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05/19/1987 - EIU Art Programs Accredited

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (May 19, 1987)

CHARLESTON, ILL.--The four undergraduate and the graduate art programs of Eastern Illinois University are now nationally accredited.

The National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) executive director Samuel Hope announced the accreditation at his Reston, Va. headquarters. The Eastern art department joins a select group of 140 other accredited universities, less than 10 percent of the 1,500 institutions offering art instruction.

"We are obviously proud of this achievement by our art faculty. The department is a strong one. This accreditation will undoubtedly attract more undergraduate and graduate students," Dr. Stanley G. Rives, EIU president, said.

With 21 faculty members and 221 majors, the EIU art department is the largest department within the College of Fine Arts. The undergraduate options offered are studio, graphic design, art history, and art education. The graduate option is a Master of Arts in studio.

The NASAD accreditation is for a five-year period. Conducting the visitation were Prof. James A. Broderick, University of Texas at San Antonio, and Prof. Grace Hampton, Pennsylvania State University.

During the next five years Hope said Eastern will need to expand its physical facilities for art in order to retain its newly-won accreditation. The visitation report termed the present graduate studios as "minimally adequate." It listed as "too small" the facilities for painting, graphic design, weaving, and metalsmithing.

"Recognition of excellence by an agency as prestigious as NASAD is indeed a tribute to Eastern's art department," said Dr. Vaughn Jaenike, Dean of the

College of Fine Arts.

James K. Johnson, Department Chairman, said:

"With this recognition, students electing to major in art at Eastern will do so with the assurance that their academic experience will be of the highest quality."

The NASAD report noted that Eastern is engaged in a major fund raising campaign to build new studios for students and faculty. Approximately half of the \$350,000 goal for 15 studios has been raised as part of the EIU Tenth Decade Campaign. President Rives indicated that the primary goal of the EIU Foundation in 1987 will be to finish raising the funds for the art studios.

Eastern is one of a handful of universities to receive art accreditation on the first attempt. "It is not routine for institutions to be accepted on their initial application," said Eugene Wicks, NASAD president, and director, School of Art and Design, University of Illinois.

Noted among the EIU art department's strengths were a faculty dedicated to teaching and a strong art curriculum. Ninety-five per cent of the faculty hold a terminal degree and all studio professors have had works purchased by museums, galleries and private collections.