



“People spend too much time finding other people to blame, too much energy finding excuses for not being what they are capable of being, and not enough energy putting themselves on the line, growing out of the past, and getting on with their lives.”

– J. Michael Straczynski

GO FLY A KITE



Eastern students took advantage of the windy weather Friday afternoon to show off their kite-flying skills outside of Johnston Hall. As spring nears in Oklahoma, students should be prepared for extreme weather conditions on campus. See page 6 for more on what to do if severe weather occurs. *Statesman photo by Jamie Fink*

NJCAA punishes Eastern

SPORTS Eastern Lady Mountaineers forced to forfeit regular season conference title

BY JAMIE FINCH

STAFF WRITER

The National Junior College Athletic Association on Feb. 22 ordered Eastern Oklahoma State College Lady Mountaineers basketball team to forfeit 18 wins and a 2013 conference championship.

The NJCAA requires that all institutions have to present an eligibility report for all student athletes by the 15th calendar day from the opening of the second full-time semester.

Eastern was unable to present the eligibility report by the January 28 deadline.

SEE FORFEIT PAGE 8

Brelsford receives state honor for excellence

BY TAYLER RICHEY

STAFF WRITER

Eastern Oklahoma State College instructor Ruth Brelsford will be presented the Oklahoma Medal for Excellence in Teaching. She will be the state's recipient at the Regional University/Community College level. This award through the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence has only been presented to a Community College instructor once before.

Brelsford was nominated for this award by Dr. Karen Harrison, VP of Academic Affairs. She will be honored alongside the win-

ning instructors at the elementary, high school, and research university level.

The ceremony will take place May 18, at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City, and will be televised on OETA. At the ceremony, each of the winners will receive a \$5,000 cash prize and a glass "Roots and Wings" sculpture, designed by the late Oklahoma Artist Ron Roberts, and produced by Jim Triffo of Oklahoma City.

Born in Poteau and raised for the first part of her life in Red Oak, Mrs. Brelsford never forgot

her roots. At a young age, Ruth's parents moved the family to Bartlesville, and it was there she graduated high school. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater Performance from the University of Tulsa, and continued to earn a master's degree in Theater and Speech from Oklahoma State University.

In her 27-year career, Mrs. Brelsford has taught theater at many schools on many levels, such as Jenks High School, Holland Hall (a private college preparatory school), and Gilcrease

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EDITORIAL

Lady Mountaineers suffer loss at hands of own administration

A college campus should be a place where students and faculty debate, converse and educate. Students should be able to question the status quo and confront social protocols. College is a beautiful place where a person can witness the ignorant larvae blossom into a confident, intelligent butterfly. In the eyes of educators and society in general, a college campus is seen as a sanctuary for learning. The question that we would like to ask is what happens if that institution of higher education fails the students it is preparing for the "real world"?

If you are the Lady Mountaineers basketball team, you are forced to give up a conference championship.

Eastern released a press release March 5 that explicated that the school failed to file a piece of paper to the National Junior College Athletic Association by a scheduled deadline. Due to this, an audit was performed and the Lady Mountaineers were forced to forfeit 18 conference wins Feb. 22.

The school appealed and lost.

The knowledge of the forfeit has prompted several questions

from people around the campus.

"How did this happen?"

It is not unbelievable that a piece of paper is lost or forgotten, especially after the busy semester that the registrar's office experienced this spring semester. As The Statesman reported in February, the registrar's office was short handed due to the unforeseen departure of veteran's liaison Terie Overbey during Christmas break. Overbey's departure left the office shorthanded for spring enrollment. It is not hard to imagine something being forgotten, however, it is inexcusable.

"Who is to blame?"

Although it would be easy to point a finger at the registrar's office, the blame for this debacle has to sit solely on the shoulders of the administration. Eastern hands out scholarships for athletes to come here to play basketball. Second-year Coach Amber Taylor had turned a losing record her first year into a conference championship; and this year the demoralizing news came a week before the regional tournament. Understanding that mistakes happen, there should have been a system in place to ensure

that the basketball team was eligible to play. What if the NJCAA found academic violations that would have cost the basketball program in the future? It's easy to say now that they would have been caught, but would they have?

"We are well aware now of all of the paperwork that is required for transfer students and I will make sure that the necessary forms are on file before a student will be allowed to compete," said Dean of Students and Athletic Director Greg Warren in a recent interview with The Statesman. "We have also taken steps to ensure that eligibility forms are submitted well before the deadline in the future."

If turning the paperwork in early is an option, why wasn't this status quo? Why does it take the loss of a conference championship to understand what paperwork is necessary for a team to be eligible?

A school's administration sole responsibility is to help students achieve a better future, not hinder it.

Finally, why did it take the school 11 days to release the NJCAA's ruling?

Surely the administration

wasn't trying to sweep this under the rug and hope nobody noticed. In the press release itself, the only acknowledgement of the on-court accomplishments that the Lady Mountaineers achieved are from their coach. Where, on the day that the administration found out about the NJCAA ruling, was the public apology to the players and coaching staff? Where is that public apology at today? The only acknowledgement at all is that all of the players had met GPA requirements. Once again, the team did their part, but when will the administration do its part?

"What happens now?"

Eastern administration needs to make a decision on whether or not the school is going to support collegiate sports. If they are, the first step, which is overdue, is to publicly apologize to the players, coaches, student body and alumni. The second step is to hire an athletic director that isn't also the dean of students. The third step is to renew Coach Taylor and assist her in any way possible to bring more outstanding athletes to a program, which, thanks to the administration's error, has had two losing seasons.

Higher Education Chancellor appointed to board of directors

Oklahoma State System of Higher Education Chancellor Glen D. Johnson was recently appointed to serve on the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) board of directors.

Johnson replaces Dr. John Cavanaugh, who is no longer with the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

"This is an honor for me to be

appointed to the AASCU board of directors," said Johnson. "I look forward to working with a group of talented individuals on national issues important to higher education to ensure our higher education institutions have the resources and support they need to produce graduates who are prepared to succeed in today's economy."

Johnson previously served on

AASCU's nominating committee, where he was chairman in 2012. He also served on the State Higher Education Executive Officers executive committee. He is currently serving on AASCU's Financial Review Task Force and the public perception committee. Johnson has served on the Southern Regional Education Board since 2010 and was elected as vice chair in 2012.

AASCU is a Washington-based higher education association of more than 400 public colleges, universities and systems whose members share a learning- and teaching-centered culture, a historic commitment to underserved student populations and a dedication to research and creativity that advances their regions' economic progress and cultural development.

Want to voice your opinion? Send a "Letter to the Editor" to statesman@eosc.edu.

www.statesman.eosc.edu

Science staple Albright to retire after 40 years

CAMPUS NEWS Biology instructor's hopes to pass on his knowledge and respect for the environment

JAYSON KNIGHT

STAFF WRITER

At the age of 65 years, teacher Bill Albright will retire from Eastern Oklahoma State College's Biology and Botany Department. An Eastern professor for 40 years, Albright graduated with a master's degree from Oklahoma State, runs a successful cattle business, and had more to offer than just how to improve your diet.

With the science scene constantly evolving, Albright appreciates the reading material he's collected over the years and is nestled securely in the scientific community. His son is a physical therapist. His daughter-in-law is a cytotechnologist.

"My local doctor can be

helpful, and some of my former students are doctors as well," Albright said.

Albright's goal as an Eastern professor was not just to pass on the knowledge that he had of the environment, but also the respect he had for it.

"I've enjoyed telling students about how to grow plants and how they function," Albright said. "I like to help students learn about all forms of life. I find it interesting.

"I've always had a joy from explaining things to students and showing them what things are. I think if you are going to live on earth, obviously, you should want to learn as much as you can and hopefully protect it. That's

"...I think if you are going to live on Earth, obviously, you should want to learn as much as you can and hopefully protect it. That's my goal and objective."

BILL ALBRIGHT

PROFESSOR OF SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR

my goal and objective."

Looking through year-books of past Eastern classes, Albright frequents the pages. Involved usually in more than one extracurricular activity at a time, Albright spoke on a few and the advantages one could gain from being involved.

Albright suggested eating less fatty meats and more

whole wheat bread. He also suggested trying to get as many of one's vitamins as possible from their diet rather than depending on multivitamins.

He also advised smokers to find new hobbies and mentioned he had incentives when he gave up cigarettes 18 months ago.

"There's a likelihood that you'll live longer to see your children and grandchildren, and that was a big factor in my quitting smoking.

"My idea is to get you to look outside and see how things interact with each other. I'll always try to learn, just for my own personal benefit.

"I always think about forestry club. A long time ago we had hatchet-throwing, knife-throwing and tree-climbing, things of this nature; it was physical.



"I feel keeping your heart and body healthy is very important. If those aren't healthy, then your brain probably isn't going to be very healthy, and you won't want to get out and see things. That's why I always involved myself with the agricultural clubs, the science areas, the 4H/FFA contests, and the forestry clubs."

IMPORTANT DATES IN HISTORY: MARCH

March is a month filled with discoveries

COMPILED BY TAYLER RICHEY

STAFF WRITER

March 31, 1596: Mathematician, philosopher, and writer Rene Descartes was born in Touraine, France. One of his more prominent innovations was the Cartesian coordinate system, so named because his name is Latinized as Renatus Cartesius.

March 21, 1685: German composer, organist, violist, and violinist Johann Sebastian Bach is born. He is remembered as a major contributor to the Baroque period of music.

March 4, 1789-1791: The 1st United States Congress met during the first two years of George Washington's presiden-

cy, first at Federal Hall in New York City, and later at Congress Hall in Philadelphia.

March 14, 1793: Eli Whitney is granted a patent for the cotton gin.

March 1, 1803: Ohio is granted statehood, becoming the first to be admitted under the Northwest Ordinance.

March 2, 1836: The then-Republic of Texas declares its independence from Mexico, but was not admitted into the Union until December 29, 1845.

March 3, 1847: The inventor credited with creating the first telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

March 19, 1918: The Standard Time Act was the first law implementing Daylight Savings Time; it also authorized the Interstate Commerce Commission to establish time zones.

March 26, 1930: The first female appointed to the United States Supreme Court, Sandra Day O'Connor was born in El Paso, Texas.

March 12, 1947: Harry Truman enacted the Truman Doctrine pledging to support Turkey and Greece from falling into the Soviet sphere. Historians consider this the beginning of the Cold War.



Eastern professor Ruth Askew-Brelsford received the 2012 Oklahoma Recycling Educator Award by the Metropolitan Environmental Trust. Statesman file photo

BRELSFORD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Middle School. She was also an adjunct theater professor at Oklahoma State University.

Today, Brelsford serves as professor, department chair in speech and theater, and Honors Program coordinator at

Eastern Oklahoma State College.

"Professor Brelsford instills an appreciation for education that reaches far beyond academia," said student Colby Carpenter. "She teaches her students the practical application of an educated mind. For that, I will always be grateful to her."

New site helps students successfully manage education loans

For many Oklahomans, a student loan is their first experience managing consumer credit. While our state has the eighth lowest average student debt in the nation, keeping borrowers informed of their options and teaching them how to effectively manage their student loans remains a top priority for the Oklahoma College Assistance Program (OCAP).

In an effort to further empower students to make smart borrowing decisions and successfully navigate student loan repayment, OCAP, an operat-

ing division of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, recently launched an expanded default prevention initiative, Ready Set Repay. The centerpiece of this initiative is OCAP's new student loan management website, ReadySetRepay.org.

"Student loan management information and tools have always been available on the OCAP website," said Chancellor Glen D. Johnson. "The launch of a site dedicated solely to informing the public about managing student debt allows

OCAP to more prominently highlight its many services to support both borrowers and the campus financial aid officers who serve them."

The new website's structure allows borrowers to access helpful information and tools based on where they are in the student loan process. Whether they're in school, in their grace period, repaying their loans, behind on payments or in loan default, these easy-to-navigate channels drive users to the content they need.

Campus financial aid per-

sonnel also benefit from a dedicated section of the site, which offers OCAP's wide selection of publications, instructional materials and operational resources to enhance their default prevention efforts.

"Colleges and universities in our state remain some of the most affordable in the nation, and our student debt levels are well below the national average. We'll continue to work with borrowers and institutions to make sure students understand their loan obligations and know how to find the

help they need to manage the repayment process," said Johnson.

For more information about managing student debt, visit ReadySetRepay.org.

The Oklahoma College Assistance Program (OCAP), an operating division of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, provides college access, aid awareness, financial literacy and student loan management programs and services that benefit students, parents, schools and community partners.

Eastern raises scholarship money during annual Sapphire Ball

An elegant evening of dinner and dancing resulted in approximately \$9,000 for student scholarships at Eastern Oklahoma State College's fourth annual Sapphire Ball on March 2. The college also honored outstanding employees, alumni and community supporters at the event.

"Diamonds Are Forever" was the theme for the event which included dinner, the awards presentation, entertainment by students and local community members, a silent and live auction, and dancing.

The Sapphire Ball is Eastern's largest annual scholarship fundraising event and this year's event was the most successful yet with a capacity crowd of 200 guests. Proceeds from the event fund Eastern's Sapphire Scholarship for deserving students.

"We are grateful for the generous support of so many people, including Eastern alumni and employees, as well as local business and community members," said Treva Kennedy, director of Institutional Advancement. "Thanks to their support of the Sapphire Scholarship Fund, more deserving students will have the opportunity to attend Eastern and earn a degree."

Four individuals and one organization were honored by Eastern President Dr. Stephen Smith at the event. Smith said



Eastern President Dr. Stephen Smith (far left) gathers with honorees at the 2013 Sapphire Ball. Honorees include (from left to right) Dr. Billye Givens, President's Excellence in Teaching Award; The Puterbaugh Foundation Trustees Lucy Smith, Cara Bland and Justice Steven Taylor, Community Spirit Award; Gaylon Brannon, J.C. Hunt Award; Linus Williams and Rhonda Fields, Distinguished Alumnus Awards. The event raised approximately \$9,000 for student scholarships.

that each honoree has been instrumental to the success of the college.

"The Sapphire Ball has become an extremely special event for Eastern," Smith said. "This event allows us to honor some very special individuals that include our employees, community supporters, and alumni. We appreciate them all very much for how they support and represent our institution."

The Puterbaugh Foundation of McAlester received the

President's Community Spirit Award. The Foundation is a long-time supporter of student scholarships for Eastern's nursing program. Created by McAlester Fuel Co. founder J.G. Puterbaugh (1876-1965), the Foundation supports a variety of social and education needs, youth projects, medical research, the arts and other worthwhile causes. Justice Steven Taylor, Cara Bland and Lucy Smith serve as trustees.

Rhonda Fields of Sulphur

(Class of 1978) was named a Distinguished Alumnus. Fields is considered a pioneer in women's athletics in Oklahoma. A native of Panama, she played basketball at Eastern and Oklahoma State University. She was the first full-scholarship female athlete in OSU history thanks to the landmark Title IX legislation. She was also a successful educator and girls' basketball coach in Stillwater and Jenks.

Also named a Distinguished Alumnus was Linus Williams of

Stigler (Class of 1962). Williams played both football and basketball at Eastern. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma and serving in the Air National Guard, Williams began a successful advertising career with Young and Rubican Advertising in New York. In 1980, he returned to his hometown of Stigler to take over the Stigler News-Sentinel from his parents upon their retirement.

Dr. Billye Givens of Wilburton received the President's Excellence in Teaching Award. Givens is a graduate of Eastern and has spent her entire professional career at the college. She began teaching physical education and English at Eastern in 1973 and now serves as the Dean of the Division of Language, Humanities and Education. Givens is active with the local Partners for Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), the First Presbyterian Church, the First Methodist Church and other organizations.

An Eastern employee for 34 years, Gaylon Brannon of Bugtussel received the J.C. Hunt Award for staff excellence. Brannon manages the college's meat processing and food safety lab. He has also served as an instructor during his time at Eastern and was voted the 2012 Teacher of the Year by students. Brannon is also a graduate of Eastern.

Fisher caps off Black History Month

JAYSON KNIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Bruce T. Fisher is a writer, speaker and an Administrative Program Officer for the Oklahoma Historical Society. He is the son of the late Ada Fisher, the first African-American to be admitted to the University of Oklahoma's law school. Fisher's credentials, experience and understanding were on display at the Black History Month recognition in Johnnie Wray Theater, located in Pratt Hall, at Eastern Oklahoma State College.

Eastern's Rebecca Stewart opened for Fisher with a speech that showed admiration for the keynote speaker's mother that was informative as well.

"She went through tremendous trials to become an attorney," Stewart said. "She was separated from the rest of the class. They put a seat at the back of the class with a sign by the desk that said 'Coloreds only.' Our ancestors have a story, but it's not being recognized."

Fisher's willingness to share his story and the story of others gave the audience their opportunity to recognize the severity of some of the plights African-Americans endured both during and after slavery.

Fisher's speech was centralized around what he believes to be the three most important elements in African-American culture: Slavery, the Civil War and "the modern civil rights movement," Fisher said.

Dr. John Hope Franklin is the man that proposed that idea to Fisher. In his speech, Fisher gave some relation to how recently slavery occurred.

"My grandfather, my mother's daddy, was born just a few years after the abolishment of slavery. Black people were held as slaves longer than we have been free."

Fisher outlined the "inhumanity" of slavery, the business of slavery and the extent of pun-

ishments for slaves. Fisher then played narrators reading the testimony of freed slaves.

Cabin Creek was the location of the very first time white soldiers and black soldiers fought together. They protected a wagon train together, "And that was in Oklahoma," said Fisher. He went into detail on many subjects within the topic of the Civil War, including battles, land runs and treaties.

Fisher alluded to the works and efforts of Carter G. Woodson often in his speech, mentioning the level of dedication that it took for an illiterate man to become a gifted intellectual.

"His family understood the value of education, but he didn't have time to go to school; he didn't go to school like kids do today.

"He became the second African-American to graduate from Harvard University with a Ph.D in history. He wanted to change the complete lack of history for his people... and created the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915."

Woodson was the first to propose the idea to recognize the culture that was going unnoticed thanks to the depravity of antiquated public policy. His idea for celebrating "Negro History Week" began by communicating with the African-American teachers' union from Oklahoma and some surrounding states.

He was able to encourage those teachers to incorporate the curriculum into the schools where African-Americans were able to begin learning that they did, in fact, have a culture.

Gerald Ford signed the proclamation that created the first Black History Month.

"It's all about setting aside a time to talk about the contributions of African-Americans to the growth and development of this nation. Most of the con-



Bruce T. Fisher, Administrative Program Officer for the Oklahoma Historical Society, spoke to a group of students, staff and faculty Feb. 27 in observance of Black History Month. *Statesman staff photo by Wes Carter*

tributions have not been incorporated into the mainstream of American History. Most of it has not been incorporated into the mainstream of Oklahoma history. So, there is a need to celebrate these accomplishments. The same thing is true for Native American history and Hispanic history. There is a need to make sure all of our histories are being told. Some folks say 'They gave us the shortest month of all, February,'" Fisher said with a laugh, "but that's not the way it happened."

Woodson was responsible

for selecting February because of the birthdays of two people he admired. Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas were those two men.

The speaker, with tears in his eyes, allowed others to meet and greet him after the recollections he shared. He stayed to answer questions about his mother, about his relationships with others involved with civil rights and took photos with a number of students. Fisher is also the author of *A Matter of Black and White*, the autobiography about his mother.



BOOK CLUB

Eastern's Book Club will meet from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. March 12 at the Library Main Floor to discuss the books of local author Rilla Askew.

Askew received a 2009 Arts and Letters Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Her essays and short fiction have appeared in a variety of journals, and her story "The Killing Blanket" was selected for Prize Stories 1993: The O. Henry Awards. Askew's first novel, *THE MERCY SEAT*, was nominated for the PEN/Faulkner Award, the Dublin IMPAC Prize, was a Boston Globe Notable Book, and received the Oklahoma Book Award and the Western Heritage Award in 1998. *FIRE IN BEULAH*, her novel about the Tulsa Race Riot, received the American Book Award and the Myers Book Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights.

She was a 2004 fellow at Civiella Ranieri in Umbertide, Italy, and in 2008 her novel *HARPSONG* received the Oklahoma Book Award, the Western Heritage Award, the WILLA Award from Women Writing the West, and the Violet Crown Award from the Writers League of Texas.

Askew received the 2011 Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book. Her new novel *KIND OF KIN* will be published by Ecco Press in January 2013 and in the UK by Atlantic Books in August.

Be prepared — Spring brings tornado season to Oklahoma

JAMIE FINK

STAFF WRITER

"In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours."

This famous quote from Mark Twain perfectly describes Oklahoma weather. All those different types of weather have their own specific dangers. One type of weather that Oklahoma is known for is our Thunderstorms, and with many Thunderstorms comes Tornadoes.

March marks the official beginning of Tornado Season. The primary area of the United States in which significant tornadoes occur most often is in

an L-shaped region, known as "Tornado Alley", from Iowa to Colorado to Texas, with the highest threat in Oklahoma according to nationalatlas.gov.

Eastern students have lots on their minds as many have midterms coming up and nicer weather that goes along with spring. Consequently, many of us don't really worry or hardly even think about precautions for severe weather. But the first step in surviving a tornado is to know when one is looming.

If you are on campus you should always be prepared. Listen for civilian sirens, the City of Wilburton has a siren that

sounds when threatening conditions are present. If you hear these sirens get to a shelter immediately. Listen to local radio stations, the McAlester radio stations FM 101.3 and 105.1 and AM 1170 usually will be broadcasting any threatening conditions for this area. Notice of impending weather conditions will be given by Campus Police. Always follow all instructions from faculty, staff, and Emergency Operations Managers. While on campus you should familiarize yourself with all the designated shelters on campus.

These shelters include Miller

Hall (East and West) basement boiler room and laundry room, Salmon Hall basement boiler room and laundry room, and Johnston Hall basement boiler room and laundry room.

Those who live in the apartments should go to Miller or Gunning Hall basement. If conditions are too severe to leave your apartment, go to an interior space, i.e., hallway, bathroom, or closet. Get low and cover your head, and also, avoid glass areas.

You should get to a shelter if you can but what if a tornado strikes while you are outside? If you cannot find shelter you

should seek a ditch or low place in the landscape. Do NOT try to outrun a tornado if you are in a vehicle.

If you see a tornado, stop your vehicle get out and seek immediate shelter. Do not get under your vehicle, and it is not recommended to take shelter under overpasses.

Eastern offers a sign-up for text messages and e-mails concerning Emergency Information, Safety Instructions, Campus Closures, and Inclement Weather Warnings. If you would like to register for this service you must do so each fall semester term.

PUBLIC AWARENESS NOTICE

**OUR NATURAL GAS SYSTEM IS SAFE
HELP US KEEP IT THAT WAY!**

Eastern Oklahoma State College operates its own natural gas pipeline system, independent from our supplier, CenterPoint Energy. This means that we are in complete control of the system and strive to provide a safe and reliable means of energy for gas-burning appliances on campus.

Ongoing safety compliance

In an effort to ensure that our gas system is operated in a safe manner, EOSC performs various annual safety inspections, such as checking the system for leaks and corrosion.

Notification of digging

To further ensure that our gas pipeline is safe and protected from damage, anyone who plans to do any digging on EOSC property must get approval from the Physical Plant office at (918) 465-1801 and is also required to notify Call OKIE at 811 at least 48 hours in advance.

Awareness of possible hazards

It is important to know that, although our gas system complies with all government safety regulations, there is always the potential for natural gas to escape from any gas system for various reasons. If that happens,

its flammability becomes an immediate concern.

If you smell the odor of natural gas....

Report it to the EOSC Campus Police immediately so that it can be checked out and action taken, if necessary, to prevent a potentially hazardous situation.

— Do not ignore your senses -- get out of the building immediately!

— Do not use your cell phone or telephone, flip any light switches, turn on or off any electrical devices, or do anything to create static electricity. Once away from the natural gas odor, notify the EOSC Campus Police of the suspected leak.

— Do not call CenterPoint Energy or 911.

— Do not return to the building until an EOSC official tells you it is safe to do so.

EOSC Campus Police phone number **(918) 448-2365**. Emergencies are responded to 24 hours a day.

For additional information

This message is posted in buildings and published in the "Eastern Statesman" twice each year to meet a regulatory requirement. If you would like to know more about our gas system, please contact the Physical Plant Director at (918) 465-1802.

Eastern plans Health and Fitness Week

SUBMITTED REPORTS

Next week is Health and Fitness Week at EOSC. There are 5 dimensions to a healthy body: Physical, Intellectual, Relational, Spiritual and Emotional. When one dimension is lacking, the body is not at its optimum. Being in college lets you tackle the intellectual aspects of health with learning but we should not neglect the other aspects. We are going to address some of these health aspects next week with activities on the EOSC main campus.

Monday-Noon.-2 p.m.

NASNTI Grant and Choctaw Nation will sponsor a Wii Dance Revolution tournament in the Native American Student Engagement Center, basement of Johnston Hall. All students, faculty and staff are invited to participate. Healthy snacks will be available and prizes will be awarded each hour with an overall cash prize of \$50 awarded to the highest scoring dancer. So come over to Johnston Hall and show us your moves.

Tuesday- 1 - 2 p.m. in Baker Hall Room 115A, Guest Speaker Chance Adams, Physical Fitness Coordinator for the Choctaw Nation will present a seminar on "Small Steps for Big Rewards". Door Prizes will be given after presentation.

Presentation will also broadcast-through ITV to Idabel 301 and McAlester 106.

Wednesday-10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on lawn in front of Library Building Choctaw Nation will sponsor a demonstration titled "Project Safe". Learn how to make good decisions in unsafe situations and presenter will teach self-defense strategies. More door

prizes will be offered.

Wednesday 9 a.m. - Noon Residence Life will offer a St. Patrick's Day Dance in Miller Hall. Suggested dress in green. Monday-Friday the cafeteria will offer healthy meals in support of the Health and Fitness Week. Even small changes to adopt a healthier lifestyle can have long-term beneficial benefits.



"BEST MIX"
Mountaineer Radio
www.radio.eosc.edu

Would you like to join the *Statesman*?

The Eastern Statesman is looking for writers, graphic designers and anyone interested in maintaining our website. Contact Kristen Turner at 918.465.1720 or ktturner@eosc.edu.

Find us online at
www.statesman.eosc.edu

WHERE ARE THEY NOW...

Eastern Alumni making an impact on the world

Sean Carney

By MIKE CATHEY

EOSC 1983 OF INDIANOLA

Working on an expatriate assignment in Manila, Philippines for the past six and half years, Sean Carney (EOSC 1992 of Indianola) is Vice President, Operations for the Convergys Corporation. A leader in customer management for over thirty years, Convergys is uniquely focused on helping companies find new ways to enhance the value of their customer relationships and deliver consistent customer experiences across all channels and geographies.

Carney is responsible for 11,000 plus business process outsourcing employees in the Philippines, including metro Manila, Baguio, and Cebu. He has full responsibility for Profit/Loss (P&L) of seven sites exceeding revenue of \$250 million annually. Carney's group supports multiple industries including: retail, transportation, satellite/media, financial, telecom, technology, and medial.

Carney earned an EOSC associate's in business before transferring to the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond and earning both a Bachelors of Business Administration and MBA. Since 1997 he has been a member of the Convergys team where he has aggressively attained positions of higher authority and increasing responsibility.

His roles with Convergys have included: Trainer, Manager-Operations, Manager-Training and Quality, Sr. Manager- Quality DBS Division, Sr. Manager-Offshore Training Quality Instructional Design, Director-Performance Consulting, Site Leader-Operations (Expatriate

Assignment), Director-Program Management, Site Leader-Operations, Sr. Director-Operations and Vice President-Operations.

In addition to Carney's current assignment in the Philippines he also spent time on a six month assignment in India.

It is not surprising that Carney attended EOSC on a Presidential Scholarship, was President of the Student Senate, Outstanding Graduate in the Division of Business, and Oklahoma PBL State President. He also found time to be a member of the EOSC Speech/Drama Club, a member of the EOSC Choir and also was in the EOSC Speech/Drama and Choir Group that traveled around to local schools promoting EOSC.

"I have so many happy memories of EOSC," shared Carney on his time at Eastern. "It is hard to limit them. However, people whose influence still impact my life today are: Cheri Potter, who lived her life to the fullest and enjoyed every minute of it. I try to replicate that philosophy every day.

"Another was Linda Morgan, who "calls it like it is" but in an appropriate way, so that those impacted learn from her feedback versus getting defensive.

"Mary Ford, whose true character showed through in all she did and said, she inspires me still today to treat all with respect, love and care. Melissa Heath (now Heath-Lee) that calm, sweet, quirky fellow classmate, continues even today to keep me and others connected by sharing her life stories with us, a true friend that has lasted for decades. AND...Pizza Hut and Sonic - I remember those places FONDLY!"



Sean Carney, a 1992 Eastern graduate, was very active in Phi Beta Lambda (above), student government, and in campus activities (pictured far left at the Nerd Dance). Today he is responsible for 11,000 plus business process outsourcing employees in the Philippines.

"The ability to step out of my own little world and impact the lives of others was a major lesson that I learned while at EOSC. I was given the opportunity to step into positions that served others, and I have taken that philosophy into my professional life. It has kept me focused on working hard and doing my best at my job, not only to advance

my career, but to provide opportunities for those who work for me, as well as giving them an opportunity to enrich the lives of their families. I only found true happiness in my work when I stopped working for my career advancement, but started working so that others can improve their lives and the lives of others."

Mike Cathey is a lifetime member of the EOSC alumni association. While at Eastern, Cathey was also a staff writer for The Statesman and the Vice President of the Student Senate. Cathey is also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and resides in Chicago, Ill.

Scott Edgar earns 200th career win while at Eastern

Eastern Oklahoma State College men's basketball coach Scott Edgar captured his 200th career win with a 86-78 victory over Redlands Community College on Monday.

A veteran coach, Edgar has coached at the collegiate level for 34 years. His teams have advanced to post-season play 17 times, and he has recruited or coached 20 NBA players. Edgar said that reaching the career milestone was special.

"I've had a lot of great people in my life, and I've been really blessed with the guys I've coached," Edgar said. "Who knows what you do, where you go or how many more games you win? But, I told these guys that they will always be part of this special night because this was the group that gave me number 200." "Then I told them I want 10 more," he added, laughing.

Edgar is in his third season as head men's basketball coach at Eastern. Last year, Edgar led the Mountaineers to a historic 32-5 season, a fourth place finish in

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SCOTT EDGAR

MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

the NJCAA National Tournament and a Region II Championship. He is 67-28 during his time at Eastern.

"We are proud of Coach Edgar and his accomplishment. For those that know anything about basketball, reaching this milestone is not easy," said Eastern President Dr. Stephen Smith. "He has not only been an excellent coach for Eastern, but a good role model and leader for our student athletes."

SOPHOMORE NIGHT



Lady Mountaineer coach Amber Taylor addresses the crowd during sophomore night Feb. 25. The women's basketball team's season ended in a loss in the first game of the Region II tournament.

FORFEIT

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"The registrar's office presents the eligibility report to the NJCAA each semester," said Eastern Athletic Director Greg Warren. "The paperwork needed was presented a few days late to the NJCAA. The fact that this report was presented a few days late triggered an automatic eligibility audit by the NJCAA in agreement with their by-laws."

Unfortunately for the Lady Mountaineers, the registrar's office had some issues that impeded the paper from being sent to the NJCAA.

"The registrar's office had become a very chaotic environment as one of Eastern's

employees had not returned for work without any forewarning of her absence," said Registrar Karen Clark. "It's a shame that this sort of thing would happen, we do the best that we can to make sure that everything gets done for our school and our students, it is very regrettable."

The automatic audit by the NJCAA revealed that a transfer waiver had not been correctly filed for one student athlete. It was discovered that Eastern only had one of the two forms that were required for students transferring from another NJCAA college. The NJCAA requires a release agreement and a transfer waiver for student athletes transferring from a different college.

"The responsibility of this

situation in this case is not that of the transferring student, it is the receiving school, and in this instance that would be Eastern," Warren said.

After the investigation and the punishment, Eastern immediately requested and was granted a transfer waiver from the athlete's original institution. The NJCAA however, turned down Eastern's transfer waiver and ruled the player was ineligible during that timeframe and ordered Eastern to forfeit 18 wins for the season. After receiving the NJCAA's punishment Eastern quickly argued for an appeal.

"We decided to appeal this decision because we felt the penalty imposed was too severe for what we felt was primarily an

oversight. All of the necessary paperwork has now been submitted and the audit has been cleared," Warren said.

With the wins having to be forfeited, the Lady Mountaineers played a play-in game in the NJCAA Region 2 Tournament and were eliminated in the first round by NOC-Tonkawa 69-68, ending the Lady Mountaineers season with a 4-26 record.

"It was an extremely unfortunate situation," said Women's Head Basketball Coach Amber Taylor. "Our players have worked hard this season to become conference champions and to have that taken away from them was heart breaking."

"Although, we have a group of resilient young women who have

handled themselves with class and have their heads held high, I am proud of my team," Taylor said.

In an effort to prevent future NJCAA infractions, the administration has educated itself on what mandatory information is due.

"We are well aware now of all of the paperwork that is required for transfer students," Warren said. "I will make sure that the necessary forms are on file before a student will be allowed to compete. We have also taken steps to ensure that eligibility forms are submitted well before the deadline in the future."

As for the school any disciplinary actions being taken with school employees is a confidential personnel matter and could not be discussed.