

# Roots

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Volume 1, Issue 6

## Watercolor, oil painter, and recent EMU graduate, Paris Stinson



Paris Stinson poses outside of Sherzer Hall in a cap and gown. Stinson is an artist and recent EMU graduate. *Photo Courtesy of Paris Stinson*

**Carol Detary**

*Arts & Entertainment Reporter*

Paris Stinson graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in fine arts and a concentration in 2D media in the winter 2025 semester. Stinson began her educational career at EMU in physics, but shortly into her academic career, she felt the fit was not right.

Starting in middle school and continuing into high school, Stinson had created and designed sets for the performing arts. It was there that she fell in love with the art world and stories told with just images.

The passion Stinson felt about set design led her to take the leap into fine arts and pursue her lifelong passion for creation and painting. Influential professors during Stinson's time at EMU

included Amy Sacksteder, Dustin London and Maria Ruggiero, who each inspired Stinson in their own ways, helping her realize that she was a painter first.

"I am a painter, here to make paintings, not to replicate a photo," Stinson said. "If it doesn't look like a photo ... good; it's a painting."

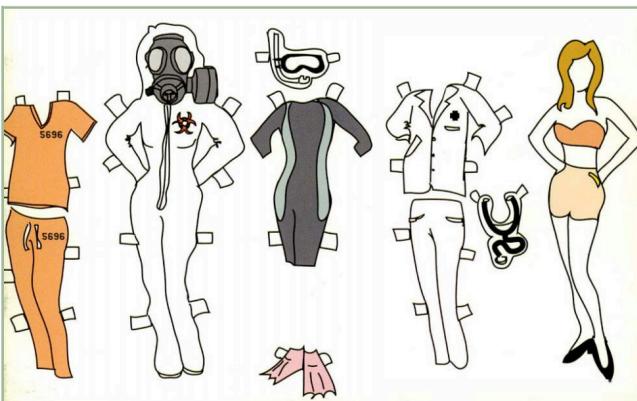
Post-graduation, Stinson started an internship at the Riverside Arts Center under the supervision of Maggie Spencer, head curator and manager of operations. Stinson works with Spencer and helps create the story being told through art galleries. Stinson and Spencer have collaborated on curating and organizing the Riverside Arts Center's fourth annual Black Artist Exhibition in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Ronnie and Gloria

Peterson. The exhibition began Jan. 16, 2026, and will run until Feb. 28, 2026.

Stinson served as co-president of EMU's Intermedia Gallery Group from 2024-2025, a position that helped her gain curating experience before beginning the internship. Stinson said she leans on her previous gallery experience from the IGG to curate the work she does with Spencer.

The objective of the IGG is to provide support and help EMU art students flourish. The IGG highlights specific student artists and hosts themed shows with a variety of different artist callouts. Art callouts are a method for galleries to reach out to artists in the community to submit work to different exhibitions.

**SEE PARIS STINSON, CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**



## Roots:

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## Corrections

*Roots* corrects mistakes. If we got it wrong, we want to make it right. Errors should be brought to the attention of the editor-in-chief by email: [cellarroots@easternecho.com](mailto:cellarroots@easternecho.com).

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**Join the Roots team!**  
**Email resume &**  
**portfolio to**  
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## The Eastern Echo Photo of the Month



Hazel S., Ashton H., and Grayson P., all posing for a photo at EagleCon 2026, which is held in the Eastern Michigan University Student Center on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026. Max Taylor / *The Eastern Echo*

## Local Calls For Art

### Poem Submissions | Poet Treetown

Due by Mar. 1

[poettreetowna2@gmail.com](mailto:poettreetowna2@gmail.com)

### Cake Decorating and Taste Competitions | Dzanc House

Due by Mar. 13

[dzanchouse.org](http://dzanchouse.org)

### Applications to Vend | Westside Art Hop

Due by Mar. 16

[www.arthop.com/for-artists](http://www.arthop.com/for-artists)

### 2026 Exhibitions | 22 North Gallery

[22north.org](http://22north.org)

### The Patio Prom - A New Comedy | Neighborhood Theatre Group

Monday, Mar. 1 & Tuesday, Mar. 2 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Callbacks if needed Wednesday, Mar. 4 at 7 p.m.

[ntgypsi.org/auditions](http://ntgypsi.org/auditions)

### Script Submissions | Theatre Nova

[theatrenovaplaysubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:theatrenovaplaysubmissions@gmail.com)

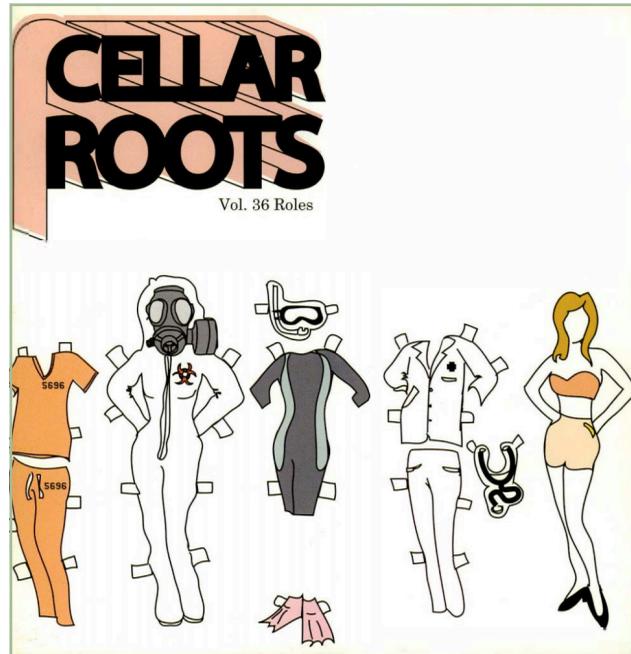
### 1776 | Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

Friday, Mar. 20 & Saturday, Mar. 21 from 6-9 p.m.

Callbacks if needed Sunday, Mar. 22 at 7 p.m.

[a2ct.org/1776](http://a2ct.org/1776)

## Cellar Roots Vol. 36 Spotlight



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*Hello Eagles,*

My name is Jada Hauser. I am the editor-in-chief of *Roots* and *Cellar Roots*. *Cellar Roots* is Eastern Michigan University's fine arts magazine.

February is upon us and so is a little taste of spring. I hope you are finding time to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather just as much as I enjoy selecting pieces for our *Cellar Roots* Spotlight.

Each month, we select a past volume of *Cellar Roots* to showcase. These pieces come from *Cellar Roots Volume 36: Roles*. This volume of *Cellar Roots*, published in 2007, centers around expressing ourselves through the roles we play in our lives. This volume featured a selection of great photography, poetry, painting and more. Take a look at some of that work here.

*Cellar Roots* publishes once yearly. We just wrapped up jurying submissions for Volume 52 and will publish next month. Thank you to all of the creative people who submitted to *Cellar Roots* this year. I look forward to sharing their work very soon.

*Thank you for reading!*

*Best,  
Jada Hauser*

Digital scans courtesy of Digital Commons @ EMU. To view more *Cellar Roots* of the past, visit the University Archives' digital collection at [commons.emich.edu](http://commons.emich.edu).

### PAM McCOMBS *blackest pond*

Disrupting surface black as cold  
Muskrat swims  
as Pines sway Spruce.  
Up the man-made mountain plow I  
spruce brush Prickle my black suede.

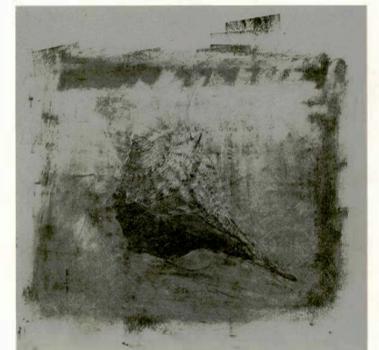
Still of winter fills the air  
black muff's muffled  
bare russet brown leaves to oak.  
Rustling wintry breath,  
while,

Night descends ground hog's hole  
with black cold chill of snow  
through feathery white pines  
plodding.

Down, Down, mountainside  
cement curves past Blackest

Looking-glass  
Looking-glass pond.

### ADAM OSTROWSKI *a memento of...* reductive oil pastel



### EMILY DOBBS *poem for ourselves*

We sit. Rocking back and forth  
back forth  
in an old folks Home filled with  
twentysomethings  
singing their own praise.

Inside the setting sun there lies the Question.  
Inside the rising sun there lies the same.

A woman turned to me at the grocery store  
*It is in giving hands freely*, she explained,  
*that hands will give freely to hands.*  
And I picked up my pickles and left.

Outside, your plastic frame is on fire.  
Outside, the seeds will burn. Will burn.

Your Answers have touched the sun,  
have reached Heaven, have burned the  
seeds (the only seeds) that could save your mind.

Reach out and touch His brow.  
Reach out and wipe the sweat—

Winged and dangerous the birds sit to hear us.  
Birds sit to hear us grasp, sit to hear us sing.

Outside an Answer is writing your breath in the air.  
Outside an Answer licks her paw.

## MALLORY CHAMPINE *through generations* photography



## Theater

### “Afterall” presented by the Neighborhood Theatre Group

*In this new play written by Cole Hunter Dzubak, a relationship get rocky after family tragedy, forcing the main character to choose between his real life loved ones and his imaginary friends.*

Feb. 27-28, March 6-7 at 8 p.m., March 1 & 8 at 2 p.m. | The Back Office Studio 13 N. Washington St. | Admission: \$15 for general admission, \$12 for student tickets with ID.

### Musical Theatre “Cabaret”

*Directed by Phil Simmons, EMU students show off a variety of different styles, from dance to song.*

March 13 at 7 p.m., March 14 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. | Sponberg Theatre | Admission: \$10 per ticket

## Film

### A Ziggy’s and iFFY double-feature

*Ziggy’s and Ypsilanti’s Independent Film Festival are collaborating for a one-night double feature of both “Mary Jane’s Not a Virgin Anymore”, by Sarah Jacobson and “I’m Not Fascinating: The Movie”, by Danny Plotnick.*

March 1 at 7 p.m. | Ziggy’s 206 W. Michigan Ave. | Admission: Free, accepting donations

## Art Fairs

### Lucky Bones Artisan Market

*Evil leprechauns, poisonous clovers and bad luck. Holy Bones is back with a year full of holiday-themed art. Celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day early with local and original art.*

March 14 from 12-6 p.m. | Michigan Firehouse Museum 110 W. Cross St. | Admission: Free, donations encouraged



Ziggy's is a local bar and live music venue located on West Michigan Avenue in downtown Ypsilanti. Maddy Makin / The Eastern Echo



The Ypsilanti Firehouse Museum is located at 110 W. Cross St. Holy Bones is hosting a Saint Patrick's Day themed art market at the museum on March 14.

Madison Cantrell / The Eastern Echo

## Fashion

### Moments of Color

*A collaboration between Kings of Color, Black Media Association, N.A.P.S and S.T.Y.L.E presents “Moments of Color”, an runway celebration of black legacy, creativity and excellence.*

Feb. 26, 7-9 p.m. | McKenney Ballroom | Admission: Free

### Noir Is Black

*Presented by EMU's Euphoric Modeling Troupe “Noir Is Black” celebrates black history and culture through style in its second iteration.*

Feb. 25, 7-9 p.m. | McKenney Ballroom | Admission: \$7 per ticket

## Conventions

### Astronomicon 9

*A retro pop culture convention for the whole family. This time, they're taking attendees back to the 90's.*

April 10 from 5-10 p.m., April 11 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Ann Arbor Marriot Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest | Admission: Tickets vary.

## Live Music

### Simulation, Take Your Meds and Clover Leaf

*Attendees are encouraged to wear shoes that can handle the dance floor at Ziggy's upcoming punk and Midwest post-punk show.*

Feb. 26, 7 p.m. | Ziggy's 206 W. Michigan Ave | Admission: \$10 per ticket

### Speak Easy Open Mic

*Speakeasy style open mic night welcomes musicians, poets, authors-in-the-making, and patrons of the arts. This low-key vibe is perfect for first-time performers or experienced artists. You can share your song or story in a supportive setting, and if you stay late enough, might just find yourself in an open music jam.*

Recurring weekly on Fridays through May 1 | Rhizome Roots Studio 108 W. Pearl St. | Admission: \$10, \$5 for students

## Community Events

### Let's Make Yarn!: Drop Spindle Workshop

*Curious about spinning yarn? Join Michigan Fibershed for a beginner-friendly drop spindle workshop with local wool at Washtenaw Food Hub!*

Feb. 25, 5-6 p.m. | Washtenaw Food Hub 4176 Whitmore Lake Rd. | Admission: \$5 suggested donation

### Tabletop Sundays

*Join us for an evening of tabletop games and craft cocktails! Bring a game, play a game, and enjoy Happy Hour specials as you participate!*

March 8 & March 22 4-9 p.m. | Ypsi Cocktail Club 102 W. Michigan Ave. | Admission: Free

### Radical Henna Workshop

*Join us for a workshop on the art and history of henna. Led by artist and activist Shahrin Azim, the first half of this event will be a presentation on the origins and history of henna as an art form and cultural activity. For the remainder of the time, have Shahrin draw henna on you, and learn how to draw it on yourself. This event is suitable ages 13+. To register, contact Librarian Aaron at [asmith@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:asmith@ypsilibrary.org) or 734-482-4110 x2421*

Feb. 24 6 p.m. | Ypsilanti District Library 229 W. Michigan Ave. | Admission: Free

## Art Exhibitions

### Frosted & Fabulous Opening Reception

*Join Dzanc House for Frosted & Fabulous, an art show and celebration of sweetness, spectacle, maximalism, and all things decadently expressive. Frosted & Fabulous will run March 6-27.*

Feb. 6, 6-9 p.m. | Dzanc House 402 S. Huron St. | Admission: Free

## Comedy

### Depot Town Comedy Open Mic

*Hosted by Tommy Cook, 734 Brewing Company's comedy night is a weekly safe space for stand-up comedians of all experience levels.*

7:30-10:30 p.m., Recurring weekly on Wednesdays | 734 Brewing Company 15 E. Cross St. | Admission: Free



The downtown branch of the Ypsilanti Public Library is located at 229 W. Michigan Ave. Israel Shriki / The Eastern Echo

## Paris Stinson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Paris Stinson graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 2025. Artwork featured includes "Black Boy Joy" (2025) and "Violent Cherries" (2025). Photo courtesy of Paris Stinson

During the pandemic, IGG had to pause gallery showcases and struggled to make a full comeback. Stinson's shift into co-presidency came out of a necessity to help restore the organization by filling the committee board. She knew she wanted to be able to support the student organization and fellow classmates by keeping the group alive and thriving. Later, in 2025, Stinson stepped down from co-president to secretary to focus on her own work and make room for other artists to experience a leadership position.

Originally a physics major, Stinson's progression from science to art was full of personal development and experimentation.

"At the beginning, I had a very rigid idea of what art was like. I thought it was something you paint and you're done, completing paintings just to complete assignments," Stinson said.

At the end of Stinson's sophomore year, she began looking for her purpose as an artist, seeking to create

— not just for the passing grade, but as way to bring her subjects to life. She asked questions focused on which subjects, themes and genres would be at the core of her work.

"Being a Black artist, sitting in art history lectures, it was always the same thing — same pattern, same portrait, same kinds of people being portrayed," Stinson said, "I am a Black female artist; how would I want to see myself in a painting or a body of work?"

Stinson began working in surreal and abstract work.

"The evolving story through the artwork ... can change and deepen with each spectator," Stinson said. "I feel that abstract work gives me the freedom to experiment that really feeds the science side of me."

Before beginning a piece of work, Stinson focuses first on who or what the inspiration is. Second, she focuses on the way the piece would look within a gallery and how it will be received. Third, she focuses on who has not been painted — not just Black

people, but concentrating on Black people who have not had their stories told. In the future, Stinson said she would love to explore painting more of the Black queer community and tell their story.

"I think this way of thinking allows for everyone to get represented," Stinson said.

In 2024, during her first show, Stinson won the Annual Juried Student Art Show. Her painting "Track My Flow" was created using acrylic gouache and micron pens. Stinson was featured in the 2025 Cellar Roots for "Lick Me" (2025), an oil painting self-portrait. During the 21st annual Art in the Legislature program, Stinson was a highlighted artist for "Puzzle Me" (2025), a watercolor self-portrait inspired by collage artist Ed Woods, as well as "Amara" (2025), a watercolor portrait inspired by the Greek god Aphrodite, known as a shape-shifter with the ability to turn into whoever the spectator believes to be beautiful.

"To me, Aphrodite would be a Black woman, because

that is the pinnacle of beauty, in my opinion," Stinson said.

Her recent oil portrait "Black Boy Joy" (2025) was featured in the "Matters of the Heart" exhibition hosted by Dzanc House. The process of creating the portrait began with the idea of how to bring joy to life. The inspiration for the portrait was Stinson's brother, and the focus of the portrait was on joy pertaining to Black men. Stinson arranged a scene for her brother to stand in the spotlight on an auditorium stage. Creating a stage for the portrait was intended to not only encapsulate the surroundings but allow Stinson to get herself into the right mentality to portray the subject in the intended way.

Stinson uses photography as an avenue to stage portraits. This allows her to be in control of the full start-to-finish process of staging the photos and controlling the environment and subject, as well as bringing her vision to life through brush strokes and canvas.

Stinson has begun taking commissions for watercolor paintings post-graduation. Choosing to focus on portraits, Stinson works for clients and her art community to provide art services. Stinson focuses her art on provoking feelings and eliciting a response from the audience.

"What your medium is, is what your art should look like," Stinson said. "You shouldn't fight it, because in my opinion, it is taking away from art and experiencing art."

To follow along Stinson's art journey and see new paintings, follow @paris.makes.art on Instagram. Visit parisstinson.com to view, purchase or commission Stinson's work.

## Twin Bird Yarn & Notions opens, builds community through yarn crafts



Twin Bird Yarn & Notions sells a large assortment of yarn.

Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo

### Hannah Borders

Arts & Entertainment Reporter

Ypsilanti has welcomed a new yarn craft store, one with a vision rooted in healing and connection. Twin Bird Yarn & Notions opened Nov. 1, 2025, and has since been dedicated to building community through yarn crafts.

Twin Bird Yarn & Notion sells many different types of yarn and yarn crafting tools. The store was inspired by Plum Tree Yarn Shop in Milan, Michigan, which recently closed because the owners moved away. The store was also inspired by the recent closing of Jo-Ann Fabrics locations, said Mary Buescher, owner of Twin Bird Yarn & Notions.

Buescher shared that her twin brother learned macrame when he was diagnosed with cancer. He was not able to do some of

the things he used to do, so he picked up the hobby. She said the hobby also helped clear his mind and helped his mental health. After he passed away, Buescher said that she was diagnosed with Cushing syndrome. She felt inspired by her brother's love of macrame and started crocheting.

"It's so therapeutic; it has helped me a long way. My words are not just words. It has helped not only my life but my twin brother's," Buescher said.

"Why is my shop named Twin Bird Yarn & Notion? Because I'm a twin. And the two birds are me and my brother. They are blue because we are September sapphires. I really feel like he is in my heart every day, so he is still alive," she added.

SEE YARN SHOP, CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## EMU gains new haunted helper in Guinnevere the Ghost

**Gray Connor**

*Managing Editor - Operations*

**Editor's note:**

*Guinnevere the Ghost is a persona and art project developed by an Eastern Michigan University student. Because the project depends on a sense of anonymity behind the persona, the editors of The Echo agreed to respect that anonymity for the purposes of this interview with Guinnevere the Ghost.*

With Gideon the Ghost's tenure as a post-mortem advice columnist coming to a close, a new haunted helper has appeared on campus, ready to offer her wisdom to Eastern Michigan University students.

Guinnevere the Ghost might not be from this time period, but that doesn't mean she can't fix a relationship from beyond the land of the living.

Recently, *The Echo* sat

down with Guinnevere to discuss how she came to EMU and her soon-to-come service.

**Q: So Guinnevere, would you like to tell us about yourself?**

A: I'm Guinnevere the Ghost, and I'm the successor of Gideon the Ghost. I died at 18, back in the 1970s. I had a couple hobbies when I was alive, like figure skating. Often though, I found myself not doing that because I couldn't really afford to go to the rink. Honestly, I'm surprised I didn't drown like Gideon did, because I was on a lot of lakes.

**Q: Would you be comfortable telling us how you died?**

A: Funny story. I got ran over by a car in the middle of a busy city, and because of that, I tried getting as far away from cities as possible. That's how I found this campus, and I thought that it

had a lot of cute scenery. So, I decided to stay.

**Q: Is there anything that you miss from the 1970s?**

A: Probably less phones. I think they're interesting, and I don't have one myself, but I often find myself peering over people's shoulders to look at theirs.

**Q: How did you find yourself in this advice column position?**

A: I was just wandering around campus, and he [Gideon] stumbled upon me looking incredibly lost and curious. He was leaving, so he asked me if I'd like to take his place.

**Q: What advice do you want to offer students?**

A: Anything that they need help with, but I love to give relationship advice. I think love is adorable, and I think that everyone needs someone. I think because it's so hard for people who are still alive to connect

with other people, especially in this day and age where everyone can connect with everyone, (it's nice) just having someone who doesn't have the life responsibilities to listen to.

**Q: What made you want to haunt humans?**

A: I'm decently young, so I didn't have a lot of time to be human myself. The way that society has advanced, it really piques my curiosity. I kind of find the psychology of humans in this day and age very interesting.

**Q: Can you tell us about your friendship with Gideon?**

A: It's kind of like a big brother and big sister situation. He tends to make sure I'm in line and not wandering off or dillydallying.

**Q: Lastly, what're your thoughts on EMU so far?**

A: It's a quiet little campus, but I like how tight



**Guinnevere the Ghost spotted on campus on Jan. 15**

*Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo*

because I'm always stealing everybody isn't going to the same events, I like how everyone knows someone. I haven't given a lot (of relationship advice) yet, but I hope that people eventually reach out to me. The best way to reach out to me, because I'm always stealing other people's phones to use social media, is through my Instagram.

**To view Guinnevere's art and updates, visit her page @ghostlyguinnevere on Instagram.**

## Yarn Shop

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6*



**Mary Buescher, the owner of Twin Bird Yarn & Notions, smiles from behind the register at her store.**

*Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo*

Buescher wants to use her shop as a catalyst for building community. When the Plum Tree Yarn Shop closed down, they donated a great deal of yarn to her shop.

She is not selling that yarn but instead letting people use it to learn how to crochet, knit or do other yarn crafts. Experienced creators are also welcome to come in and use the yarn for any project



**A view of locally grown wool for sale right by the door at Twin Bird.** *Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo*

they choose, but all projects must be donated back to the community.

"The donated yarn, what we'd like to do with it, is have people make stuff for the community — give back.

So you can come in and use it to do your own project. You can learn with this yarn; you can crochet or knit whatever comes to mind, but the project has to be donated," Buescher said.

In addition to being a store, Twin Bird hosts events. Each Monday, the store hosts Social Stitches during which people can come in and stitch whatever they like. Each Wednesday, it hosts Washcloth Wednesday, when anyone can come in and make a washcloth or similar creation to be donated to the community, Buescher said. These events are free, and all materials are provided.

For those who like to crochet but would like to bring a friend who does not, Buescher said, she has space for non-crafters to study or work on other things if they want to participate.

On one Saturday each month, Twin Bird has crocheting lessons, and knitting lessons another

week. These lessons are open to anyone and cost \$50 for a two-hour session.

Buescher also offers a selection of board games to keep kids busy if parents want to attend any events.

Twin Bird Yarn & Notion is currently working on an online shop where people can purchase products online, but orders will be handled through a third party, Buescher said. To purchase online and learn more about and book events, visit the store's website.

Twin Bird Yarn & Notion is at 8965 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti. It is open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday.

# The Eastern Echo

Invites you to our annual

## *Student Media Gala*

Hall of Fame Banquet

The Eastern Echo



**6:30 p.m. April 2**

McKenny Ballroom  
878 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197