



# The Eastern Echo

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Serving EMU and Ypsilanti since 1881

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easternecho.com

## EMU President Kelly kicks off presidential term with parking updates

**AnnaBelle Favre**  
News Reporter

Brendan Kelly officially assumed office as the 24th president of Eastern Michigan University on April 1, marking a significant moment for the institution as it welcomed back one of its own. A two-time EMU graduate, Kelly's return represents both a homecoming and a new chapter in the university's leadership.

Looking ahead, Kelly outlined several key priorities for his presidency during a December press conference. Among them are improving student retention and enrollment, addressing student experience concerns such as parking and dining, exploring financial concerns that may be affecting students, and better aligning the campus community to EMU's brand.

"If it is a critical priority for students that attend this university, then it is a critical priority for me," Kelly told *The Eastern Echo* during a press conference in December.

### Parking changes

Kelly has already implemented some of these improvements, announcing in an email April 2 that some updates and

changes would begin for parking on campus, effective immediately.

The changes include a lift on overnight parking restrictions and waived spring and summer semester parking permits for 2026. Also, the Ford reserved parking lot will now be open to all residential and commuter permit holders. The Ford parking lot is split into three sections, with one section open for staff parking, one for commuter parking and one with reserved spots. The 82 spots located in the reserved area are now available to commuters and residents for parking.

On Jan. 30, EMU regained control of campus parking. All parking operations are now run by the EMU Department of Public Safety, headed by EMU Chief of Police Matthew Lige. Lige made it his mission to reinvent the parking system to be more efficient and student-friendly. He and the rest of DPS held four listening sessions allowing students to share their thoughts and opinions about parking on campus.

After hearing the student feedback, Lige partnered with Kelly to make changes quickly. In an email sent to all EMU students April 2, a short video was attached listing the new changes to parking.

In the video, Kelly said, "I want you to know that we heard you. We've been moving quickly to make improvements."

### Presidential transition

Over the past month, Kelly has worked closely with outgoing president James Smith to ensure a smooth transition. Since March 1, Kelly has served as a salaried employment consultant at EMU, preparing to take on the responsibilities of the presidency and familiarizing himself with current campus initiatives and challenges.

Kelly previously served as the president of the Arkansas State University System, a role he began in September 2024. Despite his short tenure, Kelly made it clear that the opportunity to lead EMU was uniquely compelling. Speaking at a December press conference, he emphasized the personal significance of the position.

"I never, ever, ever, ever, ever anticipated leaving my current post in such a brief time. Never in a million years," Kelly said. "When I applied for this job, I made it really clear: I am not applying for any jobs right now. I am applying for this job. This institution is unlike any in the country for us."



President-elect Brendan Kelly speaking to the audience at the Board of Regents meeting Dec. 10, 2025, in Welch Hall. Bradan Copeland / *The Eastern Echo*

In an email sent to students on the morning of April 1, Kelly wrote, "My commitment is simple: to ensure every one of you feels supported, prepared, and confident as you pursue your goals." He included a video of his first message to students as president.

In a statement from EMU Today, Kelly explained the personal importance of this new role and the urgency of the work ahead of him.

"This work is personal to me. Eastern Michigan University shaped my life — first as a student, then as a scholar, and now as a leader," Kelly said. "Today is not just a beginning; it's a call to action. We don't have a minute to waste. Our students are counting on us, our communities are counting on us, and the state of Michigan is counting on us."

## Ypsilanti Township strengthens opposition to data center as U-M confirms land purchase



A weathered flyer near the Eastern Michigan University Honors College on April 1 protests the computing facility planned to be built in Ypsilanti Township by the University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory. Laura Meriweather / *The Eastern Echo*

**Laura Meriweather**  
News Reporter

The Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees has formally re-established the township's opposition to the University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory supercomputing facility after U-M confirmed its purchase of a 124-acre parcel on Textile Road.

A Township Board resolution, adopted during a special township meeting March 31, mirrors concerns raised by several members in the community that the facility, which has been widely referred to as a data center, will decrease the quality of life of Ypsilanti Township residents. Commonly cited concerns include economic, medical and national security risks to locals, particularly those in racial minority demographics, as well as the environmental impact.

Paul Corliss told *The Eastern Echo* in a written statement on April 3 that,

"The University of Michigan is aware of Ypsilanti Township's recently passed resolution declaring opposition to 'Los Alamos National Laboratory siting a nuclear research facility anywhere in Ypsilanti Township.'" Corliss is the assistant vice president for public affairs and internal communications at U-M.

The statement continued by saying, "As we have previously stated, the proposed facility is a high-performance computational research center designed to support advanced research in areas such as medicine, climate science, energy and national security. It is not a nuclear weapons facility and would not involve the storage or handling of hazardous materials. Further, the characterization of the yet-to-be-built facility as a 'Tier 1 High Value Target Risk' is not supported by facts."

Since 2024, U-M and the LANL have made some details of the project, but Ypsilanti Township locals and

officials have repeatedly said that there is not enough transparency about the project, and some of the details that are available have sparked backlash in the community.

"It started with a lie," said Brenda Stumbo, township supervisor. "Because they were simultaneously negotiating to purchase another additional 124 acres next to the property that's separated by a driveway that enters our South Hydro Park."

According to Stumbo, the original scope of the project as it was first presented to her was 200 jobs on site, on 20 acres at \$200,000 a year in salaries.

Corliss said that "U-M will continue to seek and consider input from local community members as it relates to the proposed project," but the university has not publicly stated that it will consider outright abandoning its plans after hearing past feedback from the community.

LANL and U-M have rejected the categorization of the facilities as data centers because the technology being used is technically and logistically different, but many locals remain unconvinced, including Ypsilanti resident Samantha Stewart.

Stewart has been involved with a local activist movement called the Stop the Data Center, which she says has united an ideologically diverse group of people opposed to the project.

"I think one thing that's really cool about this story for me is the power of the people," she said. "This onslaught of data centers feels almost inevitable. It feels like there's nothing we can do about it. But the campaign so far has already had some big wins. The Township Board started out being

100% pro-data center, and now they're passing these ordinances against the data center."

Ypsilanti Township initially supported the facility location being changed to a 300-acre property previously owned by General Motors Hydramatic, but has since changed its stance to oppose the facilities being built anywhere in the township at all in its newest resolution.

From the University of Michigan's perspective, the shift has seemed like a moving of the goalposts.

"We value our relationship with the township and respect the role of local officials, as well as the importance of community input in this process," Corliss said in his statement. "At the same time, we are disappointed by this change in position. Township leaders had previously indicated support for this project — both publicly and privately — and specifically encouraged the university to focus on the proposed Willow Run site in Ypsilanti Township. Our process has been responsive to that input, and we continue to evaluate both Willow Run and the Textile Road property in the township as part of an active due diligence process."

Local officials have repeatedly encouraged the site owned by the Willow Run Arsenal for Democracy as an alternative to the Textile Road location, but have typically stopped short in those instances of publicly endorsing the computing facility itself. Stumbo said during a Feb. 2026 U-M regents meeting that having the facility at the Willow Run location would be a "win-win for everyone."

A March 18 statement from U-M following the Textile Road 124-acre purchase said that the purchase does

not represent a final decision on where the facility will be built.

"The project remains in an active due-diligence phase, with no final site selected," the statement said. "Following an extensive initial review, the university is evaluating the Textile Road site, and a site at the Willow Run complex at the request of Ypsilanti Township officials. Both locations meet the technical and infrastructure requirements for this type of facility."

The \$1.25 billion project will include both a federal research facility and an unclassified academic one, as well as an electrical substation to power the facilities.

U-M is responsible for \$830 million of the funding for the project, while LANL has pledged \$300 million. In Dec. 2024, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation approved a \$100 million grant to further support its development. State Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr. introduced a bill to cancel this funding, but it has stalled in Lansing.

Douglas Winters, an attorney who serves as legal counsel for the township, said during the March 31 meeting that U-M may not even be aware of what will occur inside the federal facility, which is designated for confidential research.

In a previous interview with *The Echo*, Patrick Fitch, deputy director for science, technology and engineering at LANL, said that the research done by the federal facility will be computational work. He confirmed that the simulation and computational research conducted in the facility will inform LANL's nuclear weapons program.

**SEE LAND PURCHASE, PAGE 3**

## The Eastern Echo

The Eastern Echo serves the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti communities as an independent student-operated newspaper. Founded in 1881 as *The Normal News*, *The Eastern Echo* distributes weekly print editions on campus and throughout the surrounding Ypsilanti community during the fall and winter academic semesters. *The Eastern Echo* also publishes online year-round. Published content is subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without prior written consent of the newspaper.

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### THE ECHO MISSION

The Eastern Echo informs the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti communities by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.

### HOW TO REACH US

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Winter 2026  
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### CORRECTIONS

At *The Eastern Echo*, we correct our mistakes. If we got it wrong, we want to make it right. Errors should be brought to the attention of the editor-in-chief by email: editor@easternecho.com.

Where to find the newest volume of *Cellar Roots*, EMU's Fine Arts and Literary Magazine:



# CALENDAR

APR  
7

## Planting and Painting

1-4 p.m.  
Marshall Building — Room 201

APR  
8

## Reel Bites

7-10 p.m.  
Student Center — Auditorium

APR  
9

## Eagle Regatta

3-5 p.m.  
Lake House — University Park

APR  
10

## Women's Resource Center: #LeadLikeAGirl

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Student Center — Room 350

APR  
11

## "The Little Star that Could" EMU Planetarium

1:30-2:30 p.m. and 3-4 p.m.  
Mark Jefferson Science Complex — Room 402

APR  
12

## EMU Japanese Student Association's Japanese Spring Festival

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Student Center — Main Ballroom and Auditorium

APR  
13

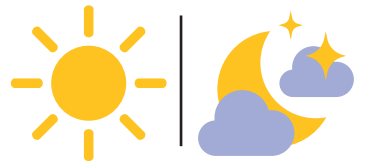
## Basketball League Championship Night

6-10 p.m.  
Rec/IM Building — 3rd Floor Courts

## WEATHER FORECAST

Tuesday, April 7

High: 40 | Low: 26  
Sunny / Partly cloudy



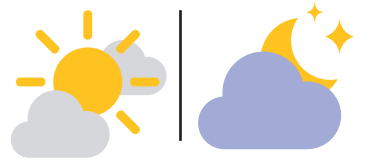
Wednesday, April 8

High: 56 | Low: 47  
Mostly cloudy / Mostly cloudy



Thursday, April 9

High: 69 | Low: 47  
Partly sunny\* / Mostly cloudy\*



Friday, April 10

High: 64 | Low: 43  
Mostly cloudy\* / Mostly cloudy\*



Saturday, April 11

High: 61 | Low: N/A  
Mostly cloudy\* / N/A



\*Chance of precipitation



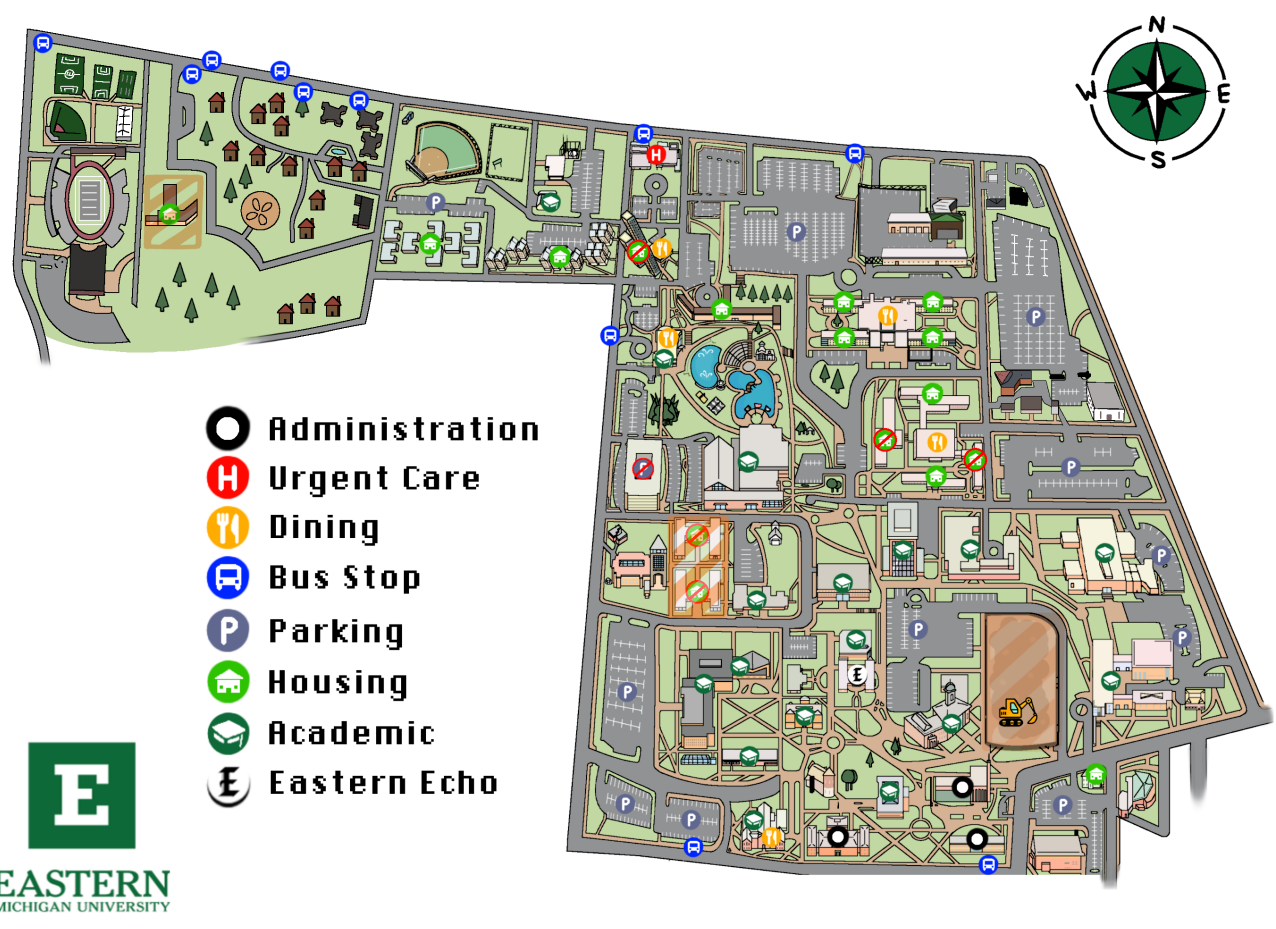
Source:  
The National Weather Service

### Where to find The Echo:

- On Campus:**
- Domino's Pizza, 953 Washtenaw Ave.
  - Eagle Crest Conference Center, 1275 S. Huron St.
  - Eagle Crest Golf Clubhouse, 1275 S. Huron St.

- Off Campus:**
- Pierce Hall
  - Pray-Harrold

### Where to find our links:



# Voter turnout in 2026 Student Government election highest on record since 2014

Laura Meriweather

News Reporter

In the March 2026 Student Government election, 12% of the Eastern Michigan University student body voted, the highest percentage turnout on record since 2014. 1,350 ballots were cast — the highest on record since 2016, despite enrollment dropping by over 8,500 in that time, according to data on the university's enrollment dashboard.

Election Commissioner Max Butler was not available for an interview but said over email that he was pleased to see the turnout levels in this year's election.

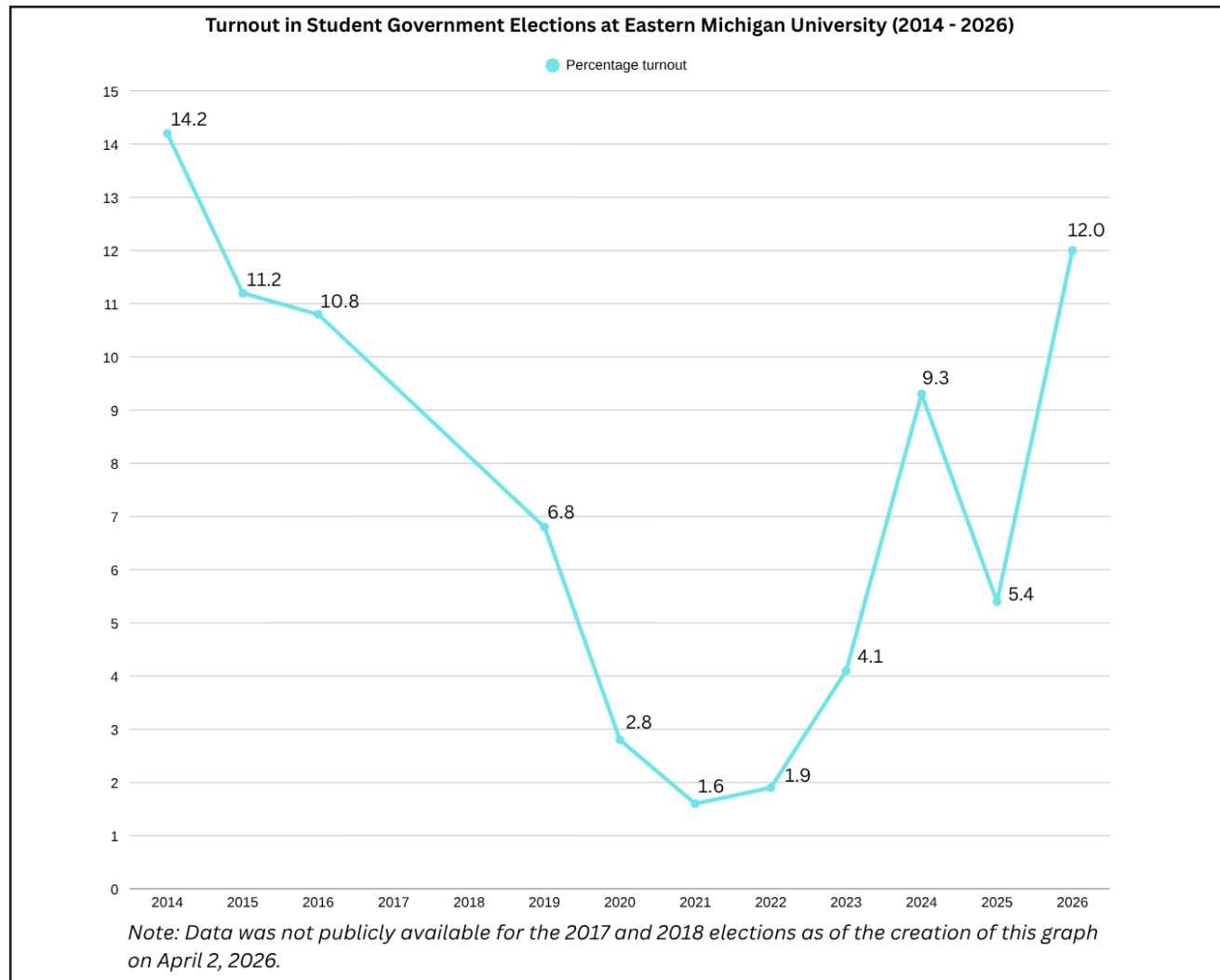
"It's an important right students have as it's how we give students a voice on campus," said Butler, who is also the sitting director of internal affairs for Student Government.

Students interviewed by *The Echo* in a previous article cited both a lack of awareness and a lack of interest as reasons they had not participated in prior elections.

Yasrib Farook and Mirna Shehab, the runners-up in the election, posted a campaign video Feb. 23 highlighting the low turnout of recent elections and asking students to vote this year.

"Every year, we all receive an email saying 'Student Government elections,' but most students ignore it," Shehab said in the video. "Not because they don't care, but because they think it doesn't matter, and honestly, I used to think the same way."

Nina Freeman, the president-elect,



A line graph created on April 2 shows the percentage of Eastern Michigan University students who voted in each Student Government election year from 2014 through 2026, excluding 2017 and 2018 due to a lack of data. All years are based on enrollment numbers from the ends of winter semesters, except for 2026, which is based on enrollment at the start of the 2026 winter semester. *Laura Meriweather / The Eastern Echo*

attributed the higher turnout to an increase in coverage by *The Echo* during an email exchange March 31.

The last recorded time the

percentage turnout broke 10% at EMU was in 2016. In comparison, 47% of voters ages 18 to 29 voted in the 2024 U.S. presidential election, according to

a report by Tufts University's Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, or CIRCLE.

# EMU Fraternity and Sorority Life gears up for Greek Week



Delta Zeta Sorority Gamma Sigma Chapter at Eastern Michigan University celebrate Bid Day. (Courtesy of Delta Zeta Sorority)

Gray Connor

Managing Editor - Operations

Eastern Michigan University's Fraternity and Sorority Life is set to host a number of daily events for Greek Week, with both current members and non-FSL affiliates encouraged to participate.

From April 13-17, FSL, which is the overarching organization overseeing all Greek-affiliated fraternities and sororities at EMU, will host competitive events for fundraising and community building.

"Students can expect a week of friendly competition, unity, and collaboration across Greek Life,

a bond with the entire community," AnneFleur Luchies said in a written statement to *The Echo*. Luchies currently serves as Delta Zeta Gamma Sigma Chapter's vice president of communications.

According to Luchies, the goal of her sorority isn't just to win but to also show up for one another and promote the bond of sisterhood.

## EMU FSL's 2026 Greek Week Schedule

### Monday, April 13

The first event for FSL's Greek Week schedule is a dodgeball tournament and inflatable obstacle course, located at the Rec/IM on the third floor basketball courts and lounge April 13 from 5-7 p.m. Students must be part of FSL to participate. Attendees must fill out an FSL Assumption of Risk and Liability form before arriving, provided by each organization's leadership.

### Tuesday, April 14

Attendees interested in philanthropy can offer their service from 5-7 p.m. April 14 in the EMU Student Center rooms 310 B, 301, and the Kiva Room, to help create dog toys and care kits to be donated, with materials provided. Non-FSL members are not allowed to participate.

### Wednesday, April 15

Located on the Student Center Patio from 5-7 p.m., students can choose a fraternity or sorority president to pie in the face. This event is a fundraiser, and proceeds raised will be donated to the SafeHouse Center in Washtenaw County, which offers services and support to survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault. Students, both FSL-

affiliated and not, are encouraged to join in and donate.

### Thursday, April 16

The last event of Greek Week is a dinner and movie night, where FSL-affiliated members can watch "Monsters University" from 7-9:30 p.m. in the Student Center Auditorium. Students must be part of FSL to participate.

"We [Greek Life] are such a big community full of so many successful and bright college students; it can be hard to find time to connect with others in our community," Melina Moustakeas said, a sister of Tri Sigma Sorority, in a statement to *The Eastern Echo*. "I truly hope we all make or talk to a new friend, make new connections, and make new memories that last a lifetime."

The week also encourages members of FSL to showcase their pride in their organization for points. Throughout the week, each event will also come with a theme that members of FSL can participate in to earn points for their specific fraternity or sorority, like wearing EMU-themed attire or repping the letters of their organization.

Points will also be determined by how well members of each organization do during the competitive events, as well as how many members of each fraternity and sorority are present.

For more information on the points breakdown, participants can visit EMU Fraternity and Sorority Life's Instagram page, @emufsl.

Those interested in getting involved with Fraternity and Sorority Life at EMU can find additional information on the organizations and their many affiliates through the group's page on the EMU website.

## What's the Move?

April 7-13

Allie Beecher

Copy Desk Chief

Looking for something to do in Ypsilanti? Check out this list of upcoming local events.

### Poetry Month Workshop Sessions, April 9

The Ypsilanti District Library is celebrating National Poetry Month by hosting a poetry workshop every Thursday in April at its Michigan Avenue branch. Anyone is welcome to come by to meet fellow writers and workshop a piece of poetry. These workshops will lead up to the YDL's open mic and award ceremony April 24.

Each workshop takes place 4-5 p.m. in Meeting Room 2 at the Michigan Avenue branch. The next one will take place April 9, and two others are scheduled for April 16 and 23.

The workshops are free, and no registration is required. To learn more, visit the YDL's website.

The Michigan Avenue branch of the YDL is at 229 W. Michigan Ave.

### Astronomicon 9, April 10-12

From Friday, April 10, to Sunday, April 12, the Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest will host Astronomicon 9, a pop culture convention featuring panels and events for all ages. The convention will feature cosplay contests for children and adults, panels with guests such as Dave Coulier and Billy Zane, and more.

The convention's website lists its hours as 5-10 p.m. Friday, April 10; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 11; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 12. Tickets vary in price and are available for purchase on the convention's website, astronomicon.com. For more information, visit the website or email info@astronomicon.com.

The Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest is at 1275 S. Huron St.

### Ink Drinker Reading Series: A City On Mars, April 11

On Saturday, April 11, the YDL will host the fourth session of its new series The Ink Drinker, which introduces participants to the work of different authors and facilitates conversation. This time, attendees will explore "A City on Mars: Can We Settle Space, Should We Settle Space, and Have We Really Thought This Through?" by Kelly Weinersmith.

The session will take place 3-5 p.m. in the Program Room at the Michigan Avenue branch of the YDL. It is free and no registration is required. To learn more, visit the YDL's website.

### Frames and Frequencies: Silent Films with Live Music, April 11

Silent films are not just a thing of the 1920s. A collaboration between the Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti and the University Musical Society at the University of Michigan invited filmmakers in Washtenaw County to submit short silent films. On Saturday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m., selected films will be shown back-to-back at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse with live improvised music from Resonant Soundscapes, a group of Michigan-based artists.

This event is pay-what-you-wish, but those interested in attending must pay at least \$5 to get a ticket. To purchase tickets and learn more about the event, visit ums.org/performance/frames-and-frequencies/.

### The Spinning Dot Theatre Playwriting Workshop Performance, April 12

On Sunday, April 12, in partnership with Spinning Dot Theatre, the Whittaker branch of the YDL at 5577 Whittaker Road will host new voices brought to life in plays written as part of a series of local community workshops over the past year. Led by playwrights José Casas and Adam Weisman, these workshops were a creative space focused on youth empowerment and diversity. Now, in this culmination, workshop participants will share their work.

The event will take place at 2 p.m. in the Whittaker Community Room. For more information, visit the YDL website.

## Land purchase

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"At some point in time, you can either be a victim or you can be an unwilling victim," Winters said during

the meeting. "I think the township tonight is telling the whole world, so to speak, that we're going to be an unwilling victim. We're not going to

lay down. We're not going to sell out ... We're not going to do any of that foolishness so you can have your way and destroy our community and forever

stigmatize Ypsilanti Township as being a federal nuclear research facility."



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Facebook @ The Eastern Echo

# Eastern Echo Hall of Fame inducts EMU alum, sports journalist Larry O'Connor



Seasoned sports journalist Larry O'Connor was inducted into *The Eastern Echo* Hall of Fame on April 2 at the Student Media Gala and Hall of Fame Banquet. *Courtesy Prielipp / The Eastern Echo*

**Lilly Kujawski**  
Managing Editor - News

Jack of all trades — and master of them all. The Swiss Army knife of journalism. That's how colleagues and friends describe Larry O'Connor, one of the newest inductees into *The Eastern Echo* Hall of Fame.

On Thursday, April 2, at the annual *Eastern Echo* Student Media Gala and Hall of Fame Banquet, *The Echo* honored three Eastern Michigan University alumni: journalist and editor O'Connor, author and Axios business reporter Nathan Bomey, and former Ann Arbor Observer assistant editor and MSN news editor Sally Day Wright.

O'Connor has covered a range of topics in journalism, from arts and entertainment to police and crime stories. However, one reporting beat has echoed throughout his entire career: sports. O'Connor, who served as sports editor at *The Echo* from 1982-84, has been an avid sports fan from a young age and found sports to be his entryway into journalism.

"I played baseball. I played hockey. I played soccer," O'Connor said. "In high school, I used to work at Tiger Stadium as a junior usher; you wiped

seats with the hope of getting tips. And then I eventually got to work in the visitors' clubhouse as a clubhouse attendant. So, all these guys I looked up to — like baseball stars and stuff — I was actually in the locker room, seeing them up close and personal, so to speak. ... It was like a dream job at the time."

Growing up, O'Connor worked at his junior high school's newspaper, where his passion for journalism began. He graduated from Wayne Memorial High School in Wayne, Michigan, in 1980. During his high school career, he served as managing editor of his school's paper and wrote feature stories for a professional soccer team in Detroit called Detroit Express.

He would send the stories he wrote to his mentor, Kevin Allen, who worked at a daily paper in Arizona at the time. Allen, also a Wayne Memorial and *Echo* alum, nominated O'Connor for the Hall of Fame this year. Allen introduced O'Connor to *The Echo*, bringing him by the newsroom for a visit when O'Connor was still in high school.

"I had no doubt that he was going to end up being an excellent journalist because he wrote well as a high schooler," Allen said, adding that even

back then, O'Connor's work rarely needed heavy edits.

When O'Connor attended EMU, *The Echo* offices were located in Goodison Hall, he said. Today, *The Echo* offices are in King Hall.

"I loved working at *The Echo*. In fact, the old office — I'm sure you don't have it — in Goodison Hall. ... it was a wide open place. You know, people smoked. People yelled at each other. People laughed. And we had so many characters," O'Connor said. "It was a safe haven. If you were bored in your dorm room or something, you could always go and hang out at *The Echo*."

O'Connor's college days were busy. In addition to working at *The Echo* and taking classes, he also held down a student supervisor job at one of the campus dining halls and freelanced for the Detroit Free Press.

"They had me as a paid correspondent, and I'd call them every day and tell them what was going on with the football team, or the basketball team. In some instances, they actually had me cover games for the Free Press. And I can't tell you what a thrill it was," O'Connor said.

In college, O'Connor majored in political science and minored in journalism — a program not yet offered as a major at the time. At EMU, he met his wife, who also worked at the dining hall, and asked her out during their last week on campus.

"She's been along for the whole ride," he said.

After he graduated, O'Connor worked as a part-time sports writer at a publication called Observer and Eccentric, where he was named Journalist of the Year in 1989. He spent 17 years at Observer and Eccentric. He also worked as a staff writer at the Jackson Citizen Patriot, where he covered sports, lifestyle, entertainment, news and business as a general assignment reporter.

Working at *The Echo* opened up doors of opportunity and helped O'Connor build his confidence as a journalist, he said.

"Another thing it gave me is gumption. Nobody ever told me no," he said. "When I went to my first job, which was at the Observer and Eccentric newspaper ... if there was a story to be done, I just went and did it, and the editors liked my gumption."

After a break from journalism

to return to school and work as a computer technician, he was offered a job as a copy editor at the Detroit News in 2011.

"He is sort of emblematic of the journalists of his era," Allen said, describing the way O'Connor worked his way up from a weekly paper to eventually working at a major metropolitan daily paper.

For O'Connor, working at the Detroit News was a dream come true.

"When I was a kid, I always wanted to work for one of the two major daily newspapers in Detroit," he said. "I used to deliver the Detroit News as a kid."

His position reunited him with his former *Echo* colleague, James Russ, sports editor at the Detroit News who was working as the assistant sports editor at the time. In addition to copy editing for the sports desk, O'Connor also worked as a web producer for the News. With his strong editing and web producing skills, Russ described O'Connor as a do-it-all type of person in the sports department, in addition to his sports expertise.

"Larry had a vast reservoir of sports knowledge," Russ said. "I always appreciated the fact that I could ask Larry something about the Tigers or the Lions or basically anything having to do with local sports and he would ... more times than not, he would know the answer."

"He always had a good sense of humor, and he always had great stories to tell," Russ added.

O'Connor's award-winning work in community journalism and his service to those communities over the course of his career is part of what stood out to Allen when he nominated him for the Hall of Fame.

"You need someone to be the watchdog, and Larry has been in the heart of that — being a watchdog for his entire career," Allen said.

Now, O'Connor is completing his master's degree with hopes of working in special education, with a focus on students on the autism spectrum. In the meantime, he has been working as a substitute teacher and paraprofessional in classrooms.

"I have always come from the belief that everybody has a story to tell, and everybody has a gift — everybody," O'Connor said. "That's the way I approach working with the kids."

## The WellNest Watch



### Third spaces: Connecting with your community

**Nathaniel King**  
Contributor

**Editor's note:** In *The WellNest Watch*, master's degree candidates in the public health program at EMU's School of Health Promotion and Human Performance explore news, research and standard practices in the field of health and wellness.

I sat in a local coffee shop while thinking about the topic of this article. When I am in an academic funk, I always visit a local space to get my thoughts flowing. I thought about the value that local coffee shops, libraries and parks have brought to my life. These areas are third spaces that I often frequent.

Third spaces are the spaces around us besides our home and work. The term third space was coined by sociologist Ray Oldenburg.

These spaces not only provide us with a place to gather but also support a wide range of benefits for communities. Let's take a look at these benefits.

Third spaces provide us with areas to connect with our neighbors. Since these spaces are often in our neighborhoods, they provide a great way to meet community members and local leaders and connect to local businesses. Third spaces, such as cafes, parks and libraries, are crucial resources for increasing our social circle. These spaces offer connections to people and often connections to local health resources.

Local libraries, such as the Ypsilanti District Library, offer support services, including a social worker and a safe space for citizens of all ages to hang out. Unhoused neighbors may use this space to access the internet, connect to local organizations and have a space to feel safe during the day.

College students, families and others may use the library for computers as well as to check out books. Libraries often have a positive influence on improving literacy in a community by hosting summer reading events and supporting lifelong learning.

Parks provide green space, a safe place to exercise, and a free activity for families and community members. These spaces are often used for a variety of activities, family gatherings, holiday celebrations and community initiatives.

Protecting third spaces is key to positively influencing our health, as well as the role of health educators in your community. Public health professionals can use the spaces to connect with the communities that they serve.

It's key to have free and accessible spaces to get to know your community and its needs. This helps us tailor health programs to fit and to get community members involved.

Third spaces foster connection, a powerful tool for public health interventions, and are important spaces to protect for community members. The way we use third spaces may change as we age and seasonally, but they still serve us and provide a variety of benefits.

# Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance to host Mother's Day 5K and Fun Run

**Lauren Holloway**  
News Reporter

Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer-related death in women; however, it's only the eleventh most common cancer in women, according to the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance. This May, the Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance will be hosting a Mother's Day Time to Teal Run/Walk to raise money for ovarian cancer research.

Meredith Arant, the communication and engagement coordinator for MIOCA, said the funds from the event go into the Geri Fournier Ovarian Cancer Research grant. Geri Fournier co-founded MIOCA along with her daughter Pam Dahlmann. Since Fournier died from ovarian cancer, MIOCA has been hosting the run and giving out the grant in her honor, Arant said. The grant is \$50,000 and is given to a researcher in Michigan. The winner of the 2025 grant was recently awarded to Dr. Abdulsalam Soofi at the University of Michigan. The applications for 2026 will open later this year.

"We've seen improvements in treatment. But there's still a lot of progress that needs to be done with ovarian cancer," Arant said. "It's something where there's not very many

treatment options."

The funds also go toward support programs for women with ovarian cancer. There are financial assistance programs to help cover medical bills, care packages and awareness campaigns, Arant said.

This year, the run is going to be about raising awareness while also celebrating Mother's Day and having fun, Arant said. Since the run starts in the morning, there will be donuts and coffee. There will be a photo booth and swag bags.

"This year is going to be a lot of fun because we have a few characters — plus, we have a coffee truck," Arant said.

Before the run begins, there will be speeches. One is from a gynecologist or a researcher — someone who is qualified to talk about the signs of ovarian cancer and what to look out for. U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell has spoken at the event before.

The event is broken down into two runs. The first is a timed 5K for all ages or abilities; attendees are welcome to run or walk, Arant said. There are prizes for top finishers. At the same time, there will also be an untimed fun run that is just one mile for people to run or walk. After the runs are over, the guests are welcome to mingle.

"The community kind of gathers,



Two participants of the 2023 Time to Teal Run/Walk celebrate during the event on South Ashley Street in Ann Arbor. *(Courtesy of Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance)*

people get their medals, they get snacks and water, kind of connect with each other, use the photo booth," Arant said.

Tickets are now available to purchase on MIOCA's website. For the 5K, the cost is \$43. For the one-mile run, the cost is \$21. There is also an option to stay home for a cure. Those who can't make it to the event itself can buy a \$26 ticket, and MIOCA will send a packet with a finisher's medal. Registration is free for ovarian cancer survivors.

MIOCA has other events throughout the year. The organization partners with the Detroit Marathon and is featured as a charity of the day for a

Detroit Tigers baseball game. In the fall, events include a masquerade ball, a community picnic and a bingo event. More information on all of these events can be found on the MIOCA website.

The run is May 10, 2026, at Rolling Hills County Park at 7660 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti. The event is open to the public, and anyone can purchase a ticket.

"Not only do we recognize those who have been diagnosed or impacted by ovarian cancer, but it's a day where we can celebrate the amazing women in our lives for Mother's Day," Arant said.



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# Eagle excellence: Honors for Eastern Michigan student-athletes

## Eagle Sports Tips & Tales:

April 7-13

**Darrell Justice**  
Sports Reporter

### Men's golf

**April 5-7: Calusa Cup**

**Tale:** The Eagles will head to Naples, Florida, to be one of eight teams participating in the Calusa Cup hosted by the University of Iowa.

**Tip:** Robby Turnbull recently received his second Mid-American Conference Men's Golfer of the Week award for the season. Turnbull had an impressive performance at the Bridgestone Collegiate event.

**Where to watch:** Fans can see the stats on the Scoreboard CLIPPD website.

### Women's golf

**April 6-8: Chevron Silverado Showdown**

**Tale:** Following the Silicon Valley Showcase, the Eastern Michigan women's golf team will head to Napa, California, to participate in the Chevron Silverado Showdown.

**Tip:** Savannah de Bock had an impressive performance at the Florida State Match Up. She tied for ninth place, marking her fourth top-10 finish of the year.

**Where to watch:** Fans can stay up to date with live results on the ScoreBoard CLIPPD website.

### Track and field

**April 9-11: Spec Towns Invitational**

**Tale:** The Eastern Michigan men's and women's track teams will head to Athens, Georgia, to participate in the Spec Towns Invitational hosted by the University of Georgia.

**Tip:** The Eagles recently set a total of four new personal bests across the men's and women's teams. The teams are looking to maintain that progress as the outdoor season moves forward.

**Where to watch:** Fans can see final results on MileSplit.com.

### Baseball

**April 10-12, vs. University of Massachusetts Amherst**

**Tale:** The Eastern Michigan baseball team will take on the University of Massachusetts in a three-game series at Oestrike Stadium. This will be the first time these two teams have met.

**Tip:** The Eagles recently swept the Central Michigan University Chippewas in a three-game series. This matchup will be another opportunity to add to their conference win total.

**Where to watch:** Fans can view the first game of the series on ESPN+. Live stats for every game will be available on StatBroadcast.com.

### Women's lacrosse

**April 11, vs. University of Massachusetts Amherst**

**Tale:** Lacrosse also takes on the University of Massachusetts Amherst at home, which will be the first-ever matchup between the two women's lacrosse programs.

**Tip:** Mackenzie Blackwell has remained consistent throughout the season as she ranks at the top of the conference for goals per game.

**Where to watch:** Fans can watch the game live on ESPN+.

### Rowing

**April 11-12: Knecht Cup**

**Tale:** The Eastern Michigan rowing team will be one of 59 clubs participating in the Knecht Cup, an event taking place in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

**Tip:** The Eagles will have rowers in three events: varsity eight, second varsity eight and varsity four.

**Where to watch:** Fans can see the results on RegattaCentral.com.

### Women's tennis

**April 12, vs. Miami University**

**Tale:** The Eastern Michigan women's tennis team will travel to Oxford, Ohio, to take on the Miami University RedHawks.

**Tip:** Freshman Cylova Zuleyka Hukmasabiyya has been a point of consistency for the Eagles. She is one to watch in this conference matchup.

**Where to watch:** Fans can see the final results on the EMU Athletics site.



**No. 1 Ainhoa Cea of the Eastern Michigan women's basketball team lines up for a free throw at the home game against the University at Buffalo at the George Gervin GameAbove Center on Feb. 21.** Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo

### Ruby Brannon

Sports Editor

At Eastern Michigan University, success in athletics is often measured by wins and statistics, but this season has proven that excellence extends far beyond the scoreboard.

Across multiple programs, EMU student-athletes have demonstrated that elite athletic performance can coexist with academic achievement, leadership and record-breaking accomplishments. This article highlights the standout individuals and moments over the last four weeks that define the department's pursuit of all-around greatness, showcasing how Eagles athletes are setting the gold standard both in competition and in the classroom.

### The gold standard: Academic all-district basketball stars

For student-athletes at Eastern Michigan, the pursuit of greatness is not limited to the hardwood, as evidenced by the recent recognition of Ainhoa Cea and Fernanda Ovalle. On March 24, both these members of the women's basketball team were named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District team. This honor requires a minimum 3.5 GPA and significant on-court participation, criteria that both women exceeded.

Cea, a senior guard and elementary early childhood teaching and learning major, maintains a perfect 4.0 GPA. On the court, she started all 29 games this season and finished second in the

Mid-American Conference with 5.9 assists per game. Her 172 total assists tied for the fourth-most in a single season in program history, placing her among an elite national group of players averaging high marks in points, rebounds and assists.

Her teammate, Ovalle, is equally accomplished, holding a 3.6 GPA as a psychology major. Ovalle, a native of Santiago, Chile, is now the highest-scoring Chilean-born student-athlete in NCAA history, with 594 career points. Her season was highlighted by a 26-point performance against Bowling Green State University, which earned her MAC Player of the Week honors in early January 2026.

### Dynamic duo: Eleko and Hill lead on-court resurgence

The transformation of the women's basketball program this season was anchored by the historic performances of Alphonsia "Sisi" Eleko and Peyton Hill, who both earned prestigious All-MAC honors March 10.

Eleko, a senior forward, secured All-MAC Second Team recognition for the second consecutive season after leading the conference with 9.9 rebounds per game and ranking second in scoring at 17.4 points per game. She concluded her EMU career tied for the program record with 31 double-doubles in just 56 games.

Joining Eleko in the spotlight, guard Hill made an immediate impact as only the fifth player in program history to be named MAC Freshman of the Year. Hill

led all the rookies in the conference in scoring (14.6 ppg) and free-throw percentage (81.9%) while also earning All-MAC Honorable Mention and a spot on the All-Freshman Team. This year, the Eagles' 11-win improvement marks one of the top five turnarounds in the nation, and these two athletes were instrumental in making that happen.

### Fairway favorites: Record-breaking golf accolades

The EMU golf programs have been virtually unstoppable this spring, with athletes from both the men's and women's teams frequently claiming the MAC Golfer of the Week title. On the women's side, Jasmine Leovao recently secured her third weekly honor of the season after a stellar third-place finish at the Florida State Match Up. Her score of 213 in Tallahassee helped her rise to No. 66 in the national rankings.

Jasmine is not the only Leovao making waves; her twin sister, Janae Leovao, has also captured three MAC Golfer of the Week awards this season. The sisters even shared the honor Feb. 20.

The men's golf team has been equally dominant, setting a program record with five weekly awards in a single season. Freshman Robby Turnbull recently earned his second MAC Golfer of the Week award after a standout performance at the Bridgestone Collegiate Invitational, where he finished 14th. Turnbull's final round in Napa was a masterclass in consistency, featuring four birdies and

# Rockets' red glare: Eastern Michigan baseball swept by Toledo as win streak ends

### Ruby Brannon

Sports Editor

The Eastern Michigan University baseball team entered Scott Park on Thursday, April 2, riding the momentum of a six-game winning streak. However, that momentum was abruptly halted by the University of Toledo in a 10-2 series-opening loss. John Carmichael took the mound for his eighth start of the season, delivering a season-high 6.0 innings of work. While Carmichael limited the Rockets to four earned runs through those six frames, the Eagles were undone by a late-inning offensive surge and defensive miscues.

The game remained competitive early on, as Bruce Jellison drove in runs in both the second and fourth innings to keep the score tied at 2-2. Jellison's single to center scored Ty Stecko to open the EMU scoring, and a later groundout allowed Devan Zirwas to cross the plate. The turning point arrived in the bottom of the sixth when Toledo's J.P. Wagner broke the tie with a two-run triple. Defensive errors in the seventh inning further unraveled the Eagles, leading to a five-run outburst by the Rockets that put the game out of reach.

### Doubleheader heartbreak at Scott Park

Following the opening loss, the Eagles looked to rebound during a Friday doubleheader on April 3. The first game of the day was a closely

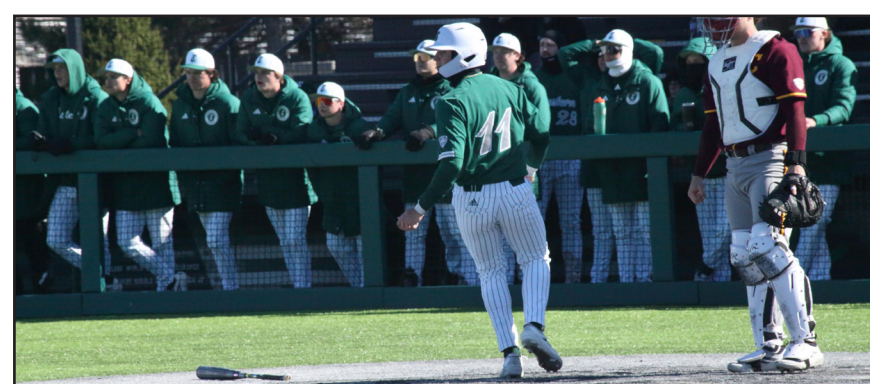
contested 6-4 defeat for Eastern. Michael Pfeiffer started for the Eagles and showcased his command by striking out a season-high five batters over 4.0 innings.

The Eagles actually struck first in this contest when Devan Zirwas launched a solo home run in the top of the first inning. This blast marked Zirwas' team-leading 10th home run of the season, a figure that ranks second in the Mid-American Conference. Despite another home run from Bruce Jellison in the eighth inning and a ninth-inning RBI from Nick Weaver, the Eagles' comeback attempt fell short as they left seven men on base. Eastern out-hit Toledo nine to seven in this matchup, but they could not convert those opportunities into a victory.

### Offensive explosion meets pitching collapse

The series finale proved to be the most difficult outing of the season for the green and white. While the Eagles' offense continued to flash potential, jumping out to an early 4-1 lead in the third inning, the pitching staff was unable to hold the line. Keegan Knupp provided a two-run single, and Ty Stecko added an RBI double to fuel the early lead. Leewood Molessa also hit his first home run as an Eagle, matching a career high with three runs scored in the game.

However, the game shifted dramatically in the fifth inning when Toledo exploded for 14 runs. The



**Infield baseball player No. 15, Bruce Jellison, makes it home during the game against Central Michigan University on March 28 at Oestrike Stadium.** Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo

Rockets' offensive barrage included two grand slams and lasted 34 minutes before Eastern could record a single out in the frame. Eastern was forced to deploy eight different pitchers in the finale, ultimately surrendering 23 runs. The game was concluded after seven innings due to the run rule, leaving the final score at 23-8.

### Individual milestones amid team struggles

Despite the winless weekend, several Eagles reached personal milestones and maintained impressive statistical trends. John Hale was a standout performer during the doubleheader, recording six hits across the two games, including two three-hit performances. His eight multi-hit games this season now rank second on the team.

Bruce Jellison extended his hitting streak to nine straight games, the longest of his career and a tie for the longest

on bogeys. He joins teammate Charlie Box, who secured three weekly honors earlier in the season during a red-hot stretch in October and November.

### Podium power: Track and field All-MAC honorees

The 2026 MAC Indoor Championships saw nine Eagles rise to the occasion, earning spots on the All-MAC teams. Leading the charge was Kian Wiles, who achieved a rare feat by winning individual titles in both the mile and the 800-meter race. Wiles is the first Eagle to sweep both events at the same championship since 2020.

Other First Team honors were claimed by Gabe Oliveira, who secured the triple jump title with a mark of 15.30m, and the Distance Medley Relay team, consisting of Ronan Codyre, Michael Hawkins, Ty Dailey and Jimmy Geller. On the women's side, Mariah Taylor was the lone honoree, but she made it count by winning the triple jump with a personal-best 12.69m.

The Eagles also saw strength in their Second Team selections. Lukas Ray earned his spot after a runner-up finish in the shot put, and Lucky Fiaku was recognized as the conference runner-up in the high jump. These performances have set a strong foundation as the teams transition to the outdoor season.

### Courtside command: Tennis weekly winners

The EMU tennis team has also seen its share of the spotlight this spring, particularly with the emergence of freshman Cylova Zuleyka Hukmasabiyya. She was named the MAC Singles Player of the Week on March 24, after a dominant 2-0 weekend at the No. 1 singles position. Her victories, including a straight-sets win over the reigning MAC Freshman of the Year from Toledo, helped the Eagles secure their first league win of the season.

Zuleyka Hukmasabiyya's honor followed an earlier accolade for the duo of Matilde Parreira and Sabrina Tolstova, who were named the MAC Doubles Team of the Week on Feb. 16.

These honors underscore the growing competitive spirit of the tennis program as they navigate a challenging conference schedule.

on the team this season. Jellison also reached base for the 13th consecutive game during the series. Defensively, catcher Nick Weaver continued his strong play behind the plate, throwing out his 16th runner of the year in the series finale. Additionally, the team maintained an aggressive approach on the basepaths, recording eight stolen bases across the doubleheader.

### Looking ahead

The weekend sweep at Toledo drops Eastern Michigan's record to 10-20 overall and 5-10 in MAC play. The results represent a step back in the conference standings as the program looks toward the final stretch of the season.

History suggests the Eagles are capable of bouncing back; while they have struggled in Toledo recently, they still hold a 101-78 all-time lead in the series against the Rockets.



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# Filmmakers to showcase their work at Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti



A group of people make a film at Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti's workshop during the 2025 festival. Courtesy of iFFY

**Hannah Borders**  
Arts Reporter

Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti is returning to the Riverside Arts Center for its seventh season of showcasing

independently-made short films and an annual 26.2 filmmaking marathon. iFFY, founded in 2019, is a film festival bringing together diverse audiences and uplifting independent filmmakers. iFFY holds its festivals at the Riverside Arts Center.

iFFY started as an organization in 2019, having its first film festival on a drive-in screen due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but has since expanded into becoming a three-day-long in-person event, said Micah Vanderhoof, director and programmer of iFFY.

"It started in kind of troubled times and has grown to be kind of a regular institution around town. Now, we're regularly operating out of the Riverside Arts Center, having our ... after-parties and all sorts of other events around town; little pop-ups as we can," Vanderhoof said.

The three-day-long festival will feature showings of various short films, an animation workshop and a filmmaking marathon. Anyone can watch the films at the Riverside Arts Center with the purchase of a ticket or a season pass. Tickets are \$13 per film or film series, and season passes are \$50, the iFFY website said.

The 26.2 film-making marathon will begin Saturday, April 11, and end Sunday, April 12. Filmmakers will have 26.2 hours to create a film that is four minutes or fewer in length and meets any given requirements. Requirements could include adding a specific line of dialogue, using a specific prop or filming in a given location. Any individual or group can enter the 26.2 Marathon for a fee of \$50. Films will be shown the following Saturday during the festival, where one film will win a \$250 prize, Vanderhoof said.

The event will begin Thursday, April 16, with a showing of the Michigan-ish film series starting at 7:30 p.m. Michigan-ish films are short

films that are set in Michigan or created by filmmakers from Michigan. One of the Michigan-ish films will win a \$250 prize, the iFFY website said.

On Friday, April 17, there will be a showing of a short film called "The Flamingo" at 5 p.m. before showing ten short films from the 2025 London International Animation Festival at 7 p.m. At 9 p.m., there will be a showing of a series of short films called "Wicked Game," the iFFY website said.

Saturday's events will begin with a direct animation workshop hosted by filmmaker Julia Yezbick. The workshop is free to attend, but participants must pre-register online due to limited space, Vanderhoof said.

After the workshop, iFFY will show two more short films and one more film series before finishing the festival by showing all of the films created during the 26.2 marathon, the iFFY website said.

After the festival activities Thursday and Saturday, there will be an after-party at 9:30 p.m. at Ziggy's in Ypsilanti. The after-parties are open to anyone, including those not at all affiliated with the film festival, Vanderhoof said.

"We're trying to encourage folks all over the states and the region to sort of see the festival as a hub for filmmaking and film going," Vanderhoof said.

# Poet Tree Town recognizes local poets in celebration of National Poetry Month

**Hannah Borders**  
Arts Reporter

Poet Tree Town is a grassroots organization that aims to uplift local poets.

Every year, Poet Tree Town puts out a call for work around January and accepts submissions between mid-February and the beginning of March. This year, submissions were open from Jan. 15 to March 1. Poet Tree Town accepts all poems, given that they are not hateful or violent in nature.

Poems are displayed on 11-by-17-inch posters at various businesses throughout Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor during April to celebrate National Poetry Month.

This year marks 30 years of National Poetry Month, which started in 1996.

Though poems are only on display through April, they are available online year-round on social media, and audio

recordings of each poem are available on SoundCloud.

"It's really just to uplift local artists, show that poetry is something that can be free, and accessible, approachable, show just a variety of voices, and you know, it's not something to be scared of, or something that is, like, strictly academic. Poetry's all around us, and within us, too," said Cam Finch, founder and organizer of Poet Tree Town.

Started in 2023, this is Poet Tree Town's fourth year working with local businesses to promote local creative writers. The organization has grown larger each year. This year, Poet Tree Town will be displaying 240 poems in 76 different locations, with 19 of those locations in Ypsilanti.

Poet Tree Town was inspired by a similar organization called Poem City, where Finch participated during their time in graduate school in Vermont.

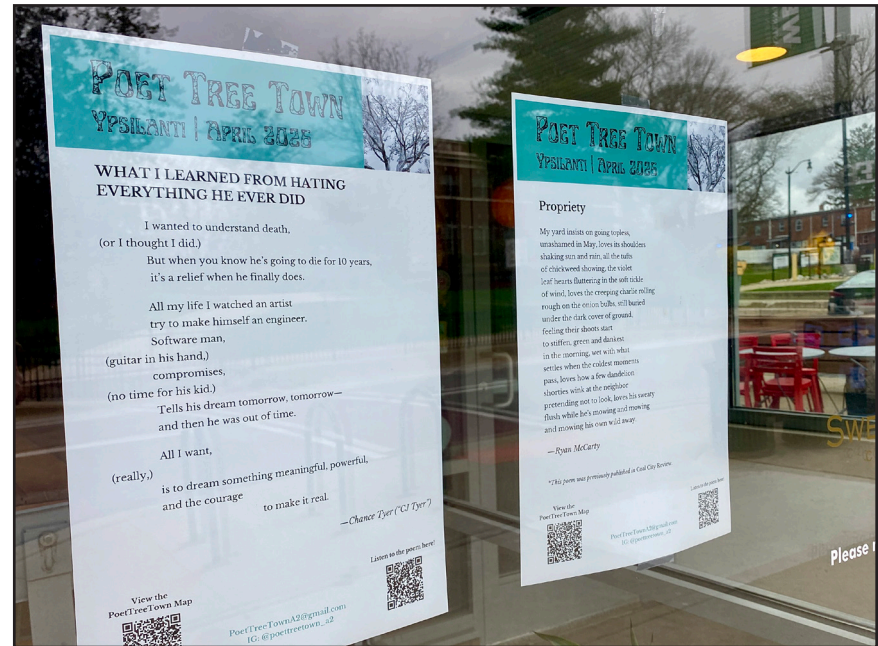
They were inspired to start Poet Tree Town after experiencing the loneliness of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"My goal is to connect, gather people. I just crave gathering people together, for the sake of poetry and art, and not being silent," Finch said.

The organization, which originated in Ann Arbor, was named for the city's affectionate nickname, Tree Town, dubbed for its dense canopy of trees. With the group's efforts to spread poems throughout Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, the name also lives up to its double meaning of Poetry Town.

"It's a big labor of love and passion project. It's become my life," Finch said.

For more information about Poet Tree Town, a map of poem locations and more, visit Poet Tree Town on Instagram @poettreetown\_a2 or on Facebook, at Poet Tree Town A2.



Poems by Chance Tyler and Ryan McCarty are displayed in the store window of Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea at 735 W. Cross St. in Ypsilanti. In celebration of National Poetry Month, Poet Tree Town poems will be displayed at many businesses throughout Washtenaw County during the month of April. Natalie Kyle / The Eastern Echo

# EMU Parsons Center to hold immersive summer classes for students



Students from a 2025 class at the Parsons Center for Arts and Sciences pose for a picture. Courtesy of John DeHoog

**Katherine Tatomir**  
Newsletter Editor

Eastern Michigan University students looking to learn in an immersive, off-campus environment can register for summer 2026 classes at the Parsons Center for Arts and Sciences.

The Parsons Center for Arts and Sciences is an 86-acre educational center that was gifted to EMU in 2000 from the estate of the late Jean Noble Parsons. Parsons was an artist at her core, studying painting, ceramics, sculpture and more. Before her passing, Parsons put all of her estates up for bid to be used for educational purposes, with the requirement that the education must have a focus on nature and the environment.

The two courses offered this summer are Game Mechanics in Play (SAGG 379) and Drawing & Painting the Landscape (AD2D 379/479/592).

Game Mechanics in Play, which runs June 5-13, is all about the strategies and design of gameplay. Students can expect to play different kinds of games with their classmates and design their own games on computers.

Drawing & Painting the Landscape, which runs July 7-16, is a mostly studio-based course in which students will visit different landscapes both on and off the Parsons Center property and learn to recreate them as their own works.

Sandra Murchison, the director of the Parsons Center, as well as the director for the School of Art and Design at EMU, will be co-teaching Drawing & Painting the Landscape this summer. She looks forward to students engaging with art in an immersive environment and is dedicated to carrying on the legacy of Jean Parsons.

"It's important to us that all of the classwork is mindful to the environment," Murchison said.

The cost of the courses aligns with

the current EMU tuition rate, with an additional \$200 program fee for lodging. Students will be engaging with one another and their environment through activities from breakfast time until dinnertime each day, including the meals themselves. The Parsons Center does not employ full-time staff, so students will work together to cook in the property's industrial kitchen.

The experience at the Parsons Center is regarded as a highlight of the year, according to feedback that Murchison has received from students and colleagues. Aside from the unique learning environment, the whole property has features for students to enjoy, such as several lake trails and rustic wooded paths.

The Parsons Center for Arts and Sciences is at 5833 Bellows Lake Road, Lake Ann, Michigan.

For more information or inquiries about registration, contact Murchison at smurchis@emich.edu.



Instagram @easternechoofficial

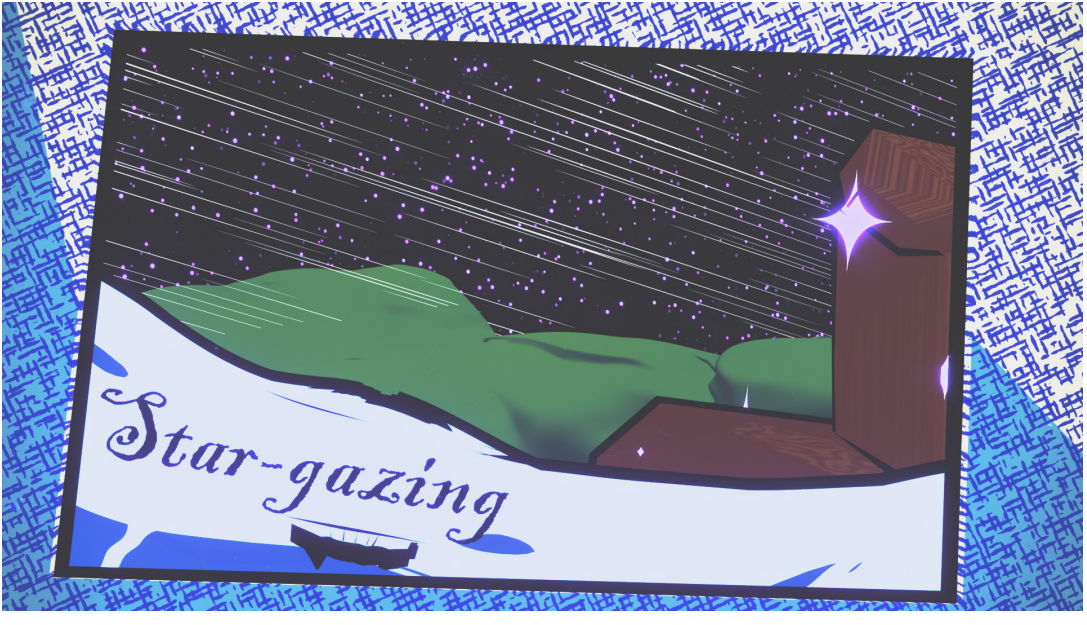


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### Shooting Stars | Yiri



### Glistening Company | Rylee Curley



### Nostalgic Sunsets | Rylee Curley



### Tomorrow is another day | Yiri



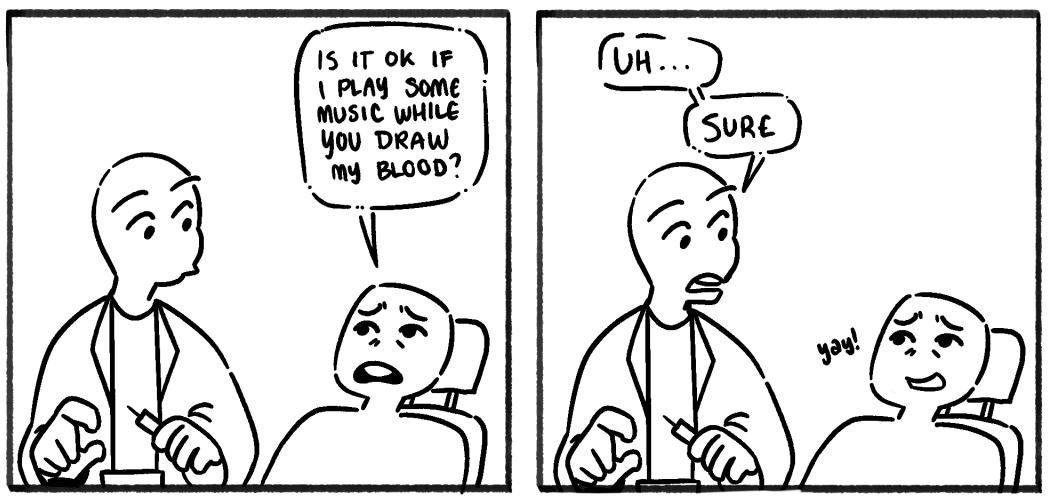
### afternoon doodles! | Rylee Curley



### poor timing. | FunkyLOaf



### that reassuring melody | FunkyLOaf



### Constellation Word Search | Rylee Curley

## WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the constellation names?

L	K	R	T	S	I	U	D	G	J	K	X	C	S
T	S	G	A	I	U	S	C	A	R	B	I	L	B
N	M	S	U	I	P	R	O	C	S	P	L	Y	U
S	I	A	R	I	E	S	R	I	K	R	P	Q	K
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P	I	S	C	E	S	L	M	O	V	G	H	U	I
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C	V	F	S	A	G	I	T	T	A	R	I	U	S

Aries
Taurus
Gemini
Cancer

Leo
Virgo
Libra
Scorpius

Sagittarius
Capricornus
Aquarius
Pisces

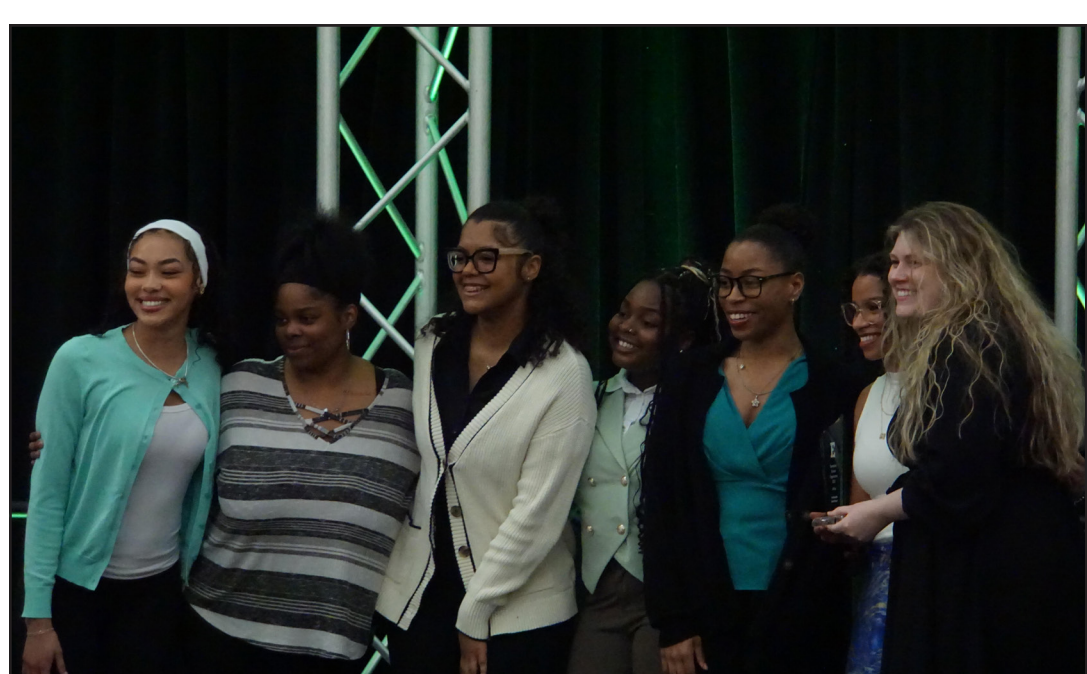
# EMU at a glance, March 24 - April 2



Eastern Echo staff, alumni, Hall of Fame members and more mingle during the fourth annual Eastern Echo Student Media Gala and Hall of Fame Banquet. Held in the McKenny Ballroom on Thursday, April 2, this was the first year the event took place on campus. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo



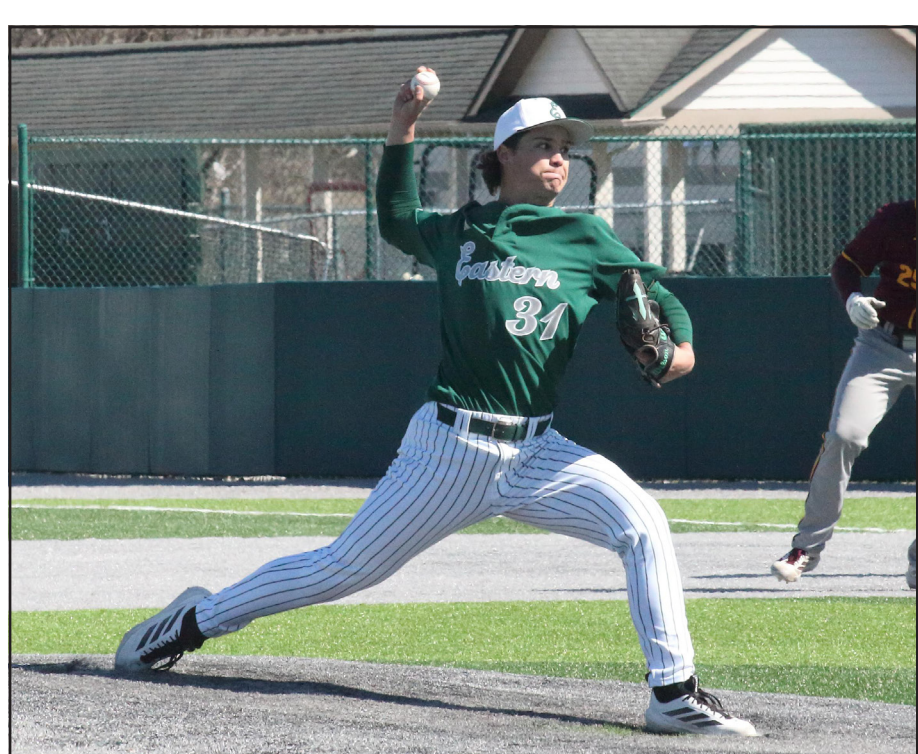
Eastern Michigan University President James Smith (left) and his wife, Connie Ruhl-Smith, serve ice cream to students and residents at Eastern Michigan University in the Student Center on March 24. Courtney Prielipp / The Eastern Echo



The You Beautiful Black Women Organization receives the Exemplary Student Organization Award at the Student Gold Medallion Award ceremony in the Student Center Ballroom on Tuesday, March 24. Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo



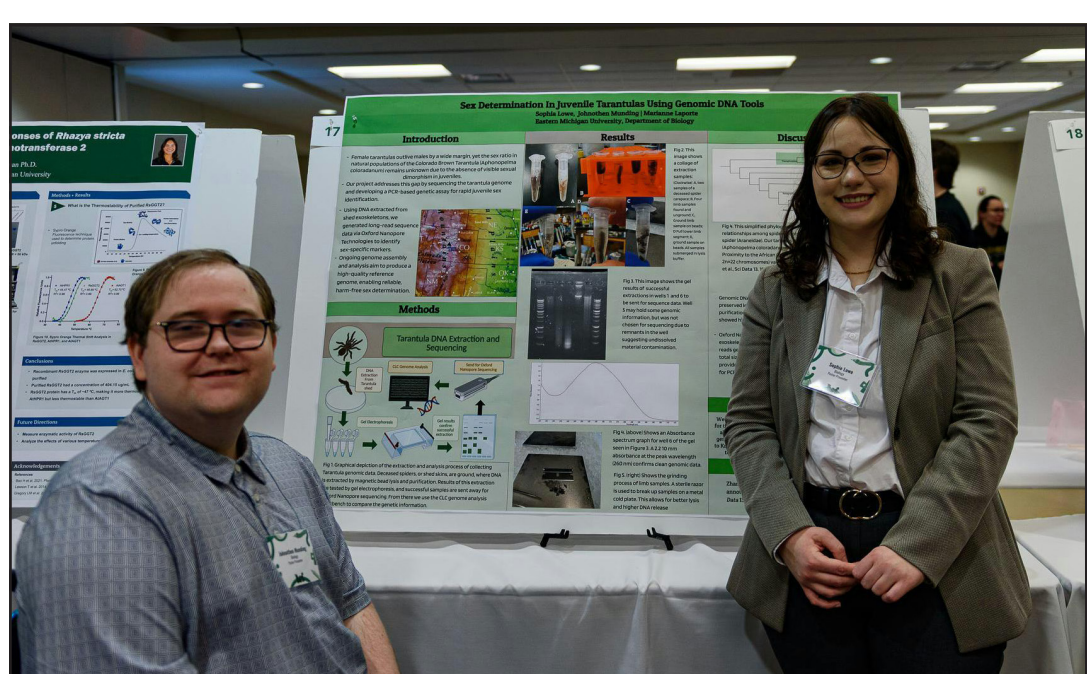
Dyann Logwood, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and the first African American administrative director of the Women's Resource Center, accepts the Women of History Award and receives Special Congressional Recognition at the Women of Excellence Award Ceremony on March 25. Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo



Right-handed pitcher Michael Pfeifer, No. 31 on Eastern Michigan's baseball team, pitches at the second game in the series versus Central Michigan University on March 28 at Oestrike Stadium. Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo



The view from the main entryway into the Poster Session room at the Eastern Michigan University 46th Annual Undergraduate Symposium, held Friday, March 27, in the EMU Student Center. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo



Johnnothen Munding (left) and Sophie Lowe present a poster presentation on determining sex in juvenile tarantulas in the Poster Session room at the 46th Annual Undergraduate Symposium on Friday, March 27, at the EMU Student Center. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo