), passed away in St. Simons Island, Ga. on March 8.
Harold W. Robbins Jr., who retired after 30 years as plumbing, heating and cooling forman at the Physical Plant, passed away Dec. 2 in Willis.
Antoinette L. “Toni” Taylor, administrative secretary for Academic Advising and Career Development, passed away Nov. 29 in Grass Lake. Toni had worked for the university for 41 years.
Ranjit Tirtha, emeritus faculty (geography), passed away Jan. 26 in Ann Arbor.
James E. "Jimbo" Wolter, who retired after 37 years of service as a chef, passed away in Ypsilanti on Jan. 15.

Compiled by Patricia Cartwright, EMU Office for Alumni Relations.
FROM THE ARCHIVES

SUNNY SKIES Drum majors are often the most visible members of the marching band, and Oliver Peltonen (BME62) was no exception. Called “Sunny Skies” in the 1960 “Aurora” yearbook, Peltonen and majorettes Dexa Coleman (BS62), Ruth Rezek (BS61), Judy Down and Margaret White (MS68) led EMU’s marching band, the Pride of the Peninsula, onto the field each game in what the yearbook authors called “their snappy green and white uniforms.”

FOLLOW THE GREEN AND WHITE ROAD this fall as we celebrate 97 years of Homecoming tradition at Eastern Michigan University. This grand annual celebration awaits you here on our beautiful campus. Welcome home. EMU HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 21, 2017 emich.edu/homecoming
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IN CLOSING

RISE AND SHINE
On crisp fall mornings, when many of us are still in bed, the EMU women's rowing team practices on the tranquil water of Ford Lake.

STEVE KING PHOTOGRAPHY