

JUNE 2021

IN THE KNOW

Newsletter of EIU's Division of Student Affairs

PANTHER FAIR LOVE

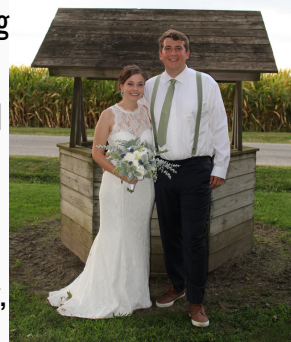


Student Affairs couple Paul and Emma Noble say they have rather enjoyed "pandemic time" and have been able to "invest in aspects of our new marriage" they may not have been otherwise able to. Both Nobles work closely with EIU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Emma leads the organization of our Shield testing site and vaccine clinics, and Paul helps to provide a safe venue through Campus Recreation. "It is nice to have her nearby while at work, even if it does mean she can boss me around a bit." :-)

The couple had a "meet cute" in 2017 whilst both were working an Orientation/Panther Fair. Emma, a local native of Mattoon, represented the HERC and was asked to fill in for the Counseling Clinic table. Paul, who initially came to EIU as a short-term study abroad student from England, and has worked as both a graduate assistant and extra help employee, was staffing the Student Recreation table. After some flirty conversations in between helping new students and parents, the two summer interns connected over Paul's lack of plans for his upcoming birthday. A Panther Fair romance blossomed with a birthday date, campus frisbee, and walks around Lake Charleston.

After finishing their masters degrees, Paul and Emma married in an outdoor ceremony in 2019. The Nobles have spent the majority of their marriage under Covid-19 restrictions, and both continue to work at EIU. According to Paul "we have taken pleasure in the small things, realizing life doesn't need to be 100 miles an hour to be worthwhile." Emma feels they bring each other balance, she prefers to stay at home, and he likes to explore. After both were fully vaccinated, the couple took a delayed honeymoon to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, celebrating their marriage.

With extra efforts of internet Bingo and family chats, Paul and Emma have been able to spend time with Paul's family in England. Fish and Chip, the two kittens they adopted in May of 2020, keep them busy and offer entertainment. The Nobles' EIU Student Affairs marriage is definitely a bright spot in the challenge of the pandemic. This charming couple often joke that they have the person who wasn't able to work the Panther Fair to thank for their meeting, and probably should have invited them to the wedding!



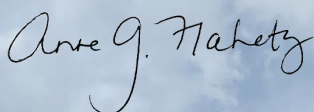
NOW YOU KNOW...

VP SA Voice

Summer is officially here! Each June we celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Pride Month. It is a time to reflect on all this community has endured as well as a celebration of visibility and the many contributions of its members. Let's use our voices and take a moment to affirm the dignity of LGBTQ+ individuals. June is also a time to reflect on the meaning of Juneteenth Independence Day, recently named a federal holiday, commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

Thank you to all our facilities and BSW team members who are diligently working to prepare spaces for summer conferences and fall housing. Thank you to all who represent Student Affairs departments meeting new students at one of the 12 in person Panther Fairs at New Student Orientation. Having students and their families back on campus has been exciting and reflects the steps we are taking to return safely to pre-COVID life at EIU.

I hope you are finding joy in the beautiful summer days and evenings. Wishing you and yours a fun and safe Independence Day holiday! Nameste,



Congrats!

Jody Stone
Staff Senate President
Renee Kerz
Staff Senate Vice President

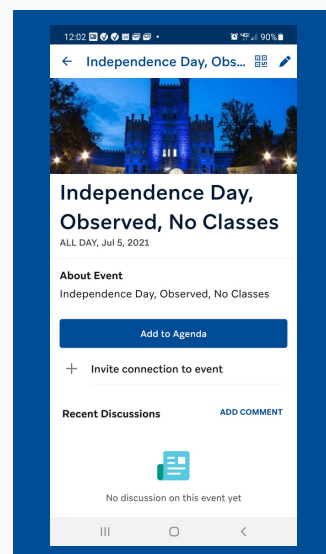
Bonine Suicide Prevention Conference Held

The Thomas A. Bonine Rainbow of Hope Fund was established by Tom and Debbie Bonine who tragically lost their son, an EIU senior, to suicide in June, 1998. The fund was established to help prevent additional unnecessary loss and suffering from mental health concerns. The HCS Counseling Clinic took advantage of the Zoom platform to reach over 277+ attendees hosting the annual Bonine Suicide Prevention Conference, April 22, 2021. The event drew interest from mental health providers, faculty, staff, and students alike from all across the globe, noting attendees from the UK, Ireland, India, Korea, Taiwan, and Madagascar to name a few.

The conference kicked off with nationally known speaker Dennis Gillan who shares his story to audiences all over the world promoting awareness and hope. <http://dennisgillan.com/> The program also included subjects such as; Prevention in a Pandemic, Mindfulness, Self-Care in Suicide Prevention, Veterans and the Implications of Moral Injury and Post-traumatic Cognitions. Free CEUS were available with attendance verification. Health & Counseling Services was proud to have many speakers with affiliations to EIU such as Samantha Boomgarden, Ashlynn Pinney, Gianna White, and Mahip Rathore, all graduates of either EIU's Clinical Psychology or Clinical Counseling graduate programs. The 2021-22 annual conference is already in the planning stages with hopes to integrate an in-person and online venue, TBD sometime in April 2022.

Save the Date

Student
Affairs
Gathering
Thursday
August 5
11:30 to 1:00



Panther Life App

There is no better time than now to get all of your AY 21/22 events added to Panther Life. Not sure how to submit an event, fill out the [event submission request form](#). If you have questions or would like training on how to use the app, contact Anne Lewis.

alewis@eiu.edu



DO YOU KNOW?



Housing Welcomes Complex Directors

Since Rebecca Maley's first week at EIU, she has been advised to "grow where she was planted." As a graduate student working in Housing & Dining, she has felt supported, cared for, challenged, and has experienced personal growth at EIU. These are the reasons Rebecca chose to pursue a career here at EIU where she can be part of a campus community that "truly cares about the success of its students and its people."

New to the Midwest, Rebecca joined the College Student Affairs program two years ago, having earned her undergraduate degree from California State University in Chico, California. Understanding the importance of connecting to campus life, Rebecca will rely upon her experiences at CSU, Chico to continue the theme of work, play, and connection here in her new position as Complex Director at EIU. "I am excited to work and collaborate with campus partners to build fun and meaningful events to build strong Living Learning Communities. Rebecca enjoys traveling and is open to suggestions and ideas for exploring the Midwest. Welcome, Rebecca!

After spending a few years working in Springfield, it just felt right to Catie Witt to come back to EIU and pursue her master's degree in College Student Affairs. Having such a positive experience working in Housing & Dining both as an undergraduate and graduate student, Catie was definitely ready to jump in to the role of Complex Director this June. "I truly feel like I am a part of a family, and this is what makes work not feel so much like work."

EIU quickly became Catie's home away from home in 2013 when she arrived for her first year. Catie served as a student member of the Board of Trustees and as Student Body President during her undergraduate time at EIU. When asked about her favorite part of campus life as a student, Catie reflected on everyone's friendliness. Holding doors for fellow students and seeing and saying "hello" to classmates on the sidewalks were some of her favorite parts of campus life at EIU.

Catie enjoys spending time with her new husband, Noah, and her three-year-old beagle, Mason. Mason has his own blog, and he and Catie are both fans of the Charleston Dog Park. While being a "dog mom" keeps her busy, Catie also enjoys reading and loves getting book suggestions. Welcome, Catie!



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.