

# THE EASTERN PROGRESS

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Student publication of Eastern Kentucky University since 1922

14 pages, Thursday, January 26, 2012

## General education requirements reduced

By **KRISTIE HAMON**  
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The board of regents approved a proposal to decrease the current general education requirements Tuesday, Jan. 17, and the changes will take effect in the fall for new students.

The amendments made to the current general education requirements decreased the overall requirements from 48 hours to 36 hours and relocated two courses to become a part of university requirements.

University Provost Janna Vice said the general education committee began looking at Eastern's general education program in February 2011, with a few objectives in mind.

"One was to make sure that our general education program provided a seamless transfer for students who are transferring to ECU from KCTCS," Vice said. "Up until the last year or two Eastern had the most transfer friendly general education program with KCTCS because we actually aligned our general education program with

KCTCS."

As other universities began to reduce their number of general education requirements, the committee began to compare Eastern's requirements with all other state institutions and KCTCS with the goal to build on to their current program and decrease required hours at the same time.

"We cannot afford to lose our competitive edge in attracting good transfer students from KCTCS but really from any institution in the state," Vice said.

She said more than 40 percent

**"We cannot afford to lose our competitive edge in attracting good transfer students..."**

**Janna Vice**  
University provost

of Eastern students are transfers. "I think it will be certainly more transfer friendly," Vice said.

Garett Yoder, associate professor in physics and astronomy and the university general education coordinator, said one of the benefits of the new program is organization.

"I think in general we also wanted a simpler program," Yoder said. "Block eight has a number of different themes and things like that and was difficult for students to understand and navigate. So this just makes the whole system much cleaner and simpler."

➤ SEE **GEN ED**, PAGE A3

## 'SIGNATURE' DORM DESIGN STARTS



Renderings of the planned residence hall show the desired layout and architectural style for future contract bids. The residence hall will have four floors and approximately 260 beds. The suite-style building will be constructed on the lot where Brockton Apartments currently stand. The hall will have a parking lot behind the building.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED



PHASE TWO OF DESIGN PROCESS BEGINS ON NEW RESIDENCE HALL

By **SETH LITRELL**  
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Eastern has recently sold \$21 million in bonds to fund the first residence hall built on campus in 40 years and plans have begun for the design of the building.

The dorm itself will be a four-story building with approximately 260 beds and suite-style residences with two or four bedroom layouts.

There will be one bath for each suite layout, along with a kitchen area and some storage. The parking for the dorm will be moved behind the building, maintaining the same number of spaces the lot currently has or possibly increasing them.

James Street, vice president of capital planning and facilities management, said this dorm is going to be different from the others on campus.

"We are looking for a signature building, which means we are establishing a new architectural look," Street said. "We're not trying to completely gener-

➤ SEE **DORM**, PAGE A3

## Student Government Association continues seeking syllabus index

By **KYLE WOOSLEY**  
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Student Senate is making changes to the syllabus index after concerns were presented at the last Faculty Senate meeting.

The syllabus index would allow students to view the syllabi for courses they hope to take in the upcoming semester.

"Students need to go into class with a full understanding of what's going on in that class," Matthew White, executive vice president of the Student Government Association, said. "This university has a problem with students going into classes and dropping."



**Matt White**

Madelyn Street, SGA academic affairs committee chair, and Nichole Arbino, student senator, presented the updated database to Faculty Senate in December. But Faculty Senate had a few concerns regarding its availability and requested the index be password protected.

Arbino, who is in charge of the design of the database, said, "Faculty Senate would like to see it put on ECU Direct so random people from other schools can't get on there."

The set-up of the database would allow students to first choose the course prefix and number, which would take you to the syllabus for that section.

"We contacted the people in charge of ECU Direct and they've been difficult to work with," Street said. "We're working with IT to make it like email."

Jennifer Spock, professor of histo-

ry and member of Faculty Senate, said she would be more supportive of the proposition if it were made available through ECU Direct, where students would have to sign-in to view the syllabi.

"Students considering coming to ECU might see a handful of syllabi and think they're too hard and go somewhere else," Spock said.

Lynnette Noblitt, chair of the department of government and senate chair on Faculty Senate, said her main concern is the ability of faculty to keep the index up to date.

"Right now, we're going to do it [posting syllabi] ourselves," Street said. "Right now, we're working it out to be integrated so a grad student can have it be part of their workload."

Faculty Senate also requested a dis-

➤ SEE **INDEX**, PAGE A3

## Hiring freeze allows 'critical' hires

By **TAYLOR PETTIT**  
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A 6.4 percent reduction proposal in state appropriations was announced last week. And with the announcement, some decisions had to be made.

"I am directing an immediate freeze on new staff and faculty hires," said President Doug Whitlock in an address to the university.

Whitlock said a blanket policy on a hiring freeze is a "slippery kind of slope" because of the unforeseeable future of retirements and other needs for faculty.

**WHITLOCK:**  
See related story on A4

But, he said, he hopes the cuts can be made solely through retirements and attrition.

"When you find yourself in a hole, the first thing you have to do is stop digging," Whitlock said.

Whitlock said this approach to dealing with cuts is unavoidable because more than 70 percent of the budget is dedicated to salaries and other faculty needs.

➤ SEE **HIRING**, PAGE A4

# POLICE BEAT

All information is taken from Eastern police reports.

## Jan. 20

A male student came to the Parking and Transportation Office and reported his decal stolen. The decal was taken from his 1991 Ford, which was parked on University Drive when he noticed it was missing. He stated he also parks in Ashland and Stratton lots. The parking decal Zone B was valued at \$30.

## Jan. 21

Police were dispatched to Park Drive referencing an intoxicated man stumbling around the area. Once police arrived, they made contact with student Cory Parsons and could detect the odor of alcohol on his person. He was unsteady on his feet, had slurred speech and bloodshot eyes. After failing three field sobriety tests, Parsons was arrested and jailed at the Madison County Detention Center for his own safety.

son County Detention Center for his own safety.

Police noticed a vehicle traveling the wrong way on University Drive. After pulling the vehicle over on McGregor Service Drive, police made contact with student LaGreg Burns. His license was checked and confirmed suspended, and the odor of alcohol was detected on or about his person. After Burns failed all of the sobriety tests, he was arrested for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol under 21 years of age and charged with operating on a suspended license. Burns was jailed in the Madison County Detention Center.

## Jan. 22

Police witnessed student Whitney Napier drive onto the curb of the sidewalk before stopping her. Police approached the window and noticed a liquor bottle half-full of pink liquid and could detect the odor of alcohol on her person. After she told police she had been drinking, they gave her several field sobriety tests, which she failed. She was placed under arrest and taken to the Madison County Detention Center, where she was jailed there for her own safety.

# CAMPUS BRIEFS

## SGA Night at Colonels' game

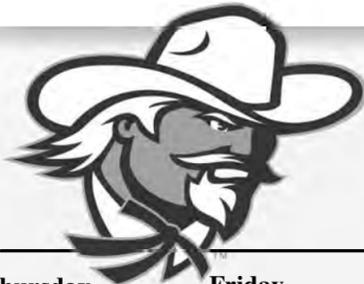
The Student Government Association will be having "SGA Night" at the Colonels' upcoming basketball game against Tennessee Tech. They will be giving away prizes, including a free iPad 2. Students will be able to learn more about the mission of SGA and how it represents the student body. The game will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 26 in Alumni Coliseum.

## Valentine's Day care packages

EKU Dining will be sponsoring Hip Kits in handing out Valentine's Day care packages for students. Students can choose the Fun Package priced at \$29.97, which includes a red stainless steel water bottle, a Valentine's Day lollipop, Skittles and jelly belly conversation beans, or they can choose the Funner Package priced at \$39.97, containing red hot mints, a mysterious stress toy, a Kit Kat and pop chips. Also available is the Miss Bliss package, which is for girls only. To purchase any of these kits, visit [www.hipkits.com](http://www.hipkits.com) or contact Greg Dejaynes at 622-5005 for more information.

## Second annual Sophistirave

On Jan. 26, the Honors Student Advisory Council will be hosting the second annual Sophistirave. This dance will be the first rave of the spring semester and is open to everyone. Students looking to participate can choose to pay for entry to the dance with five books, rather than paying the \$5 entry fee. The event will take place at 8 p.m. in the downstairs Powell room near Aramark offices. For more information, contact Miles Owen at [miles\\_owen5@mymail.eku.edu](mailto:miles_owen5@mymail.eku.edu).



# The Colonel's Calendar

Week of Jan. 26 - Feb. 1

| Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  | Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>6 p.m.</b><br/>Matt Barnhill graduate recital, Gifford Theater</p> <p><b>7 p.m.</b><br/>Men's basketball game vs. Tennessee Tech, Alumni Coliseum</p> <p><b>9 p.m.</b><br/>Comedian/Magician: John Cassidy, Student Life, O'Donnell Hall SSB</p> | <p><b>All Day</b><br/>Men &amp; Women's Track &amp; Field, Ron McCravy Memorial Invitational</p> <p><b>1:25 p.m.</b><br/>EKU student music recital, Foster 100</p> | <p><b>4 p.m.</b><br/>Women's basketball game vs. Tennessee Tech, Alumni Coliseum</p> <p><b>8 p.m.</b><br/>Men's basketball game at Tennessee State</p> <p>Jane Monheit concert, ECU Center for the Arts</p> | <p><b>3 p.m.</b><br/>Dr. Richard Crosby piano recital, ECU Center for the Arts</p> <p>Richmond Underground Lazer Tag, criminal justice program, Richmond Underground</p> | <p><b>7 p.m.</b><br/>Health Science Social Dinner, McGregor basement</p> <p><b>9 p.m.</b><br/>Post Secret, Case Hall event, Case basement</p> | <p><b>All Day</b><br/>Red Cross Blood Drive, Middle Powell</p> <p><b>Noon</b><br/>Pick Your Poison!!, ConneXtions event, across campus</p> <p><b>6 p.m.</b><br/>Optimize Your Resume with OptimalResume, Next Steps program, Walters Hall loft</p> | <p><b>6 p.m.</b><br/>PowWow Dinner, Sullivan Hall event, Upstairs Powell</p> <p><b>9 p.m.</b><br/>Black Jews Dialogue, Student Life, Downstairs Powell Room 11</p> |

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\*Offer expires Friday, Feb 3, 2012. Drawing for prizes will take place if at least 100 people participate.

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

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# GEN ED

CONTINUED FROM A1

The current general education program is comprised of eight blocks of requirements totaling 48 hours. Vice said the first five blocks are mandated by the state and the other blocks are at the discretion of the university and what has been deemed valuable.

The new general education program is comprised of six "elements," what used to be called blocks are referred to as elements in the new program. Elements one through five remain the same as outlined by the state. Element six is titled Perspectives and Experience and will be satisfied by courses in languages and courses with content focused on non-U.S. cultures and/or historically marginalized groups, like women and gender studies and African American studies.

University requirements were also amended. Orientation remains a university requirement now accompanied by an Applied Critical and Creative Thinking (ACCT) requirement, which is a student experience program, and wellness has been removed from general education requirements and placed in university require-

ments.

Vice explained ACCT as a requirement that is currently required in most majors, and is now just being placed in a different location under a new label.

"The ACCT requirement reflects the value the university has always had on students engaged in learning in somewhat of an independent type of learning," Vice said. "I think, almost without exception that every academic program in the university required at least one of those. This is not really a three hour addition, it's just a three hour identification."

Options that will satisfy this requirement include capstone courses, co-op, practicum, internships, student teaching, clinicals, service learning, honors thesis, study abroad, leadership experience and more.

Vice said the general education changes will benefit most majors. She said majors are required by the state to have at least 120-hour programs.

"The result in many programs is that students will have more free electives," Vice said. "It now gives the academic programs a little bit more flexibility because in most cases hours are freed up."

Yoder agreed that the changes are beneficial.

"I think the courses that will be in there

## Highlights of new general education requirements:

- There were previously eight general education blocks. Now there are six general education elements students must complete.
- Before the changes, students had to complete a total of 49 hours of general education courses. Now, students must complete 40 to 43 hours total.
- The sixth block, wellness, is now a university requirement. This means that even general education certified students transferring from other universities must complete three hours of wellness courses.
- As a new university requirement, students must now complete three credit hours of Applied Critical and Creative Thinking.

will be stronger courses and better courses because there are fewer categories," Yoder said. "It's easier to maintain a strong program."

Vice said this project involved a year full of faculty forums, surveys and workshops. This plan had to be approved by the general education committee, the council on academic affairs, faculty senate, the provost council, the provost and president, and finally the Board of Regents.

"To accomplish that in one year really reflects the commitment of our faculty to understand and be willing to have a program of high academic quality that is also

transfer friendly," Vice said.

Vice said that any student can opt into the new general education program just like any one can opt into a new year's course catalogue.

Overall, Yoder said the project was a good experience.

"In a lot of institutions if you try to change general education, it becomes controversial and you get a lot of bad feelings generated across campus and somebody who tries to change it can really feel under attack, I have not felt that way at all," Yoder said. "It was a really positive experience for me all the way around."

# DORM

CONTINUED FROM A1

ate a whole new concept of residence hall, but bring a more modern look and get away from the halls that were built in the 1960s."

Street said the university is currently in phase two of three of designing the building. Phase A covered the conceptual design, where the plan was drawn using single-line diagrams. Phase B, the current phase, is the development of the design, where the layout is tied down more closely to how it will appear in contract drawings. Once that is completed, the design team will move on to Phase C, which is the actual preparation of contract documents for bids from contractors.

"It will go to bid probably sometime in the March-April time frame with the notion of getting it into contract in the late May-early June time frame," Street said. "Then you have about 12 months construction period, with move-in Fall of '13, giving us a month to clean up and move in furnishings."

A separate plan, running parallel to the building's construction, is being worked on for the demolition of the Brockton Apartments currently on the site of the new dorm, which must be completed before any con-

struction can begin. However, Street said asbestos was used in the original construction of the apartments, and the demolition is on hold until the material can be safely removed.

"They're safe, it wouldn't bother me to live there for a long period of time, but once you start to remove it, it can't be destroyed during the demolition process because there's the potential of releasing fibers, so we have to get all that out," Street said.

Street said the university is looking into using more environmentally-friendly building materials for the construction, including special bricks and concrete made with a by-product of combustion called fly dust that is more energy and environmentally friendly than their standard counterparts.

The cost of the building is being funded through the bonds process.

The sale took place in November, with the approved number of bonds being sold to an investment firm through Hilliard Lyons, the bond consultant firm Eastern works with when funding new buildings.

Bonds are sold to fund buildings classified as auxiliary buildings, or non-classroom, self-supporting buildings. Since these are not learning facilities, the state does not send aid to cover the cost of construction, like in the case of the new science building.

Debbie Newsom, vice president of fi-

**"...you have about 12 months construction period, with move-in Fall of '13."**

**James Street**  
Vice president of capital management and facilities

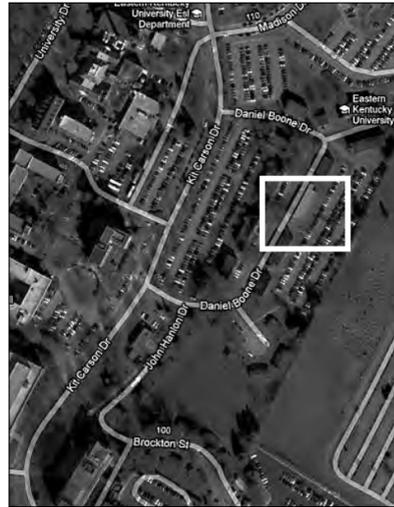


PHOTO SUBMITTED

The map above illustrates where on campus the new residence hall will be constructed.

ancial affairs and treasurer, said the bond-selling process is similar to a mortgage on a house, involving larger amounts of money. After the investment firm purchases the bonds, the university pays them back on a payment plan, including interest, from the money generated by student housing payments. No money from tuition will be put into paying for the new dorm.

"We're building a residence hall that is supported by student fees, by the residence fees," Newsom said.

Newsom said Eastern's good credit rating allowed them to get a favorable interest rate.

"We got a good rating, so we were pleased," Newsom said. "We were able to issue these bonds at an average interest rate of about 3.7 percent, which is slightly lower than we thought we would have to do."

For the payment plan, Eastern will make two interest payments and one principle payment every year, which is paying off the actual bond opposed to interest rate. These payments will continue for 20 years, until the building is completely paid off.

"This will be paid for in, roughly, 2031," Newsom said.

The bonds sold act only as indicators of the university's debt. Newsom said they are not similar to purchasing stock in the company. The purchasing firms get no rights over the building or any other part of the university, this is just the method used to loan Eastern the funds necessary.

"Obviously, you or I could not go into a bank and say we want \$21 million," Newsom said.

These will not be the only bonds Eastern will be paying off. In addition to the \$21 million just sold, the university currently has \$35 million in outstanding bonds. Newsom said that, while this number may seem high, it is a manageable number considering all of Eastern's assets.

"This will take it up to about \$55 million," Newsom said. "That sounds like a lot, but it's actually not a huge amount because the way you measure that is looking at a bunch of ratios and if you're overextended. But we have total assets of \$350 million."

# INDEX

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claimer for the page to remind students every syllabus would be subject to change the following semester.

Because the syllabus index would only be updated every fall semester, Noblitt said she

wants students to know it would not be consistent every semester and doesn't want them to become too dependent on the system.

Some members of Faculty Senate argued that including items, such as grading scales, would jeopardize the academic integrity of classes.

"The majority of the faculty just think it will allow students to class shop more than they already do," Street said. "Some students

like homework, some like more tests."

Street said she does not understand the issue behind students being allowed to "class shop." Something she said the students do anyway through websites such as ratemyprofessor.com and word of mouth.

White is currently working on a presentation that he plans on presenting to the Council on Academic Affairs some time next month. Before the syllabus index happens,

both the CAA and Faculty Senate must approve it.

"For the most part, we're just trying to please Faculty Senate as much as possible so they can see that we're trying to work with them, and it will be really helpful to the students and class retention rates," Street said.

SGA is planning to present their revisions for the index for a vote at the next Faculty Senate meeting Feb. 6.

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**This week in photos**

Traci Stewart, 22, elementary education major from Powell County, London Warner, 21, health service administration major from Stanford, Ky., and Sherri Parson, 21, health service administration major from Norfolk, Va., review signatures for a petition against texting and driving. The petition is part of Alpha Kappa Alpha's awareness project.

TAYLOR PETTIT/PROGRESS

**VISIT THE BUSINESSES YOU SEE IN THE EASTERN PROGRESS!**

**I SAW IT IN THE PROGRESS!**

# President evaluation shows positive results, 'some' concerns

By KYLE WOOSLEY

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The final results of Eastern President Doug Whitlock's recent evaluation were revealed at a Board of Regents meeting on Jan. 17.

The electronic survey, which was conducted by Eastern's Board of Regents with help from the Pappas Consulting Group, was presented in November to evaluate Whitlock in areas such as communication, leadership and management.

According to a report from Gary Abney, chair of Eastern's Board of Regents, 211 students, 138 faculty members and 149 staff members responded to the survey.

"Two years ago, I said the evaluation was both affirming and instructive, and I feel the same way this time," Whitlock said. "The only way things can get better is if someone points it out."

Whitlock received positive results from the survey claiming he was viewed as an effective leader by all stakeholders and guided the university steadily through the changing economic times that have occurred since his last evaluation in 2009.

He also received positive comments as an effective communicator through his use of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, which Whitlock said he uses regularly.

"I've tried very hard to be very transparent and building as high a degree of trust as



MARLA MARRS/PROGRESS

**President Doug Whitlock has developed a plan of action to address issues brought up during his 2011 evaluation.**

possible," Whitlock said. "I've worked very closely with every president of this institution since Robert A. Martin and tried to learn the best I could."

The Board of Regents asked Whitlock to develop an action plan to address issues brought up in the evaluation. Included in the action plan are enrollment management and student success. According to the president's report to the Board, the enrollment decrease in the fall has caused tu-

ition to fall short by approximately \$3 million.

"The Board placed a strong interest on us working with various school districts to improve enrollment," Abney said. "That's where the president and Board of Regents will be focused."

Now, Whitlock plans to focus more of his attention toward marketing efforts to increase student enrollment. Recently, he gave up his seat on the Madison County School Board to direct more of his time toward these efforts.

"I try to be as confident as I can about the people on this campus being able to handle what comes our way," Whitlock said.

"We're going to have to work on becoming more efficient with the budget restraints," Abney said.

There was some concern about the amount of time Whitlock has spent traveling internationally. Whitlock said he feels so much progress has been made, he can now "redirect time somewhere else."

Whitlock said he wants to do his best to offer students opportunities to study abroad and feels they are being "short-changed without communication with others on this planet."

As part of his annual evaluation, Whitlock was asked to complete a self-evaluation of how effective he believes his time as president has been. He said he is relieved

## Whitlock's Plan of Action

- Focus on enrollment management
- Marketing efforts to increase student success.
- Work to offer student opportunities to study abroad.
- Less international travel.

he does not see himself differently than other people do.

Whitlock's current contract has two years and five months left, ending on July 31, 2014, but the contract will be ending just 12 days before his 71st birthday. He plans to stay in office "as long as my health holds, as long I feel and as long as the Board feels."

According to university bylaws, the president must be evaluated by the Board during his second and fourth year. If Whitlock chooses to stay President after the expiration of his contract in 2014, he will be evaluated again in the fall semester of 2015.

## HIRING

CONTINUED FROM A1

The last time Eastern prepared for a staff reduction was 2007, when a 4 percent cut was expected but only a 2 percent cut was actually made. Therefore making this the largest cut Eastern has ever prepared for.

Eastern has accumulated 16.4 percent in cuts since 2007. This year's cut is projected for the 2012-2013 year with no additional cut for the 2013-2014.

When looking at the level of cuts, Whitlock said he has one priority in mind.

"We must protect our ability to teach," Whitlock said.

In order to stay in line with principle, Whitlock said, a plan has been laid out for "critical hires."

Open positions across the university are being looked at on a "critical" basis. Each department is being asked to "make their case" for each position.

If the Dean decides the position is critical, the question

of a search or hire will be brought forward.

Provost Janna Vice said what determines a "critical" faculty position depends on various factors including the rate of enrollment in the department, availability of a niche area, leadership and the ability of the faculty to meet the needs of the students.

The last area, Vice said, is largely subjective.

Another important factor in hiring is if and how Eastern is meeting accreditation needs in terms of faculty with expertise.

"It is important for our students for Eastern to meet these various accreditations," Vice said.

According to the Academic Affairs' steps regarding open searches during the hiring freeze, each Dean must not make offers of employment until approvals are given.

"We want to be a good employer," Vice said. "So, we need to see if each position is one we must go ahead with, one we can fill in another way or one we are putting on hold for now."

One of the open searches being placed on hold is Dean of Libraries, where this posting has closed and then was placed on hold.

The other open position that is "currently being looked at" is the Dean of Health Sciences, Vice said, for which a search has not yet begun.

Under Academic Affairs, all chair positions have been filled, Vice said.

The open positions, Dean of Libraries and Dean of Health Sciences, are currently being filled by "excellent interims" Vice said.

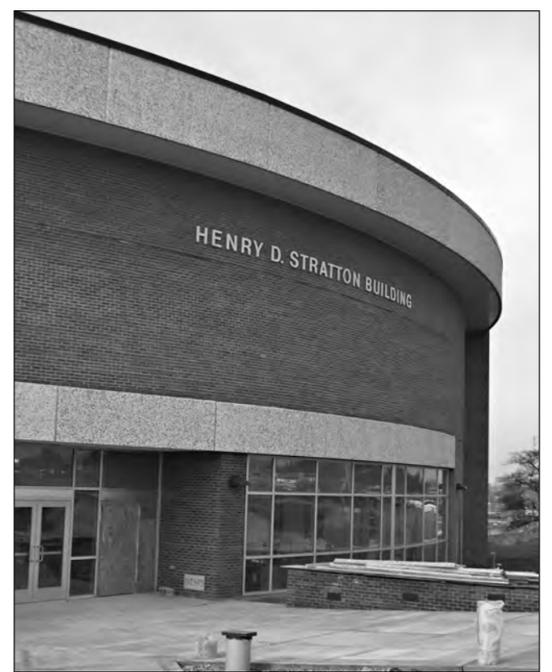
Whitlock said he predicts with this level of cuts, one possible solution is to rely more on part-time faculty.

"Layoffs are an absolute last alternative," Whitlock said.

Final budgets will not be prepared until April and if approved in June, will not be effective until July, Whitlock said.

But, he remains positive while considering the rest of state government is currently reaching cuts of up to 25 percent.

"I feel fortunate," Whitlock said. "I feel the governor realizes the importance of higher education. He sees us as part of the solution, an investment. And we work so hard to be worthy of that trust."



SETH LITRELL/PROGRESS

**The \$5.5 million project to construct a 25,000 square-foot addition to Stratton Building, pictured above, is complete. The construction project on Stratton, which houses the College of Justice and Safety, began two years ago.**

## \$5.5 million Stratton addition completed

By JACQUELINE HINKLE

progress@eku.edu

After two years of construction, the Stratton building, home to Eastern's College of Justice & Safety, recently opened a 25,000 square-foot addition.

The \$5.5 million project, which began in 2009, also included a facelift for the rest of the building. University officials said Stratton was originally built for the law enforcement and criminal justice programs.

This is the only upgrade since its original construction, officials said.

Officials said Stratton needed more space largely because of the tremendous growth the college has witnessed over the past 10 years. For instance, undergraduate enrollment increased from 1,395 in 2007 to 2,071 in 2011-- a 49 percent change over just a four-year period. The graduate enrollment for the same period more than doubled from 245 to 510 students.

Kerrie Moberly, executive to the dean of the College of Justice & Safety, said the new building provides "dynamic spaces" that help the college address the "changing needs" of its students.

James Street, vice president of capital planning and facilities management who oversees construction projects at Eastern, said a remodel for Stratton was long overdue.

"The classrooms had become very dated and didn't have modern audio visual equipment," Street said. "They did not have appropriate lighting, and many of the finishes were very old and worn out. So we tried to go through and address those problems step by step."

The Stratton library and walk-in computer lab were also renovated. The space now boasts comfortable lounging and study locations where visitors can use desktop and laptop computers. There is also space for group work or individual study.

"The library wasn't serving the population they wanted it to be," Street said. "So we went through and upgraded it, adding a new heat ventilation, as well as layout changes making it more accessible, and furnishings to make it more attractive."

Stratton's new renovated space will include newly updated classrooms, a graduate seminar room, training lab for the emergency medical program and a new, more welcoming entranceway, Moberly said.

"These changes will allow the justice and safety college to be better than what they already are," Street said.

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# Largest enrollment drop found in College of Ed.

By ELISE SVOBODA  
progress@eku.edu

Although Eastern has been known for being a school for teachers since 1906, the College of Education has recently seen a drop in enrollment.

"The undergraduate enrollment to date in the College of Education is down 7 percent, and the graduate College of Education is down 20 percent from this time last year and the largest drop in education in any area in the university is in the graduate program in the College of Education," said Dr. Janna Vice, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Vice said one reason why the programs are down in size is because of major restructuring because of the educational standards changing in Frankfort.

"What it [the changes in Frankfort] did was focus on leadership rather than an area of content," Vice said.

Another factor is competition with other universities.

"Students can go to smaller, perhaps closer schools, our competitor schools, and get the courses they need to complete their certificate mandated by the state," Vice said.

Bill Phillips, Dean for the College of Education, said, "there has been a major shift in the admission stan-

dards for teachers throughout the state and throughout the nation."

"There are some dynamics happening in Kentucky, and national, impacting enrollment," Vice said.

Phillips said the economy also has an affect on enrollment, especially at the graduate school level.

"There are very few scholarships up for graduate students...they are paying their own way," he said. "They may have grants to help them with that, but, during an economic downturn, people look at how they will spend their money, and so, I believe, a lot of the graduate students are saying, 'I'll just wait a little longer before I start a graduate program.'"

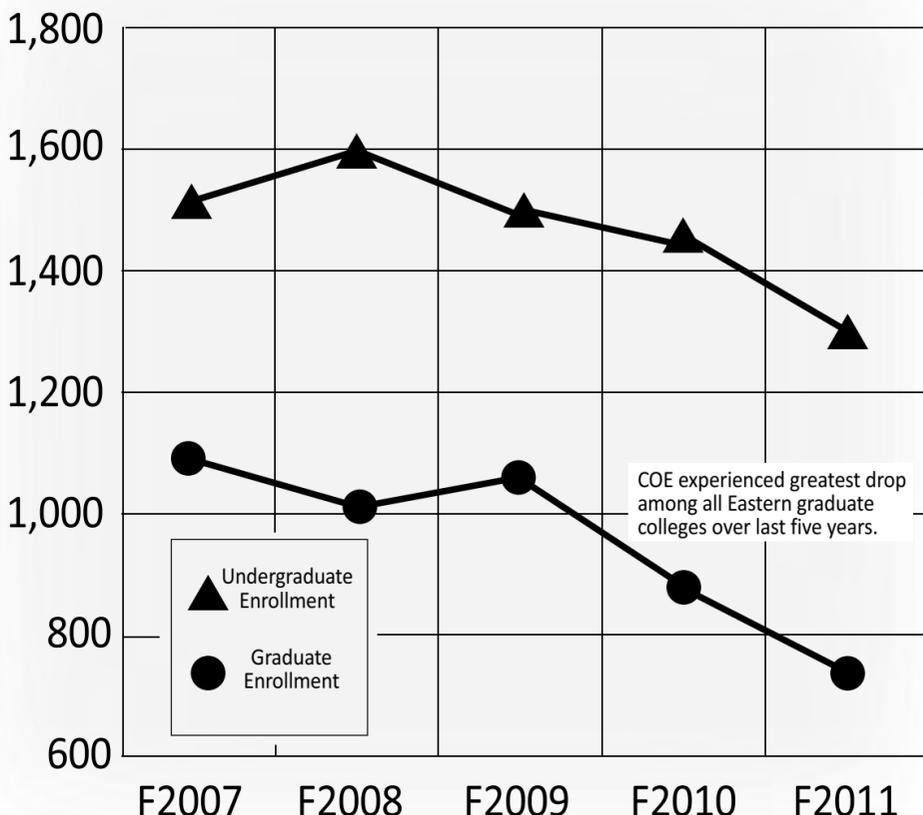
Vice said there has been a decrease in enrollment in all the colleges at Eastern except the College of Justice and Safety, which has seen an increase. The only university in Kentucky to experience an increase in fall enrollment was Morehead.

Phillips said he looks to a future where enrollment will go up.

Phillips said getting a master's degree is a state requirement for all teachers and will be used as a recruitment tactic.

"We will do everything we can to go out and personally recruit teachers particularly within our region that have to have a master's degree within five years," Phillips said.

## College of Education Enrollment



## Chautauqua art exhibit helps visualize theme of 'Living with Others'

By PHILLIP KYLES  
progress@eku.edu

Eastern's Chautauqua series is in its 12th year showcasing diverse topics within the realm of nature; the current series is titled "Living with Others: Challenges and Promises." The newly opened art exhibit attempts to illustrate the challenge of "living with others" with photographs, sculptures and paintings.

The showcase itself constitutes a blend of modern art mixed with contemporary and traditional pieces as well as photography. With 33 artists from 20 different states contributing, a medley of styles and viewpoints of nature's interactions are evident.

"Gallery patrons can expect a truly varied and truly national response to the Chautauqua Lecture Series' theme of living with others," said Dr. Minh Nguyen, lead coordinator of the Chautauqua series.

Of the 33 artists, four received merit awards for outstanding talent in relation to this year's Chautauqua theme.

The four art pieces that were given the award are: Eric Tomberlin's "Garden of Earthly Peace," Carrie Tomberlin's "Can You Hear Me Now?" chosen by Esther Randall, professor of art, Rebecca Drolen's "The Badgers," and Stefanie Grave's "Amigas Viejas," which was chosen by Nguyen.

One technique used to capture "Living with Others" was real-life photography, meaning the pictures were not staged. This technique especially impressed Randall, the main overseer of the Giles exhibit.

Randall's top choice was the photo-

graph by Carrie Tomberlin called "Can You Hear Me Now?" The photo encompassed a group of individuals basking in the sun, relaxing but not interacting with one another. All the while, there is a couple at the bottom left of the picture embracing one another sharing a kiss.

"All of these people are enjoying themselves but no one is interacting, no paths are crossing, but then you have this couple contrasting the rest of the group by engaging each other intimately, this picture really shows the broad spectrum of the human definition of living with others," Randall said.

All in all, art is meant to inspire different reactions within individuals which makes the experience of the Giles Chautauqua Art Exhibit that much more interesting and exchangeable between people.

This exchangeable factor can be felt by comparing your opinion with others attending the exhibit.

Warren Oliver, 23, English major from Campton, said he is amazed with different people's reactions to the art.

"What really strikes me is how all the pieces frame our contemporary world in contrasting ways," Oliver said. "They have an emotional range from tender and poignant to more somber, and even disturbing."

The Chautauqua art exhibit will be on display from Jan. 23 through Feb. 17, with an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Campbell Building's Giles Gallery.

## Eastern participates in Challenge For Change

By MEGAN COLLINS  
progress@eku.edu

Eastern is going head-to-head with Morehead State University this winter.

But it's not about sports or academics. Instead, the two universities are competing to see whose students will rack up the most volunteer hours at local charities and across the communities over the next few weeks.

The competition, which is called the Challenge For Change, was introduced two years ago.

Now the schools have continued the event, which began on Jan. 14, coinciding with the date that Morehead and Eastern's men's basketball teams faced-off.

"The main goal is to encourage students across campus to volunteer in the community and help those less fortunate," Molozzi said.

But for those who do get involved, and for their efforts to be counted, they'll have to log their volunteer hours on official log forms, which can be found at the student life office or by going online to orgsync.com. The log forms then must be turned in to Eastern's official Challenge For Change hour-keeper, Brian Perry in the Office of Student Life in the Powell Building.

Any volunteer hours can be recorded. All students are welcome to participate, and Greek hours also can be used, Molozzi said.

The school that amasses the greatest number of volunteer hours not only wins bragging rights but also a traveling trophy for the school to keep on display until the next year's contest, said Matt White, SGA vice president.

Morehead has won the both years. Last year, for example, Eastern logged 2,931 volunteer hours compared with Morehead's 4,111 hours, said Brian Perry, assistant director of the Office of Student Life. This year, however,



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**A group of Eastern students volunteer at God's Pantry where they repackaged 50-pound bags of rice into smaller two-pound bags for redistribution.**

White said he hopes Eastern will broaden its involvement.

"I would like to get more student participation as well as Greek participation," White said. "Some students don't track their hours, but if we get all hours turned in it is an easy win."

The competition officially end when the two teams next go head-to-head, at 7 p.m. on Feb. 11 in McBrayer Arena. The volunteer hours will be tallied and the winner announced during the game's half-time show, said Rachel Molozzi, president of Eastern's Student Government Association.

Either way, Molozzi said, both schools win in the end.

"It allows students to do good work and

## New legal studies minor approved for department of government

By COURTNEY KIMBERLIN  
progress@eku.edu

A new minor has been approved for students under the Department of Government.

The new legal studies minor, which will become available in fall 2012, focuses on topics discussed in the paralegal field but does not offer the prerequisites for paralegal certification or for helpful law school applica-

tions.

"We chose this new minor because there have recently been a lot of students who are interested in paralegal, so this is from a liberal arts point of view," said Lynnette Noblitt, chair of the Department of Government. "There are several programs outside of Kentucky that have used this minor and it has been very successful"

The minor focuses on the basic study of

law, legal ideas and concepts and the legal system.

Students who declare this minor are expected to take classes in psychology, sociology, paralegal studies, political science, legal studies among others.

The program began discussing the possibility of the minor last spring and created a committee to discuss the feasibility of setting up the minor requirements.

"Because of all the thought and development the process was lengthy and took two to three years to get it fully put on campus," Noblitt said.

The total curriculum requirement is 18 hours to complete the legal studies minor, as is common among most other minor programs.

"I'm not sure how the turn out will be, but we hope that it will be successful and popu-

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# PERSPECTIVES

Perspectives 6

Thursday, January 26, 2012

www.easternprogress.com

Seth Littrell, editor

## Syllabus index benefits students and faculty

As we've mentioned before, the face of college students is rapidly changing. It's only natural that some aspects of college are going to change along with this. An example of these changes is an increase in online courses to make school more flexible for people who can't be in a classroom every day.

One such change that has been proposed and passed by student government is a syllabus index. Essentially, the index is an online (or physical) database that contains the syllabi for all classes taught at Eastern. Imagine, being able to visit the index and get a general idea of how much time you will have to dedicate to studying and homework. Imagine being able to effectively meld your work schedule with your study schedule. Imagine not needing to pull all-nighters because you haven't had time to work on that presentation during your 40-hour work week.

This is a good thing, because the student body is no longer made up of just college graduates. Non-traditional students are a rising percentage of campus populations across the country, and especially here at Eastern. These people are going to school later than most for a variety of reasons; such as returning home from military service, trying to make a better life for their children or just trying to be more competitive in the job market.

In addition to non-trads, tougher economic times are causing even traditional students to get jobs while attending college in order to pay the ever-increasing tuition costs as well as their rising cost of living. The syllabus index allows all these students to plan out their schedules for upcoming semesters more accurately.

Sounds like a great idea, right? Apparently not to everyone. Faculty senate, the body of professors that votes to implement all of SGA's legislation, has re-

peatedly turned down the idea of the index. These instructors have said they wouldn't mind putting together an index, but instead of an entire syllabus each entry would only have a course description. But this information is already available to students in their course catalogs.

Now, we are sure faculty senate has good reasons for this. They aren't sitting around waiting for the next opportunity to 'get' Eastern students, and we aren't trying to play it that way. In fact, we are almost certain there is no maniacal laughter involved in the process of a faculty senate meeting. These people have experience in the professional field, and that experience has given them the opinion to reject the syllabus index.

But the thing is, this is a change that should happen, and it's a change that professors may not fully understand. The index is going to help people who would otherwise have a very difficult time juggling school, work and other responsibilities. Professors would be held more accountable for what they expect from students. On the other hand, students, having been able to see a general idea of their workload, would be held more accountable for the work they agreed to do. A great result of this will be lower drop rates that seem to plague so many courses. However, many teachers will look at the idea and immediately see an opportunity for lazy students to take the easiest route through their classes.

In response to that, we would like to make two points. First, students who are that lazy aren't going to put forth the effort required to do well in tougher classes anyway. Second, who cares? If people really do choose to take the easiest classes and not challenge themselves to learn more, that's their fault. The concern faculty senate seems to have for these people is admirable, but the policy toward this should be similar to grades.

If students choose to screw themselves over when picking classes, that's their decision. And when they wind up burying themselves in the aforementioned crippling debt we receive as our parting gift from the educational system, they will have fewer skills than the people who chose to challenge themselves. Once again, survival of the fittest wins out.

Professors also seem concerned that the syllabus index will lead to students "class shopping" based on how easy or hard a professor appears. This is really a silly reason for saying no to something that would help so many people. The cold truth is, students already class shop. They do so by talking to their friends and hearing other people complaining about their professors. And those are instances no student even has to look for. For those who are more serious about their class shopping, websites like ratemyprofessor.com offer easy access to the many good and bad reviews people have for their classes.

In truth, professors should want the syllabus index when it comes to class shopping. Where is it better for students to get information about their classes before they choose them: the actual syllabus? Or an over-exaggerated bad review from a jaded student who had a bad experience? In fighting the syllabus index, professors are essentially encouraging students to rely more on exaggeration and rumors than cold hard facts.

This index is actually a great thing for both the students and the educators of the university. Sure, some people will stay away from classes because they are too hard. But the ones who do commit to those classes will be more serious about succeeding in them, and those students will have a good idea of what will be expected of them before they show up for the first class. Professors lose dead weight, while students lose the ability to complain about not



ILLUSTRATION BY NICO FLOYD

knowing how difficult a class was when they signed up for it. And we all have a little less complaining to listen to from the people around us. See, now the index is solving societal problems, too.

But coming back to a more serious note, the index will help a lot of people. With the current lack of this information, students find themselves blind until after they have locked themselves into a class. And while they can always drop and select a new class, that is easier in theory than in prac-

tice after the semester has already started. If students accidentally overload themselves, they aren't going to do as well as they would with a manageable workload. If given the chance to plan their classes out more closely, students would be able to improve their academic performance every semester, which is good both for the student and the university. It is for that reason we at *The Progress* support the syllabus index, and we ask faculty senate to do the same.

## Editor keeps new year's resolution going with 'miracle plant'



My Turn:  
Ryan Alves

We're now into week three of 2012. It's about this time of the new year when get-healthy resolutions begin to fade, course work begins to pick up in your classes and the extra motivation to get up at 6:30 a.m. to head to the gym is gone. But, if you had the opportunity to learn about a new way of becoming healthy, which coupled with exercise and diet can shred those unwanted pounds and keep them off, wouldn't you want to know about it?

Well, you're in luck. Let me introduce you to Zija, the solution to this weight-loss dilemma. Zija, a nutrition product established from the Moringa plant – or better known as the "Miracle Tree" – is changing thousands of people's lives, including my own. I was introduced to Zija by a former high school football coach, and after my first weeklong trial pack, I had dropped seven pounds. And that was without any extra exercise. That week was the best week of sleep I had gotten in several years, my energy levels were up and overall I just felt great. Soon after, my mom started taking Zija and along with doing zumba workouts several times a week, she has lost 65 pounds and over 34 inches off her waist in less than eight months. She's even been taken off her blood-pressure medicine that she was on for five years. My grandmother, who also uses Zija, just got taken off her diabetes

medication, as well. The proof is in the pudding, as they say. I liken Moringa to a super-vitamin times 10. It houses over 90 essential nutrients, minerals and amino acids, most of which you don't get on a regular basis. Though the product doesn't claim to treat, prevent, mitigate or cure any disease, testimonies have even shown that Zija has lowered cholesterol and blood pressure. I know people whose arthritis and tendonitis has disappeared after being on the product and it has shown to help with digestion and even decrease Crohn's. The bottom line with Zija is that it gets your body operating on an optimum level. It's a nutritional powerhouse that is 100 percent all natural. Think about that—how much more enjoyable would your life be if you were running around your busy college life at 100 percent? I could share countless testimonies

about people in my life who have gotten their health in order while taking Zija. In my opinion, Zija is great for a multitude of reasons including minimizing appetite, upping metabolism and boosting my mood. For 2012, my goal was to lead a healthier lifestyle. In just two weeks since starting the product again, I'm already feeling good. I'm down nine pounds and starting to notice a change in my moods and overall body's feeling. I want to extend a helping hand to anyone who is interested in joining me on this journey. You can visit [www.zijateamelite.com](http://www.zijateamelite.com) to find more information for yourself, as well. You have to make a choice, to take a chance or your life will never change.

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The Eastern Progress (ISSN 1081-8324) is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, Kentucky Intercollegiate Press Association and College Newspaper Business & Advertising Managers, Inc.

The Progress is published every Thursday during the school year, with the exception of vacation and examination periods. Any false or misleading advertising should be reported to Adviser/General Manager, Reggie Beelner at (859) 622-1875.

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## 'Old nerd' finds new generation's lack of faith disturbing



My Turn:  
Jason Edwards

If someone had called me a nerd 10 years ago, I would have thrown down my 20-sided die and commenced berating them using my +10 hammer of righteous justice. Today if you called me a nerd, I would explain how I was beyond the mere nerd mantle and was in fact, a professional nerd.

Thankfully, the millennium brought about a geek renaissance through people like Patton Oswalt, Zack Galifianakis and Steve Jobs. A charge of comic book, underground zombie and science fiction films paved a path of awkward acceptance to the non-nerd masses.

For the first time, the meek geek ran the show. We controlled TV, film and technology - then something went wrong, a glitch in the system. The melancholy nerd, the mild mannered gamer, even the kind-hearted geek felt the taste of true power and it began to corrupt.

Instead of embracing what had made

us different all those years ago, we decided to cash in on the power trip. Now instead of being a superhero and using the power bestowed to us to fight evil, we instead became the mega-hero or the super-villain.

A new generation of nerds, even though I'm hesitant to refer to them as nerds, cashed in on the being different card. They all went out to the same store, bought the same superhero T-shirt and goofy looking knit cartoon hat. It was no longer a peaceful group of outsiders, but an army of cloned bizarro nerds with a hateful look-at-me way of life.

My argument is the true nerd, the lifelong keepers of the comic book, the dungeon master of the ages or the talented quiet artist, are not the ones giving nerd-om the black eye, but the neo-nerd.

I have noticed several times groups of these neo-nerds break the sacred rule of nerdiness - don't be obnoxious to the world around you. Just the other day while I sat quietly reading, a small platoon of these neo-nerds began creating a mass public disturbance bothering those around them by being overly loud and rude.

What was the reason for their actions? Was it to reveal the newly discovered secret of time-travel? To tell those around them a satellite was falling from orbit

and about to impact the area? Nay. It was nothing more than a plea for a little look-at-me attention to show off how different the nearly identically dressed and single-minded group was than everyone else around them.

This is not what being a true nerd is about.

A true nerd revels in being them self. He or she embraces their love of science fiction and superheroes, not because it is cool, but because we understand the story behind it, and we relate to it. A true nerd requires the originals, instead of some special edition or prequel.

It's doesn't mean looking the same, acting the same and ultimately being the same as all the other "nerds."

I am an old nerd. I'm set in my geeky ways. I see the angry nerds as having very little of a role in the nerd kingdom.

Perhaps the generational nerd gap can best be explained and summed up by one of its greatest philosophers Obi-wan Kenobi, not the Ewan McGregor version but the original Sir Alec Guinness, "The Jedi, nerd, were the guardians of peace and justice in the Old Republic. Before the dark times - before the Empire," or the neo-nerd..."

## Female firefighter battles blazes and stereotypes



My Turn:  
Cari Tretina

In 1928, more than a fire department was created—a family legacy was born.

Raymond Becker, and other concerned citizens of Fort Mitchell, saw the need for community-supported fire prevention. With help from neighbors, public officials, friends and family, Raymond helped form the Fort Mitchell Fire Department in Northern Kentucky.

Flash-forward 30 years later and Raymond's son, Ronald, is following his father's footsteps. Working to protect his fellow citizens and family, Ronald dedicated his life to the firefighting service.

Like his grandfather and father, Doug Becker had the burning desire to keep his community safe and educate others about fire prevention. He, too, became a career firefighter.

The Becker line of service continues today through a student here at Eastern, Kylie Becker. Wanting to save lives and make this country a safer place to live, this Becker has followed down the same path.

There is one difference with this new addition to the Becker firefighting team, however. This aspiring firefighter has the

determination of a lion, but the body of a lioness. Kylie Becker will continue her family's tradition.

Watching her great-grandfather, grandfather and uncle being completely selfless and putting their lives on the line every day made Kylie want to become a career firefighter, as well.

Her path has been significantly different than her predecessors, though. Women are, sadly, still minorities in many workforces and businesses. The fire service is no different. Kylie is a fire protection administration major. She is currently taking five classes. In three of her classes, there are only two or three other females; Kylie is the only girl in her other two classes.

The lack of her own kind is not the only difference. Kylie has never been personally discriminated, but she has seen other women be looked down upon. Professionals and students alike will make jokes, apply extra pressure and lessen a woman's duties or responsibilities solely based on the assumption women cannot perform on the level of men in the fire department.

Being constantly judged and treated inferiorly would not only significantly lower my self-esteem, but I would begin to believe these terrible assumptions.

Like myself and most, this overwhelming ratio and treatment would be intimidating and downgrading—Kylie sees it as a challenge. Being a woman firefighter does not mean she needs to live up to ev-

eryone's expectations; she needs to exceed those presumptions.

Kylie wants to prove to her fellow students and family she can do everything and more than men can do. She pushes herself to the limit to get the best grades and obtaining the same physical ability as her peers.

Most importantly, Kylie wants to prove to herself she is capable of the same achievements as men. No matter the situation, fire or issue, Kylie wants to be confident she can handle any problem effectively and efficiently. Knowing people doubt her makes her work even harder.

Kylie has the high possibility of experiencing discrimination; her co-workers may harass her; victims may even doubt her abilities based off something she has no control over.

Speaking personally, if scary and depressing possible outcomes outnumbered the positives in my career choice, I could not pursue it.

All of these possibilities are not new to Kylie. Yet, she couldn't care less. Kylie was born to be a firefighter. Her one desire in life is to protect the lives of others, and that is exactly what she is going to do.

Kylie Becker's determination and aspirations truly inspire me. Through the multiple negative a difficult aspects of achieving her goal, she finds the silver lining. Her so-called limitations only make her stronger, and that strength makes me proud to be a woman.

## Improve society by learning the way of 'non-action'



My Turn:  
Jabril Power

At birth, I was never told be a part a specific political party, nor was I ever assigned a religion. I really came to my own conclusions about life. I was exposed to artwork at an early age. I was never directly told to be different or to try to stand out. I was just shown things that were created by man. Things that I would later grow to admire, and acknowledge as some of the biggest influences in my life.

I think what is missing in the parenting process when raising the youth: The act of "not-acting." Am I saying parents should disengage from their responsibilities as a parent? Should they stop caring for their child? Hell no. But they should not ship their children out into the world as if they're preprogrammed machines without a mind of their own.

Man is, sadly, disgusting.

Think about it. How fair is it to your belief system if your child doesn't come to his or her own conclusions about what to believe. What do I mean? Well, would your children believe what you told them if you didn't brand it from birth? Maybe they would, but then again, maybe they wouldn't.

People in modern America do not give

their youth a chance. We need options; we need thought. When we do this to our youth we, yet again, run our future into the ground because critical thinking, abstract and liberal thought becomes scarce. It becomes so scarce it leads to the trickle down effect, which then leads to a nation of a flawed education system, high crime and an unfortunate population with no mouth, ears or eyes.

I think that's one of the best gifts my parents gave me: the ability to think. They never tried to blind me or lie about the truth of Santa or the Tooth Fairy. And it's terrible that lying such as this has become the standard in today's society. The exact thing that parents say we're supposed to despise.

It's awful if you ask me. First, let's stop with the lies, folks. Let's rewind and say no "to that shit" my parents and I know is dead wrong. Abandon some of those ridiculous traditions. You're not helping the rest of us. The sad part is those people who are the reason for things being the way they are complain about the current problems in society. Though, they do not realize we are all a gear in this huge machine we call the universe. Every action counts, so take responsibility.

Understand we, as a nation, have tried to make critical thought extinct. We've tried to limit the youth's ideas for the thoughts of parents. Therefore, the majority of the population is blind, deaf and dumb sheep waiting for a shepherd to lead them to the slaughterhouse with two separate doors with vast political and religious differences while unfortunately they

ultimately lead to the same death.

See, if more than half the population doesn't think and only a few were lucky enough to get parents who didn't preprogram them and allowed their child access to intellectual options, then information and creative thought is not circulated efficiently. The majority has disregarded against the minority, like the free thinkers, time and time again: the Civil Rights Movement, Galileo vs. the church, etc.

Now, the majority and minority don't associate. The problem with this is the creativity only gets circulated within that small group of people who have been taught how to think and not what to think. You know the whole saying that the "rich get richer while the poor get poorer?" Well, it works the same for intellectual wealth. Those who are born with it only grow, evolve and expand while those not born with it often turn into those sheep, waiting for those in line with them to go to the slaughterhouse. It's like we're preaching to the choir.

It's, unfortunately, a chain effect. And we, being the thinkers, want to be accepted by society; we really do. We want to be understood by the simple minded.

Though I wish for that, it isn't likely.

Let's stop bothering with being consumed by material things and being brought together by irrelevant ownership of things to solve a lot of the issues with our human relationships. Let's allow our youth to think for themselves. It may be too hard for the majority to comprehend, though.

Learn the way of "non-action."

## CAMPUS COMMENTS

"SOPA"

All Campus Comments are anonymous.

- Sopa is total bull. Just for the simple fact that it violates freedom of speech. I even signed a petition for "Stop SOPA."
- I think it is a good idea, there is just so much online piracy that it's taking over the cyber world, so it is good the government has a bit more control over the internet.
- To allow SOPA to grant them that power is something to think about. I don't know where I stand on that. Online piracy is getting out of hand but then again I don't know if that is too much power for our authorities, so I'm not sure where I stand on that.
- I think they should go back and rethink the act. Like, I think it's a good idea on the surface, but it's just too much as is right now, SOPA needs some revisions.
- I don't know much about it but I saw everyone on Facebook with the pictures that said "Stop SOPA" and I thought it was kind of stupid, but then I saw Wikipedia dia and they shut down their website for a day to show people how it would be if the act passed, or something like that. If it's going to shut down websites and Facebook I'm not behind it.
- It should really help cut down on all the piracy. I buy all my music so I find it kind of unfair when other people steal it. Hopefully SOPA can help give musicians credit for their work.
- If they take away the internet we really won't have freedom of speech. As an American I think the whole thing is bullshit and is unpatriotic, honestly.
- SOPA is kind of useless because they're trying to outlaw something that is already outlawed. Like, piracy is illegal, but now they're trying to make it more illegal? Plus they're adding on censorship, but the thing is that the internet is basically just full of personal ideas and thoughts making it a direct violation of our first amendment rights.
- I don't know much about it, but one of my teachers in of my classes said that it would never go through, even if the president 100 percent backed it, the Supreme Court would proba bly put it to a halt.
- I'm just really curious about how far this would go as far as who gets what powers. Like how much effect will this have on the internet and then the everyday people?
- I think SOPA is stupid, even if the act is passed people are going to find a way around it, it's like what they say "laws are meant to be broken."
- The internet is like our most important tool for self-expression and it's already flooded with all these advertisements, losing this is sort of like losing our last means to become individual. So I really encouraged all my friends to take a stand against it on Facebook.
- I haven't met anyone who supports that whole internet censorship act. I think if you learn about it, everyone can come together and will want to fight back against it. It really is just letting the government have too much control over our personal lives.
- SOPA sucks, isn't it like where the government can block everything? If they block Facebook or anything like that it'd be totally against freedom of speech.

Compiled by Jabril Power

Submit your topic ideas and comments via email to [progress@eku.edu](mailto:progress@eku.edu)

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# New science building fully EVOLVES



SAMANTHA TOY/PROGRESS

The new Science Building, located on Kit Carson Drive, has five floors and a wetland created by rainwater runoff, wrapping around the front of the building.

By TAYLOR PETTIT and SETH LITRELL  
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The new science building, a \$64 million addition to campus, officially opened for student use this semester.

"Every aspect about the building lends itself to education about the sciences," said James Street, vice president of capital planning and facilities management.

The building's emphasis is on the labs. All labs in the building are designed for students to listen to lectures and work on experimentation at the same time, Street said.

One important aspect of the design that has remained throughout the process are the lobby-lounge areas located throughout the building.

"There was great emphasis made on making it attractive and an attractive gathering space for students and faculty," Street said. "The notion is to make the sciences not seem so sterile, but something one can go in, embrace and become a part of."

Since the opening this semester, the building has performed well.

"So far, so good," Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy Marco Ciocca said. "We've had some growing pains, but that's to be expected."

Ciocca said he is very pleased with the building, especially in comparison to Moore.

"In here we are not freezing or dying of heat," Ciocca said. "So that is good."

Overall, the large windows have been the highlight for him. "You can see sunlight which makes everybody feel better," Ciocca said. "The students never saw the light of day in Moore."

The differences between the outdated Moore building and the new Science building are overwhelming, especially in the technology the building offers, Street said.

"There's a scale solar system there, which floors me to this day," Street said. "I've seen scale models of the solar system and the scale geologic models since I was a child and every time I see it I'm amazed!"

Students like Jake Williams, 20, pre-pharmacy and chemistry major from Corbin, are impressed with the new building. "It puts the rest of the campus to shame," said Williams.



MARLA MARRS &amp; TAYLOR PETTIT/PROGRESS

[Above] Students work at individual lab stations, in labs which were specifically designed with an open concept to allow closer student-teacher interaction. [Above right] Agathe Roubert, 20, chemistry major from Bordeaux, France studies in one of the multiple student lounges. [Right] This lab, along with all others, are connected to support multiple labs taught by one professor.



TAYLOR PETTIT/PROGRESS

[Above] Michelle Gibson, Michelle Spradlin and Dawn Tackett, employees of the new Cuisine cafe, greet customers during breakfast hours.

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# FEATURES

Adam Turner, Editor

The Eastern Progress | [www.easternprogress.com](http://www.easternprogress.com)

Thursday, January 26, 2012



## LOCAL MMA FIGHTER BATTLES INJURIES, SET-BACKS ON JOURNEY TO PROFESSIONAL CAREER

By RYAN ALVES  
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RUSSELL HATCHER/  
HARD SHOTZ  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Robert Bennett isn't your average young college student. The 24-year-old, fun-loving guy, who originally hails from Upstate New York, has experienced a lot in his young life. From near-death experiences to the birth of his daughter, Bennett has seen it all. But nothing is quite like the ride he's on now – currently two years into his amateur mixed martial arts career.

again. "The doctors said I wouldn't be able to play again to the potential that I was, so I

### Chasing, then losing your dream

Growing up Bennett was a junkie for another sport – this one involved a round ball and a hoop, something on the other end of the spectrum from the trunks and gloves he dons now.

"You could find me out there at 2 a.m. working on my jump shot," Bennett said. "I loved basketball."

He loved it so much that after he graduated from Madison Central High School he chased his hardwood dream back to his roots in New York, accepting a walk-on scholarship from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, a division-III school in Geneva.

The dream wouldn't last much longer, though.

In a pre-season game for the Statesmen, after the coach emptied his bench to let the walk-ons play, Bennett found himself playing in his first college game. But, after going for a rebound, Bennett's legs were undercut by another player and he came crashing to the floor.

His knee completely blew out. Torn ACL. Torn MCL. And soon after, a torn away scholarship. Bennett had surgery and began rehabilitating immediately.

"I didn't want to give up on basketball," he said. Sooner, rather than later, he would have no choice.

Within the year, Bennett was involved in a car crash with a buddy who was running on 36-hours without sleep. Bennett wasn't wearing a seat belt either, as the vehicle slid off the road.

Knee completely gone

Robert Bennett

**"I bleed maroon and having the school's support in a local event would mean the world to me."**

decided to give up basketball, move back to Richmond to be closer to my family," Bennett said.

What looked like grim times for the youngster turned significantly better when three days after he returned to Kentucky, Bennett's daughter, Kennedy, was born.

"When she was born I decided to stay," he said.

### A new sport

Hating the fact that he had to give up on his basketball dream, Bennett turned to the unthinkable – his new dream, the answer was simple: "I got picked on a lot in high school, so I had to find a positive outlet," Bennett said. "I saw it on TV one day and decided I want to do this."

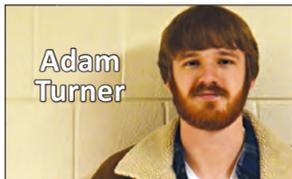
So far in his short career, Bennett, fighting in both the middleweight and light heavy-weight divisions, has used his muay-thai and Brazilian jiu-jitsu skills to run off an overall record of 7-3.

Bennett obtained his blue belt in jiu-jitsu through the

SEE BENNETT, PAGE B3



## Oscar nominations reward *Moneyball*, snub *Drive*



Each year, I eagerly await a certain day in late January with child-like glee and enthusiasm. Suddenly, I'm seven again and it's Christmas morning.

However, in this scenario, Christmas is a perverted, twisted day where all of my hopes are crushed and all my presents over-

whelming disappointing.

It is the day the Oscar nominations are revealed, and last Tuesday was that very day. As always, I ran down the stairs in my onesie pajamas, checked for the half eaten cookies and prepared to curse Santa's name to hell. Or so to speak.

But something very strange happened this year. As I dug into my "gifts," I was not met with overwhelming despair, but with surprise and even relief. A *Moneyball* Best Picture nod? It's what I've always wanted! A limited edition Woody Allen for Best Director?! Wow, neat! A Melissa McCarthy Supporting Actress nomination? Oh, I just love it! Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Jonah Hill, *The Muppets*, Rooney Mara, and so on. It felt an awful lot like satisfaction.

But inevitably, some darkness crept its way into my sunshine daydream, fueled by my Oscar-induced high. And since nobody really wants to read about how happy something makes somebody, I will instead harp on the negative and rant against the Academy and what I didn't like about

this year's nominations.

*Drive*: *Drive* was undoubtedly a polarizer. It topped many a critics' "Best Of" lists, but just as many hated it. For my part, I thought it was pretty great. It wasn't the best film of the year, but it was bold and startlingly unique. It was unlike any other movie out this year, in a good way, and in my book that should earn an Oscar nod. But alas, the Academy completely snubbed it. Best Picture? Snubbed. Best Actor for Ryan Gosling? Snubbed. Best Supporting Actor for Albert Brooks? Snubbed. Best Director for Nicolas Winding Refn? Snubbed. And on it goes. I somehow doubt the Sound Editing recognition is much consolation. It's not surprising, but it's definitely disappointing.

Ryan Gosling: Whether it was a matter of splitting votes or tampling blindness in the Academy, Gosling was passed up not once, not twice, but THRICE for his three

SEE OSCARS, PAGE B3

# Extremely Loud is incredibly moving 9/11 drama

By KENNA TRENT  
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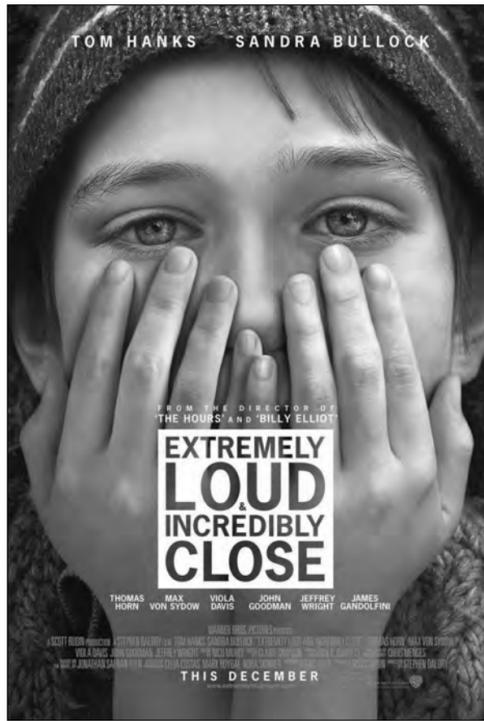
If you saw previews for *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, you probably caught on that the film is about 9/11. And depending on the personal feelings surrounding the topic, this is either going to be heartbreaking or heartwarming.

Unlike the films released shortly after 9/11, this film is not a 'hero' piece. There was a time for the in-your-face retelling of the event like we saw in *United 93* and *World Trade Center*.

However, it would appear we have passed that time and moved on to something much different. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* is a whole other monster. It takes our eyes off the buildings themselves and makes us look at what was inside.

Based on a book of the same name, *Extremely Loud* is the story of Oskar Schell (Thomas Horn) who lost his dad (Tom Hanks) in the World Trade Center on 9/11. A year after the attacks, Oskar ventures into his dad's closet to snoop around for memories of his father. In the process, Oskar knocks over a vase that breaks to reveal a small envelope. In the envelope is a key. In an attempt to stay connected to his father for as long as possible, Oskar sets out on a search all over New York to find the lock that the key fits.

This isn't easy for him. Oskar doesn't like talking to people he doesn't know, he also doesn't like bridges, planes, ringing sounds, public transportation and a variety of other everyday things. He feels 'panicky' quite often and is socially awkward. Through a series of flashbacks, we find that Oskar's dad was the one who helped him overcome these fears. Now, he has to do it by himself.



COURTESY OF IMP AWARDS

He meets some interesting characters on his journey, but home is where the real drama lies. Oskar keeps secrets (and some distressed voice messages from his dad) from

his mother (Sandra Bullock), and they don't have a sound relationship; not like Oskar and his father.

As usual, Sandra Bullock and Tom Hanks are wonderful. They both play the tragedy and comedy of the story perfectly because, well, they're pros; and the supporting cast is phenomenal as well with names like Viola Davis and Jeffrey Wright in the mix. A special mention has to go to Max von Sydow as well, who had absolutely no spoken dialogue in the story, but packed an emotional punch regardless.

Thomas Horn is a newcomer to film and, in fact, we may never see him again. He was a winner on Jeopardy's *Kids Week*, where director Stephen Daldry noticed him. In an interview, Sandra Bullock told audiences that he has so many other plans that he doesn't want to get into Hollywood stuff. Smart kid, no wonder he was on Jeopardy.

If you are crying just from thinking about how sad this movie is, good luck to you. But don't go into the theater thinking this is a slow and sad story. There is a lot of humor mixed with the tears. The story is by no means slow, either. Oskar does quite a bit of running to get anywhere he needs to go, and the audience is left breathless trying to keep up with how swiftly he thinks, acts and talks. Pair this with quick, blunt cuts and you will be glued to the screen so you don't miss anything important.

The whole movie isn't one big montage, though. When the story needs to labor deliberately, so will the camera. And when that happens, you're going to need some tissues.

As far as tear-jerkers go, this is one of the best. Unlike many other sad films, the purpose is not to make you cry. You won't leave the theater feeling unhappy; more like relieved and satisfied.

**Verdict: A**

# A Gifted Man cures Friday TV blues

By ELISE SVOBODA  
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TV medical dramas have a reputation of being intense and only about the medical mysteries within them. Most know medical shows like *Grey's Anatomy*, about the people whom, along with their own drama, save the day by saving lives. And *House* which features a cranky doctor whose "genius" mind rescues lost causes with the assistance of his team.

But CBS began a new series, *A Gifted Man*, in 2011

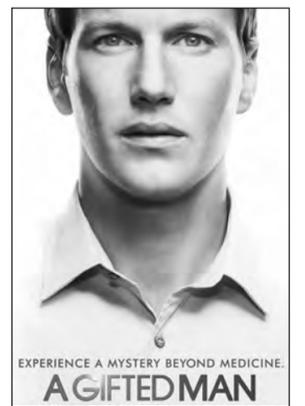
that offers a new plot for drama-lovers to absorb their minds with.

Patrick Wilson (*The Phantom of the Opera* and *Watchmen*) stars as Dr. Michael Holt, a talented, brilliant, cocky neurosurgeon with his own practice in New York who has the life most doctors dream about. After his ex-wife, Anna (Jennifer Elhe, *The King's Speech* and *The Ides of March*), dies, Dr. Holt begins to see her ghost as she encourages him to help him get over his selfish ways and work with her "special project:" a free clinic Anna used to be the director of before her death.

Throughout the course of the show, Dr. Holt learns how to balance working at his own practice and volunteering at the free clinic with the help of his assistant Rita (Margo Martindale, *Orphan and Secretariat*). Other members of the cast include Rachelle Lefevre (*The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Pt. 1*) as Dr. Kate Skyyora, the clinic's new director and Eric La Salle (*ER*) as Dr. Edward Morris, a doctor Holt works with at his practice.

The show has received a number of mixed reviews by TV critics. Although it has an acclaimed ensemble of actors and crew, it lacks viewers because it airs on Friday nights.

But each week the medical cases are interesting, and the series has a whole lot of heart that shines through. Unlike other medical dramas out there, it just might cure your Friday night TV blues; catch the series at 8 p.m. on CBS.



COURTESY OF CBS

# SeeFlik offers first online film festival for college crowd

By ADAM TURNER  
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Everyone loves YouTube. No matter what age or where you're from, you've likely wasted hours skimming through the millions upon millions of viral videos uploaded to the web every day.

But despite its popularity, there's no questioning that 90 percent of what's available on the site isn't exactly of the highest quality. No beating around the bush: Most of it is garbage. This is fine for a quick laugh of course, which is likely what led you to YouTube in the first place, but those looking for more substance from their online entertainment need look no further than the new video site SeeFlik.

SeeFlik is the first online film festival for college students and alumni that are film school majors or have an interest in creating film and/or television content. Based out of Los Angeles and spearheaded by CEO Larry Meli, the website provides burgeoning young filmmakers a quick and easy outlet for their work to find an audience and some recognition. And for those uninterested in creating movies themselves, hundreds of quality short films are available to stream and enjoy at any time.

Meli explained where the original inspiration for the site arose:

"My wife and I were invited to NYU's internal film festival where they showcased the best work from all the students from [my son's] particular class," Meli said. "We spent a weekend watching 25 different short films. Guess what? They were pretty good. Some of them were really great. Great acting, great directing, great writing, good editing and production values.

"So over a dinner in Chinatown, we hosted this dinner for a number of the students and I said to them, 'Why haven't you all entered any online film festivals? You did some great work!' And they looked at me and said 'Well, there aren't any.' To not have any version of an online film festival seemed to be well overdue."

Meli's solution was SeeFlik, the first free online film festival for students.

"Unlike all of the other film festivals—Sundance, Trifecta, etc.—our applicants pay no fee," Meli said. "They enter online, they demonstrate that they are a full-time college student or alum and they upload their film online so it becomes quite a painless process."

SeeFlik just closed its first biannual competitions. One competition being Fan's Favorite, an American Idol-style contest where viewers can vote on their favorite films on the site, and the other a more traditional judging panel filled with in-

dusty veterans.

"Amongst the seven judges that we picked for this first competition, their films have either been nominated or received 20 Academy Awards, so they're really high-end screenwriters and producers," Meli said.

The results of each competition are set to be revealed in late March, where the winners will split \$50,000 of prize money and a showcase for talent agencies and studios. The next competition is set to begin this February, so users will be able to upload and stream a whole new set of short films on the site.

"We've gotten very good responses," Meli said, noting the 375 films currently available on SeeFlik. "Especially in tough economic times, having an outlet for these students to have their work get noticed and showcased in Hollywood is going to be an important tool for them, we hope, to fast forward their career."

One last fact that sets this film festival apart from the rest is the connections it has formed with colleges across the country.

"It's open to any film school student anywhere around the country, but in order to one, get the word out properly, and two, learn from and listen to what we call our 'Friends of SeeFlik,' we decided we'd have a more formal relationship with some of the schools listed on our site," Meli said. "Those are schools that have said we really like what you're doing, we support it, and want to publicize it to our students."

One such chosen school is our very own Eastern Kentucky University.

However, John Fitch, professor in the broadcasting and electronic media department, said for the time being, legal issues are preventing Eastern students from uploading their hard work.

"SeeFlik is offering a good opportunity for our students and our department, but our legal counsel won't sign the contract," Fitch said. "These are some of the best film schools in the country, so for us not to be a part of this is ridiculous."

Fitch said he hopes for the issue to be resolved sooner rather than later.

Ultimately, Meli hopes SeeFlik will help prepare young filmmakers for their future careers.

"I think part of the task for a good filmmaker is to understand how best to market their film, so we encourage a fair amount of that, posting it on your Facebook page and Twitter to gain a critical mass," Meli said. "So this is a good exercise not only as an opportunity, but also pretty much what they're gonna have to do in their professional lives to get noticed."

So whether you're an aspiring Scorsese or simply in need of some new online movies to absorb, SeeFlik may have just what you're looking for. Who knows? You may even see an Eastern student's work on there someday. Check it out today at [www.seeflik.com](http://www.seeflik.com).

# Photosharing site Pinterest grows in popularity thanks to social networking

By TAYLOR PETTIT  
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We are a visual generation; we are the Internet generation.

This dual set of traits leads many people to make a hobby out of what can seem like an overly simplistic task – saving and archiving images online.

From the traditional right click and save, to the now archaic Photo-bucket, image hoarding and sharing is commonplace.

But Pinterest has added a social aspect that changes the game. The interesting aspect about this corner of the Internet is the combination of photosharing, commenting and social networking done all in one place.

Pinterest.com offers boards for types of images, with whatever your heart desires.

Although there is an overwhelming wealth of images that reflect a *Good Housekeeping*-esque appeal, Home Décor and Craft Projects, boards are only limited to one's imagination.

Each user defines themselves by the boards created.

A schoolteacher may archive classroom design ideas. A graphic designer may collect fonts and infographics. Everything from boards dedicated to fashion to the ever-classic memes, exist.

But what makes this site different than other photo sharing sites is that the main point is to share.

When the user connects a Pinterest account to Facebook, it becomes possible to follow your

friend's "pins."

According to the website's mission, sharing these common images can reveal a link among complete strangers who share an interest.

The more sharing, the more inspiration and a greater multitude of options become available.

A strong connection to Tumblr can be seen, as many pins are reposts of original content from blogs.

As said before, the one negative of the website is the obvious demographic of the users. If DIY projects and recipes for low-carb brownies aren't your thing, more digging is required to make the website worthwhile.

The growth of the website is obvious, which creates some problems. A few months ago, an invitation was needed to join. Now it is open to anyone with a Facebook account. The mass traffic because of exposure on Stumbleupon has caused frequent glitches. But Pinterest's recent partnership with Facebook has improved the technical issues.

The greatest advantage of the website is being able to directly link to websites from their original host site. Therefore, creators get the credit, as much as possible, and going back to find more great photos is always possible.

The extreme individualism of the website is one of the most impressive things overall. Despite the aforementioned overwhelming "girly girl" feel, great content is abundant and worth trying out. So log on and pin away.



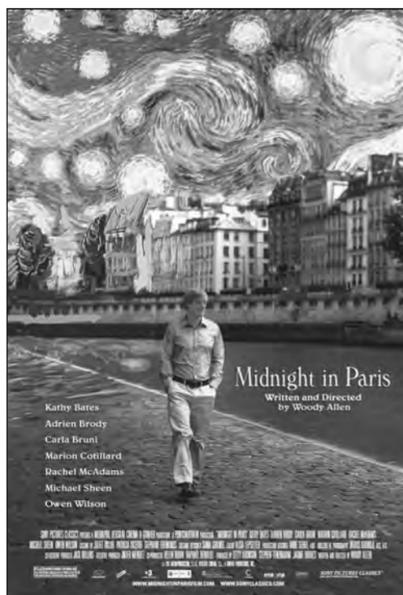
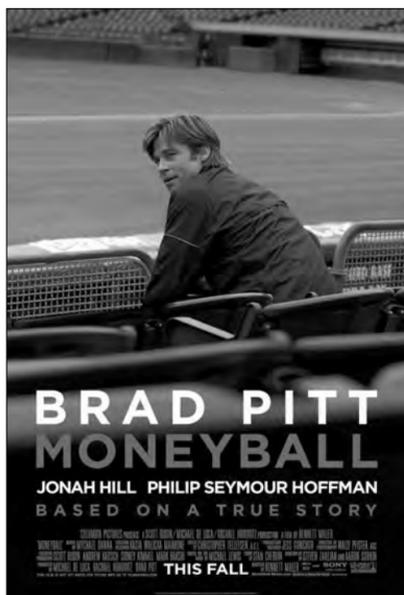
# OSCARS

CONTINUED FROM B1

star-making roles in 2011. This was his year. He has always been a talented actor; now he is an "it" actor. But despite fantastic, award-worthy performances in *Drive*, *The Ides of March* and *Crazy, Stupid, Love.*, Gosling was sadly overlooked this year. A single teardrop should be seen gently falling down the cheek of every female and movie fan in the country.

Michael Fassbender: In a similar scenario to Gosling's, Fassbender is a young, fresh-faced actor who really blew up last year. Performances in *X-Men: First Class*, *Jane Eyre*, and *A Dangerous Method* certainly shook the waters, but his fearless role in *Shame* brought the tsunami. Here was a true talent emerging. But the Academy passed, opting for surprises Gary Oldman and Demián Bichir in the Best Actor race instead. Perhaps he simply did not show enough skin in *Shame*. Actually, from what I've heard, that's impossible.

50/50: I totally adored this underrated cancer comedy starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Seth Rogen. JGL deserves recognition, but it was always a long shot given his stiff competition in the Best Actor slot. But would a Best Original Screenplay nod have killed them? If a movie starring Jonah



PHOTOS COURTESY OF IMP AWARDS

Hill can be one of the frontrunners this year, why not one of Rogen's?

*Super 8*: J.J. Abrams summer movie hit was universally praised by critics, loved by audiences, and was one of the most heartwarming tributes to cinema this year (the Academy loved movies about movies this year i.e. *The Artist* and *Hugo*). Yet I've heard literally no mention of the film at all come award season or even any disappointment about it being snubbed. Have people already forgotten about one of the best films of last year? Or is the idea of a sci-fi film being nominated still too 'out there' for the Academy? Either way, it's a shame really.

And the rest: No love for *The Adventures of Tin-Tin*? Harry Potter? *Bridesmaids* in the Best Picture category? Why am I seeing *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* when I should see *The Ides of March*? Where are you David Fincher? And for the love of god, how could you pass up Ryan Gosling?

But I digress. Even with all of these disappointments and snubs, this was overall a pretty great year for movies! Rejoice while you can before your favorite inevitably loses to Meryl Streep in every category.

# BENNETT

CONTINUED FROM B1

world-renowned Gracie Academy, and has a level two muay-thai degree. He also has trained his jiu-jitsu with professional MMA fighter Jorge Gurgel.

Six of Bennett's seven wins have come way of knockout, but he says his jiu-jitsu skills aren't to be overlooked. "My striking is so natural, so it looks like it might be the strongest part of my game," Bennett said. "But my jiu-jitsu probably is my strong point, because I train it everyday."

Most days, his training starts with 600 kicks in 15 minutes. Then on to sparring and grappling sessions and then onto full round fights.

Bennett said that even though he's started back up his night classes at Eastern where he's in pursuit of a general education degree, his practice time is limited, but it's not rare for him to have a three or four hour workout.

"I just have to find the time whenever I can," he said. Bennett also juggles sometimes as many as three jobs. He's worked on Eastern's campus for the intramural department, at the bookstore and locally at JC Penney.

He's also a full-time father and husband – he just got married last December to his wife Brandy, after they dated for two years.

Bennett gets most of his practice at Underground MMA, a gym in Richmond. But hopes to open up his own place.

"Right now in Richmond, we don't have a place that primarily focuses on jiu-jitsu," Bennett, who created his own team, Madison County Academy of Jiu-jitsu, said. "I want to start my own place someday."

## A fight with death

A few months back, Bennett scored maybe his most meaningful victory yet – saving his own life, after an armored truck collided with his motorcycle.

When he felt himself go down, Bennett said his instincts channeled his MMA training, and his body reacted exactly the way it should have if he was being hip-tossed in the octagon.

"I put my shoulder low and rolled out of it," Bennett said. Then, an on-coming truck barely missed him, as he popped up from the road.

"Without the reaction that I had, I probably wouldn't be here," he said.

## A bright future

His early success has landed him in Around The Octagon's top 10 rankings in both his weight classes for all Ken-

tucky amateurs, and Bennett also holds a title belt in each class – he's the current Imperial Fighting Alliance Middleweight champion, an organization out of Tennessee, and the Kentucky Fighting Challenge Light Heavyweight champion.

The two titles came within a month of each other, back in September and October of last year. And just a week ago, in Corbin, Bennett successfully defended his middleweight title, knocking out his opponent in 30 seconds.

The future is bright for Bennett, with two title fights lined up this year – one for Feb. 18 in Louisville and the other is pending for March or April. Two wins will likely propel Bennett into the professional ranks of the sport.

"The process of making the pro jump can be different," Bennett said. "You can declare yourself a pro, sign your papers and boom. Or be offered a contract. Or go to a tryout."

"I'd like to go the contract route, for my wife and daughter's sake. That way it's guaranteed money and you're covered from injuries. The problem with going independent is that there is not stability in the work. You end up taking any dogfight you can just to pay the next bill. That's not the fighter I want to be."

The hard work in and out of the ring have paid dividends for his future professional career.

Belator Fighting Championships has already offered a six-fight contract to Bennett but he said he wants to win those next two fights first, before signing.

Last year, he was even contacted by Dana White, the president of Ultimate Fighting Championships after he went on a five-match, under one minute, knockout spree. Bennett was offered up a small low-level contract, but at the time it wasn't right for him.

"I've taken every avenue I can, and put all my work ethic to the grind to get where I'm at," Bennett said.

## Changing the landscape of the sport

Growing up Bennett always wanted to be a coach too, hence the longing for opening up his own gym.

"I don't like to see kids get taught the wrong information," Bennett said. "I want to help others out, too. One of my most proudest moments was recently when a kid I've

been mentoring out-grappled a kid twice his size."

He also wants to further the expansion of MMA here in Richmond, and get the local support behind the sport that is taking over.

"People don't realize the talented fighters we have at this school and this area," Bennett said. "We want to get the sport out there."

Bennett said his dream would be to fight in an event here in Richmond, and doesn't understand why the city, unlike the rest of the state, hasn't sought one out.

"Last year alone, Kentucky had over 80 sanctioned MMA events," Bennett said. "That's the most in the country, even more than Vegas. And this year we're shooting to have 90 or so...I bleed maroon and having the school's support in a local event would mean the world to me," he said.

Bennett said he thrives on having a support system behind him, and having a cheering section in his corner makes him fight harder because he doesn't want to let anyone down.

He attributes that to hWIS focus. "Before my fights in the locker room, I'm joking around, laughing, singing Justin Beiber songs," Bennett said. "But as soon as it hits three minutes before my fight that switch flips on."

His wife, Brandy, who's only missed one of his fights, said because of that change in his attitude she doesn't worry about him while he's in the ring.

"He knows he better come back alive," she said. The toll the sport takes on your body, can quickly build up and Bennett said he's thought about calling it quits a couple of times – most notably after his winning streak came to a crushing halt in his first title fight: a 30 second knockout loss.

"I've thought about it yeah, but if you don't think that, I don't think you're human," Bennett said. "But the old saying goes pull yourself up by the boot straps and get it. I love this sport. So if you want to do this lets do this."

His other option is to quit, which would make him 0-2 in the dream department.

But this time, Bennett is here to stay. "I just can't walk away."



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## WOMEN'S BBALL

CONTINUED FROM B5

The Lady Colonels had a difficult time handling the ball against the Lady Skyhawks defense. The Lady Colonels committed 19 turnovers, which led to 24 points. The Lady Colonels only managed to score eight points off UT-Martin's 14 turnovers. The Lady Skyhawks scored 12 points off second chance opportunities.

"That's tough when you turn the ball over 19 times, especially when they score 24 points," Roberts said. "We talked about taking care of the ball at halftime. We also talked about forcing tough shots and boxing out."

Jade Barber led the scoring for Eastern with 24 points to go with 10 rebounds. Barber's last high-scoring game came against Kentucky Christian with 17 points. This was her fifth double-double of the season.

"It was definitely bitter sweet, I've kind of been in a scoring funk," Barber said. "I definitely would've had that with a win. I would've traded it for a win."

The Lady Colonels return to action Wednesday as they host non-conference opponent Longwood University (5-18). The Lady Colonels lead the all-time series 2-0, with their last meeting occurring Dec. 30, 2004.

Tipoff is scheduled for 7p.m.

## GOFF

CONTINUED FROM B6

Both the men and women's basketball teams have a chance of winning their conference. What else could college students do on a Thursday night? Instead of going to a bar and getting drunk, why not come out and support the Colonels?

One missed night of drunken debauchery can be held off to see your talented peers play.

When athletes see more people in the stands filled with people who care enough to come out and support them, they play better. This is certainly true for all sports; no matter what, these are Division I college athletes that are competing.

Eastern has many athletic programs that have outstanding student athletes. Most of them go unnoticed because of the lack of fan

support.

If Eastern athletics could get the support the University of Notre Dame gets, these programs would exceed expectations.

I have another favorite college team, but Eastern is my second. Attending the first game and homecoming game doesn't qualify as a true fan. I attend every game that I can, to see what an actual college basketball or football game looks like. There is a huge difference from watching it at home compared to watching a game in person.

These students don't know what they are missing. Most students would do anything to see a game with this level of talent.

Both of these Colonel basketball teams have a chance of going to NCAA tournament. But that chance might all ride on the support from Eastern- wouldn't that be a shame.

## TENNIS

CONTINUED FROM B5

fought valiantly. But in the end, the Volunteers were able to battle their way to an impressive 6-1 victory.

Although not able to pull off the upset, Oertel spoke on how he feels his team is capable of knocking off a high ranked opponent.

"I think we had a great opportunity, actually, to take down a high ranked team," Oertel said. "As you can see from the scores it was very competitive, and it just shows you how ready we are. We're so close to beating one of these ranked teams. We had a chance there and just a couple points here and there could have got us through."

No. 1 seed for Eastern Niklas Schroeder, looked to knock off stand-out freshman Mikelis Libietis for the Volunteers. Although Schroeder was able to steal the second set, Libietis captured the third set tie-breaker to seal the victory with a final count of 6-3, 5-7, 10-3.

No. 2 seed for Eastern, Hugo Klientovsky and no. 4 seed Parul Verma, also came up short after a supreme effort against their respective opponents, both losing 3-6, 3-6 in straight sets.

Carles Pons, the Colonels' no. 6 seed, showed promise against the Volunteers Bryan Swartz but was unable

to pull off the win as he fell: 7-5, 6-2.

The Volunteers' no. 5 seed Taylor Patrick proved to be too much for Eastern's Joao Maio. Patrick was able to take the match in straight sets: 6-1, 6-1.

Eastern's lone victory came from the exceptional play of senior and no. 3 seed Philip Janz, who was able to defeat the Volunteers' Hunter Reese in a three set thriller. After successfully taking the first set, Janz was unable to keep the momentum going in the second as he fell 2-6. But after regaining his composure, he orchestrated a remarkable third set, picking up the victory in a tie-break, making the final count 6-4, 2-6, 10-7.

Oertel was extremely pleased with the way Janz performed.

"Phillip played like a senior," Oertel said. "Phil definitely played one of his best three matches as a Colonel. He played nice tennis. He fought hard, he competed hard, no matter what the score was."

Eastern looks to rebound from its losses as they host both The University of the Cumberlands and University of Dayton for a doubleheader home opener.

Dayton (0-0), a fairly young team, comes in hoping to make a statement by knocking off the Colonels.

The University of the Cumberlands (1-1), will also be looking to upset the defending OVC champions.

Those matches are scheduled to take place Jan. 28th at 10 a.m.

## LONGWOOD

CONTINUED FROM B6

of-32) from the rest of the way.

"We fully understood coming into this game how offensively talented Longwood is," Head Coach Jeff Neubauer said. "They put on a show in the first half scoring 40 points against our defense. We did a much better job defending them in the second half."

The Colonels' offense wasn't too shabby either, hitting 17-of-27 shots to close out the game.

"I'm really pleased with the way our guys responded," Neubauer said. "We were down five at halftime then all the sudden we were down 11. It actually helped our guys get a great focus about us and we at-

tacked from that point."

Senior Jaron Jones paced Eastern (12-9) with 23 points in the non-conference victory, 17 of which came in the final half. This was Jones' seventh game this season scoring at least 20 points.

Junior Mike DiNunno added 14 points, and the sophomore Johnson tallied a career-high nine rebounds to go along with 11 points off the bench.

"We knew coming in they gave up a lot of points," DiNunno said. "As a team, coach told us to attack the rim and that was basically our mentality."

Eastern returns to conference action Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. when the Colonels conclude their three-game home swing against Tennessee Tech.



SONYA JOHNSON/PROGRESS

Freshman Eric Stutz (No. 42) looks to make a move in a recent home game. The Colonels are now 8-0 at home this season.

## TRACK

CONTINUED FROM B5

Coach Rick Erdmann said. "She has a great attitude. I think she has some high goals and we're hoping she gets there."

"It's great," Kosgei said when asked about how she felt about winning. "It's a major compliment. Makes me feel good."

Eastern's Track and Field team competes this weekend in the University of Kentucky-hosted Rod McCravy Memorial Invitational at the E.J. Nutter Fieldhouse in Lexington.

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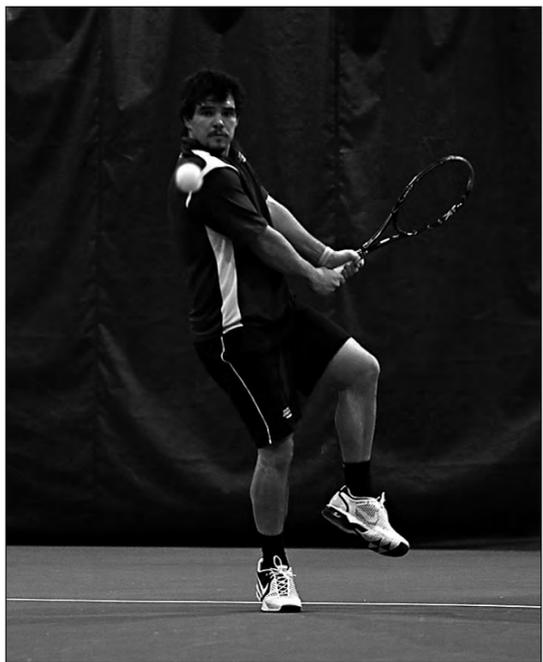


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Senior Philip Janz was the lone Colonel to pick up a win in either of Eastern's matches with two ranked teams from the Southeastern Conferences.

## Tennis falls to highly ranked SEC teams

By GREG ADAMS  
progress@eku.edu

Eastern's mens tennis squad started their spring season off against two powerhouse SEC teams, The University of Tennessee and The University of Kentucky. Both opponents were ranked amongst the top 15 teams in division 1 men's tennis (UK no. 7, Tennessee no. 13).

The Colonels managed to make both matches competitive, but in the end, fell short to their nationally ranked adversaries.

Eastern (0-2, 0-0 OVC) took the court Jan. 24 against the no. 7 team in the nation and 2011 SEC runners-up Kentucky (4-0, 0-0 SEC).

"UK is a whole 'nother level of tennis for sure," Oertel said. "They're the only team in the country right now that has six players ranked in the top 125 in the country. With that said, we're gonna give it our best shot. And it's a great opportunity to beat a high ranked team."

At times it looked like they could

do just that. But the immaculate play of UK's star senior and no. 1 seed Eric Quigley gave the Wildcats an early 1-0 start. After comfortably taking down Eastern's no. 1 seed Niklas Schroeder in the first set 6-1, Schroeder battled to make the second set competitive but ultimately was unsuccessful.

The final count: 6-1, 6-4 Quigley.

The night's most compelling and competitive matches featured Eastern's no. 2 seed Hugo Klientovsky and no. 3 seed Phillip Janz.

Janz, coming off of momentum from his win in Knoxville, squared off against UK's Grant Roberts. Roberts was narrowly able to clinch the first set 7-5. With hopes of putting Eastern on the board, Janz gave an outstanding effort in the second set but was unable to capitalize in a tie-break, making the final score: 7-5, 7-6 in favor of Roberts.

The only Colonel to capture a set was French-man Hugo Klientovsky. As he was able to come out red hot and steal the first set against nationally ranked Alejandro Gomez of UK. Although it appeared the momentum was on Klientovsky's side, he was unable to hold off Gomez and eventually fell short with a final count of: 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Rob Oertel  
Head Coach

no. 5 seed Carles Pons and no. 6 seed Emilio Piriz in straight sets.

Eastern faced off against the Tennessee Volunteers (2-1, 0-0 SEC) in Knoxville this last Friday. In front of over 200 spectators, the Colonels

SEE TENNIS, PAGE B4

## Lady Colonels fall to OVC's top team

By STEPHEN HAUSER  
progress@eku.edu

It was like Fourth of July last Saturday in McBrayer arena as University of Tennessee—Mar-

tin's hot shooting Lady Skyhawks lit up the Lady Colonels' defense in a 84-61 defeat.

The Skyhawks shot 51 percent from the field and 46 from behind the arc.

"They shot the ball extremely well. If you shoot 53 percent from the free throw line, 51 percent from the field and 46 percent from behind the arc, that is straight up stroking it," Head Coach Chrissy Roberts said.

"From the top to bottom they just finish, they are a great team."

The Lady Colonels (9-9, 5-3 OVC) had the unenviable job of guarding Lady Skyhawks sophomore guard Heather Butler. Butler led the team in scoring, dropping 29 points against the Lady Colonels. She hit 7-of-10 from behind the arc and 10-for-17 from the floor.

"Butler can shoot from beyond the three point line," Brit-tany Coles said. "So it's a challenge to stop her three point shot."

Chrissy Roberts  
Head Coach

The Lady Colonels only lead of the game was 2-0, right at the beginning.

SEE WOMEN'S BBALL, PAGE B4

**"That's tough when you turn the ball over 19 times, especially when they score 24 points."**



PHOTO COURTESY OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Senior Lydia Kosgei (No. 6.) finished in first place for the 3,000 meter event. Kosgei was named the Ohio Valley Conference's female athlete of the week for the second week in a row.

## Three place at Gladstein Invitational

By MATHEW CRUMP  
progress@eku.edu

Eastern's track and field team had three athletes placing among last weekend's Indiana University Gladstein Invitational.

Seniors Lydia Kosgei and Peter Sigilai and University of Tennessee junior Soufiane Bouchikhi, took home honors.

With Sigilai and Bouchikhi placing, Eastern's men track and field team starts off the season ranked No. 9 in the Southeast region. According to the latest U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association regional poll, the Colonels are ahead of schools such as the University of Kentucky (13), the University of Louisville (11) and the University of North Carolina (10).

Kosgei, an honorable mention All-American in the outdoor 5,000 meters last spring, finished in first place in the women's 3,000 meters and fourth in the women's mile on Friday. Her time for the 3,000 meters, a personal best and less than a second from the Eastern record at 9:30.33, was .50 seconds faster than second place. The time is also the 17th fastest indoor women's 3,000 meters in the country. Less than an hour after she fin-



Peter Sigilai

ished her first event, she ran the women's mile. Her time for the mile was 4:50.07. The time is currently the 28th fastest in the country.

"I wasn't expecting to win it," Kosgei said. "It gives me some confidence."

Sigilai finished third place in the men's mile with a time of 4:04.50. The first two places were held by runners from Oklahoma, who outpaced Sigilai by just a second. Sigilai's time was a personal-best as well as the second fastest time in the country. Just like Kosgei, Sigilai was just a second off from breaking Eastern's school record set at 4:03.37.

Two-time defending Ohio Valley Conference Male Cross Country Runner of the Year Bouchikhi placed fifth in the men's 3,000 meters. But was the third collegiate finisher with Indiana University taking second and fourth.

He outran the sixth place runner by almost five seconds. His time is currently the third-fastest in the country.

In addition to winning the women's 3,000 meters event, Kosgei was named the Ohio Valley Conference Track Athlete of the Week for the second week in a row. Her women's 3,000 meters time (9:30.33) was an OVC best. She shared the honors with Murray State sprinter Alexis Love, who also won for the second consecutive week.

"She's a very deserving young woman," Head

SEE TRACK, PAGE B4



SONYA JOHNSON/PROGRESS

Eastern's defense couldn't keep up with the hot shooting Ladyhawks of UT Martin. UT Martin sits in first place in the Ohio Valley Conference.

# EKU

VS

## Tennessee Tech

### Saturday

Jan. 28  
4:00 pm

Alumni Coliseum

Tickets:  
\$8 - Adults  
\$6 - Youth (ages 4-11)  
FREE - EKU Students!

Tickets: 622-2122  
EKUSports.com

# EKU

VS

## Tennessee Tech

### Thursday

Jan. 26  
7:00 pm

Alumni Coliseum

EKU Students:  
WIN AN iPad!  
Courtesy of EKU SGA

Tickets: 622-2122  
EKUSports.com



# Resilient

SENIOR BATTLES BACK FROM MULTIPLE KNEE INJURIES; LOOKING FOR LAST CHANCE AT EASTERN

By CHRIS MCGEE  
christopher\_mcgee5@mymail.eku.edu

After two tears on the same ACL, some players might be inclined to give up.

But not Pilar Walker. Walker is a 5-foot-7-inch redshirt senior guard for the Lady Colonels basketball team who recently transferred to Eastern from Eastern Illinois University.

Both injuries occurred while Walker was attending EIU. During her sophomore year (2009-10), Walker played the first 16 games before she sustained her initial knee injury. The second occurred during the 2010-2011 campaign. She only played eight games but started three of them.

Walker said the first knee injury caused more mental anguish than physical.

"After the first surgery, I cried for two weeks straight," Walker said. "I didn't think the pain was ever going away."

But she added the pain did go away as the physical rehabilitation progressed.

The experience of the first surgery served as a primer of what she expected from the second.

"When I had the second surgery, I was more mentally prepared and knew what the pain level was going to be," she said.

Walker left nothing to chance, fundamentally, during both stints of rehab.

"I worked on all aspects of my game; I didn't want to leave anything out," Walker said.

She said the second round of rehabilitation had some extra incentive.

"I pushed harder during the second one because I knew I was leaving one place and going somewhere, where I'm happy; I wanted to be a better player for my teammates and coaches," she said.

Junior guard Raechelle Gray and junior forward/center Alex Jones have nothing but positive things to say about Walker.

"She is an awesome teammate," Gray said. "She brings energy to the practices."

She added Walker motivates the team to play better.

"If you've ever been to one of our

practices, she is the booming voice you hear coming from the sideline," Gray said.

Jones said Walker is both inspiring and motivating.

"She is a really good teammate; she is always encouraging the rest of the team even though she isn't able to practice," Gray said.

Jones added Walker maintains a positive attitude despite the injuries and surgeries.

Coach Chrissy Roberts used one word to describe Walker as a player: leader.

"She is very vocal and has a great understanding of the game; she's a competitor," Coach Roberts said.

She also said Walker handles and shoots the ball extremely well.

Walker is also unselfish on the court.

"She gets the ball where it needs to go and creates opportunities for other players," Roberts said.

In addition to her skill level, Coach Roberts also praised an intangible trait of Walker's that is hard to pin down with x's and o's.

"She is the emotional leader of the team," Roberts said.

**"If you've ever been to one of our practices, she is the booming voice you hear coming from the sidelines."**

**Chrissy Roberts**  
Head Coach

Junior guard Raechelle Gray

and junior forward/center Alex Jones

have nothing but positive things to say about Walker.

She added Walker motivates the team to play better.

"If you've ever been to one of our

SONYA JOHNSON/PROGRESS



FILE PHOTO/PROGRESS

Eastern's Jeff Johnson (No. 24) grabbed a career-high nine rebounds in the Colonels 78-71 dispatching of Longwood. Johnson's pitched in with 11 points off the bench.

## Colonels take down Longwood

By RYAN ALVES  
ryan\_alves@mymail.eku.edu

With 3:15 left in the game, Eastern's Jeff Johnson gave his team the biggest lift of the night.

Leading a surging Longwood University team 67-63, Johnson laid out in full dive after a rebound

at the top of the key. His outstretched fingers were able to tip the ball to his teammate.

His hustle was rewarded when Joshua Jones found him for the layup, extending Eastern's lead 69-63.

"Coach always tells us whenever there is a loose ball it has EKU written on it," Johnson said. "So we just try to get every loose ball and every rebound and try to scrap it out... we came out a little sluggish in the first half. We

did a good job as a team fighting it out in the second half."

Scrapping it out could be an understatement, as Eastern finally outlasted Longwood 78-71 Sunday in McBrayer arena, moving the Colonels to 8-0 at home.

In the first half, Longwood was hot, shooting over 55 percent from the field and hitting four 3-pointers. The Lancers took a 40-35 half-time lead and threatened to put the game

away with back-to-back threes from Tristan Carey in the first minute of the second half to extend the lead to 11.

But Eastern clamped down on the defensive end, holding Longwood to just 25 percent (eight-)

**"Coach always tells us whenever there is a loose ball it had EKU written on it."**

**Jeff Johnson**  
Center

## Put down your beer and cheer...please?



**Matt Goff**

Since coming to Eastern, it is obvious to me there is a lack of student support for athletics.

Why wouldn't you want to go to a college basketball game, football game or any other sport for that matter? Students get into all home games for free.

Students at other universities wait in line for hours to buy a ticket to a game, and at some schools, a ticket to the big game is a treasured trophy.

Despite Eastern's athletic accomplishments, we are not the best.

But we are good.

Why wouldn't college students take advantage of the opportunity to root for their school on the field?

I was at the Eastern and UT-Martin women's game this past week, and I counted 225 people. There weren't even 50 students. I've seen more people at a high school basketball game between two teams that aren't even in the same region.

SEE LONGWOOD, PAGE B4