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FOCUS EMU *Online*

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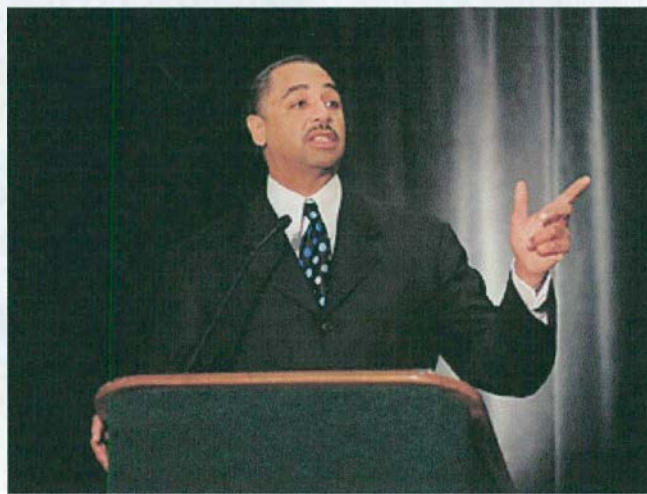
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MLK keynote Gordon draws parallels between King, Obama

Drawing parallels between Martin Luther King's dream of equality for all people with the historic inauguration of Barack Obama as the United States' first African-American president, Ed Gordon said both are men who sought change and believed in themselves, but could not achieve their goals without change in others.

"We stand at a unique moment. We are a country and nation that have a real chance for change," said Gordon, host of the nationally syndicated TV show, "Our World With Black Enterprise," and the keynote speaker at Eastern Michigan University's annual Martin Luther King Jr. President's Luncheon Jan. 19. "King saw that change could benefit us all. Obama, like King, knows it will take all of us.

"...Obama has said we are responsible for ourselves, but we rise and fall as one. Commit as King did and commit of yourself. Change for the better. Because change starts with you," Gordon said to enthusiastic applause from a lunch crowd of approximately 500 who gathered in the Student Center Grand Ballroom.



KING KEYNOTE: Ed Gordon makes a point about the opportunity for change that Martin Luther King Jr. and U.S. President Barack Obama represent for America. Gordon, an Emmy Award-winning television broadcaster, was the keynote speaker for Eastern Michigan University's MLK Day President's Luncheon Jan. 19.

Gordon admitted it was ironic that Obama takes office one day after the nation pauses in its annual remembrance of MLK. But, as America, as a whole, typically thinks of King only during January and February, Gordon cautioned those listening not to let either King or Obama end up just as images — as they are portrayed on posters and T-shirts at every neighborhood gas station.

"If we only see them as images of the dream, we have failed both of them," said the previous Emmy winner.

Shortly before the luncheon, Gordon spoke to a packed audience in the Student Center Auditorium. There, he gave a shorter variation of his lunch speech, providing more time for a question-and-answer session.

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Cover Story

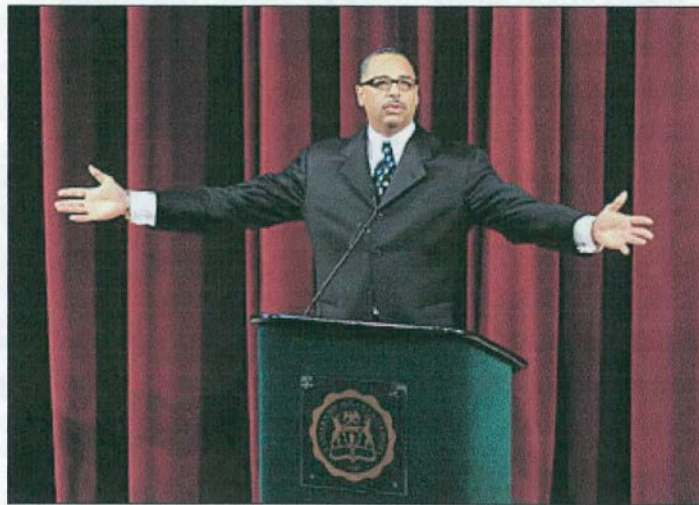


Jan. 20, 2009 issue
MLK keynote Gordon draws parallels between King, Obama

By Ron Podell

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Drawing parallels between Martin Luther King's dream of equality for all people with the historic inauguration of Barack Obama as the United States' first African-American president, Ed Gordon said both are men who sought change and believed in themselves, but could not achieve their goals without change in others.



FROM KING TO OBAMA: Ed Gordon, the keynote speaker for Eastern Michigan University's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, discusses the struggles King and President Barack Obama, the nation's first African-American president, faced in pursuing change. He spoke before a packed audience in the Student Center Auditorium.

"We stand at a unique moment. We are a country and nation that have a real chance for change," said Gordon, host of the nationally syndicated TV show, "Our World With Black Enterprise," and the keynote speaker at Eastern Michigan University's annual President's MLK Luncheon Jan 19. "King saw that change could benefit us all. Obama, like

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Shortly before the luncheon, Gordon spoke to a packed audience in the Student Center Auditorium. There, he gave a shorter variation of his lunch speech, providing more time for a question-and-answer session.

Topics touched upon included O.J. Simpson and race (Gordon was the first to interview Simpson after the murder "trial of the century" in 1995); concerns about African Americans shaping their values based on what they see from rap stars and professional athletes; making a difference in one's

community; and the early lack of support Obama had from African Americans in his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

On the last subject, Gordon said the question arose whether Obama was "black enough" for African-Americans. Gordon recalls how Obama, whom he knows, responded.

"He (Obama) said, 'I'm black today. I was black yesterday. I'll be black tomorrow,'" Gordon recalled, saying it was that attitude that made people of all colors eventually embrace him as a viable candidate, irregardless of race.

Gordon reminded the crowd that King, too, was not always popular, especially near the end of his life, when he began talking about reform for America's poor and opposing Vietnam. Gordon even semi-joked when he said that everyone will tell you they were in Washington, D.C., that day to hear King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Gordon said, the truth is, most were keeping quiet and wondering why King was stirring things up.

"As he (Obama) takes his oath of office, I hope we can take an oath ourselves," Gordon said to the auditorium audience. "With the changes he discusses, hopefully change will come about in all of us."

During the President's Luncheon, a number of awards were handed out — to young and old — who exemplify the values of Dr. King.



RISE UP: The EMU Gospel Choir electrified the President's MLK Luncheon audience with a rousing rendition of "I've Been Born Again." Eastern Michigan University's annual celebration also included discussion sessions, a campus march, an afterglow gathering and a Hip Hop Explosion talent event.

Larry Gates, director of EMU Dining Services; Deborah Harmon, an EMU associate professor of teacher education; and Derrick Jackson, chief deputy clerk for Washtenaw County and a volunteer coordinator with Barack Obama's presidential campaign, were awarded the MLK Jr. Honor Awards.

Gates, who has been involved over the years with a number of community service ventures, including Hope Clinic and his work at First Baptist Church in Ann Arbor, was honored.

"This has given me the opportunity to serve and be patient, humble and sensitive to the needs of others," Gates said. "If I can help someone in this world, then my living will not be in vain."

Harmon recalled attending desegregated schools during her formative years and not having teachers care about her education or her future. She said that environment changed when she came to EMU, first as a student and then as an educator. She pointed to the College of Education and the administration as being supportive of her developing a master's degree in urban education and diversity at EMU.

"Like Obama, I believe in hope, hope in the difficult and uncertain," she said. "I have a belief that there are better days ahead, that we can turn the audacity of hope into dreams."

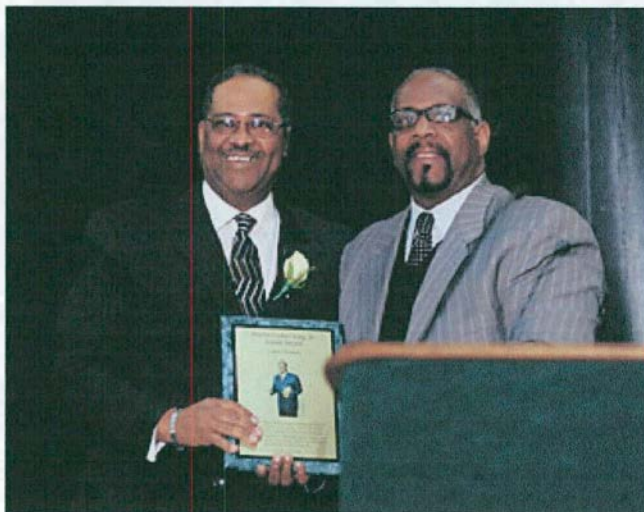
Jackson, who was in Washington, D.C., for the inauguration, gave his

award speech via You Tube.

"I can think of no better place to be than here. To remember MLK Jr. and to be here for the inauguration of Barack Obama," Jackson said, during his short speech that appeared on a projector screen. "The past and future is always a battle. Our job is to lay the foundation in the present."

Eastern Michigan University student Jari Billiot was the recipient of the MLK Student Humanitarian Award. The award recognizes individuals from within the University and the local community who exemplify the values and ideals of Dr. King. Andrew Stefan and Jasmine Lee placed second and third, respectively.

Allison Sheppard, an EMU senior, was presented the Evans-Strand Award, a \$1,000 prize that recognizes an individual for significant contributions in advancing the cause of diversity at EMU. The award is modeled after the Nobel Peace Prize. Sheppard was not present as she was giving a keynote speech elsewhere.



Jesse Campbell, a senior at Ypsilanti High School, was the recipient of the Lee and Nora Martin Award.

Amber Morle, a junior at Lincoln High School; Alyssa Baron, a sophomore at Willow Run High School; and Caleb Roberts, a fifth-grader at Erickson Elementary; were the grand-prize winners of the MLK Essay Writing Contest, which included six other finalists from area elementary, middle and high schools. Morle, Baron and Roberts will each receive a \$100 U.S. savings bond for their essay. Their

REFLECTING MLK: (above, from left) Larry Gates, director of EMU Dining Services, accepts his MLK Honor Award from University Ombudsman Greg Peoples. Deborah Harmon, an EMU associate professor of education, and Derrick Jackson, chief deputy clerk of Washtenaw County, also received MLK Honor Awards during the President's MLK Luncheon.

speeches were entitled, "Freedom" "Equality" and "Making the World a Better Place by Making a Difference," respectively.

"In the past, the contest was just for students in the Ypsilanti School District. This year, we opened it up to Willow Run and Lincoln high schools," said Charnessa Paige, director of EMU's Center for Multicultural Affairs.

Ypsilanti District winners included: Marcie Angeli and Patrick Good, first grade, Estabrook Elementary; Illana Hall-Vit, second grade, Erickson Elementary; Trinity Kelso, third grade, Erickson Elementary; and Chevaun Johnson, fourth grade, Erickson Elementary.

The EMU Gospel Choir concluded the luncheon with EMU freshman Aris Yancey leading the choir in a rousing rendition of an old spiritual, "I've Been Born Again."

The University's MLK Day celebration concluded with an Alpha Pi Alpha march (led by Vernon Polite, dean of the College of Education) which started at the Student Center bookstore, traversed campus to the MLK bust near Ford Hall and back to the Student Center for an afterglow event. Related events began Jan. 14.

Feature

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**EMU chemistry
 professor conducting
 cell protein study in
 Paris**

By Amy E. Whitesall

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The glowing green that forms on multiple research slides look a bit like something from outer space. But the gauzy fields and glowing dots are, in this case, features of inner space.

Hedeel Evans, who teaches biochemistry at Eastern Michigan University, studies a protein that goes by the acronym CAD (you'll see why in a minute) on an organelle inside the cells of mammals. CAD plays an important role in cell growth. Since rampant cell division is a characteristic of cancer cells, understanding that role could lead to the development of new cancer drugs and chemotherapy strategies.

Evans is in Paris on a six-month Fulbright fellowship, taking a closer-than-ever look at the behavior of CAD (carbamoyl phosphate synthetase-aspartate transcarbamoylase-dihydroorotase). She is one of just a handful of Fulbright fellows in all disciplines conducting research in France this year, an experience she hopes will open up more opportunities for EMU faculty to collaborate with the French bioscience community.

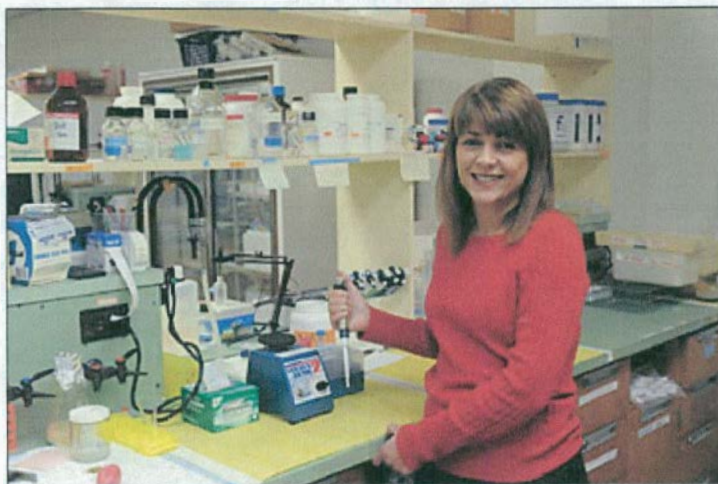
Evans had already discovered, unexpectedly, that CAD is located on an organelle, called the centrosome, that's important in cell division. She also discovered that, during the cell cycle, CAD is located in different parts of the cell at different times. But Evans didn't have the equipment or expertise to understand how or why, so she arranged to work with Institut Curie Head of Cell Biology Bruno Goud, an internationally recognized leader in the field.

"The Institut Curie is really amazing," Evans said via e-mail. "There are several floors with expertise in different areas and, within each floor, there are several laboratories. There is a great microscopy center, with a lot of microscopes, that allows for live cell imaging where you can see the proteins in real time."

At EMU, Evans fused CAD to a green, fluorescent protein found in jellyfish. The fusion made the protein glow bright green under a fluorescent microscope. Evans' lab also created several other fusion proteins — with fluorescent tags of different colors — that will enable Evans to see interactions of different proteins in the cell in real time.

Using the sophisticated time-lapse video microscopes in Goud's lab, Evans will be able to produce high-resolution, three-dimensional pictures of CAD in live cells. The equipment collects data so quickly that movies can be made showing the CAD moving from place to place in the cell.

Evans and her family arrived in Paris Jan. 3 and will stay through mid-July. Her



FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR: Hedeel Guy Evans, an Eastern Michigan University associate professor of chemistry is currently in Paris, France on a Fulbright fellowship. Evans is conducting research on "Live Cell Imaging: Protein Intracellular Dynamics in Proliferating Cells" at the Institut Curie. Evans will be there through July.

husband, David Evans, is studying the effect of pressure on proteins at the University of Paris.

"I would love to continue my collaborations with the institute and I am sure that Bruno is very happy with that, also," Evans said. "I would like, at some point, to figure out a way to send some of my EMU students to learn some of the fantastic live-cell imaging techniques."

Feature

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**EMU Board of Regents
 to meet seven times
 during 2009**

By Heather Hamilton

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The Board of Regents is scheduled to meet seven times in 2009. The dates are: Feb. 24, April 21, June 23, July 28, Sept. 22, Oct. 20 and Nov. 17.

The schedule for each meeting is as follows: Athletic Affairs Committee, 12:45-1:30 p.m., 205 Welch Hall; Faculty Affairs Committee, 12:45-1:30 p.m., 205 Welch Hall; Student Affairs Committee, 1:45-2:30 p.m., 201 Welch Hall; Educational Policies Committee, 1:45-2:30 p.m., 205 Welch Hall; Finance and Audit Committee, 2:30-4 p.m., 201 Welch Hall; and regular meeting and communications section, 4:15-5 p.m., 201 Welch.

The agenda and documents for the Feb. 24 meeting will be available online approximately two business days prior to the meeting. The Web site is www.emich.edu/regents/borschedule.html.

The Board of Regents office is located in Welch Hall, room 201-B. For more information, contact Jackie Kurtz at 487-2410 or e-mail emu.regents@emich.edu.



UNIVERSITY BUSINESS: The EMU Board of Regents discuss an agenda item at a recent meeting. The Board meets seven times during 2009.

Feature

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Jan. 20, 2009 issue
Eagle Radio flies on to the airwaves

By Amy E. Whitesall



Not so long ago, student radio at Eastern Michigan originated from a small dim, lonely room on the second floor of the Quirk Building.

To get to the WQBR radio studio, one entered from the hallway and went through a couple more doors, to a windowless room where, after fumbling around to find the light switch, you might notice the sound foam was peeling from the walls.



AIRWAVE EAGLES: Some of the Eagle Radio staff are (standing, from left) Kevin Pool, Spencer Ponte, Mike Nedwick and Kimani Jeffrey, and (seated) Nicole Mator. Eagle Radio, a student-run campus radio station, went on the air in November.

Broadcasting from the old studio, hosts say, felt like sitting in a closet, talking to yourself.

That changed this fall, when the station moved to its bright, spacious new studio in room G08 at Halle Library. And when Eagle Radio, the new streaming Internet version of WQBR, launched Nov. 6, 2008, the station stepped, both literally and figuratively, out of the dark.

Previously, WQBR was "broadcast" only on campus cable channel 10, accessible only to the 3,500 or so students living in university housing — just a fraction of the EMU community.

"People just didn't know about (WQBR)," said lecturer Megan Gore, who teaches the student radio class now and was a WQBR broadcaster herself as a student. "Maybe, as students, we weren't very good at marketing our shows. Also, maybe they didn't take it seriously. It's kind of strange to have to turn on the TV to listen to the radio."

Today, Eagle Radio streams live over the Internet. You can still turn on the TV to listen to the radio on campus channel 10, but you also can pick up the stream from any computer or Web-enabled mobile

device in the world at www.emich.edu/studentorgs/wqbr.

Of course, it's a new Internet station. According to adviser Randy Baier, the peak number of listeners so far has been 13. But, the station's potential reach is vast.

"I have friends in New York who can listen to my show," said Nicole Mator, the station's Friday afternoon host. "And it changes the show's content. I used to talk only about things that were going on at EMU. I like to talk about news; now that (dialogue) can be much broader."

The new studio is in the former computer store on the library's ground floor, a space about triple the size of the old one, with windows on three sides, in full view of the computer lab.

People can see there's clearly something going on inside.

Students in CTA special topics courses A179, 279, 379 or 479 broadcast from about 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. throughout the week, with a few gaps. The student DJs determine their own content from hip-hop, R&B, rock, alternative to sports talk, highlighted stupidity and a show that focuses on music and film.

This year, senior Spencer Ponte changed his format from a rock mix to techno, to fill what he saw as a void in electronic music.

"I felt like it's something you don't have around here, and I know a lot of people are interested in it," he said. "Which, I think, is part of the point of college radio —to provide things you don't get on terrestrial stations."

Gore said one of the biggest differences with the Internet station is the need to follow FCC regulations to the letter. Students keep detailed logs about what was played when, and have to pay much closer attention to song lyrics than they did when they thought nobody was listening.

Baier came to EMU in May 2000 from Washtenaw Community College, where he helped launch WCC's Internet station, Orchard Radio, in 1999. Eagle Radio, he hopes, will create a natural pathway for students from WCC and students whose high schools have Internet stations.

"Putting an Internet station up 10 years ago was a little more esoteric," Baier said. "Now, the software has changed so much that you can do it from your laptop at home. The Internet is the way to go. Now, with wireless, people have access through their mp3 players."

Baier started talking with WQBR adviser Matt Hanson about launching an Internet station back in 2000. But, the idea really started getting traction in spring 2007, when the library space opened up.

Mary Ann Watson, electronic media and film studies professor, took the idea to the communication, media and theater arts faculty, who agreed to make the class part of the communications curriculum. As a student organization, the station was able to get some money from the University to cover licensing. Technician Steve Martin set up the stream and a static IP address and, after a couple days' troubleshooting, the station was up and running.

"You can see the energy in (the students') attitudes," Baier said. "When we moved over here, we had people coming out of the woodwork. Everyone wanted to know when it was going to be (live on the) Internet."

Feature

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**Former executive
secretary for vice
president of business
and finance dies**

By Heather Hamilton

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Mary Conley, an executive secretary to the vice president of business and finance at EMU from 1955-1985, died Jan. 7. She was 87.

Conley graduated from Cleary College in 1940 and began working at Eastern Michigan University in 1955. After 30 years at EMU, she retired as an executive secretary to the vice president of business and finance.

For many years, Conley was an active member of the Women of the Moose, Ypsilanti Chapter #226, and the American Legion Auxiliary #282. She had been a member of Transfiguration Catholic Church since 1962.

After retirement, Conley and her husband spent many winters in New Port Richey, Fla., and enjoyed their summers in Houghton Lake, Mich.

Survivors include her husband, Don; a son, Gary, of New Boston, Mich.; a daughter, Kathryn, of Ypsilanti; five grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

A memorial mass took place Jan. 13 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Ypsilanti. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the charity of one's choice.

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SNOW SCULPTURE: "Diana," the sculpture located between Starkweather and Ford halls, appears even more undressed for the occasion, considering temperatures on campus have been well below zero with the wind chill factor. Snow gives the appearance that "Diana" is wearing a white cap and matching shoes.

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READYING THE RINK: Tim Fegel, an Eastern Michigan University junior from Rockford, Mich., clears snow from the frozen pond near The Lake House. Fegel was on skates to make the job easier as he readied the surface to be used as a skating rink. Since frigid temperatures set in, the pond has been ideal for ice skating. Posted hours are Monday through Friday, 2-10 p.m.; and 1-5 p.m. on weekends.

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CELL BLOCK TANGO: Eastern Michigan University dance majors perform "Cell Block Tango" from "Chicago" during the 57th Annual Faculty and Guest Artist Choreography Concert that took place Jan. 16-18 in Quirk Theatre. In addition to musical theater, the concert featured performances in ballet, modern, jazz and contact improvisation.

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ARMED AND READY: The Ann Arbor Police Department used Jones Hall for SWAT team training Jan. 13. Here, members of the special tactics unit conduct a drill where they simulate a search, room by room, for a hidden gunman in the building.

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BORN TO WIN: David Webster, an Eastern Michigan University graduate student, observes the piece, "Second Place is the First Loser," part of the "Born to Win" exhibit at Ford Gallery. The exhibition, by David Borawski, incorporates sculpture, painting and video in a stimulating gallery installation. The exhibition runs through Feb. 20.

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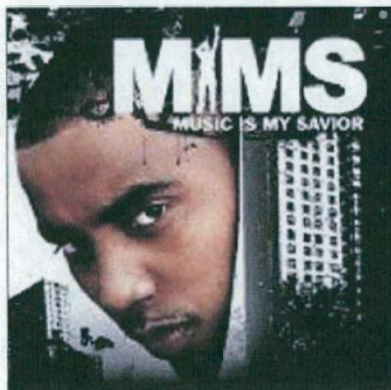
The following are news briefs about important activities and events happening at Eastern Michigan University.

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News Briefs

By Ron Podell

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INAUGURAL RAP: As part of presidential inauguration activities on campus, Rap artist Mims will perform in the Student Center Grand Ballroom Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Presidential inauguration activities on campus: Rap artist Mims will perform two songs and talk about his role in the Barack Obama campaign as part of inauguration activities on campus Tuesday, Jan. 20. Mims will speak and perform from 12:40-12:55 p.m., in the Student Center Grand Ballroom. The inauguration will be shown live on CNN in the Student Center Grand Ballroom, beginning at 11 a.m. Doors open at 10:45 a.m. The Black Student Union also will host a televised viewing of the inauguration at 11:30 a.m., main lounge, Buell Hall. Obama will be sworn in at noon. At the Student Center event, Maggie Lippens, an EMU political science professor, will provide an introduction at approximately 12:10 p.m., followed by an analysis of Obama's speech and a question-and-answer session with EMU students. Continued viewing of the inauguration parade and news commentary will take place from 1-4 p.m. An EMU Neighborhood Ball is scheduled 8-10 p.m., Student Center Grand Ballroom. For more information, contact Melissa Ginotti at Campus

Life, 487-3045, or e-mail her at mginotti@emich.edu.

- **Winter Study Abroad Fair:** The Winter Study Abroad Fair is scheduled Tuesday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., room 310, Student Center. Faculty and students are invited to learn about spring and summer programs. Students will have the opportunity to meet with program directors, participants, financial aid representatives and attend a passport clinic presented by the U.S. Postal Service and Academic Programs Abroad. Pick up your application, get your photos taken onsite, and have a representative of the Postal Service answer questions and expedite processing. For more information and for a list of documents to bring, visit www.emich.edu/abroad or call 487-2424.
- **Controlling stress:** Human Resources Training & Professional Development is sponsoring an Employee Wellness Program, "A Better Way to Live: Controlling Stress with Meditation-Part 2, Advanced Course." Step out of your busy schedule to rest and relieve stress in a course taught by Martha Kimball. Classes are free and will take place Tuesdays: Jan. 20, and 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m., room 310B, Student Center. Faculty and staff employees who have previously taken a meditation course or have practiced meditation can attend. Enrollment space is limited, so register early. To register, e-mail [hr_tpd\(hrunderscoretpd@emich.edu](mailto:hr_tpd(hrunderscoretpd@emich.edu). Include your name, department, class grade level, e-mail address and phone number. For more information, contact Pat Harris, 487-3430, or e-mail pharris@emich.edu.
- **The Killers coming to Convo Center:** The Killers, a famous rock band, will be coming to EMU's Convocation Center for a concert Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at www.livenation.com, TicketMaster and the Convocation Center ticket office. For more information or tickets, call 487-2282.
- **Graduate Open House:**

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The Graduate Open House takes place Saturday, Jan. 31, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Halle Library. This is an

opportunity to learn about EMU graduate programs, apply on-site at no cost, talk to academic advisers and tour the campus. Informational sessions on admissions process, programs of study, financial aid, graduate assistantships and doctoral fellowships will be offered. For more information, call 487-3060 or 1-800-468-6368; or visit www.emich.edu/gradopenhouse

- **DUETSs Scholarship available:** The Honors College, in association with the Creative Scientific Inquiry Experience (CSIE) and the Office of Urban Education and Educational Equity (OUEEE), has obtained \$750,000 from the Robert Noyce Teacher Education program of NSF's Division of Undergraduate Education to establish the DUETSs Program (Developing Urban Education Teachers in STEM subjects). The DUETSs Program will award 45 scholarships over the next five years for secondary science, math and technology teaching majors. Application forms and eligibility details of the program may be obtained at the Office of Urban Education and Educational Equity (104 Porter Building), the CSIE office (218 Rackham Building), or online at: <http://www.emich.edu/honors/duets/index.html> The application deadline for the current solicitation is Feb. 2.
- **SESI Conference set for Feb. 13:** The Center for Entrepreneurship at the College of Business presents the Sesi Midwest Entrepreneurship Conference Friday, Feb. 13, at the Student Center. The Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization of EMU is hosting the event. Students and faculty are invited to listen to speakers focusing on the "Journey to Success" from local entrepreneurs. The Business Plan Competition will take place at the conclusion of the conference, which includes a sit-down lunch. The event is free, but online registration is required at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/52938>. Visit the conference homepage or contact Paul Nucci at the Center for more details at (734) 487-0902 or pnucci@emich.edu.
- **Academic adviser training:** The Academic Advising Center, in room 301, Pierce Hall, is offering a six-week Faculty & Staff Academic Adviser Training Program this winter semester. This is an intensive program emphasizing the details of the EMU catalog, general education, graduation requirements and needs of special student populations. The class will meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to noon, now through Feb. 19. To RSVP, please contact Molly Weir, 487-2171, or e-mail molly.weir@emich.edu.
- **Ice skating at University Park:** Ice skating at University Park is happening now. Take advantage of the great ice conditions and come out to the park for some winter fun. Skate rentals are available inside The Lake House. Posted hours are Monday through Friday, 2-10 p.m.; and weekends, 1-5 p.m. University ID is required. For ice conditions, call ahead and ask for Martha Costa, 487-1338.
- **Office of Nutrition Services:** Looking for reliable nutrition information? Stop by the Office of Nutrition Services, room 108, Roosevelt Hall. This is a student-run office supervised by a registered dietitian. Services include individual nutrition counseling, diet analysis and body fat testing. Prices are very affordable and packages are available. The office is open to all students, faculty, staff and the general public. The office hours are: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. To schedule an appointment, stop by the office or call 487-6572. For more information, e-mail chhs_nutrition@emich.edu
- **Summer housing position:** The EMU Upward Bound program is seeking applicants for peer adviser positions for the 2009 Summer Academy. The program seeks responsible, reliable, energetic and creative individuals to provide programming support and supervision for high school students. The positions offer salary, room and board, and the opportunity to chaperone exciting field trips. Applications are available in the Upward Bound office, room 221, Rackham Hall, and must be turned in by March 1. For more information, contact Corey Baskin at cbaskin@emich.edu

Why I teach at Eastern Michigan University

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"I also use my experiences to help my students look globally at the state of healthcare across multiple countries."

Martha Tanicala
Associate Professor
School of Nursing

For me, it's all about teaching. I spent 15 years as a pediatric nurse, and I appreciate the value of research and scholarly activity. But when St. Vincent School of Nursing in Toledo closed in 1999 and I found myself out of a job, I knew that I wanted to be at a university that was primarily student-focused. I felt I could make the biggest difference in the classroom. That made EMU a great fit.

I really like this type of student population. I think they're the grassroots of the college experience. They don't have as many opportunities as perhaps some people at your Ivy League or private schools, but I believe they're much more focused on community. They understand what their communities have given them, and they return to their communities. They're much more service-oriented, and local community service has always been a value of mine.

In 2001, I took an unpaid professional leave and joined the Peace Corps, working with a midwife in a small village in Turkmenistan (a Turkic country in central Asia), teaching families about caring for their children. After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, I was evacuated — we were just 150 kilometers from that country's border with Afghanistan — and I spent the rest of the year teaching pediatric nursing and health assessment in Uganda with Health Volunteers Overseas. I returned to Uganda in 2007.

I always tell people I work to support my volunteer habit, but my students also benefit from my experiences when I return. I teach pediatric nursing, nursing fundamentals and professional development courses. I'm able to bring back some clinical experience with various diseases and health problems that we don't get to see here.

I also use my experiences to help my students look globally at the state of healthcare across multiple countries. I think we, as a society, don't really do a good job of looking beyond our own small communities, looking outside ourselves and maybe putting ourselves in a situation that's a little uncomfortable. I try to reinforce, for my students, the importance of family- and community-centered care, because no one operates in isolation. As healthcare providers, I think it's important we learn to see people in the context of their own world. — *Contributed by Amy E. Whitesall*