

# ACCENT This Month at ETSU



EAST TENNESSEE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**MARCH 2020**

## Faculty/Staff newsletter has a new look

*Accent: This Month at ETSU* arrives in email inboxes the last working day of the month providing links to top ETSU stories as well as faculty/staff news. Several of the top stories from March took place before courses moved entirely online and many faculty and staff began working remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to tell the story of our University and celebrate the accomplishments of our ETSU family as we move into a digital learning and work environment.

In between issues of *Accent*, you can follow the ETSU story daily on the new ETSU News website - [www.etsu.edu/etsu-news](http://www.etsu.edu/etsu-news).

If you have Accent content suggestions, contact [smithje@etsu.edu](mailto:smithje@etsu.edu).

## Top stories

### ETSU responds to COVID-19 pandemic

The month of March 2020 saw unprecedented events unfold on the campus of ETSU and across the nation as the COVID-19 outbreak escalated in this country. As students prepared to leave for spring break, the university announced that all academic instruction would be moving online for a few weeks, but soon the online format was extended for the remainder of the semester.



### ETSU Health opens community COVID-19 testing site

Offices remain open but staff and faculty are now working from remote locations. Visit the COVID-19 response website for the latest updates and announcements.



## Manufacturing face shields for health care workers

ETSU is addressing the shortage of personal protective equipment for health care workers by manufacturing face shields designed by Dr. Keith Johnson and Bill Hemphill from the Department of Engineering, Engineering Technology and Surveying. Their design does not require a 3D printer, is comfortable to wear and can be assembled using supplies available at hardware stores. Facilities Management staff are assembling the face shields.

## Top 10 Military Friendly Designation

ETSU has again earned the Military Friendly® School designation and begins a new decade with an additional top 10 designation for 2020-21 and continued Military Spouse Friendly designation.

In an effort to increase testing for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Appalachian Highlands, ETSU Health established a community testing site that opened to pre-screened and pre-registered patients beginning March 17.

## ETSU Health offering telemedicine appointments

ETSU Health is bringing medical care closer to home for its patients by offering telemedicine appointments. Telemedicine is the use of electronic audio and video communication to provide remote health care services to patients. ETSU Health has partnered with VisuWell to provide patients with access to their ETSU Health providers through a web-based portal.



## College of Nursing earns national rankings

The College of Nursing was recently recognized in two national rankings. The college was listed 10th among the most affordable online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs in the country, according to BestHealthDegrees.com. **Click here** to learn more. In a separate ranking, Learn.org announced that the college was 11th among the top 50 accredited online nursing programs and schools in the country. **Click here** to learn more.



## Biologist receives NSF funding to study pollinator plant communities

Dr. Gerardo Arceo-Gomez is taking his research on the organization of flowering plant communities a step further with the aid of a grant from the National Science Foundation.

## Speech-Language Pathology outreach efforts

The COVID-19 closures and quarantines have disrupted lives across the Appalachian Highlands. However, a group of faculty and students in the Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology have created an outreach program that will continue to help children and families who are dealing with communication disorders.

## Special Education faculty assist teachers, parents with at-home learning

Three faculty members from ETSU's Clemmer College are having weekly Zoom meetings for special education teachers and parents to offer advice on how to help students with severe disabilities learn at home while schools are closed.



## Students named finalists in Tennessee Associated Press contest

Six students from ETSU recently learned they are finalists in the 2019 Tennessee Associated Press Broadcasters and Media Editors Contest.



## Coming Home: Culp Student Center reopening celebration

Following nearly two years of major renovations, the “living room” of campus has gained square footage, amenities, food options, meeting and lounge space, and a modern look.

## Agrawal receives \$1.85 million NIH grant

Dr. Alok Agrawal received an award for a new R01 grant proposal from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health to further develop his research on a protein that could be used to develop a treatment for pneumococcal infection. Agrawal is a professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences in ETSU’s Quillen College of Medicine. He is a member of the Center of Excellence in Inflammation, Infectious Disease, and Immunity.



## Researchers examining modified ketogenic diet's impact on diabetes



## Team places 2nd in National Analytics Case Competition

ETSU students representing three disciplines – business, computer science and mathematics – showcased their talent and teamwork during the first-ever National Analytics Case Competition held at Elon University last month. Their performance earned 2nd place out of 10 other participating schools. ETSU also won the Team Spirit Award for its “hype video” promoting the competition and the talents of team members.



## Dr. Richard Carter makes new discovery in anatomical study of bats

What assists echolocating bats in projecting soundwaves to form images of their surroundings as they fly in the darkness? This ETSU biologist finds an answer in the larynx and trachea of these

A 12-week pilot study is exploring the effects of a modified ketogenic diet on individuals with Type 2 diabetes. This interprofessional study is being conducted by two College of Nursing faculty members, Dr. Donna Fraysier and Dr. Victoria Pope, and Dr. Michelle Lee, faculty member in the College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences. The research team received a grant from ETSU's Research Development Committee for their study.

mammals.



## Quillen researcher studying kidney disease

Dr. Aaron Polichnowski of Quillen College of Medicine received a grant from ETSU's Research Development Committee to further his research of kidney disease and hypertension. Since genetic risk factors increase the susceptibility to developing kidney disease, Polichnowski's lab is focusing on the urokinase receptor, which, when increased, can lead to cell proliferation and growth and has been shown to be involved in both kidney disease and tumor growth.



## 2020 SoCon Champions

The top-seeded Buccaneers defeated the seventh-seeded Wofford Terriers 72-58 in the Southern Conference Championship earlier this month. The Bucs became the fourth team in the 100-year history of the SoCon to reach the 30-win mark after improving to 30-4 on the season.



ETSU welcomes employees who recently joined the university.



ETSU congratulates recent retirees and thanks them for their service to the university and the state.



**ETSU News**

**ETSU Virtual Events Calendar**



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