

JULY 2022

# IN THE KNOW

Newsletter of EIU's Division of Student Affairs

## VP SA VOICE

On July 27th, I marked my second anniversary at EIU. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to lead and serve our division and to work with so many dedicated staff members who Bleed Blue!

Earlier this month, we hosted two different sessions to begin discussions to create a new Division of Student Affairs Strategic Plan. Through these robust conversations, we are working closer to identifying the top priorities for our division. These priorities will be centered on collaborations with Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management; support for student recruitment and retention; promoting student engagement/leadership; nurturing campus spirit/pride; and supporting staff and resources. We will continue to develop the plan in the coming months.

In a few short weeks, we will welcome our newest Panthers! I look forward in great anticipation to the new school year and helping our incoming students find their EIU community and to welcoming back our returning students! Thanks to each of you for the planning underway to ensure our students have a smooth transition to campus life.

Namaste,



Jamie Huckstead and Sarah Jacobs, University Housing & Dining, Kevin Linker, Campus Recreation, Jessica Milburn, Counseling Clinic, Heather Webb, Student Accountability & Support, and Bobbi Kingery, Career Services.

# DID YOU KNOW...

## Panther Dining

Cajun baked chicken, made to order breakfast burritos, a yogurt bar with fresh fruit, Chick-fil-A, Tazo teas, Late Night Pizza, weekend brunch. The list is endless. These scrumptious items are just a smidge of the food choices Panther Dining serves in a variety of

welcoming and inclusive dining facilities across campus on a daily basis. Three residential dining centers (Thomas, Taylor and Tower), the Food Court, a C-Store (Thomas Marketplace), Java B&B and Panther Catering are all spaces where students, staff, faculty, and community members can enjoy a most important resource. Food--a key element in our social well-being.



James Frye and Patti Sanders

According to Associate Director of Housing and Dining for Panther Dining/Unit Director University Food Court, Chris Coffey, the residential dining centers alone “serve approximately 11,500 meals a week. Some days more, some days less.” The variety of meals is so great, a customer could eat a different menu option for lunch and dinner for a month and not repeat a meal. Who prepares all this food? Almost 40 Culinary Worker III and Food Service Sanitation Laborers in conjunction with nearly 300 Student Workers along with several Unit Directors, Catering Supervisors, Food Court Supervisors, Food Court Attendants, Food Service Area Supervisors, and Clerical staff work together as a team in creating high-quality and innovative dining options.

Panther Catering served as the primary source of meals for students during isolation/quarantine due to the pandemic. Snacks, beverages, hot lunches, and dinners to be heated up, were all delivered by Panther Catering staff. Trying to offer our students some comfort with food was a crucial part of our pandemic response.

Moving forward, Panther Dining is promoting that students get back into communal dining this fall. Several themed events have been planned beginning with an NFL kick-off event in September. Holiday meals are a favorite, with several choices of traditional dishes, sure to provide a home-like atmosphere. Panther Dining is composed of experienced and professional staff that truly care about those they serve and very much enjoy the relationships being built around the table. "We truly want to make this a dining experience for our students, staff, faculty, and community members, not just a place to eat a meal" says Coffey. Now, who wants to meet at Tower Dining for one of those made-to-order breakfast burritos?



# GET TO KNOW...

Gary Uteg says the reason he decided to pursue a career at EIU after earning his MBA-Accounting Concentration is "EIU is home and everyone is family." University Housing & Dining's newest Complex Director has a lot of EIU experience having worked in both in the University Union Business Office and Bowling Lanes and as a Resident Assistant in Stevenson Hall. Gary has family in Southern Illinois including "two of the most adorable nieces" and enjoyed living in the residence halls and meeting some of his very best friends. When asked how was EIU is different as a student than as a professional, Gary replied, as a student, sometimes you do not see the big picture - and as a professional, you have the opportunity to fully understand the big picture and have a hand in portraying that picture. Please join us in welcoming Gary.



**Gary Uteg he, him, his**



Student Accountability and Support welcomes Monique Mays, Student Standards Specialist. A former graduate student in the Health Education Resource Center, Monique is excited to gain more professional experience working in higher education. Monique comes from a large family and is a first-generation student, having earned both her Bachelors and Masters degrees from EIU. Monique enjoys supporting students and helping them get "connected to the proper resources they need to help them succeed." When not on campus, Monique and her dog Marlo can be found outside enjoying walks and hikes and especially visiting the Charleston Dog Park. Please join us in welcoming Monique.

**Monique Mays she, her, hers**

George earned their Bachelor Degree in Applied Conflict Management from Kent State University with a Minor in Japanese before joining the EIU MBA program and working as an Associate Resident Director overseeing Stevenson Hall. George says "the EIU community has been so welcoming and I enjoy the dedication and passion I see across the university from students and staff. Working at EIU over the past year has been a great experience and I'm very excited to continue to work with University Housing & Dining as a full-time staff member." Prior to coming to EIU, George worked as a translator and teacher in Japan. George has played the cello for 17 years and enjoys cooking and reading. "I try to read a least one book a week." Please join us in welcoming George as a Complex Director in University Housing & Dining.



**George McClellan they, them**

## Question of the Month

**Last month's question: What is your favorite summer leisure activity?**

**Libby Warner- Boyer** Sitting on the beach in Florida with a good book and waves splashing my feet!

**Mackenzie Walker** Reading on my porch bed 😊

**Amanda Repp** Being with my family, and floating like a hippo in my mother-in-law's pool. Yes, there is a story behind this. lol

**Catie Witt** My favorite summer time activity is either taking my dog to the dog park, or walking out at Lake Charleston. 😊

**Joseph Baumgart** I like traveling to interesting places, then drawing, painting or making a collage; 4X6 inches to create a postcard. I reproduce it and send it to friends and family. I started doing this on a trip to England in 2003. That was 300 postcards ago.

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

Care to share? [vpsa@eiu.edu](mailto:vpsa@eiu.edu)



- Jordan Hellman has been promoted to UPD Sergeant. Congratulations Jordan!
- Bob Martin recently accepted the position of Retail Manager in the University Union Bookstore. Congratulations Bob!
- Congratulations Rob Zerbst on your new position in Facilities, Service Enterprise Manager. Thank you for your work in the University Union Bookstore.



Bob Martin



### 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.



## **EIU'S DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**



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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.