

**From:** Office of the President <OFFICEOFTHEPRESIDENT@mail.etsu.edu>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 18, 2019 9:11 AM

**To:** ETSU Faculty <faculty@mail.etsu.edu>; ETSU Staff <staff@mail.etsu.edu>; 'students@listserv.etsu.edu' <students@listserv.etsu.edu>

**Subject:** From President Noland's Notepads

**Importance:** High



EAST TENNESSEE STATE  
UNIVERSITY



December 18, 2019

## Highest Honors Presented to Dr. Bishop

Earlier this month, Dr. Wilsie Bishop, senior vice president for academics and interim provost, received the James T. Rogers Distinguished Leadership Award. This is the highest honor awarded by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the regional accrediting body for more than 800 colleges and universities in 11 southern states.

I hope you will join me in congratulating Dr. Bishop. Her commitment to higher education extends beyond the important work she has done throughout her career at ETSU. Dr. Bishop has made an impact on higher education at institutions throughout the country, and

she is extremely deserving of this important recognition.



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## University Closed on Monday, Dec. 23

As the calendar year draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to you, our wonderful faculty and staff, for the work you do each day for this institution. This past Saturday at Commencement, we celebrated the fruits of those efforts. In light of the upcoming holiday season and as a way of saying thank you for all you do for the university, I have decided to close the institution on Monday, Dec. 23 for the entire day, giving our ETSU family extra time to spend with their loved ones. For timekeeping purposes, faculty and staff should record the early dismissal code “D” on their timesheets for Dec. 23. The December payday will remain on Dec. 23. The university will resume operations on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020.

It has been an honor to be part of this amazing community of students, faculty and staff for the past seven years. May you and your loved ones have a blessed holiday. Thank you.

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## Commencement 2019

Last Saturday, more than 1,400 degrees were awarded to fall graduates. It is a great honor to shake the hand of each graduate and to have a front row view of first generation students as they stand to be recognized. It reminds me why we are here and why our jobs are so important.

I know a great deal of work goes into planning and facilitating our Commencement ceremonies. A special thanks to those who invest their time and talents to ensure guests and graduates have a safe and memorable experience. Both commencement addresses were wonderful. I encourage you to go back and watch [Dr. Lori Meier](#) (starts at 11:00 minutes) and [Pat Cronin](#) (starts at 17:25). For Professor Cronin, the commencement address was his “last act” at ETSU. We wish him the best in retirement and thank him for his 20 years of service to East Tennessee State University.

Below is a recap video featuring footage from both fall Commencement ceremonies.



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## Telling the ETSU Story

The Office of University Relations has launched a brand new website for university news, upcoming events and video content. I invite you to explore [www.etsu.edu/etsu-news](http://www.etsu.edu/etsu-news), bookmark the site and visit frequently for top stories and videos. University Relations is dedicated to keeping our campus, alumni and supporters informed by telling the inspiring stories of the work taking place across the institution. Please reach out to the University Relations team whenever you have story ideas for ETSU News.

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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**Candy or medicine?**  
The visual similarities between candy and over-the-counter medicine can present dangerous health concerns from improper ingestion. Pharmacy students at ETSU Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy are seeking to raise awareness about this issue during the holiday season.

**Adventure awaits**  
Their destinations range from Argentina to Rwanda. Seven students from East Tennessee State University recently learned their study abroad experiences will be supported by the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program.

**Videos**

**Jessica Harris**  
Bucs give thanks: Jessica Harris

**Ben Blackmon**  
Bucs give thanks: Ben

## Celebrating the Career of Dr. Bert C. Bach

For those unable to attend the retirement ceremony for Dr. Bert C. Bach, a video recording is available below. The video includes a special performance by the award-winning ETSU Chorale and messages from ETSU President Emeritus Dr. Roy Nicks and other guests. Dr. Bach holds the distinction as ETSU's longest-serving Provost, having joined us in January 1994, and has worked in Tennessee higher education for 43 years. Congratulations to Dr. Bach on your well-deserved retirement.





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## 2019 Holiday Video

As we look to a new decade on the horizon, I hope we do not lose sight of the holiday season before us and that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy quality time with friends and family, and most importantly, to have fun. I, along with the First Lady and our son Jackson, had a lot of fun appearing in the annual holiday video, which you may watch below. I do not want to give too much away, but you will notice some similarities with a classic holiday film that debuted a couple decades ago.



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