

Feb. 22, 2005
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FOCUS EMU

Online

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EMU one of only two universities in U.S. to offer Army Paralegal Program

The long arm of military law has joined with Eastern Michigan University to offer a new online program for Army paralegals.

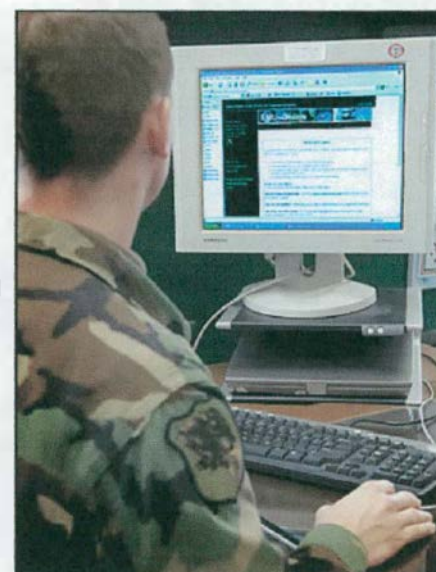
EMU is now one of only two universities nationwide to receive American Bar Association (ABA) approval for the Army Paralegal Specialist Degree Program. The other institution is the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Army paralegal specialists assist judges, Army lawyers and unit commanders with legal matters and judicial work. They provide legal and administrative support in areas such as international law, contract law, defense legal services and judicial legal services.

"This is a great way for the paralegal program and Eastern Michigan University to partner with our Armed Forces to bring ABA-approved paralegal education to service members around the world," said Daniel Ray, associate professor and coordinator of legal assistant (paralegal) studies at EMU's College of Technology.

[More on this story...](#)

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IN GOOD COMPANY : Eastern Michigan University is one of only two universities nationwide that will offer an Army Paralegal Specialist Degree Program.

Cover Story

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Feb. 22, 2005 issue

EMU one of only two universities in U.S. to offer Army Paralegal Program

By Carol Anderson

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The long arm of military law has joined with Eastern Michigan University to offer a new online program for Army paralegals.

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The Army makes promotions and pay grade increases based upon education, among other factors, Ray said. Army paralegals with this degree should advance in the Army and be more marketable if they decide to leave the military.

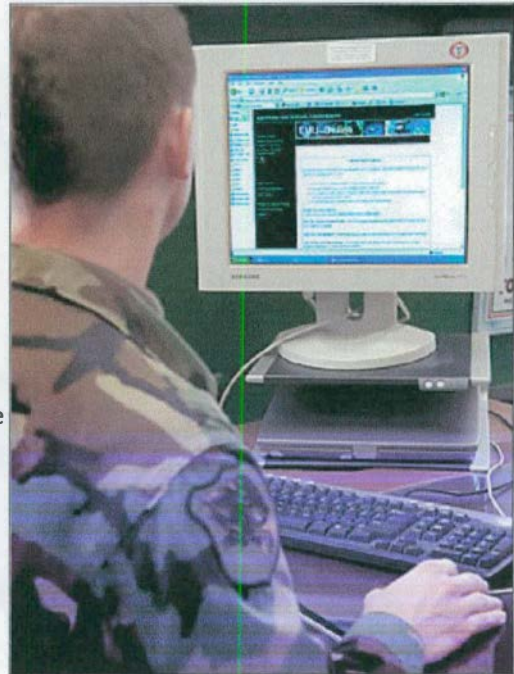
Approximately 50 students are expected to enroll in the EMU program for courses beginning in May.

Any current Army paralegal specialist who began the Army Judge Advocate General (JAG) School's 27D advanced individual training (AIT) course after March 2001

is eligible to enroll. This 10-week JAG School course, which must be completed for an individual to be an Army paralegal specialist, trains paralegals to perform legal work under the supervision of a lawyer.

The Army JAG Corps, established in 1775 by George Washington, is the oldest law firm in the nation. It is a wide-ranging practice, which includes military law and criminal prosecution, as well as international law and legal assistance in the U.S. and abroad.

The Army Paralegal Specialist Degree Program requirements include a



JAG WIRED: Charlie Russell, a junior criminal justice major from Pinckney, looks at a Web site in progress for Eastern Michigan University's Army Paralegal Specialist Degree program. EMU is one of only two universities nationwide to offer the online program. Approximately 50 students are expected to enroll in the program, which begins in May.

minimum of 50 hours of general education courses, at least 59 program hours and 15 hours of free electives to reach the required 124 hours for graduation. Credits can be awarded for coursework taken through the JAG school and other colleges and universities.

EMU, which has been training paralegals for nearly 25 years, first received ABA approval in 1991.

The University received ABA approval after undergoing an extensive investigation of self-evaluation reports as well as on-site inspections of program operations. Programs that complete the evaluation process are approved for seven years.

For additional information about the Army Paralegal Specialist Degree Program, contact Ray at 487-4330. Information on enrolling, degree requirements, transfer credit and advising are at <http://ce.emich.edu/armyparalegal>.

Feature

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Feb. 22, 2005 issue
**EMU's Mock Trial
 team advances to
 national competition
 for first time**

By Anastasia Maslova

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For the first time ever, Eastern Michigan University qualified to compete at the National Mock Trial Tournament in Richmond, Ky., March 18-20. And it qualified not one, but two teams.

The EMU teams qualified by taking fifth and seventh place (only the top seven advance) out of 26 teams (from 22 colleges) in the Midwest Regional Collegiate Mock Trial Tournament at Notre Dame University Feb. 4-6.

In addition to team honors, three members of the EMU Mock Trial team received individual awards out of 10 given. Jason Hagelthorn, a senior psychology major from Westland, received an Outstanding Witness Award. Geoffrey Montagne, a senior political science major from Novi, and Jennifer Hartlep, a senior public law and government major from Howell, received Outstanding Attorney Awards. Each received a plaque for their efforts.

"It took a lot of hard work to place so well," said Barry Pyle, associate professor of political science and an academic coach of EMU's Mock Trial team.

Pyle said the team has made good progress in its three years of existence.



THE VERDICT'S IN: Eastern Michigan University's Mock Trial Team recently competed at the Midwest Regional Collegiate Mock Trial Tournament at Notre Dame. EMU took fifth and seventh out of 22 colleges (represented by 26 teams) with both teams qualifying to compete, for the first time ever, at the National Tournament in Richmond, Ky., March 18-20. Three team members also received outstanding individual awards.

"In the first year, we really did not know what we were doing," he said.

Still, EMU's Mock Trial Team won the Best New Team award during their inaugural year.

However, qualification for the national tournament this year is a whole other achievement, Pyle said.

"I don't think anyone expected both of the teams that we took to the regional competition to garner a national bid, but we all knew that we had

a chance — a good chance if we really applied ourselves," Hartlep said.

"The team means a lot to me," said Hagelthorn. "To be honest, I put in more time for the team than I do for my studies. And I have a 3.9 GPA in my political science courses."

At the Midwest regional tournament, Eastern Michigan competed against teams from Notre Dame, the University of Michigan, Michigan State, Western Michigan, Case Western, Butler and other schools. The tournament consisted of two days of intense competition with four trials.

American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) competitions are based on fictitious events that alternate from a criminal case one year to a civil case the next. Cases take place in the fictional state of Midlands. Two competing teams act as prosecution and defense. Attorneys are scored on opening and closing statements, as well as direct and cross-examination. The scores are based on presentation and an attorney's ability to integrate the substantive, legal and procedural aspects of the case. Witnesses are scored on their performance under direct and cross-examination.

AMTA is designed for undergraduate students interested in law to have a first-hand learning experience in the courtroom and interact with real judges and attorneys. More than 250 universities and colleges, with representation numbering 521 teams, compete in regional competitions across the country.

Pyle and Mark Maironis, an instructor of political science and an attorney coach for the team, prepped the team during the fall for regional competition. The two helped students work through legal and factual issues in the case, and construct effective strategies to present the case to a judge.

To prepare for the national tournament, EMU students will practice with local attorneys and judges for 6-8 hours a week, Pyle said. Some students even take a Mock Trial course offered through the political science department.

"I don't know what to expect; we've never done it before," Pyle said, commenting on the national tournament. "It would be very nice to have one of the teams score in the top five."

Feb. 22, 2005 issue
Composer Michael Schelle takes center stage at EMU's Music Now Fest

By Anastasia Maslova

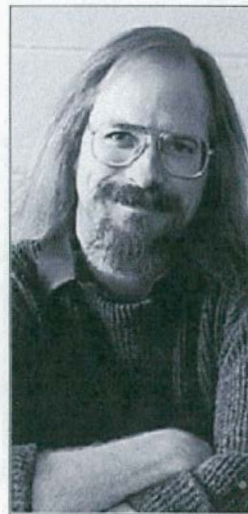


Well-known composer Michael Schelle and his music will take center stage at Eastern Michigan University's Music Now Fest Feb. 23-25. The event, which began in 1979, is a celebration of contemporary music featuring the work of a distinguished living American composer, as well as EMU faculty and students.

During the three days of events, Schelle will interact directly with students and faculty in lectures, rehearsals, workshops, panel discussions and master classes. The collaboration will culminate with a concert finale in Pease Auditorium.



"It is a rare privilege for our students to have the opportunity of working directly with outstanding composers like Mr. Schelle," said Kristy Meretta, coordinator of EMU's music and dance events. "What a joy it is to see the expression on their faces as new music suddenly comes to life in a most meaningful way."



Schelle

Schelle, composer-in-residence and professor of music composition and theory at Butler University in Indianapolis, Ind., won first prize in the 1987 Inter-American Competition for New Orchestra Works and first prize in the 1985 Music in the Mountains national competition. He was named Distinguished Composer of the Year at the Music Teachers National Association Conference in 1989. Twice, he was named a Pulitzer Prize nominee.

More than 20 major orchestras throughout the U.S. — including the Detroit Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic and Minnesota Orchestra — have commissioned and performed Schelle's symphonic works. International performances of his work have been performed in Switzerland, Poland, Costa Rica and London.

Among the events scheduled for the festival are the following.

The faculty and Arianna String Quartet open the festival Wednesday, Feb 23, at 8 p.m. in Pease Auditorium. Selections include "The Bells" by EMU faculty member Whitney Prince; Libby Larsen's "Licorice Stick;" Jean Francaix's "Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano;" Gregory Hamilton's "Hymn of Peace" and EMU faculty member Anthony Ianaccone's "String Quartet No. 3."

EMU faculty artists include Donald Hartmann, Kimberly Cole Luevano, Garik Pedersen, Joel Schoenhals, John Dorsey, Kristy Meretta, David Pierce and Diane Winder.

The Arianna String Quartet, formed in 1992, established itself as one of America's finest chamber ensembles. The quartet captured Grand Prize in the 1994 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and first prize in the Coleman and Carmel National Competitions. They also were finalists in the 1999 Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition and were featured in concerts at Spoleto, Banff, Norfolk, Tucson, New York and Tokyo. This appearance is sponsored by Friends of Chamber Music at Pease.

- Schelle will discuss and play selections from his compositions Thursday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m., in Pease.
- An open rehearsal with Schelle and the EMU Symphony Orchestra, directed by Kevin Miller, is scheduled Thursday, Feb. 24, 1 p.m., in Pease. An open choir rehearsal, directed by Leonard Riccinto,



follows at 3 p.m., in Pease.

- Faculty and guest artists present a recital featuring the chamber music of Schelle Thursday, Feb. 24, 8 p.m., in Pease. Selections include "Howl," "Hammerstein," "Gimme Shelter" and "Struwelpeter," performed by guest singer Steven Stolen.
- An open rehearsal with Schelle and the EMU Wind Symphony, directed by Scott Boerma, will take place Friday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m., in Pease.
- Schelle presents an informal address and leads a discussion on his music and topics in 21st-century music Friday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m., in Alexander Recital Hall.
- EMU's Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra, University Choirs and Percussion Ensemble collaborate in the festival finale featuring larger works by Schelle Friday, Feb. 25, at 8 p.m. in Pease. Selections include "Dei Angelis," "Guttersnipe" and "Samurai." Admission is \$8.

RETURN ENGAGEMENT: The Arianna String Quartet will perform at EMU's Music Now Fest Feb. 23.

For more information, call 487-2255 or visit the music and dance department's Web site at www.emich.edu/music.

Feature

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Feb. 22, 2005 issue
EMU students plan to participate in Day at the State Capitol

By Cheryl Moore

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Twenty-five Eastern Michigan University students will descend on Lansing for this year's Day at the State Capitol Feb. 22.

Day at the State Capitol is an event at which students from various Michigan universities can voice their opinions on issues important to them, especially higher education and how it can improve from a student point of view.

"This kind of interaction with legislators is an invaluable civic experience, and also makes a very positive impression on our representatives in Lansing," said Juanita Reid, vice president for University Relations.

Josh Lyon, a sophomore nursing major from Ypsilanti, attended last year's Day at the State Capitol, and will be returning for this year's event.

"Students at Eastern seem to be very civic-minded," said Lyon. "This event is a great way to learn about the political system firsthand, and to meet directly with those who can effect change."

Last year, Lyon said the event was very enjoyable, but this year could be even

better because of the involvement of more state representatives and senators. The event provides students with an opportunity to see how politicians work, from policy making to interaction with other legislators.

"For many of the students attending, it is their first time to even see Lansing and the state government in action," said Student Government Vice President Robert Murkowski. "Many are very excited at just the opportunity to network with other student leaders across the state. Some just want to attend to learn more about higher education while others want the chance to 'grill' their state legislator in regards to higher education."

Murkowski, along with Lyon and many more civic-minded EMU students,



EMU STUDENTS GO TO LANSING: Some Eastern Michigan University students will make the trip to Lansing Feb. 22 to participate in the Day at the State Capitol. The event gives students the opportunity to air educational concerns, watch legislators in action and schedule meetings with state congressional members.

will participate in the activities, which include viewings of the House and Senate in session, panel discussions with House and Senate members, lunch with legislators and opportunities to schedule meetings with state congressional members.

"Getting to meet the men and women who have the ability to shape our government is a wonderful opportunity, even if you aren't specifically interested in politics," Lyon said. "This event shows you the behind-the-scenes stuff, which gets really interesting."

The Michigan Campus Compact sponsors this event. Michigan Campus Compact promotes the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens, through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning and civic engagement. This is the second Day at the State Capitol. The first was Feb. 12, 2004.

For more information on the event, go to www.micampuscompact.org.

Feature



Feb. 22, 2005 issue
**Dollar drive organized
 on campus to aid
 tsunami relief**

By Anastasia Maslova



Shortly after the Dec. 26 tsunami ravaged the coastline of numerous Asian countries, Eastern Michigan University showed its support for those affected by organizing a memorial march and program. At that time, the first donations from the campus for tsunami relief trickled in.

Now, six weeks after that fundraising event, the campus has collected more than \$2,700 to date, with an eventual goal to raise a minimum of \$25,000.

To mobilize that effort, the EMU Committee for Tsunami Relief has organized a "dollar drive," a campus-wide fundraising campaign that began Feb. 21 and continues through March 18.

"If all the students could give up the price of coffee or soda for just one day, we will have reached our goal," said Biniam Yohannes, president of the International Student Association (ISA) and a committee member. "It's not a lot to ask but, if done well, it can make a big difference."

Of EMU's nearly 24,000 undergraduate and graduate students, nearly 500 of those, as well as hundreds of EMU alumni, call the regions affected by the tsunami their home. These regions include Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Indonesia.

Through Feb. 16, \$2,730 has been collected, Yohannes said. Donations were accepted at a campus memorial service Jan. 13 and before and after the Martin Luther King Jr. Presidential Luncheon four days later. Goodwill also came from money raised at an ISA welcome party, Office of the Vice President for Students Affairs and a \$1,000 student government allocation. All money raised will be donated to UNICEF.

The tsunami relief committee, composed of representatives of various departments and organizations on campus, was formed in early January. Initially, the committee's primary concern was to confirm the whereabouts of more than 200 of EMU's international students from the affected areas and who may have traveled out of the country for their holiday break, said Esther Gunel, assistant director of the Office of International Students (OIS). To make contact, the Division of Student Affairs and OIS sent e-mails to those students.

"Between e-mail responses and students actually telling us, we've had about an 80 percent response rate," Gunel said.

For the next three weeks, donation boxes for the Dollar Drive will be available at busy campus locations, including Eastern Eateries, the College of Business, Halle Library, McKenny Union and Pray-Harrold. Donations can be made Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be no table in Eastern Eateries March 9 and 16.

In addition to money, blood also has been collected for the relief effort. The EMU Athletics Department and American Red Cross organized a six-hour blood drive before the women's basketball game Feb. 2 at the Convocation Center. Thirty people, of whom 16 were first-time donors, gave blood, said Eric Seidelman, athletics promotions coordinator and organizer of the event. According to the Red Cross, it was the best blood drive at EMU since early fall 2004.

For more information about tsunami relief, go to www.emich.edu/tsunamirelief/. For information on financial donations, contact OIS at 487-3116.

Feature

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Feb. 22, 2005 issue
**Presidential
 Scholars look to
 future careers**

By Anastasia Maslova



EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third and final story in a series about Eastern Michigan University's Presidential Scholars. This story features the final four of the 14 Presidential Scholars.

The Board of Regents honored Eastern Michigan University's 2004 Presidential Scholarship recipients during its regular meeting Nov. 30, 2004. The scholarship is a four-year award that pays 30 credit hours (15 per semester) per year of in-state tuition, housing, food allowance and mandatory fees. Students who receive the scholarships must live in University residence halls the first two years of the award, complete at least 15 credit hours per semester and maintain a 3.5 GPA.

Scholarship recipients are selected during EMU's annual Presidential Scholarship Competition. Awards are based on a competitive exam. To compete, high school seniors must have either a 3.7 GPA or a 3.5 to 3.69 GPA, with a minimum 25 ACT or 1,150 SAT score. Each scholarship winner also must complete a successful interview.

There are usually 15 Presidential Scholars selected each year. This year, 14 students were found deserving of the honor.

Amelia Yunker (Novi, Mich.)

To get across who she is during the Presidential Scholar competition, Amelia Yunker did what came naturally. She wrote a poem.

"You just write from the heart. You can base a poem on a feeling," she said.

Yunker had some of her works published in "Ascension," the literary magazine of Marian High School, an all-women's school where she graduated with a 3.9 GPA. She also plans to be published in Cellar Roots and is considering what pieces she wants to submit.

Along with writing poetry and playing the piano and the drums, Yunker was a member of the Model United Nations Club, National Honors Society, pep and jazz Bands, intramural bowling team, SADD and a representative for the senior class on the All School Board.



Yunker

Having been active in high school, Yunker quickly became involved in college life. She is a communications coordinator for the Residence Hall Association (RHA), a full-fledged member of Omega Phi Alpha sorority and involved with EMU Players, a theatre club that stages small performances.

"College is a time when I can find myself," Yunker said. "I am away from

my family. I am away from my high school friends. I had to start brand new and it's giving me the opportunity to find out who I really am."

Striving to achieve her goal, which is to be true to herself, Yunker participated in a number of community service activities with Meals on Wheels, St. James the Greater Vacation Bible School, American Cancer Society and Summer Reading Program.

"I want to have an impact on people's lives," she said.

Yunker herself was greatly influenced by her "phenomenal" high school English teacher, Anne Kania, which partly explains Yunker's choice of major — secondary education.

"I just want to be happy," she said, when asked about her future. "Teaching is not a profession you go into if you want to make millions. That's fine with me."

Matthew Jones (Flint, Mich.)

For Matthew Jones, winning the Presidential Scholarship was the biggest accomplishment among all his successes at Flint Northern High School.

And there were many.

Jones won a Michigan Merit Award and an Urban League of Flint Outstanding Achievement Award. With a 3.8 GPA, Jones was a member of the National Honor Society and named to the honor roll.

Jones also devoted much time to his passion — bowling. At Flint Northern, he was a captain of the bowling team for three years and had practice four times a week.

At Eastern, however, he's putting aside bowling for the books. Because of the high standards required of EMU's Honors Program, he's focusing on his studies as a freshman.

"I really don't see it is as necessary for me to like things here as it is to be able to do what I came here to do, which is to get an education," Jones said.

Unlike many college students, he prefers to do his homework in advance rather than stay up late and finish it at the last minute.

Jones got used to working hard in high school, especially when he was preparing for the Presidential Scholarship Test. To prepare for the current events portion of the test, he read magazines regularly for five months to keep track of what was happening in the world. He also worked to make his portfolio stand out from the crowd.

"You need to make sure that it (portfolio) shows how you are as a person," Jones said. "Make sure everything is in order and don't be afraid to talk about yourself."

Choosing dietetics as his major, Jones has kept up on his habit of reading. He said he reads every magazine related to his interest that he comes

across. He also received some hands-on experience as a Red Cross volunteer at Hurley Medical Center, working in the Nutrition Services Department and Diabetic Resource Center. Essentially, his duties included handling dieticians' requests and watching them communicate with clients.

"My goal is to be able to help people make better choices when it comes to food," Jones said, explaining his career choice.

And what about having fun during his college years?

"I am willing to sacrifice a few years just to make sure I am doing a great job later in life," he said.

Bethany Stawasz (Westland, Mich.)

After she read an article in the Detroit Free Press about the job of a community relations manager, Bethany Stawasz chose public relations as her major.

She loves writing and speaking, and hopes to apply her talents to working in public relations for museums in the future. This combination, she said, would connect her career with her passion — history. Stawasz takes a trip back in time every weekend, working in Greenfield Village's re-enactment of life, circa 1885.

"I like money too much," Stawasz said, explaining her career choice. "I like talking to people, getting to know them. I enjoy organizing things."



Stawasz

She had a diverse school life at Divine Child High School, participating in the chorus, drama and French clubs, editing and writing for the literary magazine, "Attic Salt," all the while earning a 4.102 GPA.

The recipient of numerous departmental, leadership and music awards, Stawasz is an accomplished musician. She has taken private harp lessons since she was six. The practice has paid off, as she has played for the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra, Detroit Metropolitan Harp Ensemble and the Livonia Youth Philharmonic of Michigan.

Playing the harp has helped her gain work experience in the form of "gigs" for numerous benefits, conventions, parties and weddings. She also has performed at the Festival of Trees and at Westhaven Retirement Home.

She now plays in the EMU Orchestra and enjoys sharing her expression of herself through music with other musicians.

"By involving myself in Eastern's music program, I feel I can open doors to a blossoming side career in music," Stawasz said.

Though the University of Michigan was a consideration, Stawasz is glad she chose Eastern, stressing she enjoys the University's "laid-back" atmosphere. For relaxation, she reads mostly 19th century literature; enjoys writing poetry to put down on paper her "stream of conscience;" learns about Russian language and history; and dreams about going to Poland.

When most people are sleeping, she wakes up at 4 a.m. to do her exercise, practice on her harp and catch up on her schoolwork.

"I am just addicted to life. I am an energetic person," Stawasz said. "I can't sleep. I have too many things to do."

Erika Meier (Ann Arbor, Mich.)

For Erika Meier, life is a journey of learning and expanding horizons. And she uses different means to learn and grow — from missionary trips to dancing.

Highly influenced by an intern from South Africa who was her mentor in church three years ago, Meier wants to make a difference in people's lives. After graduating from Eastern Michigan University, she plans to teach high school for two years and then complete missionary work in Africa. While there, she hopes to open an orphanage or a school, and travel all over the continent educating people.

To get closer to her goals, Meier takes part in productions of Fueled and Aflame, a contemporary Christian dance company based in Ypsilanti; plays the keyboard in her youth group and worship teams; and is a youth group leader in church. She also plans to take an intensive Spanish course in Mexico next summer.



Meier

Involved with youth group activities in the Metro Detroit Christian Church, Meier made missionary trips to Mozambique, Africa, and Juarez, Mexico, in 2001; and to Tibet, China, in 2002. During her travels, she spent time with children by taking them to the beach and providing them with toys and balloons. Her community outreach activity also included visiting different churches and talking about Jesus.

"I wanted to do this since I was eight," Meier said. "I really want to help other people. I love God too much and want other people to know how much he loves them."

Meier graduated with her associate's degree in elementary education from Washtenaw Technical Middle College, where she maintained a 3.97 GPA. A Michigan Merit Award recipient and National Merit Scholarship student, Meier was on the national dean's list for two years while at Washtenaw.

When she learned she won the Presidential Scholarship, she started crying and then ran screaming around the house, much to the surprise of her eight siblings.

Meier chose Eastern because it is close to home and "has a lot to offer." Majoring in Spanish and secondary education will help her achieve her goals, she said.

"I haven't had any bad professors yet," she said, commenting on her classes.

Featured Photo

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MONEY MACHINE: Dan Burns, senior secretary in the nursing department, grabs for dollars in the money machine provided by TCF Bank. The booth, complete with a blowing fan at the bottom, illustrated the saving philosophy and literally taught participants to grab their money. Money management was but one aspect of Eastern Michigan University's Employee Wellness Fair Feb. 15. The fair included 20 wellness stations, including locations to have your blood pressure checked and receive a free massage.

EMU by the numbers

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During 2003 and 2004, Eastern Michigan University spent \$975,000 for classroom improvements and provided another \$200,000 for classroom instrumentation upgrades. Classrooms at various buildings received as little as a fresh coat of paint to new whiteboards (photo, below) to brand new furniture. A few classrooms had major technological equipment installed. Some key numbers of this project are:

Total number of buildings impacted **14**

Total number of classrooms impacted **131**

Seating capacity impacted **6,900**

Building with most rooms impacted (Sill) **36**

Source: Physical Plant (from report presented at Jan. 18 Board of Regents meeting)



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News Briefs

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The following are news briefs about important activities and events at Eastern Michigan University.

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News Briefs

By Ron Podell

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- [Alumni Association Scholarship applications available](#)

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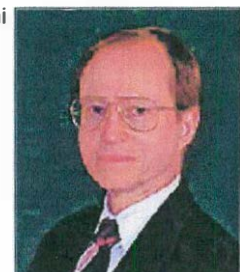
- **FOCUS EMU takes winter break:** FOCUS EMU will not be published Tuesday, March 1, due to the week of winter break, but will return to its regular electronic publishing schedule Tuesday, March 8. University Communications wishes the EMU community a safe and happy winter break.

- **Halle Library schedules winter recess hours:** Halle Library's winter recess hours are Friday, Feb. 25, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 26, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 27, noon-10 p.m.; and Monday, Feb. 28, through Saturday, March 5, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Regular hours, noon-midnight, resume Sunday, March 6. Call Mary Murphy, 487-0020, extension 2210.



Halle Library

- **The best and the brightest:** EMU's Office of Academic Affairs will host the annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts & Letters, March 4-5. The meeting, which will attract nearly 500 participants from Michigan, Ohio and Ontario, will feature peer-reviewed research and research-in-progress from all disciplines; undergraduate and graduate papers, and panel discussions. Sessions run 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., March 4; and 8:30 a.m.-noon, March 5. Richard Douglass, professor of health administration at EMU, will be the featured luncheon speaker. The event is open to faculty, staff and students. The cost is \$40 for academy members, \$75 for nonmembers, and \$40 for students and retired faculty. For more information, call Rita Bullard, 487-0020, extension 2141, or go to <http://people.emich.edu/jnlms/michacad/>
- **Preparing for the media:** If you're looking for ways to publicize your department's events or want to prepare for dealing with the media, the University Communications staff can help with its media relations seminar Monday, March 7, 9-11 a.m., 205 Welch Hall. The seminar, which is open to faculty and staff, will offer tips for dealing with reporters and identifying what makes an event newsworthy. Participants will learn to get their message across quickly and accurately, and can practice their skills during a videotaped mock interview with Clark Smith, WEMU's news director. Attendance is limited to six participants. Please R.S.V.P. to Shannon Hamel, 487-4400, by noon, Friday, March 4.
- **Save the date now:** Karl A. Smith, the Morse-Alumni Distinguished Professor at the University of Minnesota, and author of several books on cooperative learning, will collaboratively engage faculty and lecturers in the basic elements of cooperative learning (CL) through a combination of experiential exercises, discussions and lectures Friday, March 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 300 Halle Library. The workshop, entitled "Engaging Learners in Collaborative Learning for Large and Small Classrooms," will cover why cooperative grouping is important, relevant research in collaborative learning,



and teaching students cooperative skills. You must register to attend this event: aavp__fdc@emich.edu. **Smith**

- **Delta Dental has new e-service site:** Delta Dental's secure Web site, called Consumer Toolkit, gives EMU employees and their dependents easy access to information about their Delta Dental benefits 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The new address is www.consumertoolkit.com. Log on and review key elements of your benefits. If you are looking for a dentist who participates in the plan, go to www.deltadentalmi.com. Call Jeanette Hassan, 487-3195.
- **Alumni Association Scholarship applications available:** The Office for Alumni Relations is currently accepting applications for the Alumni Association Scholarship. The scholarship was established to encourage children and grandchildren of EMU graduates to continue the EMU legacy. The award granted per recipient is \$1,000 per academic year and may be renewed for four consecutive years for a maximum award of \$4,000 if the renewal criteria are met. For more information about the Alumni Association Scholarship or to obtain a nomination form, call the Office for Alumni Relations, 487-0250, or visit www.emich.edu/alumni/awards/scholar.html. The application deadline is March 4.

Why I work at Eastern Michigan University

FOCUS EMU
Online

Feb. 22, 2005 issue



“Those here in CTA, as well as others, are extremely dedicated and creative. When they come to me for assistance with their needs and ideas, it offers me the opportunity to be creative as well.”

**Steve Martin
Engineer
Communication and
Theatre Arts Department**

I came to EMU approximately 19 years ago at the request of Dr. Henry Aldridge whom I had known for several years. The department had recently lost their engineer and he asked me if I would come in and make a few repairs to get them through the semester. I came, I fixed, and I stayed.

Electronics was a hobby that turned into a career, and I enjoyed what I was doing at the time. It was the people here who made this job so attractive in the first place, and they're the reason I stay.

Those here in CTA, as well as others, are extremely dedicated and creative. When they come to me for assistance with their needs and ideas, it offers me the opportunity to be creative as well.

Sometimes, the need is as simple as a microphone or projection screen for a presentation. At other times, it can be as complex as setting up an entire production facility at a temporary location, such as the Undergraduate Symposium Webcast.

In any case — whether it's repairing a broken piece of equipment, providing assistance to edit a sound track or simply helping someone print a document — if I can remove a barrier or overcome a potential source of frustration, it's been a good day.