The Columns
of East Central
Fall 2008

ECU Celebrates
’08 Homecoming
& Gears up for
2009 Centennial Celebration

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Photography Provided by: Amy Ford, Jill Frye, Susan Ingram, Brian Johnson, Gina Smith and Ryan Wetherill.

The office of alumni relations is dedicated to establishing and nurturing lifelong, mutually beneficial relationships with alumni, friends and future students. Dedicated staff members of this office manage fund-raising activities in order to preserve and enhance the traditions and pride of East Central University.

East Central University’s mission is to foster a learning environment in which students, faculty, staff, and community interact to educate students for life in a rapidly changing and culturally diverse society. Within its service area, East Central University provides leadership for economic development and cultural enhancement.

East Central University will be recognized both within the state and nation as Oklahoma’s premier comprehensive student-centered regional university, offering outstanding academic programs and experiences for its students and contributing to the betterment of the region and beyond.

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other federal laws and regulations, East Central University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, handicap, disability, or status as a veteran, in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and education services. This publication is issued by East Central University as authorized by Title 70 O.S. 1981, Section 3906. Transcript Press of Norman has printed 1,800 copies at a cost of $2,515.28.
Several of our staff members have been combing through East Central University’s history as we prepare for our Centennial in 2009. Ada residents are even getting into the act by giving us memorabilia such as scrapbooks, yearbooks, photographs and other related items.

It’s fascinating to read of the Ada community’s battles to win East Central Normal School. When word finally came in March 1909 that the Legislature voted to locate the school in Ada – and that’s a story in itself – all the whistles in town “tooted their approval,” according to one ECU historical account.

About a year later, Science Hall became the first and only building on campus, and it still stands proudly at the east end of Main Street.

The more we know about our history, the more we appreciate the struggles our predecessors have endured to get buildings constructed, the latest technology purchased, employees paid and students taught.

Looking at photos from those early days evokes a bit of nostalgia for a much simpler, more innocent time. But then we realize all of the technology that has improved life in America since then. Who would want to give up air conditioned classrooms, residence halls, cars, computers, the Internet, distance education, DVDs or I-pods? The list is almost endless.

Can you imagine what one of ECU’s first faculty members, math teacher Kate Knight, would think of hand-held calculators, never mind laptop computers or the latest cell phones? Could President Adolph Linscheid, the namesake of our library, ever have imagined retrieving information electronically from far-away libraries?

And it’s probably a very good thing that history professor Louise Hornbeak, a renowned stickler for disciplined education, taught before students were capable of text messaging during lectures.

How things have changed as we begin our second century.

Today, Science Hall has the latest technology, including classrooms dedicated to interactive television classes (with two-way video and audio) so nursing students in the Ardmore, Durant, McAlester, Idabel and Talihina areas can earn baccalaureate degrees close to home.

A number of other classes are transmitted to Shawnee, among other locations. And we also use ITV to take our Master of Education Degree with specialization in the Library Media Program to students in western Oklahoma through our Western Expansion Grant.

This year, in fact, our grants budget is in excess of $20 million which far exceeds the totals of any of our peer institutions.

Online classes, as well as classes that blend classroom instruction with online content, also continue to grow.

I think our predecessors would be so pleased to see how far our academic programs have expanded beyond our original mission of preparing teachers, and that many of these programs have built regional and national reputations for excellence.

While we still face many challenges, looking toward the future is so exciting.

We eagerly await the opening of the state-of-the-art Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center and a celebration of that event, as well as the construction of the Centennial Plaza adjacent to the fine arts center and a new entrance to the university.

An anonymous donor also will make possible a Centennial Fountain on the plaza and a gazebo on the lawn for outdoor programs.

I am excited about a new wellness and recreation center that is well along in the planning stages, the proposed convention/conference center, the progress we’re making toward developing the Arts District of Ada at East Main and the many plans for improving our athletic facilities.

We’ve painted the west side of the football stadium and will replace the seating. We also plan on replacing the baseball stands and installing the first seating at the soccer field. And a new Athletic Strength and Conditioning Center, paid for primarily through donor dollars, is in the works with construction hopefully to begin shortly.

I am very honored to be East Central University’s president, especially during this time in our history. As you can see, we have accomplished much in our first 100 years. I’m looking forward to what we can do together in our second century.

Richard Rafes, J.D., Ph.D.
President, East Central University
If we could get them all together once again, what tales they could tell about East Central University’s early years. They graduated in the middle of the Great Depression. There were few cars and no residence halls on the campus. Compared to today’s students, they had little.

But the five women from Ada who have known each other most of their 90-plus years loved “the good old days” and have remained close friends since graduating from East Central State College in the early 1930s.

Ellen Barney Sherman, Maxine Garret Reed Young, Ruth Bryan Cochonour, Anne Ruth Wyatt Innerarity and Hugh Lee Wyatt Bates cherished their friendships all those years although they lived far apart after graduating and didn’t see each other very often.

Ruth Innerarity, now deceased, was the sister of Hugh Lee Bates, and yes, Hugh Lee is a woman.

“It’s amazing that four of us are still living and such good friends,” said Bates, who admitted she was teased all the time for bearing the masculine family name and, if she lived her life over again, probably would change it.

Innerarity was the oldest and Bates is the youngest, at 96 in October.

Ellen Sherman and Ruth Cochonour graduated in 1931 and the others graduated in 1932.

The women remember lots of parties, particularly during sorority rush. They all were members of Pi Kappa Sigma. There was only one other sorority, Sigma Sigma Sigma, and the two were very competitive, Sherman said.

“We had lots of slumber parties,” Bates said from her Little Rock, Ark., home, “where we would stay up all night long, especially during Rush and we were trying to get the girls we wanted in our sorority.”

Sherman, who lives in Purcell, Okla., said the friends spent their time going to classes, athletic events, dances and other sorority events.

“We would stay in touch,” Bates said. “We didn’t have cars so we’d go and visit each other. We would have slumber parties or spend the night with each other. This was during the Depression. We didn’t have cars or clothes like people do nowadays.”

There were no residence halls until Knight Hall and Fentem Hall were completed in 1937. Ada college students lived at home while others coming to Ada lived with local residents.

“After I had my first child,” Bates said, “we would have a girl stay with us. We would give her room and board and she would take care of our child at night. There were a lot of working students who did things to help out around people’s houses.”

Those were the good old days, Bates said, even though they didn’t have much.

“Then the oil boom came, at Fittstown,” she said. “The wealthy people built the big houses on Kings Road. We thought that was just great. Some of the women would host events and we could go see their houses.”

The five alums all earned teaching degrees. Sherman intended to major in home economics until she learned she had to take an art course.

“I’m not good in anything to do with art,” she said with
a chuckle. “I changed to math.”

“Ellen (Sherman) was a brain,” Bates remembered.

Sherman finished high school in three years and completed college in two-and-a-half years by going to summer school.

She easily tosses around the names of some of ECU’s legends – Kate Knight, Mickey McBride, Reed Loving Watt – but while we recognize their names, she knew and respected them as her teachers. Knight, a faculty member of the original East Central Normal School, was one of her math teachers. Watt taught English.

“Miss Knight was such a good teacher. Mickey McBride was the basketball coach. He was so good,” she remembered.

Sherman took McBride’s lifesaving class and, when ECSC needed an instructor, even taught swimming for two semesters before she graduated. She still swims most days and rarely misses a University of Oklahoma women’s basketball game in nearby Norman.

She also started teaching math at a country school before she graduated because the school’s coach/math teacher had been fired.

“I finished out the last three months and came home to graduate,” she said. “My superintendent was (former governor and senator and now OU president) David Boren’s uncle.”

She met her future husband, Earl Sherman, when she took that job.

“I went to Lexington to see about getting a place to stay,” she said. “Someone said I needed to meet Mrs. Sherman, who was on the school board. Earl was her nephew. We met and got married the next year, in 1932. We were married 65 years. We were lucky.”

She had three sons and taught nearly 10 years at Lexington before retiring.

Bates taught business in Oklahoma for seven years. When her son developed asthma, she and her husband Clifford moved to New Mexico where she lived for 47 years. Four years after her husband’s death, she moved to Little Rock to be near her daughter.

Bates said she often thinks of M.B. “Pop” Malloy, an English professor who played tennis after the age of 80 and lived to almost 100. Maybe that’s because at age 96 she takes no prescription medications and is in good health except for suffering from macular degeneration.

She lives in a retirement center, but the three other women still live in their homes.
Bates’ sister, the late Anne Ruth Innerarity, lived in Durant, Okla., had two children and taught primary grades. She was the only one of the women who met her husband at ECSC. They both taught and he later became the comptroller at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

Maxine Young received a degree in business education. She and her husband, who worked in a grocery store, had three children.

“When he bought a grocery store in Duncan,” Young said, “I decided to hang up my career.”

She had to go back to work, however, when her husband died at age 44.

“I had to make a decision, whether to teach or do something else. I felt like I had to go back to school to teach, so I went to work for Halliburton.”

She worked as a secretary and saw to it that her three children all earned college degrees, “and that was something,” Reed said.

She later married Cy Young, a senior officer of Halliburton.

Cochonour, whose father owned the Bryan Corner Drug Store in downtown Ada, lives in Casey, Ill. She remembers students sitting on the steps of Science Hall, reviewing their notes before going to class. She also mentioned the outstanding basketball teams of the era and recalled the summer two of the players died in separate accidents.

“That really set the team back,” she said.

Cochonour said she loved the swimming pool and would go there to swim when she had free periods.

She met her husband, Clark, when she went to the University of Colorado to earn a master’s degree. She had taught business three years in Earlsboro and three years in Stonewall. After she married, she moved to Illinois and taught 16 years, ending her career by teaching language arts.

When the Choconours and their three sons returned to Ada to visit family, their first stop often was at Folger’s Drive-In.

“I don’t know when it opened,” Cochonour said, “but through the years, when we’d hit Ada to see our family, we would stop there, even though they had cooked a meal for us. It was a place to come back to.”

It’s been awhile since most of the women have been to Ada, although Cochonour returned last year and thought the campus “looked real nice.” When their husbands were alive, the five friends got together regularly.

“Now we just write each other,” Sherman said.

It may be just a Christmas card or an occasional letter, and although “once a year is not enough, I’m so glad to get that,” Bates said.

Hugh Lee Bates actually saw The Elephant, a mainstay of East Central University lore.

“I thought about that the other day,” she said during a telephone conversation from her Little Rock home. “I remember that an elephant died and they had it in a big tank with water running over it. I saw the elephant. I wondered, why were they keeping it so long?”

The memory is so bizarre, she said, she began to question whether she had dreamed it or if it really happened. Bates, who grew up in Ada, said she remembers looking at the elephant when she was a child, but she doesn’t remember where the tank was and doesn’t know what happened to it.

Neither does anyone else.

It was 1919. Ada was the wintering site of Honest Bill Newton’s Country Circus. The circus elephant, Diamond, died and Honest Bill gave it to East Central’s science department. The carcass was moved to the campus, which was no small task, and placed inside an airtight, waterproof box made by industrial arts students.

They were trying to save the skeleton for educational purposes. The elephant was placed in the box and covered in lime water to hasten decomposition.
Congratulations to the ’08 Evening of Honors & Recognition Award Recipients

David Hathcoat
2008 Distinguished Service

Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel
2008 Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Ray Quiett
2008 Distinguished Former Faculty

The Floyd Family
2008 Distinguished Family
From Left: Dr. Kay M. Floyd, Rex Floyd, Carolyn Floyd Taylor and Glenn E. Floyd

Leon & Mary Pauline Lanoy
2008 Hallie Brown Ford Award for Philanthropy

Honorees are pictured with President Richard Rafes and Foundation Executive Director Mickey Cowan.
As East Central University and the Ada community look forward to the opening of the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center and the beginning of a new century for ECU, many may not realize that it is the end of a nearly 50-year era.

The completion of the fine arts center will mark the second retirement of former physics professor and former vice president of academic affairs Dr. John Bulman.

“I’ll be 80 years old in February,” said Bulman, “and it’s time to move on to something else.”

Bulman came to ECU in 1961 as an instructor of physics. He was head of the physics department from 1971 to 1981 and was named the division chair in 1984.

He served as dean of the School of Mathematics and Sciences from 1981 to 1989 before becoming the vice president of academic affairs.

“I first taught in the basement of Science Hall. When I came back after finishing my doctorate, they’d moved us to the basement of Horace Mann and the department was still there when I became vice president of academic affairs and moved over to the Administration Building,” Bulman said.

Bulman, who was already involved in the planning of the Physical and Environmental Sciences Building, retired as the vice president of academic affairs in 1994.

Since then he has overseen the construction of the new Linscheid Library, the University Center, Tiger Commons, the Women’s Athletics Facility and several major remodeling projects including the transformation of the former Linscheid Library into Danley Hall.

“Of all the buildings,” said Bulman, “this one (HBFFAC) has been my favorite. It’s been the biggest and the most interesting.”

The fine arts center is nearing 30 months of construction with a cost of $27 million. The grand opening is tentatively planned for early 2009. Plans for the grand opening are not finalized but could include a gala, art show, performances by ECU students, tours and a reception.

The HBFFAC also will play a role in ECU’s centennial celebrations scheduled throughout 2009.

Throughout the construction process, Bulman has maintained hands-on involvement. Whether it is 30 degrees or 100 degrees, sunshine or rain, Bulman has been on-site overseeing the progress of what he calls the crown jewel of ECU’s buildings.

Both his pride and excitement show when he gives a tour of the fine arts center. He describes every detail of the 85,000-square-foot building from the sculpture garden to the orchestra pit that rises up to stage level to how the building is 100 percent handicap accessible to the number of concrete blocks used in construction – which topped out at the 10,000 mark.

As for Bulman, the completion of the fine arts center will end his 47th year of service to ECU.
“I’ll be 80 years old in February and it’s time to move on to something else.”

“When I started teaching in 1961 there were only 1,200 students and many buildings have been added, including Kerr Center.

“Out of everything I’ve done, I enjoyed classroom teaching the most. The students are different now compared to the students back then. The students today don’t assume the responsibility given to them, but they are more knowledgeable. In my early years of teaching, there were a lot of veterans and they were a more serious group,” said Bulman.

Bulman believes that the changes to ECU over the years, including new buildings and the introduction of new courses, have been good and made the university more diverse.

“If I had my life to live over I wouldn’t change it,” said Bulman. “I’d come to ECU again. I’ve enjoyed being here.”
Calendar of Events

December 2008
5  • Annual Lighting of the Tree
13  • Commencement
31  • Kick-off of ECU’s Centennial Celebration at First Night Ada

January 2009
23-24  • ECU Honors Band Performances

February 2009
5  • ECU Faculty and Friends Composers Concert
14  • Alumni Orange & Black Sweetheart Social
17-18  • ECU District Vocal Contest
20  • Tiger Cause — Dancing Through the Decades
27  • Performance by pianist Dr. Scott Carrell, Harding University

March 2009
7  • Alumni Reunion in Dallas
Week of the 15th  • Spring Break
Week of the 23rd  • Celebrating Our Beginning
  • Opening of the Time Capsule
25  • Reenactment of the signing of the Charter establishing ECU
28  • Centennial Gala

April 2009
Centennial Class of 2009 Celebration
11  • Alumni Reunion in Tulsa
13-17  • Orange Crush
17  • Honors & Recognition Banquet
20  • ECU Chorus and Chorale Concert
23  • Student Development Awards
30  • Athletic Awards Banquet

May 2009
1  • Greatest Day Ever
8  • Senior Graduate Reception with Recognition of Legacy Families
9  • Commencement
30  • Alumni Reunion in McAlester
June 2009
13  • Alumni Reunion in Ardmore
27  • Alumni Bricktown Bash in OKC

August 2009
13  • Faculty & Staff Campus Picnic
27  • First away football game

September 2009
Week of the 21st • Celebrating Our Future
Placement of items in a new Time Capsule

October 2009
26-31 • Centennial Homecoming Week
27-29 • Little Dixie Contest
31  • Centennial Homecoming Game

November 2009
30  • ECU Chorus Concert

December 2009
4    • Annual Lighting of the Tree
11   • Senior Graduate Reception with Recognition of Legacy Families
31   • Closing of Centennial Celebrations at First Night Ada

Call for Memorabilia

East Central University is looking for artifacts, memorabilia and stories to commemorate its history as the university prepares to celebrate its centennial in 2009. Examples of ECU artifacts and memorabilia include photographs of campus events, postcards, pennants, copies of early diplomas, event programs, scrapbooks, newspaper articles and books written by alumni and/or faculty. Visit www.ecok.edu/centennial/memorabilia.asp for more information.

www.ecok.edu/centennial
Ada Mayor Barbara Young, City Manager David Hathcoat and other members of the City Council joined ECU President Richard Rafes and Arts District of Ada Community Development Coordinator Bridget Forshay on Sept. 12 to break ground for the Centennial Plaza and Fountain.

The Centennial Plaza, funded by the City of Ada, will replace one block of East Main between Center and Francis Streets and one block of Francis Street between Main and 10th Streets.

The Centennial Fountain, funded by a private donation to ECU, will be 10 feet by 40 feet with three water spouts. It will be built between the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center and the Horace Mann Building. The new entrance to the Centennial Plaza will be located on the east side of Center Street on East Main.

The plaza will be part of the Arts District of Ada being developed on East Main Street and will be a venue for outdoor arts and cultural events as well as relaxation and reflection. The plaza also will ensure safe passage for the university community at this location.

In addition to the plaza and fountain, there are plans for a large gazebo to be built on the northwest lawn between Science Hall and the Physical and Environmental Sciences Building.
A generous gift honoring a former East Central University professor will provide additional funds for the construction of the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center.

The facility’s studio theatre will be known as the J. Chalmers Herman Theatre in honor of the former head of ECU’s foreign languages department.

“We thought this would be a good way to remember him,” said his wife, Charlotte Herman. “We used to come to all the theatre productions on campus.”

Herman taught Spanish and French at ECU from 1952 until his retirement in 1980, sharing his passion for languages, Spanish literature and Latin American civilization with thousands of students. He died in May 2003.

Charlotte Herman taught part-time at ECU. She and the couple’s children, Carla Herman Weber of Bentonville, Ark., and Arthur Herman, who lives in England, made the gift to the ECU Foundation Inc.

The J. Chalmers Herman Theatre will be a 40 by 60 foot theatre on the southwest corner of the fine arts center. An upper level will house sound and lighting equipment and will have an area that can be used either for additional seating or as part of a set, such as a balcony.

Flexible seating will adapt to differing needs for a variety of productions. The theatre will seat up to 250 people, compared to the current small theatre in Science Hall that seats approximately 70 people.

Mickey Cowan Returns to ECU

The East Central University Foundation is excited to announce the appointment of Mickey Cowan as executive director of the ECU Foundation Inc. Cowan taught at ECU from the fall of 1974 until his retirement in August of 2000.

Cowan returned to campus on June 1, 2008, after eight years working as an associate professor of accounting at Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond, Okla. Prior to accepting the position of executive director, he served on the Foundation Board for two years and as Foundation Executive Board Treasurer for one year.

Many residents in Ada recognize his voice from his over twenty years of broadcasting ECU and Ada High School Sports.

After leaving ECU for eight years, Cowan is thrilled to be back on campus.

He feels fortunate to have the privilege of raising and providing financial support for students pursuing their educational goals.

Lovelis Named Director of Alumni Relations

Buffy Lovelis, a 2005 graduate of East Central University, has been named ECU’s director of alumni relations.

She has worked in the University Advancement Division, which includes the Alumni Relations Office, since March 2007. She previously was the database manager and executive administrative assistant, managing the Blaukbaud Information System as well as daily office activities for University Advancement and Alumni Relations.

Lovelis came to ECU from Cothran Development Strategies in Ada. She was the company’s executive administrative assistant from November 2005 to April 2006 when she was promoted to vice president of fundraising/event coordination.

A 2000 graduate of Davis High School, Lovelis received a bachelor’s degree in business administration/management from ECU and expects to complete a master’s degree in human resource administration at ECU in December.
A new master of science in accounting (MSA) degree program underway this fall at East Central University is preparing students for a move into positions of authority in manufacturing, government, not-for-profit entities, public accounting firms and other organizations.

Two graduate courses are being offered this fall. “Between the two classes, 15 people are enrolled,” said Dr. Sarah Holmes, chair of the Accounting Department. “Others who were not accounting majors are taking pre-requisite courses now and should enter the program later.”

Five upper-level accounting classes must be completed by non-accounting majors, she said. The 30-hour program specifically prepares students to sit for the Certified Public Accountant exam. Students also will qualify to sit for the Certified Management Accountant and Certified Internal Auditor exams.

“Accountants must complete 150 credit hours to take the CPA exam. Now, with this new program, instead of just taking 30 additional hours of undergraduate work, students will be able to complete a master’s degree at ECU before taking the CPA exam,” said Dr. Duane Anderson, ECU provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Holmes said convenient, flexible class times should allow students with full-time jobs to complete their degrees without unnecessarily disrupting work.

“Hopefully, employers will be able to offer flex-time schedules that will enable students to take one or two graduate classes each semester and still work a 40-hour week,” she said.

The need for accountants will grow significantly over the next 10 years, predicted Dr. Micheal Thompson, dean of ECU’s School of Business. He added that the MSA is the next step in the evolution of the School of Business.

“This master’s degree will place ECU in a unique role,” said Dr. Carlos Johnson, a 1964 ECU alum and senior investment banker with BOSC Inc., “as only the two major universities and one private university in Oklahoma offer a similar degree.”

The Accounting Program has a long history at ECU. Eight of the past 15 presidents of the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants are ECU accounting graduates. Alums headed both the OSCPA and the State Board of Public Accountancy in 2007.

For information on the new master of accounting degree, contact Dr. Sarah Holmes at 580-559-5527. ECU also offers master’s degrees in education, human resources and psychological services.

NATIVE AMERICAN GRADS PLACE ECU HIGH IN RANKINGS

A study of the nation’s universities ranks East Central University as one of the top producers of Native American graduates. Approximately one out of every five ECU students is Native American.

ECU ranked second in the nation for having the highest number of Native American undergraduates in the category of health professions and related clinical services. Only the University of Oklahoma’s Health Sciences Center was ranked higher nationally in that category.

For universities ranked as the top graduate degree producers, ECU was fourth in the number of Native Americans earning master’s degrees in education, and seventh overall for all disciplines combined.

“This is great news,” said ECU President Richard Rafes, “especially since the majority of graduates from ECU and our five regional sister universities stay in Oklahoma after receiving their degrees. They are contributing not only to their families’ well being but also to economic development in Oklahoma.”

In addition, ECU ranked in the top 20 nationally in six other bachelor’s degree categories: eighth in the number...
The completion of the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center is not the only building project that will occur during East Central University’s Centennial. As one construction is completed, another one is scheduled to begin.

Groundbreaking for the University Center expansion is planned for 2009. Even though the University Center is a relatively new building on campus, the expansion will keep up with changing trends of the millennial generation. Included in the expansion project are plans to extensively update and enlarge the existing Tommy Hewett M.D. Wellness Center portion of the building.

“Students list a modern wellness center as one of their top three considerations when choosing a university,” said Dr. Richard Rafes, ECU president.

When completed, the wellness center will have a recreational area that features a gym with expanded weight rooms, an indoor track approximately an eighth of a mile in length, dressing rooms and possibly a climbing wall. A new swimming pool will be constructed if funds are available.

McBride Gym, which was built in 1927 and last updated more than 10 years ago, will benefit from the wellness center construction as well, with plans to update heating and air conditioning and resurface the gym floor.

Most of the expansion will be on the west lawn between the University Center, McBride Gym and Francis Street. Construction will not affect the visitor parking lot between the University Center and the tennis courts except for the addition of delivery zones for food services.

Estimated cost of the project is $7.5 million with funding being provided through student fees, bonds and donations.

“Construction should take about two years,” said Rafes. “It’s a more complex construction project because the University Center still has to be functional.”

Perhaps one of the best benefits of the University Center expansion is that it will help to promote a healthy lifestyle for students.

“An updated wellness center that is comparable to what other universities have to offer will encourage students to have a healthy lifestyle, which is a great benefit to them,” Rafes said.
East Central University
Homecoming ’08

Register Today!
www.alumni.ecok.edu
580-559-5651
alumni@ecok.edu

Check our website for the latest information & additional events!

Vote & Roary!
Tuesday, October 21:

**School of Business Luncheon**
Noon, Stanley P. Wagner Ballroom, $9 or 2/$15

Friday, October 24:

**Alumni Association 4-Person Golf Scramble**
11:30 a.m. Burger Lunch, Free for Paid Golfers; $10/all others
1 p.m., Tee-Off, $100/player (Sponsorship packages are available)
All golf events take place at Oak Hills Golf & Country Club, Ada

**“The Foreigner,” A Comedy by Larry Shue**
7:30 p.m., Dorothy Summers Theatre, Free for ECU Students, Faculty & Staff;
All others: $3/students & seniors; $5 adults
*Other performances will be held on Wed., Oct. 22, & Thurs., Oct. 23*

Saturday, October 25:

**Alumni Association 5K Tiger Run**
8 a.m., Wintersmith Park, $25/person

**Alumni Association Golden Tiger Brunch**
10:30 a.m., Stanley P. Wagner Ballroom, Free to Golden Tigers who graduated in 1958 & before
All others: $10/advanced ticket; $15/at door

**Alumni Association Legacy Brunch**
10:30 a.m., SLW Foundation & Alumni Center, 2 for $5
All current legacy students & parents invited

**Athletic Alumni Association Meeting**
11 a.m., Jerry Anderson Room, Free
All athletic alums are invited

**Homecoming Parade**
Noon, Ada Main Street

**“The Foreigner,” A Comedy by Larry Shue**
2 p.m., Dorothy Summers Theatre, Free for ECU Students, Faculty & Staff;
All others: $3/students & seniors; $5 adults

**Band Alumni Association Meeting**
2 p.m., ECU Band Room, Free
Alumni or faculty/staff members who were part of the Pride of Tigerland,
ECU Jazz Band, Symphonic Band or Color Guard are invited

**King & Queen Coronation**
5:30 p.m., Norris Field, Free with game admission

**ECU vs. Southwestern Football Game**
6 p.m., Norris Field, $5 general admission; $3 kids under 12 & senior citizens

**Alumni Association Social**
9:30 p.m., Ada Elks Lodge, Free Admission
Everyone is invited ~ Cash Bar Available
Greetings from the Alumni Association

The Alumni Association has wrapped up what we consider to have been both a busy and successful summer. Highlights included alumni reunion events in Dallas, Tulsa and Oklahoma City, as well as a group outing to Cabo. We’ve added four outstanding new members to the board and are currently working to help make Homecoming 2008 a resounding success! Plans are already in the works for 2009 alumni reunions in an expanded group of five cities and Centennial events to commemorate East Central’s wondrous past.

As with the start of each fall semester, there’s no doubt new and returning students bring vibrancy to campus and the entire Ada community. The ECU Alumni Association is thrilled to work with these students, our members, the University and the community. Central to our mission, we truly endeavor to create opportunities that connect the Tiger family. We hold the utmost pride in ECU and work to inspire others to share our unique spirit and tradition.

Speaking of family…look for some of the newest members of our Tiger brood in this edition!

Homecoming is bound to be a blast! Perhaps there’s no better opportunity to connect with old friends and forge relationships with new acquaintances. Read ahead for details and watch your mail for additional information as the event nears. On behalf of the association, I encourage you to join us Oct. 24 and 25, 2008. There are a variety of festivities you won’t want to miss!

Go Tigers!

Hillary Farrell, Class of ’00
President, ECU Alumni Association

Orange & Black Sweetheart Social
Sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations

Saturday
February 14, 2009
6:00 p.m.
Stanley P. Wagner Ballroom ECU Campus

$25/couple
Live Music by Zoom City
Heavy Hors d’oeuvres

Register to attend online at www.alumni.ecok.edu

For questions, please call Buffy Lovelis @ 580-559-5651 or email her at alumni@ecok.edu

Front Row: Monica Cowart, immediate past president; Hillary Farrell, president; Tiffany Grant, secretary; Back Row: Pat Fountain, treasurer; Dustin Smith, president-elect; Zeak Naifeh, vice president

2008-09 Alumni Association Board of Directors:
Lee Bahner, Heather Beam, Tyson Brown, Kassie Cothran, Monica Cowart, Robyn Elliott, Marilyn Ellis, Hillary Farrell, Pat Fountain, Tiffany Grant, Jeff Keel, Ronda Martin, Maxine McFalls, Zeak Naifeh, Ray Nicholas, Curt Rawls, Joe Sharber II, Jessica Shores, Dustin Smith, Tommy Vass Jr., C.J. Vires, Mark Walters and Kristy Yager.
The entire group of travelers meet for dinner upon arriving in beautiful Cabo. They don't even look too weary from a long day's travels.

The Stittsworth family (Jonathan, Mitchell and Jocelyn) enjoy lots of quality family time in Cabo! Jocelyn is a long-time board member of the ECUAA.

The Arch is visible behind the smiles of Vickie and Ray Nicholas. Following an enjoyable hour-long catamaran ride, the couple snorkeled in the beautiful waters of a secluded cove.

Peaceful scenery as the catamaran approaches a beautiful beach where the group enjoys the day.

ECUAA board member Ronda Martin visits with fellow travelers Jo Ann and Walter Terrell.

Lenea and Thomas Willsher and Leroy and the late Carolyn Townsend enjoy a bit of down time before dinner the first evening. Lenea and Thomas Willsher were celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary this evening.

Our deepest condolences to Leroy Townsend and his family. Carolyn lost a very quick battle with cancer after returning from Cabo.
Pi Kappa Epsilon Omega Annual Reunion Takes Place

“For the establishment of friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis” is a defining part of the Pi Kappa Alpha preamble, and these are words that have a special meaning to Pikes around the world. With this in mind, a great time was had by all who attended the second annual Pi Kappa Epsilon Omega Reunion in Ardmore on Aug. 2, 2008.

This event was promoted as “A night of renewing old friendships and making new ones!” and it lived up to its billing. While the guest list encompassed all decades of ECU Pikes, more than 120 attended, including 81 fraternity alumni, spouses/significant others, ECU administrator/special guest Dr. Gerald Williamson and two current members of the Pike chapter on ECU’s campus, Anthony Shelton and Aaron Yandell. Many attendees had not seen each other since their days at ECU, some as long as 45 years, so there was a lot of catching up to do.

Along with fellowship, food and good spirits, there were a few other highlights during the evening.

One was the charter member signup for the newly established Epsilon Omega Alumni Association. Another focus of the evening was the recognition of Dr. James R. Harris, who served tirelessly as Epsilon Omega’s chapter advisor for 20 years, and the drive to endow a scholarship in his honor. A time of reflection was also dedicated to two sets of Epsilon Omega members who could not be present at the event. Our “Chapter Eternal,” which honors those members who have passed on before, was read aloud and recognition was given to those brothers who are serving their country in the military overseas.

Guests were treated to live entertainment by Chuck Allen Floyd ('90) who performed an acoustic set of both original and cover songs. (Since leaving Ada, Chuck splits his time between Oklahoma City and Nashville working as both a songwriter and performer.)

Plans are now underway for the third annual Pi Kappa Alpha Epsilon Omega Reunion to be held in Ardmore, Okla., on Aug. 1, 2009. This event will be held at the Ardmore Convention Center and is sure to be another night to remember.

For more information on the Epsilon Omega Alumni Association or upcoming events, please visit www.EastCentralPikes.com or email us at Alumni@EastCentralPikes.com.
The Columns

3rd Annual Football Alumni Reunion

Thanks to all of the former players & coaches who joined us this year...

Kenny Bare
Tommy Bare
Chuck Blackburn
Brad Calip
Bryant Calip
Nic Claborn
Jeff Craig
Jamie Douglas
Ruben Elizarde
Todd Fugett
Steven Gibbs
Andy Gower
Kevin Grigsby
Gene Harlin
Todd Kimrey
Kerry McGill
Ron Miller
Greg Moses
Grant Naylor
Josh Newby
Gary Olinghouse
Pat O’Neal
Joe Price
Calvin Prince
Kenny Ridley
Tracy Smith
Brian Stepp
John Thompson
Hank Walbrick
JD Walker
Chuck Willeford
Gerald Williamson
Vern Wilson
Bobby Wortham
Timmy Young

...Mark your calendars for next year!
July 10-11, 2009

Thanks, Dr. Gil Morgan, for your support! Stay tuned for details on next year’s tournament.
Bill Dalley admits that his truck looked a little like the one on the “Sanford and Son” TV show the first time he came home with a load of old, rusty windmill parts.
Actually, it was Dalley’s wife Alta who first made that comparison. “What are you going to do with all that stuff?” she asked.
Little did they know that was the start of an unusual hobby and one of the largest private windmill collections in the world.
“Once we got them up,” he said, “she took a better liking to it.”
And they’re all in their back yard.
Dalley, a 1952 East Central University graduate, had to research how windmills’ various parts went together before restoring the windmill that once stood on a neighbor’s ranch outside Portales, N.M.
“Eighty-five pieces (windmills) later,” he said, “here we are.”
All 85 are clustered “on an acre or two” of the couple’s 20 acres at the edge of town.
Dalley grew up on a farm near Davis, Okla., and earned a degree in teaching from East Central. He went right into the Army and served two years. Then a good friend helped him get a teaching job in New Mexico. That’s where he met his future wife, also a teacher. Dalley taught, coached and for the last 25 or 30 years was a counselor. He retired in 1990.
After acquiring his first windmill, Dalley enlisted the help of his wife and their three children, who grew up to become teachers, to scour the countryside for other unwanted windmills.
“We gathered a lot of good stuff. It was either junk, or antique windmills,” depending on one’s viewpoint, he said. The collection kept growing and before long, Dalley was something of a celebrity.
He and his windmills have been the subject of stories in People magazine, in newspapers in Texas and New Mexico and on network television. He’s featured on the Roosevelt County Chamber of Commerce web page and numerous web sites related to windmills, museums and tourist attractions.
“I’m just an old Okie, not a celebrity, but I enjoy it anyway,” he said.
“This is a hobby. I’m not a windmiller as such,” he said. “I just collect them and enjoy meeting people.”
Thousands of people have seen Dalley’s collection. About 100 visitors came by his place just this past summer. Some come off the highway to find him, and a lot of visitors to Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, especially from other countries, often are brought to tour the windmill collection. There is no admission charge.
“We are a little out of the way,” he said. “You can just come by, walk around and look if you want to.”
Although the restored windmills are not hooked up to pump water, Dalley now keeps them tied down so they no longer spin, creak or groan.
"We have 50- to 60-mile-per-hour winds, so we hope they’re tied down," Dalley said. "Some rattle and roll and tear up. The TV people always want to see them turn, but afterward we get up and tie them off."

Whenever he has acquired a windmill or windmill parts, he also tried to gather pieces of its history, stories about the families who shared the land or the cost of the land.

"I've been here over 50 years, and I still meet people who are interested in windmills," he said. "This is dry country. Without windmills, it would not have been settled as easy as it was. Windmills made quite a difference. People in their 80's still come by who can remember having them."

Dalley's oldest windmill is an 1870 Railroad Eclipse with a wooden wheel 18 feet in diameter. It requires a 40-foot-tall tower and a gear box weighing more than 400 pounds.

"It needed a larger wheel to pull a larger cylinder of water for steam engines," he explained.

Western movies often showed a water tower next to the railroad tracks, but usually without the necessary windmill, he pointed out.

His largest windmill is a 20-foot metal Sampson.

"I'm not a welder or carpenter as such," he said, "but we try to put them back together. We have repainted them with the original colors or very near the original. The Eclipse is cow patty green with red tips. Some are red or white with black tips, or black with white. Whatever the company's color or trademark was, we’ve tried to follow suit."

In addition to his own windmills, he's restored 35 for museums or individuals from Long Island, N.Y., to California, Florida, Canada and points in between.

"I try to help restore them if I can."

Dalley also started the International Windmillers' Trade Fair Association.

"People can bring their rusty iron and trade or sell it for windmill parts," Dalley said. "What's junk to some is a gold mine for others."

Today, however, Dalley is slowing down. He's hoping to place his collection in a museum and hopes it can stay in the Portales area.
Tigers overcome rough start to season and beat Northeastern State

It was a rough start for the East Central University football squad.

But it was an exciting finish as the first half of the 2008 football slate wrapped up for the Tigers.

ECU suffered four straight losses to open the campaign, but came away with a thrilling 55-49 overtime victory over Northeastern State in the Lone Star Conference North Division opener for both teams on Sept. 27.

Coach Kurt Nichols’ Tigers saw a 49-35 evaporate in the final eight minutes as NSU tied the contest on the last play of regulation to send the game to overtime.

With the RiverHawk offense on the field first, NSU was unable to generate any penetration and forced to try a 37-yard field goal.

Then came a riveting set of developments. NSU’s Jared Homer’s kick was blocked by Charlie Burks, Dionte’ Dean picked up the loose ball, carried it to the ECU 48 and just as he was about to be hit, executed a lateral back to Ryan Madison, who sprinted the remaining 52 yards for the touchdown and game-winner.

There were several heroes in the game for the Tigers as junior quarterback Marcus Johnson broke his own school record by throwing for 426 yards. He was 28-of-46 with two touchdowns and only one interception.

Meanwhile, tailback Joshua Maldanado became the most productive ECU running back since the 2005 season as he gained 111 yards on 18 carries and scored three touchdowns on runs of 4, 10 and 1 yards.

In the receiving department, Justin Goolsby caught both TD passes of 68 and 36 yards as he totaled five receptions in the game while accumulating 126 yards.

Despite the track meet score, the Tiger defense had its moments. Senior defensive end Brandon Hopstein made three tackles for losses of 16 yards while recording a quarterback sack and forced fumble on the same play which led teammate Maurice Lanclos returning a fumble 30 yards for a TD.

ECU opened the 2008 season with a 58-14 loss at NCAA Division I Championship Subdivision (formerly NCAA Div. I-AA) team Sam Houston State on Aug. 28. Despite that lopsided loss, Johnson had a nice effort at quarterback as he was 31-of-53 passing for 270 yards with one score, but was intercepted three times as ECU turned the ball over four times in the contest. ECU’s two scores came on a 29-yard pass from Johnson to Tyrone Gibbs and a 3-yard run by Charles Huffman.

On Sept. 13, the Tigers lost a 38-6 decision at home to 19th-ranked Tarleton State in a game played in steady rain from the effects of Hurricane Ike. ECU’s only score came in the third quarter on a 12-yard pass from Johnson to Keewan King.

The Tigers hit the road on Sept. 20 and suffered a 34-24 loss at Angelo State. Johnson was 24-of-44 passing for 331 yards and Nigel Cooper caught nine passes for 164 yards for the Tigers. Maldanado had touchdown runs of 11 and 3 yards while Johnson had another from a yard out. Corey Dozier booted a 30-yard field goal for ECU’s other score.

After the first five games, Johnson needed just 637 yards to become ECU’s all-time leader in passing yards. He broke the single-season record in 2007 by throwing for 2,508. He had 1,445 through the first five games of 2008 with six contests to play and also has a senior season to go.

How many records will be broken...stay tuned!

Get up to the minute news on all ECU Tiger Sports at

www.ecutigersports.com
Tigers Play at Cotton Bowl, Oct. 18

When the East Central University football squad battles Texas A&M-Commerce on Oct. 18 at the Cotton Bowl, the event will be called “The Harvey Martin Classic” in honor of the late Dallas Cowboys great.

The announcement was made in August at a press conference, hosted by A&M-Commerce, at the Radisson Hotel, Central Dallas.

Martin, who played at Texas A&M-Commerce (known then as East Texas State) from 1969-72, was a four-time Pro Bowl selection (1976, ’77, ’78 and ’79) and NFL Defensive Player of the Year for Dallas in 1977.

In Super Bowl XII, he was named the game’s most valuable player, along with teammate Randy White.

Martin, who died in 2001, played for Dallas from 1973-83 and was part of the famed ‘Doomsday Defense’. He still holds the Cowboy records for sacks as a rookie (8 in 1973), sacks in a season (20 in 1977) and sacks in a career (114).

He was an Associated Press Little, Football News and NAIA All-American at East Texas State as he led the Lions to a national title in 1972.

Members of Martin’s family attended the gathering as did some former Cowboys, including wide receiving great Drew Pearson.

ECU Athletic Director Brian DeAngelis was one of the guest speakers at the conference and addressed the gathering about the excitement of the Tigers being involved in the classic, especially with the site being the Cotton Bowl during the Texas State Fair and that there are many ECU alums in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Also making remarks from A&M-Commerce were President Dr. Dan Jones, athletic director Carlton Cooper and head football coach Scotty Conley. ECU head coach Kurt Nichols was unable to attend because his team was enroute to Thursday night’s game at Sam Houston State.

The Harvey Martin Classic will kick off at 2 p.m. Oct. 18. For ticket information contact the ECU athletic department at 580-559-5314 or the A&M-Commerce athletic department at 903-886-5558.
Leonard Briley ('53) lives in Ada and is a retired teacher and coach. He graduated from ECU with a BS in education. He has three children, Stanley, Stacie and Rebecca. Leonard enjoys sharing the gospel, playing golf and fishing.

Karen Cason Smith ('71) lives with her husband Michael in Ada. Karen graduated from ECU with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. She is a retired Latta School elementary teacher. Karen and Michael have three children, Steven, David and Brian.

Belinda Wood O’Brien ('78) lives in Tulsa, Okla., and is a learning and development specialist for State Farm Insurance Companies. In her spare time she enjoys reading, gardening, running 5Ks, riding a Harley with her significant other and traveling. She especially enjoys her children: Kevin is a 2nd lieutenant in the Marine Corps, currently training as a Naval Flight Officer. Erin is a college student and is pursuing a career in theater.

Kirk Moore ('88) lives with his wife Kim in Pauls Valley. Kirk graduated from ECU with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education and is an educator for Pauls Valley Public Schools. His wife is a secretary for Chaparell Oil Company. They have three children, Erin, 19; Ty, 14; and McKenzie, 13. Kirk enjoys fishing, hunting, golf and spending time with his kids.

Rhonda D. Glenn ('91 & '97) is the interim financial aid director at Murray State College in Tishomingo, Okla. She has worked in higher education for 16 years. She enjoys working with the students, faculty and staff. She also teaches American sign language at MSC. She would love to catch up with friends, faculty and staff from ECU.

Luke Penrod ('92) lives in Ada with his wife Kristy. Luke graduated from ECU with a BS in biology education. He teaches 7th and 8th grade science at Ada Junior High School. Kristy has been a chiropractic assistant at the Simpson Family Clinic for five years. Luke and Kristy have two sons, Christopher, 22, and Spencer, 18. Christopher is a student at ECU and enjoys playing in his band, video games and working on the computer. Spencer is a senior at Ada High School and loves playing baseball. Kristy and Luke enjoy watching their children grow up and how they enjoy life. Luke enjoys watching almost all sports, playing golf and reading different types of books.

Lee Bahner ('93) lives in Ada. Lee graduated from ECU with a BS in accounting and is an insurance manager for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. He has three sons, Eric Berumen, David Sinclair and Matthew Sinclair.

Patricia Garrett Moore ('70) lives with her husband Scotty in Haileyville, Okla. Patricia graduated from ECU with a BS in education. She also earned a master’s degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. She retired in 2000-01 after 29 years of classroom teaching. Scotty and Patricia have three grown daughters and two sons-in-law. They now spend their time helping care for Patricia's 80-something parents who celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary this past summer.

Darryl Sinclair ('70) lives in Oklahoma City with his wife Janet. He graduated from ECU with a BS in accounting and is an insurance manager for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. He has three children, Stanley, Stacie and Rebecca. Leonard enjoys sharing the gospel, playing golf and fishing.

Leonard Briley ('53) lives in Ada and is a retired teacher and coach. He graduated from ECU with a BS in education. He has three children, Stanley, Stacie and Rebecca. Leonard enjoys sharing the gospel, playing golf and fishing.

What ECU Means to Me...

Trease Layton was at ECU from 1957-1961 and received her bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Science. She worked for OG&E in Oklahoma City for two years and for the OSU Extension Services program in Lawton until her retirement with them in 1995. She grew up in Wynnewood. She got a small general scholarship to attend ECU and felt it helped her enormously. She is not sure she would have survived college if she had to attend a much larger school. ECU was warm and friendly and her favorite spot to hang out was the Baptist Student Union. She said that the BSU was where she made her closest friends and they have stayed close even to this day!

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& recreation and a minor in business. He is a vice president and loan officer at Vision Bank. He has a daughter, Brooklyn, 7. He enjoys golf and going to the lake.

Amy Cowden ('94) and Wayne Hancock (attended) exchanged wedding vows Dec. 1, 2007, at Our Lord Community Church in Oklahoma City. Amy graduated from John Marshal High School. She is employed by Rose State College in Midwest City. Wayne attended Ada High School and ECU. He is employed by General Dynamics in Oklahoma City.

Jamie DiPiazza and Israel Rodriguez ('94) exchanged wedding vows Oct. 4, 2008, in Tulsa. Jamie graduated from Oral Roberts University with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and also has master’s degrees in sociology and Spanish from the University of Denver. She is a bilingual social worker at Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa. Israel graduated from Healdton High School in 1998 and earned a bachelor’s degree in human services/counseling services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing with a minor in interpreting. She is working toward a master’s degree in special education and is a sign language interpreter at ECU. Bo is a 1996 graduate of Midwest City High School. He graduated from Mid-Del Vo-Tech where he studied auto body repair. He is a route sales man at Springhouse Water Company.

Shelly Bryan ('02) and Jay Parker exchanged wedding vows Nov. 24, 2007. Shelly graduated from ECU in 2002 with a master’s degree in education. She is employed by Mill Creek Schools. Jay graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in agriculture education. He is employed by Wapanucka Public Schools.

Courtney Hardin ('02) and Matthew Folsom ('07) exchanged wedding vows May 3, 2008, at I Cross My Heart Wedding Chapel in Choctaw, Okla. Courtney also has a master’s degree from the University of Arkansas. She is a sales representative for Cintas Corporation. Matthew also is working toward a master’s degree at ECU. He is an activities specialist for the Chickasaw Nation.

Melissa McCartney ('02) and Bo Price exchanged wedding vows Dec. 29, 2007, at the Birdsong Wedding Cottage in Ardmore, Okla. Melissa graduated from Healdton High School in 1998 and earned a bachelor’s degree in human services/counseling services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing with a minor in interpreting. She is working toward a master’s degree in special education and is a sign language interpreter at ECU. Bo is a 1996 graduate of Midwest City High School. He graduated from Mill Creek Schools.

Courtyard Hardin, Matthew Folsom

Mary Forster graduated from ECU in 1965 and attended Duke University where she was the first woman to take the Hospital Management program at Duke. She said she was as well-prepared as anyone from other universities such as Yale or Syracuse. She has always had strong feelings about her ECU experience and considers ECU a dynamic academic institution. She feels that ECU serves a tremendous need for students in the surrounding communities. She was editor of the Pesagi Yearbook at ECU. Her major was English. She was a Charter President of Chi Omega and a college debater.

Julia Cantrell and Dillon Byrd ('04) exchanged wedding vows Nov. 10, 2007, at Loews Lake Las Vegas Resort. Julia is a 2000 graduate of Ada High School and graduated from Texas A&M University in 2004, majoring in geology. In 2004 she joined Americana Energy Inc. in Ada and is vice president. Dillon graduated in 2000 from Stonewall High School and received an accounting/finance degree at ECU. Dillon is currently chief financial officer of an Oklahoma casino. The couple owns Clearview International, LLC.

Lauren Choate ('04) and Ian Whitcomb exchanged wedding vows June 24, 2008, at Tulum, Mexico. Lauren is a graduate of Ada High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in family & consumer sciences/retail marketing at ECU. She is a business sales representative for Dell Inc. in Oklahoma City. Ian is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington. He is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy, stationed at Tinker Air Force Base as a navy pilot.

Tammy Frederick ('04) and James Mann exchanged wedding vows June 7, 2008, at Victory Life Fellowship Church in Ada. Tammy received a bachelor’s degree in general business. She is a rural mail carrier for the United States Postal Service. James is a self-employed owner and operator of Ace Small Engines.

Melissa Burden and Byron Church ('05) exchanged wedding vows June 14, 2008, at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Melissa is a graduate of Oklahoma State University with a bachelor’s degree in nutritional sciences. She is a national student representative for the National Dietetic
Association and works part-time for the Chickasaw Nation’s “Get-Fresh” program. Byron has a bachelor’s degree in instrumental music education from ECU and is a band director for Moore Public Schools.

**Sarah Brown (attending) and Colt Digby (’05)** exchanged wedding vows Aug. 2, 2008, at Midway Hill Baptist Church. Sarah is a student at ECU. Colt is a health and fitness coordinator for the Chickasaw Nation.

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"I entered East Central in the fall of 1965 and already had my sights set on graduate school after East Central. Therefore, I knew it was critical to my success to gain a sound education that would enable me to eventually compete with other graduate students who were graduating from the country’s top universities. East Central offered a curriculum and a faculty that were absolutely outstanding. In retrospect, I do not think I could have obtained a better education anywhere. At East Central, I learned crucial lessons, both academic and in life, that have stayed with me over many years."

*Louise Young, Ph.D.*

_B.A., Geography (1969)_

**Shannon Gonzales and Daryl Steele (’05)** exchanged wedding vows on Sept. 20, 2008, in Ardmore at the Steele family ranch. Shannon has a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma. She is employed by Brown Marketing and Advertising in Ardmore. Daryl earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and a master’s degree in human resources/administration from ECU. He is employed by the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Ardmore.

**Tonia Tully (’05)** and Christopher Wasson exchanged wedding vows Feb. 29, 2008, at the Ada Chickasaw Community Center. Tonia is a 1999 graduate of Sulphur High School. Christopher graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School in Virginia.

**Kara Rae Betts (’06) and Robert Douglas (’08)** exchanged wedding vows Aug. 2, 2008, at Fossil Creek Ranch. Kara was an ECU cheerleader and received a bachelor’s degree in business administration/management. She is a uniform sales representative for Cintas. Robert received a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology and was an ECU football player.

**Melissa Wall and T.L. Cox (’06)** exchanged wedding vows June 16, 2007, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. Melissa is a 2004 graduate of Latta High School and is a student at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. T.L. graduated from Ada High School in 2001. He is a second-year medical student at Oklahoma State University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Jayme Wood and Jeremy Haney (’06)** exchanged wedding vows June 28, 2008, at First Presbyterian Church in Ada. Jayme, a registered nurse, worked in the operating room at Valley View Regional Hospital in Ada for four years. She will pursue a new job at St. Anthony North Ambulatory Surgery Center in Oklahoma City. Jeremy graduated from ECU with a degree in biology and is in medical school at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

**Chelsea Hoover (’06) and Josh Eaves** exchanged wedding vows May 17, 2008, at Central Church of Christ in Ada. Chelsea graduated in 2003 from Choctaw High School and attended ECU as a nursing major. She works at Doc’s BBQ and Steakhouse. Josh graduated from Byng High School in 2003. He attended ECU and Mid-America Technology Center. He is an auxiliary operator at the OG&E Konawa Power Plant.

**Christina Wall and Matthew Wiley (’06)** exchanged wedding vows Dec. 21, 2007, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. Christina is a 2004 graduate of Latta High School and attends the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She plans to graduate in 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in sonography. Matthew graduated from Ada High School in 2001 and is a second-year medical student at Oklahoma State University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Laura Toombs and Clay Anderson (’07)** exchanged wedding vows Oct. 6, 2007, at First Christian Church. Laura grew up in Ada and was a 2005 homeschool graduate. Clay graduated from Bowlegs Schools in 2003. He earned a degree in business administration at ECU and is employed by People’s Electric Cooperative in Ada.
Randi Christy (attending) and Timothy Hall ('07) exchanged wedding vows June 14 at the home of Tim and Paula Hall. Randi is majoring in communication studies/theater. She is employed at The Gospel Station Network as a secretary. Timothy received a degree in art and is a graphic artist at The Gospel Station Network.

Angela Lee ('07) and Evan Martin (attending) exchanged wedding vows July 19, 2008, at the Ada Arts and Heritage Center. Angela received a degree in psychology and was most recently the executive administrative assistant to the vice president for institutional advancement at ECU. Evan joined the Marine Corps after graduating from high school in 2000. He served his country for five years, spending nearly two years in Iraq and Kuwait. After his honorable discharge, he returned home and is pursuing a degree in history education at ECU.

Amy McCain ('07) and Corey Fetters ('08) exchanged wedding vows June 21, 2008, at Life Community Church. Amy graduated from ECU with a degree in elementary education. Corey graduated from ECU with a degree in mass communications (advertising/public relations) and a minor in graphic arts.

Audra Truett (attending) and Chad Meadows ('07) exchanged wedding vows May 24, 2008, at Victory Life Fellowship. Audra attended school in Quito, Ecuador, and graduated from Byng High School in 2005. She is a student in ECU’s nursing program. She is employed as an administrative assistant at Victory Life Fellowship and is part of its college ministry, “The Well.” Chad graduated from Cache High in 2004. He is employed by Chesapeake Energy Corporation in Oklahoma City. He is part of “The Well” college ministry at Victory Life.

Jillian Frazier and Brian Peters ('07) exchanged wedding vows in June 2008. Jillian, a graduate of Sulphur High School, is a licensed practical nurse at Arbuckle Memorial Hospital. Brian has a bachelor’s degree in health, physical education & recreation and received a master of education degree in secondary education/sports administration in May 2008. He is employed by Hugo Public Schools.

Emily Rambo ('07) and James Schreiber ('08) exchanged wedding vows Dec. 29, 2007, at Center Freewill Baptist Church. Emily is a 2001 graduate of Vanoss High School. She earned a degree in nursing from ECU and is employed by Vanoss Public Schools. James graduated from Antlers High School in 2003. He works for First United Bank.

Dayla Tuley ('07) and Ryan Tidwell ('07) exchanged wedding vows May 31, 2008, at Fitzhugh Baptist Church. Dayla is a graduate of Asher High School and majored in biology at ECU. She works for the Chickasaw Nation. Ryan is a graduate of Roff High School and majored in business administration with a concentration in finance at ECU. He works for Double T Trading.

Reagan Holland and Paul Wilson ('07) exchanged wedding vows May 31, 2008, at Ray of Hope Church in Comanche, Okla. Reagan graduated from Ada High School in 2004 and plans to graduate in May 2008 from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in international and area studies and a minor in Spanish. Paul graduated in 1997 from Healy High School. He graduated from ECU with a degree in biology and is a coach and science teacher at Empire High School.

Molly Bonar ('08) and Jonathan Holley exchanged wedding vows May 31, 2008, at the First United Methodist Church in Ada. Molly is a 2004 homeschool graduate and has a degree in human services counseling. She is a receptionist at Thompson Insurance Agency. Jonathan is a 2004 graduate of Konawa High School and his English teacher inspired him to go on to college. He graduated from ECU with a degree in Education in 1971. He met and married his wife in June 1970 at the ECU Boswell Chapel. Four couples he went to college with all got married in the chapel within six months of each other. After graduation, he joined the National Guard and then worked a few years for Fred Jones Manufacturing in Oklahoma City. He came back to ECU in August 1972 to finish his master’s degree. He was a district supervisor for DHS for 25 years. After retirement he went back into teaching special education students at Lexington Middle School.

He said his education at ECU was “priceless.” He could not comprehend until he got to college how smart he really was. The professors helped him achieve his goals, and they were all so friendly. He knew everyone who taught and worked on the ECU campus and not many students can say that about their college experience.
homeschool graduate from Oklahoma City. He is a licensed insurance agent and the marketing manager for Thompson Insurance Agency.

Megan Cody (attending) and Zack Broderick (’08) exchanged wedding vows June 7, 2008, at First United Methodist Church. Megan is majoring in business. She is employed at Moon Baker Agency as a customer service representative. Zack graduated with a degree in medical physics. He is a physical therapy tech at the Performance Center in Ada.

Kendra Davis (’08) and Patrick Waldrop (’08) exchanged wedding vows July 4, 2008, at Harvest Time Temple in Vian, Okla. Kendra graduated with a degree in family & consumer sciences/retail merchandising. She is employed as an Insurance CSR with Shelter Insurance Companies. Patrick has a degree in business administration and is an accountant for Chickasaw Nation Enterprises.

Lisa Lamb (’08) and Randy Ellison exchanged wedding vows May 17, 2008, at Morris Memorial Baptist Church. Lisa earned a degree in business administration and is employed by Latta Kids Zone. Randy is employed by Latta Schools.

Chelsey Roberts (’08) and Mark Glenn (’08) exchanged wedding vows June 28, 2008, in the Ringling First Baptist Church. Chelsey graduated with a degree in early childhood education and is employed by The Hot Spot in Ringling. Mark graduated with a degree in criminal justice. He also recently graduated from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Academy.

Erika Atkeson (attending) and Christopher Armstrong exchanged wedding vows Aug. 31, 2007, at Fossil Creek Ranch. Erika is a student in ECU’s nursing program and Christopher works for Chickasaw Enterprises.

Whitney Cathey (attending) and Dusty Rowland (attending) exchanged wedding vows June 26, 2008, at Fossil Creek Ranch. Dusty is a member of the baseball team.

Dawn Martinez (attended) and Jay Donihoo exchanged wedding vows Dec. 13, 2007, at Fossil Creek Ranch. Dawn is a 2004 graduate of Roff High and attended ECU. She is a secretary at Criswell Funeral Home and a customer service representative at Interactive Response Technologies. Jay is a 2004 graduate of Colbert High and attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He is a draftsman at General Aviation Modifications Inc.

Chelsea Hayes (attended) and David Duggan (attended) exchanged wedding vows May 31, 2008, at Union Valley Baptist Church in Stonewall. Chelsea is employed by BancFirst in Ardmore. David is an Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper.

Nicole Jennings (attending) and J.R. Brown exchanged wedding vows Aug. 9, 2008, in Ada. Nicole is working toward a degree in special education. J.R. is employed by United Fuel and Energy in Ada.

Jill Moore (attended) and J.D. Windham (attending) exchanged wedding vows Aug. 1, 2008, at Mill Creek Pentecostal Holiness Church. Jill, a 2005 graduate of Sulphur High School, is a senior majoring in math education. J.D. is a 2005 graduate of Dickson High School and a senior majoring in math. He is employed by People’s Electric Cooperative in Ada.

Erica Reynolds (attended) and Matthew Liddell (attended) exchanged wedding vows Dec. 22, 2007. They are pursuing teaching degrees. Erica is an early childhood education major and Matthew is a history major. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served in Operation Enduring Freedom aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. George Washington.

Abranda Steele (attended) and Mark Masoner exchanged wedding vows March 15, 2008, at Life
Abigail Hopkins and Richard Stites (attending) exchanged wedding vows June 6, 2008, at Baum Assembly of God Church in Dickson, Okla. Abigail graduated from Plainview High School in 2004 and is studying accounting at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She is a proof operator at American National Bank. Richard graduated from Ardmore High School in 2005 and is majoring in computer science at ECU. He is employed by Lowe’s as a millwork specialist.

Ashley Van Horn (attending) and Wes Curtis exchanged wedding vows June 28, 2008, at First Baptist Church. Ashley is majoring in nursing. Wes is a 2001 graduate of El Reno High School and is employed by Shawnee and Seminole Emergency Medical Services.

Haylie Whitaker (attending) and Jacob Elliott (attending) exchanged wedding vows June 7, 2008, at the First Baptist Church in Davis. Haylie is majoring in early childhood education. Jacob is majoring in physics.

Marissa Workman (attending) and Zachary Collins (attending) exchanged wedding vows July 26, 2008. Marissa is employed by Wal-Mart in Sulphur. Zach is employed by the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Pauls Valley.

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