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08/06/1989 - EIU Holds Commencement

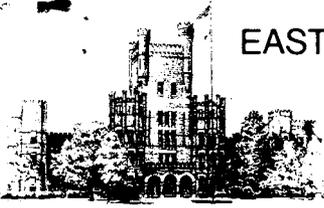
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

file

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU HOLDS COMMENCEMENT

CHARLESTON, IL.--More than 350 graduates participated in Eastern Illinois University's annual Summer Commencement Ceremony Sunday, August 6.

During the ceremony, Robert T. Wright of Lincolnshire, lawyer and inventor whose development of the shorthand machine has been proven an invaluable asset to his profession, was presented with the University's highest honor, an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree.

Eastern President Stan Rives said the University is proud to honor Wright in recognition of his creative business leadership and continuing commitment to education and public service.

Wright, who developed six patents for shorthand machines and the first computerized transcription equipment now used almost universally to record courtroom proceedings, was a founding member of Eastern's Lumpkin College of Business Dean's Business Advisory Board. He also founded the Stenograph Research Foundation, which was once headquartered at Eastern.

In giving his charge to the graduates, Eastern President Stan Rives said, "It is my charge to you as 1989 graduates of Eastern Illinois University to adopt as your personal standard 'not who is right, but what is true,' the last statement made at a 1933 chapel service by the founding president of the University, Livingston C. Lord, and as inscribed on a plaque located at the entrance of Old Main."

Rives also asked the graduates to live their lives on the "edge of significance." He added, "You can do so by establishing a goal of service above self--that is what your University means by its primary goal of preparing graduates 'who are prepared to serve and to lead in a free society.' The having of a dream, the sense of passion and compassion are what truly mark the Eastern graduate."

Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities representative William Hoffee of Fairfield asked the graduates "to meet the obligation to continue the search for knowledge begun here (at Eastern)." He added, "Education is a journey, not a destination."

Eastern Student Body President Patricia Kennedy of LaGrange asked the graduates to reflect on their experiences at Eastern and to be proud of their accomplishments.

Tom Gaffigan of Decatur, a 1970 Eastern graduate and president of the EIU Alumni Association, welcomed the graduates as new members of the Alumni Association and said, "You will succeed because Eastern Illinois University has prepared you to meet and overcome any obstacle."

Dr. Donald L. Rogers, professor in the Department of Secondary Education and Foundations, served as faculty marshal. Rogers, who joined the Eastern faculty in 1963, will be retiring at the end of the summer session.