

III. REPORTS

A. **Report from Board Chair**

B. Committee Reports

Executive/Planning Committee

Mr. Joe Dively, Chair
Mr. Kristopher Goetz
Mr. Tim Burke
Mr. Dan Caulkins

Board Relations Committee

Mr. Dan Caulkins, Chair
Mr. Carl Mito

Finance/Audit Committee

Mr. Tim Burke, Chair
Mr. Carl Mito
Mr. Dan Caulkins

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Mr. Rene Hutchinson, Chair
Dr. Jan Spivey Gilchrist
Mr. Kristopher Goetz
Ms. Maralea Negron

Board Regulations

Executive/Planning Committee

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. **Approval of Minutes**

June 24, 2016 Board Meeting

June 25, 2016 Board Retreat

B. Statement on Board Responsibilities for Intercollegiate Athletics

By conference policy, the governing board of each member institution shall annually review and complete the Ohio Valley Conference Governing Board Certification Form (*OVC Constitution 3.2.1*).

A copy of this certification form is presented on the next page for your review.

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees review and complete the Ohio Valley Conference Governing Board Certification Form.

B. Statement on Board Responsibilities for Intercollegiate Athletics (Cont.)



OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE

*Governing Board Certification Form
Academic Year 2015-16*

As Chairman of the Governing Board at Eastern Illinois University, I attest that:

- 1) Responsibility for the administration of the athletics program has been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer of the institution.
- 2) The Chief Executive Officer has the mandate and support of the board to operate a program of integrity in full compliance with NCAA, OVC, and all other relevant rules and regulations.
- 3) The Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Director of Athletics and Faculty Athletic Representative, and Board of Trustees determines how the institutional vote shall be cast on issues of athletics policy presented to the NCAA and the Ohio Valley Conference.

Date Presented to the Governing Board: September 18, 2015

Signed: _____
(Mr. Joseph Dively, Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board)

Please return completed form to:

*Beth DeBauche
Commissioner
Ohio Valley Conference
215 Centerview Drive, Suite 115
Brentwood, TN 37027*

C. External Search Firm – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

- 2. Purchase Item:** External Search Firm – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- Description/Explanation:** Approval is requested for the use of an external search firm to recruit applicants for the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- Cost:** Not to exceed \$90,000
- Recommended Vendor:** Witt Kieffer
- Summary of Bids:** The Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative (IPHEC) ranked Witt Kieffer first pursuant to a prior solicitation. The university is a member of this cooperative.
- Fund Source:** Appropriated and Income Funds
- Rationale/Justification:** Eastern Illinois University is beginning a national search this fall to recruit a Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. An external search firm can provide significant assistance in this process by developing and enhancing the quality of the candidate pool, recruiting and screening potential candidates, and coordinating search and recruitment logistics. Pursuant to 110 ILCS 665/10-175, the Board of Trustees and President hereby demonstrate a justifiable need to utilize the services of Witt Kieffer.

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the use of the external search firm Witt Kieffer in the search for a Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs based on the demonstrated, justifiable need to recruit and present a highly qualified and talented pool of candidates.

D. FY17 Budget Approval and FY18 Budget Submission

This item will be presented by addendum at the meeting.

E. Expenditure Recommendations for Purchases of \$250,000 or More

Purchase Item: Addition to Tarble Arts Center

Description/Explanation: The project scope calls for an addition to the Northeast corner of the building and remodeling of existing interior space to enhance and expand the educational outreach programs of the College of Arts and Humanities housed within the Tarble Arts Center. The work will provide approximately 1,800 square feet of new space that will include an instructional/lab area, a storage area, and circulatory space. Approximately 1400 square feet of existing work space will be converted into instructional/lab space, and, a conference room will be converted into a gallery and circulatory space. This work will entail additions and modifications to the existing mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, and, site work, including parking lot modifications, grading, and sidewalks.

Cost: \$1,024,199.00 (including \$93,109.00 contingency) as follows:

General Bid	\$ 649,000.00
Electrical	\$ 74,790.00
Plumbing & HVAC	\$ 207,300.00
Contingency (10%)	<u>\$ 93,109.00</u>
Total	\$1,024,199.00

Recommended Vendor:

General Contractor

Grunloh Construction Inc. \$649,000.00
Effingham, IL

Electrical Contractor

Anderson Electric \$ 74,790.00
Mattoon, IL

Plumbing & HVAC Contractor

Davis-Houk Mechanical, Inc. \$207,300.00
Urbana, IL

Summary of Bids:

General Contractor

Grunloh Construction \$649,000.00
Effingham, IL

Path Construction Company, Inc. \$779,800.00
Arlington Heights, IL

Electrical Contractor

Anderson Electric Inc. Mattoon, IL	\$ 74,790.00
Bodine Electric of Decatur Decatur, IL	\$ 75,347.00
Commercial Electric Inc. Mattoon, IL	\$ 78,961.00
Pals Electric Inc. Teutopolis, IL	\$ 87,777.00

Plumbing & HVAC

Davis Houk Mechanical Urbana, IL	\$207,300.00
A & R Mechanical Contractors, Inc. Urbana, IL	\$216,000.00
E.L. Pruitt Co. Champaign, IL	\$226,475.00
Industrial Services of Illinois Inc. Mattoon, IL	\$264,183.00

BEP Goals: The Procurement had a 20% BEP goal.

Grunloh Construction (General Contractor) did not meet the goal. They solicited 17 BEP vendors (4 no responses, 9 responded with a “No Bid” and 4 indicated that they would respond but never submitted a bid).

Davis Houk (Plumbing and HVAC) met the goal with a \$41,466.00 BEP spend.

Anderson Electric (Electrical) met the goal with a \$14,958.00 BEP spend.

Fund Source: Gift Funds

Rationale/Justification: The University solicited a donation for the purpose of expanding the Tarble Arts Center. The purpose of the donation was to allow the Tarble to expand its education outreach. The proposed design will allow the contemplated expansion.

it is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the addition to the Tarble Arts Center.

F. Contract Renewal and Successor Agreement Painters District Council #58

Labor Agreement:

A tentative agreement was reached between the parties on August 25, 2016, to renew a successor contract with status quo language. There are approximately two members in the unit. The Painters ratified the agreement on Wednesday, August 31, 2016. The agreement is effective May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017.

Cost of Settlement:

Bargaining unit employees shall receive the prevailing rate in accordance with Illinois Department of Labor rates for Coles County (for Painters). The parties agree that during the university's 2017 fiscal year, Painters shall receive a rate adjustment equivalent to the base rate adjustment percentage increase (if any) provided to the class of administrative and professional employees and non-negotiated employees. If no such increase is provided to these classes of employees then there shall be no increase for Painters during the term of this agreement. (The payment shall be in a lump sum not added to the base salary).

Estimated Cost of the Increase:

Effective May 1, 2016

\$0 (unless the classes of administrative and non-negotiated employees receive an increase in FY2017)

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve this successor Agreement.

G. Contract Renewal and Successor Agreement Teamsters Local #26

Labor Agreement:

A tentative agreement was reached between the parties on August 29, 2016, to renew a successor contract with status quo language. There are approximately eight members in this unit. The Teamsters ratified the agreement on Thursday, September 1, 2016. The agreement is effective July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

Cost of Settlement:

The parties agree that during the university's 2017 fiscal year, Teamsters shall receive a base rate adjustment equivalent to the base rate adjustment percentage increase (if any) provided to the class of administrative and professional employees and non-negotiated employees. If no such increase is provided to these classes of employees then there shall be no increase for Teamsters during the term of this agreement.

Estimated Cost of the Increase:

Effective July 1, 2016

\$0 (unless the classes of administrative and non-negotiated employees receive an increase in FY2017)

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve this successor Agreement.

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V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. **President's Report**

Presentations:

1. Housing Presentation – Mr. Mark Hudson, Director of Housing and Dining Services
2. Intercollegiate Athletics – Mr. Tom Michael, Athletic Director
3. Annual Report on Title IX Compliance – Dr. Shawn Peoples, Interim Director of Civil Rights and Diversity

B. Reports from Constituencies

Faculty Senate – Dr. Jemmie Robertson

Staff Senate – No report

Student Government – Ms. Catie Witt

C. Summary of Purchases \$100,000 - \$249,999

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Type of Purchase</u>	<u>Bids</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ohio Valley Conference, Brentwood, TN	Funding to pay officials	(A)	\$129,413.73
Yankee Book Peddler, Contoocook, NH	Library Books	(B)	\$200,000.00
Cellco Partnership, Basking Ridge, NJ	Cellphone service	(C)	\$110,000.00

(A) Sole Source

(B) Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(C) State of Illinois Contract

D. FY 2016 Deposit & Investment Reports

**Eastern Illinois University
Deposit and Investment Report
For the Quarter Ending June 30, 2016**

Operating Funds Investment Performance:

Average Daily Cash Balance	\$ (2,145,228.09)
Average Daily Invested Balance	<u>35,148,530.31</u>
Net Average Daily Balance	<u>\$ 33,003,302.22</u>
Total Interest Earned on Investments	<u>\$ 26,795.76</u>
Percentage of Net Average Daily Balance Invested	<u>106.50%</u>
Annualized Average Yield	<u>0.33%</u>
Benchmark - 90 Day Treasury Bill	<u>0.26%</u>

Summary of Investments:

	Cost	Market Value
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$ 243,089.32</u>	<u>\$ 243,089.32</u>

EIU invests primarily in the Illinois Funds. The Illinois Funds consist primarily of repurchase agreements, commercial paper and money market funds. EIU investments may also include U.S. Treasury Notes, Government Agencies (e.g., Federal Home Loan Bank, FNMA, etc), Money Market Funds, Depository Accounts and Commercial Paper. Earnings rates for the quarter ranged from 0.29% to 1.25%

University/Foundation/Alumni/Agency General Ledger Cash by Major Category:

Local Accounts/Athletics/Student Governed Funds/Reserves	\$ 12,106,678.91
Student Insurance Fund/Departmental Equipment Reserves	10,810,084.31
Alumni/Foundation Funds held by the University	9,155,041.55
Construction Funds/Capital Projects	8,131,987.76
Housing/Student Life Operating Funds	6,701,701.67
Gift Funds with Donor Restrictions for Departments	3,418,696.72
Housing/Student Life Construction/Repair/Replacement/Payment Reserves	1,790,038.71
Student Loan/Work Study Funds	994,272.26
Parking/Lounge Operating Funds	545,436.27
Research and Grant Funds	440,617.90
Funds Held for Clubs/Organizations	325,168.73
Endowment Funds	119,360.37
General Revenue Funds Due From the State of Illinois	0.00
Scholarships Receivable	(560,512.86)
Income Fund Tuition	<u>(26,706,345.37)</u>
Total Cash Balance June 30, 2016	<u>\$ 27,272,226.93</u>

D. FY 2016 Deposit & Investment Reports (Cont.)

Endowment Funds Investment Performance:

Portfolio Market Value March 31, 2016	\$ 2,352,930.06
Interest and Dividends Income Reinvested	13,083.97
Cash/Investments Transferred to Endowment	-
Change in Value of investments	<u>20,290.47</u>
Portfolio Market Value June 30, 2016	<u>\$ 2,386,304.50</u>
 Total Return on Investments for the Quarter	 <u>1.41%</u>

Endowment Funds Asset Allocation (as of June 30, 2016)

Schwab Institutional Brokerage Account:

	Market Value	
Equity Funds:		
Brookfield Global	\$ 71,441.20	
John Hancock Global Absolute	228,456.96	
Morgan Stanley Intl	162,872.83	
Principal Diversified	97,585.15	
Touchstone Intl Small Cap	67,058.01	
Vanguard Developed Markets	243,808.44	
Vanguard Dividend Appreciation	75,108.90	
Vanguard Emerging Markets	96,673.90	
Vanguard Total Stock Market	298,158.12	
Vanguard 500 Index Fund	277,055.42	
Vaughan Nelson Value	<u>66,915.65</u>	
Total Equity Funds		\$ 1,685,134.58
 Bond Funds:		
Doubleline Total Return	\$ 73,923.93	
JPMorgan Core Bond	173,533.31	
Metropolitan West Total	174,267.00	
Vanguard Interm Term	<u>145,903.85</u>	
Total Bond Funds		567,628.09
 Other Funds:		
Ishares Currency Hedge	<u>\$ 129,128.03</u>	
Total Other Funds		129,128.03
 Cash Funds:		
Schwab Money Market Fund	<u>\$ 4,413.80</u>	
Total Cash Funds		4,413.80
Total Schwab Institutional Brokerage Account:		<u>\$ 2,386,304.50</u>

D. FY 2016 Deposit & Investment Reports (Cont.)

**Eastern Illinois University
Deposit and Investment Report
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016**

Operating Funds Account Balances as of June 30, 2016

Certificate of Deposit	\$ 243,089.32
First Mid-Illinois Bank and Trust	107,404.44
US Bank Deposit Accounts	3,387,016.19
The Illinois Funds Money Market Account	25,386,097.00
Total Depository Account Balances	<u>\$ 29,123,606.95</u>

Operating Funds Investment Performance:

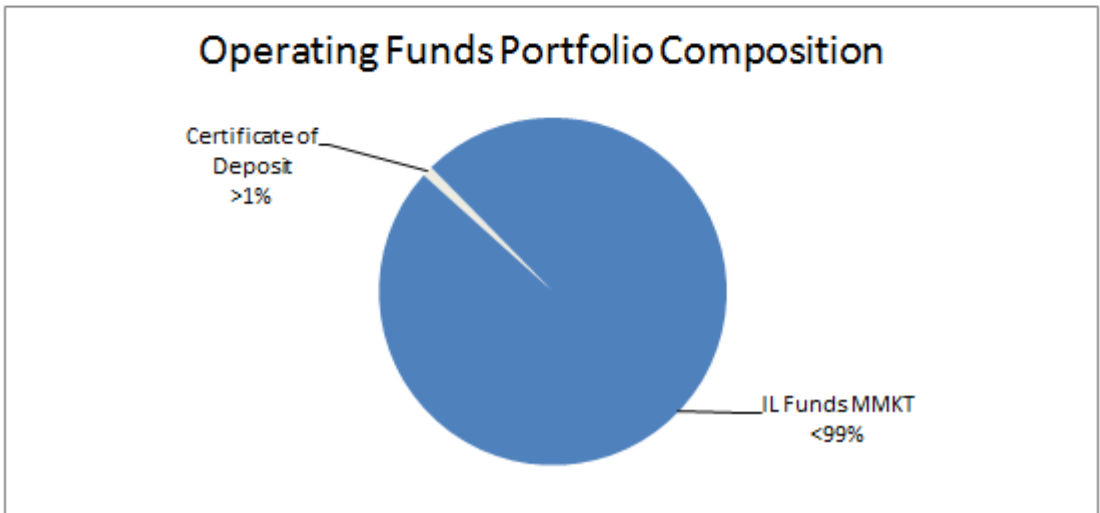
Average Daily Book Balance Cash	\$ (2,748,155.46)
Average Daily Invested Balance	41,601,766.80
Net Average Daily Balance	<u>\$ 38,853,611.34</u>

Percentage of Net Average Daily Balance Invested 107.07%

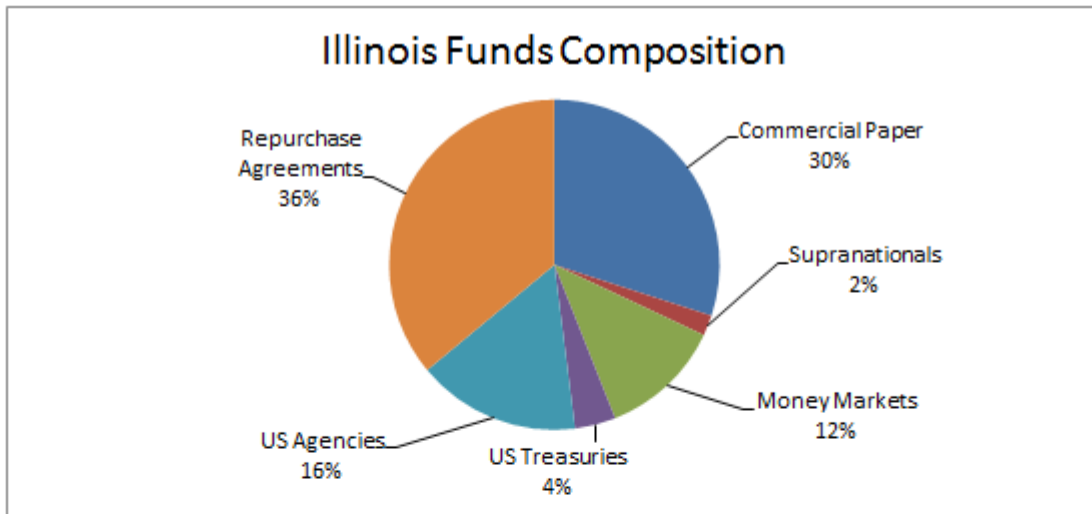
Total Interest Earned on Investments \$ 63,484.49

Annualized Average Yield 0.16%

Benchmark - 90 Day Treasury Bill 0.19%



D. FY 2016 Deposit & Investment Reports (Cont.)



EIU invests primarily in the Illinois Funds. The Illinois Funds consist primarily of repurchase agreements, commercial paper, government agency securities and money market funds. EIU investments may also include U.S. Treasury Notes, Government Agencies (e.g., Federal Home Loan Bank, FNMA, etc), Money Market Funds, Depository Accounts and Commercial Paper. Earning rates ranged from 0.04% to 1.25% for the fiscal year.

Endowment Funds Investment Performance:

Portfolio Market Value July 1, 2015	\$ 2,391,763.31
Interest and Dividends Income	59,513.47
Deposits and Withdrawals	47,545.09
Change in Value of Investments	<u>(112,517.37)</u>
Portfolio Market Value June 30, 2016	<u>\$ 2,386,304.50</u>

Total Return on Investments with fee adjustments for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016	<u>(2.3)%</u>
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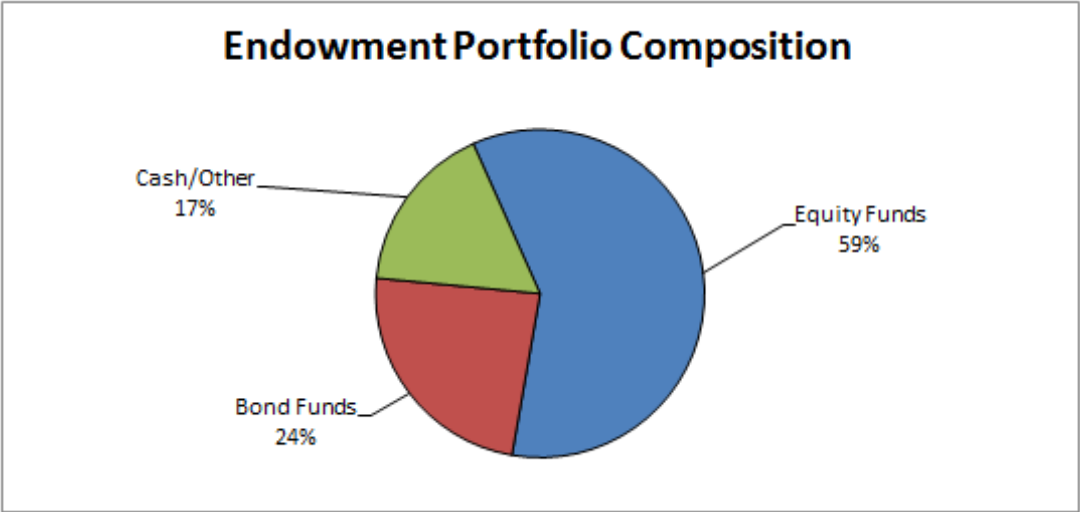
D. FY 2016 Deposit & Investment Reports (Cont.)

Schwab Institutional Brokerage Account:

Endowment Funds Asset Allocation (as of June 30, 2016):

	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>	
Equity				
Brookfield Global	\$ 71,441.20	8.7	-3.7	
John Hancock Global Absolute	228,456.96	NA	NA	
Morgan Stanley Intl	162,872.83	-8.3	-10.2	
Principal Diversified	97,585.15	-6.8	-2.2	
Touchstone Intl Small Cap	67,058.01	NA	NA	
Vanguard Developed Markets	243,808.44	-8.6	-8.9	
Vanguard Dividend Appreciation	75,108.90	8.3	8.5	
Vanguard Emerging Markets	96,673.90	-12.1	-12.9	
Vanguard Total Stock Market	298,158.12	2.1	4.0	
Vanguard 500 Index Fund	277,055.42	4.0	4.0	
Vaughan Nelson Value	<u>66,915.65</u>	-12.0	0.6	
Total Equity Funds				\$ 1,685,134.58
Bond Funds				
Doubleline Total Return	\$ 73,923.93	4.5	6.0	
JPMorgan Core Bond	173,533.31	5.6	6.0	
Metropolitan West Total	174,267.00	4.7	6.0	
Vanguard Interm Term	<u>145,903.85</u>	NA	NA	
Total Bond Funds				567,628.09
Other				
Ishares Currency Hedge	<u>\$ 129,128.03</u>	NA	NA	
Total Other Funds				129,128.03
Cash Funds				
Schwab Money Market	<u>\$ 4,413.80</u>	0.0	0.2	
Total Cash Funds				4,413.80
Total Schwab Institutional Brokerage Account:				<u>\$ 2,386,304.50</u>

D. FY 2016 Deposit & Investment Reports (Cont.)



E. University Highlights

AROUND CAMPUS

Opening Weekend 2016: Here We Go! Every August, Eastern Illinois University awakens from its summer slumber to the excitement of a few thousand Panthers returning to campus for another great semester. The excitement is always palpable, and 2016 was no different! Here are some highlights from Move-In Day and all the First Night festivities:

<https://vimeo.com/180882072>

Approximately 1,300 students participate in JumpStart 2 GIVE. These students provided a total of 5,200 hours of service at 16 sites throughout Coles County. At one of the on-campus project sites, students made more than 400 fleece blankets for One Stop Community Christmas, a holiday assistance program that helps families in need in a seven-county region. In Ashmore, students assembled bleachers at Ashmore's Youth Baseball Fields. (These bleachers were purchased with money donated by Eastern students during last spring's Greek Week Coin Wars.) Throughout the day, EIU students made a positive impact on our community, and our community made a positive impact on our students.

On Sunday, Aug. 21 (the day before the start of classes), EIU and Charleston city officials welcomed new students to the community at an event called Take the Lake. Approximately 200 students attended this event at Lake Charleston and enjoyed grilled hot dogs, yard games, canoeing, hiking and lots of bubbles.

International Student Enrollment Reaches Another High at EIU. Individuals from more than 40 countries compose what Eastern officials say will be another record-breaking international student enrollment for the institution. Bill Elliott, interim director, International Students and Scholars, said the department will see a significant increase from the 291 international students enrolled a year ago. While exact numbers won't be official until the university releases its Fall 2016 10th day enrollment figures in early September, projections indicate an enrollment of well over 400 international students, representing both undergraduate and graduate students.

"Certainly, we've put forth an aggressive international engagement effort," Elliott said. "But I believe the true key to our success has been the campus community working so well together. We wanted to establish Eastern Illinois University as a premier destination for international students wishing to study in the United States, and we have come a long way in meeting that goal," Elliott added.

While 41 countries are represented by Fall 2016 students, those with the largest EIU enrollment are India, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, China, Nepal and Nigeria.

Graduate Student Numbers on the Rise at EIU. Eastern Illinois University officials are also pleased with recent growth in graduate enrollment as EIU's graduate programs continue to attract new students. While exact numbers won't be official until the university releases 10th day enrollment figures in early September, Ryan Hendrickson, interim dean of EIU's Graduate School, expects an increase of 10 percent or more in the number of graduate students. "That's a significant growth from a year ago," he said. In Fall 2015, 1,318 graduate students made up 15.5 percent of the university's total enrollment. With that number continuing to increase, Hendrickson anticipates "a significant and positive impact on EIU's identity."

According to Hendrickson, the growth in graduate students is being experienced by all four of Eastern's academic colleges: the College of Arts and Humanities, the College of Education and Professional Studies, the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences, and the College of Sciences. The departments seeing the largest gains are technology, educational leadership, nutrition and dietetics, biological sciences, educational administration, political science and music education.

Corpse Flower Brings Visitors to Campus. About 600 visitors physically visited campus during the fifth blooming of the Velvet Queen, EIU's Titan Arum (a.k.a. Corpse Flower), at the end of June 2016. Approximately 4,250 others watched live via streaming video, according to Steven Malehorn, manager of the H.F. Thut Greenhouse.

This was the fifth blooming of the plant, having previously bloomed in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014.

STUDENT/FACULTY/STAFF /ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Newly Discovered Plant Species Named After EIU Botany Professor. Gordon Tucker doesn't remember doing so, but he's been told that as a toddler, he could not keep his hands off the nearby vegetation. "My mother told me that I would reach over the edge of my strolled or through the bars of my play pen, reaching out for any plant that I could get my hands on," he said. "And that I was transplanting garden seedlings before I could walk."

Decades later, Tucker – now a skilled botanist and long-time faculty member at EIU -- continues to "reach out" in his study of plants. His area for study, however, now stretches a lot further than a toddler's arm. Known primarily as a vascular plant systematist, Tucker specializes in what is known as the sedge family, flowering plants which outwardly resemble grasses and rushes. The family is large with some 5,500 known species, many of which can be found in Asia and South America.

Tucker was excited to learn earlier this year that not only had another new species in the sedge family been discovered, but that the botanists who made the discovery had decided to name the plant -- *Fimbristylis tuckeri* – after him. The official announcement was made in the September 2016 issue of the Kew Bulletin, a leading international journal for the botanical community and published by the Royal Botanic Garden near London.

See <http://castle.eiu.edu/~pubaff/viewstory.php?action=1144> for more on this story.

Martin Appointed Chief of Police. Eastern's new chief of police wants his department to better connect with the public -- both on campus and off. As interim chief, Kent Martin gave much thought to ways in which he can "get UPD reconnected to students, faculty and staff." A "Coffee with the Cops" event held earlier this month represents the type of informal interactions he has already planned to strengthen ties between various campus constituencies. Now that he's assumed the permanent role of chief, he can schedule other such events while exploring even more ways in which to familiarize the EIU and Charleston communities with his department.

Martin's appointment was announced by Lynette Drake, interim associate vice president for student affairs, following a national search process that brought three candidates to the EIU campus. "Chief Martin's knowledge of and commitment to the university is commendable. He is well respected within the local law enforcement community and has worked collaboratively through Eastern's police department with the city, county and state," Drake said. "I applaud his vision to enhance UPD's communication, visibility and interactions with campus constituents and community partners."

Martin, a 19-year veteran of Eastern's Police Department, replaces Adam Due, who retired Dec. 31, 2015, after more than 12 years in the position.

EIU Faculty Laureate Richard Jones Says General Education is Key to Becoming “Well-rounded Person.” As an incoming college freshman in the late 1990s, Jones already knew he wanted to someday teach. “I’d known I wanted to teach since I was 7,” he recalled. “And I expected to teach music. But, then I fell in love with communication.” All it took, he continued, were a couple of courses he completed shortly after enrolling in the University of North Carolina Greensboro – courses he may not have taken had they not been required under the school’s general education policy. “I think it’s wonderful what general education courses can do,” Jones said, “and how they contribute to a student’s college experience.

Now an associate professor of communication studies at EIU, Jones is sharing his enthusiasm for general education and attempting to persuade first-time students to take full advantage of related opportunities available to them as they begin their own academic careers. He’s doing so as EIU’s 2016 Faculty Laureate, an honor presented to him by the institution's Council on Academic Affairs.

See <http://castle.eiu.edu/~pubaff/viewstory.php?action=1142> for more on the story.

His convocation address can be found at <http://castle.eiu.edu/~pubaff/viewstory.php?action=1143>.

From the Chicago Tribune (Aug. 24, 2016):

EIU Student Teacher’s Back-to-School Welcome Gains National Attention. Dwayne Reed, who said he is "more excited than nervous" about starting the semester as a fourth-grade student teacher at Stenson Elementary School in Skokie, made a three-minute rap video to welcome his 24 students and introduce himself.

So long, printed newsletter. Hello, fun music video.

"I didn't want it to be boring and super old school," said Reed, 25. "I wanted to get them jazzed about coming to fourth grade."

See link to complete story and link to video at <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-chicago-teacher-rap-video-met-20160824-story.html>.

From the JG-TC (Aug. 25, 2016):

Five-Deck Art Piece to Serve as Community Hangout Spot. Among the numerous sculptures and other artworks scattered across EIU, construction remains underway to bring a new piece to the campus that is meant to not only be looked at but used. After over a month of on and off work, the piece, located on Ninth Street next to the Tarble Arts Center, is set to be finished Sept. 11, after which it will be open for public use.

A departure from other artworks showcased across campus, the Tarble Tables, made up of five wood pentagon decks covered by canopies, each connected but at different elevations, is meant to also be used as an optimal place for intimate conversations and connectivity, said Mike Schuetz, Tarble assistant director and exhibitions curator. At the center of each of these decks sits a table and benches made intentionally for the purpose of conversation.

Specifically, this artwork designed by Heather Hart, a New York-based artist, plays with the concept of Dunbar’s number, five, according to her website. This idea suggests that five is the ideal number of people to have at the table to maintain a cohesive conversation. “Any more and conversations split off and any less there is not enough discussion between the remaining

people,” Schuetz said. “The idea is that the tables themselves become a meeting place for the community.”

See http://jg-tc.com/news/deck-art-piece-to-serve-as-community-hangout-spot/article_228054dd-e611-5486-95f6-8fd9cbeb369a.html for the full story.

FOCUS ON ATHLETICS

Record 245 Student-Athletes Earn OVC Academic Medal of Honor; EIU Leads OVC with 37 Winners. It was announced in July that a record 245 Ohio Valley Conference student-athletes earned the OVC Academic Medal of Honor for the 2015-16 academic year. The OVC Academic Medal of Honor is given annually to the student-athletes who achieve the highest grade point average in a conference-sponsored sport. Every Academic Medal of Honor recipient for the 2015-16 academic year carried a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Eastern Illinois had the most selections with 37, while the sport of women's track and field was the sport with the most honorees league-wide (43).

The 245 recipients shattered the previous record of 212 honors from the 2012-13 academic year. Over the past five years, there have been 1,025 student-athletes earn the OVC Academic Medal of Honor.

EIU Athletics recently completed two renovation projects to its men's basketball and baseball locker rooms. The funds used for the renovations were raised through private donations for both teams.

EIU Athletics welcomed back its student-athletes for the 2016-17 academic year with its annual picnic prior the campus' First Night events. During the picnic, the EPIC Trophy (Eastern Panthers in the Community) was awarded to the Panthers men's soccer team. The trophy is awarded based on a combination of points that can be earned through academic team achievement, community service, leadership projects and success in competition.

EIU Athletics welcomed back a familiar face to its staff with the hiring of Kim Schuette as the Panthers' softball coach. Schuette was the head coach at Purdue the last three years. Prior to that, she had a successful eight-year run at EIU, including a pair of Ohio Valley Conference championships.

The EIU Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet will take place on Saturday, Oct. 8. This year's EIU Athletic Hall of Fame Class includes Jeff Christensen (football), Brett Nommensen (baseball), Sandyn Short Connolly (softball), Gabe Spezia (track), and Gail Richard (former EIU faculty athletic representative).

F. Other Matters

G. Public Comment