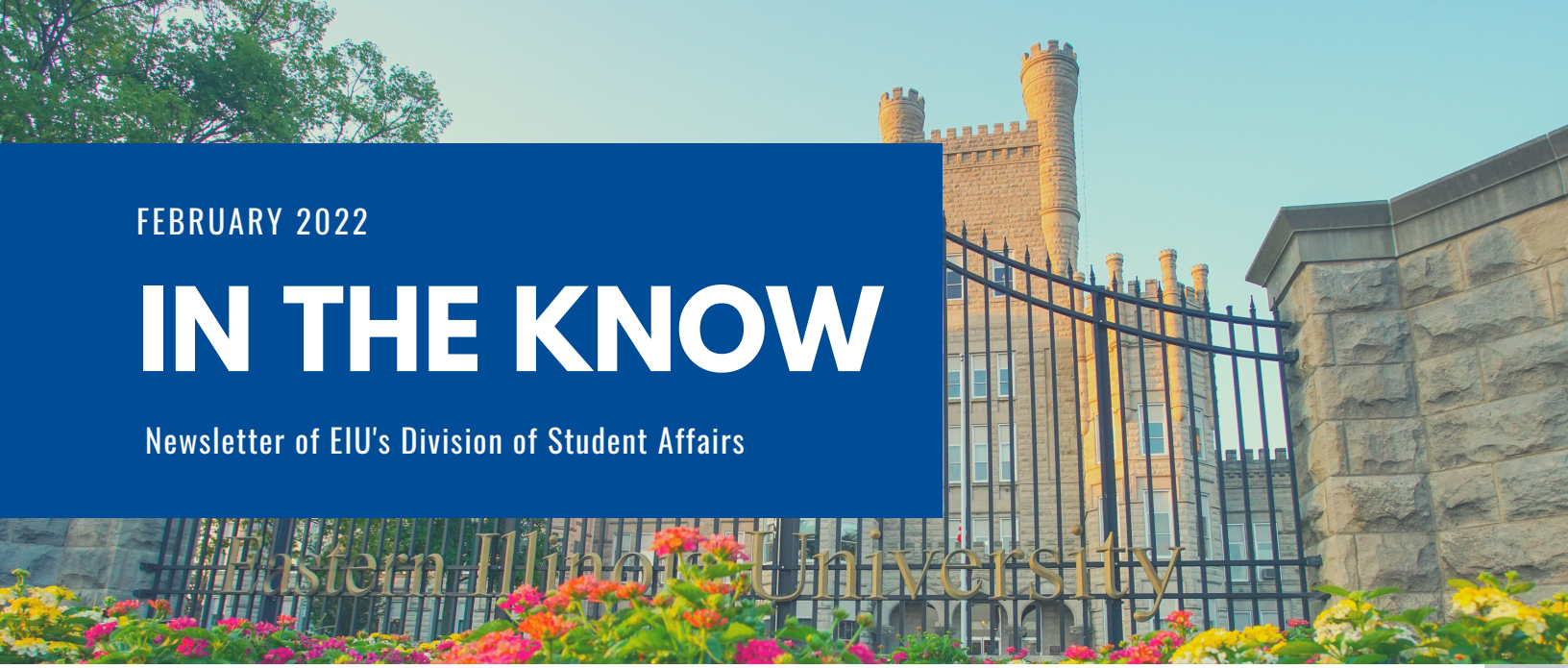

FEBRUARY 2022

IN THE KNOW

Newsletter of EIU's Division of Student Affairs

VPSA VOICE

This month has been filled with programming to celebrate African American Heritage Month, For the Culture: Protect, Preserve & Persist! I hope you had an opportunity to participate. If not, there is still time this week including Saturday evening's 50th Anniversary of the Miss. Black EIU Scholarship Pageant sponsored by the Black Student Union.

This week you received an email with updated indoor masking requirements effective Monday, February 28th. As seen on our EIU COVID Dashboard, COVID positive cases have dropped significantly in recent weeks. With our campus vaccination rate at nearly 80% , we can feel hopeful that cases will remain low as we arrive at the two-year anniversary of the pandemic next month. I am aware that comfort levels with changing COVID policies, including masking, vary by individual and are influenced by personal and familial circumstances. As noted in the February 22 email, please avoid making assumptions about other members of our community based on their personal choice to mask. As an institution of higher learning, civility is central to our mission and kindness is our cornerstone.

In the coming week, you will receive an email asking you to complete a survey providing feedback on ways to best support your mental health and well-being as an employee in Student Affairs. Please take a moment to let me know how you truly feel. As we head into March, I am looking forward to warmer weather and a slower pace the week of Spring Break. The week of March 14th may be a good time to use some vacation or catch up on work with most students away from campus. As always, I am grateful for the members of our Student Affairs team!

Namaste,

Anne G. Mahaffey

KNOW HOW TO HELP...

Professional Development & Recognition Committee

Did you enjoy your cookie delivery around Valentine's Day? If so, you have the Student Affairs Professional Development and Recognition committee to thank. Representing the committee, Nathan Wehr (Fraternity & Sorority Life), John Marr (Career Services), and Dr. Flaherty played Cupid and delivered cookies to all Student Affairs employees.

The committee has also been busy working on the Student Affairs Awards, adding the new **Blue Star Worker Award**. This award recognizes two Building Service Workers, Cooks, or Food Service Sanitation Laborers who directly support students and Student Affairs personnel. The nomination form will soon be activated and you can nominate a colleague for one of the 10 awards given out in the fall. Check out the awards here. **Student Affairs Awards**

To Beth Gillespie on Feb 10, 2022 #

Big Ups to Beth Gillespie for her tireless work to make our students experiences here at EIU meaningful and rich. I am so grateful for her work and dedication to this community.

Don't forget about SHOUT OUTS!

Created to support and boost the morale of all EIU employees and promote a positive campus spirit, **Shout Outs** are a public recognition of thanks or appreciation. We want to give recognition to the great works done by many individuals, departments, and others, on a day-to-day basis.

Farewell
Annie Wilson,
Student Accountability & Support,
is heading to Des Moines, IA.
Annie will be working remotely as a Campus Support Manager for Kappa Delta Sorority.
Best Wishes to Annie!

DID YOU KNOW...

Devin DeBoth, Vicki Daniell, & Janette Beals

Congratulations!

Taylor Hall BSWs Janette Beals & Vicki Daniell were recently awarded the Regional Spotlight of the Month by the National Residence Hall Honorary.

"These two women have continually gone above and beyond in their responsibilities as Building Service Workers. The residents of Taylor Hall have an obvious love for these two professionals."

-Devin DeBoth, Nominator

Question of the Month

Did you declare a New Year's resolution, and have you been able to keep it? If so, care to share? vpsa@eiu.edu

Your answer might inspire a colleague.

Reagan Marie Hupp

Born February 4, 2022

Kristen (Unit Director, Taylor Dining) and Tony Hupp

6 pounds, 12.3 ounces
18.8 inches long

We are READY to start our initial – First Generation Honors organization @ EIU as Charter Members of the Alpha Alpha Alpha, Epsilon Gamma Chapter. Staff can be inducted if they have met the definition of a first-generation student at the time of bachelor's degree completion and are willing to serve as mentors for first-generation students:

- Undergraduate GPA of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale
- Neither of the student's parents, nor step-parents, nor legal guardians, completed a bachelor's degree

Apply Here

Chloe Morgan Hellman

Born February 2, 2022

Jordan (Officer,UPD) and Bethany (Academic Advisor, KSR) Hellman
6 pounds, 4 ounces
19.5 inches long

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.

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.