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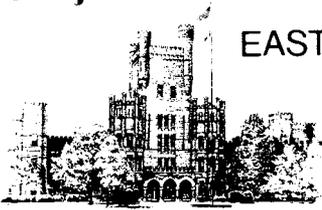
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MINORITY STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO ASSOCIATION

CHARLESTON, IL.--Twelve Eastern Illinois University minority journalism students have been inducted into Eastern's Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists.

Inductees are Tracie Lynn Reynolds of Hazel Crest, Catherine Velasco of Deerfield, Rana Woodson of Urbana and Felicia Fulks of Sparta, juniors; Tonya Adams of Chicago and Yolanda Evette Shepherd of Joliet, sophomores; and Wendell Hutson of Chicago and Susan Thomas of Harvey, freshmen.

Spring graduates Larry Smith and Melanie Anderson, both of Chicago, Patrice Hale of Bolingbrook and Jeff Britt of Peoria were also inducted during a recent ceremony.

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Smith, outgoing NABJ chapter president, said Eastern's chapter was officially accepted by the national association in February.

He said the organization serves as a support group for minority students and is designed to help strengthen the members' commitment to the field of journalism.

"Hopefully through participation in the association, minority students will be encouraged to work in the media. The presence of the organization on campus may also sensitize the media to minority students at Eastern and may give media representatives a different perspective about them," Smith added.

Smith, who is former editor-in-chief of the Daily Eastern News, said his participation in the organization has enabled him to network with professionals and has helped him acquire internships and job leads.

Eastern's chapter last year initiated an exchange program with Percy Julian High School in Chicago where its members visited the school and showed students how they could produce a newspaper cost effectively. Percy Julian students, in turn, have toured the Eastern campus where they participated in the production of their high school newspaper, according to Smith.

He said the organization has an ongoing commitment to encourage students to associate themselves with campus media, to become involved with the Minority Newsletter at Eastern and to continue promoting high school projects.