Follow this and additional works at: http://encompass.eku.edu/upubs_ekumag

Recommended Citation
http://encompass.eku.edu/upubs_ekumag/5

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Alumni Magazines at Encompass. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Eastern Magazine by an authorized administrator of Encompass. For more information, please contact Linda.Sizemore@eku.edu.
GROWING BIODIESEL IN BLUEGRASS FIELDS
LEARN MORE INSIDE!

SPRING ISSUE 2009
In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.
—Albert Einstein

In this time of global uncertainty, Eastern Kentucky University’s opportunity to influence the future has perhaps never been more defined.

In business ethics, environmental science, healthcare, education, homeland security—in a host of areas that impact us all—Eastern is educating graduates who will reshape our society.

Tomorrow’s world changers are counting on you to help them advance the EKU legacy.

The Eastern Fund of Eastern Kentucky University—an investment with a lifetime of appreciation.

www.eku.edu/development
(859) 622-1583
FEATURES

4 From Manchester, With Gorgeous Quiet Dazzle
Toni Hacker, ’97, has fashion world in the bag

10 Cover Story
Growing Biodiesel in Bluegrass Fields
Eastern to lead Kentucky’s production of alternative fuel

14 Big Hearts in Pro Baseball
Alicia, ’04, and Brandon Webb link philanthropy to family values

18 Real Life Stuff
Katie Yancosek, ’03, challenges combat-wounded amputees

DEPARTMENTS

22 Campus News
26 Class Acts
32 In the End
Dr. Marta Miranda
Alumni Matters

A glorious spring finally arrived! After a winter of cold, wind and ice that brought down so many trees, the spectacular burst of flowers and green reminds us that we’re still Campus Beautiful.

Springtime brought two of my favorite campus events: Alumni Weekend and Spring graduation. Alumni Weekend of April 24-26 brought perfect weather to honor the classes of 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974 and 1979. The Class of 1959 was inducted into the Pioneer Society which recognizes alumni celebrating their 50th reunion. A Friday evening reception and dinner brought classmates and the campus community together for conversation and catching up.

At our annual Awards Banquet, we were proud to honor our Hall of Distinguished Alumni inductees: Roy Allison, ‘55, retired from Insurance Business, Lexington, Ky.; William (Bill) Clements, ‘68, Senior Vice President, Hilliard Lyons, Inc., Henderson, Ky.; Lt. Kathy Eigebach, ‘80, Deputy Chief, St. Matthews Police Department, Louisville, Ky.; Brad Loar, ‘74, Director, Mitigation Division (FEMA Region IV), Lawrenceville, Ga.; Don McGeorge, ‘77, President and Chief Operating Officer, Kroger Company, Union, Ky. and Clifford Turner, ‘74, President, Land Development Services, Louisville, Ky. Rebecca Houghtaling, ’99, Urban Planner for Crispell-Snyder, Inc., Milwaukee, Wis., was given the Young Alumni Award. Dr. Larry Collins of the College of Justice & Safety and Dr. Edmund D. Fenton of the College of Business & Technology received the 2009 Awards for Teaching Excellence.

This issue of the magazine includes interesting articles on two of our younger graduates who are doing outstanding work in their careers. They have both used their Eastern experience to impact their occupations much as the award recipients noted above have done throughout their careers.

Graduation was Saturday, May 9, 2009. What a wonderful time to be on campus as we watched our next wave of alumni move forward to another part of their lives. With each graduation I attend, I am inspired by our student body. They are remarkable in so many ways as they move to make their mark in the world.

Last but not least, don’t forget to mark your calendar for Homecoming 2009 the weekend of October 16-18.

As always this brings my best to you!

Jackie Collier
Director of Alumni Relations
My fellow Eastern alumni,

I suspect that most of you, like those of us working at Eastern, find yourselves spending a considerable part of your waking moments focused on matters relating to the economy. Like many of our neighbors—both local and worldwide—the University has had its income affected.

In Eastern’s case, this has come from continued reductions in our state appropriation and in reduced income from the investment of our endowment in the EKU Foundation. While we have great hopes that the federal stimulus package will fulfill its purpose and through its budget stabilization component spare us the worst of what 2009-10 might offer, the reality is that we must find ways to protect EKU’s core mission of teaching and continue to move forward.

Please be assured that this is the task we are about at your alma mater. While we are engaged in the very real task of reallocating our resources to our highest priorities, you will not find hand wringing and whining to be part of the routine at Eastern. Rather, we are showing the same spirit of teamwork and problem solving that has always been a part of the Essential Eastern and the Power of Maroon. My most sincere “thank you” is extended to each of you who, despite your personal challenges, have chosen to reach out and support EKU’s core mission of teaching and continue to move forward.

If you have been watching the news about EKU, you will know that we have continued to make our mark and move forward on many fronts. Most significant among these is the work that our CRAFT (Center for Renewable and Alternative Fuels Technology) is doing with General Atomics in research on transforming cellulosic (non food plant products) material into biofuels. This story has brought attention to EKU through more than 200 media outlets and publications in six countries. The Carnegie Foundation’s recent recognition of Eastern as one of only 200 plus of the more than 4,000 colleges and universities in America to meet their standards for “engagement” reflects our long standing commitment to our community, region, state, and nation. The blending of our initiatives in energy and community engagement has caused the Southern Growth Policies Board, the south’s largest economic development think tank, to look at EKU as a leader. They have recently conducted two significant community forums on our campus. You will see other examples within the pages of this issue of Eastern.

As you know from previous accounts, one of my priorities at Eastern is to increase the opportunities for our students and faculty to engage in international experiences. In this regard, Joanne and I had originally planned to visit China in May. However, concerns with the H1N1 flu led to the cancellation of that trip by the Chinese. That visit was to have been followed by one to Korea. Not wanting to cancel the Korea visit—the first by an American university president to that part of South Korea—we changed our plans to replace China with a follow-up visit to Japan. This allowed us to further cement our budding relationship with Rikkyo University and get to know our long-time friends at the University of Yamanashi. In Korea, our schedule included a visit to Daegu Haany University, another of our valued international partners. I had been asked to speak to the faculty and students there. My topic was “Globalization and the Stewardship of Place.” My emphasis was on the importance and relationship of globalization to the concept of regional stewardship which is one of the strengths of comprehensive universities like Eastern. My intent was to keep up my international blogging to the extent possible.

I continue to treasure the opportunity I have to serve this place I love. As Joanne and I travel the country meeting with many of you, we continue to be amazed with the consistent testimony from our alumni about the profoundly positive, life-altering experience you had at Eastern. That is the most important part of the “Essential Eastern” and is what we are working to preserve during these tough times. With your continued help we will be successful.

Charles D. Whitlock, ’65, ’66
President
In 2005, eight years after graduating from Eastern, Toni Hacker and her partner Ben Harnett streaked across the New York fashionista radar with a line of women’s accessories instantly praised by customers and critics for their “gorgeous quiet dazzle,” beauty and functionality, superb price/quality ratio and almost supernatural bead on what women want. “How many years have you been doing this?” an editor demanded just after the launch of Hayden-Harnett from a tiny shop on the ragged river edge of Brooklyn.

Naturally, fashion media painted a Cinderella story of overnight success. However, Toni Hacker has no fairy godmother or deep-pockets investor. She does combine a life-long appreciation for “beautiful objects of use,” stunning capacity for hard work, acute fashion sense and small-town conviction that success is meaningless without integrity, independence and community.

Asked to recall her first design success, Hacker cites an assignment from Mrs. Westerfield, her third grade teacher in Manchester, Ky.: “You’re stranded on a desert island. Build something useful.” While classmates groaned, Hacker focused on what desert people need. She built a working waterwheel of milk jugs and tobacco sticks. After utility comes beauty. She remembers going shopping at age 11 with her Grandma Reese for a special Barbie doll. Her pocket held “five dollars from my mother, five from Grandma and one random dollar.” Passing a yard sale, she spied a vintage clutch handbag and forgot the Barbie. Years later, that clutch is her office icon. She holds it lovingly, brushing the still-glossy black satin, demonstrating the crisp inside pockets, perfectly fitting mirror, tiny change purse, fine hardware enriched with an amber clasp: a beautiful object of use.

As a teenager she devoured Elle and Vogue magazines, but no professional artist or fashion designer showed up for career days in Manchester. At Eastern she dutifully studied psychology. Then she joined a friend in Dr. Don Dewy’s drawing class. “It blew me away! It was so hard. Dr. Dewy pulled things out of me that I didn’t know were there. I had to learn this.” She switched to art and drawing classes. Then came the difficult blow: her BFA portfolio review. The faculty kindly but firmly declared that her future was neither drawing nor painting: it was in 3-D art like sculpture, ceramics or jewelry design. “It hurt,” admits Hacker, “but they were so right.”
In the next semesters, she devoured courses, exercising right and left brain skills in architecture, interior design, metal work and technical drawing, “anywhere I could make something beautiful.” Back in Manchester, Grandma Reese finally asked: “What kind of job will you get?” “Product design.”

“That’s not a job. Things get made in factories,” Grandma said.

Still, her family supported this strange obsession. “You’re unique,” her mother said. “You’ll succeed in whatever you do.” A co-op learning position at Richmond’s First Gear added silk-screening to Hacker’s skill set, and she set her sights on the University of Cincinnati for graduate work in product design. But when she saw a notice for a product design internship in Columbus, Ohio, she yanked it off the bulletin board, jumped in her car and headed for Columbus with her Eastern portfolio and her cat.

The designers were impressed but perplexed. “Where do you live, exactly?”

“Manchester,” Hacker said. “I got up early.” Once hired, she buried herself in the computer, learning PhotoShop® and Illustrator® programs. Next came a Knoxville job designing ATM kiosks, interior graphics and signage. A Headhunter.com posting got her a design position at nearby Innovo where she helped the company expand from lunch bags and coolers into private label clothing with big names like Nordstrom, American Eagle and Joe’s Jeans. In 2002, when Innovo needed a Hong Kong presence to interface with manufacturers, Hacker was ready.
Nervous? Intimidated? “I loved it. You couldn’t pay for that much education.” After a year in Hong Kong, job offers improved. In 2003 Hacker was starting Nesi, Inc.’s accessory line, managing design, production and sales. She was used to the work, but just couldn’t accept the frenetic need to “make something just for the sake of making it,” like a child’s backpack with built-in speakers. Big, loud, heavy speakers. By then, she knew where her passion lay: high quality women’s accessories, not random product couplings like backpacks + speakers. As Hacker was exploring other work options, a friend in Nesi’s human resource department suggested that she meet Ben Harnett, a young designer with a background in painting and the classics. The HR friend was right, the attraction was there, but Hacker shied away from office dating.

After a move up to the fashion giant Liz Claiborne, she did go out with Ben. “He liked my bright pink raincoat.” As romance bloomed, work passion flourished. The company wanted a $200 leather handbag with “lots of style and quality” to rival competitors’ bags selling for twice the price. “Heart racing,” Hacker threw herself into the challenge and “loved every single step.” So did the company when her bag sold out in one week. Toni Hacker had found her calling, but the question was how long she and Ben could “work ourselves silly for big fashion companies.”

On April Fool’s Day, 2005, they joked at the kitchen table about a new Hayden-Harnett line, inventing the name “Hayden” for better flow with “Harnett.” She sketched a logo on her napkin. Its symmetry—“no matter how you turn it, it’s the same”—underscored their shared principles: beauty + function. “Later that day, we knew we were ready to make the leap into the wild world of fashion accessories sans parachute. The free fall was intense, but the landing has been totally worth the effort and lack of sleep.” The timing, she says, was perfect. “There was a tsunami of handbag love coming, and we were riding it.”

With or without helpful tsunamis, most fashion startups seek investors, gladly trading full creative freedom for financial security. They spend heavily for advertising and trade shows and try to chase the latest fashion wind. From the first, Hayden-Harnett took a different path. They stubbornly chose 100% financial independence and refused the narrow demographics of most fashion lines, determined to appeal to women of all ages with “beautiful objects of use,” creating what
Hacker sought for herself and rarely found: “high style, amazing quality, functionality, and a non-inflated price for all of the above.” Seven months later, Hayden-Harnett launched five leather handbag styles they’re still making, including the “Havana Hobo,” still their #1 seller.

Hacker’s family back home proudly follows the progress of “the scrappy little company.” Nephew Ethan (age two) specializes in quality control, subjecting bags to extreme toy-toting stress, while the adults are outfitted in the expanding accessories line. In fact, three years after launch, Hayden-Harnett has more than 100 products, compared to the seven to nine typical for a company of its size. Financial independence gives the partners freedom to experiment, to move into new lines like shoes and apparel and to give customers the products and features they ask for.

Hacker and Harnett endured the “chew ’em up, spit ’em out” world of the fashion industry’s corporate culture and wanted something different. Their company, like their partnership, is based on respect and support. Hayden-Harnett offers health care coverage and benefits to the 25 full-time employees. “I’d love to have the company be employee-owned in the future,” says Hacker. “Ben and I have everything we want from this world, including dream jobs. I’d really love to see HH be a true vested interest for our employees.”

The hard-working design staff recruited from Argentina, Korea, San Francisco and Atlanta may share cramped quarters behind the Brooklyn retail store, but their passion for this work is tangible. “Our team makes me so excited to go in to work every day,” says Hacker. “It sounds corny, but I’m totally serious.” She and Harnett see a long future for their company and aim to stay healthy. After an apprenticeship marked by late hours, take-out food and missed meals, they have a new dictum: “If we don’t cook it, we don’t eat it.” The design staff breaks to share lunch; brownies and cookies sweeten long afternoons.

The company also feels a vested interest in the planet’s health. High-quality, pocketed “green bag” totes of 100% organic cotton use pigment dyes to showcase the work of young designers. Profits from each season’s “green bags” fund green-focused non-profits. “We don’t deal in exotic or hunted leathers like camel, deer, buffalo or ostrich,” says Harnett. He buys primarily South American hides from farmed animals which are tanned in upstate New York under U.S. law for environmental and worker safety.

A linchpin of the company’s success is internet marketing and online sales, which increased 40% in 2008, a year of worldwide retail woes. A well-run Web site (hayden-harnett.com), blogs and personal e-mails create a cult following. Customer suggestions trigger new models. YouTube features provide nearly free advertising, while high-quality products and genuine customer care ensure loyalty and priceless word-of-mouth. Meanwhile, a contract with retailer Target for Hayden-Harnett designs in the $20-$60 range brings in new customers who may later move up the company line.
And what, exactly, is behind the “tsunami of handbag love”? Basically, it’s Hacker’s genius for melding style, function, quality, trouble-free comfort and longevity at a price that’s “not more than your rent.” While a bag like the Havana Hobo comes with a $500 price tag, European luxury brands command $2,000 for equivalent quality and style. Carefully placed pockets and ingenious dividers hold cell phones, iPods, books, pens, laptops, baby bottles, passports, and travel and exercise clothes for busy women. Buttery leathers age effortlessly. Stylish linings make opening the bags a constant delight, and custom hardware combines beauty and utility. A customer blogs: “I’m in Hayden-Harnett heaven, with the soft, supple leather wafting around me.” Another says the catalog “reminds me why I go to the office each morning.”

Hacker sees her bags as an investment and trust: “We wouldn’t put anything out there that we wouldn’t use and love for years to come.” Tags in her store bear a quotation from Ralph Waldo Emerson: “Things are pretty, graceful, rich, elegant, handsome, but until they speak to the imagination are not yet beautiful.” Toni Hacker has married imagination to utility, creating the “beautiful objects of use” she admired in her fashion-struck Manchester childhood while building her business on integrity and community.

**BRINGING BAGS TO MARKET**

**CREATING THE DESIGN:** A year before release, the design team creates a detailed technical drawing.

**SELECTING COMPONENTS:** The team selects the type, tanning method and color of leather. Linings are designed and contracted.

**BUILDING THE HARDWARE:** Buckles, rings, rivets, clasps and studs are developed and custom-molded through an outside vendor.

**MAKING THE PROTO:** Technical drawings are sent to a Hong Kong manufacturer who creates the prototype or “proto” in scrap leather or canvas.

**SLICING THE PROTO:** The design team examines the proto, sometimes doing “bag surgery” to refine the shape.

**GETTING IT RIGHT:** A second or third proto is tested and tweaked until the bag feels perfect in design, function and craftsmanship.

**SHOWING THE SAMPLES:** Finished samples arrive at the Manhattan showroom. Wholesalers from around the world examine the bags and place their orders.

**MAKING SALES PROJECTIONS:** Based on wholesale orders, industry trends, their own sales- and customer- knowledge, Hayden-Harnett places an order with the manufacturer.

**“CHRISTMAS MORNING”:** In 90-120 days, the finished bags arrive. “It’s like Christmas,” says Hacker. Each bag undergoes meticulous quality control. The design staff is already working on the next season’s line.
With 60% of our nation’s fuel coming from foreign sources, rising concern for the environmental consequences of fossil fuel dependence and the pressing local issue of Kentucky farmers seeking new cash crops, Eastern will lead research to develop Kentucky-based industrial scale production of biodiesel from biomass.

On December 1, 2008, President Doug Whitlock joined Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear, Congressman Ben Chandler and executives from San Diego-based General Atomics to announce the creation of the Eastern Kentucky University Center for Renewable and Alternative Fuel Technologies (CRAFT). Funded by General Atomics and a federal grant, CRAFT will harness algae to transform cellulosic material—or biomass—into biodiesel. News of the partnership, says Dr. Don Llewellyn of Eastern’s department of agriculture, “went all over the world in two days.” Students in agriculture, economics, biology, chemistry and agricultural science immediately descended on Eastern faculty members, seeking a role in what Llewellyn describes as “the biggest undertaking, the most exciting project I’ve ever done.”

While biomass-to-ethanol technologies have been explored and prototyped since the 1980’s, notes Llewellyn’s colleague Dr. Bruce Pratt, “with biodiesel you have a product that is going to have more industrial applications. Diesel runs industry: our trucks on the road, our trains, our freighters out on the ocean, our jets (jet fuel is not very different from diesel fuel) whereas ethanol is primarily just a gas additive for the auto industry.” In fact, General Atomics, whose affiliate General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. produces the Predator® series of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), is keenly interested in creating a domestic source of the diesel and jet fuels critical to national defense.
How to make biodiesel

The chemical process of creating biodiesel builds on decades of research on the production of cellulosic ethanol, Pratt explains. It can begin with a wide range of raw materials or biomass: corn stover (the corn plant minus the ears), forest and woody wastes like saw dust, tree thinnings, or pulp-mill residue, switchgrass or sorghum. This range of raw material means that biodiesel production need not directly compete with human or livestock food sources, a significant concern with the corn ethanol processes.

The basic process begins when biomass is digested by commercially available cellulase enzymes, producing sugars. The sugars are then fed to a strain of algae called heterotrophic, meaning that they are not reliant on the sun as the source of nutrients through photosynthesis. These heterotrophic algae begin to produce oils which can be processed into biodiesel.

While biodiesel is the end product, even the by-products hold potential: once oil is extracted from the algae, the algae residue is a potential livestock feed, says Pratt, and lignan, a component of plant cell walls from the biomass, is high in phenyls, a component in the production of jet fuel from biodiesel.

Regional impact

Working closely with Dr. Frank O’Connor of Eastern’s department of economics, Pratt and Llewellyn are exploring the regional economic impact of a home-grown biodiesel industry. Farmers who once grew tobacco may turn to switchgrass and other cash crops. Agricultural residues like corn stover and tobacco stalks may now have an economic afterlife. Purpose-grown biomass like switchgrass thrives on marginal land and, unlike corn, requires little or no fertilizer. “It’s possible,” says Pratt, “that we could grow switchgrass on reclaimed strip mines. We don’t know that we can’t.” The wood industry in Southeast Kentucky is second only to coal, says O’Connor, and biodiesel production could generate a market for much of its waste or second-generation material.

Ultimately a full-scale industry will produce jobs in agricultural production, transportation and processing, with a wide range of secondary industries and support services. What is the potential economic impact? “We just don’t know yet,” says O’Connor, echoing Albert Einstein’s famous dictum: “If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn’t be called research, would it?”

The work begins at Eastern

As monies arrived this spring, work began. General Atomics will design the processing system that will derive biodiesel from biomass and will work with civil and chemical engineers and architects to create an industrial-scale plant in Clark County, Ky. Before that happens, Eastern faculty and staff face enormous and enormously exciting challenges, say Llewellyn and Pratt. They must develop a strategic plan that is functional and economically feasible, will not disrupt human or animal food supplies and will be environmentally responsible.

Specifically, the Eastern team will produce a major report: “Assessment of the Economics, Transportation & Logistics of Biomass Utilization in Kentucky for BioFuels Production.” Since, as Llewellyn admits, “no single person has all the expertise for this project,” the CRAFT team will look to a synergy of Eastern’s agriculture, biology, chemistry, economics and environmental science departments. The finished assessment will address such key issues as:

- What types of suitable biomass sources exist or can be grown in Kentucky?
- What lands are available for purpose-grown crops like switchgrass?
- What are optimum processes for establishing, maintaining and harvesting biomass?
- What are the most economical ways to transport bulky, low-value biomass?
- What enzymes and algae are best suited to the production process?
- What by-products and co-products of the process might have an economic value and how might that value be maximized? Can algae residues, for example, have industrial or agricultural uses?

The task is large, but all over Eastern, faculty, staff and students are eager to begin an adventure which, says Pratt, “makes agriculture a player in the energy process.”
Value-added education

Agriculture majors Sandra Hoormann, Annette Dean and Gary Selby are three of the Eastern students eagerly awaiting work on the biodiesel project. After moving from the Chicago suburbs to a five-acre farm in Kentucky, Hoormann began raising and showing sheep for 4-H. A hobby grown to a career goal of livestock production drew her to Eastern. This spring she’ll be working with Llewellyn in the agriculture labs, analyzing the potential of using agricultural residues as feed additives. Eventually, she hopes, nutritious feeds may be more economically produced through a renewable energy source that “helps us all out.”

Non-traditional agriculture student Annette Dean divides her time between helping her husband manage a 180-acre farm and beef cattle operation and pursing a B.S. in agriculture with a business minor that will take her into the financial lending field “definitely in Kentucky.” She’ll be looking closely at the regional economic impact of biodiesel. She’s optimistic that an industrial-level operation will be “really big for our farmers” by creating a market for excess product like corn stover as well as a way to use marginal lands for purpose-grown biomass.

Gary Selby entered the field through a high school passion for horticulture. At Eastern he turned his eye to research and education, aiming for a Ph.D. from Eastern and a college teaching post. So when he heard first reports of the CRAFT project, Selby immediately contacted Llewellyn, anxious to enrich his résumé with cutting-edge research. The major challenge for biofuels, says Selby, is efficiency: “Our first step is to find efficient crops which give us maximum cellulose and glucose for the least input costs.”

“A steady course”

Of course no emerging technology is without risks or setbacks, but it is important, says Pratt, to keep a “steady course” in exploring energy options. He cites the “boom and bust” cycle of public interest in corn ethanol. Similarly, President Obama has characterized U.S. energy policy as “moving from panic to trance”—sudden interest in alternative sources when foreign oil prices rise, followed by lethargy when oil prices dip. Only on-going and wide-ranging research today can begin to establish the foundations for the future’s renewable, dependable energy supply, says Pratt.

Thus, while some critics cite the high energy cost of transforming biomass into liquid fuels, Pratt responds that “costs” are relative and a moving target. Many factors enter the cost equation, and renewable energy sources have environmental and public health benefits which may tip a scale. In terms of national security, he adds, reliable domestic supplies of biodiesel for national defense make the United States less dependent on foreign sources “which are not necessarily friendly to us.” Further, consider the regional benefits if growing biomass feeds Kentucky farm families, supports our wood industry, reclaims mine fields, provides jobs and respects our environment.

As biodiesel research gears up in Eastern’s biology and chemistry labs, on spreadsheets and in field work on our farms and field sites, Don Llewellyn looks forward to an undertaking that “will positively transform the lives of so many people locally, regionally and globally.” As agriculture student Annette Dean observes, growing biodiesel on our land, generating renewable energy and capturing by-products as nutritious livestock feed is “a continuous cycle in which everybody benefits.”

Green power partners

EKU President Doug Whitlock:
“This partnership links Kentucky and EKU with an international business leader that is turning its focus and considerable resources to biomass-to-fuel initiatives and is important to Kentucky’s farmers looking for cash crops to replace tobacco, to the Commonwealth’s carbon footprint, and to making Kentucky a leader in emergent technology.”

Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear:
“It is vital that we examine innovative, long-term solutions to the energy issues we face. Due in part to our fertile fields, Kentucky has the ability to greatly contribute to the research and development of alternative fuel sources.”

Congressman Ben Chandler:
“I am thrilled that I was able to secure $4 million of federal money to make alternative fuel production in Kentucky a reality, creating jobs and giving Kentucky, especially Eastern Kentucky University, the opportunity to be a national leader in the field.”

General Atomics Vice President for Biofuels Development Bill Davidson:
“We are very excited by this opportunity to work with EKU to develop and deploy a technology that we believe has great economic, environmental and strategic potential.”
Big Hearts in Pro Baseball

It seemed a common enough story at the start...teenage sweethearts attend college close to their Ashland, Kentucky home. He plays baseball and hones his sinker pitch at the University of Kentucky while she goes to Eastern on scholarship. Eventually, he decides to finish his degree at Eastern, where she is happy with her major (apparel merchandising), her sorority (Alpha Gamma Delta) and a campus she finds friendly and welcoming, “just the perfect size.”

But now our story becomes decidedly uncommon. Before he has a chance to suit up for the Colonels, Brandon Webb is drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks for his 2003 Rookie Season. It’s step one on his path to a major league pitching career and the 2006 National League Cy Young Award.

And she? Alicia Berginnis graduated from Eastern in 2004, married Brandon and is now the mother of a three-year-old daughter with another child on the way. The traveling life of a pro ball player’s spouse makes a full-time career difficult, but Alicia sees beyond the obvious frills of major league life to the needs of those around her. With her husband, she is giving back to those in her adopted state of Arizona, her home in Kentucky and her alma mater.

Alicia and Brandon Webb have found ways to link their charitable endeavors to their personal and family values. Their work with the Humane Society and their own K Foundation represent deep, on-going commitments. For example, there’s no question that Alicia and Brandon are dog people. Just ask Olivia and Mabel, miniature dachshunds, Dixie, a black Labrador retriever, Mick, the English mastiff, and the family’s most recent addition, Thor, a shepherd mix adopted from the Scottsdale, Arizona, Humane Society shelter. Both Webbs step out for animals, freely giving their time and talents: they modeled in a recent “Compassion with Fashion” Humane Society fundraiser, accessorized with adoptable dogs and helped sponsor an “Adopt at the Park” event in the Diamondbacks stadium. This year, Brandon admits, he’s been drafted for a “Guys and Dogs” modeling duo. Brandon will dress as one of the Marx Brothers in a spoof of the ever-popular “Who’s on First?” routine.

But the Webbs’ dedication to animals is eclipsed by their extraordinary commitment to serve families in some of their darkest times: when children suffer from chronic illness. That’s why children and parents in Arizona who know nothing about baseball light up when they see Brandon or Alicia. Their lives have been brightened by Brandon Webb’s K Foundation.

First, for the non-baseball fans, why the K? A strikeout in baseball is signaled by “K” on the scoreboard, and there are plenty of them when Webb takes the mound thanks to his formidable sinker pitches. Fans call a great sinker “a gift from heaven” as it suddenly and mysteriously plunges five to ten inches below the typical fastball. Batters call Webb’s sinker just plain mean.

To combat the “sinker” of critical and chronic illness, Brandon and Alicia created the K Foundation. Since 2004, it has raised in excess of $300,000 and touched the lives of more than 100,000 Arizona children.

Backed by major corporate sponsors and a board of directors inspired by the Webbs’ passion and compassion, the Foundation keeps growing. Consider the range of “K” initiatives:

• A hugely successful premier event at Morton’s Steakhouse in Scottsdale included a warm welcome by Alicia and Brandon and a silent auction highlighted by Diamondbacks memorabilia and opportunities, like sharing the broadcast booth during a home game.

• The Field of Dreams program partners with St. Joseph’s Hospital to give critically ill children a week-long dream vacation, all expenses paid. During the 2008 season, it brought more than 200 ill children and an adult guest to Diamondbacks games.

• Diamondback for a Day gives at-risk youth a behind the scenes look at the life of a major league baseball player—a vivid example of how far drive and commitment can take them.

• K for Knowledge is a seven-month program that encourages elementary school children to read by offering prizes like lunch with Brandon, a trip to spring training or a backpack stuffed with school supplies.

• Brandon’s Lockers, now in three Arizona hospitals, has supplied games, notebook computers, books, videos and comfort items to 110,000 children in rehab and pediatric intensive care units. When the devastating costs of serious illness strain family budgets, a visit to Brandon’s Locker brightens long, difficult hospital days.

• The Brandon Webb Golf Classic and celebrity marlin fishing at Mexico’s Cabo San Lucas bring media attention and funding to reach out to more and more children and families.

For many children and parents, though, the true gifts are the Webbs themselves, quietly going room to room. Brandon and Alicia describe an 18-year-old soccer player, just returned from a buoyant European vacation to be struck down by cancer. Despondent and hopeless, he lay in bed, an unreachable “tough guy.” Webb sat by his side and patiently watched jittery videos of the young man’s European trip. “He grabbed my hand and started crying, just wouldn’t let me go,” Webb remembers. “So I stayed.” Those tears became the pathway for a healing community to reach the young man and remind him that he was still important enough for a major league player, a Cy Young Award winner, to make time for him.

Learn more about efforts made on behalf of chronically ill children by Brandon Webb’s K Foundation at www.brandonwebb.org.
Summer in Kentucky!

That means baseball for many kids, and the Brandon Webb Baseball Camp in Ashland helps young people of all levels of experience between the ages of seven and fourteen improve their hitting, pitching and catching by working with skilled coaches and pro baseball players. Parents come, too, notes Brandon, and appreciate the camp’s emphasis on safety and sportsmanship. Of course, statistically, few young players will make it to the majors. “But you never know,” says Alicia. “Nobody knew Brandon would make it there when he was a kid.” Brandon agrees: “You have to aim high.”

Corporate sponsorships keep participation costs low for young players, and proceeds from the camp will support local charities, says Alicia.

The Webbs’ support of the sport they love doesn’t stop at the camp. They also supply all cleats for the Ashland Baseball League. As might be imagined, citizens of the Webbs’ hometown are proud of the couple’s success and grateful that they have remembered their roots. On a snowy December day last year, the Ashland American Little League honored Brandon Webb and veteran major league umpire Charlie Reliford on the field where they once played. Reliford called Webb “a true gentleman of the sport and an outstanding ambassador for Ashland.”

Both Alicia and Brandon want to help talented young people of Ashland to have the chances they had for a college education and thus plan to establish a scholarship fund at their alma mater, Paul G. Blazer High School. Their connection to Eastern remains strong as well. Alicia’s fond memories of her time on The Campus Beautiful led her to host an alumni event at the Diamondbacks’ Chase Field in the fall of 2008. From the Webbs’ private box, Eastern guests cheered on the home team to a 3-2 victory over the San Francisco Giants, completing a four-game sweep. All visiting Colonels received a baseball signed by Brandon. Alicia hopes to repeat the gathering this season and connect with even more of the 600 EKU alumni living in Arizona. “It was a great opportunity in my life to have gone to Eastern,” she says. “I was glad to help give back.”

From sick children in Arizona hospitals and adoptable pets in the local Humane Society to young baseball players and high school students in their Ashland hometown and EKU alumni, Alicia and Brandon’s generous hearts are opening new fields of dreams.
Only at Arlington.

Call (859) 622-2200 or visit www.arlington.eku.edu and join today.

Join before October 1, 2009 and we’ll waive the initiation fee—a savings of at least $1,000!

Enjoy access to our acclaimed 18-hole golf course, Olympic-sized pool and lighted tennis courts. Soon there will be two more reasons to join—the opening of our state-of-the-art fitness center and grille house.

Add your name to the list of distinguished members who have made Arlington an EKU landmark for almost four decades.

Where else can you get in over your head, play a round or take a backhand shot at your opponent and call it relaxation?

Only at Arlington.

Call (859) 622-2200 or visit www.arlington.eku.edu and join today.
Try this exercise: go through your morning routine one-handed. Better yet, one-armed. And let’s make that your non-dominant arm, so if you’re right-handed, use only your left arm. Pretend the right one just doesn’t exist. Shower and get dressed, shave or put on make-up, prepare breakfast for the kids, do some household chores ... and then start your work day. For a soldier returning from war with an upper body amputation, this is not an exercise; it’s life.
Improved body armor protects the vital organs of American soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, which partly accounts for lower casualty rates than those of the Vietnam War. However, notes Dr. Colleen Schneck, head of Eastern’s department of occupational therapy, because arms and legs are still exposed, unprecedented numbers of male and female soldiers are returning with catastrophic limb injuries that require amputation. The U.S. Army estimates that 6% of all injuries in the current conflict result in amputations. One thousand combat-wounded amputees have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan.

For most amputees, rehabilitation begins at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. It is there that Katie Yancosek, a 2003 graduate of Eastern’s Master of Occupational Therapy program, Certified Hand Therapist and U.S. Army captain, developed the expertise that has made her a nationally known leader in traumatic upper body amputation. Promoted in 2007 to the rank of major, Yancosek elected to further her training and is now enrolled in a collaborative doctoral program that combines the expertise of Eastern faculty with that of faculty from three other Kentucky schools (see inset).

Occupational therapy (OT) can be defined as “giving people skills for the job of living.” Whatever injury or illness has caused the disability, OT works on three fronts: enhancing the individual’s ability to participate, modifying the environment, and adapting the activity to support the individual’s participation. Yancosek’s warrior-clients presented a unique challenge: young adults at the start of their careers accustomed to an extraordinary degree of health and fitness who have been physically and emotionally devastated by traumatic injury and loss.

With tact, professionalism, detailed knowledge of human anatomy and the technology of new generation prostheses, Yancosek worked with soldiers who were suddenly unable to perform the most mundane “real life stuff” like getting dressed, folding laundry, cooking, writing, changing a baby’s diaper or even opening a door while holding a mug of hot coffee. “Everything that was easy before is harder or takes a lot more time and a lot more thought,” says Yancosek. “Someone with a leg injury gets to a certain performance level in a wheelchair and is relatively comfortable with it. Someone with a double-arm injury pattern…it’s much more devastating.”

Dealing matter-of-factly with devastation is a basic job requirement of OT. Yancosek readily admits that she didn’t exactly choose this career. Her father did. A Purple Heart veteran of the Vietnam War, he supervised maintenance projects at a military hospital. When Katie was 17 he announced: “I figured out what you should be: an occupational therapist.” Yancosek was intrigued enough to organize a do-it-yourself practicum in which she spent a week observing at an OT clinic. After that week, she was hooked.

A few years later, Yancosek graduated from Gannon University in Pennsylvania with a bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy and an ROTC commission to the Army. When she came to Eastern as a post-professional master’s student, Dr. Schneck recalls, Yancosek was “a natural leader, a hard worker, good thinker and writer, knowledgeable and positive. It made you smile just looking at her.” The Eastern program built on these essential qualities. “I learned to be proactive,” says Yancosek. In addition to developing technical expertise, students are engaged in larger OT issues: policymaking, advocacy, and a therapist’s role in helping patients through the confounding blizzard of reimbursement issues and treatment options. In recent years, OT professionals and programs like Eastern’s have relentlessly pushed what Yancosek calls an “archaic” prosthesis industry to explore new materials and computer technologies to develop lighter, more responsive and durable artificial limbs.

Eastern Kentucky University’s graduate occupational therapy program is ranked 24th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. It is Kentucky’s only master’s OT program at a state institution.

EKU’s OT faculty and students’ specialized research projects address occupational health issues among infants, autistic and special needs children, youth at risk, coalfield workers, custodial grandmothers and rural populations. Inspired in part by Katie Yancosek, an increasing number of students are entering the field of OT for wounded warriors with upper body amputations.

Students like Yancosek seeking advanced training elect the collaborative, interdisciplinary Rehabilitation Sciences Doctoral Program at the University of Kentucky. Faculty is drawn from four participating universities: Eastern, University of Kentucky, Murray State University and Western Kentucky University. Students from all over the state may take core courses through live interactive television connection.

For more information about OT at Eastern, see www.health.eku.edu/ots
During her 2003-07 assignment at Walter Reed, Yancosek was often there when young soldiers first began dealing with the fact that they would be living the rest of their lives as amputees. She saw soldiers cry, bargain, shout, curse and even deny that there had been an amputation. As the soldier slowly accepted that there was no going back to “what used to be,” the next step was to envision and train for “a new normal.” Yancosek began with baseline skills, what the person was able to do, and then moved on to the next logical step. If the soldier was lying in a hospital bed in pajamas, the next step was getting up and dressed. Then she posed a new challenge: using “the apartment,” a 13-foot wide model efficiency nestled in the hospital with bathroom, bedroom, kitchen and laundry.

“Yancosek was a natural leader, a hard worker, good thinker and writer, knowledgeable and positive. It made you smile just looking at her.”

She taught soldiers with one arm how to cradle a bowl to make a cake and warned those with lower limb amputations that they must never bend over an open oven door (lose your balance and you wind up burned). Men and women who never cooked when they had two functioning hands proudly created meatballs with sauce and invited their families for dinner. They learned to wrap presents, make beds and operate computers.

So often, says Yancosek, it’s not the technical obstacles like mastering the “grasp and release” function of a new prosthesis that are daunting, but the behavioral and emotional issues, generating the will to relearn the most basic skills, to go out in public and finally to go home, leaving the safe bubble of Walter Reed where nobody stares at an amputee. “You have to be a salesperson for function and find ways to engage people in normalcy,” says Yancosek. She adapted her Eastern training in the psycho-social aspects of OT to a military population. Female amputees are often prone to depression; men to anger. As soldiers, how do both men and women reconcile their heroic public image with the image they see in the mirror? “Every single one of them has deep issues. Every one is just as broken and nervous about trying to put their lives together. Because if you are what you do, what happens when you aren’t a soldier anymore?”
Sometimes, incredibly, the one-armed soldier does return to the front line. Consulting with the Army’s Center for the Intrepid in San Antonio, Texas, Yancosek used voice-sensitive technology and virtual reality in Firearm Training Systems to re-tool amputees who elected to return to the field. Today, she says, there are fourteen one-armed soldiers on active duty in Iraq.

Of course, the overwhelming majority of amputees move into civilian life. Yancosek has been at the forefront of helping the military address a new OT challenge: the female combat-wounded amputee. There are now 15 young women who have developed a unique bond. Dawn Halfaker, a West Point graduate and basketball star, lost her right arm to a grenade in Baqubah, Iraq. In her first days at Walter Reed, she had her mother cover the mirror in her room with a towel. Eventually she began playing one-on-one basketball with Specialist Danielle Green, who had lost her left arm below the elbow. They worked with counselors and therapists to deal with emotional issues of loss and depression, while Yancosek helped them get through the suddenly daunting challenges of each day: tying shoelaces, clasping a necklace, putting their hair in a ponytail and calling up the courage and self-esteem to put on nice clothes and walk out on the street again.

While she still struggles with depression and anger, Green has been encouraged by her husband to train for the Paralympics in track and field, traveled to Spain and has begun a master’s program in school counseling. Today, Halfaker consults for Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, using her computer one-handed. She has applied to graduate school, bought a condo and is planning a book on postwar recovery.

Watch amputees like Halfaker struggle with writing and frustrated that most handwriting texts are geared for children, Yancosek produced a widely-acclaimed workbook: Handwriting for Heroes: Learn to Write with Your Non-Dominant Hand in Six Weeks. With co-writer Kristin Gulick, Yancosek offers a positive, practical approach that respects and preserves the dignity of adult learners. For example, early exercises feature markers, not fat crayons. Users progress from large circles to more controlled lines, shapes and then numbers and letters. At the end of the course, users are capable of precise tasks like entering numbers in a checkbook register. Occupational therapists and particularly Certified Hand Therapists around the country are applying the workbook techniques for stroke and other injury victims. “Learning to write,” comments one reviewer, “leads to improved self-esteem, increased opportunities for hobbies and work occupations, and is one more illustration of the adult’s capacity to overcome adversity.”

Handwriting for Heroes demonstrates the skills demanded of the occupational therapist, from technical and anatomical understanding to the profound psycho-social aspects of devastating injury that Dr. Schneck and her faculty at Eastern explore with their students. Today, combat-wounded amputees are finding skilled therapists like Major Katie Yancosek standing over their beds and issuing what must seem like an impossible order: “Soldier, in thirty minutes you’re going to have that prosthesis on and be fully dressed. Then you’ll make this bed and come with me to cook yourself some breakfast.” And so another wounded warrior begins the long road back to a new normal.

---

DEVELOP YOUR DEXTERITY

Use your non-dominant hand to complete these exercises:

[1] Fidget with a pen and its cap. Place the cap on and off the pen and rotate the pen end to end to place the cap onto both ends of the pen without dropping the pen or the cap. Do this while watching television so you learn to do it without watching your hand move. Your hand is gaining skill and coordination without needing your eyes to watch its motions.

[2] People often doodle while talking on the phone. If you only have one functioning hand, you may think this isn’t possible. So here’s your homework for today: call a friend, put the phone on speaker, then doodle as you converse. You can draw anything, write what they say, scribble back and forth...just doodle! Have fun. Tell your friend what you are doing so they will chat for a while, and you’ll get your “doodle time” in.

[3] Write every word you can think of that starts with the letter “S.” See if you can come up with at least 100. When finished, check a dictionary to see the hundreds more “S” words in the English language.

Learn more at www.handwritingforheroes.com.
Lights Stay On in Terrible Storm

In late January, the harshest winter storm in Kentucky history left nearly one million without power and took nearly two dozen lives. Gov. Steve Beshear authorized the largest ever call-up of the state’s Army National Guard; storm damage cost estimates exceed $45 million statewide.

Eastern had its share of snow, ice and storm damage. Marc Whitt, associate vice president for public relations and marketing, reported that cleanup of downed trees and tree limbs would cost nearly $250,000 and take weeks to complete. Students were asked to stay on campus and not risk treacherous roads to go home. Classes were canceled and for several hours there was no water.

Yet, a mix of good planning, cooperation and a little luck powered Eastern. There were no injuries on campus. In all of Richmond, only Eastern never lost power, in large part, Whitt reported, because a recent investment in burying power lines “really paid off.” Residence halls and the primary dining room in the Powell Student Center kept students warm, dry and fed. No computer records or laboratory experiments were compromised. Amazingly, hosting of the statewide high school All “A” Basketball Tournament continued as scheduled. Although the university’s internet provider lost power, temporarily bringing down www.uky.edu, the Information Technology staff of Western Kentucky University worked quickly and graciously with Eastern’s staff to develop a Web page for emergency information.
Eastern hospitality warmed its neighbors. The Begley Building was thrown open as a shelter for nearly two hundred area residents. While those in other shelters made do with MRE’s (Meals Ready to Eat), Begley “residents” feasted on steak dinners courtesy of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce awards banquet.

After the storm, Whitt reported, university officials met to review “hits and misses” as part of Eastern’s commitment to continually analyze and improve emergency response systems. It’s clear, though, that the state’s worst storm showed Eastern’s indomitable capacity “to come together to help each other.” The lights stayed on, no one was hurt, and an Eastern welcome reached out to a community in need.

**A Future So Bright**

The positive attitude, determination, initiative and vigilance that are trademarks of the Millennial generation bode well for the future, according to Brereton Jones and Nick Clooney. The men addressed graduates at Eastern’s winter commencement exercises.

As he turned 16, a new car was the only gift on the mind of Brereton Jones. What he received, however, was Norman Vincent Peale’s book *The Power of Positive Thinking*. Kentucky’s governor from 1991-95, Jones remembers his father telling him that the book would be far more important to him than any car. “Boy, was he right,” Jones told the audience. “I’ve seen so many talented people with a negative attitude fall on their face. People who are optimistic tend to be more successful because they take control of their own lives.”

Giving a nod to the approaching bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth, Jones illustrated his comments with a timely reference to the 16th president, who realized great purpose in his life despite repeated failures and disappointments.

In recognition of the positive change Jones enacted in the Commonwealth throughout his political career, Eastern bestowed upon him an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Journalist and television personality Nick Clooney told the graduates that willingness to take responsibility for their own lives already makes them contenders for the “Greatest Generation” title. Clooney, who shunned sensationalism for a hard news focus in his career, was awarded an honorary doctor of humanities degree.

“When I talk about journalism, you no longer ask me what an anchorman makes, as the generation before you did. You ask me where did journalism go wrong and start chasing celebrities and frothy trivia,” he said to the Class of ’08. “When I talk about Darfur, you want to know why nobody is doing anything about it. And you ask how you can help, and you follow up and actually do what I suggest.”

Eastern awarded 1,086 academic degrees at the ceremony.
Congressman Chandler Boosts EKU Science Program

As Eastern prepared for the April 24 groundbreaking of its futuristic Science Building, Kentucky’s Sixth District Congressman Ben Chandler stopped by the Richmond campus with a $951,500 federal appropriation check to furnish the facility with state-of-the-art equipment. “I see regularly the statistics on how we’re doing as a nation in science,” said Chandler, “and we’ve got a lot of work to do. I think EKU is well on the road to moving us forward in the direction we want to go.” The funds will be applied to a variety of equipment needs, ranging from microscopes to a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer, which will add new capabilities to Eastern’s science programs. The equipment will “help make our classes more dynamic and make research projects more readily doable,” said Faculty Regent Malcolm Frisbie, a biology professor who has shepherded the Science Building project through its planning and design phases. Some of the equipment will be put to use before the new building houses its first class in fall 2011.

All baccalaureate degree-seeking students at EKU take at least two science courses as part of their curriculum.

Interpreting a Need

By 2016 the need for interpreters for the deaf and hearing impaired is expected to increase by 24 percent. To help provide qualified professionals to meet the demand, Eastern has established the Department of American Sign Language and Interpreter Education (ASLIE). Only 34 of the more than 4,000 U.S. college and universities offer baccalaureate interpreter education degrees.

The new ASLIE department evolves out of the EKU interpreter education program begun in 1989 as a means of meeting the needs of deaf students. “That effort and dedication caused the deaf and hard of hearing to start coming to our campus in large numbers and gave the program the traction to grow into the leader in the state,” explains EKU President Doug Whitlock. Demand for program graduates has been so high that they enjoy a nearly 100% job placement rate.

Welcome to Montenegro, Mr. Steinbeck

This term, students of Montenegro are studying American literature under the tutelage of EKU Professor of English Barbara Hussey. Hussey earned the prestigious Fulbright Scholar Award to teach at the University of Montenegro through July. The Southeastern European nation won its independence from Serbia in 2006 after years of conflict, and Hussey says the diverse voices of American authors “should be very relevant in a country that is struggling with ethnic issues of its own.”

Hussey has taught 28 years at EKU, the last 10 in the Honors Program. The Fulbright program strives to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries.

Green Machine

EKU’s police force is thought to be the first in Kentucky to add an electric motorcycle to its fleet, demonstrating commitment to energy efficiency and environmental preservation.

EKU police cruisers use about 2,521 gallons of fuel each year. At an average gasoline cost of $3 per gallon, the VECTRIX motorcycle will annually save the University almost $10,000—the cycle’s approximate purchase price.

The motorcycle allows for patrol of areas not accessible with traditional police vehicles. “It’s an ideal fit for our college police force,” says Chief Mark Merriman, “because it allows us to continue our community-oriented approach to policing that facilitates more interaction with the student body, faculty and staff.”

The “green” motorcycle goes from 0 to 50 mph in 6.8 seconds and carries two passenges.
That’s Some Cow!

Think of it as a beauty pageant for cows. The 55 Holsteins of the dairy herd at EKU’s Meadowbrook Farm rank seventh among university herds nationally when their appearance is compared to that of the Holstein ideal. One heifer is first in Kentucky among senior two-year-olds for protein production and third in fat production. Thankfully, there was no swimsuit competition.

In addition to careful genetic management, Dairy Herdsman Sean Engel credits the cows’ success to “quality feed produced by the crops crew and the consistency and thoroughness of the full-time and student employees who milk the cows on a regular basis.”

Each semester six students assist with milking at 5 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily. The herd averages 74 pounds of milk, or 8.6 gallons, per day per cow. The Dairy Farmers of America cooperative transports the milk to London, Ky., where it is processed and bottled for fluid milk consumption.

In addition to the prize dairy herd, the 720 acre Meadowbrook Farm supports beef cattle, sheep, swine and crops. The farm is managed by Eastern’s department of agriculture.

Growth Offers Challenge to Honors Program

The torch of Eastern’s storied Honors Program was passed last fall as Dr. Linda Frost assumed its directorship from the retiring Dr. Bonnie Gray. Frost, who was associate director of the honors program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is now overseeing the evolution of EKU Honors into its third decade.

The sheer size of the Honors Program is one of its greatest challenges. As the number of enrolled students approaches 100, the ratio of students to faculty remains one of the lowest in the nation at 10:1.

How to accommodate the growth and maintain the program’s integrity are top items on Frost’s “To Do” list. The trick, she says, is to preserve what has been done well throughout the past 20 years while identifying additional ways to enrich students’ experience.

And wouldn’t it be nice if the enrichment of students could be coupled with the enrichment of EKU’s service region, spring-boarding off the University’s commitment to regional stewardship? Frost and her Honors faculty colleagues are exploring the possibility of incorporating a service-learning component into the curriculum. A concept or skill learned by Honors students in the EKU classroom would be applied in a community setting, perhaps in local schools.

The Honors Program continues to lead the nation in the number of students who present at national conferences. In October, 78 Eastern representatives traveled to San Antonio for the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference. Students presented on panels, gave poster presentations and Junior Emily Gilbreath was selected for one of only 16 slots for interdisciplinary student research.

Bee Informed

The buzz about the beekeeping initiative of EKU’s Environmental Research Institute (see Eastern, Fall 2008) has been heard in the Emerald Isle.

Irish filmmakers Carter Gunn and Ross McDonnell traveled to the Richmond campus to interview Eastern apiculturalist Dr. Tammy Horn and to shoot footage at one of the surface mining sites being reclaimed through the establishment of bee colonies and the planting of pollinator-friendly flowers and trees. The story could become part of a documentary, “Colony,” to be released this year.
1940’s

Marie Anderson Abney, ’44, Richmond, Ky., was featured in the Richmond Register for her tireless work at the Pattie A. Clay Regional Medical Center same-day surgery unit. She has also volunteered for the American Red Cross and Open Concern, which supplies high-quality used clothing to low-income families in Madison County.

1950’s

Dr. Joy Hager, ’59, Berea, Ky., is professor of physical education at Berea College. She received the Walter H. Mustain Award from the Kentucky Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. She began teaching at Berea in 1961 with a $33 travel budget and no women’s intercollegiate sports program. Today, largely due to her efforts, Berea women compete in eight intercollegiate sports. She served on the executive board of Citizens for Sports Equity and received national recognition for her work in sports equity when she won the Pathfinders Award of the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports. She of the National Association for her work in sports equity when her efforts. Berea in 1961 with a $33 travel budget and no women’s intercollegiate sports program. Today, largely due to her efforts, Berea women compete in eight intercollegiate sports. She served on the executive board of Citizens for Sports Equity and received national recognition for her work in sports equity when she won the Pathfinders Award of the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports. She is married to Paul Hager, ’54, ’62.

1960’s

Dr. Luel Overstreet, ’61, Henderson, Ky., was inducted into the Kentucky Harness Horsemens’ Hall of Fame in September 2008. A veterinarian and a Standardbred owner, he has sent 3,349 of his horses to the winner’s circle. Finishing in the money more than 10,200 times, his horses have totaled a little more than $16 million in winnings in 25,335 starts. He has had his greatest success on the track with Dorunrun Bluegrass, the national Horse of the Year in 1990, the same year that Overstreet was named Kentucky’s Horseman of the Year. His greatest win in life, though, was surviving an accident on June 6, 2006, when a 4,000-pound hay stacker closed on his neck. He managed to pull free, drive a half-mile to a worker who brought him to a hospital, and return to work three weeks later. Dr. Overstreet was inducted into Eastern’s Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1994. James Tanner, ’61, Harrodsburg, Ky., received his Ph.D. in chemistry at University of Kentucky and taught in Carnegie-Mellon’s chemistry department while consulting with NASA in analysis of lunar samples and trace elements in meteorites. In his 30 years at the Food and Drug Administration, he was instrumental in developing safety standards and food labeling databases. He became executive vice president of science for Food Research, Inc. and is now retired with his wife Bonnie. Former players for NAIA Hall of Fame Coach Roland Wierwille, ’61, Berea, Ky., performed in November at Berea College’s Seabury Center arena. The players are now high school coaches invited for the “High School Coaches Challenge,” a benefit for the athletic department. Wierwille coached the Berea Mountaineers from 1972–2002, won 460 games and took teams to the national tournament five times, including three consecutive appearances from 1998-2000. He was named Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) Coach of the Year five times. Deborah Anne Murrell, ’64, Louisville, Ky., is president of Bullitt County Retired Teachers. Rodney E. Gale, ’67, retired in 2002 from the Port Clinton (Ohio) City School System after 35 years. He coached various levels of basketball, football and tennis as athletic director or assistant athletic director for 25 years and in 2003 was honored with the prestigious Northwest Athletic District Mac Morrison Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2008 he was elected to the Port Clinton Athletic Hall of Fame. Jane Munson Hog, ’67, former curator of EKU’s J.T. Morris Museum (1972-1984), is now the innkeeper of the Inn at Glen Alpine, a B&B set on five acres in the foothills of North Carolina.

1970’s

John A. Noland, ’70, of the Fort Myers, Fla., law firm Henderson Franklin, is active in the Florida Bar, having been a member of its Board of Governors. He is a member of the Foundation Legal Assistance to the Poor Committee and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. For three consecutive years, John has been named by Florida Super Lawyers magazine as one of the top attorneys in Florida. Ellen Gutknecht, ’71, Franksville, Wis., has been teaching art at Salem Grade School for 37 years. Margaret J. Baber Hunter, ’71, Lexington, Ky., received her master’s degree in education from Morehead University, taught in Estill County, Ashland Independent, Shelby, Danville and Boyle County Schools and is now retired. Alice A. Tillatson Meador, ’72, Clermont, Fla., retired in 2004 from Fort Knox Community Schools. Robert “Bobby” Trumbo, ’72, retired in 2005 from 33 years at Danville High School in Danville, Ky.

Gary Logston, ’73, Arlington, Texas, joined Hanson Professional Services Inc.’s Dallas office, using his more than 30 years’ experience in the industry as senior aviation planner. He will provide project management and administration for all aspects of airport planning and environmental studies. Previously, he worked on planning for airports in Houston, Orlando, Anchorage, Tennessee Airport System, Montréal and Chicago.

Christopher “Chris” Moore, ’73, Nicholasville, Ky., was recently elected city commissioner of Nicholasville. Owner of Nicholasville Paint & Decorating, he hopes to help make Kentucky more friendly to small businesses and keep college graduates working and raising their families in Ky.

Dennis Preston, ’73, Danville, Ky., former Boyle County High School band director, is now winning contests as a reincarnation of a certain King of Rock and Roll with gigs and competitions throughout the region. He keeps his hair in a black pompadour even when not wearing his $2,500 custom-made
costumes. As he tells his wife Dolores Waddington Preston, ‘73, ‘79, “It’s like getting two women, her husband and Elvis, for the price of one.” Dennis dates his love of music to a plastic trumpet given to him by his father. That love grew at Eastern where he majored in music and was encouraged by a German opera singer who was artist-in-residence. While he brings his Elvis acts to parties, fairs, clubs and competitions, his favorite audiences are nursing homes and assisted living centers. He says, “I really enjoyed my career helping kids learn to play and appreciate music. Now I’m enjoying using the music and the appearance of one of the world’s greatest singers to bring a little joy into the lives of older people.”

James “Pat” Bourne, ‘74, Somerset, Ky., was recently elected to Somerset’s City Council.

Ronald Carl Dockery, ‘74, ’86, Greenville, Ky., was appointed to a four-year term on the Berea College alumni executive council in 2007. He and his wife Charlotte are retired after a combined 68 years in education. Ray Spenilla, ‘75, ’76, Wise, Va., was recently featured in a Kingsport (Tenn.) Times “Memory Lane” article on his baseball career, beginning with holding EKU’s season records for hits and for runs batted in. His game-winning Homer clinched the Ohio Valley Conference East Division title. As baseball coach for University of Virginia College at Wise, he took the Cavaliers to 27 championship banners in NAIA regional/national qualifications. He is married to Jennifer Belcher Spenilla, ‘77, Joe West, ’75, ’85, Florence, Ky., recently retired from the Kentucky State Police after almost 30 years of service. He is an assistant instructor at EKU’s Fort Knox site. Judith A. Monroe, ’76, Carmel, Ind., the Indiana State Health Commissioner, was elected president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, which works on a national level to preserve and improve public health. Dr. Monroe is a family physician at St. Vincent Hospital, where medical staff she joined in 1992. Previously she was clinical director with the Department of Family Medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine and served in the National Health Service Corps, providing health care in rural Appalachia. She is chair of the executive board of Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation, a member of the board of the Indiana Health and Information Exchange and a fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice. Gloria M. Wade, ’76, Landover, Md., teaches second grade at Thomas Pullen Performing Arts School.

Jeff White, ’76, Dyer, Ind., is a division manager with the CSX Chicago division. “I started in the field as a switchman, then moved to assistant lever master,” he says and is now accountable for the area from Chicago to Detroit and northern Ohio, with responsibility for 1,300 employees. “We handle all premium freight on our railroad, things like auto freight and coal freight,” he explains.

Mark Wilson, ’76, a certified golf course superintendent, spent 18 months working with U.S. Team Captain Paul Azinger on a course setup for the 37th Ryder Cup matches at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky., adding to improvements made by golf legend Jack Nicklaus. After receiving his turf management degree from EKU, Wilson worked at the Harmony Landing, Louisville and Audubon Country Clubs. In addition to the 2004 Senior PGA Championship, he hosted the 1996 and 2000 PGA Championships and the 2002 PGA National Club Professional Championship. “Mark is a super person to work with; I certainly admire his skills,” said Kerry Haigh, the PGA of America managing director of championships. Teresa Parrett, ’77, Somerset, Ky., was appointed to a missionary post by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. She will connect long- and short-term mission teams for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, having served the convention since 1999 as a regional consultant. Previously, she worked closely with the Appalachian Regional Ministry.

Cynthia Tupman Frederick, ’78, retired from the Boone County (Ky.) Board of Education after teaching for 30 years, most recently for Gray Middle School. Betsy Steier Jones

Goehring, ’78, received the Florida Achievement Award of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, which honors those who have improved the lives of Florida women and serve as positive role models for girls and women in their communities. She is an ordained minister of the Disciples of Christ, associate regional minister, a long-time chaplain for hospice, manages a four-county bereavement program and is a volunteer law enforcement chaplain. She has received a Medallion of Excellence from the Florida Senate, Citizen of the Year honors and community service awards in Port St. Lucie. The Rev. Dr. Goehrig has accepted and is currently serving as senior minister of the First Christian Church in Richmond, Ky. Don Jackson, ’78, was named president of Volkswagen Group of America’s Chattanooga production facility. His most recent position was vice president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Texas, where his responsibilities included the manufacturing and quality departments. Prior to his career with Toyota, he served as the Hoover Group and Clark Equipment Fork Lift Manufacturing. He has served as a board member for The Associated Industries of Kentucky and the Lexington Community Foundation.

Phil Osborne, ’79, has earned the Friend of the College Award from the University of Kentucky College of Communications and Information Studies for his work as a public relations executive and broadcast journalist. He has worked at WRSL in Stanford, Ky., and WLAP and WLEX of Lexington, Ky. He now owns his own company. Robert Sears, ’79, West Chester, Ohio, has been hired as the new chief of the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office. Deciding early that he wanted to work in law enforcement, he took his B.S. from Eastern straight to the Henderson Police Department, where he remained until 1982. From there he joined the Kentucky State Police, where he has been a trooper, special response team sergeant, field sergeant, administrative and detective sergeant, a detective and an operations lieutenant.

Help Us Celebrate Your Little Colonel

Let your Alumni Association know about your Little Colonel’s arrival, and we’ll send you an EKU baby bib—free! It’s our way of saying congratulations.

We will also run your announcement in an issue of Eastern magazine. Information, including parent’s name and baby’s name and date of birth, can be submitted using the form on p. 29. If sending a photo, please note that computer-generated photos cannot be published.

1980’s

David Crofton, ’80, Niagara, Ky., recently retired from the Kentucky State Police, has been hired as the new chief deputy of the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office. Deciding early that he wanted to work in law enforcement, he took his B.S. from Eastern straight to the Henderson Police Department, where he remained until 1982. From there he joined the Kentucky State Police, where he has been a troop, special response team sergeant, field sergeant, administrative and detective sergeant, a detective and an operations lieutenant.
For the last 34 years, Charles Bracelen Flood has researched and written a steady stream of critically praised historical works in Eastern’s John Grant Crabbe Library, most recently in a modest third floor study overlooking University Drive. It is there that Flood arrives every weekday by 8 a.m., works steadily all morning, takes his bag lunch with the circulation staff, and then returns to his study, rarely leaving before 6 p.m.

Flood’s first book, Love is a Bridge, was begun during his undergraduate years at Harvard, published in 1953 and enjoyed six months on The New York Times best sellers list. His subsequent work includes War of the Innocents, relating his year as a correspondent in Vietnam, acclaimed studies of the American Revolution and Hitler’s rise to power, and major works on the Civil War, including Lee: The Last Years, widely ranked one of the finest works on the subject. In 2006, Flood’s Grant and Sherman: The Friendship that Won the Civil War garnered such critical praise as: “Fusing his talents as a resourceful scholar and distinguished novelist with a touch of the poet, Flood has achieved a moving and inspired classic of American history.”

A New Yorker by birth, Flood and his wife, Katherine Burnum Flood, moved to Richmond in the mid ’70s to live on a farm owned by Mrs. Flood’s family. Flood elected to work from the Crabbe Library because, he says: “I can’t think of a better Richmond in the mid ’70’s to live on a farm owned by Mrs. Flood’s family. Flood

Flood and a book signing, the evening included the unveiling of one of the treasures in the Grand Reading Room. In addition to a reception in honor of Charles Bracelen Flood, most recently in a modest third floor study overlooking University Drive, it is there that Flood arrives every weekday by 8 a.m., works steadily all morning, takes his bag lunch with the circulation staff, and then returns to his study, rarely leaving before 6 p.m.

Flood’s first book, Love is a Bridge, was begun during his undergraduate years at Harvard, published in 1953 and enjoyed six months on The New York Times best sellers list. His subsequent work includes War of the Innocents, relating his year as a correspondent in Vietnam, acclaimed studies of the American Revolution and Hitler’s rise to power, and major works on the Civil War, including Lee: The Last Years, widely ranked one of the finest works on the subject. In 2006, Flood’s Grant and Sherman: The Friendship that Won the Civil War garnered such critical praise as: “Fusing his talents as a resourceful scholar and distinguished novelist with a touch of the poet, Flood has achieved a moving and inspired classic of American history.”

A New Yorker by birth, Flood and his wife, Katherine Burnum Flood, moved to Richmond in the mid ’70s to live on a farm owned by Mrs. Flood’s family. Flood elected to work from the Crabbe Library because, he says: “I can’t think of a better Richmond in the mid ’70’s to live on a farm owned by Mrs. Flood’s family. Flood

Flood and a book signing, the evening included the unveiling of one of the treasures in the Grand Reading Room. In addition to a reception in honor of Charles Bracelen Flood, most recently in a modest third floor study overlooking University Drive, it is there that Flood arrives every weekday by 8 a.m., works steadily all morning, takes his bag lunch with the circulation staff, and then returns to his study, rarely leaving before 6 p.m.

Flood’s first book, Love is a Bridge, was begun during his undergraduate years at Harvard, published in 1953 and enjoyed six months on The New York Times best sellers list. His subsequent work includes War of the Innocents, relating his year as a correspondent in Vietnam, acclaimed studies of the American Revolution and Hitler’s rise to power, and major works on the Civil War, including Lee: The Last Years, widely ranked one of the finest works on the subject. In 2006, Flood’s Grant and Sherman: The Friendship that Won the Civil War garnered such critical praise as: “Fusing his talents as a resourceful scholar and distinguished novelist with a touch of the poet, Flood has achieved a moving and inspired classic of American history.”

A New Yorker by birth, Flood and his wife, Katherine Burnum Flood, moved to Richmond in the mid ’70s to live on a farm owned by Mrs. Flood’s family. Flood elected to work from the Crabbe Library because, he says: “I can’t think of a better Richmond in the mid ’70’s to live on a farm owned by Mrs. Flood’s family. Flood
Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents, the National Association of Basketball Coaches and the National Rifle Association, he has been called “the hardest-working representative at the Statehouse.” Terry Price, ’89, ’07, Louisville, Ky., a former teacher and now director of elementary education for Bullitt County Schools, is a candidate for superintendent of schools. Pamela Wise, ’89, Cincinnati, Ohio, was promoted to director of accounting at the E.W. Scripps Company.

1990’s
Carolyn McGlothlin Adcock, ’90, Pleasureville, Ky., was inducted into the fourth class of the Eminence (Ky.) High School Hall of Fame. Adcock graduated in 1984 from Eminence High School, where she was active in band, choir and played on the basketball team. After graduation, she has made her name as one of the top golfers in Kentucky. She now owns Deli Plus in Eminence.

Lee Thomas Miller, ’90, Old Hickory, Ky., graduated in music theory and told his friends, “If I starve to death, it would be on the streets of Nashville.” Instead, he became a top-ranked songwriter whose hits include chart-toppers for stars like Terri Clark with “I Just Wanna Be Mad” and Trace Adkins for “You’re Gonna Miss This,” which became No. 1 nationwide on U.S. Billboard. Success began with his “Days of America,” which went to the Top 40 in 2002. Joe Nichols’s rendition of “The Impossible” was the 2003 Grammy nominee for Country Song of the Year. He has branched out into production work with artists including Steve Holy and Amy Dalley, but songwriting remains his top priority. “I’m living a fantasy,” he declares. “I’m a father of four with a wife I’ve been married to for 16 years, and I make stuff up for a living. I’m the happiest person in the world.” Vince Coakley, ’91, Charlotte, N.C., anchors Channel 9’s Eyewitness News weeknights at 5:00, 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. for WSOC-TV in Charlotte. He joined the station as a general reporter in 1992, coming from WLEX-TV and WKYT-TV, both in Lexington, Ky. Although he writes every day on the job, he loves to write during his “off” time. Steven Van Alcom, ’92, ’94, ’97, Johnson City, Tenn., is an instructor of English at Walters State Community College in Morristown, Tenn. He earned his bachelor’s degree and two master’s degrees from EKU and was an English lecturer at East Tennessee State University. John L. Ison, ’93, West Liberty, Ky., is president of Ison Insurance Agency, Inc. and was recently elected to serve a three-year term on the board of directors of the Independent Insurance Agents of Kentucky. Ann Wise Toadvine, ’93, Corbin, Ky., studied piano, organ, flute and voice and received her master of music degree in piano performance at Eastern. She has held church music positions in Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky and Pennsylvania, accompanies various groups and soloists, plays organ and piano for special events, and gives private lessons. Wade Wiggins, ’94, Owensboro, Ky., directed the Henderson Primary Strings Academy at Western Kentucky University’s Fourth Annual Orchestra International in September, 2008. Todd Harp, ’95, ’97, ’04, Cynthiana, Ky., has been named senior project analyst for the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy. He taught agriculture at Harrison County High School and was an FFA advisor. He holds an M.A. in educational leadership from the University of Kentucky. Harp lives on a small farm where he has a commercial goat dairy and raises Paint horses.

2000’s
Donnie Shearer, ’00, Ashland, Ky., was promoted to Sergeant in the Kentucky State Police in February, 2008. He is currently assigned to Post 14 in Ashland. Nicole Vehoff Candler, ’01, Louisville, Ky., of Nic Creative Public Relations has received the designation of Accreditation in Public Relations after successfully completing a comprehensive examination process governed by the Universal Accreditation Board. The Universal Accreditation Board is a consortium of nine professional communication organizations, including the Public Relations Society of America. Valerie Caldwell, ’02, Nicholasville, Ky., runs busy Electric Art Tattoo & Piercing in Lexington, Ky., using her

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________
Spouse’s Full Name_________________________________ EKU Class________
Children______________________________________________
Current Address________________________________________________________________________
City_________________________________________ State____ Zip__________
E-mail*_________________________________________ Tel*_________
News Item_______________________________________________________________________________

Send to: Eastern Kentucky University Magazine Telephone: 859/622-1260
Richards Alumni House, EKU  E-mail: alumni.relations@eku.edu
521 Lancaster Avenue Richmond, KY 40475-3102

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.
degree in visual arts and her welding experience to embellish the bodies of bikers, students, professionals and a 76-year-old grandmother who wanted a leaping dolphin tattoo. Despite elaborate floral, nature, Native American and popular culture designs, the most popular request is “Mom,” says Caldwell. Andrea Rutledge, ’02, Louisville, Ky., works as an interior designer with Huber Decor/IDEASOURCE. Zachary M. Shaffer, ’03, received his M.B.A. from Indiana Wesleyan University in September 2008. Emily Montgomery Whitworth, ’03, Lancaster, Ky., was re-elected to the Lancaster City Council. She works as the development coordinator in career services for Eastern and has been involved in politics since high school. Ryan A. Schwartz, ’04, has joined the law firm of Jackson Kelly PLLC as an associate in the Lexington office. Having graduated from Eastern in aviation, he received his J.D. in 2008 from the University of Kentucky, where he served as oral argument chair of the Moot Court Board. He and his wife Emily have two sons. Timothy W. Dunn, ’05, Lexington, Ky., joined the law firm of Greenbaum Doll & McDonald PLLC as an associate in the Estate Planning, Health & Insurance Practice Group in the firm’s Lexington office. Caroline Stamm Hymer, ’06, and Jason Hymer, ’00, have moved to Nome, Alaska, where Jason is employed by the U.S. Public Health Service as the injury prevention coordinator for Norton Sound Health Corporation. Caroline accepted a job in the Department of Labor with the State of Alaska. They bought a home in Nome and live with their mixed Coon Hound, Duke. Clay Taylor, ’06, Owensboro, Ky., recently became licensed as a principal auctioneer with Kurtz Auction & Realty Co., having passed the principal auctioneer’s test.

Non-degreed Alumni or Alumni of Unknown Class Year

June Bunt on owns Hats Galore and More in Bowling Green, Ky. Her store began in her home and has moved twice to larger locations. Before entering retail sales, she was a case worker/counselor at a Spouse Abuse Center for 11 years. Darlene Hammons McBurney, Corbin, Ky., received the Kentucky Educational Collaborative State Agency for Children’s School Administrator of the Year Award. As a young girl growing up in Corbin, she always knew she would stay in her home town and teach. Beginning as a second-grade teacher, she moved into administration. “I love what I do and can’t imagine anyone not wanting to teach,” she says. Although officially retired after 39 years, she continues to supervise the Corbin High School media center and is the University of the Cumberlands student teacher coordinator and mentor to many future teachers. Houston Moody, Louisville, Ky., and his wife Linda run Bestway Construction/Emergency Response Team, which specializes in fire, wind and water damage restoration. He combined his major in construction technology with experience in a family construction business, “from pushing a broom to overseeing jobs and now managing the business.” His success secret is “having great people who love their work, love people and enjoy seeing a home raised from the ashes.” Melissa Ware Smith, ’83-’86, is leaving her practice as a licensed massage therapist and co-owner of Royal Treatment Massage Company in Austin, Texas, to return to EKU in the summer of ’09 where she plans to become an occupational therapist through Eastern’s master’s degree program.

Former Faculty and Staff

John L. Meisenheimer, Sr., Orlando, Fla., professor of chemistry and Foundation Professor, ’63-’99, recently worked on an oral history of weather support for Cape Canaveral and the Atlantic Missile Test Range, describing the early days of missile launches. He was launch weather officer for the first U.S. intercontinental missile (1957) and Explorer I, the first U.S. satellite (1958). He and his wife Alice were guests of NASA at the most recent launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery.

Newlyweds


Junior Alumni


Marlee Rae to Lori Linville Cobb, ’91, and Scott Cobb on February 16, 2008.

Brody Slade to John L. Ison, ’93, and Jennifer Ison on December 31, 2007.


New & Improved EKU Database

EKU has recently upgraded its constituent database to make our communication with you faster and more efficient.

If you have questions about your record within our database or would like to provide an update to your information, please e-mail giving@eku.edu or call the alumni relations office at (859) 622-1260.
Katelyn Brianna to Nicole René Akridge, ’07, and Joseph Ian Akridge, ’06, on May 31, 2008.

Samantha Grace to Kyra Heflin Hughes, ’07, and David Hughes on May 17, 2008.

Spencer to Faith Spires-Stone, ’08, on March 28, 2008.

Losses in the Eastern Family

Christine Compton Nalley, ’46, Marion, Ind., on October 8, 2008. She received her M.A. from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1951 and in 1963 a second M.A. in special education from Western Carolina University. She taught in the public schools for more than 40 years in Middleburg, Ky., Glencoe, N.C. and Gray Court-Owings, S.C. She was an ordained minister with the Wesleyan Church and pastored with her late husband, Rev. George Nalley, at Knighton Chapel, near Greenville, S.C. Ronald S. Cottrell, ’51, Fredericksburg, Va., on October 30, 2008. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran and retired from the National Security Agency after more than 27 years of service. He is survived by his wife Patsy Pittman Cottrell, ’52, ’64. Edwin Branscum, ’53, Pine Knot, Ky., on February 23, 2008. During World War II, Branscum was stationed in the South Pacific, earning the Medal of Honor and Bronze Star. After the war, he served in Japan for two years, returning to his wife Helen and daughter Hazel in 1949. He enrolled at Eastern, graduated in education and then moved to Ohio, where he taught school for 32 years. During this time, he continued in the Army Reserves, where he received his promotion to lieutenant colonel. Abe Slusher, Jr., ’58, Coral Springs, Fla., on March 1, 2008. Slusher retired after 30 years with Allstate Insurance and was honored as one of the top 100 Allstate agents in the U.S. His daughter Debra Kirkpatrick graduated from Eastern in 1980. Slusher died suddenly at home and is survived by his wife Linda and children Debra and Tim. Doris Yaden Manno, ’60, Richmond, Ky., on October 24, 2008. She was a realtor with Century 21 and Kirk Land & Auction. Fondly known as “The Hat Lady,” she was active in the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and is survived by her husband Ralph. Johnny E. Howard, ’61, Salt Lick, Ky., on August 9, 2008. He was a physical education teacher at Liberty Elementary in the Lakota Local School District, retiring in 1993. He is survived by his wife Flossie.

Mary Jo Radden Knarr, ’62, Ft. Mitchell, Ky., on October 19, 2007. She was a self-employed tax accountant and enthusiastic supporter of arts and local charitable organizations. Knarr is survived by Larry, her husband of 44 years. Diann Kay Crawford Watson, ’72, Lexington, Ky., on September 24, 2008. She had a successful career in purchasing, customer service and real estate and is survived by her husband, William Watson, ’72.

Charles “Steve” Yontz, ’83, Marshall, N.C., on October 29, 2008. A graduate of Eastern and Berea College, he served in the U.S. Air Force. He was employed by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Service and JR Stone Sales. Bridgett R. Ritchie, ’89, Bulan, Ky., on March 24, 2008. She worked for Perry County Schools for 17 years and died after a long battle with cancer. Charles “Chuck” Gould, III, ’01, Whiteland, Ind., on September 25, 2008 in a car accident on his way to work as a forensic chemist in the Marion County (Ind.) Crime Lab. He had previously worked as lab director for the Greenwood (Ind.) Police Department. He is survived by his wife Maria Febres-Cordero Gould and a large extended family.

Non-degreed Alumni or Alumni of Unknown Class Year

Emma Lou Clayborn on November 16, 2008. She worked at the New Castle State Developmental Center for many years as a supervisor. Howard Davis Smith, Bowling Green, Ky., on October 26, 2008. He was an Anderson County native and former journalist for the Park City Daily News. Ferd H. Heiss, on November 30, 2007.

Former Faculty and Staff

Ernest Byrn, Williamsburg, Va., on March 3, 2008. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee and retired from Eastern, where he taught from 1963-1986 in the department of chemistry. Dr. Byrn was instrumental in organizing Eastern’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in the early 1970’s and is survived by his wife Doris, who now lives in Williamsburg, Va. Dr. Laura Tyson, Naperville, Ill., on September 1, 2008. Dr. Tyson taught in the department of education from 1990-1999 as well as at the Model Lab School. As a role model for future teachers, Dr. Tyson passed along her love for teaching and discovery to countless students, a legacy that will resonate for generations to come. Dr. Tyson went on to chair the education department at North Central College in Naperville. Jean Carolyn Walko, Richmond, Ky., on September 22, 2008. She was a retired nursing professor and during her long teaching career Walko touched the lives of many nursing students, inspiring them always to give their best in caring for their patients. She is survived by her husband Robert.

HELP EASTERN SUPPORT THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF FOREST RESOURCES. PLEASE RECYCLE THIS MAGAZINE.
Dr. Marta Miranda, assistant professor of anthropology, sociology and social work and director of the office of multicultural student affairs and women's studies, is an agent for women's and immigrant rights who is profoundly impacting lives far beyond her bright, eclectic office in the Powell Building. Consider the range of Marta Miranda's initiatives:

**Turning on the light bulbs**
For the last 13 years, vision, passion and compassion have made Miranda a beloved member of Eastern's faculty. The feeling is mutual. "I love the students. I am very hands-on; I believe in interactive, challenging classroom environments which build very real relationships with students. Watching their light bulbs turn on when they get excited about critical thinking and applying theory to practice makes all the hard work and long nights of grading worth it.”

**Ensuring women's health and safety**
As a psychologist, trainer and long-time consultant to the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center, Miranda was recently honored by the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs and with reason. Her acclaimed video training program, “What You Should Know: The Cycle of Violence,” is in national distribution. She leads marches in Richmond and Lexington to raise awareness of violence against women, speaks to men's and women's groups across the state, publishes widely and works closely with key state agencies. A vision drives her: "the end of intimate partner violence in my lifetime.”

**Honoring Appalachia**
“I am an immigrant from a rural area of Cuba, Pinar del Rio. I arrived as a political refugee in 1966 at age 12 and my family was placed with sponsors in New Jersey, but I never felt at home in this country until I found Kentucky 15 years ago. I bought a log cabin in Mt. Vernon and knew I was home. I remind my Appalachian students of how rich and proud their heritage is. I learn so much about them and myself as we build relationships. I am Cubalachian, Cuban by birth and Appalachian by the Grace of God.”

**Building leaders**
Eastern is "perfect" for Latino students, Miranda insists. To attract, nurture and celebrate this growing population, Miranda is creating a Latino Student Union which will build on her work with Hispanic Heritage month, a successful "Beyond the Taco" Latino Festival, Salsa Fiesta, a service project in Honduras and an immigration reform panel. Latino students must succeed, she says. The health of our university, state and nation depends on the education of our fastest-growing minority.

**Promoting acculturation**
A noted consultant on immigrant rights and issues, Miranda refuses the old "melting pot" model of assimilation. She prefers the "salad bowl" of acculturation in which "everyone gets to keep their culture and adds it to an equally rich mix of other cultures."

**Seasoning the salad**
As if her academic and social justice initiatives weren’t enough, in her “free time” Marta Miranda co-owns and operates Abbondanza LCC, an importer of fine Italian olive oils and other artisan foods. Abbondanza (Italian for “abundance”) reflects Miranda’s roots—her father was a chef—and her own commitment to health, "deliciousness,” and community-sustained agriculture.

As a teacher, public policy consultant, immigrant activist, champion of women's rights, and olive oil entrepreneur, Miranda is inspiring, including and challenging generations of students, creating the rich “salad bowl” that is Eastern.
La Dra. Marta Miranda, profesora adjunta de antropología y sociología y asistencia social, y directora de la Oficina de Asuntos Multiculturales de los Estudiantes y Estudios de la Mujer, es agente para los derechos de la mujer y los inmigrantes que está teniendo un impacto profundo que tiene un alcance que trasciende su viva y ecléctica oficina en el edificio Powell. Considere la gama de iniciativas de Marta Miranda.

Y que se haga la luz
Durante los últimos 13 años, la visión, la pasión y la compasión han hecho de la Dra. Miranda un apreciado miembro del profesorado de Eastern. El sentimiento es mutuo. “Amen a los estudiantes. Me gusta involucrarme directamente. Soy partidaria de un ambiente interactivo y estimulante en el salón de clase, el que desarrolla relaciones muy reales con los estudiantes. El ver cómo la mente se les despierta cuando se sienten animados por el razonamiento crítico y al aplicar la teoría a la práctica hacen que todo el trabajo arduo y el pasar largas horas calificando su trabajo valgan la pena.”

Con miras a garantizar la salud y la seguridad de las mujeres
Por su labor como psicóloga, instructora y asesora para el Centro Bluegrass contra el Abuso Sexual desde hace mucho tiempo, la Asociación de Programas contra el Abuso Sexual de Kentucky con justa razón recientemente le rindió homenaje a la Dra. Miranda. Su aclamado programa de capacitación en video, “Lo que debe saber: El ciclo de violencia” (“What You Should Know: The Cycle of Violence”) está distribuyéndose a nivel de todo el país. La Dra. Miranda estuvo a la cabeza de demostraciones en Richmond y Lexington para informar sobre la violencia cometida contra las mujeres, habla a grupos de hombres y mujeres en todo el territorio del estado, tiene muchas publicaciones y trabaja estrechamente con agencias estatales clave. Está alentada por una visión: “ver llegar el fin de la violencia de las parejas íntimas durante mi vida.”

En homenaje de Apalachia
“Soy una inmigrante que viene de un área rural de Cuba, Pinar del Río. Llegué a este país como refugiada política en el año de 1966, a los 12 años de edad, y se colocó a mi familia con patrocinadores en Nueva Jersey, pero nunca me sentí como en casa en este país hasta que llegué a Kentucky hace 15 años. Compré una cabaña de troncos en Mt. Vernon y supe que ese sería mi hogar. Cuando les recuerdo a mis estudiantes apalachos lo rica que es su herencia y lo orgullosos que deben sentirse de ella, aprendo tanto acerca de ellos y acerca de mí misma a medida que vamos desarrollando relaciones. Soy una cubalache, cubana de nacimiento y Apalaches por la Gracia de Dios.”

Formación de líderes
La Dra. Miranda insiste en que Eastern es una institución “perfecta” para los estudiantes latinos. Para atraer, cultivar y celebrar esta población en crecimiento, la Dra. Miranda está creando una Asociación Estudiantil Hispana que utilizará como fundamento el trabajo que ha contribuido al Mes de la Herencia Hispana, un festival latino que va “Más allá de los tacos”, una Fiesta de Salsa, un proyecto de servicios en Honduras y un panel de reforma migratoria. En sus palabras, los estudiantes latinos tienen que tener éxito. El vigor de nuestra universidad, de nuestro estado y de nuestra nación depende de la educación que reciba nuestra minoría en más rápido crecimiento.

Promoción de la aculturación
Una destacada consultora en derechos y asuntos migratorios, la Dra. Miranda rechaza el antiguo modelo de asimilación al que se hace referencia como el “crisol de razas”. Ella prefiere la “ensalada mixta” de la aculturación, en la que “todos mantienen su cultura y la añaden a una mezcla de otras culturas tan rica como su propia cultura.”

La sazón de la ensalada
Como si sus iniciativas académicas y de justicia social no fueran suficientes, en su “tiempo libre” Marta Miranda es copropietaria y opera Abbondanza LCC, una firma importadora de aceites de oliva italianos y otros alimentos de producción artesanal. Abbondanza (que significa “abundancia” en italiano) es un reflejo de las raíces de Marta Miranda — su padre fue chef — y su propia dedicación a la salud, a la exquisitez y a la agricultura sustentable por la comunidad.

Como maestra, consultora de política pública, activista de inmigrantes, defensora de los derechos de la mujer y empresaria de aceite de oliva, la Dra. Miranda es una inspiración, incorporando y ofreciendo un reto a generaciones de estudiantes, creando la “ensalada mixta” que es Eastern.
Thousands of Colonels.

One Place to Be.

Homecoming 2009
October 16-18
Campus Beautiful