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05/23/1990 - Students and Faculty Awarded Grants

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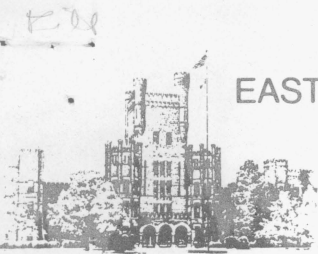
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

STUDENTS/FACULTY AWARDED GRANTS

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's newly established Undergraduate Research Council is introducing students to the "real" nature of research by awarding its first series of undergraduate research grants for next fall, according to Council Chairman Herbert Lasky.

Lasky said six out of 33 grant applicants were selected to conduct research in various disciplines across campus. Each grantee has a faculty sponsor who will serve as project supervisor. "The quality of all 33 grant proposals was very good," Lasky said.

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Awardees and their faculty sponsors include sophomore Mary Lamczyk, junior Gary Brown and Howard Black, associate professor of chemistry; junior Angela Forliano and Judith James, associate professor of zoology; senior Rebecca Lawson, junior Todd Magruder and Kip McGilliard, associate professor of zoology; and junior Jason Smith and Keith Andrew, associate professor of physics.

In her project, "Synthesis of Heritol," Lamczyk will attempt the chemical synthesis of a naturally-occurring molecule which possesses selective toxicity to certain plants. Since it is naturally-occurring, it has potential use as an ecologically safe herbicide.

Brown's project, "A Synthesis for Formation of an Unsaturated Gamma-Lactone," deals with the development of a general chemical synthesis of a series of molecules produced by some bacteria which display antibiotic properties. Current syntheses require over 20 steps; Brown's route, if successful, will entail only five.

In her project, "Effects of Hypoxia on Newborn Rat Respiration," Lawson will produce a breathing disorder in newborn rats, treat it with a variety of drugs to determine which ones are beneficial and apply the research to newborn infants with breathing disorders.

Magruder plans to test the effects of 1,3-dipropylxanthine, a drug related to caffeine, in newborn rats to find out if it stimulates breathing.

Forliano will determine when Arginine Kinase, an enzyme related to energy supply, first appears in the development of eggs of the fruit fly and how it differs from the adult form of the enzyme.

Smith will look for changes that occur in the creation and evolution of the universe using the Cray Supercomputer at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at Urbana.

Lasky said grant recipients are expected to publish the results of their projects or give papers at an appropriate meeting summarizing the results of their work.

The Undergraduate Research Council will award a second series of grants next fall semester for Spring 1991.