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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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Local/Area

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--For the first time since the program started 16 years ago, a husband and wife have been named recipients of the Distinguished Alumnus Award at Eastern Illinois University. Jointly nominated, they are Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Podesta of Mattoon.

Other 1986 recipients are:

Charles O. Austin, Jr., '36, Rock Island, a retired school administrator;

Donald L. Calvin, '54, Manhasset, N.Y., executive vice president for public affairs, New York Stock Exchange:

Dr. James L. Breen, '48, Oakton, Va., professor, sports medicine, and director, runner's clinic, George Washington University;

And, Norman T. Endsley, '53, Bartonville, Limestone Community High School, Bartonville.

Austin, Endsley and Breen are former Charleston residents.

Margaret Doelling Podesta, '53, is president of Will-Tone Investments, a company specializing in renovating properties for rental. Will-Tone also erects new buildings and is the developer of the Buck Grove subdivision, south of Mattoon.

She has been for many years involved with Girl Scouts and the American Red Cross. Mrs. Podesta has served as a member of the Mattoon Park Board, the Planning Board, and is currently a member of the Mattoon Library Board. She is originally from Addieville.

Dr. Podesta, '76, is a practicing dentist. Mattoon's "Man of the Year" in 1985, Podesta is a member of the Illinois State Dental Examining Committee and the Joint Accreditation Committee of the American Dental Association. The Illinois State Dental Society presented its Distinguished Member Award in 1985.

distinguished alumnus

add 1

Podesta was a member of the Lake Land College Board for nine years and was for 12 years a member of the Mattoon Community School Board. Other community accomplishments are in the areas of Boy Scouts, cancer and Red Cross fund drives, and the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center fund campaign. He is a native of Mt. Clair.

Austin is founder of the Austin Endowment, a fund which provides income for the University's Honors Program. Austin is a member of the Eastern Illinois University Foundation and the Tenth Decade Campaign Cabinet.

His first teaching position was at Iowa Grove High School where future U.S. Senator Harold Hughes was a student. He later became a critic teacher at University High School in Iowa City. He earned a master's degree at the University of Iowa. After four years in the Army during World War II he was principal at Clarion (Iowa) High School and Taylorville High School. After serving as principal of Rock Island High School he was named superintendent of schools in Rock Island in 1966. He remained there until his retirement in 1973.

Calvin, a native of Mt. Olive, is a member of the Office of the Chairman and the Management and Executive committees of the New York Stock Exchange. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Depository Trust Company, NYSE Foundation, Inc., and the Board of Visitors of the College of Law at the University of Illinois.

He attended Eastern, where he starred in football, from 1950-1954 before getting his law degree at the U. of I. Calvin is a member of international, national and state bar associations. He joined the NYSE in 1964 and has written in various professional journals.

Breen is internationally recognized for his contributions to health, exercise and fitness. His professional experience includes teaching and coaching at the University of Illinois, director of research for the National Baseball League, head of the physical education department at Tulane University.

distinguished alumnus

add 2

Breen is director, International Center for Education and Human Development, United States of America-Arab World. He is vice president of the American Council of International Sports. Breen is an active member of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Endsley's education at Eastern began with the Laboratory School and progressed through Eastern State High School. He has participated in the Alumni Association Board, Panther Club, EIU Foundation and the President's Club.

He began teaching at Limestone High School 33 years ago and became superintendent in 1975. Under his leadership the school district has substantially reduced its long-term indebtedness and his budget format is used as a model. Endsley has been active in various community activities.