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May 6, 1995

FOR RELEASE AFTER 5 P.M. TODAY (Saturday, May 6)

JORNS ASKS GRADUATES TO REMEMBER THE PROCESS

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University graduated the largest class in its history during its Centennial year spring commencement held Saturday on the Library Quad.

As a fitting conclusion to EIU's Centennial year, President David Jorns asked the 1,800 graduates to reflect on the "process" of living.

He recalled the many changes Eastern has experienced since it was first known as Eastern Illinois State Normal School. He commented on Old Main, the university's first building, built in 1899, and its position as the venerable symbol of tradition and authority on campus, and how it too is involved in the "process" of changing.

He noted that in philosophy, the "process" of "becoming" is often discussed. "I have always assumed that this meant we never actually 'become' anything, but rather that we are always in the process of 'becoming.'"

Jorns charged graduates to remember that their time was limited. The education they had received at Eastern was not

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meant to produce a finished product, but was intended to provide them with "a malleable tool for a life's work."

Other commencement speakers were Student Body President Blake Wood of Fairfield; Alumni Association President Jacqueline Clapp of Mattoon, a member of the Class of 1988; and Board of Governors Universities trustees Wilma Sutton of Chicago, chair (morning ceremony); Nancy Froelich of Lake Bloomington, an EIU alumna (afternoon ceremony); and Dominick Bufalino of Norwood Park Township (evening ceremony).

EIU's Centennial commencement also saw the inauguration of a new tradition. For the first time, several ROTC graduates wore their military uniforms instead of the traditional gown and mortarboard, and about 40 African-American graduates donned richly colored stoles made of traditional kente cloth as a symbol of their heritage.

Other highlights included the announcement of this year's recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award, Eastern's highest faculty honor. Billy Heyduck, retiring professor of art in the College of Arts and Humanities, was chosen for the honor for his excellence in teaching, 29 years of service to the university and the community and continued professional growth.

Heyduck will receive the award at a later date.

Jorns acknowledged BGU trustees Dr. Mack Hollowell of Charleston and Roger Roberson of Champaign, who were among the

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platform party guests. Both are "Centennial 100" honorees -- individuals who have made significant contributions to Eastern over the past century.

Jorns also recognized Barbara Hill, provost and vice president for academic affairs, and Larry Williams, dean of the Graduate School, both of whom are retiring from Eastern with more than 25 years of service and have made a great impact on the institution.

Student honorees included this year's recipients of the Livingston C. Lord Scholarship, the most prestigious honor bestowed upon an undergraduate student. It is named in memory of Eastern's first president, who served from 1899 until 1933. Recipients are Cheryel Benson of White Heath, Christina Edmonds of Sullivan, Susan Gerling of Charleston, Suzanne Powers of Urbana and Leslie Skelley of Decatur.

Jorns ended the commencement ceremonies by inviting the audience to join the Class of 1995 in singing Eastern's Alma Mater as a tribute to the university's Centennial anniversary.