

"BUZZARD HONORED AT COMMENCEMENT"

This article is printed as it appeared in *The Illinois State University Alumni Register*, Vol. 4, No. 4, July, 1972. Permission was granted by Co-editor J. Russell Steele.

Illinois State University conferred an honorary doctor's degree on Dr. Robert Guy Buzzard of Laguna Hills, Calif., at ISU's 113th annual commencement ceremony Saturday, June 10, in Horton Field House.

Mr. Buzzard, former president of Eastern Illinois University, Charleston,

is an alumnus of ISU and was a member of the Illinois State faculty from 1923-33, prior to leaving his post as head of the ISU Department of Geography to take the post at Eastern, where he served for 23 years until retiring in 1956.

Illinois State President David Berlo said he was highly pleased that the university's first honorary doctorate during his tenure as president was awarded to Mr. Buzzard. "Not only has President Buzzard's career reflected in its many achievements on Illinois State University, but I had the personal privilege of serving under him as a faculty member at Eastern Illinois in 1955-56."

The recommendation of Mr. Buzzard for the degree was made by a university committee chaired by Dr. Arlan Helgeson.

Mr. Buzzard, a national leader in geography education and founder of Gamma Theta Upsilon, geography honorary, was accompanied to ISU by his wife, the former Alice Irene Couchman, who also attended ISU.

Born in Sumner (Ill.) in 1890, he was a 1913 graduate of University High School, Normal, and earned a diploma from Illinois State in 1914. He participated in the 50th reunion of his class in June, 1964.

Mr. Buzzard continued his education by earning an SB degree from the University of Chicago in 1916 and an SM degree from Chicago in 1917. A student of the well-known geographer Ellen Churchill Semple, he followed her from Chicago to Clark University, Worcester, Mass., where he earned a Ph.D. degree in 1925. He also received an AM degree from the University of Illinois in 1938.

Mr. and Mrs. Buzzard have four sons: John A., Stamford, Conn.; Henry L., Peekskill, N. Y.; Robert D., Riverside, Calif.; and Charles E., Tempe, Ariz.



ISU President David Berlo, left, applauds as Gene A. Budig, new vice president and dean of the university, places the hood on Robert Guy Buzzard during the 113th Commencement program here June 10. Dr. Buzzard was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the annual event.