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April 29, 2003

For Immediate Release:

EIU "CELEBRATION" TO FEATURE STUDENT CURATORS, LOCAL/STUDENT ARTISANS

CHARLESTON – The historical administration students of Eastern Illinois University want the public to put them to the test.

As part of this year's Celebration: A Festival of the Arts, individuals are invited to bring artifacts and/or pictures of artifacts to be reviewed. While these graduate students will not be allowed to appraise the items, they will be able to discuss and analyze each object, including production and history, and offer advice as to each item's appropriate care.

Debra A. Reid, assistant professor of history at Eastern, will oversee the "Meet the Curator" event, scheduled to take place from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 3, in the University Union bridge lounge. There will be no fee for the assessments.

Those taking their items for review will get a bird's eye view of the Library Quad where many other Celebration activities, including plenty of art demonstrations, will be taking place throughout the weekend. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 4. Most all events are free to the public.

Sand artist Ray Wierck of Marietta, Ga., will take his place near the northwest corner of the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Known internationally for his giant sand sculpture, Wierck will create yet another piece of wonder as viewers watch.

Nearby, EIU advanced ceramics students Joel Weidinger of Mattoon, Jay Loomis of Springfield and Daniel McCabe of Beverly will demonstrate "techniques of pottery" throughout the day. Raku firings will take place at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily.

A fourth student – Logan Hamilton of Galesburg – will exhibit methods of pottery decoration. Ceramic creations by all four men will be available for sale.

Also available for purchase will be items by Dave Hunter and Matt Hemmeth, both of Charleston and both of whom specialize in glasswork. Those demonstrations and sales also will take place in the University Union bridge lounge.

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Other artisans planning to attend Celebration with their talents and wares include Gary Fuller of Charleston, who specializes in Native American crafts, weaving and pottery, and EIU alumnus Scott Lindley of Mount Pulaski, (formerly of Marshall), who makes a living creating and selling kinetic sculptures. According to Celebration organizers, Lindley plans to demonstrate the creation of sculpted furniture.

In addition to the above-mentioned demonstrators, more than 30 other arts booths will have items for sale.

Children's activities will include "Box City," where junior "Celebrators" can paint graffiti on the "buildings" and life drawings by volunteer EIU art students. These and other children's events, including face painting, are being co-sponsored by the Coles County Arts Council and SACIS (Sexual Assault Counseling & Information Services).

Eastern's Tarble Arts Center also plans to offer special children's events to festival attendees.