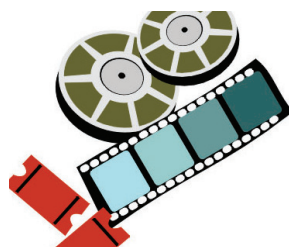


In this
Issue



News, Pgs. 3 & 6



Entertainment Pg. 4



Sports, Pg. 8

**"It will not always
be summer; build
barns."**

~Hesiod

**"I have a dream that
my four little chil-
dren will one day live
in a nation where
they will not be
judged by the color
of their skin, but by
the content of their
character."**

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Eastern Statesman

Vol. 94 Issue 1

August 28, 2015

EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE EST. 1908

Review results in significant repayment for Eastern

Editor's Note: The news of the Department of Education's findings broke after the Eastern Statesman's deadline. The staff is already working on a story for the next issue.

Eastern News Release

Eastern Oklahoma State College has been asked to repay significant liabilities to the U.S. Department of Education (DoE) following a standard program review that resulted in four findings claiming ineligible students received federal Title IV funds. The college is in the process of appealing portions of the final report, which was received this week.

The DoE performed the program

review in March of 2014. It was the first time in 26 years that Eastern had been reviewed by the DoE. During a program review, DoE employees examine financial aid, academic and fiscal records, review relevant consumer information and interview institution staff on a variety of topics.

The most significant of the four findings relates to Eastern courses taught at the Kiamichi Technology Center in Antlers. The program reviewers determined Eastern had begun offering more than 50 percent of an educational program in Antlers without notifying the Department. Therefore, the DoE classified the site as an ineligible location.

As a result, the DoE has request-

ed that Eastern repay \$847,264.65 in Title IV and Higher Education Act (HEA) funds for students enrolled at the Antlers location from 2008-2014. An additional \$38,162.80 in interest is also expected to be repaid by Eastern.

Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith said the Antlers teaching site was never meant to be a degree granting site.

"Eastern's course offerings in Antlers were designed to be a first-year experience for high school seniors and adult students in Pushmataha County who have little access to higher education opportunities," Smith said. "The Antlers teaching location has been very beneficial to many students."

Smith said the Higher Learning

Commission (HLC), the college's accrediting agency, was aware Eastern was offering courses in Antlers and revealed no concerns about the site's operation during visits in 2006 and 2009. He said the penalty of not being declared an official location has resulted in the DoE's request that Eastern repay the financial aid funds.

"We are extremely disappointed with the outcome of the program review and the severity of this action, especially since the issue was corrected upon learning of the oversight," Smith said. "To be required to repay financial aid that has already been awarded

SEE DOE PAGE 2

SLIP N' SLIDE SOCCER



Eastern students enjoyed a game of Slip N' Slide Soccer in front of the Student Center Aug. 24. Photo by Danel Walker

December graduates need to get paperwork in check by Sept. 11

GUY FOLGER

Senior staff Writer

Graduation day.
It's a time for joy,
A time for tears,
A time we'll treasure through the years,
We'll remember always,
Graduation day."

(J.Sherman - N.Sh"erman)
1956 The Rover Boys

The semester may have just started, but if you are graduating from Eastern Oklahoma State College in December, you have only until Sept. 11 to complete and submit your graduation application.

Before submitting your graduation application, though, you have to have a graduation check done.

"A graduation check is basically checking a student's degree plan for whatever major they are enrolled in to make sure they have completed all the classes required for that degree," Jennifer Labor, EOSC Registrar said.

A graduation check is required so that the institution will know who is

"A graduation check is basically checking a student's degree plan for whatever major they are enrolled in to make sure they have completed all the classes required for that degree."

Jennifer Labor
EOSC Registrar

graduating.

To start the process, students should first see their advisor. The advisor will forward the completed degree check to the Registrar's Office.

After this is done, the student may fill out the application for graduation located in their WebAdvisor account. Remember, Sept. 11 is the deadline.

December graduates may do "the walk" at the upcoming Spring Commencement if they desire.



Study abroad in Denmark this Spring Break

Eastern Oklahoma State College has partnered with Silkeborg Business College in Silkeborg, Denmark to create a study abroad program for the spring 2016 semester. The trip is scheduled for spring break (approximately March 11-19, 2016). The course will be a Humanities course worth three-credit hours. Students must apply for admission to the program.

Plans are in development for the curriculum and the schedule for the trip. It is anticipated that students will visit the cities of Copenhagen and Silkeborg, Denmark; Berlin, Germany; and Prague, Czech Republic. A more detailed schedule and itinerary will be made available as soon as possible.

To be considered for this study abroad trip, students must complete the application in its entirety. The completed application with all supporting documents must be returned to the Scholarship Office, Library 154, by 5 p.m. on Oct. 1, 2015.

Students chosen to travel to Denmark will be responsible for covering the following costs:

- \$1,200-\$1,500 for airfare
- Cost of securing a passport
- Spending money while away
- Cost of taking a course in Spring 2016 (tuition and fees)

The following costs will be covered for students while in Denmark*:

- All meals
- All lodging
- All transportation

*Please note that meals, lodging, and transportation costs are covered once in Denmark. If a student needs to eat on the way to Denmark, he/she will be responsible for covering those costs.

Eastern names new VP of Academic Affairs

Eastern News Release

After a national search, Eastern Oklahoma State College has named Dr. Janet Wansick of McAlester as vice president of Academic Affairs. Wansick will succeed Dr. Karen Harrison, who is retiring after 17 years of service at Eastern.

Wansick, who currently serves as Eastern's associate vice president of Academic Affairs and Institutional Research, will begin her new duties on July 1.

"Dr. Wansick demonstrated that she has the academic experience, leadership skills and accreditation credentials necessary to serve Eastern well into the future," said Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith. "After a thorough search process, we are delighted that someone within our institution brings those qualities to this important leadership position."

Wansick, who joined Eastern in 2011, previously served as dean of the college's McAlester campus. Her career in education began in 1992 as a math instructor at McAlester Public

Schools. In 2002, she began teaching math at Northern Oklahoma College while working on her doctoral degree at Oklahoma State University. Later she served as the chair of the math department at East Central University for four years.

"I am deeply honored to be chosen for this position," Wansick said. "I am excited for the opportunity to lead the academic divisions and look forward to working with the entire college community as we guide Eastern to the next level of academic excellence."

The vice president for Academic Affairs serves as the chief academic officer of the college and is responsible for all aspects of educational policy and academic programs, as well as oversight of the college's registrar and library. Harrison has served in this role at Eastern for the past eight years.

Smith said Harrison's impressive career will stand as an exemplary model for all educators.

"Under Dr. Harrison's leadership, Eastern has introduced new academic

programs, strengthened the quality and rigor of our curriculum and hired top-quality instructors," Smith said. "Although she has served Eastern as an effective administrator, her main focus has always been student success and high academic standards. She has truly been a guiding force for this college and her vision and commitment to our students and faculty have advanced Eastern's academic distinction."

Harrison began her career at Eastern in August of 1998 as a science instructor. She became the Honors Program coordinator in 2003 and the Science and Mathematics Division chair in 2006. She transitioned into her role as vice president in 2007, increasing the oversight and communication between Eastern's four teaching sites and becoming a member of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Assessment Academy.

Harrison started her educational career at McAlester Public Schools where she taught advanced placement and honors science classes. She earned



Dr. Janet Wansick

her bachelor's and master's degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and her doctoral degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Harrison said she has many fond memories of her time at Eastern.

"Eastern has an amazing group of faculty and staff that care about their students," Harrison said. "That's what made it a special place for me."

DOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to students for non-malicious or non-illegal actions is frustrating and confusing."

Eastern obtained accrediting agency approval from both the HLC and the DoE in April 2015 and the Antlers teaching site is now considered an eligible location. However, those approvals do not grant retroactive eligibility to student financial aid disbursements and the college is still required to repay the funds.

"We will seek legal counsel to advise us throughout the appeals process," Smith said. "Our students remain our highest concern and we will continue to offer them the

same opportunities for a high quality education at all of our locations."

The DoE also cited three additional findings that will require Eastern to repay a total of \$201,181.25 in additional liabilities and interest due to missing transcripts for five students, errors in verification forms for two students, as well as a misinterpretation of the definition of a failing student versus a student who is given an "AW" or administrative withdraw. In response, Eastern has changed or implemented new policies and procedures to align with the DoE's determination of these findings.

Smith said the college's financial aid policies and procedures are reviewed regularly because the institution is required to have an annual external audit.

"External audits of our financial aid department and financial statements have revealed zero findings for five consecutive years," Smith said. "Our employees strive to meet all requirements at both the federal and state level. We will continually review and implement changes to our procedures as necessary."

In May of 2014, Eastern was transferred from the Advance method of payment to the Heightened Cash Monitoring 2 (HCM2) method of payment in response to the initial program review.

During this time, Eastern's federal financial aid has been restricted to a reimbursement system pending increased documentation needs and a lengthy review process by DoE officials before the funds are provided to Eastern.

"We will seek legal counsel to advise us throughout the appeals process. Our students remain our highest concern and we will continue to offer them the same opportunities for a high quality education at all of our locations."

Dr. Stephen Smith
EOSC President

Smith hopes the college will be removed from the DoE's HCM2 status since all the issues have been corrected or resolved.



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Korra presents “steps toward healing” program

CHELSIE PECKIO

Editor

Monika Korra presented a lecture on Aug. 13 in Mitchell Auditorium over her own personal story of sexual assault and her road to recovery. She opened by saying that she was ready to kill the silence and wanted to provide information on “steps toward healing.”

Korra was recruited to Southern Methodist University from Norway to compete in track in 2007. Korra describes the opportunity as “a dream come true.” When she came to Dallas, she spoke little English and said that she was shy because of her lack of skills in regards to the English language, but that the friendly people made her want to stay.

Korra’s dream became more like a nightmare one night when she was walking home. She had a gun put to her head and was pulled into a van by three men and was gang raped. She shares her story not to make people feel sorry for her, but because she wants people to be able to open up on a subject that is often stigmatized and silenced.

“I will not let that identify who I am,” she boldly stated to the students present at the lecture. She does not want to be considered a victim. “Who wants to live the rest of their life being labeled as a victim?” She asks. Instead of focusing on only the bad things that have happened to her, she gave people her four steps to recovery.

The first step to healing is openness, according to Korra. She says “Together we are stronger, together we are unbroken, and together we can do anything.”



Monika Korra spoke to an audience at Mitchell Hall Auditorium on Aug. 13. Korra’s message was “step toward healing.” *Staff photo by Taylor Cox*

She said that to heal fully she needed both professional help and help from her family and friends. She describes that the hardest thing she had ever done was to pick up the phone and tell her family and friends, but that opening up helped propel her forward in the healing process.

The second step she discussed was hope. “No matter how many times you’ve cried or how many hours of sleep you’ve lost, the future is still laid in front of us.” Hope for the future helped Korra move on from the pain and suffering she experienced from this senseless crime.

She said that to heal fully she needed both professional help and help from her family and friends. She describes that the hardest thing she had ever done was to pick up the phone and tell her family and friends, but that opening up helped propel her forward in the healing process.

Passion is the third thing she spoke on as she continued to encourage students to learn to let go of things that have hurt them. “We lose ourselves in the things we love, we find ourselves there too,” is the quote Korra repeated as she discussed how her passion for running helped her push forward. She said that at first, she was so focused on the thought that beating her personal best time would show people that she was back stronger than before, but eventually it be-

came an obsession that deteriorated her passion for running. That passion however, returned after she gave herself time to realize that she didn’t have to prove anything to anyone. She went on to beat her personal best in the 3,000 meter by 8 seconds and her 5k best by 25 seconds.

The final thing she talked about was forgiveness. She discussed how she attended victim/offender mediation and after several sessions with counselor she was ready to meet with one of her attackers. She said it took her attacker several minutes before he could look her in the eyes. She said, “Now he seemed scared and broken, and he deeply apologized for what he had done.”

She said “I do forgive you, if you promise to fight every day to become a better person and if you promise to never do this to another person again.” She asked him to sign a contract and said that with tears in his eyes, he did. She walked out knowing that the storm she had carried inside her for so long was now clearing, and that the heaviness was no longer on her, but on her attackers.

Korra’s message of healing was inspiration as she encouraged student’s to “figure out what helps them stay grounded.” She pleaded with them to help kill the silence of something that has gone on for too long without being talked about, “Be honest with yourself,” She said.

For more information about sexual assault and what you can do to kill the silence go to www.monikakorra.org or call the sexual assault helpline at (877) 513-2232.



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Mountaineer Mystery @Library Expo

For the third year in a row, Eastern’s library is hosting a Library Expo. This year’s event is called Mountaineer Mystery and will be held Sept. 8-11 in the President’s Dining Room. The event will consist of a presentation of library resources and materials available for the Eastern community. As always, there will be door prizes, so be sure to stop by and check it out.



Come to the Expo and we will help you solve it !

What:

Presentation of library resources and materials available for the EOSC community.

When:

September 8,9,10 and 11th
From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm !!

Where:

President’s Dining Room (Student Center)

COUNSELOR'S CORNER Check out OK Career Guide

Welcome new and returning students!

We hope you have a great experience at Eastern Oklahoma State College. The Advising Office will be preparing a monthly article to notify you of important dates and other "need-to-know" services.

We would like to share with you a program called OK Career Guide. This is an easy online tool for all Oklahomans to explore and guide their future.

You can take interest inventory assessments, identify occupations, establish education plans and, ultimately, connect to employers.

You are welcome to visit our offices and we will be glad to help you navigate through this program.

Important dates to remember:

Complete fall 2015 graduation application on WebAdvisor: week of Sept. 8 through Sept. 11

FYI

*Business office, Library Bldg office #119 = to obtain a student ID or to pay any bills.

*Registrar's office, Library Bldg office #107 = to obtain transcripts or submit official documents.

*Financial Aid office, Library Bldg office #161 = if you need assistance with grants, loans, etc.

*Testing office, Library Bldg office #154 = COMPASS testing & information on ACT or CLEP testing.

Come and see us, we are here to help!

Tina Ray and Sandra Robertson
Advising Office
Located in Library Building,
Enrollment Center
Offices 156 and 157

RECOGNITION



Burl Williams of Stigler (center) was recently recognized by Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith and Board Chair Teresa Jackson for his 14 years of service as a member of the Eastern Oklahoma State College Board of Regents.

Theatre Eastern preparing for fall productions

WYATT STANFORD
Assistant Editor

Eastern's theatre department is currently preparing for its two upcoming fall productions. The first one, "Gruesome Playground Injuries" by Rajiv Joseph, is set to debut in early October, and the second one, "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," is set to debut in December.

"Gruesome Playground Injuries," directed by Marshall Carby, is a love story about two people who meet at various points in their lives when they so happen to be injured.

Despite what it may sound like, the highly-acclaimed production is not a romantic comedy.

"This is the first contemporary play

that we have done in a while," said Carby. "The students and myself are very excited about it. I chose it because it's a story about navigating relationships which is something that our students can relate to."

The play, which has only two cast members, will have many design and technical opportunities for students, according to theatre department head Sarah Klocke.

"Gruesome Playground Injuries" will be Eastern's entry in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF).

The next production, "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," directed by Klocke, is the same story as the 1946 film, except that it will be performed over radio. The production will include live

sound effects as the actors perform.

"We are always looking for different ways to connect to the community" Klocke commented. There are talks that the production will be performed for a live audience at Candle Lighting.

Over the summer, Klocke and Carby were able to take students to Highlands Playhouse in Highlands, North Carolina, where they had hands-on experience in working on productions through internships.

"It is important for students so that they can get practical experience in the world of theatre. They can come back and do excellent work on productions here," Klocke stated. The department would like to continue this program next summer.

TAYLOR'S TASTE TESTS

Dorm cooking: Chocolate and peanut butter mug cake

Living on campus you have restrictions on what you can and cannot cook with. This column is to help you discover new recipes that can be easily made in a dorm room.

This month we tested a chocolate and peanut butter mug cake.

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons peanut butter
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons flour
3 tablespoons cocoa powder
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon baking powder
3 tablespoons chocolate chips

Directions:

Melt the butter in a small dish. Add the peanut butter and mix well. In the mug, mix together the vanilla, egg, and sugar until well combined. Combine the flour, cocoa, salt, and baking powder and add to the mug. Pour in the peanut butter/butter mixture and mix well. Stir in the chocolate chips. Put in the microwave for 1-2 minutes or until desired doneness is reached (all microwaves are different so you might have to experiment a little. I only do it for about 1 minute).

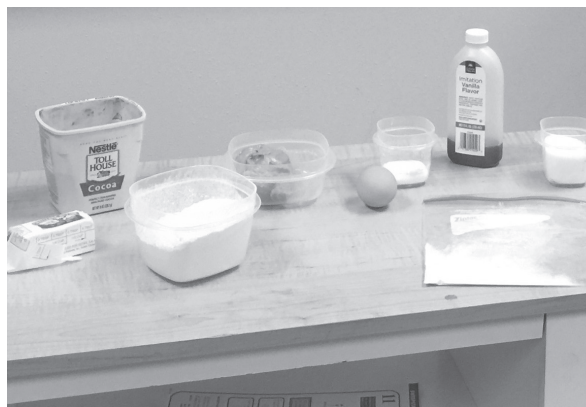
When testing this recipe we realized the coco powder to sugar ratio

was off and would recommend using only two tablespoons of coco powder as opposed to three tablespoons.

If you try this recipe the Statesman would love to see it, tweet us a picture at @EOSC_Statesman, or tweet me a photo @taylorcaroline7.



Taylor Cox
Staff Writer



Ingredients



Finished chocolate and peanut butter mug

10 tips for college freshmen

Freshman year can seem daunting. Leaving home for the first time, new people, new place, more freedom, it can be overwhelming if you don't know what to expect. Sometimes you just need a little help. I have ten tips for college freshman that might be helpful.

1. Keep a budget. College is hard, it's harder if you're broke. Even if it's just giving yourself a monthly allowance for food so you don't spend all your money on one trip to Sonic can help you stay on track.

2. Participate. I know it seems stupid, and you hear it all the time, but going to on campus activities and joining clubs helped me find people that have goals and interests similar to mine, and it can do the same for you.

3. Be a minimalist. You don't need a notebook, binder, and separate colored pen for every class. You'll lose those notes that you need for the economics test, only to find them months later in your biology notebook, (not speaking from experience, okay, I totally am).

4. Avoid the freshman fifteen. I get it, you get to make your own food choices, but just because you can eat ice cream for dinner every single night definitely does not mean that you should. Besides, with your budget, can you really afford new pants?

5. Know that feeling overwhelmed is natural. So what you're curled up in a ball on your dorm room floor trying to figure out what you're doing with your life and trying to understand why teachers seem to schedule all their tests on the same day? That's normal, just make a list of your priorities and get started on them, you'll get through it.

6. Talk to your parents. This is hard for them, shoot them a text, Skype, or call them, even if it's short. More often than not, your parents are helping you out as much as they can, so don't forget to call and tell them how

much you love and appreciate them.

7. Caffeine is not the answer. Most television and film portrays finals week and big test as caffeine fueled all-nighters but there is no substitute for sleep. I'm pretty sure "Man cannot live by red bull alone," is written somewhere. Your brain can't function properly on less than seven hours of sleep for an 18 to 24 year old.

8. Partying seems fun until you check your grades. College campuses are filled with parties, we can't act like it doesn't happen. Going to every party on campus seems fun until you start missing class because you were out too late the night before, and before you realize it your grade will be too far gone. It's not worth it. Parties come and go, transcripts are forever.

9. Dress for success. I cannot tell you how many students I've seen give a presentation in Nike shorts, or attend a scholarship banquet in sweats. You should know which situations are appropriate for casual dress and which are not. A business presentation final is not the place for leggings.

10. Enjoy every experience, the good, the bad, and the ugly. Your freshman year of college is one of the scariest and most rewarding years of your life. You will laugh, cry, and grow in ways you never imagined. You will learn more about yourself in this year than in four years of high school. Never take anything at face value, learn that everyone you meet is going through the same things you are, and always treat others and yourself with kindness and respect.



Chelsie Peckio
Editor

COLUMN

What's the big deal with cultural appropriation?

Recently, Vogue published an article over the cultural appropriation of Native American headdresses. The prime, controversial example shown was Oklahoma governor Marry Fallin's daughter Christina Fallin, who sported a war bonnet for a promotional picture for her band. To some, cultural appropriation is offensive. To others, cultural appropriation is not an issue. To many, cultural appropriation is not understood. What is cultural appropriation and just why can it be such a heated topic?

According to the Oxford Dictionary, cultural appropriation is "a term used to describe the taking over of creative or artistic forms, themes, or practices by one cultural group from another." In this case, the wearing of a war bonnet is cultural appropriation because it was adopted by a non-Native American, mainly because

of its aesthetic and not for its significance in the cultures it originated.

Other instances of cultural appropriation include the wearing of a bindi by non-Hindus and getting Chinese language tattoos.

Why is cultural appropriation sometimes so controversial? In the case of the war bonnet, Native American tribes hold great respect for the wearer. Tribe members who wear headdresses tend to be in positions of authority. For this reason, many Native Americans take



Wyatt Stanford
Assistant Editor

offense to the wearing of a symbol of importance by people who are wearing it just for the aesthetic. A similar situation would be the wearing of religious regalia by a non-adherent that does not care to understand its importance.

Some people see the wearing of the war bonnet as paying tribute to our First Americans; whereas, many see it as offensive. To me personally, as someone who is part Native American, I feel like it is somewhat gauche to wear a war bonnet, even for me to wear one, since my tribes did not wear headdresses. In the case of Christina Fallin, I think it is very wrong to wear a war bonnet to stir publicity.

I think it is best to try to be respectful of other cultures and not to appropriate something that is obviously sacred.

GAME REVIEW

"Rocket League" proves to be an addictive game

"Rocket League" is the newest sports sensation rocking the gaming world. It has fast cars, high flying antics, and lots of explosions.

Released on July 7, "Rocket League" was a breakout hit. Releasing on Playstation's Instant Game Collection, which allows Playstation Plus users to get the game free for one month, it had millions of users in less than a week.

Also on PC, the game has cross-platform play between Playstation and PC players. The frenetic and skillful nature of the game has attracted players of all kinds.

The game is quite simple, with two teams ranging from one to four players duking it out in a simple

arena. The goal is simply to hit the ball into your opponent's goal and score points.

It plays much like soccer, except with cars.

It's as amazing as it sounds. Matches last 5 minutes and are in a rectangular arena with a goal on each side. There are boost pads all over the arena that allow



Robert Bedford
Staff Writer

players to build up their boost meter in order to speed around.

When a player boosts into another player, that player then explodes in a fiery ball of metal. It is also possible for cars to jump and perform feats of aerial acrobatics the likes of which has never been seen in any other game before. When one boosts while in mid-air it is possible to jet around the arena and hit the ball before it even touches the ground.

This game is quite possibly one of the most simplistic, fun and exciting games released in recent years. Once you play "Rocket League" you become addicted and unable to put it down till you've finished another 5 matches.

Students take over the Mix 93.1 morning show

CHELSIE PECKIO

Editor

It's 5:30 a.m. on a weekday morning, a time before most college students think about getting up. Brandon Green, Derek Hatridge, and Austin Wheat are up preparing for their work day.

These three sophomores at Eastern Oklahoma State College are the new hosts of the morning show on the school's radio station, The Mix 93.1 FM. The students began working for the show during summer. When they were asked to begin working for the station, they did not hesitate to jump at the opportunity, despite little solo experience.

The men now fondly known by listeners as "The Three Knuckleheads," have several segments unique to their show. "Merica" is one of the segments created by the guys where they read off the wall news stories from across the country. They also do a fun facts and trending segments.

"I love making people's day," Green said when asked about his favorite part about being on the show. "The best part about being on the show is when people come up to you and say I love what you guys are do-



Derek Hatridge, Austin Wheat and Brandon Green, also known as "The Three Knuckleheads," look over the schedule for a morning show.

ing, I love listening to the show."

Opportunity like this for students is something that Eastern wants to provide.

"The experience is one of a kind," said Hatridge. "Not many students

get an opportunity like this one. We're learning hands-on how the business works, and it gives us a better foothold to help establish our future careers."

The Mix 93.1 went live last year

on Jan. 23 after having a stint as being only available online with support from AT&T.

"This is a unique partnership between two organizations that will benefit the greater Latimer and Pitts-

burg County areas," Eastern president Dr. Stephen Smith said in a press release.

"Oklahoma AT&T brought the much-needed 4G LTE cellular service to the region, while Eastern is providing music, local news and sports to the surrounding communities as well as enhancing learning opportunities for students preparing for careers in the broadcast industry."

"We're heavy with Top 40, pop, adult contemporary and light rock. We've also put in some lighter classic rock and some of the country-type pop crossovers in our mix too. We want people, when they tune in to our station, to think 'Hey, I'm listening to my own tunes on my own phone,'" said Doug Sims when interviewed previously about the station.

The station tries to provide something for everyone and has been bringing together a wide variety of music, weather, and news for the area.

They provide all of this while simultaneously providing a platform for students to learn and for local businesses to advertise.

For more information about The Mix 93.1 FM contact Doug Sims or go to <http://www.radio.eosc.edu/>.

Mouser sworn in as member of the Eastern Board of Regents



Bobby Mouser of Stigler (second from right) was recently sworn in by Oklahoma Associate District Judge Bill Welch (second from left) as the newest member of the Eastern Oklahoma State College Board of Regents. He was joined at the swearing-in ceremony by Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith and Board Chair Teresa Jackson.

Bobby Mouser of Stigler was recently appointed to serve a seven-year term as a new member of the Eastern Oklahoma State College Board of Regents. He was sworn in at the Board's June meeting by Oklahoma Associate District Judge Bill Welch.

"As an Eastern alumnus, Bobby understands our students, our institution and the communities we serve," said Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith. "We look forward to Regent Mouser's leadership and contributions to our Board as we continually work to create valuable learning opportunities and enrich the lives of our students."

Mouser has served as the city manager of Stigler since January. He also serves as the general manager of the Stigler Municipal Improvement Authority, director of Economic Development and manager of the Stigler Regional Airport. Mouser retired in 2015 from the Public Service Com-

pany of Oklahoma after 35 years of service in managerial roles in areas including commercial/industrial sales, customer service and marketing.

After graduating from Eastern, Mouser earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He is also a graduate of the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia.

Mouser said his connections to Eastern run deep. Not only are he and his wife, Vicki, Eastern alumni, but two of their three children also graduated from the college.

The membership of the Eastern Board of Regents is made up of seven people appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. Senator Larry Boggs of Red Oak carried Gov. Mary Fallin's nomination of Mouser to the Senate Education Committee for confirma-

tion.

"We appreciate Gov. Fallin for her nomination of Regent Mouser, as well as Senator Boggs for carrying the nomination forward to the Senate Education Committee," Smith said.

Mouser replaces Burl Williams of Stigler who completed his second seven-year term this year. Smith expressed his gratitude to Williams for serving two back-to-back terms.

"Burl's dedication and service to this college for the past 14 years cannot be overstated," Smith said. "Regent Williams has been a great asset to our Board and we appreciate his many contributions to the success of Eastern. He will be sorely missed."

Other regents include Chair Teresa Jackson of Hartshorne, Vice Chair Brian Lott of McAlester, Dr. Monte McAlester of Wilburton, Denton McNutt of Stuart, Loise Washington of McAlester, and Carl D. Wooldridge of Wilburton.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW...

Eastern Alumni making an impact on the world

Michael Freeman & Jon Gray

EASTERN Two former Eastern baseball players find major success on the diamond

By **MIKE CATHEY**

EOSC 1983 OF INDIANOLA

EOSC had its very own “Boys of Summer” this summer! Two former EOSC Mountaineer Baseball players take the field

In June Michael Freeman {EOSC 2012 of Broken Arrow} and most recently at Oklahoma State was selected in the seventh round (No.199 overall) by the Houston Astros in the Major League Baseball Draft.

The 6 foot-8 Big 12 Pitcher of the Year broke through as a senior for OSU finished 10-3 with a 1.31 ERA, four complete games and 97 strikeouts in 109 2/3 innings.

Freeman is currently playing in the California League with the Lancaster Jayhawks an Astros farm team.

“During college I had a coach who said that I would never make it into the Majors,” said Freeman during a local television interview back in June during the draft.

And on Aug. 7, the Colorado Rockies purchased the contract of right-handed pitcher Jon Gray {EOSC 2011 of Tulsa} and started him at home against the Seattle Mariners.

Taken with the third overall selection out of the University of Oklahoma two years ago, Gray has spent all of 2015 with Triple-A Albuquerque and started for the better part of the past three months.

Following a brutal April that saw the right-hander go 0-3 with a 10.70 ERA in four outings, Gray went 6-3 with a 3.17 mark and 1.34 WHIP in 17 starts since. July was his best month yet with a 3-1 record and 2.70 ERA, striking out 43 strikeouts over 30 innings.

Freeman and Gray follow a long list of former EOSC Mountaineer baseball players who have found success after college!

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 and Indianola, OK.



MLB Photo



Jon Gray



Michael Freeman



EOSC ARCHIVE PHOTO



Aggie Club cookout and officer election

Submitted report

The Aggie Club held a cookout and elected its 2015-2016 officers on Thursday, August 27 at Robbers Cave State Park. The menu consisted of hot dogs with all the fixins'. After the meal club members cast their ballots for this year's slate of officers. Serving as officers for 2015-2016 will be President – Kelsey Chambers, Tushka

sophomore; Vice-President – Lane Williams, Idabel sophomore; Secretary – Taylor Mobbs, Tushka sophomore; Treasurer – Brandon Keeler, Tushka sophomore; Reporter – Cassidy Spradlin, Tushka freshman; and ESGA Representatives – Mary Barnard, Wainwright freshman, Jacob Hammons, Stilwell sophomore, and Ty Fittje, Cushing freshman.

Join the *Statesman* staff

Are you a great writer? Photographer? Are you good with web design? If so, you may want to work for the Statesman newspaper this semester. If so, please contact Kristen Turner at 918.465.1720 or kturner@eosc.edu. You do not have to be a Mass Communication major.



2015-2016 Men's Soccer



2015-2016 Women's Soccer

Season important in building soccer program

DEREK HATRIDGE
Staff Writer

The world's most popular sport has made its way to southeast Oklahoma, and for Eastern head soccer coach Irving Peralta, it is a very exciting time.

"We've improved from last year (on both teams)," he said. "We've brought in a lot of internationals that love the sport that have helped show some of the local kids what it takes to make it."

The EOSC soccer program is in its second year of existence, and that has brought forth a flurry of challenges. But Peralta said he sees this as more of a challenge than a hindrance.

The Mountaineers and Lady Mountaineers are set to kick off the season at the end of August. And for the first time, the seven home games will be played at the new soccer field

located on the west side of the EOSC campus.

The teams were hard at work before students even began to arrive on campus doing strength and conditioning in the Oklahoma heat. This itself has proved to be a very tough task.

"I think they're adjusted now to the weather," Peralta said. "It's been hot. Them being used to that has helped."

The most difficult aspect about a new program, especially at a junior college, is establishing the tone of a program and having upper classmen become leaders. But, Peralta said, he has a great group of players that are already becoming leaders.

"The challenge is them learning what we expect," Peralta said. "The men's side, they already know. So they push the freshmen. On the women's side, they're still having to

adjust to that. But they've done a really good job. They're really more competitive, more aggressive. We'll be able to push them to be more successful."

The teams have already seen some preseason action as they faced off with Paris Junior College, and Peralta said his players did really well despite injuries and heat exhaustion. The Lady Mountaineers showcased a strong defense while the Mountaineers boast overall depth.

As the season begins and the action heats up on the pitch, Peralta said this year will be important in building the soccer program both on and off the field.

"One of our biggest goals is to learn to work hard," Peralta said. "That means working hard in training and in games, having the mindset of being hard workers. That goes for the classroom as well."

Softball promotes White to head coach — adds assistant coaches

Eastern News Release

Eastern Oklahoma State College has named former assistant coach and Eastern alumna Kendra White as the new head softball coach. White takes over for longtime coach Andy Mace who retired this year after 34 years at Softball Head Coach Eastern.



Kendra White

White says she learned a lot while working alongside Mace for four years. She is proud that she and her coaching staff have recruited 22 players for the upcoming season.

"I am most excited about recruiting players and watching them develop," White said. "I would like to thank the college for giving me this wonderful opportunity."

During her time at Eastern, White played third base and catcher. She is the former record holder for home runs in a single season with 18. She graduated from Eastern in 2009 and went on to play softball and earn her bachelor's degree at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. She is on track to earn her master's degree in sports administration in December from East Central University.

Eastern also added assistant coaches for softball and the women's basketball program this

year.

Sarah Lankford of Mesquite, Texas will serve as the assistant softball coach. At Grayson County College, Lankford



Sarah Lankford

Assistant Softball Coach

earned All-Conference and second team All-American honors in 2006. She then transferred to Henderson State University and received first team All-Conference and Offensive Player of the Year honors. Lankford previously served as an assistant coach at both Henderson and Grayson College.

Keturah Spotwood has joined the women's basketball coaching staff as an assistant coach after serving two years as an assistant coach at Kilgore College. Originally from Tulsa, Spotwood earned a bachelor's degree from Graceland University in 2010.

She played basketball at both Kilgore and Graceland, where she was named the 2008 Newcomer of the Year. Spotwood is currently working on a master's degree in kinesiology from Dallas Baptist University.



Keturah Spotwood

Assistant Basketball Coach

statesman.eosc.edu