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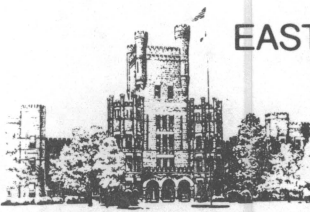
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File



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PIERSON REFLECTS ON YEARS AT EASTERN:

CHARLESTON, IL.--Gerald Pierson of Charleston, associate professor of Secondary Education and Foundations at Eastern Illinois University, will retire in August, after 27 years at the University.

In his education classes, Pierson helps prepare students working toward teacher certification to enter the working world.

"I started out in Blair Hall teaching social science methods [of instruction] classes and working with student teachers. I've taught adult education on- and off-campus, and now I teach mainly foundations courses, particularly the History and Philosophy of Education."

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PIERSON REFLECTS ON 27 YEARS AT EASTERN

He said his favorite part of his job is working with students. Asked how students have changed over the years, Pierson replied, "I don't think they have. The majority of Eastern's students have always been conscientious."

Originally from Robinson, Pierson received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Social Science Education from Eastern in 1949 and 1955, respectively, and taught at Lawrenceville Township High School from 1949-1963. He completed advanced study in Secondary Education and Educational Philosophy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1979.

While at Eastern, he has served on numerous committees, including the College of Education Test Validation Committee, the Faculty Senate, and the Health Service Student/Faculty Board.

He has also been a member of the Illinois Association of Teacher Educators, the Midwest Philosophy of Education Society, and the Illinois State Board of Education's inspection team, which evaluated teacher education programs at Monmouth College, Southern Illinois University, and Augustana College.

Eastern has undergone many changes in the time Pierson has been here. "The size of the campus is the most obvious difference," he said. He feels the quality of Eastern's education has improved over the years: "We work our students harder; we're demanding more and I think it's paid off. Eastern's students are competitive in the job market."

"Of course," he continued, "there are some regrets. Eastern is being squeezed hard financially."

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PIERSON REFLECTS ON 27 YEARS AT EASTERN

Pierson would advise students who are entering the working world to "work hard and evaluate yourself often to be sure you're satisfying yourself as well as your employer. Look forward to each day as much as possible and try to keep a positive outlook."

Pierson said he enjoys teaching, but is looking forward to retirement as well: "Eventually, my wife and I will travel in this country and possibly overseas."