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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SHEPHERD PRESENTS SCIENCE WORKSHOPS

CHARLESTON, IL--Maurice Shepherd of Charleston, associate professor of chemistry and coordinator of student teaching for chemistry and physics majors at Eastern Illinois University, has spent the last five summers helping science teachers prepare for the future.

Shepherd served as co-director with Marilyn Lisowski, associate professor of elementary and junior high education, for the recent Planet Earth Institute workshop at EIU for 20 elementary and junior high science teachers.

Contents of the physical science workshop included astronomy, continental drift, plate tectonics, mountain and river formation, earthquakes and volcanos within the earth science division.

Global issues, global warming, land use and sustainable development environmental chemistry and acid rain were discussed within the science technology, society and environment division.

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SHEPHERD

Shepherd presented his sixth "Science Safety" workshop in March at Casey-Westfield High School to 18 teachers from the counties of Bond, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Moultrie and Shelby. The workshop covered safety procedures for teachers and students while using chemicals in the classroom.

The Planet Earth Institute and one safety workshop were part of a Scientific Literacy Grant administered by the Mid-Illinois Educational Service Center No. 15. Don Rogers, EIU professor emeritus of secondary education and foundations, was the coordinator of the grant, which was approved by the Illinois General Assembly to address the improvement of math and science instruction and curriculum in public schools.

"I love the enthusiasm in the teachers," said Shepherd, who taught five years at Mattoon High School before becoming a member of the EIU faculty in 1967. "They're enthusiastic about finding ways to improve their science teaching, thus help their students learn."

Shepherd conducted his first science safety workshop in 1983 at Mattoon High School and his first physical science workshop in 1986 at Eastern.

"I've always been interested in what goes in the high school classroom," he said. "The biggest need is getting well-qualified science teachers."

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SHEPHERD

Shepherd, who also serves as the graduate coordinator and advisor for the Master of Science in Education program in chemistry, was honored by the University last year as he received a Faculty Excellence Award in teaching through the chemistry department.

He received his bachelor's degree from EIU and master's degree from Indiana University. He has taken post-graduate courses at the University of Illinois.

Shepherd has served as president, regional vice president and on the board of directors for the Illinois Association of Chemistry Teachers. He is a member of the National Science Teachers Association, Illinois Science Teachers Association, Illinois Association of Teacher Educators and the Chemical Educational Division of the American Chemical Society.