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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TWO EIU GRADUATES RECEIVE THESIS AWARDS

CHARLESTON, IL.--Two graduates of Eastern Illinois University's master's degree programs have been awarded the University's 1987-88 Outstanding Master's Thesis Award for their distinguished scholarship, research and writing at the master's level.

Dan Cleaveland of Iowa City, Iowa, has been awarded the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award in the Sciences. Cleaveland, who received a master of science degree in chemistry from Eastern in 1988, wrote his thesis on "Coal Desulfurization Using Pyrite Conversion Through Dielectric Heating."

"A lot of independent research and work surfaced in his thesis which deals with removing sulfur from coal to make it cleaner and more useful," Williams said.

Dr. T. Howard Black, associate professor and graduate coordinator in Eastern's Chemistry Department, said in a letter nominating Cleaveland for the award, "The investigation concerned possible desulfurization strategies for high-sulfur coal, such as that commonly found in midwestern coal fields.

"Sulfur burns to form sulfur oxides, which dissolve in rain water to form acid rain; thus coal desulfurization is an area of intense interest for environmental reasons."

Elizabeth Schaeffer of Charleston, planning coordinator in Eastern's Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, received the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award in the Arts and Humanities.

Schaeffer, who received a master of arts degree in art from Eastern in 1987, wrote her thesis on "Image and Meaning in the Floral Borders of the Hours of Catherine of Cleves."

Dr. Larry Williams, dean of Eastern's Graduate School and Research, who administers the program, said, "Elizabeth's thesis, which clearly represents work done over a long period of time, deals with three disciplines, including art history, photography and botany."

Schaeffer, in her thesis, analyzes the border decoration of an important late medieval Book of Hours and relates the symbolism of the flowering plants to the subject of the painted miniature which they frame.

Both Schaeffer and Cleaveland received a stipend and plaque and will have their names inscribed on a plaque to be placed outside the Graduate Office in Old Main.

"This is the first time Eastern has presented such an award and we were very pleased with the 10 nominations we received. All of the theses were clearly good making the judging difficult," Williams commented.

He said the award program, which recognizes scholarship by students who are pursuing their first graduate level research degree, is designed to encourage thesis writing and interest in the master's thesis option.

Williams said each academic unit at Eastern responsible for a graduate degree program may submit one nomination for each degree program. Nominations may be submitted for any discipline.

Nominees for the 1987-88 award must have earned a master's degree within the calendar year from October 1, 1987, to September 30, 1988.

Award recipients are selected upon the recommendation of a committee appointed by Williams. Awards may be presented in each of the following three areas: sciences; arts and humanities; and social sciences.

In addition to the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award program, Williams said Eastern offers a Directed Research Assistantship Program for graduate students who want to write a thesis or do scholarly research at the University.