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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BAUMGARDNER RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University Zoology Professor Kandy Baumgardner of Charleston is the recipient of Eastern's 1993 Distinguished Faculty Award, the university's highest faculty honor.

Baumgardner, who has taught at Eastern since 1973, was presented the award at Eastern's spring commencement ceremonies on Saturday.

She was selected by a committee comprised of faculty, students and alumni based on her excellence in teaching, professional growth and service to the academic and community-at-large.

Baumgardner has been involved in committee work at all levels of the university, much of which has dealt with undergraduate education. She is also the coauthor of a genetics textbook, which has been used by Eastern students and faculty and is currently being revised.

She teaches three different genetics courses at the university and said the variety of material not only keeps her knowledgeable in the field, but also helps her maintain her enthusiasm in the classroom.

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"I help my students learn what science is by relating it to human genetics. They become interested when you talk about genetics as it relates to their families or someone they know. It becomes more tangible when you can do that," Baumgardner said.

She is the recipient of numerous honors from Eastern, including the 1993 Faculty Excellence Award in Service, 1992 University Faculty Service Award, 1992 Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching, 1990 Faculty Excellence Award in Service and 1989 Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching and Service.

Vance Chartier of Charleston, who is working on a master's degree in zoology and has Baumgardner as an advisor, said, "Dr. Baumgardner has the ability to take a difficult subject and make it appear easy. She makes herself available to students to assure that they understand the material."

Baumgardner is currently serving as president of Eastern's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors and is coordinating the self-study process associated with the reaccreditation of the university by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Richard Funk, chairman of Eastern's zoology department, said, "Kandy is genuinely concerned about her students. Her willingness to express things in a way students can understand makes her an outstanding teacher. She is also very involved in service activities. I look forward to her continued service to the department and university and congratulate her on a well-deserved honor."