

FEBRUARY 2023

# IN THE KNOW

Newsletter of EIU's Division of Student Affairs

## VPSA VOICE

On February 3, Dr. Jay Gatrell was named EIU's 13th President. As an avid supporter of our work in Students Affairs, I wish to congratulate Jay on his selection and look forward to continued collaboration with him, and others across the university, to support student belonging and student success!

Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler! The good times were rolling on February 21 when we celebrated Mardi Gras with delicious sugar cookies made by Panther Catering. Members of our Student Affairs Recognition and Professional Development Committee delivered the treats and thanked employees for the service they provide each day to our Panthers! Thank you to those who helped with the cookie tags and cookie deliveries: Nathan Wehr, Jacob Mueller, Stacy Smith, Bob Martin, Matt Boyer, Jim Brummer, Emma Noble, Ceci Brinker, John Marr, and Monique Mays!

We look forward to Spring Break during the week of March 13 and warmer weather arriving soon. For many, Spring Break is a good time to request time off, with most students away from campus. I also encourage you to review the events planned throughout March for Women's History and Awareness Month (WHAM) and consider attending:  
<https://www.eiu.edu/women/WHAM.php>

Namaste,



**GET CENTERED**

*Student Affairs Retreat*

*May 16, 2023*

# IN THE KNOW...



Jenny Sipes and Anne Lewis, VPSA Office



Derek Graham and Josh Vicory,  
MLK, Jr. University Union



Susan Allen and Christina Coffey,  
Textbook Rental Service



Bill Karpus, Lori Hardwick, Derek Light, and Jimmie Smith,  
University Housing & Dining Services



Kuhmi Eholo, University Housing &  
Dining Services



Deborah Conrad and Bob Martin,  
Bookstore



Brandy Babb and Mike Croslow,  
University Housing & Dining Services



# GET TO KNOW...



Ceci Brinker, Leadership & Engagement; James Brummer, University Housing & Dining Services; Emma Noble, Health & Counseling Services; and John Marr, Career Services.



David McDowell, Shuttle Bus



Mackenzie Walker, Monique Mays, Maddie Reiher, Dean of Students Office



Georgia Ryan and Eric Davidson, Health & Counseling Services



Kirsten Bays, Student Legal Services; DJ Fox and Chris Cougill, MLK, Jr. University Union



Brian Gough, University Housing & Dining Services

# DO YOU KNOW...

## Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union

Located in the heart of campus, the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union serves as the central hub for students and employees alike to gather for both business and fun. D.J. Fox, Director, and his team dedicate themselves to creating a vibrant, welcoming environment. The Union's Business Operations Office, located on the second-floor walkway, houses Campus Scheduling, which reserves space in the Union for both on-campus and off-campus groups. During AY21-22, the Union hosted 9,500+ meetings/events, with nearly 150,000 people in attendance at those events. Most of those meetings and events are hosted in either the University Ballroom, Grand Ballroom, or one of 14 meeting rooms on the third floor, all of which are named for towns that surround EIU. The Business Operations Office also holds a liquor license and provides liquor service at special events across campus. The EIU Bowling Lanes, located in the Union's lower level, offers an evening and weekend entertainment option, including a fiercely competitive employee bowling league on Monday nights.

In addition to serving as a primary campus meeting place, the University Union serves as the campus' commercial hub. It is home to the EIU Bookstore, HHD Salon (a hair salon), Panther Pantry, Panther Print and Copy Center, Ticket Office, and a branch of U.S. Bank. Thanks to the Union's partnership with University Housing and Dining Services, the Union is also home to the University Food Court (including Chick-fil-A® and ACE Sushi) and Java Beanery and Bakery. It is the perfect location to share a meal with colleagues or students, stop in for a mid-day caffeine surge, or find a fashionable addition to one EIU's wardrobe!

Speaking of wardrobe changes... Please take a moment to check out the University Bookstore! The Bookstore team has been busy ordering new apparel, working closely with academic departments to ensure appropriate classroom materials are kept in stock, and rearranging inventory to improve the shopping experience. The Bookstore team is also working with University Marketing and Communications to update the store's web presence and marketing materials. This is a great time to utilize the Staff and Faculty Appreciation Promotion – “Buy One, Get One 65% Off” – that was sent to all employees in November. (If you no longer have that email, please show your Panther Card to an employee in the Bookstore. They will be happy to assist you!)





# GET TO KNOW...

## Brandy Babb

Brandy Babb is beginning her career at EIU as a Food Service Area Supervisor in Panther Catering, University Housing and Dining Services. Motivated by her four children, Babb is excited about the opportunities for both continuing education and professional growth at EIU. Babb shared, "I love to decorate, and I have enjoyed navigating my way around campus." Babb likes to help plan events and truly enjoys eating "anything Italian." Please join us in welcoming Brandy Babb.

## Chris Cougill

Student Affairs welcomes Assistant Director, Chris Cougill, to the MLK, Jr. University Union. Cougill is not new to EIU, having previously worked in Booth Library since 1997 and earning both his graduate and undergraduate degrees as a Panther. Cougill and his wife, Ann, are parents to Scout (12) and Audie (almost 11) as well as Indy, a standard poodle/black Russian terrier mix. Keeping up with his children's youth sports and traveling together as a family are just some of Cougill's interests. Hobbies include tinkering on cars, running, auto racing, eclectic audio equipment, baseball, military history, and interesting beers and bourbons to sample in moderation. Growing up in a military family and living all over the US and overseas, Cougill is happy to have landed in Charleston and found a true "home." Cougill shared, "The opportunity to make a difference in a student's life is incredibly fulfilling, and I try to greet every student or visitor with a smile and a helping heart." Please join us in welcoming Chris Cougill.



[Click on our logo to fill out a photo release form.](#)



# IN THE KNOW...

## 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.

### **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.