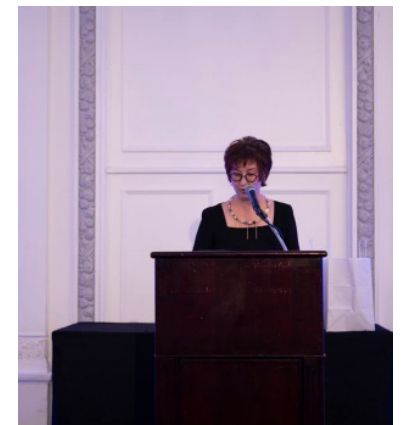
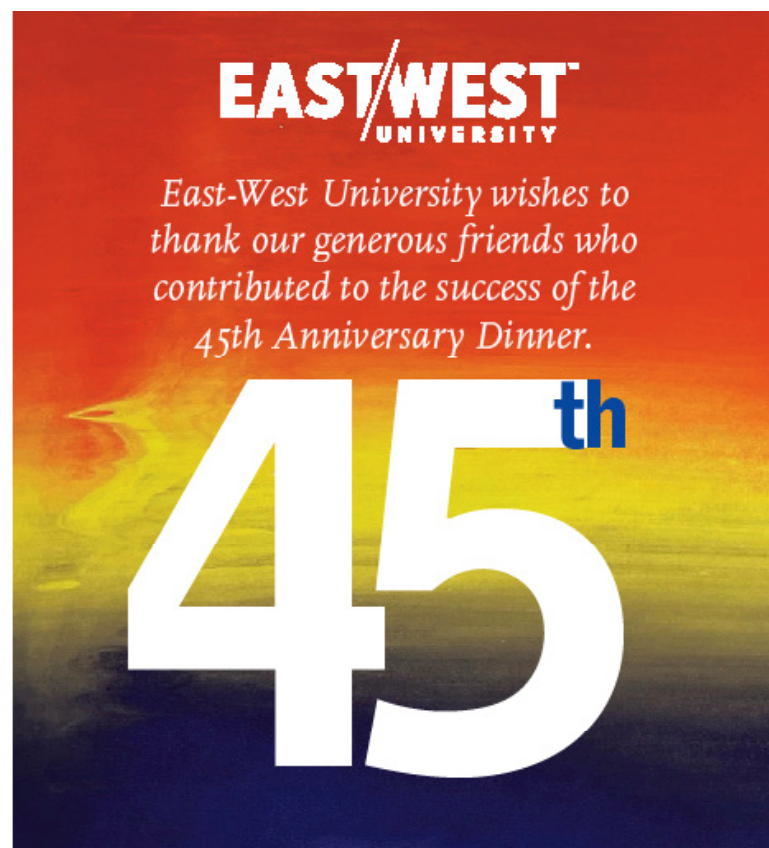
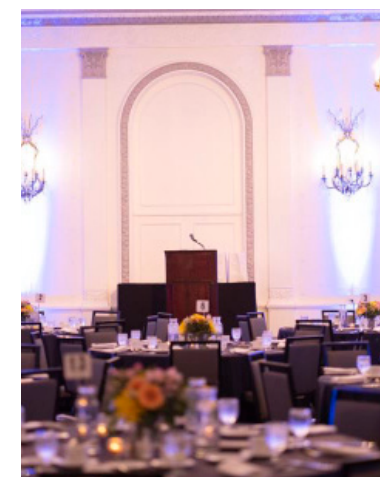


EAST-WEST University Celebrates 45 Years Of Excellence!!



East-West University opened its doors in 1980 with the idea in mind to provide a learning experience for all walks of life. Nothing could be more apparent at the anniversary dinner. At the Hilton just a few doors away from our fair school, the university celebrated 45 years of excellence. The celebration included a silent auction with reception and a three course dinner. The attendees were serenaded by a jazz band while they enjoyed light conversation and eventually thoughtful and enlightened speeches. (continued on page 2)



The evening was emceed by Dr. Maria Polski, who as always, brought wit, humor, and poise to the stage. Some of the night's most memorable moments included warm welcoming remarks from East-West's Chancellor, Dr. M. Wasiullah Khan, and a dynamic keynote address from Dr. Jawad Shah, who spoke about the power of a versatile community much like our university.

Those honored included:

- Dr. Jawad Shah, recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence
- Mr. Shahbaz Merchant, recipient of the Award for Community Service
- Mr. Cooper, recipient of a Faculty Award
- Ms. Wendy Sims, recipient of the Alumnus of the Year Award
- Mr. Raymond Zhen, recipient of the Alumnus of the Year Award

The honorable Congressman Danny K. Davis true to form spoke words of wisdom:

"Being an educational institution is important. I'm reminded of something Abraham Lincoln, a former president of the United States, used to say about education. He said that education makes a man easy to lead but difficult to drive, easy to govern but impossible to enslave. Education is a valuable instrument."

The evening left us with a profound sense of gratitude for education. It cannot be taken for granted. Education is the foundation on which an empire can be built.

It became evident that all who attended were met with encouragement and support from prominent leaders of our school, community, and alumni.

In closing, I would like to share words that truly represent all that East-West University stands for:

"To attend East-West University is to become an honorary citizen of the world; to discover a rich, diverse, and international perspective on possibilities; to expand horizons to encompass the globe; and to make lifelong friends from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives."





Dean's List Spring '25

Alexandra Magallanes	Julio Juarez Alcantara
Alexis Andrews	Kevin Mendez-Herrera
Andrea Melgar	Khushi Jani
Ariel Hernandez	Khushi Patel
Aseged Babso	Leticia Fernandez Bordon
Badou Koua	Mary Nassuuna
Bryan Maldonado	Meraj Ali Syed
Carlos Robles Hernandez	Milagros Ramirez-Reyes
Carlos Trejo	Mohammad Vora
Cesar Baltazar	Mordecai Martinez-Mayer
Diego Sanchez	Natalie Morales
Elian Davalos	Paul Williams
Elvis Gosnet	Perla Araujo
Emily Nemecio	Rehnuma Chauhan
Evelyn Salgado	Saniya Siddiqui
Fhernando Aviles	Shacari Garvin
Fnu Asmath Unissa	Shannon Lay
Jacob Beal	Tania Ortega
Javier Yturriaga	Virang Patel
Jennifer Hounkpatin	Wasey Mohammed Abdul
Jessica Shuminas	

Honors List Spring '25

Afrah Taher	Kahlea Slaughter
Alexis Johnson	Kenia Juarez
Alyssa Hernandez	Latricia Thomas
Amaanbhai Mogirabhai Vohra	Mahammadilham Vahora
Andrea Deltoro	Matthew Miller
Asmaben Vhora	Mishelle Trejo
Asra Vhora	Mohammed Rehan Ali Khan
Birat Paudel	Munkhsaikhan Nyamdavaa
Bryan Allen	Naeem Vahora
Cindy Alonso	Naiyaben Patel
Crystal Araujo	Shellicia Rogers
Elizabeth Barrera	Sonia Reyna
Felix Rodriguez-Nunez	Srushtiben Chaudhari
Harsh Patel	Vency Ashvinkumar Patel
Imani Walker	Viquaruddin Mohammed
Jacob Hundiak-Gomez	Walker Tianna
Jederit Carrera	Yaquelin Martinez
Joshua McNair	Yi Xu
	Yomali Ocampo

Candidates for Graduation 2025

Bachelor of Arts (BA) Behavioral Sciences- Angelica Ballesteros- Kwyanna Hargrays- Arly Hernandez- Rodger Jamison- Alexis Johnson- Alexandra Magallanes*- Marina Markovic- Abigail Mata- Izaiah Ordenez- Guadalupe Rezendez- Imani Walker

Bachelor of Science (BS) Computer and Information Sciences- Mazidatou Abogourin**- Ashley Ariza- Cesar Baltazar**- Alvin Garcia- Ravikumar Patel*- Virang Patel*- Birat Paudel- Syeda Rizvi- Carlos Trejo** V- Viren Nimeshbhai Soni- Javier Yturriaga*

Bachelor of Arts (BA) English and Communications- Jederit Carrera- Alyssa Hernandez- Milagros Ramirez-Reyes* - Sherena Sanders- Jessica Shields

Bachelor of Science (BS) Electronics Engineering Technology- Sabeen Ahmed- Jashua Carrasco- Adam Finnigan- Leidy Matallana- Eduardo Padilla- Jeovana Roman

Bachelor of Science (BS) Biological Sciences- Noori Arshia- Yvonne Benjamin- Salma Maldonado- Kimberly Medina- Adrian Morales*- Emily Nemecio** V- Tania Ortega**- Abhishek Patel- Ami Patel- Vishrutiben Patel**- Erika Ruiz- Kahlea Slaughter- Asmath Unissa***

Associate of Arts (AA) Liberal Arts- Aryana Faraji- Amiya Lyke- Isabelle Reyes

Associate of Applied Sciences (AAS) Office Administration

- Ellie Chounlasa-Valdez- Andrea Deltoro- Omar Ortega- Evelyn Salgado*

Bachelor of Science (BS) Business Administration- Destyne Adell-Nealis- Rafay Ahmed- Mario Bernal- Keanu Gordon- Nagesh Shivgovind Gupta- Jani Khushi- Tybrys Lamb- Alexandra Moreno- Mary Nassuuna*- Alfonso Navarro- Cristopher Padilla- Priyanka Puthran- Cecilia Smith- Maurice Truss*- Ashley Vasquez

Double Majors-

Bryan Allen **(BS Electronics Engineering Technology and BS Computer and Information Sciences)**

Natalie Morales* **(BS Biological Sciences and AA Liberal Arts)**

Shellicia Rogers **(AA Liberal Arts and AAS Office Administration)**

Honors Key- * Cum Laude- ** Magna Cum Laude- * Summa Cum Laude- V Valedictorian (Graduating with Honors)**

Things To Remember

- Graduation
- Saturday, June 21, 2025
- Summer Synergy Events
- Movie Night: June 27
- Board Game Night: July 18
- Free Throw Tournament: July 25
- Career Exploration Workshop: August 25
- Legends Luncheon: September 17
 - Fall Quarter 2025
- New Student Orientation September 29 - December 11
 - Friday, September 26
- Last day to withdraw without penalty Friday, September 26
- Classes begin Monday, September 29
- Late registration Monday, September 29 - Friday, October 3

Congratulations

EWU GRADUATING

Class Of 2025



East-West University has offered me invaluable support throughout my academic journey, providing not only a quality education but also a welcoming and nurturing environment where I've been able to grow both personally and professionally. The dedicated faculty and staff have always been available to guide me whether through academic advising, career counseling, or simply offering words of encouragement when I needed them most. The staff, in particular, have been incredibly supportive during some of the hardest moments of my life, reminding me that I was not alone and that I had a community behind me. I've had the joy of getting to know amazing students along the way and building lasting friendships. My experience working on campus in roles like admissions advising, front desk support, and assisting various departments on the 8th floor allowed me to gain real-world skills while continuing my studies. EWU's commitment to student success, its small class sizes, and its community-focused atmosphere truly made a difference in shaping my confidence, my faith, and my future.

Thank you, EWU.

Yours truly,

Angelica Ballesteros (EWU's Butterfly)



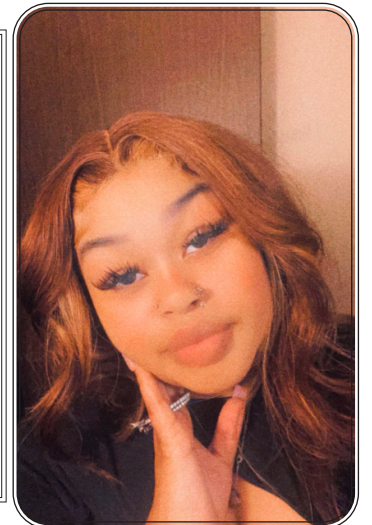
Being at East-West, I have learned so much. I've learned how to communicate better, how to be more organized, and most importantly, how to be my authentic self. This school has truly played a part in shaping me into who I am today.

I've gained friends who share the same aspirations or similar goals, and they've taught me that I'm not alone. While being here, I discovered what I'm truly passionate about—children's mental health! With the help of amazing teachers, I've learned more about the role I can play in making a difference in the world through my chosen path.

I remember being so scared and anxious to start here, but now I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity I was given to attend this school. Starting at a new school may be scary at first, but it gets easier—and more exciting—when you realize the journey ahead is one waiting to be embraced.

Thank you EWU,

Imani Walker



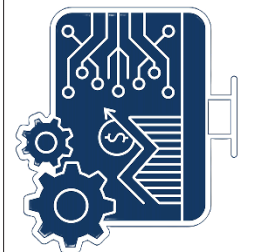
East West means a lot to me. Over the past four years, it's the people at the university who have made the biggest difference. I was shy when I first started, but now I feel like I have several great friends I can truly count on. I've had amazing experiences, like participating in Intercultural Day and celebrating Cinco de Mayo—events that brought me so much joy.

I'll even miss the late nights spent studying with friends and classmates for tough exams, because their support made the process easier and more meaningful. The professors were there for me too—always passionate, and that passion came through in their teaching. Because of them, I'll continue applying what I've learned in class. I'll keep designing in Illustrator, going out to take photos, and creating my own projects.

I'll truly miss coming to the university, talking to everyone, and sharing the same classroom.

Yours Truly,

Carlos Trejo



My name is Rodger Jamison, and I'm a senior at East-West University. I'll be earning my bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science.

One of the most valuable things I've learned at East-West is that the teachers are always willing to help. Whether it's with homework, studying for a quiz, or preparing for an exam, they're there to support you. I also learned how to manage my time and consistently turn in my assignments on time, which helped me succeed in the long run.

On the athletic side, I learned how important it is to put in work during practice, outside of practice, and even in the off-season. That dedication helped me improve every day and become a better basketball player.

The reason I work so hard—both on and off the court—is because I never wanted to let opportunities slip away. I wanted to prove that I could put in the work, that I'm strong both physically and mentally. I knew that hard work and dedication would take me far.

No matter the circumstances, I was able to go to the weight room, hit the cardio room, attend practice, hold a job, and still earn good grades. I take pride in being a great student-athlete and becoming the best basketball player I can be.

Thank you, EWU,

Rodger Jamison



A message from your CSA Advisor

As we come to the end of the 2024–2025 school year at East-West University, I encourage you all to take a moment to reflect on your accomplishments—whether it was earning a 4.0 GPA or simply getting up this morning.

Notice there was no “just” in front of getting up. That's because every accomplishment is meaningful in its own way, even the ones you—or others—might consider insignificant.

If you live on the North Side, you might know about the North Branch Trail. It begins at Gompers Park and stretches through Niles, Skokie, Glenview, and Wilmette, ending at the Chicago Botanic Gardens in Glencoe. Every spring, I set a personal goal to walk the full trail—about 20 miles. On weekends, I typically walk 2–3 miles one way (4–6 miles round trip). I've been doing this for about six years, yet I've never completed the full trail. I usually stop around the Skokie Lagoons—for one reason or another: bad weather, other priorities, or just needing a break.

Still, I'm proud of every step I take, even if I never reach the end. And you should be proud of yourself, too.

Be proud that you aced a test—or even that you studied hard and tried your best. Be proud that you cleaned your room—or at least got the dirty dishes to the sink. Be proud that you remembered to water your cactus—even if it's only once a month (honestly, that's all it needs!). Every small win counts.

There's a quote I once read—it stuck with me even though I don't remember the author:

“Don't wait until you've reached your goal to be proud of yourself. Be proud of every step you take toward reaching that goal.”

Sometimes, it's the baby steps that lead us to our biggest achievements. That's how you should approach college—and life. Break big goals into smaller, manageable ones. It makes things easier to accomplish, less overwhelming, and much more rewarding when you finally reach the finish line.

I'll end by saying how incredibly proud I am of each and every one of you for being part of EWU. You made it through this year—and that's no small thing. Remember: if you ever need someone to remind you how amazing you are, my door is always open.

Have a great summer!

Mrs. Romana Puente
CSA Advisor

The Creative(s) Corner



The Media Has Changed Us

"Growing up, my life was a symphony of silence—a consequence of childhood trauma and the constant struggle to find my voice. I was the girl who sat in the back of the classroom, invisible and unheard, grappling with the weight of unspoken words. The world felt like a foreign land, and I, an alien, navigating its complexities with a vocabulary limited to whispers and averted gazes. But even in the depths of my quietude, a flicker of defiance burned within—a yearning to break free from the shackles of my past and reclaim my narrative."

- Mary Nassuuna

A Walk Among Chicago's Iconic Tulips

"The stunning tulips that emerge from the ground as we stroll to the art museum were planted by a hardworking community who came to work and planted each flower. They bloomed with beautiful color, which is a Chicago phenomenon on Michigan Avenue. It demonstrates the beauty of nature as we can see the tulips shine and glisten in the lovely sunshine that the sun provides, giving us a lovely view of the flowers."

- Rodner Maldonado



Nonfiction

"Suddenly, a strange thud circulates around the bowling alley, then it gets quiet for half a second. Everyone wearing a staff shirt looks around to locate the source. That specific thud is a memorable sound — like two rocks slamming against each other. But this is different; you almost felt it. Almost all of the employees recognize that sound."

'Fuck — I hope that didn't just happen tonight,' the bartender mumbles as she rushes to the front desk.

'Call the police! Call the police!' a customer screams at the front desk staff.

'What's the address? What's your address? I need the address!' another outraged person asks while on the phone.

The bartender races to the front desk, asking, 'Can I have some bags for ice? That tall man just got hit with a bowling ball.'

- Alyssa Hernandez

Happily Never After

Happily Never After
the kingdom is abandoned
there's no maidens in the castle
no flowers in the garden
dead grass stings like needles
against bare calves that are nonexistent
for nobody is left standing
no storytellers to repeat the tale
wizard's wand is food for termites
the dragons long starved to death
excalibur rusts with age
the princess' tower crumbles to dust
words can never die
but the people saying them do

By Bryce Burnett



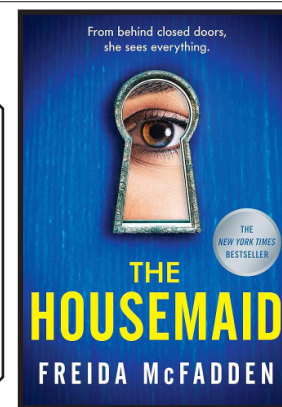
Art Culture Club

Sasha B. States' article "Art Culture Club" broadly explores what art is, emphasizing its role in showing human identity and culture. States argues that art isn't just one thing, but appears in many forms, from paintings and sculptures to everyday actions like how we dress or dance. The article shows how different cultures, like those with Rajput painting or African tribal art, use artistic creation to express their beliefs and social structures. States also encourages readers to be creative themselves, showing that art is always changing and is a strong way for people to share their stories, keep traditions alive, and start conversations. The piece invites readers to share their own art and join a creative community.



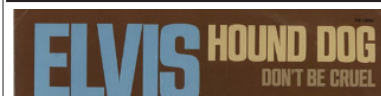
The Housemaid by Freida McFadden

Ellie Chounlasa-Valdez offers a strong review of Freida McFadden's psychological thriller *The Housemaid*. Chounlasa-Valdez describes the book as immediately engaging, following Millie, a housemaid who begins working for a wealthy, seemingly perfect family. The review emphasizes how the book uses suspense and unexpected twists to keep readers hooked. It also highlights the complex characters—especially Millie, whose determination drives the story as she uncovers dark secrets. Overall, Chounlasa-Valdez recommends *The Housemaid* as a fast-paced, thrilling read that makes you question everyone's motives and leaves you eager to read the next book.



Taming of the Shrew/10 Things I Hate About You

Milagros Ramirez-Reyes provides an insightful comparison between William Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" and its modern movie version, "10 Things I Hate About You." Ramirez-Reyes looks at how the tone differs in each, noting that Shakespeare's play can be darker, while the movie is often lighter, quirkier, and funnier. This change, she suggests, was likely made to appeal more to audiences and be more entertaining, rather than sticking strictly to the play's original mood. The review also discusses how characters are similar and different, suggesting the movie's characters are mostly younger, updated versions of Shakespeare's originals, showing how classic stories can still be adapted.



"Jailhouse Rock" by Elvis Presley

Sincere Rocquemore's review of Elvis Presley's 1957 song "Jailhouse Rock" goes beyond its well-known image to explore unexpected meanings. Rocquemore explains that while the song is famous for its dancing, research revealed deeper, controversial ideas. The review mentions how gender studies scholars have found themes of "homoeroticism behind bars" in the lyrics, even though the song was originally a joke. Rocquemore also notes that the song's lyrics include references to real people and gangs, like musician Shifty Henry and the Purple Gang. Ultimately, the analysis suggests that "Jailhouse Rock" didn't cause major cultural shifts, but it did encourage new ways of thinking and discussion, especially about the system and the topic of homosexuality within it.

"Southern trees bear a strange fruit,
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root,
Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze,
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees."
- Strange Fruit: Billie Holiday

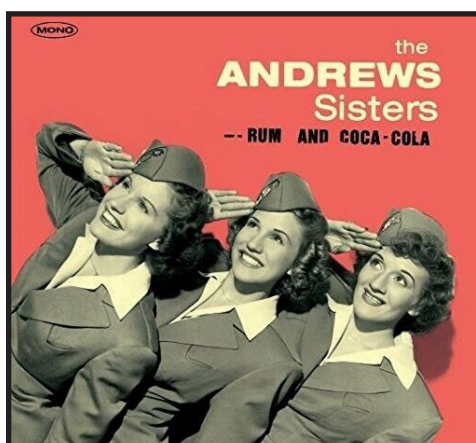
Yaquelin Martinez chose "Strange Fruit" by Billie Holiday because of its profound message and emotional impact, finding both the lyrics and Holiday's voice impossible to ignore. She viewed it as more than just a song, seeing it as a powerful protest confronting the horrors of racism and lynching in America by exposing the brutality African Americans faced. Yaquelin highlights the song's metaphorical use of "strange fruit" for the bodies of lynching victims and noting how its graphic imagery forces listeners to acknowledge the reality of racial violence. She concludes despite being recorded in 1939, its message remained relevant post-WWII, serving as a powerful tool of resistance and social change by exposing the contradictions in American democracy regarding freedom and equality.

The Cotton Belted Shirt Dress

Janiya Robinson's analysis of "The Cotton Belted Shirt Dress" delves into a classic piece of 1940s fashion, highlighting its significance during and after World War II. She describes the dress as reflecting the era's emphasis on practicality blended with femininity, noting its comfort and ease of movement due to cotton fabric. Robinson explains how the dress supported the war effort by using non-imported materials and allowed women to maintain a feminine silhouette while working. Furthermore, she discusses how this artifact helps understand American life from 1945-1955, particularly its role in reinforcing traditional gender norms post-war as women were encouraged to return to domestic life, symbolizing the ideal 1950s housewife.



We Can Do It!



Rum and Coca Cola by The Andrews Sisters

Mario Bernal's analysis of "Coca-Cola by The Andrew Sisters" unveils a significant historical complexity behind what appears to be a cheerful wartime jingle. The song, which became widely popular, actually stems from Lord Invader's original calypso, a piece that critically depicted the behavior of American soldiers with local women in Trinidad during World War II. Bernal's review highlights how The Andrew Sisters' rendition transformed this more controversial narrative into a seemingly innocent anthem of refreshment and good times. This transformation demonstrates how popular culture can subtly reframe or even obscure sensitive social issues, presenting a polished, positive image while a more intricate and challenging historical reality exists underneath. The artifact, therefore, offers a compelling case study on the interplay between commercialism, wartime propaganda, and the manipulation of public perception through music.



OpenAI. (2025). Image generated by ChatGPT: "Milstein's Class on Contemporary America".



The Swing Dress

Alexis Johnson's analysis of "The Swing Dress" explores its historical importance and impact, especially its popularity among women after World War II. Johnson describes the dress's unique design, a fitted top leading to a full, flowing skirt and explains how its "swing" movement made it perfect for dancing, which gave it its name. She points out that while the dress became very popular in the 1950s, its style actually began with Christian Dior's "New Look" in 1947, a clear change from the practical wartime fashion. Johnson also highlights how the dress helped women feel feminine, enjoy leisure, and appreciate beauty again after the war, acting as both a morale booster and a strong symbol of elegance and freedom from wartime limitations.

This Land is Your Land by Woody Guthrie

Guadalupe J. Rezende's analysis of "This Land is Your Land" by Woody Guthrie explores its roots as a protest song and why it remains important as an American folk anthem. Guthrie wrote it because he felt "God Bless America" was too optimistic, aiming instead for a song that showed a more inclusive vision of the country, where its land and resources belong to everyone. Rezende points out key verses, often left out, that directly criticize social inequality and private ownership, showing the song's deeper message about economic differences and the struggles of everyday Americans. This analysis emphasizes that "This Land is Your Land" is a strong statement for social justice, proving how music can be used to question existing systems and promote ideas of shared ownership and fairness.

*This land is your land,
and this land is my land
From California to the New
York Island
From the Redwood Forest to the
Gulf Stream Waters
This land was made for you
and me*

*As I went walking that ribbon
of highway
And I saw above me that end-
less skyway
I saw below me that golden
valley
This land was made for you
and me*

- Woody Guthrie: Lyric

“Genres are a funny little concept aren’t they?”



Let’s talk about how Cowboy Carter was more than just an album, but a reclamation of culture. Linda Martell was first introduced on the song “Spaghetti” with her well-known line: “Genres are a funny little concept, aren’t they?” This wasn’t just a clever suggestion by Beyoncé — it was revolutionary. Martell wasn’t just the first commercially successful Black woman in country music; she was often silenced by the very industry Beyoncé now confronts head-on.

The album wasn’t about Beyoncé going country — it was about her reclaiming country. Not just on a cultural level, reclaiming a genre built on Black roots but whitewashed by history — but also on a personal level. Let’s not forget: Queen Bey is Texan. Country music isn’t new to her, and this isn’t just another album to sell. It’s in her blood, in her roots. Many people will never accept that, simply because she’s Black. White country artists themselves are showing their true colors. Let’s not forget what was already said: country was built on Black roots. The banjo? African. The cowboy? One in four were Black. The sound of country itself was shaped by generations of uncredited Black musicians.

“Stop apologizing for something that belongs to you.”
— Beyoncé, Cowboy Carter Tour



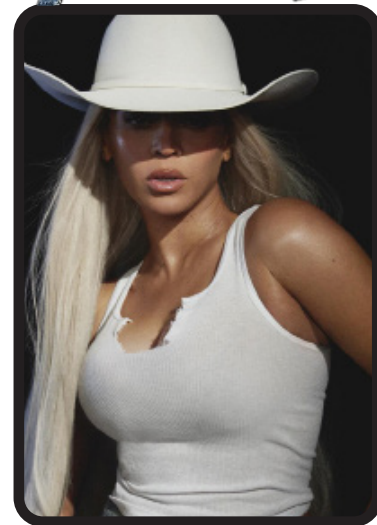
- Shaboozy’s face said it all with that side eye

Why Cowboy Carter?

There’s more than you see when you read the title Cowboy Carter. Many people are going to say she named it after the name she took in marriage with Jay-Z, but it was also a deliberate nod to The Carter Family, who have been credited as the first family of country music. Yes, they did play a role in making the genre popular to white audiences, but let’s not discredit the Black musicians erased by white history—especially in the South.

Beyoncé calling her album Cowboy Carter is an homage to those Black artists and giving them credit. This isn’t about wearing a hat and going “YEE HAW”—it’s about writing the truth. It’s also about opening the genre. Beyoncé challenged the structure of genre and pushed the boundaries that say country has to sound one way. She mixed opera, gospel, soul, folk, hip-hop, and Southern rock. She introduced genres that weren’t known to interact—or that people didn’t know could interact—with each other. Each song reminds the audience that country, or any genre, isn’t one-dimensional. Cowboy Carter proved that once we stop gatekeeping sound to be specific to a genre, a powerful new sound emerges.

Shoutout to Shaboozey for side-eyeing that white content creator who dismissed Beyoncé’s and Shaboozey’s work by saying, “And this award went to the Carter Family, who basically invented country music.”



Harnessing A.I Responsibly



Using A.I in modern learning:

Let's face it. You use it, I use it—it's the norm now. It doesn't matter where you go, artificial intelligence is everywhere.. unless you're stranded on a deserted island or have no access to Wi-Fi. A.I. tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and Co-Pilot have been helping students write their papers, do their assignments, brainstorm ideas, and even go in-depth on topics. With A.I. becoming more powerful, it's starting to reach the line of "helpful" and "harmful."

Many students over-rely on these tools every day, which can dull critical thinking, abolish a person's written originality, and bring ethical concerns. A.I. is an amazing tool in the right hands, but in the wrong hands, it can lead to distrust and overreliability.

The Good: Why AI is beneficial:

A.I. has become a student's best friend and go-to tool to gather information and break down complex topics by suggesting better phrasing with simplification. It's a 24/7 personal tutor for many curious minds without the fear of judgment. There are many A.I.'s that students use, each for different reasons: Grammarly helps polish a student's writing. Otter.ai transcribes lectures in real time for students who do best reading. The best-known tools—ChatGPT and Gemini—assist with brainstorming, outlining, and generating ideas that benefit students lost on where to start. One great use for A.I. is for students whose first language isn't English. A.I. allows us to bridge the language gap and provide help when writing academically. Even now, I personally use A.I. to help generate ideas, make sure my messages are flowing and being understood, and also make sure I am up to date with any topic I present. It's even helping me write this magazine as you read. When used correctly, it enhances—not replaces—my learning process.

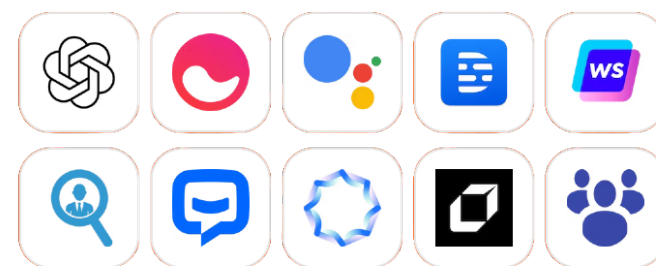


The Bad: Over-Reliance and Risks

Even with all its benefits, A.I. also has flaws. When starting out, many students tend to over-rely on A.I. by making it write their papers and assignments without going through and understanding the material. Academic skills then tend to suffer—lower scores, less retention, and plagiarism. A.I. is also a generator, so when students ask for citations, they just copy and paste them without verifying sources or even



reading the content. How about actually looking at the material, looking at the citations, understanding the concepts, and then asking A.I. for help? Because I know half of y'all reading right now just copy and paste—and then wonder why you're failing. FYI, stop getting upset with your professors for your grade. You know why.



Helpful A.I.'s and for what

ChatGPT - Brainstorms Ideas, explains topics, and help draft essays.

Grammarly - Fixes grammar, improves clarity, and suggests tone edits.

Notion A.I - Organizes notes, summarizes lectures, and plans study schedules.

Otter.ai - Records and transcribes lectures or group discussions

Perplexity A.I - Researches topics with cited sources

Khanmigo - Paraphrases and summarizes readings

Tome - Builds visually engaging presentations with A.I

Elicit - Finds and summarizes academic research papers

The Smart way to use it

The way you use A.I. will determine how you benefit from it. Using it to brainstorm, outline, or simplify concepts that might be difficult to understand is perfectly fine and smart because it allows you to fully grasp what you're learning. A.I. is like a calculator: you can't pass that test without inputting your own understanding. Students should reword responses, verify facts and citations, and show accountability. FYI, if you use A.I., cite it. No, you won't get in trouble. It's to show accountability. A.I. is a teammate, not a substitute. The students who succeed the most are the ones who collaborate with A.I. not depend on it.

Things to do around Chicago

Whether you're a local or spending time in the city between classes, Chicago offers plenty of fun, free, or low-cost experiences perfect for relaxing , reconnecting or romanticizing life with your friend or just by yourself. Here is a go to list to soak up the beautiful summer of Chicago without breaking the bank when school is out.

Beaches+ Waterfront Magic!

- Chicago Beaches are free to access and open from May 23 to September 1, with lifeguards on duty daily from 11 AM – 7 PM during beach season.
- Pack snacks, a blanket, sunscreen, and just be.
- Popular beach spots:
- Montrose Beach – Chill and dog-friendly
- 31st Street Beach – Relaxed, beautiful views, and usually less crowded
- Foster Beach – Easygoing and a great picnic spot
- Oak Street & North Avenue – Busier, more central, great for people-watching

Free & Discount Musuem Days!

Many Chicago museums offer free or discounted admission days for Illinois residents (usually with a valid state ID). Check their websites for the latest dates. A few great ones:

- Museum of Contemporary Art – Free every Tuesday
- The Field Museum – Offers several free days a month
- Museum of Science and Industry – Discounted/free days throughout the year
- Art Institute of Chicago – Free Thursday evenings for Illinois residents
- DuSable Black History Museum – Often offers free admission on Wednesdays
- National Museum of Mexican Art – Always free
- Chicago History Museum – Select free days each month
- Shedd Aquarium
- Check out Lincoln Park Zoo - ALWAYS FREE





Creative + Cozy (At-Home or Outdoors)

- Paint & Sip nights (DIY at home or visit a BYOB studio!)
- Pair art with music, soft lighting, and your drink of choice!
- Movie night with Friends! Take turns hosting, pick fun themes (Nostalgic, Magical, Romantic) and make it cozy with blankets, snacks, or matching pajamas!
- Zine-Making, Vision Boarding, and Journaling parties! Light candles, play a gentle playlist, and reflect or manifest together!
- Poetry or Open Mic Nights! Even if it's DIY version in your living room can create space for softness and connection !

Movies under the Stars

- Millennium Park Summer Film Series : Free Tuesday nightscreenings in a big, beautiful downtown park!
- Rooftop Movie Nights: Some venues host films with skyline views. Ideal for a chill night out.
- Neighborhood Park Movies: The Chicago Park District offers free screenings across the city!

Navy Pier (Outside and Soulful)

- Lakefront Walks or Golden Hour Hangouts: South Shore, Promontory Point, and quieter lakefront spots are perfect for music, reflection or lighthearted convos!
- Sunset Picnics or Stargazing especially peaceful near the Planetarium Lawn
- Scenic Garden Strolls: Stroll through the Japanese Garden, A conservatory, or a hidden community garden to recharge and recenter
- Garfield Park Conservatory - Always free and beautiful! A nature escape tucked inside the city
- Mini Escapes + Scenic Drives: Late night LakeShore drive! Windows down, playlist flowing, lights





Ms. Jade Carter

The Alumni Spotlight

My recent success is that I'm pushing back on the narrative that "a jack of all trades is a master of none." What most people don't realize is that there's a second part to that quote: "but often-times better than a master of one." All of last year and this year, I've channeled my energy into makeup and modeling. Even though they are two different skills, they go hand in hand. Managing both careers has led me to incredible opportunities—like working behind the scenes with Mr. Blake Martin himself doing makeup, and walking in my very first runway show for Chicago Fashion Week at the Water Tower mall.

Since I have more experience in makeup than modeling, I've used that to my advantage by expanding my makeup portfolio while learning from more

advanced models.

I'm a serial entrepreneur. I've founded four businesses, and I'm currently running two of them. I am a model, actress, and singer, all under The Official Ms. Carter Enterprises. My subsidiary businesses include Shades by Jade, which I relocated to Florida, and Sipalcholic & Co., my liquor brand that's currently on hold. My most recent baby is Relentless Artistry, my makeup business.

Right now, I'm looking into taking dance classes to help improve my posing as a model. My dream is to become the greatest serial entrepreneur to ever live—proving that putting your eggs in multiple baskets can still lead to success. People in the stock market do it all the time. It's called compound investment: when earnings like interest or dividends are reinvested to generate even more earnings over time. That process—compounding—is one of the most powerful tools for building long-term wealth.

So I find it funny when people make fun of me for doing a lot—because that same strategy is respected in finance. Yes, rewards take time, but when they come, they're worth more than any criticism. Right now, my biggest challenge is learning to stop hitting the emergency brake on life and just live—because life is short and one thing I would do differently is establish stronger boundaries to protect myself. People who don't understand your vision can hurt you—often without meaning to.

The teachers who had the biggest impact on me were Ms. Stevenson and Dr. Polski. These women changed my life. They taught lessons I still carry with me today. Thank you, Ms. Stevenson, for teaching me negotiation skills and showing me that there's always a loophole in life—that mindset helped me learn never to give up. And thank you, Dr. Polski, for helping me discover a new love and respect for communication through your technical writing class. I still have the book from that class to this day.

A Student Spotlight Story

East-West Basketball Eyes on a Fresh Future: Building a Winning Culture On and Off the Court

By Kenneth Ross, Phantom Press Staff Writer

East-West University's basketball team has weathered its fair share of challenging seasons. Despite the dedication of players and coaches, the team has been fighting a lengthy uphill battle, from limited resources to the absence of a true home-court atmosphere. But now, there's a growing sense of optimism in the air, and a vision for a future defined not by past struggles, but by determination, growth, and community support.

Over the years, the team has shown flashes of potential, with hardworking athletes putting their heart into every game. Yet without consistent wins, strong recruitment points, or institutional momentum has those close to the team that the foundation already in place, it tools to thrive.

"We're not just games, we're trying said Phantom Victor Garrett. "It's teamwork, and pride East-West." Stronger the community, an player improvement, on long-term rather adjustments are all examples of this cultural shift.



support, building been difficult. Still, program believe tion for success is just needs the right

trying to win to build a culture," basketball player about discipline, in representing involvement in increased focus on and an emphasis than short-term

One key to turning the program around lies in infrastructure. Currently, the team practices in a small gym that lacks spectator seating and modern amenities. Without a real home-court environment, it's been difficult to rally student support and create the kind of game-day energy that fuels collegiate athletics. That's why conversations are starting to form around why funding isn't going into building a new gymnasium, complete with stands for fans, updated equipment, and facilities worthy of a growing program.

A new gym wouldn't just benefit the basketball team, it would be a statement of pride for the entire East-West University community. With more space for fans to attend home games, school spirit could reach new heights. "It's about bringing people together," Phantom player Marco Brown noted. "If we want to grow as a team, we need to feel the energy of our campus behind us."

While nothing is confirmed yet, the possibility of funding through alumni support, grants, or student initiatives, offers hope that the program's future may look very different from its past. A team that has been known for persevering through struggles for such a long time might finally be able to celebrate an overall win in the next chapter.

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East/West University and the Phantom Press, encourages its readers to express their views in letters to us. All letters must include the writer's full name, complete address and telephone number. The selection letters may be edited and shortened. Letters may be published or distributed in print, electronic or other forms.

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