

AUGUST 2022

IN THE KNOW

Newsletter of EIU's Division of Student Affairs

VPSA VOICE



Happy New Year! Did you feel it? There was so much excitement and energy on campus during move-in and Welcome Week! Our golf cart was "on the go" throughout Welcome Weekend helping students get around campus. As we return to a new post pandemic normal, our students' desire to be engaged and experience an active campus life is palpable. And for staff, it is a time for fresh starts and unlimited possibilities!

Please take a moment for your own growth and professional development. You may participate in the EIU Reads program this fall reading Nikole Hannah-Jones' book [The 1619 Project](#). Sign up at: [Click Here](#) I also hope to see you at the Latino Heritage Month events. The kickoff event is on September 15 at noon in the Library Quad.

I always struggle with not providing individual shout outs in this letter. I worry I will leave someone out. I can say with certainty that we were ALL IN! I heard many positive comments from students and families about their smooth move-in experience. I am incredibly grateful to each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to prepare for a new academic year. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Please take some time in the coming weeks to recognize the incredible work of your colleagues by nominating them for one of our Student Affairs Awards at: <https://www.eiu.edu/stuaaff/awards.php> (due October 7).

I continue to maintain an open door and have designated [VPSA student office hours](#) for fall. Please feel free to share with students.
Namaste,

Anne G. Mahety

September Issue

Get to Know-
Noah Danner
Nicholas Oakley
Michael Lusk
Diana Taylor

GET TO KNOW...

Welcome DJ Fox, He/Him/His

Growing up, DJ Fox was mentored by a very special higher education professional – his mom. Teri worked in higher education registration for 35 years, serving as the Registrar for Northwest Missouri State University and the University of Central Missouri. By observing and listening to his mom, DJ learned about the opportunities of those who work in higher education to positively impact the lives of students. These opportunities to make a difference were foremost on DJ's mind when he joined the EIU family as Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union on June 6.

Although DJ grew up aware of careers in higher education, he did not always envision himself following in his mom's professional footsteps. DJ majored in digital media production at the University of Central Missouri, with dreams of working in radio and television production. While an undergraduate, DJ was unaware that his on-campus jobs would do far more than help him pay the bills; those jobs laid the foundation for his future career. As a sophomore, DJ worked at the information desk in Central Missouri's Union, serving as the "first impression of the Union" for many. He set a positive tone, guided people to their destinations, and served as the dispatcher for all radio calls in the building. As a junior, he assisted the Union's event technology department. As a senior, he served as a building supervisor, overseeing the building during evening and weekend hours, supervising other student workers, communicating with offices in the Union, serving as an event liaison, assisting with room set-ups, and helping solve technology challenges. It was then that DJ began to "see the pieces connect"; he slowly began to realize that the skills he was learning in the classroom to prepare for a career in radio and television production were also applicable to the work he was doing in the Union. After graduating and working at a radio station for a couple months, DJ decided his greatest enthusiasm lie in higher education. He returned to the University of Central Missouri to pursue a graduate degree in college student personnel administration and rejoined the Union as a graduate assistant.

DJ began his full-time professional career as the Assistant Director of the Memorial Union at Fort Hays State University and then served as Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations at the Plaster Student Union at Missouri State University. As he joins EIU, DJ says he hopes to help our University Union become "the Cheesecake Factory of the EIU campus." DJ explained, "When you open the menu, there are too many amazing things to choose from!" In his work to do that, DJ will remember the example set by his mom, doing what is best for students and his team.

Additional Fun Facts about DJ:

- His favorite hobbies are... hiking and running.
- If he could only eat one meal for the rest of his life it would be... lasagna!
- His unique talent is... singing! (We look forward to hearing DJ in action at the first karaoke or open mic night in the Union this year!)
- And most importantly... DJ and his wife, Ashley, will celebrate their first anniversary this month! They have a three-year-old golden retriever named Rey (named after the Star Wars character).



NOW YOU KNOW...

CONGRATS



Our University Police Department held an Oath of Office Ceremony on August 15. Recent Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy graduates Noah Danner and Nicholas Oakley were sworn in as Police Officers, Jordan Hellman was promoted to Sergeant, and Michael Lusk joined UPD and was sworn in as Lieutenant. The officers were given the opportunity to choose a civilian to pin their badge on them during the ceremony. Pictured: VPSA Flaherty, UPD Chief Gamboa, Officer Danner, Lieutenant Lusk, Sergeant Hellman, Officer Oakley, and President Glassman.



Beccah Maley and Arielle Kindred during Move-In Weekend.



First day of class photo- Jody Stone, Mark Bluhm, and Mark Hudson.

GET TO KNOW...



Corey Cunningham, She/They Counselor, Counseling Clinic

Welcome to Student Affairs, Corey Cunningham. Corey earned both a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and Master of Science in clinical mental health counseling from EIU. The Counseling Clinic's new counselor says, "EIU has been an important facet of my life since an early age. Several family members, both chosen and biological, are alumni and some went on to work here as well. EIU is in my blood and I am honored to join the Health & Counseling Services team." With her partner, Corey has 5 children spanning in age from 6 to 14. Corey enjoys gardening, collecting (and listening to) vinyl records, cooking, making music, good coffee, and hiking. Please join us in welcoming Corey.

Susan DeRousse, She/Her/Hers Unit Director, Panther Catering, University Housing & Dining Services

Susan DeRousse has served in the hospitality industry for more than 27 years, bringing a truck load of experience to her new position as Unit Director, Panther Catering. Susan is excited to work in the community in which she lives. When an opportunity presented itself, she thought, "Why not try for it!" Susan and her husband, Aaron, a popular omelet cook in Tower Dining, also own a food truck they take to various fairs and festivals to sell fresh cut fries. When asked about her favorite part of working on campus, Susan emphasized the opportunity to work with, teach, and train students. She explained, "Connecting and mentoring students is my favorite part of my job." Susan is proud to have earned a bachelor's degree in family and consumer science (hospitality) with a minor in business administration from EIU. Please join us in welcoming Susan.



Question of the Month

Last month's question: What is your favorite food you only eat during the summer?

Mark Bluhm Home grown (sweet) corn on the cob.

Catie Witt-Danner Lemon Ice Cream from Dairy Barn in Sidney.

Suggest a question for our October issue of *In the Know*.

Care to share? vpsa@eiu.edu

DID YOU KNOW...

Adventure EIU



Beth Hammond, Civic Engagement & Volunteerism; Keri Marti, Student Insurance; Corey Cunningham, Counseling Clinic; and Mark Hudson, University Housing & Dining Services.

Several Student Affairs employees enjoyed Adventure EIU on August 5. This was **Beth Hammond's last Adventure EIU** before leaving to serve as the **Managing Director** of the newly formed **Center for Ethical and Socially Responsible Leadership** at **Michigan State University**. Beth led the Office of Civic Engagement & Volunteerism for the last 6.5 years. She also helped lead the EIU Reads Program and Social Justices Series. **We wish Beth much success in this new life adventure!**

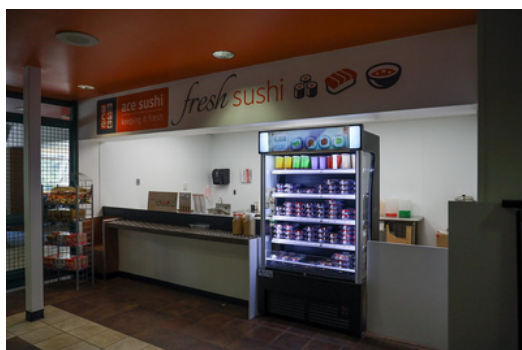


November 16, 2022

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

Click Here for [Nomination Form](#)

Recipients of the following awards will receive \$250 towards an approved professional development opportunity: Newcomer of the Year Award, Rising Star Award, and Unsung Hero Award.



Be sure to check out the newest addition to the Food Court, ACE Sushi. Operating like a kiosk, 21 varieties of fresh sushi are packaged and available Monday through Saturday. ACE Sushi also offers boba tea in seven different flavors.

Walk Break!

Join EIU Team Blue and Campus Recreation to get your steps in for the Fall Into Fitness Challenge from Be Well Illinois!

We will meet at 12:15pm at the following Campus locations:

Monday, September 18th	Campus Pond Pavilion
Tuesday, September 19th	Old Main, South Side
Wednesday, September 20th	South Quad crosswalk
Thursday, September 21st	Table Arts Entrance
Friday, September 22nd	Library Quad



Run, jog, or walk!

Challenge yourself to a 5K or 10K. Input your daily steps or link to your fitness tracker throughout the week. Register in advance, today through September 17, at: <https://bit.ly/FallintoFitness22>

EIU'S DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



EIU.EDU/STUAFF

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Do you have an item for the newsletter? [Fill out the submission form here!](#)



VISION

The Division of Student Affairs is committed to being forward thinking and providing transformative life experiences that foster student learning and development, empowering individuals to reach their optimal potential.

MISSION

The Division of Student Affairs welcomes and celebrates our students' commonalities and differences, focusing on development, active citizenship, experiential learning, engagement, leadership, and preparation for a diverse, global society. Collaborating across campus, we ensure student success and retention and are dedicated to cultivating a sense of community on both our campus and beyond. We are committed to the health and well-being of our students and encourage them to lead balanced lives. We advocate for an inclusive environment where students feel safe and secure.

EIU DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STATEMENT

Eastern Illinois University is committed to fostering a learning community where all members feel welcomed and valued. The university provides equality of opportunity in all areas of campus life and we strive to recognize and appreciate the unique value of our students, faculty, and staff. Every member of campus has the right to learn and work in an environment free of discrimination and harassment, and beyond that, our goal is for all members of our community to develop a strong sense of belonging to Eastern Illinois University.

The Division of Student Affairs embraces and respects diversity in all forms and upholds these values through our programs and services.