

Colonels struggle against Miami (Ohio)  
Sports, B6



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Michelle Obama to speak at graduation

By KYLE WOOSLEY  
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First Lady Michelle Obama has been announced as one of the keynote speakers at Eastern's graduation ceremony. Obama will be speaking at the College of Business and Technology and College of Education commencement ceremony. Marc Whitt, university spokesperson, said the White House contacted Eastern about the opportunity to have Obama speak at commencement. "We were contacted by the White House and advised that the first lady had become aware

of EKU's status as a military-friendly institution and of our No. 1 ranking in terms of programs and services for veterans," Whitt said. Obama will be speaking as part of her Joining Forces initiative, which supports veterans and military families. Eastern has been ranked by several publications, including *Military Times EDGE* and *G.I. Jobs*, as one of the most veteran-friendly universities in the country. Eastern President Doug Whitlock said he felt a heavy sense of pride when he was contacted. "Mainly I was tremendously honored that someone in

Washington, particularly in the White House, had noticed what we were doing to serve the veterans," Whitlock said. "She had become aware of what we were doing at Eastern Kentucky University." Obama will be receiving an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. "When we found out that she was interested in coming here, I asked if she was interested in receiving an honorary degree," Whitlock said. Whitlock said there was another commencement speaker in the works, but he dropped out before Obama contacted the university. He said the timeliness was

"serendipity" and could not have come at a more opportune time. Details about security at the event are not being disclosed at this time. According to a press release, guests will be required to go through security screenings similar to that encountered at airports. "Guests can anticipate heightened security measures," Whitt said. Jade Miles, 22, graduating communication studies major from Louisville, said she was in disbelief when she heard the news.



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY CHUCK KENNEDY  
First Lady Michelle Obama will be speaking at the College of Business and Technology and College of Education commencement ceremony May 11.

SEE OBAMA, PAGE A3



Sarah Carpenter hugs friends gathered in the Powell Student Center after hearing the election results, Tuesday.

CARPENTER AND BRADFORD WON THE SGA ELECTION BY 155 VOTES TUESDAY.

By KRISTIE HAMON  
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Sarah Carpenter and Steven Bradford have been officially named the Student Government Association (SGA) election winners. With a total of 671 votes, Carpen-

ter and Bradford beat out two other executive slates on Tuesday night. The newly elected duo said they look forward to tackling their platform issues head-on. One of the first things Bradford said they want to work on as part of their initiatives is the use of flex dollars off campus. This would allow students to choose if they want to spend flex on or off campus. "We'll have an on campus flex

portion of the meal plan and an off campus flex portion of the meal plan," Carpenter said. They are also planning on supporting the new advising model that has proposed professional advisers help students rather than faculty. "We're definitely in support of the new advising model," Carpenter said. "Just because the current administration is in support of it, doesn't mean

SEE ELECTIONS, PAGE A3

Results

Student Body President/  
Executive Vice President

Sarah Carpenter & Steven Bradford	671
Dan Hendrickson & Kourtney Chrisman	516
Jacob Wright & Megan Holloway	395

Vice President for  
Student Activities Council

Brandon Mandigo	1,124
Ryan Poynter	320

Vice President for  
Resident Life Council

Joseph "J.P." Fisher	839
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Judge rules Center documents to be released

By WESLEY ROBINSON  
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A county judge this week ruled this week that Eastern must release the majority of its records involving its former director of the EKU Center for the Arts, Debra Hoskins. Hoskins resigned last June after a host of complaints surfaced about her tenure as manager. Hoskins and the university have 14 days to appeal the ruling or they will be compelled to turn over documents to the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, which originally sought the documents under a Freedom of Information request. Attorneys representing Hoskins and Eastern both said neither party had decided whether they would appeal the ruling.

The documents sought by the *Herald-Leader* related to her tenure as director of the new \$33 million facility, which opened last year. Hoskins resigned last year in June after university officials overseeing the Center sought to have her fired but were rebuffed by the community operations board that oversees the center. Previously withheld documents were released in March included in the documents internal audit report, which detailed the mis-handling of credit card information, complimentary tickets, the underpayment of acts performing at the Center, overpayment of service contracts, issues with the Center's procord and the sale and storage of alcoholic beverages. Earlier this year, the university and Hoskins

SEE HOSKINS, PAGE A4



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Documents regarding Debra Hoskins, former director of the EKU Center for the Arts, were ordered to be released.

Task force addresses work unit reorganization

By ZEYNAB DAY  
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The Strategic Budget Reallocation Task Force addressed reports regarding specific areas that have been up for review on Tuesday. An email sent by the task force said "the suggested areas had been identified by the Task Force, the Financial and Strategic Planning and Joint Council, and the campus at large via the Budget Task Force email and survey site."

The Work Unit Reorganization plan is currently under discussion and is to be completed by the end of April. Each unit is set to receive the information regarding job cuts and is set to be provided while the Voluntary Buyout is still available. The Voluntary Buyout plan

period ends May 20 and employees whose positions are eliminated can apply online for other positions within the university. The email also addressed concerns regarding the tuition waiver program and listed a number of proposed changes that included decreasing the number of credit hours to nine per term and allowing employees to transfer nine credit hours

to spouses or children. The original tuition waiver would have decreased credit hours to six per term and create a set rate for tuition waived. According to the email, the changes would result in over \$1 million in savings. The *Progress* will be making updates online as they are made available at [www.eastern-progress.com](http://www.eastern-progress.com).

Thieme elected  
faculty regent

By ELISE SVOBODA  
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Eastern has a new faculty regent as of Friday. Amy Thieme, an associate professor in the department of communications, beat the incumbent faculty regent, Malcolm Frisbie, in a run-off election. Thieme received 293 votes, or 72 percent of the votes and Frisbie received 116 votes or 28 percent of the votes. Bob Johnson, co-chair of the Elections and University Nominations Committee, said the voter turnout was an improvement compared to past regent elections because of contributing factors such as the reallocations and upcoming change in presidency. Thieme said she has received a lot of congratulations and support from faculty and fellow candidates who she said "showed a lot of character." She said Frisbie was the first person she heard from after the election results were made public and said "there is nothing but good-feelings between the two of them." "I really appreciate the work that Malcolm has put forth serving on the Board of Regents over the last six years," Thieme said. "That's a big commitment and he and I share the same passion for

SEE FACULTY REGENT, PAGE A3

# Kentucky Proud products to be sold around campus

By KASEY TYRING  
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Thanks to a new initiative by the Kentucky Agricultural Commission, Kentucky Proud and Eastern have teamed up to make locally produced food and other products available to students.

A ceremonial ribbon cutting took place Monday to kick off the new initiative called, Farm to Campus.

From now on, when students walk into the campus bookstore they will see a table completely devoted to products that are made by Kentucky producers.

Eastern is the first school involved with the program; offering Kentucky Proud products in the campus bookstore, the POD and even in the cafeteria.

“I can’t tell you how excited I am to introduce and kick-off EKU’s involvement with Kentucky Proud,” President Doug Whitlock said. “I’m extremely excited to know that this is the first campus to be so involved in this process.”

Kentucky Proud is a program that encourages consumers to buy produce and other products locally.

The program educates Kentuckians on the many reasons why local products are better; including less travel time for food ensuring better taste, more nutrition and less emissions produced by cars which will in turn, help the environment.

Buying locally also boosts local and state economies.

The Farm to Campus program is an effort to get Kentucky Proud products on the shelves and in the cafeterias of all Kentucky universities.

“Not only will this program reduce the carbon footprint,” said Kentucky Agricultural Commissioner, James Comer. “Not only will this provide fresher and healthier food

to students. This will also increase economic development because you’re going to keep your money closer to your community and create revenue for our state.”

Kentucky Proud will not only be available in the bookstore but will also be in the Fountain Food Court in downstairs Powell in the POD and in the Fresh Food Company in upstairs Powell.

“Our food provider, Aramark, has agreed to increase the volume of Kentucky produced products,” Whitlock said.

Eastern was chosen as the location for the launch of Farm to Campus program for a number of reasons; one of them being that Eastern has an excellent agriculture program according to Comer.

“Throughout my life Eastern Kentucky has always had an outstanding agriculture program,” Comer said. “It’s very fitting that we announce this initiative today at Eastern Kentucky University because you have so many good students who are into sustainability. You have so many teachers and professors who are committed to educating students about agriculture and training future leaders in agriculture in rural Kentucky.”

Eastern’s commitment to sustainability, specifically efforts made by the Green Crew was also a reason why the launch took place at Eastern.

One of the Green Ambassadors, Jacob Garrison, 19, a biology pre-med major, from Manchester, was a key player in getting the initiative started and involving Kentucky Proud, the bookstore, Aramark and the Agriculture Commission.

“The goal for Green Ambassadors is working on promoting initiatives on campus for sustainability. My focus has always been on sustainable foods,” Garrison said. “That’s kind of how this got started. Once we expressed our interest in putting Kentucky Proud products in our bookstore, Kentucky Proud thought it would be a good idea to



CAITLYN COOK/PROGRESS

**James Comer and President Doug Whitlock perform a ribbon cutting in the Barnes and Noble Campus Bookstore.**

make this an initiative for all Kentucky campuses.”

One potential concern some students may have about purchasing Kentucky Proud products is the price.

These products are priced slightly higher than average because local producers require more funds to pay for their operations.

Garrison said he doesn’t believe price will be an issue when students look to buy the products.

“I think once students know the story behind the products and what it’s doing for the local economy they will buy the products,” Garrison said. “Everyone I’ve talked to from Aramark have been really supportive of the program and seemed to have been interest-

ed in doing it for quite some time now.”

“No one was really against it,” Garrison said. “Its kind of one of those things it’s hard to be against.”

Garrison expressed how beneficial this program is to Eastern students.

“This program is great for a campus like this because, this is where students are learning about what life style choices they want to make in their future,” he said. “We take information from here and apply it later on.”

Available products include Jim Beam coffee, moonshine jelly, Ale-8 spicy salsa, chocolate horseshoes, Kentucky Derby T-shirts and much more.

Check out the Kentucky Proud table located in the middle of the bookstore.

## College of Education launches project peer educator program

By KAYLA LASURE  
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Eastern’s College of Education has implemented three new programs to encourage student success.

One of these programs includes a peer educator pilot program launched last fall. This program pairs up upperclassmen education students with new education students.

“This past semester we only had seven peer mentor - peer learner pairs,” said Ryan Wilson, academic adviser and peer educator coordinator for the College of Education. “The mentors and learners would meet once a week for at least 30 minutes and we also encouraged them to meet some place other than their dorm rooms.”

Sarah Morrow, a 21-year-old special education and elementary education major from Bethel, Ohio, participated in this program as a peer mentor.

“My peer learner and I share a love for Starbucks,” Morrow said. “A typical meeting for us was spent sipping Starbucks on campus. I would start our meetings by answering any of the questions she had for me, if I didn’t have an answer for her questions I could typically point her in the right direction and help her find someone who could. After covering whatever business there was to cover we would sit and talk about the COE, what we liked and didn’t like, and swap stories about our favorite and least favorite classes and professors.”

Wilson said they had a 100 percent retention rate, and that all seven peer-learners returned back to Eastern this spring semester. He also said the group had an average of a 3.24 GPA.

The peer mentor positions are not paid and are completely voluntary. This program plans on hiring 32 peer educators during the fall semester.

“When presented with the opportunity to be a peer mentor, I was really excited be-

cause it was something I wish I could have had my freshman year of college,” said Erin Wood, a 21-year-old special education learning behavior disorders major from Cincinnati, Ohio. “[Mentors are] someone to talk to about the typical freshman problems of being homesick and time management from someone who had already been in my shoes instead of my peers who were going through the same issues with me.”

Morrow said this program

***“I was very fortunate to be matched with such a wonderful peer learner.”***

***Sarah Morrow  
Special and Elementary  
Education major***

was as much of a help to her as it was to her peer learner.

“I was very fortunate to be matched with such a wonderful peer learner,” Morrow said. “We had an instant connection and got along great. I gained a friend through this experience. I look at my peer learner as an equal who could very possibly be a future coworker. It was nice to be able to share my experiences with someone, both the good and the bad, in hopes that it would help them have a better experience.”

Just like with any new program, this one worked its way through all the problems it may have ran into.

“The most challenging part of this experience was that this program was just taking off and our small groups of peer tutors were the first ones to get this program up and running,” Wood said. “There was no talking to peer educators before us or going off of previous experiences. But Mr. Wilson was so helpful in meeting with us for progress checks every two weeks and letting us know what topics to cov-

er during our sessions and how to make our meetings effective.”

Another program the College of Education is putting into the works is the placement of first-time freshman education majors in partnerships for their first and second semesters. This would mean they would place students in classes that had other education majors in them as well.

“We would place the students in a couple of the same classes, to give them someone familiar to study with or ask questions to if they have trouble,” Wilson said. “We would try to pair some of them in classes such as EDF 103, EDO 100, ENG 101, and the appropriate math course.”

The last program the College of Education is executing is the requirement of all first-time freshman education majors who live on campus to live in a living learning community (LLC). Wilson said right now the LLC for education majors is located in McGregor, but will expand to Commonwealth as well in the fall. “We just really want the students to make connections with one another,” Wilson said. “We want to help them adjust to college as easily as possible.”

Wilson also said that he hopes other colleges within Eastern Kentucky University start doing programs such as these.

“My goal for our programs, if they prove to be successful, is that it creates a model for other EKU colleges and departments,” Wilson said. “It doesn’t cost anything, so I don’t see why not to do it. I do admit, it’s a lot of extra work, but I want everyone to know we are willing to put in extra time to help students.”

Wilson said all of these programs are a collective effort from the department to help with student success and retention. He referred to the College of Education as the “COE family,” and wanted the same for the education students with the implementation of these programs. He said he wants the education students to feel like they were in a family connection atmosphere.

the remaining documents would violate that agreement.

Madison County Circuit Judge William G. Clouse Jr. met with attorneys for Eastern, Hoskins and the Herald-Leader on Tuesday to weigh whether the remaining documents would need to be disclosed and what information could be redacted to protect the privacy of people unrelated to the case.

Ephraim Helton, an attorney representing Hoskins, said there were between 19 and 23 documents in dispute. And at a previous hearing on April 11, Judge Clouse said the only way he could address the

situation was to see the records and he would rule on each record individually.

Kif Skidmore, the attorney representing the Herald-Leader, said the documents related the end of Hoskins employment with Eastern will be released. The majority of the documents are to be given to the Herald-Leader. Some documents, however, will be excluded, such as those containing personal information of employees not related to decision making in the case and those that contain student information, which could run afoul with federal protections for student privacy.

## New Science Building to get solar panels

By KATHLEEN DAWSON  
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The New Science Building is currently undergoing the first installation in Kentucky of a Sunpreme “SmartSilicon” solar panel system.

These new-generation solar panels provide constant monitoring statistics of the output, efficiency, and energy production of the system.

This \$10,337 project was made available with help from a Bluegrass PRIDE grant.

“While the energy savings these panels will produce is likely to be relatively small, as a demonstration it offers a prime opportunity for the campus community and the region to learn more about the potential for solar energy, and to consider how solar might fit into our energy mix

in the future,” said Alice Jones, Responsible Environmental Stewardship program director and geography professor.

Real-time monitoring will provide continuous performance data. This data will be used for research and educational purposes.

Eventually, student Green Ambassadors will translate the data into graphs, tables and other visual data that will be displayed on the flat screen monitors used for departmental announcements located on each floor of the New Science Building.

The solar panels will be installed on the third floor roof over the physics section of the building. The panels can be seen from the fourth and fifth levels of the building, as well as the sidewalk leading to the Brockton commuter parking lot.

## RLC bylaw revisions have been approved

By JACOB BLAIR  
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The Residence Life Council (RLC) approved new revisions to the branch’s bylaws in its meeting Monday.

These include a new rule that mandates all chairs for RLC have at least one office hour per week in the Student Government Association (SGA) office in middle Powell.

Donovan Kearns, finance chair, debated the need for a mandatory office hour. Kearns said the majority of his work is not dependent on a set office hour, but rather when he gets information.

Mariah Farran, associate vice president, said there is a need of office hours to allow the RLC chairs to be more accessible to general members aside from established weekly meeting times.

“With the new bylaws, office hours will give our branch more transparency,” Farran said.

Farran said another revision to the bylaws required the associate vice president to do more tasks for RLC to hold the more accountable instead of being a figure.

A revision was also added capping the size of attendees possible at meetings in accordance with the room in which the meeting is to be held.

“We want everyone in the residence halls to come to meetings, but if everyone came there would be a fire hazard,” Farran said. “We do have a cap on the members who can vote, but people are welcome.”

Many of the other revisions approved deal with the wording and grammar of the bylaws.

Kenna Middleton, director of University Housing, was scheduled to be present at Monday’s meeting, but was unable to attend because of illness.

## HOSKINS CONTINUED FROM A1

released some of the documents concerning her tenure, many of which highlighted concerns about the center’s questionable handling of customer’s credit card numbers and information from her former employer, Centre College’s Norton Center for the Arts in Danville.

But several documents were withheld by Eastern, which cited a confidentiality agreement with Hoskins and claimed that releasing

leased so the public needs to know. EKU is a public institution, and it’s supported with public dollars. And it therefore falls under the state’s open record laws.”

Previously withheld documents were released in March included in the documents internal audit report, which detailed the mishandling of credit card information, complimentary tickets, the underpayment of acts performing at the Center, overpayment of service contracts, issues with the Center’s procard and the sale and storage of alcoholic beverages.