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# Eastern Kentucky University Magazine, Winter 2009

Eastern Kentucky University, Alumni Relations

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# Eastern

The EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Eastern Kentucky University Archives, Richmond, KY.

## BLANTON HOUSE IS *"Come* AGAIN

Read More Inside



Eastern Kentucky University Archives, Richmond, KY.



# *Lighting* THE WAY

As the year draws to a close, we invite you to step back from all the clamor and reflect on the extraordinary gifts of an Eastern education.

We encourage you to celebrate your own journey through and beyond these halls.

And we urge you to consider the students who are on that journey now.

A year-end gift to Eastern Kentucky University will help sustain us in a time of historic economic challenge and may offer important tax benefits to you.



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To discuss your sustaining gift to Eastern, please call **(859) 622-1583** or visit **[www.eku.edu/development](http://www.eku.edu/development)**.

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# AlumniMatters



Dear Alumni and Friends,  
Another semester has come and gone. Commencement was held December 19, and as much as I love the beginning of the academic year, I also love going to graduation. It moves me to see all the possibilities in the faces of our graduates. I know they are ready to face the world and make a difference.

In this issue of *Eastern* you will read about several of our alumni and the difference they have made in the world. Tom Logsdon used his Eastern education to help Project Apollo land astronauts on the moon, increase rocket payloads and design the satellite constellations underlying GPS technology. Gary

Booth, retired vice president of Procter & Gamble's research and development, along with his wife Jane, have used their problem-solving energy to changes lives of individuals in such diverse places as Malawi, Cincinnati, Central America and east Kentucky. Dr. Aaron Thompson continues to impact education at Eastern Kentucky University as a professor in our first doctoral degree program. He teaches students to build mutual empowerment and understand that difference is not a negative.

Rex Ryan, Jeremiah Bell and Larry Marmie have all made a difference in the National Football League, and their skills were honed at Eastern Kentucky University during our 100 years of football.

This issue also gives us a great view of the Blanton House and its occupants throughout the years.

As we end 2009, please include us in your year-end giving. You can make a difference in the lives of our students by making a gift to Eastern scholarships.

Make sure your calendars are marked for Alumni Weekend, April 23-25. Join us on campus as we enjoy a great weekend honoring the classes of 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975 and 1980. Also, it's not too early to mark your calendar for Homecoming 2010, October 30.

As always this brings my best to our Eastern Alumni and Friends for a joyous holiday season.

Jackie Collier  
Director of Alumni Relations

## Eastern

The Magazine of Eastern Kentucky University

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# President's Perspective



Over the extended Thanksgiving weekend, I spent some time reading over the proofs for this issue of *Eastern*. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. I also hope you will indulge me a little bit of personal privilege in this iteration of my Perspective column.

Each issue features some folks I know very well. I suppose that's only natural when you figure I have been around Eastern in one fashion or another since enrolling here as a freshman in 1961. As a local, my awareness of the place goes back to my earliest memories. Two of the central

figures in this issue, however, are individuals I did not have the pleasure of really getting to know until I came back to work in 2007.

Sure, I have known about Tom Logsdon, '59, and Gary Booth, '62, for a long time. Tom graduated two years before I enrolled, and Gary was a senior my freshman year. Where I first heard about these guys was from my science teachers. Yes, I was a history major, but that did not prevent my taking two semesters of biology and one each of physics and chemistry. Tom and Gary were ensconced in my mind as legends before I ever met them. My science teachers held them up as examples of the model student. Today they are my friends and stand as proof positive that Eastern-educated scientists can work right up there with the best of them.

I met Felicia Hall Norman the day I listened to her inspirational personal story and handed her an EKV diploma. Gary and Jane Booth's generosity helped her get to that day. Do not be surprised if she becomes as accomplished in mathematics as Tom and Gary have in their disciplines.

Tom and Gary are two of those to whom I have posed one of my favorite questions: "As you have worked beside and competed with graduates from the great universities of this country, have you ever felt short-changed by your Eastern education?" In the hundreds of times I have asked that question, the answer has always been "no."

I have always tried to keep this column from being too personally oriented. After all, the first rule of being a university president is to

remember that "it is not about you." Fact of the matter is that it is about the institution, but more particularly about those we serve and the remarkable faculty and staff with whom I am privileged to work.

There is an article in this issue of *Eastern* about Joanne and me moving into the Blanton House earlier this year. After my contract was extended the first time, faculty, staff and local folks encouraged us to move into the house. "It needs to have you in it," they would say. We decided to move into the house so that it could serve its primary purpose of being an on-campus site for official entertaining.

If I told you it was not a personally fulfilling experience, however, I would be telling you an untruth. The house, to me, has always had a bit of mystique about it – its residents a little larger than life. You have to remember that my first time in the Blanton House was when I was a college freshman. President Robert R. Martin – who in my view then was literally larger than life – was home with a head cold. I was working as Don Feltner's student worker, and he dispatched me to Blanton House with a document that Dr. Martin needed to review and sign. Mrs. Anne Martin met me at the side door with a smile and genuine warmth that almost made me forget my nervousness. A few minutes later, I was headed back to our ground floor Coates Building office with the signed document. Lingering in my head was the vision of what I thought was a splendid place.

Over the ensuing years I, and then Joanne and I, were honored to be in the Blanton House many times. The Martins, the Powells, the Funderburks, the Kustras, and Joanne Glasser were our hosts. Their styles varied, but they each, in turn, kept alive the tradition of using the Blanton House as the University's front door, a place where its guests were always welcome.

So, earlier this year when Joanne and I moved in and Blanton House became our home, it was both sobering and rewarding to realize that we were continuing a string unbroken since John Grant Crabbe was the first Eastern president to live in this grand old house.

For the next several years, it will be our home. With it comes a special set of responsibilities for which we pray we will be equal. Often, such as now as I write this column in my upstairs Blanton House office, I find myself at a loss for words to adequately express myself. That's when I think, "if only these walls could talk."

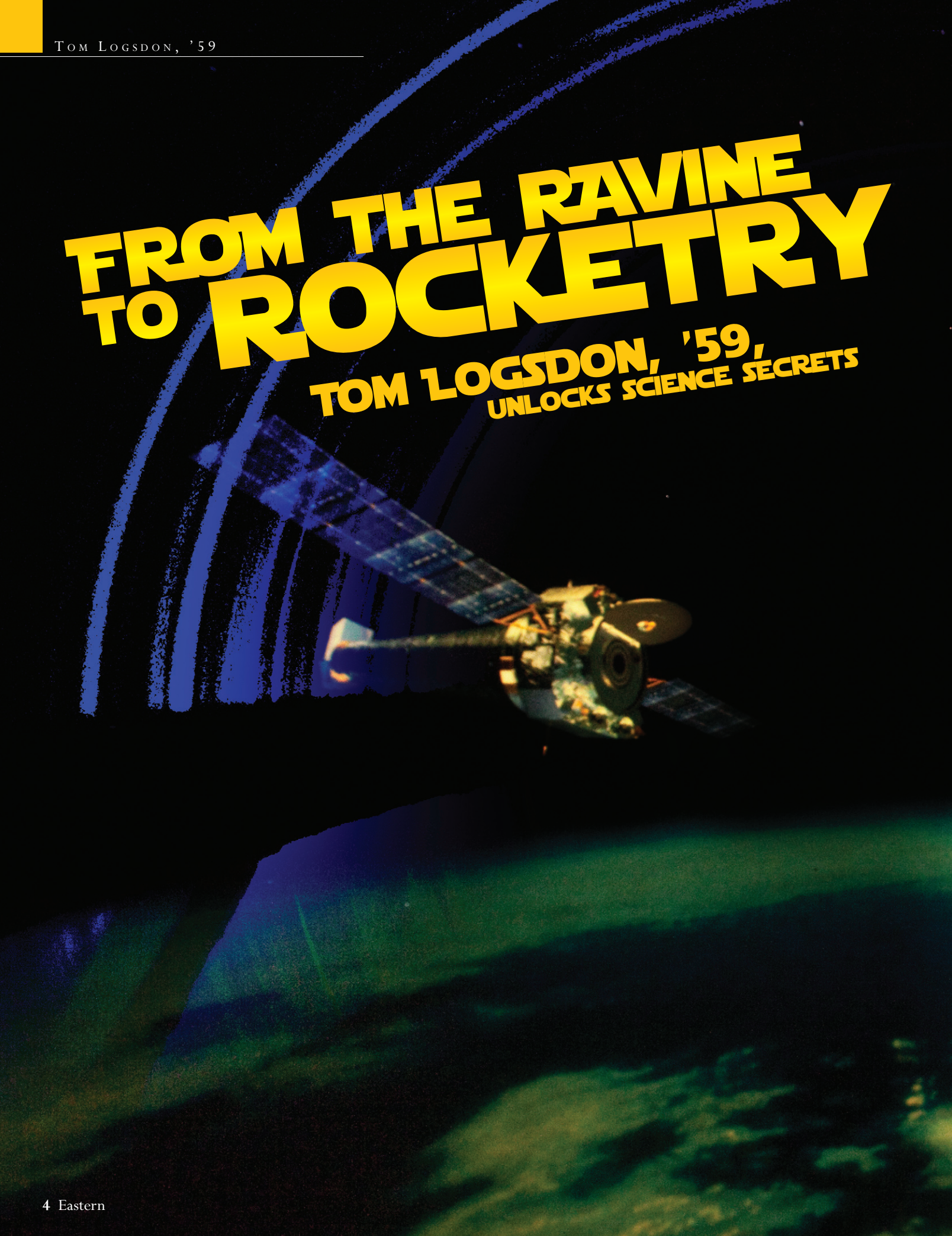
A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Charles D. Whitlock". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Charles D. Whitlock, '65, '66

President

# FROM THE RAVINE TO ROCKETRY

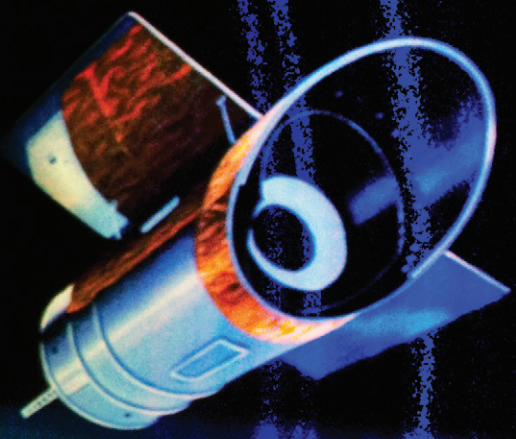
TOM LOGSDON, '59,  
UNLOCKS SCIENCE SECRETS



**A**rmed with a passion for mathematics and physics, an engaging writing style and boundless fascination with the creative process, a self-described "shy, pimple-faced, bow-legged awestruck hunk of scrubbed-down protoplasm" used his Eastern education at McDonnell Douglas and Rockwell International to help Project Apollo land astronauts on the moon, increase rocket payloads and design the satellite constellations underlying Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology. In a prolific second career as an award-winning consultant, instructor and science communicator, Tom Logsdon, '59, has written 29 books and presented more than 1,500 technical and public lectures and courses on six continents. From a text on orbital mechanics to a lucid illustrated explanation of rocket science for children, Logsdon is meeting a national need.

Eighty-five percent of the members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) called public ignorance of science a major problem and derided as "fair" or "poor" media coverage of the sciences. Alan I. Leshner, chief executive officer of the AAAS, says that scientists must find ways of "engaging with the public, rather than lecturing to them." Tom Logsdon is doing just that, with precision and panache.

As Logsdon shared on receiving an honorary doctorate in 2007, he came to Eastern having never eaten in a restaurant, stayed in a hotel or visited a museum. What he had was a dream: to learn math and physics and as much as he could about literature, history and philosophy. The problem was money. By the end of his freshman year, Logsdon was broke. A despondent, eloquent Sociology 101 essay announced he'd be dropping out. Enter math department head Dr. Smith Park who was shown the essay and found a work-study position for the talented young mathematician. Logsdon supplemented these funds with summer work in a Wisconsin cannery, a small stipend as editor of the *Eastern Progress*...and poker. A dedicated researcher, Logsdon poured through *The Education of a Poker Player* by Herbert Yardley, the great American cryptologist, and funded a semester with his winnings.





## SIMPLE STROKES OF CREATIVE GENIUS: A QUIZ

One of Tom Logsdon's most popular lectures, whether delivered on cruise ships or to conventions of software engineers, is drawn from his book, *Six Simple, Creative Solutions that Shook the World*, dedicated to "the students and alumni from Eastern Kentucky University where an affectionate swarm of enthusiastic teachers – Dr. Smith Park, Clifton Basye, W.L. Keene, Jim Flynn and many others – taught me to look at the world in fresh new ways."

With wide-ranging examples and intriguing exercises, Logsdon shows how to apply to vexing problems of today the processes of individuals who devised world-changing solutions. He opens his talk with questions:

"Did you know, for instance, that a single individual armed with one simple creative solution helped trigger the Industrial Revolution? He did it effortlessly, while he was in church. Did you know that a creative medical doctor stopped a deadly cholera epidemic in its tracks with his bare hands? He did it by unscrewing one large metal bolt. Did you know that America's western frontier was settled largely because of a simple solution developed by one clever individual? He did it by perfecting a synthetic thorn bush spanning an endless sea of grass."

**Can you identify these three creative thinkers?  
See page 29 for the answers.**

With his finances in hand, Logsdon plunged into the business of education. In Dr. Park's calculus class, he solved the famous "wineglass problem": in a conical wineglass of a known angle, what is the largest spherical olive a penny-pinching bartender can insert to displace a costly wine? Park may have been an unsophisticated wine drinker and not conversant with standard olive geometry, Logsdon grants, but the problem was a heady challenge.

While studying with Dr. Park, Logsdon devoured philosophy, explored history with Professor James Flynn and wrote 15-page papers on each of 12 English novels he read in a semester for Professor W.L. Keene. It was Keene who coaxed from Logsdon the sly, finely crafted articles that sparked readership in the *Progress*, from a somber lament on "germ spreading" via balloon release at a basketball game to "Snakedance Shakes Campus," posing the mathematical puzzle of 17 girls seen dancing into the boys' dorm, but only 13 seen dancing out.

Above all, Logsdon's college years were full of wonder and observation. In 1998, his introduction to *Orbital Mechanics: Theory and Applications*, recalls fall at Eastern: "In October 1957, when the Russians launched their first Sputnik, I was a junior in college learning to enjoy mathematics and physics on a beautiful green campus in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky. Late that afternoon, I wandered down into the ravine, a green, grassy dimple in the middle of campus that had long served as a combination outdoor amphitheater and lover's lane. Along the back row of the amphitheater, I found a perfect spot to ponder that new Russian satellite that, according to the newspapers, would continue to circle Earth for several hundred years. 'What keeps it up there?' I asked myself. 'Why doesn't it fall?' All heavy objects I had encountered – Spalding tennis balls, Campbell's soup cans, ballpoint pens – when released inevitably fell down toward the ground. But somehow that new Russian Sputnik seemed to be defying the force of gravity that was tugging so relentlessly on everything else."

After graduation, Logsdon made his way to California to catch the rising wave of rocket research. As an engineer for McDonnell Douglas, he handled orbital mechanics studies for transit navigational satellites, managed trajectory simulations and devised capsule recovery procedures for the 135-foot Echo balloon communication satellite. In 1964, armed with a fresh master's degree from the University of Kentucky, Logsdon was beginning a 30-year run with Rockwell International, handling powered flight and trajectory simulations, rendezvous studies, mathematical derivations, and systems analysis for the Saturn V moon rocket, the manned Skylab, Mars and asteroid missions, and the Navstar Global Positioning System.

Today, when many whip out calculators to figure a 20% tip and computers seem essential for the smallest task, pencil power is often underrated. At Rockwell, Logsdon was charged with projecting the precise positioning, or constellations, of 24 satellites such that any point on earth could be simultaneously "seen" by four satellites – the base conditions for Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. Logsdon did this in three days, using 13 desk-pad sized sheets of paper – and no computer.

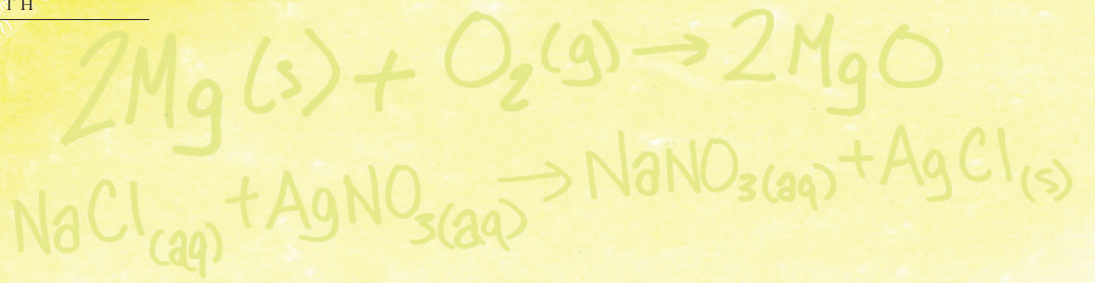
For a 1969 project, "Schemes for Enhancing the Saturn V Translunar Payload Capability," Logsdon and a colleague drew on eight branches of mathematics: advanced and matrix algebra, partial differential equations, numerical analysis, Newtonian mechanics, calculus of variations, non linear least squared hunting procedures, probability and statistics. Over eight manned lunar missions, this math saved \$2 billion in today's dollars.

Progressing from early victory in Dr. Park's "wineglass challenge," Logsdon amassed awards from Rockwell and a rare "perfect 10" rating from the U.S. Air Force for a research project on the survivability of the Navstar Navigation Satellites in the face of enemy attacks. As he began writing and speaking for general audiences, a gift for clarifying the complex was broadly recognized. *Robot Revolution* was a Book-of-the-Month Club® selection. Speaking engagements at New York's Chautauqua Institute (for which Eastern's popular lecture

series is named), on the Voice of America, to Boy Scout groups, training groups, universities, and dozens of major corporations and professional organizations soon put Logsdon in the top 10 of International Platform Association lecturers. Logsdon was named Eastern's Alumnus of the Year in 1984, recognizing both professional accomplishments and his tireless acknowledgment of his *alma mater* in speeches and courses around the world.

Logsdon's entire career, he admits, is modeled on Professor Keene's advice: "First figure out what you want to do. Then try to find somebody who will pay for it." For some years now, Logsdon and his wife Cyndy have done just that, sailing the world with Crystal Cruises as Logsdon fascinates passengers with talks on topics ranging from Vikings to moon launches, from the origins of amber to the unparalleled genius of Isaac Newton.

In his 2007 commencement address at Eastern, Tom Logsdon cited the tenacious bumblebee. By all laws of aerodynamics, it can't possibly fly. But the bee doesn't know this – and so it flies. When the shy, bow-legged kid from Springfield, Ky., came to Eastern in the mid-1950's he didn't know that Americans couldn't land astronauts on the moon, that GPS technology couldn't locate us anywhere on the planet, and that the average person can't understand scientific principles. This fall, Cyndy and Tom Logsdon sailed down the Amazon River as once more an audience was filled with the wonder of orbital mechanics and the boundless reach of human creativity.



# The Science of GIVING





## Gary Booth, '62,

### links chemistry, compassion and engagement

Only slightly larger than Kentucky, the peaceable agricultural democracy of Malawi is called the “green heart of Africa” for the beauty of its land and warmth of its people. But Malawi is also one of the world’s poorest countries. Seventy percent of the water supply is contaminated, and waterborne diseases claim 45,000 lives a year. The problem seemed intractable until Dr. Gary Booth, '62, and fellow retired executives of Procter & Gamble launched an initiative called Children’s Safe Drinking Water that put a stunningly effective, ultra low-tech PUR® water treatment system in every home in Malawi. (For video of the process see [www.csdw.org](http://www.csdw.org).) Deaths by waterborne disease plummeted to 5,000 a year, and the program is expanding to neighboring countries.

But safe drinking water is only one of many initiatives for this Eastern chemistry major who raced through his doctoral program (“I was poor and needed a job”), joined Procter & Gamble as a research chemist and retired 31 years later as vice president for research and development. Booth also raises funds for SonLight Power, Inc., an initiative that installs solar powered electrical systems in orphanages, schools and clinics of developing nations. He and his wife Jane mentor at-risk inner-city youth in Cincinnati. The children call the Booths their “grandparents.” Concerned about Kentucky’s critical shortfall in science and mathematics professionals, Booth “keeps the antenna up” for gifted students who need special support or simply the opportunity to talk to a professional scientist who started modestly in Campton, Ky., worked hard and found success while pursuing his passion.

#### The pipeline to prosperity.

Thirty years ago, the U.S. ranked third worldwide in the number of science graduates. Now we’re 17th. A recent report by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education warns: “The Kentucky pipeline in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines is leaking. We need to strengthen it from kindergarten through doctoral level preparation.” These disciplines, the report concludes, “hold the key to the prosperity of the Commonwealth.” Eastern is responding to the challenge by committing major resources to a new science building designed and equipped to foster the kind of inquiry, observation, analysis and research necessary to attract, excite, train and launch a new generation of Eastern-bred scientists and science educators.

For more information on the new Eastern Science Building and to learn about giving and naming opportunities, contact the ECU Office of University Development at (859) 622-1583.



With characteristic problem-solving energy, Gary and Jane Booth contribute to their *alma maters*: Eastern, Ohio State University where Gary received his Ph.D., and Jane's undergraduate school, Miami University. Eastern's Booth Scholarship for Science and Math supports a minimum of four students selected by their departments in the fields of mathematics and statistics, chemistry, biological and earth sciences, physics, astronomy and computer science. What is unusual in this scholarship, says Kara Covert, associate vice president for development, is the combination of financial support and "real mentoring." Each semester, the Booths come to Eastern for private meetings with each student. Afterward the Booths host a dinner with the students, the dean of the college of arts & sciences and the students' department chairs. "What unfolds is a fascinating combination of student questions and achievements as well as stories from the faculty, Gary and Jane. It takes time and effort from the Booths, so we are very grateful. The students can personally thank the donors and understand that there is a real person out there gifting real dollars to allow them to attend college and who wants them to succeed!"

Booth is happy to devote this time and effort to Eastern, which, he says, "has given me so much." He shares vivid memories of Dr. Smith Park's contagious love of mathematics, his unfailing courtesy and dignity. A less dignified but dramatic memory involves chemistry professor Meredith Cox repeatedly threatening to jump out the window if students weren't prepared and once doing just that, taking care to set up a landing pad outside the classroom window in the Memorial Science Building. The rigor of physics classes with Professor Clifton Basye prepared him for professional work, as did Basye's insistence that scientists also excel in English courses. Perfecting writing skills under the eye of Professor Philip Mankin "was almost as useful as science and math preparation." When he discovered that Procter & Gamble had a one-page limit for any proposals "and that included normal margins," Booth was ready.

That preparation fueled a swift rise up the corporate ladder, and a 31-year career in which, insists Booth, "every year was interesting." That is, interesting because they were full of problems to solve, such as being transferred to England to manage R&D for Europe just as the company committed to making the world's first global shampoo, now known as Pantene. Consider the requirements. Such a shampoo must work with hard and soft water. Washing temperatures, and the quantity and quality of available water vary dramatically. Hair length, texture and thickness vary. Different cultures' accepted shampooing frequency ranges from monthly to twice daily, and one shampoo must work well in all these conditions. Booth's team of 30 scientists, engineers and technicians tested formulae on 100,000 consumers in 20 countries. The result was a product that became the world leader within two years of launch.

In dinners with Eastern students, Gary Booth shares stories such as these, as well as basic principles for success in any company: know how your project fits in the overall scheme; learn other disciplines in the company and speak the languages of those disciplines. In short, "from Day #1, act like you own the company." He demonstrates other principles: care about the people around you and the ones coming after. Now in retirement, Gary and Jane Booth have turned their attention from global marketing to Booth Scholarship recipients like Lora Brock. Lora needed a broader perspective, Jane thought, and the Booths helped her attend a national conference for women in computer science.

It all goes back to the chemistry of "osmosis," Booth insists. Knowledge moves. If you stay engaged and committed you'll see problems – water quality in Malawi, medical clinics without electricity in Central America, inner-city children struggling in Cincinnati, a regional crisis in our math and science pipeline and talented students who need support and mentoring – and you'll see a way to help solve these problems and dramatically change lives around you.



## Felicia Hall Norman, '08, is a Booth Scholarship recipient with a remarkable story.

Hall's childhood and adolescence were, as she puts it, difficult, often traumatic, until grandparents brought her to the Clay County, Ky., farm where they struggled together to make a living. Mathematics, at least, came easily in those troubled years, but there was no one in her family who had been to college and no funds to send her. An early marriage ended quickly, leaving her a single mother of two with bleak prospects.

Then her grandfather, her hero, was hospitalized. In this dark time, a friend introduced his foster father, Robert Welch, an assistant professor of social work at Eastern. Talking to Norman, Welch instantly grasped her intelligence and promise. "So why aren't you in college?" he demanded. She ticked off reasons: two kids, no money, nobody ever said she could. "Excuses," Welch declared. "I don't want to hear them." The next time they met, Welch had an Eastern application and financial aid form. Welch did more. When Norman enrolled, he paid for her move, helped her find housing and arranged utilities. "At 24, I seized that opportunity and ran with it," says Norman.

At Eastern, she took advantage of support programs for first-generation college students, found mentors and worked hard. The NOVA program "explained what was expected in college and how to meet those challenges." Math skill landed her posts as a math tutor and lab instructor. She presided over OWLS (Older Wiser Learners) and

earned a place in the Ronald E. McNair Program, which opens academic opportunities to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Through McNair, Norman realized a long-held dream: working for NASA. At a summer internship at the Kennedy Space Center Applied Physics Lab, she helped develop mathematical modeling for thermal heat analysis of liquid hydrogen storage tanks.

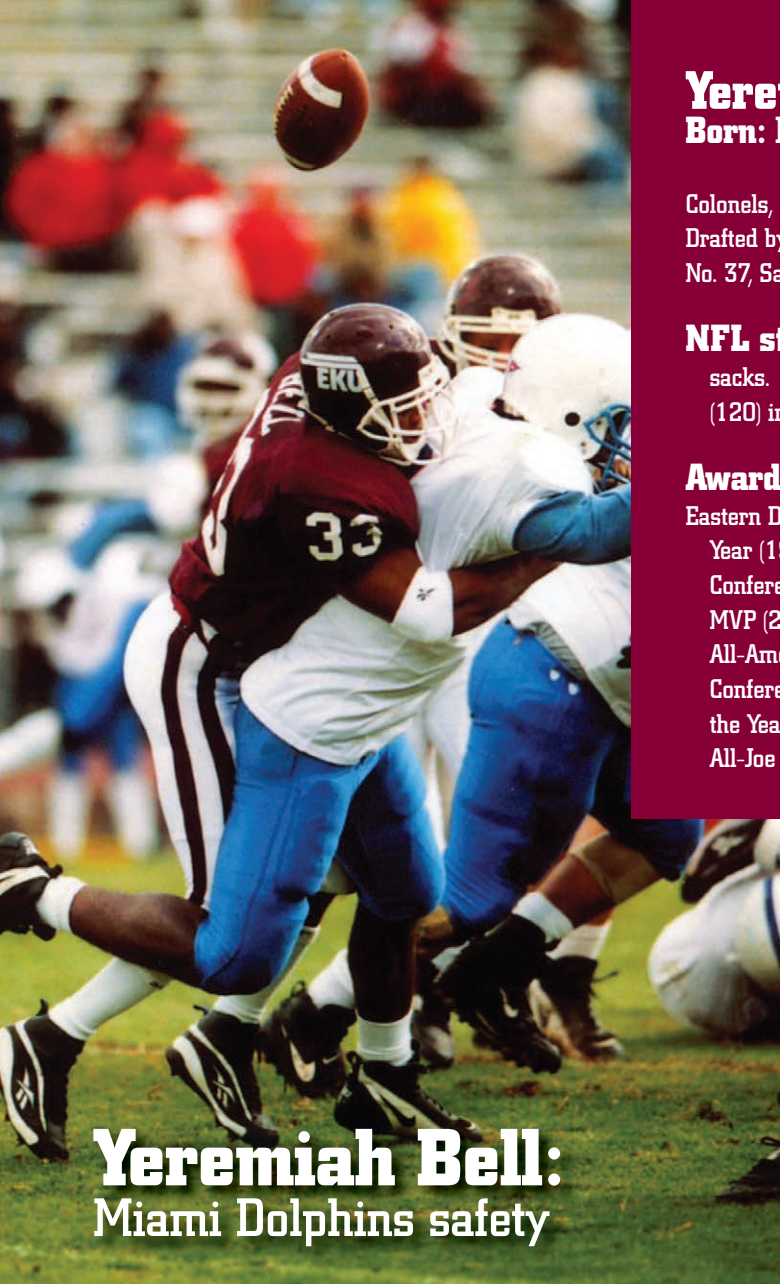
Throughout her junior and senior years as a Booth Scholarship recipient, she met with Gary and Jane Booth each semester, reported on her progress, shared experiences of achievement despite adversity and discussed next steps. "Their own stories were inspiring, and it was good for me to reflect on how far I'd come and to keep proving to myself that I was worthy of the investment that Mr. Welch and the Booths had made in me," Halls says.

Sadly, Robert Welch did not live to see Felicia graduate in 2008, but her grandparents were sitting in the V.I.P. section when she delivered the student address. After graduation Felicia married fellow Eastern math major Matthew Norman, '07, and together they moved to Houston, Texas, to fulfill a shared dream of unfolding the wonders of mathematics to at-risk children in charter schools, opening doors for these students as Robert Welch and Gary and Jane Booth had opened doors for a struggling young mother from a Clay County farm.



***EKU***<sup>TM</sup>

**WHEN  
COLONELS  
GO PRO:  
THREE OF  
EASTERN'S  
OWN IN  
THE NFL**



## Jeremiah Bell: Miami Dolphins safety

A brilliant athletic career seemed so close when Jeremiah Bell blazed through George Rogers Clark High School in Winchester, Ky., as a three-year letterman in basketball, baseball and football, turning heads as a defensive back and wide receiver. But college was impossible without a scholarship and no offers came. So for two years, Bell stacked steel for \$8 an hour. Finally, determined to give his college dreams one last chance, Bell came to Eastern and asked football coach Roy Kidd to allow him to try out as a walk-on. Kidd liked what he saw, and soon Bell was on the team with a scholarship and “a father figure” in Coach Kidd. When Colonel workouts proved far more exhausting than stacking steel and an early injury had him hospitalized and “scared,” Bell considered quitting. “Other coaches would have kicked me off for even saying that,” admits Bell, “but Coach Kidd came to the hospital and gave me a few days to think it over.” Jeremiah Bell bounced back with the dedication and talent that would soon mark him as pro material.

Bell flourished in Eastern’s “family atmosphere.” Each year from 1999 to 2001 he worked under a different position coach, changes he

## Jeremiah Bell Born: March 3, 1978

Colonels, 1999-2001: Defensive back  
Drafted by the Miami Dolphins, 2003  
No. 37, Safety

**NFL stats:** 330 tackles, 7.5 sacks. Team leader in tackles (120) in 2008.

### Awards:

Eastern Defensive Back of the Year (1999); 2x All-Ohio Valley Conference (2000, 2001); Eastern MVP (2000); Associated Press All-American (2001); Ohio Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year (2001); *USA Today* All-Joe Team (2008).

now sees as blessings in disguise. “They showed me the big picture on the field,” he reflects. In classes he thrived on the challenge and encouragement of exercise and sport science faculty members Dr. Randy Crist and Dr. Heather Adams-Blair. Home games brought the fan who mattered most: his mother, Polly Bell. When a knee injury sidelined Bell in his senior year, Kidd’s support never flagged. “I told Jeremiah that knee of his cost me a championship; he made that much of a difference on the team,” says Kidd.

The Miami Dolphins shared Kidd’s assessment and signed Bell in 2003. Working through injuries, Bell seized the admiration of linebacker Jason Taylor, who says, “The guy just makes plays, no matter if it’s special teams, defense or whatever. He always makes plays for us.” Former Dolphins Coach Nick Saban agreed, citing Bell’s mental intensity, range, speed and toughness. So far, Jeremiah Bell has logged (as of this writing) 330 tackles (leading the team in 2008), 7.5 sacks, seven forced fumbles and a multi-million dollar four-year contract signed in 2009.

He celebrated by hanging out last summer in Winchester, Ky., with his family, especially daughter Yamia and son Brayden. What did he do? “Whatever my kids wanted to do. They called the shots.” He did duck out for some house hunting, taking care to carefully quiz his mother on what features he should look for. When he bought the dream house, he waited for Polly Bell to come home from work and drove her out to see it. It was perfect, she agreed, just beautiful. “It’s all yours,” said Bell. The stunned look on her face, the tears of joy and laughter, he admits, made up for years of grueling practices.

Meanwhile, in Richmond, a younger Bell has been coming up. Cousin Justin Bell is a Colonels defensive back. A high school MVP, Justin turned down a Colorado scholarship to stay close to his family. Many say he plays like his cousin, a style Justin calls “hustle”: “be the first to the ball and never give up on a play.” Jeremiah Bell gives Justin the straightforward advice that has carried him from high school through steel stacking to the NFL: keep your head on straight, learn as much as you can, get better every year and stay close to family and friends. It’s no surprise, then, that Christmas found Jeremiah Bell at his Florida “home,” sharing a meal with the family of Coach Roy Kidd’s daughter Kathy and remembering good times with Eastern football.



## Rex Ryan: New York Jets head coach



**Rex Ryan**  
Born: December 13, 1962

### Coaching career:

**1987-1988:** Eastern Kentucky University, defensive ends

**1989:** New Mexico Highlands, defensive coordinator, assistant head coach

**1990-1993:** Morehead State, defensive coordinator

**1994-1995:** Arizona Cardinals, linebackers, defensive line

**1996-1997:** University of Cincinnati, defensive coordinator

**1998:** University of Oklahoma, defensive coordinator

**1999-2008:** Baltimore Ravens, defensive coordinator, assistant head coach Super Bowl XXXV

**2009-present:** New York Jets, head coach

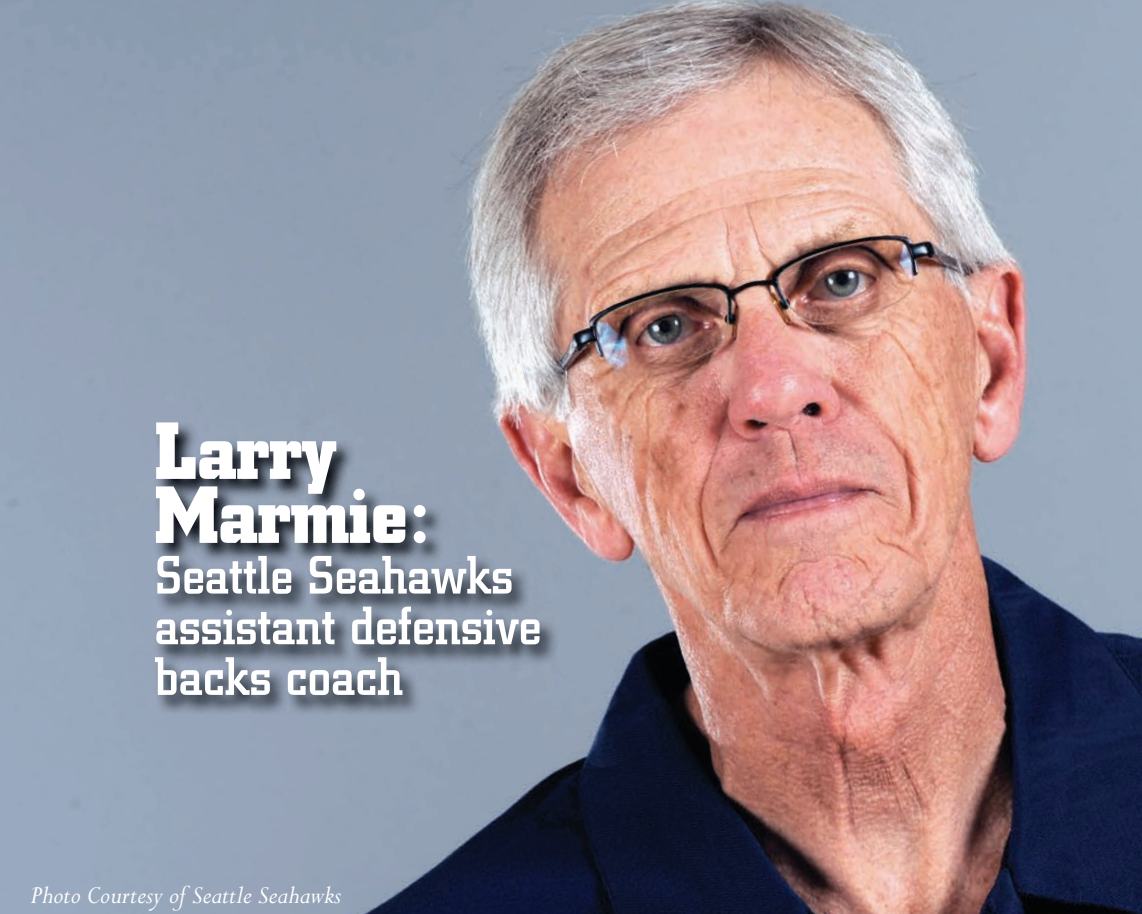
Rex Ryan, '88, head coach for the New York Jets, was "born to football." He was certainly bred for the sport. His father, Buddy Ryan, was head coach for the Philadelphia Eagles and the Arizona Cardinals. Twin brother Rob is defensive coordinator for the Cleveland Browns. Not that the brothers didn't pay dues as ball boys, hot-tar roofers and aircraft loaders, but their goal was the family business: coaching football. To test his sons' resolve, Buddy Ryan rented a hotel room and set up an easel for a two-day intensive course, recalls Rex Ryan. "He taught us the 46 Single, now the Cover Seven, then 46-3 Z, right down the list. When we replayed it all back, I think he realized we'd been paying attention."

Rex Ryan's capacity to "pay attention," his creativity, problem-solving and communication skills impressed Coach Roy Kidd, who tapped Ryan as defensive ends coach in 1987. While earning a master's degree in physical education at Eastern, Ryan helped propel the Colonels to an Ohio Valley Conference title and the NCAA Division I-AA semifinals in 1988. All the while he studied Kidd's style. "Coach Kidd created confidence," Ryan recalls. "When his players walked on the field, they knew they were prepared, and they expected to win." Kidd's fierce loyalty and sense of family marked Ryan, too. Twenty years later, he and Roy Kidd's son Keith (now a scout for the Denver Broncos) still bring their families together on North Carolina's Outer Banks for fishing, good food and football talk. Both men grew up in football homes, where the game itself, recalls Keith Kidd, '88,

generated life lessons on discipline, teamwork, conflict and "dealing with the chips you have."

After Eastern, Ryan began a steady career climb, including a year under his father with the Arizona Cardinals and a Super Bowl XXXV ring with the Baltimore Ravens in 2001. In the high stakes world of pro football, he kept the balance he learned at Eastern: play hard to win but never change who you are. Keith Kidd calls Ryan "a great person in a tough business. He's a uniter; I saw that the first time I met him. He knows what it takes to actually build a team." Ryan stresses his profound respect for all players. "These are mighty men. It takes courage to walk out on that field knowing you're going to get hit." College football, insists Ryan, teaches life lessons wherever a player's career leads him: communication, learning through adversity and playing as long as there's time on the clock.

Neither Roy nor Keith Kidd were surprised when Ryan used his platform as head coach for the New York Jets to make the courageous public revelation that he is dyslexic, a disability undiagnosed throughout his school career. He struggled alone, inventing elaborate color-coding schemes that turned playbooks and callsheets into paint store catalogues. Today Rex Ryan shares his story in locker rooms and interviews, encouraging others to persist despite handicaps. "It was never easy, but I had other gifts." Looking around his new office, Coach Ryan smiles, "I'm not doing bad."

A close-up portrait of Larry Marmie, an older man with short, graying hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue collared shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

## Larry Marmie: Seattle Seahawks assistant defensive backs coach

*Photo Courtesy of Seattle Seahawks*

Football took Larry Marmie, '65, from the coal mining community of Barnesville, Ohio, to Ohio State, but the first generation college student and "small town guy" was uncomfortable in the sprawling university. Try EKU, his high school coach suggested. "Right from the first I felt at home," Marmie remembers. As quarterback, Marmie flourished, first under Coach Glenn Presnell and then with newcomer Roy Kidd in 1964. Married in his sophomore year, Larry, his wife Linda and their young daughters found welcome and support in the Brockton Apartments, enjoying summer evenings of fast-pitch softball on Richmond fields. He remembers the excitement of Dr. Bill Berge's western civilization class, A.L. Whitt patiently unfolding the mysteries of kinesiobiology, and the inspiration of Dr. Leonard Woolum's education classes. The outgoing quarterback made friends off the playing field (like history major Doug Whitlock) and enjoyed running into President Robert Martin on walks around campus.

In the season that Marmie played under Coach Roy Kidd, he found his mentor. "Aside from family members," says Larry Marmie, "the two most influential people in my life were my high school coach and Roy Kidd." Encouraged by Kidd, Marmie started coaching the Berea High School team. From there began a steady progression to college coaching, first at Morehead. From 1972-76 he worked under Coach Kidd at Eastern, there for two OVC titles in 1974 and 1976. Marmie describes his career path as a "natural" rise from larger schools to the NFL, always drawing on the mix of technical and people skills he saw in Coach Kidd. The result, said former St. Louis Rams coach Mike Martz, was "a heck of a defense."

Now in his third season with the Seattle Seahawks, Marmie has watched football evolve. The passing game has changed while increased emphasis on throwing puts pressure on defensive backs. Career vectors are steeper: now aspiring pro coaches want to start at big universities and NFL posts rather than working up from high schools. "It seems to me," counters Marmie, "that if you really want to coach, you'll start at any level." He sees positive changes in better protective gear and concern for heat exhaustion and dehydration: "When I played in high school, it was a sign of weakness to drink during practice." But the basics remain. In his 44th year of coaching, the game still thrills him. The perks are good, he admits, "but it's the journey you have to enjoy." For Marmie, Eastern was key to that journey. Looking toward retirement, Larry and Linda Marmie are considering spending time in Richmond, their college hometown that holds such happy memories. Perhaps they'll even take in some fast-pitch softball on a Kentucky summer night.

**Larry Marmie**  
**Born:** October 17, 1942  
Colonels, 1962-1965: Quarterback

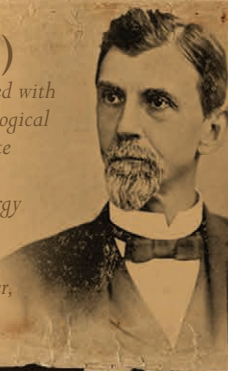
### **Coaching career:**

**1966-1967:** Berea High School, head coach  
**1968-1971:** Morehead State University, secondary/defensive line  
**1972-1976:** Eastern Kentucky University, defensive coordinator/linebackers  
**1977-1978:** University of Tulsa, defensive coordinator  
**1979-1982:** University of North Carolina, secondary  
**1983-1984:** University of Tennessee, defensive coordinator  
**1985-1991:** Arizona State University, defensive coordinator (1985-87), head coach (1988-91)  
**1992-1994:** University of Tennessee, defensive coordinator  
**1995:** University of California at Los Angeles, secondary  
**1996-2003:** Arizona Cardinals, secondary (1996-2000), defensive coordinator (2000-03)  
**2004-2005:** St. Louis Rams, defensive coordinator  
**2006-present:** Seattle Seahawks, defensive assistant/secondary

# BLANTON HOUSE IS

## LINDSAY HUGHES BLANTON (1832-1914)

*was born in Cumberland County, Virginia, to a family of prosperous planters. His great-grandfather served with distinction under General George Washington. Educated at Hampden Sidney College and Danville Theological Seminary, Dr. Blanton served as pastor in Versailles, Ky. In 1861, he became a chaplain in the Confederate army under Generals Echols, Breckinridge and Lee. After the war, he returned to his church until 1880, when he was named chancellor of Central University in Richmond, a post he filled until 1901 with energy and skill, growing the school from 40 to 200 young men. When Central University consolidated with Danville's Centre College, Blanton served as Centre's vice president and then trustee until shortly before his death. His descendants still live in the Richmond area. Ethel Blanton Smith, Lindsay's granddaughter, was Eastern's registrar for years and a long-time friend of President and Mrs. Whitlock.*





“ *Home* ” AGAIN

The Victorian elegance of Blanton House is woven in the memories of generations of students, faculty and staff who have walked Lancaster Avenue since 1886, when Lindsay Blanton, chancellor of Central University, spent \$6,500 to build the house that now bears his name. The house was bought in the recession of 1903 for \$6,050, then passed to Thomas S. Burnam, who sold it to Eastern Kentucky State Normal School for \$12,500 for use as the official presidential residence. This spring, after sitting vacant for two years, Blanton House returned to its historic role as President and Mrs. Doug Whitlock settled in, hosting family members, reviving traditional university events and creating new ways to share their home with the Eastern family.



## IF WALLS COULD TALK AT BLANTON HOUSE

Eastern faculty and staff members William Berge, Fred Engle, Charles Hay, Chuck Hill, James Street, Doug Whitlock and A.L. Whitt shared some memories with us:

Blanton House reflects the Italianate and Queen Anne styles popular in the 1880's and was one of a group of gracious houses termed "Faculty Row." Today, it is the only surviving Victorian residence on Lancaster Avenue.

In Depression and post-war years, Eastern presidents often "put up" students stranded by problems with local bus and train systems.

In the spring of 1955 a tornado ripped off the roof of young Roy Kidd's student housing unit. The future football legend found emergency housing with President O'Donnell and enjoyed the produce of a lush Blanton House vegetable garden.

Generations of faculty and staff children were photographed in their Easter Sunday finery against the garden gate and flower beds behind Blanton House.

During a shortage of men's dorms in the late 1950's, President O'Donnell asked faculty members to board students. Leading by example, he hosted Tom Marshall, a diminutive biology student widely known as Molecule. One night Molecule was summoned to the house's only telephone, located at the president's bedside. "Don't ever do that again," he told his caller, mortified to have disturbed his august landlord in pajamas.

When Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson gave Eastern's commencement address in June 1961, he visited Blanton House as a guest of President Martin.

In the mid 1970's, Dr. and Mrs. Martin had new carpeting installed throughout the first floor. During a yearbook photo shoot, a floodlight was accidentally set face down on the carpet, burning a baseball-size hole. Student yearbook advisor Doug Whitlock witnessed the incident and reports that the Martins' calm handling of the situation "moved my admiration for them up a few notches."

When Blanton House was redecorated for J.C. Powell's tenancy, Dr. Whitlock, then executive assistant to the president, arrived just in time to stop a painter whose faulty work order directed that the solid walnut grand staircase be painted pink. "J.C. thanked me for that many times," Dr. Whitlock remembers.


The copper roof was painted black in 1985 because of protests that it looked "too fancy" for Richmond.

When an electrical malfunction kept all lights on for four days and nights, President Glasser slept blindfolded until the problem was resolved.

Work by local artists adorns Blanton House, including paintings by Pat Banks, glass pieces by Eastern staff member Stacey Street and silk flower arrangements by Ann Kelly Smith, also on the Eastern staff.

When the February 2009 ice storm left both his children without power in their homes, President Whitlock reports, "there were a couple of nights that the Blanton House sheltered son, daughter, three grandchildren and four granddogs. It was full and alive."

If you have other Blanton House stories to share, please write Jackie Collier, director of alumni relations, at [jackie.collier@eku.edu](mailto:jackie.collier@eku.edu), or at Richards Alumni House, Eastern Kentucky University, 521 Lancaster Avenue, Richmond, KY 40475.



President Whitlock says goodbye to the first lady before making the short stroll to his office next door in the Coates Building.

## WHILE ITS BASIC ARCHITECTURE IS UNCHANGED, PREVIOUS PRESIDENTS HAVE SHAPED THE WHITLOCKS' NEW HOME:



- President Robert Martin (1960-1976) and his wife Anne had the house rewired and air-conditioned.
- A brick wall around the back patio and fountain were installed by President J.C. Powell (1976-1984) and his wife Downey in the late 1970's.
- New doorways between the parlor and dining room improved flow when Hanly Funderburk was president from 1984 to 1998. He also had the copper roof redone and added catering facilities in the basement.
- A side patio, sunroom and widened doors for wheelchair access improved the house for residents and guests during President Robert Kustra's administration (1998-2001).
- President Joanne Glasser (2001-2007) had an alarm system installed, with carbon monoxide monitoring added by President and Mrs. Whitlock.

Despite these updates, time takes its toll. In recent decades, electrical, plumbing, heating and other issues accumulated as major work on Blanton House was queued behind other university projects. By the end of President Glasser's tenancy, life in Blanton House had become challenging.

When Dr. Whitlock became Eastern's president, the "Blanton issue" had to be addressed. James Street, associate vice president for capital planning and facilities management, presented a contractor's estimate of \$1 million for major aesthetic renovations (like rebuilding the mis-matched third chimney) and a maintenance overhaul. A scaled-down proposal of \$300,000 still seemed high to Dr. Whitlock, who countered by offering to stay in his own house at no cost to Eastern. Meanwhile, Street and his staff devised a plan to bring the plumbing and antiquated tube and spool wiring up to code for a modest \$10,000, creating a safe, if slightly drafty, 19th Century home, perfect for a 21st Century president with a strong sense of history.

President Whitlock sloughs off concern about scaled-back renovations and focuses on the positives: "I live 100 steps from my office. That's a really short commute. There's an updated kitchen, wired and wireless Internet." He has installed his own exercise equipment in the basement, personally bought flat screen TVs and installed sound systems in two rooms. He and the first lady enjoy the high-ceilinged rooms, the gracious link of formal and family areas, the private patio out back and balmy evenings on the wide front porch. When the furnace strains to bring winter temperatures up to t-shirt standards, the Whitlocks follow the example of Chancellor Lindsay Blanton: they dress more warmly.

In a time when many university presidents first see their residences at job interviews, Dr. Whitlock's long association with Blanton House is unique. As a student worker in President Martin's administration, he was often sent on errands to the house and remembers Mrs. Martin as "gracious and welcoming." When Whitlock joined the faculty in 1968, he and his wife Joanne enjoyed a reception for new faculty and staff at Blanton House. Discontinued after President Funderburk's administration, the receptions have now been reinstated.

New hires won't be the Whitlocks' only guests. "Over time, we would like for everyone on staff to have an opportunity to visit . . . we hope we can make the place as warm and inviting as it was to us," President Whitlock pledges. "We want to reopen the house to the campus community. One of our first events was for students and advisors in the Senior Challenge program. We'll use the house for our development work, both for friend raising and fund raising. While it is our home, one of the main reasons we wanted to move into Blanton House was so that its value to the University could be more fully realized."

While expanding the public functions of their home, the Whitlocks have made it their own. They've kept an old map of Madison County from the Powell occupancy and hung a beloved Chinese peacock print in the front parlor. There are mementos of foreign travels, a sugar chest made by Joanne Whitlock's father from cherry wood cut and seasoned on his Madison County farm. A drop leaf table is built on the base of a treadle sewing machine that Doug Whitlock's mother used.

Nestled among the family treasures and the work of local artists that give a "sense of Eastern-ness" to his new home is one of President Whitlock's prizes, a sculpted turtle that recalls a favorite expression of the late Michael Caudill, superintendent of Madison County schools: "When you see a turtle on a fence post, you can be sure he did not get there by himself." Looking at the turtle, says Dr. Whitlock, "reminds me every day that I had a lot of help getting where I am."





Through an interpreter, President Whitlock welcomes a delegation from Hokuto City, Japan, to Blanton House for dinner. Hokuto City is part of a sister city exchange program between EKU's home of Madison County and Japan's Yatsugatake region. (See Eastern, Fall/Winter 2008 issue at [www.eku.edu/alumni/magazine/](http://www.eku.edu/alumni/magazine/).)



# From Peach Baskets

*Eastern Kentucky University Archives, Richmond, KY.*



# to Slam Dunks: WE'VE GROWN UP WITH BASKETBALL

Most sports evolved, but basketball has an inventor. Dr. James Naismith launched basketball in 1891 at the YMCA Training School in Springfield, Mass., with one soccer ball, 13 rules and two peach baskets nailed 10 feet over a gym floor. The game took off despite early inefficiencies: players needed ladders to empty the baskets.

By 1909, Eastern Kentucky State Normal School launched its first men's varsity basketball team (women had been playing at the club level for two years). It was a slower game then, with one-point baskets and no dribbling since soccer balls don't bounce well. Eastern's opponents were often high schools, and "seasons" might be six games. But seasons, skills and enthusiasm for the sport grew. When Coach Paul McBrayer arrived in 1946, Eastern's powerhouse years began, yielding two trips to the NCAA tournament and three Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) season titles.





Eastern Kentucky University Archives, Richmond, KY.

## COACH PAUL MCBRAYER 1909-1998

Combining unyielding discipline, dedication to his players and deep knowledge of the game, Coach McBrayer racked up 219 wins and so much affection in his Eastern years (1946-62) that players he called “my boys” still meet yearly at Arlington. They are the “McBrayer Family” and like every family, they tell stories about the old days.

Roy Allison, a member of the first squad to make the NCAA tournament in 1953, tells of the time he had decided to quit the team. “Listen to me,” Coach McBrayer boomed to the abashed young man. “Everybody in this organization has a role to play. If you don’t play yours, you’re letting me down; you’re letting yourself down; and you’re letting your teammates down. Now get out of here. I’ll see you in practice tomorrow.” Allison didn’t quit and wove McBrayer’s philosophy into a lifetime of accomplishment. He was recently inducted into Eastern’s Hall of Distinguished Alumni.

Dr. Paul Motley, retired Foundation Professor of physical education, tells how McBrayer furnished a basketball house for “his boys,” locating extra-long bunk beds that he squeezed four to a room, saving on custodial staff by having his boys do the housekeeping. He monitored their grades as fiercely as he watched their plays, says Motley. “They would just as soon miss a winning lay-up against Western as have a deficiency at midterm. One of Coach’s proudest records was that in 14 years all but one player graduated,” he recalls.

McBrayer helped many, like Hall of Fame sharpshooter Bobby Washington (1965-69), move into successful coaching careers. And he kept in touch. Wedding, anniversary, birth and job announcements streamed back to Paul and Katie McBrayer’s home in Richmond for decades and were proudly displayed.

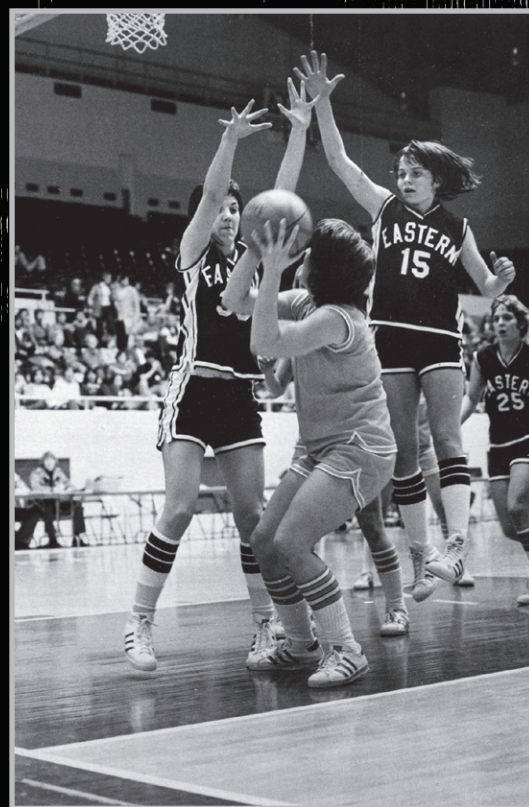
When cancer struck and their Coach needed help, “the boys” came through with visits, calls, letters, covered dishes and countless services. When McBrayer died, they wept together. “We lost one of Eastern’s great ones,” said Don Feltner, retired vice president for advancement. “He demanded the best and he got 110 percent.”



The year after Coach McBrayer’s retirement in 1962, Eastern christened the new Alumni Coliseum with a 78-65 win over the University of Louisville Cardinals. The Colonels reached the NCAA again in 1972, defeated arch rival Western Kentucky University to cinch the OVC title in 1979 when Dave Tierney sank two free throws with no time remaining on the clock, and celebrated Mike Smith’s nearly 1,000 rebounds in 1992. Coach Jeff Neubauer cites the last five years as “our winningest in history,” starting with a program-record 22 wins in 2004-5 for the first NCAA show in 26 years, and a repeat appearance in 2007. Neubauer notes that while the sport has grown steadily faster, higher and more strategic, the personal qualities he seeks in recruits are Eastern standards: “highly skilled and unselfish team players on track to graduate in four years.”

This winter, Eastern celebrates its first century of varsity men’s basketball with a dedicated Web site (see [www.ekusports.com](http://www.ekusports.com)) and an All-Century team to be unveiled in January during the men’s basketball reunion weekend. Watch for a “Top Moments” Web site feature to relive the great moments in Eastern basketball history, says Simon Gray, associate athletics director for advancement.

For senior center Josh Taylor, every moment of play has been a “top moment.” Excited by the young, enthusiastic coaching staff on his first visit, four years later Taylor reports that all they said was true and every promise was kept. Playing for Eastern has been “amazing,” from camaraderie with teammates to visits from former Colonels like Darnell Dials and Michael Brock and stories of Coach McBrayer’s famed workouts. Hoping to play overseas after graduation, Taylor will help the Colonel spirit go international in its second century.



*Eastern Kentucky University Archives, Richmond, KY.*

## LADY COLONELS

After years of dedicated club status, women's basketball became a varsity sport at Eastern in the 1971-1972 season. Since then, the Lady Colonels have earned 10 regular season OVC championships and six conference tournament titles. Coach Chrissy Roberts demands and models the best. She was the nation's top sharpshooter in 1997 and OVC Player of the Year in 1998, holding Eastern records for three-pointers. She wants her players to break those records.

Roberts is proud of the athletics department's "great chemistry" and dedication to student success on and off the court. At Eastern, she says, "We're all about the students, period." This dedication impressed senior forward Colette Cole of Jackson, Ky., who first wondered if she'd have to give up the high school sport she loved to do well in her studies. Instead, she found a campus atmosphere that lets her balance a sports management major, business minor, and the warm community of a program where student-athletes cheer each other on and former players keep in touch. A new team Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ekucolonels](http://www.facebook.com/ekucolonels)) broadens that community. Historic photographs posted by fans give fresh appreciation of the sport's evolution since the early days when women played in voluminous bloomers. "How did they do defensive thrusts in those uniforms?" Cole wonders. "We've come a long way!"

# FROM THE CAMPUS BEAUTIFUL

## Greek Living

Todd and Dupree Halls, situated on Park Drive at the heart of campus, are now home to Eastern's thriving Greek community.

Having logged an average 63,000 hours of community service over the past three years, the approximately 1,000 members of Eastern's sororities and fraternities are a highly visible positive force on campus. The Greek Towers provide a centrally located home to facilitate their work and build an even stronger sense of community.

When Eastern renovated Todd and Dupree Halls, part of an ongoing residence hall maintenance project, it did so with input from members of each Greek organization, chapter advisers and the Greek Life office. The Greek Towers not only provide living space for active chapter members but also chapter offices and a gathering place for alumni.

The Greek Towers are part of a trend at Eastern for special interest housing, including Living Learning Communities for first year students, students sharing special interests (i.e. fitness, community outreach, outdoor adventure), and those pursuing particular academic majors.



## Aviation Program Soars

EKU's aviation program is flying high, recently earning the 2009 Aviation Achievement Award from the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame. The program has added two Diamond DA-20 aircraft, the same planes used by the Air Force for training, as well as a Piper Arrow and a flight simulator. Relocation to the Madison County Airport from

Mt. Sterling allows students to spend more time in the air accumulating flight hours rather than on the road driving to the airport.

Eastern's aviation program started with a few courses in 1983 and later became Kentucky's first baccalaureate degree program in aviation. Its professional flight option is the only Federal Aviation Administration-approved university flight program in the Commonwealth. Students not wishing to be pilots but interested in other aspects of the aerospace industry may pursue the aviation administration option.

*In addition to the Team of Distinction, Eastern inducted six standouts into its Athletics Hall of Fame: Josh Anderson (baseball), Kim Sarrazin (softball), Ralph Richardson (men's basketball), Everett Talbert (football), Kim Mays (women's basketball) and Danny Copeland (football).*



*Eastern's 1979 NCAA Division I-AA national champions were honored as the Colonels' first Team of Distinction.*

## **"Team of Distinction" Honored**

1979 brought the Sony Walkman. Margaret Thatcher became Great Britain's first woman prime minister and ESPN was launched. Close to home, Coach Roy Kidd was fielding a football team that would rush to greatness: the 1979 Football Colonels became Eastern's first NCAA Division I-AA national championship team with an 11-2 record. On November 2, 2009, Eastern's Athletics Hall of Fame ceremonially enshrined the 1979 Football Colonels as its first Team of Distinction.

Paced by a relentlessly opportunistic defense and an efficient offense, the team was sobered by tragedy, the loss of defensive guard Don MacKinnon who had died the preceding spring after a bout with meningitis. Together, the Colonels were a bulwark against NCAA

Division I-A teams Kent State (17-14) and Cal-State Fullerton (33-17). They limited seven of 13 opponents to 10 points or less, shutting out Troy State (15-0) and Tennessee Tech (35-0). They blocked kicks for an 8-6 win over Western Kentucky and a 33-30 double overtime victory over Nevada-Reno, and they roundly cheered tailback Alvin Miller as the national championship game's Most Valuable Player – in fact, invaluable were his accumulated 144 total yards gained over Lehigh University.

Talent in the 1979 team ran deep and wide: linebacker Bob McIntyre was named first team Associated Press All-American; McIntyre, cornerback Danny Martin, nose guard Joe Richard, fullback Dale

Patton, offensive guard Kevin Greve, center David Neal and placekicker David Flores were each voted first team All-OVC. Strong safety George Floyd, defensive end Tim Frommeyer, wide receiver Jerry Parrish, tailback Alvin Miller and quarterback Bill Hughes played their way to the second team All-OVC unit.

Throughout the season, sportsmanship, performance and professionalism all figured in Kentucky Governor John Y. Brown, Jr.'s proclamation of January 20-26, 1980, as EKV National Football Champions Week. "I gave my best," recalls tailback Alvin Miller modestly. This season Eastern's Athletics Hall of Fame is proud to honor the players and coaches whose "best" was nothing short of magnificent.

### Long Arm of the Law

Faculty in Eastern's College of Justice & Safety are influencing criminal justice study far beyond the boundaries of The Campus Beautiful. Eastern Kentucky University ranks second nationally in the number of criminal justice textbooks produced by its faculty...textbooks that are commonly used by leading universities worldwide. Only John Jay College of Criminal Justice is more prolific in textbook publication.

Dr. Vic Kappeler, Foundation Professor of criminal justice and police studies, sets the pace at Eastern. With nine textbooks to his credit, he ranks third nationally in criminal justice publications. A three-time EKV alumnus, Kappeler is recognized as a leading scholar in media and the social construction of crime, police deviance and police civil liability.

### Star Director for the Performing Arts

Katherine Eckstrand brings 23 years in arts administration and promotion to Eastern in her new role as executive director of the Center for the Performing Arts. When complete in mid 2011, the 2,000-seat Broadway-capable theater will be "one of the finest in the multi-state region," promises President Doug Whitlock. Eckstrand, the former director of community development for the Ohio Arts Council, credits the commitment of state, county and university partners to "enriching not only their community but also the greater region and state of Kentucky . . . This Center, by providing quality, varied and diverse arts experiences, will contribute significantly to the community's educational, cultural and economic quality of life."

While directing the Ohio Arts Council, Eckstrand managed four grant programs, community arts organizations and professional development, overseeing accessibility and diversity programs and administering the Appalachian Arts Program. Previously she directed arts, cultural and performing arts programs at Shepherd University

in Shepherdstown, W.Va. and Clark State Community College in Springfield, Ohio. At Clark State, she developed innovative partnerships with the Kennedy Center and Wittenberg University, as well as an outreach program for at-risk youth and their families celebrated by the President's Commission on Arts and Humanities.

Eckstrand has been an adjunct faculty member in English, theatre and arts administration, taken leadership roles in local, state and national arts organizations and received the 2004 Ohio Governor's Award for Arts Administration. She earned her bachelor's degree in theatre and English from Wilmington College (Ohio), a master's in English from DePaul University and is finishing doctoral work in arts policy and administration at Ohio State University.

### Team of the Century

As part of its 100 Years of Football celebration, Eastern unveiled its All-Century Football Team during Homecoming festivities. Twelve of the 24 players comprising the team were on hand to accept the cheers of fans at Roy Kidd Stadium.

To earn consideration for the All-Century Team, players must have met at least one of the following criteria: first or second team All-OVC honors, enshrinement in the EKV Athletics Hall of Fame, or All-American honors. Colonel fans participated in the team selection by casting their votes online.



All-Century Football Team members on campus for a recognition luncheon are: (seated l to r) Coach Roy Kidd, Aaron Marsh, Elroy Harris, Jim Guice, Fred Harvey, Joe Richard and George Floyd, and (standing, l to r) John Jackson, Roosevelt Kelly, Marc Collins, Jason Dunn, Tony McCombs and Dale Dawson.

### All-Century Team Members

- Yeremiah Bell (1999-2001), Defensive Back
- Steve Bird (1979-82), Wide Receiver
- Chad Bratzke (1990-93), Defensive Tackle
- Wally Chambers (1969-72), Defensive Tackle
- Marc Collins (1992-95), Punter

Danny Copeland (1984-87), Defensive Back  
 Dale Dawson (1983-86), Placekicker  
 Alex Dominguez (1979-82), Linebacker  
 Jason Dunn (1992-95), Tight End  
 George Floyd (1978-81), Safety  
 Kevin Greve (1978-81), Offensive Guard  
 Jim Guice (1965-68), Quarterback  
 Myron Guyton (1985-88), Safety  
 Elroy Harris (1985, 1987-88), Tailback  
 Fred Harvey (1983-86), Linebacker  
 Tyrone Hopson (1995-98), Offensive Guard  
 John Jackson (1984-87), Offensive Tackle  
 Aaron Jones (1984-87), Defensive End  
 Roosevelt Kelly (1973-76), Center  
 Aaron Marsh (1964-67), Wide Receiver  
 Tony McCombs (1994-96), Linebacker  
 Joe Richard (1976-79), Noseguard  
 Markus Thomas (1989-92), Tailback  
 Fred Troike (1966-68), Offensive Guard

All-Century Team Coach: Roy Kidd (1964-2002)



## Creative Writing Residency Draws Award-winning Authors

Joyce Carol Oates and Kentucky native Chris Offutt are two of nine visiting writers who will work with students in Eastern's brief-residency Master of Fine Arts program this January. The program, which blends two online courses with two 10- to 30-day residencies each year, is designed to meet the demands of working students and those with families.

The winter residency is a semester's worth of work condensed into an intense 10 days, according to program director Dr. Young Smith. Students will attend lectures, panel discussions and participate in writing workshops. Additionally, there will be plenty of opportunity for informal interaction with visiting writers.

Among Oates' 56 novels are *The Falls* and *The Gravedigger's Daughter*, which hit the New York Times bestsellers list. *Blonde* was a finalist for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. Oates has written more than 30 collections of short stories, poetry, plays, essays, book reviews and nonfiction works on literary subjects.

The head writer and co-producer of the Showtime series *Weeds*, Offutt grew up in rural eastern Kentucky. He has written two collections of stories, *Kentucky Straight* and *Out of the Woods*, as well as a novel, *The Good Brother*, and two memoirs.

# Pass the Flame

Is there a young person in your family or community who is considering attending Eastern? Let us know and if he or she applies for admission, we'll waive the \$30 application fee!

**It's easy:** just fill out the card below, cut it out and mail it to:

**Eastern Kentucky University • Office of Admissions • SSB CPO 54  
 521 Lancaster Avenue • Richmond, KY 40475-3154**

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

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

PLEASE PRINT

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your class year: \_\_\_\_\_

## FROM PAGE 6.

**Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)**

theorized pendulum theory while watching a swinging chandelier, revolutionizing clock-making, many industrial processes and navigation.

**Dr. John Snow (1813-1858)**

found the epicenter of London's 1854 cholera epidemic at the Broad Street water pump. Disabling it, he proved his theory of waterborne disease.

**Joseph Glidden (1813-1906),**

an Illinois farmer, used a coffee mill to twist barbs into wires, creating the world's most economical fencing material and making a fortune for himself.



# CLASS ACTS

## Winter 2009

### 1940's

**Col. Thomas Argyle Lowe**, '48, retired, served in World War II, the Korean War and in Vietnam. He holds degrees from Harvard University and George Washington University, as well as from five military service colleges. He has been commended for his extraordinary service record by the governor of W. Va., Senator Rockefeller and Congressman Rahall of W. Va. and is in the Hall of Fame at Fort Sill, Okla. Lowe now lives in Satellite Beach, Fla.

### 1950's



**Carol Benton Fegyak**, '59, and her husband Bill of Fort Pierce, Fla., recently celebrated 50 years of marriage on a "fantastic" cruise with their four children and mates.

### 1960's

**Kenneth L. Chesney, Jr.**, '67, retired from Nestle Purina Pet Care after 40 years of service. He and his wife Leilani enjoy traveling, their 11 grandchildren and great-granddaughter. They live in Vallejo, Calif., and would love to hear from friends at kennethchesney@att.net.

**Hugh "Penny" Starnes**, '67, '71, '74, lives in Highlands (Somerset, Ky.), an assisted living community, where he helps other residents with daily living tasks, sings, drives and plays golf. "I have to use oxygen 24/7," he reports, "but I'm doing fine. Eastern gave me a new and great life - Thanks!" His son **Richard Ray Starnes**, '94, lives in London, England, and works for the New Scotland Yard Agency, tracking down internet hackers.

**Jennifer Lacy Bussell**, '68, retired in June from the Community School Corp. of Southern Hancock after teaching for 25 years at New Palestine, Ind., Elementary School. She lives in New Palestine with her husband Donald. **Nancy F. Bolton-Brenner**, '69, '72, lives

in Punta Gorda, Fla., having retired after teaching school in California, Kentucky and Florida. "I still love EKV!" she reports.

**Dr. Carolyn Mears**, '69, teaches at the University of Denver where she serves on the Expert Council of Firestorm Solutions, an organization dedicated to risk mitigation and crisis recovery, and is a member of the advisory board of the Trauma Certification Program at the Graduate School of Social Work. Her recent book, *Interviewing for Education and Social Science Research*, uses oral history and educational criticism strategies to help researchers access the often hidden human responses and perceptions about an event or situation so that policy makers and others can better understand the true impact of their actions. Mears' work was informed by her experience as a parent whose son witnessed the Columbine High School tragedy.

**Jeffrey Okeson**, '69, internationally recognized expert in temporomandibular disorders and orofacial pain, reports that he has received the campus-wide University of Kentucky Great Teacher Award, the Provost's Distinguished Service Professorship and the first Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Dentistry.

### 1970's

**Richard Charles Benz**, '72, and **Karen Schnurr Benz**, '72, married in 1977, have a son and two daughters and live in Louisville, Ky. Actor **Max (Merle) Middleton**, '72, recently appeared as Pops in John Patrick Shanley's play *Beggars in the House of Plenty* opening at Theater 68 in Los Angeles. Pops is a bullying, meat-cleaver-carrying slaughterhouse worker in an epically dysfunctional family. A reviewer praised Middleton's "outstanding" work in a superb cast, particularly his skill in tempering the ferocity of Pops with humor.



**Ralph Coldiron**, '74, has been re-elected national vice president of Dream Factory,

the second-largest children's wish-granting organization in the United States, granting more than 25,000 dreams since its inception to children with chronic illnesses and disorders as well as those suffering life-threatening illnesses. Coldiron co-founded the Lexington Dream Factory chapter in 1987 and was the chapter's first president. He lives in Lexington, Ky. **Lt. Gen. Purl "Ken" Keen**, '75, is leaving his assignment in Stuttgart, Germany, for Miami, Fla., where he will serve as deputy commander of U.S. Southern Command, working with Latin American partners. Keen and his wife **Mary Hume Keen**, '75, enjoy visits to Richmond when they are back on the East Coast. **Ed Richtmyer**, '76, retired from Northville Central School, where he was a physical education teacher for 31 years. He and his wife Donna live in Mayfield, N.Y. **Suzanne Maxwell Elliot**, '78, is the community human resource manager for the YMCA of Greater Charlotte Association and lives in Charlotte, N.C. **Christopher Stefanov**, '79, of Sherrodsville, Ohio, recently retired after 30 years as mineral resources inspector with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He is now attending Kent State University's nursing program and reports that he was Eastern's 40,000<sup>th</sup> graduate.

### 1980's



**Dr. Jamie Darlene Fairbanks Harvey**, '80, earned her doctorate in education (Ed.D.) for child, youth and human studies from Nova Southeastern University in Florida and is now associate faculty at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. As a consultant for Head Start Body Start Physical Activity, she recently participated in the inaugural Take it Outside! Week, a program to increase physical activity by getting children outside and connecting with the natural world. She lives in Signal Mountain, Tenn., with her husband Mark and son Steven.

**Steven Pollock**, '80, '81, was selected as an examiner for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the highest level of Presidential honor awarded to U.S. organizations in the business, health care, education, and nonprofit sectors for performance excellence. Pollock is director of the quality engineering team for Humana, Inc. and lives in Louisville with his wife, Elizabeth.

**Douglas A. Boyd**, '81, recently retired after 27 years in law enforcement and is now assistant security director at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. **Mark A. Wagner**, '82, is director of security and safety at Judson at University Circle, an accredited, not-for-profit continuing care retirement community in Cleveland, Ohio. He and his wife Tamara live in Euclid, Ohio, with their 14-year-old twins, David and Amanda. **Garreth Dwight Deskins**, '87, is a 22-year employee of the Kentucky State Police Eastern Regional Forensic Laboratory of Ashland, Ky., where he is firearms examiner for the surrounding 40 counties. In 2006, he received the Civilian Employee for Forensic Services Award. **David Moyer**, '88, '91, is a school administrator in Chicago, is on the faculty of Aurora University and has just published a debut novel, *Life and Life Only*. The novel follows Dan Mason, an all-American boy with a 92 mph fastball and a rage for success. As Dan endures constant heartache and loss, he struggles with his faith and attempts to repair a fractured relationship with his mother, wife and daughter. Fortune gives Dan a second chance if he can find the pluck to pull it off. Moyer lives with his wife Donna and five children in Crystal Lake, Ill. **Patricia Taylor**, '88, retired from the U.S. Army Reserves with 21 years of service as an operating room nurse. She is now an OR nurse with Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Columbia, S.C.

## 1990's

**Will Begley**, '90, is the assistant principal at Boyle County High School in Danville, Ky. In 2009, he was named Kentucky's Assistant Principal of the Year as well as Kentucky's HSAA Baseball Official of the Year. In August, **Charles Hardin**, '92, was appointed Madison District Judge, Madison Co., Ky. Hardin's wife and one of his sons assisted him in putting on the robe while Hardin's other son held the Bible as he was sworn in by Judge William Clouse. **Donnie Lee Riddle**, '99, has published his first book, *Dare to Go Against the Grain of the Porcupines: Church Traditions and State Interpretations*, through Publish America. He is a former pastor of Cane Springs Church in College Hill, Ky., and lives with his wife Beverly and children Tonya and Scott in Winchester, Ky.

## 2000's

**Amy Jones Bays**, '00, of Georgetown, Ky., was named principal of West Knox Elementary School in Corbin, Ky., after teaching there for six years and serving for two as curriculum specialist in Scott and Fayette counties. **Jessica Humphrey Hall**, '00, completed her master's degree in learning and behavioral disabilities and

is now working for Clark County (Ky.) School System as a special educator. She and her husband Russell live in Winchester, Ky. **Kimberly Brinegar Richardson**, '00, was recently promoted and is now assistant director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation. She and her husband **Ray**, '00, live in Frankfort. **Traci Baker Hudson**, '01, is now social service clinician with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. She and her husband Timothy live in Dry Ridge, Ky., with their daughter Madison, born in 2005. **Josh Powell**, '03, has for the second time earned the prestigious Administrator of the Year award from the 3,000-member Kentucky Association of School Administrators. His first award in 2007 marked his achievement as superintendent of Cloverport Independent Schools in raising the district from the bottom 10% of the state to the top 10. Now working in the Union County district, he has achieved tremendous academic gains in just one year. Some classrooms have achieved as much as a 30-point increase in math and reading scores. **Dr. Scott Diamond**, '07, graduated with a master's degree in educational leadership and immediately changed careers from biomedical research to K-12 science teaching. He loves his work with middle school children at Saint John Catholic

## 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 below. If sending a photo, please note that computer-generated photos cannot be published.



School in Georgetown, Ky., while continuing to do research in the summer. Diamond has recently been named Amgen/NSTA Fellow, Kentucky's only fellow in the National Science Teachers Association, New Science Teacher Academy. He also chairs the board of Art in Motion, a non-profit that enhances Lexington's transit system through the design and construction of bus shelters that incorporate murals and sculpture. The group has recently been awarded a federal grant for a new art bus shelter program. Dr. Diamond writes: "I owe a great deal to the care the College of Education took in training me and supporting my transition to teaching." He lives in Lexington with wife Dana. **Jessica Sabath**, '07, '08, is assistant volleyball coach of

High Point University (N.C.). At Eastern, Sabath led the Colonels with 577 digs and ranked second on the team in kills in 2003. She was EKU's Defensive Player of the Year as a freshman and in 2004 helped lead Eastern to the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) regular season and tournament titles. Her 1,827 career digs were an Eastern record, and she was chosen first-team OVC and team Most Valuable Player. During her graduate program, she worked as a student-athlete academic advising graduate assistant in the EKU athletics department. High Point's head coach Jason Oliver said, "Jessica definitely brings a championship mentality," praising her work ethic, desire to be a Division I coach, drive and ability to connect with people.

## 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<sup>1</sup>, too.

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All submissions to *Class Acts* are edited for style and brevity.

<sup>1</sup>Computer printouts cannot be accepted; please include a SASE for photo return. \*Please include; this information will not be published.

## Non-degreed Alumni or Alumni of Unknown Class Year

**Bill Rieser** and his wife Carolynn are living in the Bronx, N.Y.

## Newlyweds

**Sarah Parke**, '04, and **Andre Olaciregui** on June 20, 2009.

**Michele Lynn Bell**, '09, and **Justin Brent Alley**, '02, '04, on July 18, 2009.

## Junior Alumni

Michael Craig to **Deanna Bogie Conaty**, '92, and **Craig Conaty** on April 26, 2009.



**Brady Benjamin**, born in Villa Nueva, Guatemala, on May 31, 2007, was adopted by **Jo Carole Peters Ellis**, '92, and **Paul Ellis** on April 15, 2009.

**Dutch Callahan** to **L. Blake Burnett, II**, '94, and **Amy Burnett** on March 15, 2009.

**Natalie Catherine** to **Kelly Fread Fada**, '99, and **Mark Fada** on March 6, 2009.



**Benjamin Thomas** to **Kelly Buttry Manley**, '00, and **William Thomas Manley** on June 2, 2008.



**Jonah** to **Jessica Turner Canterbury**, '01, and **Jason Canterbury**, '03, on March 1, 2009. **Jason** is a forensic pathology worker with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services, and **Jessica** is managing editor of two fine art magazines at F+W Media.



**Peyton Davis** to **Tracie Davis Ward**, '01, and **Hank Ward** on April 8, 2009.



**Jonah Ray** to **Jan Collins**, '02, '03, and **Jonathan Collins** on February 4, 2009. **Jan Collins** is teaching at Pulaski County High School and lives in Somerset, Ky.



**Braydon Tyler** to **Jessica Snapp Collins**, '05, and **Paul Collins** of Ocala, Fla., on April 22, 2009.



**Hunter Hopkins** to **Ashley Runyon Aitkin**, '06, and **Richard Browning Aitkin, II**, '05, on April 26, 2009.



**Lauren Brianna** to **Amy Hayes Moore**, '06, and **Bill Moore** of Pine Ridge, Ky., joining big sister **Sarah Elizabeth**.

**James Anthony** to **Jennifer Tindley Tuck**, '07, and **Barry Alan Tuck** on July 25, 2008.

## Losses in the Eastern Family

**George Chapman**, '38, on August 30, 2007. He was born in 1915 in Lovely, Ky., a coalmining community on the Tug River, when most people relied on horses and mules for transportation. Chapman served in World War II as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry shortly after his marriage to **Katherine Coble**, his wife of 64 years. Captured and wounded in the Battle of Anzio in 1944, he survived prison camps in Germany and Poland. Chapman was liberated at the end of the war and awarded a Silver Cross and two Purple Hearts by a grateful nation. Moving to Texas with his wife, Chapman earned a master's degree and worked for the Continental Oil Company. He retired from the U.S. Army Reserves as a lieutenant colonel. Chapman was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors, with officers from Germany, Italy and the U.S. in attendance. As a child, his son **Gregory** visited Kentucky with his father and felt "at home" thanks to Chapman's many stories of life in Kentucky and his good years at Eastern. **Mary Stanley Potensky**, '51, on June 14, 2009. Born in Hardy, Ky., she was a retired Mingo County school teacher. **Iva Mae White Schmidt**, '54, on April 28, 2008. She taught first grade for 35 years. "There was not a child who passed through her classroom that could not read when they left her room!" reports her daughter,

**Linda Allen**. "She was a great educator, a great Christian leader and a wonderful Mother." **Roland Weirwille**, '61, on July 18, 2009. **Wierwille** was an all-around athlete in Madiera, Ohio high school, excelling in basketball, football and golf. **Weirwille** was an assistant basketball coach for Transylvania University and then head coach for Berea College. He also served on international coaching staffs, assisting the U.S. Team (Division I) in the World University Games in Japan and the Jones Cup Competition in Taiwan. While at Berea, he won 464 games and led his team to the Final Four of the NAIA Division II national tournament. In 1995 he was inducted into Eastern's Hall of Distinguished Alumni and in 1999 into the NAIA Hall of Fame. In 1997, he was honored by the National Council on Communicative Disorders for his successful comeback after suffering a stroke three years earlier. In 2005 he was named to the Mountaineer Men's Basketball Honor of Distinction. After retirement, he continued a lively interest in sports of all kinds and his former players.



**Alice May Meisenheimer**, '78, served Eastern some 20 years as greenhouse

technician for the department of agriculture. She was the wife of **Dr. John Meisenheimer**, retired Foundation Professor of Chemistry at Eastern, and lived in Orlando, Fla.


**Scott Brehm**, '82, died unexpectedly at his home on August 6, 2009. He was the East High School band director and social studies instructor for nine years in Portsmouth, Ohio, director of the Madrigals

orchestra and music director for 28 years. He was a member of the Ohio Education Association, National Education Association and the Ohio Music Education Association. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, **Lynn**, and two daughters, **Sarah Jean** and **Rachael Lynn**. **John A. Sebest** on December 23, 2008.

## Former Faculty and Staff

**Dr. Charles Franklin Ambrose** on September 4, 2009. He was professor of education from 1961 until his retirement in 1982, dean of admissions from 1964 to 1982, and the registrar from 1962 to 1969. During World War II, **Ambrose** rose from private to major in the U.S. Marine Corps. A member of the highly decorated **Carlson's Raiders**, he co-led amphibious assaults on Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He lived in Richmond with his wife, **Mildred**. **Dr. Glynn Creamer**, retired faculty member in our College of Education, on July 31, 2009 after a long battle with cancer. **Dr. Creamer** touched the lives of countless students as he taught at EKU from 1966 to 1991 and served as director of the University's office of teacher education and certification. His wife, **Effie**, taught in the nutrition program from 1966 to 1990. A scholarship fund is being established at EKU in **Dr. Creamer's** honor, and donations may be sent to the Office of University Development, CPO 19A, Eastern Kentucky University, 521 Lancaster Ave., Richmond, KY 40475. **Dr. Donald Mortland** on September 3, 2009. **Dr. Mortland** taught English at Eastern from 1971 until his retirement in 1994.

The Fall 2009 issue of *Eastern* erroneously indicated that **Kathy Strunk Eigelbach**, '80, '07, is president of the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition and the Women's Law Enforcement Network. In fact, she is past president. We regret the error. **Mrs. Eigelbach** retired as deputy chief of the St. Matthews, Ky., Police Department July 31 and is teaching criminal justice courses at several institutions.



# NOT ABOUT THE STATUS QUO

In the fall of 2008, Eastern inaugurated its first terminal degree program, a doctor of education (Ed.D.) in educational leadership and policy studies. This program will build leadership capacity and leverage educational attainment in the state and region, particularly in rural Appalachia, explains Dr. Aaron Thompson, '78, professor in the newly formed graduate department.

Thompson's expertise developing, nurturing, empowering and evaluating leaders has brought him national recognition in issues of educational attainment, motivation, ethics, cultural diversity, race/gender relations and organizational behavior, sexual harassment, police profiling and the stresses and strengths of the African-American family. His voluminous résumé presents a dizzying list of scholarly books and chapters; research presentations; workshops, seminars and professional consultations with public and private organizations, churches, law enforcement agencies, municipalities and community and campus services; as well as major academic and administrative appointments at Eastern, his *alma mater*. He is also owner of two research and training companies. Add to this a full house of six adored children and it's clear why Thompson cheerfully admits to

"not sleeping much." But his work is his passion, Thompson says, "And what I do, I like doing well."

Thompson fuels his passion with a deep sense of mission, compassion for those who suffer disenfranchisement and oppression, and optimism for the capacity of higher education to bring social justice and personal liberation. His own past teaches these lessons. The son of an illiterate coal miner in Clay County and a mother whose education stopped at the eighth grade, Aaron Thompson heeded their advice. "Get an education," his mother said, meaning finish high school. The alternative, his father warned, is work "that breaks your back." It's true, says Thompson. His father's back was literally broken by his work. With no family members as models, Thompson looked for "the smartest students" in high school, copied their study habits, read the books they knew and joined groups that built leaders. At Eastern, he did the same while working in grocery stores, finally managing a Kroger supermarket during graduate studies at the University of Kentucky.

Throughout his life, Thompson has observed his world, seeing the deep wounds of deprivation in Appalachia. He works tirelessly "to teach all kids that difference is not a negative," to build mutual empowerment and generalize his personal model of self-actualization. He builds bridges, for example recently explaining in Lexington's *Skirt* magazine that, "Once I understood with

all of my intelligences (intellectual, social and emotional) the similarities and differences that existed between people of color and women and employed that knowledge in my daily life, I officially became a feminist."

At Eastern, Thompson collaborates with faculty members in sociology, psychology and women's, international and Appalachian Studies to enhance the cultural competency of all students, starting with the academic orientation class he designed to help freshmen become more effective in a diverse society. Seven graduate students, he says proudly, will address prestigious national conferences this year, presenting their work on culturally relevant approaches to student achievement, creating positive environments and nurturing a "sense of place" in rural Appalachia. Already, theories are being field-tested. For instance, doctoral candidate April Wood, assistant principal at Rosenwald-Dunbar Elementary School in Nicholasville, Ky., is developing "cultural audits" to close achievement gaps. Thompson visits her school, reviews her data, and will help facilitate inter-cultural dialogue. Her project is only one of dozens of Thompson's commitments, but "he's always there for me," marvels Wood. "If I e-mail him after midnight, he answers me right away."

Recognizing the urgency of his work in our increasingly diverse communities, the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education recently tapped Dr. Aaron Thompson as its interim vice president for academic affairs. In Frankfort as in Richmond, Thompson will relentlessly follow the directive he gives every student: "Question the status quo – and then come up with ways to make it better."



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