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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU HOLDS COMMENCEMENT

CHARLESTON, IL.--More than 1,100 Eastern Illinois University graduates participated in the 89th annual spring commencement ceremonies held Saturday, May 14.

EIU alumnus Rex D. Cooley of Findlay, Ohio, was presented with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by EIU President Stan Rives. Cooley is senior vice president for finance and administration of Marathon Oil Company and is one of five senior executives who are members of the Marathon Board of Directors.

He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Eastern's Lumpkin College of Business in 1985 and the University's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1987.

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In giving the charge to the class, President Rives asked the graduates to adopt as their personal standard "not who is right, but what is true," the last statement made at an Eastern chapel by then President Livingston C. Lord and as inscribed on a plaque located at the entrance to Old Main.

He encouraged the graduates to "hold hands and stick together" to meet the challenges of life and to assure America's future success.

Rives asked the graduates to do five things: 1) educate Americans for an increasingly interdependent world; 2) help revitalize the American economy; 3) expand educational opportunity; 4) address human needs and the quality of life; and 5) restore respect for fundamental values and ethical behavior.

Representing the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities, the governing board for Eastern, was Mrs. Nancy Froelich, board chairman, who brought greetings to the graduates.

Mrs. Froelich called upon the graduates to help safeguard the quality of learning from which they have benefited, adding that the proposed level of funding for next year is not adequate to ensure a quality education.

She urged the graduates to write their state senators and state representatives asking for their support of a tax increase that will ensure adequate funds for education.

Also speaking to the graduates were Eastern's Alumni Association President Paul Hoffman ('79) of Decatur and Eastern's Student Body President Debra Sue Camren of Mt. Zion.

Hoffman echoed Froelich's comments asking the new alumni to tell their elected officials that education in Illinois has reached a critical point because it is not being funded at the level at which it must be funded if it is to play a key role in producing educated citizens.

Camren emphasized that despite the budget crisis, the pride of Eastern has remained alive. She told them that earning a diploma is an accomplishment not to be forgotten.

Members of the 1988 Students for Excellence Committee and graduating seniors Jean Wright, representing the College of Arts and Sciences, and Steve Black, representing the Lumpkin College of Business, presented President Rives and the University's Foundation with a gift of \$6,150 donated by seniors. The money is to be used to support two projects at Eastern, including Panther Cat '88, the on-line computer system linking Booth Library with other libraries throughout the state, and the Moving on the Verge of Excellence Scholarship.