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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DR. MARTIN M. MIESS RETIRES AFTER 32 YEARS AT EIU

CHARLESTON, IL.--Dr. Martin M. Miess, professor of Foreign Language at Eastern Illinois University, has retired after thirty-two years of service to the University.

Miess earned his doctorate degree at the University of Innsbruck in Austria. In characterizing the differences between colleges in Austria and those in America, the professor said, "At the university level, colleges overseas are all graduate schools.

"Professors lecture and you don't ask questions; You listen and either sink or swim."

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After obtaining his degree, Miess came back to America, his place of birth, to teach in Chicago for one year. But he enjoyed this country so much, he decided to stay.

Before coming to Eastern, Miess taught at the Army Language School in Monterey, California. He calls Monterey "home" and plans to return there to live during his retirement.

His leisure activity of playing tennis should suit the California climate well. Travel and reading will also fill his well-earned hours of relaxation and enjoyment.

As head of EIU's Foreign Language Department for fourteen years, Miess has seen the University grow and change dramatically. He is, however, disappointed that Foreign Language is no longer required to obtain a Bachelor's Degree.

"Used to be," he said, "three years of Foreign Language were required for a B.A. Degree, and two years for a B.S. Degree."

The instructor of German has been impressed by the very bright, dedicated students he has met at Eastern. He offers this advice to his colleagues in teaching, "Keep your eye on the dedicated, serious students and their needs, then you cannot go wrong."