

AUGUST 2023

IN THE KNOW

Newsletter of EIU's Division of Student Affairs

VPSA VOICE

August is a time of new beginnings as we welcome our newest Panthers! I would like to extend a special welcome to our newest team members including our forty plus Graduate Assistants who are our front-line staff supporting fellow students. Other new beginnings include a reconfigured Convocation on move-in day allowing parents and guests to be a part of this academic ritual along with their students, thanks to the Office of New Student & Family Programs. Move-in weekend highlights included the free "EIU Greatest School of the Earth" carnival for students and community members. Thank you to the Student Life Office for this fun event! Housing & Dining's annual efforts to prepare the halls for opening also included the creation of South Quad Dining, and Qdoba in the Food Court. These new dining spaces were a huge undertaking for the Dining & Facilities team to implement in just a few short months. I cannot thank our staff enough for the significant time, planning, and effort that goes into preparing for the start of the fall semester. Each of your contributions is valued!

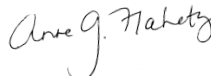
One important way you can help recognize your colleagues for their tremendous work is through our annual Student Affairs awards which will be given out on November 15th. Nominate your colleagues today at: [NOMINATION FORM](#)

I am excited for September and the fall semester and the many opportunities to come together in community. Please join us for the Student Affairs Social at the Doudna for "A Cirque Night Out" with the Boston Circus Guild on Saturday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. Discounted tickets are available for Student Affairs employees and guests for \$10.00. My husband, Steve, and I look forward to seeing the show with you!

Being in community extends beyond the campus border. I hope you (and your neighbors) will join me at the Charleston CAN (Community Action Network) open house at Charleston High School on Tuesday, September 12th 5:45-8:00 PM, to learn how six different committees are making improvements around town. This is your opportunity to meet with fellow like-minded individuals who want to make Charleston an even better place to live!

I also hope you will come out to the Community Picnic on the Library Quad, on Saturday, September 16 at 11:00-1:00 PM, for free food followed by the Panther football game at 2:00 PM. [More information and RSVP here.](#)

In gratitude and in community, Namaste!



NOW YOU KNOW...



Bonita Flynn, MLK, Jr. University Union, using the wide-format printer to print dining information.



Toni Bell, University Housing & Dining Services, preparing a fresh made-to-order breakfast skillet at the new specialty breakfast station located in South Quad Dining.



Brian Gough, Kristin Hupp, and Chris Wojtysiak, University Housing & Dining Services, ready to open up South Quad Dining.



Crystal Brown, Office of Leadership & Engagement, helping set up the new student photo.



GA Megan Morecraft, Monique Mays, Jody Stone, Brittany Floyd, and Mackenzie Walker, Office of the Dean of Students, enjoying their First Day of Class photo.

Nathan Wehr, Office of Leadership & Engagement, welcoming students to the new student photo.



NOW YOU KNOW...



Jody Stone, GA Sarah Aukamp, Crystal Brown, GA Abbey McCord, GA Kaylee Spinner, GA Alex Warrick, and Nathan Wehr, Office of Leadership & Engagement.



Gary Uteg and Mark Hudson, University Housing & Dining Services, sharing ice cream treats, an Opening Day tradition.



RA Calilista Denoyer, Jedd Tolen, and RA Alaina Collins, University Housing & Dining Services.



Greg Catron, Bob Martin, Debbie Conrad, and Madalyn Schoonover, MLK Jr., University Union, hosting the Bookstore brunch.



Jeremy Alexander, Julia Awalt, and Matt Boyer, all of University Housing & Dining Services, checking out the new South Quad Dining Center.



Lindsay Partlow, Catie Danner, Sarah Jacobs, and Gary Uteg, University Housing & Dining Services.

IN THE KNOW...

Marlaina Harper she/her/hers

Marlaina joined the University Housing and Dining Services team in July and says, “I have joined an amazing office that feels more like family than coworkers.” Along with her husband, Jordan, Marlaina has two daughters, Molly and Maybree. When Marlaina was a student at EIU, she lived in Pemberton Hall and loved the convenience of being on campus. Please join us in welcoming Marlaina.

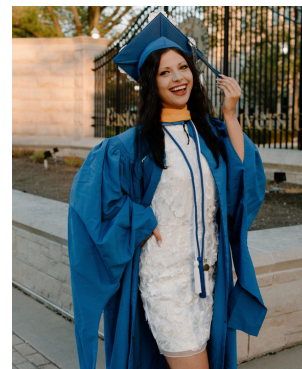


Ariel Taylor she/her/hers

Ariel decided to return to EIU as a staff member in the Office of Leadership & Engagement because she loved her experience here as an undergraduate. Ariel shared, “So many people on campus made big impacts on my life and I hope I can do the same for others.” As a student, Ariel’s favorite part of campus was the Food Court and the Mellin Steps outside of the Doudna. With her son, Drake, by her side, Ariel enjoys heading out on new adventures. Ariel is still a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated. Please join us in welcoming Ariel.

Emily Becker she/her/hers

Emily enjoyed every aspect of being a student at EIU as both an undergraduate and graduate student. While attending EIU, Emily was active in Kappa Delta Sorority and worked in the Admissions Office as both a tour guide and student caller. “I fell in love with our school and wanted to give back to the EIU community. It has been my dream to work at the EIU Counseling Clinic.” Joining the Counseling Clinic in August, Emily “loves being available to assist students with their mental health needs during this crucial time of growth and development.” Please join us in welcoming Emily.



Matt Warner he/him/his

Matt returned to EIU as the Assistant Director of the Health Education Resource Center (HERC). Matt is excited to pursue a career at EIU having earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees as a Panther. “It was a chance for me to return to the place that gave me my start. It is where I met my wife and many of my friends that I still have today. In a way, it is like coming home.” Matt enjoys anything sports related (especially St. Louis sports). A fun fact about Matt is that he pitched at Busch Stadium and even struck a batter out. Please join us in welcoming Matt.

NEED TO KNOW...

Question of the Month
vpsa@eiu.edu

Last month's question: What local summer activity did you participate in?
Jenny Sipes Our family went country line dancing at the Boot Scootin' Barn (7 PM -11 PM on Saturdays in the Merchant Building at the Fairgrounds). Fun was had by all!
Catie Danner Going to the Coles County Fair and enjoying Lake Charleston with my Beagle pup, Mason!
This month's question: What teacher (grade school on up) made the biggest impact in your life, and why?

ANNUAL BONINE SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE
 Thursday September 14th, 2023
 Located in the MLK Union
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

TIME	EVENT AGENDA
8:30 a.m.	Check-in opens
8:50 a.m.	Introductions and Announcements
9:00-10:50 a.m.	Keynote (Frank King) "Stress, Anxiety, and Suicide Prevention: You Can Make a Difference and Save a Life"
11:00 -11:50am	"Talk Save Lives" with Dr. Jacobs
12:00 - 12:50pm	Lunch Break (On Your Own)
1:00-1:50 p.m.	"The Aftermath of Suicidality: A Peek into Postvention - Corey Cunningham, MS, LPC
2:00-2:50 p.m.	Crisis Outcomes - Hospitalization, De-escalation, and Crisis Safety Planning Terra Ogle, LCSW
3:00-3:50pm	"LGBTQIA+ Youth Suicide Risk Factors & Prevention - Tyler Davis and Abby Frohning

IN ORDER TO ATTEND, PLEASE USE THE QR CODE TO REGISTER:
 The conference is free and is a great way to get CEUs, make connections, and gain valuable information!



Health & Counseling Services
 FUNDED BY THE RAINBOW OF HOPE FUND

SAVE THE DATE

President Gatrell's Fall Update & Presidential Service Awards
 Wednesday, Sept. 27, Dvorak Auditorium, Doudna
 Coffee and donuts at 8:00
 Program starts at 8:30

Nominations Due Before October 20, 2023
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.

Community Picnic
EIU FALL KICKOFF!
 11 AM - 1:30 PM, SATURDAY, SEPT. 16, 2023
 EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY QUAD

There is still time to get a ticket...

"A Cirque Night Out" with the Boston Circus Guild
 Student Affairs Social Event
 Saturday Evening 6:30
 To reserve your seat please contact- alewis@eiu.edu

SEP 9 2023

Doudna Fine Arts Center
 Price Row Seat
 \$10 06 26

CAN
 Charleston
 community action network

Town Meeting
 Tues. Sept. 12, 2023 5:45-8:00 pm
 Charleston High School Auditorium


Your neighbors have been working with the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs' MAPPING the Future program to make Charleston an even better place to call home. Join us for dessert, door prizes and a chance to learn about the goals and projects of local action teams.

QDOBA
 MEXICAN EATS

Now open in the Food Court!

Shop local! **SHOP**
EIU BOOKSTORE

MLK JR. UNIVERSITY UNION
 1ST FLOOR



IN THE KNOW...

EIU'S DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

EIU.EDU/STUAFF



Vice President: Anne G. Flaherty, Ph.D.
1031 Old Main, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920
217-581-3221 | agflaherty@eiu.edu



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.

ANTIRACISM STATEMENT

EIU stands in solidarity with all Black, Brown, Indigenous, and racialized members of our communities who are fighting for a more just and equitable society. We resolve to purposefully identify, discuss, and challenge issues of race, color, oppression, white privilege, and power, as well as the impact(s) they have on our community, its systems, and its people.

Racism is dehumanizing to everyone.

We strive to build a community in which all belong, while challenging ourselves to understand and correct inequities we discover. We must examine racism embedded in the very fabric of our society and demand action for positive change from systems of power.