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## Immediate Release : Man Involved with Helping Energy Crisis will be Honored

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 1981 jb

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--A man deeply involved in helping solve the energy crisis at home and abroad and a local printer who maintains almost daily contact with his alma mater will be honored at Illinois Wesleyan University Saturday, May 16, at the annual Alumni Day luncheon.

Robert E. Meeker, '52, vice president and director of major programs for TRW, Inc., Redondo Beach, Calif., will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest award given by the Alumni Association.

Bernard Gummerman, '31, owner of Gummerman Printing, 217 E. Front, will receive the Loyalty Award.

Meeker's responsibility with TRW, which he joined in 1976, is to establish major commercial investment opportunities in energy, based primarily on high technology inventions made in the TRW laboratories.

After receiving his doctorate in physical chemistry in 1955 at Northwestern University, he joined Shell Oil Company. During the next 21 years Meeker held a variety of positions with Shell. He served as director of the synthetic rubber technical center in Torrance, Calif.; manager of new projects in the Industrial Chemicals Division in New York; director of exploratory science in Houston; vice president-commercial with Billiton International Metals, a world-wide company acquired by Shell; and general manager of a magnesium project in London.

In 1971 he was assigned to the Royal Dutch-Shell Group in London and The Hague, where he assisted in the diversification of Shell into the mining and metals business. Then in 1974 he was named president of Roxana Shale Oil Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Shell Oil Company. In that capacity he had responsibilities for the company's oil shale project in Colorado, in coal marketing, and in research and development relating to mining ventures.

During the first severe energy crisis in the late 1960s, he was one of Shell's spokesmen whose job was to explain to the American people the problems oil companies were facing. He was often quoted in the Wall Street Journal and major newspapers and was interviewed by Walter Cronkite.

A graduate of the Rock Island public schools, Meeker was president of the student chapter of the Academy of Science at Wesleyan. He was president of Alpha Epsilon Delta, an honorary fraternity for science students. He was a member of Blue Key, national activities honorary; Green Medallion, local activities honorary; the Argus, student newspaper; and the Marching Band.

He and his wife, the former Dorothy Nelson, a 1951 graduate of Illinois State University, live in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. Their oldest daughter, Julie, will graduate from Northwestern's School of Medicine in June; another daughter, Laurie, will receive a degree in economics from Baylor in June; and their son, Bradford, is a freshman at UCLA.

As owner of the company which for nearly 50 years has printed Argus and as a member of the President's Club and Board of Visitors, Gummerman has regular contact with more than one constituency of the university. He has been teacher, adviser, supporter and friend to students, faculty and administrators for many years.

In 1969 the International Typographical presented him a 25-year pin.

A member of Sigma Chi fraternity at Illinois Wesleyan, Gummerman won a varsity letter as a swimmer. He has served Gamma Upsilon, student publications honorary, as advisor. He presently serves on the 1931 Class Fund Committee. He has been a loyal and generous supporter of the university since 1946 and served as class chairman in 1969-70.

Gummerman is married to the former Hilda Ragan, '30.