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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

CHARLESTON -- Two Eastern Illinois University faculty members have been elected officers of the East Central Illinois Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA).

**Marta Ladd**, assistant professor of journalism, was elected president. As president, Ladd said she hopes to create greater awareness about the role of public relations. She has been at Eastern and with PRSA for nine years. She has more than 20 years of experience in public relations and journalism.

**Christine R. Helsel**, Ph.D., associate professor of speech communication, was elected for a third term as secretary. Helsel has been with the chapter since 1990 and said she plans to schedule more development activities for the chapter.

Also elected were Bill Veach, State Universities Retirement System, as vice president, and Helen Adorjan, Filson-Gordon Associates, Springfield, as treasurer.

Heather Williams, Urbana Park District, and Andrea Chesnut, Champaign County Forest Preserve, were elected to the board of directors.

Assembly delegates are Gary Koch, Office of the Attorney General, Springfield, and Rick Kubetz, Champaign County Chamber of Commerce. Past president is Jim Williams, Country Companies, Bloomington.

Officers were elected at the December meeting of PRSA at Jumer's in Champaign where Joe Vecchione, APR, vice president of Prudential Insurance Co. and national president of the Public Relations Society of America, New York City, NY., was the featured speaker.

PRSA is the national association for those individuals practicing or teaching public relations. There are approximately 14,000 members nationwide.

-- Eastern Illinois University recently recognized Suzanne Mathews of Kansas and Cathy McConkey of Oakland as Civil Service "Employees of the Month" for December and January, respectively. They were chosen from more than 900 Eastern civil employees for their outstanding job performance.

**Mathews**, a secretary in the housing office, completes general

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office duties and makes address changes for students. She earned an associate's degree from Lake Land College and has been at Eastern for nine years. She and her husband, Bill, have seven children: Vicky, 37; Marty, 34; Roxana, 30; Melinda, 28; Greg, 27; David, 22; and Allison, 20. They also have seven grandchildren.

**McConkey**, a secretary in Eastern's Office of Safety Programs, began working at the university in December 1993. Her duties include coordinating campus alcohol and traffic safety programs with other Illinois colleges and universities. She is currently working on a bachelor's degree in business management and career occupations. McConkey has three children: Trevor, 17; Catrina, 13; and Karen, 5.