

Alumni Survey 2005 (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?*

Activities/Recognized Student Organizations/Athletics

Positive Impact

- Many activities and choices. (40)
- The most positive impact was the opportunity to become involved with various student affairs. (58)
- I was very involved. (173)
- I constantly had activities to be active in. (198)
- The ability to become active in so many things. (203)
- Many choices in activities to be involved in. (280)
- Enjoyed the variety of extracurricular pursuits.(284)
- The variety of activities available to me, both academic and extra curricular. For me, involvement was encouraged... by instructors, etc. – Had a positive impact. (298)
- Having part of the numerous organizations available has helped me think after college. (318)
- Leadership opportunities. (340)
- I was able to become involved in other areas that I had a love for. (351)
- Campus activities. (417)
- I enjoyed the Social events and clubs offered at EIU. It was nice to have something to do on campus other than going to the bars. (449)
- Being able to get involved. (463)
- Getting involved on campus! It helped me to develop so many invaluable skills that still have an impact on my life to this day. (531)
- Being able to participate in the activities was a great learning experience. (596)
- Extra curricular activities. (619)
- The most positive impact would be the smaller group activities and being able to use ideas collectively. (730)

Volunteer Work/Service Organizations/Religious Organizations

- Being a member of Haiti Connection under the umbrella organization of the Newman Catholic Center). At the time I attended EIU, Haiti Connection was the only radical group on campus. (154)
- Christian Campus House. (172)
- The most positive impact was being a part of the Christian Campus House. (198)
- Interservice Christian Fellowship. (399)
- Studying Abroad and Newman Catholic Center and Alternative Spring Break. (426)

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.

- Personally, the explorations and travels I experienced. Both structured (Study Abroad and Alternative Spring Break) and unstructured (Road Trips). (439)
- Christian Campus House (559)
- Involvement in various “extra-curricular” groups (e.g. Newman Center groups, Association of Honors Students) (570)
- My involvement with Habitat for Humanity. (654)
- The opportunities to be involved in a number of various activities. Christian Campus House was one of my greatest experiences at EIU. (658)
- Christian Campus House. (693)
- Being involved with Christian Campus House, Residence Hall Association, and National Residence Hall Association. (738)
- Service Sorority. (352)
- The citizenship I learned being a part of a service sorority. (431)

Athletics/Intramurals/Club Sports/Cheerleading

- Athletics. (59)
- Experience playing football. (79)
- The opportunity to participate in athletics. (112)
- My affiliation with campus athletics. I was on a full scholarship for football 1996-1998. (193)
- Athletics—baseball program/coach Schmitz. (202)
- EIU Football. (299)
- Being involved in athletics, track and cross-country. (326)
- Athletics program. (341)
- Athletics has played a major role in my life. Competing at the collegiate level and then coaching as a grad assistant at EIU has shaped who I am in the professional world. (653)
- Getting involved in activities around campus. I played baseball. (732)
- Swimming intramurals through the Greek system. (341)
- Jim Schmitz, head basketball coach. (63)
- The professionalism, leadership, and support expressed by the Certified Athletic Trainers. (252)
- Being around Ralph McCausland. (719)

Recognized Student Organizations/Activities/Honoraries

- Extracurricular (sports, clubs, sorority). (74)
- The Eastern bands. (95)
- Participating in band. (109)
- Being involved in clubs and activities. (121)
- My involvement in organizations at EIU (sorority, student senate, University Board, panel, etc.). (125)
- Extra-curricular activities such as plays, Newsscan student directed productions. (164)
- Leadership opportunities provided by on campus organizations. (300)
- Being active on campus through different organizations and affiliations. (396)
- Being a Pink Panther (dancer) helped me to express myself and learn to open up and stand out. (423)
- EIU has lots of organizations to get involved in. (438)
- Opportunities to learn outside the classroom, specifically the *Daily Eastern News*. The hands-on experience and the advisors relationships with other newspapers helped develop my skills and get internships that truly helped my career. Without those, the degree would only be a piece of paper. (450)
- The different organizations and opportunities to practice what I was studying—the Agency, the newspaper. (467)
- Joining various clubs. (554)

- My time on University Board. (566)
- Working at the *Daily Eastern News* had the most positive impact during my undergraduate years in the journalism department at Eastern. (609)
- The professional organization Delta Sigma Pi [business fraternity] had the most positive impact on me while at Eastern. (98)
- Being a part of the business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi had a positive impact on my college life. Interacting with other business majors. (596)
- The opportunity to participate in Eta Sigma Gamma—professional health education honorary. (636)
- Beta Alpha Psi, Accounting Honorary Fraternity. (32)
- Involved with Eta Sigma Gamma and served as V.P. – great experience. (178)
- Being a member of Delta Sigma Pi [Business honorary] and holding leadership positions within the organization. (227)
- Administrative Information Systems Association and American Marketing Association. (344)
- Kappa Kappa Psi [Music honorary]. (95)

Negative Impact

- I did not participate in organizations outside my degree. (720)
- Activities outside of classes and/or athletics were limited – mainly alcohol. (59)
- Not knowing all the events, activities, etc. that were available to a student. (95)
- Non-motivation in coaching staff. (126)
- Lack of quality athletic program. (386)
- Not enough to do around campus—good and bad. (Good for classroom size, but socially hard outside of class). (395)
- There was never a lot on campus activity on the weekends. It seemed a lot of people went home for the weekends. (438)
- The lack of activities to enjoy outside of the university. (537)

Social Aspects

(Personal Relationships, Social Life, Greek Organizations)

Positive Impact

Personal Relationships/Social Life/Peer Interaction

- Friends/friendship/meeting new people. (18, 116, 33,108, 131, 213, 251, 261, 358, 493, 560, 715, 179, 207, 221, 259, 276, 313, 356, 358, 395, 402, 395, 421, 465, 470, 482, 529, 630, 108, 145, 179, 494, 502, 507, 529, 540, 653, 685, 690, 699, 655, 746, 494, 629, 661, 259, 655, 753)
- Encountering the people I did, building friendships with people I normally wouldn't have. (11)
- My roommate. My close knit group of classmates I had while going through education classes. (24)
- Living and interacting within residence hall (McKinney) I still make plans with 5-7 people I met at McKinney up to 9 yrs ago. (45)
- My college life at EIU was great. Also, another positive affect was the friends I made. (48)
- Living in the dorms. I made friendships which will last a lifetime. (52)
- Meeting my wife (from TN) on a school trip to the Smokey Mountains. (67)
- Students communicating. (70)
- My friendships, social life, and my job. (73)
- The social environment of college life. (83)
- The people I met and the friends I made. (92)

- The bonds I formed with my fellow students still last till this day. (115)
- Meeting people and social interaction. (118)
- I met a lot of great people during my years there. (132)
- Great new friends and wonderful small campus. (156)
- I had a great time getting to know people from all walks of life. People are so kind and helpful. (173)
- Living in Carmen Hall as a freshman – meeting a lot of different people. I think it is important to require freshmen to live in dorms the first year of college to ensure a successful experience. (174)
- I met many friends. I met my life-long friends there. (198)
- Long term relationships with students and staff. (199)
- Meeting people and building relationships with those people. (208)
- I have very many wonderful relationships with Eastern alums/students. I would love to say that the people of Eastern were the positive impact. (233)
- One truly wonderful friend I met there. (245)
- I also found the student body to be very friendly. (284)
- Meeting my future wife. (302)
- Meeting other individuals who strived for the same success in their careers as I hoped I would some day have. Meeting unique individuals who I will always remember and wonder where their lives have taken them. (308)
- Meeting intelligent, competent students. (320)
- Personal experiences I had: i.e., friends I made. (346)
- The support of fellow students. (348)
- I enjoyed the people and the social experience. (350)
- Positive impact – learning from others in my classes. (378)
- Social environment/social life. (386, 434, 540)
- The friends I made and networking I was able to do. (410)
- The friends I made, and the fun I had. (422)
- Another major impact (positive) is my husband whom I met at EIU! (423)
- Working with other really great students. Making life long friendships. (424)
- I had lot of great friends during my time at Eastern. (436)
- Meeting people from different backgrounds. (466)
- Student life. (479)
- The social interaction between myself and other students. I enjoyed having my point of view challenged by students with different values and beliefs. (486)
- The relationships I made with such a wide variety of people that I would not have had the opportunity to meet otherwise. I still keep in touch with some of them. (499)
- My social experiences (meeting new people, etc.) (513)
- Being close friends with others in my major and held office in major's honor fraternity.(557)
- Also, I met my wife at EIU! (530)
- Friends/Family kept me going to graduate. (538)
- The time I put in to get my degree. I actually had the most positive impact from other students while I was there and I am thankful for their help and friendship. (550)
- Social interaction during non-alcoholic times. (580)
- One of the things that made my time at Eastern great was the opportunity to make friends with so many types of people. The interpersonal relationships I had at Eastern taught me just as much, if not more than my classes did. (603)
- Some of my peers gave me the encouragement to continue. (614)
- My peers, are still influencing me today. We were all a very close knit group, and it made me appreciate professional/personal relationships. (621)
- The life long friends I have made. (635)

- My faith and my friends. (And Fox Ridge) (650)
- Social life. Learning to work with people (652)
- Social interaction, learning social skills while in a controlled environment. It prepared me well to be a productive citizen while I was in a sheltered environment. (663)
- Communicating with the different students in my classes. (671)
- Developed great relationships with people. (681)
- The opportunity to work with a variety of individuals who are dedicated to helping and improving the lives of others. (706)
- The most positive experiences I had dealt primarily with the social aspect. (725)
- Also, peers were invaluable to my development. (737)
- The most positive impact on me at Eastern was the friendships I made. (753)
- The fact that I lived close so I could still see my family every weekend and my brother also went to Eastern at the same time and we lived in the same dorm. (282)
- I think Eastern is a very good school and would recommend it to anyone. (278)
- Seeing other adults striving toward a goal and completing it realizing that I was not alone in adult education efforts. (301)
- I met my wife. (685)
- The small size of Eastern which enabled you to form close relationships with teachers and students. (397)
- My close interactions with professors and other students has the most impact. These interactions allowed me to grow in my knowledge and increase my ability to discuss many topics. (556)

Drinking

- Hard liquor. (631)
- Mac's Uptowner. (754)

Greek Organizations

- The clubs, sorority, fraternity, and organizations I became involved in. (2)
- Delta Sigma Theta. (9)
- Fraternity. (56)
- Fraternal life as Sigma Chi. (81)
- The leadership [and] social opportunities available through Greek Life. (104)
- Involvement with TKE Fraternity helped to make me more outgoing. This allowed me to take full advantage of all the campus had to offer. (137)
- Joining a sorority. (229)
- The interaction with people from different back grounds within my major and the Sigma chi Fraternity. (268)
- The Sigma Chi Fraternity. (299, 202, 270)
- Joining Fraternity (328)
- Swimming, Intramurals through the Greek System. (341)
- ΣΣΣ and PHC. (344)
- My sorority involvement social, philanthropic, political. (383)
- Sorority life helped develop leadership skills and made me more outgoing. (387)
- My friends/fraternity. (389)
- Fraternity President. Gave leadership skills (401)
- Sorority. (417)
- My fraternal brothers and close friends. (420)
- Fraternity. (462)
- Greek life/system (487, 642, 660, 20, 765, 756)
- University involvement, such as Greek Life. Leadership positions in campus organizations. (488)
- My friends, my sorority (500)

- My experience in a sorority. I developed life long friendships and leadership skills. (517)
- Sorority—Sigma Kappa (684)
- My involvement in Epsilon Sigma Alpha. (175)

Negative Impact

Personal Relationships/Social Life/Peer Interaction

- Very few adults. (105)
- Watching students waste their parents money. (744)
- If I were to guess I would say the distance between home (California) and school would have been it. (193)
- Snobby people—never felt really accepted. (88)
- Being an older non-traditional student, the lack of respect given to us by the students, was at times very frustrating. (150)
- Quality of fellow students. (333)
- To this day, I do not have any serious or regular relationships with people I've met at Eastern, other than people I knew before college that also went to Eastern. I had met new people and friends but nothing lasted. (433)
- Didn't get to meet new people. Hung out with the same group of friends. (482)
- People constantly complaining about things they have no control over. (607)
- Students who I felt were not qualified to be here. I have been in many classes with students who I really did not feel should have been admitted to the University. They clearly did not have the proper educational background, knowledge and/or preparations that I felt necessary to be in college level courses. Honestly, I was insulted to have been in the same classes with them—as were others! (608)
- The competitive attitudes of fellow classmates, too much rivalry, not much cohesiveness within. (650)
- The freedoms offered were taken to extremes that were negative yet even these were learning experiences. (663)
- My peer group causing extra stress that impacted my time at Eastern. (448)

Drinking

- Too much party times. (612)
- Liquor. (631)
- Partied too much. I quit completely since I wasted so much time in college partying. (546)
- Crunk Juice. (664)
- The negative impact on me was more of my own doing – partying too much and not studying enough. I quickly learned my lesson. (738)
- Partying. (79)
- Partying roommates and others there for the life instead of to prepare for life and a university that allowed it... (245)

Greek Organizations

- The Greek System—it anchored the idea that life is based on a social status, which was bolstered by the university. (50)
- How the Greek life dominates the campus. It was too overbearing and at times you felt the pressure of having to join. I did not but really didn't like the Greek parts of things. For a small university too many. (132)
- The Greek System. (258)
- Some of the most negative impact was the fraternities at Eastern. There must be something about getting young males and testosterone that can be very destructive and I'm moral. I remember the

Pikes throwing candy at the Gay and Lesbian and bisexual group in a parade. I was excused from another after being wrongly accused for something. (429)

- Too much emphasis on Greek Life on campus...need to focus more on the “individual.” Need to emphasize the importance of discovering what each person (rather than group) is capable of in life and his/her community. (298)
- The “Frat” mentality of some of my classmates. (513)
- My sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma, closed after my freshman year. May 1997. (557)
- Too much Greek organizations on campus. Social organizations are great, but some of the Greek events were over-the-top. (606)
- The animosity in the Greek world (at the time I attended). (700)

Residence Halls and Dining Services

Positive Impact

- Being an RA was very positive it allowed me to meet people and friends who were extremely diverse and it made me more open minded. (532)
- My 3 semesters as an RA at Carman Hall prepared me for my counselor role. (42)
- Life on campus/role as a resident assistant. (13)
- Living and interacting within residence hall (McKinney) I still make plans with 5-7 people I met at McKinney up to 9 years ago. (45)
- Being involved with the housing department. (49)
- Living in the dorms. I made friendships which will last a lifetime. (52)
- Being an RA. (68)
- Living in university housing. (124)
- Living in residence halls. (152)
- And I had a great time getting to know people from all walks of life. People are so kind and helpful.
- Living in Carman Hall as a freshman-meeting a lot of different people. I think it is important to require freshmen to live in dorms the first year of college to ensure a successful experience. (174)
- Dorm life—as a transfer student, I liked being in a dorm with other older transfer students. (Stevenson).
- And the good friends I met. (207)
- I was an R.A. at Carman Hall for two years and it was fabulous! I still keep in contact with other R.A.s and some of my girls. (230)
- Living in the dorm for 2 years. (270)
- (Living on campus). The experience of living at EIU. (318)
- Roommates. (356)
- Getting involved in the resident hall committees. (417)
- The community life of the dorm. (431)
- Living on and off Eastern’s campus. (433)
- Dorm life was so memorable. (438)
- I met great people. My three years in the Triad helped shape how I got involved on campus. (498)
- My experience in the residence halls. (584)
- Residence life. (599)
- The sense of community with all the girls at Pemberton Hall. (708)

Negative Impact

- Dorm Life. (54)
- Dorm Rooms! (64)

- Getting fired from RA position. (302)
- Dorm Life/food. (352)
- Dorm Living. Some students just aren't mature enough to be living away from their parents. (388)
- The time I spent living in the dorms. They were not kept up very well. I did learn to be more open-minded on how to tolerate such different personalities in a confined space. (499)
- Dorm requirement for first year. (652)
- Living accommodations. (697)
- Nothing, except one roommate I had in the dorms who stole my cell phone and I did not get much support in getting it back. (261)