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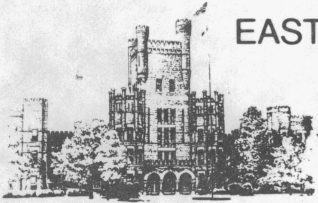
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

KREHBIEL REFLECTS ON YEARS IN MUSIC

CHARLESTON, IL.--After 25 years at Eastern Illinois University. James Krehbiel, chair of EIU's Music Department, will retire in August, after the summer school term.

Krehbiel received his bachelor's of Music Education degree from Bethany College in Kansas and completed his graduate and post-graduate work at Indiana University, majoring in Music Theory and minoring in Music Composition and French Literature.

He spent 1956 in France, studying the French language at Sorbonne, Universite de Paris. He also completed studies in Solfege with Marcelle Soulage and Harmonie with Maurice Durufle at the Conservatoire National de Musique in Paris, before coming to Eastern in 1965 as an Assistant Professor of Music.

The growth of Eastern's Music Department has been one of the biggest changes Krehbiel said he's witnessed during his time at Eastern: "My office used to be in a house on Johnson Street and was later moved to Coleman Hall. Now, rather than being a small department, we have 158 student music majors and 31 faculty in five sub-departments."

The Department continues to grow. There's been a 40 percent increase in the number of majors in the last five years, according to Krehbiel. "Next year's freshman class will be the largest group [of majors] we've had in the last 15 years," he said.

His favorite part of the job, he says, is working with students. He currently teaches several classes in addition to his duties as department chair, which include assigning classes to instructors and making evaluative decisions, he said. After retiring, he will continue to teach part-time.

Music education is pertinent to everyone, Krehbiel explained: "Music is important in life. Turn on the radio, and three-quarters of what you hear is music; you find it all around you. A lot of people listen to music without ever thinking of it in an expanded sense or realizing its cultural significance."

"Eastern's music department is very good, and we're improving each year. This is an up-and-coming school."

"It's been a great 25 years," Krehbiel said.