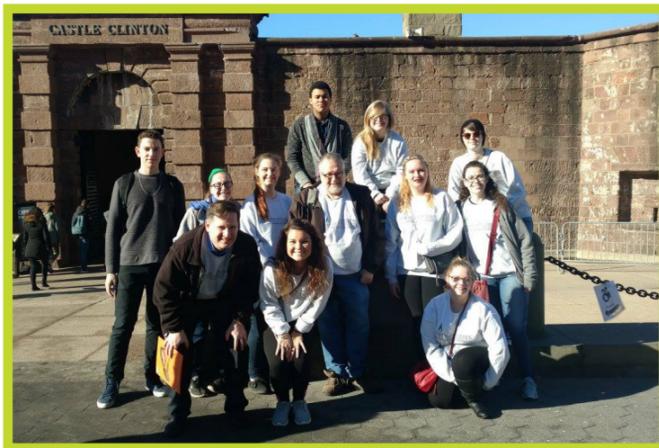




Jewish Studies Turns Five This Year, Continues to Provide Life-Changing Experiences to Students

The Jewish Studies program has been growing and providing EMU students with incredible opportunities for five years as of this spring, due to the generous contributions from donors who are passionate about connecting students to their heritage. Thanks to those donated funds, faculty members and students have traveled the country and the globe, learning about pivotal moments in Jewish history.

"Becoming Jewish in America" is a travel-based course that takes students to New York, Philadelphia, and Washington DC where they learn about the immigrant experience and how it has given rise to Jewish philanthropy and public service. Another travel course titled "World War II and the Holocaust in Poland," provides students a more realistic understanding of the human devastation wrought by the war and the Nazi campaign. The trip included educational visits to the original Oskar Schindler factory in Krakow, the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, and the Westerplatte Plateau in Gdansk, where the first shots of WWII were fired.



ABOVE: EMU's 2017 Becoming Jewish in America class at Castle Clinton (formerly Castle Garden), New York's way-station for immigrants before Ellis Island

Finally, a course called "Jewish Identity and the American Theater" allows students to see several different productions and experience the cultural Jewish aspects at the heart of the American theatrical tradition. Theater major Sarah Kadish wrote on her Facebook page, "This past week has been one of the greatest weeks of my life... The opportunity to connect my heritage to my current career path was a huge deal to me."

This spring also marks the one-year anniversary of the Center for Jewish Studies. The center was made possible, in large part, by donor support, and acts as a channel for faculty members to bring speakers to campus to share their experiences and explore current Jewish culture more deeply. For example, in "The Sound of Hate: Neo Nazis in Eastern Germany," Dr. Alison Furlong addressed an overflow Student Center crowd about both the obscene and redemptive politics of German rock and roll. Jim Gerstein, America's

leading expert on Jewish voting patterns, considered "The 2016 Election and the Jewish Vote." EMU Jewish Studies sponsored Israeli musician and peace activist, David Broza, who presented his documentary East Jerusalem/West Jerusalem in the EMU Student Center and gave a sold-out concert at The Ark in Ann Arbor.

Thanks to the donor funding that allowed our faculty the means to host them, these speakers, and many more, have given Jewish Studies students the chance to hear first-hand experiences from expert points of view.

The opportunity to connect my heritage to my current career path was a huge deal to me."

-Sarah Kadish, theater major

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ImpactReport

Eastern Michigan University Foundation Spring 2017

Donor funds impact students every single day on campus. Your generosity provides experiences and opportunities that enrich their college career outside of the classroom. From the moment a student steps on campus to the day they walk across the graduation stage, they feel thousands of faculty, staff, donors, alumni, and friends of the University cheering them on. Thank you for using your contributions to show EMU students you believe in them, their future, and the impact they will one day have on the world.

- The EMU Foundation

"I am thankful for donor funding as, quite literally, every penny helps."

As a donor to Eastern Michigan University, you help pave the way for many students to complete their degrees and have once-in-a-lifetime experiences along the way, but if you're not sure how donor funds impact our students beyond graduation, meet Jordan Giles. As a scholarship recipient, an EMU cheerleader, a member of Mock Trial and Moot Court, a proud EMU graduate, and a future law student, Jordan feels the everlasting effects of donor support.

Mock Trial and Moot Court are two academic teams that give students the opportunity to get their feet wet in the world of litigation and legal issues at the undergraduate level. Jordan explains her involvement in those teams as some of her most valuable experiences at Eastern.

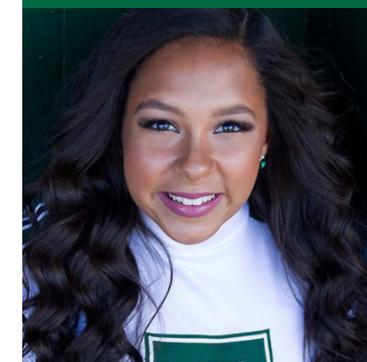
"They have allowed me to realize my full potential in the legal field. These experiences have put me leaps and bounds ahead of my peers and allowed me to gain meaningful

knowledge in the rules of evidence and how to advocate for a client."

While part of the Mock Trial and Moot Court teams, Jordan traveled with her teammates to various tournaments across the country. Their impressive tournament performances against schools from across the nation are a testament to the hard work members of academic teams commit to their knowledge of the subject matter. Thanks to donor funding, they were able to stay overnight when necessary, without the fear of incurring hotel and food costs.

Jordan came to EMU from Livonia in 2013, and in the fall of 2017, Jordan will attend one of the law schools to which she has been accepted and offered a full ride. "Mock Trial has helped me realize that I have the strong potential to be a litigator or work within criminal law," Jordan said. "Mock Trial and Moot Court have certainly [provided] me the strong foundation necessary to start as an L1 in the fall."

ABOUT JORDAN GILES



MAJOR: Political Science, Pre-Law

GRADUATION: December 2016

MOST VALUABLE EXPERIENCES AT EMU:

"My most valuable experiences have been from participating in Mock Trial and Moot Court, which allowed me to realize my full potential in the legal field. Another valuable experience has been having the opportunity to be a part of the Honors College, which has given me the ability to participate in smaller class sizes and work hands-on with my professors. It also allowed me the opportunity to set goals for myself that were attainable and inspiring, such as writing my senior thesis and reaching highest honors!"

Photo Credit: JonathanKnight Photography

From Admission to Graduation

You make this journey possible for so many deserving students. Thank you.



The SEMIS Coalition: Experiential Learning Outside of the Classroom

One of the incredible things about donor funding is that impact far exceeds the borders of Eastern's campus. The Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition (SEMIS), housed in the College of Education's Institute for the Study of Children, Families, and Communities, is a prime example of such expanding outreach capability. The SEMIS Coalition is an organization that helps local K-12 teachers incorporate "place-based" learning into their practices, encouraging their students to become positive influences and active in their environments. EMU serves as the home organization, while the SEMIS Coalition strives to build partnerships between schools and their communities.

In an article from Eastern Magazine, director of the SEMIS Coalition, Ethan Lowenstein, explained how place-based learning is different from traditional studies: "The students learn in the real world rather than solely from classroom activities. It's a very different approach because student questions drive the

classes. Teachers, adult mentors and community partners help guide those questions and tie them to curriculum."

Eastern's relationship with the SEMIS Coalition allows faculty members and students to put their studies into practice by leading research projects and providing support as members of the steering committee and liaisons between schools and community partners.

SEMISCoalition.org features a number of place-based learning experiences. Through a partnership with the Michigan DNR's Salmon in the Classroom program, students from Jack Harvey Elementary School studied ecology, not just out of a textbook, but also by raising salmon in their classroom and studying their life cycle until they released them into the Clinton River. They explored the surrounding habitat, conducted water testing, and researched native plants. This is just one of many place-based learning experiences made possible through the SEMIS Coalition and supported by donor generosity.



ABOVE: Students from Jack Harvey Elementary School participated in a place-based learning experience that served as a supplement to their class work studying ecology. Source: semiscoalition.org

Benefits of Place-Based Education

Hands-on Learning

Studies show that students who experience more place-based learning score higher in analyzed measures. Educators report students becoming increasingly engaged and enthusiastic about learning.



Students as Active Citizens

Students in place-based learning environments feel empowered to make positive contributions to their communities, including the surrounding nature.

Energetic Teaching

Educators who implement place-based learning experience an increase in confidence in their own teaching skills, as well as a renewed understanding of impact beyond the classroom.



Transformed School Culture

Teachers have seen place-based learning experiences result in more motivated students asking more critical questions. Students are able to view themselves as active researchers.

Students as Stewards for the Environment

Students who experience place-based learning often transform their education into a genuine interest in the community, becoming more involved in environmentally focused projects.

Place-based Education Evaluation Collaborative. 2010. The Benefits of Place-based Education: A Report from the Place-based Education Evaluation Collaborative (Second Edition). Retrieved March 1, 2017 from <http://tinyurl.com/PEECBrochure>.