



ERIN MATHENY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Miranda Ambuske, associate resident director for Lincoln Hall, paints a brick for the Writing on the Wall event Wednesday in the South Quad. The 200 bricks will be built into a wall and knocked down this week.

» Diversity

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“We really want everyone to come out and help us tear down all these words of hate,” Browning said.

Browning was one of two Eastern students who attended a conference where the “Writing on the Wall” program was presented to university students.

“The University of Florida and Utah had done this before,” Browning said. “I have taken what they have done and made it fit the EIU community.”

This event is not to raise money, she said, but rather to raise awareness.

RHA’s main goal for this event was to build a wall that represented oppressions toward students.

Home Depot, masons on campus and the EIU Construction Club contributed the supplies and labor for the wall.

“By coming together to paint these bricks and tear down the wall, we are coming together to realize that these barriers between us are bad,” Browning said.

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WORLD | UNITED NATIONS

U.S. boycotting, Iran starring, at U.N. meeting

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The United Nations opens its first global racism conference in eight years on Monday with the U.S. and at least seven other countries boycotting the event out of concern that Islamic countries will demand that it denounce Israel and ban criticism of Islam.

The administration of President Barack Obama, America’s first black head of state, announced Saturday that it would boycott “with regret” the weeklong meeting in Geneva, which already is experiencing much of the bickering and political infighting that marred the 2001 conference in Durban, South Africa.

The Netherlands, Germany and New Zealand announced their boycotts Sunday and Monday, while Australia, Canada, Israel and Italy already had said they would not attend.

“I would love to be involved in a useful conference that addressed con-

tinuing issues of racism and discrimination around the globe,” Obama said in Trinidad on Sunday after attending the Summit of the Americas.

But he said the language of the U.N.’s draft declaration risked a reprise of Durban, during which “folks expressed antagonism toward Israel in ways that were often times completely hypocritical and counter-productive.”

“We expressed in the run-up to this conference our concerns that if you adopted all of the language from 2001, that’s not something we can sign up for,” Obama said.

“Hopefully some concrete steps come out of the conference that we can partner with other countries on to actually reduce discrimination around the globe, but this wasn’t an opportunity to do it,” he said.

Some European countries are still deciding whether to attend the U.N. conference, which runs through April 24.

» One Acts

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“I directed a comedy last time around, so the response was easier to see,” she said. “I am very proud, though.”

The second play was called “Cowboys and Indians” and was about two men who were running against each other for president, with one being black.

The Republican Party candidate’s son turns out to be gay and goes to the Democratic Party candidate for help.

Brian McElligott, a freshman theatre arts major, played the Republican candidate and Dijon Marshall, a sophomore theatre arts major, played the Democratic candidate.

The father goes to the headquarters with his right-hand man, and they both have guns and threaten everyone, including the son.

“Both play themes were political, so I don’t know why we did them in the spring.”

— Rich Aguilera, senior theatre arts major

What he does not know is it is all being taped and he loses the election.

Rich Aguilera, a senior theatre arts major, directed this play written by Eastern alumnus Brian Aycok.

“He told me to read his play,” Aguilera said. “I said we need to do this. Both play themes were political, so I don’t know why we did them in the spring.”

Aguilera said the play had auditions and since some members dropped out, he had to steal some actors who were in the children’s play

“The Princess and the Pea.”

“It went better than I expected,” he said. “At the heart of it, it went beyond. I thought we might have a good cast and crew and it went miles beyond that.”

Aguilera said he was a little apprehensive about finding an actor to play the black role and capture the essence of Barack Obama, but said Marshall did a good job.

Rob Browy, a sophomore theatre arts major, tried out for the part of the friend in the first play.

“It was a good learning experience,” he said. “We had rehearsals and started building from there.”

Caitlin Carroll, a junior theatre arts major, said the audience reacted how she thought they would.

She played a government agent. “They reacted appropriately,” she said. “It was not really meant to be a funny show.”

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» Banquet

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He said Benner would have accounting cycles, packets with typical business transactions that his students would have to journalize, post them to ledgers and prepare reports.

Hendrickson, a political science professor, was named the Student Distinguished Professor for Academic Subject.

Student Senate member Chris Kromphardt, a senior political science major, nominated him.

Turner, associate professor of journalism, was nominated by sophomore journalism major Emily Steele.

Turner will receive the Student Distinguished Professor for Academic Service award.

Alexander developed the Students Distinguished Professors

Award with the help of Student Life graduate assistant Adrian Rosado.

This contest was for students to nominate a teacher who made a difference in the learning experience.

The professors will be introduced with a presentation by Alexander based off what their individual nominations said.

“Eastern has been needing something like this because students have no way of thanking their professors like this,” Alexander said.

Alexander said 44 applications out of 200 were completed.

She hopes there will be more completed applications next year so three professors per college would get an award instead of just four from the entire university.

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