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May 6, 2003

For Immediate Release:

MORE THAN 1,550 ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE DEGREES FROM EIU

CHARLESTON – More than 1,550 students are eligible to graduate from Eastern Illinois University this spring, and the majority of those plan to participate in formal commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 10.

Graduation ceremonies will take place at 9 a.m., noon, 3 and 6 p.m. in Lantz Arena. Guest tickets are required for admission into the ceremonies.

Students from the College of Sciences will march in the morning ceremony; the College of Arts and Humanities at noon; the College of Education and Professional Studies and the School of Continuing Education (Board of Trustees B.A. Degree) at 3 p.m., and the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences at 6.

Graduate students will walk with their respective colleges.

Addressing graduates at all four ceremonies will be **Alison M. Mormino**, student body president from Alton, and **Anne R. Zahlan**, chair, EIU Faculty Senate.

Representing Eastern's Board of Trustees will be **Betsy D. Mitchell** (9 a.m.), **Marty Ruhaak** (noon), **Dr. Roger Dettro** (3 p.m.) and **Julie Nimmons** (6 p.m.).

Each ceremony also will feature a special guest speaker, each of whom is an EIU alumnus and who will present the official commencement address:

**Jason Anselment**, who is a 1997 EIU graduate, will speak at 9 a.m. While at Eastern, he served as student body president and as the charter student member of the EIU Board of Trustees. Anselment earned his juris doctorate degree magna cum laude from the University of Illinois in May 2001, passed the bar exam in July 2001, and was sworn into the Illinois bar in November 2001 and the bar for the Central District of Illinois federal court in December 2001. He currently is employed as an associate attorney with the Hart, Southworth and Witsman law firm in Springfield, Ill.

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**Dario Covi**, a 1943 Eastern alumnus, will speak at noon. He is a distinguished art historian, recognized regionally, nationally and internationally. Covi is professor emeritus of the University Art Collection at the Allen R. Hite Art Institute of the University of Louisville.

**Larry Smith**, commencement speaker at both the 3 and 6 p.m. ceremonies, serves as the prime time sports correspondent for CNN Headline News. While at Eastern, Smith worked at WEIU-TV and WLBH radio in Mattoon. Before moving on to CNN, he worked at WICD-TV in Champaign, a television station in Knoxville, Tenn., and WPTV in Palm Beach, Fla.

Also as part of this year's commencement ceremonies, **William Kirk** and **Luis Felipe Clay Mendez**, professors of psychology and foreign languages, respectively, will formally receive their Distinguished Faculty Awards. This award is presented annually to full-time faculty members who have excelled in teaching, professional research/creative activity and service.

Spring 2003 commencement marshals are:

- ▶ **Lawrence W. Bates**, associate professor of economics, representing the College of Sciences during the 9 a.m. ceremony. Bates has been a member of Eastern's faculty since 1970.
- ▶ **Bruce Guernsey**, professor of English, representing the College of Arts and Humanities during the noon ceremony. Guernsey has been a member of Eastern's faculty since 1978.
- ▶ **John M. Craft**, associate professor of physical education, representing the College of Education and Professional Studies at the 3 p.m. ceremony. Craft has been a member of Eastern's faculty since 1970.
- ▶ **Waldo L. Born**, associate professor in the School of Business, representing the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences at the 6 p.m. ceremony. Born has been a member of Eastern's faculty since 1988.

This year's faculty marshals, given the honor of carrying the college banner for his or her college, are **Raymond Pheifer**, geology/geography, representing the College of Sciences, and **Britto P. Nathan**, biological sciences, representing COS and the Graduate School, 9 a.m. ceremony; **Allan L. Horney**, music, representing the College of Arts and Humanities, and **Ruth Hoberman**, English, representing CAH and the Graduate School, noon ceremony; **Judith Lyles**, counseling and student development, representing the College of Education and Professional Studies, **Scott A.G.M. Crawford**, physical education, representing CEPS and the Graduate

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School, and **William Reed Benedict**, sociology/anthropology, representing the School of Continuing Education, 3 p.m. ceremony; and **John Messer**, School of Technology, representing the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences, and **Peter Ping Liu**, School of Technology, representing LCBAS and the Graduate School, 6 p.m. ceremony.

Special recognition will be given to five Livingston C. Lord Scholarship recipients. These prestigious scholarships, named after Eastern's first president, are presented annually at commencement to junior-status students who plan to pursue careers in elementary or secondary education.

This year's recipients are Audrey S. Cler, Villa Grove; Rebecca R. Leslie, Decatur; Robert William Lincoln, Belleville; Dixie L. Moorman, Rushville; and Sarah Elizabeth Sellers, Troy.