The Eastern Kentucky University Science Building promises to help prepare our graduates for navigation into uncharted areas of discovery. From advanced technology like 3-D projectors and touch-sensitive smart boards to an outdoor wetlands area and indoor atrium, students and faculty are immersed in the scientific process.

Phase One of the Science Building is set to open in 2011.

Are you a visionary? Are you prepared to invest in a new age of exploration at EKU?

For more information and naming opportunities please call (859) 622-1583 or e-mail giving@eku.edu.

In 1492
She invested in an expedition.
Her vision ushered in the Age of Exploration.

A new age of exploration is dawning at Eastern Kentucky University.

Exploration begins with visionaries — individuals who see possibilities amidst a world of challenges.

Queen Isabella of Spain
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Dr. Neil Pederson
Summer has come and gone. This year summer brought the opened of the Manchester Campus on June 7, 2009. There were more than 300 in attendance as we celebrated the grand opening and the naming of the Sivers Building in honor of Kentucky State Senator Robert Sivers. Read more about this event on pages 17-21.

Within the 2008-09 fiscal year Eastern alumni and friends showed us how generous they truly are! In a year full of economic challenges and declining national charitable giving trends, Eastern’s number of donors was increased over 2007-08. This is no small feat! Alumni gifts are crucial to all that Eastern accomplishes, now more than ever. Because the largest number of gifts are directed to scholarship assistance, our students benefit from your donations at a time when other financial aid sources have diminished. We look forward to talking with you again this year about how you can make a difference to Eastern. If you’d like to give now, visit www.eku.edu/development and look for the “Make a Gift Now” button. We are grateful for your support!

Ron Griffin, ’78, accepted the role of alumni president for the 2009-2010 year beginning July 1, 2009. Melissa Combs-Wright, ’00, is our vice president/president-elect for the year with Dewayne Biddy, ’86, serving as alumni board secretary. A special thanks to Mike Conway, ’72, for his year of service as alumni president.

The beginning of the academic year is always an exciting time on Eastern’s Campus Beautiful. Life is full of hope and promise as new and returning students come to campus. As we look toward the future, do you know a student who would be a great fit for Eastern? Share the coupon found on p. 31, and we’ll waive the $30 admission application fee for that individual.

With this issue you will find the Hall of Distinguished Alumni awardees recognized during Alumni Weekend 2009. As you read the profiles, keep in mind that the deadline for 2010 nominations is December 1, 2009. You can go online to make your nomination by visiting www.eku.edu/alumni.

As you know, in 2006 Eastern celebrated her centennial. Well, 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of football at EKU. As you enjoy the 100 Years of Football retrospective on pp. 10-13, make plans to attend a game in Roy Kidd Stadium this season and watch the Colonels initiate a second century of gridiron action. Check www.ekusports.com for the schedule and ticket information.

As always this brings my best to you!

Jackie Collier
Director of Alumni Relations
President’s Perspective

Today was one of my most exciting days after returning to work almost exactly two years ago. We officially kicked off the 2009-2010 academic year with our opening convocation of faculty and staff. As the crowd, which completely filled Hiram Brock Auditorium, came in through the lobby, the excitement was palpable and energized me. The excitement was not about hearing me speak, but about the year ahead of us. I began my remarks by pointing out to the new faculty and staff that they are joining colleagues who have caused Eastern to be:

• recognized by the Chronicle of Higher Education as one of America’s Great Colleges to Work For®.
• among only 175 of America’s 5,000 colleges and universities to be recognized for community engagement—both curricular and in practice—by the Carnegie Foundation.
• listed by Forbes magazine as being in the top 10 percent of America’s colleges and universities—two years running.
• included again in U.S. News & World Report’s annual listing of top colleges and universities, also putting us in or near the top 10 percent, and …
• designated as one of America’s most Veteran Friendly campuses by GI Jobs magazine.

Our research shows that only three institutions in the entire country fulfill all of these criteria—The Ohio State University, Tulane University, and Eastern Kentucky University.

These wonderful bragging points were followed by an expression of my appreciation for those in the room who had participated in my evaluation last spring, which was conducted by the board of regents with input from every university constituency, including alumni leadership. As I have said several times, I told them I found the evaluation both affirming and instructive. On the affirming side, I got pretty good marks for restoring stability and for the way the institution has so far weathered the economic storm that still swirls around us. In the instructive and creative thinking skills among our students. Of our Quality Enhancement Plan, which is focused on developing our goals in student success, regional stewardship, and implementation procedures to become more effective and efficient so that we would have continued doing the wrong things better. “As we re-imagine and reinvent Eastern we remain on teaching and learning. There is honor and distinction in being an institution that values its instructional mission and excels at it. I am sure you have all heard the old joke about commitment and involvement. In a ham and egg breakfast, the chicken is involved, but the pig is committed. We must as an institution be involved in scholarship and service, but we must be committed to instruction.

I spoke of the need to contemporize our view of scholarship and service in the light of Boyer’s Scholarship Reconsidered, a seminal piece of work on the academy. My commitment to diversity and to internationalization as essential to our student success was reiterated. I also expressed my conviction that we must more deeply engage ourselves in online education and do it in such a way to add value to the online experience by utilizing resources that we have that are absent in the world of the University of Phoenix and its ilk. We need to infuse the Essential Eastern into our provision of online instruction and mentoring.

And, I spoke of the need to re-engineer our processes and procedures to become more effective and efficient so that we would have the resources to better compensate our faculty and staff and to pursue our goals in student success, regional stewardship, and implementation of our Quality Enhancement Plan, which is focused on developing critical and creative thinking skills among our students.

I close this piece, as I closed the convocation:

We have a lot of work to do if we are to adequately serve our students, our region, state, nation and world. We have to go about our business with the realization that simply doing more of what we have been doing is not the answer. In the words of F.W. de Clerk, neither is “looking for more and ingenious ways to continue doing the wrong things better.” As we re-imagine and reinvent Eastern we cannot lose track of the Essential Eastern, those things which make us who we are and are the basis for our specialness. I have seen the Power of Maroon at work and have confidence that we can get the job done. What a wonderful time it is to be us and to be at Eastern Kentucky University.

Charles D. Whitlock, ’65, ’66
President
A basketball scholarship brought Roy Allison to Eastern Kentucky State College, where legendary coach Paul McBrayer drilled his team on passing, scoring and keeping a steady bead on game strategy despite the constant shift of the rules of the court. Throughout his professional life, Allison honed these skills. After retirement in 1989, he’s still a player, making goals for his teams.

The Louisville native followed college and marriage to Nancy, his wife of 54 years, with a three-year stint in the United States Marine Corps before becoming a high school teacher and basketball coach. Five years later, he entered the public health field as personnel officer at Western State Hospital, serving in the Kentucky Department of Health. He rose to be the Department’s director of hospital services, finally serving as acting deputy commissioner for administration while teaching at Kentucky State University.

In the late 1960’s, Allison opted for another challenge: directing the Harris Insurance Agency, Inc. Allison grew the company six-fold to become Harlan County’s largest insurance agency. Yet he still found time to help his community run better. He chaired and worked tirelessly for groups as varied as the Harlan Kiwanis Club, Chamber of Commerce, Harlan Appalachian Regional Hospital Board of Governors, Cumberland River Mental Health-Mental Retardation Board and Appalachian Regional Healthcare, finally serving four years as mayor of Harlan County. In his “free time” he officiated high school and college football for 20 years, sharing Coach McBrayer’s lessons with generations of young people.

After retirement, leaving his sons Mike and Jim to run Harris Insurance, Roy and Nancy Allison moved to Lexington, where he is an active member of the United Methodist Church and a volunteer at Central Baptist Hospital.

Allison serves Eastern in many capacities: as alumni representative to the NCAA Recertification Committee for the athletics department and past president of the EKU International Alumni Association.

Bill Clements came to Eastern Kentucky State College because he wanted more out of life than the ceaseless manual labor he had known on his family’s farm in Kentucky and dead-end jobs in Florida like digging ditches and moving furniture. Eastern was affordable and he took a chance, packed his bag and headed north. He found an ally in the business department when Dr. Emogene Hogg promised he could make “as much money with his mind as with his hands” if he was persistent. He was. After an Army stint in Korea, recalling Hogg’s dictum that “you can do anything you want to do,” Clements pestered a Merrill Lynch executive in Atlanta weekly for months until “I finally wore him out.” He got his first job in finance and vowed to prove Hogg right.

Four years later, Clements joined the wealth management firm of Hilliard Lyons, opening the Henderson, Ky., branch and ultimately serving on the national board of directors from 1991-1993. Throughout his professional life and in retirement, Clements has brought his significant business acumen, financial management and organizational skills to the work of ensuring quality health care and educational opportunities to his community. He served as chair of the Henderson Community Foundation’s finance committee and on the boards of the Henderson Regional Hospital Foundation and Methodist Hospital.

A consistent, enthusiastic and effective supporter of his alma mater, Clements is a longstanding member of the EKU Foundation board of directors, the current secretary/treasurer of the board, a member of the Foundation’s executive committee, chair of the finance committee, a member of the audit committee and one of the lead donors of EKU’s first comprehensive capital campaign.

The former ditch digger has indeed built a better life for himself and his community. The key, he feels, was Eastern. “Dr. Hogg and the other business faculty sold me on the fact that I was going to walk out of EKU with as good a business education as anywhere in the state, and I feel like I got one.” Through an endowment established by Bill and Cindy Clements, high school students from western Kentucky entering the College of Business & Technology will have scholarships to apply Dr. Hogg’s teachings to their own lives.

No one knows how many future professionals and community leaders are lost when college students are overwhelmed by life’s pressures and tragedies. Thanks to Eastern’s tradition of teaching and support, exemplified by the late Dr. Ed Robuck of the department of correctional and juvenile justice studies, that didn’t happen to Major Kathy Strunk Eigelbach. As a freshman struggling with her mother’s recent death, staying in college seemed impossible. Dr. Robuck, she says, “made sure that I was OK.” He helped her put her personal tragedy in perspective while challenging her to continue her education. As Eigelbach tells her children, students and co-workers, she never forgot his lessons “and I think we are all better for my having known him.”

Eigelbach graduated from Eastern with compassion, focus, tenacity and conviction that women must be leaders in modern law enforcement. She has become a widely respected teacher, role model and strategic leader in a formerly male-dominated field.

Joining the St. Matthews, Ky., Police Department (near Louisville) in 1988, Eigelbach has been deputy chief since 2000, constantly seeking out advanced training opportunities such as the Department of Criminal Justice Training’s (DOCJT) Executive Development Program and School of Strategic Leadership and the FBI National Academy.

Of course, Eigelbach chose Eastern when she returned to school for a master’s degree in criminal justice. There she found challenge and encouragement from Dr. Robin Haar: “Her work encouraged me to be more proactive in the area of women’s issues as related to law enforcement.”

She is the president of both the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition and the Women’s Law Enforcement Network, earning St. Matthews’ Police Officer of the Year award, the Jeffersontown Optimist Club’s Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Kentucky’s Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year and the DOCJT Kentucky Leadership Institute’s Leadership Award. As a mother of two children, she contributed her unique skills as a scout leader, school board president, Big Sister and “Everyone Reads” volunteer.

Eigelbach credits Eastern with her life-long career of learning, her focus and capacity to balance personal, family, community and professional commitments: “That atmosphere was and is one of excellence. I have relied on these lessons throughout my career to make law enforcement better.”
With a master’s degree in geography and a concentration in community planning, Brad Loar began teaching as an instructor at Eastern, constantly looking for ways to turn his knowledge to practical use for those whose lives, livelihoods, homes and communities were endangered by natural disasters. Teaching, says Loar “developed my speaking, organizational education and training skills.” As a planner for a five-county agency in northeastern Kentucky, he helped communities respond to chronic floodplain issues. When the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was created in 1979, Loar was ready to work on a larger scale, joining FEMA’s Region IV serving Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North and South Carolina and Tennessee. When hurricanes, floods, storms, tornadoes and any other presidential disaster declarations hit his states – and 30 have in Loar’s tenure – he marshals 50 planners, engineers and emergency management specialists and more than 200 disaster reservists to deliver FEMA program services and disaster response.

Loar’s work of dealing with the unthinkable, directing complex services in the midst of a devastated infrastructure and coordinating the alphabet soup of local, regional and federal entities is possible because of his training, he insists. “Eastern created an environment that focused on job skills. The terrific teaching and enthusiastic faculty at the master’s level and integrated instruction with peer interaction are the roots of my success at the federal government.”

Before his current appointment as director of the Region IV Mitigation Division, Loar served as senior flood specialist and night shift deputy director, coordinating immediate, broad-scale response.

In Florida as a certified flood plain manager, he organized homebuilder task forces, taught contractors how to construct disaster-resistant buildings and helped communities maintain disaster readiness. At home in Lawrenceville, Ga., he volunteers as an elementary math tutor and coaches basketball.

In 2005, Loar was the Distinguished Alumni keynote speaker for EKU’s Geography Awareness Week. Today, when students ask, “What does a geographer do?” Brad Loar’s career gives a resounding answer: a well-trained geographer can help communities protect themselves from disasters, respond, rebuild and rededicate themselves to a sustainable future.

Don McGeorge’s story seems like a Horatio Alger saga: a college student bagging groceries to help pay his way through school catches a recruiter’s attention in his senior year, bags an entry level position in the Kroger Company and 26 years later is Kroger’s president and chief operating officer. The particulars of McGeorge’s story, though, become a prism for the “Essential Eastern,” a student who applied his tenure at the School of Opportunity to craft his own future and has then spent a lifetime creating opportunities for others.

As he studied business at Eastern, McGeorge found that the very process of education “helped me mature and develop self-discipline… manage multiple priorities, meet deadlines and achieve goals.” Outside
the classroom, “social interactions gave me a deeper and broader perspective,” lessons he soon put to use, “engaging people in a shared vision and seeking associates’ input in the development of business solutions.”

These skills were refined as McGeorge scaled the corporate hierarchy in an industry undergoing profound technological and marketing shifts. Yet in his own rise, McGeorge stayed rooted. “I grew up seeing the desperate need surrounding us in Appalachia, and giving something back to the region that nurtured me is important.” The giving back is both personal and corporate. Don and Angie McGeorge head an Appalachian missions ministry at their church in Union, Ky., which he calls “one of the most rewarding things I have ever done.” Under McGeorge’s leadership, Kroger was named one of America’s Most Reputable Companies, in part because of his insistence on corporate responsibility. In the last ten years, Kroger has given back $1 billion, feeding the hungry through system-wide participation in Second Harvest and supporting Neighbor-to-Neighbor initiatives, local schools, the Salvation Army and breast cancer awareness.

To hard-working Eastern students, Don McGeorge’s story is a textbook example of lessons learned, chances seized and fundamental values consistently honored.

Clifford Turner, builder and realtor, knows that bricks can be the foundation of schools, affordable homes and diverse communities worthy of a democratic nation. He also knows that bricks can be weapons. As a young teenager watching Martin Luther King, Jr. lead a civil rights march through Turner’s hometown of Louisville, he was horrified to see a marcher hit in the head by a flying brick. His parents whisked him home, but the shocking image remained. When Clifford Turner had completed his degree in industrial education, he returned to Louisville, determined to help build a better city for all its residents.

He rose quickly, becoming president and principal developer for Land Development Services, Inc., a broker for Turner Realty & Management, Inc., president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, and a frequently and widely sought after consultant in urban development. In 2007 he was recognized as one of the Top 25 (and only African-American) Thought Leaders in Real Estate in America.

Nowhere is Turner’s leadership shining as clearly as in his hometown. Why? “God gave me the gift to be able to work with people and if I didn’t do it where I grew up, who would?” He assembled $12 million to convert the rundown facility of the former Stephen Foster Elementary School he attended as a child to the world’s first high-tech affordable senior citizen housing, allowing residents to consult with physicians through interactive television.

Nearby, Turner’s Shawnee Gardens complex was the world’s first high-tech multi-family housing project, winning a HUD Best Practice Award. Through Turner’s “e-pal” program, children used donated computers to partner with a South African church and school. Turner then worked with local and corporate donors to take 12- to 15-year-olds from Shawnee Gardens to meet their South African partners. They toured villages, met tribal leaders and dined with members of the African National Congress. “The trip changed all the kids,” Turner says. “They’re reaching out to others in need.” His next project is bringing a South African delegation to Shawnee Gardens.

Through Turner’s work and example, bricks that once were weapons are building better lives at home and around the world.
A deep sense of history, openness to travel and challenge and an enduring passion to help people build working communities have led Rebecca Houghtaling half way around the world and back. She came to Eastern from the lake district of Michigan and found here warm welcome, constant challenge and a call to “expect more of myself, to be responsible, to make a difference.” While majoring in history, Houghtaling’s curriculum was eclectic and she cites her debts to Drs. Harry Brown (English), Malcom Frishie (biology), Bonnie Gray (honors program), Bruce MacLaren (earth sciences), Ron Messerich (philosophy), Jim Webb (history), Isabelle White (English), David Zurich (geography) and Mr. Mick Lewis (history).

After graduating summa cum laude as an Honors Scholar with a bachelor’s degree in history, Houghtaling spent two years (1999-2001) in Ukraine with the Peace Corps, teaching and working in community development. Returning home, she kept serving: this time as an AmeriCorps volunteer, establishing a network of emergency shelters and working as a disaster preparedness specialist for the American Red Cross.

With a clear career focus on community building, she entered the master’s degree program in urban planning at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign while serving as a Peace Corps recruiter. Her award-winning academic and community work includes redesigning a trail network and botanical garden and researching renewable energy policy. In 2005 she graduated (again summa cum laude) and immediately began directing what would become an award-winning site design guidebook for a five-county region of Michigan. After working with landscape architects and planners R. Clark Associates, Houghtaling joined Crispell-Snyder, Inc. in Milwaukee, Wis., an engineering firm specializing in design of suburban and rural communities.

Citing Houghtaling’s contributions in effective community planning, environmentally friendly growth and alternative energy strategies, Dr. David Coleman, chair of EKU’s department of history, says, “Her work exemplifies the creative energy needed in addressing some of the key global issues of the present and the near future.”

“My time at Eastern prepared me for the challenges I faced over the past ten years – from living overseas to graduate studies to independent research abroad,” Houghtaling says, adding that the gratitude that she and other Eastern graduates feel for the support, encouragement and advice so generously given in their undergraduate years can best be shown by “making a difference in the lives of others.”

AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Since the 1988-89 academic year, the Alumni Association has recognized 37 outstanding members of Eastern’s teaching faculty who have distinguished themselves in teaching excellence and commitment to their students. The award includes a cash stipend, a certificate and recognition at the alumni banquet and the spring commencement ceremony.

As department chair for safety, security and emergency management in the College of Justice & Safety, Dr. Larry Collins hires no “paper tigers.” All faculty members have worked in the fields they teach. When Collins trains students to review
building plans for fire safety, he draws on his extensive construction experience, carpentry certification and years as a career firefighter in Pennsylvania and Virginia. He has been there: entering burning buildings, executing a “high angle rescue” or sifting through an arson scene for evidence that will stand up to intense cross-examination in court. He knows how to train future leaders.

Since fire departments are constantly expanding their functions, Collins molds broadly skilled graduates. Yes, they fight fires but are also versed in dealing with building collapse, hazardous material response, rescue operations, building plan review and inspection before and after occupation. Eastern graduates all over the country are moving up management chains in fire and emergency management, Homeland Security, FEMA, OSHA, EPA, industry and insurance fields. They are championing proactive legislation, setting standards for professional training and breaking gender barriers as female alumni enter formerly male-dominated fields. Professionalism is built into the program, from National Fire Academy certification for every department course to student participation in national conferences and insistence that writing and management skills keep pace with technical abilities. Eastern’s fire, arson and explosion investigation program is the strongest in the country; the new Homeland Security program has grown to 100 majors and innovative trainings like the Technical Large Animal Rescue program give Eastern students unique, highly valued skill sets.

The national reputation of the department extends beyond assembling nationally known faculty like Thomas Thurman, widely credited with having written the bible of bomb scene investigation. Collins and his faculty work closely with students to plan their careers. This ranges from timing a course schedule with a municipality’s fire fighter exam to planning a career path for graduates who want to work in hometowns too small for entry-level jobs. Collins helps them get started elsewhere so they can return home “closer to the top.”

“Every one of my faculty members is here to make a difference,” he says. “Our legacy is our students.” That legacy is saving and ensuring lives across the country and building long-term loyalty to Eastern, like “just the other day,” reports Collins, “when two students from the early ’90s walked into my office.” They wanted to share the difference he had made to their lives and their communities.

With a fresh M.B.A., Ed Fenton launched his accounting career with industry giant PricewaterhouseCoopers. But fond memories of teaching during graduate school days dogged him, and he soon opted for a more satisfying challenge than climbing the corporate ladder: “the challenge of educating and encouraging my students.” Of course, encouragement is only part of the equation for Dr. Ed Fenton, professor of accounting in Eastern’s College of Business & Technology. Every day he links textbook principles with current realities: Wall Street Journal’s breaking news, stock market shifts and investment strategies. Students pore through annual reports of companies shaping their lives: McDonalds, e-Bay or Microsoft. Fenton makes them read the fine print on a standard employment contract to discover that employers can (and do) check their credit ratings, which leads to discussions of the accounting principles behind keeping a good rating. Business leaders and potential employers regularly visit Fenton’s classroom. He keeps up with former students (two-thirds of whom have jobs immediately after graduation) and oversees dozens of co-op learning appointments.

Lecturing on international business and multi-culturalism wasn’t enough for Fenton. Aware that many students can’t afford a semester or year abroad, he spent eight months organizing a 10-day China trip that introduced students to leaders of multinationals like DHL and Ogilvy & Mather, to Chinese university faculty members and U.S. manufacturers operating in China. Fenton organized recreation, too: kung fu, basketball and adventurous dinners in which he kept a promise to eat anything the students ate. The trip achieved its goal: the students are challenged and passionate about expanding their horizons in a global marketplace.

Given Dr. Fenton’s enthusiasm, caring, firm grounding in real world business and technology and a passion for “the challenge of education,” it’s not surprising to find him in Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers and winning the department’s Jack L. Dyer Excellence in Teaching and Most Inspirational Professor Award. Fenton serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Forensic Accounting and the Forensic Examiner, manages student affairs for the regional Institute of Management Accountants, consults and researches, but the core of his day is the ever-changing, ever-satisfying challenge of “encouraging my students.”
In 1909, when Eastern Normal played its first football game on Stateland Field, fans were still adjusting to innovations like the huddle, forward passing, “T” and wingback formations and yard lines. Head gear might be a stocking cap or heavy thatch of hair. Penalties varied widely. One thing was sure: college football was so brutal, so often fatal and rife with foul play, that it might have been abolished had President Theodore Roosevelt not believed that a reformed game could build bodies and character. Under his prodding, colleges created the American Football Rules Committee in 1905, forerunner of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.
Much has changed since then. Game balls were standardized (1912); numbers appeared on the back and front of jerseys (1937); referees were added. Offensive charges, passing, and pro-sets reshaped the game, and new equipment improved player protection. Since 1909, with a one-year break during World War II, another evolution has occurred in one corner of eastern Kentucky: the Colonels have emerged as a national football powerhouse. Consider the stats:

- 2 NCAA Division I National Championships
- 2 NCAA Division I National Runners-up
- 19 NCAA Division I Playoff Appearances
- 20 Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Championships
- 52 All-Americans, 40 pro players

Now, celebrating its first century of football, Eastern rides the crest of 31 consecutive winning seasons. Winning is a tradition at Eastern. Other traditions endure, like fairness and Coach Dean Hood’s (2008-present) view that discipline is what you do for a player, not to him. Sportsmanship is valued; graduation is valued, not just a player’s usable seasons on the field. Eastern players’ APR (Academic Performance Rate) is one of the highest in the OVC, boasts Hood.

These values were the bedrock of Eastern’s current powerhouse status. When J.W. “Spider” Thurman packed his one suitcase for Eastern in the fall of 1938, the Great Depression gripped the country. He would not see his family until Christmas and they would not see him play, but he would letter in three sports (football, basketball and track), keep his grades up and graduate in four years. Although Thurman’s quarterback wizardry made him an All-American in 1940 and three-year All-Cumberland Valley Conference pick, he stuck to his ambition to become a high school coach. When asked for the key to Eastern’s prowess, Thurman cites recruiting, discipline, and citizenship. “Coach [Rome] Rankin was our father figure. He ate and traveled with us and we didn’t get into trouble.”

Fast-forward to 1964. Harry Lenz, just out of the Army, wanted to play college football but had no high school stats. His parents had died and GI funds wouldn’t kick in for a year. His options were the Pittsburgh steel mills or Assistant Coach Bill Shannon’s offer to try out as a walk-on. Lenz’s ancient car made it to Richmond. He “did well” in the tryouts, but all the scholarship money had been given away. “Coach Shannon and his wife took me in and fed me all that year,” says Lenz. “They were like parents to me.” Stories flow out of Lenz, tales of hillbilly jokes and the Ball State team that outweighed Eastern and jeered at the scrimmage line, “What high school are you from?” Lenz laughs, “Coach Kidd taught us to settle it on the field.” Lenz’s team launched the tradition of singing “Cabin on the Hill” after each win. “We had a guy with a good voice, but he saw ghosts so we called him Haint. On the bus once after a win, we asked him for a victory song. Haint gave us ’Cabin on the Hill’ and it stuck.”

By 1979, nobody was joking about Eastern. That year Coach Kidd racked up an 11-2 season that finished with the Colonels smashing Lehigh 30-7 in the national championship game.
Eastern’s 100 Years of Football will be celebrated throughout the 2009 season. Plans include a logo designed by Markus Thomas, graphic designer and Colonel all-time leading rusher; souvenir items; on-line voting for an All-Century team; an on-line feature, “This day in Colonel football history”; a dedicated Web page; tribute video; “Through the Years” photography exhibit; and season tickets featuring great moments in Eastern football history.

A vivid account of team history with the Colonels’ All-Time Roster, stats and player features is available at www.ekusports.com/100yearsfb.
“We had had a good team the year before and the breaks went our way,” says linebacker Gary Ford. “That 1979 team was a group of kids that never gave up. They kept getting better and better as the year wore on,” says Kidd. Tempered by tragedy — the loss of well-loved player Don MacKinnon to meningitis during Spring Break — the team pulled together. “I gave my best for Don and so did everybody else,” remembers tailback Alvin Miller. In the Citrus Field locker room, they sang “Cabin on the Hill” and did what they came for: they handed the national championship game ball to Don MacKinnon’s mother.

As the wins kept coming, many wondered if Coach Kidd had some secret formula. Sure: hard work and discipline. “Do the little things right and the rest comes,” Ford remembers him repeating. Kidd was a brilliant recruiter and kept a tight-knit staff together year after year. He wanted to win “the right way.” He told every team that they were here first for an education and second for football. If a player skipped classes, “you got him up early and ran him,” says Kidd shortly. “He learned.” Kidd cared for the players personally; he and Sue Kidd hosted and fed the players on Friday nights before home games. He was fair and didn’t play favorites. He was a gentleman, always, says Coach Hood, who was an assistant coach under Kidd for five seasons. “He modeled how to be a good husband and dad in the way he cherished and honored Sue and his own children.” Bottom line, he wanted to make students, faculty and alumni proud. “Roy Kidd is highly competitive,” declares Hood. “Whether it was tiddlywinks or football, he played to win.”

With Dean Hood’s return to Eastern as head football coach in October 2008, the winning traditions continue. Offensive lineman Patrick Ford, son of 1979 champion Gary Ford, calls Hood firm, but fair. “You know where you stand and he treats you like a man.”

With Hood’s support, Ford will earn his construction management degree. Every good coach, asserts Hood, needs to be a role model for his players. It’s about “essential manhood,” he says, being a good player, of course, but also being a good citizen, husband and father.

Season after season, as winning teams belt out “Cabin on the Hill” on buses and in locker rooms, football at Eastern confirms President Theodore Roosevelt’s century-old vision that football can build strong bodies and strong characters, that it is a unique, irreplaceable component of the American college tradition.

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**GREAT FOOTBALL MOMENTS AT EASTERN**

1909 – first organized football game on Stateland Field
1936 – first game played at Hanger Stadium
1954 – EKU’s first bowl appearance at the Tangerine Bowl
1967 – OVC champion EKU defeats Ball State 27-13 to win the NCAA Mideast Regional championship. “When you talk about what got it all started for the tremendous success this program has enjoyed for the past 40 years, you have to start with this team.” – former head coach Danny Hope
1969 – the Colonels move to Hanger Field
1979 – EKU wins the NCAA Division I national championship, devastating Lehigh University 30-7. “I believe that team was destined to be winners.” – Coach Roy Kidd
1982 – the “magic season,” EKU crowns a 13-0 record with a No. 1 national ranking and second NCAA Division I national championship. “We each had a job to do and we went out and did it, and I’m talking about all 11 guys on every play.” – split end Steve Bird
1990 – Roy Kidd Stadium is dedicated with a 24-12 trouncing of Central Florida
2001 – Coach Roy Kidd celebrates his 300th win
2002 – Coach Roy Kidd retires and is replaced by Coach Danny Hope
2007 – EKU captures its 19th OVC crown, winning all but one game by double digits
2008 – EKU celebrates its 31st consecutive winning season, now guided by Coach Dean Hood

“Eastern” thanks Mike Clark and the department of athletics and Dr. Margaret Foote and the EKU archives staff for providing historic images for this story.
What factors about Eastern give confidence in facing the current challenges?
While we can’t claim a crystal ball in having predicted the scale of the current global economic recession, for the past five years we have followed a proactive, forward-thinking stance in the University’s financial management, carefully allocating funds for deferred maintenance, contingency funding, and strategic initiatives. These factors—added to our constant oversight of programs and exceptional dedication of faculty and staff at all levels to share the sacrifices and maintain quality and student-focus—are all cause for confidence.

How is Eastern utilizing federal stimulus funds?
Federal funds made available by the 2009 economic stimulus bill present us with both opportunity and challenge. In Kentucky the stimulus allocation is being used to replace money cut from state appropriations to education in 2009-10 and 2010-11. In Eastern’s case, this equates to $5.1 million in 2009-10 and slightly less in 2010-11. However, stimulus funds are not renewable and once expended, must be replaced or done without.

In order to minimize the long-term impact of budget reductions, Eastern is applying its one-time distribution of stimulus funds not to recurring expenses, but to one-time financial commitments that support our mission. Conversely, recurring expenses absorb necessary budget decreases, and a $3.7 million rainy day fund has been established to offset future cuts.

How does our situation compare to that of other post-secondary institutions?
As state budgets are increasingly stressed, public institutions around the country must seek remedies. Consider that even before the current crisis, Eastern was witnessing a seismic shift in funding sources. As recently as 2002, 60% of our operating funding came from state appropriations and 40% came from tuition. Today, these percentages are precisely reversed: the state supplies 40% and we must go to tuition or private support for the remainder.

Turning specifically to Kentucky, all Commonwealth public post-secondary institutions have sustained three cuts over the last 18 months, in our case totaling $6 million, as a result bringing our annual base budget state appropriations to $75.7 million. To put this figure in perspective, it is roughly equal to our 2002 allocation but does not account for a series of significant factors: inflation, enrollment growth, new technologies, investment in attracting/retaining qualified faculty, maintenance, program growth or capital improvements.

How has the recession impacted Eastern’s endowment?
The Eastern Kentucky University Foundation is a separate, non-profit organization which manages gifts made and endowments established in support of the University. Oversight of these investments is under the purview of the Foundation board and its finance and investment committee. This exceptionally dedicated and knowledgeable group works in conjunction with external consultants to establish an asset allocation model and monitor the investment portfolio with an objective of long-term growth. Despite the diligent work of the committee, like all investors, the Foundation faced an assault of historic proportions in the current global recession. In 2008, our endowment had a market value of about $50 million. That fell to a low of $35 million. We are happy to report a recent recovery to about $40 million. So we are not out of the woods, but we are beginning to see daylight, and we credit the skill and fortitude of our finance and investment committee with reducing Eastern’s exposure and laying the groundwork for recovery.

How do impacts on the endowment affect operating budgets?
It’s important to note two factors about the endowment. First, designed for long-term growth, Eastern’s endowment has a strict spending cap of 5%, meaning that in any year, we cannot spend more than 5% of the average three-year market value of these funds. Thus, fluctuations in market value have relatively modest impact on the University’s operating funds. Second, an acceleration of private gifts in the last few years combined with the implementation of a unified, progressive management model created endowment gains which do not yet have the longevity in accrued investment growth to amplify their impact on operating budgets. Clearly, however, given the reductions in state appropriations, the EKU Foundation endowment will become an increasingly critical tool for growing and sustaining the University.

Has Eastern completed a risk assessment on its portfolio and if so, do you see changes in its investment strategies?
The Foundation undergoes on-going risk assessment, constantly seeking a balanced portfolio, asset allocation to respond to varying market conditions, and continuous oversight. This strategy, undergirded with careful due diligence, is really the best approach for long-term, responsible investment.
Has Eastern canceled or scaled back renovation and/or building projects?
Construction of Eastern’s new Science Building and Business & Technology Center Phase II is proceeding as planned with previously secured state funding. Likewise, the Studio for Academic Creativity in the Crabbe Library is funded by private donations. We have reduced by $2 million reserves for facilities renovation but still have adequate funds to maintain the campus appropriately.

Can you describe any innovative, creative cost-cutting measures on campus?
An exciting partnership with Siemens Building Technologies gives us an opportunity to retro-fit many ’60’s and ’70’s era buildings with a variety of energy-saving green features with guaranteed 13-year pay back through utility savings. We’ve entered into a very advantageous leasing agreement for our computers, which cuts costs and gives faculty and staff an updated computer every three years. A similar arrangement for copiers with scanning and faxing capabilities reduces costs and allows electronic document transfer and storage. Our new paperless payroll for 3,000 employees eliminates 200,000 documents a year, which translates to significant savings in paper, printing, processing, mailing and storage. Student bills are now totally paperless as well.

Are economic directives being given to academic and athletic departments, such as travel cuts?
Our overall directive is maintain quality. Clearly, given financial realities, economies must be made, but each department has been given autonomy in how it reduces costs. Yes, some departments have cut travel; others have come up with their own ways to help reduce overall costs.

Specifically, what measures have been enacted or might be necessary in the current crisis?
First and most important, we are happy to report that we have had no layoffs. We have instituted a hiring freeze except for critical vacancies. In these cases, we have often been fortunate to have an exceptional internal candidate, saving the cost of an external search.

Salaries and benefits together account for 60% of our operating budget. So far, we have not had to cut benefits, which are a $29 million annual commitment. In fact, for the past 18 months, there has been no increase in employees’ health insurance contributions. We have instituted across the board salary caps, reducing to zero the previous 1.5% annual salary increase. Although we have tried hard not to cut services, some inevitable service reduction in a few non-critical areas like internal mail deliveries have resulted from the hiring freeze. To sum up then, we’re all working harder, but we’ve been able to avoid the scale of sacrifice we’ve seen in many other sectors and in some of our sister institutions.

Some universities are cutting or combining academic programs, canceling classes or increasing class size. Do you foresee these measures at Eastern?
If there is increase in class size, it is modest. So far there have been no program cuts as a direct result of the recession. We constantly review all our academic and athletic programs to see if any are being underutilized or if resources might be better allocated. That’s responsible management as has been the practice at Eastern for years.

Will Eastern's commitment to financial aid be impacted by the slumping economy?
Providing deserving students with educational access is a core Eastern value. In the last five years Eastern-sourced financial aid has more than doubled, growing from $12 million to $25 million annually. Total financial aid, including federal and state funding, is now $140 million. We’re proud to report that we have absorbed tuition increases for our students on full scholarship and are working hard to make sure that all resources are used appropriately. That means, for instance, that students receiving merit scholarships must maintain their grade point averages and progress toward graduation according to the terms of their aid agreement. Need-based programs are constantly reviewed to ensure that we are getting and keeping the most appropriate students. We will continue to be diligent in our efforts to make a college education affordable and attainable, no matter the financial landscape.

With so much dire economic news, what is the spirit on campus?
Despite belt tightening, the campus remains upbeat. A more collaborative budget process closely links strategic planning with fiscal decision making and gives every employee opportunity for input. Regular e-mail communication from President Whitlock keeps faculty and staff apprised of cost containment measures, and there’s a sense that we’re all in this together. While sacrifices have been required, Eastern has implemented benefits programs such as flexible scheduling and a University-coordinated ride sharing program that cost little to nothing but enhance the work environment. Evidence of positive morale is Eastern’s being named to the Chronicle of Higher Education’s 2009 Great Colleges to Work For.

Some alumni, facing their own economic stressors, may feel that a small gift is only a drop in the bucket. What is Eastern’s response?
Despite the difficult economic times, we are seeing growth in donor participation – that is the percentage of donors who give at any level. Because so much of the money raised by Eastern funds scholarships, this is making all the difference to our students. As one might expect, large annual gifts of appreciated assets, such as stock and real estate, have diminished. Nevertheless, thanks to the multiple smaller gifts of our wonderfully responsive alumni, we can still fulfill our promise to worthy young adults. We recognize your sacrifice, and we are grateful for your continued belief in the Eastern Experience.

And finally . . . What can members of the Eastern family do to help the university successfully navigate this economic crisis?
To alumni and friends, we say that giving is crucial, no matter what size the gift. Keep in touch with Eastern. Ask questions. We’re proud of the way we are responding to a historic economic challenge and want to be open in our process. Finally, keep sharing about Eastern. There’s always a way to touch people in your world, to let them know what Eastern means to you.
From strip mall
eastern’s new Manchester, Ky., Regional Campus is a long leap from the first classes offered in 1992 in a cramped, walk-up space over a strip mall housing a Subway® fast food restaurant, auto parts store, and medical supply company, says James Street, associate vice president for capital planning and facilities management. An upgraded, dedicated facility was a two-decade dream for Kentucky State Senator Robert Stivers, who worked tirelessly toward groundbreaking in October 2007. At the grand opening on June 8, 2009, the building was named in Stivers’ honor. Terry Gray, director of the Manchester Campus, calls it “a true model of what future regional facilities can and should be.”

The new campus can accommodate up to 1,500 students per semester, drawing from Clay and surrounding counties. Weekend and evening classes make education accessible for students with work and/or family responsibilities. “We have built a beacon of hope for this community,” Gray says.

Asked to speak of how that beacon has touched one life, Gray points to his own sister, Jennifer Stewart. Although always “the smart one in the family,” after high school she was buried in a going-nowhere job. Determined to become an elementary school teacher, Stewart juggled work and home responsibilities and still managed to complete her bachelor’s degree in four years, once carrying 21 course hours. Her last transcript, says Gray proudly, shows nearly straight A’s, and she passed the state proficiency exam with honors.

The Manchester campus offers a vital second chance at success for young students like James Pennington, who entered the University of Kentucky in 1998, unprepared for freshman classes as large as his high school. Overwhelmed by “culture shock,” as he puts it, he floundered academically, dropped out, worked and finally started classes at Manchester where “the campus was staring me in the face.” With smaller classes, and clearer focus, Pennington’s straight-A grades won him a place on the President’s List, which recognizes students with a 3.75 or higher grade point average, five out of six semesters. A political science major, he became SGA chair at Manchester, transferred to the main campus and earned a coveted place in the LeaderShape Institute, a highly selective, national-level six-day leadership training program. In 2009 he helped head Eastern’s Mock Trial Team toward a National Championship, pursuing his own goal of entering the legal profession. “Eastern,” Pennington insists, “turned my life around.”
At the expanded Manchester facility, skilled academic counselors can help more students like Stewart and Pennington focus on success. They’ll help non-traditional students like Sherry Maggard, who won this year’s Gladys Perry Tyng Award for excellence in elementary education, discover that college opportunities have no age limits. Members of the community can gain job skills or enhance their lives through non-credit courses. Helping local students and citizens achieve their goals, says Gray, made directing the Manchester campus “a dream job” even in its strip mall years. Now he has a dream facility to offer, with enhancements unimaginable in 1992.

Options and opportunity for students and the community

The new Manchester campus houses a full range of services: advising, financial aid and scholarship counseling, placement exams and career counseling. Offerings include credit and non-credit college classes, adult education including GED, community and workforce education, conferencing and events. More than 100 classes will be offered each semester, allowing most students to take all their required general education classes at Manchester. Complete degrees or substantial portions of degrees are available in ten areas:

- Elementary Education (bachelor’s degree)
- Early Childhood Education (associate degree)
- Educational Leadership (master’s degree)
- General Studies (bachelor’s degree)
- Business Administration (master’s degree)
- via distance education
- Paralegal Studies (associate degree)
- RN to BSN Bridge (nursing degree for students with an associate degree in nursing)
- Psychiatric Nursing (master’s degree)
- Rural Nurse Practitioner (master’s degree)
- Bachelor of Social Work (bachelor’s degree)

The 48,636-square-foot facility hosts 24 classrooms, a computer lab, wet and dry science labs, five Interactive TV (ITV) rooms, 17 offices, a bookstore and a 5,200-square-foot meeting/multi-purpose space. Classrooms feature “smart boards,” large computer screens with touch capability, allowing instructors to display and manipulate data or bring in internet sources, video, audio and graphic components to enrich course content. Students can watch lectures and interact with faculty members throughout the university network. The technology will allow nursing students to view live demonstrations of delicate procedures. When the Richmond campus hosts a national-level conference, the proceedings can be broadcast to Manchester.

Advanced computer capabilities position Manchester as the Disaster Recovery Site for handling emergency data processing for the Richmond campus via an upgraded information pipeline which Gray describes as “the difference between drinking from a water fountain and drinking from a fire hose.”

The city and region will benefit as well. The multi-purpose room will support conferences, workshops, seminars, fairs, exhibitions, banquets and receptions. Elected officials can address a group from Lexington or Washington, D.C. The facility can provide targeted workforce education for current or potential employers. With the amenities of a full service conference center in an academic ambiance, Gray hopes to attract business and trade groups to the Manchester area while providing revenue for Eastern: “There’s nothing you can do in any facility in the country that you can’t do here.” The result will be a radical enhancement of the region’s attractiveness to new industry. From hosting initial meetings to workforce education, the Manchester campus will be woven into the economic future of the region.
Built to serve, to last and save resources

Building the facility was not without challenges, notes James Street. Large, level areas are rare in hilly Clay County and the flat land designated for the campus was an old strip mine site, challenging contractors McKnight & Associates to find cost-effective adaptations to the original blueprint. The result, says Street, is an attractive, contemporary structure, built to serve the community and generations of students.

The design maximizes investment and saves energy without compromising comfort or flexibility. The building’s orientation reduces solar gain in summer, says Street, while “low E glass” passes light but not radiant heat. Older buildings typically located heavy equipment on rooftops, leading to costly consequences of wear and tear. The Manchester facility design keeps equipment in accessible areas inside and uses a low maintenance modified bitumen roof membrane.

Older “mechanical chases” giving access to plumbing, electrical, heating and AC systems were tight, dark crawl spaces, making work conditions difficult and impeding the quality of that work. The Manchester facility offers plenty of room to reach and fix mechanical problems efficiently. “Green features” include “energy wheels” which extract energy from discharged air, producing long-term savings. All lighting fixtures are compact, high efficiency fluorescents. Fire alarms and sprinkler systems are excellent, says Street, while security systems and exterior lighting increase safety.

In every aspect, the new Manchester campus offers a facility of which to be proud: flexible, safe, energy efficient, attractive and robust. Generations of students of all ages will pass through these doors on their way to building better lives and stronger communities. For students like Jennifer Stewart, James Pennington and Sherry Maggard, for new companies considering locating in the Manchester area or for community members enriching their lives with new skills, a true beacon of hope will shine through the new low E glass windows.

A city of salt men becomes a city of hope

Manchester is built on salt. In the late 1700’s “salt men” put up their cabins around the Langford Salt Works. In an area then called the Tan Yards, Manchester and Clay County were officially created on April 1, 1807. That is, both entities appeared on Kentucky maps, but there was no actual town until a few salt men donated a ten acre knob of land and $400 to build Manchester’s first official structure: a jail. A $100 courthouse conveniently followed a year later in time for the first official case, the trial of one John Murphy for selling three half-pints of whiskey. Manchester was the young nation’s leading supplier of salt until the Civil War.

Today Manchester’s 2,000 residents are working together to revitalize the downtown with an attractive streetscape. Located on the edge of Daniel Boone National Forest, the city welcomes spring visitors along spectacular red bud trails. Autumn visitors seek fall foliage and wildlife watchers stalk white tail deer, eastern turkey and some of Kentucky’s 10,000 elk, the largest herd west of the Rockies. In 2007, the city opened a spacious Gateway Welcome Center and African-American Museum, reflecting the area’s rich ethnic heritage. Together, the people of Manchester are working toward a sustainable, family-friendly mix of tourism, business and education with opportunities for the young and preservation of the old, salty roots. Eastern is proud to join Manchester, now called “The City of Hope,” in educating the leaders who will shape a modern mountain community around the old Tan Yards knob.

Adapted from “Blame It On Salt, a history of Clay County” by EKU alumnus Charles House, ’70.
Job Satisfaction

One might expect high job satisfaction rates when the economy is booming and budgets are flush, but amid the most challenging financial crisis in recent memory, surely employee morale can only wane.

Not so at Eastern. EKU is on the Chronicle of Higher Education’s 2009 list of Great Colleges to Work For®, which ranks colleges and universities for best practices in pay/benefits, work environment and institutional policies.

Based on surveys of faculty, administrators and professional support staff, as well as an institutional audit, Eastern is among the top 10 universities of its size nationally for professional/career development programs and tuition reimbursement for employees.
All in Favor

Following a favorable evaluation of President Doug Whitlock’s leadership by an independent consultant, in June the board of regents extended the contract of the University’s 11th leader by two years, through July 31, 2013. Whitlock, who was named to the post in October 2007 after a ten-week interim period, helped bring Eastern’s first capital campaign to a successful early completion. He is also credited with being a steady hand through recent economic woes.

As part of the president’s evaluation process, students, faculty and administrators were surveyed. The Pappas Group consulting firm also conducted focus groups with a wide range of university stakeholders, including alumni. The ensuing report indicates that Whitlock enjoys high levels of trust both on and off campus.

Forbes ranks EKU One of “America's Best”

Once again EKU is among “America’s Best Colleges,” according to Forbes magazine. The ranking places Eastern within the top 15 percent of the more than 4,000 colleges and universities in America.

Forbes draws on a variety of sources to determine the overall quality of education provided by a university, including the experience of students and student achievement. View complete results at www.forbes.com/colleges.

In addition to Forbes, Eastern is recognized by U.S. News & World Report in its 2010 “America’s Best Colleges” guide. The graduate program in occupational therapy is ranked 24th nationally in that magazine’s “America’s Best Graduate Schools 2009” edition.

New Grass in the Bluegrass

Grass stains are a thing of the past on Colonel game-day uniforms. No, Eastern hasn’t placed a bulk order for the latest “as seen on t.v.” household product, but it has become the eighth Ohio Valley Conference football program to play home games on artificial turf.

The natural grass of Hanger Field was replaced by SFII synthetic turf just in time for preseason camp at Roy Kidd Stadium. SFII consists of plastic grass woven in a plastic carpet with a urethane backing, in-filled with crumb rubber and installed over a foot of crushed limestone. The field will have the Colonel logo at midfield with “Colonels” in one maroon end zone and “Eastern” in the other.

New LED playclocks and an LED scoreboard will also greet fans at Roy Kidd Stadium.

The Colonels defended their turf against Tennessee Tech September 19 in the first home game of the season. EKU was the preseason pick of league head coaches to win the 2009 OVC championship.
Studio Head Appointed

Like the production studios of Hollywood, Eastern’s Noel Studio for Academic Creativity offers the setting, the equipment and the collaborative environment to support the research and development of students’ ideas and their graphic representation in presentations. Overseeing it all is Russell Carpenter, who was named the Studio’s first director this summer.

Carpenter, who has a scholarly interest in exploring writing centers from a cultural and political perspective, coordinated the writing center of the University of Central Florida. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from UCF and recently completed doctoral studies in text and technology there.

Performing Arts Center Underway

Construction has begun on the second phase of EKU’s Business & Technology Center, which includes an academic addition and a center for performing arts. Funding for the $32 million project is a unique blend of state, county and University resources.

The 20,000-square-foot academic addition will house classrooms, an academic commons and a multipurpose area. A “Broadway-capable, Broadway-quality” 2,000-seat theater will be the hub of the performing arts center. A large lobby will enable events in conjunction with shows.

Facility completion is slated for 2011.
1940’s
Marie Anderson Abney, ’41, celebrated her 90th birthday in Richmond, Ky.

1950’s
Geraldine Pence Warner, ’57, is now retired and has been a pastoral care volunteer at Doctors Hospital in Dallas, Texas since 2000. She lives in Rowlett, Texas. Franklin Milby, ’58, and Reva Morris Milby, ’58, served as missionaries in Zimbabwe, Africa for 25 years. Reva is deceased and Franklin lives in La Grange, Ky. Clyde F. Parrish, ’59, married classmate Shirley Hale a year before he graduated. Hours before Parrish received his Ph.D. from the University of Louisville, the couple’s son Clyde, Jr. was born. Parrish worked for NASA until 2006 on a variety of projects, including determining options for creating oxygen from lunar resources. He has consulted with Dow Chemical, Chevron, 3M, the U.S. Navy, Union Carbide and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. His current research is focused on control of polluting emissions from coal-fired power plants. He has published more than 100 journal articles and has 21 patents. He and his wife now live in Florida, close to his son and three small granddaughters.

1960’s
Stanley Bradbury, ’60, recently wrote Down the Street and Across Town, an Encyclopedia of Butler, Kentucky. His work covers the mid 1700s to 2000. Bradbury is retired from teaching at Campbell County High School and working for the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Education Association. Judy Evans Clifford, ’60, lives in Miami, Fla. and reports that her granddaughter teaches in her former school. Gil Layman, ’61, of Hollywood, Calif. is founder and president of the not-for-profit Football Development Association International, Inc.

William Raker, ’67, US Federal Credit Union president/CEO, was given the Outstanding Credit Union Professional of the Year award by the Minnesota Credit Union Network. Raker has been involved in the credit union movement nearly 40 years, working as a credit union vendor and volunteer before assuming his current post. During his 11 years at USFCU, the credit union has grown 325 percent, becoming an industry leader in technology, product development and service to the underserved. Raker has been actively involved in the World Council of Credit Unions, working with emerging credit unions in Paraguay and Cambodia. Riker lives with his wife Wannapa in Brunswick, Minn. Barbara Donnell Hamilton, ’69, is an education consultant with the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice and co-author of Kentucky, Land of Beauty and Wonder. Margaret Maaney, ’69, retired from her position as elementary supervisor of Pulaski Schools and is now relaxing on the shores of Lake Cumberland, Ky. with her husband Bill Maaney, ’73.

Cebert Gilbert, ’70, ’73, is retired from a long career as school superintendent and is currently president of the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association. He and his wife Karen live in Stanton, Ky. Dudley Goodlette, ’70, a Florida state representative, was named chief of staff for Rep. Larry Cretul, speaker pro tem for the Florida legislature. Roger L. Simpson, ’70, will retire as executive vice president and chief executive officer of Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Co., where he “has seen Kentucky Farm Bureau grow from a relatively small company to the largest property and casualty insurer in the state.” After graduating with a degree in accounting, he started at Farm Bureau as a junior accountant and is now on the board of numerous insurance and manufacturing associations. He lives with his wife Vicky in Louisville company, Advanced Material Handling, and retired to her farm in Shelby County.

Mark Schreiber, ’72, is head women’s lacrosse coach at Tiffin University in Tiffin, Ohio, coming from the University of Kentucky after leading the team to a best ever 8-3 season. Previously, he built the women’s lacrosse club program at Noblesville (Ind.) High School. His unique coaching style stresses passing and receiving while on the run along with precise knowledge of teammates’ moves: “Our program will teach our players flight and charge nurse, in labor and delivery units and as hospital supervisor in Grandview Hospital of Dayton, Ohio. At home in Wilmington, N.C., she enjoys gardening, quilting and building outdoor furniture, but has “itchy feet” for traveling. Orville “Kent” Reed, ’71, was awarded professor emeritus status at Lebanon Valley College of Pennsylvania after 35 years on the faculty. A distinguished coach of football, cross-country, track and field, he received several NCAA Division III coaching awards and coached 13 All-Americans. He now lives in Palmyra, Fla. Janice Burdette Blythe, ’72, a professor in Berea College’s department of child and family sciences and associate provost for advising and academic success, has just been awarded the Seabury Award for Excellence. She has also been named an outstanding alumna in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Kentucky. She lives in Berea. Nancy Burch Moody, ’72, ’74, president of Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tenn., assumed the presidency of Tusculum College of Greeneville, Tenn., April 27. Since 2002, when she became president at LMU, enrollment increased by 90%, the osteopathic and the nursing programs were expanded, a physician assistant program and a law school were added as well as a doctoral degree in education, undergraduate programs in music and criminal justice, and five extended learning sites. Dr. Moody received a B.S. in nursing from Eastern and began her career at LMU as a nursing instructor. Her husband Tom Moody, ’72, is an accountant in Knoxville, Tenn.
Alexander Mountjoy presented by Kentucky’s Council Award, the highest honor. His great-grandmother, Wilma Bond Morgan, is deceased. Nancy J. Miller DeWitt, ’73, served on the nursing staff of Health Village Retirement Community and worked in infection control and employee health. Her husband, Col. Joseph R. DeWitt, ’74, served his second tour of duty in Iraq with the 4th Division from Ft. Riley, Kan. The DeWitts live in Hackettstown, N.J. and have three daughters. David M. Kepler, ’73, retired as CEO and president of Greenville Federal after nearly 37 years of employment. He lives with his wife Dixie in Mansfield, Ohio. Jerry Parks, ’73, of Lexington, Ky., took his place among the best teachers in America during a two-day induction into the National Teachers Hall of Fame. A 24-year veteran of the classroom, Parks teaches social studies at Georgetown (Ky.) Middle School, where colleagues say that “Dr. Parks makes a classroom come alive with rich learning situations that change the way children learn and instills in them the desire for lifelong learning. He is a role model of character and has touched thousands of lives—inspiring many of them to become teachers.” One of his teaching strategies is the acronym CREATE, standing for Creativity, Relevancy, Adaptability, Training and Enthusiasm. Dr. Parks is immensely involved inside and outside the classroom. His classroom is a model learning lab for teachers, and he has authored numerous books for parents and teachers. Walter Westrich, ’73, retired after 35 years as an administrator for Southwest Local Schools and lives with his wife Vonna in Okeana, Ohio. Joan Cottongim McKinney, ’74, Campbellsville University’s news and publications coordinator, was awarded the Beth K. Fields Award, the highest honor presented by Kentucky’s Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) at the annual conference in December 2008. This lifetime achievement award recognizes advancement professionals who epitomize the profession and continually go above the call of duty. She lives with her husband, Stan McKinney, ’74, in Campbellsville. D. Scott Neal, ’74, ’75, is president of D. Scott Neal, a fee-only financial planning company in Lexington. Debbie Everage Reynolds, ’74, has been named president of the Forcht Group, a financial services, insurance, health care, media and real estate conglomerate, overseeing 2,100 employees at 95 businesses with revenues of $200 million. “Her people genuinely like her,” says Terry Forcht, chairman and president of the Forcht Group. “They follow her, and they do what needs to be done for her.” After receiving a nursing degree from Eastern, Reynolds joined Forcht in 1976 as a nursing home director and quickly rose in management, moving into finance operations and successfully positioning the company in the competitive Lexington banking market. Despite the challenges, she says, balancing work and family is “doable and children can survive that very well; certainly mine have.” Her son Gregory is chief resident at the UK Medical Center this year. Another son, Kevin, is a musician. Her husband Greg is U.S. Social Security district manager for Pikeville and Prestonsburg. They live in Lexington. Becky Ricketts, ’74, was elected to her first term as Lyndon, Ky. City Council in November 2008. The City of Lyndon, population 10,500, is located within the boundaries of metro Louisville. Ricketts is a community resource manager for SeniorCare Experts. Connie Parks Adams, ’75, ’77, director of psychology for Madison County (Ky.) Schools, was honored by the National Association of School Psychologists for her work in developing the Kentucky School Psychology Handbook and serving as legislative chair for the Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools. She led implementation of the Bully Proof Schools Initiative and works with community partners to provide mental health services to students and families. Ronal Smith, ’75, is athletic coordinator at West Washington High School in Campbellsburg, Ind. and lives in nearby Palmyra. Thomas Colbert, ’76, was the first African-American appointed to the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals. He then served as chief judge of that Court and in 2004 was appointed by the governor to the Supreme Court of Oklahoma. “So many people struggled and lost their lives just to make me able to be appointed to the state Supreme Court,” he says. “I feel it is an honor and a privilege to be given that opportunity.” After graduating with a master’s of education from Eastern, he taught in the public schools in Chicago and received his juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma in 1982. He lives with his wife Doretha Guion Colbert, ’77, in Oklahoma City, Okla. William Ray Turner, ’76, was appointed director of the Campbell County (Ky.) Office of Emergency Management in May 2009. Previously, he served as Butler County, Ohio’s emergency management director and as Area 10 disaster and emergency services coordinator for the Kentucky Division of Disaster and Emergency Services. In Owosso County he has served with the American Red Cross, emergency planning committees, rescue squad and fire department board of trustees. Turner was also a member of the Kentucky Emergency Management Assistance Committee and served on the Governor’s Health Care Reform Round Table on Emergency Management and Medical Services, winning numerous awards and commendations for his work in emergency preparedness. Turner and his wife Laura have two children and live in Alexandria, Ky. John R. Wells, ’76, is the president/owner of John R. Wells, DMD, PSC and lives with his wife Lavada Tailey Wells, ’75, ’77, in Avon, Ind., where they are expecting their first grandchild. Daniel Wentz, ’76, operates Bargains & More in Frankfurt, Ky., where he asks customers “think of us as a tiny Big Lots” packed with closeouts and overstocks from major companies nationwide. The business world is a shift from Eastern degrees in history and physical education but reflects a life-long interest in business, starting with a boyhood blackberry stand. He lives in Nicholasville. Elaine Smith Farris, ’77, ’81, is Kentucky’s interim education commissioner, having been deputy commissioner since July 2007. After progressing from elementary school gym teacher to principal in his hometown of Winchester, Ky., she became Kentucky’s first minority superintendent in 2004 when she was hired by Shelby County Public Schools. She lives in Shelbyville with her husband Alvin Farris, ’80, Rosalie O. Mainous, ’77, is associate dean for graduate academic affairs at the University of Louisville School of Nursing. After receiving her M.S.N. from Indiana University-Purdue University and Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky, she worked for 21 years as research editor for Awareness in Neonatal Care at the University of Louisville. Mainous lives with her husband Michael Aines in Goshen, Ky., and has three children. Susan McIntyre Windsor, ’77, has a new job as laboratory director at Georgetown Community Hospital in Georgetown, Ky. She lives in Lexington with sons Jonathan and Mychal Frost. H. Brent Barton, ’78, ’86, band director at Madison Central High School,
has received the B. Michael Caudill Educator of the Year Award from the Richmond (Ky.) Chamber of Commerce. He took his band to the state finals seven times, winning one state championship. He lives in Richmond with his wife Cheryl Parks Barton, ’76. Nicolle Morasa Henderson, ’78, is an investigator with the Office of the Attorney General in Louisville, Ky., and in 2008 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kentucky Women’s Law Enforcement Network. Thomas L. Rosenbaum, ’78, recently retired from Jack of All Games, a videogame distributor, as senior vice president. In the spring of 2009, he returned to the industry with Alliance Distributor of New York City as executive vice president. Katherine Senn Williams, ’78, ’87, was appointed director of Eastern’s Quality Enhancement Programs in May 2008 after serving more than 20 years in the EKU NOVA program. She will facilitate and support a campus-wide as a part of the Kentucky Crafted Emeritus Award. Michael Breeding, ’81, is producing a four-part television series recounting Abraham Lincoln’s Kentucky story which will highlight the deep ties of the Lincoln family to the Springfield and Hodgenville areas as well as Lexington, where his wife Mary Todd Lincoln grew up. Michael Breeding Media has received early corporate support from AT&T Kentucky and will feature a musical score by Kentucky singer/songwriter Beau Haddock. Breeding lives in Lexington.

Forbes, ’78, received the Public Relations Society of America Thoroughbred Chapter’s 2009 Lifetime Achievement/Hall of Fame Award. He is CEO of Preston-Osborne, a full-service marketing communications and research firm with offices in Frankfort and Lexington, Ky. He joined the firm in 1985 after seven years in radio and television news. Osborne and his wife Jennifer live in Lexington. Debra Rickerd, ’79, retired from Lexington-Fayette County Health Department after 27 years of service as a public health nurse.

1980’s

Mark Smith, ’80, is the new police chief for the Houston Port Authority. He has spent most of his career in Texas in law enforcement and lives with his wife Brandy in League, Texas. Larry Watson, ’80, award-winning ceramicist, recently exhibited his work at Wilmington College’s Harcum Art Gallery. An adjunct professor of art at Northern Kentucky University, he writes, “It is in the observance of clay’s propensities and tendencies that I become informed of the possibilities. In the awareness of every unintended gift (read: ‘accident’) I find new expressions and un-rapped depths of mind.” His work was featured in art exchange programs in Ukraine and France, and he is president of the Kentucky Guild of Artists & Craftsmen and a recipient of the Kentucky Crafted Emeritus Award.

Walter Hibern, ’84, always loved construction. After Eastern, he worked for Benchmark Companies Inc., a modular home building company, and then became project and office manager for ARCON, constructing homes ranging from 2,000 to 14,000 sq. ft. He then moved to Dayton Power and Light, focusing on education and improving energy conservation for businesses and homeowners. In 2007 he became executive director of the 500-member Home Builders Association of Dayton. Deeply involved with his community, he works to end homelessness and is a member of the Dayton Rotary, Preservation Dayton Inc., and past president of the Greater Dayton Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He lives in Dayton, Ohio with his wife Joani.

He lives in Richmond. Alvin Miller, ’81, an Army chaplain, one of 10 children in a migrant family, played fullback for Eastern and running back for the Houston Oilers for three years. He received a second lieutenant’s commission in the Army’s Ordnance Corps and taught school and coached football in St. Lucie County before receiving a call to ministry and graduating from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He then transferred to the Chaplain’s Corps. Col. Miller thanks his seventh-grade teacher and his faith for his ability to “break free” of the ghetto.

Mary Whitaker, ’82, recently earned her Ph.D. in education administration from Spalding University. She serves as Spalding’s undergraduate and administration coordinator for the department of baccalaureate and graduate nursing. She lives in Lexington, Ky. John Clubb, ’82, is grateful to announce a memoir 42 years in the making, Boys Cry Too, a story of hope, forgiveness, redemption and change. Reviewer praise the memoir: “Riveting, compelling, made me laugh out loud and cry. It’s not just about abuse but covers the multitude of what it means to be human . . . His story will serve as an inspiration to anyone who longs to claim their rightful voice and embrace their own healing journeys.” Clubb lives in New York, N.Y.

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Violet “VI” Johnson Farmer, ’85, who received a master’s degree from Eastern, has been named an outstanding alumna of Berea College. Farmer’s service to education spanned 39 years as a teacher and coordinator of the Gifted/Talented program in the Berea school district and as a board member of the International School-to-School Experience, an exchange program for sixth-grade students for promotion of world peace, for which she accompanied delegations to Guatemala and Mexico. She served on the Berea Education Association and the Governor’s Task Force to write guidelines for Kentucky’s Gifted Education Program. She was on the Berea City Council for 26 years and was instrumental in forming the Sister-Region relationship through the Madison County International Committee (MCIC) and served on the board of the American Committee for KEEP (Kiyosato Educational Experiment Project). She and her husband Jack live in the Berea area. Mary Beth Rusculli Hall, ’85, ’87, has written Lessons from a Bald Chick, a humorous, inspirational look at surviving cancer, that has taken the author to cancer support groups, medical audiences, churches, TV and radio stations and a luncheon with Kentucky Governor and Mrs. Steve Beshear. All royalties from the book go to Hall’s Bald Chick Ministry. Hall is a former writing teacher and now a guidance counselor at Grant County High School. She lives in Covington, Ky. Lynda Beth Ransdell, ’85, lives in Boise, Idaho and has recently published Designing Effective Physical Activity Programs. In August 2009 she gave the keynote address in Hong Kong at the Chinese Society for Exercise Physiology and Fitness. Kevin T. Williams, ’85, served 13 years as a county magistrate, 20 years as captain of the Lexington Fire Department and was a member of the Kentucky State Fire Commission, the Kentucky Emergency Response Commission and an alternate delegate to the 2008 Republican National Convention. Donna Cambron, ’86, is the Right Start case
Herbig French, ’86, is a cardiologist nurse practitioner in private practice in Bradenton, Fla. Justin W. Ogden, ’86, has begun his own video production company serving a 100-mile radius around his home in Potosi, Mo., specializing in weddings, montages and corporate video. Rob Gorley, ’87, is a Braden River (Fla.) elementary school teacher who moonlights as a singer-songwriter. “I had a couple songs in my head and had to write them down. After I did, I got really addicted to it.” His styles range from country to adult contemporary and are showcased at a Holmes Beach restaurant and at his MySpace Web page, where “Fixer Upper,” about seeking love on a Web site, is “a slice of Americana pie,” once a buffalo trail, named in the early 1800s and finally paved in the 1920s. Kremer’s book features 200 images, including photographs from the mid-1800s of the people, communities and buildings whose livelihoods were linked to the Dixie Highway. Kremer and her husband Nicholas live in Villa Hills, Ky. Evelyn Parrish, ’87, received her Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in 2008, having completing her M.S.N. there. An avid golfer, she lives in Lexington and works in the mental health field. Wendell Haag, ’88, a fisheries research biologist with the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station (SRS), received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from President Bush. “Wendell’s cutting-edge research is addressing some of the most pressing problems facing freshwater mussel populations in the South,” said SRS Director Jim Reaves. “He and his research partners are having tangible effects on the restoration and maintenance of freshwater mussel populations nationally, and this distinguished award honors his many achievements.”

His 10-year effort to monitor rates of survival, growth, and reproduction in several healthy mussel populations will help build demographic models to predict trends in the species, similar to methods used in predicting human population changes. Dawn Jackson, ’88, is associate professor and coordinator for health services administration at Eastern, having recently completed her doctorate in public health at the University of Kentucky. Keith Kidd, ’88, ’89, is an American football scout, currently serving as director of pro scouting for the Denver Broncos of the National Football League. After graduation, Kidd scouted for the Arizona Cardinals before moving to the Cleveland Browns and the New England Patriots. Kidd worked as a columnist for ESPN.com and as an NFL scout for ESPN’s scouting organization, Scouts, Inc. He and his wife, Lori Estep Kidd, ’88, live in Aurora, Colo. Patricia Taylor, ’88, of Columbia, S.C., retired from the U.S. Army after 21 years of distinguished service as an operating room nurse in a wide variety of locations. She received many service awards and medals during her career. Jack Bailey, II, ’89, works for the Department of Parks and is the new manager at historic Constitution Square in Danville, Ky. The site housed the 10 constitutional conventions that led to Kentucky’s statehood and includes a log courthouse, jail, meetinghouse, tavern and post office. He will also oversee the Isaac Shelby historic site in Lincoln County.

For the Record

Don’t forget to keep us up-to-date with your latest news items—family additions, job changes, relocations, promotions—anything you’d like us to know! Include your photographs*, too.

Full Name ________________________________ EKU Class ________________________________
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Children ____________________________________________
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Send to: Eastern Kentucky University Magazine Richards Alumni House, EKU 521 Lancaster Avenue Richmond, KY 40475-3102

Telephone: 859/622-1260 E-mail: alumni.relations@eku.edu

All submissions to Class Acts are edited for style and brevity. *Computer printouts cannot be accepted; please include a SASE for photo return. *Please include; this information will not be published.
snacks.” Susan Feltoff Greer, ‘91, works in recovery services in Danville’s Estate University Hospital while training to be a Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (CASA) volunteer for abused and abandoned children. David Waddell, ‘92, deputy support operations officer from the U.S. Army’s 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), works with Jackson Ball, ‘99, deputy chief of the material readiness branch. Waddell was the first in his family to go to college and the first to be commissioned as a military officer. “EKU is a great school because it has a small town environment but has the same opportunities as bigger universities,” he said, adding that the lessons both learned in ROTC set them up for success as officers. “EKU ROTC is like our fraternity. You sweat and bleed together in training, knowing one day you’ll be commissioned together.” Waddell lives in Elizabethtown, Ky. with his wife Kimberly. Ball lives in White City, Ky. Debra Lockyer Grimm, ‘93, recently opened Locker Public Relations. Based in Lexington, Ky., this boutique firm specializes in luxury travel, spas, skin care and beauty. She lives in Lexington with her husband, Ronald Grimm, ‘92, and son Bryce, born July 31, 2006. Nicole Bartlett Hume, ‘93, former exceptional child instructor for Anderson County, Ky., now consults for the Division of Exceptional Children Services and is active on the Kentucky Council for Developmental Disabilities as a member of committees for education, autism, employment and membership. In the classroom, she focused on the achievement and participation of students with disabilities in Kentucky’s Program of Studies. She lives in Lawrenceburg, Ky. with her husband Robbie and three children. Teresa Phillips, ‘93, a celebrity chef known professionally as Sicily Yoder, draws on her background in Amishville’s Ephraim McDowell community as senior editor of The Amish Garden and Celebrity Travel. She earned degrees in nursing and home economics from Eastern Kentucky University and Kentucky State University. She served as a media ambassador for the Amish in health care systems after the Nickel Mines shootings at an Amish school. She lives in Lawrenceburg, Ky. David Coleman, ‘94, who works for Kentucky’s Department of Parks is the new manager at Fort Harrod. He lives in Harrodsburg and was previously the department’s property officer. Adrienne Grizzell, ‘94, ‘96, was named the 2009 Woman Business Owner of the Year by the Lexington, Ky. Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners and was recognized as the Small Business Administration Home-Based Champion of the Year in the SBA’s eight-state region. Grizzell’s company, MANAGEMENT, Inc., has served a wide variety of nonprofit organizations since 1999. Grizzell lives in Lexington, Ky. Silas House, ‘94, has published Something’s Rising: Appalachians Fighting Mountaintop Removal, a collection of testimonies of people whose lives have been affected by this mining practice, reflecting their anguish and sense of loss for fast-disappearing aspects of Appalachian life. Interviewees range from well-known activists like Jean Ritchie and Kathy Mattea to others working in their own communities. House is the author of bestselling novels Clay’s Quilt, A Patchment of Leaves and The Coal Tattoo. He teaches at Lincoln Memorial University and lives with his wife Teresa in Lily, Ky. Denna Long, ‘94, was promoted to manager of Monitored Exercise/Specialized Clinics. A member of the American Association of Diabetics Educators and the Kentucky Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Association, she hopes to be certified as a diabetes educator within the year. Long lives in Harrodsburg with her husband Travis and their three children. Kelly Stone, ‘94, graduated with a business degree but quickly became a successful self-taught artist, working in charcoal drawing, painting, pastels, woodworking, metal work and glass. “Glass captivates me because of the endless possibilities with color, light and technique,” she says. His work was recently featured in Danville, Ky.’s Specled Egg Gallery, whose owner notes: “From sculptures to wall hangings, Kelly is one of the most versatile glass artists I’ve seen. His bowls and platters are explosions of color.” Stone now works in a small glass studio behind his home in Lexington. Rebecca Caldwell, ‘95, has been named solid waste director for the city of Franklin, Tenn. Following her graduation in business administration from Eastern, she worked with the city as an accounting clerk, progressing to accounting technician and secretary for fleet maintenance and solid waste and then assistant solid waste director in 2003. City Administrator Eric Stuckey notes: “Rebecca sets a wonderful example of how hard work and determination can pay off and how the city of Franklin recognizes those efforts.” Lori Pinkerton Robinson, ‘96, is an occupational therapist for Upper Valley Medical Center in Troy, Ohio, working in an outpatient hand therapy clinic and teaching Kinésie across the country. She and her husband Scott have three beautiful daughters, Katie (8), Megan (4) and Hannah (2). Carrie Renee Johnson Felts, ‘97, is the nursing student resource coordinator for Bluegrass Community & Technical College in Lexington while pursuing her B.S.N. and M.S.N. at Eastern. She lives in Richmon, Ky. Marilyn Sewall Howard, ‘97, is the surgery case manager/transplant coordinator at the Veteran Administration Medical Center in Lexington, Ky., where she lives with her husband Michael. Don Perry, ‘97, is part-time sports correspondent for the Herald-Mail of Hagerstown, Md. After graduating with a journalism degree, he has worked for newspapers throughout Kentucky and for the Wheeling (W.Va.) News-Register. He lives with his wife Amy West Perry, ‘97, in Hagerstown. Brandon Akers, ‘98, a division manager with design and construction firm Alliance Corporation of Glasgow, Ky. and Matt Grumm, ‘99, vice president, have achieved the status of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP), having completed extensive training and passed an exam evaluating their understanding of green building practices, principles and the LEED rating system. In 2008, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear appointed Akers to the General Assembly’s High-performance Building Advisory Committee. Akers lives in Glasgow with his wife Valerie. Grumm lives in Cynthiana, Ky. Eastern has named Alliance Corporation the 2009 Hall of Fame Constructor in recognition of the company’s support of the EKU Construction Management program financially, in an advisory capacity and through employment of summer interns since 1996. Currently there are eight Eastern graduates employed by Alliance Corporation. Charles Bankins, ‘98, followed a stellar high school football career to collegiate football with James Madison University in Division I-AA’s Colonial Athletic Association and a master’s degree from Eastern in sports administration in 1998. After working as an intern for the Green Bay Packers and running back coach at Hampton University, he is now the running backs and special teams coach for the Richmond Spiders. Last season, Bankins mentored one of the nation’s leading running backs, Tim Hightower. He lives in Rich mond, Va., with his wife Katrina. Angela Pence Lincoln, ‘98, graduated magna cum laude from Harrison School of Pharmacy at Auburn University in 2006 and is now a pharmacist for Walmart. She and her husband Craig welcomed their first child, Addison Rose, in February, 2008.
Richmond Chamber of Commerce or the local health department. She lives in Richmond, Ky., and it wasn’t for me.” After her degree in psychology, she decided to become a film producer. “I was met with various obstacles, but I am glad I chose to pursue my passion.”

Kentucky Dietetics Association Food and Nutrition Conference in Louisville. She is a part-time faculty member of Eastern’s family and consumer sciences department and lives in Richmond. The work of Stephen Dorsett, ’04, was featured in the “Same New Thing” show at the University of Kentucky Tuska Center for Contemporary Art. Dorsett, who has degrees from Eastern and Murray State University, teaches art at Lexington Catholic High School. His paintings feature objects that are typically mass-produced and disposable, now embellished with elaborate decorations and made into something valuable. He lives with his wife Shino Okujima Dorsett, ’07, in Lexington. Linley Hamblen, ’04, was selected as one of eight “Top-” Employees of the Year at Siemens Energy & Automation. She lives in Ft. Mitchell, Ky. Amanda Lewis, ’04, is an assistant professor in Eastern’s health services administration program. Before coming to Eastern, she served as credentialing coordinator at Lexington Surgery Center, specializing in outpatient surgery and long term care. She’ll be starting her doctoral program at the University of Kentucky this fall. Chris Fusion, ’05, is working on his Ph.D. in physical therapy at the University of Kentucky while writing for Fitness Magazine and coordinating and directing Camp P.E.R.F.O.R.M., a sports enhancement camp. He lives with his wife Bridgette Fletner Fusion, ’05, in London, Ky. Adam Baker, ’06, was editor-in-chief of The Eastern Progress, which prepared him to launch his television news career in West Virginia at WVNS 59 News in Beckley. He is now with Lex18 in Lexington. “I am so glad to be back in Kentucky,” he writes, “and I am thrilled to work for the station I watched every day in college.” He lives in Lexington. David Fifer, ’07, was recently appointed marshal’s aide at the U.S. Supreme Court, where his duties include courtroom operations and general administrations.

Is there a young person in your family or community who is considering attending Eastern? Let us know if he or she applies for admission, we’ll waive the $30 application fee! It’s easy: just fill out the card below, cut it out and mail it to:

Eastern Kentucky University
Office of Admissions
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Richmond, KY 40475-3154

Or send an e-mail with the name, address and phone number of the prospective student as well as your name and EKU class year to Stephen Byrn, director of admissions, at stephen.byrn@eku.edu. Make sure to put “prospective student” in the subject line.

**Pass the Flame**

**Kerry Azbill**, ’02, operates A to Z Productions out of Laurencetown, Ky., taking his mobile DJ set ups to weddings, school dances, reunions, birthday parties, corporate and mitzvah events, pool and holiday parties. **Connie Lamb**, ’02, is an associate professor of baccalaureate and graduate nursing at Eastern. Previously, she worked in the area of health-related quality of life for individuals with chronic illnesses. She and her husband Mitchell have two daughters and a family of pets, including cats, a dog and American Quarter Horses. **Mark Reed**, ’02, ’06, of Danville is the food manufacturing sector supervisor for Kentucky’s Food Safety Branch of the Kentucky Public Health Department. He recently spoke at Campbellsville University on vulnerabilities in the farm-to-table food supply chain. He draws on 19 years’ experience in public health and broad training experience for the food-service industry, general public, local health department sanitarians and professional associations. **Andrea Rutledge**, ’02, puts her interior design degree to good use in wardrobe design. Her look was recently featured in a Louisville Courier-News feature.

**Jerian Shaw**, ’02, ’06, as been named director of patient and community relations at Pattie A. Clay Regional Medical Center where she will be responsible for patient satisfaction and implementing an effective community relations program. She lives in Richmond, Ky., where she serves on the Richmond Chamber of Commerce board of directors as the vice president of activities and events. **Raglena Turpin Salmans**, ’03, is an academic advisor for Eastern’s College of Health Sciences. She and her husband Bob live in Richmond and are the proud parents of Justin Wyatt, born October 29, 2008. **Lisa Casebier**, ’04, graduated in 2008 from the University of Kentucky with an M.S.N. and now works as a nurse in Kentucky Children’s Hospital in Lexington. **Karina Christopher**, ’04, received the Young Dietician of the Year award at the 2008 Kentucky Dietetics Association Food and Nutrition Conference in Louisville. She is a part-time faculty member of Eastern’s family and consumer sciences department and lives in Richmond. The work of Stephen Dorsett, ’04, was featured in the “Same New Thing” show at the University of Kentucky Tuska Center for Contemporary Art. Dorsett, who has degrees from Eastern and Murray State University, teaches art at Lexington Catholic High School. His paintings feature objects that are typically mass-produced and disposable, now embellished with elaborate decorations and made into something valuable. He lives with his wife Shino Okujima Dorsett, ’07, in Lexington. Linley Hamblen, ’04, was selected as one of eight “Top-” Employees of the Year at Siemens Energy & Automation. She lives in Ft. Mitchell, Ky. Amanda Lewis, ’04, is an assistant professor in Eastern’s health services administration program. Before coming to Eastern, she served as credentialing coordinator at Lexington Surgery Center, specializing in outpatient surgery and long term care. She’ll be starting her doctoral program at the University of Kentucky this fall. Chris Fusion, ’05, is working on his Ph.D. in physical therapy at the University of Kentucky while writing for Fitness Magazine and coordinating and directing Camp P.E.R.F.O.R.M., a sports enhancement camp. He lives with his wife Bridgette Fletner Fusion, ’05, in London, Ky. Adam Baker, ’06, was editor-in-chief of The Eastern Progress, which prepared him to launch his television news career in West Virginia at WVNS 59 News in Beckley. He is now with Lex18 in Lexington. “I am so glad to be back in Kentucky,” he writes, “and I am thrilled to work for the station I watched every day in college.” He lives in Lexington. David Fifer, ’07, was recently appointed marshal’s aide at the U.S. Supreme Court, where his duties include courtroom operations and general administrations.

As an EKU alumnus, I request that the $30 admission application fee be waived for:

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Phone: ______________________ Email: _______________________________________________________
Your name:________________________________________________________________________________
Your class year:____________________________________________________________________________

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**Eastern 29**
and recreation administration. “I fell in love with the field and thought I could do this for the rest of my life and be happy. Anytime something like that happens, you’ve just got to go with it.” Ramley lives in Georgetown, Ky. Raissa M. Smith, ’07, is a health educator for the Bluegrass-Aspendale Teen Center of the Lexington Fayette County Health Department and lives in Lexington. She returns to Eastern in the fall to pursue a master’s in occupational therapy.

Jessica Marotta Woodrun, ’07, has joined Love Thy Pet mobile grooming, expanding the company from its Nashville, Tenn., base to the Charleston, S.C., area where she lives with her husband Gregory Woodrun, ’07, and Gator, their English Foxhound.

Lindsay DeVine, ’08, will return to her hometown of Danville, Ky., as a freelance interpreter for the deaf. Her interest in interpreting began in middle school and led her to Eastern: “It was such great preparation and I still communicate with almost all the faculty members.” During her program she was selected to work in Washington, D.C. with Sign Language Associates. “It is exciting and very humbling to be let into people’s lives. You are often the third person in the room for someone’s very private moments. It is amazing to be entrusted with that and I take it very seriously.” She lives in Danville with her husband Dustin. Gina Vaught, ’08, manages cardiology services at Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center, Danville, Ky. She is both a registered nurse and registered respiratory therapist. She lives with her daughter in Science Hill, Ky., and is president of the Bluegrass Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and a member of the Kentucky Board of Respiratory Care.

Non-degreed Alumni or Alumni of Unknown Class Year

Greg “Snapper” Adams and his family visited the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman as guests of the Truman’s Mini Boss, Cmdr. John Paganelli. In 1975 Adams was 18 and a nationally ranked tennis star, awaiting an interview with the U.S. Naval Academy, the first step of his dream of flying Navy fighter jets, when he was injured in a football game. Left quadriplegic but undaunted, Adams adopted the philosophy that “no matter what happens, you just have to keep moving forward, doing the best you can in life.” For Adams, “the best” includes more than 26 “dog-fighting” flights with Air Combat USA and numerous skydiving jumps. Carolyn Adcock was named to the fourth class of Eminence (Ky.) High School Hall of Fame. After graduating from Eastern with a degree in parks and recreation, she has made her name as one of Kentucky’s top golfers. She lives in Pleasureville and owns the Deli Plus of Eminence. Bobby Barton was an athletic trainer at Marshall University shortly before the November 1970 disaster when a small plane carrying its football team crashed, killing all passengers. Barton was summoned from his new job in Florida to the crash scene to identify bodies. He then returned to a supportive community in Florida, where colleague Mark Smaha, who had assisted at the tragedy, withdrew into himself until being diagnosed with PTSD nearly 30 years later. Barton and Smaha gave the keynote address for the 2009 National Athletic Trainers’ Association annual meeting, sharing their insights on dealing with tragedy. Glen Dunkerson has been named chairman and CEO of Atlas World Group. After studying law enforcement at Eastern, Dunkerson served in the FBI and in the Mayfield, Ky., Police Department. He joined Atlas in 1978 as a dispatcher, working up to senior vice president and operations manager for the Specialized Transportation Group and then vice chairman and chief operating officer of Atlas World Group. He lives in Evansville, Ind. Amber Rose Gray has recently joined Eastern’s department of baccalaureate and graduate nursing as an office associate. Alice Tillatson Meador is retired and lives in Clermont, Fla. Joseph Perrone has published his first novel, Escaping Innocence, a coming-of-age story “with much of the action loosely based on my days at Eastern, although the locales and names, etc. have been changed to protect the innocent/guilty.” He was a sportswriter for the Herald News of Passaic-Clifton, N.J., and a professional fly-fishing guide in the Catskill Mountains of New York. He and his wife Becky now live in Hendersonville, N.C. Mary Louise Kays Pickett retired from teaching in Anderson County in 1989. Her husband Earl died in 2007, and she has eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. She lives in Lawrenceburg, Ky.

Junior Alumni


Bailey Elizabeth to David Miles Atcher, ’89, and Margo Bailey Atcher on November 30, 2008.

Sanaire to Vinet Saluja, ’91, and Vandana Saluja. Vinet is now the CEO of Silicone Concepts in New Delhi, India.

Macy Sophia to Keith Benson, ’94, and Debbie Benson on February 6, 2009.

Makena Kaylin to Tiffany Fogle Dineen, ’85, and Kevin Dineen on November 28, 2008. James Christopher to Doreen McIntosh Hayden Alley, ’96, and Arnold Alley on November 14, 2008. Doreen is a registered nurse in League City, Texas.


Peyton Riley to Jill Cochran Brumbaugh, ’01, ’03, and Dustin Alan Brumbaugh, ’04, ’05, on November 11, 2008.


Tell us about the STARS!

Do you know a stellar EKU alumnus who deserves recognition for outstanding achievement? We’re seeking candidates for Eastern’s Hall of Distinguished Alumni – people who are making an EKU difference in their careers, in their communities, in our world.

Tell us about your shining example of Eastern pride so we can spread the news. Complete your nomination online at www.eku.edu/alumni/awards or e-mail Jackie Collier, director of alumni relations, at jackie.collier@eku.edu.

Newlyweds

Charles Neal, ’98, to Maylene Fisher on April 18, 2009. Charles is president of the EKU Greater Louisville Alumni Chapter and a member of the EKU International Alumni Association Board.


Erin Short, ’03, to William “Bo” Leach, ’00, on May 24, 2008. William is an assistant attorney in Eskill Co., Ky., and has a private practice with Davis Law PSC in Richmond and Irvine. Erin is a district manager for Destination Maternity, Inc. The couple lives in Irvine, Ky.


Losses in the Eastern Family

Harold “Monk” Everling, ’38, on January 13, 2009 in Fairfax County, Va., at the age of 93. Everling was a starting quarterback at Eastern from 1935-1937, then coached at his alma mater, Glenwood High School in New Boston, Ohio. During World War II, he was first lieutenant in the 367th fighter-bomber group of the U.S. Army Air Corps in Europe. Returning home, he taught high school and coached, rising to superintendent of the Portsmouth West school district in Ohio and then the La Brua school district, also in Ohio. After retirement, he lived in Lakeland, Fl. with his wife Frances until her death in February, 2008. William E. Adams, ’40, on January 28, 2009. Born in Madison County, Ky., he served with General George Patton during World War II, earning five battle stars and the rank of major, fighting in Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. The end of the war found his division in Czechoslovakia ministering to Holocaust survivors. Constantly giving to the Richardson community, he was a charter member and organizer of the United Way and active in hospice care, the American Red Cross, VFW, American Legion, Masonic Lodge and Richmond Rotary. He helped to organize the EKU Colon Club and worked to bring the Salvation Army to Richmond. Emma Osborne Claxon, ’40, on December 3, 2009 in Harrisonburg, Ind. During the Depression she taught in a one-room schoolhouse near Frenchburg while studying at Eastern. With her husband, Neville, she began a missionary career in Africa, working in Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Benin. There she prepared lessons, kept accounts, taught, organized women’s groups and provided meals and lodging for visiting missionaries while home schooling two children. During furloughs, they recounted their work to churches and church camps in the U.S. After retirement they spent winters working with French-speaking Haitians in West Palm Beach, Fl. Dorothy M. White, ’40, on March 21, 2009, in Knoxville, Tenn. Ruth Combz Spurlock, ’41, ’58, in January 2009. A proud EKU graduate, she worked as an English teacher in various schools for more than 40 years, retiring from Henry Clay High School in 1978. She had many wonderful years of retirement and greatly enjoyed watching her grandchildren and great grandchildren grow. She lived in Richmond, Ky., with her husband Lt. Col. George Spurlock, now deceased.

Ethel Cates Collins, ’42, on March 14, 2009 in Poossey Ridge, Ky. She graduated from what was then East State Teachers College while teaching at a private school for children during the day and giving night classes for adults in a country store. Beginning her professional teaching career at the one room Wylie School on New Road, she moved on to serve as principal of Silver Creek School, retiring in 1974 from the Kirkville schools. Mildred G. Dickerson, ’42, Harrison, Va., on January 8, 2009. She is survived by her husband, Z. S. (Dick) Dickerson, ’42, who writes: “I could tell you a love story of over 65 years which began at Eastern in 1941 by holding hands on our first date. I was holding her hand when she died. It was the most wonderful life with Mildred thanks to Eastern.” Beginning as a high school teacher, she became full professor at James Madison University and was president of the Southern Association of Children Under Six. In her name, the Mildred Dickerson Award is given for outstanding service to Shenandoah Valley children.

Lee Farley Mills, ’44, on March 8, 2009. Formerly of Dry Ridge, Ky., she was a teacher and high school counselor for the First Christian Church of Georgetown, Owen and Walton-Verona High Schools and member of the board of regents at Northern Kentucky University and Dry Ridge Baptist Church. She lived in Punta Gorda, Fla. with her husband William.

Clarence Nonnenmacher, ’49, on November 23, 2008 in Pickerington, Ohio. At Eastern, he lettered in football and baseball and played at Fenway Park on the West All-American collegiate team. He taught school for 40 years and played for the Amigo Club softball team until he was 76. He had recently celebrated a 60-year marriage to his Eastern sweetheart, Betty Brandenburg Nonnenmacher, ???, ’50, on May 11, 2009. He served in the Korean War and raised his family in Fraiser, Mich., where he was a middle school principal for 32 years. Turner lived in Lexington with his wife, Helen Turner, ’61.

Chester Lee Raker, ’55, on October 25, 2007. After graduating in mathematics and physics, he worked for IBM, first in the Vanguard Computing Center interpreting data from the first satellites and later in New Jersey, Maryland, Indiana and Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Counts, ’56.

Robert Durham, ’55, on March 11, 2009. He was a member of Highlands Baptist Church and lived in Lexington, Ky.

Nancie Lee Stone, ’55, on December 14, 2008. She worked as a home economist at the Kentucky Power Co. in Ashland, went on to direct the Martha Wingan Daycare in Huntington, W.Va. and the Tri-River Council of Camp Fire Inc. in Huntington, W.Va. before joining Givaudan as director of special projects. She lived in Cincinnati, Ohio. Lisa Crisp, Jr., ’57, on January 11, 2009. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees at Eastern, did additional graduate work at the University of Kentucky and the University of Missouri and began teaching at a one-room school in Elliott County, Ky. He taught in high schools and vocational schools before his 23 years in the architectural and manufacturing service department at Western Kentucky University. During retirement he built and operated Plano Antiques, specializing in antique clocks. He is survived by his wife Mary. He lived in Plano, Ky.

Virgie Young, ’57, on February 21, 2009. She taught in elementary schools for 45 years and was an active member of the Retired Teacher’s Association, a Kentucky Colonel and an active member of the First Christian Church of Richmond, Ky. where she lived. She is survived by her husband Hugh. Jesse “Jack” R. Conn, ’59, on May 24, 2007. He came to Eastern after serving in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Kearney Lykins, ’62, on May 1, 2009. He is fondly remembered for the late night eggs and bacon he cooked up for his friends in his room in the basement of what is now Eastern’s Richards Alumni House. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and a “frogman” and a teacher, most recently in Harrodsburg, Ky.

He lived with his wife Phyllis in Benton, Ky.

was a salesman, attended the University of Kentucky Law School and was a member of 4th Degree Knights of Columbus. He lived in Bowling Green with Sandy, his wife of 43 years. Wallace Caleb Robbins, ’65, December 13, 2008. He was a retired band director and music teacher in the Bell County (Ky.) Schools and also taught at Cumberland High School, Harlan Co., and Garrard County High School. He loved music, gardening, photography, art and poetry and is survived by his wife, Lillie Mae. He lived in Pineville, Ky. Conley C. Congleton, III, ’68, on February 5, 2009. He was a vice president and legal counsel for Biggs Drug Company and assistant attorney general for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, a member of the Kentucky Bar Association and a member of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He served in the Army reserves as a captain and lived in Richmond. Leonard Whitecar, ’69, on October 6, 2008. He lived in Alexandria, Va. with his wife Sandra. Finley Ray Hamilton, ’70, on April 14, 2009 at his home in Ellicott City, Md. Born and raised in Richmond, Ky., he received his bachelor’s and master’s in music and became a career musician of violin and percussion instruments. Commissioned as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army through Eastern’s ROTC program, he served 30 years in the Army’s bands program throughout the U.S. and in Europe, rising to the rank of colonel and receiving numerous medals and election to the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. Hamilton was a guest conductor of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Boston Pops Orchestra, and Detroit Symphony. In 2003, he received an honorary doctor of arts degree in recognition of his lifetime service to Eastern and its music and music education program. He was inducted into the University’s Hall of Fame and honored by the governor with an appointment as a Kentucky Colonel. In his honor, his family has established the Col. Finley R. Hamilton Music Scholarship Fund. Donald Moore, ’70, on February 21, 2009 in his home in Huttonsville, W.Va. Survived by his wife Suzi, he was president of Becky’s Creek Antique Woods and owned and operated Becky’s Creek Cabins Vacation Rentals. He was a major in the U.S. Army Reserve and spent much of his career working in the human resources profession in Florida, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Julia Tipton Fort, ’72, on April 7, 2009. She received her master’s from Eastern and taught for 25 years in the Jefferson County (Ky.) Public Schools. She was a member of the Rising Sun Chapter of the Eastern Star and lived with her husband Ralph in Louisville. James N. Gilbert, ’72, on October 4, 2009 in Kearney, Neb. Verla A. James, ’72, of Leavenworth, Kan. She worked for the Bureau of Prisons for 22 years, retiring in 1999 as the education administrator for the Kansas City regional office, the first woman to hold that office for a maximum security penitentiary. After retirement, she worked for adult education and volunteered with the Friendly Visitor Program. She is survived by her husband Terry, who she described as “the best man that ever was.” Michael Doyle Burkett, ’74, on February 16, 2009. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a Vietnam veteran, later working for the Boeing Co., the National Security Administration and more recently in the mental health field. He was a member of the West Noble (Ind.) American Legion Post and former president of the Indian Village Cemetery Association. A lover of history and genealogy, he wrote a history of Indian Village United Methodist Church and community. He lived in Indian Village, Ind. Ellen “Eileen” Rubey, ’86, on March 22, 2009. Mrs. Rubey was born Aug. 27, 1950, in Detroit. Graduating with an RN degree, she and her husband John lived in Prudenville, Mich., where she enjoyed being a wife, mother and grandmother and taking care of people. Anthony “Tony” Foster, ’91, on March 22, 2009. He graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a degree in environmental science and was employed by GE Aviation in a management position. He is survived by his son Kristofer of Richmond, Ky. Paul Scott Gaunce, ’96, of Winchester, Ky. on February 4, 2009. She was a former registered nurse in the emergency department at Clark Regional Medical Center and is survived by her husband Miller. Courtney Walton Creech, ’01, ’06, on November 26, 2008. Her mother writes: “She was a teacher and librarian in the Garrard County (Ky.) School System, a wonderful and inspiring person to her students, instrumental in propelling them to further their education. Courtney had a beautiful heart, soul and smile.” She lived in Lancaster. Amanda Payne Weathers, ’04, on February 24, 2009. With her husband Larry she was co-founder of the Vision Church of Holiness in Danville, Ky., where she lived. Non-degreed Alumni or Alumni of Unknown Class Year Ronald Lee Adkinson on November 28, 2008, in Orlando, Fla. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves during the Vietnam War. Proud of his Kentucky heritage, he was an avid researcher of Civil War history. Mabel Ballard, born in 1916, died on January 13, 2009 in Lancaster, Ky. Henry Snowden Berryman on February 21, 2009 at age 95 in Winchester, Ky. He taught in the one-room school at Mims, Ky., worked as a carpenter/builder, owned a country store and supervised a line at Wrights airplane factory in Cincinnati during World War II. He worked on his family farm until age 74 and loved furniture making, fishing, gardening, bluegrass and guitar playing and wasting with his wife Lucille, who died in 1983. Rhonda Burke Honan in January 2009 at age 44. She is survived by her husband Eddie of May’s Lick, Ky. Christopher Todd Riley on February 27, 2009. He was a Grand Praetor in the Sigma Chi fraternity for nine years and was in charge of overseeing six different Kentucky Sigma Chi chapters. He was a mentor for all the fraternity officers and attended recruitment events. He worked as associate brand manager at Valvoline. Riley is survived by his wife Kate and their 9-month old son. He lived in Lexington, Ky. Bonnie Jenkins of New Boston, Ohio on February 15, 2009 at age 99. She taught school in Irvine, Ky., Wheelersburg and New Boston, Ohio and was a member of Scioto County Retired Teachers Association and the Shawnee Golden Bears. She was married to Joe Jenkins, ’39, who died August 22, 2004. Mary Ellen Murphy Thomas on February 28, 2009. She retired as senior clerk in the Finance Department for the City of Richmond, Ky. and is survived by her husband Bert Thomas, ’70, of Richmond. Joyce Earnest Turpin on January 26, 2009 in Richmond, Ky. at age 80. She was a teacher at Gibson-Turpin Kindergarten, life-long member of the First Christian Church and participated in its C.W.F. Circle 4. She will be remembered for her great love of family, friends and gardening. She is survived by Coleman, her husband of 59 years. Paul E. Wood on January 21, 2009 at age 73. He lived in Hanover, Ind. since 1963 and was employed with Sedam Contracting and Kentuckiana Paving for more than 20 years. He was a member of the Hod Carriers Union in Terre Haute, the Chelsea Bass Masters, and the First Assembly of God Church in Madison. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and tinkering in his garage and is survived by his wife Donna Owen. Phillip Leslie Wright, Jr. on February 15, 2009 at age 84. Survived by his wife of 62 years, Marjorie, he grew up in Stamping Ground, Ky., served as a paratrooper in the 17th Airborne Division in WW II, fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. An installment loan officer with First National Bank of Lexington (later First Security Bank), he opened and managed the Richmond Road branch before leaving banking to enter the coal business until his retirement. He lived in Lexington, Ky. Former Faculty and Staff Jean Carolyn Walko, former professor of nursing, on September 22, 2008. Eastern President Doug Whitlock wrote: “During her long teaching career, Ms. Walko touched the lives of many of our nursing students, inspiring them to always give their best in caring for their patients.” Eastern
A 1,622-year-old bald cypress tree grows in South Carolina; Daniel Boone National Forest in Laurel County holds trees that were saplings when Daniel Boone roamed there and Eastern’s own Lilley Cornett Woods is one of the largest protected tracts of old-growth forest in Kentucky. If you can read the rings of these old trees, Dr. Neil Pederson, assistant professor of biological sciences, tells his students, you unlock ages of ecological data.

Carefully extracting pencil-thin core samplings or “cookies,” counting and cross-measuring the rings reveals climate patterns, drought years, insect damage, temperature change, biodiversity, species survival data and forest disturbance patterns. Pederson is nationally recognized for his work in the complex ecology of old-growth forests and expertise in dendrochronology, or the reading of tree rings. His “Eastern OLDLIST” is an authoritative database of ancient trees in temperate environments of the Eastern states. This data is a critical addition to traditional focus on old trees in extreme environments like the Joshua trees of the arid American west or a 9,500-year-old spruce in the frigid Dalarna region of Sweden.

The American Museum of Natural History recently tapped Pederson’s research for a major international exhibit: “Climate Change: The Threat to Life and a New Energy Future.” Two of Pederson’s interns, undergraduate Drew Stockwell and graduate student Kacie Tackett, helped him collect samples from Lilley Cornett Woods to travel with the exhibit through Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Mexico and South America, helping to demonstrate the science, history and impact of climate change and current initiatives to reduce carbon footprints.

Finding old-growth stands is not as simple as spotting really big trees, Pederson notes: a tree in poor soil or heavy shade may live for centuries, growing exceedingly slowly. Dead or rotting trees may (or may not) hold valuable samples, so dozens of cookies must be patiently collected, analyzed and cross-dated before verifying a true old-growth forest sector. Yet, inspired by Pederson’s enthusiasm, Eastern’s ecology students eagerly undertake the hot, tedious work, pushing through undergrowth for pristine samples.

This work must be done quickly, Pederson insists, for old-growth forests are home to genetic diversity that may aid medical or agricultural science. They hold natural history information crucial for ecosystem restoration and sustainable management strategies. Such data is especially important in times of rapid environmental change and species extinction in our biologically diverse region. Yet Kentucky is still relatively unexplored. For example, a 2,200+ acre tract of old-growth forest was identified just over a decade ago in Harlan County’s Blanton Forest.

Each semester Professor Pederson ignites his students with the challenge and urgency of dendrochronology, the reading of rings. Recently, after a lecture on a unique old-growth stand in Alabama, a group of forest ecology students scrapped their spring break plans and begged Pederson to come with them to sample these trees. He canceled his plans, packed his boots and gear and drove to Alabama with them.

“When your students have that much enthusiasm and interest,” Pederson says, “it’s just so hard to say no.”

To see video of Dr. Neil Pederson’s work with old-growth forests, go to www.eku.edu and follow the link to EKUCast.
What’s So Distinguishing About an EKU Alumnus?

Your nomination!

From the national spotlight to small town classrooms and everywhere in between, Eastern Kentucky University alumni are making news.

We’re seeking nominations for EKU’s 2010 Alumni Awards and we need you to help us tell their stories.

Who’s made a difference in her community? What has he done to impact our society? Which unique individual is leaving an imprint for others to follow that will make the world, or just a small part of it, a better place?

Visit www.eku.edu/alumni/awards or email Jackie Collier at jackie.collier@eku.edu with your nominations for this prestigious honor. Deadline for submission is December 1, 2009.