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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BUSINESS COLLEGE NAMES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's Lumpkin College of Business has named 1955 EIU graduate Thomas Faller its 1991 Distinguished Alumnus.

Faller, an entrepreneur who owns and operates six Illinois banks, including the Bank of Charleston, will be recognized at an awards ceremony at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 21, in the University Union Grand Ballroom. He is the College's 22nd alumnus to be recognized for significant contributions in business, industry, education or a profession.

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

"Mr. Faller received a good education at Eastern and took that knowledge and built it into a very successful career. He demonstrates his abilities in a variety of fields. He's currently a principal for a number of banks with total assets of more than \$2 million," said Ted Ivarie, Dean of the Lumpkin College of Business.

The Springfield resident has more than 30 years' experience in the business field, having worked as a certified public accountant before becoming an entrepreneur. He and EIU graduate Coyn Richardson of Springfield, the College's 1985 Distinguished Alumnus, have owned and managed more than 20 Illinois banks. They have also been partners in a variety of other businesses, including life insurance companies, a medical and dental equipment leasing company, and health care facilities.

He and EIU graduate Gail Richardson of Phoenix, Az., are the former owners of La Petite Academy, the first franchise of day care centers. Today, it is the second largest provider of pre-school day care in the United States.

Faller joins the ranks of such other notable Distinguished Alumni as Donald Shawver, the College's first Distinguished Alumnus in 1970, who is currently a visiting professor of marketing at Eastern; John Willingham and Rex Cooley, both of whom have received honorary degrees from Eastern; and Eli Sidwell and J.W. Oglesby of Charleston.

-more-

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

"Not only is it important to recognize Eastern alumni for their distinguished achievements in their chosen professions, but also to bring their achievements to the attention of our current student body," Ivarie said.

Pictures of all the College's Distinguished Alumni are permanently displayed in Lumpkin Hall.