

Academic & Creative Excellence Festival 2024

Master Schedule and Participants

Monday April 15

Ceremonia de Presentación de Trabajos del Programa de Español

6:00-8:00 pm, UC 177 (Old Common Grounds)

This event is a ceremony to celebrate our five Spanish major seniors' accomplishments in learning Spanish, oral and written fluency in the language and Hispanic culture. The students will demonstrate their linguistic and cultural competencies. Each senior will conduct a fifteen-minute presentation entirely in Spanish in their field of interest. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

1 Engage point available.

Presenter	Presentation title
Jessamine Domingo	El mantenimiento y desplazamiento de las lenguas indígenas: Purépecha y Zoque Ayapaneco
Hannah Landis	Lost in Translation: Políticas, privilegio y problemas de traducción de películas y palabras
Sophie Kirkton	
Maria Menjivar	Recursos para inmigrantes en Harrisonburg, Virginia (Resources for Immigrants in Harrisonburg, VA)
Lucy Unzicker	Documentación de Aprendizaje: Práctica Docente en Una Escuela Primaria

Wednesday April 17

Keynote Address: Douglas Abrams

Two Truths and Three Lies About Hope and Humanity

Wednesday, 10:10-11:00 am, Lehman Auditorium
(Talk-back following until 11:30 am)

In a world that seems so troubled, how do we hold on to hope? New York Times-bestselling author Doug Abrams will examine this most sought-after and least-understood element of human nature. He will explore the importance of hope in our lives and how to cultivate it personally and collectively when we need it most. Through sharing little-known truths and confronting the widespread lies about the future of humanity, Doug invites the listener to see hope not as a passive or weak response, but as an act of resistance that challenges the status quo.

The talk will draw on his work writing *The Book of Hope* with Jane Goodall, as well as his collaborations with the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Stephen Hawking, Nelson Mandela, Bryan Stevenson, and many other leading spiritual teachers, activists, and scientists.

Find more information about Doug Abrams on the [ACE Festival Keynote Speaker page](#).

2 Engage points available.

Thursday April 18

Pediatric Nursing Toy Display

8:45 am - 4:00 pm, Martin Chapel foyer

Students in the Nursing Care of Children course were assigned to design and build a toy for a specific age, utilizing easily accessible materials (things that could be found in or around the home). The toy was to be designed with knowledge of the gross and fine motor skills, social skills and cognitive skills for an infant or child of the assigned age, and to engage each of these areas of development through play. In addition, safety considerations were to be incorporated in the design so that the toy poses no risks for the child; or if there are safety risks these are identified and risk mitigation guidance provided.

This is an informal display: no Engage passport stamps offered.

Presenter	Toy Project Title
Rizel LaBossiere	River's Cardboard Cruiser
Jada Schutt	"Billy the Ball Box"
Jenna Weaver	Crochet stacking bowls and balls
Rachel Wheeler	Toddler Train

Other Displays

All day Thursday

The following displays can be viewed throughout the day; for Engage credit, passports will be stamped ONLY during the related events in the schedule below.

Posters on display - Suter Science Center, upper and lower levels

Art gallery open - M.M. Gehman Gallery (UC179)

EMU Authors' display (9:30 am-3:30 pm) - Hartzler Library main floor

Oral Presentation Session A

Thursday, 8:45-10:00 am

1 Engage passport stamp available

Trends and Trending: Humanities Seminar 1 Moderator: Kevin Seidel	Campus Center 105 (Strite Conference Room)
Abigail Hickok	Green Dye, White Walls, Barbie Pink: Aesthetic Trends and Environmental Dangers
Laurel Evans	Laying Up Treasures in Heaven: Faith and Economics in Three Theological Traditions
Thomas Erickson	History after Film: <i>Judas and the Black Messiah</i> and <i>BlackKkKlansman</i>
Josiah Esch	"Master Thyself": The Pull and Pride of Literary Societies at Eastern Mennonite (1917-1969)
Biology and Environmental Sustainability Moderator: Jim Yoder	Suter Science Center 104
Abigail Forrest Sadie Oesch, Elaine Miranda Perez, Marciella Shallomita	Serotonin transporter (dSert) mutation in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> increases sleep and starvation resistance and shortens life span
Madelynn Hamm Vanessa Gardiner, Aja Laun	Determining the Presence of Salamanders in Waterways Through eDNA Testing
Evan Kauffman, Ethan Neufeld	The Effect of unc-53 on <i>C. elegans Apoptosis</i>
Madison Stockner Nick Arnold, AJ Bagby, Vanessa Gardiner, Anika Hurst	Restoration, Management, and Engagement in Park Woods
Engineering Projects I Moderators: Daniel King and Shravan Akula	Suter Science Center 106
Riley Gonzalez Laura Benner, Ivan Betancourt, Jacob Hess, Micaiah Landis, Micah Mast, Adam Stoltzfus, Lleyton Stutzman, Sean Swartley, Guadalupe Tenorio Ramirez	EMU Super-mileage Car
Jacob Hess, Joel Kornhaus	Harmonic Radar using Software Defined Radios For Insect Tracking Applications
Micaiah Landis Adam Stoltzfus, Lleyton Stutzman	Envision AR: Transforming Realities with an Augmented Sandbox Experience
Cedon Yoder, See Hla	Plant Growth Tent
Nursing Colloquium I: Emotional Impacts of Code Blues Moderator: Wendy Carr	Martin Chapel
Abby Aleshevich Kara Kornhaus, Sarah Pereverzoff, Claiborne Poston	Emotional impacts on the interdisciplinary team: Code blues, implementing effective debriefings and patient loss

Coffee break

Thursday, 10:00-10:30 am

Campus Center Martin Greeting Hall

Suter Science Center Discovery Room (room 101, upper level)

Stop by one of two locations for coffee and fellowship.
(No Engage passport stamp available.)

Oral Presentation Session B

Thursday, 10:30-11:45 am

(with Honors Capstones until noon)

1 Engage passport stamp available

Old Texts, New Contexts: Humanities Seminar II Moderator: Mary Sprunger	Campus Center 105 (Strite Conference Room)
Caleb Stoltzfus	Churches Coming Out: Lancaster County Mennonites and Queer Inclusion
Savannah Smith	Reviving Ancient Wisdom: Integrating Indigenous Practices into Modern Psychedelic Psychiatry
Karla Hostetter	No Perfect Translation: Inviting Literary Studies into Conversation with Biblical Translation
Aidan Yoder	Protest Now! EMU War Resistance and Response after Vietnam
Effects and Experiences of Social Difference Moderator: Jenni Holsinger	Campus Center 226
Jesse Kanagy	Needs and Networks of Families Residing in Affordable Housing
Lauryn Moore	Examining the Factors that Influence Black Women's Hair Perception
Lucas Sorensen	The Effect Of Residency On Gun Ownership
Honors Capstones (10:30 am to noon) Moderators: Shannon Dycus and Mark Sawin	Suter Science Center 106
Kate Landis	Neuropsychological Assessment Analysis
Laurel Evans	Providers' Views of Issues and Developments in Women's Health
Hannah Landis	Translation of Hugo Carrillo's " <i>La calle del sexo verde</i> "
Nursing Colloquium II: Surviving Intimate Partner Violence Moderator: Melody Cash	Martin Chapel
Olivia Bower Ashley Mellinger, Yasmin Rodriguez, Kendall Stettler	Surviving intimate partner violence: Bringing awareness to barriers in healthcare

Poster Session A

Thursday, 10:30-11:45 am

Suter Science Center upper level

1 Engage passport stamp available

Computer Science and Engineering Project Posters
main entrance foyer

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Jacob Hess	Using Django as a Graphical User Interface
Levi Stutzman Ivan Betancourt, Myles Dixon Ben Friesen Guhr, Jonathan Kronimus Sean Swartley	Building an Affordable Turbidity Sensor

Psychology Research Posters
upper level west

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Samantha Hensley Hayley Collins, Sarah Moore	Caffeine and Its Impact on Working Memory and Metacognition
Elizabeth Horn	Emotional Support Animals' Impact on Human Connection
Chris Kibler, Seth Strong	COVID and Social Anxiety
Hunter McWilliams, Ethan Neufeld	The N400 and Implicit Political Associations
Tyler Oaks, Asmait Embaye	The Relationship Between Childhood Home Environment and Adult Personality
Sam Yoder, Kate Landis	Anxiety in College Athletes

Biology and Chemistry Research Posters
upper level classroom corridor

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Amber Bonds	The Impact of Road Salting on Bean Crops
John Jantzen, Meredith Lehman	Navigating the Navs: Applying RNA-seq Tools to Understand Differential Isoform Expression of UNC-53 in <i>C. elegans</i> .
Adesola Johnson Meredith Lehman, Allysen Welty-Peachy	Movements of Male & Female Colony-reared <i>Bactrocera jarvisi</i> Tracked Using Harmonic Radar in Northern Queensland Papaya Fields
Doran Kennedy	Contact Lenses In The Lab - Permeability and Solubility testing
Christina Louk	Photosynthesis and chlorophyll concentrations of arugula (<i>Eruca sativa</i>) in response to excess water and drought stress

Sadie Oesch Abigail Forrest, Elaine Miranda Perez	Serotonin transporter (dSert) mutation in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> increases food consumption and starvation resistance
Marciella Shallomita Abigail Forrest, Elaine Miranda Perez Sadie Oesch	Loss-of-Function in the <i>Drosophila</i> Serotonin Transporter (dSert) Gene Changes Sleep and Activity and Decreases Life Span

Business and Leadership Posters
Suter Science Center room 109

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Caleb Chupp Grant Leichty, Garrett Nyce	Student Experience: A Study into Housing, Satisfaction, Student Life, and Academic Success at Eastern Mennonite University
Mesa Dula Ben Alderfer, Jansen Miller	ChatGPT usage among college students
Emanuel Habte Elphas Adam, Nick Ondrus	Embracing Diversity: Understanding International Students' Sense of Belonging at Eastern Mennonite University
Mya Hamlet Zazkia De la Vega, Jacob Nichols	Residential Students vs. Commuter Students and their Engagement with On-Campus Activities at EMU
Ashley Maldonado Elizabeth Longarce, Sean Mays	How do EMU students feel about the EMU fitness center?
Drew Pettitt Alec Riles, Colin Troilo	The importance of social media presence and how it leads to growth and brand awareness in business.
Chris Santisteban Bryce Graf Colby Massengill, Aidan Miller	Effect of facility quality on student satisfaction
Cooper Thomas Cole Wallace, Will Waller	The Impact of Athletic Facilities on Student Satisfaction and Recruitment.
Mara Woolford Laney Cline, Bryson Hunter	Student Satisfaction of Renovated Fitness Facility

Music Department Student Recital
Thursday, 12:00-12:50 pm, Lehman Auditorium

Join the students of the EMU Music Department as they present a noon time concert for all to enjoy.

Program available at the event. 1 Engage passport stamp available

Oral Presentation Session C

Thursday, 1:00-2:15 pm

1 Engage passport stamp available

Resilient Politics: Navigating Challenges of Debt, Climate Change, and Reconciliation Moderator: Ji Eun Kim	Campus Center 105 (Strite Conference Room)
Gelila Dibekulu	The Sovereign Debt Stability Act
Meadow Kirkdorffer	Setting a Precedent for Climate Action Plans in the United States
Meredith Lehman	The Ongoing Pursuit of Justice for the Mayan Genocide
Aidan Yoder	Acknowledgment and Reparations Following the Anfal Genocide in Iraq
Engineering Projects II Moderators: Daniel King, Shravan Akula	Suter Science Center 104
Riley Gonzalez	Purge Unit for low-pressure centrifugal chiller
Hebron Mekuria	TwinTok
Levi Peachey-Stoner, Nate Yoder	EMU arcade machine!
Creative Arts: Experimentation and Emotion Moderators: David Berry, Chad Gusler	LA025 (Lehman Recital Hall)
Hannah Landis	Senior Thesis: Hannah Landis
Riley Quezada	The Power of Expression: Emotions through Music in <i>Natasha</i> , <i>Pierre</i> & <i>The Great Comet of 1812</i>
Nursing Colloquium III: Living with Addiction Moderator: Don Tyson	Martin Chapel
Elizabeth Campbell Madison Rittenhouse, Kiersten Miller, Isaac Sawin, Imogen Stephens	Living with addiction: Bringing awareness of healthcare biases toward patients struggling with addiction

Poster Session B

Thursday, 1:00-2:15 pm

Suter Science Center Lower Level

1 Engage passport stamp available

Advanced Human Physiology Posters

Suter Science Center room 20

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Andrea Acevedo Chidubem Ekoh, Angel Hines Evan Kauffman	The effects of agonistic drugs on the physiological aspects of <i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>
Rachelle Batichon Grace Ayole, Patricia Hizon Desmone Logan	The Effect of Mindfulness Meditation on Heart Rate Variability During Exercise

Sarah Deputy Josiah King. Meredith Lehman Kaden Schrock	Quantifying NAV1 Isoforms in Adults with Congenital Heart Disease
Abigail Forrest Jaylen Flesher, Aneisha Moore RayRay Taylor	Comparative Analysis of Pre and Post-Exercise Heart Rate Recovery in Non-Runners, Sprinters, and Long-Distance Runners
Karim Frazier Ashley Bykowski. Sadie Oesch Vian Ozic	The effects of exercise on heart rate
Lynette Layman Roxana Coriano-Navarro Wendy Ilboudo Jocelyn Portillo-Romero	Emmetropia or Myopia, does it affect Pupillary Light Reflex?

Environmental Applications of GIS Posters
north and south lab corridors

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Noah Buckwalter	Water Temperature and Coral Health
Laura Craft	Evaluating the No Net Loss Policy of Wetland Coverage in Virginia
Grace Eye	Worldwide Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Examining conformity with the Paris Climate Accord Targets
Vanessa Gardiner	The Path of Trash: Do Plastic Trash Densities Correlate with Shipping Routes and Ocean Currents?
Emanuel Habte	Exploring the Interplay Between Quality of Life Indicators, Border Crossings, and Population Dynamics in Texas
Isaac Huyard	Investigating the Relationship between Socioeconomic Status and Green Space Access and Canopy Cover in Harrisonburg, Virginia
Joel Kornhaus	Assessing vegetation growth as a result of sand dams
Esme Martin	Effects of riparian buffer installation on stream health in Lancaster County.
BellamyImmanuel	Impact of Wildfires on Ozone Levels
Samuel Myers	Exploring factors that affect grizzly bear populations in British Columbia
Levi Myers	The Effects of Mining and Fracking on Community Wellbeing in West Virginia
Chloe Shepard	Fencing along agricultural land and its effect on water quality in Augusta County
Madison Stockner	Analyzing Endemic Clam Species within Southwest Virginia
Evelyn Shenk	Analyzing How Tree Composition Has Changed in Parkwood's Over 24 Years

Sierra McVey	Spatial Analysis of Nesting Sites in Different Turtle Species
Madylynn Hamm	The Effects of Mining and Fracking on Community Wellbeing in West Virginia

Bioinformatics and Environmental Chemistry Posters
lower level concourse

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Noah Buckwalter, Bellamy Immanuel	Stream Water Quality
Betty Debebe	Spatial Analysis of Nesting Sites in Different Turtle Species
Grace Eye Laura Craft, Vanessa Gardiner	Assessing Water Health and Contaminants in Park Woods and the Shenandoah Valley
Aja Laun	Tracking Gaps in Gene Expression Between Birds and Reptiles That Could Belong to Their Common Ancestor
Sierra McVey, Madison Stockner	Prevalence of Microplastics in Market Fish
Elaine Miranda Perez	Fencing along agricultural land and its effect on water quality in Augusta County
Ethan Neufeld	Analyzing Endemic Clam Species within Southwest Virginia
Jenna Oostland William Bartel, Madelynn Hamm	Water System Health of Local Streams
Marciella Shallomita	Analyzing How Tree Composition Has Changed in Parkwood's Over 24 Years
Evelyn Shenk, Andrew Arledge, Elaine Miranda Perez	Assessment of Water Quality at Cooks Creek

General Chemistry Posters
lower level west end

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Christina Louk, Wendy Elboudo	Copper Phytoremediation In The Roots and Leaves of Roma VF Tomatoes
Renae Benner, Alex Belisle	Forsythia's Ability to Phytoremediate at Varied Copper Concentrations
Aja Laun, Roumany Sefin	Investigating Sunflower Species Efficiency of Absorbing Copper
Tiffany Lear, Kristen Andersen	Comparison of copper phytoremediation potential among different radish species.
Amber Bonds, Maya Tutton	Comparing Copper Levels in Tomato Roots, Stems, and Leaves.
Levi Peachey-Stoner, Isaac Miller	Copper levels of arugula grown in contaminated soils
Yuji Wenger, Rosa Martin Fonseca	Spinach plants' ability to use phytoremediation with copper
Shardae Williams, Andre Mills	Is it safe to eat copper-contaminated radishes?
Bethel Abiy, Lemi Bekele	Comparing Copper Absorption In Beets and Spinach

Tara Cahill, Jade Davis	Copper Phytoremediation in Sunflower Plants Affected by pH Change
Skylar Stevens, Rogelio Cruz	Effects of copper lever on sunflower growth

EMU Authors' Reception and Award Presentation

Thursday, 2:15-3:30 pm, Hartzler Library Main Level

Hosted by the Provost's Office, the 15th Annual EMU Authors Reception and Award Presentation will recognize and celebrate winners of the university's Excellence in Teaching Awards, recipients of student writing awards, as well as EMU faculty, staff, or students who have published scholarly work in the past two years. Come to enjoy music, refreshments, and an opportunity to greet the authors and view their works.

1 Engage passport stamp available.

Chamber musicians

Miriam Rhodes, violin

Dr. Benjamin Bergey, violin

[List of featured publications](#)

2024 Faculty Authors

Kirsten Eve Beachy	Associate Professor of English Program Director - EMU Core Curriculum
Sarah Bixler	Assistant Professor of Formation & Practical Theology Associate Dean - Seminary
David Berry	Associate Professor of Music Program Director - Music
Jacob Cook	Seminary Grant Program Director
Shannon Dycus	Vice President of Student Affairs Dean of Students
Marti Eads	Professor of English
Paula Facci	Assistant Professor of Peacebuilding
Nancy Heisey	Professor Emerita of Biblical Studies and Church History
Steve Johnson	Professor of Visual and Communication Arts Program Director - Visual and Communication Arts
Jim Leaman	Associate Professor of Business Program Director - Business and Leadership
Heike Peckruhn	Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Kevin Seidel	Professor of English Program Director - Language and Literature
Tim Seidel	Associate Professor of Community & International Development Director - Center for Interfaith Engagement Program Director - Peacebuilding, Development, Global Studies
Kimberly Schmidt	Affiliate Professor of History
Daniel Showalter	Associate Professor of Mathematics Program Director - Mathematics and Computer Science
Mary Sprunger	Professor of History Program Director - History and Political Science
Andrew Suderman	Affiliate Associate Professor of Bible, Religion and Theology

Paul J. Yoder	Professor of Teacher Education Director of Graduate Teacher Education Program Coordinator of Secondary Education
Howard Zehr	Distinguished Professor of Restorative Justice Director Emeritus, Zehr Institute for Restorative Justice
Mary Ann Zehr	Instructor of Rhetoric & Composition Program Director - Writing and Communication

EMU Phoenix 2023 Authors and Artists

2024 Student Authors

Willem Hedrick	UG Student, First-Year Writing Award Runner-up
Ashley Mellinger	UG Student, Senior
Caleb Metzler	UG Student, First-Year Writing Award
Brooke Snyder	UG Student, First-Year Writing Award

Oral Presentation Session D

Thursday, 3:30-5 pm

1 Engage passport stamp available

Global Challenges, Local Struggles: Double Violence Against Women (CJP) Moderator: Timothy Seidel	Campus Center 105 (Strite Conference Room)
Ann Dye, Maybree Spilsbury, Erin Brummer, Dorothy Maru	Double Violence Against Women: State & Domestic Conditions Fail to Protect Women
Education: Documentation of Student Learning Projects Moderator: Roger Mast	Campus Center 203
Maria Bettilyon	Life is Like a Roller Coaster: Lessons Learned from an Honors Calculus Class
Shania Coleman	The Study of Sound: An Inquiry-Based Approach to 5th-Grade Science
Lyndsay Harris	Progress Isn't Always Linear: Teaching Fractions to 4th Graders
Lucy Unzicker	The Value of Self-Reflection When Teaching Spanish to 1st Graders
Creating Social Equity (Interdisciplinary) Moderators: Lindy Backues and Allison Wilck	Suter Science Center 104
ML Lormejuste	Housing Affordability and the Market
Manuela Marin	Implementing strategic leadership in organizations
Rachel Tusing Hannah Beck, Ming Daliege, Sophie Kirkton	Comprehensive Understanding of Premenstrual Disorders (PMDs): Inflammation, Psychological and Physical Symptoms, Attitudes, and Coping

Nursing Colloquiums IV and V Moderator: Melody Cash	Martin Chapel
Mackenzie Ritter Jessamine Domingo, Lauren Hall, Nutifafa Havi	Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on childrens' health and the use of Positive Childhood Experiences to improve resiliency
Reagan Stone Kylie Heatwole, Hailee Napier	Challenges faced by diabetic patients

Senior Art Exhibition Opening

Thursday, 4-5 pm, M. M. Gehman Gallery (University Commons 179)

Visual and Communication Arts majors present *Through Human Eyes*, a group senior art exhibition. Each series represents how people understand the world around them: through music, relationships, nature, and the psychology of branding. Mediums featured include acrylic and oil painting, cyanotype prints, handmade paper, and photographic wood transfers, as well as posters and 3-D representations of graphic design work.

During the opening reception in the Margaret Martin Gehman Gallery, visitors will hear each artist give a talk, followed by time for questions and comments. Refreshments will be provided. This exhibit will remain on display from April 18 through May 1.

1 Engage passport stamp available.

Senior artists

Valentina Barahona
Afton Rhodes-Lehman
Mariah Miller
Cassidy Walker

STEM Celebration Poster Award Presentations

Thursday, 4:45-5 pm, Suter Science Center, lower level concourse
(No Engage passport stamp available)

The recipients of this year's STEM Celebration poster awards will be announced in this short award presentation at the end of the day. Posters from STEM disciplines (biology, chemistry, biomedicine, engineering, computer science, and psychology) will be judged by EMU STEM faculty, with winners selected in the following categories:

Senior/Independent research and project posters
Environmental Applications of GIS posters
Biology class assignment posters
Chemistry class assignment posters

EMU Wind Ensemble Concert

Thursday, 7:00 pm, Lehman Auditorium

Join the EMU Wind Ensemble for an evening of classic wind band music, under the direction of Dr. Kyle Remnant, and featuring student conductors. The program will include works by Jack Stamp, William Schuman, and Percy Grainger. 1 Engage point available.

Student Conductors

Allie Smith

Riley Quezada

Friday April 19

University Choir Concert

Friday, 7:00 pm, Lehman Auditorium

Join us for a night of beautiful choral music that brings joy and hope to a world in need. Highlights include a tribute song to Alice Parker, Eric Whitacre's hilarious "Animal Crackers," a rhythmically infectious Creole piece, and more! 1 Engage point available.

Saturday April 20

Concerto/Aria Orchestra Concert

Saturday, 7:00 pm, Lehman Auditorium

This concert is packed with special features! Our opening concerto features Dr. Kyle Remnant on trombone, followed by two student soloists who won EMU's concerto/aria competition. The orchestra will also perform a newly commissioned piece by Joe Jaxson, ending the evening with Saint-Saëns' majestic Organ Symphony! 1 Engage point available.

Featured soloists

Dr. Kyle Remnant, trombone

Reah Clymer, soprano

Luke Haynes, clarinet