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For Immediate Release:

NOTED EXPERTS, SHARED RESEARCH FEATURED IN EIU FORUM SERIES

CHARLESTON -- What is it like to study in Russia and what can be done to prevent school and community violence are among the questions explored in two February forums that will kick off a two-month forum series sponsored by Eastern Illinois University's Graduate School and other campus academic offices.

The 1999 Forum Series begins on Monday, Feb. 22, with a look at the Russian education system by Elena Demianova, a professor of Russian as a foreign language at Herzen Pedagogical University in St. Petersburg, Russia. Demianova, who is serving as Eastern's first visiting international scholar, will speak from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Buzzard Hall Auditorium. Her talk, and a reception that will follow, are both free and open to the public.

Demianova will review the structure of the Russian school system, curriculum,

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grading system and provisions for students with disabilities. She has published a number of articles on topics related to teaching Russian to foreign students and the Russian educational system and has taught at universities in the United States, Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Finland.

Richard James, a nationally renowned expert in crisis intervention, will visit Eastern on Thursday, Feb. 25, to present the second graduate forum on "Crisis Intervention with the Estranged Violent Juvenile Offender." He will speak from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the University Union's Charleston-Mattoon Rooms.

James will present the latest research on the growing number of school-age, violent youngsters who threaten and assault in school/community settings. "These isolated and estranged youth with frightening potential for lethal violence can terrorize and paralyze communities. They are very difficult to pre-identify and present enormous challenges for both prevention and treatment professionals," he said. He noted that it is important for school, mental health and law enforcement professionals to collaborate to design and implement practical community/school strategies that can protect against further tragic schoolyard incidents.

Currently a distinguished professor at the University of Memphis, James earned a master's degree from Eastern and has co-authored two best-selling textbooks -- one in counseling theory and the second on crisis intervention strategies.

"We are pleased to again be offering the Graduate Forum which provides opportunities for graduate students and graduate faculty to share research and hear

presentations from state and national experts,” said Robert Augustine, acting dean of Eastern’s Graduate School. “All the forums are open to the university community and to the public and give participants the opportunity to meet presenters during receptions following the forums.”

Augustine said nine forums will be held through April 9 on topics covering the quality of graduate education, faculty research opportunities, economic forecasting, managed care and speech-language pathology and audiology in the next millennium.

Guest presenters include Kathy Roberts, executive director of the Coles County Mental Health Center; Jennifer Grant Haworth from Loyola University of Chicago, co-author of *Emblems of Quality in Higher Education*; Nancy Swigert, president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; Paul Straub of Marketing Analytics of Chicago; and John Oskin of FactoryWare in Evanston.

A fair showcasing research projects by faculty in the College of Education and Professional Studies, a technology forum led by representatives from EIU’s School of Technology and Information Technology Services, and demonstrations in Eastern’s technology laboratories round out the series.

The culminating event will be an April 15 ceremony recognizing EIU graduate students’ achievements.

For information, contact Eastern’s Graduate School at 581-2220. A schedule of the forums is available on the web at <http://www.eiu.edu/~graduate/forum.html>.