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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GUERNSEY NOMINATED AS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

CHARLESTON, IL--English professor Bruce Guernsey has been selected as Eastern Illinois University's nominee for the Board of Governors Universities "Distinguished Professor Award."

The award is the most prestigious faculty honor in the five-university system.

A five-member campus committee recommended Guernsey as Eastern's nominee for the BGU Distinguished Professorship. Committee members include Terry Weidner, acting associate vice president for academic affairs; Ken Sutton, chair of the Council on Academic Affairs; David Carpenter, chair of the Faculty Senate; Aline Arnold, chair of management/marketing (Council of Chairs representative); and Shirley Moore, dean of academic development (Dean's Council representative).

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Only one BGU Distinguished Professorship is awarded annually to a faculty member selected from the five campuses. Criteria for selection include excellence in teaching, research or public service.

A Charleston resident, Guernsey has taught English at Eastern since 1978. He has had two books of poetry published and is preparing a third. His writings have been published in many magazines, including The Atlantic and Poetry.

According to James Quivey, chair of Eastern's English Department, Guernsey is in his creative writing classes very careful to allow students to find their own modes of expression--to express their uniqueness.

"He doesn't try to make Bruce Guernsey's of his students; rather, he guides them in refining and developing the talent they come to him with, in recognizing and working with their uniqueness." The feedback students provide on their evaluation forms has proven that his classroom techniques are effective, Quivey said.

During his 15 years at Eastern, Guernsey has received numerous awards related to his teaching, including four Faculty Excellence Awards and two Fulbright lectureships. He also has won four Illinois Art Council literary fellowships and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Guernsey points to the English Department's visiting writer program he has coordinated, the Karamu literary magazine he edited, and the Honors Summer Camp and Partnerships for Excellence program for minority students he has taught as high points in his academic career.