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97-53

February 18, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU TO HOLD PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM

CHARLESTON -- Rachelle Bergmann, chair of the physics department at Eastern Illinois University, will present a talk on "Java and Physics Animations" at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27 in the Physical Science Building, room 215.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Software engineers at Sun Microsystems developed Java in 1994. Software applications written in Java can be platform independent. Most importantly, the Java language allows the development of Applets, which are restricted applications easily distributed over the World Wide Web and runnable from any browser.

Material developed for Web-based distance learning courses must be platform independent. Interactive animations written as Applets may be particularly useful for delivering physics demonstrations and exercises over the Web.

Bergmann will discuss what Java is and isn't, show some Applet examples and how they are placed on the Web, and share

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experiences as a novice Java Applet developer.

The 1996-97 physics colloquium series is sponsored by the Department of Physics and Faculty Development, and features talks about current topics in physics and topics of special interest to students, faculty and the community.

For further information about this series, contact Donald Pakey at 581-6338.