



Nathan Bomey
nominated for Eastern
Echo Hall of Fame

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Sciences plans for
department restructuring**

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The Eastern Echo

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What to know about measles in Washtenaw County

Lilly Kujawski
Managing Editor - News

One confirmed case and one suspect case of measles have been identified in Washtenaw County, both in unvaccinated individuals.

The Washtenaw County Health Department treats even one case of measles as an outbreak, due to the nature of the disease, Susan Ringler Cerniglia said, the public information officer for the county health department. Here's what residents should know.

Understanding measles, risks

Measles is one of the most contagious illnesses known, Ringer Cerniglia said. She encouraged everyone in the community to be aware that Washtenaw County has measles in the area. If one person has measles, up to nine out of 10 people nearby will become infected if they are not protected, the CDC reported.

Symptoms typically begin between seven and 14 days but can start up to 21 days after exposure. Symptoms include high fever; cough; runny nose; red, watery eyes; tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums and roof of the mouth two to three days after symptoms begin; and a rash that is red, raised and blotchy that usually starts on the face and spreads to the trunk, arms and legs three to five days after symptoms begin.

In unvaccinated individuals, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates one in five who contract the disease will become ill enough to be hospitalized. In some cases, measles can lead to more serious complications, such as pneumonia, encephalitis or even death, especially in

young children. The pneumonia risk is about one in 20 in children with measles, while one in 1,000 children develops encephalitis, Ringler Cerniglia said. For infected children, the death rate is one to three in 1,000, she said.

Who is at risk?

The health department has identified several locations at specific times and dates as potential exposure points, a March 12 statement from the department said. The locations include the following.

Wednesday, March 4: Crunch Fitness at 3020 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti, 5-8:40 p.m.; Sidetrack Bar and Grill at 56 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti, 7:45 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Thursday, March 5: Briarwood Mall at 100 Briarwood Circle, Ann Arbor, 3-6:30 p.m.; T-Mobile at 2044 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti, 6-8:40 p.m.; and Cricket Wireless in Roundtree Place Shopping Center at 2547 Ellsworth Road, Ypsilanti, 6:55-8:55 p.m.

Friday, March 6: CVS Pharmacy at 1415 E. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, 4-6:07 p.m.; and Cricket Wireless in Roundtree Place Shopping Center at 2547 Ellsworth Road, Ypsilanti, 7-10 p.m.

Saturday, March 7: Ypsilanti Urgent Care Walk-In Clinic at 301 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 100, Ypsilanti, 7:15-9:27 p.m.

Sunday, March 8: Canton Urgent Care Walk-In Clinic 43033 Ford Road, 4:30-7 p.m.

The measles virus can live up to two hours in the air. Individuals who were at these locations during these specific times and on those dates should monitor themselves for symptoms of measles for 21 days after exposure, the statement said. If symptoms appear, individuals should call their health care provider but should



The Washtenaw County Health Department, at 555 Tower St. Ypsilanti, Michigan. Caroline Murrel / The Eastern Echo

not seek in-person medical treatment without first calling the doctor's office, urgent care or emergency room.

"Anybody that's unvaccinated, that was in those spaces, we're a lot more worried about," Ringer Cerniglia said. "We'd really recommend if they were unvaccinated and exposed that they go ahead and quarantine themselves ... stay away from others, and really watch for those symptoms."

Vaccinated individuals are typically not at risk of severe illness, Ringler Cerniglia said. However, if at one of the identified sites at the exposure time and date, vaccinated individuals should still monitor for symptoms for 21 days.

Higher-risk individuals, such as pregnant or immunocompromised individuals or very young children not yet vaccinated, should contact their health care provider if exposed, she said.

MMR vaccine, immunity

The MMR vaccine protects against measles, mumps and rubella. Individuals with two, appropriately spaced doses of the vaccine are considered immune, the health department reported. For fully vaccinated individuals, the measles vaccine is about 97% effective in preventing the disease.

Additionally, adults born before 1957 or those who have evidence of prior measles illness are considered immune.

The vaccine is safe and effective, Ringler Cerniglia said, and provides lifelong immunity, meaning it doesn't require boosters to remain efficacious. The MMR vaccine has been around a long time, she said. While it, like any medical intervention, carries some risk, that risk is extraordinarily small, Ringler Cerniglia said.

Typically, babies are vaccinated at 12

months old. However, people with infants can talk to their health care provider about vaccinating their child as early as six months old if an outbreak develops in the area or if they plan to travel somewhere with a known outbreak.

Checking vaccination status

Ringler Cerniglia recommended people check their vaccination statuses.

"Good advice for everyone to check that vaccination status," she said. "If, for some reason, you declined the vaccine in the past, really reconsider that since the likelihood of being exposed is quite possibly getting greater and is greater."

Young adults who grew up in Michigan and are 18 and older can request their records electronically from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry.

SEE MEASLES INFORMATION, PAGE 4

Candidates for EMU's 113th Student Senate share their visions for governing

Laura Meriweather
News Reporter

Eight candidates will be on the ballot for the Student Government senator position on March 25 and 26 at Eastern Michigan University. 13 senate seats are expected to be available, according to the guidelines laid out in the Student Government constitution and the official enrollment numbers from the fall 2025 semester. Students who wish to fill empty Senate seats during the upcoming term may submit applications to the Student Senate, which may accept their application by a majority vote as established in the constitution and bylaws.

At EMU, senators may serve on one of three senate committees and are responsible for voting on legislation throughout the school year during full senate meetings. A list of budget allotments obtained by *The Eastern Echo* shows that the current Student Government manages a budget of \$150,000 for the 2026 fiscal year. As of March 6, the Student Senate has passed 12 resolutions subsidizing various events and student resources.

A candidate list was provided to *The Eastern Echo* by Election Commissioner Max Butler on Feb. 20, 2026, after the deadline to be listed on the ballot had passed. The candidate list, alphabetized by last name, is:

Allison Dorta

- Did not respond to multiple requests for comment
- Incumbent senator (appointed)

Ifeadiknwa Eze



- Major: Computer science

Emiliano Garcia

- Did not respond to multiple requests for comment
- Incumbent senator (appointed)

Ahnika Gaydos



- Major: Exercise science (general business minor)
- Incumbent senator (appointed)

Malkia Karagwa

- Did not respond to multiple requests for comment
- Incumbent senator (appointed)

Raj Rahman



- Majors: Psychology, mechanical engineering (communication minor)
- Incumbent senator (elected)

Piper Schumaker



- Major: Secondary education social studies
- Incumbent senator (appointed)

Trent Springer

- Did not respond to multiple requests for comment

All candidates were asked identical versions of the following questions.

What issues do you think are most important to students on campus today?

Eze: "The biggest problems for students today are hidden fees and everyday campus hassles. Students are feeling the financial squeeze, not just from tuition, but from the everyday expenses of being a student like overpriced parking permits, strict ticketing, and \$150 textbook access codes. Beyond just saving money, students want practical solutions that make it easier to succeed academically."

Gaydos: "With the current state of our campus, the most important issues regard campus resources such as food and parking, and not knowing the future of these resources for students. There is also a lot of concern about the state of the world and what life will be like after graduation, and how to best prepare for it."

Rahman: "Students are concerned about affordability, food access, transportation, employment, and connection."

Many students struggle with groceries or rely on Swoop's, which deserves better organization and expansion.

Transportation is another issue; not everyone can afford a car, so strengthening the campus shuttle is important.

Students also want more involvement and engagement beyond just Homecoming. We need spaces where people can connect, talk, and feel included.

Finally, students want more job opportunities on campus. Creating student-run delivery services and expanding print/media labs would create employment while keeping resources within the university."

Schumaker: "Community engagement and overall student well-being remain central to my work, as they are issues for many students on campus. For example, challenges related to campus life, including access to meaningful events and connections, as well as financial pressures that impact their ability to fully enjoy their college experience. These concerns influence my votes, statements and priorities in the Senate."

What qualities and experiences make you a good candidate for senator?

Eze: "As a transfer student, I've experienced the confusing roadblocks that many students deal with daily. My background in software development has taught me how to break down complex issues, work with a team and build systems that actually work. I'm running for senate to bring that exact analytical, fix-the-problem mindset to our student government."

Gaydos: "I am a current senator on student government and have an understanding of student government

and what can be done to support students. In addition to this, I have held many leadership positions throughout local and national organizations which gives me experience in how to effectively lead, organize tasks and deliver measurable results."

Rahman: "I'm hands-on. I attend meetings, draft resolutions, and work directly with student workers across campus. Leadership is not about visibility, it's about consistency."

I've helped organize cultural events that brought hundreds of students together, and I believe in building community through action. I'm willing to sit in offices, follow up on issues like dorm maintenance and sustainability and push ideas forward until something changes. I care about practical improvements, better study spaces, improved services and stronger student engagement. I don't just talk about change; I show up for it."

Schumaker: "Over the past year, serving in Eastern Michigan University's Student Government and on the Sustainability Commission has strengthened my understanding of responsible leadership. These roles have required both self-reflection and commitment, which have taught me to approach decisions thoughtfully and intentionally, while remaining firm in advocating for initiatives that benefit students and our surrounding community."

Voting for the 2026 Student Government election will begin on March 25 at 8 a.m. Election Commissioner Max Butler can be reached at dbutle42@emich.edu.

Read the full article on easternecho.com

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

The Eastern Echo
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Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief:
Natalie Kyle
editor@easternecho.com

Managing Editor - News:
Lilly Kujawski
news@easternecho.com

Managing Editor - Operations:
Gray Connor
managing@easternecho.com

Sports Editor:
Ruby Brannon
sports@easternecho.com

Podcast Editor:
Josh Nieman
podcast@easternecho.com

**Arts Editor,
Cellar Roots Editor-in-Chief:**
Jada Hauser
cellarroots@easternecho.com

Graphics Editor:
Rylee Curley
design@easternecho.com

Photo Editor:
Max Taylor
photo@easternecho.com

Print Design Editor:
Zeinab Agbaria
digital@easternecho.com

Copy Desk Chief:
Allie Beecher
copyeditor@easternecho.com

Marketing Director:
Gabiella Payeur
advertising@easternecho.com

Student Media Advisor:
Christine Uthoff
advisor@easternecho.com

CORRECTIONS

On page 2 of the March 10, 2026 issue of *The Eastern Echo*, the name of the EMU Alexander Music Building was misstated.

On page 3 of the March 10, 2026 issue of *The Eastern Echo*, an article titled "Ypsilanti selected among 7 Michigan cities for downtown development program" misrepresented information about the Recast Leaders program. Participation in Recast Leaders was based on an application process for which the City of Ypsilanti was selected. There is no cost to the city to participate.

Find Cellar Roots:



CALENDAR

MAR 17 **Public Health Fair**
3-5 p.m.
Student Center — Ballroom B

MAR 18 **EMU Spring Job Fair**
3-6 p.m.
Student Center — Ballroom

MAR 19 **Basketball League Games**
6-10 p.m.
Rec/IM Building — Third Floor Courts

MAR 20 **Beyond the Diploma Conference**
8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Student Center — Ballroom A

MAR 21 **EMU Baseball vs. University of Akron**
3 p.m.
Oestrike Stadium

MAR 22 **EMU Women's Tennis vs. University of Toledo**
1 p.m.
The Chippewa Club

MAR 23 **Co-Ed Soccer League Games**
9-11 p.m.
Indoor Practice Facility — Fields 1 and 2

WEATHER FORECAST

Tuesday, March 17
High: 28 | Low: 17
Mostly cloudy / Mostly cloudy

Wednesday, March 18
High: 38 | Low: 31
Mostly cloudy / Mostly cloudy

Thursday, March 19
High: 50 | Low: 32
Partly sunny* / Mostly cloudy

Friday, March 20
High: 55 | Low: 36
Mostly cloudy / Mostly cloudy

Saturday, March 21
High: 55 | Low: N/A
Partly sunny / N/A

*Chance of precipitation

Source:
The National Weather Service

Where to find *The Echo*:

- Off Campus:**
- Benito's Pizza, 1088 N. Huron River Drive
 - Biggy Coffee, 1510 Washtenaw Ave.
 - Bridge Community Cafe, 217 W. Michigan Ave.
- On Campus:**
- Halle Library
 - The Honors College
 - King Hall

Where to find our links:



Author, business reporter Nathan Bomey to be inducted into *Eastern Echo* Hall of Fame



Nathan Bomey, current business reporter and newsletter author at Axios, is set to be inducted into The Eastern Echo Hall of Fame on April 2. (Courtesy of Nathan Bomey)

Gray Connor

Managing Editor - Operations

Eastern Michigan University alumus Nathan Bomey is set to be inducted into *The Eastern Echo* Hall of Fame at *The Echo's* Student Media Gala and Hall of Fame Banquet on April 2.

Prior to working for the Detroit Free Press, USA Today and Axios, Bomey began his journalistic work with *The Eastern Echo*, starting as a news reporter and working his way up to managing editor his senior year.

"*The Echo* was an incredible experience for me and really formative time. We had such an amazing group of journalists. We were students, but I really felt like it was a professional team," Bomey said.

Before graduating from EMU in 2006, Bomey's work ranged from

investigative pieces to sports news. While working at *The Echo*, Bomey was voted MVP among the staff both his junior and senior year, awarded to him through a vote by his peers.

"It prepared me for my career as a journalist," Bomey explained. "*The Echo* is really unique because it's more than just a newspaper; it's a community. It's a community of people who really believe that facts still matter."

After leaving *The Echo*, Bomey worked for a variety of papers in the Ann Arbor and Saline areas before landing a job as a reporter for the Detroit Free Press, one of two major daily newspapers in the Detroit area. While there, Bomey reported on the automotive company General Motors.

"When I graduated from Eastern, I had done such a wide variety of journalism for such a young age," Bomey said. "And yet, I had never really done business coverage on a regular basis ... I always had a pretty good sense for math, and numbers weren't scary for me."

According to Bomey, business reporting and larger investigative pieces had always attracted him to the field.

"Fundamentally, it's about people, and it's about the decisions that they make or don't make that guides the future of corporations and economies," Bomey said.

Bomey described his time at the Detroit Free Press as a dynamic and transformative experience. While he had reported on auto news before,

the Detroit Free Press offered him the opportunity to focus on it as his entire beat, competing for coverage on GM issues with nationwide publications like The New York Times and the Associated Press.

About halfway through his tenure at the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit bankruptcy of 2013 occurred. On July 18, the City of Detroit filed for chapter nine bankruptcy, making it the largest city in the United States to do so. Bomey, alongside a colleague, worked to investigate the pieces of the financial emergency, leading Bomey to publish his first novel, titled "Detroit Resurrected: To Bankruptcy and Back." The book, published in 2016, explored how the city of Detroit crawled out of its amassed \$18 billion of debt.

"I had to take a real step back and think holistically about the bigger themes and the moments of the story that would have durability, versus what would be superfluous over time," Bomey said. While writing the book, Bomey interviewed an estimated 100 sources, reapproaching the story of Detroit's bankruptcy from a new perspective. "Nobody wants to read about a bankruptcy; they would much prefer to read about the characters and the people who were caught up in the story."

In addition to his first published work, Bomey has since written two other books: "After the Fact: The Erosion of Truth and the Inevitable Rise of Donald Trump," a non-partisan book about the strained relationship

between politics society and truth, as well as "Bridge Builders: Bringing People Together in a Polarized Age," which explores the ways that people have worked to fix the tensions of the world's current political climate.

After the Detroit Free Press, Bomey joined USA Today, relocating to Washington, D.C., and working as a business reporter. After working at the publication for six years, Bomey made the move to Axios, a nationwide publication based in Virginia, founded in 2016. Since 2021, Bomey has worked as a business reporter for Axios and has authored a daily newsletter, "Axios Closer," which offers readers a chance to catch up on the biggest news in the business world every day.

"I am really thrilled to receive the honor to return to campus," Bomey said. "I'm such a huge proponent of student journalism. I think that one of the great things about student journalism these days is that you can compete with the best of the best. There's nothing to stop you from doing journalism that is just as good as what's done at The New York Times, or at AP."

Bomey is set to be inducted into *The Eastern Echo* Hall of Fame on April 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the McKenny Ballroom, alongside two other 2026 nominees, Sally Day Wright and Larry O'Connor.

Tickets for the event can be purchased online. Student tickets for *The Eastern Echo* Student Media Gala are \$25, and general admission is \$60.

What's the Move?

March 17-23



From March 17-23, the Ypsi Alehouse will host two events — an open mic night March 17 and a concert featuring Norwegian folk music March 21. Maddy Makin / *The Eastern Echo*

Allie Beecher

Copy Desk Chief

Looking for something to do this week in Ypsilanti? Check out some of these local events taking place March 17-23.

Ypsi Alehouse Open Mic — March 17

Looking for a chance to perform onstage? Try this open mic at the Ypsi Alehouse on Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. All acoustic musicians are welcome to participate in this event hosted by local singer-songwriter Phil McMillion, the Ann Arbor Observer's website stated.

For more information, visit the Ypsi Alehouse website or the Nightspots Concerts section of the Ann Arbor Observer's website.

The Ypsi Alehouse is at 124 Pearl St., Suite 100, Ypsilanti.

Art + Afterlife at Dzanc House — March 19

On Thursday, March 19, Holy Bones will host Art + Afterlife in conjunction with Dzanc House, an event that provides a safe space where people can explore themes often considered taboo, particularly death, grief, healing and the afterlife.

Attendees are welcome to express their ideas or experiences through artwork, music, poetry or any creative medium. At the same time, sharing art is entirely optional, and attendees do not need to be artists or have recently experienced personal loss. The event's Facebook page invites attendees to arrive ready to listen, appreciate and connect with open hearts.

Art + Afterlife will take place 6-9 p.m. at Dzanc House at 402 S. Huron St., Ypsilanti. For more information, visit the Events and Workshops section of the Dzanc House website or the Holy Bones Facebook page.

Drop-in Improv Games: Ypsi Improv — March 21

Local group Ypsi Improv invites community members ages 16 and older to join an afternoon of improv games at the Riverside Arts Center on Saturday, March 21. The session will take place 2-5 p.m., said the group's Meetup page. The first two hours will be a regular improv session, and the last hour will be focused on a specific improv skill. No experience is required.

Tickets are \$8, or \$15 for those who want to attend the specific skill session, and can be purchased at the door or in advance via PayPal or Venmo. To learn more about payment or the group, visit www.meetup.com/ypsi-improv/.

For those unable to attend March 21 but would like to attend in the future, Ypsi Improv will continue offering sessions through June 2026. More information about scheduling is available on the group's Meetup page.

The Riverside Arts Center is at 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti.

En Gang Till! at the Ypsi Alehouse — March 21

Looking for something a little different in a concert? On Saturday, March 21, the Ypsi Alehouse will host En Gang Till. This local ensemble will perform Norwegian folk music on traditional instruments, the Ann Arbor Observer stated. The concert will take place at 7 p.m., according to the Ypsi Alehouse website.

For more information, check the Ypsi Alehouse website or the Nightspots section on the Ann Arbor Observer's website.

Eastern Michigan University students to present in 46th Undergraduate Symposium

Laura Meriweather and Lauren Holloway

News Reporters

More than 300 students from every college at Eastern Michigan University will present at the university's 46th annual Undergraduate Symposium, hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences on March 27. Amy Bearinger, the event coordinator, said that several students involved with the event are scheduled to present multiple projects in collaboration with the departmental faculty members with whom they have chosen to work.

According to the event program, the various projects may be in the form of a poster presentation, an oral presentation or an exhibit in the Crossing Lines Design Expo Gallery.

"That's where we see 2D, 3D work, sometimes interdisciplinary in nature," Bearinger said. "Think interior design, construction, theater and lighting, simulation, animation [and] gaming — hands-on types of projects."

This will also be the second year that students in the College in Prison program will be able to participate through video submissions. While the event can provide important preparation for graduate school, it is not exclusively for prospective graduate students, and all students are welcome to participate, Bearinger said. Students will present the results of their research and creative academic activities, the symposium webpage said.

"Research looks different in every discipline," Bearinger said. "There are some majors that, when you sign up for them, you know you're going to have to do time in a lab. There are other majors where the opportunities are there, but it's not necessarily woven into the journey. You kind of have to decide and pick and be purposeful about those choices."

One of the students presenting at the symposium is Raiden Francisco, a senior whose project is focused on universal basic income.

With the current U.S. economy, an oversaturated job market and artificial intelligence replacing jobs, implementing universal income is becoming more and more necessary,

Francisco said. Originally, the project started as a paper in a social stratification class. Francisco's professor suggested entering the paper into the symposium.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity to present, to have more to put on my grad school application. And I just think it would also be a great learning opportunity," Francisco said.

The symposium application process begins with applicants submitting an abstract. Once accepted, the students meet with their mentor to talk about what the expectations are for the symposium. There is also a Canvas course just for the presenters that walks them through how to get prepared and what to expect the day of, Francisco said.

As part of the EMU Forensics Team, Francisco said doing speeches and performances has prepared him for the symposium.

"I really do feel like that's helped me build my confidence and feel less nervous presenting in front of others," Francisco said.

Eastern junior Alexandria Miller is doing a project that came from a class on African American politics. Miller pulled information from documentaries, interviews and personal experience to create a model for an organization. To prepare for the symposium, Miller has been redoing some of the research.

"I want to make sure that a lot of my information is up to date and correct," Miller said.

Miller said she recommends this experience to all students. It's a great career opportunity that could help students in future endeavors, Miller said. However, Miller said that any student who's looking to enter a project in the symposium should do it on a topic that they love.

"This is not just something to put on your resume or something to say you did; this is something for you to take pride in, to be able to say with your chest that I did this," Miller said.

Bearinger, an EMU alumna who was once a graduate assistant to former event runner Wendy Kivi, stepped into the role in 2019 after Kivi's retirement. During the two decades that she has been helping with the symposium, she says certain projects have stuck with

her. In one of her first years working on the event, she remembers a freshman's research on tarantulas. After the symposium that year, the student went on to do field research with graduate students who were surprised by her knowledge level.

"That was my first 'aha' moment of like, 'Wow, this is a difference maker,'" Bearinger said. "I will never forget that project."

EMU senior Marius Martello will be presenting in the symposium for a second time. This year, Martello will be giving two oral presentations. One of the projects is about planned obsolescence, when businesses purposefully make products that do not last long so consumers have to buy more. This project did not come from a class but is rather a passion project for Martello.

The second project is about a public act passed in Michigan to increase the number of adoptions for kids in marginalized communities. Martello's research is to find out if the public act actually increased the adoption rate. The inspiration for this project came from personal experience.

"I was adopted when I was six months old. So that's definitely something that I was very interested in," Martello said.

As part of preparation for the symposium, Martello will be presenting the adoption research project at the Midwest Economics Association Conference, where he will receive feedback from other students and professors.

"Then I'll have a chance to kind of take some of that feedback and implement it before the symposium, which is the following Friday," Martello said.

From his presentation on adoption, Martello said he hopes people take away that economics is a broad field that encompasses many social factors.

"I would hope that people, at least for the adoption presentation, take away that economics is a lot more than just kind of looking at money and finance; it can really be applied to a variety of kind of situations in this world," Martello said.

The symposium is a great



Event coordinator and communication instructor Amy Bearinger holds a copy of the 2026 Eastern Michigan University Undergraduate Symposium program book in her office in Pray-Harold on March 10. Bearinger said that graphic design students Aya Bazzi and Evelyn Glas were hired for the event. Laura Meriweather / *The Eastern Echo*

opportunity to apply academics to the real world and get some experience, Martello said.

Aside from the potential financial awards students become eligible for by presenting, Bearinger said that gaining experience in research, communication, professional development and faculty mentorship are also reasons students may want to participate.

To Bearinger, the event is an opportunity to see the diversity of ideas that EMU fosters.

"It shows all the different ways to be an Eastern student and to have an academic journey of excellence here," she said. "There's not one way, and I think that's spectacular about Eastern."

The Undergraduate Symposium takes place Friday, March 27, 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the EMU Student Center and is free and open to the public. Those interested in attending can learn more and view the schedule of events on the symposium webpage.



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EMU College of Arts and Sciences plans department reorganization

Gray Connor
Managing Editor - Operations

Eastern Michigan University's College of Arts and Sciences is expected to combine its 18 unique departments into only eight at the start of 2027.

The reorganization, which has been in the planning stages for four years, will redistribute funding currently used to pay for 18 different department heads back into the program. According to Carol Bishop Mills, who has served as the CAS dean for seven months, the change will bring more opportunities to students.

Alongside this, according to Mills, the proposed restructuring doesn't eliminate or combine individual areas. As of now, the College of Arts and Sciences is made up of 18 individual departments and schools, with an administrator at the head of each. Under the new structure, CAS would instead be made up of eight departments, with eight administrators. However, no individual majors are set to be removed from the college.

"People are talking about consolidating, but what we're really doing is eliminating these administrators that are very expensive," Mills said. "We can take that money and put it back into student success or staff lines to get the work done that we need done. Really, the whole thing was designed around enhancing the student experience, and showing students all the ways that the areas intersect."

With the number of individual departments decreasing, majors that previously may not have connected could now fall under the same department, with students and staff encouraged to explore how some majors may relate to one another.

"They will have one actual administrator who's going to be responsible for saying, hey, if a student is majoring in DM CJ, because that isn't going away, are there ways that we can offer ways to show students



The Eastern Michigan University College of Arts and Sciences, based in the Pray-Harrold building, is set to see a restructuring at the beginning of 2027. (Courtesy of the EMU CAS)

how they can collaborate with people in English, or collaborate with people in world languages, and can it open up opportunities," Mills said.

Alongside the restructuring and added funding, the change will also promote the eighth new department, which will be represented by interdisciplinary studies and will explore new options for pre-packaged double majors for students.

"What are some of the degrees that we don't even have yet in the university that we should have ... and what are the ways that schools can work together," Mills said. "Could we package the sciences with the art majors ... they would be responsible for looking and seeing what would be the best options to help interdisciplinary thrive."

Students can expect new major options to start emerging once the restructure has taken place. Currently, the earliest date for the change is Jan. 1, 2027.

While the 18 administrator positions will be reduced to eight, all of the administrators will still have the right to return to faculty since they are all tenured. Since the schools are newly formed, interim positions will also be opening, and all faculty members within a department will be welcome to apply for those.

"Absolutely nobody in this

reorganization is losing a job. Nobody," Mills said. "The [administrators] may come out with a different title, and there are faculty members that may apply to be a director ... the good thing is that once you go into administration, you always have rights to return to faculty."

The reorganization is also looking to eliminate occurrences where key classes are cancelled due to a loss of a staff member or low enrollment. With fewer administrators and less financial strain on the college, the CAS hopes to be able to run more smaller classes to ensure students can graduate in an efficient manner.

Currently, the estimate for how much money will be added to the college's funding due to the restructure is around \$500,000. As of now, the college has drafted a proposal for what majors will fall under which newly formed departments, as well as placeholder names. Due to EMU's status as a unionized university, decisions like the restructuring cannot be made without faculty input. Faculty within the CAS have until mid-March to submit their input regarding the restructuring.

"The faculty get a chance to really think about what they want that identity to be and how they [fit] those pieces within their school," Mills said.

[Read the full article on easternecho.com](#)

Opinion

The WellNest Watch

Mixed messages, real costs; how confusing health communication is making America sicker and poorer



Shafaat Ali Choyon
Contributor

Editor's note: In *The WellNest Watch*, master's degree candidates in EMU's College of Health and Human Services explore news, research and standard practices in the field of health and wellness.

Imagine scrolling through your phone to answer a simple question: Should I get the latest booster?

Your doctor says yes. A podcast host with millions of listeners says the science is still unsettled. A cable news segment warns about risks. A wellness influencer recommends elderberry syrup instead. Each voice is confident, polished and designed to feel trustworthy. You do not have the time or training to sort through the noise. So you do what many overwhelmed people do. You do nothing.

This is not about one vaccine, one diet or one health controversy. It is about what happens when the information environment itself becomes a public health risk.

In marketing, a confused consumer does not buy. In health, a confused patient does not act. When people receive conflicting messages about what to eat, whether to vaccinate or how to manage a chronic condition, the most common response is inaction. Behavioral research shows that when options multiply and signals of credibility conflict, decision-making breaks down. People default to whoever sounds most confident, follow what their social circle endorses or disengage altogether.

Today, health information functions like a marketplace. Government agencies, pharmaceutical companies, media personalities, influencers and supplement brands all compete for attention. Institutions rely on scientific authority and careful language. Influencers rely on personal stories, emotional appeal and distrust of the system. These are not just different messages; they are different versions of truth competing for the same outcome: whether people take preventive action.

The costs of this confusion are not abstract. National polling shows that public trust in major health institutions has declined since the pandemic, alongside increased uncertainty about vaccines, screenings and preventive guidance. When trust erodes, participation drops. Fewer people show up for routine care. Conditions are detected later. Emergency care becomes more common and more expensive.

Research consistently finds that exposure to conflicting health information reduces people's willingness to follow evidence-based recommendations, especially among those already uncertain about the medical system. Confusion does not create healthy skepticism; it creates paralysis. And paralysis is costly.

Trust, in this sense, is not just a social value. It is an economic asset. Public health depends on cooperation: people agreeing to vaccination schedules, reporting symptoms, participating in screening programs and sharing accurate information. When confidence

collapses, rebuilding it requires far more resources than maintaining it would have cost in the first place.

The problem is structural. Public health agencies were built for a media environment that no longer exists, one where press briefings and local newspapers could deliver consistent messages to most households. That infrastructure is gone. Today's information economy rewards speed, outrage and emotional certainty, while institutions are constrained by review processes and risk aversion. In that gap, louder and less accountable voices thrive.

Health policy scholars have argued that public health must now adopt modern strategic communication tools not as a marketing gimmick, but as a survival strategy. That means understanding audiences, testing messages before release and working through trusted messengers rather than assuming institutional authority alone is enough. Credibility today is relational, not automatic.

At the local level, the consequences are immediate. In communities like Ypsilanti, where students and families juggle tuition, rent and multiple jobs, confusing health guidance has real effects. Unclear flu-vaccine messaging means more illness during exam season. Contradictory nutrition advice pushes families toward whatever advice sounds cheapest or easiest online. Campus and community health teams work hard to cut through the noise, but they face the same staffing and funding limits as public health departments nationwide.

This is not an argument for censorship or a single centralized voice. It is an argument for treating health communication as essential infrastructure. Public agencies need funded, empowered communication teams that can respond quickly and clearly. Trusted messenger networks, including community leaders, faith leaders and peer educators, must be scaled. And the economic case must be stated plainly: every dollar invested in consistent, culturally competent health messaging prevents far more expensive crises downstream.

America does not have a shortage of health information. It has a coherence crisis. When institutions cannot keep pace, media rewards provocation and influencers monetize confusion, the public pays with its health and its wallet.

The real question is not whether we can afford to invest in better health communication. It is whether we can afford not to.

Editor's note: Contributors to *The WellNest Watch* health column are Kegan Tulloch, Ebrima Jobarteh and Ruby Wyles, graduate assistants in the Office of Health Promotions, and Shafaat Ali Choyon and Nathaniel King, graduate hall directors in the Department of Residential Life. All five are master's degree candidates in the Public Health Program from the School of Public Health Promotion and Human Performance at Eastern Michigan University.

Opinion

Protecting our precious resource: Why DEI matters to EMU

Joanna Whaley
Letter to the Editor Contributor

The attack on our universities is something that should give us pause and move us to action.

As a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, where I studied Arts Management, I am deeply concerned by the way the U.S. Department of Education has been attacking the university system. These attacks center around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Let that sink in.

As a young person, the diversity of EMU changed my life for the better. That time was pivotal in making me

see the world as a bigger and more beautiful place than I previously knew. My experience is not unique; a diverse student body and faculty enrich the educational environment for everyone. It prepares students for a complex and globalized world far better than any monoculture ever could.

As a former Eagle, I feel a sense of duty to protect this precious resource in our universities. The efforts to dismantle DEI initiatives are a direct assault on the very values that made my time at EMU so transformative. They aim to reduce opportunities and narrow the perspectives available on campus.

I am someone who will continually fight for all of us, and I invite all EMU

students and faculty to join me in protecting the school's most precious resource: each other. We must stand together to ensure that Eastern Michigan University remains a place where diversity thrives and every member of our community feels valued, included, and empowered to succeed.

Editor's note: The Eastern Echo accepts letters to the editor from the community. Joanna Whaley is running for the Michigan House of Representatives. This letter was chosen based on its relevance to The Echo's audience and is not a political endorsement. Letters to the editor can be emailed to editor@easternecho.com.

Measles information

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The statewide database can be found through the Michigan Immunization Portal at <https://mdhhs.mimmsportal.state.mi.us/> online. Immunization records can also be requested from MCIR directly by mail or fax using a request form, found at mcir.org/public/.

Records can also be requested from one's health care provider or through the county health department. To request a record from the Washtenaw County Health Department, call 734-544-6700 and press option 3 for immunizations and other clinical services. Requestors must make an appointment to pick up their records in person and a small fee may apply.

MCIR is unlikely to retain immunization records of individuals born before 1994, its webpage said. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services advises people to look through family records and check with previous health care providers, schools

or childcare providers, and previous employers to find old immunization records.

A blood draw can also confirm immunity, Ringler Cerniglia said. She added that there is no harm in getting an additional MMR vaccine if immunization is difficult to confirm.

Getting vaccinated

Getting vaccinated isn't just about protecting oneself, but about protecting the more vulnerable people in one's community, Ringler Cerniglia said.

"So, the other reasons that we talk about it, in addition to individual health, is because there are people around us who are more vulnerable," she said. "So, people that are pregnant, people that are immunocompromised and those babies who typically aren't vaccinated until one year. The more that they are surrounded by people that are vaccinated, the more they are protected."

Vaccination is available from health care providers, pharmacies and health departments. Children eligible for the CDC's Vaccines for Children program could receive the vaccine from a provider enrolled in that program at no cost.

The Washtenaw County Health Department accepts Medicaid, Medicare, Washtenaw Health Plan and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, the health department statement reported. While vaccines from the health department are not free, they are provided on a sliding fee scale, and no one will be turned away for being unable to pay, Ringler Cerniglia said.

People can call 734-544-6700 to set up a vaccine appointment at the Washtenaw County Health Department. Walk-in vaccinations are available at 555 Towner St. in Ypsilanti at the following times: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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Eastern Michigan University women's basketball closes out 2025-26 season



Eastern Michigan University women's basketball player No. 23, Peyton Hill, looks to pass the ball to a teammate during the game against Northern Illinois University on Jan. 24 at the George Gervin GameAbove Center.

Bradán Copeland / The Eastern Echo

Darrell Justice
Sports Reporter

The Eastern Michigan University women's basketball team played its final game of the 2025-26 season March 7, ending on a high note with a 77-62 win over the University of Akron. This season was full of action, milestones and accomplishments, and the Eagles finished strong as they look ahead to next year.

Four-game win streak

The Eagles opened the season with 10 nonconference games against teams including Michigan State University, the University of Detroit Mercy and Indiana University Bloomington. Eastern Michigan had great wins in the nonconference portion of the season, including a 70-39 win over Canisius

University and a 96-44 win at home against Defiance College. Along with the big wins, there were also close losses, such as a 74-67 road loss to Indiana University.

The Eagles went 6-4 across the 10 nonconference games, which included a four-game win streak they were on from late November to the middle of December. Senior Sisi Eleko played a major role in the Eagles' early success. Eleko managed to record a double-double in six of the 10 games, with her main categories being points and rebounds. Her talent was crucial in tight games, such as in the 74-72 win over Duquesne University, during which she recorded 23 points and 11 rebounds.

Another player who played a crucial role was Ainhoa Cea, a senior guard for the Eastern Michigan Eagles. Cea created opportunities for the other Eagles, as she led the team in assists in

nine of the nonconference games.

Conference battles

The Eagles had their first game of the conference slate on the road against Ball State University. The game was a back-and-forth battle between the teams that ended in a 78-74 loss for Eastern despite Fernanda Ovalle playing hard to keep the Eagles within reach of the win. Ovalle led the team in points, rebounds and assists. Ovalle scored 22 points, which was the first of three straight games of 20 or more points for her.

Eastern Michigan had a tougher time in the second half of the season, ending with a conference record of 6-12. Although the conference portion of their schedule did not go as well as the nonconference, there were moments of growth and perseverance. The Eagles showed heart in their game against the University of Toledo. Eastern was down 56-50 going into the fourth quarter but went on to outscore the Rockets 26-15 in the final quarter of play, bringing them a win with a final score of 76-71. It was an excellent game for Peyton Hill. Hill scored 25 points, shooting at a field goal percentage of 61.5%, as well as going 8-of-8 at the free-throw line.

Overtime

The Eagles also played a late-season nonconference matchup against Arkansas State University at the George Gervin GameAbove Center. The game was a close contest and went into overtime. The Eagles once again showed that they are built for the long haul and outscored the Red Wolves in overtime to win the game 76-73. Hill scored a season high 27 points, and Eleko was the game's rebounding leader, securing 15.

Looking ahead to next season

Despite not making it to the Mid-

American Conference tournament, Eastern Michigan was able to beat Akron in its last game of the season, ending the season on a high note as the team heads into the offseason.

Eleko was a star in her senior season. She finished as the No. 2-ranked player for points per game in the MAC, as well as being first in rebounds. Her mix of intensity and consistency earned her multiple MAC Player of the Week awards.

Cea also ended up being a leader in the MAC, finishing as the No. 2-ranked player for assists.

Although the seniors will not be returning, several notable players will be returning for the next season. Freshman Hill had the second-highest PPG on the team, averaging 14.6. Hill had a great season and ended as the MAC Freshman of the Year. Ovalle was another one of the highest performers for the team's offense, averaging 12.4 points per game across the season, shooting at a 39.1%.

Two upcoming freshmen are guard Oliwia Pelka and forward Alli Zajac. Pelka played in 25 games this season, while Zajac played in 23. With valuable game experience already under their belts, both are positioned to take on more significant roles next season.

Eagles head coach Sahar Nusseibeh is looking to remain with the program. Nusseibeh has found success throughout her coaching career and was named to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association "30 Under 30" list in 2016. Nusseibeh joined the Eagles coaching staff for the 2024-2025 season.

The Eagles finished 7-22 prior to Nusseibeh joining the coaching staff and improved to 13-16 this season. Overall, the Eagles have shown improvements and are set to have a great future under Nusseibeh as players, including Hill and Ovalle, are set to return for the 2026-2027 season.

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales:

March 17 - 23

Darrell Justice
Sports Reporter

Men's golf March 17-18: All-American Intercollegiate

The Eastern Michigan University men's golf team will travel to Humble, Texas, to compete in the All-American Intercollegiate. The two-day event will be hosted by the University of Houston. Fans can follow both team and individual stats on the Scoreboard CLIPPD website.

March 23-24: Bridgestone Collegiate

The Eagles will head to Napa, California, to compete in the Bridgestone Collegiate, a 15-team tournament hosted by in-state rival Central Michigan University. Fans can track live team and individual stats on the Scoreboard CLIPPD website.

Baseball March 17-18, vs. Oakland University

The EMU baseball team will face Oakland University in a two-game in-state series. The first game will take place at Oestrike Stadium and the second at Oakland Baseball Field. Eastern Michigan leads the all-time series against the Oakland Golden Grizzlies, 48-21. Both games in the series will be streamed on ESPN+.

March 20-22, vs. University of Akron

The Eagles will host the Akron Zips for a three-game MAC series at Oestrike Stadium. Eastern Michigan enters the weekend on a three-game winning streak against Akron. The first game of the series will be streamed on ESPN+.

Women's lacrosse March 19, vs. Detroit Mercy

The EMU women's lacrosse team will face the University of Detroit Mercy. The Eagles have won the last three meetings between the programs, including a 13-8 victory last season. Fans can tune into ESPN+ to watch this game live.

Women's golf March 20-22: Florida State Match-Up

The EMU women's golf team will travel to Tallahassee to compete in a competitive field hosted by Florida State University, featuring programs such as the University of Alabama and Mercer University. Fans can follow team and individual scoring on the Scoreboard CLIPPD website.

Women's tennis March 20, vs. Bowling Green State University

The Eastern Michigan University women's tennis team will open conference play against Bowling Green State University. The Eagles have won the last four meetings between the programs. Eastern Michigan finished nonconference play with a strong 9-4 record. There is currently no confirmed media coverage for this event.

March 22, vs. University of Toledo

The first time these two teams met was April 9, 1999. The final results saw Eastern Michigan win 6-1. This matchup will take place at the Chippewa Club in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Despite falling to Northern Illinois University on Friday, March 13, the Eagles are looking to bounce back with a win against the University of Toledo. Live scoring will be available on StatBroadcast.com.

Women's gymnastics March 21: MAC Championships

The Eastern Michigan University women's gymnastics team will compete in the MAC Gymnastics Championships after finishing second at the event last season. The Eagles recently recorded six career-best scores at the Ohio State Quad Meet. Fans can tune into ESPN+ to watch the MAC Championships live.

Read the full article on easternecho.com

The 2025-26 campaign: Eastern Michigan University men's basketball season recap

Ruby Brannon
Sports Editor

The 2025-26 season for the Eastern Michigan University Eagles was a narrative of development, historic individual performances and ultimately, a significant shift in the program's direction. Entering the year under the guidance of head coach Stan Heath, the Eagles aimed to build upon previous progress within the Mid-American Conference.

While the season ended with a 10-21 overall record, the campaign was marked by flashes of high-level potential and the rise of a new cornerstone for the program.

Nonconference spark and historic milestones

The season began with promise during a nonconference schedule that tested the roster's depth. The Eagles opened their home slate at the George Gervin GameAbove Center with a convincing 71-49 victory over Georgia State University in the MAC-SBC Challenge, a matchup between the MAC and the Sun Belt Conference. This early momentum continued with notable wins against the University of Detroit Mercy (72-62) and a defensive masterclass in a 64-56 road win at the University of Cincinnati.

The definitive highlight of the nonconference period occurred Nov. 21, 2025, against Oakland University. In a 97-91 victory, redshirt freshman Mohammad Habhab delivered the first triple-double in Eastern Michigan history, recording 24 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists. This performance served as a national introduction to Habhab, who would go on to be one of only five players in the country to average at least 14 points, eight rebounds and three assists throughout the season.

The MAC grind: Resiliency amidst adversity

As the calendar turned to conference play, the Eagles faced the grueling parity of the MAC, where nearly every matchup was decided in the closing possessions. Eastern Michigan finished conference play with a 4-14 record, yet the win-loss column does not fully reflect the competitiveness of the squad. The Eagles suffered heart-wrenching one-point losses to both Ohio University (67-68) and Kent State University (75-76), showing they could compete with the league's top tier.

Significant conference victories included a dominant 74-52 win over Ball State University and a 77-59 victory against Northern Illinois University. Later in the season, the Eagles celebrated a 66-54 win over rival Central Michigan University, a game that showcased the team's defensive intensity. Throughout these battles, the team relied on a combination of athletic forwards and experienced guards to remain resilient in high-pressure moments.

Star power and statistical leaders

Individually, the season belonged to Habhab, who was named to the MAC All-Freshman Team. Habhab led the team in scoring (14.2 points per game) and rebounding (8.3 rebounds per game). He was also a defensive force with 43 blocks, ranking fifth in the conference. He ended the season with 10 double-doubles, the most by an EMU freshman since the 2015-16 season.

Habhab was not alone in his contributions. Senior Addison Patterson matched Habhab's scoring output with 14.2 points per game while shooting an efficient .558 from the field. Patterson's veteran presence was a steadying force, highlighted by his 178 made field goals over 31 games. Godlove Nwabude



No. 4 Mohammad Habhab of the Eastern Michigan University men's basketball team dunks the ball for two points in the game against Northern Illinois University on Jan. 13 in the George Gervin GameAbove Center.

Bradán Copeland / The Eastern Echo

anchored the interior defense with a team-high 48 blocks and an impressive .658 field goal percentage.

A change at the helm

Following the conclusion of the regular season, which ended with a Senior Night loss to Bowling Green State University, EMU announced a major leadership change. On March 8, 2026, Eastern Michigan and Heath mutually agreed to part ways. Heath, an alumnus and five-year head coach of the program, finished his tenure at EMU with a 57-99 overall mark.

Vice President and Director of Athletics Scott Wetherbee emphasized that the program's expectation remains to compete for championships and contend at the highest level.

"While we have not met that standard, our commitment to reaching it remains firm," Wetherbee said, announcing that a national search for

the 31st head coach in program history would begin immediately.

Building for the future

Despite the coaching transition, the foundation for future success appears to be in place. The 2025-26 campaign provided valuable development for a young roster. With returning talent like Habhab, Nwabude and Gregory Lawson II appearing on the preliminary 2026-27 roster, the Eagles are positioned to continue their upward trajectory.

The season may have been defined by its challenges, but the rise of the Eagles remains a work in progress. The experience gained from a competitive MAC season, coupled with the recognition of individual stars, ensures that the Eastern Michigan men's basketball program enters the upcoming offseason with both a clean slate and a clear vision for sustained success on and off the court.



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Dzanc House encourages community to explore inner muse with risograph zine retreat



Hannah Borders
Arts Reporter

The Risograph Zine Retreat at Dzanc House is a four-day zine-making event during which participants will explore their inner muse and draw out stories from themselves.

"I'll be working with people to go within, be their own muse, drawing out whatever story and or characters pertain to themselves, and creating a zine," said Amanda May Moore, creative director and residency coordinator at Dzanc House.

The Risograph Zine Retreat will take place at 402 S. Huron St. in Ypsilanti from April 1-4. Participants can choose to commute to Dzanc House each of the four days or stay overnight. Dzanc House offers sliding scale prices of \$175-\$250 for commuter participants or \$350-\$425 for overnight participants.

Participants can be anyone interested in making zines. Dzanc House welcomes illustrators, poets and other artists. Collage materials will also be provided for those who are

more interested in writing for their zine than illustrating.

The theme of the event is Being Your Own Muse.

"This theme does draw from my own personal work as an artist, so I often create zines and art based around my life and making a little story," Moore said.

The Zine Retreat is broken up into four days, each with its own purpose. Day one will be for choosing a story, day two will be for learning the risograph, day three will be for creating and day four will be for printing and assembling the zines.

"The first day, we're gonna be looking at our voice, drawing from your own personal narrative, your own stories, your own life. Day two, we're gonna be doing a little bit more experimenting and play," Moore said. "We're going to have a workshop that expresses that the risograph is a form of experimentation and we can play with it and not be devastated if it doesn't translate and print the way we desire. When we're in this creative state of play and experimentation, we're allowed to take more risks, and I want people to

feel comfortable with taking the risk to create what they want to create."

The risograph is a printing machine invented by Noboru Hayama in Japan in the 1980s. The risograph burns a screen or a stencil on rice paper, and it uses centrifugal force to press out ink. This method of printing is more environmentally friendly, Moore said.

Moore will have two one-on-one meetings with each of the event participants. The event will focus on the importance of the creative process and less on the finished product. Dzanc House will foster a community-centered environment for artists and creators.

"I think for me as an artist, I really love the process. The process is very nourishing; it fills me with a lot of joy. Yes, the final product is amazing, and you get to share that, but I think sometimes we might invest too much in just having that final product. Really, it's the journey of creating, and making, and having that process is really enjoyable too, and it's always really valuable to learn things as you're in that journey or that process," Moore said.

Ypsilanti arts studio Dzanc House is home to a risograph, which will be used to create zines during the Risograph Zine Retreat. Hannah Borders / The Eastern Echo

Bill Marino offers insider secrets to librarianship at Eastern Michigan University

Ky'anna Coats
Special to The Echo

The label of librarian has long belonged to bookkeepers, but Bill Marino spends his time doing anything but keeping track of books.

Marino, Halle Library's online learning librarian, can give directions on how to fly a plane or teach a course on ancient Greek linguistics. During his 15 years as a librarian, he said he's developed a deeper understanding of what that career path truly means.

The public perception

On an average day, Marino can be found providing online tutorials, instructing teachers and managing the Ask a Librarian chat service.

"To the public, anyone who works in the library is a librarian," Marino said.

Marino said he used to feel similarly, referring to his own thought processes before exploring the career himself.

However, there are student assistants, office workers and many other people who might be in the physical building but aren't directly associated with the library, Marino said.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook reports that the average librarian organizes materials, plans programs, teaches classes, helps others with research and prepares budgets.

Versatility and cross-references

"Because I have so many varied interests, I get to work with all of them," Marino said, explaining his reasoning for pursuing the career.

The Halle Library website digital profile for Marino states that he is currently serving as subject librarian for 11 different subjects. This includes aviation, interior design, world languages, geography and technology management.

"I would love to continue to create my own brand of academic librarianship by fully merging all of my interests in the future," Marino said.

Librarian specialties include academic, administrative services, public, school, corporate, law, medical, technical and user services, the U.S. BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook states.

Three pillars

The three pillars required for all faculty at Eastern Michigan University are teaching, research and scholarship, and service.

Marino said the teaching aspect includes both students and professors.

He also said he explores research by continually expanding his knowledge of all his librarian subjects and serving on university committees, as well as national organizations.

Evolution of subjects

"When I first started, we were at the entry level of YouTube videos,

and massive open online courses were huge," Marino said. "Now we are charged with getting ahead of AI, learning the ramifications of it, how to use it as a tool, its quality, and learning how not to become dependent on it."

So many technologies, like massive open online courses, are projected to be the future and never go any further, Marino said. For this reason, Marino approaches technology cautiously, evaluating if it's worth the investment before eagerly embracing it.

Marino's strategy for keeping up with this change is continually looking at published information about these new technologies and looking at who is using it on campus in interesting ways.

Ultimate information navigators

Librarians are responsible for navigating the world of information literacy and telling people what information they deem as relevant and useful, Marino said.

"We look at what defines good information and what defines bad information," Marino said.

A statement on the importance of librarians by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois said librarians play a crucial role in making carefully curated collections available to patrons.

"Without librarians making these connections, students and faculty would be left without navigators," the



Bill Marino, an online learning librarian at Eastern Michigan University's Halle Library, is pictured in the upper right corner tinkering at a Halle Fix-It-Hub. He cofounded this community repair event with his colleague Michael Barnes. Courtesy of Bill Marino

consortium reported.

Multiple paths to librarianship

Librarianship wasn't always Marino's goal. He studied the classics of ancient languages at the University of Colorado, desiring to be a professor.

After finding out the path of librarianship offered greater opportunity and allowed him to still

work in a university atmosphere, Marino began his pursuit with a fellowship. He now has a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois.

"Before going back to academics, I worked as an aircraft mechanic, so I definitely don't come to academia through the straight and narrow path," Marino said.

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6:30 p.m. April 2

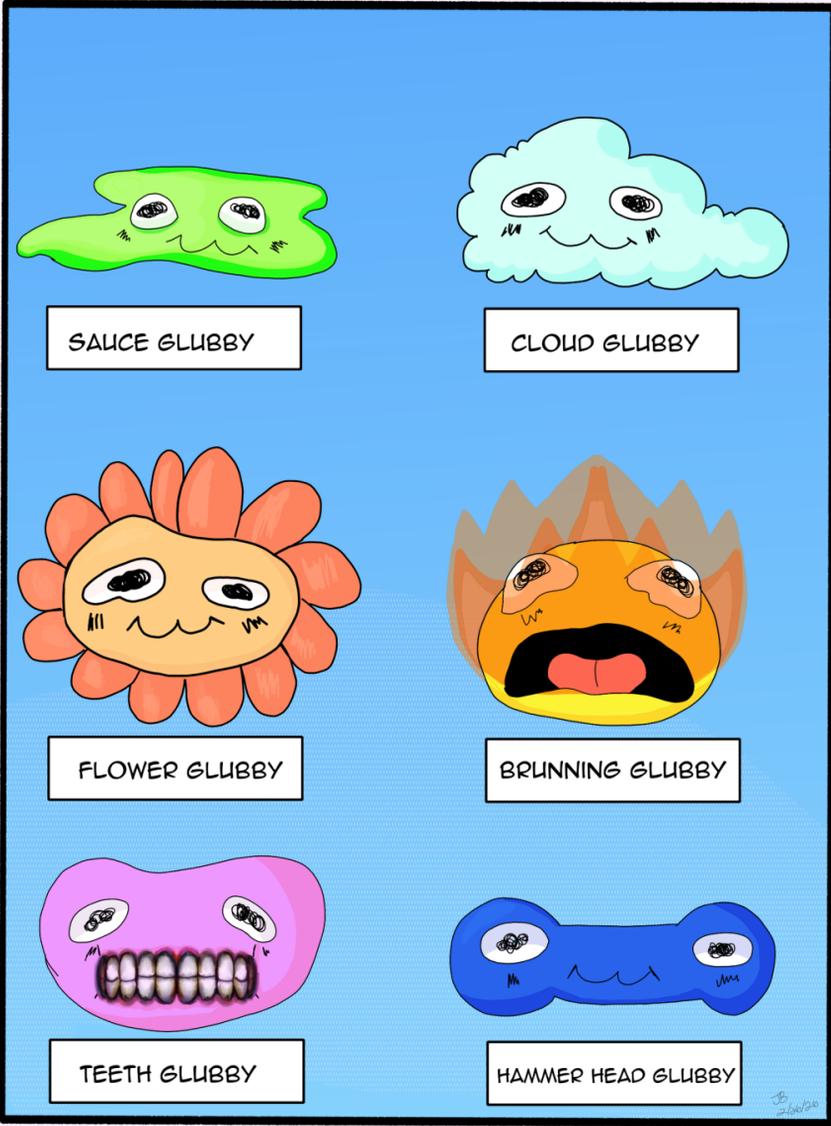
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Scoop says...



Last week at a glance, March 11-14



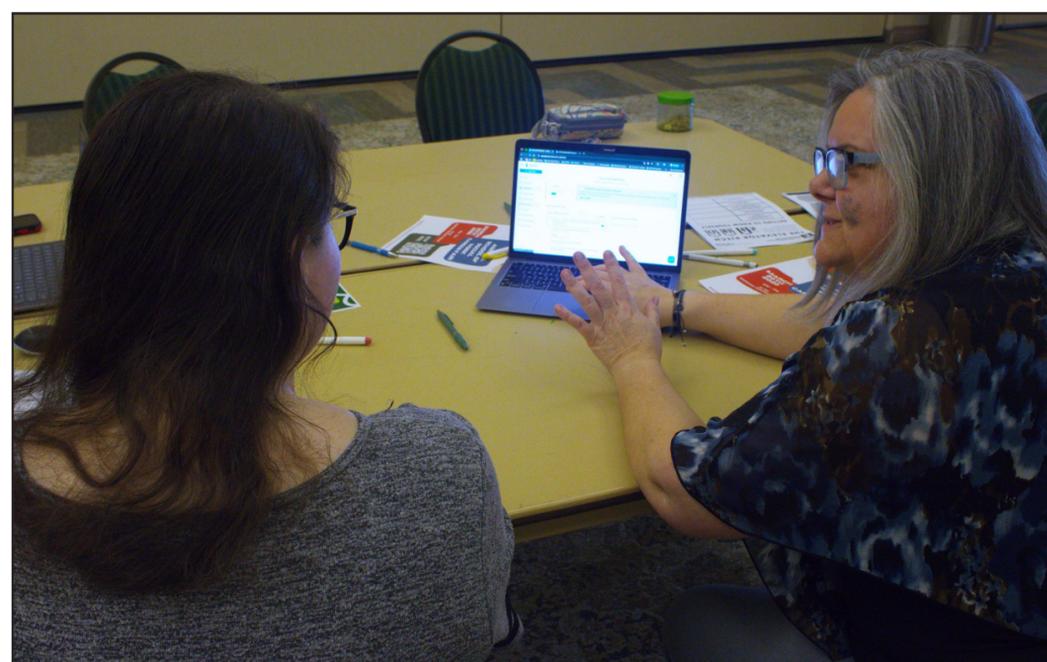
From left: Cynthia W., Lilith J. and Han J. participate in a game of Texas Hold 'em, dealt by both Grace R. and Matthew C. at Kings Casino in the Eastern Michigan University Student Center on Wednesday, March 11. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo



Dwight H., one of the blackjack dealers at Kings Casino, deals cards to the players at the table Wednesday, March 11 in the Eastern Michigan University Student Center. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo



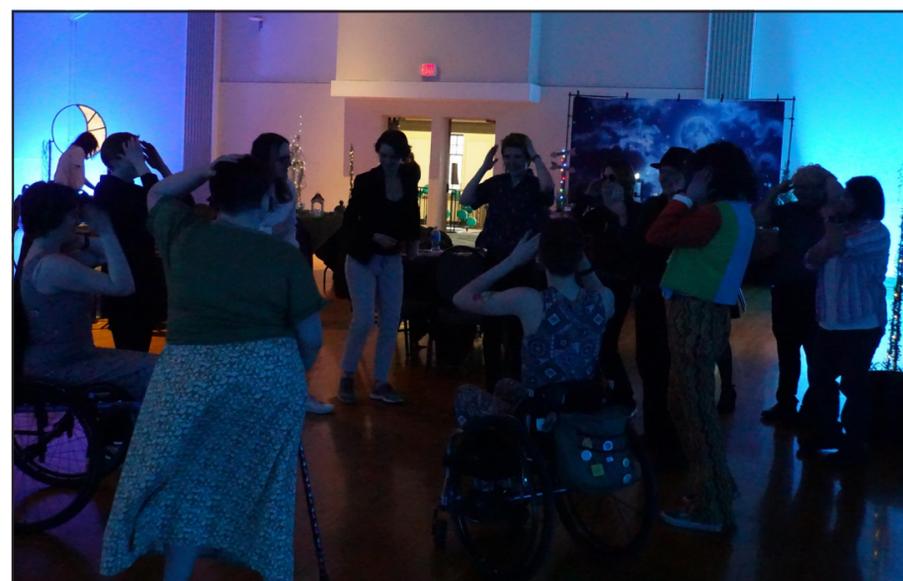
Eastern Michigan University women's lacrosse player Mackenzie Blackwell faces off with Kent State University at Scicluna Field on Saturday, March 14. Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo



Career coach Barb Gehring shows participants how to use Jobscan to help organize job hunting information at the Career Fair Preparation Workshop on Monday, March 9. Bea Dingman / The Eastern Echo



The Honors College provides Jimmy John's sandwiches for students to enjoy on Commuter Appreciation Day on Thursday, March 12. Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo



A group of students form a dance circle for the Macarena together at Pride Prom in the McKenny Ballroom on Thursday, March 12. Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo



The lead singer from Exit Ticket belts into the microphone at Pride Prom in the McKenny Ballroom on Thursday, March 12. Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo