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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU HOLDS SPRING COMMENCEMENT

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University President David Jorns today (Saturday) urged the EIU Class of 1993 to put their education to a good use and to be prepared for the changes in their lives.

"It is my hope that the knowledge of things we have given you here at Eastern will always be subordinate to your sympathy for your fellow men and women. The understanding of human need, human joy, human aspiration and human pain are the ultimate responsibility of all educated people.

"We hope that you take the education that you have received, and power that it will give you, and turn it to a good use.

"Ultimately all of us here will be dependent upon your good judgment and your ability to master, control, understand and anticipate the immense authority that the coming century will give you."

Jorns told the 1,300 graduates participating in two sessions of EIU's 96th graduation ceremony that, "If there is one constant in life, it is change. Nothing remains the same. Moreover, the pace of change has reached an incredible level of acceleration

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in this century.

"All of us who represent the university, certainly the faculty, hope that we have made you ready, that you are prepared, light on your feet, open to opportunity and that you see that there is more than one way to solve a problem. Because, the problems before your generation will be immense and fast moving, but the opportunities will be just the same, and we want you to be ready."

Jorns pointed out that the world is much different now than it was for his grandparents who lived in Oklahoma Territory. "The conditions under which they lived, by our standards, were primitive. . . .Life was slower, there was more time for thought, conversation. . . .Families lived together. . . .Relationships were important.

"Now, technology, in all its wonder, has begun to influence, if not control our lives in almost every conceivable way. We are living in an age of convenience. We have every sort of thing to save time, and yet, time is the one thing we seem to lack. I think we have to ask ourselves whether we are really better off."

During the afternoon ceremony, Jorns announced that Zoology Professor Kandy Baumgardner, who has been at Eastern since 1973, is the recipient of the university's 1993 Distinguished Faculty Award.

The award was originated by the EIU Alumni Association and supported by an endowment fund created by Eastern alumni within

the University Foundation. The selection is made by a special committee appointed by the Faculty Senate with nominations submitted by students and faculty.

Jorns also acknowledged EIU faculty marshals Al Moldroski and Joyce Crouse. Moldroski, a member of the art faculty since 1963, represented the College of Fine Arts during the morning ceremony. Joyce Crouse, a member of the home economics faculty since 1963, represented the College of Applied Sciences, in the afternoon ceremony.

He also honored special guest Josephine Oblinger of Williamsville, who was presented an Honorary Doctor of Public Service Degree during the afternoon ceremony. The former state representative and director of Senior Involvement for the Illinois Department on Aging, is credited for her work to improve the quality of life and well-being of senior citizens. As state representative, she sponsored the legislation which led to the state's Community Care Program, which benefits many seniors and has been a model for programs in other states.

Oblinger, who taught one summer at Eastern and whose granddaughter Chris Gabel of Chatham is an Eastern alumnus, said, "I feel a part of the Eastern family and really appreciate being honored today." Her advice to the graduates was: "Age is a plus not a minus. It's better to be older; after all, I'm 80 years old."

Jorns announced that Eastern will celebrate its 98th birthday during Founder's Day on June 19. Two years from now, on May 22, 1995, the university will observe its 100th anniversary.