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07/11/1984 - Five Distinguished Alumnus Awards

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Five persons have been named 1984 recipients of Distinguished Alumnus Awards at Eastern Illinois University. Plaques will be presented by President Stanley Rives at a Homecoming ceremony on Oct. 13.

The recipients are:

Elizabeth Podesta Hickman, Associate Dean of Counseling and Residence Life, Marymount College of Virginia (Arlington);

Alden Cutshall, Lombard, Professor Emeritus of Geography and former head of the Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago;

Ronald W. Davis, Professor of Biochemistry, Stanford University;

Eugene Aikman, Mattoon dentist;

And, John Heath, Chairman, L.S. Heath & Sons, Inc., Robinson.

Davis, a 1964 graduate, is the son of the late Lester Davis of Charleston and Gerzella Davis, now living in Arkansas. Ronald Davis is a graduate of Charleston High School. He holds the Ph. D. in Chemistry from California Institute of Technology. After earning the doctorate, he received a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Biology at Harvard.

He is a member of the prestigious National Academy of Science, an organization representing all branches of science. Davis' Stanford laboratory was the first to achieve the expression of genes of a higher organism (yeast) in a lower organism (the bacterium E. coli). He has also made significant contributions to the techniques of recombinant DNA, and is author or co-author of approximately 70 articles in his field.

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A 1958 graduate, Heath is also chairman and president of Fenn Bros. and Advertising Dimensions, Inc., Heath subsidiary corporations. He has been active in community affairs and has been a member of the boards of directors of the Illinois 4-H Foundation, the Crawford Memorial Hospital, the Illinois Building Authority and the First National Bank in Robinson. He is a member of the U.S. and Illinois Chambers of Commerce.

Heath is a past president of the EIU Alumni Association and is a member of the EIU Foundation. He is a former director of the Embarras Regional Health Planning Council. Heath is a member of numerous professional organizations and is a member of the Union League Club of Chicago and the Missouri Athletic Club of St. Louis.

Mrs. Hickman is a 1943 graduate, majoring in speech. She holds the M.A. in guidance and counseling and the Ed. D. in counselor education from George Washington University.

In addition to her position at Marymount, Mrs. Hickman has taught at Prince George's Community College in Maryland; the Far East Division (Japan) of the University of Maryland; Advanced English School for Officers of the Japanese Defense Force, Tokyo; and English conversation in the People-to-People program in Japan. In 1983 the National Association of Women Deans, Administrators and Counselors honored her for service to the President's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped.

Aikman is a native of Mattoon and a 1950 graduate of Mattoon High School. He graduated from Eastern in 1954 and the University of Illinois Dental School in 1959. He began private practice the same year.

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Aikman is a past president of the Eastern Illinois Dental Society and has been active in many other professional endeavors, including Chairman of the Illinois Children's Dental Health Week and Chairman of the Continuing Education and Health Committee of the Illinois State Dental Society.

He has been a director of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors and the EIU Panther Club. Aikman also serves as a lecturer and resource person for Eastern's athletic trainer program.

Cutshall is a native of Olney and he began his teaching career in Richland County. He holds an M.A. degree in geography from the University of Illinois and the doctorate from Ohio State.

He taught at the U. of I. for 40 years, first at the Urbana campus, then at the Chicago Undergraduate Division, and later at the Chicago campus where he was head of the Geography Department from 1964 to 1969,

Cutshall was instrumental in founding the Illinois Geographic Society and is the 1983 recipient of the George J. Miller Distinguished Service Award of the National Council for Geographic Education. A 1932 graduate, he is well known for his research on Southeast Asia.