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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "07/30/1990 - Bailey to Publish Article" (1990). *Press Releases*. 978.

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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90-455

JUL 30 1990

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BAILEY TO PUBLISH ARTICLE

CHARLESTON, IL.--William T. Bailey of Charleston, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Eastern Illinois University, has had an article accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of Educational Gerontology: An International Bimonthly Journal.

The Journal publishes original papers in the fields of gerontology, adult education, and the social and behavioral sciences, including timely reviews of subjects and books of special interest to adult educators, gerontologists and psychologists.

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Bailey's article was about research he conducted comparing young and old adults in Coles County. The young adults, whose average age was 20, were undergraduates at Eastern. The older adults were people in their 60's and 70's who attend the Charleston and Mattoon Area Senior Activities Centers.

They completed a questionnaire which assessed their age, sex, race and marital status and items which measured their knowledge of normal aging as well as their attitudes toward old people.

Bailey concluded that "young and old adults did not differ in their knowledge of normal aging--neither was particularly well informed."

"Older adults were slightly, but significantly more positive in attitude toward old people," Bailey said. Personality development was significantly related to attitude in both old and young adults, he added.

"These findings, which are consistent with several other studies, indicate that aging does not automatically lead to accurate knowledge about the aging process. Hence, older people need to learn about normal aging as much as younger people," Bailey noted.

Todd Stevenson of Charleston, a student in the gerontology master's program at Eastern, is continuing this line of research with elderly people in Southern Illinois.