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## 02/24/1989 - Durham To Retire

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DURHAM TO RETIRE AFTER 34 YEARS

CHARLESTON, IL.--Seeing his students achieve success has been most satisfying to Dr. Leonard Durham, Associate Dean of Eastern Illinois University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Professor of Zoology and, up until Feb. 1, Acting Chair of the Foreign Language Department.

Durham will soon end 34 years at Eastern where he has advanced up the ranks to serve in such posts as Director of the Division of Life Sciences, Director of the Environmental Biology Program and Chairman of the Department of Zoology.

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"My true love is zoology," said Durham, who was instrumental in developing Eastern's undergraduate environmental biology program and later initiating a master of science degree program in environmental biology.

"Eastern's environmental biology program was also the first in Illinois and much of the country to incorporate internships into its requirements. That's what has led to great success in job placement for our graduates," he said.

"When I was hired, I was told there were 1,500 students enrolled in the University. There turned out to be 1,800 and I got to know most of them.

"Seeing students succeed in the areas they have been trained has been the highlight of my teaching experience in the areas of general zoology, ichthyology and fisheries management," he added.

"It has also been a unique experience having worked under five of six University presidents and seeing the gradual development of the administrative structure of the University," Durham said.

Durham, with the assistance of Dr. Steve Whitley, Eastern's Director of General Education and Senior Seminar, boasts of garnishing almost \$800,000 in research grants and contracts since 1964.

"Since Eastern is not known as a research institution, I am pleased with the number of grants and contracts that the University has received," he said.

These grants have been used for cyanide, water and trout studies among others. "A good portion of my research has been on the effects of thermal pollution on fish populations," said Durham, who with the help of a colleague, developed the first known electrical boat shocker.

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Durham has also completed biological surveys of all the streams in Coles County, the Little Vermilion River and Illinois River and has served as a consultant on thermal pollution to major power companies and industries throughout the U.S.

Although Durham has been involved in many state and national organizations and committees, he takes particular pride in his involvement with the work of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, the Illinois Department of Conservation Advisory Board and his previous post as state editor of the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII newsletter.

Both Durham and his wife, Olga, served on the Charleston City Council for eight years.

While hunting, fishing, golf and stamp collecting will keep Durham busy in his retirement, he plans to continue his research in fisheries management and assist Eastern faculty in expanding the Zoology Department's fish collection.

He and his wife reside in Charleston and also have a home near Venice, Fla. They have four children, all of whom are former Eastern students.

