

Academic & Creative Excellence Festival 2026

Master Schedule and Participants

Thursday-Sunday, April 9-12

The Winter's Tale: A Musical Adaptation

Various times, University Commons, Lee Eshleman Studio Theater

EMU Theater brings Shakespeare's heartwarming tale of mystery and magic to life in an original musical, featuring hit songs from the '80s and '90s and dynamic choreographed dance numbers. Performance [times and tickets](#).

Monday, April 13

Screening of *Bloom*

6:00-8:00 pm, Suter Science Center 106

Screening of Elizabeth Miller-Derstine's award-winning film *Bloom*. The American hospital system can be daunting and unpredictable; *Bloom* follows four birth workers and the parents they advocate for. The week of April 12 is Black Maternal Health Week. Refreshments provided. **One Engage point available.**

Wednesday April 15

Dr. Deborah Lawrence

10:15-11:15 am, Lehman Auditorium

"Our Connection to Nature: Gift, Joy, Grief and a Life's Work"

"Sustainability means so many things. Our shared reading of *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer reminds us that recognizing our connection with the earth underpins all sustainability. The recognition inspires knowledge, gratitude, and obligation. It gives us meaning and purpose while it may also take us all in many different directions. I look forward to sharing my reflections on our connections to nature and how they have changed over the course of my life, informing my scholarship, my work, and my daily life."

Following this event, drop by the East Dining Room over lunch for additional, informal conversation with Dr. Lawrence, from 11:30 am to 1 pm.

Find more information about Dr. Deborah Lawrence on the [ACE Festival keynote speaker page](#). **2 Engage points available (for the event in Lehman Auditorium only).**

Ceremonia de Presentación de Trabajos del Programa de Español

6:00-8:00 pm, UC 177

This event is a ceremony to celebrate 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
Sophia Armato	Más que Palabras: Cómo el Español Construye Comunidad
Arelys Martinez Fabian	Colección de poemas: Navigating identity challenges, grief, and trauma through poetry.

Thursday April 16

Pediatric Nursing Toy Display

Thursday, 8:30 am - 3:30 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. 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. **No Engage points.**

Presenter	Toy Project Title
Emilee White	Peekaboo Place House
Sarah Wheeler	Quiet Time Book
Rebekah Compagnari	Peek-a-boo Whales
Juliana Greaver	Big Burger

Additional Displays

The following displays can be viewed throughout the day.

- **Posters on display** - Suter Science Center, upper and lower levels, University Commons, 1st floor foyer.
- **Senior Art Exhibition** in the M.M. Gehman Gallery UC179
- **EMU Authors' display** 9:30 am-5:00 pm - University Commons UC 177

Oral Presentation Session 1

Thursday, 8:45-10:00 am
(Nursing session starts at 8:30 am)

Presentations: Humanities Seminar Moderator: Mary Sprunger	Campus Center 105 (Strite Conference Room)
Chase Comer	What Changed Electoral Politics in Appalachian Virginia? An Analysis of the Voting Trends and Cultural Change between Buchanan County and Rockingham County
Miranda Beidler	'Scope for the Imagination': The Shifting Narratives and Morals of Jo March and Anne Shirley
Naomi Kratzer	A Voice and a Vision: The Activism of Ruth Brunk Stoltzfus in Mennonite Spirituality and Politics (1915-2008)
Jordyn Thompson	Mundane Realities: The Bureaucratic Life of Female Spies
Presentations: Environmental Sustainability & Biomedicine Moderator: Doug Graber Neufeld	Suter Science Center 106
Levi Stutzman, Tara Cahill, Jenna Oostland, Madelynn Hamm, Kate Stutzman, Maya Tutton	Carbon Emission Tracking at EMU: A Multi-Year Comparative Analysis
Esme Martin, Malachi Peachey-Stoner, Madelynn Hamm	Determining the presence of two rare salamanders in local waterways through eDNA methodology
Grace Ayole	Stress, Salivary Immune Defense, and Bacterial Colonization: Investigating How Acute Stress Affects the Body's Ability to Fight Infection Through Saliva
Start at 8:30 am Nursing: Supporting Mental Health Across All Ages Moderators: Kate Clark & Laura Yoder	Martin Chapel
Odesa Elezi, Madison Bowyer, Elijah Spicher,	Mindful Transitions: Supporting Mental Health in Long-Term Care
Kristina Suslaev, Emily Guin, Reina Landa	The Effect of Social Media on Mental Health in Children and Adolescents

Poster Session A
Thursday, 8:45-10:00 am
University Commons, 1st floor foyer

Social Sciences, Business & Leadership, Psychology & DEI Grant Reports

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
LaToya Fernandez	Sankofa Circles
Meredith Atkinson	Foster Care and Mental Health: Understanding Risk for Anxiety and Depression
Grace Burke	The Relationship Between Class Sizes and Student Value
Mara Carlson	Promoting Inclusive Outdoor Recreation at EMU Through Student Organization Partnerships
Isaiah Carr	EMU Athletic Attendance
Anne Marie Cornelius, Gisele Kuate Mogouong, Sarah Prroj	Language Education, Cultural Integration, Student Development, Academic Preparation
Sophia Denby	2 Projects: The Relationship Between Social Media Use and Attention Among Adolescents, and Short-Term TikTok Use & Its Effects on College Students' Attention During a Focused Study Task
Julia Fisher, Marianna Kinnison	Teaching for Social Justice: The Power in Student Voices
Ben Florkowski, Zach Danielczyk, Jack Hinton	Comparing athletes and non-athletes GPAs
Leah Frankenfield, Daisy Buller, Lauren Kauffman, Hollyn Miller	How Adverse Childhood Experiences and Tolerance for Uncertainty Relate to Spiritual Engagement in Undergraduate Students
Julian Gonzalez, Keenan Fulwood, Trevor Selph	How Coach Characteristics Relate to Student Athletes' Commitment To Their Sport and Team
Hannah Kepler	Does silence or background music improve or impair working memory
Kiyah Mata	The Human Tendency to Self-Disclose
Kassidy Meadows	Run to Rise
Royale Parker	Risk, Resilience, and Criminal Behavior: How Early Trauma, Psychological Traits, and High-Crime Environments Shape Life Outcomes
Roumany Sefin, Adnan Hamdan, Fadi Michael	Brand Positioning in a Competitive Market
Payton Simmons, Kate Castillo	EMU's Values

Guadalupe Tenorio Ramirez, Esdras Burgos, Peri Moo	Energy Drink Consumption and Effects: Focusing on EMU students
Kayle Todd	Community-based Interventions and Depression among Unhoused Individuals
Andrew Wise, Jeff Cabanban, Andrew Ritterskamp, Walker Dixon	Stressors that Affect In-season Student Athletes' GPA
Simon Yoder, Hezekiah Brown, Derek Diaz	Evaluating Student Satisfaction With Dining Hall Food Quality, Variety, and Overall Experience

Coffee Break and Networking
Thursday, 10:00-10:30 am
University Commons, Student Union,
Suter Science Center, upper-level foyer

Career Fair
Thursday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
University Commons, Hall of Nations

Area employers will be set up to engage with students about their businesses and job possibilities.

Learn to Communicate Through an Interpreter
Spanish interpretation simulation event
Thursday, 10:30-11:45 am, Roselawn 206 and 221

EMU students from human-relations professions such as education, health care, social work, or business, are invited to learn how to communicate effectively through an interpreter. During a 15-minute session, individuals will experience the correct way to use an interpreter to conduct an oral meeting in a service setting.

Students from SPAN 340: Introduction to Translation and Interpretation invite their colleagues to engage in role-plays of situations typical to their majors. For example, education majors can conduct a conversation with a Spanish-speaking parent, a nursing major could practice taking vitals or asking questions about a patient's health history, or a social worker could discuss program eligibility or the sociological needs of a family. The students from SPAN 340 will take the roles of the interpreter and the client of services; the other student will bring the expertise from their field of study and learn how to phrase questions, respond to clients, and communicate most effectively through an interpreter. Please use the QR code below or visit [this calendar](#) to sign up for a 15-minute session. Please note: there are five sessions available in each of the 15-minute slots.



Student Interpreters: Ivan Betancourt, Paulina Cárcamo Nufio, Derek Diaz, Delan Gilliam-Wright, Emily Henriquez, Claire Hurst, Edgar Martinez Villeda, Sergio Torrez, Hailey Walker

Oral Presentation Session 2

Thursday, 10:30-11:45 am

Presentations: Creative Writing & Hebrew Scripture Studies Moderator: Stephanie Powell	Campus Center 105, Strite Conference Room
Nia Boyd	Nia Theory
Virginia Maina	Justice For and With All: Rereading Jael's Agency Through Trauma-Informed Liberation Hermeneutics
Presentations: Creating Strong Communities Moderator: Lindy Backues	Campus Center 226
Edras Burgos, Claire Koontz, Royale Parker, Guadalupe Tenorio	Strategic leadership and planning for Spanish Lab & Learning Center
Tre Uzzle, Abenezar Abebe, Sarah Prroj	Strategy for Impact: Strengthening Nonprofit Leadership Through Community Engagement
Colby Eidson, David Joslyn, Colby Massengill	Eidson Outdoors Efficiency
Zazkia De la Vega, Jean Betancourt, Payton Simmons	Cleaning Mode LLC
Presentations: Current Immigration in America Moderator: Ji Eun Kim	Roselawn 306
Genesis Figueroa, Dibora Mekonnen	Current Immigration in America

Poster Session B

Thursday, 10:30-11:45 am

Suter Science Center lower level

Engineering Posters and Project Demos
Suter Science Center room 020 (physics lab)

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Nick Arnold, Ben Huyard	Mechanical Cuckoo Clock

Carter Cashin, Zander Armstrong, Dylan Diener, Noah Sanderson	Solar-powered Electric Car with Integrated Wall Charging
Maxim Fritts, Barry Muluneh	Design and Implementation of a Greenhouse Misting System
Alondra Hernandez-Gonzalez Dianne Meli	Low-cost Ventilation System for Improving Humidity and Temperature Control
Micah Mast	MakerBot Replicator Revitalization

Biology and Environmental Science Research Posters
Molecular Biology Posters
Suter Science Center lower level concourse

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Noah Buckwalter, Adam Rhodes, Maya Tutton, Lisa Zimmerman, Mara Zimmerman	Harmonic Radar for Researching Tick Movement and Behavior
Madison Jordan, Taylor Davis, Ethan Neufeld, Simeon Mussie Kaitlyn Upshaw, Jane Baker	A Pilot Study Comparing the Effectiveness of Virtual and In-Person Qigong
Mara Longenecker, Zoe Clymer,	ATPsyn β L Knockdown in Glutamate Neurons extends lifespan and preserves gut integrity in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>
Ethan Neufeld, Rin Akinotcho, Claire Hurst	The Modulatory Effect of Cold and Heat Exposure on Exercise Recovery
Seungmin Cha, Lemi Bekele	Detection of Salmonella-Specific IgY Antibodies in Chicken Egg Yolks from Different Egg Sources
Ethan Neufeld, Tara Cahill, Dante Flowe	Predicting the Effects of CRISPR-Cas9 Editing Using AlphaFold3

Environmental Applications of GIS Posters
Suter Science Center lower level concourse and corridors

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Ankita Adhikari	How station location shapes metro ridership in Washington D.C.
Ezekiel Awkward	Flood Risk and Income Inequality in Rural and Urban Areas
Joel Chamberlain	Access to Green Space and its affect on Public Health Outcomes in Virginia
Claire Hurst	Assessment of Climate Preparation and Climate Perceptions across U.S. Cities
Augy Ives	The Impact of Sea-level Rise Across the Central East Coast
Jose Lopez Vasquez	Analyzing the Spatial Relationship Between Data

	Centers and Various Infrastructures in Virginia
Jenna Oostland	Analyzing the Relationship Between Forested Land Cover and Water Quality in the Upper James Watershed, Virginia
Kai Peachey-Stoner	Implications of the Correlation of Earthquake Frequency and Fracking Activity
Adam Rhodes	Assessing The Viability of Car-Free Living In Harrisonburg
Elias Stoll	Analysis of Food Accessibility through Active Forms of Transportation in Harrisonburg
Levi Stutzman	Exploring Historic Gentrification in Washington DC with ArcGIS
Mara Zimmerman	Assessing Bird Biodiversity in Preserved Areas over a Six-Year Time Period
Lisa Zimmerman	Impact of Monoculture Agriculture on Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Populations

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.
Scan QR for partial Engage points.

Oral Presentation Session 3
Thursday, 1:00-2:30 pm
Scan QR for partial Engage point

Presentations: College students caring for self and caring for others Moderator: Jenni Holsinger	Campus Center 105 (Strite Conference Room)
Joel Chamberlain	Perceived Norms and Hidden Beliefs: Religion, Campus Climate, and Identity Expression Among University Students
Eve Detter	Impact of Motivation on Sports Performance Anxiety in College Athletes
Caleb Metzler	Politic Together: Exploring the Political Socialization of University Students
Emma Ruth Hua	Parent Relationships and Overall College Adjustment
Fernando Sanchez	Caregivers in Nursing Homes

Presentations: The Crisis of People's Displacement and Disposability Moderator: Tim Seidel	Roselawn 306
Sarah Peak, Qin Nan, Fiker Yigzaw	Gender-Based Violence, Human Trafficking, and Forced Displacement
Nahom Teshome, Kensly Cassy, Mercy Francis-Harris	Internationally Displaced Persons (IDP's)
Sara Kennel, Ewan Benjamin, Varsha Ramasubramanian	Resisting the Disposability of Indigenous Women
Presentations: Business & Economics Moderator: Lindy Backues	Campus Center 226
Chris Santisteban, Dimas Portillo, Ben Knutsson	Consulting with NP Contracting
Fadi Michael, Roumnay Sefin, Anisa Sharhabeel	Bridging Language and Opportunity: The Impact of the Intensive English Program at EMU
Emily Diaz	Why Everyone Should Care About Economics
Erik Wilkinson, Aidan Miller, Dalton Rocke	Analysis of Working with Grimes Insurance Agency
Presentations: Computer Science Moderator: Daniel Showalter	Science Center 106
Diego Morales Torres, Ravi Rolsinger	EMU Lost and Found Website
Kidus Assefa, Abraham Mekonnen,	Figma To Deploy
Ashutosh Niraula, Ruach Deng	Campus Hub Event
Rebekah Copeland, Yohanna Kebede, Ankita Adhikari	Building a Custom Scenario for The Battle for Wesnoth
Presentations: Caring for Stigmatized Groups Moderators: Kate Clark & Laura Yoder	Martin Chapel
Marianne Short, Leah Beachy, Joshua Stucky, Elliot Yoder	Experiences of Trauma Among the Unhoused
Emily Suarez Nunez, Jacqueline Jackson, Meygan Kyger, April Stafford	Breaking the Silence: Stigmatization of Sexual Violence Survivors

Poster Session C
Thursday, 1:00-2:15 pm
Suter Science Center Upper Level
Environmental Chemistry Posters
Suter Science Center upper level foyer

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Lemi Bekele, Seungmin Cha	Environmental Degradation of Plastics Under

	Different Chemical and Natural Conditions
Tara Cahill, Jade Davis	Comparing Water Qualities in the Shenandoah
Mathew Lawson, Camden Jefferson	measure water samples along the Eastern Shore for indicators for chemicals
Esme Martin, Joel Chamberlain, Kate Stutzman	Urban and Rural Comparison of Blacks Run Soil Health
Adam Rhodes, Samuel Myers	Plant Copper Remediation
Skylar Stevens, Apekshya Karki, Maya Tutton	Paper vs. Pollution: Which Material Removes Copper Best

Organic Chemistry Posters
Suter Science Center room 105 and hallway

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Kristen Andersen Ephrata Amare, Jade Davis	Spice to Science: Extracting Cinnamic Acid from Cinnamon Bark
Marlowe Brin, Sharon Tamon	In Black & White - The Effects Of Low Dose Muscarinic Cholinergic Antagonists Extracted From D. Stramonium On Zebra Fish Neuro Systems
Emily Buck, Malya Garland	Effect of Sulfuric Acid Concentration on the Synthesis and Antibacterial Activity of Methyl Cinnamate
Bennett deTenley, Ricardo Fernandez	Extraction of Sulfur based products from Asparagus
Chidubem Ekoh Adamah Ekoue-Gomido	Structure–Activity Relationships of Cinnamic Acid and Vanillin Derivatives
Dante Flowe, Skylar Stevens	Fragrance to Function: Exploring Cinnamate-Based Anti-inflammatory Activity
Sarkawt Hamad, Farah Mohammed	Comparative Extraction and Purity Analysis of Caffeine From Energy Drink and Natural Sources
Ramata Lam, Kaitlyn Upshaw	Acid–Base Extraction and Isolation of Aspirin, Acetaminophen, and Caffeine from Excedrin Tablets
Maggie Mayhew, Payton Keesee	Cinnamon Bark-Derived Cinnamic Acid as an Antioxidant
Claire Reichenbach Sphia Nguyen, Dulce Sohenk Zeager	Natural Buzz vs Synthetic Boost: Spectroscopic Analysis of Energy Drink Caffeine

General Chemistry Posters
Suter Science Center 107 and 109

Presenters and Co-Authors	Project Title
Rin Akinotcho, Donovan Glymph, Trinity Washington	Battle of Advils: Gel V. Solid Dissolution
Noah Buckwalter Zoe Clymer, Lisa Zimmerman	Antioxidant Concentration in Fresh versus Frozen Strawberries
Connor Cabbage, Andrew Arledge	Effects of pH on the dissolution of naproxen using beverages
Ani Koontz Alex Jantzen, Nick Porcaro	Antioxidant levels in differently prepared orange juices.
Arleigh Mason, Jocelyn Allanson	Action in Electrolytes: Dissolution in Sports Drinks
Emerson Moats Reese Allen, James Powell	Dissolution of Nyquil at Various Temperatures
Ella Nguyen, Karina Bondaruk	Solubility of Anti-Inflammatory Substances: Pau D'arco vs. Leading Over-the-Counter Anti Inflammatory Medication Ibuprofen
Olga Salama Jane Baker, Emmy Teodoro	The Effects of Temperature on Dissolution of Tylenol
Jonas Stafford, Filipo Toelau	Lemonade Antioxidant Levels Among Different Brands.
Reuben Wenger, Davis Bert	How Does Coffee's Antioxidant Concentration Change Based on Roast Level?
Malia Yoder, Claire Hurst	Antioxidant Concentrations in Different Apple Varieties
Mara Zimmerman, Amy Munkh	Comparing Antioxidant Concentration of Green Tea vs. Black Tea

Oral Presentation Session 4

Thursday, 2:45-3:45 pm

Presentations: Holistic Teaching Moderator: Ron Shultz	Campus Center 105 (Strite Conference Room)
Miranda Beidler	Good Bones: Teaching the Foundations of Writing during the DOSL
Sophia Armato	Bridging between Two Languages & Two Worlds
Liliana Guerrero	Documentation of Student Learning
Presentations: Engineering Moderator: Daniel King	Science Center 106
Benjamin Guhr, Zander Armstrong, Sean Swartley	Sustainable, Low-Cost Electric Bike
Levi Stutzman, Ivan Betancourt, Myles Dixon, Christian Schmidt	Single-Axis Shake Table

Presentations: Community Reintegration Moderators: Kate Clark, Laura Yoder	Martin Chapel
Jazi Knight, Caris Lucas, Abby Foltz, Gabriella Sea	Evaluating Community Reintegration Outcomes in an Interdisciplinary Wraparound Re-entry Program
Presentations: Sociology & Peacebuilding Moderator: Jenni Holsinger	Roselawn 306
Malia Bauman, Joel Chamberlain, Jayden Downing, Gavin Ferguson, Julian Gonzalez, Madelynn Hamm, Emma Ruth Hua, Samuel Myers, Jenna Oostland, Ellie Shemenski, Serenity Sites, Sara Smith, Elliot Yoder	Environmental Justice and the EJAtlas
Eli Stoll	Community Development in Harrisonburg: Food and Transportation Systems

EMU Authors' Reception and Award Presentation

Thursday, 3:45-5:00 pm, University Commons, 177

Join us for a celebration of academic achievement at the 17th Annual EMU Authors Reception and Award Presentation! This event, hosted by the Provost's Office, is a special opportunity to honor the remarkable achievements of our university community. We'll be recognizing and celebrating:

- Winners of the Excellence in Teaching Awards
- Recipients of student academic awards
- EMU faculty, staff, and students who have published scholarly works in the past two years

The event will begin with a gathering in UC 177, featuring live music and refreshments. During the reception, attendees will have an opportunity to meet our accomplished authors, browse their published works, and celebrate their incredible contributions to scholarship - followed by the formal program at 4:30, where we will highlight our award recipients.

Featured musicians

Micah Wenger and Monica Ehrenfels

List of featured publications link to list *To Be Added*

2026 Faculty Authors

Ann Schaeffer, DNP, PMHNP,

CNM, M.Ed, CNE, FACNM, Associate Professor of Nursing

James M. Yoder, Professor of Biology

Bryce Van Vleet, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Mary Ann Zehr, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric & Composition
Wendell J. Shank, Instructor of Spanish
Carol Grace Hurst, Associate Professor of Social Work
David F. Evans, Professor of History & Intercultural Studies
Jacob Alan Cook, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics
Doug Graber Neufeld, Professor of Biology
Kathryn Mansfield, Center For Justice & Peacebuilding, Adjunct Faculty
Stephanie Day Powell, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible
Timothy Seidel, Associate Professor of Community & International Dev
Mary Metzler Sawin, Professor of History
Debbi DiGennaro, Instructor of Social Work
Heike Peckruhn, Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Jeff Copeland, Professor of Biology
Paula Ditzel Facci, Assistant Professor of Peacebuilding
Dr. Cherelle Johnson, Instructor of Business & Leadership
Benjamin Bergey, Associate Professor of Music
Mary Sprunger, Professor of History
Daniel Showalter, Professor of Mathematics
Benjamin J. Guerrero, Assistant Professor of Music
Steven David Johnson, Professor of Visual & Communication Arts
Cherelle Johnson, Instructor of Business & Leadership

2026 Student Authors *To Be Added*

Name	Yr/Major
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EMU Phoenix 2025 Authors and Artists

Edited by Alexis Lewis and Zoey Mongold

Senior Art Exhibition Opening

Thursday, 4:45-5:30 pm, M. M. Gehman Gallery, University Commons 179

This exhibition showcases the capstone projects of Visual and Communication Arts majors. 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 16 through May 1.

Scan QR for partial Engage point

Senior artists

Donovan Arnason, Daisy Buller, Hollyn Miller, Jasmin Ruiz, Allie Watkins

Wind Ensemble Concert
Thursday, 7:00-8:00 pm, Lehman Auditorium

The ACE Festival continues celebrating Academic and Creative Excellence into the evening with the EMU Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Kyle Remnant. This concert will showcase "borrowed" music, featuring pieces not originally composed for a wind band. A celebration of music's power to transcend time, space, and genre, this program includes brass band transcriptions by Peter Graham and Philip Sparke, and culminates in Ottorino Respighi's colossal orchestral tone poem Pines of Rome.

University Choir Concert
Friday, 7:00-8:00 pm, Lehman Auditorium

The events celebrating EMU Academic and Creative Excellence conclude with an evening of hope, joy, and beautiful choral music! Under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Bergey, highlights include a choral masterpiece, *The Awakening*, a South Indian raga, a newly commissioned work, pop songs including Some Nights, and freedom songs. There will be an opportunity to sing along!