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Celebrating Black History Month



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 | VOLUME 140, ISSUE 05 • SERVING EMU AND YPSILANTI SINCE 1881

Eastern Michigan University offers new study abroad program in Ghana

VICTORIA SMITH
CONTENT EDITOR

Eastern Michigan University is now offering a summer study abroad program that will take place in Ghana, West Africa.

The program is called "EMU Returning Home: Race, Identity and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade," and will be led by Caralee Jones-Obeng, an assistant professor of Africology and African American Studies at the University.

The trip will consist of traveling to three cities in Ghana: Accra, Cape Coast, and Kumasi.

While in these cities, students will explore ideas and concepts surrounding Ghana's relation to the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, such as how it happened, how it led to tourism, and the resulting financial impact. Students will also have the opportunity to learn more about Ghanaian culture and traditions, including Twi, which is the indigenous language of Ghana.

"I ultimately want them to come away with a more realistic understanding of life in particularly Ghana and help to demystify a lot of the stereotypes and misconceptions of people who live in Africa, more specifically Ghana," Jones-Obeng said.

Students on the trip will visit historical sites that pertain to the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. They will visit slave castles where enslaved Africans were kept before being placed on ships, and they will also visit a river that was used to wash enslaved Africans before being taken to the slave castles.

Students will visit the W.E.B. DuBois Centre in Accra, the University of Ghana, and the University of Cape Coast. At the University of Cape Coast, a speaker will inform students about additional history behind the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and its role in Cape Coast.

This is the first Eastern study abroad program offered in 10 years that takes place in Africa, with the last trip being to South Africa. This is also the University's first time offering a study abroad program in Ghana.

Jones-Obeng was inspired to lead this study abroad due to her past trips to the country. She has been to Ghana two times prior, her last being during her junior year of undergrad.

That trip lasted four months, where she took courses at the University of Ghana.

While reflecting on her past experiences in the country, she notes that how she viewed her race was challenged. She experienced being labeled as an American by individuals, when she originally expected her understanding of race and

challenges this kind of black and white way in which we understand things in the U.S.," Jones-Obeng said.

The trip is expected to last nearly two weeks. Although the exact dates are not yet finalized, a leave date of around May 29 and a return date of around June 10 are being considered.

The program costs roughly \$6,500, which includes the



PHOTO CREDIT: CARALEE JONES-OBENG

THE ELMINA CASTLE LOCATED IN GHANA WAS ONCE USED AS PART OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE.

of being Black to be mirrored in the country. This caused her to further learn about and understand the concepts of ethnicity and nationality.

"I always knew that if given the opportunity I also wanted to give that experience to other students... going to the continent and having that experience is really, I think, life changing, and it really makes you question a lot of the ways we see race here, the ways we see ethnicity, so it really

cost of flights, tuition, accommodations, and food. Financial assistance will be available to apply for following acceptance into the program. A list of scholarships can be found on the University's Study Abroad and U.S. Study Programs website.

The application deadline is Feb. 15. Applicants are expected to learn of their acceptance status within the following two weeks.

EMU Planetarium hosts two February shows

PRESTON BOSMAN
NEWS REPORTER



PHOTO CREDIT: PRESTON BOSMAN
OUTSIDE OF THE EMU PLANETARIUM IN MARK JEFFERSON SCIENCE COMPLEX.

Get ready to see the stars as Eastern Michigan University presents two astronomical viewing experiences at the EMU Planetarium: "A Part of The Sky Called Orion" and "Comets & Discovery: A Sky Hunter's Quest."

Located at the Mark Jefferson Science Complex at Eastern Michigan University, the planetarium was established in conjunction with one of the University's most expensive renovations.

Mark Jefferson stood tall for many years after its construction in the late 1960s, but from 2009 to 2012, Mark Jefferson underwent a complete renovation, and one small piece of that 90-million-dollar project was the planetarium.

Norbert Vance, the Director of Schizer's Observatory, is an EMU faculty member and spoke about the history of the Mark Jefferson Science Complex and the EMU Planetarium.

Vance says that originally he had only asked for a hemispherical structure inside one of the labs at Mark Jefferson, but he was delighted to see an entire planetarium upon construction.

"The planetarium was an answer to an umbrella that we used to have in the astronomy lab. When the Mark Jefferson renovations came along, we saw an opportunity to give us an, which was thought about during the design process. I only asked for a hemispherical dome within one of the rooms, but the architects gave me an entire planetarium," Vance said.

According to their website, the planetarium is a "Full-dome Digital Theatre

Experience." Some of the features of the Planetarium include a Digitalis Lambda planetarium projector, a high-definition presentation projector, 7.1 Dolby Surround sound, LED lighting, and a Dell touch screen 4K monitor.

The planetarium is hosting two popular upcoming shows this February, which are "A Part of The Sky Called Orion" and "Comets & Discovery: A Sky Hunter's Quest."

While both are not new shows within the planetarium's discography, both are popular theatrical experiences that are shown frequently.

"A Part of The Sky Called Orion," showing on Feb. 12 from 7-8 p.m., is a show that dwells into the Greek, Egyptian, and Inupiaq cultures.

According to the website, "This program is not only great for the general public but is an incredible elementary school experience."

This program will tell the stories from the perspective of individuals from these cultures and how they viewed Orion. This show is intended for grades 2nd and above, and tickets are \$5 for general admission.

"Comets & Discovery: A Sky Hunter's Quest" is a show centering around discovery, following two comet hunters and their journey searching the skies.

The program also focuses on the differences and similarities between old astronomers and modern-day astronomers.

Showing on Feb. 16 at 7 p.m., tickets for this show also cost \$5. The planetarium only seats 37 people.

TRUEMU Night raises \$1600 for Student Emergency Fund

JACK MONK
NEWS REPORTER

On Saturday, Jan. 27, the Red Wings defeated the Las Vegas Knights in a 5-2 victory. However, the Red Wings were not the only ones feeling accomplished on Saturday, as Eastern Michigan University raised over \$1600 as part of their TRUEMU Night collaboration.

Five dollars from each of the 324 tickets sold to EMU students and faculty were donated to the Student Emergency Fund in addition to participants receiving custom

Green and White Red Wing EMU hockey jerseys.

Matt Mortier, Director of Alumni, Donor, and Volunteer Engagement at EMU, believes more tickets would have been sold had the game not been sold out.

"Each year, the various emergency funds receive anywhere from \$10,000 to \$40,000 depending on various initiatives and projects," Mortier said.

Various engagement opportunities are focused on helping students overcome financial stress and make their stay at EMU an enjoyable experience. More TRUEMU Nights and other events are in the works to

promote engagement with the University and major sports teams.

"We will begin a larger push to promote the EMU Night at the Pistons over the next few weeks. It's hard to predict how many EMU supporters will be interested in attending the game on March 7. The Pistons are having a difficult season, but we know the game experience at Little Caesars Arena will be a great time as always," Mortier said.

Mortier also mentioned that these collaborations and events are not just restricted to sports.

"Countless businesses and organizations support various programs and initiatives

across campus at many different levels. These fun engagement partnerships with the Red Wings, Pistons, and Tigers are not built as fundraising initiatives. They are engagement events and the organization chooses to give back as part of their ticket package," Mortier said.

The Detroit Pistons will host a similar event to the TRUEMU Night on Thursday, March 7, at 7 p.m. For this upcoming event, students and faculty that buy a ticket through EMU will receive an EMU and Detroit Pistons crewneck sweatshirt.

NEWS: The Eastern Echo visits EMU Department of Public Safety for tour and ride along - *pg. 2*



SPORTS: EMU men's basketball team drops second consecutive game to NIU - *pg. 3*



REVIEWS: The Last Dinner Party brings blissful melodies in their debut album - *pg. 4*



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What's the Move?
Feb. 5-11

EASTERN ECHO STAFF

Need to stretch? Try the volleyball court - Feb. 5

Students are welcome at the Rec/IM building for open volleyball hours, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Those interested are encouraged to register online. Students must have a valid Rec/IM membership to participate.

Cookies with the Coaches is Tuesday - Feb. 6

Several different recipes are on the menu as Campus Life coaches get baking with students from 4 to 6 p.m. in Rackham Hall, room 105. While stirring up those ingredients, students will get a chance to chat with coaches and each other on a variety of topics. For details, email Julia Pleskaczynska at jpeskac@emich.edu.

Comedy Night at the Brewery - Feb. 7

Whether telling funny stories, or just ready to listen for a few, the place to be Wednesday is 734 Brewing Co. Open Mic Night is from 7:30-10:30 p.m. The brewery is at 15 E. Cross St. in Ypsilanti. During the weekly open mic event, comedians of all sorts get the chance to tell a few stories. Admission is free. The event emcee is Ypsilanti comic Lisa Green.

Internship Fair - Feb. 7

Employers from across the area who are offering internships will be at the Student Center ready to meet students seeking opportunities and asking questions. The fair, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Center ballroom, is open to all EMU students, both graduate and undergraduate, and alumni. For details, contact Mary Jane Fallot at mfallot@emich.edu. The fair is organized by the University Advising and Career Development Center.

Shake out those studying kinks with some open basketball - Feb. 9

From 3:30-7 p.m., students can shoot some hoops during the open basketball hours at the Rec/IM building, on the third floor. Students must have a valid Rec/IM membership to participate.

Check out Detroit with Campus Life - Feb. 9

Campus Life is sponsoring a bus tour of Detroit from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On the itinerary: the Wright Museum, Mezcal Mexican Restaurant and other stops. For details, contact Sara Bamrick at sbamrick@emich.edu.

Stargazing with your Sweetheart - Feb. 9

Seeking an interesting Valentine's Day date idea? Try the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreations Department's adult date night feature: Stargazing with your Sweetheart. The program will be led by park naturalist Kelsey Dehring at Independence Lake Park, 3200 Jennings Road in Whitmore Lake, Mich. Participants can choose from two program times: 7-8 p.m. or 8-9 p.m. Admission is \$10 for each adult couple. The event includes a toasty fire and warm cocoa. Pre-registration is required at parksonline.ewashtenaw.org.

Saturday Night Theatre Jam - Feb. 10

The Dreamland Theatre at 26 N. Washington St. is the place for a Whatabout Theatre Jam, where everyone is welcome on stage to perform improv. The doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the jam starts at 6 p.m. Admission is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$5. Payment will be accepted in cash, or online, from the Whatabout Theatre website. Whatabout Theatre is a nonprofit arts organization that promotes performances, classes and workshops in Southeast Michigan.

Trip to the Holocaust Museum - Feb. 11

The Honors College/Hillel at Eastern is sponsoring a trip to the Zekelman Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills, Mich., from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students will listen to a survivor's story and view the exhibits. Transportation is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. For details, contact the Honors College at emuhonors@emich.edu. Sign up for the trip through the event link.

The Eastern Echo visits EMU Department of Public Safety for tour and ride along

AARON HUGHES
MANAGING EDITOR

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m., The Eastern Echo visited the Department of Public Safety to learn more about how they operate. Greeted by Lieutenant Nathaniel Stead, he acted as the tour guide for the night shift.

Lieutenant Stead has been working at Eastern for 15 years, starting as a patrol officer. He then moved positions to the crime unit, working on street crimes and high felony arrests. Afterward, he moved to the multi-jurisdictional agency to work with the State of Michigan's task force until 2019. Since then, he has been promoted to operations lieutenant who oversees all uniformed patrol divisions.

"Police officers are stretched thin, right? You can't deal with a lot of the problems all individually, but together we can deal with a lot of problems. So that task force that I was on, it was it's nine police officers, Washtenaw County deputies, troopers, Pittsfield officers, Ann Arbor police officers, some federal officers from the ATF and DEA, all working collectively to primarily focus on drugs and narcotics and high crime in Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County," Lieutenant Stead said.

Stead first showed the Communications Center where all the calls and requests are received. Outside of phone calls, the center is responsible for monitoring over 1000 cameras around campus. At all times, two dispatchers are monitoring the Comms Center during eight-hour shifts. Dispatchers Kyle Snyder and Tom Shackelford were running the Tuesday night shift.

Next to all the camera monitors was a recent addition of a screen dedicated to the new Zero Eyes gun detection. Though it has not officially started, Shackelford noted that the tests yielded great results.

"The biggest problem, at least from a communication standpoint for me, is you have got a caller that is going to relay information and they are in a heightened state. So you take that information and you try to relay it to officers. This is the worst thing they are [the caller] ever going to have to deal with in their life," dispatcher Shackelford said. "And they [officers] try to take the description of a person that's a

more of the department, such as offices, a detective bureau, locker rooms, and a kitchen. Then moving to the lower floor, Lieutenant Stead introduced the equipment and tools used by DPS on day-to-day occasions or rare instances.

Some of this equipment includes shotguns, patrol rifles, flares, bikes, electric bikes, breathalyzers, AEDs, raincoats, riot gear evidence kits, and more. Lieutenant

filing their fingerprint on a new electronic scanner that uploads their fingerprints in their system. They would then take a mugshot in that same room. In addition, there was an additional room if the arrestee needed to be interviewed, but that typically is reserved for serious cases like drunk driving. Finally, if they needed to be held temporarily, they would be put in a holding cell.

Recently, the Ypsilanti police force has been dealing with low staffing and has been looking to DPS to help with occasional calls. Lieutenant Stead has said though it has been a challenge, everyone has pitched in to help serve the same community.

"There's no hiding that the Ypsilanti Police Departmet has had some staffing issues recently. We do help them out on occasion. You probably see during the ride along tonight, primarily Ypsilanti will send a police officer to handle the call and we'll be a backup unit," Lieutenant Stead said. "That's kind of just a mutual agreement that we have come to. The Ypsilanti community, the Eastern community, we are kind of all one. So Ypsi problems are kind of our problems. Our problems are kind of Ypsi problems. And we've got a really good working relationship with them. We're trying to get them through their hard time right now until they get their staffing levels back up."

After finishing the tour around 8 p.m., Lieutenant Stead introduced me to officer Timothy Siecinski who would take me for a ride during his patrol. At the end, Stead wanted students and faculty to know that DPS was dedicated to the Eastern community.

"I just want you to know that we are a specialized police department here. We do a lot of things that other police won't do, but we realize that because of what type of police department we are, what type of community we serve, we need to tweak our roles as police officers to handle the needs, the needs of our community," Lieutenant Stead said.



PHOTO CREDIT: AARON HUGHES

OFFICER TIMOTHY SIECINSKI PULLS OVER DRIVER FOR A BROKEN HEADLIGHT ON OAKWOOD STREET DURING HIS PATROL AT 9 P.M. ON JAN. 30.

verbal description, and then find the person that matches. Versus Zero Eyes, you have a picture. So identification, which is usually the hardest part of any crime, is there."

Following this, Lieutenant Stead showed

Stead said one of the issues that DPS currently faces is a lack of storage for their 22 officers.

He then demonstrated some of the processes an arrestee goes through. From

Key dates for the Michigan Presidential Primary voting

NAOMI BARBOUR
NEWS REPORTER

On Feb. 27, Michigan is holding its presidential primary, and voting is now easier due to newly passed voter accessibility laws.

Voting options include prepaid envelopes for absentee ballots, 9 days of early voting, and an expanded list of acceptable photo IDs. Any registered voter can request a no-excuse absentee ballot, and the last day to do so is Friday, Feb. 23, by 5 p.m. by mail and online, and Monday, Feb. 26, by 4 p.m. in person. Voters can apply for an absentee ballot here.

Starting with the 2024 presidential primary, voters will have at least nine days to vote in person before all statewide and federal elections. Check the Michigan Department of State website for more information on early-voting sites. Additionally, acceptable forms of photo ID include a state driver's license or student ID. If you don't have ID, you can complete paperwork at the polls before voting.

Students can make sure they are prepared by following this checklist below:

Are you registered to vote? Check on michigan.gov.

How do you want to vote?

Absentee: All registered voters can request a no-excuse absentee ballot by Monday, Feb. 12. Stamps are prepaid and a dropbox is located at the Student Center.

Early: Michigan now requires at least nine days of early voting for statewide and federal elections in person by going to their local city or township clerk's office and filling out an absentee ballot.

Election Day: Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 27. Bring an acceptable form of photo ID, such as your driver's license or U.S. passport. You can fill out additional paperwork at the polls if you forget your ID.

Here are key dates to know for the upcoming primary

Monday, Feb. 12: Deadline to register to vote online or by mail and be eligible to vote in the presidential primary

Tuesday, Feb. 13: The window for in-person registration at a local clerk's office with proof of residency begins

Saturday, Feb. 17: Communities must begin allowing early voting

Absentee ballot deadlines

Friday, Feb. 23: Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail

Monday, Feb. 26: Deadline to request an absentee ballot in person

Tuesday, Feb. 27: All ballots must be received or postmarked by midnight

Michigan Primary Election date

Tuesday, Feb. 27, is the Michigan presidential primary.

Where can I register to vote?

Michigan residents can register to vote online or by mail by Feb. 12 for the presidential primary. Residents can also register to vote in person at their local clerk's office until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

For additional questions, visit the Presidential Primary Q&A from the Michigan Department of State and the Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC).

The college experience from a variety of different point-of-views

JULEZ DESHETLER
NEWS REPORTER

Each student at Eastern Michigan University has a different idea of the college experience.

To third-year commuter student Kathleen Kennedy, the college experience is a foundation of her success in life. To international campus-living student Riya Bhattarai, it means getting involved and meeting new friends. To the University, the college experience means a period of growth and learning outside the classroom walls.

Commuter Logistics

According to Eastern Michigan University's Databook, as of 2023 there were 16,294 students enrolled; however, 2,574 of those students live on campus. Meaning, about 86% of students commute to EMU. This percentage is slightly above average, as the National Center of Education Statistics said about 85% of university students commute.

Katie Condon, the vice president of enrollment management, said the average radius for Eastern Michigan University commuter students is 60 miles.

"While the majority of our students are from Michigan, we did welcome students in the fall from all over the U.S. including but not limited to Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Utah, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin," Condon said.

Kennedy as a commuter student struggles with being more connected on campus. Those connections include friends, resume experience, and club involvement that will offer her a better career and overall life after graduation.

Kennedy is currently not partaking in any

extracurricular activities, stating there are too many factors in the way. For example, Kennedy commutes from Ann Arbor, which according to her takes about 20 minutes to arrive on campus. For her to attend an event on campus, it would have to be worth her drive time and her gas.

On the other hand, Bhattarai is very involved. She is a part of the International Student Association, the American Marketing Association, and UNICEF.

Cost

According to EMU's 2023-24 room and meal plan rates, to live on campus in the non-renovated dorms, Best, Buell, and Wise, the annual cost ranges from \$5,910 to \$7,660, depending on if the student wants a double or single room. For resident halls Downing, Walton, and Putnam, it costs \$7,036. For Hoyt and Pittman, single or double, it would be \$5,346 to \$7,096. And \$6,470 to \$8,220 to live in the Village.

As for the apartment rates, ranging from \$5,960 to \$7,420 is the annual price to reside in Brown or Munson, depending on the square footage. The Cornell Courts have eight different options starting from \$5,174 to \$7,974. Lastly, living on 601 West Forest Ave. costs \$5,834 annually; however, it will be raised to \$5,926 for the upcoming 2024-2025 rates.

These price points do not include a meal plan, which the University requires students to have during their first year living on campus. Meal plans are broken down into four options and have recently just increased in 2024 price-wise.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Learning Beyond the Classroom (LBC) gives students the opportunity to enhance their experiences, knowledge, creativity, and skills, which can be applied to their work force. Originally, the program was invented in 2007; however, it was formally introduced to Eastern Michigan University in 2009,

the General Education director professor William John Koolage said.

Koolage has been revising the program for the last three years. These revisions include organizing the transfer student profiles to properly match their credits from previous institutions. Another revision includes making the program more assessable. Meaning, having the ability to track whether students are learning what is intended. Lastly, Koolage wants to make it easier for the students by signaling to them which activity or event would be most beneficial to them, he said.

The program consists of six categories. First, self and well-being. Second, community service, citizenship, and leadership. Third, cultural and academic activities and events. Fourth, career and professional development. Fifth, international and multicultural experience. Finally, sixth, undergraduate research.

"The six categories of LBC are to show students the applicability of their courses and applying that to the world," Koolage said.

Koolage said students are impacted by Learning Beyond the Classroom because they are provided with new ways of learning, and seeing the world in a different lens. Also, the program's credits can be attained without a single cent paid. Many activities and events that qualify for LBC can be completed without even realizing or trying he said. There are several options on campus weekly that students can take part in. These can be educational, entertaining, or even unrelated to academics in general.

"The goal is to see a connection to the real world. The institutional goal is to motivate people to try things they don't normally try. To explore a range of possibilities," Koolage said.

This statement goes for any and every one, Koolage said.

Resident Living

According to the Director of Housing and Residence Life, Jeanette Zalba in 2023, there were 3,238 spaces available in the residence halls, and about 444 spaces available in the apartments on campus.

Due to the amount of availability not used on campus, EMU is undergoing a reconstructive plan for the upcoming years.

The Welcome Home Plan's intention is to renovate EMU's campus, specifically the living options. She said the plan were put in place to keep up with competing universities, but also to encourage more students to live on campus by giving them updated spaces to live in and more of a variety of options.

"EMU felt like we were behind, as far as what our buildings looked like when you come on campus," Zalba said. "In 2022, we had 2,465 students living on campus, so that's 109 more students this year. My goal is to always increase that number."

As for Bhattarai, she loves living on campus because she gets to make new friends whenever and wherever. Also, she gets to be a part of a community, she said.

"I don't think I would have made as many friends by being a commuter," Bhattarai said.

Despite seeking independence in a safer environment, you also get to meet new, diverse people. Also, the convenience to classes and clubs is another benefit.

"You can go to that club meeting on a Tuesday night because you are only a walk away," Zalba said.

To find ways to get involved, EagleSync is the place to go, Zalba said. EagleSync is a platform that enables students to connect with other students, staff, and faculty members. It is used to show students upcoming events, student organizations, and find people with similar interests.

"Be entrepreneurial, show up, introduce yourself, talk to people, and network," Zalba said. "We are a big enough campus that you have to put yourself out there."



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EMU men’s basketball team drops second consecutive game to NIU

BLAKE MCQUEARY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Eastern Michigan University men's basketball team dropped its second straight loss to Northern Illinois University on Saturday, Feb. 3, in Dekalb, Ill., as the Huskies downed the Eagles, 76-66.

Sophomore guard Orlando Lovejoy (Detroit, Mich.) finished with a career-high 19 points and four steals while adding five assists as he sparked for 13 second-half points for the Eagles despite the loss. Lovejoy has now recorded at least one steal in 11 of his past 12 games for EMU.

Including Lovejoy, the Eagles had four players in double-digit totals for points as junior guard Tyson Acuff (Detroit, Mich.) added 14 points, junior forward Jalin Billingsley

(Cleveland, Ohio) finished with 12, and junior forward Yusuf Jihad (Farmington Hills, Mich.) had 10.

Acuff's 14 points marked his 24th-straight game that he's totaled at least 10 points, totaling the most by an Eagles hooper since 2000.

Despite outshooting the Huskies 40% compared to 38%, foul trouble would haunt the Eagles as they totaled 25 fouls that allowed NIU to shoot 35 free throws, converting 30 into points.

The Eagles now drop to 9-13 overall and 2-8 in Mid-American Conference play while NIU improved to 7-14 overall and a 1-8 MAC record.

Next up, EMU will return to Ypsilanti, Mich., on Tuesday, Feb. 6, to host the University of Toledo in a MAC showdown inside the George Gervin GameAbove Center. Tipoff for that game is scheduled for 7 p.m.



PHOTO CREDIT: CAROLINE MURREL
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM DURING THEIR MATCH VERSUS AKRON ON SATURDAY, FEB. 19, 2022.

Eagle Sports Tips and Tales

BLAKE MCQUEARY
SPORTS EDITOR

EMU football hires new assistant coach to staff

The Eastern Michigan University football program has hired Indiana University assistant Kasey Teegardin as its new special teams coordinator and defensive ends coach head coach Chris Creighton announced on Thursday, Feb. 1.

Teegardin spent the past 10 seasons at Indiana where he led the special teams to success.

Under Teegardin, the Hoosiers blocked a total of 10 kicks while also becoming the only FBS team with numerous kickoff returns for touchdowns in 2022.

In 2021, Teegardin would lead Indiana's special teams unit tied for first in the nation with four blocked punts, while in 2020 they ranked fifth in ESPN's special teams efficiency rankings.

Prior to Indiana, Teegardin held coaching positions at Valparaiso University, Northwood University, and the University of Charleston.

While at the University of Charleston, Teegardin would stand as the youngest defensive coordinator in the NCAA (24 years old) in 2010, leading them to rank 19th in the nation in rush defense.

EMU swim and dive program honors the 2024 senior class at the annual extravaganza

The Eastern Michigan University swim and dive team held its annual Senior Extravaganza on Saturday, Feb. 3, where they recognized and celebrated the eight seniors on the roster.

Seniors Savannah Frank (Chelsea, Mich.), Tierney Fraidenburg (Ann Arbor, Mich.), Taylor Harris (Tiffin, Ohio), Camryn Hughes (London, Ontario), Katie Shoen (Owego, N.Y.), Keira Veltigian (Oxford, Mich.), Abbey Whipple (State College, Pa.), and student manager Mallorie Johnson were all honored on Saturday.

The team would incorporate some added fun to their routine as they held a 70s themed event that included parent and athlete musical chairs, a disco splash duo, a limbo fiesta, a swimmer and diver relay, as well as some traditional swimming and diving events.

The Eagles will travel to Ann Arbor, Mich., for the Michigan First Chance meet hosted by the University of Michigan on Saturday, Feb. 17-18.

EMU rowing team fills CAA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll

The Eastern Michigan University rowing team had 46 members named to the Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll for the 2023 fall semester, the league announced.

The conference recorded a record of 3,974 total student-athletes that were a part of this year's list.

The list is split up into three different categories: High Honors with Distinction include those with a 4.0 grade point average, High Honors include those who hold between 3.7 and 4.0, and Honors including those between a 3.0 and 3.7.

Eagles recognized on the High Honors with Distinction list include Laura Bochers, Gabrielle Charvat, Addison Cooper, Reagan Fazekas, Kaycee Johnson, Elizabeth Latunski, Abigail Lauth, Jessica Lyseng, Claire McCurley, Bryah Moriarty, Lindsey Pfile, and Emma Sagna.

EMU women's basketball downed by Buffalo, marking fifth-consecutive loss

BLAKE MCQUEARY
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior forward Kennedi Myles (Cincinnati, Ohio) dominated in the paint off the bench for the Eagles as she finished with a double-double despite the Eastern Michigan University women's basketball squad falling to the University at Buffalo, 75-63, on Saturday, Feb. 3.

Myles would finish the game totaling 17 points and 10 rebounds for EMU. It marks the Ohio native's 14th career double-double as well as her seventh time finishing with double-digit points this season.

Junior forward Treasure Thompson (Joliet, Ill.) would add a season-high 17 points and six rebounds to put her just 67 rebounds away from a career milestone of 500.

The Eagles would grab a total of 38 rebounds as 13 of those would come on the offensive end and turn into 13 second chance points. Junior center Tayra Eke (Madrid, Spain) would grab five rebounds to put her just 67 rebounds away from a career milestone of 500.

A big difference maker in the matchup would be free throw shooting and fast break points as the Eagles shot 9-of-19 (47.4%) from the charity stripe, while the Bulls shot 16-for-20 (80%), adding 19 fast break points to EMU's six.

The Eagles now sit on a five-game losing streak as they drop to 5-15 overall and 2-8 in Mid-American Conference play, while Buffalo improves to 12-8 overall and 6-4 in the MAC.

EMU will now return to its home court inside the George Gervin GameAbove Center as they host the University of Akron on Wednesday, Feb. 7. Tipoff is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.



PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL
SWOOP ON JAN. 27 AFTER EMU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME.

EMU mens basketball squad suffers MAC defeat against top-ranked Akron

ELENA DAVIS
SPORTS WRITER



PHOTO CREDIT: MILES CORLEY
TYSON ACUFF GOING FOR THE FREE THROW JAN. 27 AT EMU BASKETBALL GAME.

A white-out night in Ypsilanti gone bad as the men's basketball team of Eastern Michigan University faced the University of Akron, who's currently atop of the Mid-American Conference (MAC), on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at the George Gervin GameAbove Center.

EMU dropped a 77-46 point game to the MAC-leading basketball team. Akron started the game strongly in the first half, securing a dominant 42-23 lead as they headed into the locker room. The Zips widened their lead to 32 points, reaching a score of 74-42 with 2:18 left in the game to cruise to a dominating win.

"You have to just throw this one out," head coach Stan

Heath said in a radio interview after the heartbreaking loss. "They just outplayed us, they're good, we weren't very good."

EMU's overall record shifted to 9-12, with a conference play record of 2-7, whereas Akron's overall standing became 16-5, with an impressive 8-1 record in the MAC.

In terms of shooting percentages, the Eagles finished with an 18-of-50 (36.0%) clip from the field and a 2-of-19 (10.5%) performance from the three-point range. On the other hand, Akron showcased a 32-of-64 (50.0%) accuracy from the field and a 6-of-25 (24.0%) proficiency from beyond the arc.

"We made too many mistakes. First half we made some sloppy turnovers, just careless, and kind of dug a hole for us," Heath said, "I thought in the second half we were fighting a little bit." He goes on to say after a while the game got tough for the Eagles and weren't able to shoot as well as they would have liked.

Junior guard Tyson Acuff (Detroit, Mich.) led the team with 12 points, extending his impressive streak to 23 consecutive games with at least 11 points. With a total of 851 points as an Eagle, Acuff now holds the 47th position in EMU history, surpassing John Bowler (2005-06).

Acuff sets a new record for the most consecutive games with at least 10 points by an EMU player since 2000.

WMU women's hoops dominates EMU in battle of I-94, 76-48

BLAKE MCQUEARY
SPORTS EDITOR

Another battle of I-94 took place inside the George Gervin GameAbove Center on Wednesday night as the Eastern Michigan University women's basketball team took on Mid-American Conference and intrastate rival Western Michigan University.

The Broncos would dominate in a win over the Eagles, marking the 95th meeting between the historic rivalry of EMU and WMU. The all-time series now sits at 53-42 in favor of the Eagles.

It was a bit of a homecoming for WMU head coach Shane Clippell as he spent nine seasons in the green-and-white as an assistant coach while also serving as acting head coach during the 2006-07 season.

The Eagles would start the game off hot as they ran out to an 8-0 run that was highlighted by two three-pointers from sophomore guard Olivia Smith (Fort Wayne, Ind.) to force a Broncos timeout. A review of Smith's initial three-pointer during the break would overturn the basket and put the score at 5-0.

WMU would enter a hot zone as they produced a 12-0 run to take the lead from EMU, 12-5, with 2:13 left in the first quarter. The Broncos would close the quarter on a 16-4 run to take a 16-9 lead entering the second quarter.

Things would continue for WMU through the second quarter as they built a 24-9 lead with 4:20 left to play in the first half. The Broncos would extend their lead, 33-16, to close out the first half of play.

The Eagles struggled on both ends of the floor through two

quarters as they went 6-for-23 from the field and committed 14 turnovers while WMU found easy shots, putting up a 52% clip with just six first-half turnovers.

EMU would come out of halftime with improved energy starting the third quarter with a 6-0 run to cut the Broncos' deficit down to 33-22. The rest of the quarter would be mostly WMU as they widened their lead, 56-34.

The fourth quarter would be all WMU as they cruised to a 76-48 win over the Eagles.

The difference maker for the Broncos would be the shooting gap as WMU went 27-for-49 (55.1%) from the field and 10-for-20 from beyond-the-arc. The Eagles struggled in that aspect as they shot 19-for-53 (35.8%) and 4-for-19 (21.1%) from three-point range.

The Broncos have now won four of their last five games improving to 9-10 overall, with a MAC record of 4-5. Meanwhile, the Eagles drop to 5-14 overall, with a conference record of 2-6.

Senior forward Kennedi Myles (Cincinnati, OH.) led the way for the Eagles offensively after finishing with 13 points and eight rebounds off the bench. Entering the matchup, Myles ranks second in the conference with 8.4 rebounds per game and third in total rebounds with 152.

WMU senior guard Kaitlyn Zarycki (Niles, Mich.) would have a stellar performance for the Broncos as she finished with 26 points, four rebounds, and four assists on 10-for-12 shooting from the field. Sophomore guard Maggie Stutelberg (Glenn Ellyn, Ill.) would add 14 points off the bench.



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Review: The Last Dinner Party brings blissful melodies in their debut album



MARIE WHITE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Last Dinner party is a British indie rock band consisting of women and non-binary individuals that formed in 2020. The quintet consists of lead singer Abigail Morris, Lizzie Mayland on vocals and guitar, Emily Roberts on lead guitar, madolian, and flute, Georgia Davies on bass, and Aurora Nishevci on keys and vocals. Their first single was released in April of 2023, while their debut album was released on Feb. 2 of this year.

“At last we lay our debut album, ‘Prelude To Ecstasy,’ at your feet,” the band said in an Instagram post.

Highs

Throughout the entire album, you are given an experience that transports you in and out of time. The theme of the album is renaissance baroque-esque, which is seen in imagery, performances, and outfits. Referencing Julius Caesar in “Caesar on a TV Screen” and renaissance paintings in “Portrait of a Dead Girl.” Within the lyrics “I felt like one of those portraits of women protected by a beast on a chain,” the imagery contrasts the roles of males and females in society while placing a lens on the renaissance era but with modern flair. They play into this dynamic of hate and power and wishing for that freedom others have, that transcends the barrier of time. Lyrically, the songs are in depth, and you could listen to them a hundred times over and find more meaning; thought was put into all of these songs.

The songs and their order feel utterly intentional; everything fits together like a gorgeous puzzle. The band opens the album with “Prelude To Ecstasy,” which is an instrumental overture that could be in a symphony all on its

own. The transition between songs “Prelude To Ecstasy” and “Burn Alive” works cohesively; the drumming and instrumentals throughout feel light yet strong in every note fueling the beginning of the album. “Beautiful Boy” is a slow song with a beautiful flute melody that transitions into an angelic interlude in “Gjuha.” In “Beautiful Boy,” the lyrics “And what I'm feeling isn't lust its envy” plays into this power dynamic seen throughout the work, turning into this boiling rage. The final song of the album “Mirror” puts the entire piece together with themes of the interlude from the beginning coming full circle.

Lows

I wish the theme stayed consistent instrumentally throughout the entire piece. In songs like “Sinner” and “Nothing Matters,” we get these electronic beats we don't get in “Portrait of a Dead Girl” and “Mirror,” which sets these apart from the rest of the album. I wish they would have stuck with electronic indie baroque throughout (though I would love to hear a straight instrumental album from the band). When the song “Portrait of a Dead Girl” comes on, it feels like it holds less weight, even when it contains the same imagery/theme; it just loses emphasis because it's put in between two electronic energetic songs.

Verdict

I could not wait for this album, and the result is so much better than I expected from a debut album. The Last Dinner Party has a great career ahead of them, starting off with this beautiful arrival. If you love fun theming, queer vibes, and overall good lyricism, this album is for you.

I give “Prelude To Ecstasy” a 9 out of 10.



Check out more reviews of new movies and music on the Echo website!

Review: 'Argylle' is a lighthearted spy thriller with a star-studded cast

FRANK REMSKI
COLUMNIST

An author who knows too much, super spies, argyle patterns, and a cat make up the latest blockbuster comedy and thriller "Argylle."



The movie stars Bryce Dallas Howard as Elly Conway, author of a beloved, fictional spy series called "Argylle." When she accidentally reveals a rogue agency's evil

plan through her writing, she gets caught up in a twisty, deadly game of espionage.

Howard is joined by a long list of well-known stars including Henry Cavill, Sam Rockwell, Bryan Cranston, Catherine O'Hara, John Cena, Samuel L. Jackson, Dua Lipa, and Ariana DeBose. It was directed by Matthew Vaughn, who previously directed, produced, and co-wrote the "Kingsman" movies.

Highs

Vaughn's style from "Kingsman" is carried over into "Argylle," albeit with the gore toned down; over-the-top action that transcends the laws of physics combined with comedy and colorful cinematography. Despite the violence, the film isn't gory and focuses more on the wild stunts themselves, allowing the movie to be lighthearted and the action to be funny in a way that's accessible to a wide audience.

The star-studded cast delivers generally good acting. Especially Catherine O'Hara and Samuel L. Jackson shine with energetic, humorous performances. Some actors get little screen time, but still manage to be memorable, such as John Cena with his delightful comedy and Dua Lipa with her in-control coolness.

The film builds twists upon twists that are mostly earned. The mysteries are set up satisfyingly, making use of enough foreshadowing that the answers are mostly earned. Though the answers are often bizarre, they fit with overall tone.

Lows

The computer-generated effects are

poorly rendered, making it obvious that they are fake. This is especially noticeable with the cat, Alfie. There are very few points where Alfie looks like a real cat.

The romantic subplot lacks chemistry. The couple spends most of the film bickering and annoyed with each other without any build up for an enemies-to-lovers relationship. They feel unearned, which impacts the emotional core of the film.

The villains are simply evil because the film demands it. Without a clear motivation, the stakes aren't clear, which cheapens a few of the twists. The villains are played well by their respective actors, and the movie isn't particularly deep, so a simple motivation would have worked.

Verdict

"Argylle" is sure to delight fans of spy thrillers such as "Mission Impossible" and "Kingsman." Part mystery, part action thriller, and part comedy. The movie is overall a fun time that borders on ridiculousness in a good way, though it has some weak writing that plagues the romance, villains, and some of the mystery.

"Argylle" is currently playing in theaters.

Rating: 7 out of 10.

Frank Remski is a film and theater reviewer for the Eastern Echo. He is majoring in media studies and journalism and minoring in public relations. He has worked for The Echo since the summer of 2023 and has written both news stories and opinion pieces.

SPACING OUT | RYLEE CURLEY



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Eagletainment

Host Queso Tone (left) with guest Dillan Reed (center) and host Julez DeShetler (right)



Soaring Eagles

Hosted by Sarai Yanes (left) with guest MaKayla Stevens.



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