If you’ve noticed a woman driving a fire truck around town the past week, then you’ve seen Effingham Fire Department’s first full-time female firefighter in action. “She’s been getting a lot of looks from people who are not used to a female driving a 70,000-pound truck,” said Chief Joe Holomy.

For Tasha Lange, the fact she is the department’s first female firefighter has little to do with her new job. “I guess I don’t look at it that way. I guess I’m just happy to be a part of a team. These guys are right when they say it’s the greatest job in the world,” said Lange, 28, of Effingham.

And her fellow firefighters feel the same way. “It’s no different than having a guy. She’ll go learn to do the job, and then, she’ll come back and we’ll show her how to do it our way,” said firefighter Jason Lee. Lange’s team leader, Capt. Dave Hoesli, said the only real difference is Lange gets her own shower room.

For Lange, it seems like it’s been a long journey to become a full-time firefighter. “I got interested in it at Lake Land five years ago. When the chief first moved into town, he lived right around the corner from me, and we talked many a nights about the fire service. So I guess I owe my start to him. Also, my husband, Aaron, was a volunteer firefighter, and it was really exciting,” Lange said. Lange’s husband is now a police officer. “I’ve been at this for like four years now. Four years ago, I tested to be an Effingham firefighter, but I wasn’t high enough because of preference points. So I went back to EIU and got my bachelor’s,” she said.

Lange worked as a correctional officer for the Effingham County Sheriff’s Department and was a volunteer firefighter for Shumway Fire Protection District for a year and a half. “I tested again in February 2008, and I stayed higher on the list this time. It’s kind of a long process,” said Lange as she described the firefighter testing process, which includes a written and physical exam, a background check, an interview, a polygraph test and a psychological test.

Since starting the job on Feb. 11, Lange’s training has included getting familiar with Effingham Central Fire Station along Fayette Avenue, its equipment and tools, driving the fire truck, getting into her gear and air pack, and taking a trip up in the truck’s basket, which stretches to 103 feet, to get used to the height.

“She’s been doing great. She follows orders well,” Hoesli said. The fire department had two calls on her first day on the job, but Lange contends at least her first day wasn’t as stressful as the first day for the department’s other new firefighter, Tim Metcalf, whose wife went into labor and gave birth to a daughter shortly after his first shift.

After only one month on the job, Lange has six-week firefighter training at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to look forward to, where she’ll be spending 12-hour days taking classes and completing physical training tasks. Some of the things Holomy said she’ll learn are how to rescue her partner and what it’s like to be in a structure fire in a four-story building. "It’s a lot of sweating. She’ll get more fire training there than she may get in her career,” Lee said.

For now, Lange is just having fun getting accustomed to her new job. “I love it. It’s all brand new, so everything is a blast right now,” Lange said. Lange is the daughter of Jerry and Niki Hoffman of Effingham. She and her husband have two children, Kyandra, 5, and Kolton, 3.

Story by Angie Faller at Effingham Daily News
EAST REOPENS WOOD’S BOOK STORE

Opening a small-town bookshop during a recession may not seem like a savvy business decision, but for Charleston resident Jim East, it made perfect sense. Last year, East bought and re-opened the Lincoln Book Shop at 619 Monroe Ave., located on the square. "Some people say I'm not the smartest guy around, but no guts, no glory," East said.

The shop has a long history. In 1961, Leonard and Tanya Wood opened the first Lincoln Book Shop on Lincoln Avenue. After moving the business several times, the Woods settled on a storefront on the square, where the shop is today. Through the years, the Woods collected cards, stationery and books to sell in their shop, but in March 2004, both Leonard and Tanya were killed in a car accident.

Last summer, East said he noticed the business was for sale and began the process of buying it. East, a Charleston native and 1987 Eastern graduate has as diverse a history as the shop. After earning a bachelor’s degree in political science, East worked for the Illinois State Senate for a year, before moving back to Charleston to operate the Monroe Street Café on the square until 1995. More recently, he worked for the Coles County Treasurer’s office, a job that brought him past the Lincoln Book Shop each day. "I worked across the street in the courthouse," East said. "I just walked past this last summer and saw the (for-sale) sign."

In October, with help from friends and family, East began sifting through the merchandise already in the store. "When I walked in, there was no inventory," East said. "Tanya Wood knew where every book was, but no one else did." East re-opened the shop Dec. 2, and business quickly picked up. "December was really good," East said. "January and February have been slow, but I expected it to be slow." East blames the sluggish business during the last two months on both winter weather and the slumping economy. But East said he had been reluctant to advertise the shop before his improvements to the store were complete.

"I haven't been ready until recently to open the doors wide," East said. East also said, unlike the shop's former owners, he plans to focus on selling books more than cards and gifts. "I'll probably focus more on the books than on the gifty items," he said. "I don't know how much demand there is." The Lincoln Book Shop is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

STU'S REOPENS AFTER 26 YEARS

Things have come full circle at 1405 Fourth St. The restaurant/bar has undergone several name changes and face-lifts over the past few years, but after the recent closing of AJ's/Club 217, the original owners that opened Stu's bar more than a quarter-century ago have returned to their roots to reopen the bar.

It was almost 26 years to the day since Ken Keating and Jim Severson bought the building, then known simply as E.L. Kracker's, when Keating, along with wife and co-owner Nancy, along with Laura Severson, reopened the doors on Feb. 6, General Manager Katie Copenhaver said.

The Keatings and Severson opened the restaurant/bar in 1983 and ran the business for 16 years until they decided to sell the building and business on contract to their, then-general manager, Nancy Keating said. E.L. Kracker's/Stu's stayed open under the same name for the next seven years until, after the contract was not fulfilled, the Keatings reclaimed ownership of the building, Keating said.

Over the course of the next three years the building changed from E.L. Kracker's to Michael Domani's restaurant. Then, one year later, it became AJ's/Club 217, Copenhaver said.

After the closing, Keating and husband Ken made a decision. "We thought 'It's just sitting empty, why not open it back up for a while,'" Keating said. Thus, Stu's was reborn.

For the full story go to Dennews.com.
Like many developers his age, Henry P. Coyle, 42, joined the home-building business just in time to ride the building boom of the 1980s and '90s. Unlike many of his peers, though, he survived the bust that followed. Now, as some of his former peers queue for unemployment insurance or explore other professions, Coyle has a full job roster. Coyle Construction Co. completed four custom houses and four major home remodels in 2008. This year looks equally promising.

Coyle credits his father and mentor, Henry J. Coyle, a retired Chicago home builder, for equipping him with the values and skills that make him successful. "He taught me to not be greedy," says Coyle. "So I've never tried to be the biggest or richest builder. I've always financed my projects instead of spending money I don't have. And, I've kept the company small enough that I am still the customer contact. I'm not the guy who builds your house, then says, 'Sorry, your warranty is up, see ya.' I'm available 24/7 during and after construction."

Coyle's father also taught him humility, he adds. "I'm only as good as my trades," he says of his crew. "So, I hire the best. They've got to be not only good but flexible because I make a lot of changes. I'm constantly improving each house." In fact, says Coyle, he tours each room with a tape measure before the framers complete the interior walls. "At that point, I can add things that aren't on the blueprints," he explains. "So, I call the customer and say, 'This Jack-and-Jill bathroom is big enough to make into two separate bathrooms' or 'We have a spot where we could add a window seat in this bedroom.'"

Also like his father, Coyle considers continuing education part of his job. Long after earning a college degree in construction engineering from EIU '89, Coyle takes classes to learn new skills. He became an NAHB (National Association of Home Builders) green builder and, in 2009, will complete his certification as an NAHB graduate builder. He reads stacks of trade and consumer magazines each month to keep abreast of housing trends. When Coyle travels, he photographs ideas he can use, such as wooden door designs from England and limestone floor patterns from Ireland.

"My customers are educated people, so I have to be, too," says Coyle. "They come to me with inch-thick files of things they want in their homes. I have to know which products will and won't work and be able to make other suggestions."

The builder-customer relationship must be one of trust, says Coyle. "I'm building people's dream houses," says Coyle. "Their houses are typically their biggest investments." Including their lots, Coyle's customers' houses typically cost $750,000 to $1.5 million.

As a certified green builder, Coyle knows how to make his houses as energy-efficient as possible. "It's up to the customer as to how far they want to take it because some green features do cost more," he says. "Most want things that will pay back, such as high-efficiency HVAC systems, but not necessarily things that are green but won't save money, such as recycled carpeting."

In recognition of his success, the Home Builders Association of Illinois named Coyle 2008 Builder of the Year. His peers at the South West Suburban Home Builders Association nominated him.

Awards aside, Coyle says he encourages potential clients to compare him to his competition. "Know your builder," he tells them. "Knock on doors if you have to." If you don't hear the words "integrity" and "honesty," says Coyle, keep looking.
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Eastern Illinois University invites applications and nominations for the position of **Director of Financial Aid** for an appointment beginning no later than July 1, 2009. The director of Financial Aid reports to the vice president for Student Affairs and has primary responsibilities for the administration of the university's student financial services, including federal, state, institutional and private sources of grants, scholarships, employment, loans, veteran affairs and a self-insured university student health insurance plan. Requirements include a master's degree in college student affairs, business or a related area; strong communication and interpersonal skills; and significant administrative experience related to financial aid programs. Applications and nominations will be accepted until interviews are completed. Review of completed applications will begin Feb. 27, 2009. A complete application includes a letter of application addressing the applicant's strengths, relative to the qualifications and responsibilities cited above; current resume; and names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of five professional references. Application materials should be submitted to Mark Hudson, chairperson of the Financial Aid Director Search Committee, care of ilsipes@eiu.edu.


Eastern invites applications and nominations for the position of **Assistant Director of Student Life**. Reporting to the director of Student Life, the assistant director provides leadership, communicates commitment, and sets expectations for students and staff under advisement in Student Life areas that include multicultural programming, leadership support services and programs, registered student organizations support services and programs. A flexible work schedule, including some weekend and evening commitments, is expected. In addition, this position provides institutional support to the Division of Student Affairs in the areas of student development, services and programs. This is a 12-month position in the Division of Student Affairs. Requirements include a master's degree in college student personnel, higher ed or related field; experience in multicultural/student programming leadership training, with responsibilities for program and event development; experience in student advisement, student development and programming with diverse student populations, and in a variety of programming areas; experience supervising undergraduate and/or graduate students; and strong written, oral and interpersonal communication skills. Additional information about this position can be found here. A review of applications will begin March 23 and continue until campus interviews are scheduled. A complete application includes a cover letter, resume or curriculum vita, minimum of three professional references (names, contact information), and a copy of unofficial academic transcripts. Application materials should be submitted to Lynette Drake, Chair of Assistant Director of Student Life Search Committee, Eastern Illinois University Health Service, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920, ldrake@eiu.edu. Fax: 217-581-3899. Electronic submissions preferred.

**2009 SPRING FLING TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

Tickets for the 2009 Panther Club Spring Fling are now available for purchase at multiple locations, including the ticket office at Lantz Arena. The Spring Fling will take place in Lantz Arena on Saturday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m.

**REUNION SET FOR PANTHER MARCHING BAND AND PINK PANTHERS**

If you're a former member of the Panther Marching Band or Pink Panthers, mark your calendar for Homecoming 2009 (Oct. 16-17), when we'll host an on-campus reunion in your honor. Details will be mailed out this summer. To make sure you're on the mailing list, please e-mail alumeiu@eiu.edu with your name, graduation year and current address.
ACADEMY OF LIFETIME LEARNING

'HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR DIGITAL CAMERA'

“How to Make the Most of Your Digital Camera” will be taught by Joe Ethridge from 1 to 2:30 p.m. March 3, 10, 24 and 31 in Blair Hall Conference Room 2116. The workshop fee is $60 for members and $75 for nonmembers.

UPCOMING NONCREDIT COOKING CLASS

Mommy and Me Cooking Class: Making and Decorating an Easter Bunny Cake

Learn the basics of making and decorating a yummy Easter bunny cake. Kids ages 6 to 10, along with moms, are invited to a fun evening of learning to prepare a great treat just in time for Easter. This class will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 2, in Klehm Hall 1411. The cost of the class is $40.

For questions and/or to register for the classes, call the School of Continuing Education at 581-5114. All classes will be taught by Kathy Rhodes from the School of Family and Consumer Sciences.

DOUDNA FINE ARTS

MARCH

25  7 pm, Doudna Fine Arts Center Lecture Hall, New and Emerging Artist’s Lecture: Ivan Brunetti, “Life and Work”

25  Faustwork Mask Theatre: The Mask Messenger, 7pm

26  7pm, Road Trips, Performed by Tree Theatre of New York, The Theatre, Admission: $5; open seating

27, 28, 30, 31  7:30pm, Side by Side by Sondheim: Musical Theatre, Black Box Theatre, Admission: $12 adults, $10 senior citizens and EIU employees, $5 students; reserved seating

29  4pm, Eastern Symphony Chamber Orchestra and Collegium Musicum (Early Music 29 Ensemble), Dvorak Concert Hall

30  7 pm, Doudna Fine Arts Center Lecture Hall, Scholar’s Lecture: Dr. Robyn Roslak, “The Laundress in Nineteenth-Century French Art: Representing the Working-Class Body”

APRIL

4  7:30pm, Scholarship Benefit Concert in Memory of David Hobbs, Dvorak Concert Hall, Admission: $5 adults, $3 students; open seating

6  7 pm, Poetry Reading by Luisa Igloria, Lecture Hall, free admission

9  7:30pm, In Concert: Jonathan Biss, Piano, Dvorak Concert Hall, $12/adults, $10/senior citizens & EIU employees, $5/students; reserved seating

23  7:30pm, EIU Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert, The Theatre, $5 adults, $3 students; open seating

26  4pm, A Musical Journey Through Time: Eastern Symphony Orchestra and EIU Choral Ensembles, Dvorak Concert Hall, $12/adults, $10/senior citizens & EIU employees, $5/students; reserved seating
EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH
28 Reception and Night at the Opera, Chicago, IL. The Abduction from the Seraglio: 7:30 pm
30 Reception at the ACPA Convention, National Harbor, MD. 7pm

APRIL
17-18 Jazz Alumni Weekend at EIU, Charleston, IL
18 Performance by Matthew Polenzani ’91, one of the world's most celebrated opera singers. "La Damnation de Faust," Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. $25 per person.
24 Alumni & Friends College of Business Reception, Bloomington, IL. 5pm

MAY
24 Annual Alumni & Friends Cardinal Outing, St. Louis, MO, Redbird Suites open at 11:15, game time is 1:15pm.

AUGUST
15 Oakland A’s vs. Chicago White Sox, Oakland, CA

Go to http://www.eiu.edu/~alumni/events.html for details on all of the events.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT - Ongoing Exhibits

♦ February 28 - March 29, Main Galleries & e-Gallery, 2009 All-Student Show.
♦ March 14-April 11, Brainard Gallery, Artist in Residence Exhibition: Kelley Quinn
♦ March 30, April 5-26, Main Galleries, 2009 Graduate Art Exhibition, Reception is from 2-4pm on the 5th of April.
♦ April 5-26, Main Galleries, 2009 Graduate Art Exhibition
♦ April 18-June 7, Brainard Gallery, African Art Exhibition
♦ May 2 - 24, Main Galleries, 27th Children's Art Exhibition
♦ Through Aug. 2, 2008-2009 Cultivating Creativity: Consolidated Communications Children's Art Exhibit. (Contact the Tarble Arts Center for the complete tour itinerary.)

Go to http://www.eiu.edu/~tarble/exhibitions.php for details on the above exhibitions.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS
OUR SYMPATHIES

We extend our sympathies to the family, friends and co-workers of Howard Price, 65, who passed away (natural causes) at his home late last week. Mr. Price was a retired journalism professor who joined the EIU faculty in August 1984. Although he retired from his journalism faculty position in June 2005, he continued to teach an occasional class. A memorial service for Mr. Price was held Thursday, March 5, in Buzzard Auditorium. According to James Tidwell, chair of the journalism department, "At that time we will celebrate Howard's life and share our memories of him." Memorial contributions in Mr. Price's honor may be made to the Gene Seymour Scholarship for sports journalism in care of the EIU Foundation.

See here for a Daily Eastern News tribute to Mr. Price.
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Charles Phillips, director of Human Resources, and Julie Benedict, Human Resources Training and Development, presented a workshop session titled “Mediation” at the 41st annual CACUBO Professional Development Workshop, held in St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 11 and 12. The workshop outlined the stages of conflict and what responsibility and role the mediator has in achieving an outcome.

Andrew M. White, mathematics and computer science, presented a workshop to pre-K through second grade teachers at the Newman (Ill.) Grade School on Friday, Feb. 20, as an in-service training for the teachers. The workshop included activities for counting by weaving a mat, counting by building a centipede from marshmallows and pretzel sticks, and many other activities which cause young children to think outside the box. Andrew also presented a workshop titled "Mathematics of an Orange and Other Food" at the 25th annual Conference on Teaching Mathematics, held at SIUC on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009. The workshop was a hands-on representation of the use of oranges and other foods in teaching mathematical concepts.

Newton Key has received copies of the second edition of Newton Key and Robert Bucholz, eds., "Sources and Debates in English History: 1485-1714" (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell). The substantively revised and edited sourcebook has been published in both the United Kingdom and the U.S.A.

Charles Eberly, professor of counseling and student development, presented a session at the National Association for Campus Activities conference in Nashville, Tenn., on Feb. 16, with Stan Sweeney (M.S. Ed., 1995), assistant director of Reeve Union at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. The session, "We're Looking for a Few Good Students," about careers in college student affairs and making an informed graduate school search, was attended by more than 50 persons.


David Radavich's one-act play, "Wake Me No Wake," is being performed the first week of March at the Parker Theatre on east 24th Street in New York City. The production is directed by Viktoria Bozsoki under the auspices of Love Creek Productions. This is Radavich's sixth Off-Off-Broadway production to date.


EIU EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR CONTINUOUS YEARS OF SERVICE

Eastern recently honored more than 230 of its employees for continuous years of service. A luncheon was held in recognition of university employees with continuous years of service in five-year increments. Those employed at EIU for five years were eligible for a certificate; those with 10 or more years of service were honored with both a certificate and a pin. Among those eligible for this year's honors was Robert Wiseman, with 50 years of service. See here for the full listing.

EIU, area to get national TV exposure

"Heartland Highways," WEIU-TV's weekly show that airs nationwide on RFD-TV, will feature EIU-related stories in two episodes this season.

Dwain Naragon, an EIU ceramics professor, is included in the episode that will air on WEIU on March 13 and 15, and on RFD on April 6.

The "Heartland Highways at Home" episode will feature Coles County, including EIU and WEIU. Its WEIU air dates are May 1 and 3; its RFD air date is May 25.

Click here for program details and show times. And if you don't get WEIU or RFD, don't worry -- you can view episodes online.
SPORTS NEWS

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL GOES TO NASHVILLE

By virtue of its 71-65 victory against Tennessee Tech March 3, the Eastern women's basketball team's immediate goal of gaining a return trip to Nashville, Tenn., was successful.

But the scrappy Golden Eagles made them earn it. The Panthers saw a 16-point lead dwindle to one with 3 minutes, 47 seconds remaining, led by the hot shooting of Tech senior guards Blair Bowens and Meagan Lyons.

But in the end the Panthers were right where they expected to be at this point of the season — in the semifinals of the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament — where they will meet third-seeded Tennessee State Friday at 2 p.m. in Nashville.

Galligan, who was honored for becoming Eastern's all-time leading scorer before the game, continued her dominant ways, finishing with 25 points on 7-of-8 shooting. The game was Lindsey Kluempers' 119th of her career, breaking a school record of 118 that had stood since 1990.

The Panthers advance to the semis of the OVC Tournament for the second consecutive year, where they will face a Lady Tigers (18-12) squad that they played in Nashville only four days ago. The winner of that game will face either No. 1 seed Murray State or No. 5 seed Austin Peay in the OVC Championship game, where the winner advances to the NCAA Tournament. The Panthers lost to Murray State in the title game last season.

For the full story by Collin Whitchurch go to dennews.com.

PANTHERS EFFORT FALLS SHORT AT AUSTIN PEAY

Eastern Illinois (12-18) pushed No. 2 seed Austin Peay to the limit on Tuesday night in the first round of the Ohio Valley Conference but the Governors (18-12) held on at the line for a 57-54 victory. With the game tied at 54-54 with 1:26 left, EIU missed a shot and Kyle Duncan secured a rebound and was fouled with 13 seconds left. Duncan sank both shots to put APSU up 56-54. EIU senior Billy Parrish had his 3-pointer bounce off the front of the rim on a wide open look and Austin Peay pulled down the rebound to hold on for the win.

For the full story go to eiupanthers.com.

PITCHING & TWO-OUT RBI’S LIFT EIU TO VICTORY AT SIU

Eastern Illinois baseball enjoyed a 15-3 advantage in the hit column and scored all five of its runs with two outs in a 5-1 victory at Southern Illinois on a recent afternoon. “Obviously we swung the bats very well,” EIU head coach Jim Schmitz said. “We kept putting guys on base and didn’t get the big hit early, but didn’t get frustrated. The pitching was suburb and they didn’t have a lot of good swings. And the defense was solid, too. At Evansville last weekend our play wasn’t real impressive. Today we did everything – pitched, hit the ball and played good defense. That’s what we talk about, playing every phase of the game well.

For the full story go to eiupanthers.com.

Perala Hired As New Women’s Soccer Coach

Eastern Illinois athletic director Barbara Burke has announced the hiring of Summer Perala as the new head coach for the Eastern Illinois women’s soccer program. Perala comes to EIU following six seasons as the assistant coach, with the past two seasons as associate head coach at UAB.

“I’m very excited to become the head coach of the Eastern Illinois women’s soccer program,” said Perala. “Having played collegiate soccer in the state, I am very aware of the tradition and success the EIU program has had and I look forward to guiding this program back to that level of success.”

For the full story go to eiupanthers.com.
Women's Basketball: Panthers lose to Austin Peay's Lady Govs

Just like that, it was all over. Fifth-seeded Austin Peay stunned the Eastern women's basketball team 69-65 in double overtime Saturday afternoon in the championship game of the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament. The loss ended the team's season one game short of an NCAA Tournament bid for the second consecutive year.

The second-seeded Panthers trailed by four with 38 seconds left in regulation before tying the game with 11.4 seconds left to send it into overtime. Similarly, the Panthers led by four with just more than a minute to play in the first overtime before surrendering the lead with less than a minute to go. In the double-overtime period it was all Lady Govs, who increased the lead to as many as 10 points with 1:05 remaining.

"We ran into a hot basketball team that had a lot of confidence and they played like it tonight," Eastern head coach Brady Sallee said. "I'm very proud of my kids' effort. Their heart, their determination. If we take a little bit better care of the ball and there's not an 18-free throw attempt discrepancy, things might've been different."

Turnovers plagued the Panthers throughout the game, as they finished with a season-high 25. Senior guard Ellen Canale and red-shirt junior guard Dominique Sims combined for 15 turnovers.

Eastern senior forward Rachel Galligan led the charge for Eastern with 24 points on 12-of-15 shooting in 42 minutes. She also had four blocks in the game and was named to the All-Tournament team. No other Panther scored in double-figures, but senior guard Megan Edwards had nine points and eight assists in a career-high 48 minutes of action.

Galligan's 24 points gave her 1,891 to end her career, 84 more than the previous career-record she broke a week ago. She also finished with 582 points for the season, breaking JoAnn Archer's single-season record of 575 points set in 1981.

While the Panthers' dreams of an NCAA Tournament bid are over, they still have an outside shot at an invitation to the postseason National Invitational Tournament, which is a 48-team tournament that begins March 18. The tournament's selection day is March 16.

For the full story by Collin Whitchurch, go to dennews.com.

EIU Sends Two Runners To Indoor Championships

Eastern Illinois had two men's track athletes officially earn bids to this year's NCAA Indoor Championships to be held March 13-14 at Texas A&M. Zye Boey and David Holm will both compete at this year's meet.

For the full story go to eiupanthers.com.

Former Tennis Player Earns National Honor

Former Eastern Illinois tennis player Fernando Velasco of Austin, Texas, was named the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) Male Player of the Year as the awards were recently handed out at the 2009 PTR International Tennis Symposium in Hilton Head Island.

For the full story go to eiupanthers.com.

Women's Cross Country Earns Academic Award

Eastern Illinois women's cross country was named one of the nation's All-Academic squads by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association after the Panthers squad maintained a 3.12 team GPA for the fall semester of 2008.

For the full story go to eiupanthers.com.

Howarth Announces 2009 Recruiting Class

Needing to replace an accomplished seven-member senior class, Eastern Illinois men's soccer head coach Adam Howarth has announced the signing of seven recruits who will join the Panthers in the fall.

For the full story go to eiupanthers.com.
STUDENT ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

Zye Boey of the men’s track team and Rachel Galligan of the women’s basketball team were named the Eastern Illinois student-athletes of the month for February 2009.

Boey, a redshirt freshman sprinter from Decatur, Ill., was outstanding during the month of February earning OVC Athlete of the Year and OVC Freshman of the Year becoming the first freshman to win the OVC top athlete honor. He won the 60m and 200m dash at the OVC Championships setting the meet record with a time of 6.67 in the 60m dash. He was named the OVC male of the championships and is currently ranked in the Top 10 nationally in both sprint events.

Galligan, a senior post player from Bloomington, Ill., was pivotal in the Panthers securing the No. 2 seed in the upcoming Ohio Valley Conference women’s basketball tournament. She was named the player of the week in the league one time and on Feb. 28 at Tennessee State passed Nancy Kassebaum as the Panthers career leading scorer with 1,817 points. Galligan also ranks as the EIU career leader in blocked shots and free throws.

Panther Men Scratch Past Bradley, 4-3

The Eastern Illinois men's tennis squad picked up a key victory on Wednesday afternoon, downing instate foe Bradley, 4-3. The win moves the Panthers to 6-4 overall on the season.

Seniors Jordan Nestrud and Vuk Milicevic scored important singles wins at No. 2 and No. 3, while freshman Jamie Firth won at No. 5 singles. Both Nestrud and Milicevic battled back to pick up their respective wins despite dropping the first set to each of their Bradley opponents.

With the win, Milicevic improved to 7-3 overall in singles play, while playing mostly at the No. 3 spot. Nestrud, meanwhile, moved to 6-4 in singles action, playing a majority of his matches at No. 2.

"The two biggest keys to our win today were the performances of Jordan (Nestrud) and Vuk (Milicevic),” said EIU head coach John Blackburn. "To come back after being down a set shows how tough they are. It is what you expect from your senior leaders. They were resilient and their determination helped the squad win the match."

More importantly, Eastern also won the all-important doubles point as the No. 1 and No. 2 duos of Vuk Milicevic/Jordan Nestrud and Jeff Rutherford/Matyas Hilgert each won their respective matchups. Nestrud and Milicevic won in dramatic fashion, gutting out the 9-8 win. Milicevic/Nestrud remain undefeated at 6-0 when teamed together at the No. 1 doubles spot.

Parrodi Leads EIU at Samford Intercollegiate

Freshman Gino Parrodi shot an eleven-over-par 227 to lead all Eastern Illinois golfers at the two day Samford Intercollegiate, hosted by the former Ohio Valley Conference foe.

For the full story go to eiupanthers.com.

Panthers Drop Slugfest at Indiana State, 10-9

Brett Nommensen homered twice as one of five Panthers to post a multi-hit effort, but Eastern Illinois baseball blew an early four-run lead in a 10-9 loss at Indiana State Tuesday afternoon.

For the full story go to eiupanthers.com.
# UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS

**Bold denotes a home game**

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<td>Softball</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>Tennessee State</td>
<td>Williams Field</td>
<td>Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Golf</td>
<td>3/15-17</td>
<td>Jacksonville State Intercollegiate</td>
<td>Jacksonville, AL</td>
<td>All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Golf</td>
<td>3/15-17</td>
<td>Samford Invitational</td>
<td>Oneonita, AL</td>
<td>All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>Williams Field</td>
<td>1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Winter Haven, FL</td>
<td>9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Bradley</td>
<td>Winter Haven, FL</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>IUPUI</td>
<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
<td>Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s BB</td>
<td>3/19</td>
<td>NCAA Tournament</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M &amp; W Track</td>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>Georgia Relays</td>
<td>Athens, GA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s BB</td>
<td>3/21-24</td>
<td>NCAA Tournament</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M &amp; W Tennis</td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>Eastern Kentucky</td>
<td>Darling Courts</td>
<td>11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>UT Martin (DH)</td>
<td>Williams Field</td>
<td>1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>3/21&amp;22</td>
<td>Morehead State (DH)</td>
<td>Morehead, KY</td>
<td>11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M &amp; W Tennis</td>
<td>3/22</td>
<td>Morehead State</td>
<td>Darling Courts</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>3/22</td>
<td>UT Martin</td>
<td>Williams Field</td>
<td>Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M &amp; W Tennis</td>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>Jacksonville State</td>
<td>Jacksonville, AL</td>
<td>10am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## RECENT RESULTS & RECORDS

### Last week’s results

**Women’s Basketball (22-8, 15-3 OVC)**
- W 69-56 at Austin Peay
- W 89-79 at Tennessee State

**Men’s Basketball (12-17, 8-10 OVC)**
- L 60-76 vs. UT Martin
- W 59-57 at Western Michigan

**Indoor Track**
- Men & Women swept OVC Indoor Track titles
- Zye Boey won 60m and 200m dash
- Zye Boey named male athlete of the championships
- Kandace Arnold won shot put and weight throw
- Tom Akers named OVC Coach of the Year

**Softball (8-4)**
- L 0-1 at Kennesaw State
- L 3-5 vs. Southern Mississippi
- W 11-2 vs. North Carolina Central

**Baseball (3-2)**
- L 4-5 vs. Saint Louis
- W 7-6 vs. Butler

**Women’s Tennis (3-6)**
- L 1-6 at Illinois State

### Previous week’s results

**Men’s Basketball (12-15, 8-8 OVC)**
- L 60-76 vs. UT Martin
- W 59-57 at Western Michigan

**Women’s Basketball (20-8, 13-3 OVC)**
- W 63-53 vs. UT Martin
- L 69-84 (ot) vs. Murray State

**Men’s Swimming**
- Placed 3rd at Summit League Championships

**Women’s Swimming**
- Placed 5th at Summit League Championships

**Indoor Track**
- Hosted EIU Friday Night Special
- Chandra Golden and Zye Boey both double event winners for the Panthers

**Softball (7-2)**
- W 11-3 vs. Virginia
- W 2-1 vs. Sacred Heart
- L 2-4 (11) at South Carolina
- L 2-3 vs. James Madison

**Baseball (2-1)**
- W 9-6 at Southeastern Louisiana
- L 6-8 at Southeastern Louisiana
- W 5-1 at Southeastern Louisiana

**Men’s Tennis (5-4)**
- L 1-6 at Northern Illinois
- W 7-0 vs. South Dakota State
- L 0-7 at Marquette