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For Immediate Release:

BLAIR HALL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FIND NOTE, CIRCA 1913, FROM ORIGINAL BUILDERS

CHARLESTON – While renovating Eastern Illinois University's Blair Hall on Tuesday, workers found a note, dated 92 years ago today, from two of the building's original construction workers.

The paper, placed in a Prince Albert tobacco tin, conveyed this pencil-written message: "This room finished by Elmer Goodman and John Bates Aug. 12, 1913."

At the request of an EIU employee, Charleston Carnegie Public Library employees referenced a 1912 city directory that verified that Goodman and Bates were carpenters who lived in Charleston.

The tin was located on the east side of the first floor, in an area most recently housed by University Counsel.

The building, the third-oldest on campus, was heavily damaged by fire in April 2004. Renovations are expected to be completed next spring.

The note was found before workers attended Tuesday's appreciation luncheon honoring approximately 275 construction workers for the important role they play in campus projects, which provide an economic boon for the area.