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For Immediate Release:

EIU TO HONOR SIX ALUMS FOR POST-GRADUATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University, along with the EIU Alumni Association, will honor six alumni for their outstanding accomplishments as one of many Homecoming activities happening around campus this week.

Three alumni, **Sharon LeDuc** '65, **Gail Richardson** '60, '63, and **Stephen Wilson** '68, '74, will be honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. **Greg Gardner** '78, '80 and **Kenneth Hesler** '51 will each receive an Alumni Service Award, while **Amelia J. Heape** '94 will be honored as the Outstanding Young Alumnus.

The presentation of awards will take place during the half-time show of the EIU Homecoming football game, scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23. A dinner to recognize the recipients also will take place later that night.

Sharon (Orndoff) LeDuc '65, who received her doctorate from the University of Missouri, is currently on assignment from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to the Atmospheric Research and Exposure Assessment Laboratory in Research Triangle Park, N. C. While serving in her current capacity since 1988, she held the position of chief of the Global Climate Research Branch from 1991 through 1994. Her work in the field of atmospheric study has led to numerous awards and

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accolades being bestowed upon her. Presently, she also serves as an adjunct professor on the faculty at North Carolina State University. She previously had appointments at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the College of William and Mary, the University of Oklahoma, and the University of Missouri. Incidentally, LeDuc, formerly of Paris and Mattoon, was also a 1965 recipient of the Livingston C. Lord Scholarship, the highest honor bestowed upon undergraduates at Eastern. It, too, is awarded by the Alumni Association. She currently resides in Raleigh, N.C.

Recognized for merging new technologies with innovative educational concepts, **Gail Richardson '60, '63**, returned to Illinois as a school administrator after the completion of his doctorate at Indiana University more than 30 years ago. Recognizing the need for a quality learning environment outside of a daycare program, he created La Petite Academy in 1969. Today, La Petite Academy is the second largest provider of academic daycare programs for children, with more than 580 centers in 30 states. With the intent of expanding such a program into public schools, he started the Prescription Learning Corporation, which provided computer-based reading, math and language arts programs to approximately two million public school students in 42 states. In 1988 he formed Educational Management Group, which specialized in the development and delivery of educational software and telecommunications to public schools. After selling EMG to Simon and Schuster in 1995, he founded Private Networks, which uses advanced technology to enhance clients' communications and training strategies. Its sister company, Educational Networks, provides a full-service, customized digital satellite network which delivers educational opportunities and daily communications on demand. The Charleston native, now residing in Phoenix, Ariz., currently serves as chairman of the board of Private Networks.

Dr. Stephen Wilson '68, '74 of Dublin, Ohio, is a professor and chief of pediatric dentistry and director of research at Columbus Children's Hospital in Columbus. Since 1985, he has also held a position on the graduate faculty at the Ohio State University College of Dentistry. He served in the military upon earning his bachelor's degree and

returned for his master's work in 1972. Upon graduating from Eastern, he matriculated to the University of Louisville, where he received a doctorate in physiology in 1978 and graduated from the university's dental program in 1982. Wilson also completed his residency at the University of Louisville and served on the faculty there until 1985. In recent years, he has acted as a consultant to the National Institutes of Dental Research, the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation and for the Federal Drug Administration. The author or co-author of more than 65 publications, abstracts, chapters and textbooks, he is licensed in both Kentucky and Ohio. Last year the Paris/Mattoon native was elected vice president of the Council of Faculties of the American Association of Dental Schools.

Greg Gardner '78, '80, of San Jose, Calif., spearheaded the formation of Eastern's alumni chapter in the Bay Area of California after relocating there in 1988. During his five-year term as president of the group, he has developed a cadre of alumni who plan and host several events annually for Eastern graduates living in the area. The group has developed its own website and on-line newsletter, and he maintains regular e-mail contact with many of the alumni, forwarding significant amounts of information to them regarding their alma mater. Currently an account executive with Apple Computer, the former Hoopston resident previously worked for Addison-Wesley Publishing.

Named acting director of public relations and alumni at Eastern almost immediately following his graduation in 1951, **Kenneth Hesler** of Charleston held posts of increasing responsibility over the next 33 years. His entire professional career was dedicated to his alma mater; he retired in 1984 as director of university relations and development and as executive director of the Eastern Illinois University Foundation. During his tenure at the University, the former Greenup resident served five of the university's presidents in a broad range of administrative and managerial responsibilities. In 1994, the World War II paratrooper was selected as one of two escorts for Madeline Albright to attend ceremonies for the 50th anniversary

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commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne, Belgium. Hesler was honored in 1995 with membership in the EIU Centennial 100, a group of individuals who were central to the University during its first 100 years of existence.

Upon receiving her master's degree in arts administration from Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., **Amelia J. Heape '94** earned a position as the marketing and special events associate at The Joseph Papp Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival. Currently a resident of Brooklyn, N.Y., Heape has worked as a senior account executive with Spotco Advertising, a New York City agency specializing in Broadway and off-Broadway theater, since 1998. The DuQuoin native's current responsibilities include creating and maintaining the advertising budgets for three productions: *Rent* (Broadway), recipient of the 1996 Tony Award for Best Musical and the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Drama; *Wit* (off-Broadway), recipient of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Drama; and *De La Guarda* (off-Broadway), an Argentinian performance piece.