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For Immediate Release:

## CARPENTER, SANDERS TO RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARDS AT EIU

CHARLESTON – David A. Carpenter and George P. Sanders, professors of English and Music respectively, have been named the 2002 recipients of Eastern Illinois University's Distinguished Faculty Award.

They will be recognized for their accomplishments at the 3 p.m. commencement ceremony Saturday, May 4, in Lantz Arena.

The Distinguished Faculty Award is presented to faculty members with at least four years of full-time teaching experience and who excel in teaching, professional research/creative activity and service. Recipients receive a small monetary award, in addition to a plaque.

The selection of the two men, both faculty members in Eastern's College of Arts and Humanities, was based, in part, on letters submitted by colleagues, friends and students to the Distinguished Faculty Award Selection Committee.

Carpenter, who arrived at EIU's campus in 1986 and has received three Faculty Excellence Awards, was lauded as a committed "educator, scholar and tireless servant of the university."

"It is with great joy and pride that I nominate David A. Carpenter for this well-deserved professional recognition," wrote Luis Felipe Clay Méndez, EIU professor of Spanish. "As a teacher, his (student evaluations) generally and invariably reflect the mutual respect between him and his students, who praise him for his knowledge of the subject matter, his excellent lectures and his willingness to make himself available beyond the classroom.

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

"Teaching for Dr. Carpenter is not mere employment; it is, rather, a driving *raison-d'etre*, and he loses himself in it."

Jeffrey Lynch, associate dean of CAH and fellow English professor, wrote that Carpenter's "service record is such that it need no rehearsal here. Rarely does a campus of our size feel the impact of one individual as much as we have.

"David's many and substantive contributions as a campus leader, his tireless advocacy of shared governance and faculty rights, of a more diffused decision making and his insistence on the maintenance of academic standards of excellence and integrity have combined to make him one of the most important voices in Eastern's community," Lynch continued.

John Allison, also a professor of English, discussed Carpenter's history of research and creative activity.

"Apart from encouraging the scholarship of others by serving as editor of *Research and Review* for six years running, he has published widely and well. His published work includes three books (one authored, two edited), numerous scholarly articles published in books and in such premier journals of American literature as *American Literature* and *American Literary Realism*, original works of fiction and poetry, and numerous reviews reflecting his vast reading and considerable reputation.

"Through his energy and dedication, (Carpenter) has achieved what it means to be a 'teacher/scholar,'" Allison wrote.

"I'm greatly honored to receive the award from a comprehensive university such as Eastern, an institution characterized by its excellent and dedicated faculty," Carpenter said. "Besides that, receiving this recognition with such an accomplished professional as George Sanders makes the honor even more gratifying."

George Sanders joined the music faculty in September 1964. Since then, in addition to his teaching duties, he has performed as a solo pianist, accompanist, chamber music performer and duo-pianist in hundreds of programs on- and off-campus.

"George Sanders' creative activity as a pianist is exemplary in every way," wrote Marilyn Coles, professor of music. "It would be fair to suggest that he has performed more than any other music faculty member. For every concert or performance of any kind that he has played, that means there have been countless hours and, often, weeks and months spent practicing and perfecting that music.

"I, personally, have always enjoyed working with Dr. Sanders, partly because I know that

he will never be satisfied until he has brought the music to as close to perfection as possible," she added.

Also mentioned in the creative area were two published articles written by Sanders about the piano music of Charles Griffes and the pedagogy of Bruce Simonds.

A former student supported Sanders' nomination by writing that he learned one very important truth about education from Sanders which holds true, no matter what subject is taught.

"If the teacher is excited about the subject matter, the students will be much more motivated to learn," wrote James C. Dedman, an Urbana attorney, former teacher and former music history student of Sanders'.

"No teacher I had at Eastern was more excited about his subject than Dr. Sanders. I can still see him standing before the class, talking about the musical selection he was going to present as if he could hardly wait to hear it again himself.

"What Dr. Sanders taught me was passed on to others and, perhaps, passed on again. That, I think, is the true mark of a great teacher," Dedman concluded.

Herman Taylor, former professor/chair of Eastern's Department of Music, cited Sanders' service activities within the department (Curriculum, Graduate, Personnel, Faculty Search and Ad Hoc committees) and to EIU (Artists Series Board, Tarble Arts Center Chamber Music Series, Celebration Festival of the Arts, Judicial Board, Founders' Day Committee and various scholarship committees).

And as for community service, Sanders has chaired the music division of the Coles County Arts Council, delivered Peace Meals, assisted at Hospice fund-raisers and participated in church activities.

For 10 years, Sanders coordinated music auditions and chaired state conventions for the Illinois State Music Teachers Association. Over a 30-plus-year period, he has evaluated a few thousand students in piano auditions for the National Guild of Piano Teachers. He also has adjudicated many piano competitions since 1964.

Donald A. Peterson, an EIU alumnus who sang on one of Sanders' recitals last year, supported his friend's nomination by writing, "George Sanders' loyalty to Eastern Illinois University is exemplified by his long tenure, the thousands of students who have benefitted by his instruction, and his continuous performance schedule that has greatly enhanced the cultural life of the university."

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DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

In expressing his gratitude for the award, Sanders said, "Because of my veneration for both Eastern Illinois University and the award shared between the esteemed Dr. Carpenter and myself, I have a deep sense of gratitude for the award's selection committee, and for my peers and the students in the music department.

"What a marvelous privilege having EIU as my only employer for 38 years, and having music at the core of the experience! With anticipation of retirement now, the award brings perfect closure to my tenure at Eastern. "