



## President's Report

Dear Fellow Retirees

As we go deeper into 2020 (or should I say 20/20), I'm reminded of the many references made to ophthalmology. In that lens, I wish your outlook for the New Year is bright and sunny—which brings me to offering a note of thanks to all of our retirees for their many years of dedication and service to East Tennessee State University. You have played an integral role in improving the lives of countless students through education. Because of your dedication and expertise, you still have much to offer our University. And I'm pleased to see that many of you have joined the ETSU Retiree Association. As of December 19, 2019, we have 364 paid ETURA members. If you are not a member, we invite you to complete and return the membership application form included in the back of this newsletter.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all of our ETSURA Board members (past and present) for their dedication and for the outstanding work they do and have done. And I extend a special welcome to our new board members: Bonny Stanley along with Gail Burleson, Jack Rhoton, and Jeff Wardeska who are participating in their first year of their second term on the Board. As in previous years (and last year under the leadership of Jeff Wardeska), our current Board is working and planning to bring opportunities to keep us engaged through a host of programs and activities to include, but not limited to, learning new things through programs and activities, socializing and connecting with friends, and volunteerism. I have highlighted below some of our signature programs and activities confirmed for this year.

We have planned three Eat and Chat sessions, all of which will be held at One Acre Café. The first one was held on February 19 and was led by Kathy Feagins, Director of the ETSU Scholarship Office. She spoke about the inner workings of her office and provided details involved in Scholarships, specifically the Mack P. Davis Award (see a description of her talk on page 7).

Our second Eat and Chat session will take place on April 23 and will be led by Dr. Jon Smith, Director of the ETSU Bureau of Business and Economic Research. Dr. Smith will share information about the economic outlook of our local economy. The third and final Eat and Chat will take place on September 24 and will be led by

Dr. Dean Blevins, President, Tennessee College of Applied Technology, Elizabethton. Dr. Blevins will talk about some of the innovations taking place at the College as well as the many programs offered for students.

In additions to the Eat and Chat sessions, three tours have been planned. Ms. Anita M. DeAngelis, Director of the James C. and Mary B. Martin Center for the Arts, is working with us to arrange a tour of the new Performance Arts facility. Due to the fact they can only accommodate ten to twelve folks per tour, we are requesting three tour dates be scheduled, probably in late March or April. As these dates materialize, more information will be sent on how you can sign up for one of these tours. The second tour is planned for the newly renovated ETSU University Center. The date for this tour has been set for May 19, beginning at 1:00. Prior to the tour, attendees are invited to come at noon to have lunch in the Market Place. A tour of the Northeast State Community College Technical Education Center is scheduled on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00. The new Technical Education Complex is the largest community college capital project in Tennessee's history.

Our Annual Summer Luncheon/Picnic will be held again at Food City (N. State of Franklin Rd), scheduled on June 19. Our speaker this year will be Dr. Randy Wykoff, Dean, College of Public Health and Director of the ETSU Center for Rural Health. The title of his talk is "Rethinking Health: What Makes Tennessee Less Healthy Than 43 Other States." Dr. Wykoff will provide an update on the new Center and share information on the top health issues of our region. The Annual Fall Brunch/Luncheon is scheduled on Friday, November 6, and will move this year from the Johnson City Country Club, where we have met for the past few years, to the ETSU Millennium Centre. More details will be provided in coming months.

I am looking forward to seeing you at many of these events this year.

Jack Rhoton, President

## Our Condolences

## Congratulations To Our Recent Retirees

### December 2019

**Dr. James E. Vaught** died December 9, 2019. Before retirement he was a Professor of OB/GYN for the College of Medicine.

**Ms. Joyce Willocks** passed away December 25, 2019. She was the Benefits Manager of Human Resources before retirement.

**Mr. Floyd R. Snyder** died December 30, 2019. He previously served as a Supervisor for the Post Office.

**Mr. Edward J. Hill** died December 31, 2019. While at ETSU he worked at the Digital Media Center.

### January 2020

**Dr. James D. Bowman** died January 12, 2020. He served as a professor at ETSU for 33 years. He founded ETSU's Summer Reading Workshop and much more.

**Mr. David Lewis Kite** passed away January 16, 2020. Mr. Kite retired from ETSU as Associate Vice-President for Administration & Finance.

**Mr. John R. Westbrook** retired as a TRIO Outreach Counselor. He passed away January 4, 2020.



### **Do you have questions about your Retiree Insurance?**

Contact the Benefits Administration  
and select Option 2.

Hours 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday,  
Central Time

800-253-9981

### December Retirees

**Dr. Loyd Glenn**, Professor Nursing Undergraduate Programs

**Ms. Susan Knoche**, Library Assistant, Medical Library Administration

**Ms. Emily Lemieux**, Supervisor, Biomedical Sciences

**Ms. Debra Troutman**, Instructor, Nursing Undergraduate Programs

### January Retirees

**Ms. Mary Bridges**, Instructor, University School

**Ms. Susan Burns**, Instructor, Nursing Undergraduate Programs

**Mr. Mark Ellis**, Associate Professor, Library Administration

**Mrs. Barbara English**, coordinator, Academic Technology Support

**Mrs. Patricia Perica**, Data Integrity Coordinator

**Mrs. Debra Roberson**, Executive Aide, Psychology

**Ms. Debra Starnes**, Information Research Tech 2, Procurement & Contract Services

**Mr. Michael Talley**, Photographer/  
Cinematographer, Center for Excellence in Early Childhood

**Mrs. Alice Terrell**, Information Research Tech 1, Surgery

## Alliance for Continued Learning Program

The spring 2020 ACL program will begin Tuesday, March 24 and continue on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for six weeks from 10 a.m. until noon at the Food City meeting room on State of Franklin in Johnson City. Programs for the spring include music by the Jonesboro Novelty Band, talks by Connie Deegan on snakes, Dr. Stephen Fritz on Hitler, David Ramsey on Rocky Fork, Dr. Tom Lee on Consumerism and many others. For more information, a spring semester schedule, or to register (fee is \$45.00), please call the ETSU Office of Professional Development at 423-439-8084 or visit [www.etsu.edu/professionaldevelopment](http://www.etsu.edu/professionaldevelopment) and click “Community Groups.”

Scott Champney Program Chair

## ETSURA Volunteers

### Volunteerism

Each of us has a vast array of opportunities to volunteer for worthy causes in our community. These volunteer opportunities range from tutoring a student to serving on a community board. Volunteering can be a win-win situation for both parties. The individuals or groups receiving the help are grateful for the assistance, and volunteers learn that helping others benefit, not just others, but ourselves, too. Deciding where to volunteer for a cause or charity can be a very personal decision, however. Many members of the ETSURA have discovered that volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee

## ETSURA Volunteers, continued...

can be a rewarding experience, which involves helping others in our region who are in need of the most basic item in life: food. Even though we only volunteer at SHFBNT three hours per month during the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00 to noon, it makes a significant difference in the lives of families who can't make financial ends meet on their own. The morning activities for the volunteers are previously planned and one of the food bank's friendly staff members will lead volunteers to the work station with explicit directions on what should be done and how to proceed. Volunteers typically work in an assembly line fashion, having individual jobs to perform, which involves sorting, labeling, and repackaging nonperishable food items. This work does not require any heavy lifting; however, it does involve standing while working. Also, a thirty minute break is planned from 10:30-11:00. A breakroom is available where snacks and refreshments are provided. The food bank volunteer service is very worthy work, and we hope you will consider volunteering three hours of your time during the second Wednesday of each month. Second Harvest is located at 1020 Jericho Drive, Kingsport (airport exit off I-81 in old Sam's Club building.)

### Second Harvest of Northeast Tennessee

Join other ETSURA members at Second Harvest in Kingsport - Every 2nd Wednesday.

Upcoming dates: March 11th, April 8th, May 13th, June 10th

Time: 9 a.m. - noon (ETSURA lunch will follow)

### **Don't have time to volunteer?**

You can donate directly to Second Harvest by mailing your donation to the address below:

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee  
1020 Jericho Drive  
Kingsport, TN 37663

## ETSURA Tentative Schedule—2020

Board of Directors meets at 3:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the Administrative Conference Room, Room 309, Dossett Hall. No board meeting scheduled for June, July, and December.

Second Harvest volunteers. Second Wednesday of each month, 9:00—12:00 noon, Old Sam's Club building, 1020 Jericho Drive, Kingsport, I-81, exit 63 (airport exit).

**January:** Board Meeting January 28, 2020 3:30 p.m. Room 309 Burgin Dossett Hall

Elevates Drawing---January 23 (five teams to be selected)

Elevates Competition---Five teams that were randomly selected from the pool of applicants to participate in the Elevates Pitch Competition will be held January 30 in the Millennium Centre at 6:30 p.m. (All board members are encouraged to attend.)

**February:** Board Meeting February 25, 2020 3:30 p.m. Room 309 Burgin Dossett Hall

February 19, 2020, Eat and Chat, 11:30 a.m., One Acre Café. Speaker: *Kathy Feagins*, Director of ETSU Scholarship Office, Division of Student Life & Enrollment, will speak about the inner workings of her office, detailed procedures involved in Scholarships, and the Mack P. Davis Award.

**March:** Board Meeting March 31, 2020 3:30 p.m. Room 309 Burgin Dossett Hall

Tour: Tour date of new Fine Arts Classroom Building in late March or early April as confirmed with Anita M. DeAngelis, Director of the Mary B. Martin Center of the Arts

Spring: WETS Fund Raising Week, March 21-27, Fall Date: TBD

March Newsletter, Volume 33, Issue 1

**April:** Board Meeting April 28, 2020 3:30 p.m. Room 309 Burgin Dossett Hall

Eat & Chat: April 23 @ 11:30 a.m., One Acre Café, Speaker: *Dr. Jon Smith*, Director of Bureau of Business and Economic Research, will speak on the economic outlook of Northeast Tennessee (Confirmed)

**May:** Board Meeting May 26, 2020 3:30 p.m. Room 309 Burgin Dossett Hall

Tour: Tour the newly renovated University Center on Thursday, May 19. Option of meeting in the Market Place at noon for lunch; tour begins at 1:00 p.m.

**June: No Board Meeting**

Summer Luncheon/Picnic Food City, June 19-11:30 a.m.

-Speaker: *Dr. Randy Wykoff*--Dean, College of Public Health and Director of the ETSU Center for Rural Health. Dr. Wykoff will give an update on the new Center and the general health of our region. (Confirmed)  
June Newsletter, Volume 33, Issue 2

**July: No Board Meeting**

**August:** Board Meeting August 25, 2020 3:30 p.m.

Room 309 Burgin Dossett Hall

Move-in-Day, Governor's Hall—August 20 (ETSURA Volunteers) 7:00 a.m.—Noon.

**September:** Board Meeting September 29 2020 3:30 p.m. Room 309 Burgin Dossett Hall

Board Nominations

Eat and Chat, 11:30 a.m., September 24th, One Acre Café, Speaker: *Dr. Dean Blevins*—President, Tennessee College of Applied Technology, Elizabethton. (Confirmed)

September Newsletter, Volume 33, Issue 3

**October:** Board Meeting October 27, 2020 3:30 p.m. Room 309 Burgin Dossett Hall

WETS-FM Fall Fundraiser, Date TBD

Tour: Tour of Northeast State Community College Technical Education Complex (Any Friday at 2:00 p.m.) Confirmed

**November:** Board Meeting November 24, 2020 3:30 p.m. Room 309 Burgin Dossett Hall

Annual Brunch/Luncheon, Millennium Centre, Nov. 6, 11:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. Confirmed: Speaker TBD

**December: No Board Meeting—**

December Newsletter, Volume 33, Issue 4

## Dr. Jon Smith to Speak at Our April Eat and Chat (April 23 @ 11:30 a.m.)

This will again be held in the meeting room of the One Acre Café, Dr. Jon Smith, Director for the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at ETSU, will speak on the state of our local economic.

One frequently sees comments in the popular press commenting on the state of our local economy. “The economy is booming!” or “The local economy is weak.” Exactly what do these statements mean? What geographic areas are being discussed? What is booming or weak?

This discussion will seek to accomplish three things without making you want to run out of the room.

First, it will define which towns or cities are being discussed, (Kingsport, Bristol, Johnson City, Elizabethton... which one or collection of towns?).

Next, it will define how one determines an economy is doing. What do we measure?

Finally, it will look at how our communities are changing as a result of our population demographic. Are we growing because of in-migration? Is our population getting younger or older?

We see how our region compares with other cities and towns in our state and extended region and end up with a basis for evaluating what we hear from the press and our elected officials.

*To avoid congestion in the meeting room, we will limit table setting to 20-25 people and have late comers eat at a reserved table in the main dining room. When the speaker is ready to begin, we will gather in the meeting room, where there will be 5-10 extra chairs for the presentation.*

## ETSURA Liaison to the Faculty Senate Report

There is a big sign in back of the Culp Center that says, Opening 2020, but so far, the workmen are still busy at work. What has been completed, though, looks amazing, and we can't wait for the finished product. We understand that there will be tours available when the doors open for good, and we encourage retirees to see the renovations.

According to President Noland, the new Martin Center for the Performing Arts will be completed by mid-May and opened by September in time for the Fall semester. Needless to say, everyone is excited to see this project completed after many, many years in the planning. Look for opening ceremonies available to the public as, for sure, there will be something of an extravaganza. Renovations to Lamb Hall have received funding and is now in the design phase. Completion date is estimated for 2022-23, and long overdue to accommodate the services and educational programs of the School of Public Health which continue to grow. Unfortunately, the new Humanities building is number 8 on the THEC list, but it will be located where the old student center/medical school building is now situated. So the campus is changing and improving to meet the expanding number of students and educational opportunities. In addition, the University administration has begun a national search for two positions; one for VP of Research and Innovation, and other, for a new chief of police.

In an effort to stem the tide of student loan debt, Dr. Noland has announced a new scholarship, similar to the Tennessee Promise scholarship, in which new first time, full time students would receive free tuition (if eligible for the Pell grant and TN lottery) and get \$1500 for housing. Certain fees will be waived as well. Students will be placed in a living learning community, and both the student and family would be provided with support to be academically successful. This was announced in the JC Press a few weeks ago, and I hope retirees were able to review the program in full. This has not only the obvious benefits, but it will attract quality students and facilitate a growth in the student population of ETSU, one of the goals of the President.

Dr. Priscilla Ramsey, Liaison to the Faculty Senate



## ETSURA Elevates Application

As you are aware, President Noland announced last fall a new community initiative which makes available \$90,000 to support service projects across the region. Through this initiative, everyone is eligible to submit ideas as long as a team is formed with at least one member of the ETSU community. Each team can request \$5,000 to support its idea. The ETSURA formed a team with the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee (SHFBNT) to support their “Food for Kids” (FFK)-a program that supplies food for children on weekends and school breaks. The FFK program serves students enrolled in the public schools of Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington Counties and the cities of Bristol, Elizabethton, Greeneville, Johnson City, Kingsport, and Rogersville. Children who depend on free and reduced meal programs are at high risk of going without food on weekends and school breaks. Due to budgetary shortfalls, FFK food distributions were reduced in each of the fifteen school systems during FY19-20. Our team proposed a pilot project in Kingsport that recruits faith based & community partners to close the financial gap.

The thrust of our idea is to develop a marketing plan that would close this financial gap during the first year for students served by the FFK program in Kingsport. The marketing plan would be used in succeeding years as a model to address the financial deficit in each of the other counties (school districts) served by SHFBNT. As part of the application selection process, eligible applications have to be randomly drawn from a pool of all submitted applications before they are considered for the pitch competition. After competing in the pitch competition, three team winners are selected based on votes cast by audience members. Unfortunately, our application was not one of the five selected during the random drawing in January. The good news is we will remain in the pool of applicants for the next random drawings which will occur in February, March, and April. If our application is drawn in one of these subsequent drawings, our team will have a chance to participate in the pitch competition. We’ll keep our fingers crossed.

Jack Rhoton

## 2020 Board of Directors

<b>Dr. Jack Rhoton</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Dr. Don Gotterbarn</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Ms. Susan Burkey</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Ms. Gail Burleson</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Dr. Jeff Wardeska</b>	<b>Past President</b>

### 2020

**Ms. Susan Burkey**  
**Dr. Louis Modica**  
**Dr. Fred Tudiver**

### 2021

**Dr. Cynthia Burnley**  
**Dr. Scott Champney**  
**Dr. Don Gotterbarn**  
**Dr. Chu-Ngi Ho**

### 2022

**Ms. Gail Burleson**  
**Dr. Bonny Stanley**  
**Dr. Jack Rhoton**  
**Dr. Jeff Wardeska**

### Honorary Board members

**Dr. Priscilla Ramsey**  
**Dr. David Kalwinsky**

If you have recently moved or have an email address you would like us to use, please be sure and update your information with  
**Tisha Harrison:**

**ETSURA**  
**Box 70564**  
**Johnson City, TN 37614-1707**

**423-439-6145**

**Email: [harristc@etsu.edu](mailto:harristc@etsu.edu)**

## Eat and Chat , February 18, 2020

It goes without saying that the cost of attending college is expensive. The cost has increased for attending both public and private institutions, often exceeding the rate of inflation. In the last five years, ETSU tuition and fees have increased nearly eleven percent. To put this in perspective, a full-time ETSU student living on campus, including tuition and fees (15 hours), course fees, housing/meal plan and books, can add up to nearly \$19,000. On average, it cost approximately \$10,000 per year for a full-time commuter student to attend ETSU.

Scholarships and financial aid can go a long way in defraying some of the cost, and in some cases, cover the entire cost of attending ETSU. That was the message that **Kathryn Feagins**, Director of the ETSU Scholarship Office, conveyed at the Eat and Chat session, which was held at One Acre Café on February 19. She did a wonderful job outlining the array of scholarships and financial aid available to students. The data she presented for 2019-2020 included \$786,540 available to be awarded, 80 different scholarships (including the Mack P. Davis ETSURA Scholarship), approximately 3,000 scholarship applications received each year, which includes new freshmen, new transfer students, currently enrolled students (excluding the College of Pharmacy and the Quillen College of Medicine).

Ms. Feagins reported that the amount of financial aid students reap from scholarships can depend on a variety of factors, including the type or individual scholarship, student's GPA, ACT score, documented financial needs, etc. Students/families complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which provides estimates of a student's financial aid eligibility from a Federal Pell Grant or other scholarships.

Scheduled to be launched in the fall of 2020, a new program at ETSU will be available for first-time, full-time freshmen who are eligible for the Tennessee Lottery (Hope) Scholarship and maximum Pell Grant. According to Ms. Feagins, ETSU Promise Plus will provide last-dollar tuition assistance and program services fees.

Three programs were reviewed by Ms. Feagins which are designed to attract and support out-of-state students by covering the cost to attend ETSU. These include the George L. Carter Scholarships, George L. Carter Plus Scholarships, and the Sidney G. Gilbreath Scholarships. Each of these scholarships provides generous support, and each has different eligibility requirements. However, eligible students can only receive benefits from one of the scholarships.

Ms. Feagins reported that The Mack P. Davis ETSURA Scholarship administrated and supported by our Association provided 18 scholarships this academic year @ \$500 each. The current amount in this endowment is \$247,598.85. The amount available to be awarded during the fall of 2020 is \$9,500. The ETSURA Board approved last year changes in the amount to be awarded per student. Going forward, the scholarship will award \$1,000 per eligible student, thereby reducing by half the number of students receiving the award. The rationale for this change is for the award to have a more significant impact on the overall cost of a student's tuition.

Ms. Feagins and the ETSU Scholarship Office are to be commended for their role in working with students to make them aware of the financial aid they are eligible to receive.

Jack Rhoton



*Thank you to Eastman Credit Union for your generous donation and for always supporting our activities.*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM ETSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

NAME: (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (MI) \_\_\_\_\_ (Title) \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME: (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (MI) \_\_\_\_\_ (Title) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

FORMER STATUS WITH ETSU: FACULTY  STAFF

AMOUNT PAID (\$10 PER PERSON): \$10  \$20

ACCOUNT NO: FUND 821350, ORG 79998, Banner Account: 29300

PROGRAM 999; CHART: E

Make check payable to ETSU and mail to:  
**East Tennessee State University**  
**ETSURA, Human Resources**  
**Box 70564**  
**Johnson City, TN 37614-1707**  
(Your check will be your receipt)

-----  
**LIFE MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION FORM**  
-----

Enclosed is the applicable life membership fee. It is understood that this is a nonrefundable deferred gift to the ETSURA Endowed Scholarship Fund in the ETSU Foundation. The funds will be invested by the university with the income being used for current expenses of the association until my (our) death at which time it (one half if husband or wife) will be transferred to the Endowed Scholarship Fund. It is understood that any benefit received from ETSURA, the university or its foundation or this contribution will be of nominal value and it is fully deductible for tax purposes in the year paid.

NAME OF MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_

(State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER: \$100

HUSBAND & WIFE: \$150

ACCOUNT NO: FUND 821410, ORG 79998, Banner Account: 29300;

PROGRAM 999; CHART: E

Make check payable to ETSU and mail to:  
**East Tennessee State University**  
**ETSURA, Human Resources**  
**Box 70564**  
**Johnson City, TN 37614-1707**  
(Your check will be your receipt)

-----  
**ETSURA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT DONATION FORM**  
-----

NAME OF MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: (Street) \_\_\_\_\_

(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT PAID: \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial To or In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTIFY OF THIS GIFT: \_\_\_\_\_

Investment Account: Banner 653110/2552/550

Make check payable to ETSU and mail to:  
**East Tennessee State University**  
**ETSURA, Human Resources**  
**Box 70564**  
**Johnson City, TN 37614-1707**  
(Your check will be your receipt)