Alumni Survey 2009 (2000 graduates)¹
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?

Involvement in General

Positive Impact

- Campus involvement. (SPC) (48)
- The opportunities available for extracurricular involvement (church, music, etc.). (HDT) (275)
- Participation in extracurricular activities. (REC) (419)
- Campus life. (BED) (436)
- Campus life. (JOU) (451)
- In addition, being involved in campus activities and organizations. (MGT) (462)
- Being involved. (ELE) (244)
- Participating in clubs. (HIST) (271)
- Campus life. (HEC) (541)

Volunteer Work/Service Organizations/Religious Organizations

- Being involved in group activities and participating in work study programs. (HEC) (360)
- Wesley Foundation. (HIS) (78)
- Involvement in the Christian Campus House, involvement with Newman Center, and student volunteer board. (ELE) (80)
- Involvement in Student Government and involvement in Christian Campus House. (PLS) (81)
- I was in the service sorority, Epsilon Sigma Alpha. I made a lot of friends, got involved in community service and helped the community and university in positive ways. (HEC) (98)
- Being a member of the organization Haiti Connection. Through it, I was able to learn about a much vaster range of issues than I would have otherwise, and I was able to meet people (in Haiti) living radically differently from my own experience. My encounters with the third world have changed the choices I make every day and Haiti Connection has increased the spiritual focus of my life. (ENG) (118)
- Christian Campus House. (MUS) (132)
- Being part of EΣΑ Service Sorority. (EVB) (133)
- The Baptist Collegiate Ministries. (ACC) (142)
- Newman Center. (ZOO) (249)
- Epsilon Sigma Alpha – Involvement in this philanthropic sorority. I’ve also donated because of ESA. (PSY) (256)
- Newman Catholic Center. (REC) (397)
- The Newman Catholic Center. (CDS) (470)
- My involvement with the Christian Campus House. (SOC) (474)
- Christian Campus House and Intervarsity groups by far. (SPC) (491)
- The Newman Center had a very positive impact on me. (ENT) (503)
- Christian Campus House. (PSY) (515)

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.
Athletics/Intramurals/Club Sports/Cheerleading

- Soccer team (varsity). (ZOO) (15)
- Being part of the EIU swim team. (PET) (70)
- Participation in EIU athletics (softball) (BED) (139)
- My times spent with teammates on our EIU football team. (PED) 148)
- Baseball team member. (ECN) (164)
- Extra-curricular activities (4 year swimmer). (COM) (204)
- The Football program. (SPC) (219)
- My experience as an athlete. (SPST) (240)
- Four years of EIU baseball. The time of my life and kept me motivated and out of trouble. (FIN) (262)
- Being a part of the men’s swimming team. (PLS) (281)
- The baseball program. (ECN) (295)
- Athletic experience. I ran for EIU (Track and Field) managing college academics with an extra-curricular like track and field was very helpful training for life. (MATT) (299)
- My time as a student athlete was most valuable to me. The work ethic developed thru swimming and school is great. (PSY) (340)
- My experiences on the EIU football team. (MAR) (344) I think the most positive impact on me at EIU was being part of a wrestling team that was so close to each other. If it was not for wrestling, I would have not attended EIU. (PED) (424)
- The hockey team! (SPC) (427)
- Being a part of the Pink Panthers Dance Team for two years. (AIS) (341)

Recognized Student Organizations/Activities/Honoraries

- A time on stage at the theater. (SPC) (84)
- I worked at WEIU TV Newscan for 3 yrs and that prepared me greatly for my future. This hands-on experience was very valuable. (SPC) (101)
- Secondly, the experiences I had at WEIU-TV. (JOU) (212)
- My involvement in student government. (PLS) (357)
- Also, the Daily Eastern being a five day a week paper was also a wonderful experience. (JOU) (273)
- University Board. (ART) (329)

Negative Impact

Athletics/Intramurals/Club Sports/Cheerleading

- Lack of support for athletics. (PED) (83)
- I didn’t feel there was a very tight knit college community. After I left EIU, I went to UIUC where many students rally behind sports teams. It was nice to have a common thread with the students. EIU should try to encourage students to gather behind the sports teams more. (PPEG) (161)
- When you dropped wrestling, it took away opportunities for other young students that could have changed their lives. (PED) (424)
- Tennis program coach was horrible – she later was fired. (SPC) (428)
- I wish EIU students were more involved in sporting events. (SOC) (539)
Social Aspects
(Personal Relationships, Social Life, Greek Organizations)

Positive Impact

Personal Relationships/Social Life/Peer Interaction

- Friends. (ELE) (40)
- Peers. (MAR) (2)
- Building relationships. (AIS) (4)
- My family, friends, teammates, classmates. (PET) (7)
- The friends I sustained over the years. (ELE) (12)
- Friends I met at EIU. (HEC) (41)
- Relationship I developed with peers. (REC) (66)
- The socialization between majors. (MGT) (68)
- Peers. (HST) (72)
- The other students. (MGT) (77)
- Students. (HDT) (82)
- Friendly staff/students. (HEF) (88)
- I made many lifelong friends. I also met my wife. (REC) (91)
- The social aspect. (HST) (94)
- Friends and people I met at Eastern. (PET) (109)
- The friends that I made there. (ART) (156)
- The friendships. (ELE) (178)
- Networking with other students. (BAD) (185)
- The experiences with new friends. (SOC) (192)
- The friends I made. (ELE) (200)
- Meeting my wife. Smoking Pot. (PHI) (201)
- Making friends. (FIN) (208)
- Mom. (ELE) (210)
- My family and friends. (ELE) (224)
- The opportunities and the people. (SPE) (243)
- The close relationships I was able to make while there. (ELE) (255)
- Overall experience—socialization and preparation all in all it was simply “fun”. (SPC) (263)
- The relationships I made with other students that still continue to this day. (HEC) (267)
- Meeting new people. (HIST) (271)
- New friends. (FLG) (272)
- Friendships I made from the close knit college. (ELE) (282)
- Peers in same major. (MLE) (288)
- Social interaction. (INT) (294)
- The friends that I made at EIU. (ELE) (305)
- Roommates and friends I met freshman year. (HDT) (311)
- Socialization/Leadership (ECN) (323)
- The people I met…including my wife. (EVB) (328)
- Personal relationship among staff and peers due to the university’s size. (ELE) (355)
- My roommates/friends. (PET) (388)
- Personal interaction with other students. (ECN) (391)
- The relationships that I formed with others. (REC) (419)
- The personal relationships I developed. (PSY) (446)
- My friends. (JOU) (451)
- The friends and relationships I formed while at Eastern still have a positive impact on me today. (ELE) (486)
- The support of my family and church. (ELE) (490)
- The close friendship I developed during my time at Eastern had and still have a positive impact in my life. EIU not only provided a good academic foundation for me, it also gave me strong social network that I still enjoy today. (ZOO) (508)
- My social life. (SPC) (537)
- I really enjoyed the social aspects of EIU. (SOC) (539)

Greek Organizations
- Also, the sisterhood from my sorority. (SPC) (358)
- Campus involvement. Through the Greek System, many doors were opened for me. Networking, friendships, leadership positions, and responsibility were all facets of being Greek. I believe the experience game me confidence to reach my full potential. (ELE) (6)
- My sorority experience. (ELE) (12)
- The Sigma Chi Fraternity. (SPC) (219)
- My fraternal life had a deep impact on me in a positive way. (SPC) (65)
- Fraternity, (ART) (162)
- Being involved with Panhellenic Council and other organizations on campus. (ELE) (170)
- Greek life – encouraged me to get more involved. (ELE) (176)
- Sorority involvement/community service work with SACIS. (PSY) (188)
- Being a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. (INT) (195)
- Joining Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity was the best decision I made while there. I came from a community college to finish my last 2 years at EIU. Delta Sigma Pi introduced me to new friends with similar goals and provided a community of people that I got to know very well and still keep in contact with. (FIN) (253)
- Participating in Greek sorority and student government. Also, that the campus is a buzz with activity and students form a great community. It is definitely not a suitcase campus which is a great thing. (ACC) (280)
- I also found my experiences on Pan-Hellenic Council to be very helpful. I learned more from leadership roles in extracurricular activities than in the classroom. (SPC) (401)
- Participating in Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. (ELE) (406)
- Extracurricular. Sorority. (PSY) (417)
- My experiences in the Greek community allowed me to be a more active outgoing person. (ELE) (442)
- Becoming active in a sorority. (SPC) (469)
- Greek Life. (MAR) (477)
- Greek system – taught me time management, leadership, working in groups, working with different types of people, community service, etc. (SPC) (510)
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (AFR) (336)
- My involvement in the Greek System. (PLS) (357)

Negative Impact

Personal Relationships/Social Life/Peer Interaction
- 1st semester was a rough start. (XAIS) (4)
- I definitely spent too much time partying. I’m sure that I could have made better grades had I not spend my nights drinking and chasing women, but what the hell, you’re only young once! Now I’m at the top of my career field; I supervise over 100 people, nurses, and doctors. So, I guess it doesn’t matter I got a D in Stats. (SOC) (13)
- Socializing, too many distractions from academic work at times. (FIN) (22)
- Outside social group during the early 70’s when I first attended Eastern. (BT) (51)
- I was a transfer student and besides the area of concentration I did not feel clubs/organizations really reached out to us. (PED) (55)
- Not always focusing on my academics. (HST) (73)
- Seeing the effects of poor choices with alcohol. (PLS) (81)
- The bars. (MGT) (97)
- Too much of the social scene. (XSPC) (108)
- Ignorant students who were ill fitted for college level courses. They wasted valuable classroom time. (BT) (129)
- Some negative elements of the party culture. Much was good, however. (SOC) (140)
- Lack of Christian organizations to socialize with. (HEC) (144)
- Social relationships. (SOC) (157)
- Stricter drinking laws ruined the great social atmosphere that once existed. (ART) (162)
- Narrow immaturity of my younger peers coming from DuPage and lake counties with regards to world view by our instructors. (MLE) (242)
- Lack of academic interest among student body. (ENG) (245)
- Other students. (ENT) (283)
- Social life. (PED) (313)
- Beer. (ECN) (323)
- When I attended as an undergrad, I would say that Ike’s had the most negative impact on me! (BT) (389)
- Ummm…having a whole lot of fun at the bars. I have great memories though--and it has not affected my life negatively in the long run. (SPE) (393)
- The one negative aspect of Eastern is the drinking and drug use, especially among underage students. It can be very difficult to concentrate on my studies when surrounded by parties with inconsiderate drunk people. (HEC) (418)
- Distractions such as parties and substance use. (REC) (419)
- Drinking. (PSY) (502)
- All of the disruptive, drunk students/neighbors. (PSY) (535)

Greek Organizations
- The treatment by my sorority house mother. She is the sole reason I do not contribute to EIU. (MGT) (76)
- The dominance of the Greek System. I don’t have anything against the Greek System, but I remember how a lot of activities were geared towards them. If you weren’t in a sorority or fraternity there weren’t many activities for you. (HEC) (98)
- I’m not a big fan of the Greek System. (XSPC) (101)
- My only issue was a non-educational one – the pressure to join a sorority. Aside from that, my entire experience was great. (ENT) (177)
- The Greek houses seemed to wield power beyond their contributors. I liked EIU because you didn’t have to join a Greek fraternity to socialize, but over my years that seemed harder to do. (ELE) (269)
- Didn’t care for the “Greek System” on campus. The people were unfriendly to others who were not a part of them. (ELE) (333)
- The Greek presence on campus--not all bad, but it definitely interfered with listed goal #16. (ENT) (440)
- Sorority Phi Sigma closing my freshman year in 1997. We were not allowed to join another sorority either. (REC) (456)

Residence Halls and Dining Services

Positive Impact
- Leadership roles in residence hall living. (MAR) (8)
- My experience as a resident assistant at Carman Hall (3 semesters) was a tremendous wake-up call to begin dealing with individual and community issues. (PST) (36)
- Being an RA. (ELE) (80)
- Being a resident assistant! (EVB) (95)
- Involvement as a freshman orientation leader, camps, conferences, and R.A. (SPC) (108)
- Being a resident Assistant had a tremendous impact on my time at EIU. (SOC) (157)
- Being an RA in Stevenson Hall. (FIN) (221)
- I absolutely loved living in the dorms. (ELE) (255)
- Living in the dorms. (HIST) (271)
- The overall college experience was great-working at Andrews Hall front desk and working at the bookstore for several years was the best. (SOC) (285)
- Living Involvement in the Orientation Program as a tour guide, orientation leader, and working in the office. (SPC) (401)
- Living in Stevenson Hall/working for Dave at University Apartments. (PET) (388)
- Living in the residence hall was the best part of my college experience. I love Pemberton Hall! That includes the building and also the friends I made there. (SPC) (413)
- Residence Hall experience. (ELE) (481)
- Being an R.A. (PSY) (483)
- The Housing Program. (ELE) (500)
- Pemberton Hall. (ENG) (524)
- Good campus job--I worked in the library; I’m now a librarian. (ENG) (536)
- Job as a resident assistant. Summer campus. Conferences. Employee. (SPC) (537)
- Being a resident assistant at Pemberton hall. (HEC) (543)

**Negative Impact**

- Dorm life; not being able to pick your roommate or know really who you will be placed with. (MAR) (2)
- My dorm roommate. (SPE) (42)
- Roommates until I received a single room. (HIS) (78)
- Not living on campus my 1st yr – I lived at home. (ELE) (80)
- Small dorms. (HEF) (88)
- Young RA’s who were not confident. (MGT) (97)
- I had a negative experience during my freshman year living in Pemberton Hall. I had to change roommates and as a result I did not get along well with the other girls on the floor. (PSY) (126)
- Dealing with off campus landlord. (EVB) (133)
- Living in the dorm freshman year. (ACC) (142)
- Not able to change phone numbers for university apartment, had to move to stop harassing phone calls from unknown person. (BOT) (159)
- Bad roommate. (ELE) (176)
- Living in Weller Hall my 1st semester as a freshman without a roommate. All the dorms need a SERIOUS makeover. I’m assuming no money has been invested to improve any of the dorms. (FIN) (262)
- Living in a dorm and girl came home after being raped. (PSY) (302)
- The two suicides in Carman Hall while I was an RA. (PSY) (483)
- My roommate my freshman year was difficult to live with. We had very different personalities; she liked to party and even though I was not in the honors program, I took my studies seriously. This difference was difficult to live with especially during the difficult freshman year. (ZOO) (508)
- Segregated Greek Housing for blacks, whites, Hispanics. (HEC) (543)