• A partnership between Eastern Kentucky University and General Atomics could provide the basis for a new and sustainable fuel production industry in Kentucky and ultimately have a global impact. With the establishment of the Eastern Kentucky University Center for Renewable and Alternative Fuel Technologies (CRAFT), researchers will examine the potential for a cellulose-derived biodiesel industry in Kentucky.

• The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has recognized Eastern for its strong commitment to community engagement. EKU, honored for both for its curricular engagement and its outreach and partnerships, is among 119 U.S. colleges and universities the Foundation selected for its 2008 Community Engagement Classification. These institutions join the 76 institutions identified in the 2006 selection process.

• The buzz about EKU’s beekeeping initiative has reached the shores of Ireland. Irish filmmakers Ross McDonnell and Carter Gunn shot footage on the Eastern campus and at the Thunder Ridge surface mining site in Leslie County for possible inclusion in their documentary, “Colony.”

• Students who participate in a Greek social fraternity or sorority at Eastern are helping themselves and the community, according to a recent study. According to an Educational Benchmarking Inc. / Association of Fraternity Advisors fraternity/sorority assessment and Greek annual reports, EKU’s Greek community (approximately 1,000 Greeks in 27 fraternities and sororities) averaged 63,000 hours of community service over the past three years.

• Thirty-seven Professional Education Fellows from Eastern Kentucky University are working closely with teachers and administrators in various school systems in central and southeastern Kentucky, collaboratively addressing needs identified by school officials. Since the program was established in 2001 by EKU’s College of Education, approximately 50 University educators from all academic colleges have shared their expertise in more than a dozen different school districts. Each participating EKU faculty member works with a school district for at least 40 hours on site over a three-year period.

• For many years, Eastern Kentucky University has routinely fielded more student panelists at the National Collegiate Honors Conference than any other institution. That was true again this year in San Antonio, Texas, where 30 students participated on panels and 22 more attended the conference.

• U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station Fisheries Research Biologist Wendell Haag, Ph.D., a 1981 EKU biology graduate from Lexington, has received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from President Bush during a ceremony in December at the White House. Haag was among the nearly 70 scientists and engineers receiving the award, which is the highest honor that a young scientist or engineer can receive in the United States.

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