

Mohammad Albawaneh

Greetings, or Marhaba, as we say in Arabic. My name is Mohammad. I'm an Emporian at heart because I love biking. I made a promise to the 16th Emporia State president to endlessly serve the university that provided me with so many wonderful opportunities. Now, with recruitment materials and amazing stories of the Hornet Nation, I'm off to spread the word about my beloved alma mater to the people of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar. My name is Mohammad and I'm Hornet!

Emily Giffin

This is Emily, reporting to you from Emporia State. My life is all about journalism, photography, and sports. I have had several opportunities to flourish while at Emporia State. From covering events and taking photos for the Bulletin, to working as a Sports Writer and Photographer at the Emporia Gazette. Being a Hornet continues to be a blessing. Much like my journalism professor at Emporia State, Max McCoy, author of the four original Indiana Jones novels, my dream is to become a well-known writer. My name is Emily and I'm a Hornet!

Elvira Avdeyeva

On your marks, get set, GO! I'm Elvira and running is part of my lifestyle. Right now I am training for a half marathon benefitting sick children. I am a dreamer and believer. I believe that dreams come true if you work hard for them. Now, as the first Turkmenistan student in Emporia State history, I am living my dream. I spent my summer as an intern in Washington D.C. and I can't wait to continue making my dreams come true in the land of opportunity. My name is Elvira and I'm a Hornet!

Courtney Weber

Hey there, I'm Courtney. Working with kids and making math fun brings me joy, but on an especially stressful day, a little painting is just what I need. Next year, I will graduate with a degree in elementary education with an endorsement in middle school mathematics. I hope to make an impact on every student I have. I want kids to love learning and I can't wait to watch them succeed. My name is Courtney and I'm a Hornet!

Malek Albawanih

Hello, I'm Malek. In my previous job as a project manager, I discovered my love for traveling. In eight years I visited over twelve countries! But, because I believe having an education from the U.S. is irreplaceable, I moved to Emporia to pursue my master's degree. The Hornet nation feels like home because here, I have family, friends and people who are willing to help and support me anytime, anywhere. My name is Malek and I'm a Hornet!

Taryn Siegrist

Hey, I'm Taryn. I love fashion and how it lets me express myself. Two years ago I came to Emporia on a whim. That was one of the best decisions I have ever made. During my time here, I have studied communication, planned events for the university, worked in the university marketing department, and interned at a socially conscious fashion company. Now, with one high heel in front of the other, I will begin my career as a social media manager. Hashtag stingers up! My name is Taryn and I'm a Hornet!

Brianna Spence

"Speak up,/ Speak your mind,/ Let others know who you are,/ And don't be afraid". I'm Brianna and I'm a poet. My first poem was published when I was in the third grade. Creative outlets continue to push me out of my comfort zone and in the direction of my dreams. Now, I'm living my dream of being a member of the Emporia State Honors College. In the future, I would like to teach high school English and publish an entire book of poetry. My name is Brianna and I'm a Hornet!

Paddy Cameron

Hey all, I'm Patrick, but most call me Paddy. Back home in New Zealand you can find me playing rugby with my mates or spending time on the beach, but I moved to Emporia to study business and play tennis. While I'm here I will finish my degree, learn another language and fight harder than ever on the tennis courts. After four years of hard work and support from fellow Hornets, I hope to achieve my ultimate goal; playing tennis professionally in Europe. My name is Patty and I'm a Hornet!

Ryan Howerton

Hey I'm Ryan, your 6th floor North Tower, Resident Assistant at Emporia State! I love being an RA because I get to meet so many awesome Hornets. The Art Education program is what drew me to Emporia. It's such a strong program with amazing faculty. I love studying artists who have helped create a new movement in history, but for me, a good piece of art is a piece that makes people happy. To keep spreading the joy after graduation, I plan to teach art to high school and eventually college students. My name is Ryan and I'm a Hornet!

Courtney Romero

And Action! Hey. I'm Courtney. My freshman year at Emporia State my roommate and I started a Youtube Channel. Words of Encouragement. I film and edit the videos with the goal of spreading positivity and encouragement to those around me. I also work behind the scenes for Emporia State Theatre. My Fine Arts major allows me to work on makeup design, costuming and so much more. With my desire to spread positivity, and my diploma in hand, I hope to work

for Walt Disney World and eventually run my own children's theatre. My name is Courtney and I'm a Hornet!

Warrick Rodgers

Cheers everybody, I'm Warrick. I traveled about ten thousand miles from Zimbabwe to become a Hornet and I am determined to make the most of my experience. While in the States I've discovered my passion for web-design and computer languages, became a dual major in Computer Science and Psychology and joined a fraternity. I'd also like to start a water polo club and learn two new languages before I graduate. With unique experiences gained, along with an excellent education, I hope to land my dream job at Google. My name is Warrick and I'm a Hornet!

Sage Thompson

Hey. I'm Sage. You have probably seen me *flying* down the streets of Emporia on my longboard. *Nothing* makes me feel free-er. I also write music and play guitar. My dream is to travel the world, share my music and make a *difference* in the lives of children throughout my life. In November, my adventure begins! I will be student teaching in Paraguay and hope to touch *many* people through my music. My name is Sage and I'm a Hornet!

Natasha McCurdy

Attention! Specialist McCurdy here. I'm in the national guard. In the military, I am *always* improving my leadership skills. Last year, I was elected *President* of the event planning board on campus. I *love* serving the university and building *leaders*. My passion for serving my community and making a *difference* has influenced my decision to apply to be a State Trooper. After all, if there's *one* thing I've learned, it's that with the support of Emporia State, you can do *anything*. My name is Natasha and I'm a Hornet!

Brandon Gentz

Hey, I'm Brandon. I play football at Emporia State University. Emporia is my hometown, so I have been dreaming of playing for this team since I was a kid. The experience has been more than I *ever* thought it would be. Coach Higgins has always emphasized being successful on *and* off the field. This December, I will graduate from Emporia State. Whether I'm coaching or working in sales, I will rely on the experiences and skills I took from Emporia State to lead to my success. My name is Brandon and I'm a Hornet.

Brent Thomas

"Hello! I'm Brent, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Emporia State. I am a biologist that studies reptiles and amphibians, so my Facebook timeline is filled with pictures of snakes and turtles. Pursuing a college education was a good decision and a wise investment.

Education opens many doors and *incredible* opportunities. With an education from Emporia State University, *great* ability and drive, you will *absolutely* exceed your potential. My name is Brent and I'm a Hornet!"

Ken Weaver

Hi, I'm Ken, Dean of The Teachers College. As my 30th year with Emporia State begins, I've been thinking a lot about *dreams*. My job is to make students' dreams come true by maintaining an environment that ensures exceptional learning. *My* dream is to create student study abroad opportunities for *every* major in The Teachers College. Every day, I look forward to working with ESU students, faculty, staff, and alumni to accomplish our goals. It has been wonderful to see the energy and the enthusiasm for the university build year after year. My name is Ken and I'm a Hornet.

John Rich

Greetings! I'm John, Interim Dean of the School of Business. My college years were *life-changing*. My life was *enriched* through endless opportunities, both challenging *and* exciting. I became an accountant and CPA because I found the profession challenging yet *rewarding*. Now, as an accounting professor at Emporia State, I enjoy meeting students who share my passion for *pushing* self limitations and *achieving* success. Every day, I *strive* to help make their college experience as *great* as mine was. My name is John and I'm a Hornet.

Amanda Brabec

Hi, I'm Amanda! I have always been passionate about helping others. I feel so blessed to have had so many opportunities to do so at Emporia State. This Fall, I will be starting the master's program for School Psychology. This is an exciting time in my life! I am preparing to attend the largest psychology conference in the U.S. in August and hopefully publish a study on bullying this year. In the future, I would love to teach at the university level and make an impact on someone's future, like my professors at Emporia State have done for me. My name is Amanda and I'm a Hornet!

Ariel Lambert

Hey I'm Ariel! I'm a Communication major. I have learned *so* much from my professors and my student job in Human Resources, and I feel I have found my *true* calling in building relationships with a variety of people. Of course, student life isn't *always* easy. One of my favorite things about Emporia State is how *beautiful* the campus looks in the Fall as the leaves are changing. It's the *perfect* time to *distress* by hiking the campus trails or reading a book under one of the *many* gorgeous trees on campus. My name is Ariel and I'm a Hornet!