Alumni Survey 2006 (1997 graduates)
Student Services and Co-curriculum

What follows are direct comments students’ made in answer to the following questions: What had the most positive impact on you during your time at Eastern? And, What had the most negative impact on you during your time at Eastern?

Activities/Recognized Student Organizations/Athletics

Positive Impact

Involvement in General
- Involvement at various levels. (108)
- Opportunities to become involved on campus. (280)
- Student Life (197)
- Student Senate, Delta Tau Delta, Community Service projects. It was all the extra curricular activities that gave me the most beneficial part of my education (502)
- The overall college environment. Having opportunities to get involved in school organizations. (222)
- The whole university experience really gave me a preview of life ahead. For example, writing for the school paper prepared me for doing it in real life. Living away from home, studying, school matured me. (381)
- Fun on campus activities. (16)

Volunteer Work/Service Organizations/Religious Organizations
- Involvement in leadership groups (274)
- My involvement at the Christian Campus House (201)
- My job working for the library. (531)
- Roger Songer at the Christian Campus Fellowship. (177)
- The people of Charleston Alliance Church and Intervarsity Christian fellowship. (71)
- Intervarsity Christian fellowship. (54)

Athletics/Intramurals/Club Sports/Cheerleading
- Playing four yrs of DI basketball. (310)

Recognized Student Organizations/Activities/Honoraries
- My experience working at WEIU! (244)
- Participation in extra curricular activities that were related to my major was about as equally impact as the awesome programs I experienced at EIU. (95)
- The ability to get involved on campus. I was in Student Government. (361)
- The Daily Eastern News—that’s where I put what I was learning into practice. (373)
- Working as the advertising manager at the Daily Eastern News (459)
- Working at the Daily Eastern News. (132)
- Working at WEIU-TV (180)

1 The numbers in parentheses following the comments are reference numbers to alumni identification data. More information about the alumni who made the comments is available.
Negative Impact

Athletics/Intramurals/Club Sports/Cheerleading
- Getting red shirted on the softball team because one bad semester at a previous university. (52)
- Not enough time to do anything but basketball outside of studies. (310)
- Not getting involved in the sports and clubs offered. (483)
- Putting all the time in the training room too much time for not being paid and only one credit hour. (300)
- The sports should be promoted to build a larger following. (346)

Social Aspects
(Personal Relationships, Social Life, Greek Organizations)

Positive Impact

Personal Relationships/Social Life/Peer Interaction
- Unit of students that I went through the program with. (118)
- The students. (239)
- The university allowed me to meet new people and build lasting relationships. (346)
- Unfortunately, I have to admit that the social impact was probably the most positive. (370)
- The opportunity to interact with other adult learners (484)
- The option to join multiple social groups and building life long relationships. (60)
- The people and friends I made. (99)
- The people I met. (100)
- The people! – The relationships that were formed between peers, professors, and personal friends and acquaintances with myself left such a lasting impact on me and my life – to this day! I am forever indebted to EIU for these opportunities and connections! (400)
- The personal connections that have lasted (426)
- The relationships I built with people. (336)
- The roommates I had and other people I met. I’ve lived in the same place my whole life and it wonderful to get fresh perspective on everything. (203)
- The friends I made (37)
- The friendships that I made (441)
- The German students who came to study their Master’s in Business ~ they are still wonderful, close friends of mine (and my families). This experience has helped me more with my international understanding than any class! (439)
- The good people. (51)
- The instructors and other students accepting older students in the classes. (466)
- The Newman Center; I liked meeting some great people! (402)
- Students were other positives of my time at EIU. (162)
- The ability to meet new people. (263)
- The close friends I made during my four years at EIU. (290)
- The community of students. (61)
- The fellow students. (512)
- The friendliness of the student body – everyone always said “Hi.”(567)
- The friends and life long relationships I built. (440)
- Social experiences. (280)
- Social interaction with fellow students. (390)
- Met new friends that I treasure. (62)
I liked meeting new people. (535)
My friends, both in and out of the history department, were important parts of the experience. (64)
My friends. (531)
My parents. (173)
My roommate. (427)
My social life! (249)
Neighbors. (267)
Other non-traditional student interaction. (355)
Relationship with myself and others. (330)
Several of the acquaintances made. (91)
Interaction with students. (509)
Life long friendships – met my wife there! (335)
Living in Carmen Hall during my freshman year helped me to develop a strong foundation of friends which made the whole university experience more positive. (2)
Made great friends who have also been great resources in my field of study. (555)
Making friends. (566)
Many positive social interactions with many different people, of all ages and backgrounds. Many friends I made are still good friends to this day. (452)
Meeting life-long friends and my husband. (160)
Meeting my future spouse. (224)
Meeting my husband, and the friendships I made. (148)
Meeting new people from across the state. (124)
Meeting new people from all walks of life. (187)
Meeting new people. (38, 168)
Meeting other teachers and students who had positive influences on me. (167)
Meeting people, and enjoying the social life of fraternity. (233)
My fellow students. (314)
All the friends from various places and people. (101)
Building Friendships. (527)
Classmates. (12)
Feeling of community among students and friends. (563)
Fellow students. (245)
Friends and people. (515)
Friends and social experiences. (254)
Friends I met – including my husband. (206)
Friendships developed. (475)
Friendships I developed while in college. (303)
Friendships. (323)
Getting to know other COS students. (120)
I also benefited from the social relationships I was able to develop. (363)
I met my future husband while attending EIU. (238)
I met my husband, learned valuable social and interpersonal skills. I learned how to live on my own. (408)
I met my wife. (449)

Greek Organizations
- Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity and Dr. Charles Eberly. (765)
- Honestly, the Greek system made me grow more as a person than any course that I took or could have taken. (98)
- Joining and being active in a sorority. (144)
- Working with Beta Alpha Psi as an officer. This provided me with the opportunities to meet professionals in the business field. (107)
- The social and community involvement associated with being a fraternity member. (324)
- Sorority involvement. (230, 269)
- Sigma Kappa. (109)
- My sorority and friends. (418)
- My sorority. (220)
- My fraternity- Sigma Phi Epsilon. (154)
- I would say Delta Chi Fraternity. (247)
- Fraternity and IFC. It gave me great leadership opportunities. (361)
- Fraternity and sorority experience was great. (240)
- Fraternity experience. (288)
- Fraternity system. (222)
- Fraternity. (213)
- IFC. (502)
- Alpha Gam Rocks! (389)
- Being involved in a sorority, which made me do community service and be more outgoing at the college. (47)
- Being involved in the Greek System (307)
- Being part of a Fraternity IM's. ( 529)
- Sorority activities/ leadership—built confidence. (206)
- Delta Chi. (297)
- Greek Life. (271)
- Greek life staff. (75)
- Greek system; serving on the Executive Board of my fraternity. (545)
- Honestly, the involvement in community events both on and off campus due to my involvement in my fraternity. There I developed leadership and social skills I previously lacked. (204)

**Negative Impact**

**Personal Relationships/Social Life/Peer Interaction**
- Beginning as a junior after community college [made it] hard to meet friends. Everyone met their friends freshman and sophomore year. (16)
- Death of family member. (505)
- Freshman year roommates. (288)
- Having a roommate that tried to commit suicide and used one of my papers as her own forcing me to confront her and the professor. (115)
- I had to commute 70 miles for class, but I enjoyed it. (272)
- I had to drive around two hours everyday I had class, so I didn't like that. I didn’t feel more comfortable and more familiar with things. (535)
- Issues with roommates. (415)
- My dad died my freshman year in the fall. (269)
- My father passed away between semesters. I returned to school, but then needed to leave due to stress. Because I missed some “cut off” date I had to pay for my unfinished semester. I did return the following year, but I wish the University would have been more understanding. (555)
- My personal long distance relationship. (137)
- Never living on campus to meet more of my classmates. (66)
- Other students who were only concerned with partying. (177)
- Peer pressure. (427)
- Roommate problems. Transfer student put in an upperclassman dorm who wasn’t there to study. (449)
- Roommates. (267)
- Students who were not serious about their grades…etc. (29)
- The only thing I can honestly think of was my suitemates my first year. Not a pleasant experience. (290)
- Theft of my personal property. (197)
- When my singing group “Impact” broke up and marrying my college sweetheart and then getting divorced five years later. (527)
- Wished I had been able to live closer to campus than commute from home. (210)
- Younger students’ attitudes. (131)
- Eastern is a great school, but at the time I attended Eastern was not student friendly (campus wise). Outside of the rec center and card playing in [the] dorm lobby, college didn’t cultivate /foster personal growth outside of drinking, going to Hardees should not be the extent of my campus life. (478)
- My social life. (249)
- The most negative impact by far was the lack of unity at the school. Social experiences were very clichéish for lack of a better word especially coming in as a transfer student. (414)

**Drinking**

- Some friends got into legal troubles because they were drinking and driving. (51)
- The availability of alcohol. Too easy to obtain liquor which can misdirect some people a few friends failed to continue school because of this problem. (337)
- Lack of options healthy safe alternatives to typical college weekend drinking scene. University should work better with community to offer students more options. (405)
- The lack of “extra” activities outside the university—hence bars being somewhat of the only “thing to do”(relatively speaking). (214)

**Greek Organizations**

- Everything involved around the frats and sororities. I didn’t think that cliques would be that prevalent in college. (342)
- Frat boys—but no serious negative impacts. (512)
- Greek Row. (133)
- Greek system has too much power. (456)
- I don’t know how wise it is to let Freshman move into the sorority houses 2nd semester, and am not sure if you still allow this or not, but I think that my grades suffered as a result. Overall though, I had a wonderful college experience at EIU. (506)
- Joining a sorority for which too much money was spent. (286)
- Not being chosen for a sorority. (546)
- People in the Greek system. They are obnoxious and closed minded. (203)
- Sororities and fraternities. I wanted to join, but they were too expensive. (539)
- The attitude the members of the Greek system had towards everyone else. (187)
- The Greek system. (513)
- The Greek system. The system was/is so large that it encompasses a substantial part of the student body. The groups and their activities are extremely exclusive and supported by the school. There didn't seem to be many resources left over for non-Greeks. (58)
- When the charter of my sorority (Phi Sigma Sigma) got revoked my senior year. That was a very hard time for me and my sisters. (92)
Residence Halls and Dining Services

Positive Impact
- Being a resident assistant. (546)
- Being an RA. (160)
- Food service variety was nice. (240)
- I liked the opportunity to work in food service. (263)
- I was very involved in housing and other organizations, being a RA prepared me for life in the corporate world since I managed a floor of 60 women. (397)
- L-S-D living culture. LSD was a great place to live and work. (305)
- On campus housing—residence halls. (358)
- Residence hall. (213)

Negative Impact
- Cafeteria food was terrible. (35)
- Cafeteria food! (36)
- Living in the Dormitory Facilities were not a positive experience. Often times I would register a complaint with the Residential Assistant or counselor and the problem would not be resolved even after the problem had been taken to the student Housing Department. (232)
- Living in the dorms. (319)
- Living in the dorms—overcrowded, tiny rooms! I was much happier off-campus. (20)
- Loud dorm mates. (157)
- Maybe food service. (204)
- Dorm food was not the best. Really no complaints. (502)
- Food Service. (154, 343, 390)
- Nasty RA's. (541)
- No negatives besides the cafeteria food. (304)
- On campus housing experience. (228)
- Residence hall staff. (75)
- Sadly, one person John something was an Assistant Dorm Director at Thomas Hall, what an asshole—sorry. (80)
- Student Housing Authorities were two rigid. (335)
- The living conditions in the dorms were difficult to get use to. (173)
- The living space in the dorms (e.g., room size, no computers, lack of air conditioning). (94)
- Dorm life was hardest to cope with at this time. (485)