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For Immediate Release:

EIU TO HONOR FIVE ALUMS FOR POST-GRADUATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University, along with the EIU Alumni Association, will honor five alumni for their outstanding accomplishments as one of many Homecoming activities happening around campus next week.

Four alumni -- **Joan Allen** (ex '78) of New York, N.Y.; **Vicki Freimuth** ('66) of Atlanta, Ga.; **Allen Grosboll** ('73) of Petersburg; and **Mike Shanahan** ('74, '75) of Denver, Colo. -- will be honored with Distinguished Alumnus Awards this year. The Outstanding Young Alumnus Award will be presented to **Michelle Koehler** ('93) of Seattle, Wa.

The presentation of awards will take place during the half-time show of the EIU Homecoming football game, scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17. A dinner to recognize the recipients will be later that night at 6 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Joan Allen, an actress and two-time Oscar nominee, is one of the film industry's

--more--

busiest performers. As a leading actress in the new film "Pleasantville," opposite William H. Macy, Jeff Daniels, Tobey McGuire and Reese Witherspoon, her career is in full swing.

In 1997, she scored a role opposite John Travolta and Nicolas Cage in the movie, "Face-Off," which earned her nominations for a Blockbuster, MTV Movie Award and a Saturn Movie Award. Allen received even more recognition for her role in "The Ice Storm" opposite Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver. In 1996, she starred as Pat Nixon in Oliver Stone's "Nixon," receiving an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress. She also won seven critics association awards that include the L.A. Film Critics Association and the National Society of Film Critics awards.

Allen's second consecutive Best Supporting Actress Oscar nomination was for her role in Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" opposite Daniel Day Lewis and Winona Ryder. She has appeared in countless other movies throughout her career, including "Compromising Positions," "Peggy Sue Got Married," "Manhunter" and "Searching for Bobby Fisher."

Not only has Allen taken the film industry by storm, but also on- and off-Broadway as well. She has received numerous awards for her work in New York theater, including the Best Actress Tony Award for her performance opposite John Malkovich (ex '75) in Lanford Wilson's "Burn This." Allen also received the same nomination for the title role in "The Heidi Chronicles." In off-Broadway productions, she starred in "The Marriage of Bette & Boo," receiving an Obie Award for her role. Allen received the Clarence Derwent, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Theatre World awards for her role in "And A Nightingale Sang."

Allen currently lives in New York City with her husband, actor Peter Friedman, and their three-year-old daughter, Sadie.

Vicki S. Freimuth currently serves as associate director for communication at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an internationally recognized agency of the Public Health Service in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in Atlanta, Ga. As associate director, she administers the health communication and media relations programs and strengthens the science and practice of health communications throughout CDC.

The first person to hold this position, Freimuth was recruited by current U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, who highly recommended her for the EIU award.

Prior to her tenure with CDC, she was a professor in the University of Maryland's communication department, and directed the health communication program there.

Freimuth, who has authored many books and professional papers, received her bachelor of science degree in speech education from Eastern in 1966, and her master of arts degree in rhetoric and public address from the University of Iowa a year later. She earned a doctorate in communication theory and research from Florida State University in 1974.

Her many honors have included the University of Maryland 1990 Woman of the Year Award, and Top Three Paper Awards in Health Communication (1989, 1990 and 1991). Freimuth is a native of Danville, but now resides in Atlanta.

Upon graduation from Eastern, **Allen D. Grosboll** was selected for an Illinois Legislative Internship and worked for the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives. He has since spent 25 years working in the legislative and executive branches of Illinois state government, including the last eight years as deputy chief of staff and senior advisor to Gov. Jim Edgar ('68). In this capacity, he has been Edgar's point person on education

issues, including the drafting of the historic Chicago School Reform initiative and co-authoring the 1977 School Funding Reform Legislation which dramatically improved the financing structure for Illinois public schools.

Throughout Edgar's eight years as governor, Grosboll has served him as chief advisor on environmental and natural resource policies. And, in 1993, when both the Mississippi and Illinois rivers flooded, causing Illinois to experience its worst natural disaster of the century, Gov. Edgar appointed Grosboll to serve as the state's flood response coordinator.

Prior to his service in the governor's office, Grosboll served as deputy secretary of state (1984-90), director of the Illinois Motor Vehicle Department (1981-84), director of the Illinois Mine Reclamation Council (1977-1981) and legislative staff (1973-77). He currently resides in Petersburg with his wife, Carolyn, and their son, John Emerson.

Over the years, **Mike Shanahan**, currently in his third season as head coach of the Denver Broncos, has led his teams to five Super Bowl appearances -- the latest being on Jan. 25, 1998. A former assistant coach for the Broncos, he also served as head coach of the Los Angeles Raiders and offensive coordinator for the Super Bowl Champion San Francisco 49ers.

The three years under Shanahan have produced the most prolific offensive statistics in team history for the Denver Broncos and, in 1996, he led the team to a 13-3 record and the AFC Western Division title, tying the club record for wins in a season and leading the NFL in total.

Shanahan graduated from Eastern with a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1974 and a master's in 1975. He was assistant coach at Eastern in 1978 when the

Panthers went to the national championships.

Shanahan hasn't been a stranger to Eastern. He hosted an alumni event in 1996 in Denver, and he returned to campus to assist with the Panther Club fund drive in 1997. Shanahan and his wife, Peggy, also an Eastern alumna, have two children, Kyle and Krystal.

Since graduating from Eastern's Honors Programs five years ago, **Michelle Koehler** has worked her way up the ladder of accounting success. She received her bachelor of science in business, majoring in accounting and minoring in economics, and was involved in many Eastern organizations including the Association of Honors Students, the Student Accounting Association and Phi Gamma Nu Business Fraternity.

Following graduation, she completed the CPA and CMA exams and started her career at KPMG Peat Marwick LLP in St. Louis, Mo. At KPMG, she was in charge of the St. Louis office's largest tax client. She also went on to earn her master's degree in accountancy with an emphasis in taxation from the University of Missouri -- St. Louis while working at KPMG.

In 1996, she transferred to the Phoenix office of KPMG where she was promoted to tax manager in 1997. Koehler left KPMG this past summer to pursue a Ph.D. degree in accounting at the University of Washington in Seattle.