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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Charleston, Illinois

# news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## EASTERN FORMALIZES ARCHIVES

CHARLESTON, IL.--Recognition and formalization of an official University Archives in Eastern Illinois University's Booth Library represents a major thrust toward preserving Eastern's heritage, according to Library Services Dean Wilson Luquire.

The recent addition of Bob Hillman as full-time archivist to the library staff, the appointment of history professor E. Duane Elbert as historian and the organization of volunteers to maintain the archives will enable Eastern to better prepare for its centennial celebration in 1994-95, Luquire said.

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Norma Winkleblack and Mary McElwee Adams, both long time Eastern Illinois University staff members from Charleston who retired recently, have been responsible for getting most of the current collection identified, sorted, reorganized and placed in acid-free folders and storage boxes. The two volunteers and others have spent hundreds of hours in assisting the archives' effort.

Hillman, who joined Eastern's staff in July, said, "I am grateful to Norma and Mary for their help. They have a thorough understanding of how the University functions and are sincerely interested in preserving the history of the University and organizing the archival information in a manner other people can understand."

During a recent reception honoring the two, Eastern President Stan Rives presented Winkleblack and Adams with a plaque designating them as "Honorary Archivists."

"I know of no other individuals who know more about the University than Norma and Mary," said Rives, who thanked them on behalf of the University for their dedicated efforts and said their work will play a vital role in Eastern's preparations for its 100th anniversary in 1995.

Winkleblack, who spearheaded the effort to establish the archives as a regular, on-going program, worked at Eastern for 39 years, 35 of which were in the Office of the President. Adams worked in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs for 28 years and has been collecting memorabilia from Eastern throughout the years and writing people who may have valuable materials they want to contribute to the collection.

Luquire said the archives, established by the library on a voluntary basis in 1970, is the primary means by which the University maintains a collective historical record of its accomplishments.

"The archives provides support for the undergraduate academic program of the University community. It is a valuable resource to faculty, staff, students and the University community, and fulfills an educational mission as well as a custodial function," Hillman said.

Housed in the lower level of the library, the archives contains records of administrative offices, faculty and student organizations, University publications, student newspapers and yearbooks, faculty and staff publications and papers, photographs, oral history tapes and memorabilia relating to the University.

The archives also contains personal and professional papers and manuscripts of administrative and academic staff members. Most records in the archives are available to the community for research or reference.

Many papers, including those dating from 1899 when classes began and Livingston C. Lord served as president, are in fragile condition and need to be protected from further deterioration. Other materials are not readily accessible because they have not been properly identified, sorted and organized, Hillman said.

"Our holdings are sporadic. We have a lot of materials for some years and very little for others. Hopefully, we will have people donate what is missing," he added.

Persons who have materials they wish to contribute may contact Hillman at (217) 581-6093.

"It's important that the University family knows we have an archives, what its purpose is and how individuals play a part in supporting it. Materials that are potentially valuable are disappearing because people are not aware of their historical value. Their value needs to be determined by those creating the records and by the archivist," Hillman said.