

## Lou, Panther Pals help on move-in day

Volunteers directed traffic, unloaded cars and hauled luggage to rooms

Nicole Milstead/ Activities Editor Issue date: 8/22/05

Cruising around campus in a golf cart, a tall man introduced himself to freshmen and helped them find their way.

"Hi, I'm Lou," he said. "I work here."

Eastern President Lou Hencken was just one of 600 students, faculty and staff that volunteered their time Thursday for move-in day for on-campus housing.

The 2300 students who moved in Thursday were given extra help from student volunteers called Panther Pals.

More than 250 Panther Pals woke up as early as 5 a.m. Thursday to make sure fellow students were able to have a smooth transition moving back into the residence halls.

The volunteers directed traffic, loaded and unloaded cars and even hauled luggage up to rooms.

"Behind the scenes, a lot of hard work and time was put in," said head Panther Pal Kim Smith, a sophomore elementary education major. "We were very excited about the number of volunteers."

Panther Pals are coordinated through the Office of Orientation. They also worked a second shift with either move-ins on Friday morning or working at a welcome event on Saturday, said Kimberlie Moock, Director of Orientation.

Planning for a single day of move-in starts a year in advance. This year's volunteer group was the biggest to date.

"We didn't think we would get the numbers this year, but we did," Moock said. "And everyone is tremendously grateful for them. The compliments we receive are a testament



Media Credit: [Daniel Williams](#)  
John Matthews, freshman business major, carries items up to his room in Carman Hall Thursday during move-in day.

to Eastern's community of people."

Panther Pals were not the only ones working to make sure residents had a successful move. Housing staff and over 60 faculty members manned information booths, worked in the halls and drove guests around on golf carts to make sure that everyone was informed.

Many student leaders such as resident assistants, Residence Hall Association executives and residence hall council members cut their summers short and came back as early as August 7 to prepare the halls.

Information Technology Services also had network assistants on hand in every hall to help students with computer problems and to explain the new Clean Access system. All of the network assistants will also be working through the weekend to make sure everyone is ready for class on Monday, said Mark Hudson, Director of Housing and Dining.

"As of Friday we had over 2000 students successfully on the network, Hudson said. "Those with older computers are having problem and we are working with them to get them ready for classes on Monday."