The Pursuit of Bachelor's Degrees

-77

ASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

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The Pursuit

Eastern Arizona College pursues accreditation for two bachelor's degrees

Bachelor's Degrees

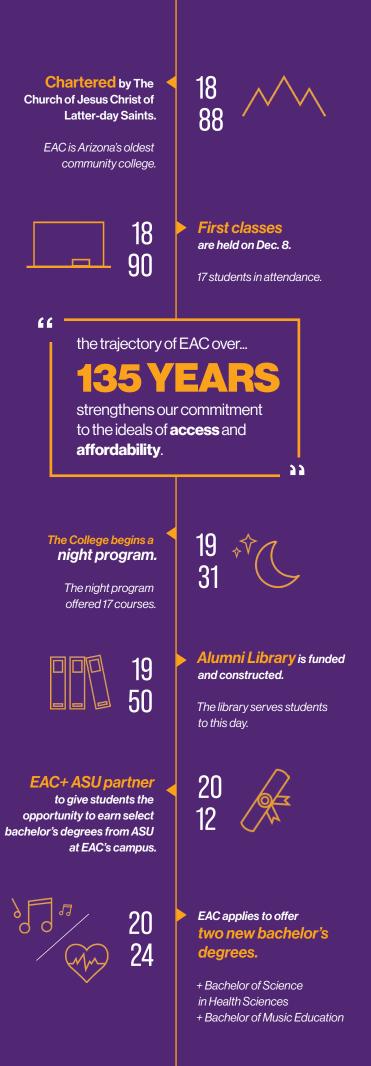
he Graham County Community College District Governing Board has authorized Eastern Arizona College to pursue accreditation for a Bachelor Degree of Music in Music Education and a Bachelor Degree of Science in Health Sciences. Both degrees are anticipated to begin in August 2024 pending approval from the Higher Learning Commission.

Last year, Arizona Senate Bill 1453 passed allowing community colleges to offer four-year degrees. Eastern Arizona College was instrumental in moving this legislation forward.

"This decision follows the trajectory of EAC over the past 135 years because it strengthens our commitment to the ideals of access and affordability," said Todd Haynie, president of Eastern Arizona College. "These degrees meet students where they are and will prepare them for in-demand careers without the debt."

The Bachelor Degree of Music in Music Education will offer vocal and instrumental tracks that lead to a secondary education certificate. The Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences will prepare students for roles in healthcare administration, medical or pharmaceutical sales, and other health-related services. According to Dr. Susan Wood, EAC vice president of academic and student affairs, "these degrees will allow EAC to retain healthcare and music majors who are currently transferring to other institutions. They will also attract additional students from our community and the surrounding areas."

EAC's application for accreditation has included a formal review, a site visit, and an evaluation of all curricula, faculty, and facilities. EAC will then seek approval from the U.S. Department of Education to be eligible for financial aid. These action steps will allow both degrees to be recognized as accredited degrees and be eligible for transfer to a university for advanced studies. In parallel, EAC's Music Department is pursuing accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). This will position EAC as the only Arizona community college to be accredited by NASM.



gila gram

Volleyball

Serving Up Nostalgia

EAC's 1973 national championship volleyball team returns for 50-year anniversary



astern Arizona College volleyball legends returned to campus to celebrate their 50-year anniversary for winning the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) national volleyball championship in 1973.

Hall of Fame coach Gerry Hekekia and former players Yvonne Johnson, Colleen Merrill Lunt, Amelia Owens Holtsoi, and Janice Edington were honored at EAC's game against Pima Community College. "Using what Coach Hekekia taught us, we ended up placing second in pool play on the first two days," said Johnson. "On the third day, we downed a tough Ricks College team from Rexburg, Idaho. What I remember about Ricks was that they had to play in little skirts, [which] would often hit the net when they jumped up, resulting in a loss of service or point for them. So, they started tucking them into their bloomers. Ricks College, with a change in uniforms, would win the national championship the next year."

The 1973 EAC Volleyball Team, coached by Mayble Bodine and assisted by Gerry Hekekia, ended their season with 15 wins and two losses. Their win at the Arizona state tournament qualified them for a regional tournament in Durango, Colorado. After winning the regional tournament, the team played in the first AIAW national tournament held at Miami Dade Community College in Miami, Florida.

"If I remember correctly, we raised money and provided our own money to pay our way to the national tournament," said



Arizona State and Southwestern Regional Volleyball Champions First Row: L to R Judy Davis, Amelia Owens, Debbie Jurado, Captain, Janet Stover. Second Row: L to R Helen Talavera, Colleen Merrell, Yvonne Johnson, Janice Edington. Third Row: L to R: Cindy Danner, Manager, Tsili Haven, Darlene Smith, Gail Cooper, Shawna Purdy, Ann Delgado, Mrs. Bodine, Coach.

Eastern Arizona College's 1973 Gila Monster Volleyball Team in a photo taken from EAC's 1974 Oasis yearbook.

Yvonne Johnson. "There was no sight-seeing or extras for the trip. We slept four in a room in a motel that had lizards running around on the ceiling and floor. We did drive to the beach long enough for us to put our feet in, and all we saw of Miami was at night, as we drove to or from our motel."

To prepare for the national tournament, Coach Bodine enlisted Gerry Hekekia's help to teach the team power volleyball – the latest trend in the sport. Without Hekekia's help, the team would not have fared as well. Members of EAC's 1973 national championship team included: Judy Davis, Amelia Owens Holtsoi, Janet Stover, Colleen Merrell Lunt, Shauna Thee Purdy, Priscilla Perez Romero, Yvonne Johnson, Ann Delgado Rhoades, Janice Edington, Cindy Danner, Cecelia Haven Benally, Gail Cooper, Debra Jurado, Lydia Melendrez Hoskins, and Helen Talavera.

Four years after the 1973 team's win, the AIAW merged with the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). The four national championship teams named prior to the merger include: Eastern Arizona College (1973-74), Ricks College (1974-75), Mesa Community College (1975-76), and Santa Ana College (1976-77).

"Over the years, EAC has continued to win titles, but we were always proud to know that we were the very first team to win the very first AIAW junior community college national tournament," said Johnson.

EAC Foundation Donors

We greatly appreciate the individuals and organizations listed below for helping us continue to make a difference in the lives of more than 100 students each year. The following donations were received between January 1, 2023 and June 30, 2023.

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SOCCERSEIGE EAC's Gila Monster women's and men's soccer teams lead first-ever games held in the Gila Valley.

> or the first time in the history of the Gila Valley, collegiate soccer takes to the field.

Women's Soccer Team

EAC Women's Soccer Team plays under the direction of Coach Charles Long, one of college soccer's premier coaches.

"I chose EAC because of Coach Long," said Kylee Holt, a freshman who plays midfield. "He sees the game really well and how it should flow."

Long comes to EAC from Snow College where he coached both men's and women's soccer programs. Long made school history when his men's team went to nationals in 2021. Under his direction, the men's team defeated Salt Lake Community College – the #1 ranked team in the nation - to win the Region 18 Title. For his efforts at Snow. Long was named the 2022 SWAC Women's Soccer Coach of the Year after leading his team to a 13-2-1 overall record during the season.

Long brings 30 years of coaching experience to EAC. He is fluent in Portuguese, English and Spanish, tools he uses to help international student-athletes adjust to life at FAC.

"Our team is from all over the world," said Holt, "Sometimes it's difficult to communicate with each other but Coach Long can explain everything very well so everyone knows their jobs."

Long's career also includes stops at the University of West Florida (1986-93). Mount Mary College (2002-04), and Western Texas College (2008-2012).

Men's Soccer Team

Coach Bobby Peters leads the FAC Gila Monster Men's Soccer Team

Coach Peters comes to Eastern Arizona College after coaching women's soccer at Cochise College. Coach Peter's team won the Arizona Community College Athletic Conference in 2019, and he was named the ACCAC Coach of the Year.

Before his career at Cochise College, Coach Peters was the head coach for men's and women's soccer at Northwest College, assistant coach at Missouri Valley College, andhead men's

soccer coach at East Central College. He holds multiple coaching awards for both men's and women's soccer, including the MCCAC and ACCAC Coach of the Year along with being named NAIA Regional Staff of the Year while assisting men's soccer at Missouri Valley College.

Soccer

For the FIRST TIME in the HISTORY of the Gila Valley

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ES MONSTER ALUMNOTES MONSTER ALUMNO

Darrell Thompson, '62, remembers a super instructor. Donald Jones, who taught public speaking, drama and other courses. He also shares great memories of Wesley Taylor dorm, working at the cafeteria and their wonderful boss Bonita Alston. With his family moving, Darrell attended Everett Junior College and Seattle Pacific University. Mr. Thompson wanted to return to Arizona so he transferred to Arizona State University (ASU), where he completed his Bachelor of Science in Political Science. As an ASU student, he worked for the custodial services department. After graduation, he stayed on with the department for thirty years until retirement.

Ronald Weaver, '64, came to Eastern Arizona College to play football. After two years, he served as a missionary in the Eastern United States Mission. When he returned, he was drafted into the US Army as an infantryman in Vietnam. As he neared the end of his tour, he was wounded and spent 30 days in a Japanese hospital. He attended Brigham Young University, married his wife Patricia, and then transferred to ASU. Ronald was able to work with the Southern Pacific railroad as he was completing school. He decided to stay with the railroad when he graduated and enjoyed his career there until retirement. He and Patricia raised five children and have twelve grandchildren.

Dr. Clinton, `96 and Cami Damron, `96 grew up in Duncan, Ariz. They both attended EAC and were married in their sophomore year. Clinton and Cami treasured their time at EAC and enjoyed all the social activities. After EAC, the Damrons moved to Flagstaff to complete their bachelor's degrees at Northern Arizona University, Clinton in zoology and Cami in secondary education.

Cami began her teaching career. While Cami taught school, Clinton continued his education and received his Osteopathic Doctorate at the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine, a campus of Midwestern University.

After Clinton's graduation, the Damron family moved to Corpus Christi, Texas to complete an internship and family practice residency. After finishing residency and obtaining board certification, the Damrons moved back home to Arizona and Clinton joined the staff at Family Medical Center in Safford where he continues his work today.

While Clinton served as a family practice doctor, Cami enjoyed raising their children. Cami also continued her education and recieved a master's degree from NAU in career & technical education (CTE). In 2017, she went back into the classroom in the Pima Unified School District where she is currently the business CTE teacher and FBLA advisor. She enjoys working with



The Damron Family

teenage students and traveling with them to conferences and competitions.

Clinton and Cami's shared commitment to lifelong learning, service, and their valued connection to EAC have not only shaped their individual careers but have also instilled in their family a profound appreciation for education.

Robert Case, '03, is a third generation EAC student. He continued his education with the University of Arizona for a bachelor's in mechanical engineering. Robert then joined the Air National Guard. He settled in Georgia and completed a master's in mechanical engineering. He did research at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI).

Mr. Case joined the Electro-Optical Systems Laboratory (EOSL) at the GTRI in July 2013 as a research engineer. He has played key roles in the development, integration, delivery, and deployment of ruggedized commercial and military grade electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) and radar systems. His work in other GTRI labs has extended EOSL's reach, resulting in project collaboration on five multimillion dollar projects. Mr. Case's leadership has extended beyond project execution, he serves as the opto-mechanical associate branch chief in EOSL's Electro-**Optical Systems Innovation** Division (EOSID) since January 2022. Alongside the branch chief, Mr. Case manages and mentors eight full-time engineers and five student assistants.

Living in Marietta, Georgia for the past decade, Mr. Case has created a warm and loving home



Robert Case, '03, and his family

with his wife Mariah. The Cases' welcoming nature is illustrated by their hosting of two exchange students from Switzerland, and they have been fortunate to visit Europe to reconnect with them twice. Mariah, a dedicated respiratory therapist at Kennestone Hospital, finds joy



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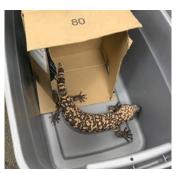
in working out at Burn Bootcamp with friends, while the daughters engage in swimming, volleyball, and playing with neighborhood friends.

For Morgan "Mo" Hall, '07, it was love at first sight. A Show Low native, she was a member of Show Low High School's marching band her sophomore year. The band went to EAC for a marching band event. While at EAC, she fell in love with the school and decided that she would attend school there one day. After graduating from high school, she chose EAC over other opportunities. While at EAC, she had the privilege to play softball for EAC legend, Coach Kate McCluskey.

After attending EAC, Mo served as a missionary for her church in the Idaho Pocatello Mission. Mo returned to Idaho and completed her bachelor's degree at BYU-Idaho in 2012. After graduation, she moved to Mesa, and enlisted in the Arizona Army National Guard as a 31B, Military Police. After completing her initial training at Ft Leonard Wood, Missouri, she returned to Mesa. She started her career in law enforcement in 2014. She is currently a member of the Mesa Traffic Unit DUI Squad. She is a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and has received awards for her dedication and accomplishments.

On June 5, 2022, Mo responded to a convenience store parking lot for a male subject sleeping behind the wheel of a running vehicle. When she arrived, she saw a male sleeping with an orange pill bottle in his hand. When other officers arrived, they woke the male up and Officer Hall saw that the man displayed signs of drug ingestion. The male agreed to do field sobriety tests.

While completing the field sobriety tests, officers noticed a Gila monster poking his head out of a box in the male's vehicle. Ultimately, the male was taken into custody by Officer Hall for driving under the influence. During an inventory search of his vehicle, officers found cocaine, methamphetamine, fentanyl pills, and several items of drug paraphernalia. The male also had three felony warrants for his arrest. The Gila monster was turned over to the Arizona Game and Fish Department because it is illegal to own or sell a Gila monster in Arizona without a permit.



Gila monster rescued by Morgan "Mo" Hall, '07

Mo currently resides in Queen Creek with her husband, Taylor Romney, three stepchildren and their dog, Bo. She is the proud aunt to a current EAC student, Jordyn Walker, '24.

Michelle Robinson Beus, '14, transferred to Brigham Young University after graduation. At BYU she completed a bachelor of arts in political science and a juris doctorate in law. While attending school, Michelle was a teaching assistant and a law clerk. After graduation, she was able to serve as deputy county attorney in Apache County, Arizona. This summer she began serving in a new position as deputy county attorney with Coconino County, Arizona.

Michelle met and married Ty



Michelle Robinson Beus, '14, Ty Beus '14

Beus, '14, while attending Eastern Arizona College. Ty also attended Brigham Young University. He received a bachelor's of science and a Ph.D. in physics there. He worked as a teaching assistant and research assistant while attending school and focused primarily on studying quantum physics. Before moving to Flagstaff, Ty was a physics teacher at Saint Johns High School. He now



The Beus Family

teaches mathematics courses at Coconino Community College in Flagstaff.

They are privileged to be raising three daughters and enjoy the opportunities to spend time with family.

Nathan Pollard, '20 transferred to the University of Maryland East Shore (UMES) to continue his basketball career and his education. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology and still had one year left of basketball eligibility. He continued playing ball last year for UMES and taking graduate courses in business. Nathan was a big part of the team, helping them to have their best win percentage in 50 years. He was invited to play in the HBCU All-Star Game as part of the NCAA Final Four competitions in Houston, Texas. Nathan was named the MVP of that all-star game. He also enjoyed serving as the athletic representative in the student government association on campus.



Nathan Pollard '20, when he played at EAC



EACSCHOLARSHIPS

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EAC Foundation Automotive

Scholarship Recipients

Scholarship Hyrum Kelly, Tyler Ebright, & Krystal Rivera **EAC Foundation Nursing Scholarship** Llory Burnette, MaKenna Hawkins, Gabriella Palomino, & Cassandra Arreola **EAC Triathlon Scholarship** Karsyn Stepp **Eastern Arizona Hispanic Heritage Corporation Scholarship** Amado McMahon, Karyme Grijalva, Hailey Montez, Gabriella Montoya, Kamry Claridge & Keira Turley **Elaine Robak Scholarship** Jenna Myers Marlend Rivera & Celinda Delgado Ella T. & J. David Lee Scholarship Yanette Castellanos-Duran Farrel Claridge & Bessie A. Layton Scholarship. Paige Perea Freeport-McMoRan Engineering Day **Scholarship** Conner Bryce & Leland Thompson Freeport-McMoRan Future Skills **Scholarship** Ryann Lehmann & Jason Lawler George R. Bingham Memorial Drama **Scholarship Brianna Richins GFWC Woman's Club of Safford Scholarship** Makayla Edgmon

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In Memoriam

Brennan J. Cueto, '93 – January 8, 2023 Michelle A. Estes Amani, '76 – January 8, 2023 Sharilyn J. Russell, '98 – January 8, 2023 Charles S. Lucio, '67 – January 9, 2023 Edwardo C. Lara, '66 – January 12, 2023 Julie Shurtz Bluth, '80 – January 13, 2023 Jerry W. Brown. '67 – January 13. 2023 Leon Anderson, Jr., '91 – January 15, 2023 Rick D. Dixson, '91 – January 15, 2023 Jerry Budwig, '50 – January 17, 2023 Carol A. Layton Barker, '50 – January 18, 2023 Carol N. Chavarria, '88 – January 18, 2023 Garv P. McBride. '67 – Januarv 18. 2023 Robert O. Jones, '67 – January 18, 2023 Douglas A. Taylor, '68 – January 25, 2023 Ronald G. Herbert. '68 – January 27. 2023 Ronald G. Herbert, '68 – January 27, 2023 George L. Herman, '64 – January 28, 2023 Garv F. McBride. '53 – Januarv 28. 2023 Adam D., Abeyta, '11 – January 30, 2023 LaTora A. Turner, '06 – January 30, 2023 Maria G. Chacon Garcia. 74 – January 31. 2023 Larry S. Dunagan, '65 – February 3, 2023 Joshua W. Whipple, '05 - February 3, 2023 Jackson D. Holliday, '70 – February 4, 2023 Harold A. Swift, '10 – February 5, 2023 Wesley C. McEuen, '19 - February 5, 2023 Laurie M. Herbert Hawkins, '94 – February 8, 2023 Alfred M. Grijalva, '68 – February 10, 2023 Manuel "Manny" P. Medina, '68 – February 10, 2023 Colleen Layton Allen, '48 – February 11, 2023 Martina B. Romero, '92 – February 15, 2023 Joe C. Quinn, '48 - February 11, 2023 Lorene Crockett, '43 – February 24, 2023 Marcia G. Heap, '68 – February 27, 2023 Anthony J. Palmer,'94 – March 3, 2023 Donald W. Fitzgerald, '64 – March 3, 2023 Jackie D. Quinn, '07 – March 4, 2023 Jerry O. Hoopes, Sr., '55 – March 5, 2023 Roselita Noline,'97 – March 5, 2023

Lona I. Layton Duncan,'69 - March 10, 2023 Mike H. Grauer. '64 – March 10. 2023 Lorraine L. Dillon,'86 - March 11, 2023 Dustan E. Eagar,'83 – March 12, 2023 Jennifer C. Gregory Johnson, '04 – March 13, 2023 Jace Wil Hinton, '18 - March 18, 2023 Gregory D. Green.'98 – March 21. 2023 Thomas L. Amos, '57 – March 23, 2023 Wilbur K. Benally, Sr., 76 - March 29, 2023 Paul W. Schminke.'07 - March 31. 2023 John O. Varela, '66 – April 3, 2023 Max R. Ogas, '75 – April 8, 2023 Patsv A. Montez. '04 – April 8. 2023 Dave H. Matthews, '59 - April 9, 2023 Sandra M. Cox,'60 - April 13, 2023 David N. Clonts.'88 – April 15. 2023 Colleen M. Robinson, '74 – April 16, 2023 Donna M. Montgomery, '91 – April 22. 2023 Jennifer A. Cassadore,'90 – April 22, 2023 Martin H. Johnson, '91 – April 24, 2023 Sheena R. Elthie, '12 - April 24, 2023 Archie W. Payne, '48 – April 27, 2023 Debra K. Hampton,'86 – April 27, 2023 Donald E. Hall,'76 - April 30, 2023 Michael R. Esteves, 78 – May 2, 2023 Melvin Bryce, '52 – May 8, 2023 M. Glenn Woods, '55 - May 10, 2023 Dr. James F. Holder, '57 – May 12, 2023 Marlene T. Mott,'54 – May 12, 2023 LoLita Talkalai, '87 – May 12, 2023 Dudley S. Welker, '52 - May 21, 2023 Orlando J. Lujan, '75 – May 24, 2023 Bobby J. Smith,'96 – June 8, 2023 Gale A. Hildreth, '56 – June 8, 2023 Erica R. Sadda, '02 – June 13, 2023 John H. McEuen, 19'59 - June 15, 2023 Robert S. Gutierrez, '62 – June 17, 2023 Joy A. Layton. '48 – June 26, 2023 Elaine F. Arrellin, '03 – June 30, 2023 Carleen I. Lambert, '91 – June 30, 2023



A 30-year reunion for ASEAC student council members who had Patti Wren as an advisor will be held during Homecoming '24.

Stay in touch to receive additional information as the time draws closer.

Patti Wren > (928) 428-8384 >patti.wren@eac.edu

CONTACT



July 16, 2022	Melissa Larson '22 + Davis Kay,'22	February 24, 2023	Beckie Peterson '22 + Brigham Lee,'22
July 21, 2022	Aubrey Thornton + Layton Alder '22	March 2, 2023	Keslee Palmer, '18 + Calvin Frank Kelly
August 6, 2022	Sabrina Mosley '23 + Toby Shaw '23	March 10, 2023	Callie Thygerson, '19 + Oliver D. Nicholas, '15
September 3, 2022	J. Namealoha Sells + Bruce K. Hekekia, '92	April 29, 2023	lvie Carter + Ridge Morris, '20
November 11, 2022	Melanie Bolen '23 + Brandon Udall '23	May 13, 2023	Cal Hargis, '17 + Hunter Price
December 3, 2022	Kandice Solis '13 + Martin Dominguez	May 6, 2023	Sarah Clonts, '18 + Justin Muller
December 12, 2022	Aubrey Roussel, '00 + Nicole Evans, '05	May 27, 2023	Charity Nielson, '23 + Nathaniel Rapier, '23
December 17, 2022	JoAnn Wahl '24 + Samuel Nicholas '24	June 10, 2023	Laney Morris + Trett Wiltbank, '23
January 6, 2023	Victoria C. Bjorn, '23 + Terren J. Green, '23	June 16, 2023	Shannyn Biggs, '23 + Zachary Steadman, '24
January 7, 2023	Sienna Sanders '23 & Ethan Haynie,'23	June 17, 2023	Kelsi Hunt '22 + Braden Rapier
	1	1	1



Larson + Kay



Peterson + Lee



Thygerson + Nicholas



Thornton + Alder



Palmer + Kelly



Clonts + Muller



Mosley + Shaw



Wahl + Nicholas



Hunt + Rapier



Sells + Hekekia



Bjorn + Green



Hargis + Price



Bolen + Udall



Sanders + Haynie



Roussel + Evans



Solis + Dominguez



Biggs + Steadman









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Pictured: EAC's First Official Women's Soccer Team