

# Coach Nuebauer chosen by peers for regional coaching award

## See Sports, B6



# THE EASTERN PROGRESS

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## Presidential candidates address university

By WESLEY ROBINSON

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Eastern could have its 12th president chosen as soon as tomorrow.

Now that visits have been made by the three finalists--Michael Benson, the president of Southern Utah University; Gregg Lassen, vice president for Finance and Operations for Lamar University; and Alan Shao, dean of the school of business at the College of Charleston--the presidential search com-

mittee will meet Friday and could make a decision that day, said Student Government Association (SGA) President Madelyn Street.

"I think it will be very easy for us to reach a unanimous consensus once we have all of the information gathered during these three campus visits," Street said.

Street, who is the student representative on the Board of Regents as well as the student member on the presidential search committee, said the candidates would all be well received by the campus community; At least based on the feedback and evaluations she's

seen thus far from university personnel and students.

"I think they all stood out in different ways," Street said. "I really want to wait to form a final opinion until I've seen all of the evaluations and feedback from every constituency in the university."

Richard Day, an education professor, said he believes Benson is the strongest candidate for Eastern. Day has attended all three open forums, attended faculty sessions with the candidates, and researched and vetted all three candidates on his blog theprincipal.

blogspot.com.

"[Benson] has the strongest record of having done what we would expect [at Eastern]," Day said. "If past performance is a good indicator of future performance, he looks to me to be the strongest candidate."

Day added that Shao would also be a good candidate if selected. And he said he still has questions about Lassen, particularly regarding his past political and business ventures as well as his educational background.

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DAVID RIGEL/PROGRESS

Whitlock talks to members of the university community at a banquet in honor of his retirement March 29 at Walnut Hall in the Keen Johnson Building.

By CHRIS MCGEE

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President Doug Whitlock was recognized at a reception held in honor of his service to the university and his approaching retirement.

Members of the Eastern community gathered March 29 at Walnut Hall in the Keen Johnson Building for his banquet. After the reception, a \$50 plate dinner was held. The proceeds from the dinner went to the Doug and Elaine Whitlock scholarship fund.

Whitlock was the first in his family to attend college. He worked at *The Progress* as sports editor, managing editor and editor-in-chief before graduating.

After graduating Eastern, Whitlock answered the call of "Uncle Sam" and served in the U.S. Army for a brief period.

During his time at Eastern as an administrator, he served as executive assistant to the president and as an instructor in computer science and journalism.

**"Because of him  
[Whitlock], we are on  
the right track."**

**Kishore Acharya  
Project Manager  
Capacity Planning and  
Engineering Services**

Kishore Acharya, project manager for Capacity Planning and Engineering Services, said he was impressed with Whitlock's character from the first time he met him.

"I was a graduate assistant in the computer department from 2002-2004," Acharya said. "He was the guest professor I was working with, and he was a gentle guy to work with and talk to. I was afraid that when he became president he wouldn't remember a 'low on the totem pole' graduate assistant, but he did."

Acharya said Whitlock has led the university through adversity adding that the next president's job will be easier because of Whitlock's work.

"Because of him [Whitlock], we are on the right track," Acharya said.

Gary Barksdale, executive director of human resources, also praised Whitlock's service.

"I have enjoyed working with him," Barksdale said. "He has always been very supportive of our department. The next president will have

➤ SEE RETIREMENT, PAGE A4

## SSB renamed after Whitlock

By KRISTIE HAMON

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The Student Success Building was renamed the Charles D. Whitlock building in honor of President Doug Whitlock at his retirement banquet Friday.

Craig Turner, chair of the university's Board of Regents presented Whitlock with an artists rendering of what the building will look like with his name on it.

"I was just totally completely surprised and stunned because I didn't even know that was under discussion," Whitlock said.

He said he is honored that the Student Suc-

➤ SEE WHITLOCK, PAGE A4

## Task force proposes tuition waiver reduction

By KYLE WOOSLEY

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The Strategic Budget Reallocation Task Force is looking into cutting the faculty and staff tuition waiver program in half. This cut could save the university an estimated \$1.2 million.

The tuition waiver allows faculty and staff, their spouses or their dependent children to take up to 12 credit hours for free per semester. The revisions would cut this down to six credit hours per semester for free.

"When we can take reductions in some area without having to layoff staff, that's an important consideration," said Janna Vice, co-chair of the task force. "It's a cost factor for the university."

Because other public Kentucky universities are mandated by the state to offer six credit hours free of charge, James Street, co-chair of the task force, said it was an option the force had to explore.

"It's beyond what is provided by other state universities," Street said. "We don't like to re-

duce benefits at all. It's [reallocation] an order of magnitude that dictates every expenditure that the university exercises has to be reviewed in detail."

The decision to reallocate \$23 million, 10 percent of the university's budget, to the next administration was ordered by the Board of Regents in earlier this year. The task force was assigned to find ways for Eastern to reach this goal before the next administration takes office in July.

The revisions to the waiver program were announced by the task force Monday and will go before the Financial and Strategic Planning Council April 17.

"The reason it was presented on Monday and will be voted on in mid-April is to give time for conversations to be held between faculty and staff," Vice said.

If the council approves this plan, it will go on to Eastern President Doug Whitlock for further approval.

The plan was presented Tuesday to Faculty Senate. Dur-

➤ SEE REALLOCATIONS, PAGE A4

## SGA announces candidates

By KYLE WOOSLEY

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The Student Government Association (SGA) announced candidates for the upcoming elections.

The candidates were posted in the SGA office Monday afternoon, kicking off the election season.

"From that moment [announcement], everyone can start campaigning," said Cari Tretina, election committee chair.

Three slates have been announced for the student body president and executive vice president positions: Sarah Carpenter/Steven Bradford, Dan Hendrickson/Kourtney Chrisman and Jacob Wright/Megan Holloway.

Brandon Mandigo and Ryan Poynter will be running for executive vice president for Student Activities Council (SAC). Joseph "J.P." Fisher is the only candidate running for executive vice president of Residence Life Council (RLC).

Tretina said the candidates' previous SGA experience should make the process run more smoothly this year.

"All of them do have SGA experience," Tretina said. "That's one thing that's really not going to be put into question this year. They're all very well acquainted with the rules."

Nichole Arbino, executive vice president of SGA, said the candidates are a good fit for their prospective positions.

"I think that all the candidates are more than qualified for the position," Arbino said. "I think that any one would do great in the offices."

Tretina said all of the candidates were required to attend an informational meeting. At this meeting, potential candidates were given a packet, which included a

### SGA Election Candidates

#### President and Vice President

Sarah Carpenter & Steven Bradford

Dan Hendrickson & Kourtney Chrisman

Jacob Wright & Megan Holloway

#### Vice President for Student Activities Council

Brandon Mandigo

Ryan Poynter

#### Vice President for Resident Life Council

Joseph "J.P." Fisher

breakdown of all election rules and regulations.

"Anything anyone could question is in that first part of the packet," Tretina said. "We wanted everyone to know explicitly what the rules were. We wanted everyone to know what was right and wrong."

Tretina said she gave out her cell phone number

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# Online Fire, Arson and Explosion degree first in nation

By KAYLA LASURE  
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Eastern will soon offer something no other school in the nation does: an online degree in Fire, Arson and Explosion investigation.

This department decided to put this degree online after attending the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, said Tom Thurman, a professor in the Safety, Security and Emergency Department.

“The company [Compass] we work with did a survey, and people really wanted an online investigations degree,” Thurman said. “We really believe we are responding to a need in the community.”

Eastern’s fire science program had set up a booth at the conference and continuously had people coming up and asking if they offered an online program since most students

were from other places in the country.

The Fire, Arson and Explosion investigation degree program is already one of the only programs of its kind in the country. This degree has been offered on campus at Eastern for 15 years and has about 80 to 90 majors within the degree.

“Most of the things we teach are very hands-on and may be hard to learn online,” said Jim Pharr, fire and safety department chair. “This is why we’re requiring the students to come to campus for about two weeks to do some hands-on work.”

The program focuses on teaching students investigative techniques and practices in relation to bombing crime scenes, terrorist incidents and arson.

“We in no way teach people how to make bombs,” Thurman said. “We teach people components of a bomb and how to collect those components for analysis post blast. This degree is to educate students to learn

these things for the protection of our citizens and community.”

Thurman said he teaches a class in this degree called technical report writing for emergency services, classified as FSE 300W. He said in this class the students learn how to write and describe a crime scene technically and thoroughly. This is critical in helping determine what may have happened and how to prevent it from happening again or perhaps taking steps to determine if it is arson.

“Any missing information could be critical in determining what may have happened,” Thurman said. “When you go in to a scene to investigate, you have to have an open mind. You can’t go into a scene and automatically think its arson without investigating. You don’t mentally make the case and then find the truth to fit what you think happened. We use real cases and show people what not to do because of other people’s failings.”

Pharr said that the degree offered classes to help educate the students on how to properly investigate situations such as fires or explosions.

“With this type of program students can draw conclusions on what happened in a situation from scientifically based thoughts,” Pharr said. “This is critical for consumer product safety or even put someone in prison that may have set a fire. We want to make the quality of life better by determining the reason of a fire or explosion.”

Thurman and Pharr said they, along with the other professors in this department, are very excited for this degree to go online. They both agreed that they can’t wait to see the different demographics and background of people the degree will bring.

The Fire, Arson and Explosion investigation degree will be offered online starting in the fall.

## Presidential Finalists



**Michael T. Benson**

- 15th President of Southern Utah University
- 14th President of Snow College



**Gregg Lassen**

- Vice President for Finance & Operations for Lamar University
- Executive Vice President at the University of Texas at Tyler



**Alan T. Shao**

- Dean of the School of Business at the College of Charleston in South Carolina
- North Carolina Ports Professor of Marketing and Associate Dean of Professional and Global Programs

## FINALISTS

CONTINUED FROM A1

“My interest is that we have a good president,” Day said. “We all rise or fall under our leadership, that’s my agenda. I’d like to have confidence in our president that things are getting better.”

Benson, who was the first candidate to visit campus, said the university community takes cues from the president and he will be a positive leader for the campus.

“I’d do a lot of listening and talking to a lot of different people,” Benson said. “I don’t in any way pretend to have all of the answers and I would be open to as many perspectives and opinions as you would be willing to offer.”

Benson said President Harry Truman is his leadership role model and, as a student of history, he wouldn’t jump to making any rash decisions, instead taking his time to get all the information.

The next candidate to visit Eastern was Lassen, who said he would focus on the university’s strengths as the next generation university president.

“We start to have to use business terminology to describe ourselves,” Lassen said. “We’re no longer the place where you go if you live in Eastern Kentucky. We’re Eastern Kentucky [University] who does these handful of things exceptionally well, and wherever you live you should come here because of that.”

Lassen said Eastern is “doing more with less” as state financing continues to dwindle and would focus on building partnerships to strengthen the university’s future.

Lastly, during the third candidate’s forum, Shao briefly outlined an eight-year plan, which sets annual goals and partnerships to figure out how the uni-

versity would best position itself as an educational leader. But, he said, students should always be the primary focus.

“A strategic phase gets things going, so rebranding actually works and is not [consistently] bringing about new plans,” Shao said.

Shao said developing self-supporting programs and focusing on globalization will help generate revenue and also provide students with the necessary resources to be successful.

Jason Marion, an environmental health sciences professor, said all three candidates possess different strengths, but any one would be good for the university.

Marion said he has observed the selection process at other universities and added that he’s pleased that Eastern has tried to keep the university community informed and involved in most of the steps along the way.

“Everyone at those three schools knows [the candidates] are up for the job,” Marion said. “[After Eastern chooses its new president], two of the candidates have to go back and live in that world [where they currently work].”

Sheila Pressley, faculty senate chair and member of the presidential search committee, said she was pleased with the participation at the university’s open forums.

Pressley said President Doug Whitlock has been gracious throughout the search process, adding that he’s helped set a good example of what the university is looking for in its next president.

“It’s natural to want to compare the candidates to President Whitlock,” Presley said. “We’re going to look at the good things that he did and the example he left. We hope the candidates keep that in mind. They will soon bleed maroon, too.”

## Two professors vie for faculty regent position

By ELISE SVOBODA  
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The Faculty Senate announced a run-off election for a three-year term as faculty regent. None of the five candidates received the necessary 50.1 percent of the votes to win the election outright, so as a result Amy Thieme and Malcolm Frisbie will participate in the runoff election.

Thieme received 132 votes or 36 percent of the votes and Frisbie received 88 votes or 24 percent of the votes. Both topped Matthew Winslow (78 votes or 22 percent), Sherwood Thompson (38 votes or 10 percent) and William Hatcher (26 votes or 7 percent) in the general election.

The voting eligibility is the same as before and the voting dates are April 3-11. The results will be available Friday April 12 via the faculty senate and email said Bob Johnson, co-chair of the Faculty Senate Elections and University Nominations Committee. Johnson said if someone was eligible before, but they did not vote, they could still vote during the run-off election.

Frisbie said he thinks the university is at a transition point with the presidential search going on as well as the reallocations.

“And with those two big transitions happening I felt that it might be advantageous for the university, particularly for faculty, to have a continuing voice on the board of regents,” said Frisbie, who is running for his third term as Faculty Regent.

Thieme said while it is a scary time due to all of the changes happening on campus, it is also an exciting time.

“Change is scary,” Thieme said. “People don’t like change, but with change comes great opportunity and we can do some really interesting, dynamic and visionary things at this institution. And I want to help rally people toward that vision.”

Besides the high number of candidates for the faculty regent position, there was also an increase in voting. Johnson said there were 244 votes cast during the 2010 faculty regent election.

“It’s our only representative to the board of regents and so at the very least you should make your voice heard,” Johnson said.

If you have any questions or did not receive a ballot and you are eligible to vote, please email the Faculty Senate Elections and University Nominations Committee at [facultyregentelection@eku.edu](mailto:facultyregentelection@eku.edu). For more information about the candidates visit the faculty senate website.

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## SGA

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to all candidates so she could be contacted at any time about complaints or questions regarding elections processes or rules.

“It’s not even a fight, it’s an actual election,” Tretina said. “I told them a campaign should be about you, not making someone look worse than you.”

Around 49 people attended the informational meeting and Tretina said at least half of the packets were returned. The potential candidate pool was shortened by lack of signatures on their petition, grade point average or credit hours required for the position.

“For example, the executive slate

has to collect 200 signatures to be eligible to be on the ballot and have the GPA and the credit hours,” Tretina said.

The SGA debate will take place at 5 p.m. April 9 in the ravine.

Phillip Kyles, member of the election committee, has worked heavily on the debate.

“We’re really trying to set this up like a real debate,” Kyles said. “It’d be really beneficial for students and members of SGA to come out and see what these candidates have to say.”

Kyles said the debate will consist of questions from the elections committee, the other candidates and the students themselves.

“I think that of all the avenues a person can take to learn about all the candidates, the debate is the best one,”

Tretina said. “It’s a good indication that part of their job [stress] will be successful.”

Even though it’s short notice, Arbino said she’s keeping her fingers crossed for a clean campaign.

“I just hope that everybody runs a clean campaign this year,” Arbino said. “I really don’t think it’s as hectic [as previous years] so far, but we’ll see what happens.”

Tretina said she feels her committee has taken all precautions to ensure things run as smoothly as possible.

“I think and I hope it will go really well,” said Tretina.

*(Editor’s Note: Cari Tretina serves as copy editor of this publication. However, she will not be permitted to edit stories involving SGA elections in order to prevent bias.)*

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