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# Eastern Kentucky University Magazine, Spring 2011

Eastern Kentucky University, Alumni Relations

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# Eastern

The EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



The equus factor  
at Eastern.

*Read about it inside.*

SPRING ISSUE 2011



# Joining the *Circle of Giving*

## **First generation student Traci Stewart**

is with us at Eastern because many gave generously. A Rodney Gross Scholar with Presidential and Berge Scholarships, Traci is already giving back. She works at the Model Laboratory School, serves as president of the ECU Gospel Ensemble, takes a leadership role in Collegiate, Black & Christian, and keeps all her grades up. An elementary education major, "working with special needs children in Richmond," says Traci, "is where I want to be."

**Is her family proud?  
"Yes, very, very."**

*We of her Eastern family  
are also very, very proud.*

To find out more about ways to support students like Traci as they receive, give back and give forward to a new generation and better world for all of us, please call **(859) 622-1583** or visit **[www.development.eku.edu](http://www.development.eku.edu)**.




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## Eastern Magazine Staff

**Editorial Board:** Jackie Collier, Kara Covert, Joseph Foster, Simon Gray, Jey Marks, '00, Chris Radcliffe, '03, Marcus Whitt, '82, '85  
**Contributing Writers:** Eddie Bryant, Pamela Schoenewaldt, Odette Shults  
**Photographer:** Chris Radcliffe, '03  
**Design & Production:** FMB Advertising  
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# AlumniMatters



Dear Alumni and Friends,

There has certainly been a lot happening at Eastern. This issue of your magazine is about celebration!

Hollywood has its Oscars; television has its Emmys and Broadway has its Tonys. At Eastern we have five Alumni Association Awards: the Hall of Distinguished Alumni, the Alumni Achievement, the Distinguished Service and the Young Alumni awards. We honor our faculty with the Award for Teaching Excellence. In this issue we present the recipients of the 2010 Awards (pp. 8-13). Each year our Alumni

Board is proud and delighted to review the nominations and select recipients for these accolades. If you'd like to suggest outstanding alumni or faculty candidates for recognition, simply fill out our easy online nomination form at [www.eku.edu/alumni](http://www.eku.edu/alumni) and we'll take it from there.

The school year has been a busy one with academics, athletics, theatre, lectures and other campus happenings. One of the big celebrations we look forward to is Alumni Weekend, April 29-May 1, 2011. Besides the annual Awards Banquet and reunion festivities, we'll be celebrating our second Speck's EKU Alumni Reunion with live music from the golden age of rock 'n' roll and great memories of a beloved Richmond landmark. Find out more about Alumni Weekend at [www.eku.edu/alumni](http://www.eku.edu/alumni) and [www.SpecksEKUAlumni.com](http://www.SpecksEKUAlumni.com). We hope you'll join us for a wonderful spring weekend at Eastern—and bring your dancing shoes!

As we celebrate spring, it's a time of looking back and looking forward. Alumni and friends who have seen how much Eastern has given to their lives and communities have given forward to new generations. They have supported students through scholarships and strengthened programs. If you would like to join us in giving to the Power of Maroon, in sharing and celebrating the opportunities of an Eastern education, visit [www.development.eku.edu](http://www.development.eku.edu) and look for the "make an online gift now" link. We are grateful for your support.

As always, I love hearing from Eastern alumni and friends. You can reach me at [jackie.collier@eku.edu](mailto:jackie.collier@eku.edu) or call (859) 622-1260.

Jackie Collier  
Director of Alumni Relations

## Eastern

The Magazine of Eastern Kentucky University

**Dr. Doug Whitlock**, '65, '66, *President*  
[doug.whitlock@eku.edu](mailto:doug.whitlock@eku.edu)

**Joseph D.W. Foster**, *Vice President for University Advancement*, [joseph.foster@eku.edu](mailto:joseph.foster@eku.edu)

### Alumni Relations Staff

**Jackie Collier**, *Director*  
859/622-1260, [jackie.collier@eku.edu](mailto:jackie.collier@eku.edu)

**Jey Marks**, '00, *Associate Director*  
[jey.marks@eku.edu](mailto:jey.marks@eku.edu)

**Donna Lazzara**, *Administrative Assistant II*  
[donna.lazzara@eku.edu](mailto:donna.lazzara@eku.edu)

**Barbara Howard**, *Senior Office Associate*  
[barbara.howard@eku.edu](mailto:barbara.howard@eku.edu)

### Alumni Association Board 2010-11

**Melissa Combs-Wright**, '00, *President*  
Lexington, Ky., [mcombswright@gmail.com](mailto:mcombswright@gmail.com)

**Tonya Tarvin Crum**, '95, *Vice President/President-elect*  
Nicholasville, Ky., [tonyacrum@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyacrum@yahoo.com)

**Kimberly Sasser Croley**, '83, *Secretary*  
Corbin, Ky., [kscroley@yahoo.com](mailto:kscroley@yahoo.com)

**Ron Griffin**, '79, *Past-president*  
Lexington, Ky., [deacong@insightbb.com](mailto:deacong@insightbb.com)

**J. Bryan Amerine**, '76  
Ludlow, Ky., [jba323@aol.com](mailto:jba323@aol.com)

**Anthony Beatty, Sr.**, '78  
Lexington, Ky., [Abeat2@uky.edu](mailto:Abeat2@uky.edu)

**Marc Collins**, '97  
Walton, Ky., [mrc115@aol.com](mailto:mrc115@aol.com)

**Dana Daughetee**, '07  
Lexington, Ky., [dana.daughetee@uky.edu](mailto:dana.daughetee@uky.edu)

**Kara Daughetee**, *Student Alumni Ambassador President*  
[kara\\_daughetee@eku.edu](mailto:kara_daughetee@eku.edu)

**Sarah E. DeRossett**, '76  
Durham, N.C., [Sarah@DeRossett-uk.com](mailto:Sarah@DeRossett-uk.com)

**Michael Earl Hay**, '94  
Richmond, Ky., [michael.hay@eku.edu](mailto:michael.hay@eku.edu)

**Ed Maggard**, '69  
Lexington, Ky., [ed@maggardproperty.com](mailto:ed@maggardproperty.com)

**Tom Martin**, '93, '01  
Richmond, Ky., [tom.martin@eku.edu](mailto:tom.martin@eku.edu)

**Lesia May**, '92  
Louisville, Ky., [Lesax3@insightbb.com](mailto:Lesax3@insightbb.com)

**Gayle Mason McCroskey**, '75  
Lewisburg, W.V., [gayle@gmasoncpa.com](mailto:gayle@gmasoncpa.com)

**Lencia Alexander Mountjoy**, '86  
Danville, Ky., [lencia.mountjoy@boyle.ky.schools.us](mailto:lencia.mountjoy@boyle.ky.schools.us)

**James Murphy**, '54  
Richmond, Ky., [jcmdmd@bellsouth.net](mailto:jcmdmd@bellsouth.net)

**Charles Neal**, '98  
Jeffersonville, Ind., [cf.neal@live.com](mailto:cf.neal@live.com)

**Ralph Newman**, '62  
Grayson, Ky., [newmanren@aol.com](mailto:newmanren@aol.com)

**Doug Oliver**, '68  
Winchester, Ky., [coliver21648@bellsouth.net](mailto:coliver21648@bellsouth.net)

**Glenn Raglin**, '80  
Birmingham, Ala., [glennraglin@yahoo.com](mailto:glennraglin@yahoo.com)

**Emily Collins Robinson**, '01  
Louisville, Ky., [emilyrobinson1@gmail.com](mailto:emilyrobinson1@gmail.com)

**Jenni Wade Sutley**, '96, '07  
Frankfort, Ky., [jenni.sutley@franklin.kyschools.us](mailto:jenni.sutley@franklin.kyschools.us)

**Laura Enzweiler Thropp**, '77  
Houston, Texas, [lthropp@mdanderson.org](mailto:lthropp@mdanderson.org)

**Ann P. Towles**, '82  
Louisville, Ky., [atowles@advancedsafetyhealth.com](mailto:atowles@advancedsafetyhealth.com)

**Bill Wethington**, '72  
Verona, Ky., [bill@wethingtoninsurance.com](mailto:bill@wethingtoninsurance.com)

**Becky Whitehurst**, '07  
Chicago, Ill., [beckyjw11@gmail.com](mailto:beckyjw11@gmail.com)

# President's Perspective



For the longest time I have heard folks refer to Eastern Kentucky University as one of “America’s best kept secrets.” The irony is that while the speaker meant that statement as a compliment, I never took it that way. I did not believe it should be our aspiration to be a secret, best kept or otherwise.

So, every time I have been before a microphone in cities all across this country, I have shared with the audience those five honors that last year only EKV, the Ohio State University, and Tulane University

could claim: simultaneously being named Great Colleges to Work For® (*Chronicle of Higher Education*); ranked in the top ten percent of America’s colleges and universities (*Forbes*); recognized as community engaged institutions (Carnegie Foundation); Tier One universities (*U.S. News & World Report*); and Military-Friendly Schools (*G.I. Jobs Magazine*). This year, Tulane and Ohio State dropped out of this elite group, leaving EKV alone of the country’s some 5,000 four-year institutions to claim all five distinctions.

Not long after we had confirmed that there was now only one with this honor came the news of another singular distinction for Eastern. In late September, the *Military Times EDGE Magazine* (*Military Times* is to the military as the *Wall Street Journal* is to the financial world) listed the 101 best institutions in America for veterans to continue their studies. Sitting at the top of that list is Eastern Kentucky University. Best kept secret, indeed.

I offer you three reasons why the light of EKV has begun to emerge from under a basket:

1) We have a truly outstanding faculty and staff at this institution. You see some of their accomplishments regularly outlined in this magazine. I invite you to browse around [www.eku.edu](http://www.eku.edu) and check the accounts of our faculty and staff achievements. While you are there, also take in what our students are doing. I think you will be both proud and amazed.

Many other institutions can also lay claim to a quality faculty and staff. In fact, if you look at pedigrees across several universities, you will find that their faculties and staff hold degrees from many of the same schools. What sets us apart, in my view, is that we have a group dedicated to the mission of Eastern Kentucky University. They have

signed on to our objectives of student success, regional stewardship, and helping our students become critical and creative thinkers who can communicate effectively.

Those of you who attended Eastern before me, with me, and after my student years would recognize the same qualities in today’s faculty and staff as they knew in those who served us. This enduring sense of mission is an integral part of the Essential Eastern.

2) The second reason is the remarkable record of achievement of EKV alumni in a wide array of endeavors. Wherever we travel, one of the major subjects of conversation is the most recent issue of *Eastern*. Each issue features the accomplishments of our alumni on every front, from local to international. This edition of the magazine is no different. It chronicles the achievements of our alumni (and students) in a range of activities, including the equestrian industry, entertainment, medicine, business and the military.

As an aside, I am pleased that this *Eastern* issue shares our broadening international involvement at EKV. In my mind, this is a critical part of our commitment to student success.

3) And third, and in many respects paramount, is the support of Eastern from thousands of loyal, dedicated friends and alumni. You’ll find an accounting of that support within these pages.

It would be presumptive of me to tell any of you that the current economic situation is a challenge to Eastern and to every other institution in America that relies—if only in part—on the generosity of donors. That EKV alumni love their *alma mater* is undeniable. In this toughest of environments, our giving program last year set a new high for the number of individuals making contributions to Eastern. This bodes well, indeed, for the future of private support of our University. My personal thanks and appreciation are extended to everyone who helped EKV with resources this past year. We accept the trust you have placed in us.

While on the subject of philanthropy, I must mention that we opened the Ron and Sherrie Lou Noel Studio for Academic Creativity in the Library the day before Homecoming. Made possible by a generous gift from the alums for whom it is named, the Studio is a new jewel in Eastern’s crown and a remarkable tool in our work to nurture creativity in our students.

Serving as president of this place we all love continues to be a fulfillment for me. That is true now more than ever, as the last lines of our Alma Mater ring more true with each year . . . “still thy lamp is brightly lighting us afar, that we may see.”

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

# Who Secures Thoroughbred Legends?

Amy Kearns, '98, journalist, scholar and racehorse roadie

Picture a security guard for America's Thoroughbred Horse of the Year, working the "backside" of fabled tracks. Do you see a slightly built young woman with flowing blond hair, given to late night yoga in the stable, polishing her doctoral dissertation while perched on a hay bale? That would be Amy Kearns, '98, whose résumé begins, "June 2007–PRESENT: Security foreman for two of the most notable racehorses of the modern era...Performed advances and led coordination of local security and law enforcement in eight states and the United Arab Emirates." Next comes an impressive string of academic fellowships, articles in prestigious criminal justice journals, sports writing for the *Richmond (Ky.) Register*, an Eastern B.A. in journalism and M.S. from the College of Justice & Safety. What drives this career? "Serendipity," insists Kearns.

At Lexington, Ky.-based Stonestreet Farms, Kearns called herself the "chaperone," first for the stallion Curlin, Horse of the Year for 2007 and 2008 (see "Curlin's Numbers" on p. 7), and then for super-filly Rachel Alexandra, 2009 Horse of the Year. Stonestreet's owner, Jess Jackson, couldn't have envisioned that a Craigslist want ad for "horse farm security" would net him a professional of such absolute devotion, deftly balancing security for multi-million dollar assets with mounting media frenzy that both escalated and threatened those assets. Nor could Jackson have predicted that Amy Kearns would garner her own fan club and a glowing *New York Times* feature on his unique "racehorse roadie."

But "roadie" barely suggests the scope of her work. Kearns minutely documented her charges' routines: what and when they ate and drank, details of exercise and grooming, medication and visitors, when they lay down and for how long. Only such precision can warn trainers if champions are off their game. No change in venue can alter a diet or risk infection; even team members washed their hands before giving mints. Curlin's famously touchy tastes needed accommodation on dozens of tracks. He certainly didn't get petted; he wasn't a pet. "He was the boss," says Kearns.







In security, context is key. “I could go from squatting on a bale of hay with the grooms to engaging a journalist from the Associated Press to interacting with wealthy owners,” explains Kearns. With her team, Kearns practiced “community-oriented security” based on an intimate knowledge of the people and interests operating around Curlin and Rachel Alexandra. Owners, breeders, staff, jockeys, media and fans want access to a great horse. Who gets it? Who’s just trying to hack off a hunk of mane for a trophy? Who means worse? It was her job to know and act fast, diplomatically. “As someone with a deep appreciation for racing, I never wanted to alienate fans, and we always tried to make them feel good even when saying no.” Growing ranks of paparazzi began calling her the “get back girl.” When seasoned sports writers got “the look,” they didn’t press. While Stonestreet typically rotates security staff every three to four weeks, Kearns, with her “Mother Bear” devotion, eschewed rotation and fell into a 12-hour day pattern, logging one day off in the 18 months she worked with Curlin. “Every day,” she insists, “was more special than the last.”

Curlin was indeed, “special.” As Hall of Fame trainer H. Allen Jerkens said, “Curlin isn’t one in a million . . . he’s one in a jillion.” Consider 2007: first place wins in the Rebel Stakes, Arkansas Derby, Preakness, Jockey Club Gold Cup; second in the Belmont Stakes; third in the Kentucky Derby. In 2008: first in The Stephen Foster Handicap, Woodward Stakes and Jockey Club Gold Cup; second in the Man o’ War Stakes.

Kearns worked in extreme heat and cold, sometimes ankle-deep in mud, digging trenches to fend off rain water. Night brought armies of rats. Hair washing? Use a stable hose. Restrooms? Rare. Meals? Once she fished cookies from a trash can. Coffee in the barn? No, a spill can taint the hay. On the 16-hour return flight from the Dubai World Cup, Kearns slept on straw in a cargo plane. “When you are committed to something, you find the wherewithal to take the bad with the good,” she

says simply. When Curlin retired after the 2008 Breeder’s Cup Classic as the #1 all-time North American money earner and took his parting lap around the track, the crowd stood and roared its affection. Fans autographed a poster for Kearns. Even today, the memory brings tears.

With Curlin now standing stud, Stonestreet Farms sought top security for its rising filly star, Rachel Alexandra. The upside down exclamation point blaze on her nose was prophetic. Following a stunning win at the 2009 Preakness, *Blood-Horse* magazine recorded jockey Calvin Borel’s stunned analysis, “That is a runnin’ mother!” Rachel Alexandra’s trainer, Steve Asmussen, concurs, “Rachel Alexandra’s 2009 campaign was one for the ages.”

To guard its second Horse of the Year, Stonestreet Farms again turned to Amy Kearns, who quickly adapted to a new equine personality, more playful and relaxed. Yet their rapport stayed professional, “Rachel and I got along because I left her alone. She didn’t like to be petted unless she wanted to be petted. She didn’t like to be stared at when she wanted to rest.” Rachel Alexandra generated a fervent fan base of women thrilled by her triumphs over the opposite sex and a fashion spread in *Vogue*. Working the digital media, Kearns created an online “diary” for Rachel Alexandra (see “Rachel Alexandra’s Friends and Fans” above) and monitored legions of Facebook friends. As racehorse security evolves, Stonestreet Farms fully appreciates the multi-dimensional skills of this Eastern-bred professional. Asmussen reports, “Amy has this way about her that eases any potential conflict.” Her “way” is a factor of background.

Growing up near Lexington on a family farm with a picture of the thundering gelding John Henry over her bed, Amy Kearns loved the

### Rachel Alexandra’s Friends & Fans

Google searches: 379,000

Facebook friends: 9,265

Photo gallery:

[www.stonestreetfarms.com](http://www.stonestreetfarms.com)

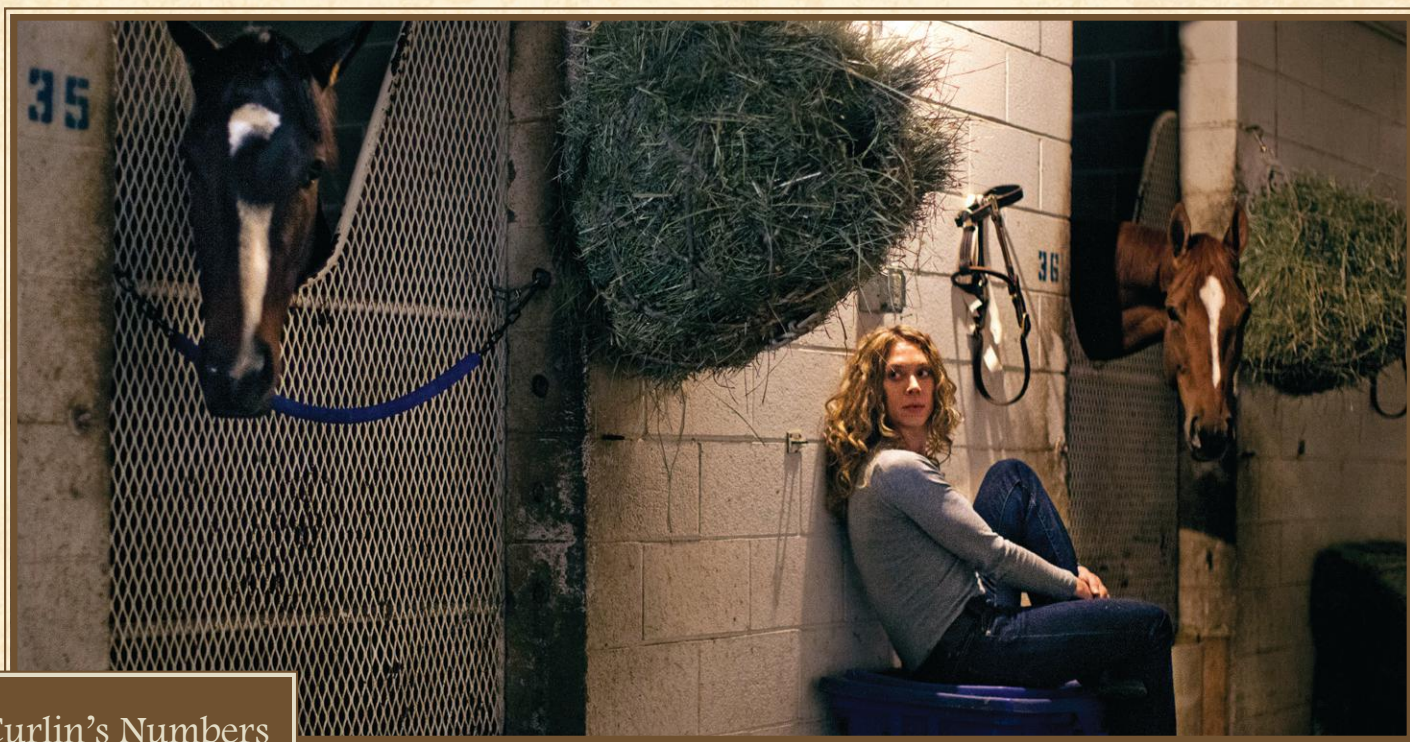
smell of hay and didn't mind dirt. While studying journalism and anthropology at Eastern, she covered sports for the *Eastern Progress* and the *Richmond Register*, dragging friends to simulcasts of the great racehorse Cigar. She planned to be a sportswriter for the *Daily Racing Form*. Then Kearns learned of Eastern's "spectacular" master's degree program in criminal justice and changed her career path. A fond memory of those graduate school years is a colloquium she helped coordinate, bringing together scholars from the journalism, sociology and criminal justice departments.

Influenced by her journalism background to explore emotion-driven factors influencing criminal justice policy, she entered a rigorous doctoral program at the University of Indiana. Working with community leaders, academics, the NAACP and a wide range of criminal justice professionals and public officials of Monroe County,

Craigslist notice from Stonestreet Farms which seemed such a perfect match for her skills and passions.

Dr. Gary Potter of Eastern's department of criminal justice notes that racetrack security demands a unique combination of judgment, intelligence, maturity, patience and a deep connection with horses. Potter saw these qualities in Kearns' academic work, family farm background and, he laughs, in formidable talents as a handicapper.

Acknowledging gratitude to Eastern, Kearns writes, "My experience as a sportswriter allowed me to speak the language of the press, know their tricks, and work with them to give Curlin and Rachel Alexandra the attention they deserved without disturbing them . . . and allow [the staff] to do their jobs without being interrupted." When partnering with local law enforcement and track security, "My academic work in criminal justice allowed me to work well with those groups."



### Curlin's Numbers

\$10,501,800 – U.S. earnings

\$57,000 – cost in 2004

1,200+ – weight in pounds

42 mph – speed out of the starting gate

11 – lifetime victories

2 – times Horse of the Year (2007 & 2008)

#1 – North American money earner

SOURCE: NYRA

Ind., she helped write the Monroe County Racial Justice Task Force Report, recognized by the American Bar Association as a national model.

With all but her dissertation finished and a teaching position offered, Kearns took time to reflect "before committing my life to the tenure process." Home in Lexington, making a late night scan of online job listings, her eye fell on that fateful

As Curlin and Rachel Alexandra's status grew to rock star proportions, so grew the mayhem engendered by their appearance at any track. Jaded security forces were stunned by the onslaught of fans and press, and increasingly relied on Kearns to keep the peace—and the space—around temperamental equine properties.

With Rachel Alexandra recently bred to Curlin and awaiting their hugely anticipated super-foal in February, 2012, Amy Kearns passed the winter in California, keeping watch over a string of Stonestreet horses at Santa Anita Park. She'll be in Kentucky for the kickoff of Churchill Downs Spring Meet, home in the land that honors great horses as she does, with the work that makes her "the happiest girl in the world."



# HALL OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Each year since 1974, the executive committee of the EKI International Alumni Association has recognized a small group of alumni who have used their Eastern education and training to make significant contributions in their professions. Their induction into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni is witness to the profound depth and breadth of Eastern's service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the region, the nation, and our increasingly interconnected world.



## Dr. Marshall Darnell, '60, '64

Consider the administrative challenges of Nevada's Clark County school system. Home to Las Vegas, the county has more acreage than New Jersey. Boom years can bring 5,000 new residents per month from broadly diverse cultures, mixing children from urban, suburban and very rural communities. Yet one administrator has drawn accolades from senators and students, casino owners and colleagues, parents, and state and national leaders.

Marshall Darnell was born far from Clark County, in Harrodsburg, Ky. (population 5,000), but developed broadly applicable skills through his Eastern B.A. in social sciences and English and a master's degree in guidance and counseling. Entering the Clark County schools as a substitute teacher, he retired thirty years later as assistant superintendent of management operations for the nation's fifth largest school system.

As Clark County boomed, Darnell served as classroom teacher, guidance counselor, assistant high school principal, and middle and high school principal. He directed secondary schools and curriculum, vocational education programs, occupational education, special instructional programs and leadership training for administrators, in addition to completing a doctorate in education administration at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

In every position, Dr. Darnell "knew all the students individually and had the ability to make you feel good about yourself," wrote a business owner and former student. "It is with rare exception that we come across people of his caliber and dedication in our lives," wrote a senator. Darnell's expertise was sought at the state level as chair of the Nevada Vocational Education Advisory Council, president of the Nevada Secondary School Principals Association and member of the Governor's Educational Task Force. Then-Vice President Walter Mondale tapped him for a national task force to write major federal legislation on vocational education and job training. In each position, says Darnell, he competed with those of "the most prestigious of schools and never once did my education rank second."

In 2001, a new county school was named: Marshall Darnell Elementary School. Already carrying on its namesake's tradition of excellence, it's one of the state's few to receive a GreatSchools Rating of 9 out of 10. Dr. Darnell's legacy of character, integrity and passionate concern for all students is shaping yet another generation of children.



## Toni Hacker, '97

Five years ago, Manchester, Ky., native Toni Hacker and life and business partner Ben Harnett launched Hayden-Harnett, an accessories company offering “beautiful objects of use.” Almost immediately, their work captured New York’s fashion eyes and soon went worldwide. Their fine handbags, accessories and apparel grace fine boutiques and have been lauded by the likes of *Elle*, *Glamour*, *Marie Claire*, *Seventeen* and *Latina*. Major stars wear their designs, and retail giant Target featured a Hayden-Harnett line in its designer collaborations series. Online sales boom. While most firms its size put out seven to nine products, Hayden-Harnett markets more than 100.

Constant contact with her client “family” keeps Toni Hacker tuned to her “style ethos”: “We’re not about being sexy, exclusive, me-too or snobbish. Anything that we create must be something women need—style plus function.” An avid reader, Hacker brings a broad-based Eastern education to her work with product tags quoting philosopher and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Things are pretty, graceful, rich, elegant, handsome, but until they speak to the imagination, not yet beautiful.”

In fact, it was at Eastern that liberal arts, design, technique, art history and theory courses came together for Hacker in a field fueled by imagination: product design. Here she combined passions for interiors, graphic design, metalwork and sculpture with psychology, her first interest at Eastern. “People sense” is palpable at Hayden-Harnett in the loyal, diverse staff, in a generous benefits package (rare in this industry), and in an environmental commitment that runs from leather choices (no exotics!) to an organic cotton eco-tote line.

Toni Hacker used classroom training and skills gleaned from a co-op assignment with Richmond’s First Gear to blaze through a post-B.A. internship in Columbus, picking up advanced computer design skills. At subsequent jobs, designs for kiosks, lunch bags and private label clothing built credentials for an Innovo assignment in Hong Kong, interfacing with manufacturers. By 2003, she was managing an accessory line in New York, met Ben Harnett, moved up to giant Liz Claiborne, and by April Fool’s Day, 2005, Toni Hacker and Ben Harnett leapt to independence “sans parachute.” The leap paid off. Hard-working and successful, marrying imagination with integrity, Toni Hacker is a case study for a new generation of Eastern design students.



## Nelson Horseman, '73, '75

“We all walk tall in having had a part in the development of the career of Dr. Nelson Horseman,” said Dr. Sanford Jones, retired professor and former chair of Eastern’s department of biological sciences. Dr. Horseman’s innovative research at the University of Cincinnati could have profound impact on understanding of the role of serotonin

in breast cancer, now the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women, with occurrence steadily rising over the last six decades.

Horseman’s research hinges on the biological uniqueness of the mammary glands, whose postnatal development “is controlled primarily by systemic endocrine factors, making it accessible to detailed studies,” he writes. These studies yielded a breakthrough in December 2009, when Dr. Horseman’s group determined that while typically considered a “brain hormone,” serotonin is also created within breast cells where it inhibits cell growth. Since rapidly growing breast cancer cells react atypically to serotonin, these findings could impact diagnosis, management and treatment of the disease.

Horseman’s work also impacts agricultural economy, attracting major funding by the USDA. Understanding how serotonin inhibits lactation in cows suggests methods to “shut off” serotonin, increasing milk production by up to 15 percent without resorting to growth hormones. Other research avenues include the role of serotonin in regulating mood, appetite and sleep.

After earning a doctorate from Louisiana State University, Horseman did post-doctoral work at Argonne National Laboratory and taught biology at Marquette University, later directing its Biological and Biomedical Research Institute before returning to his native Ohio. Dr. Nelson Horseman has twice earned UC teaching awards, directed graduate studies as well as the system’s biology and physiology program, chaired the department of molecular and cellular physiology, and taught in the UC department of medicine since 1996.

Horseman traces his love of biology to an ichthyology class field trip at Eastern, when Dr. Branley Branson, widely known expert in fresh water fish, collected a species now called the “Splendid Darter.” Struck by the grandeur and intrigued by the interactions of the natural world, Horseman has spent his career enriching our understanding of our bodies’ complex functions and malfunctions, touching the lives of people around the world who owe more than they know to Kentucky’s little darter fish.



## Thomas Argyle Lowe, '48

Like so many young people during the Depression seeking the advantages of a college education, young Thomas Argyle Lowe left his small West Virginia town and came to Eastern. He could not have known the changes that awaited him. First he would meet and marry college student Kathleen Beckett, beginning a happy, 65-year marriage and producing “two healthy and intelligent sons.” Lowe’s perspective changed, too, at Eastern: “The professors assisted in transitioning me from a high school boy to a serious college student. Eastern [also] introduced me to the military and its role in national and international areas through three years in ROTC.” Those “international areas” pulled Lowe and so many others out of Eastern to serve in World War II.

After the war, Lowe graduated from Eastern and launched a 30-year military career, beginning with difficult assignments in the postwar occupation of Japan and Germany, and then later in Korea and Vietnam. Lowe's awards include a Purple Heart for wounds sustained in combat, induction in the U.S. Army Artillery Hall of Fame, commendations from the Governor of West Virginia and a U.S. Senator for an "extraordinary service record and invaluable service to the community," and a certificate of Special U.S. Congressional Recognition.

A dedicated student, teacher and leader, Lowe took a master's degree in international relations from George Washington University, completed the advanced management program at Harvard's Graduate School of Business, and graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. He taught at the U.S. Army Artillery and Guided Missile School and the U.S. Army War College, where he was noted for his leadership in its Strategic Studies Institute.

After a packed 30 years, Lowe retired as a colonel, yet continued applying his discipline, service ethic, and leadership skills to local political activity, to work with the blind and visually impaired, military associations, the Lions Club and Boy Scouts of America. Faithful to the physical fitness regime of his ROTC days at Eastern, Thomas Lowe still cuts a dashing figure in the uniform he wore 36 years ago at retirement.



### Lee Thomas Miller, '90

Country music hit songwriter Lee Thomas Miller knew as a teenager in Nicholasville, Ky., where he was headed: Nashville's Music Row. "College first!" his parents insisted. Miller chose Eastern and happily discovered that as a music major he could earn credits doing what he loved best. "When I think about ECU, I get dizzy. It was great. For me, studying meant playing music." Courses in music history and theory, dance, theater, voice, piano and guitar, and performing with the University Singers and the Show Choir strengthened his resolve. "If I starve to death," he told friends, "it will be on the streets of Nashville." Asked for his fallback plan, Miller replied, "I don't intend on falling back."

Shortly after graduating from Eastern, Miller was immersed in the Nashville scramble of manual labor and office work by day, singing and songwriting by night. Six years later, he had an office on Music Row, "making up stuff for a living, the happiest person in the world."

Hit followed hit. Miller has written or co-written five Number 1 country singles, been nominated for three Grammy Awards, and received the 2009 Song of the Year award from the Country Music Association. Peers in Nashville Songwriters Association International regularly honor Miller in the listing, "Ten Songs I Wish I Had Written." Singers like Trace Adkins, BlackHawk, Joe Nichols, Brad Paisley and Terri Clark record Miller hits like "Days of America," "In Color," "The Impossible," "The World," "I Just Wanna Be Mad," "I'm Still a Guy" and "You're Gonna Miss This."

Looking back on his trajectory from Eastern to Nashville, Miller is grateful for the gift of a "broader view of music." When counseling starstruck young musicians, he repeats his parents' advice: college first. Stardom may or may not come, but "you're going to have to learn to be an adult and function in society. College helps you do that." Happily married and a proud father of four, penning national hits with the respect of his peers, Lee Thomas Miller has more than fulfilled the goal he announced in Eastern's Foster Music Building.



### Barbara Roethlisberger, '49

Barbara Lehman Roethlisberger's education major at Eastern seems an unlikely predictor for 40 years of success as president and chief operating officer for Electro-Core, Inc., a multimillion dollar producer of high quality silicon steel magnetic core products for commercial, medical and defense industries from its headquarters near St. Louis, Mo. Yet Roethlisberger's relentless drive and resourcefulness in acquiring a degree prefigured her business success.

After a freshman year in junior college, Roethlisberger began working her way through Eastern. She babysat for children of G.I. students and then began saving on room and board by working at a local hospital and living with the nursing staff. When, despite every economy, money ran out, she withdrew and worked in a Chicago restaurant for a year, saving her money and returning to Eastern. Through every struggle, she was buoyed by friendly professors, students and staff who "treated you nicely, regardless of what kind of clothes you wore or how much money you had." Encouraged and confident, Roethlisberger graduated, moved to St. Louis, and began making her way in the business world, building skills as she went.

In 1967, Barbara Roethlisberger and her husband Louis launched Electro-Core, Inc. in Washington, Mo. Unlike Eastern, the climate was "not that friendly"; female managers in the aggressively male world of magnetic core producers were neither common nor welcomed. The company grew, succeeding as competitors failed, keeping manufacturing operations in the U.S. as others moved overseas, now serving green energy technologies with new windmill generators. Today, applications for Electro-Core products include transformers, inductors, chokes, shunts, solenoids and shielding materials.

Along with her corporate responsibilities, Barbara Roethlisberger has contributed to her communities, serving the American Association of University Women, the YMCA, United Way and Washington Historical Society. Now semi-retired with her son Norman running Electro-Core, she is giving back to Eastern through a fund to provide resources for student enhancement and faculty development in the college of business & technology. She is, in short, a powerful transforming agent, taking the encouragement she received at Eastern and passing it along to others.

# 2010 YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD



## Chris Girdler, '02

In the few years since Chris Girdler earned his bachelor's degree in business administration, he has found success in a wide variety of arenas: growing a family business, politics, securing funding for public education, rural development, environmental awareness, investment and real estate. He combines passion for the people and places of southern and eastern Kentucky with dexterity in fields as diverse as AutoCAD drafting and advising on banking operations.

Girdler believes that Eastern's low student:faculty ratio spurred interaction and learning opportunities, laying "the foundation of success for my past, present, and, hopefully, future accomplishments." He built on that foundation after graduation, joining the family business, Sharpe Houseboats of Somerset, Ky., whose reputation for customer satisfaction confirms its motto, "Dream it, we'll build it and deliver it." As vice president for sales, marketing and public relations and design, Girdler helped Sharpe move worldwide, with customers from the Amazon River to the United Arab Emirates.

Yet by 2007, a longing to serve the people of Kentucky took Girdler in a new direction: field representative and liaison on the staff of Fifth District U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers. He brought years of volunteer experience in local and state campaigns and a passion for work that showed, recalls Rogers, in every meeting and constituent encounter. "Chris is a way-maker, an idea generator. He can't be told that an accomplishment is impossible," Rogers says.

While regularly accomplishing the impossible for Congressman Rogers, Girdler served on the executive committee of Kentucky's Republican Party and on multiple bank advisory boards, was vice president of the Pulaski County Educational Curriculum, president of the Lincoln Club and worked actively in his church, amply earning the Young Professional of the Year Award of the Somerset-Pulaski Chamber of Commerce. He built lifelong friends in organizations like the Center for Rural Development and Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, working to improve water quality, waste management and environmental awareness. Recently Girdler made the "difficult decision" to leave the Rogers team and has joined the sales and public relations staff of Southern Petroleum. Meanwhile he hopes to stay involved in community service while exploring political options. In short, Chris Girdler will keep finding new applications for the business skills he absorbed at Eastern.

# AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

This award speaks to the fundamental purpose of Eastern—teaching—and to many alumni’s fondest memories—of those who taught, inspired and encouraged them. Each year, two faculty members are chosen for their teaching excellence and student commitment. They receive a certificate, a cash stipend from a grateful Alumni Association, and recognition at the alumni banquet and spring commencement ceremony.



## Stephen Kappeler

Stephen Kappeler works to make himself obsolete—to help his students in criminal justice and police studies build a foundation of core knowledge on which they can independently exercise critical and analytic thinking skills. Because he won’t be there in the long nights and tough cases his students will face, Kappeler takes his job seriously. This is not TV crime show world. “I tell them that if they like CSI, study acting, not criminal justice.”

Based at Eastern’s Corbin campus, Kappeler is academic advisor to criminal and police studies majors at all regional campuses, dedicated to bringing each student to “that light bulb moment.” Because students learn in different ways, he uses examples, definitions, narratives and mock trials, giving information by audio and visual means with whiteboards, blackboards and SMART boards. He assigns field research, having students develop and code surveys and analyze data while interacting professionally with their future colleagues.

Kappeler advises two national and local criminal justice student organizations at the Corbin campus, Alpha Phi Sigma, Theta Xi chapter and Lambda Alpha Epsilon, Theta Gamma Epsilon chapter. He works with students on community projects ranging from improving Christmas for juveniles in the Sunrise Youth Support Center at London, Ky., to a complex electronic mentoring project matching middle school and college students with appropriate privacy controls. Kappeler mentors students in both chapters and facilitates their attendance and participation at national and regional conferences.

Kappeler has deep respect for his many non-traditional students who come to class knowing that this is their chance for education... there may not be another. “They’re e-mailing me at two and three in the morning,” he shares, honoring adult learners’ challenges while maintaining the high standards to assure them a career return on their investment.

It is no surprise, then, that in the five years that Stephen Kappeler has taught at Eastern following a master’s degree from Radford University and teaching experience at Concord University, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Troy University, he has been recognized for leadership, teaching expertise and service outside the classroom, preparing students for a life of service in real communities, not reality show fantasies.



## Dr. Sara L. Zeigler

Dr. Sara Zeigler, chair of the department of government, came to Eastern as a political science instructor in 1996 with a sterling academic record from Reed College and UCLA. Within ten years she had amassed pages of publications, invited contributions, presentations and panel discussions in her fields: gender issues; family, marriage, and labor law; women in the military; civil liberties; and the pedagogical benefits of student competitions.

Meanwhile, abundant university service includes mentoring, freshmen orientation and student success initiatives, honors and women’s programs, and an array of administrative and committee functions. Little surprise that by 2006, Zeigler was a full professor, backed by years of awards and commendations for teaching excellence.

Yet the thickest of résumés means little without the one-to-one caring that Zeigler brings to teaching. Coaxing the shy to make that first public address, showing a talented first-generation student the complex etiquette of a professional political science conference, coaching young adults to deliver solidly researched and argued presentations—here too she excels. Zeigler proudly recounts a former student from a “challenging family background,” now two years out of law school, whose successful independent practice includes advocacy for low-income victims of domestic abuse.

In classes and presentations Zeigler tirelessly speaks to hidden injustices like slave child labor in the chocolate industry and pervasive gender assumptions that permeate our society. Zeigler’s goal is that all her students gain enough critical research, thinking and writing skills, confidence and poise in public speaking to “believe they can make a difference in this world.”

Exemplifying an early Eastern motto, “The best is hardly good enough,” Zeigler logs hundreds of hours relentlessly preparing Eastern’s Mock Trial team for local scrimmages and grueling intercollegiate competitions, devoting four or five full weekends each semester to these events. Few schools make it to the nationals. Eastern often does. Last April, Zeigler’s students placed fifth in the national championship tournament, overpowering startled teams from Yale, Columbia, Syracuse and New York University, and the University of Michigan. Lately, a remarkable thought is taking shape for Dr. Sara Zeigler: a vacation would be nice...once this next paper, presentation and encouraging note to a former student is out of the way.



# SPECK'S REUNION

## Alumni Weekend brings back great memories

From the early 1950s to 1967, Speck's restaurant-bar-dance hall on First and Water Streets welcomed Eastern students. The back room throbbled with the golden hits of the '50s and '60s. Beloved local bands Exile and The Maroons played on a makeshift stage, and scores of students worked their way through Eastern with part-time work at Speck's. "No longer in business but still in our hearts," proclaims Speck's Facebook page, proved by a steady flow of Christmas cards, calls and visits to former owners Frank and Joe Ann Nassida (both '54 alumni) from patrons and employees who ate, hung out, and shared their joys and troubles with the Nassidas and packed the back room shoulder to shoulder. Seventeen years after Speck's closed, the pull was still strong. John "Muff" Adams, '65, and John Vetter, '64, (voted "Mr. Popularity") called a reunion at the Adams farm in Cynthiana. Hundreds came, danced and reminisced. Another reunion followed in 1985, and a third in 2004, at Gravel Switch, near Danville.

While Speck's was not exactly off-limits to college students, neither was attendance "encouraged," laughs Joe Ann Nassida. Times change, good memories endure and the 2010 Eastern Alumni Weekend "official" on-campus reunion brought 150 Speck's regulars and would-have-beens to the Stratton Building for a lively dance. In 2011 a spectacular, two-night reunion event is planned for Alumni Weekend, April 29-30. Former band members of Exile and The Maroons will play Friday night at Perkins Building (7 p.m. - 10 p.m.) and Saturday night after the Hall of Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet (8 p.m. - 1 a.m.) at Acres of Land Winery. Speck's era attendees will note with relief that the old 9 p.m. curfew for female students is void. George Ridings, '64, former Maroons drummer, has been practicing with other band members, recently cut a new CD and is happy to say, "We still sound pretty good." The highlight of the evenings, he promises, will be filling the stage with both bands' musicians jamming to favorites like "Proud Mary," "Mid-Nite Hour," "Old Time Rock 'n' Roll," Exile hits and romantic slow dances. Already, some alumni are planning a first-ever reunion appearance. "If Speck's is on campus, I'll be there!" said one Colonel from his Florida home.

What was the Speck's magic? Certainly not elegant decor. At best, the look was "warehouse." But you got good food—chili, T-bone, Uncle Charlie's Hamburger Steak, soda and beer—at student-friendly prices. No hard liquor. By state law, no woman could sit at the bar "unless her name was on the liquor license," says Joe Ann Nassida, but college girls took to the booths and back room where a dollar got you live music until closing—or curfew. You were safe at Speck's, a "fun, wholesome place to unwind with friends," says Ridings. Any kind of "tussle" brought

consequences: being "banned from Speck's" ended your social life. Thursday was the big night for local students, but for out-of-town or out-of-state students, Speck's was the weekend spot, a second home.

Frank and Joe Ann Nassida were like second parents to legions of regulars and employees. Captain of Eastern's 1954 Tangerine Bowl team, high school coach, teacher and principal, Frank Nassida truly enjoyed young people, as did Joe Ann, an education major and art teacher at Madison Central High School. When a guitar player was on the brink of leaving Eastern for lack of funds, Frank loaned him enough to stay with a quiet, "Just pay me back when you can." The Nassidas were fair and generous employers, says Durward Hale, '66, accounting major, Speck's manager, bookkeeper and doorman to the back room. The pay was a dollar an hour, good student wages back when a four-course meal next door at the Golden Rule cost 94¢. Meanwhile Joe Ann listened, gave advice, and sometimes played matchmaker. Were there many romances made at Speck's? "Oh yes," she laughs, "oh yes."

But most of all, Speck's was music.

When the Nassidas took over from Speck Young in June, 1959, music came from a jukebox. Frank auditioned George Ridings, Gary Edwards, '64, and friends, and so began The Maroons, Speck's house band. Musicians earned \$6 a night each. "You could eat for a week on campus for that," marvels Ridings. Married by his junior year, Speck's income kept Ridings in school. If a better paying weekend job popped up, Nassida let them go, no hard feelings. In the early '60s, J. P. Pennington and Jimmy Stokley's local band with Beatles-length hair was feeling outcast enough to dub themselves The Exiles. They were welcome at Speck's, building repertoire and skill until the big break in 1965: touring with Dick Clark's American Bandstand. In 1984, when Jimmy Stokley was terminally ill, Eastern hosted a benefit concert to help pay his medical bills. Now simply Exile, the group went on to rock, then country fame, earning a unique Top 40-Charts.com accolade: "Exile has jump-started more love affairs than last call on Saturday night."

Eastern's love affair with Speck's, Exile and The Maroons is still fresh and alive. Catch the vibration, groove, Twist, slow dance and reminisce about the years when "good, wholesome fun" made an old warehouse rock down on Water Street.

To reserve your tickets for Speck's Reunions during Alumni Weekend (April 29-30, 2011), contact Jackie Collier at jackie.collier@eku.edu or (859) 622-1260. To read or share Speck's memories, go to [www.specksalumni.com](http://www.specksalumni.com).

# ROCK at Eastern



## From Speck's to Stardom: Exile's biggest hits

- "Kiss You All Over"
- "Woke Up in Love"
- "I Don't Want to Be a Memory"
- "Give Me One More Chance"
- "Crazy For Your Love"
- "She's a Miracle"
- "Hang On to Your Heart"
- "I Could Get Used to You"
- "It'll Be Me"
- "She's Too Good to Be True"
- "I Can't Get Close Enough"

# WHEN LARGE ANIMALS NEED OUR HELP

A unique partnership trains first responders



**M**any first responders share a nightmare: answering a 9-1-1 call in driving rain to find an overturned trailer in a muddy ravine, trapping a load of 1,000+ pound horses or cattle. Some are injured. All are frantic. Onlookers and owners endanger themselves and complicate rescue. Trained on human victims, responders often can't accurately evaluate large animals' conditions. Call a large animal vet? In states like Kentucky, the nearest one may be an hour away (see "Who's Tending Our Large Animals?" on p.17). Human-scale restraints and transport systems are obviously useless. While human victims can often give critical information about their conditions, an animal can't. The result?

"In too many accidents and disasters," says Mark Cole of USRider, a Lexington, Ky.-based large animal insurance company, "animals without life threatening injuries are injured further or killed by incorrect rescue techniques." For example, responders trained on humans may overreact to a horse's massive bleeding, not realizing that the animal has ten times the blood capacity of humans. Too often, responders are handed a weapon and told to put down a salvageable animal they have not been trained to help. Responders suffer. And the owners? A racehorse may be insured, but what of the hopes and dreams of the owners? And what insurance settlement compensates for the loss of a beloved family horse? A small

cattle operation may not recover if natural disaster, contaminants or highway accidents cause damage that local responders can't contain.

And what of the rescuers' own safety? Frantic injured animals typically react to responders as predators. They fight back, using horns, hoofs, teeth and their own considerable weight. "Our nation is losing far too many first responders to line of duty injuries and deaths," warns Dr. Larry Collins, chair of Eastern's department of safety, security and emergency management. Untold numbers of private owners are injured or killed trying to save their animals.

Given the sheer number of animals supporting the economy of Kentucky alone, adds James Pharr, Eastern's fire and safety engineering technology program coordinator, trained first responders are essential. An overturned trailer may hold millions of dollars in racehorses or a large part of a breeder's stock. Mismanaged highway rescues could release large, injured and disoriented animals, causing further accidents.

Although large animal rescues are widely underreported, says Cole, a broad range of situations require rescue. In addition to transport incidents, farm animals may fall in wells, ditches, ravines and rivers. Mud and quicksand complicate rescue. Fires, floods and other natural disasters as well as chemical hazards demand rapid, trained response by large, coordinated teams. Rescue missions in rough terrain or inclement

**KENTUCKY'S LARGE ANIMAL POPULATION**

1,159,000 beef cows and heifers  
350,000 hogs and pigs  
149,465 horses and ponies  
85,000 goats  
37,000 sheep and lambs  
4,138 mules, burros and donkeys

..... ~~~~~ .....

1,784,603 total

*Source: Office of National Agricultural Statistics*

weather pose unique challenges, demanding specialized equipment and knowledge of animal behavior and physiology.

While there are Large Animal Rescue (LAR) training programs throughout the country, until recently there was no systematic way to train first responders at the beginning of their careers, particularly those poised to move into management or policy-making positions. In 2004, Eastern and USRider created a unique partnership to answer this need. USRider donated \$25,000 for the university's Large-Animal Rescue Endowment, which was matched through the Commonwealth's "Bucks for Brains" program established to encourage national-level research in Kentucky. USRider's continued financial support has sustained and grown this in-demand program at Eastern.

Each March, USRider, partnering with Eastern's fire and safety engineering technology program, department of agriculture and Meadowbrook Farm, produces two three-day seminars in Technical Large Animal Rescue. The first session is reserved for Eastern students who receive academic credit and operational level certification. "These graduates fan out all over the world, becoming leaders among firefighters, EMTs and in other safety-related professions—leaders already trained in large animal rescue," notes Cole. Pharr emphasizes that participation in this widely respected program makes Eastern graduates more competitive in the job market. The program's reputation is clear in the second, public training session, which draws fire and rescue personnel, emergency medical technicians, veterinarians and horse enthusiasts from throughout the U.S., Canada and as far as Australia. In organizing, promoting and delivering the back-to-back programs, Eastern faculty and staff "go above and beyond," says Cole, to ensure safety and training excellence.

Leading the program are retired veterinarian Dr. Tomas Gimenez and animal physiologist Dr. Rebecca Gimenez, world experts in LAR and authors of *Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue*. The sessions are intense. Each day begins at 8 a.m. with classroom presentations and videotapes of successful and unsuccessful rescues. Next come long afternoons of hands-on work in simulated rescue situations with two horses and a llama trained by the Drs. Gimenez. Rain or cold doesn't stop the sessions, only making them more "realistic," the trainers note.

The fieldwork site is Eastern's Meadowbrook Farm, where rolling hills and varied land features create an exceptional training venue. In a search and rescue exercise, for instance, students must locate a downed horse and its owner, calm the owner, correctly diagnose the horse's simulated broken leg and use a rescue glide to transport it to an ambulance. In three days, participants garner theory and practice in a wide range of situations and techniques:

- Safely approaching and evaluating large animals
- Safety for rescue personnel
- Physical restraint and containment
- Rope rigging for rescue operations
- Mud and water rescue
- Fire rescue and natural disasters
- Hazardous materials decontamination
- Helicopter rescue
- Transporting injured animals
- Incident command systems

## WHO'S TENDING OUR LARGE ANIMALS?

\$100,000 - \$200,000: typical student loan for vet student

\$23,000/year: typical starting salary for large animal vet

8,000: large animal vets in the U.S.

240: large animal vets in Kentucky

50 miles: distance a Kentuckian drives to a large animal vet

< 12: farm animal vets in Kentucky

0: vet schools in Kentucky

Source: American Veterinarian Association

Dr. Rebecca Gimenez proudly cites a recent dramatic rescue by former students now with the Northern Kentucky Large Animal Rescue Team who answered a call on a bitterly cold day in February 2009 to extract a horse named Pencil. The American Quarter Horse had fallen up to his neck in an icy pond, hooves locked in the muddy bottom. In an hour, Pencil was freed and in the hands of the grateful owner, who had been with Pencil since he was foaled and calls the horse his "best buddy." See images of the event at [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Kentucky-Crews-Rescue-Horse-From-Icy-Pond/46\\$62599](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Kentucky-Crews-Rescue-Horse-From-Icy-Pond/46$62599).

Eastern's LAR program, says Dr. Rebecca Gimenez, is helping to shift the first responder community from the knee-jerk thinking that trapped and injured animals are not recoverable to the realization that safe rescue is possible and that responders sworn to protect life and property must be trained to help both humans and animals. Eastern is graduating students who will become captains and battalion commanders setting training priorities. "Some will hold major positions at the National Fire Academy," she predicts. "They'll be changing rules, rewriting Standard Operating Procedures and mandating better data collection on agricultural incidents."

Transport accidents, fire and natural disasters will keep happening. Animals encounter contaminants. Horses fall into ponds, escape on major highways and cattle tumble into ravines. But as each group of graduates from Eastern's Technical Large Animal Rescue training fans across the nation, more and more owners will see their livestock survive disasters and more "best buddies" will come safely home.

For more information on the Technical Large Animal Rescue training, contact Eastern's department of safety, security and emergency management at (859) 622-1051.

Contributions to the Large-Animal Rescue Endowment Fund may be sent to the ECU Foundation, CPO 19A, Eastern Kentucky University, 521 Lancaster Ave., Richmond, KY 40475-3102 or made online at [www.eku.edu/development](http://www.eku.edu/development).



“ One of my priorities is to increase international opportunities and global awareness for both students and faculty.”

— President Doug Whitlock

# When Kentucky is a Foreign Land

## International students and faculty enrich Eastern

Right now, there are students all over the world reading about Eastern, talking to their professors, friends and family and considering life in far-away Richmond, Kentucky. Many take the plunge. Currently, more than 230 students from 61 countries attend Eastern, a 41% increase over last year's international enrollment. Dr. Neil Wright, director of international education, cites the magnet of academic quality, particularly in computer science, chemistry, mathematics, business and technology. The college of justice & safety draws students from Saudi Arabia to study fire safety engineering; public health programs attract many Indians, and five university exchange programs entice students from more than a dozen countries. Students appreciate Eastern's small classes, commitment to student success and price/quality ratio, while its safe, small-town setting reassures families. The presence of international students at Eastern enriches the academic and cultural experience of *all* students.

The Eastern community also benefits from the 40+ international faculty members who bring a multicultural dimension to classrooms, helping to prepare students for an increasingly global workplace. "I'm a better person and thinker because of his dedication," writes one student of Moroccan-born English professor, My Mustapha Jourdini. Another praises the "pure genius" of philosophy professor Dr. Patrick Nnoromele of Nigeria who presents multiple perspectives so evenly, so insistent on careful, independent analysis that, the grateful student concludes, "I got headaches from thinking so hard."

"One of my priorities is to increase international opportunities and global awareness for both students and faculty," says President Doug Whitlock as his administration works to broaden relationships with

foreign institutions and increase international enrollment. These students, notes Wright, model educational and career focus. They have to: the F-1 student visa requires a detailed "program of study" *before* acceptance at a U.S. university. The required Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) demands a mastery of grammar and vocabulary which "would stump many Americans," admits Wright. International students typically bring excellent math skills. And they persevere: 75

percent of those attending U.S. colleges and universities graduate in four years, besting national averages for their native-born classmates.

Yet international students face unique challenges, notes Wright. While Eastern offers targeted merit-based scholarships, discretionary funds may be limited, travel is expensive and some won't see their families until graduation or are the only ones from their country on campus. Computer registration, discussion-based classes, group projects and research

standards must be mastered, as well as American customs, diet and dialect. A warning about Kentucky winters simply may not translate to visitors from warm climates who don't own a heavy coat. Worst of all, there's precious little a student or faculty member can do besides worry if a family emergency strikes thousands of miles away or homeland politics take a difficult turn. Hemmed in by visa restrictions, Jourdini has not been home for 11 years. Shops in Lexington sell ingredients for familiar Moroccan dishes, "but family is irreplaceable."

Fortunately, says Beth Blanchard of the office of international education, "We're here. We are very intentional about being available, welcoming and supportive. Students come with administrative, academic, financial and personal concerns, and we are their advocates.





Illnesses and emergencies can't be scheduled, so our assistance isn't limited to business hours!" Examples of extraordinary service abound. The office helped two Asian students who lost everything but their backpacks in an apartment fire, marshaling temporary housing, book vouchers, clothes and counseling. On International Sweater Day, the community gathers winter wear for new arrivals. Blanchard attended birthing classes and was the labor coach when a married couple's culture did not permit husbands in the delivery room and the new mother wanted a friend by her side. The city, too, welcomes its guests, issuing arriving students an ID card recognized by the Richmond police and hospital ER staff and listing contact numbers for the mayor and Dr. Wright.

Every day, the friendly helpfulness of the Eastern community eases the path to acculturation. Janita Schoonderwoerd of Fijnaart, Netherlands, who earned an undergraduate degree at EKU through an international business exchange with Avans University and stayed to pursue an MBA, delighted to discover that Eastern faculty members actually respond to e-mails. She finds American students open, interested and inclusive. The International Student Association (ISA), Schoonderwoerd says, helps its members (including interested U.S.-born students) help each other, throwing welcome parties for new arrivals and organizing shopping and sightseeing trips, social and sports events, information exchanges and a speakers' bureau for schools and local organizations. By far the ISA's most popular event is the November International Banquet, a way, say members, to give back to a community that has given so much. With delicious food, a choreographed fashion show of international costumes and live entertainment as varied as Brazilian capoeira, "Bollywood-Punjabi Style," Vietnamese song and African dance, it's easy to see why the 400 reserved seats are sold out long in advance to students, faculty, staff, community members and guests from other universities.

A closer look at a few international students and faculty shows the range of skills and backgrounds they bring to Eastern.



**Avinash Conda** came to study computer science, leaving native Hyderabad, India, home of a booming IT industry and the world's largest film studio. He was attracted by Eastern's reasonable price, safety, application-oriented academic programs, low student-faculty ratio and the convenience of Richmond: "Everything's right here." He's fascinated by the region, enjoying

Lexington, Cincinnati, Cumberland Lake and Mammoth Cave; next he'll visit Lincoln's birthplace. While his family can't come until graduation, Conda finds satisfaction—and many new friends—through ISA activities. "I feel happy here," he concludes, looking forward to the time when, like many international students now in management positions, he'll "give back" to Eastern by offering a first job to a new graduate.



**Agnes Tsheko** came from Sefhare, Botswana, sent by her government to study American Sign Language at Eastern, but nobody at home prepared her for the cold. Arriving in blustery, snowy January, her first thought was to get back on the plane. Fortunately, she met Dr. Karen Petronio of the Interpreter Training Program that day. Petronio whipped together a winter wardrobe and apartment furnishings from donations and judicious Goodwill

buys, helped with registration and walked Tsheko through American restaurant menus. Settled in, Tsheko made Dean's List, found work in the office of international education and prepared her native *seswaa* dish for the International Banquet. "I feel at home here now," she says and even finds good points about snow: "It's better than rain."

# Global eats at Eastern

Recent International Student Association banquets offered appetizers like French *taboulé* (a slightly modified version of the Eastern Mediterranean salad) and *chin chin* (fried, bow-shaped bread from Cameroon). Entrées included Italian *malfatti* pasta, African fried plantains, *moi moi* (Nigerian bean cake), *kepsa* (Arabian chicken and rice), *bulgogi* (Korean marinated beef barbeque), *seswaa* (Botswanan salted beef), Kenyan lamb stew with spicy *kachumba* sauce, and two popular Indian breads: *pan* and *chapatti*. Dessert featured *kulfi*, a creamy Indian frozen delight, and lush French chocolate truffles.



**My Mustapha Jourdini's** path to Eastern began in Marrakech, Morocco, where he met Mick Lewis, who was then an Eastern history professor and Fulbright scholar. After a work contract with DisneyWorld, Jourdini reconnected with Lewis, who proposed a B.A. at Eastern. Jourdini did that, then earned a master's degree and will soon have a doctorate in educational leadership. Meanwhile, he's teaching and working as an academic advisor in the honors program, serving on a campus diversity panel and speaking to community groups, churches and national interfaith communities about Islam and Muslim culture. Jourdini contends that a great university must be "intentional" in its inclusiveness, diversity and willingness to bring contradictory, even controversial issues before the community. He gratefully remembers the genuine care for student success he experienced from Eastern's faculty, staff and administration. Like them, he will now "patiently and purposefully work to help nurture the next generation of EKU students."



A native of Isfahan, Iran, **Dr. Jaleh Rezaie** and her husband came to Eastern as undergraduates in 1980, drawn by the friendly welcome that included a schedule arranged around child care needs for their infant son and the tireless work of future president Doug Whitlock to resolve thorny visa issues. With their homeland in turmoil, her Eastern "family" grew even more precious. Rezaie stayed, earning a doctorate in computer science and becoming the first chairperson of Eastern's new department of computer science. In 2007, she was appointed associate dean of graduate education and research. Active in the warm and thriving Iranian and Iranian-American community at Eastern, she is working

with President Whitlock to expand the number of international students and broaden the range of countries represented. Eastern can only benefit, Rezaie insists, citing the renamed International Alumni Association. When Eastern students graduate, she predicts, an increasingly global network can help them find their place in a richly interconnected world economy and diverse cultural landscape.



When **Kyung-ran Seo** decided to come to Eastern in 2006 for a one month exchange through Daegu Haany, a sister university, she knew no English and had never met a foreigner. She fell in love with Eastern's quiet campus ("perfect for studying"), Richmond's Mayor Connie Lawson ("so nice to us"), and the faculty who were kind while taking their teaching seriously. Now "Lucy" to legions of friends, she's fluent in English, thanks to Eastern's English as a second language program. She's earning excellent grades, served as activities coordinator for ISA and is the current president of the Korean Student Association. Once a professional stylist, she volunteers haircuts in the dorms, provides acupressure treatments on request and drives friends "to Richmond or Lexington, wherever they need to go." When asked when she sleeps, Lucy laughs, "Later, maybe, if I have time." She discovered her dream career in Eastern's recreational therapy program, just right for an upbeat, enthusiastic personality, "perfectly Lucy." After graduation, she hopes to visit her mother and then return to America, for it too is "perfectly Lucy."

To find out more about Eastern's international education commitment and programs, visit [www.international.eku.edu](http://www.international.eku.edu).



# FROM THE CAMPUS BEAUTIFUL

## THE POWER OF MAROON

### The Accolades Keep Coming

This year not only brought an unprecedented number of top tier rankings, but Eastern is the only school in the United States to earn citations from five major studies. Eastern is in the top tier of regional universities of the South in *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges"; in the top nine percent nationwide for *Forbes* magazine's "America's Best Colleges"; among 10 large universities nationwide and the sole large university in the Commonwealth named to *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* honor roll of 2010 Great Colleges to Work For®; one of a select group cited by the Carnegie Foundation for Curricular Engagement and Outreach & Partnerships; and in the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools praised by *G.I. Jobs* magazine for "doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students."

Two more citations recently arrived. The *Military Times EDGE* magazine ranked Eastern first among U.S. colleges and universities in its "Best for Vets: Colleges" issue. Retired Lt. Col. Brett Morris, associate director of veterans affairs, predicts, "This exposure will be a tremendous boost in shining the light on ECU as a place where veterans are welcomed, appreciated and supported." In a unique study by *Washington Monthly*, Eastern ranked 181 out of 551 nationally and first among Kentucky's "master's universities" in contributions to the public good. The study honors colleges that are educating low-income students, "not just catering to the affluent," and improving teaching quality instead of "ducking accountability." In short, where are students and their families getting the most for their education investment? At Eastern Kentucky University, concludes this national study.



### Grant Fuels Biodiesel Research

Eastern's Center for Renewable and Alternative Fuel Technologies (CRAFT) recently received a \$2.4 million grant from the Defense Logistics Agency. In the project's first phase (see cover story in the Spring, 2009 issue of this magazine), researchers developed and demonstrated technologies to harvest switchgrass and other biomass materials and extracted sugars which were fed to strains of algae to develop oils for processing into biodiesel and JP8 jet fuel. New funding will allow refinements in the procedures, economic and environmental impact analysis, as well as a pilot plant and lab-scale integrated system.

CRAFT is powered by the talents of nine Eastern faculty members and 10 undergraduates from the agriculture, biology, chemistry and economics departments; ongoing cross-disciplinary studies engage a widening circle of students as bioenergy concepts enter university course contents.



## Equine Art Sports Renewable Energy

As some of the world's most magnificent horses and riders gathered in Lexington for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games last fall, they were greeted by 137 life-size fiberglass horses and foals decorated by area artists in a public art project titled Horse Mania 2010. Eastern's stunning contribution, "Kentucky's Energy," features traditional art and iconic landscapes to celebrate the promise of the university's biomass-to-biofuels research.

Designed by senior art major Lisa Tyler of Winchester, Ky., and Herb Goodman, chair of the department of art & design, "Kentucky's Energy" weaves natural reed in a traditional Appalachian plait into a sunstruck field of switchgrass. A "barn quilt" shows off a sugar molecule, emblematic of sugars being refined into biodiesel at Eastern's Center for Renewable and Alternative Fuel Technologies.

"Kentucky's Energy" and the rest of his fiberglass herd were auctioned, with proceeds going to area charities.

## Regents Approve Second Doctoral Program

In early 2010, Eastern granted its first doctorate through the Ed.D. program for educational leadership and policy studies. By June, the board of regents had approved plans for a doctorate in nursing practice, now waiting approval by the Kentucky Board of Nursing and the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. The nation faces an accelerating need for advanced level practitioners, says the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, which called for professional practice doctoral programs in place by 2015.

Eastern's doctoral program is part of an ongoing mission to raise the educational level of health care providers, says Dr. Deborah Whitehouse, associate dean of Eastern's college of health sciences. The new doctoral program will be online, taking advantage of a wide range of media sources and technologies, and available to nurses throughout the Commonwealth, with particular outreach to those in rural and underserved areas. This focus mirrors Eastern's students' commitment. In 2008, 69 percent of ECU master's degree graduates were drawn to practice in these areas, while 100 percent planned to remain in-state, serving the people of Kentucky.

## Animal Studies Major May Be World's First

As major conferences and educational journals acknowledge the critical importance of wide-ranging research into the complex interactions of human and non-human animals, Eastern has launched what may be the world's first baccalaureate degree in animal studies. In this cross-disciplinary program within the psychology department, students become knowledgeable about "animals and their relationship with humans from diverse perspectives, and simultaneously experience and learn from a strong, traditional liberal arts education," says Dr. Robert Mitchell, professor of psychology, who led development of the program and is its first coordinator.

The innovative, challenging program has potential to draw students from across the U.S. and the globe, says Mitchell. Armed with breadth and depth in a rapidly emerging discipline, Eastern graduates should be sought after in fields as diverse as wilderness or agricultural studies, animal advocacy, journalism, photography, art, law enforcement, and parks and wilderness administration.

# CLASS ACTS *Spring 2011*

## 1950's

**Marcia Pruett Wilson**, '54, retired in 2009 after 48 years of teaching middle school students and now is an animal communicator, helping guardians understand their pets and solve animal problems. She lives in San Gabriel, Calif., with her dogs, cats and birds.

## 1960's

**Louise Whitaker Spencer**, '63, is retired after 33 years of teaching. She enjoyed her many summer terms at Eastern and now lives in Louisville, Ky. **Dennis G. Sprous**, '63, and his wife Diane now live in Knoxville, Tenn. Sprous is a retired claims manager for State Farm Insurance. He attended Eastern on a track scholarship

and writes, "Eastern was a great educational experience and created development for a great career and life."



Artist **James Ferguson**, '69, of Nashville recently had a one-man show in the Edsel Godbey Appalachian Center of Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKCTC). Retired from the Nashville (Tenn.) Metropolitan School System after 41 years in the classroom, he is a graduate of SKCTC and is pleased that the show kicks off a year-long celebration of the school's first 50 years. Ferguson's work won the Peoples' Choice Award at the Tennessee State Fair, was part of a group show at the Opryland Hotel and has shown in Germany, India and Israel, as well as throughout the U.S. It is,

however, as an educator that he wishes to be remembered. "Teaching for me is a ministry," he said.



**Daniel Anthony Petzold**, '69, was inducted into the Southern High School's Hall of Fame after a 30-year teaching career in the Jefferson County (Ky.) public schools. His many services included fundraising for an Egyptology and King Tut exhibit at the Louisville History and Science Museum; 17 years as organizer and sponsor of the homecoming car show, creating a major fundraiser for the school's auto technology complex; and raising funds for the Crusade for Children, the Wayside Christian Mission Charities and college-bound seniors. He retired from teaching in 1999 and lives in Taylorsville, Ky., with his wife **Maureen McKinney Petzold**, '73.

years. He chairs Henderson Franklin's commercial litigation practice group and is president-elect of the Florida Bar Foundation. He has been recognized by many publications, including *Best Lawyers in America* and *Florida Super Lawyers*, and is known for generously sharing his knowledge and experience with colleagues and the Fort Myers community where he lives.



**Gail A. Sobering**, '71, works in Palm Beach, Fla., on the instructional staff at Indian Ridge School, serving emotionally and behaviorally disturbed children in grades K-12. This is the only school of its type in the district. **Ford Britten Cornett**, '73, and his wife **Joyce Elaine Combs Cornett**, '72, live in Bartlett, Tenn., where Ford is retired after 31 years as chief pre-trial services officer of the western district of Tennessee. They have three children: James, Robert, and Kimberly. **Dr. Mittie Davis Southerland**, '73, is executive director of the Murray State University Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. She received her B.S. in law enforcement and a master's degree in criminal justice at Eastern. As a graduate student she was one of eight in the College of Justice & Safety to receive a HEW fellowship, awarded by what was then the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. She worked as a criminal justice planner for the Columbia Region Association of Governments in Portland, Ore., then returned to Kentucky as a juvenile counselor for the Commonwealth. Dr. Southerland taught police administration for 17 years at Eastern while earning her Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky. She and her husband Joel live in Melber, Ky. **Sheryl Martin**, '75, speech pathologist, is retiring from the Kenton County (Ky.) School District after a 35-year career. She lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. **Patrick Wilson**, '75, '77, was named Colorado Golf Coach of the Year when his Arapahoe High School girls golf team won the 2010 state championship at Common-Ground Golf Course in Aurora.

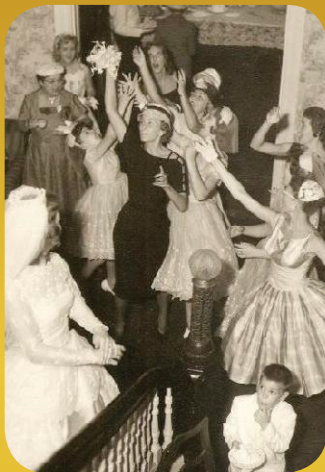
## 1970's

**Ronald Kirby**, '70, of Wake Forest, N.C., and his wife Sandra have two children and two granddaughters. He retired after a 40-year career in education, most recently in Franklin County, N.C. He taught in the Magellan Charter Schools of Raleigh, was in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, 2004-2006, received a Bright Ideas Grant from Touchstone Energy of North Carolina, a presidential citation for work with the Governor's School for the Humanities at the University of Richmond, and a distinguished teacher award from the Charlottesville City Schools.



Attorney **John Noland**, '70, is the 2010 recipient of the highest award bestowed by the Lee County (Fla.) Bar Association, the Liberty Bell Award. The award recognizes an outstanding citizen who has made a selfless contribution to the community that strengthens the effectiveness of the American system of justice. Noland has served the Southwest Florida legal community for 36

**Donna Donaldson Kotula**, '61, answered our call for Blanton House stories [see "Blanton House is 'Home' Again" in the Winter, 2009 issue] with this "only at Eastern" memory: "On September, 13, 1955, I met the love of my life." Star basketball player **Bernie Kotula**, '60, had stopped by freshman welcome night with friends in the athletic program. "He walked me back to my dorm and helped me set up my schedule the next day. We dated from then on, getting engaged in my senior year. We decided to get married in Richmond on May 30." At nearly the last minute, they discovered that the hall they had planned for the reception was needed for Memorial Day celebrations. To put it mildly, the young couple was distressed. "President William O'Donnell heard of our plight, probably from Mrs. Emma Case, dean of women, and he and Mrs. O'Donnell graciously offered us the use of Blanton House. There we were, two students who met at Eastern having our reception at the home of the college president." Bernie Kotula is now deceased and Donna lives in Palm City, Fla., but as these pictures show, she cherishes warm memories of that May afternoon at Eastern.



He is a math teacher at Arapahoe, a Blue Ribbon School in the Littleton School District. After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern, he received a master's in educational administration from the University of Denver and has served Colorado students since 1978, coaching volleyball, tennis and football in addition to golf. Wilson was the *Eastern Progress* sports editor from 1973-1975 and worked part-time in the EKU sports information office. He lives in Sedalia, Colo., with his wife Susan and children Sarah, Sanse and Sam.



**Stephen Wayne Crenshaw**, '76, lives in Louisville, Ky., and often shares his poetry and video with

political and state officials, receiving many letters of thanks. He has two sons. **Dr. Judith Monroe**, '76, voted Eastern's Outstanding Alumnus for the college of health sciences, is now the deputy director of the Center for Disease Control and director of the Office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS). In her previous position as Indiana State Health Commissioner, cigarette consumption dropped nearly 25%, and smoking dropped 21% among high school students and 46% among middle school students. Obesity prevalence dropped by 14.7% in

youth and 3% in adults. Colon cancer screening increased 34.5%; cancer incidence and heart disease all decreased significantly. She implemented the state's first medical errors reporting system and led response to the H1N1 flu pandemic. Dr. Monroe's experience includes assuring the care of those in rural Tennessee as well as teaching medicine to residents at St. Vincent Hospital and Indiana University medical students. "I can't imagine a better person for the job! 'Delighted' is an understatement," cheers **Dr. Douglas Scutchfield**, '63, professor of public health at the University of Kentucky and director of the Center for Public Health Systems and Services Research. Dr. Monroe lives in Carmel, Ind., with her husband, Robert Lubitz. **Rob Miller**, '77, sold his small business in 2005 and began developing a TV show. He writes: "My original vision was a half hour comedy that could be best described as 'The Monkees in Margaritaville'." The concept evolved to *twentysixmiles*, which recently aired on the HULU site, climbing to the Top 25 Most Subscribed and Top 50 Most Popular comedies. Miller invites Eastern friends to watch the first episodes at [www.twentysixmiles.com](http://www.twentysixmiles.com).



**Steve Moak**, '77, of Paradise Valley, Ariz., is running for Congress, having established himself

as a leader through 22 years in business and non-profit organizations. After working his way through Eastern stocking groceries at the local A&P, he took positions at Avon Products, NCR and American Express, then moved to Arizona, building ProMark One, which provided customer service centers for banks, telecom companies and healthcare companies. ProMark One expanded rapidly, going nationwide with over 2,500 employees. Moak was recognized by Ernst & Young as "Entrepreneur of the Year" in 1991 and his company was noted as one of the 500 fastest growing private companies by *Inc. Magazine*. In 2000, Moak helped found Synergy Solutions, which provides customer service focused on healthcare. Also in 2000, he and his wife Debbie founded notMYkid, Inc., a non-profit dedicated to inspiring positive life choices. Through prevention education programs on drug abuse, Internet safety, eating disorders and bullying, notMYkid has impacted the lives of thousands of families nationally. In 2004, Moak acquired First Check, a home diagnostic company with expertise in home drug testing,

and was appointed to President Bush's Advisory Commission on Drug-Free Communities. He serves on the boards of several foundations and trusts, supports Young Life, Lost Canyon Camp and Teach for America, and is active in Young Presidents Organization. Moak and his wife are the proud parents of two grown sons. **Steven Steele**, '77, and his wife Jondia live in Amelia, Ohio, and this year will celebrate 20 years of marriage. His company, Platinum Video Systems, was started 30 years ago in Greenup, Ky. **Roger L. Marcum**, '78, of Bardstown, Ky., was recently appointed by Governor Beshear to the Kentucky Board of Education. Marcum is a former principal, superintendent and national Milken Educator award winner. "Providing a quality education to Kentucky's youth is essential to advancing our workforce and our economy, and no one knows that better than the team I have assembled to serve on this board," Gov. Beshear said. "They all understand and share the value and significance of education to the personal growth of Kentuckians and the economic prosperity of our commonwealth." **Dr. Stephen McSwain**, '78, of Louisville, Ky., has published *The Enoch Factor: The Sacred Art of Knowing God*. The work argues for a more enlightened religious dialogue in America, one that affirms the

## For the Record

Don't forget to keep us up-to-date with your latest news items—family additions, job changes, relocations, promotions—anything you'd like us to know! Include your photographs<sup>1</sup>, too.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ EKU Class \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ EKU Class \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_ Tel\* ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell\* ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

News Item \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

goals of all religions—guiding followers in self-awareness, finding serenity and happiness, and discovering what the author describes as “the sacred art of knowing God.” The book is available through Amazon.com. **William G. Hendricks, Jr.**, '79, retired after more than 26 years in the police department of Kettering, Ohio. He lives with his wife Joan.

## 1980's

**Cheryl Hedges Hilvert**, '80, '81, a member of Eastern's Hall of Distinguished Alumni, gives this update of her career: “I am still in local government management, but moved to the City of Montgomery, Ohio, in 1997 where I am city manager.” She oversees all local government operations and manages a budget of approximately \$35 million. Hilvert was president of the Ohio City/County Management Association, the Greater Cincinnati Local Government Management Association and the Blue Ash/Montgomery Rotary Club and now serves on the executive board for the International City/County Management Association and the Alliance for Innovation and is chair of the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia. Hilvert lives with her husband Thomas. **Sallie Rawlings Razor**, '80, and **Michael Razor**, '82, report from Mt. Sterling, Ky., that Sallie is the administrative supervisor for Kentucky's attorney general and Michael has been named director of enforcement for the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. **Richard Robinson**, '80, won the Best Fiction Award at the 2010 Paris Book Festival, which honors international independent publishing. His political thriller *Manifest Destiny* is Robinson's third book in a series. Currently on tour with Paradies Airport Shops, he reports that his book has only been out a few weeks and is already in its second printing. Robinson lives in Ft. Mitchell, Ky., with his wife **Melinda Brewer Robinson**. **Edna Lorene Todd Putnam**, '81, Ed.D., RN, CNE, is the new dean of nursing and health science at Union College in Barbourville, Ky. She brings two decades of experience in nursing education at Western Carolina University as well as extensive experience

as a practicing nurse. Union College president Edward D. de Rosset warmly welcomes Dr. Putnam, “She is a daughter of our region, is personable, understands the challenges some of our students will have in terms of holding a job and pursuing their studies, and she has a strong entrepreneurial appetite for starting something new and seeing it flourish.” Her charge is to help increase the number of bachelor's degree-prepared nurses practicing in southeastern Kentucky. Dr. Putnam acknowledges her affinity with her students: “I began my career as an associate degree graduate of Eastern Kentucky University and worked full time as I pursued further education, as most of our students will be doing. My perspective as the dean of this program is that it is important to acknowledge and appreciate the richness of experience that practicing nurses bring to this education endeavor. We will work with them to build from this rich experience to develop and expand their opportunities and roles in nursing.” **Irving Schoenacker**, '82, coaches chess for Keshequa High School in the foothills of rural western New York and was selected as Coach of the Year for the All-Greater Rochester area 2009-2010 campaign. This year, fourth- and fifth-grade boys were selected for the first team. Schoenacker's players often compete with schools that have more seniors than his district has students from 6th-12th grades. He has fond memories of Eastern days in the chess club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and as ball attendant for the volleyball team. He lives with his wife Marie in Nunda, N.Y. **Marc Whitt**, '82, '85, Eastern's associate vice president for public relations and chief communications officer, was recently elected chair of the National Advisory Council for Communications and Public Affairs, a volunteer group for American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Whitt lives in Richmond with his wife **Jennifer Whitt**, '06. **Alice P. Sewell**, '83, reports a career change. Having graduated in 2010 from North Dakota State College of Science in health information, she now works as a trauma registrar for Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, La., where she lives with her

husband Michael Sean Kendrick.



**Michael Hayes**, '85, was awarded the 2010 Kentucky Youth Soccer Eurosport Boys Recreational

Coach of the Year. At Eastern playing under Coach Dan Robinette, Hayes helped his team to division state championships in '80, '81, and '82, and to become an all-conference team in 1982. In 1983, Hayes was voted “Mr. EKV Soccer.” He and his wife Abigail live in Midway, Ky. **Sherry Kaffenbarger Eppers**, '86, of Littleton, Colo., has served as community relations manager for the Highlands Ranch Metro District and Centennial Water for 13 years. She recently managed a successful public relations and fundraising campaign for the Highlands Ranch Veterans Monument and has launched her own public relations consulting firm, Eppers Creative Services. She is married to Chris Eppers and has two children: Hayden, 7, and McKenna, 5. **Deborah Kohl Kremer**, '87, announces her new book, *Kentucky: An Explorer's Guide*, 300+ pages of what to do and where to eat, sleep and shop in Kentucky. The book includes chapters on Richmond and Berea, including businesses and attractions, eateries near Eastern, the Daniel Boone statue and the Hummel Planetarium. “I am very proud to include Campus Beautiful in my book,” writes Kremer. The guide is available at major booksellers and her website: [www.deborahkohlkremer.com](http://www.deborahkohlkremer.com). **Greg Prouty**, '89, is associate athletics director for media relations at Longwood University, an NCAA Division I school in Farmville, Va., where Prouty lives with his wife Paula. **Dr. Kevin Kathman**, '89, an occupational therapist, has recently returned from two weeks in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where he worked at St. Damien's Children's Hospital on a healthcare team “focusing on the orthopedic disaster of our lifetime. I am humbled by the many acts of kindness and courage by the Haitian people as well as relief workers from around the world.” He is interested in hearing from other Eastern alumni that have worked in Haiti. Kathman lives with his wife, nurse **Julie Dumstorf Kathman**, '89, in Bloomington, Ind.



**Carol Fortwengler Schmitz**, '89, and her husband Alan last year opened a retail store, Salty Paws

Marine & RV, in Louisville, Ky. She writes, “Our boating & RVing passion and experience drives the business, while our two boxers supervise! Come by and say hi! We would love to see you!”

## 1990's



**David Braden**, '93, '96, was recently promoted to vice president at Education Realty Trust, a leader in

the ownership, development and management of collegiate student housing. Braden has been with the company since 1999 and was responsible for opening and managing three student communities on the University of Louisville campus. He has also served at universities in Alabama, Colorado, Ohio and New York. Braden and his wife, **Holly Wells Braden**, '97, will soon be moving to Memphis, Tenn., with their two children: Chase, 10, and Drew, 8.



**Michael McClain**, '93, '95, reports that after 10 years working in large law firms, most recently as a

partner at Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs, he is pleased to join his former law school classmate John D. Ballinger to form Ballinger McClain, PLLC, a Louisville, Ky.-based firm practicing in all areas of civil litigation.



**Anne Marie Niese**, '93, received the 2010 Franklin B. Walter Educator Award, given to Ohio

educators who advance the education of special education students. She is an intervention specialist at Lamedola Elementary School in Huber Heights, Ohio. This is her 17th year of teaching. She lives in Huber Heights.



**Thomas Riginos**, '93, formerly associate head baseball coach and recruiting coordinator for

the Clemson Tigers, is now head coach at Winthrop University in

Rock Hill, S.C. In his 17-year career, Riginos powered the teams of two universities to success. Under his coaching, the Clemson Tigers advanced to two NCAA Regional tournaments, three NCAA Super Regional appearances, and made two trips to the College World Series. Previously, at Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., as recruiting coordinator and hitting and outfielders coach, he brought in six All-Americans and 10 freshmen All-Americans. Riginos helped guide the Stetson Hatters to five NCAA Regional appearances. His combined record of Clemson and Stetson is 671-393-3. "In Tom Riginos we believe we have hired one of the top coaches on the collegiate level," said Winthrop's athletic director Tom Hickman. While earning his master's degree in physical education/sports at Eastern, Riginos served as graduate assistant coach for Jim Ward. He lives with his wife Shalleen in Park Hill, S.C. **Becky Ritchey**, '93, was recently awarded the Distinguished Leadership Award from the Leadership Madison County (Ky.) Class of 2010 in recognition of her dedication to community service and keen understanding of public issues. She chairs the Richmond Teen Center advisory council. She has helped the Center, which serves at-risk youth in a safe, secure and fun after-school setting, build capacity by obtaining grant funds, donations and establishing state non-profit status. Ritchey is a project administrator for Eastern's college of justice & safety and lives in Richmond.



**Silas House**, '94, joins the Berea College faculty as the National Endowment for the Humanities chair in Appalachian Studies. House is the award-winning author of four best-selling novels, two plays, many anthologized short stories and other works. He is a two-time finalist for the Southern Book Critics Circle Prize and a two-time winner of the Kentucky Novel of the Year. Other honors include Appalachian Writer of the Year, the Appalachian Book of the Year, the Chaffin Prize for Literature and the Award for Special Achievement from the Fellowship of Southern Writers. In 2009 the Silas House Literary

Seminar was given at Emory and Henry College. For his environmental activism, House received the Helen Lewis Award for Community Service in 2008 from the Appalachian Studies Association. House was writer-in-residence at Lincoln Memorial University, where he directed the Mountain Heritage Literary Festival. He serves on the fiction faculty at Spalding University, has taught at Eastern and is one of Nashville's most sought-after press kit writers. More information about House's work is available at [www.silashouse.net](http://www.silashouse.net).

**Lt. Janette Workman Arencibia**, '95, reports that in August, 2010 she was conducting medical planning and operations in Port-de-Paix and St. Louis de Nord, Haiti, with the USS Iwo Jima. "We have ventured into some very austere hospitals, and I am so happy that we are bringing much needed health care to Haiti. Many of the facilities I have surveyed do not even have electricity. . . . No matter the challenges, we will continue to bring the people of Haiti hope." After serving in Haiti, the team headed to Colombia and Costa Rica. When not deployed, Arencibia lives in Springfield, Va., with her husband Freddy. **Christopher Pullem**, '95, is pleased to announce his recent graduation from Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government's economic development program. A member of Sigma Chi fraternity, Pullem lives in Ashland, Ky.

**Melissa Whitis**, '95, followed graduation from Eastern with 12 years in the performing arts classroom and now has three active comedy improvisation troupes which perform "all over the area and often bring their performance into the workplace." Whitis is based in Cincinnati, Ohio. **Martin Cobb**, '97, a Beta Theta Pi brother now living in Oxford, Ohio, has been named the fraternity's director of communications and editor of The Beta Theta Pi, having served as interim director since December 2009. He will remain on the Beta Foundation staff, focusing on relationships with loyal major gift donors. Cobb has served on the staff of the North-American Interfraternity Conference, directed the award-winning *Men of Principle* initiative and for the past nine years was director of advance-

## Help Us Celebrate Your Little Colonel

Let your Alumni Association know about your Little Colonel's arrival, and we'll send you an ECU 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. 27. If sending a photo, please note that computer-generated photos cannot be published.



ment on the Beta Foundation staff. "To continue to be a part of an organization that means so much to so many—and in a way that truly influences and promotes the development of so many young men's lives—well, it's humbling," says Cobb. Founded in 1839, the fraternity has more than 125,000 members, including 6,811 collegians on 119 campuses in the United States and Canada. **Shelly Boutcher-Caldwell**, '98, of Hawesville, Ky., has four children and works as a school nurse through the Green River District Health Department. She has recently published *The Naughty Little Birdie and the Surprise Cake* as the second in her "Birdie series" and has started another book series. "I have enjoyed reading and feel every child should have an opportunity to enjoy new worlds through reading," she says.

## 2000's

**Robert Washington, Jr.**, '01, Ruston, La., has been named head men's basketball coach at Grambling State University. In his inaugural campaign, Washington returned Grambling to the Southwestern Athletic Conference tournament. Coach Washington has been head men's basketball coach at Seminole Community College in Sanford, Fla., and assistant men's basketball coach at Florida A&M in Tallahassee, winning the first round NCAA tournament in 2004. Washington began his collegiate coaching career at Eastern as a graduate assistant under Travis Ford. His community service includes work at the Kids House of Seminole County, Harvest Time

International and the Still Got Game Family Fitness Clinic. "I'm impressed by Coach Washington's vigor and his passion for the game," says Lin Dawson, athletic director for GSU. "I'm looking forward to working with him to provide our student-athletes with the tools they need for success on and off the court." **Chris Girdler**, '02, of Somerset, Ky., reports that he has accepted a position in sales and public relations for Southern Petroleum of Somerset.



**Sylvia DeLee Davis**, '03, published *Appalachian Angels* in 2009 and is working

on a second book about angel encounters and near-death experiences. When not writing, she is a substitute teacher and English as a Second Language tutor, living in Richmond, Ky., with her husband Edward Porter. **Christopher Brown**, '09, of Hamilton, Ohio, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. The eight-week program includes classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, shipboard and aircraft safety and physical fitness. The capstone event of boot camp is the Battle Stations exercise, which gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet.

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

Left-fielder **Joshua Anderson** has returned to the Atlanta Braves, playing for the club's Triple-A affiliate, the Gwinnett Braves. Anderson, who played for the Colonels, bats left-handed and throws right-handed. **Michael Held**, now living in Dallastown, Pa., moved to Ireland after leaving Eastern in 1996, then lived in Florida and Tennessee. His novel, *Fire From the Sky*, recounts the rise and fall of the Lakota (Sioux) Nation from 1800 to 1909 through the eyes of a medicine man. Held's book is available through Amazon.com, Fictionwisebooks.com, and Barnes & Nobles (bn.com). His work in progress deals with bipolar disorders and borderline personalities. Held would be happy to meet other Golden Key International Honour Society members in the Dallastown area. Contact him at heldmx@aol.com. **J. Patrick Pidkowitz** writes that he has fond memories of the great teachers in his time at Eastern (1972-1973). He later received an accounting degree and MBA from the University of Tennessee, became a CPA and retired as vice president for development with Hilton Hotels. He is now a financial advisor. He and his wife Gale live in Seymour, Tenn., and have three children and two grandchildren. **Gary L. Searcy** attended Eastern from '79-'81. He moved to Florida in 1987, where he worked in the state prison system as a correctional officer and was Post 1016 commander of the VFW. He and his wife Barbara Jean live in Lawtey, Fla., and have five children: Diana, Toby, Jennifer, Roberta and April.

## Newlyweds

**Trina Bucher**, '86, to **Murray Stanford Robinson**, '86, '94, on July 8, 2010. Trina is a supply analyst for Sherwin Williams in Richmond, Ky., and Stan is a probation officer in Lexington. The Robinsons live in Richmond.

## Junior Alumni



Mason Dean to **Deana Flannery McDaniel**, '94, and **Christopher "Mak" McDaniel**, '94, of Richmond, Ky., on February 8, 2010.



Ella Anne to **Jennie Meyer Hollon**, '96, and **Timothy Hollon**, '93, on May 25, 2009. The Hollons live in Danville, Ky., where they co-own the Nutrition Centers of Richmond, Danville and Somerset.



Andrew Jason to **Joy Mitchell Mockbee**, '98, and **Christopher David Mockbee**, '99, on February 9, 2010, joining big brother Samuel Joseph in their home in Wellsburg, W.Va.

Jackson Riley to **Heather Waldridge Chilton**, '99, and Troy Scott Chilton on June 12, 2009, joining big sister Elisabeth at their home in Lawrenceburg, Ky.

Shelby Mead to **Robyn Reynolds Fields**, '00, and **Kevin Fields**, '95, on June 2, 2010.

Calista Lily Kate to **Jason Nichols**, '00, and **Laura Nichols** of Richmond, Ky., on May 10, 2010.



Whitney Chaise to **Charlie Watkins**, '00, and Amy Watkins on November 5, 2009. The family lives in Pataskala, Ohio.



Ethan Ryan to **Kim Kiser Brumbaugh**, '01, and **Derick Brumbaugh**, '06, on January 25, 2010. The family lives in Richmond, Ky.

Jason Michael to **Katie Broaddus McDonald**, '01, and **Aaron Jason McDonald**, '02, on April 28, 2010. The McDonalds live in Waco, Ky.

AnnaBella Brielle to **Marlana Smith**, '02, '04, and Terry Smith of London, Ky., on March 26, 2010.



Rylee Nichole to **Nikki Willis Goode**, '02, and **Remond Goode**, '05, on December 16, 2009. Rylee joins brothers and sisters Makayla, Bailie, Zane and

Braedon. The family lives in Huntsville, Ala.



Samuel Lyon to **Kate Lyon Johnson**, '02, and Jake Johnson of Richmond, Ky., on March 29, 2010. Kate is an online graduate admissions counselor in the EKU college of justice & safety's safety, security and emergency management program.



Daisy Kaye to **David B. Lucas**, '02, and Keri E. Lucas on April 3, 2010. The family lives in Ashland, Ky.

Clay Thomas to **Crystal Scott Gilbert**, '03, and **Joseph Clay Gilbert, IV**, '02, joining big sister Kaitlin on August 6, 2009. The Gilberts live in Frankfort, Ky.



Collyn Blane to **Jeremy Sollberger**, '03, and Robyn Sollberger. Jeremy is a manager at Southern States Cooperative of Campbellsville, Ky., where the family lives.



Addyson Jane to **Shauna Stephens-McCollum**, '03, and Aaron McCollum on November 11, 2009. The family lives in Terre Haute, Ind.



Jediah Anderson to **Kaila Rae Baldwin Horn**, '05, '06, and **Matthew Damon Horn**, '02, '06, in November, 2009, joining brothers Josiah and Judah at their home in Richmond, Ky.

## Losses in the Eastern Family



**Paul Bunton**, '48, of Nicholasville, Ky., on April 5, 2010. Bunton came to Eastern on the G.I. Bill after serving on the USS *Numitor* in the Pacific, 1943-45. After a 33-year career with the Burroughs Corporation (now Unisys), he retired as vice president of marketing and development. He served as Eastern's Alumni Association president in 1951, received the Golden Hammer Award for extraordinary service to the Transylvania Habitat for

Humanity of Brevard, N.C., and was an active member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. Bunton is survived by his wife of 66 years, Ruth Garriott Bunton. **Lawrence Albert Lovington**, '55, on May 22, 2010. He played basketball at Eastern, 1952-53, where he met his wife, **Patricia Perkins Lovington**, '55, with whom he enjoyed a 55-year marriage. Lovington spent much of his life with the Red Cross, aiding in national disasters, teaching water safety and serving as an instructor at the University of Memphis. He retired as director of the Memphis Red Cross. He was an avid runner and prolific reader. Lawrence and Patricia have three children and eight grandchildren.



**Talmadge Everman**, '63, on June 30, 2010 at his Danville, Ky., home. He is survived by his wife **Betty Gibson Everman**, '62. He served as a flight instructor for the U.S. Air Force, then began a 31-year career as a captain for Delta Airlines. Everman enjoyed horses, ATV riding and bowling.



**Frank Seale, Jr.**, '69, on June 13, 2009. He was a member of Sigma Chi Delta and Sigma Nu fraternities, a lifetime member of the Boy Scouts of America and was district commissioner. Seale worked at St. Joseph East Hospital in Lexington, Ky., for 26 years and was a former teacher for Campbellsville Independent Schools. He leaves his wife Diane Gabehart Seale.



**Lt. Colonel Richard W. Judson (ret)**, '70, on April 16, 2009. At Eastern he was in Sigma Nu fraternity. After graduation, he joined the Air Force, where he served for 20 years as pilot for a refueling tanker and later as commander and pilot of the SR-71 Blackbird Reconnaissance Plane. His assignments took him worldwide; his last was as commander of a base near Hyannis Port, Mass. In 2009, Judson was inducted into the Sigma Chi Delta/Sigma Nu/Theta Theta Chapter Hall of Fame.



**David Michael Trudell**, '81, on June 25, 2009. He was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity. A native of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., he lived in Lexington, Ky.

## Former Faculty and Staff

**Bill Carfield** on April 22, 2010. He entered the U.S. Army in 1943 and served in World War II as well as the Korean Conflict. After his assignment as commander of a prisoner of war camp on Koje-do Island, he was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic achievement. Later, he served as commander of military police at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., a post from which he retired in 1964 with the rank of major. Following his military career, Carfield earned a master's degree at Northern Arizona University, then he returned to his beloved Kentucky to teach in the law enforcement program at Eastern. Carfield combined his lifelong love of horses with his professional pursuits by spending his 1983 sabbatical leave studying the uses of horses in police work. His treatise on that subject is in the U.S. Supreme Court Library. Carfield founded

the National Mounted Police Colloquium, which convenes annually at the Kentucky Horse Park. **Dr. Anthony Goldson** on August 7, 2010. Dr. Goldson was an assistant professor in Eastern's department of anthropology, sociology and social work, teaching at Richmond, Corbin, Manchester and Hazard. He is remembered as a knowledgeable, student-centered teacher who was well liked and respected by students and peers alike and always had a smile and hug for everyone. His wife Dr. Norma Threadgill-Goldson is an assistant professor in the same department. **Dr. William Schulz** on August 3, 2010. A professor emeritus of chemistry, Dr. Schulz served Eastern from 1968 to 2006 and was an active researcher, especially in the area of jet fuel technology, receiving numerous grants and contracts from the U.S. Air Force for his work. While authoring more than two dozen publications, he mentored countless graduate and undergraduate students in their own research and was a frequent volunteer at science fairs. He also was highly valued for his expertise in instrumentation. He and his wife Judy lived in Richmond, Ky.



**Timothy Cahill**, beloved coach of Model Laboratory School, Colonel Aquatics and Arlington Club swimming teams, and esteemed member of Eastern's faculty, died August 20, 2010, following a brave battle with pancreatic and liver cancer. After citing Coach Cahill's selection as the 2010 National Swimming and Diving Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association, President Doug Whitlock told the Eastern family, "That tremendous honor is just one measure of the high esteem in which he is held. More than

numerous championships, Coach Cahill's lasting legacy is the countless lives he touched as a coach, teacher, mentor and friend as he inspired and modeled commitment to excellence. Many of his former swimmers have gone on to compete successfully at the collegiate and national level and achieve great success in their chosen careers. . . Interscholastic swimming in Kentucky has never had a better friend."

Coach Cahill infused his swimmers with a passion for giving back to the community. Sports excellence is about attitude, he insisted, and "Attitude is Everything." Two months after his diagnosis, Cahill's friends, family, past and present swimmers announced a Relay for Life in his name and raised more than \$13,500 for the American Cancer Society. Donations poured in from around the country. Everywhere, purple wristbands declared: "Attitude is Everything." In fact, Coach Cahill's swimmers have been giving back for decades, devoting hundreds of hours to local, regional and statewide charities, most notably the Special Olympics.

With Cahill's warm, infectious smile came a genius for drawing the best out of young athletes. He coached 40 individual high school state champions, 14 Junior National qualifiers, two Junior National record holders, four Senior National qualifiers, a Senior National champion, U.S. World Team member, seven Olympic Trial qualifiers and one paralympic champion. Yet as Cahill's assistant coach Kyle Knezevich said at a banquet in his honor, to Coach Cahill, "there's no 'one best swimmer.' They all are. There's not one person better than another. That's a reason why this room is packed."

Last July, Cahill's young swimmers took his lessons to the Central Kentucky Swim Conference, where they earned both a championship and the Sportsmanship Award given them by all the conference teams. "The kids turned a difficult situation into an opportunity to show the true meaning of teamwork and commitment," said one parent. Coach Cahill joined the Eastern family in 1979, coaching the Model and Arlington teams for the past 30 years and Colonel Aquatics for the past 10. His wife Judy is a longtime member of the Eastern staff, serving in information technology administration as director of academic support.

# DID YOU TWIST, SWIM, OR MASHED POTATO IN SPECK'S BACK ROOM?

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 29**  
**7-10 P.M.**

Come as you are (flat tops and tie-dyes optional) for Golden Oldies, early Beatles and Rock 'n' Roll classics at the Perkins Building.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30**  
**8 P.M.-1 A.M.**

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# The Horse as Healer

riding and hippotherapy bring dramatic results



The Kentucky Department of Agriculture ranks horses and mules as the state's major agricultural product, generating more than \$1 billion in annual revenues or 27% of all farm revenues. Dr. Bruce Pratt, professor of agriculture, lists the varied uses of the equine population: racing, show, pleasure and work, but adds that in Kentucky, as throughout the United States, "most horses are companion animals." We keep them because we bond with them, because they bring comfort, pleasure and enjoyment. Students and colleagues of Kathy Splinter-Watkins, associate professor in Eastern's department of occupational therapy (OT), champion another role for horses: they are healers. The results, says Pratt, are dramatic.

In her Equine Assisted Activity course and service learning program at Central Kentucky Riding for Hope stables in Lexington, Splinter-Watkins gives OT students hands-on experience with a powerful, low-tech treatment option for an astonishing range of physical, cognitive, neurological and psychological conditions:

- Amputation
- Arthritis
- Autism
- Behavioral issues
- Cerebral palsy
- Depression
- Developmental delay
- Down syndrome
- Eating disorders
- Heart conditions
- Learning and language disabilities
- Multiple sclerosis
- Paraplegia
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Spina bifida
- Stroke
- Traumatic brain injury

"Equine-assisted activity" comprises two treatment modes: therapeutic riding and hippotherapy. Both use carefully selected and trained, patient, even-gaited, "bomb-proof" horses. Therapeutic riding builds on the emotional bonds between horse and rider, developing confidence, self-esteem, responsibility, care-giving and communication skills as well as exposure to a wide range of physical, tactile and emotional stimuli. Hippotherapy harnesses the rhythmic, repetitive, variable movement of the horse to simulate the rider's central nervous system. The three-dimensional movement of the horse's pelvis, explains Splinter-Watkins, is similar to that of the human pelvis, stimulating normal movement patterns. The warmth of the horse and leg grip of the rider reduces spasticity while improving muscle strength, posture, balance and gait.

Since undeniably the most even-gaited horse is not as predictable as, for instance, a treadmill, patients learn the subtle adjustments of balance and coordination necessary for activities of daily life. Numerous professionally controlled studies confirm results. Not that hippotherapy is new. Greek writings from 460 B.C. record the healing power of horses. Modern clinical recognition began in the 1950s, when Danish polio survivor Lis Hartel won Olympic medals in dressage, crediting riding with her dramatic recovery from nearly complete paralysis.

Like Splinter-Watkins, most therapeutic riding instructors are certified by the North American Handicapped Riders Association. However, hippotherapy can be practiced only by licensed physical, occupational or speech therapists. Splinter-Watkins is one of Kentucky's three designated Hippotherapy Clinical Specialists® (HPCS). Encouraged by the passionate enthusiasm of her OT students and hoping to position them with nationally recognized credentials, Splinter-Watkins has proposed a program offering a graduate certificate in hippotherapy that would lead to HPCS qualification.

Students now begin with classroom instruction and are then put in treatment teams at the newly refurbished indoor-outdoor Central Kentucky Riding for Hope stables. Flanking each mounted patient as "sidewalkers," they provide encouragement and safety under the direction of certified therapists. Recent cases included a four-year-old girl who could not walk because the two sides of her brain did not communicate normally. "She took her first steps with us," remembers Splinter-Watkins. OT students hear language- and learning-delayed children speak their first words on horseback or finally grasp basic math principles ("How many steps does Mickey take to get to the post? If he goes twice?"). Children with behavior issues follow directions ("Walk to the post and turn left"). The thrill of having a 1,000-pound animal respond to commands bolsters self-esteem. When trauma left a 19-year-old with selective mutism, healing commenced as she began speaking with her sidewalkers. Those with autism who typically resist new textures are charmed by the soothing, other-directed grooming of a miniature horse.

OT student Samantha Klema came from a riding background that helped her overcome learning disabilities. She watched hippotherapy help a brother with cerebral palsy develop confidence and improved muscle control. Now he is in college and showing family horses in a specially designed cart. At Eastern, Klema admires Splinter-Watkins' "soft-spoken, kind and gentle way" and will "definitely" get hippotherapy and riding therapy certification. Other children can be cruel to those with handicaps, Klema knows, but a horse doesn't judge or ridicule. In just a few sessions she has seen palpable differences in her patient's gait, manner and attitude. "She stood straighter. She was involved." Graduate student Keisha Gayheart has watched riding therapies help children with learning and language disabilities develop concentration, patience and social skills, sharing thoughts and emotions with their horse. She is excited by the promise of these therapies for adults and plans to apply her skills in rural Perry County, Ky. Eastern's OT curriculum brought Brittany Walker from Ohio; she is excited by the program's mix of results and fun for therapy-weary patients.

Like these students, Kathy Splinter-Watkins had a deep, immediate attraction to the field. A lifelong horse enthusiast, she wanted a change from bio-medical research and followed up on a blurb she read about a therapeutic riding program. "It was everything I ever wanted: social, emotional, physical, and it appealed to the service side of me." After becoming an occupational therapist, she decided to "try out academia" with a 1989 appointment at Eastern and liked what she found. In addition to a full teaching load, she volunteers with Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, regularly commuting to Lexington to support programs like "Healing Hooves," a therapeutic retreat for young people grieving the loss of a loved one.

Mounting clinical evidence spurs insurance companies to support therapeutic riding and hippotherapy, notes Dr. Louisa DeBolt of Eastern's exercise and sport science department, whose course in disability sports introduces students to a spectrum of treatment and recreation options. Both DeBolt and Splinter-Watkins see broad adult applications: amputees, stroke and trauma victims, paraplegic and arthritic patients, those with heart conditions, multiple sclerosis, as well as veterans suffering PTSD. Age is no barrier. A current client is in her eighties. Sidewalkers range from 14 to 70 with varying degrees of riding experience. One certainty unites students, volunteers and therapists: they want to be there when a wounded veteran first saddles his own horse or a child who has never spoken whispers, "Walk on, Mickey, walk on."



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