The Rogers scholars program, named after Congressman Harold Rogers, is a two-intensive one-week session for rising high school juniors from 40 counties in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. It emphasizes technological-skills development and fosters an entrepreneurial spirit, leadership and commitment to rural Kentucky. It is managed by the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, Kentucky. This is the second consecutive year that the CAER has participated in the program. The students choose a "major" and experts are brought in from corresponding professions to lecture and train students in the areas. The CAER participated in this to a great extent by both calling on several of the university’s engineering departments and by supplying our own members for projects. One lecture/laboratory was taught by members of the Waste Management Group in which they demonstrated wet beneficiation processes for fly ash. Another session was taught by members of the Carbon Materials Group, where they made “slime” out of polymers. Both sessions were quite successful – and a lot of fun for the students and researchers alike.

In addition to the groups highlighted here, the lab is always a buzz of summer activity with miscellaneous undergraduate and graduate students. Not only does this work build strong personal bonds; it also opens doors to students that are unobtainable otherwise. Don’t underestimate the learning process that takes place in the classroom. However, recognize the learning processes that occur through mentoring programs like those described here.