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Eastern Kentucky University, Alumni Relations

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Eastern

The EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



SUMMER ISSUE 2010



WHEN YOU INVEST IN EKU YOUR GIFT LASTS A LIFETIME

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Eastern Contents

FEATURES

4

When the Earth Shook

Dr. John Rowlett, '82, was there to help in Haiti

8

Cover Story Commanding Joint Task Force Haiti

Lt. Gen. Ken Keen, '74, brings relief amid devastation

12

A Calling to Journalism

Jeff Newton, '97, captures history for *60 Minutes*

16

I Am the Brush

The healing art of Harold Adams

19

The Military Trusts Eastern

Soldiers learn safety from EKU

20

Writing Country Hits

Lee Thomas Miller, '91, earns songwriting stardom

23

EKU NOW!

High schoolers head to college

DEPARTMENTS

26 **Campus News**

27 **Class Acts**

33 **In the End**
Derek Nikitas



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AlumniMatters



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Tom Brokaw once said, "You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world." With this issue of the magazine, you will find shining examples of people who have changed the world. The education these folks received gave them the ticket to change their world and the world of others around them.

Another semester has come and gone on our Campus Beautiful. We've celebrated our Alumni Weekend 2010 honoring the reunion classes of '35, '40, '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '75 and '80, including the induction of our newest Pioneers from the Class of '60. In addition, we had our annual Hall of Distinguished Alumni awards banquet (details in the next issue).

The Eastern Kentucky University International Alumni Association is preparing the Eastern Kentucky University *Alumni Today* directory. Thank you for completing the questionnaire mailed to you and making this publication a success.

Please remember to visit our website at www.eku.edu/alumni for information on what is happening in the Alumni Association as well as on campus. Another good online resource is the EKU International Alumni Association group on Facebook. Join and get all the latest, up-to-the-minute updates on alumni news and events.

It is never too early to start planning for Homecoming 2010, October 29-31. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. As always, this brings my best wishes to you!

Jackie Collier
Director of Alumni Relations

Eastern

The Magazine of Eastern Kentucky University

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President's Perspective



I talk a lot about two somewhat intangible, but nevertheless real, concepts. These are the *Essential Eastern* and the *Power of Maroon*. I am often asked to explain what I mean by those terms. I usually explain that the *Essential Eastern* is that about the institution which endures in the face of change, that which makes Eastern special. For many it is opportunity, for others it is dedication to excellence, or commitment to service, the beauty of the place, or that special faculty or staff member who touched a life in a profound, transformational way.

For many of us — the lucky ones, at least — it is all those things. The *Power of Maroon* is how the *Essential Eastern* manifests itself through the work and service of our faculty, staff, students and alumni.

In preparation for the writing of this column, I read the articles written for this issue of *Eastern*. It occurred to me that there is a rich dose of the *Essential Eastern* and the *Power of Maroon* in the pages of this magazine.

It has only been since the early 1970s that the ECU board of regents has been able to elect its own chair. Previously, the state superintendent of public instruction (a now defunct position) served as chair of the board of all Kentucky public universities except UK, where the governor was chair. Governor Wendell Ford removed himself and the superintendent from the boards and since then each has elected its own chair. During those years, the ECU board has been chaired by nine different persons, all but three of them Eastern alumni. The latest to be elected is Gary Abney, who succeeded Hunter Bates. Gary is a lifelong resident of Richmond and a person whose love for Eastern is as great as mine. He will do a superb job, as did Hunter and the other ECU grads who have held the gavel.

There is a piece about Lee Thomas Miller, a Grammy nominated country songwriter with songs recorded by the likes of Trace Adkins and Brad Paisley.

We claim Harold Adams as an alum, though he took only one course with us. The brother of basketball great and former faculty member/coach Jack Adams, he had a distinguished career as a

physician and is now an accomplished artist. One of his pieces, which I have dubbed “The Power of Maroon,” will hang with some others permanently on our campus.

And there is an article featuring Billy Abney, a national leader in safety education, who is thrusting us into a prime role as an educational provider to the U.S. military.

Then there are three remarkable stories of service. Each is about a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University whom fate placed in Haiti and how each used the skills of his craft to serve and report in response to that earthquake-caused human tragedy of epic proportions. These stories moved me, not only because I feel a bond to each of these men — one the son of a dear friend, one a fellow graduate of our ROTC program, and the other, like me, a former *Eastern Progress* staff member — but also because through them we have three powerful examples of the extension of Eastern’s service mission through her graduates. I hope you are as proud of these three as I am.

You can read more about the remarkable accomplishments and work of Dr. John Rowlett, Lieutenant General Ken Keen, and Jeff Newton on the inside pages of this magazine. As you do, I hope you will reflect on the following:

Nowhere have I seen the *Essential Eastern* and the *Power of Maroon* more strongly reflected than in the stories of Dr. John Rowlett, Gen. Ken Keen, and Jeff Newton. Commitment to excellence, selfless service, seizing opportunity and a remarkable work ethic are traits each of these men display. They also each recognize the impact Eastern had on their lives.

Coincidentally, on March 12 I had an opportunity to visit with Mary Ellen Keen, Ken’s wife, at an ECU alumni event in Deerfield Beach, Florida. I asked her if he aspired to a fourth star. I was not truly surprised by her thoughtful answer. “You know, he never really aspired to the three that he has,” she said. The message was that during his career it has not been about him. It has been about the mission. It has been about the task at hand. It has been about service to others. I think I know John Rowlett and Jeff Newton well enough to say that they, too, are servant leaders in their professions.

My hope for you is that you will read all these articles exactly the way I did. That was with a swell of pride in my heart and with a tear in my eye.

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



when Earth Shook

Dr. John Rowlett was there to help in Haiti



A few years ago in Savannah, Ga., pediatric emergency physician Dr. John Rowlett, '82, listened with horror to his wife Sharon's account of the public health conditions she observed as a registered nurse on a medical mission to Haiti. She had four words for her husband, "You have to go." Last fall, Rowlett's partner, Dr. Brian Kornblatt, invited John and Sharon to join a medical team organized through Grace Church of the Islands, a small Savannah church, to serve a tiny community near Cabaret, northeast of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. "Yes," said the Rowletts, "we'll go."

The 14-member team arrived on Saturday, January 9, 2010. They could not know that Cabaret was a mere 21 miles from the epicenter

of a coming magnitude 7.0 earthquake. They found an impoverished community of 10'x10' cement block homes without electricity or plumbing. The team would focus on assessing public health needs, creating basic medical records and building partnerships for a sustainable medical presence. Thus, their treatment supplies were rudimentary: some antibiotics, antiparasitics and dermatological products. Dr. Rowlett began organizing a pediatric immunization program. Since the local mission compound did have a generator and satellite connection, he explored options for Internet-based diagnosis and treatment. "I could be your pediatrician in Savannah," he told local leaders. As the box on p. 6 shows, the needs were enormous.

On Tuesday afternoon, January 12, 2010, Dr. Rowlett was working on his immunization program. Strange things started happening. His chair felt more wobbly than usual. Water seemed to slosh in bottles. At first Rowlett absently blamed a little stomach queasiness and kept working. Then came the roaring “loud as a train.” The air filled with screams of terrified Haitians as the ground shook for the half minute that seemed an eternity.

Rowlett notes the grim “luck” of Cabaret: in a village of cement shacks, there is not much to shake down and little infrastructure to destroy. The team treated lacerations, head injuries and a few crushed bones, still unaware of the larger horror.

The island’s devastation was clear by sunrise as long lines of the wounded formed outside the clinic, some carried on mattresses or makeshift carts. Sharon Rowlett swiftly organized supplies, procedures and triage so that Drs. Kornblatt and Rowlett could focus on treatment. A former Green Beret on the team made splints from bamboo shoots lashed with palm fronds. “We had to be creative,” says Dr. Rowlett. In the chaotic aftermath of the earthquake, news of a functioning clinic spread widely. A government official was brought from Port-au-Prince for treatment. Anesthesia left over from a dental clinic was soon exhausted. A child had to be held down to set a compound fracture in his leg. A man’s ear was reattached. Bits of concrete were extracted from a toddler’s eye. In the next few days the team would treat more than 200 patients, working as long as there was light to see.

Trauma care is “routine” to Dr. John Rowlett, director of pediatric emergency medicine for Georgia Emergency Associates, which serves six hospitals and three urgent care centers, averaging 300,000 patient visits per year. Trauma patients, once stabilized, are transferred to hospitals and other advanced treatment centers. In Haiti, however, “we were often the beginning and the end of these people’s care and had to make major decisions without medical records or promise of follow-up. We did what we could.”

Via satellite hookup, the team linked with worried friends, family and the congregation back at Grace Church. There was no audio, reports Pastor Brannon Bowman, but it was enough to see that the team was safe and helping where the need was most urgent. Now to get them home. Pastor Bowman and others worked with U.S. Representative Jack Kingston’s office and private channels to arrange an airlift out of the shattered country. On Saturday, the team waited 10 hours on the tarmac for a flight to Florida. “Nobody complained,” recalls Dr. Rowlett.

While it’s possible to see the team’s presence in Haiti at the moment of the earthquake as fortunate coincidence, John Rowlett sees deeper principles of “foundations and reinforcements.” He and his wife survived a 7.0 earthquake because their building’s cement walls were reinforced. Similarly, Haitian communities like Cabaret need the foundation of a permanent medical presence, reinforced by supplies, technical assistance and a working infrastructure.

“The same principle holds for Eastern Kentucky University and any successful institution of higher education,” Rowlett writes. “A strong foundation must be reinforced on a regular basis.” Thus, Rowlett generously supports the ongoing mission of the university with time, talent and contributions. In doing so, he draws on family traditions and values deeply interwoven with Eastern.

Public Health in Haiti

- Mortality rate: 1,057 per 100,000, the highest in the Americas
- Mortality rate for children under five: 80 per 1,000 live births
- 80% of the population is below the poverty line
- 60% of rural populations lack basic health services
- 50% of school children suffer chronic malnutrition
- Less than 50% of children receive basic immunization

Source: UNICEF

That interweaving began in the early 1950’s, when a certain Mary Anne Mason won “the hardest A” she ever made from a young Eastern Kentucky State College professor recently arrived from Texas, Dr. John D. Rowlett. Having graduated in 1954, she and Professor Rowlett married and began their life in Richmond, where the university was simply “home.” All four of their children would graduate from Eastern, and Professor Rowlett would serve the university for 42 years, first on the industrial arts faculty and then for 21 years as vice president for academic affairs and research until his retirement in 1993.

The young John Rowlett attended the Model School on Eastern’s campus. Legions of Eastern faculty were guests at the family home in Richmond. Faculty members gave the precocious 12 year old pointers on his tennis game, a sport which, in a roundabout way, brought him

The Rowlett family gives back and gives forward

When Dr. John Rowlett's father died in 2004, the family wanted to honor the late Dr. John D. Rowlett's long service to Eastern, his vision of his role as "a teacher's teacher" and his core conviction that "the heart of the institution is a well-qualified faculty."

Debra Rowlett King, '76; Janet Rowlett Robinson, '79; John Rowlett, Virginia Rowlett Fairchild, '87, and their mother, the late Mary Anne Rowlett, '54, recalled a time early in Dr. John D. Rowlett's academic career when he had the chance to deliver a major presentation in Florida. Because there were no department funds for travel, he took out a personal loan from his Richmond bank. Years later, as vice president for academic affairs and research, Dr. Rowlett did all in his power to support and nurture talented young faculty members, helping to develop innovative structures like the Teaching and Learning Center and the Society of Foundation Professors.

Working closely with Eastern's Development Office, the family created the John D. Rowlett Fund for Faculty Professional Development to serve "as a voice for excellence in teaching, scholarship/creative activities and service throughout the University." Through the work of the Fund, the mission of the "teacher's teacher" continues and the foundations of Eastern are reinforced at the core: its faculty.

For more information about the John D. Rowlett Fund for Faculty Professional Development or to learn about giving opportunities, please contact Jessica Coleman Hastings, director of regional advancement, at (859) 622-1583 or visit www.eku.edu/development.

“

If I had to sum up my life's work in one sentence, it would be that I have used my energy and whatever talent I have, in both direct and indirect ways, in unlocking and nurturing the potential of the common people of Kentucky who have chosen to study with us at Eastern. I have a strong identification with them because... I am one of them."

Dr. John D. Rowlett
(1928-2004)



to medicine. One Saturday Dr. Eugene Bowling, "everyone's family doctor," challenged the young man to a game. "He had to make a house call first and invited me to tag along," Rowlett recalls. Bowling's quiet professionalism, dedication and gracious acceptance of a quart of motor oil as payment from a country woman all made an indelible impression on John, who determined that "being a doctor would be a good way to spend my working life."

Ten years later, after his first pediatrics rotation at the University of Kentucky, the freshly minted Dr. John Rowlett called home and told his mother that he had found his calling. "I'm a pediatrician," he declared.

Today, from his Savannah, Ga., base, Dr. Rowlett is a practicing pediatrician, a partner in Georgia Emergency Associates with shifts at St. Joseph East in Lexington, Ky., a faculty member at the Medical College of Georgia, South College (Savannah) and Mercer University School of Medicine, and he does occasional teaching at Eastern. He tirelessly advocates for youth, from delivering professional lectures like "Help! There's an adolescent in my ER!" to lobbying state legislators on child health and wellness issues. In his "spare time" Rowlett explores ways that digital technologies can bring medical expertise to a beleaguered clinic in rural Haiti. He keeps his suitcase handy. "There are schoolchildren down there," he says simply. "I'll be back."

Commanding Joint



Task Force HAITI

LT. GEN. KEN KEEN, '74, brings relief amid devastation



In the dust-choked hours after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti on January 10, Lieutenant General P. Kenneth Keen, '74, Military Commander of the U.S. Southern Command, took on a new role: Commander of Joint Task Force Haiti in Operation Unified Response. Charged to “mitigate near-term human suffering and accelerate relief,” he worked closely with the Department of State and USAID, United Nations agencies such as the World Food Program and World Health Organization, the government of Haiti, other international partners and non-governmental agencies (NGOs). A broadly experienced, highly decorated three star general, Keen faced a task of monumental proportions, bringing relief and recovery to the poorest nation in Latin America following what has been termed the most destructive natural disaster of modern times.

In March, General Keen carved time from his packed schedule (see “A day with the General”) to speak to readers of *Eastern* magazine about the challenges of this task, the progress of recovery and his debt to *Eastern*.

The scope of the disaster bears repeating: an estimated 230,000 dead and 300,000 injured; nearly 1,000,000 homeless; and 30,000 commercial buildings collapsed or severely damaged. The simple fact that Haiti is an island and all supplies must be flown or shipped in complicated initial relief efforts, a process described by Vice President Joe Biden as

“pushing a bowling ball through a soda straw.” Even before the earthquake, Toussaint Louverture International Airport could land only 13 flights per day. While the formidable resources of the 82nd Airborne Division were ready within hours’ notice, Haiti lacked the infrastructure to transport and maintain them. The badly damaged seaport could not receive major cargo. Enough rubble clogged Port-au-Prince to fill, by one estimate, one thousand trucks laboring for one thousand days. Only one hospital was standing. Communication and transportation infrastructures were fractured. While some supplies were eventually hauled overland from the Dominican Republic, the “highway” reminded General Keen of winding mountain roads near his native Hyden, Ky. Narrow shoulders with sheer drop-offs made treacherous passage for heavily laden vehicles.

The challenges facing the people were enormous, reports General Keen: “Around 80% unemployment, abject poverty – the worst of the worst in Port-au-Prince [with many people] almost totally dependent on handouts for food and water. They survived by the generosity of those in the United States and other countries and the work of the international community.” Nearly 450 displaced persons camps housing more than 700,000 people sprang up all around the city. Lucky families had a tarp for covering; many huddled under bed sheets. Almost as quickly as the camps appeared, systematic efforts were underway to move them to



A day with the General

General Keen's typical day circled the military clock:

0500 – 0700:
wake, review news and staff reports, coffee

0700 – 1100:
teleconference to Miami with General Douglas M. Fraser, Commander, U.S. Southern Command; staff meetings and events with ambassadors, heads of relief agencies, military leaders and the press

1100 – 1700:
on location in the field, inspecting camps and relief/recovery operations; speaking to military personnel, NGOs, Haitian leaders and earthquake victims, often accompanied by reporters (for instance, Jeff Newton, '97, of *60 Minutes*, whose story is in this issue)

1800 – 1830:
telephone conference with command headquarters

1830 – 2200:
staff meetings, directions to staff, office meetings

2200 – 2300:
prepare situation report for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, final email report to General Fraser



DoD photo by Logistics Specialist 1st Class Kelly Chastain, U.S. Navy/Released



Photo courtesy of Maj. Betsy Ross, USAF

alternate locations, safe from the mid-April rains. Barefoot children ankle-deep in mud greeted General Keen during a visit to one such camp. “It sat on the edge of a major river bed running through the city. Then it was not much more than a creek but it would be a raging river come the rainy season, presenting high risk to these children and their families. We went there to talk about moving all of them to a settlement we were establishing with the government of Haiti. They agreed it would be a good idea.”

While the challenges were huge, General Keen reports that astonishing progress was made, beginning with the most successful rescue operation in history. One hundred and twenty people were pulled alive from the rubble. A former Eastern math major, General Keen and his staff confronted the complex calculus of prioritizing and timing arrivals of relief materials, personnel and equipment. Cargo planes with relief supplies, for instance, can't be landed until there are unloading, transport and delivery systems and personnel in place. Medical professionals need field hospitals and supplies, power and clean water. Day by day military teams created the necessary miracles.

Within 24 hours of the quake, the command had planes landing on grass. With a portable control tower and new runways, the airport reached a sustained capacity of 120 flights per day. Underwater engineers assessed port damage. Then, with heavy machinery from the Coast Guard cutter *Oak*, the port was repaired; robust artificial piers increased pre-quake capacity five-fold. With international partners, water supply was returned to two million people. The thousand-bed hospital ship *USNS Comfort* docked offshore, with

additional field hospitals flown in from aircraft and helicopter carriers. By late February, 90,000 people had received medical treatment, 1,100 surgeries had been performed and 17 million pounds of bulk food given out, with distribution systems being stabilized for civilian control. While the work of the hundreds of NGOs operating in Haiti was critical, creating this infrastructure of relief, insists General Keen, required resources on a military scale.

Cooperation between international groups, the Haitian government and NGOs was extraordinary. General Keen notes proudly that there were no food riots or significant looting in the weeks after the earthquake and no major disease outbreak. Schools reopened under tents and an aggressive preventive health campaign included mass inoculations and major clean water supply and sanitation initiatives. Complex partnerships were essential. For example, as U.S. military engineers identified safer rainy season locations for refugee camps, prepared the land and created temporary sanitation systems, the Haitian government negotiated land use with private owners. U.S. military, USAID personnel and United Nations agencies worked together to facilitate mass relocation efforts.

Since the goal of this relief effort was recovery and self-sufficiency, General Keen is pleased to report the number of Haitians hired by USAID and NGOs moved steadily toward a goal of 100,000 new jobs, each one helping individuals, families and communities construct what he calls “a new vision for Haiti.” He sees hope, too, “in the faces and smiles of the children. They are everywhere and it seems they are always smiling and saying thank you. They love to have their pictures taken and ‘bump fists.’”



DoD photo by Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Spike Call, U.S. Navy/Released

ROTC scholarship for the promising young cadet. “My mother was making great sacrifices for me to go to Eastern, and that scholarship really helped,” Keen recalls.

Over the years General Keen has found gratification in regularly returning to Eastern to talk to cadets and see new programs and facilities on campus. He was the guest speaker at a diversity conference for Veterans Day. His “passion and easy manner,” says Lieutenant Colonel Rich Livingston, commander of Eastern’s Army ROTC battalion, “impresses and inspires the cadets. He listens, cares deeply about people and is a true leader by example.”

While General Keen’s crisis management assignment in Haiti has been completed and he has taken a new assignment, he asks that Eastern alumni continue to be mindful of the ongoing struggle of the Haitian people to rebuild their lives and communities. He urges support for earthquake relief through contributions to the Red Cross (www.RedCross.org) or World Vision (www.worldvision.org/HaitiRelief).

Looking back on his mission to Haiti, General Keen points with admiration to the courage and resilience of the Haitian people. He looks as well to the daily miracles that followed January’s devastation, when thousands bent their wills, their resources, and their skills to bring hope and help to a wounded island. In those difficult weeks, a true leader helped make those miracles a daily mission.

These children and families are most appreciative of all our nation has done for them to support their recovery efforts.”

Like any good leader, General Keen is quick to credit the men and women in his command, “trained for crisis and the unexpected,” ready to deploy without notice, taking deep personal and professional pride in the opportunity to bring relief, security and hope to the Haitian people. His own preparation included coordinating Army relief after Hurricane Andrew in 1992 with the 18th Airborne Command and assisting recovery after Hurricane Rita in 2005. Keen’s compassion for victims of natural disaster has root in personal experience. When he was six, a flood in Hyden, Ky. washed away the family home.

When stationed in Haiti, General Keen was lodged in a U.S. Embassy compound while his wife, Mary Ellen Hume Keen, ’75, lived in Florida. Without hesitation, the General calls her “the better soldier of the two, with the heavier rucksack to carry.” Raising their three children, she has negotiated 22 moves in the 36 years of their marriage, a life defined by service. “I’ve been in the Army one day longer than I’ve been married,” he admits.

Yet Keen came to Eastern fully prepared to be a math teacher like his father. Still, an adventurous, outdoor-loving young man, during Orientation Week he was immediately attracted by the figure of Major Harley C. Davis, a senior member of Eastern’s ROTC cadre (then the second largest unit in the country). Major Davis described military life and his own service in Vietnam to Keen, concluding, “You need to try this out.” In the next years, Keen’s military interest bloomed under the mentorship of Major Davis, who helped arrange an

About Lieutenant General Ken Keen

“Kenny has prepared for this crisis all his life,” says cousin Doug Pace. One of only 53 three star generals in the U.S. Army, Lieutenant General Keen is Military Deputy Commander of the U.S. Southern Command, which conducts military operations and promotes security cooperation throughout the 16 million square miles of Latin America and the Caribbean.

He has commanded Light Airborne Infantry, Ranger and Special Forces units and led U.S. operations in Colombia, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq and Panama as well as serving in Operations Just Cause and Desert Storm. While stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., Col. Keen served as commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment. His awards and decorations include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal and Legion of Merit. His education includes a master’s degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Florida, the U.S. Army War College and the Brazilian Command and General Staff College in Rio De Janeiro. General Keen speaks both Spanish and Portuguese.

Special thanks to Major Betsy Ross, USAF, U.S. Southern Command, for her generous assistance gathering information and images in support of this story.



Lt. Gen. Ken Keen, ’74, Commander of Joint Task Force Haiti, wears a “Colonels 4 Haiti” shirt during a visit to a displaced persons camp in Port-au-Prince. Eastern’s Student Alumni Ambassadors sold 250 t-shirts with all proceeds going to Christian Flights International for the benefit of Haiti. Between t-shirt sales and generous support from ECU Campus Recreation, the Office of Student Life and the Student Government Association, enough money was raised to sponsor a teacher in Ranquitte, Haiti, for one year.



Calling to Journalism

Jeff Newton, '97, captures history for *60 Minutes*

Embedded with the 82nd Airborne Division, Jeff Newton, '97, Emmy award-winning producer for *60 Minutes*, was in Port-au-Prince in January and February to cover the Haiti earthquake story. Actor Sean Penn, director of the Jenkins-Penn Haitian Relief Organization, would be meeting with Lieutenant General Ken Keen, '74, commander of Operation Unified Response. In his background research, Newton discovered that both he and Keen are Eastern graduates (see General Keen's story in this issue). "We shared a little alumni moment," Newton recalls, and then both went back to the press of work.

Normally reporting from Iraq and Afghanistan, Newton noted one advantage of this Haiti assignment for *CBS Sunday Morning*: "Nobody was trying to kill me." Yet in nearly 20 years in war zones he had never seen such devastation nor so many in need. While most journalists stayed in the capital, Newton recorded scenes of chronic, heartbreaking poverty in regions of Haiti untouched by the earthquake, going beyond headlines to create a broader picture that might move more people to act.

"Journalism is my calling," Newton told Eastern students on receiving a 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the department of communication. This calling is deeply rewarding. It has taken him where history is changing, meeting people who are creating change. It also requires the

relentless, often tedious work of "mining" for the true story, born of a deep obligation to bear witness, to "shed light on the wrongs of the world." His work comes with danger. Newton has been shot at, his Humvee blown up, his arm raked by friendly fire, team members ambushed, kidnapped and killed. Years of experience have taught Newton how to make smarter choices in dangerous places, but experience doesn't stop the fear, and he insists that he has no death wish. He *does* have a job to do and a deeper, professional fear of putting himself in harm's way and not returning with the story.

Time and again, Newton has gotten the story and major recognition. In 2006, he shared the Overseas Press Club of America's David Kaplan Award for "Best TV Spot News Reporting From Abroad" for *CBS Evening News* coverage of "Ramadi Embed." Working for *CBS 60 Minutes* to produce "Ramadi: On the Front Line," he and Lara Logan, CBS chief foreign affairs correspondent, lived with a Marine unit defending a town hall in central Iraq. Using handheld cameras, they recorded the constant attacks, the deprivations, terror and isolation of the troops. The series won an Overseas Press Club award, a Radio Television Digital News Association Edward R. Murrow Award and a 2007 News and Documentary Emmy. (See "Jeff Newton Online" on p. 15 for links to segments of Newton's work and Logan's powerful acceptance speech.) Newton was gratified by the network's support of the project and willingness to "see beyond the guns" to the basic human story of young men surviving in the most violent city of Iraq. But since he has little space for an Emmy in cramped "embed" quarters or in the tiny Brooklyn apartment he keeps for home leave, he packed up the award and gave it to his mother for Christmas.

Tracing his career path from Louisville, Ky.'s, Atherton High School newspaper (where he was edged out of the editorship) to *60 Minutes* staffer, Newton credits focus and hard work. He certainly wasn't a stellar student. However, he saw in Eastern "a place to grow... a beautiful place of possibility." Editing the *Eastern Progress*, he saw his future in journalism and learned the discipline of deadlines. Journalism professors Elizabeth Hansen and Elizabeth Fraas (former faculty advisor to the *Progress*) "recognized that I could make something of myself – if I didn't flunk out." Newton came to Eastern as a natural reporter, Dr. Fraas remembers, keenly aggressive and persistent, "but he made himself a good writer," reading widely, analyzing great reporters' work and creating now-iconic *Progress* features like a series on a student killed by a drunk driver that Hansen describes as "gut-wrenching." The night of January 16, 1991, Newton recalled his staff after a 12 hour workday, tore out and remade the front page, announcing the bombing of Baghdad. The headline "WAR!" greeted students in the morning. Framed before-and-after front pages hang in the *Progress* office and staffers still describe the Newton era as "legendary."

Energized by his *Progress* apprenticeship, Newton left Eastern before graduating to grab a fellowship with the national university magazine insert *U*. Well paid in California, he honed his skills and learned to surf but says he was "miserable," that is, too comfortable. The solution was a 90% pay cut to work in Prague, Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic), in the heady aftermath of the Velvet Revolution and the fall of the Berlin Wall, writing for *Prognosis*, the region's first English-language newspaper. He was living on "bread and beer but watching the world change in front of me." Less than two years out of college, Newton had become a foreign correspondent, covering Bosnia for *Prognosis* in some of the darkest, most brutal days of the war in ex-Yugoslavia. While constantly thinking, "I'm going to get killed today," he discovered in war zones the best and worst in humanity and the most elemental of literary themes: man against man, against nature, against himself and against society.

Back in Kentucky in 1993, a job with the *Elizabethtown News-Enterprise* taught humility and the discipline of detail. Accustomed to the literary preferences of the cosmopolitan *Prognosis* audience and the grand theater of war, Newton now worked for readers who "really cared about the mayor's middle initial." He polished his basics and plunged into military reporting. Covering Fort Knox, he became fascinated by "this giant institution with all its faults and power." A 1996 move to the *Fayetteville Observer* in North Carolina produced a highly lauded investigative series on fraud, waste and abuse at Fort Bragg and three major career developments. First, heeding his mother's "broken record" of appeals to finish his Eastern degree, he designed and executed an impressive independent study and graduated

in 1997. Second, still primarily working in print, Newton foresaw that success in 21st century journalism would demand a broader skill set. He bought a camcorder, taught himself editing and began producing small projects. Finally, after a few overseas assignments out of Fort Bragg, Newton took the plunge to freelance, covering Iraq and Afghanistan with his own equipment, constantly testing and growing his video skills.

After September 11, 2001, he traveled to Afghanistan, working solo on projects he sold to ABC, CBS and NBC. There he met Lara Logan, a South African journalist often embedded with American forces. She hired Newton as a freelance producer for *60 Minutes II*, the CBS Wednesday evening news program. By 2005, he was on staff at *60 Minutes*, at first working with correspondents Dan Rather, Scott Pelley and Bob Simon and then exclusively with Logan. Exactly as his Eastern professors Hansen and Fraas had predicted, Newton had "made something of himself," a direct product of his relentless drive to succeed and dedicated apprenticeship. And, he admits, his mother had been right: having a college degree did make a difference to CBS.

Embedded with combat units, moving between embattled borders and living rough in military outposts, Newton has perfected "backpack journalism," producing gripping footage without three-point lighting setups, two-camera coverage and the silky pans of high-end documentary footage. For his acclaimed 2003 piece for *60 Minutes*, "Inside Bravo Company," Newton used a camping headlight and a hand-held camera to unobtrusively record soldiers sharing their private fears, longing for home, critiques of far-away military strategists and endlessly refined tactics to stay alive for one more day.

Now in his early 40's, having traveled to nearly 70 countries and survived war zones by skill and "blind luck," Jeff Newton sees himself entering a "bonus life." At the top of his craft, with his work acclaimed by peers, Newton keeps up a relentless pace, staying abreast of current events and emerging issues, researching and producing five stories a year for *60 Minutes* as well as segments for CBS programs such as *Sunday Morning*. He closely follows the evolution of the media industry: staff reductions, the closing of foreign offices and rapid consolidation of media sources. He sees cell phone images, Skype and Twitter feeds by amateurs scooping networks on breaking news. But true journalism, Newton insists, always has its place, and it's not just about the scoop. It's about the story, the people behind it, and the careful, painstaking work of analyzing situations and forces that create the news. It's about presenting these stories powerfully and economically in word and image. Whether or not he's covering war zones, Jeff Newton will be embedded in journalism. And he'll remember how his calling matured at Eastern, that "beautiful place of possibility" where he discovered in the *Progress* office a way to reinvent himself, to begin crafting stories that make a difference in the world.

Jeff Newton Online

For segments of "Ramadi: On the Front Line":

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=1505497n&tag=related;photovideo>

For producer Lara Logan's Emmy acceptance speech:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSD7xoMloNA>

For a Q&A with Jeff Newton for Overseas Press Club of America:

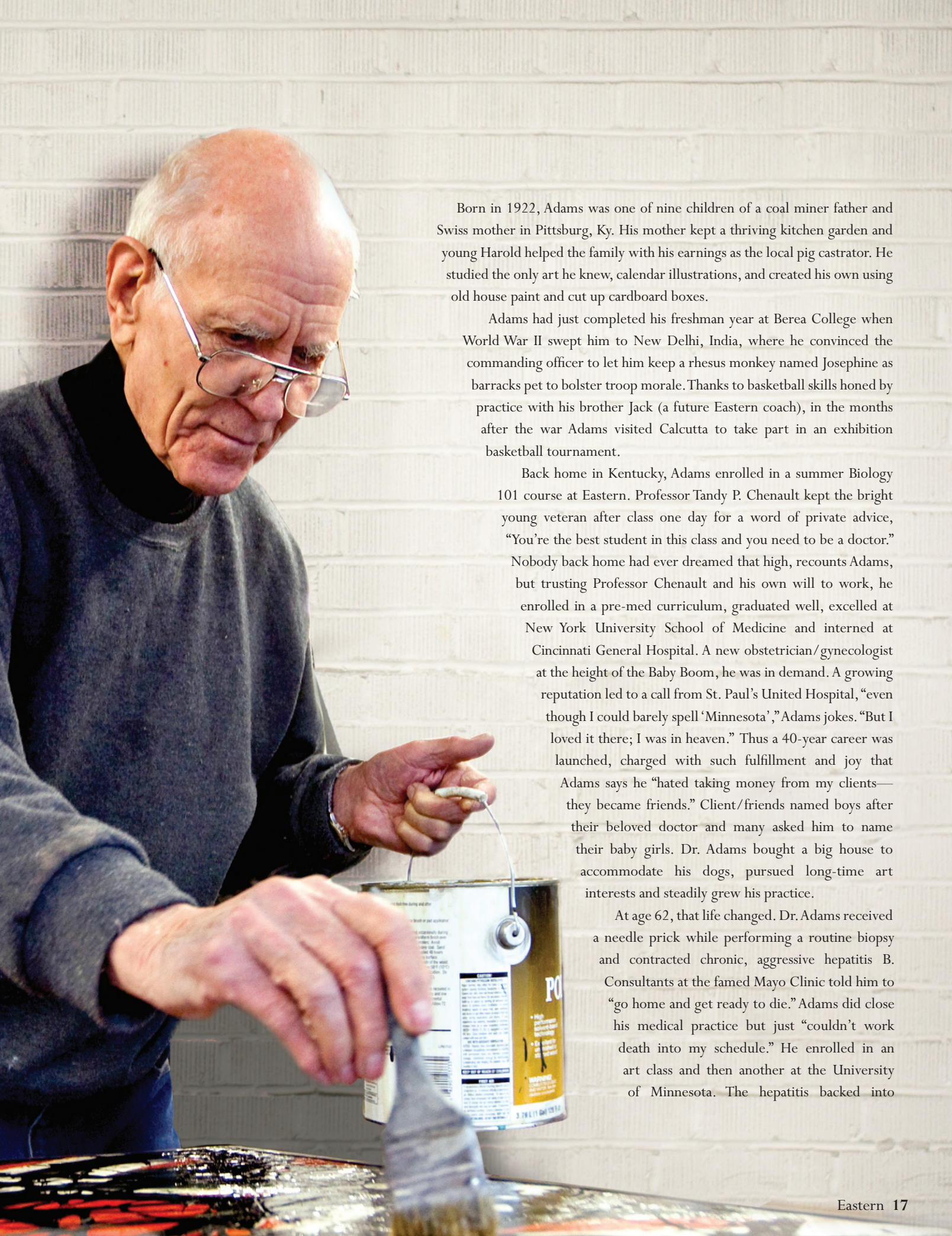
www.opcofamerica.org/news/qa-jeff-newton



“I AM THE BRUSH”

HOW ART SAVED THE LIFE OF HAROLD ADAMS

“It isn’t given to us to know those rare moments when people are wide open,” F. Scott Fitzgerald once wrote. How many Eastern alumni have had their lives shaped by a professor’s comment or suggestion? Such a moment came to Dr. Harold Adams in the summer of 1946 at Eastern, launching him on a stellar career in medicine. Now 87 and once again living in Richmond, Ky., Adams has a flourishing second career as an abstract expressionist. His oversized oil paintings were exhibited in Eastern’s Giles Gallery last fall, and five spectacular works have been donated to the university. President Doug Whitlock cherishes these gifts both for their aesthetic value and for their witness to a passionate life’s journey which has steadily seized opportunities for service and fulfillment.



Born in 1922, Adams was one of nine children of a coal miner father and Swiss mother in Pittsburg, Ky. His mother kept a thriving kitchen garden and young Harold helped the family with his earnings as the local pig castrator. He studied the only art he knew, calendar illustrations, and created his own using old house paint and cut up cardboard boxes.

Adams had just completed his freshman year at Berea College when World War II swept him to New Delhi, India, where he convinced the commanding officer to let him keep a rhesus monkey named Josephine as barracks pet to bolster troop morale. Thanks to basketball skills honed by practice with his brother Jack (a future Eastern coach), in the months after the war Adams visited Calcutta to take part in an exhibition basketball tournament.

Back home in Kentucky, Adams enrolled in a summer Biology 101 course at Eastern. Professor Tandy P. Chenault kept the bright young veteran after class one day for a word of private advice, “You’re the best student in this class and you need to be a doctor.” Nobody back home had ever dreamed that high, recounts Adams, but trusting Professor Chenault and his own will to work, he enrolled in a pre-med curriculum, graduated well, excelled at New York University School of Medicine and interned at Cincinnati General Hospital. A new obstetrician/gynecologist at the height of the Baby Boom, he was in demand. A growing reputation led to a call from St. Paul’s United Hospital, “even though I could barely spell ‘Minnesota,’” Adams jokes. “But I loved it there; I was in heaven.” Thus a 40-year career was launched, charged with such fulfillment and joy that Adams says he “hated taking money from my clients—they became friends.” Client/friends named boys after their beloved doctor and many asked him to name their baby girls. Dr. Adams bought a big house to accommodate his dogs, pursued long-time art interests and steadily grew his practice.

At age 62, that life changed. Dr. Adams received a needle prick while performing a routine biopsy and contracted chronic, aggressive hepatitis B. Consultants at the famed Mayo Clinic told him to “go home and get ready to die.” Adams did close his medical practice but just “couldn’t work death into my schedule.” He enrolled in an art class and then another at the University of Minnesota. The hepatitis backed into



remission. “You *could* get an M.F.A.,” a teacher suggested, and he did, with a 4.0 GPA, a certificate naming him the best student the program ever had and a thesis crediting art with his healing: “Something in my body revved up my immune system. The virus disappeared...I believe that painting cured me.”

Launched in a new career but longing for “home,” Adams returned to Richmond, “the city that put me in medicine,” and moved in with “baby brother” Jack Adams, ’56, and sister-in-law Barbara Bell Adams, ’57. (Many Eastern alumni will remember Jack Adams’ stellar basketball career, 1952-1956, his years as head tennis coach and assistant basketball coach, and his membership in the Athletics Hall of Fame and on the All-Century Team.) Now comfortably housed with his two beloved schnauzer dogs, Harold Adams set up a painting studio in the basement where he works four to six hours a day. “Painting is like prayer,” he says. “I need it every day.”

Adams’ style is drawn from the post-World War II abstract impressionism pioneered by Jackson Pollock. Adams recounts the explosive effect of a 1949 Pollock exhibit in New York City. “It’s as fresh in my mind as if it were yesterday,” he says. Esther Randall, director of Giles Gallery, resists labeling Adams’ work. She does offer the term “joyous” and calls the pieces “a unique way to engage the world and life.”

At work in his basement studio, Adams lays his canvas flat, working on three or four at a time. He builds textures with paint, often house paint, creating layered images which some viewers call “moonscapes.” The physical demands of his large, 3’ x 4’ pieces are significant, with sanding and grinding apparatus, face masks, full-bodied brush strokes

and significant weights of paint. Yet the “work” of painting is forgotten in an ongoing “conversation with the pieces.” The paintings “tell me what to do next.” One canvas “talks” to the next, revealing possibilities and connections. “I’m just the brush. I listen.” The subjects, whether or not they are literally recognized by the viewer, are often illnesses and express the process of living with the body’s conditions, drawing from a deep understanding of human anatomy, winged by imagination.

Canvases by Adams have been gratefully received in galleries and hospital collections from Alaska to Kentucky. Pieces hang in the Mayo Clinic, at Berea College and have been donated to St. Joseph Hospital,

London, Ky., due for completion later this year near his family’s Laurel County home. Lisa Rutherford, chair of the hospital’s aesthetics committee, speaks enthusiastically of the power of Adams’ paintings in a healing environment. Adams refuses to take money for his work. “Art is my life,” he insists, “and I like to help people.”

At the opening of his fall 2009 exhibit at the Giles Gallery, Adams stood for hours welcoming interactions with Eastern students, faculty and administration. “When I saw the installation,” he confides, “I couldn’t believe I was the one who did it. I choked up.” He toured the art studio facilities of the Campbell Building with enthusiastic interest, claiming that if he had the youth and the health he’d *pay* to teach art to such students.

Although recent tests reveal no hepatitis activity, Adams unfortunately has other serious health issues, “but I have an awful hard time finding anything to complain about. I’m a lucky man.” Adams offers this advice for those seeking longevity and fulfillment: “Paint or do art every day and get yourself a schnauzer puppy right away!”

“One is immediately struck by the intriguing surface quality in the paintings of Dr. Harold Adams, mixing gorgeous pattern, rich surface and assertive gesture, very different from Renaissance art in which the viewer is invited to look into the ‘window’ of the painting to observe a recognizable landscape, figure or still life. Not only does Adams use paint to create his image, but he also uses a palm sander to reduce the image. This reductive method creates a sense of process. By sanding, Adams reveals the previous rich layers of paint, allowing the viewer to look closely and discover which colors and values he painted first.”

Isaac Powell Assistant Professor Department of Art & Design

FOR SAFETY TRAINING, THE MILITARY TRUSTS EASTERN

Eastern is providing an increasing array of OSHA-approved courses to the U.S. Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The military "puts its faith and trust in us because we are one of the lead safety training universities in the nation," says Bill Abney, '73, retired assistant professor in the College of Justice & Safety.

In 2007, the United States Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center partnered with Eastern's continuing education and outreach program and Westar Aerospace & Defense Group, Inc. to offer specialized safety courses at Ft. Rucker, Ala. Each year, the military expanded that partnership, adding more OSHA courses as well as customized specialty courses for the Army and Marine Corps. For instance, in February a fire safety course taught on Eastern's campus analyzed a variety of live burn scenarios in the fire lab.

This year, for the first time, the Army and Marine Corps is working directly with Eastern, drawn by an outstanding coupling of facilities and teaching expertise. In 2010 three OSHA-qualified courses are being offered at Ft. Rucker: CP-12, a safety training program for career safety personnel; a ground safety officer course; and an air safety officer course. Course material includes construction and electrical standards and safety, hazardous materials, ergonomics, life safety, machine guarding, record keeping, industrial hygiene, and confined space and general industry standards.

Teaching the military personnel are Dr. Gary Brown of Eastern's department of environmental health sciences as well as Bill Abney, Bill Hicks and Ron Hopkins, retired faculty from the College of Justice & Safety's department of safety, security and emergency management. In an agreement signed by President Doug Whitlock and Dr. Brenda Miller, senior safety advisor at Ft. Rucker, up to 12 hours of graduate credit is available to those who successfully complete CP-12 training.

The courses will provide more than 40 weeks of training at Ft. Rucker, reaching a projected 1,500 students. Many of these students will soon be working as tactical safety specialists in Iraq and Afghanistan. All fifteen of the active duty Marines in CP-12 will deploy, as will Army and Marine safety specialists in an Eastern "surge course." Abney predicts an international attendance for an upcoming special fire protection course offered on campus and anticipates 43 weeks of Eastern presence at Ft. Rucker in 2011.

After a career of university teaching and work with Fortune 500 companies, Bill Abney has nothing but praise for his military students. A colonel may sit next to a sergeant, a mix of officers and enlisted personnel which is unusual in the military. "They're polite, disciplined and motivated," Abney says. "You give them a ten minute break and by nine minutes, thirty seconds they're back in their seats, ready to work." In Richmond and at Ft. Rucker, these students are profoundly aware of the lives that rest on their mastery of this material. And the U.S. military, recognizing the profound importance of combat-ready safety standards, is steadily increasing its reliance on Eastern.



WRITING COUNTRY HITS



Photo Courtesy of American Songwriter Magazine

LEE THOMAS MILLER, '91, FOLLOWED HIS DREAM

"I'm living a fantasy," declared country music songwriter Lee Thomas Miller in 2008 of his string of hits and third Grammy nomination. "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." Miller posts his formula for success in his new blog (www.leethomasmiller.com): "God gave me a thimble full of talent and an ocean full of 'want it bad'."

Lee Thomas Miller looks back at the path that led to his office on Music Row in Nashville, that clutch of streets where 90% of America's country music is created and produced. His parents were tobacco farmers in Nicholasville, Ky., who assumed that their son's piano and guitar lessons, junior high band fervor and passion for the country music group Alabama were passing interests and that he'd attend college and find some "normal" occupation.

Miller recalls going to freshman orientation at Eastern with no clear plan for a college curriculum, but after listening to a presentation by the music department faculty, he declared himself a music major, entranced by the idea of actually earning credits for doing what he loved. Miller plunged into the department's offerings in music history and theory, performance, dance and theater. He studied voice with Professor Jackie Roberts, took violin, piano and guitar lessons all four years, and joined the University Singers and the Show Choir. Betsy Tipton Grise, '79, '82, '97, '04, '07, (then a fellow music major and now assistant professor and choral director at Eastern's Model Laboratory School) remembers Miller as "sweet, friendly, generous, always smiling this big, toothy grin." One more thing: "His fiddle playing brought the house down."

Miller remembers himself as an "oddball" in those years, studying music theory and classical music during the week, then playing clubs and touring on the weekend. In Lexington he sat in at Austin City Saloon and played with the Greg Austin Band at The Brewery. Local audiences adored him, but he wanted tougher critics. Miller has a crystalline memory of quizzing guitar teacher Owen Grise, '82, on just how Nashville musicians played. "They play very, very well," Grise responded. So Miller practiced harder.

"If I starve to death," Miller began saying, "it will be on the streets of Nashville." His ambitions were vague. He might write, sing, produce or be a studio musician, but he'd be with people who did what they did "very, very well." Betsy Grise understood the seriousness of his ambition, he recalls, but others suggested music education as a fallback plan. "I don't plan on falling back," he responded. Miller graduated in May 1991 and was in Nashville by June 1.

"I should have been scared," he says today. "There was so little money." At first, it seemed easy; by July Miller and his fiddle were on the road with a Nashville touring band. Six days later he was fired. Chastened, Miller registered at a temp agency and took "manual labor, office work, wherever." Nights he played club bands, variously featured on piano, fiddle, guitar or voice. He peddled his songs at record labels, a process he calls terrifying. "Nashville can be a brutal town," he admits, but his friendly, generous manner that Betsy Grise remembers from his Eastern days began forging lasting bonds in what is also, says Miller, "a relationship town."

Miller's formal music training brought self-confidence and broader cultural awareness even if it wasn't an immediate business asset since many country musicians can't read music, relying on melodic memory and Nashville's simple chord numbering system. But maturity and drive helped edge Miller over the fresh talent arriving daily. He avoided the obvious temptations and "just outgrew negative peer pressures." Today, when his successes lure young musicians to Miller for advice, wondering if they shouldn't go professional straight from high school and be the next Taylor Swift, Miller counsels them to grow up first, go to college and graduate. Even assuming tremendous luck and tremendous skill, new stars can burn out by their mid-twenties. With or without a blazing career, he advises young people, "You're going to have to learn to be an adult and function in society. College helps you do that."

By the mid-nineties, Miller had married his wife Jana, a registered nurse, and had a regular night job singing at the Opryland Hotel. By day he promoted himself as a singer, musician and songwriter. A 1996 audition at Hamstein Music finally changed that. "You're not reinventing the wheel as a musician or singer, but you might be able to write songs," said Thomas Cain of BMI. Miller was offered a songwriting contract and an office on Music Row to "make up stuff for a living."

Asked to describe the appeal of country music (reaching 77.3 million adults every week, according to Arbitron, Inc.), Miller credits its lyrics and appeal to the common man. "The songs are about life: football, the baby, the relationship, the land, the family, the truck." At their best, he says, writers create rhyming poetry from common language, "things that last." Many songs emerge from the lives around him. The *carpe diem* theme of Grammy nominee "You're Gonna Miss This" came from fellow songwriter Ashley Gorley's description of a trying day with the kids. The story struck a chord with Miller. "Ours were 7, 4, 3 and 1 at the time, and the running joke was 'I'm not gonna miss *that!*' You'd hear that phrase after some catastrophe: broken lamps, ink on walls, crusty food in the couch. The list is endless. And the crazy thing is, we probably *will* miss it." The songwriting session began with a bridge concept and worked backwards. "Ashley claims the title was mine, but I've long since forgotten that detail," says Miller with customary modesty.

These days Miller lives a startlingly regular life, in the office by 10 a.m., working steadily and going home at night for dinner. He has "stuck his toe in producing" for singer Steve Holy (producing Holy's 2006 hit single, "Brand New Girlfriend"), but his focus stays with songwriting. "I tell people I can only do one impossible job at a time," he quips.

Miller does travel often to Washington, D.C., with Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) to lobby for his profession. In the past decade, according to NSAI, two-thirds of its professional songwriters have left the field, driven out by illegal downloading, piracy, radio deregulation and corporate mergers. Hard work by Miller and his colleagues recently brought some tax code relief for songwriters. "We take our guitars to Congress, talk, and then play a song," laughs Miller, "which is something they don't get with corporate lobbyists." He is fascinated by the law-making process, which reminds him of his impatience with those who say that "politics" kept them from stardom. Every field is political, he observes. But as Lee Thomas Miller's own story demonstrates, even politics, even a sometimes "brutal town" like Nashville may yield to steady determination, versatile talent, long relationships and focus on "things that last."

FOR THE RECORD

HIT COUNTRY SINGLES WRITTEN OR CO-WRITTEN BY LEE THOMAS MILLER

Days of America
Good Kind of Crazy
I Just Wanna Be Mad
I'm Still a Guy
The Impossible
In Color

Men Don't Change
Nothing to Die For
You're Gonna Miss This
What We're Gonna
Do About It
The World

AWARDS

- 2002** "Days of America" reaches top 40
- 2003** "The Impossible" (recorded by Joe Nichols) is Grammy nomination for Country Song of the Year
Miller is Breakthrough Songwriter of the Year for *MusicRow* magazine
- 2004** "I Just Wanna Be Mad" (Terri Clark) earns BMI Million-Air award
- 2006** "The World" (Brad Paisley) reaches #1 on Billboard Country Music charts
- 2008** "I'm Still a Guy" (Brad Paisley) and "You're Gonna Miss This" (Trace Adkins) reach Billboard's #1
"You're Gonna Miss This" is NSAI Song of the Year
- 2009** "In Color" is Country Music Association Song of the Year
"In Color" and "You're Gonna Miss This" earn Grammy nominations

TALENTED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THRIVE IN EKU NOW!

In fall 2009 the new *EKU Now!* program offered 258 high school junior and senior students from Eastern's 22 county service area the opportunity to take free college courses. Combining features of earlier Dual Credit and Jump Start programs, *EKU Now!* draws on a vast body of national educational research begun by the Ford Foundation in the early 1950's and demonstrating that earning substantial college credits by the end of the freshman college year is a strong predictor of college completion.

Program director Christine Bogie describes the flexibility of *EKU Now!* High school juniors and seniors with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and qualifying ACT scores (English, 18; Math, 19; Reading, 20; Composite, 21) may enroll, tuition-free, for one general education course per semester. Seniors with composite scores over 24 may enroll in two classes per semester. These classes may be on the Richmond or regional campuses; some are online or ITV-based, while others may be taught in the high schools by Eastern faculty. *EKU Now!* staff members visit high schools to make students aware of the program and help them make informed decisions. Once in the program, students may access the full range of Eastern's advising and tutoring services and are held to the same standards of academic performance as any Eastern student.

Provost Dr. Janna Vice sees the program as a powerful response to Kentucky's state-wide task force on dual credit initiatives. Already, highly capable students – those with ACT scores of 27-31 – are being attracted to the program, and through the program to Eastern. Qualified participants who enroll in the university upon high school graduation are eligible to receive a Presidential Scholarship. Students who meet the requirements for the Presidential Scholarship but exceed the re-

quired 23 ACT composite will be identified as Whitlock Scholars, honoring President Doug Whitlock. Some of these students will also receive scholarships in excess of the Presidential Scholarship.

Perhaps the most exciting and inspiring feature of the program, says Vice, is its potential for reaching, welcoming and supporting college-ready first generation and minority students in the service area, giving them confidence that they truly are "college material." *EKU Now!* also fills a need for many rural high schools without AP classes: "School districts want to get on board." Helping promising students experience college success, directing them toward Eastern, while reducing four-year tuition costs and potentially increasing college completion rates makes a compelling package for students, their families and the state, Vice believes.

Clearly, the program is working. The 2009 fall semester grades were excellent, Bogie reports proudly, saying "88% of graded sections completed earned 'B' or better" and spring 2010 program enrollments grew to 292 high school students who are seeing Eastern as their "school of opportunity." One of these students is Erica Smith, a senior at Clay County High School. She took college algebra in the fall at the nearby Manchester campus, did well and enrolled in two spring courses: introduction to sociology and computer literature and applications. She found the students friendly, the faculty helpful and camaraderie with high school friends sharing her courses. Excited by Eastern's pre-optometry program, Erica Smith happily reports, "I applied. I was accepted. I'm ready!"

To apply for *EKU Now!* visit www.eku.edu/now.



GARY ABNEY

Brings a *“Heart for Eastern”* to Chair the Regents

“I am thankful to the faculty that took time to believe in me and help me accomplish more than I thought possible. I cherish the friends I made at Eastern, many of whom are dear friends to this day. Eastern truly is a special place that has enriched the lives of tens of thousands of students. I’m proud to say I’m one of them.”

Gary Abney



This January, Eastern's board of regents elected a new chairperson, Gary Abney, '70. While there is no legal requirement that regents or even board chairs be alumni of the universities they oversee, President Doug Whitlock is pleased to note that Abney's election "maintains a pretty good run of EKU alums chairing their *alma mater's* board of regents: Hunter Bates, '90; Fred Rice, '59; and J.T. Gilbert, '69, preceded Abney; further back was Charles Combs, '50." Charles Combs' father, baseball legend Earle Combs, '21, who earned his teaching certificate from then-Eastern State Normal School and first attracted attention on the diamond as a member of the Eastern baseball team, was EKU's first elected board of regents chair.

Gary Abney combines formidable business and financial skills with a lifelong commitment to Eastern, Richmond, and the region. Son of Ralph Abney and fervent Colonel, Marie Anderson Abney, '41, he graduated from the Model Laboratory School on campus and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Eastern. An honors graduate of the Kentucky School of Banking, he was senior vice president of the former State Bank and Trust Co. and of National City Bank, and was president of Richmond Bank and Trust before embarking on a second career as one of the county's most successful realtors. He has served in the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Madison County United Way, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority Board, been treasurer for the Richmond Pops at the Parks festivals, and chair of the Richmond Utilities Board and the Richmond Industrial Authority. For Eastern he has served as president of the Alumni Association and the Colonel Club, chair of the Arlington Association and a long-standing member of the University's board of regents.

Staff regent Steven Fulkerson is confident that Abney's business acumen, long institutional history, local sensitivity and exceptional working relationship with President Whitlock will "help us become a high impact board, focused on key challenges of state finances and student success." Dr. Malcolm Frisbie, professor of biology and faculty regent, points to Abney's "connectivity." He's a "people person: he knows and likes everybody." Walking the campus, at sports, social and business events, Abney takes the pulse of the campus and the community and cares passionately about the success of both.

Abney is also passionate about family. His daughter Susan Abney Creamer (Philip), a third generation graduate of the Model Laboratory School, has two children, Justin William and Chloe Elizabeth. Son Brian Covington Abney (Jennifer) is a 2001 Eastern graduate, now working in the office of the Madison County Clerk. By Abney's side is his special life partner, Dr. Adrienne J. Millett, a Richmond ophthalmologist.

Madison County Judge Executive Kent Clark has been friends with Abney since the late '60s "and I've never seen him upset."

Calm, positive, courteous and conscientious, with an informed local perspective, Eastern's new board chair is "an excellent choice," says Clark. Gary Abney's appointment "will tighten town and gown relationships," predicts Richmond Mayor Connie Lawson. "He is an excellent leader who knows the community and understands how the university and city complement each other."

Gary Abney's brother Bill, retired faculty member of the College of Justice & Safety, affirms Abney's "great heart for Eastern." While their mother Marie, now in her nineties, has racked up an attendance record of "thousands" of home football and basketball games, Gary is closing in with a stunning level of participation in Eastern sports, alumni, Arlington and campus events. In his travels and business life, Gary Abney "constantly sells Eastern."

"Gary goes to 90% of the Eastern functions he's invited to," swears his cousin Ralph Hacker, "and not just high level events. At a birthday party for a devoted facilities employee or a secretary's retirement, Gary's there." At a restaurant with friends, he's often approached by a faculty member, regent, student, secretary or other staff member. "Gary excuses himself, listens to the concern, keeps the confidence, and gets back to that person," says Hacker. Never intrusive, if asked for advice, he researches the situation carefully and thoughtfully. "He truly shares himself." Ralph Hacker speaks from personal experience. At age 14, he came to live with Gary and Bill Abney in their parents' home. Warmly welcomed, he became "like an older brother, and we've been sharing like brothers ever since." Eastern, the Richmond community and the region are fortunate that Gary Abney, a gifted leader with a true heart for Eastern, will now share his time and unique talents as chair of the board of regents.

What is a regent?

In Kentucky, a bi-partisan Council on Postsecondary Education nominating committee presents the governor with regent nominees for each public university. Each gubernatorial appointee serves six years. The number of regents may vary; the University of Kentucky has 20, while most other public universities in Kentucky, like Eastern, have 8 appointed regents, a teaching faculty representative, non-teaching employee representative and the student body president for a total of 11 members. The chair is elected directly by the regents.

The primary purpose of the board of regents is to approve policy. Regents may also undertake short- and long-range planning functions, develop and articulate the university's vision and mission, hire and oversee the university's chief executive and other top administrators and lobby the governor and legislature in support of the university. Eastern's regents meet four times per year, attend a retreat and serve on two standing committees. Unlike corporate directors, they are not paid for their service. Done well, regent Steven Fulkerson notes, "the time commitment is substantial."

FROM THE CAMPUS BEAUTIFUL

If I Had It To Do All Over Again...

If they could start their college education anew, 48 percent of EKU seniors say they would “definitely” make the same choice, a figure well above the national average of 39 percent. The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) polled approximately 1,500 first-year and senior students. Seniors ranked EKU ahead of other four-year public universities in Kentucky and other large, public master’s degree granting institutions nationally in four of five categories: academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction and supportive campus environment. Eastern is ahead of state benchmarks in the fifth area, enriching educational experiences.

Online Courses Rate High

Eastern is ranked ninth in the nation among “Online Colleges with the Highest Retention Rates” by Best Colleges Online. Overall, student satisfaction with EKU’s online degree offerings places it 21st nationally.

Online learning is becoming a more common way to earn a degree, especially among working students and those with families. Since 2004, Eastern’s online enrollment has more than tripled.

Trading Graduation Gaps for Graduation Caps

Employing a number of academic and social mentoring initiatives, Eastern has closed the graduation rate gap between non-minority and minority students. From 2002-07 the six-year graduation rate for underrepresented students was raised 24.7 percent, bringing it in line with the non-minority rate and putting EKU at the top of The Education Trust’s list of all public colleges and universities nationwide that made similar strides. EKU’s Comprehensive Plan for University Diversity ties programs, services and resources together for student success.

Team of the Century a Slam Dunk

In celebration of 100 years of Eastern basketball, the All-Century Men’s Basketball Team was unveiled before tip off of the Colonels’ contest against Morehead State in January. Colonel fans helped select the All-Century Team, whose members have earned either first or second team All-Ohio Valley Conference honors, enshrinement in the EKU Athletics Hall of Fame or All-American honors.



All-Century Team members recognized before the EKU-Morehead game include (l to r) Garfield Smith, Charles Mrazovich, Michael Haney, Eddie Bodkin, John Allen, Bobby Washington, Antonio Parris and George Bryant.

All-Century Team Members

- Jack Adams (1953-56), Forward
- John Allen (1990-94), Forward
- Jim Baechtold (1948-52), Forward
- Eddie Bodkin (1963-66), Forward
- George Bryant (1968-72), Guard
- Michael Haney (2001-05), Forward
- Fred Lewis (1944-46), Guard
- Chuck Mrazovich (1946-50), Center
- Antonio Parris (1983-87), Guard
- Mike Rose (2005-09), Guard
- Garfield Smith (1965-68), Center
- Mike Smith (1988-92), Center
- James “Turk” Tillman (1978-80), Forward
- Bobby Washington (1966-69), Guard
- Matt Witt (2002-06), Guard

All-Century Team Coach

- Paul McBrayer (1946-62)

CLASS ACTS

Summer 2010

1930s

W.C. Gaffney, '35, is retired and lives in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

1940s

Dabney Doty, '40, celebrated his 91st birthday last year and reports that he's still rollerblading on inline skates. He's hoping to attend the next Eastern class reunion. Doty's wife Elizabeth died in 2007 after "64 years of the best marriage you could imagine." They wanted – and got – two girls and two boys. Descendants of the Mayflower pilgrims, the Doty clan is still strong with eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Dabney Doty lives in Columbia, Mo. **Ann Gateley McConnell**, '44, and husband Gayle celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary August 12, 2009 with a big party.

1950s

G. Gordon Browning, '51, recently celebrated his 90th birthday. He served for 29 years on the board of trustees of Southwestern Community College in Chula Vista, Calif., and for more than 20 years as the chair of the legislative political action committee of the San Diego Dental Society. He lives in El Cajon, Calif. **Virgil R. Hudnall**, '51, lives in Indianapolis with his wife Myrt. He served in the U.S. Army until 1976, then worked in Indiana's Department of Mental Health until retirement in 1990. **Gene Jones**, '55, of Lexington celebrated his 80th birthday with a parachute jump from 5,000 feet with no tandem.



Jean Walton Romard, '56, who lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, celebrated Christmas 2009 with the EKU

Lunch Girls of Greater Cincinnati which has been meeting for more than 45 years, usually three to four times a year. "We continue to be good friends and look forward to our luncheons," writes Romard. Members include **Jean Walton Romard**,

'56; **Betty Maupin Pogue**, '54; **Phyllis Counts Raker**, '56; **Bill Dosch**, '56 (guest); **Janet Grant Dosch**, '56; **Bert Bowling Baldwin**, '56; **Joan Scholle McElfresh**, '55; **Florence Tanner Linder**, '54; **Eddie Taylor Smitson**, '55; **Thomas Romard**, '56 (guest); **Kathleen Kenney Wiley**, '52; **Danise Campbell Murphy**, '55; **Jan Treadway Wieland**, '55; **Joanne Arnsperger Allender**, '55; **Wilma Wagel Wallace**, '55; and **Eddie Cox McKinney**, '56. "Any EKU Alumnae are welcomed," writes Jean Romard.

1960s



Easter Wilkerson Ward, '62, of Rockledge, Fla., received a master's degree in education from

Montevallo University of Alabama, an early childhood and elementary education degree from Central Florida University, and taught 13 years in Kentucky and Florida. She raised three sons (Matt III, Timothy and John) and worked in real estate for three years and then as an educational coordinator in social work. She now has five grandchildren and is retired. **Carol Sandy Klaber**, '66, retired from teaching at Pendleton County High School in 1998 and for the last ten years has worked in the career and technical division of Frankfort's Department of Education. She and her husband Charles live in Falmouth, Ky. **Leamon "Lee" Davidson**, '67, retired on December 31, 2009 after more than 37 years in banking with the Union National and Forcht Banks. Davidson lives with his wife Linda in Barboursville, Ky., and would love to hear from Martin Hall residents, business education and other classmates. **Phyllis Engleman Price**, '68, of Ft. Wayne, Ind., is a substitute teacher for East Allen County Schools. She and husband Eugene, a retired teacher, have recently downsized to a beautiful woody mobile home community and are enjoying being grandparents. **Bob Nickel**, '69, and **Linda Bentley Nickel**, '71, live in Frankfort, Ky. They

were high school sweethearts and are "still married after 44 years." Both are retired and spend time traveling and working in the yard.

1970s

Jeff Bonnell, '70, has retired from teaching and Delta Airlines and is now working as a funeral assistant in his hometown of Atlanta. He is also president of the local chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America. **Phyllis Gould Drilling**, '70, owns Drilling Technical Services and lives with husband Joseph in Milford, Ohio. **Denny C. Hogue**, '70, is serving a second term as member of the Lincoln County Board of Education and lives in Waynesburg, Ky., where he is self-employed. **Ed Nolan**, '70, '72, is managing director of learning and organizational development at AAA of Tampa, Fla. His wife, **Joan Renne Kennedy Nolan**, '71, is a nurse practitioner at Take Care Health Systems of Clearwater, Fla. They live in Clearwater, Fla. Both **Ron Tussey**, '70, and **Margie Hall Tussey**, '71, were in their home in Kirksville, Ky., when it was destroyed by a tornado on May 8, 2009. They survived the ordeal and are rebuilding. **Cherie Smith**, '71, has lived in Tampa, Fla., for the past 30 years and is now sales manager for New Tampa Hotels.



Jack Barber, '72, was named 2009 Golf Professional of the Year by the Professional Golf Association of America (PGA). In 24 years as head golf professional at Meridian Hills Country Club of Indianapolis, Ind., Barber has earned a reputation for tireless dedication to his members and fellow PGA Professionals. Barber's self-taught golf swing made him a standout at Russell, Ky., High School and earned him a golf scholarship to Eastern. Business professor and PGA Professional John Dunham was the team's unofficial assistant coach and helped Barber hone his game. Eventually leaving Eastern to take a head professional position, Dunham hired Barber as his first

assistant, this time teaching him the business skills required of a golf pro. In two years Barber was selected as head professional at Lexington, Ky., Country Club, where he was named Kentucky PGA Golf Professional of the Year in 1985. Barber was 1993 PGA Section Teacher of the Year, 1996 Section Golf Professional of the Year, the 2003 Bill Strausbaugh Award recipient, and a three-time winner of the Section Merchandiser of the Year for private facilities. **Dr. Deborah Halcomb McDonald**, '72, '73, has returned to Louisville after spending two years in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as advisor to the minister of education for UAE.



Donna Wise, '72, '73, a 2005 inductee in Eastern's Hall of Distinguished Alumni, has now been inducted into the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame, recognizing her achievements as the women's basketball coach for Campbellsville University. She is Campbellsville's all-time winningest coach (nearly 71% of games) and NAIA Hall of Fame inductee. "I'm just pleased for the program and the recognition that this might bring to it and happy for the players who contributed to my success and the university's," said Wise of the honor. She coached 23 NAIA All-Americans and was named NAIA Coach of the Year three times and conference Coach of the Year seven times. Her teams played in 16 national tournaments, winning 17 regular season conference titles. Wise retired after her 32nd season and now serves as chair of Campbellsville University's department of human performance. **Dr. Marla Kuehne Banks**, '73, has retired from higher education and now lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Jerry Rickett, '73, '76, of Corbin, Ky., is being inducted into the Kentucky Association for Economic Development Hall of Fame. A video produced by **Michael Breeding**, '81, was shown at the event. Rickett has been president and CEO of

Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation since 1989, managing the parent company and five subsidiaries. KHIC has national reputation for expertise in venture capital, entrepreneurial and rural community development. Under Rickett's tenure the company expanded operations in micro-loans, agricultural re-lending, and development of entrepreneurs. Rickett has been active in community work and development in his hometown of Corbin and throughout Kentucky, winning the first Governor's Economic Development Leadership Award in 1996. He is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati and the Advisory Council at Eastern's School of Business. **Robert J. Burdge**, '74, teaches and has been appointed to the Fort Pierce, Fla. planning board by the City Commission.



Larry Kirksey, '74, began his football career at Eastern, where he was a four-year letterman and three-year starter as a wide receiver. He climbed steadily in coaching, bringing his talents to Miami University (Ohio), University of Kentucky, University of Kansas, Kentucky State, University of Pittsburgh, University of Florida and Middle Tennessee State University.

Kirksey helped lead the Alabama Crimson Tide to a national championship in 1992. In 1994, he moved to the NFL with the San Francisco 49ers. He coached legend Jerry Rice to an NFL record 1,848 receiving yards. After work with Texas A&M, he joined the Detroit Lions in 2001, worked with Johnnie Morton, then went on to the Denver Broncos. Kirksey is now in his third year as wide receivers coach for the Houston Texans. He lives with his wife Anita and his two children, Jessica and Jared. **Michael Embry**, '75, has published his fourth novel, *A Confidential Man*, a mystery circling around a sports columnist known for keeping secrets. Embry is also community/state communications coordinator with the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security. He and his wife Mary live in Frankfort. **Mary Reinle Begley**, '76, who currently serves on Eastern's nursing advisory committee for the division of continuing education and development as well as on Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services, has been promoted to Inspector General for the State of Kentucky. Her office regulates more than 2,200 day care facilities, almost 500 long term care facilities and 2,550 other health facilities. Begley lives with her husband, **John Begley**, '76, in Danville, Ky. **Walter Bonvell**, '76, grounds

foreman of Xavier University, is now a certified grounds manager after a year of study with the Professional Grounds Management Society. He and his wife Connie live in Independence, Ky. **Danny Brown**, '76, '78, lives in Edgewood, Ky., where he is a director for Macy's, Inc. **Marinell Cobb Brown**, '76, '77, is associate provost for academic affairs at Gateway Community College.



Mary Kay Bentle Bruens, '76, has been married to John Bruens for 37 years. Kay is retired; John is chief financial officer for Pine Branch Coal in Hazard, Ky. They live in Lexington, Ky., but also enjoy a home in South Carolina. Their son John Kenneth lives in Mount Pleasant, S.C. **Connie Fox**, '76, kinesiology professor at Northern Illinois University, has been promoted to associate dean in the college of education, where she is responsible for curriculum leadership, program development and review, assessment and accreditation activities and student services. Fox, who served as director of teacher education in her department, earned her doctorate in physical education from the University of Georgia, a master's in physical education from Eastern, and a bachelor's from Wake Forest University. In

2005 she became the first president of the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation. Her research has focused on measurement and assessment in physical education and performance standards. She lives in DeKalb, Ill. **Lawrence Alan Marshall**, '76, received his doctorate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. A former teacher, football coach and administrator in high schools in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., he is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., former chaplain for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, and writer for RH Boyd Publishers. Marshall is currently a lecturer for National Baptist Sunday School and professor at Broward College in Davie, Fla. He is the owner and founder of Keys to Kingdom Consultant Firm and lives in Lauderdale Lakes, Fla. **Jeffrey A. Wolfe**, '76, lives in New Lexington, Ohio. He retired as staff sergeant from the Army Reserves Military Police in August, 2001 and from his position as correctional warden for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections in April, 2008.



In June, 2008 **Allen D. Engle**, '78, '80, professor of management at Eastern, attended the 50th Conference of the Academy of

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 photographs¹, too.

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International Business in Milan, Italy with **Florenca Tosiani**, '08, and Ron Yoder, Eastern's director of Web communications. Their presentation, "Janus: An Initial View of the Formal and Informal Faces of Argentine Human Resource Management," was part of a panel on human resource issues in emerging economies and contained data and analysis from Tosiani's MBA thesis. In November, 2009 they collaborated on an online virtual seminar for students, faculty and business professionals in Chivilcoy, Argentina. The seminar used PowerPoint slides in Spanish coordinated with a Skype audio and video Internet feed with real-time English-Spanish and Spanish-English translation to address tactics for broadening understanding of human resources at an international level. Engle, Tosiani and Yoder are excited about use of these cost-effective technologies to "to stay in touch with and engage alumni, even if they are in different hemispheres."

Londa Strong, '78, '79, '81, of Rockwell, N.C., received the 2009 Meritorious Service Award from the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association, recognizing 28 years of service to the profession. Strong directs the Cabarrus County Parks Department in Concord, N.C.

Phil Osborne, '79, of Lexington, Ky., was named Commerce Lexington 2009 Volunteer of the Year. The award recognizes both volunteer participation and the effectiveness and outcome of the effort. Osborne, CEO of Preston-Osborne Marketing Communications and Research, serves on Commerce Lexington's executive committee and is vice chair of the communications committee.

Julie Payne Renshaw, '79, has been teaching in Owensboro, Ky., Catholic schools for 30 years. **David Renshaw** is a financial advisor with Edward Jones.

1980s

Steven Richard Pollock, '80, '81, is a member of the editorial review board for the international *Journal for Quality and Participation*. Pollock will present a technical paper on adoption of the Baldrige Quality Criteria within a work team to the 2010 American Society for Quality international conference

in St. Louis, Mo. He has 10 publications on quality and has spoken at 12 conferences over the past 20 years. He lives with his wife Betsy Terrell Pollock in Louisville, Ky., and can be reached at spollock@humana.com. **Rick Robinson**, '80, is gathering awards for *Sniper Bid*, a novel of political intrigue. It was a runner-up for best general fiction in the 2009 Nashville Book Festival and received four other honors: finalist in the Indie Book Awards for Best Fiction and the USA Book News Best Book Awards, honorable mention at the New England Book Festival and the Hollywood Book Festival. The saga of a freshman congressman offers an insider's view of Washington, pop culture and Kentucky politics. Robinson's first novel, *The Maximum Contribution*, was finalist in Best Political Fiction in the 2008 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. Robinson draws from personal experience as legislative director/chief counsel to former Congressman Jim Bunning (R-KY). He lives in Fort Mitchell, Ky., with his wife **Melinda Brewer Robinson**. **Beth Fangman Armstrong**, '81, earned her associate degree in nursing from Eastern, a bachelor of science in nursing degree from Bellarmine University in 1987, then her master's in nursing at the University of Louisville in 1992. For the last 28 years she has worked at Baptist Hospital East, where she is now WOC (wound, ostomy and continence) program coordinator. She and her husband Rick have two sons and live in Louisville. **Paula S. King**, '81, lives in Pitman, N.J., and is executive director of Drexel University business services. **Brigitte Flowers Mills**, '81, and her husband Kevin live in Dublin, Ohio, where they own Remedy Intelligent Staffing, a temporary and permanent staffing service. Brigitte was a four-year member of Kappa Delta. Their son Kyle attends the University of Dayton. **Rick L. Roberts**, '81, was a member of the supporting cast of the feature film *Passenger Pigeon*, playing the role of a local ghost walk tour guide. Roberts lives in Paintsville, Ky. **Kimberly Jo Flach**, '82, has been promoted to compliance manager in the

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



Middletown, Ohio, office of Clark Schaefer Hackett public accounting firm, which she joined in 2003. Bill Edwards, shareholder-in-charge of the firm's pension practice, says Kim's 20 years of experience in the area of retirement plans make her "a vital part of our organization. This promotion is a reflection of her significant contribution to the firm." Kim and her husband Mark live in Liberty Township, Ohio, with their three children, Angela, Colleen and Melanie.



James "Jamie" Harris, '82, professor of geology at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., was Mississippi's recipient of the 2009 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's Professor of the Year award in Washington, D.C. on November 19, 2009. Harris was cited as "a visionary in the area of field-based learning, developing a number of high quality field-based research and study programs in geology for students both in the U.S. and beyond." After earning his bachelor of science degree in geology from Eastern, he earned a second B.S. in geophysics from the University of Houston, and a master of science and doctorate in geology/geophysics from the University of Kentucky. In 2006 he was named Millsaps' Distinguished Professor, the college's highest award in recognition of teaching and scholarship. He and his wife Margaret live in Ridgeland, Miss. **Marc Whitt**, '82, '85, has been elected chair of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' Advisory Council for Communi-

cations and Public Affairs, a volunteer group for AASCU's division of communications. The council offers campus- and system-based perspectives on the effectiveness of AASCU's communications, marketing and public affairs programs. It also sponsors an annual conference for senior public relations and marketing leadership from member colleges and universities. Whitt is associate vice president of public relations and chief communications officer at Eastern. He and his wife Jennifer have three children, Emily, an Eastern sophomore, Elizabeth and Jacob. **Judy Patten Elam**, '84, retired in July, 2009 from the Kentucky Cabinet of Families and Children after 20 years of service. Living in Crab Orchard, Ky., with her husband Rodney, she is enjoying a second career at Rockcastle Regional Hospital. **Michael Joseph Ernst**, '84, was recognized by *Georgia Trend Magazine* for the fifth consecutive year as one of "Georgia's Legal Elite: The State's Most Effective Lawyers." A partner in the law firm of Stokes Lazarus & Carmichael LLP, he heads the firm's securities, business, and employment litigation sections. Ernst and his wife Marcia live in Atlanta with their two daughters. **Sheila Mattingly Spalding**, '84, works as a funeral director at Northside Funeral Home in Bardstown, Ky., where she lives with her husband Glenn. The couple has one son. **Janie Delap Hawes**, '85, has written a cantata, "The Seven Last Words of Christ," published by Oregon Catholic Press. She and her husband Zane Lewis Swanson live in Edmond, Okla. **Arnold Snowden**, '85, has been promoted to major in the

Fayette County, Ky., sheriff's office. He has been in law enforcement for 33 years and was previously the chief of the Mt. Sterling Police Department. He and his wife Peggy Sue live in Lexington. **Mary J. Wright**, '85, of Butler, Ky., is lead case advocate for the Taxpayer Advocate Service of the IRS, where she has worked for 22 years. After receiving her bachelor of science in nursing degree, **Amy Lynn Smith Swaney**, '87, graduated from Wright State University's family nurse practitioner program and is now working in family practice. She and her husband Thomas and children Madison and Patrick live in Centerville, Ohio. **Derek House**, '89, is director of student services for Anderson County, Ky., schools. He and his wife Suzanna live in Lawrenceburg. **Brian Smith**, '89, is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army with 20 years of service. He attends Harvard University's School of Government as a National Security Fellow. He and his wife Catherine live in Waltham, Mass.

1990s

Deloris "Dee" Fugate-Trent, '90, teaches for Bourbon County, Ky., School System and would like Eastern's Dr. Terry Cox to know that "the reason I am teaching is because of him. Thanks so much for the inspiration!" She lives in Paris, Ky., and has two children, Blaze and Brent.



William McKissic, '91, teaches at North Hardin High School in Radcliff, Ky., his former school. He

is in his 17th year of teaching. He has nearly 19 years in the U.S. Army Reserve and visits Eastern yearly for ROTC Alumni/Veterans Day Weekend. **Amanda Hammond Petrie**, '91, is moving her law practice to Louisville, Ky., where she lives with husband Curtis and children Tanner, Sydney and Olivia. Amanda may be reached at amanda.petrie@ahpetrielaw.com. **Dan Green**, '92, and his wife Angela and two children live in Sackets Harbor, N.Y., where Dan teaches in Sackets

Harbor Central School and Angela teaches at Belleville Henderson Central School. **Lisa Tackett-Mink**, '92, of Berea, Ky., recently became the grandmother of "a future EKU Colonel." **Laura Kronauer Sudduth**, '92, of Frankfort, Ky., was installed as the 78th president of the Kentucky Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) on January 30, 2010. Jaycees "provide leadership development and networking opportunities through community involvement and service," says Sudduth, who relates her involvement to "the sorority life I enjoyed at EKU. It's really a great next step for college graduates to take when they're getting settled into their career path and making a stake in their communities." **Tricia Watts**, '92, was recently named the executive director of the Appalachian Artisan Center (www.artisancenter.net) in Hindman, Ky., an acknowledgment of more than 20 years of small business experience, love of the arts, and boundless energy and enthusiasm. The nonprofit AAC builds and strengthens the local artisan economy through education, business development and support services while preserving the rich cultural heritage of Appalachia and managing the Artisan Center Shop and Café. Watts and her husband Sam live in Hazard, Ky. **Clint Jezierny**, '93, who lives in Thompsons Station, Tenn., teaches and serves as head softball coach for Independence High School. He previously taught and coached at Coffee County Central High School in Manchester, Tenn. **Nathan Miller**, '93, published his first book, *The Official Librarian*, a children's mystery novel for fourth grade readers and up. The book is available at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and Joseph Beth. Miller is a teacher and pastor in Pendleton County. **Jerry Joe Daniels, Jr.**, '94, was recently promoted to first sergeant with the Virginia State Police, where he serves as assistant special agent in charge of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, General Litigation Section for the Wytheville field office covering Virginia's 15 western counties. He and his

wife Stephanie live in Glade Spring, Va., with their children Gracie Fallyn and Waylon Jack. **Mary Benton Marcum**, '94, '96, completed her master's in community nutrition and is now a consulting registered dietician with long term care facilities and hospitals in Kentucky. She lives in Walton, Ky. **Dana Witham Speck**, '94, works at Science Hill Independent Schools as a speech pathologist and runs her own business, Now We're Talking, Inc. Husband **Greg Speck**, '88, is a retired state police captain. Their daughter Megan is seven years old, and the Specks live in Somerset, Ky. **Jeff Hodges**, '95, works with Fifth Third Bank in Lexington, Ky., as a mortgage loan originator, handling residential mortgages as well as working closely with the commercial, investment, business and private banking departments. While his office is in downtown Lexington, he conducts business in Richmond and surrounding areas. He lives in Richmond with his wife **Debra Hanners Hodges**, '95. **Margaret Moreland**, '95, has moved back to Richmond where she is community education coordinator for Eastern's continuing education and outreach. She is the granddaughter of Colonel quarterback and 1940 All-American Spider Thurman, featured in the Fall, 2009 issue of *Eastern* magazine. **Melissa Whitis**, '95, was named 2009's Woman Against All Odds by the Leading Women of Cincinnati in recognition of her fight against both ovarian and thyroid cancer. With 12 years of classroom experience, she now teaches improvisation at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. **Benjamin Wilson**, '95, received his master's degree in public administration in 2004 and a juris doctor in 2009 from Northern Kentucky University. He was sworn in as a member of the Kentucky Bar Association in October. Since 1996, Wilson has worked for the Kenton County Police Department and is currently a sergeant. He and his wife **Cara Mohler-Wilson**, who attended Eastern from 1995-97, live in Independence, Ky. with their four children. **Robert Ruckriegel**, '99, is a CPA

in the private sector, working as a controller and chief financial officer. He was finalist for the Louisville Business First Chief Financial Officer of the Year in 2009.

2000s



Daniel "Kyle" Chism, '00, and **Tabitha Dawn Flach-Chism**, '00, live in Somerset, Ky., where Kyle is

president of Chism Machine and Gage, Inc., designing and building robot cells, industrial equipment and tooling. Tabitha is a first grade teacher at Southern Elementary in Somerset. They met at Eastern in December, 1999 "and have been together ever since." **Chris Dillman**, '00, is now serving as a KC135 pilot for the Air Force. He and his wife **Rebecca Dillman**, '01, live in Exeter, N.H. **Laura Christian Whittaker**, '01, and her husband Tommy combine green thinking with design expertise in their company, Many Moons Design in Lexington, Ky., creating custom furniture and flooring from found and reclaimed wood. The 2009 Bluegrass Green Expo featured their dining table constructed from strips of white oak, red gum, cherry, wormy chestnut, beech, maple, elm, sycamore, poplar and walnut. Lexington's Grey Goose Bar shows off distinctive flooring the Whittakers reclaimed from a horse farm fence. Laura, "always a junker," searches yard sales for "diamonds in the rough, brimming with possibilities." Buoyed by a degree in design from Eastern, she saw enough "possibilities" for Tommy to quit his job as a CPA. Working through the Internet, they turn old barn wood into upper-end designs for houses as far as California's Napa Valley. Many Moons, says Whittaker, "allows me to do what is important: save the wood." Her work is on display at www.manymoonsdesign.com. **Kelly Diane Rutledge Beach**, '02, married **Brian Beach**, '04, in 2007. The couple has two children, Emily and Olivia. Kelly owns Kelly Beach

Photography and Brian is the general manager of Buckhead Restaurant in Louisville, Ky. **Ken McQueary**, '04, is senior captain at Northpoint Training Center (correctional facility) in Danville, Ky. In a recent riot involving 1,000 inmates, McQueary led the emergency response team into the yard to establish order. His wife **Darlena S. McQueary**, '04, is an interpreter for the Kentucky Community & Technical College System. **Lisa Ellen Hibbs**, '06, announces the publication of her first children's book, *Allie Doogledorf and the Mighty Mess*, which chronicles the efforts of Allie, "a natural slob," to make "the biggest mess ever created by a single child." The book is available through Amazon.com and was illustrated by **Nick Tallent**, '08. Hibbs lives in New Castle, Ky., and Tallent in Bowling Green, Ky. **Jessica Joseph**, '06, lives in Louisville, Ky., and works in Brownsboro Hills as a social services director. **Kristin Timperman**, '06, of Versailles, Ky., graduated from University of Louisville Law School in May, 2009, passed the July bar exam, and is currently working for Ward, Hocker, and Thornton PLLC in Lexington, Ky. **Geri McDowell Remley**, '07, director of Winchester/Clark County, Ky., Parks and Recreation Department, has hired Eastern alum **Mandy Faulconer**, '03, as an aquatic manager/programmer for the department. Faulconer started working with her fellow Colonel in September, 2009 and lives in Richmond, Ky. Remley lives in Georgetown, Ky.



Bryan Riggs, '07, an Eastern ROTC graduate, recently received a Bronze Star during his service in Iraq. He is stationed at Ft. Hood and is married to **Andrea Denney Riggs**, '09. They live in Stanton, Ky. **Mattie Carter Wells**, '08, husband **Ben Wells**, '04, and their son Ethan Uriah (born May 30, 2007) live in Monticello, Ky., where Ben is a probation/parole officer with the Kentucky Department of Corrections and Mattie, having recently obtained the licensed social worker designation, is employed by Monticello Independent Schools

as a social worker. Since the recent tragic loss of their daughter, Mattie volunteers with a March of Dimes outreach committee for bereaved parents. The family has also organized a donation drive for the local pregnancy HELP Center. **Heather Haynes**, '09, is working for the Cincinnati Reds as an inside sales representative. Bound for a career in sports marketing, "it's a foot in the door, and I love it here so far! Thanks to my PR classes and my internship with the (Lexington) Legends, I don't think I could have been more prepared." **Ryan Viana**, '09, completed 12 weeks of Marine Corps basic training at Parris Island, S.C. Training concluded with the rigorous 54-hour exercise called "The Crucible," involving high stress components combined with sleep and food deprivation. At the end of the exercise, recruits receive the Marine Corps Emblem and are addressed for the first time as "Marines."

Newlyweds

Gayle Hines, '70, '72, to James L. Capretto on November 24, 2009. Since 2003, Gayle has worked for XLC Services in Covington, Ky., where the couple makes their home. **Patricia A. Taylor**, '88, to Richard Sturgeon on September 9, 2009, followed by a two week honeymoon in Ireland. **Shannon May**, '97, to **Terry Tipton**, who attended Eastern from '98 to '00, on October 31, 2009. Shannon is Eastern's assistant registrar. The couple lives in Berea.



Jessika Layne, '99, to **Patrick McCowan**, '00, on September 26, 2008. At Eastern, Patrick played baseball for a year and was in Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Graduating with a construction management degree, he is a project manager for Gray Construction Company in Lexington, Ky. He recently completed an Anheuser-Busch facility for Kentucky Eagle distributors and is now working on a new facility for Siemens, after which he will manage a

wind turbine project in Hutchinson, Kan. After graduating from Eastern, Jessika received a degree in physical therapy from the University of Louisville and is employed at Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation in Lexington. **Andrea Rutledge**, '02, to Edwin Bergstrom on October 3, 2009. Andrea teaches at Sullivan University in the department of interior design. **Amy Christine Petrey**, '03, to Robert Green Back on September 19, 2009. They are both employed in Lexington at the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. **Lauren Cehula Kirkpatrick**, '05, to United States Naval Academy graduate Justin Kirkpatrick on December 22, 2008. He is stationed on nuclear fast attack submarine *USS Newport News* (SSN 750). Lauren volunteers with Navy spouses on Naval Station Norfolk. They live in Virginia Beach, Va. **Capt. Mary Lou Drilling**, '06, to Capt. Sven Syvertsen on September 5, 2009. Both are members of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division. Mary Lou recently returned from a 15 month deployment. Sven served in Afghanistan from January to December, 2008.



Samantha Jo Sapp, '07, and **Joseph Franklin Edge**, '07, on November 6, 2009. They live in Owensboro, Ky.

Junior Alumni

Sarah Morgan to **Lisa Brillhart-Cleveland**, '93, '95, and Matthew Cleveland on December 15, 2009, joining big brother Travis Thomas at their home in Elizabethtown, Pa.



Patrick Dean to **Dean Joseph Marks**, '93, and Amanda Lyn Marks on August 25, 2009. The Marks family lives in Mattawan, Mich.



Baylee Marie to **John Bland**, '94, and wife Elizabeth on July 6, 2009, joining big brother Liam Hamilton, 2.



Breanna Faith to **Amy Jasper Herald**, '95, '99, and **Brian Herald**, '97, '03, of Richmond, Ky. on November 4, 2008.



Olivia Noelle to **Jolie Ockerman Moore**, '98, and **Les Moore**, '95, of Florence, Ky., on December 16, 2009.



William Robert to **Brenna Campbell Moskala**, '98, and Robert Moskala on October 21, 2009. He joins big sister, Abby.



Madeline Lorelle to **Leeann Gay Uebel**, '98, and **Gabriel Uebel**, '98, '99, on September 10, 2009. Madeline is sister to Hudson Nash, 6, and Lucas Michael, 2.



Evan Phillip to **Julie Kennedy Snawder**, '99, and **Phillip "Ryan" Snawder**, '98, on April 13, 2009, joining brother Nathan Ryan, born April 27, 2007. The family lives in Georgetown, Ky.

Brendon James adopted by **Jennifer Brown Jasper**, '00, and **James Jasper**, '98, on December 14, 2009. Brendon was born on August 31, 2004. The family lives in Owensboro, Ky.



LavinRose to **Mathew Nash**, '00, and AnnMarie Nash on April 8, 2009. The family makes its home in Bay Shore, N.Y.



Reese Layton to **Dana Snyder Giles**, '02, and **Nathan Giles**, '01, '04.



Annabelle Emerson to **Lea Peek Padgett**, '02, and Daniel Padgett of Kings Mountain, Ky., on August 12, 2008. Annabelle joins big sister Maddie, 11.



Carson Paul to **Maranda Carol Lakes Taylor**, '02, and Paul Taylor on July 28, 2009. Their home is in Richmond, Ky.



Blake Alexander to **Denise Michele Phipps Ball**, '03, and **Calvin Leon Ball**, '03, on July 30, 2009. Denise works as a landscape designer at Laurel Gardens in Corbin, Ky.



Gabriella Claire to **Mandy Plowman Fiorini**, '03, on September 8, 2009.

Laney Jo to **Emily C. Taylor**, '03, and Ryan D. Vaughn of Burlington, Ky., on October 29, 2009.



Noah Wesley and Ryan Dennis to **Jessica Riddle Williams**, '03, '05, and **Brandon Dennis Williams**, '01, '05, on June 24, 2009. The Williamses live in Lexington, Ky.

Aiden O'Bryan to **Kathy Peak Flynn**, '04, and **Michael L. Flynn**, '93, on May 18, 2009. The Flynnns live in Irvine, Ky.



Katelynn Gayle to **Leslie Harman Marshall**, '04, and **Joseph Marshall**, '04, of Erlanger, Ky., on May 7, 2009.



Austin Edward to **Alicia Berginnis Webb**, '04, and Brandon Webb on August 21, 2009.



Kinsley Ryan to **Shavon Zerby Conner**, '05, and **Jeff Conner**, '05, on January 29, 2010. The Conners live in Rhinelander, Wis.



Kingston Brent to **Maggie Ann Howard**, '05, on April 30, 2009. Howard is a speech-language pathology assistant with a master's degree in special education.

Patrick to **Jessica Root Wagner**, '05, '06, of London, Ky.



Iliana Faith to **Holly C. Fagan De Leon**, '08, and **Gilberto De Leon**, '09, on January 12, 2010. She joins two-year-old brother Emanuel at the family home in Richmond, Ky.



Shon Gabriel Jaxon to **Lora Leigh Mink-Hopper**, '09, and **Shondale Lee Hopper**, a current student, on November 12, 2009.

Losses in the Eastern Family

Vera Maybury Farris, '42, on January 5, 2010. She was valedictorian of Newport High School and graduated *magna cum laude* from Eastern Kentucky State Teachers College. She and her husband **Dr. Hansford White Farris**, '41, (who was inducted into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1974 and received an Outstanding Alumnus award in 1981), lived in Ann Arbor, Mich. There Ms. Farris had an active career with scouting, American Association of University Women, the Visiting Nurses Association, her church and the National Farm and Garden Association. She is survived by Dr. Farris, their two children and three grandchildren. **Dr. Charles Culton Rutledge**, '42, on March 17, 2010. He graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine, served as a medic in World War II, and was a general surgeon, first in Pikeville and then in Hazard, Ky., until 2000. Dr. Rutledge was an elder in the Hazard Christian Church and a committed member of the Hazard Lions Club. His sister, **Louise Rutledge Dowerman**, '33, and deceased brother, **Harold Hunt Rutledge**, '32, are also Eastern alumni. **Louis Manning**, '51, '54, on January 6, 2010. Raised in Lynch, Ky., during World War II, he served in Italy and Germany. He met his wife **Mary Lou McManis Manning**, '54, at Eastern, where he played football. He served in the Korean War and returned to Eastern for his master's in education. From 1959 until his retirement in 1981, he was an educator in Deer Park, Ohio, first as the high school principal and then as superintendent. Mary Lou Manning died in 1997. According to his son, Louis Manning dedicated his life to "making sure that young people were well educated and got a good foundation to build upon for the rest of their lives." **Mary Anne Rowlett**, '54, on December 19, 2009. The widow of Dr. John D. Rowlett, former Eastern vice president for academic affairs and research, she met her husband when she was a student in his crafts course at Eastern. She was

active in countless community, church and civic groups, a member of the Madison County Garden Club for five decades and former president of the Kentucky Garden Club. She opened the family home to Eastern faculty, friends and guests, attended hundreds of university functions and kept a nearly spotless year attendance record at home football and basketball games. She and Dr. Rowlett had four children, **Debra Rowlett King**, '76; **Janet Rowlett Robinson**, '79; **John Rowlett**, '82; and **Virginia Rowlett Fairchild**, '87. (A feature story on Dr. John Rowlett is in this magazine). After her husband's death, Mrs. Rowlett established the John D. Rowlett Fund for Faculty Professional Development through the ECU Foundation. **Charlie Lee Whitaker**, '54, on October 18, 2009. Whitaker earned master's degrees from Peabody College and the University of Louisville. During his 38-year career in education, he was a public school teacher and principal, and dean of students, physical education instructor and first basketball coach at Alice Lloyd College. A noted advocate of Appalachian life and culture, he taught and called square dances, made fine dulcimers and was invited to perform at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. He created Alice Lloyd College's Appalachia Day celebration and was active in summer youth programs, rural school initiatives and teachers' associations. **James "Ed" Lyons**, '61, on September 28, 2009 in Louisville, Ky. He is survived by his wife Betty, two sons and one grandchild. **John "Muff" Adams**, '65, on October 14, 2009. Born in Harrison County, Ky., in 1939, he married **Shirley Jones Adams**, '68, and was a Harrison County physical education teacher, principal at Southside Elementary School, a United States Marine veteran and member of the Cynthiana Elks Lodge #438. **Dempil Irene Goble**, '68, on May 17, 2009. **Ann Mackin Ewing**, '73, on May 22, 2009 following a long illness. She taught mathematics for 22 years in the Nelson County, Ky., school system where her "warm personality and playful spirit made her a favorite among both faculty and students." At Eastern, she was a member

of Alpha Gamma Delta. She is survived by her husband of 36 years, **Roger Ewing**, '69. **Paul Cocanougher**, '76, on October 30, 2009. He was president of Security Pro Electronics and received many awards for his commitment to quality service in a career dedicated to helping others feel safe. Cocanougher was a member of Sigma Chi and third degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He lived in Marietta, Ga., where he enjoyed golf and college football. He was proud of his son Matthew's skill in sports and music and was a devoted longtime friend to his wife Sandra.

Non-degreed Alumni or Alumni of Unknown Class Year

Elsie Wilson Elliot died on January 3, 2010 at the age of 97. Married to Walter Elliot for 63 years, she taught in the Middlesboro, Ky., School System for 35 years and was a member of the Bell County Homemakers and the Middlesboro and Kentucky Retired Teachers Organizations. She received her teaching certificate from Eastern and a B.A. from Lincoln Memorial University.

Former Faculty and Staff

Dr. Keith Algier, a former faculty regent who taught for many years in Eastern's department of history, died at his home in Cameron Park, Calif. Dr. Algier taught at Eastern from 1965 until his retirement in 1989 and served as faculty regent from 1980 to 1983. In 1968 he was named a Ford Foundation Fellow. A specialist in American history, his publications include a history of the Crow tribe, *The Crow and the Eagle: a tribal history from Lewis and Clark to Custer*. He is survived by his wife **Ann Algier**, '73, who taught English at Eastern from 1966 to 1989 and for many years was the director of the remedial learning laboratory.

Crime Fiction Dazzles Critics

"With *The Long Division*, Derek Nikitas bumps up the style requirements for writing crime fiction another notch," says *The New York Times Book Review*. The second novel of English faculty member Nikitas has garnered wide critical praise: "beautifully realized characterizations [which] power complex story lines that meet and connect...with the inevitability of Greek tragedy" (*Publishers Weekly*); "we feel ourselves simultaneously moved, horrified and brokenhearted as the novel spirals towards its breathtaking conclusion. Nikitas finds beauty and pathos in the smallest of gestures, the largest of actions, the darkest of paths. Not to be missed" (Edgar award winning novelist Megan Abbot); "Nikitas tightens the noose, then tightens some more" (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*). Critics and readers are fascinated by his bold, "cinematic style" in which chapters leap between characters and may end in mid-sentence or even mid-word, yet one follows breathlessly, made to care about these sad, lonely people who seem so unable to help themselves.

Nikitas earned his MFA in creative writing at the University of North Carolina, traveled in the Czech Republic, England and Costa Rica and taught at the State University of New York College at Brockport before coming to Eastern. He read and wrote constantly, maturing his skill in mystery fiction which becomes "a lens to look at human behavior in a way that turns the volume up and records slices of the lives of people who make terrible decisions and do bad things." His short stories earned publication in literary magazines and the *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, nomination by Joyce Carol Oates for the prestigious Pushcart Award in 2005, and a debut author scholarship by International Thriller Writers for his first novel, *Pyres*.

While his characters' lives unravel with dizzying speed, Nikitas applies diligent discipline to manage a full teaching load, voluminous reading, writing a third novel tentatively titled *The Sleepwalkers*, maintaining the blog site "This world like a knife," completing a doctorate, parenting two young children and settling into Richmond with his wife Caroline.

In classrooms, Derek Nikitas teaches the relentless work and fine attention that yield effective writing. There must be "a deliberate reason" for any grammar irregularity, for example, and good writers must read widely and well. Rooted in creative rigor, Nikitas brings optimism and engagement to his courses. He passionately believes that technique can be taught and constantly finds ways to keep workshops fresh and lively, helping students support and challenge each other as they hone their voices, learning to reach and move a world of readers wherever their academic and career choices lead them.

Excerpt from *The Long Division*

In Atlanta, a maid has noticed a lidded bowl in the master suite. "With her free hand in a rubber glove she reached out to straighten the lid. Inside the bowl was a stack of folded money. She couldn't see the whole stack, just a corner of the topmost hundred-dollar bill. She inched the lid further off the bowl and the doubled-over money began to unfold itself. She touched her thumb to the blooming bills and they were all hundreds – maybe fifty of them. The owners of this cash slept here last night. They dreamed of a redhead maid in blue gloves and wet-kneed jeans and sneakers a size too big. Her fingers on their money."






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