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July 7, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HEYDUCK RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's Bill Heyduck, retiring professor of art, received the 1995 Distinguished Faculty Award, the university's highest honor for faculty.

An EIU faculty member since 1966, Heyduck was described by his colleagues as a "superior teacher, genuine leader and prolific artist." Heyduck was chosen for the award by a committee consisting of faculty, students and alumni based on his teaching excellence, years of service to the university and the community and professional growth.

He will receive the award during Eastern's Summer Commencement, August 6.

After graduating from Millikin University in Decatur, with a degree in art, Heyduck decided to pursue a master's degree in fine arts. But rather than attend graduate school in the United States, he applied and was accepted at the Universidad de las Americas in Mexico. Heyduck had always wanted to study abroad and the university offered an American style program that interested him.

Heyduck returned to the United States and began his career in

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HEYDUCK

education in 1954 as a public school teacher and art supervisor.

He was a traveling art teacher in Allerton, Broadlands and Longview country schools, before becoming an art supervisor for Effingham and later Villa Grove public schools.

In 1958, he received a master's in art education from the University of Illinois.

Heyduck joined the art faculty at Eastern in 1966 as an art education assistant professor.

Heyduck reflected that at the time of his arrival, the university was experiencing a great deal of rapid growth. "Approximately 125 new faculty were being hired every year. The art department provided a lot of service across campus. All elementary education majors had to take two art courses and we were teaching a lot of art appreciation and art history classes for humanities credits."

Heyduck started out as a painter, but a ceramics class at the University of Illinois with David Shaner, now recognized as one of the top 10 potters in the nation, according to Heyduck, introduced him to a whole new world.

In the early '70s, Heyduck decided to pursue a doctorate at The Pennsylvania State University. At that time, a doctoral candidate had to study three areas: education, art education and one art medium. Heyduck decided to study ceramics.

When he returned to EIU after completing his doctorate in 1974, Heyduck began teaching ceramics courses.

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HEYDUCK

As a teacher, Heyduck stressed the fundamentals of the craft. He believed that if students didn't learn the correct technique from the beginning, their work would never progress or hold up over time.

"As a teacher I don't feel I was a good lecturer. I worked better with individuals one-on-one. I liked to encourage students to work hard and try a lot of things, to experiment. I learned as much from the students as they learned from me."

For Heyduck, the medium was the great motivator.

"The material really motivates students. A lot of students look on it as magic. They sit down with a lump of clay and start working. Then there is that element that sometimes even a teacher can't explain. The throwing is a manual skill, but once you put it in the kiln, it is up to the gods of fire. You never know what is going to come out."

During his career, Heyduck has inspired a number of students to become teachers, professors and professional potters. Tim and Pam Fry of Tuscola and Rhonda Cearlock of Vandalia, all Heyduck's former students, are successful professional potters in the area.

At Eastern, Heyduck's activities went beyond the classroom. For 18 years he chaired the art booth committee for EIU's successful spring fair, Celebration: A Festival of the Arts. He has served on more than 27 departmental, college and university committees and has presented numerous ceramics workshops for both teachers and students at the local, regional and national

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HEYDUCK

levels.

Heyduck has served on the board of directors for the Charleston Area Arts Council and spent two years on the Illinois Arts Consortium.

As an artist, Heyduck specializes in functional ceramics -- dinnerware, serveware, etc. He especially likes to create platters because he enjoys painting on the flat surfaces.

Although Heyduck is retiring from academia, he is not retiring from ceramics. He has his own studio on Madison Avenue in Charleston and contracts with several galleries in Illinois to sell his work. He also attends a number of juried and invitational shows during the year as well as the Illinois State Fair.

Heyduck and his wife, Florence, have two children: Kurt, who is in middle management with All-State Insurance Company in Northbrook; and Jean, who is working on a master's degree at Eastern. They have six grandchildren.