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EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

EAC's 29th Annual Scholarship Banquet

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EAC holds 29th annual Scholarship Banquet

Friday, October 18, 2013, was the 29th Annual Eastern Arizona College Scholarship Banquet. The evening celebrated the generosity of donors who have provided valuable scholarships for our students. Individuals, businesses, and service clubs from around the country give annually or as an endowment to make scholarships possible for over 100 students. Many students received scholarships as a result of gifts pooled from annual scholarship donations of alumni and other friends of the college.

The banquet also congratulated students who were selected to receive these scholarships. Most of the students awarded EAC Foundation Scholarships are not selected because they are straight A students. Many are chosen because they toiled through difficult situations and

financial disadvantages, and persevered enough to pursue higher education at Eastern. They now are developing skills and training to help them obtain employment and better opportunities through education.

Many of the scholarship donors were once helped through the generosity of others and are now “paying it forward” to continue a chain of helping others. Some have given because of the traditions of service and giving learned in their families or the organizations they support. Others have given because they just want to help. Many have been established in memory of loved ones.

We wish to thank those who have made brighter futures possible for students attending Eastern Arizona College.



Katsuya Tanaka (far right), representative of the Sumitomo Corporation presents the Sumitomo-Phelps Dodge Scholarship to Jared Judd, Randy Dalton, Weston Lewis, Brandon Green, Doria Rodriguez, Neil Salt.



Bill Bone (center) presents the William J. Bone Scholarship to Lloyd Lemon (right) and the Helen Johnson Bone Scholarship to Rebecca Finegan (left).



Jacquie Attaway (left) presents the National Bank of Arizona Scholarship to Mark Gomez.



EAC Band Director Geoff DeSpain (left) presents the Meghan Lynne Hammer Memorial Scholarship to Leeanna Gourdin (center, holding certificate). Also present were Leeanna's parents, and donors Forrest and Debra Hammer.

Lady Monsters head to the National Tournament

The Lady Monsters basketball team had their best year ever this season. Finishing the regular season at 32-7 and then a win in the Region I playoff game qualified them for the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament, March 17-22, in Salina, Kansas.

This was Eastern's first trip to a national tournament for the Women's basketball program and the team's strongest performance since the 2003-2004 year.

As they prepared to go to this year's NJCAA National Tournament, EAC coach Ryan McAdams commented, "We played 39 games to get here. I commend my kids for being resilient through it all. They found a way to win all year. They are a family."

Congratulations to Shaunice Robinson, Shakita Cox, Danielle Loving, Lawre'll Dobbins, Natalia Hausmann, Ebony Cooper, Chukwuma

Chiamaka, Kamanyana Ange, Jada Harris, Pearl Paulo, Nicole Boatley, and Jazmin Horne for their hard work and a great season.



The 2013-2014 Women's Basketball Team heads to the NCJAA National Tournament in Salina, Kansas, March 17-22, 2014.

The United Way of Graham County funds scholarships for 25 students

The United Way of Graham County was pleased to announce they would continue funding scholarships for high school graduates coming to Eastern Arizona College from Graham and Greenlee Counties. Currently, twenty-five students are attending Eastern with tuition scholarships for two semesters. They have recently announced that funding for scholarships will be granted for an additional twenty-five graduates for the 2014-2015 school year.

Local students exhibiting financial need with their EAC scholarship applications will be chosen this Spring for this opportunity. Many of the students being awarded these scholarships would have likely not attended school for the entire year, especially as full-time students.

The EAC Foundation, on behalf of these students, is profoundly grateful for the opportunities made possible through the help from the United Way of Graham County. These students have expressed their thanks in writing and in word. Some of their thoughts of appreciation are shown in the notes below.

"Without this, my education would have been extremely difficult to pay for ... Thank you again for this scholarship and this opportunity for me to continue on to get a higher education [in Computer Assisted Drafting]."
– James-Michael Holguin

"I don't know how to express how thankful I am for you ... I don't know how we would have paid for my schooling without you. You have truly blessed our lives and we are grateful!" – Cassidy Hinton

"I wanted to say thank you for the scholarship...Without it I wasn't going to be able to pay for classes this year. I'm very thankful to you. Thank you!" – Tyler Post

"Having a college in my hometown is awesome on its own... This program is amazing and I'm so thankful it was able to bless my life and I hope it blesses many more. Again, thank you." – Autumn Hendrick



Eastern Arizona College Foundation Executive Director, David Udall (center), accepts a check from Anita Shurtz (left) and Amelia Sainz (right) of the United Way of Graham County.

Monster Alumnnotes

Lou Osman, '64, St. Louis, Missouri, has been married 42 years to his wife, Marianne. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Lou is still working because they have an expensive hobby of racing top fuel drag boats. He still lives in Saint Louis, Missouri, but travels to Arizona several times a year.

After leaving EAC in the middle of his sophomore year, Lou attended Arizona State University and received a BS in business administration in 1966. Lou writes, "I would like to see some of my classmates communicate where they are and what they are doing by sending their information to "Alumnnotes." We have a big anniversary coming up this year and it would be good to start communicating in advance of getting together.

Lacey Jackson Weatherford, '90, Snowflake, Arizona, has been spending her time writing and publishing many books in both young adult and new adult paranormal and contemporary genres. She is a *USA Today* bestselling author with eleven #1 titles currently published and several more stories in the making. Some of her most popular works include *Chasing Nikki*, which was chosen as a Top 100 Best Teen Book of the Year in 2012 by Amazon and Best Book of the Year by Young Adult and Teen Readers, and her *Crush* series which was instrumental in her initial breakout success. Lacey married **James Weatherford, '91**, who studied music while at EAC, but eventually changed his major to nursing. He has spent several years working as a registered nurse and is also the Administrative Shift Coordinator for Summit Regional Medical Center in Show Low, Arizona.



Lacey Jackson Weatherford, '90

James and Lacey have six children, three boys and three girls, ages 7-22, and one grandchild with another on the way. Their oldest daughter, **Kamery Solomon, '10**, is also an EAC alumnus and is following in her mother's footsteps with writing as well, having currently published four books of her own.

James and Lacey make their home in Snowflake, with their family. They are kept busy with their kids' sporting and music events, as well as traveling to appear at book events, conventions, signings, and meeting readers around the globe.

John Ekman, '98, Safford, Arizona, continued his education to receive a Master of Science in Nursing: Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Phoenix and then a post masters in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner from the University of Arizona.

Seton "Ski" Sobolewski, '98, Pocatello, Idaho, is currently in his sixth year as head women's basketball coach at Idaho State University. In 2012, his team went 24-8 and was the Big Sky Champs and played in the 2012 NCAA tournament. He and his wife, Katie, have two beautiful girls.

Rachel John, '01, Buckeye, Arizona, continued on to Arizona State University and received a bachelor's degree in English Literature. She and her husband **Joshua John, '01**, met at EAC and were married in March of 2002. They have three boys and a daughter on the way. Joshua is a project manager for Desert Services International. Rachel is a stay-at-home mom, but recently finished her first novel, *What Not to Say When You're Running Away*. The book, while completely fictional,

takes place at Eastern Arizona College. "Eastern Arizona College was the perfect place to experience living away from home for the first time and both the fun and the challenging times I had there inspired me to write."

Brian Steven Johnson, '03, Chandler, Arizona, earned his Ed.D. (Doctor of Education) degree this spring in Leadership and Innovation from Arizona State University. He is the son and grandson of two retired EAC instructors **Steve Johnson, '79**, (retired 2013) and **Wayne Johnson** (retired 1994). Currently, he teaches Spanish at the high school level and is the director of the school's Peer Tutoring Program, which he developed. In the near future, he plans to become a faculty member or professor at one of Arizona's community colleges or universities. Brian is married to Megan Miller and has two children, Andie and David. He can be contacted at briansjohnson05@gmail.com.

Tenicha Gittens, '04, Washington DC, came to Eastern from Montreal, Quebec, Canada. She played basketball and helped the Lady Gila Monsters complete one of Eastern's best seasons in women's basketball. She went on to play basketball at Hofstra University. After graduating from Hofstra, Tenicha played for the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Women's National Basketball team. She later started a coaching career as an assistant coach at McGill University, in Montreal, and then later as Director of Women's Basketball Operations at LaSalle University in New York.

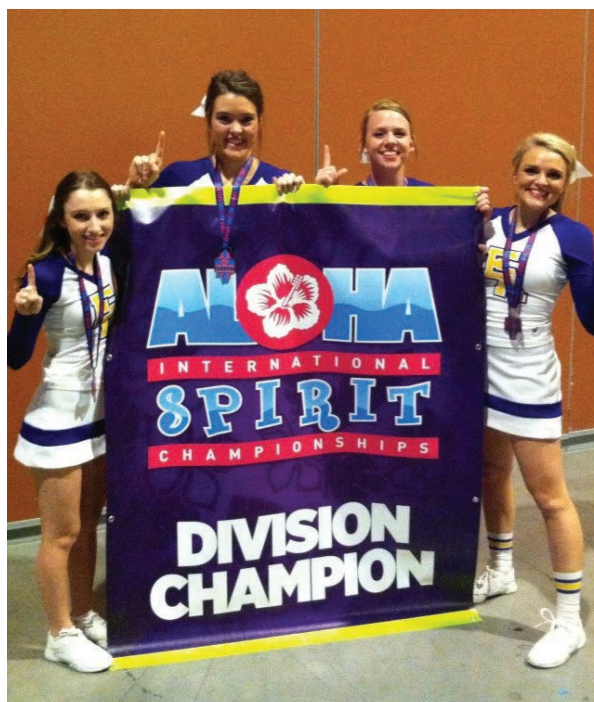
Currently, Tenicha is Women's Basketball Assistant Coach at Howard University.

EAC Cheerleaders take first at the Aloha International Spirit Championships

Eastern Arizona College's Cheer Team competed in the Aloha International Spirit Championships in Phoenix earlier this month. The competition included All-Star and school-based teams from all over the southwest. EAC's cheer team entered the Open Stunt category which is geared toward college teams, where each team performed their one minute stunt routine twice.

EAC received the highest scores both times, beating two teams from Stanford University to win first place in the Open Stunt Division.

"I am very proud of my sophomore stunt team; they work together so well," says head cheer coach, Machael Layton. "They are some of the best cheerleaders I have ever had at EAC." EAC's cheer team will travel to California in March to compete at the USA Collegiate Cheerleading Championship.



(From left) Lauren Gibson, Bekah Bolinger, Nicole Copley, and Salena Echols.

Alumni! TELL US WHAT'S NEW

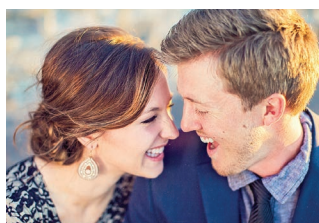
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Send to:
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EAC Alumni Association
P. O. Box 769
Thatcher, AZ 85552-0769
or by e-mail at: alumni@eac.edu

Wedding Bells Rang

July 3, 2012 — **Madison Rowan, '11 & Parker Lewis, '14**
 July 5, 2013 — **Tawny Herrington, '07 & Aaron Wilstead**
 July 13, 2013 — **Lyndsey Wright, '13, & Dallin Sims, '13**
 July 20, 2013 — **Jason Shelton, '13 & Kylie Webster, '13**
 July 25, 2013 — **Brooklyn Trickey, '14, & Jacob Hubbell, '13**
 July 27, 2013 — **Jazmyn Hardy, '13 & Theo Perkins, '13**
 August 2, 2013 — **Shannon Curtis, '13 & Dallin Schultz, '13**
 August 8, 2013 — **Evelia Stacey, '08 – Terry "TJ" McClarty**
 August 9, 2013 — **Melissa Ollerton, '13 & Riley Layton, '13**
 August 10, 2013 — **Anica Curtis, '13 & Christopher Norton, '13**

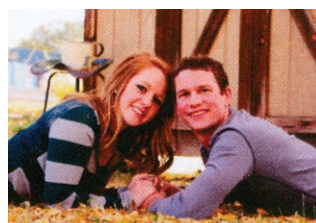
August 23, 2013 — **Sterling Blaze Udall & Derek Daley, '13**
 August 31, 2013 — **Mallory Bingham, '13 & Alex Larson, '13**
 September 14, 2013 — **Katelyn Curtis, '13 & Christopher Nolan**
 September 20, 2013 — **Jessica Curtis, '13 & Sean Kartchner, '13**
 September 21, 2013 — **Karen D. Caylor, '82 & Ai E. Wallace**
 October 26, 2013 — **Cami Bawden, '13 & Jeritt Scott**
 November 12, 2013 — **Tory Elicio, '05 & Edward Whittemore**
 November 13, 2013 — **Laura Gardner, '13 & Jacob Taylor, '13**
 November 14, 2013 — **Shelby Peck, '13 & Cade Brown, '13**
 November 14, 2013 — **Whitley Eagar, '13 & Daren Montierth, '13**



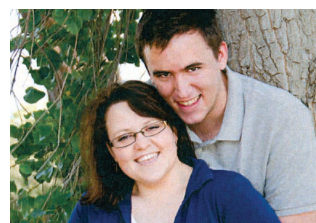
Anica Curtis, '13 & Christopher Norton, '13



Sterling Blaze Udall & Derek Daley, '13



Whitley Eagar, '13 & Daren Montierth, '13



Laura Gardner, '13 & Jacob Taylor, '13



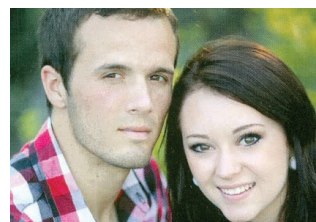
Jessica Curtis, '13 & Sean Kartchner, '13



Katelyn Curtis, '13 & Christopher Nolan



Melissa Ollerton, '13 & Riley Layton, '13



Shelby Peck, '13 & Cade Brown, '13

In Memoriam

Pendleton "Penny" McKnight, '61 – February 3, 2013
 Evelyn Mattice Alder, '52 – July 8, 2013
 Sarah Thygerson Sirrine, '57 – July 14, 2013
 LeRain Lee Frost, '65 – July 23, 2013
 David Michael Player, '66 – July 26, 2013
 David Orson Merrell, '52 – August 5, 2013
 Jonie Lou Ashton Earp, '78 – August 20, 2013
 LaPreal Rogers Hoyt Houser, '39 – September 1, 2013
 Viola Allred Booher, '37 – September 17, 2013
 James A. Waters, '57 – September 18, 2013
 Wilton H. Lines, '38 – September 28, 2013
 Donna Jo Crow White, '64 – September 29, 2013
 Laree Richardson Martin, '46 – October 11, 2013
 Francis N. Wood, Jr., '71 – October 13, 2013

Gary "Dan" Hunt, '69 – October 17, 2013
 Patricia Sue Sterr "Patti" Hinton, '81 – October 17, 2013
 Mittie Spilsbury Rogers Hudson, '36 – October 22, 2013
 Grant Arthur Sehr, '77 – October 28, 2013
 Sheila K. Ticer, '77 – November 12, 2013
 Earline Cluff Layton, '34 – November 24, 2013
 Armond Cluff, '90 – December 4, 2013
 George Edd Hubbard, '57 – December 6, 2013
 Bert W. Mead, '55 – December 17, 2013
 John Rocky Curtis, '72 – December 19, 2013
 Sarah J. Tedford Higgins, '83 – December 29, 2013
 Jesse H. Root, '28 – December 30, 2013
 James "Mac" Watson, '70 – December 31, 2013

EAC Foundation Donors

The individuals and organizations listed below are appreciated greatly for helping us continue making a difference in the lives of more than 100 students each year. The following donations were received between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013. Thank You!

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\$1,000 or more

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EAC
Celebrating
125
YEARS!



David Konopnicki (left) presents the William S. Konopnicki Communication Studies Scholarship to Taylor Altom at the College's 29th Annual Scholarship Banquet. For the story and more photos, see page 2.

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