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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU FOUNDATION DRIVE TOPS \$5 MILLION

CHARLESTON, IL.--A gift to the Zoology Department from an Eastern Illinois University alumnus recently put the EIU Foundation's Tenth Decade Campaign to raise \$5 million over the top.

Gary Brinkmeyer, a member of the Class of 1970 from Charleston, sent the gift to pay a pledge he had made in the recent telefund campaign of the Zoology Department.

Brinkmeyer, superintendent of the Charleston Waste Water Treatment Plant, said, "I felt it was an obligation to help my university. I was helped and now I want to help in a way that would benefit newcomers to the university. I am proud to be a graduate of Eastern and hopefully my children will get the opportunity to come here."

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Tenth Decade Campaign Chairman Jim Roberts of Fairbury, in announcing the achievement at the EIU Foundation's June 9 meeting, said that the Brinkmeyer gift was very symbolic of the Tenth Decade Campaign. "We have gone from four to 20-22 percent of our alumni donating annually to the Foundation. Their support has been very instrumental in the success of this campaign," Roberts said.

"Congratulations are due all for achieving the \$5 million goal of our Tenth Decade Campaign more than 18 months ahead of schedule," said EIU President Stan Rives.

The Make Room for Art Campaign, a major effort in the Tenth Decade Campaign, remains to be completed, according Rives. "We will not call the campaign completed until we have raised significant funds for the art studios project," he added.

Thus far, the Make Room for Art Campaign has raised \$220,713 toward a \$350,000 goal to build a complex of 20 studios for art students.

The EIU Foundation will continue its drive for funds for the art studios and other needs of the University, according to Dr. Daniel E. Thornburgh, Foundation executive officer.

"We will be shortly going into Phase Two of our development program. Oversubscription of the \$5 million is now our goal," Thornburgh said.