

Alumni Survey 2006 (1997 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?*

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)