

ETSU Today

The Magazine of East Tennessee State University

SPRING 2016



Enhancing the Quality of Life Through **DANCE**

▼ IN THIS ISSUE

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SPRING 2016

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ON THE COVER:

Drake Parrott, a sophomore Interdisciplinary Studies major at ETSU, learns the skills of aerial dance.

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The President's Perspective

Throughout this issue of *ETSU Today* are stories about the transformative events and initiatives taking place on campus. These stories describe an institution that is transforming its physical infrastructure through the renovation of current facilities and the construction of new buildings. Also in the magazine are features about our innovative program in aerial dance as well as the fascinating arachnid research taking place in the basement of Brown Hall. You will learn about the people of our university, including renowned faculty like Dr. Patrick Brown and the late Dr. Jack Higgs, inspiring students like Asmahyan Elayan, Greyson Jennings, and Tandy Branham, and noted alumni like Kevin Triplett.

Since the day our doors first opened in 1911 as a teacher-training school, much of the landscape of our campus has changed. We have grown from an enrollment of 29 students to over 14,700. ETSU has evolved into a comprehensive research institution, offering more than 100 majors over our 11 colleges and schools. While much has changed on our campus over the past 105 years, there remains a single mission that binds us together as Buccaneers: our unwavering commitment to improve and enhance the community around us.

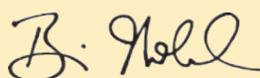
As many of you know, I enjoy using numbers to tell stories of ETSU. I believe numbers and data frame an accurate and impressive picture of how we fulfill our mission of regional stewardship. The data below provide a glimpse of the myriad efforts underway across our campus to sustain our mission of stewardship of place:

- Faculty and students from our Academic Health Sciences Center reported over 300,000 patient encounters at ETSU facilities.
- Through our College of Nursing Faculty Practice Network, we provided \$1.4 million in uncompensated care to at-risk and underinsured populations, thereby providing a critically needed health care safety net for the people of Northeast Tennessee.

- Student organizations across our campus raised more than \$230,000 for charitable causes.
- Nearly one-third of the total funds raised during the Tennessee Board of Regents Employee Giving Campaign were raised at ETSU. Of the total \$238,000 raised across the system, \$82,000 was given by our faculty and staff.
- Over 200 arts events, including a sold-out performance by Ricky Skaggs as well as numerous other concerts, plays, exhibits, and lectures, were hosted by ETSU in 2014-15.
- Students from our Gatton College of Pharmacy were recognized by the American Pharmacists Association at the national level for their efforts to raise awareness among health care providers and patients regarding prescription drug abuse, a significant issue facing our region and nation.
- We have been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll every year since the national program was created in 2006. The honor recognizes our work in general community service and education.

Perhaps the most significant numbers that tell our story are more than 90,000 living alumni residing in 50 states and 61 countries. Our alumni are the greatest example of how our institution is influencing the lives of those right here in this region and around the world. Thank you for carrying forward our mission of regional stewardship.

Sincerely,



Brian Noland
President



Photo by Jim Sledge.

ETSU ENTERS ERA OF Construction, Engagement

When the dust settles in five or so years, the campus of East Tennessee State University will look a whole lot different than it does today. While construction and renovation projects have popped up here and there over the last three decades, the university never has seen a concentrated era of construction quite like the one currently taking place at the 105-year-old institution.

"In a compressed five-year window, this may be the largest amount of projects and dollars spent on projects in the history of this university," said Dr. Brian Noland, ETSU President. "And given the changing landscape of higher education, that is a powerful place to be in."

Last fall, a groundbreaking took place for a new football stadium at ETSU while another one is forthcoming for a fine arts facility. Major renovations to the D.P. Culp University Center, a building constructed in 1974 to serve as a hub for student activity, are set to begin soon. Meanwhile, work is also under way to break ground on a multi-million-dollar renovation of an existing building on the VA Medical Center campus to transform the structure into a top-of-the-line interprofessional education building for the five health sciences colleges at the university.

Many of these projects trace their roots back to the Committee for 125, a group charged in 2013 with establishing a vision for ETSU as it approaches its 125th anniversary in 2036.

"There was a recognition during that process of the need for new and renovated instructional space on campus. For too long, our faculty have been educating our students in dated classrooms and that is getting ready to change," Noland said.

"Over the next five years, we will see several construction and renovation projects come to fruition that will provide new and improved instructional space on our campus. Combined with the Culp Center renovations and what is happening with athletics, these things make for a well-rounded university for our students.

"And none of these are buildings for the sake of buildings. This is a medium in which our faculty and staff will be able to share their talents, creativity, and passion with the next generation of ETSU students."

Opening Act: A Long Sought-After Fine and Performing Arts Center



A dream of university leaders for more than 30 years will soon become reality with the construction of an estimated \$40.6 million fine and performing arts center.

Early last year, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam announced in his State of the State Address that he had included funding for the capital project in his 2015-16 budget. Of the estimated cost for the venue, ETSU is required to raise an estimated \$10.2 million in matching funds.

The facility will feature additional capacity for academic programs in the arts, including teaching space, performance space, and instructional and performance areas. To be located on property just across the street from the main campus on State of Franklin Road, the center will also include a performance hall with anywhere from 635 to 1,100 seats.

"This building gives us the ability to bring as many of the arts as possible together in a center to create synergies in the fine arts," said Jeremy Ross, ETSU's Chief of Staff for External Affairs. "That alone is of great benefit. However, there have been many conversations about leveraging our programs for additional culture opportunities not just for ETSU, but the entire region."

The endless possibilities of community involvement with the new venue bring great opportunities for ETSU, too.

"Engagement with the community creates an array of opportunities, from prospective students to future donors to simply creating ambassadors who will promote the university in a positive way," Ross explained.

"If all of the pieces come together, we'll create a home for the arts not only at ETSU, but a showcase for the arts in this region," Noland added.

To donate to ETSU's arts initiative, visit www.possibilities.etsu.edu.

Fourth and Goal: New Stadium for the New Bucs



The return of football to ETSU presents the opportunity to create a proper home for students, alumni, and fans from across the nation to gather and root for the Bucs. While the Buccaneers spend their first and second seasons competing at Science Hill's Kermit Tipton Stadium in Johnson City, construction crews are building a state-of-the-art college football facility in the southwest corner of campus.

"We have divided the construction into two phases," Ross said.

The first phase, which is expected to be completed in fall 2017, is estimated to cost approximately \$22 million, funding for which has already been garnered through partnerships, student fees, individuals, corporations, and others. Phase I will include approximately 7,000 seats surrounding the field.

"It will also have a hospitality venue, a multi-story press box with suites and amenities associated with the game day experience," Ross said.

A groundbreaking for the project was held on November 16, 2015.

Ross expects the university will be ready to move into the second phase,

which includes increasing seating capacity to 10,000, the construction of the field house and additional game day amenities, by 2018. That portion of the project is expected to cost approximately \$6 million.

“In a compressed five-year window, this may be the largest amount of projects and dollars spent on projects in the history of this university”

BRIAN NOLAND

Efforts to raise funds for the horseshoe-shaped football stadium hit a star-studded level last year when university officials kicked off the fundraising campaign with the announcement of the effort's two chairs: country music superstar Kenny Chesney and NFL football coach Mike Smith, both of whom are ETSU alumni.

To donate to the construction of ETSU's new football stadium or for ticket information, visit www.etsustadium.com.

Culp Cultivation: Upgrading Student Space

Doretha Benn was a sophomore serving as a Senator on the Student Government Association when the groundwork began being laid for renovation to ETSU's D.P. Culp University Center, which serves as the community center for the campus.

"We toured different student unions and saw that ours needed to be renovated," Benn said. "The Culp Center just wasn't living up to its potential and we decided students deserve better than what this building is offering them."

Flash forward to Benn's junior year—the 2014-15 academic year—and Benn found herself serving as SGA President, the perfect position to lead the university into one of its most significant renovation projects in recent years.

Weekly meetings began taking place in October 2014 to determine just what the renovation might include. After sending out surveys to see what students wanted in a student center at ETSU, Benn said the SGA "just went for it."

"We wouldn't have ventured into this if we didn't have student support," she said. "But we had students backing us and telling us they wanted this."

The \$41 million renovation project, funded through dedicated student fees, will include significant improvements inside the structure as well as an addition.

Changes include a state-of-the-art media center that will be home to the student radio station, BucTV, and the East Tennessean student newspaper; more student lounge space; an updated ballroom and meeting rooms; a new 200-person meeting space; and significantly revamped dining options.



VA Building 60 is currently a warehouse. Photo by Charlie Warden.

The design process for the new-and-improved Culp Center is under way, with a groundbreaking expected this fall. Leaders aim for the project to be completed for the 2018-19 academic year.

From Warehouse to Interprofessional Dream House: Renovating Building 60

Interprofessional education in the health sciences colleges at ETSU is nothing new, but having a designated space for such activities certainly marks a huge next step in the venture.

"We've been national leaders in interprofessional education since the early 1990s and felt like if we could have a building where all of our students could come together, we'd be putting a physical symbol on a philosophy we've been living for decades," said Dr. Wilsie Bishop, ETSU's Vice President for Health Affairs and Chief Operating Officer.

"We've wanted to do this for a long time. We knew if we could have a building for the health sciences center that symbolizes our interprofessional work, that would be really good."

That building, as it turns out, is Building 60 on the Veterans Affairs Medical Center campus adjacent to the Quillen College of Medicine and Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy. The structure, which currently is used as a warehouse and once housed the VA's fire brigade, will be transformed into a top-of-the-line interprofessional education building that includes four floors of simulation laboratories, research space, classrooms, conference rooms, student study space, a food service area, and administrative offices.

The \$12-\$13 million renovation initially will be funded by the colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy, with the university, as the third partner in the project, paying back its share of the cost over time.

The three remaining health sciences colleges to share the interprofessional space are the College of Nursing, the College of Public Health, and the College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences.

Approximately 75 percent of the structure will be dedicated to simulation labs that will provide students of all health sciences programs with hands-on training in everything from emergency situations to the basics of inserting an IV.

“The really wonderful time is going to be in five years when all of these buildings are up and many elements of the campus are being transformed by the great teaching happening inside these new buildings.”

BRIAN NOLAND

The administrative team for the university's Interprofessional Education and Research Committee, a group tasked with finding the best ways to develop and foster opportunities for students to learn in an interprofessional setting, will also be relocated to Building 60.

With expectations of breaking ground in 2017, Bishop hopes to see the building open and operational in fall 2018.

Plethora of Projects Paving the Way to a New ETSU

Additional capital projects under way at ETSU include the transition of Greek housing to the Buccaneer Ridge area of campus. Sororities made the move to the newly established Greek Village last fall. Discussions focused on moving fraternities from their off-campus locations onto campus are ongoing.

The university is also creating a new data center to replace the current facility located in Lucille Clement Hall.

Meanwhile, in November 2015, ETSU announced that its College of Nursing received a \$1 million federal grant to build a new Johnson City Day Center, a facility located in downtown Johnson City dedicated to providing health care and social services to the region's homeless population. Construction on the project is scheduled to begin this year.

"As I look at all of this, it is a wonderful time to be at the university," Noland said. "But the really wonderful time is going to be in five years when all of these buildings are up and many elements of the campus are being transformed by the great teaching happening inside these new buildings." ■

~ Kristen Swing is Associate Director of University Relations at ETSU.

A PASSION for BEAUTY

The Campus Beautification Work of Sean Morris



Photo by Charlie Warden.

Any student who thinks a summer job doesn't matter should talk to Sean Morris, ETSU's Associate Director for Grounds, Landscape, and Horticulture. Although he was on a baseball scholarship at Tennessee Wesleyan College for a year and a half, it was his summer job working on the golf course at the Ridges/Blackthorn Club in Johnson City that really held his interest.

"I don't know if I recognized it as a passion at the time or if I just liked the money," he admitted, but he liked

it enough to leave Tennessee Wesleyan to pursue an associate degree in Production Horticulture with an emphasis in turfgrass management at Walters State Community College.

"I spent a lot of time on the baseball field at Tennessee Wesleyan, but I spent more time taking care of it than playing on it," he laughs.

Sean came to ETSU in 2003. The golf center was being built, and a former boss who was brought in to consult on the project recommended Sean to the athletic director to manage the center's grounds. For the next eight months he grew the grass and greens and then moved to Asheville as the Assistant Superintendent for the Grove Park Inn golf course.

As life sometimes has it, we return to our roots. Within a year he was back in Johnson City. The ETSU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics had embarked on a facilities campaign for soccer and softball fields, and the position at the golf center was still open. In 2004, Sean became the Turf Manager for golf and all other athletic and intramural facilities.

Coming back before the construction started on the fields, he was able to be involved with the process, and he learned a lot about facilities construction while sharing his knowledge and recommendations on landscaping and turf with the construction team. In October of 2013, he became the Director of Athletic Facilities, bringing the turf management job with him.

Anyone in the athletic department will tell you that Sean is an exemplary employee and that his organizational skills were well tested in his role as facilities manager. But if you look around campus and see the planters with potato vines spilling over the edges, the carefully chosen plants and flowers in the beds at the entrances and throughout campus, and the seasonal decorations, you are looking at his passion.

Groundskeeping is more than just mowing the grass, weed-eating, and leaf-blowing. In the Sean Morris vision of things, it's everything on the continuum from trash to flowers—ugly to pretty, he says. It's also an important component in increasing enrollment.

"When a prospective student and his or her parents come to campus, I want them to leave with the impression that we take care of this place. If I don't take care of the grounds, how can they trust that we're taking care of the residence halls where their child is going to be living?"

The work is certainly not without challenges, but Sean believes in meeting them head-on.

"I started with a crew of one—me. Now I manage 19 full-time and eight seasonal workers on the crew," he said. "I have a different way of doing things and getting the job done, but I want to encourage my crew to stay positive and to meet high expectations."

One of those challenges may be meeting opposition to tree removal. "We had some complaints when we removed the tree next to Nicks Hall because it was a very mature and beautiful tree," Sean said. "But it was declining, dangerous in form, and needed to come out. Now look at that entrance! That building has beautiful architecture and now you can see it."

Sean went on to explain that tree removal is a touchy subject. "There are other dead trees that need to be removed and others are just too big and overgrown." He admits that landscaping in general is personal and that everyone has his or her own opinion on it, but he points out that styles change.

"The Culp Center, when it was built, was 'in,' but now? Not so much. Landscaping has changed as well. Was it functional? Yes. Was it aesthetically pleasing? No. Even the trees that may have looked good 30 or 40 years ago when they were put in have grown and may now be encroaching on a building. We have to take care of that."

It's more of his vision for the campus. "So much in our world is about instant gratification, but in grounds you have to maintain, you have to work year-round, not just at move-in and May graduation."

He invokes a high standard for the campus. "When you go to the University of Alabama, the Quad is the epicenter of activity. I would like to see that here. With the renovations to the Culp and the new football stadium, the campus will look different. My job is to put things in the right places—grass, walkways, plants, trees, shrubs. Hopefully we'll create an atmosphere that will bring students here and keep them here."

It's a job that deserves recognition.

"I'm not an alum of ETSU, but I've come to love this place for the opportunities it's giving me both personally and professionally," Sean explains. "I was the first one in my family to get any kind of college education, but I have the mentality that you have to work hard to get anywhere. That was my family upbringing. You keep working hard and you'll be rewarded for your efforts. I came here without any connections and have worked hard. I know my role here is to serve the campus and the community."

Look around. He is serving us well indeed. ■



Touting Tennessee:

A Perfect Job for Kevin Triplett

Commissioner Triplett at Bristol Motor Speedway. Photo courtesy BMS.



When Kevin Triplett was approaching the traffic light at State of Franklin Road and Market Street in Johnson City, just after he had left a function at the Millennium Centre, his cell phone rang. He noticed that the area code was 615. But he really didn't think too much about that, since, as Vice President for Public Affairs at Bristol Motor Speedway, he was accustomed to getting calls from offices in Nashville.

This call, however, didn't concern racetrack business. It was Mark Cate, Chief of Staff in Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam's office, asking if Triplett would be interested in coming to Nashville to have a discussion about the position of Commissioner of the Department of Tourist Development.

"My first reaction was to look at the phone, to make sure it wasn't a wrong number," Triplett tells me.

It wasn't. And that call led to what Triplett calls a series of conversations, including a meeting with the Governor. Although he loved his job at BMS, the opportunity to lead a state department and be a member of the Governor's cabinet was something the Clintwood, Virginia, native couldn't pass up. He started work as Commissioner on April 23, 2015.

Although Triplett grew up in Southwest Virginia, he quickly points out, especially in his new role, that he was born in Tennessee. As many parents in Southwest Virginia have done, his parents came to Holston Valley Community Hospital in Kingsport for his birth.

Triplett's parents spent their careers in education. After a stint in the

Air Force and a couple of years working on an automobile assembly line in Detroit, his father, Gerald Triplett, became a history teacher and guidance counselor in the Dickenson County, Virginia, school system, eventually rising to Assistant Superintendent and then Superintendent before his retirement. Triplett's mother, Lorraine, was a bookkeeper and cafeteria worker at Longs Fork Elementary School in Dickenson County.

Driven by a deep respect for education instilled by his parents, Triplett

enrolled at East Tennessee State University, where he studied journalism. Before his spring 1987 graduation, he covered sports for the student newspaper, *The East Tennessean*, and during his junior and senior years, he worked as a stringer, writing sports stories on weekends for the *Bristol Herald Courier*.

Consistent with the logical and circular progression of jobs that characterizes his career, that part-time position as a stringer worked into a full-time job after he

graduated. He remembers taking the job in 1987 without even asking what it paid.

Triplett's career took a fortuitous turn in 1989, when he landed a job with *The Gaston Gazette* in Gastonia, North Carolina.

"I went there to cover high school sports, minor league baseball, and the Atlantic Coast Conference," he recalls. "When the sports editor reassigned staff responsibilities, I was the only one there who cared much about racing. So I became the racing writer at a paper in the Charlotte market, which was a pretty big deal."

He went from covering two races a year to following half the NASCAR schedule. That job, in turn, led to a position with a sports marketing agency

“My first reaction was to look at the phone, to make sure it wasn't a wrong number”

KEVIN TRIPLETT

near Charlotte, where he represented GM Goodwrench, AC Delco, and the likes of Richard Childress and Dale Earnhardt.

While at the Daytona 500, he was approached by representatives of NASCAR, and they offered him a job that lasted nearly 10 years, from March of 1994 to June of 2003. As Managing Director of Business Operations, he oversaw NASCAR's Sprint Cup Series and was twice named one of NASCAR's "25 Most Influential" by *The Charlotte Observer*.

By that time he had gotten married to a "hometown" girl, and he and Jill had two children, Lucas and Sarah Grace. In 2003, chasing race cars all over the country yielded to the desire to return home and spend more time with his family.

"I resigned to move home," Triplett says. "I didn't know what I was going to do. I usually have a plan--I'm organized flexible."

After an unsuccessful campaign to unseat United States Representative Rick Boucher in Southwest Virginia in 2004, Triplett took a job with The Corporate Image, a public relations firm run by Tennessee State Representative and former WCYB-TV news anchor Jon Lundberg.

Then came a life-changing lunch at Simply Delicious in Bristol, Tennessee, with the late Jeff Byrd, longtime President and General Manager of Bristol Motor Speedway. Triplett originally proposed working with Byrd and the speedway in a consulting relationship, but Byrd offered him a permanent job as Vice President for Public Affairs in 2005.

"We had such a great team there," Triplett remembers. "We raised the bar. National and international recognition came to the speedway, with accolades from all over the world. Jeff [who died in 2010 at the age of 60] had a heart that didn't fit under his body. Winston-Salem born and raised, when he came to the Tri-Cities, he put a stake in the ground, saying 'this is my home.' He told me to find a civic club that was a good fit for me and that I shouldn't just join; I should make a difference."

Completing another full circle in his life, Triplett had the opportunity to work with Lori Worley, an ETSU alumna and former colleague at the *Bristol Herald Courier*.

In addition to putting on successful races, Triplett points with pride to community projects such as Speedway in Lights as he looks back on his years at BMS.

"There are 51 nights of Speedway in Lights," he says. "It has become the largest light show in the South." More importantly, the event supports Speedway Children's Charities, founded in 1982 by Bruton Smith, Chairman of Speedway Motorsports, as a way to create a memorial to his son, Bruton Cameron Smith, who died at a young age. The organization works with a broad range of people and organizations to identify and resolve pressing issues dealing with children in their communities.

Although being Commissioner of Tourist Development in Tennessee is something Triplett never considered or even dreamed of prior to that life-altering phone call, it's a position that calls upon all the talents and experiences of his life.

The department's theme, or positioning line, is "The Soundtrack of America: Made in Tennessee," a perfect fit for someone steeped in the music history of East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.

On Triplett's aggressive agenda to promote Tennessee as a tourist destination is the Tennessee Music Pathway, a 1,200-plus-mile route connecting the Discover Tennessee Trails and Byways System, paying homage to Tennessee history, culture, and beauty in all their myriad forms.

Triplett loves all that is Tennessee, from the sounds of screaming children on a Dollywood roller coaster to the soothing flow of a mountain stream to the woodland echo of a driver hitting a golf ball.

"We have more than 800 festivals in Tennessee, and most of them involve music," Triplett says. "I'm amazed at what we have here."

Another Triplett passion is Tennessee barbecue. A lifelong fan of Bluff City's Ridgewood, he points out that TripAdvisor recognizes Tennessee as the top barbecue state in the nation and that 12 of *Southern Living* magazine's top 50 barbecue joints in the South are located in the Volunteer State.

Triplett intends to visit all 95 of Tennessee's counties and, as he says, "Driving through doesn't count." In his first 6 1/2 months on the job, he made it to 49.

Back in Nashville, he attends Governor Haslam's cabinet meetings, which he finds of great value since almost everything the Department of Tourist Development does touches on at least one other department, with the departments of Agriculture and Economic and Community Development being frequent partners on projects.

"Governor Haslam is not a fan of silos," Triplett says. "If you're working on something, he wants to hear about how it affects other departments."

Triplett says one of the nicest surprises when he took the job as Commissioner was finding out that two of his colleagues are ETSU graduates: John Carr, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, and Pete Rosenboro, Assistant Commissioner for Welcome Centers.

Tennessee has recently recorded 100 million visitors in a year for the first time. Triplett says his challenge is to get to 110 million. Those visitors contributed \$17.7 billion to the state's economy. Triplett is determined to play a role in pushing that figure over \$18 billion.

Talk to Kevin Triplett for even a short time about his successes, and he'll quickly re-route the conversation and give credit to the mentors, friends, and family in his life.

As plans proceed for the creation of the Tennessee Music Pathway, Triplett returns often in his mind to the project's guiding theme, the unbroken circle. It's a theme that equally applies to the fascinating life of Kevin Triplett himself. ■

~ Fred Sauceman is Editor of ETSU Today and is at work on a book-length history of Ridgewood Barbecue.

One of the nicest surprises when he took the job as Commissioner was finding out that two of his colleagues are ETSU graduates.

Dance Defies Gravity



In Brooks Gymnasium, on the opposite side of the wall where the Lady Bucs take to the basketball court, the ETSU dance program is soaring high.

There, 20 feet in the air and wrapped in silks rigged from the ceiling, a group of students is telling a story—one told through aerial dance.

On the ground below, instructor Jen Kintner watchfully observes her students, guiding them on the critical safety techniques of this art form described as a combination of modern dance and circus.

“It is hard enough just to learn to hold your body weight up, but every semester I see students reaching far past that goal and finding that they have something to ‘say’ with their aerial skills,” said Kintner, who has been teaching aerial dance at ETSU for five years.

Aerial dance is just one component of the university’s emerging dance program which, for years, was part of the Department of Physical Education but in recent years merged with ETSU’s theater division. In 2010, the Tennessee Board of Regents approved the creation of a minor in dance at ETSU.

“The growth has been steady, and as of this past fall semester we had 44 students as dance minors,” said faculty member Cara Harker, who leads the dance program. “Dance is something all of our theater students need to be fluent in and to have as part of their repertoire. There is so much movement in performance, and to be a good actor you have to know how to use your most important tool, which is your body.

“Dance courses help actors become better actors, and, in turn, acting courses help dancers become better dancers,” she said.

Students with all levels of experience are enrolling in ETSU dance courses, said Harker, who noted that many students begin the theater

“Dance enhances a person’s quality of life, and students come to us with a desire to be attuned with their bodies and to enrich their lives through movement.”

CARA HARKER

program with very little experience, but by the end of their four years are performing in mainstage productions.

Other students with more years of experience, like graduate Danielle Mumpower who is now working in New York City, are able to jump right into intermediate and advanced courses.

“One huge part of the dance curriculum that I found extremely beneficial was the dance composition class,” said Mumpower, a 2012 graduate. “That class allowed me to explore my own personal style of dance as well as my voice as a choreographer, both of which I find extremely helpful in my NYC experience.”

During the past three years, Mumpower has performed with several companies at many venues and is now a member of Improbable Theatre Company, a theatre movement company based in Manhattan. She has also appeared at dance festivals throughout the city as well as Houston and parts of New Jersey and Massachusetts.

While a number of the students minoring in dance are aspiring actors, both Harker and Kintner are quick to point out that many are pursuing careers in other fields, such as nursing, physical therapy, medicine, and exercise science.

“Dance enhances a person’s quality of life, and students come to us with a desire to be attuned with their bodies and to enrich their lives through movement,” Harker said. “They realize that not only can this art form help them control stress but that through the catharsis of dance they can experience a release of emotions.

“I am amazed by the insights of 18-year-olds who are able to appreciate this creative outlet.”

Harker adds that the addition of aerial dance has been a major win for the students.

“Already, we have seen how students who take aerial dance progress faster and are stronger in all dance forms,” she said. “So much of dance is focused on the lower half of the body, but aerial dance builds core and upper body strength, so, for example, if you are a modern dancer you can do your floor work so much better.

“Plus, aerial dance is a more innovative art form that, thanks to influences like Cirque du Soleil, is hitting the mainstream in a major way,” she said. “It is

still in its infancy, and, fortunately, we are getting in on the ground floor and have already created a niche in this area.”

Harker and Kintner give much of the credit for that to colleague Delbert Hall, a certified master rigger, who introduced ETSU to aerial dance in 2007. Hall, a longtime theater and dance faculty member, brought Jayne Bernasconi and Nancy Smith—both pioneers in the field of aerial dance—to campus to teach aerial workshops.

“We quickly saw this was going to be crucial to our dance program,” Harker said.

While the 20-foot view from inside Brooks Gym will look the same for now, she and her students are excited about ETSU’s new fine and performing arts center, which will break ground soon.

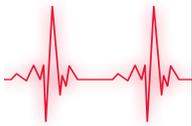
In addition to developing the curriculum for the dance minor (and a proposal for a dance major), Harker, who joined the faculty in 2007, has directed several ETSU productions, including *Quilters*, *Grease*, and *Oklahoma!* as well as *Memoir of a Mythamaniac: the True Story of a Compulsive Liar (or Tallulah Dies)*, which Harker wrote. The show took home honors at the 2011 Cincy Fringe Festival in Cincinnati.

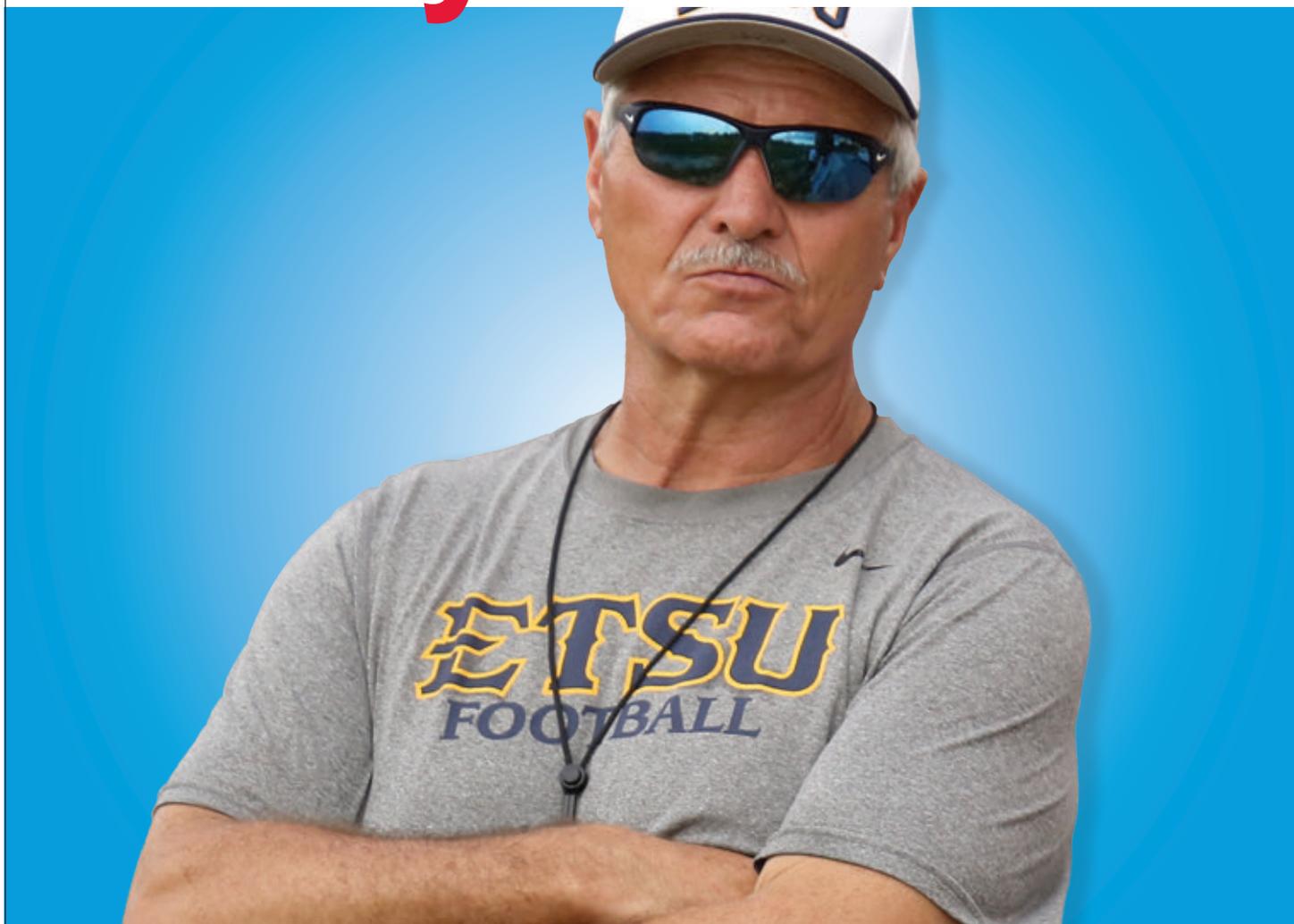
Prior to Harker’s arrival, the dance program was led by faculty member Judy Woodruff, who retired in 2008. Harker spent a year working with Woodruff on the transition and describes her as a “wonderful mentor.”

“Theater and dance have always been part of my life, and now I get to bridge them together,” she said. “At times I’m preparing for our dance concert or another mainstage production, and later I’m directing a play without any dance movement. Either way, I get to mentor students and be an advocate for both art forms.

“It’s truly a dream job.” ■

~ Joe Smith is Executive Assistant to the President for University Relations and Chief Communications Officer at ETSU.

“When it comes to
your heart 



the best defense is
a good offense.”

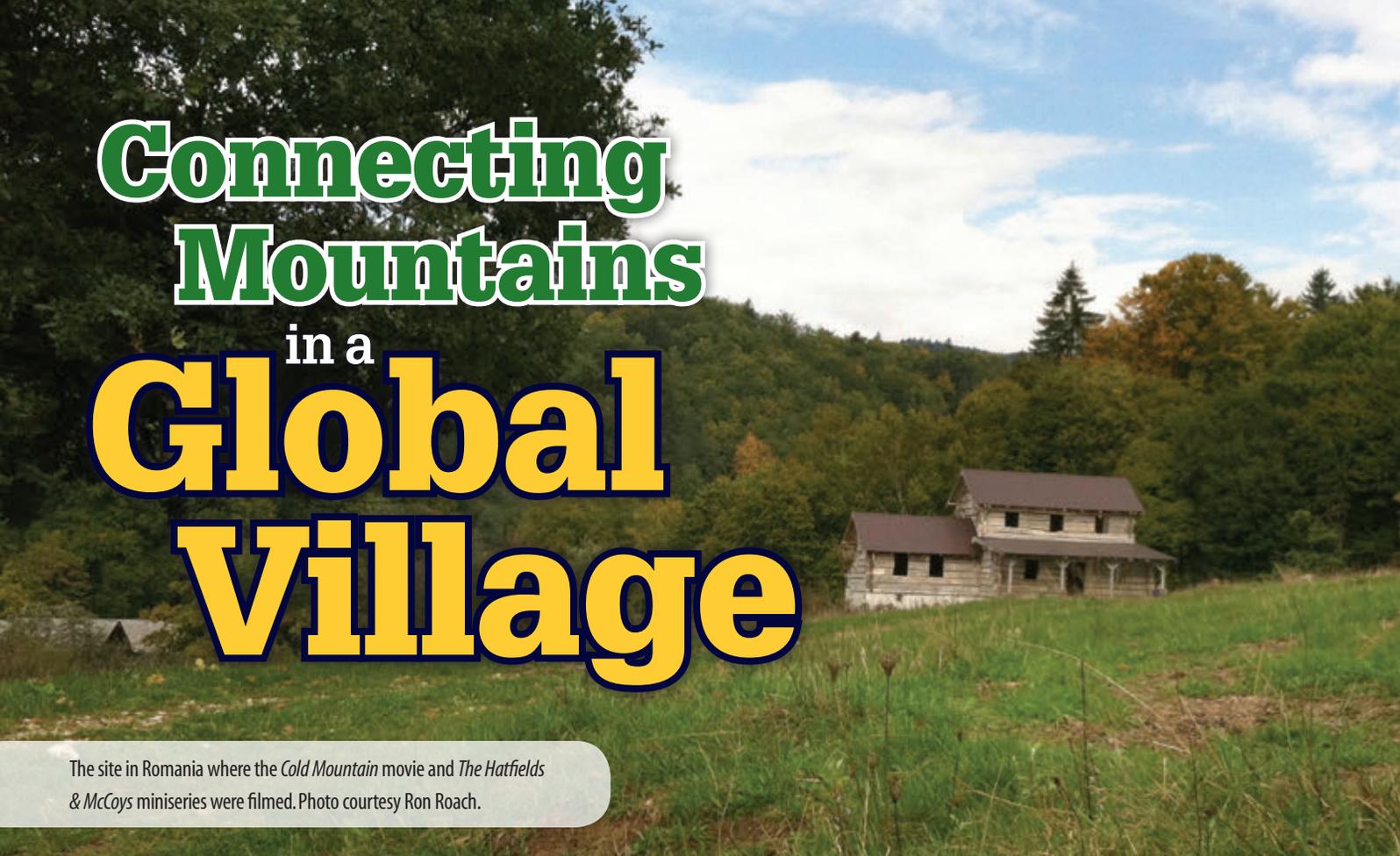
- Carl Torbush
Head Coach, ETSU Football

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Connecting Mountains in a Global Village

The site in Romania where the *Cold Mountain* movie and *The Hatfields & McCoy*s miniseries were filmed. Photo courtesy Ron Roach.

Long before Marshall McLuhan popularized the concept of the global village, Nikola Tesla, in a 1926 interview with *Colliers* magazine, said, “When wireless is perfectly applied the whole earth will be converted into a huge brain,” and later in the same interview, “. . . but through television and telephony we shall see and hear one another as perfectly as though we were face to face, despite intervening distances of thousands of miles.”

Few question Tesla’s prescience or the contemporary ubiquity of transnational communication, but in a digital world—maybe because of this digital world—face-to-face communication is as important as it has ever been.

In October of 2015, two professors in the Department of Appalachian Studies at East Tennessee State University, Dr. Ron Roach (Department Chair) and Dr. Lee Bidgood (Bluegrass, Old Time, and Country Music Studies), manifested the importance of face-to-face intellectual and cultural

exchanges by travelling over 5,000 miles to Transylvania University in Braşov, Romania. Roach and Bidgood were in Romania to attend the American/Romanian International Conference: Appalachians/Carpathians: Researching, Documenting, and Preserving Highland Traditions.

The Carpathian Mountains, usually divided into three parts (Western, Eastern, and Southern), form a 930-mile arc through seven Central and Eastern European countries: the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine, Romania, and Serbia.

The Appalachian/Carpathian conferences grew out of other academic conferences. For several years, Ukrainian scholars attended the Appalachian Studies Conference. That conference is hosted each year at a different site in Northern, Central, or Southern Appalachia. In turn, American scholars attended mountain school system conferences in Ukraine. Then, in 2013, the first official International Appalachian/Carpathian Conference was held at Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. Roach was one of 20 Appalachian scholars who attended.

When asked about how the 2013 and 2015 conferences compared, Roach said, “The conference in Ivano-Frankivsk happened just weeks before the Euromaidan protests began in Kiev. As a member of the European Union, Romania is more developed and has more English speakers, which made travel a lot easier.”

He went on to say, “Once you get into the more remote villages, however, there are many similarities between the mountain cultures of Ukraine and Romania, just as we find similarities between different areas within Appalachia. It is worth mentioning that due to low costs, the similar landscapes, and the lack of modern power lines in the rural Carpathians,

recent high-profile films set in Appalachia were actually filmed in Romania. We visited one of the locations used for both *Cold Mountain* and *Hatfields and McCoy's*."

Regarding Roach's observation about the lack of modern power lines, it is worth returning to Tesla's "wireless, whole world brain" to note a commonly-shared challenge of many mountain communities: access to wireless and broadband. While in Braşov (population 250,000+), both Roach and Bidgood could check their ETSU email, but not so in rural Romanian mountain (or many Appalachian) locales.

While Lee Bidgood did not attend the 2013 conference, he is no stranger to that part of the world. He received his Ph.D. in 2010 from the Critical and Comparative Studies in Music program at the University of Virginia with a dissertation entitled *Performing Americanness, Locating Identity: Bluegrass and Ethnography in the Czech Republic*. His connection to the Czech Republic continues. Shortly after his arrival in Johnson City, he teamed with a colleague, Assistant Professor Shara Lange in the Department of Mass Communication, to make the full-length documentary *Banjo Romantika: American Bluegrass Music and the Czech Imagination*, which has been shown on PBS.

When asked about his takeaway after the conference in Romania, Bidgood said, "I had a surprisingly strong reaction to being in the Carpathians; surprising in that I knew to expect some superficial similarities, and strong in that I was still moved by the striking similarities of the landscape there to the one I know in Appalachia."

As companies across the globe scramble to create communication platforms to connect us, Bidgood's visceral response to "place" underscores the digital/real dichotomy. A picture is still a picture, be it in a frame or on a computer screen. To find oneself *in* a place—to emotionally "feel" a landscape—is a deeper, more profound experience than clicking or swiping to an image of that place.

The global village is more connected than ever, and comparative regional studies continue to take on greater significance. Academicians like Bidgood and Roach play a key role in fostering and strengthening cross-cultural ties. Roach put that role this way: "In today's world we are part of a global economy and in our department we have an entire course



A farmer in the remote alpine village of Magura, located entirely within Piatra Craiului National Park, reminiscent of Cades Cove in the Smokies. Photo courtesy Ron Roach.

“I had a surprisingly strong reaction to being in the Carpathians; surprising in that I knew to expect some superficial similarities, and strong in that I was still moved by the striking similarities of the landscape there to the one I know in Appalachia.”

LEE BIDGOOD

devoted to examining Appalachia and globalism. There is much to be learned by experiencing other cultures by comparing mountain regions. We find

that highland regions around the world encounter many of the same challenges and issues. Through such international experiences, we can get to know people across cultures and help each other to find solutions to the common problems we face."

Nikola Tesla was born in the mountainous village of Smiljan, Austrian Empire (modern-day Croatia). In his 1919 autobiography, *My Inventions*, he recounts this childhood memory:

"One winter's day I managed to climb a steep mountain, in company with other boys. The snow was quite deep and a warm southerly wind made it just suitable for our purpose. We amused ourselves by throwing balls which would roll down a certain distance, gathering more or less snow, and we tried to outdo one another in this sport. Suddenly a ball was seen to go beyond the limit, swelling to enormous proportions until it became as big as a house and plunged thundering into the valley below with a force that made the ground tremble. I looked on spellbound, incapable of understanding what had happened. For weeks afterward the picture of the avalanche was before my eyes and I wondered how anything so small could grow to such an immense size."

Try experiencing a memory like that digitally. ■

~ Randy Sanders is Director of the Reece Museum at ETSU.

Dr. Merry Miller: Seeking Balance

Seeking, finding, and maintaining “balance” has been a lifelong quest for Dr. Merry Miller, Professor of Psychiatry in the James H. Quillen College of Medicine. She is the first to acknowledge that balance is a process, not an achievement, and an ongoing challenge.

In her case, she has been strengthened by family and friends, including having the right person come along at the right time, as well as professional help. After dealing with a variety of challenges in her own life, and helping many patients over several decades, she has put together a guide for women on how to achieve emotional balance.



Miller is the author of a newly-released book, *Finding Your Emotional Balance: A Guide for Women*. She has devoted three-and-a-half years to developing the book, but the content relies on a lifetime of personal experience and a long-term psychiatric practice.

While her book focuses on the difficulties women face at each stage of life, Miller also shares her own struggles with depression and grief.

Growing up in Nashville, Miller was part of a family with a hidden problem. “My mother suffered from major depression,” she says. “We did not understand what

was wrong with her and felt embarrassment and shame.” Her mother died of a heart attack when Miller was 18.

The teenaged Miller wanted to become a doctor but lacked family support for her goal. The step-mother of a high school friend offered guidance and support, encouraging Miller to follow her own path, even if her father could not help her. Miller found Rhodes College in Memphis a welcoming place where she could attend school without her father’s financial support.

Then, in her first year at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in

Memphis, Miller suffered deep depression and had to take a medical leave of absence.

"I tried to return," she says, "but had to drop out a second time. I was much more fortunate than my mother and responded well to treatment. Luckily, a biochemistry professor encouraged me to work on a master's degree in his field. I loved doing research and even spoke at an international conference. I also met my future husband then. His humor and support meant so much. I returned to medical school and started over. I ultimately received my master's degree and M.D. on the same day."

Miller went to Duke University for her residency in psychiatry. Her husband's job took them to Chicago for seven years.

"We had two children during that time and I worked part-time in a practice where I was the only woman. I worked with a range of patients, but especially adolescents. The work-home balance was just what I needed."

Years later, Miller's children have followed in their parents' footsteps. Her son earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and is currently in a post-doctoral program at Yale University. Her daughter is completing a psychiatric residency at the University of Virginia. In retrospect, Miller appreciates the continuity and strength that her children have provided through all of the personal and professional challenges she has faced.

In 1995, Miller joined the faculty at East Tennessee State University's Quillen College of Medicine.

"I loved it immediately," she says. "My focus became women's mental health, including post-partum depression, eating disorders, and premenstrual syndrome."

In 2001, Miller was appointed Chair of the Department of Psychiatry. She found she enjoyed the position and remained in it until 2012.

In June 2010, Miller was shocked when she arrived home from work one day and found that her 58-year-old husband had died suddenly and unexpectedly in his sleep.

"I feel kinship with all widows and widowers now," she says. "The death of a spouse is a tremendous blow. I was determined not to slide into depression. I read about grief and attended a grief seminar led by local author Betty Brown, who became a source of assistance as I experienced grief."

A year later, Miller reconnected with the high school friend whose step-mother had helped her follow her dream of medical school.

"He and I met in Nashville, partly so I could thank his step-mother," she notes. "We reconnected after not seeing each other for 40 years, and several years later we married."

Writing a book about women's mental health had been on Miller's mind, and after stepping down as Chair, she took a sabbatical to write.

"It is a self-help book for women, and I tried to make it as user-friendly as I could make it," Miller says. In the book's introduction, she touches on her own difficulties with depression, something she had previously kept private.

"The days of secrecy and fear of the topic are over for me," she says, "as I wish they could be for everyone."

Throughout the book, Miller describes psychological issues that women face during their lives, and mental disorders that are more common or have unique features for women. She describes symptoms that may occur and offers a variety of remedies. She suggests medical and nonmedical approaches that can help women find balance even in their most stressful times.

Each section except one begins with vignettes based on former patients (with their identities concealed). Miller notes, "I used my personal story for the vignette in the grief section. I spoke recently about current understandings of grief at a psychiatric conference, and I teach our Quillen students about helping patients

cope with grief and depression."

The first half of the book covers the life cycle of women, emphasizing changes that occur over time as they age. The first chapter outlines psychological development and difficulties that often appear in adolescence, including eating disorders, depression, and anxiety. The following chapters examine menstrual disorders, the childbearing years, the menopausal years, and the difficulties facing seniors.

The second half of the book consists of more detailed descriptions of disorders and treatments, including chapters on depression, anxiety disorders, substance abuse, bipolar disorder, and grief. The final chapter of the book covers the concept of resilience. Each chapter ends with a list of suggestions and helpful websites and other resources.

Finding Your Emotional Balance is published by Johns Hopkins University Press. ■

~ Carol Fox came to the ETSU Office of University Relations as a graduate assistant in 1996 and has remained on the staff in various capacities since then.

“It is a self-help book for women, and I tried to make it as user-friendly as I could make it.”

MERRY MILLER

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Photo by Larry Smith.

“EVERYBODY NEEDS AFFIRMATION”: The Philosophy of Coach Brittney Ezell

Every year, new freshmen sit down in Brittney Ezell’s office with a blank sheet of paper in front of them.

A few minutes later, Ezell—Women’s Basketball Head Coach at ETSU—places the paper in a locked drawer and it is never spoken of again until graduation day. This is a typical first day of practice for Buccaneer freshmen.

Each incoming freshman writes down answers to one simple question posed by Ezell: What do you want your legacy to be?

“Part of my legacy is to make sure that these athletes are contributing to the community that has supported them for four years,” said Ezell. “Our bodies can’t remain on this earth forever, but our spirits can along with the lessons and things that we have instilled in the ones we love. I tell my players, when I die, my tombstone is not going to have my win-loss record.”

It hasn’t taken the third-year head coach long to create a legacy at ETSU. During the 2014-15 season, Ezell led the Bucs to 21 wins, which was a 16-game win progression from the year before, the second largest turnaround in the NCAA.

While an appearance in the Southern Conference Tournament final and a berth in the Women’s National Basketball Invitational helped Ezell build her legacy, her simple rules, or “pillars,” as she calls them, set her apart.

While watching a women’s basketball practice inside Brooks Gym, it doesn’t take long to see the impact that Ezell’s pillars have on the players. Her players respect one another and don’t hesitate to give acknowledgement at every

opportunity. It’s the philosophy Ezell has instilled of being a good teammate, on and off the court.

“Teammates have to be there to pick you up when you are having a bad day,” said Ezell. “We have a rule in our program: You are not allowed to run past a teammate without acknowledging her in some way. Everybody needs affirmation.”

To understand the program and the culture Ezell has built, you have to understand human anatomy as well.

“I believe that all people were made with two ears and one mouth so that you will double your listening time,” said Ezell. “Listen to the people around you. People will tell you what they need from you and how you can help them. So listen twice as much as you talk.”

Oftentimes you can spot Ezell during practice surveying her team, just listening to the communication among the players before she herself ever says a word.

In the game of basketball and in the coaching world, many things are unpredictable. No coach can predict whether or not the final basket is going to go through the net or that the star player is going to score a lot of points. Nor can a coach predict what will happen over the span of a career. It’s the nature of the sport. However, for Coach Ezell, controlling the controllable all starts with attitude and effort.

“If you approach problems with the wrong attitude and the wrong level of effort, no amount of help will ever get you to the level of success that you want,” she said.

With that mindset Ezell has taken control of the ETSU Women’s Basketball Program and has brought it back to a “championship level,” a desire she stated in her opening address after being hired at ETSU.

Before coming to Johnson City, Ezell resurrected three other basketball programs. Her first coaching job was at Florida’s Okaloosa-Walton Community College. The program went 57-28 under Ezell and made an appearance in the NJCAA Regional Tournament. At the University of Montevallo in Alabama, she led her squad to a 14-13 season, the school’s first winning record in 12 years. Ezell’s last stop was at Belmont University, where in two years the Bruins had a 22-12 conference record and earned a berth in the Women’s Basketball Invitational, the school’s first postseason appearance since 2007.

“It doesn’t make me a savior, but it makes me a believer in doing the right thing and following my pillars of success to re-establish things so that every school can be great,” Ezell said.

Former and current players have made Ezell’s rebuilding projects successful. She says it all starts with implementing a culture and making sure the players are accountable for instilling their own pillars of success.

“Culture is something that you have to maintain on a daily basis,” she said. “It’s what you choose to acknowledge that becomes part of your DNA, and what you choose to find important will become your pillars of success.”

Coaches often use the saying, “Rome wasn’t built in a day.” Ezell applies a different twist. “Rome was built daily. They didn’t stop as they worked every day to get one percent better in some way and that is what we tell our players. You can find winning in a lot of different things, but always find a way to get one percent better. That not only better your life but better the people around you.”

Under Brittney Ezell, the rebuilding process at ETSU seems to be coming to a close and the construction of a conference powerhouse is beginning. Through her pillars of success and the philosophies she preaches to her players on and off the court daily, a new era for women’s basketball has indeed begun. ■

~ Nathan Palkowski is Sports Information Director for ETSU Women’s Basketball.

Who's Going to ETSU?

Asmahan Elayan: Stocking Bucky's Pantry

"Right now, we need nonperishable items, such as sugar, flour, peanut butter, crackers, canned fruit, granola bars, tea, coffee, and cereal," says Asmahan Elayan. "Also, personal items like toothbrushes, body wash, and razors are needed. The only items we have enough of are green beans and corn."

That is the wish list for the East Tennessee State University Bucky's Pantry, a food bank located on the second floor of the ETSU and Mountain States Health Alliance Athletic Center (Minidome) and open to provide assistance to students, staff, and their families. Elayan, a graduate student in Social Work at ETSU, is on the pantry's steering committee and is a strong advocate for the program.

"From July to September of 2014," she says, "52 ETSU students used this on-campus resource. During July to September of 2015, that number increased to 152 students."

A native of Dalton, Georgia, Elayan spent much of her life in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain before returning to attend ETSU as an undergraduate and earning a bachelor's degree in Public and Allied Health in 2004.

"My father's job took us to Saudi Arabia," she explains, "and we lived in American compounds. I attended high school in nearby Bahrain and came home on weekends. The experience was wonderful. I met people, was exposed to cultures, and sampled food from all over the world."

"For the past seven years, I have been employed as a Children and Youth Intensive Case Manager at Frontier Health, and I am invested in helping out in the community," she explains.

Elayan says Bucky's Pantry helps take care of immediate needs so students have more funds available for other necessities.

"We also had a winter coat drive and collected 400 coats," she adds. "Although most have been distributed, some are still available for those in need."

Elayan finds her work very satisfying, and she encourages others to participate.

"Bucky's Pantry has a partnership with One Acre Café," she says. "People



who volunteer to work at the café for an hour can donate their earned free meal to the pantry to be given to someone in need of food."

Another way to help, she adds, is by donating food. "There are boxes located all around campus that are marked 'Bucky's Food Pantry.'"

The pantry relies on the generosity of the campus community. All items are welcome and needed.

Greyson Jennings: Ready to Make a Change in the World

When Greyson Jennings went through formal fraternity rush, he knew he was welcome at the Sigma Chi house. The brothers had made an improvised ramp so he could get into the house in his motorized wheelchair.

Once he joined the fraternity, his story went out to Sigma Chi alumni through Facebook, along with a challenge to donate funds to build a permanent ramp. Within 72 hours, the money had been collected, and then the brothers constructed a sturdy ramp.

A sophomore majoring in Political Science, Jennings advocates joining a fraternity. "It is a great way to make friends," he says, "and to bring you out of your shell and into taking a leadership role."

One way he has taken the lead was to suggest that the fraternity use the annual Derby Day competition to raise funds for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

"The Shriners have done so much for me," he explains, "and I wanted to give back. Making the trip to Greenville, South Carolina, to present a \$3,000 check was great. I loved bringing something to them and not needing anything for myself."

A native of Church Hill and graduate of Volunteer High School, Jennings decided several years ago that he would plan a career in law. As he says, "I have challenges physically, so I need a career that stresses mental abilities."

His involvement in the Lions Club and the Pre-Law Society has convinced him he is on the right career path.

In the coming year Jennings will be an SGA Senator. He says, "I'd like to increase awareness on campus of ADA requirements and the challenges many students face just getting around."



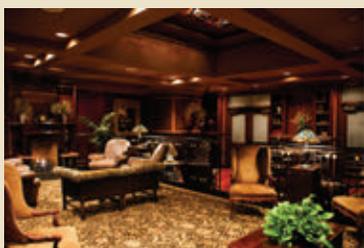
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Jennings knows he has his family behind him. They are a closely-knit group that became even closer after the death of Jennings' mother in 2007. "In addition to my father, I have an older brother and two older sisters," he says, "and now I have a younger step-brother. I have made it this far thanks to the love of my family and my faith in Jesus Christ."

Jennings values most the confidence he has gained at ETSU. As for the future, he says, "I want to look back and know that I tried to make a change in this world."

Tandy Branham: Always a Leader

No matter where he goes, 29-year-old Tandy Branham always seems to find himself in leadership positions. He has been preparing for those roles since he was just a child.

"When I was born, my parents were very poor. Neither of them had graduated from high school and neither had a job," says the Pound, Virginia, native. "We lived off of Social Security and food stamps pretty much my whole childhood."

By the time he was in second grade, Branham's parents had split up, leaving him as the "man of the house" at the tender age of 7.

"With a single mother, I had to pick up a lot of responsibilities," Branham recalls.

His mother returned to school, garnering her GED, and by the time Branham entered high school, his mom had earned her nursing degree.

"She was a good role model for me—seeing her come from nothing and make something of herself," Branham says of his mom, who today is a Nurse Practitioner and owns both a home health agency and a family health clinic in their hometown.

Toward the end of Branham's senior year in high school, he discovered the line of work that would eventually lead him to ETSU.

"I was in the Rite-Aid in my town picking up a prescription for my grandmother," he recalls. "The pharmacy technician was genuinely happy and kind. She was talking with patients and obviously cared about them."

After retrieving his grandmother's prescription, Branham stuck around to ask the pharmacy tech about her job. And so began his journey into the pharmacy world.

After his high school graduation, Branham went on to Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, where he obtained his pharmacy technician certificate. From there, he applied to the very Rite-Aid pharmacy where he first decided to go into the field. And he got the job.

Branham served as the lead technician there for two years and began working on completing his pre-requisites to attend pharmacy school. But in 2006, the "perfect storm" of personal and financial problems took Branham in a very different direction.

"I didn't have a way to support myself in pharmacy school and I was well aware of that," he says. "I knew I had to be able to focus just on school and not have to worry about working to pay my way at the same time."

Around that time, Branham and his then-fiancé parted ways.

"There were a lot of things going on emotionally and financially, and I made a spontaneous decision that probably ended up being the best decision of my life," Branham says. "I joined the Marine Corps."

During his time in the military, Branham was promoted multiple times and repeatedly asked to take on more leadership responsibilities. He deployed twice—to Iraq in 2008 and to Afghanistan in 2010.

It was while he was in the Marines that Branham met his wife, Maria. The couple wed in 2010, and they have an 8-month-old daughter, Ariel. He completed his service with the Marines in 2011.

"I was going to re-enlist, and if I hadn't gotten married, I probably would have," Branham says. "But it's not easy to be in the Marines and have a family, so we decided I should go back to school."

While finishing his final two pre-requisites, Branham began applying to pharmacy schools, including the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy at ETSU, where he initially applied because it is a yellow-ribbon school, meaning ETSU is designated as being military friendly.

"ETSU is in the top 10 percent of yellow-ribbon schools in the nation," Branham notes. "It was important to me to know I would have that kind of support when I returned to school."

At the end of 2012, Branham got his chance to interview for a spot in the GCOP's Class of 2017.

"When I came for the interview, I walked in and Dean (Larry) Calhoun was there to welcome me at the front door. That doesn't happen most places, the dean being there to greet you when you arrive," Branham says. "After interview day, I knew this is where I wanted to go."

A week after interviewing, Branham received a call from Calhoun letting him know he had been accepted.

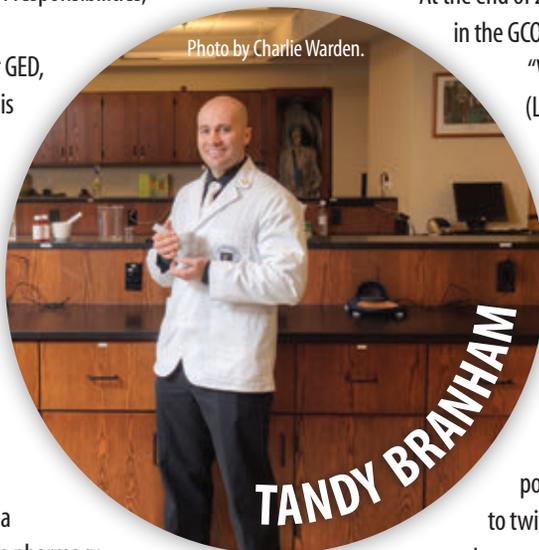
True to form, Branham continued being a leader by running for president of his class, a position he not only obtained but has been re-elected to twice now. "I'm kind of the middle person between the students and our faculty and staff," says Branham, now a third-year pharmacy student.

"It is a lot of tasks that I was already familiar with and I really enjoy it."

Branham is also looking to what's familiar when it comes to his post-graduation plans. He is considering either a return to the military—this time as a pharmacist in the Navy—or a pharmacy job within the Veterans Affairs system where he can help fellow veterans get quality health care.

Regardless of which route he chooses, Branham says his time at ETSU has helped him figure out where he is headed.

"It is just so welcoming here. Everybody is very much wanting you to succeed," he says. "The pharmacy school is a second family for me."



Who's Teaching at ETSU?

The POGIL Effect: ETSU Professor Takes Teaching Method to New Heights

Spend any time at all with Dr. Patrick Brown and his passion for teaching will become obvious. Still, at the end of his first year as a college professor in 2008, Brown, now an Assistant Professor of Health Sciences at ETSU, admits he was “frustrated” with his new profession.

“I put so much effort into my class. The students loved me. I was very personable. I was charismatic. I got great reviews from my students,” Brown recalls. “But at the end of the semester, half of the class was failing my exam. There was a real disconnect with what I thought I was teaching and what they were actually learning.”

Eager to improve, Brown attended a workshop that summer on a teaching method called Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning, or POGIL. It is a student-centered instructional approach that simultaneously develops content mastery and key process skills like critical thinking, effective communication, and teamwork.

“It requires a lot more work on everybody’s part. The students can’t just sit there and you, as the teacher, have to be doing that one-on-one mentoring in the classroom.”

PATRICK BROWN

“It blew my skull,” Brown says. “They are so thoughtful in developing this. Every piece of these POGIL activities that students do has a purpose. Students are never told anything directly. It’s all about discovery. They are constructing knowledge from scratch.”

That, Brown says, is a far cry from the “old-sage-on-the-stage” model of teaching in which professors simply stand in front of a classroom and lecture for an hour. Now, instead of telling his students what they need to

know and expecting them to learn it, Brown uses POGIL activities to give them hands-on opportunities to figure it out themselves.

“We all have preconceived notions, prior knowledge that affects how we learn. On the first day of class, I ask my students, ‘How many of you are a 38-year-old straight man, cradle Catholic from southern Appalachia?’ I don’t get anyone raising their hands,” he says. “And that’s the point. How can I expect a 19-year-old black woman from Memphis to have the same view of the world as I do? I can’t.”

In a POGIL classroom, students work in small groups on specially-designed materials. Those materials supply students with data or information for interpretation followed by guiding questions to lead them toward the formulation of their own valid conclusions. The professor serves as a facilitator, observing and periodically addressing individual and classroom-wide needs.

“It requires a lot more work on everybody’s part. The students can’t just sit there and you, as the teacher, have to be doing that one-on-one mentoring in the classroom,” Brown says. “But it works. Students learn better.”

The proof, he adds, is in the overall improvement of his students and their grades.

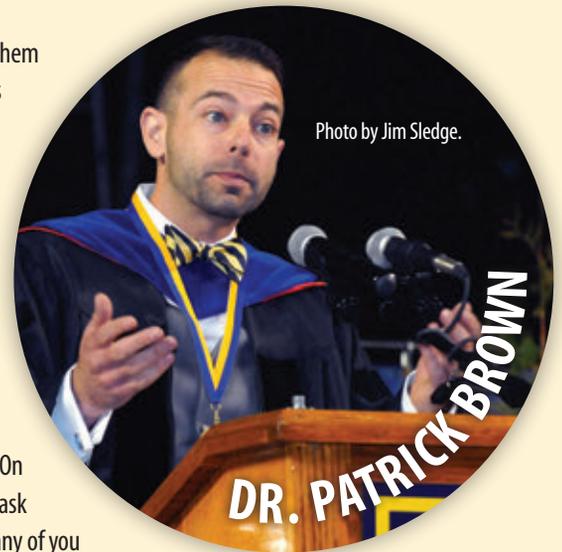
“My fail rate on my final exam was almost 20 percent when I was just lecturing,” Brown says. “With POGIL, it dropped steadily to about 5 percent. And those 5 percent are the ones who just gave up.”

Brown doesn’t just use POGIL activities in the classroom. He creates them and even teaches other educators how to use them.

“I drank the Kool-Aid,” he jokes. “After that summer conference, I went home and wrote the world’s first anatomy and physiology POGIL activities.”

He has since written approximately 40 such activities, and just last year, authored an anatomy and physiology textbook that uses the POGIL method. ■

~ Kristen Swing is Associate Director of University Relations at ETSU.



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▶ Living on Spider Time

Northeast Tennessee is a great place to tell a story, pick a banjo, and watch a race. And, it turns out, a great place to study spiders. East Tennessee State University's own spider man, Dr. Thomas Jones, descends into the catacombs of Brown Hall, to monitor the movements of a gang of spiders. And, he finds, spiders have rhythm.

Sitting on Jones' desk, in a ventilated plastic container one fall day, was an egg-laden *Argiope* spider, about to be transported to the professor's home, to be released for the start of a new population in his yard. Observing her, Jones admitted a childhood fear of spiders that has not entirely gone away. "They're predators, they have fangs, and they're creepy," he said.

With a lifelong love of swamps, Jones did his doctoral work for an Ohio State Ph.D. in the Florida Everglades. But spiders have now taken over his professional life, and his work has gotten the attention of the National Science Foundation, which is supporting his research with a \$415,000 grant.

Jones calls his project "Spiders on the Clock." He explains that nearly all living things, including humans, have daily biological rhythms.

“This ‘internal clock’ helps regulate physiological and behavioral changes over the course of a 24-hour period,” Jones says. “Our study tests the hypothesis that the internal clock conveys an advantage to orb-weaving spiders (those that weave a classic web) by allowing them to anticipate, and adjust to, changing conditions. The project explores connections between rhythms in aggression and wariness and the internal clock in these spiders.”

Despite the creepiness factor, Jones says spiders are fascinating organisms to study. “Their behaviors are complex enough to be really interesting but simple enough to be reasonably tractable.” And, being both predators and prey, spiders have to balance aggressive, bold behaviors with timid, cautious ones.

There is a practical side to Jones’ research as well. The behavior of spiders is easily measured and experimentally altered.

Deep in the catacombs of Brown Hall, the ETSU science building, in quarters seen by only a handful of people each semester, infrared cameras are constantly trained on screened boxes populated by spiders. In the climate-controlled “behavior room,” an eight-channel recording system documents each spider’s movements, and the video is analyzed by a special software system. Among the findings: One spider’s internal clock is 19 hours long, a shortening of the naturally occurring clock, telling it to build its web before sunrise.

Jones and his students also record spiders in their natural habitat and measure the levels of chemicals in their brains and blood. The spiders’ levels of aggression are manipulated with pharmaceuticals such as Prozac, and hormone levels are measured.

The study of behavioral rhythms in spiders has also revealed a side benefit, what Jones calls “a major evolutionary shift in action.” Of some 60 species of social spiders, only one, *Anelosimus studiosus*, lives in a temperate region, and it is found in Tennessee and North Carolina. The rest, Jones says, are all tropical.

ETSU has recognized the value of the work carried out by Jones and his students through the awarding of a \$10,000 grant from the Research

Development Committee. That money will fund a pilot study for the next phase of the “Spiders on the Clock” project, the exploration of daily changes in expression of genes involved in the synthesis of aggression-related hormones.

Funds from NSF and ETSU are helping to support several undergraduate and graduate students as they pursue bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees. In addition to his title as associate professor, Jones serves as graduate coordinator for the Department of Biological Sciences. Faculty collaborators for “Spiders on the Clock” are Dr. Darrell Moore from the Department of Biological Sciences and Dr. David Roane from the College of Pharmacy.

“Through these studies, we are testing how daily changes in aggression levels relate to changes in the organism’s environment,” Jones says. “This work will provide much-needed insight into the regulation of behavioral rhythms, and how the environment influences them.”

Jones says what he loves most about being at ETSU and the Department of Biological Sciences in particular is how much involvement there is among all levels of students in cutting-edge research.

“In my lab I have two Ph.D. students, two M.S. students, and three undergraduates actively involved in projects. I believe we offer the very best undergraduate experience, because we are a real research department but small enough that we value the contribution of undergraduates in the lab. I encourage all of my students to follow their own curiosity, which has paid off in

several unexpected discoveries leading to new areas of research. The ‘Spiders on the Clock’ project, for example, grew out of an independent class project in Biology III, where we discovered that spiders’ personalities change over the course of a day and are regulated by the circadian clock. Student Nathaniel Hancock’s honors project is finding that heavy metal contamination affects spiders’ anti-predator behavior which could, in turn, affect how the contaminant moves through the food web.” ■

~ Fred Sauceman is Senior Writer at ETSU and News Director for WETS-FM/HD.

Deep in the catacombs of Brown Hall, the ETSU science building, in quarters seen by only a handful of people each semester, infrared cameras are constantly trained on screened boxes populated by spiders.



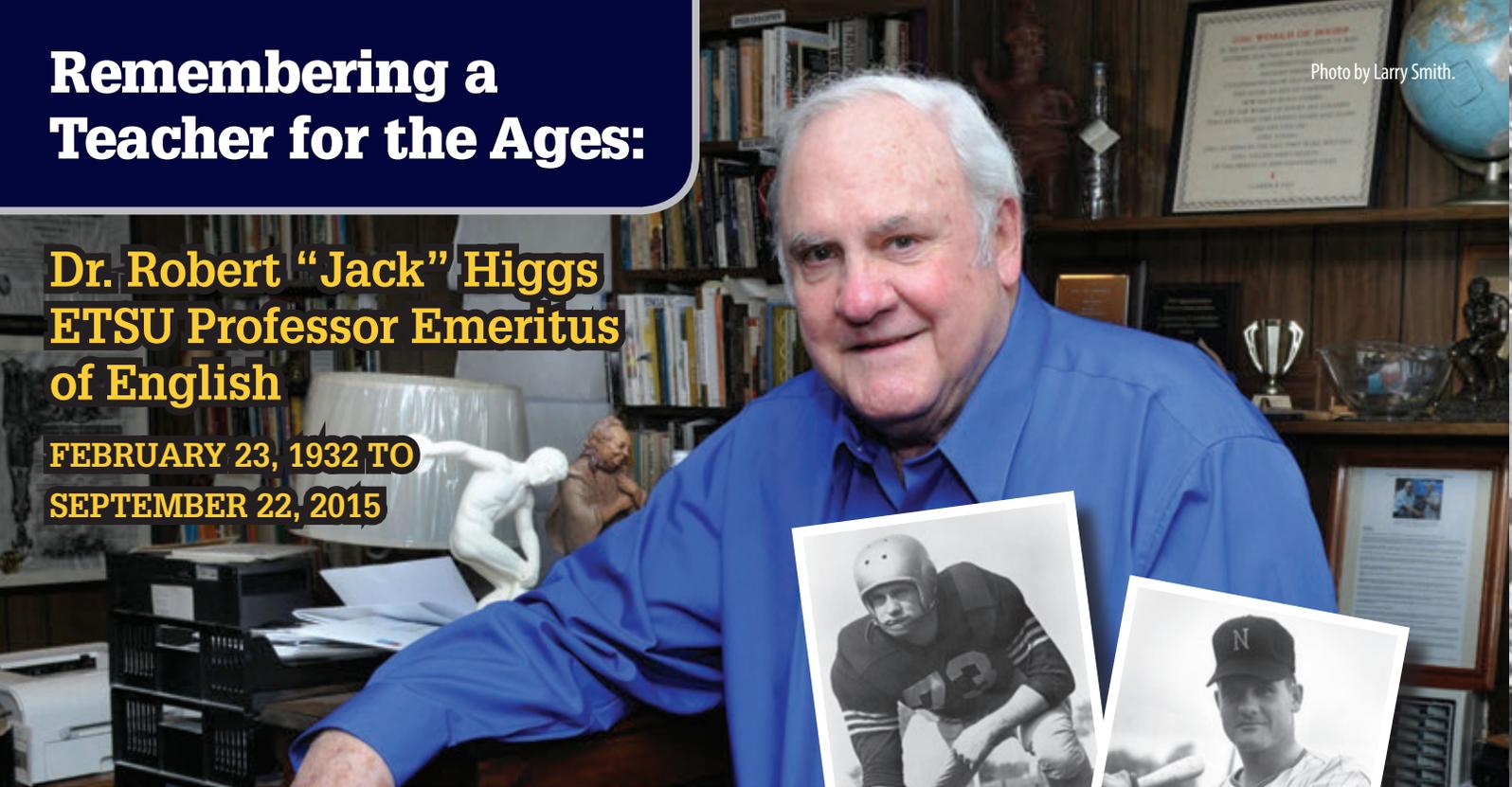
Dr. Thomas Jones (center) and his students manage to smile about spiders.

Remembering a Teacher for the Ages:

Photo by Larry Smith.

Dr. Robert “Jack” Higgs ETSU Professor Emeritus of English

**FEBRUARY 23, 1932 TO
SEPTEMBER 22, 2015**



“Like probably hundreds of others, I spent 33 years in the classroom trying to be half the teacher Jack Higgs was. I learned from him to be proud of my own history and heritage, to be passionate about literature and writing and its importance in the world, and to be both humble and confident in sharing my creative and academic writing.”

– Rita Sims Quillen

Educator, musician, poet, and author of the novel *Hiding Ezra*

“Jack saw teaching as a munificent garden. He weeded out ignorance, watered the flames of wisdom, and mulched heart into the dust of fear. His reward was an abundant harvest of students who learned firsthand what it means to live a good and noble life. His vision of wild splendor swelled into a bloom of poets, diviners, savants.”

– Dr. Elaine O’Quinn

Professor of English, Appalachian State University

“He has taken the name of ETSU literally all over the world. Although he retired from teaching many years ago, he never stopped learning, never stopped reading, and never stopped being a scholar. To be in his presence was an amazing experience. He could see connections most people never realize. He could talk about beans and cornbread and plowing with mules while at the same time discussing the most complex literary and philosophical subjects you could imagine.”

– Fred Sauceman

ETSU Senior Writer and Associate Professor of Appalachian Studies, quoted by Douglas Fritz in “Higgs’ unique combination was ETSU’s treasure,” *Johnson City Press*, September 22, 2015

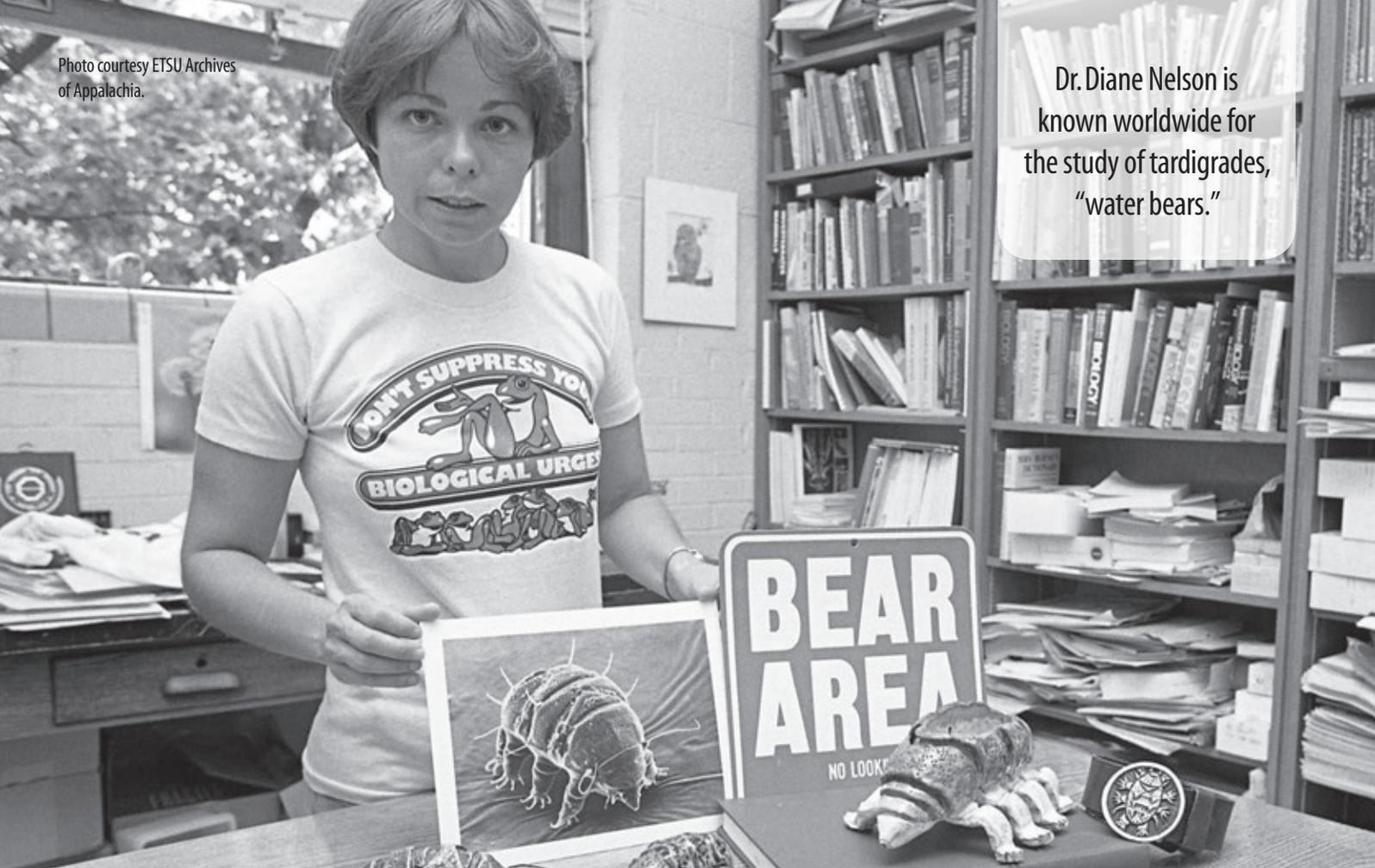


Jack Higgs, who played football and baseball at the U.S. Naval Academy, was an authority on sport literature and the connections between sports and religion in culture. He wrote and edited numerous books on the topic, including the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *God in the Stadium: Sports & Religion in America*. Higgs, along with Dr. Don Johnson and the late Dr. Lyle Olsen of the Department of English, was instrumental in the establishment of the Sport Literature Association, which is headquartered at ETSU, and served for many years on the organization’s editorial board of *Aethlon: The Journal of Sport Literature*. The Higgs-Olsen Endowment for the Professorship in Sport Literature and Play Theory was established through the ETSU Foundation in honor of their contributions to the field.

“Literature of Southern Appalachia” was one of Jack Higgs’ most popular courses, and he played a leading role in producing texts that became widely used in that field. He and the late Ambrose Manning of the Department of English edited three editions of *Voices from the Hills: Selected Readings of Southern Appalachia*. The two later collaborated with the late Jim Wayne Miller of Western Kentucky University in editing a two-volume sequel to *Voices from the Hills* entitled *Appalachia Inside Out*.

At the end of his ETSU career, Higgs was honored with the publication of *One for the Higger: Jack Higgs, A Man For All Seasons*, a collection of essays, short stories, poetry, and memoirs composed by numerous colleagues and friends and compiled by Lyle Olsen. In his introduction, longtime ETSU colleague Dr. Thomas Burton, Professor Emeritus of English, described Higgs as “something of a quester for the Holy Grail, a knight in the tradition of Sir Bors, who would be content not to see the Grail himself so others might see.” ■

Dr. Diane Nelson is
known worldwide for
the study of tardigrades,
“water bears.”



The Italian Connection: *Tardigrades and ETSU*

Challenged to find tardigrades in 1969 when I took the first course in my Ph.D. program at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, I began a lifelong career investigating these charismatic microscopic animals called water bears. It was love at first sight when I found my first live tardigrade under a microscope, and I've been studying them ever since.

Before I researched these amazing critters, I had never been west of the Mississippi River. Thanks to water bears, I applied for a passport and became an international traveler, sharing learning experiences not available in traditional classrooms. Thus began my lifetime with water bears and Italians.

As early as 1774, Italians have played a pivotal role in the study of tardigrades. The Italian abbot Bonaventura Corti was the first to note that tardigrades can withstand short periods of desiccation, and Lazzaro Spallanzani introduced the term “il Tardigrado,” which means “the slow walker.” In the 20th century, Giuseppe Ramazzotti was a leading authority on tardigrades, publishing many papers and monographs on these organisms. In 1962, the first edition of his comprehensive monograph “Il Phylum Tardigrado” was a milestone in the field of taxonomy of tardigrades, designating Tardigrada as a phylum.

Upon completion of my Ph.D., I was invited to present my dissertation research, “Ecological Distribution of Tardigrades on Roan Mountain, Tennessee-North Carolina,” at the 1st International Symposium on Tardigrades. The symposium was hosted by Dr. Livia Tonolli at the Istituto Italiano di Idrobiologia in Pallanza, Italy, in June 1974 to honor the “father of tardigradology,” Dr. Giuseppe Ramazzotti, on the occasion of his 75th birthday. I vividly remember Dr. Ramazzotti and Dr. Giovanni Pilato from Sicily arguing vigorously at the symposium, all in Italian of course, but their emotions were easily understood! Dr. Ramazzotti became my mentor and we corresponded until his death. At that first symposium, I also met another

Italian, Dr. Roberto Bertolani, who became a lifelong friend, colleague, and collaborator. Thus began an enduring connection with Italy and my Italian colleagues.

Following our second symposium in Poland in 1977, East Tennessee State University was the site of our 3rd International Symposium in August 1980, before computers and email were widely available. As organizer, hostess, and editor, I discovered it was quite a job and enlisted my ETSU graduate students to assist and participate in the conference. In his research presentation, Dr. Reinhardt Kristensen, University of Copenhagen, honored me by naming an unusual tardigrade *Macrobotus diana* (now *Murrayon diana* after systematic revision), discovered in a homothermic spring on Disko Island, Greenland. (This was the first of three species named after me during my career.)

After a field trip to Roan Mountain, we finished with a dinner at Boone Inn in North Carolina. The European tardigradologists were shocked to learn that wine and beer were not served in restaurants in our area of the Appalachian Mountains!

The 4th International Symposium on Tardigrada in 1985, hosted by Dr. Roberto Bertolani, marked my second trip to Italy and my first to the University of Modena. Subsequent symposia were held in College Park, Maryland (which I hosted in 1992); Cambridge, England (1994); Dusseldorf, Germany (1997); Copenhagen, Denmark, followed by a workshop at the Danish Arctic Research Station in Greenland (2000); and St. Pete's Beach, Florida (2003), which was the first symposium attended by Dr. Paul Bartels of Warren Wilson College in Asheville. Paul and I have worked for the past 15 years on tardigrades in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, part of the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, sponsored by Discover Life in America.

Back to Italy in 2006: Sicily was the home of our 10th International Symposium on Tardigrada, hosted by Dr. Giovanni Pilato and his wife and co-author Maria Grazia Binda at the University of Catania. The co-organizers were my Italian colleagues, Drs. Roberto Bertolani, Roberto Guidetti, and Lorena Rebecchi, who invited me to serve as co-editor of the symposium proceedings published in the *Journal of Limnology*. Our field day was a trip to Mount Etna, Europe's largest and most active volcano, which erupted at its summit after our excursion. What a way to end a conference!

Additional symposia were held in 2009 in the historic German city of Tübingen and in 2012 in Porto, Portugal, as the number of tardigradologists in the world continued to increase.

In June of 2015, we journeyed back to Modena, Italy, for the 13th

International Symposium, to honor Dr. Roberto Bertolani on the occasion of his 70th birthday (and my 71st) and his formal retirement from his university (but not from tardigrades). Roberto and I are the only two tardigradologists who have participated in all 13 symposia. At the formal concluding dinner in the courtyard of the Spezzano Castle, noted for its famed Modena balsamic vinegar, Roberto and I were celebrated with "Happy Birthday" Italian

desserts and greetings from the entire group of participants as well as a PowerPoint presentation on our parallel lives, following us from childhood through all of the tardigrade symposia.

Together Roberto Bertolani and his former students (now colleagues) Dr. Roberto Guidetti, Dr. Lorena Rebecchi, and Dr. Tiziano Altiero, as well as Dr. Giovanni Pilato, and I have published numerous articles and chapters on tardigrades. Their knowledge and willingness to collaborate have made this partnership most productive. In addition, Roberto Guidetti previously spent a year working in my lab at ETSU collecting tardigrades from Roan Mountain and returned later for another month for morphological and molecular studies. In recognition, he named a new species from Roan Mountain in appreciation of my hospitality and assistance, *Macrobotus nelsonae*. Another tardigrade species found in Italy and the Aeolian Islands, *Diphascoelus nelsonae*, was named by the Italians Drs. Giovanni Pilato, Maria Grazia Binda, Roberto Bertolani, and

Oscar Lisi, "to honour the tardigradologist, our dear friend, Diane Nelson." The Italian connection is close to my heart for many reasons.

There are so many tardigradologists who have become friends as well as colleagues over the years. For many, I know their families, have visited in their homes, and watched their children grow up. They are always welcome in my home and my lab. We have shared much more than tardigrades. We have shared life and cherished memories. ■

~ Dr. Diane R. Nelson is Professor Emerita of Biological Sciences at ETSU.

“There are so many tardigradologists who have become friends as well as colleagues over the years. For many, I know their families, have visited in their homes, and watched their children grow up.”

DIANE NELSON

Dr. Diane Nelson (center) with her Italian colleagues. Photo courtesy Diane Nelson.



DATELINE: ETSU

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015: Football returns as ETSU plays its first home game.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2015: The website www.america.edu lists ETSU as one of the top 20 schools in the country for students who plan to enter medical school.

OCTOBER 9, 2015: ETSU's Physical Therapy program is listed as 14th in the nation in the fall 2015 rankings announced by Graduateprograms.com, an online resource for prospective graduate students.

OCTOBER 16, 2015: Dr. Jonathan Peterson, Assistant Professor of Health Sciences, receives a \$163,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health for a study he hopes will help lead to a treatment to prevent cirrhosis of the liver.

OCTOBER 22, 2015: The ETSU Department of Physics and Astronomy makes the American Institute of Physics list of physics departments nationwide that conferred the largest number of undergraduate degrees.

OCTOBER 23, 2015: The Quillen College of Medicine names the Nancy B. Stanton Auditorium, in honor of the former ETSU First Lady.

OCTOBER 28, 2015: ETSU's Department of Curriculum and Instruction and China's Shandong Institute of Commerce and Technology enter a cooperative agreement to broaden cultural experiences of students and faculty from both schools.

OCTOBER 28, 2015: Dr. Ron Hamdy, Chair of the Division of Geriatric Medicine at ETSU's Quillen College of Medicine, receives a Bronze Medal from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for his work in improving X-ray safety practices within the Veterans Affairs system and the larger federal healthcare system.

NOVEMBER 4, 2015: Dr. Tom Kwasigroch receives the Alpha Omega Alpha Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges for his work in medical education since joining ETSU in 1979.



NOVEMBER 4, 2015: Former ETSU First Lady Martha Culp turns 100. Here she celebrates with current ETSU First Lady Donna Noland and the Noland's son Jackson. Mrs. Culp passed away on May 6, 2016.

NOVEMBER 5, 2015: ETSU's College of Nursing Family Practice Network receives a \$1 million federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to construct a new building to house its Johnson City Day Center, which provides health care and other services to the homeless population in the region.

NOVEMBER 18, 2015: Virginia Commonwealth University honors Dr. Wilsie Bishop, ETSU Chief Operating Officer and Vice President for Health Affairs, as one of its brightest alumni stars.

DECEMBER 1, 2015: An early giant mastodon is identified at the Gray Fossil Site.

APRIL 13, 2016: Mina McVeigh, Staff Counselor at ETSU, is named "Social Worker of the Year" by the National Association of Social Workers - Tennessee Chapter

APRIL 14, 2016: The American Council on Education (ACE) names Dr. Angela Radford Lewis as an ACE Fellow for the academic year 2016-17. She currently serves as Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs, Curricula, and Services at ETSU.

APRIL 20, 2016: ETSU announces the establishment of a new, interprofessional research center that will focus on one of the most significant health issues plaguing both the region and much of the nation: prescription drug abuse.

MAY 4, 2016: ETSU unveils a new enterprise-level academic alliance with Adobe that will offer one-of-a-kind learning experiences for undergraduate and graduate students while providing the university with state-of-the-art digital marketing tools.

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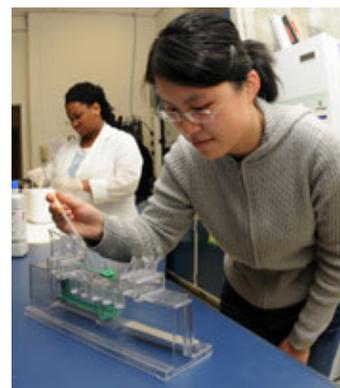
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Students have been contacted by ETSU and may have questions. Please refer students to the contacts listed below.

Who is the contact at ETSU?

Dr. Carla Warner or Jennifer Rice
423-439-5641 Reconnect@etsu.edu

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CLASS NOTES

1960s

Maj. Gen Ronald E. Brooks (BS '61) was inducted into the ETSU Army ROTC Hall of Fame on September 25, 2015. Maj. Gen. Brooks was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through the ETSU ROTC program. He toured in Vietnam, was the school secretary at the Defense Information School at Fort Benjamin Harrison, and then returned to Vietnam as the Adjutant General of the 1st Aviation Brigade. Before retiring in 1995, he spent five years commanding the U.S. Army Soldier Support Center and Fort Benjamin Harrison.

C.C. Smith (BS '64) was inducted into the ETSU Army ROTC Hall of Fame on September 25, 2015. He received a bachelor's degree in Biology and was commissioned as a U.S. Army Second Lieutenant through the ETSU ROTC program. A platoon leader with the 25th Chemical Company in South Korea, he returned to the U.S. in 1966. As a newly minted Captain, he was sent to Vietnam with the first shipment of gravel antipersonnel mines. After attending the Chemical Officers Advanced Course, he was assigned to command ordnance companies in Germany before being named chief of an instruction branch at the Chemical School at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

Dr. Richard Wilson (BS '64) was recently inducted into the ETSU College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences newly created Hall of Fame. He devoted his life and work to furthering knowledge in the field of audiology and mentoring young researchers and clinicians. Through his commitment to research and education, he founded the Appalachian Spring Conference, which has been sponsored by the Veterans Affairs Medical Center for more than 20 years.

Dr. R. Anne Abbott (BS '69) was interviewed for the special edition on the wellness movement in the May/June 2015 edition of the *American Journal of Health Promotion*. She is an accomplished administrator, published author, and public speaker and facilitator in wellness and health promotion.

Col. Marvin Bolinger (MA '69) was inducted into the ETSU Army ROTC Hall of Fame on September 25, 2015. He was commissioned as a U.S. Army Second Lieutenant in 1969 through the ETSU ROTC program. He served in the Army for 25 years, holding many positions, including Safety Officer, Audit Officer, Assistant Inspector General, and Company Commander, until he retired in 1997.

Dr. Amelia Brown (BS '69) was recently inducted into the ETSU College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences Hall of Fame. She received her bachelor's in Home Economics from ETSU,

her master's in Food Sciences from the University of Tennessee, and her Ph.D. in Foods and Nutrition from Kansas State University. She began her teaching career at Kansas State and Virginia Tech before her 30-year tenure at ETSU.

1970s

Carl E. Hamilton (MA '73) was inducted into the ETSU Army ROTC Hall of Fame on September 25, 2015. He served for four years in the U.S. Navy and then became the first federal civilian employee hired by the ETSU ROTC program. After 11 years, he transferred to supply technician. He volunteered his services to the Junior ROTC at Science Hill High School and other units in East Tennessee. In 1998, after 32 years of service to the ETSU ROTC program, he had seen 850 cadets commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

Teena Paxton (AS '74) and her husband Don celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Teena graduated from ETSU with an associate degree in Nursing.

Debra Tilson Gill (BS '75) of Easley, South Carolina, was elected to Alpha Delta Pi Grand Council as International Vice President of Collegiate Membership.

Dr. Rebecca Nunley (BS '76) was recently inducted into the ETSU College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences Hall of Fame. She worked as a dental hygienist in the Tri-Cities before moving to Texas where she completed her D.D.S. degree at the University of Texas-San Antonio dental school in 1985. She began a private practice in Elizabethton but found her way back to ETSU in 1988 as Department Chair for Dental Hygiene.

David Helton (BS '78) was awarded the Walters State Distinguished Alumni Award in Professional Achievement. He earned a degree in Business from Walters State in 1975 and continued his education at ETSU.

Allan Strange (BS '78) was named to the 2015 *Financial Times* "Top 401 Retirement Advisors." Allan played on the ETSU men's golf team and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Dr. William Hearl (BS '79) graduated from ETSU with a degree in Microbiology and is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Immunomic Therapeutics, Inc. Immunomic Therapeutics, Inc. and Astellas Pharma, located in Tokyo, Japan, recently announced a worldwide partnership for LAMP-vax™ products for allergic disease. The LAMP-vax™ technology enhances the effectiveness of DNA vaccines, which potentially enables effective vaccinations for a wide spectrum of diseases. This partnership comes with an upfront payment of \$300 million and 10% royalties of net sales of the potential products to Immunomic Therapeutics, Inc.

1980s

John D. Rose (ALE '82, BS '84, MA '06) is a lecturer in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology after serving as an adjunct instructor. He holds an M.A. degree from ETSU.

William "Bill" McTier (BSBA '85 & MBA '10) is a lecturer in the ETSU Department of Management and Marketing after serving as an adjunct instructor. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from ETSU.

Beth Evelyn Barber (BS '86, MSW '14) is a Counselor and Suicide and Violence Prevention Coordinator in the ETSU Counseling Center after working in the center as a part-time counselor for one year. She was a self-employed licensed massage therapist for 22 years.

Dr. Jack Goldstein (RES '87) is an Assistant Professor in the ETSU Department of Internal Medicine. He holds an M.D. degree from St. Lucia Health Sciences University and was previously a hospitalist with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Dr. Teresa Stephens (BSN '87) is Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Programs in the ETSU College of Nursing. She holds a Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of Tennessee, where she was R.N.-B.S.N. Coordinator and Clinical Assistant Professor before coming to ETSU.

Dr. Ance Duckworth (BS '88) and **Nancy Duckworth (MED '84, EDS '89)** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 19, 2014.

Vicki Keith (BBA '88) was named Director of the Financial Evaluation and Accountability Division at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Office. She earned her bachelor's degree in Accounting from ETSU.

Todd Norris (BS '88, MA '90) was named Senior Vice President for System Advancement of the Integration Council for Wellmont Health System and Mountain States Health Alliance.

1990s

James Dunn (BS '91) was awarded the Walters State Distinguished Alumni Award in Civic Achievement. He is currently serving as District Attorney General for the 4th Judicial District.

Dr. Jeff Moorhouse (EDD '92) has been named the new Director of Greeneville City Schools.

Katie Quigley (BS '92) has been promoted to Lead Child Development Resources' Early Head Start program. She received

her bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from ETSU and has worked for Child Development Resources since 2001.

Dr. Laurn Jordan (BS '93, MS '95) is Professor of Mathematics at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody.

Tracy Jones (BBA '94) has been promoted to Senior Vice President at Mountain Commerce Bank.

Maurice "Mo" Kelly (BS '94) was promoted to Vice President for Player Engagement of the Seattle Seahawks. He was an all-star defensive back at ETSU and played from 1990 to 1993. He earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology from ETSU.

Amy Mahaffey (BS '94, MED '99) is a Family Services Counselor with Community Outreach and Applied Research after working as a day treatment counselor.

Keena Rhoten-Walton (BSN '94) is a Clinical Supervisor with ETSU Family Physicians of Kingsport in the Department of Family Medicine. She holds a B.S.N. degree from ETSU and was a registered travel nurse in New Mexico with Atlas Med Staff before attaining her current position.

Bryan Daniels (MS '97) was named Chamber Executive of the Year at the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives meeting in Nashville in August 2015. He has been the President/CEO of Blount Partnership since 2010.

Dr. Chuck Thigpen (BS '97) was recently inducted into the ETSU College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences Hall of Fame. He is a Clinical Research Scientist for ATI and Director of Observational Clinical Research in Orthopedics with the Center for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Sciences at the University of South Carolina.

Ranee Baker (BGS '98, MACC '03) is Director of Financial Accounting in the ETSU Office of Financial Services. She comes to ETSU from Northeast State Community College, where she was Chief Financial Assistant. She holds a master's degree in Accounting from ETSU.

Colleen Vasconcellos (MA '98) authored the book *Slavery, Childhood, and Abolition in Jamaica, 1788-1838*, which was published in May 2015. She earned her master's degree in History from ETSU and is teaching in the University of Georgia's Department of History.

Brent Reed (BS '99) was married to Kanokkarn "Bee" Prakaikawkaosakul on January 23, 2015, at The Little Log Cabin Wedding Chapel in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. He earned a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from ETSU.

2000s

Dr. Deborah Bryan (MA '00) was appointed Chair of the Department of Fine Arts at Tusculum College in July 2015.

Dr. David Linville (MD '00, EDD '15) was appointed as one of the four 2015-16 ETSU Presidential Fellows by Dr. Brian Noland. Dr. Linville will focus on the health sciences, serving under the guidance of Dr. Wilsie Bishop, ETSU's Chief Operating Officer and Vice President for Health Affairs. Linville is Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education in the Quillen College of Medicine and designated institutional official.

Eric Carroll (BS '01) has been selected by Mountain States Health Alliance as the new administrator for Unicoi County Memorial Hospital. He graduated from ETSU with a bachelor's degree in Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences and was formerly the CEO of Select Specialty Hospital in Bristol.

Jill Andrews (BS '02) is a musician who has recently released a solo album, *The War Inside*. Some of her songs have been featured on *Grey's Anatomy*, *The Good Wife*, and *Nashville*. She has toured with the Avett Brothers and performed at Bonnaroo with her band the everybodyfields. Her new album was released in September of 2015.

Andrew Amodei (BA '03) is the new Director of Development and Alumni Affairs for ETSU's College of Business and Technology. He earned a degree in Spanish from ETSU and holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Duke University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Milligan College. He has devoted his life to ministry for 14 years and has wide experience serving on nonprofit boards, developing strategic plans and fundraising campaigns.

Gregory Wilgocki Jr. (MA '03) recently passed the CPA exam and is now a licensed CPA. He is a Reimbursement Manager with Mountain States Health Alliance.

Dr. Daryl A. Carter (BS '04, MA '06) was appointed as one of the four 2015-16 ETSU Presidential Fellows by Dr. Brian Noland. He will serve in the Office of the President, focusing on the area of government relations. He is Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the Department of History in the College of Arts and Sciences.

K.C. Gott (BS '04, MA '06) is a lecturer in the ETSU Department of Communication and Performance. She holds an M.A. degree in Professional Communication from ETSU and was founder and CEO of Her Story Coaching before attaining her current position.

Sarah Crow (MAT '05) is an eighth-grade mathematics teacher at University School. She holds an M.A.T. degree from ETSU and was previously a third-grade teacher at St. Tammany Parish Schools, Louisiana.

Bryan Weems (MAT '05) is an instructor at University School. He holds an Ed.S. from Lincoln Memorial University and was a teacher in the Greene County School System before coming to ETSU.

Dr. Jude A. Abia (MS '06), a former Professor of Chemistry at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma, has joined the technology team in the HollyFrontier Refining & Marketing Division. Abia earned a master's in Chemistry at ETSU and a doctorate in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. In his new position, he will help identify and conduct technical research projects for HollyFrontier Process Oils, with primary focus on industrial, automotive, and tire-related applications.

Fain Grogg (BS '06) recently competed in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Dallas, with four more medals to add to his collection. He is a former Navy corpsman and an Army Lieutenant during the Gulf War. He is now employed as a Contract Specialist at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Mountain Home. He continues to encourage others with physical disabilities to come out for sports.

Dustin Hill (BT '06) of New York City has accepted a job as an Account Executive in Sales at *U.S. News & World Report*.

Rhys Davies (BBA '07) earned his third career European Challenge Tour title in May 2015. He played golf at ETSU from 2003-07 and holds career records in tournaments won (10), scoring average (71.23), and rounds of par or better (102).

Kristie Gross (BBA '07) has been promoted to Senior Loan Coordinator Banking Officer at Mountain Commerce Bank.

Amanda Thurman (BS '07) was married to Simone Naoum Karalia on March 22, 2015, at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston, South Carolina. She earned a bachelor's degree in Public Health from ETSU.

Jordan Hall (BS '08, MS '11) is a Program Manager in the ETSU Department of Computing. He holds an M.S. degree in Computer Science from ETSU and was previously a developer with A.C.T.

Dr. Cassandra Pusateri (MA '08) is Assistant Professor in the ETSU Department of Counseling and Human Services. Before coming to ETSU, she was an Assistant Professor at Youngstown (Ohio) State University. She holds a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision from Old Dominion University.

Dr. Linde Christine Rush Burkey (BS '09, MA '12) is Assistant Professor in the ETSU Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Sharon K. Gray (BS '09) is a lecturer in the ETSU Department of Physics and Astronomy. She is also a research scientist and partner with Glass Components and Device Developments, a start-up nanotechnology company in Tullahoma. She holds a B.S. degree in Physics from ETSU and an M.S. in Engineering from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and has worked as a Deputy Clerk for Washington County.

Eric J. Hunt (BA '09, MA '12) was hired as the new Coordinator of Testing Services at ETSU in October 2015. He earned both his degrees in English.

Daniel Smith (BS '09) is a Programmer/Analyst in Information Technology Services at ETSU. He holds a B.S. degree in Computing.

2010s

James Bennett (BBA '10) and **Courtney Nicely (BA '14)** were married on January 2, 2015, at The Reserve at Bluebird Hill in Lenoir City, Tennessee.

Jessica Moore Hayes (BS '10) and **Charlie Maurice Hayes II (BS '14)** were married on September 6, 2014.

Dr. Hayley Brooke McKinney (BS '10, DPT '11) and Justin Kerley were married on October 25, 2015, at the Davis-Kerley Farm in Crossville. Hayley earned her Doctor of Physical Therapy from ETSU and is employed by Life Care Center of Crossville.

John McMeen (BS '10, MS '14) is a Program Manager in the ETSU Department of Computing's Emerging Technology Center. He holds an M.S. in Computer Science.

Shawntray Stewart (BS '10, MA '12) is an Academic Advisor in the ETSU College of Arts and Sciences' Center for Advisement and Student Excellence. Before coming to ETSU, he was a College and Career Counselor with the Niswonger Foundation. He holds an M.A. degree in Counseling.

Erica Babb (MA '11) has been added to the Carter County Hall of Fame. She played basketball at Happy Valley, with 1,241 career points, even though she was unable to play her senior year due to an ACL injury. She then attended ETSU where she made the All-Southern Conference team.

Laura Ruth Barnett (BS '11, MA '13) is a teacher in the Little Bucs Student Child Care center after working as a temporary teacher in the ETSU Child Study Center. She has studied Early Childhood Education at ETSU.

Holly Carter Fields (BS '11) married Derek L. Fields on September 20, 2014.

Deidre R. Johnson (BS '11) was hired as the new Coordinator of Learning Services at ETSU in October 2015. She earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology.

Carly Manning (BS '11) has been certified as a Registrant of the National Registry of Certified Microbiologists. The NRCM was founded in 1958 and has certified microbiologists in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico and on six continents. Carly is employed as a microbiologist with Chatterm, Inc. in Chattanooga.

Dr. Dustin Osborne (MA '11) is Assistant Professor in the ETSU Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology. He holds a Ph.D. in Justice Administration from the University of Louisville.

Dr. Elizabeth Conway Williams (MA '11) is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the ETSU Department of Psychology. She was previously an intern with Stone Mountain Health Services.

Margaret Darden (BSW '12) is an Admissions Counselor in the ETSU Office of Admissions. She holds a master's degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was a Collegiate Operations Specialist with Sigma Kappa Sorority before coming back to ETSU.

Chasity L. Drew (BA '12, MA '14) is an Information Research Technician with the ETSU Honors College after serving as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Literature and Language.

Kimberly Brooke Dyer (BS '12, MED '15) is a secretary in the ETSU Office of Veterans Affairs. She held a graduate assistantship before attaining her current position.

Gabriel Felty (BS '12) married Mary Evelyn Seward on December 27, 2014, at Banner Elk Christian Fellowship, Banner Elk, North Carolina. He earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from ETSU.

Maegan Harrell (BA '12, MA '14) is an Education Coordinator with the ETSU and General Shale Natural History Museum and Visitor Center at the Gray Fossil Site, after serving as an adjunct instructor in the Department of History. She holds an M.A. in History from ETSU.

Tesha Blair (BS '13) is a Research Assistant in the ETSU Department of Biomedical Sciences after serving as a graduate/teaching assistant.

Jennifer Hovatter (BS '13) has recently been recognized for her work in raising awareness about lymphedema. She earned her bachelor's degree in Public Health from ETSU and is currently spreading lymphedema awareness in the community in her husband's memory by holding fundraisers and events every year. On a national level, she is working to push the Lymphedema Treatment Act into law, which would cover treatment for patients with lymphedema under Medicare.

Jonathan Wayne Mitchell (MA '13) is an Area Coordinator in the ETSU Office of Housing and Residence Life after serving in the position on an interim basis. He holds an M.A. degree in Counseling from ETSU.

Erik C. Peterson (BA '13, MA '15) was hired as the new Executive Aide for the ETSU Center for Academic Achievement in September 2015. He earned both his degrees in English.

Michael Schneider (MS '13) is a lecturer in the ETSU Department of Computing. He was a graduate assistant before attaining his current position.

Tonya E. Bess (BBA '14) is a Human Resources Specialist in the ETSU Office of Human Resources.

Dr. Atul Khanna (MD '14) has joined the Charlotte Gastroenterology and Hepatology team. His specialties include endoscopic ultrasound, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, and advanced interventional endoscopy.

Dr. Stacie L. McCray (DNP '14) is Assistant Professor and Family Nurse Practitioner with the ETSU College of Nursing. Before coming to ETSU, she was a Family Nurse Practitioner in primary and urgent care with Wellmont Health Systems. She holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from ETSU.

Jake Morrill (MA '14) is a co-owner of BrainAble Neurofeedback and Coaching in Oak Ridge. The mission of the facility is to coach East Tennesseans to claim healthier, happier lives through increased self-regulation, achieved through neurofeedback.

Veronica Gayle Roberson (BGS '14) is a Technical Clerk in the Office of the Registrar at ETSU, following employment with Mountain States Health Alliance. She holds a B.S. in General Studies from ETSU.

Adam Steffey (BS '14) is a lecturer in Bluegrass, Old Time, and Country Music Studies in the Department of Appalachian Studies at ETSU, after teaching as an adjunct faculty member in the department. He participated in the Bluegrass Program under the direction of Jack Tottle in the mid-1980s and went on to work professionally with the Lonesome River Band and Alison Krauss and Union Station. He recently completed a B.S. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies while touring with the Dan Tyminski Band and The Boxcars. He has received five Grammy Awards and is an 11-time winner of the International Bluegrass Music Association's Mandolin Player of the Year Award.

Martin Walters (BGS '14) is a lecturer in the ETSU Department of Mass Communication. He also continues as an adjunct instructor in music. He studied at the University of North Texas and earned his bachelor's degree at ETSU. He is a studio musician and Grammy Award-winning recording engineer and producer who has worked with some of the top performers in the music industry, including Spyro Gyra, Patti LaBelle, Sly Stone, Melissa Etheridge, Emmylou Harris, Sarah McLachlan, and many others.

Amy Katherine Wilks (MA '14) is an Academic Advisor in the ETSU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. She was an Academic Counselor at the University of Southern Mississippi before attaining her current position.

Nathan Barger (MA '15) is an Assistant Athletic Trainer in the ETSU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics after working as a graduate assistant athletic trainer.

Clifton Boggs (BA '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Dr. Mark Cohee (RES '15) is Assistant Professor in the ETSU Department of Family Medicine after completing his residency in Family Medicine at ETSU. He holds an M.D. degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Jeffrey Coyne (BS '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Chasen "Alex" Dayton (BA '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Alexander Fields (BS '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Joshua Ford (BS '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Ryan Hamilton (BBA '15) is the ISR Field Sales Support with Convergent Technologies Group. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Katelynn Correll Inscore (BS '15) married Jeffrey Inscore on June 20, 2015.

David Lilly (BS '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Nicholas Miller (BS '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Parker Moore (BA '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Dr. Dan Nicolau (RES '15) is a Professor in the ETSU Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Medical Director at Woodridge Hospital. He holds an M.D. from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Darren Owenby (BS '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Zachary Schuette (BS '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Jackson Scott (BS '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Shaun Shelton (BS '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Zachary Skipworth (BS '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Jared Walls (BS '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Amber Warren (BA '15) became an Army Second Lieutenant on May 8, 2015, through the Military Science Department at ETSU.

Jacy Weems (BS '15) has been accepted into the competitive Public Health Associate Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She was assigned to the state health department in Fort Myers, Florida, and will be focusing on epidemiology.

OBITUARIES

1940s

Helen Brown (BS '45) of Maryville on September 29, 2015. Helen was a devoted wife, mother, sister, Nana, and friend. She graduated from ETSU in 1945 with her bachelor's degree in Home Economics.

Harold K. Johnson (BS '49, MS '54) of Johnson City on September 20, 2015. Mr. Johnson was a teacher and principal in the Washington County School System for 10 years before moving to ETSU, where he retired in 1988 after 32 years of service from the position of Bursar. He served as a member of the Washington County Board of Education for 22 years and had been a member of the Washington County Commission.

Gordon C. Newland (BS '49) on April 29, 2015, in Kingsport. Gordon graduated from ETSU with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics. He retired from Sam Bray Realty as an Affiliate Broker.

1950s

Dr. Nat Edens "Ed" Hyder Jr. (BS '51) of Johnson City on October 15, 2015. Dr. Hyder took every opportunity to serve those around him and practiced medicine until 2009. He served in the United States military in various capacities and volunteered his time to serve on various local and national committees. He also served in various positions with the James H. Quillen College of Medicine.

Dorothy Clement (BS '52) of Johnson City on September 26, 2015. After graduating from ETSU, Dorothy and her husband, Jim, traveled and lived in numerous states and countries while he was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. After his death in 1970, Dorothy taught at St. Mary's High School and Central High School in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She then worked for the Department of Defense, where she had teaching assignments in both the Atlantic and Pacific regions.

Edna S. Hall (BS '52) on June 11, 2015. She earned a bachelor's degree in History.

Ogle T. Nelson (BS '52) of Morristown on August 18, 2015. Ogle earned a bachelor's degree in History.

Nathan F. Stover (BS '52) of Bristol on September 30, 2015. Nathan was a member of Windsor Avenue Presbyterian Church

for 86 years. He retired from the United States Postal Service with over 35 years of service.

Jerry G. Gurfey (BS '53) on June 11, 2015. He earned a bachelor's degree in Chemistry.

Beatrice M. Marshall (MA '53) on June 16, 2015. She earned a Master of Arts in Reading.

Jack Richard Pearman (MA '53) of Central Community on May 23, 2015. Jack was employed in various positions with the Carter County School System for 59 years and was also employed with the Upper East Tennessee Human Development Agency for several years. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and received honors.

Carolyn R. Emerson (BS '54) on June 1, 2015. She was the President of Carolyn Emerson Interiors.

Bill J. Lee (MBA '54) of Kingsport on July 6, 2015. Bill served two years in the Army at the Pentagon in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff-Intelligence. After receiving his MBA, he worked for 25 years in several positions as an accountant, internal auditor, systems analyst, company treasurer, and a member on several boards of directors. After these years of business experience, Bill fell in love with teaching. He taught at ETSU as an Assistant Professor and continued to teach for 22 years.

Edna Von Cannon Potter (BS '54) of Roan Mountain on October 23, 2015. Edna graduated with a degree in Elementary Education from ETSU and taught in the Carter County School System for 42 years. Before her husband died in 2002, he and Mrs. Potter were active in the Roan Mountain Naturalists Rally and Wildflower Tours since their inception 46 years ago. They also organized the Miss Watauga Valley Pageant, a preliminary to the Miss Tennessee Pageant, and received recognition in 1996 for having over 50 years of pageant service.

William "Bill" Sherwood Daniel (BS '55) on September 19, 2015. Bill was a longtime member of First United Methodist Church in Morristown, where he taught Sunday school and served in various capacities. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and retired from Morristown Utilities Systems as Office Manager of Accounting and Finance after 36 years of service.

John W. Geagley Jr. (BS '55) of Elizabethton on May 11, 2015. John was a very active member of the First United Methodist Church, where he served as church treasurer, a member of the Administrative Council, the Staff Parish Committee, the Finance Committee, and as a church usher. He retired from Summers-Taylor in 1997 and was known as the man who jogged the streets of Elizabethton. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Ruth Clark (BS '56) of Johnson City on April 15, 2015. Ruth was a talented organist and received her Master of Music Degree at Westminster Choir College after graduating from ETSU with a bachelor's in Music. She was an organist for many years in Johnson City and the surrounding area, and many churches were blessed to hear her play. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church.

Howard K. Atkins (BS '57, MA '64) of Madisonville on August 26, 2015. Howard was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served in the Korean War era. He taught biology at Greeneville High School and was also a professor at Hiwassee College in Madisonville. After his teaching career, he was employed at the Consolidated Nuclear Complex in Oak Ridge and retired in 1995. He earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in Biology.

Phyllis Simerly Ellis (BS '57) of High Point, North Carolina, on September 6, 2015. She devoted 40 years to teaching elementary school children before retiring in 1997. She enjoyed teaching, traveling, collecting antiques, attending auctions, and spending time at the family cabin in the mountains.

James A. Onks, Jr. (BS '57) of Johnson City on June 29, 2015. James was a veteran of the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve, and the Tennessee National Guard. He graduated from Science Hill High School and then earned his degree in History from ETSU.

Margaret Jack Sliker (BS '57) of Mooresburg on May 18, 2015. She was a schoolteacher her whole life. She played the piano and organ at the local United Methodist Church and was known for donating fresh cow's milk from her farm to the needy in the area every week.

Harold J. VanCleve (BS '57) of Warsaw, Indiana, on July 15, 2015. He served as an MP in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After he was honorably discharged in 1961, he was an Auto Adjuster with Auto Owners Insurance Company for 38 years, retiring in 1995. He attended Dutchtown Brethren Church and was a member of American Legion Post #49.

Mary Ruth Gross (BS '58) of Boones Creek on July 22, 2015. She worked for TPI Corporation and for ITT Industries. She attended Knob Creek Church of the Brethren, Cash Hollow Presbyterian, and Princeton Church. She earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

Barbara Sue Hickman (BS '58) of Farragut on June 14, 2015. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Concord. She enjoyed traveling with her husband while he served in the military and always enjoyed military life. She earned a bachelor's degree in Music.

Janith W. Valley (BS '58) of Lebanon, Virginia, on June 25, 2015. She was a music teacher for the Russell County Public Schools and founded the first band at Honaker High School and the first community orchestra in Russell County. She was a member of Lebanon Memorial United Methodist Church. She graduated from ETSU with a bachelor's degree in Music.

1960s

Wanda Hill Crockett (MA '60) of Kingsport on June 23, 2015. She was a member of Gate City United Methodist Church and enjoyed traveling and volunteering her time in the community.

Charles G. Edwards Jr. (BS '61) on June 2, 2015. He earned a bachelor's degree in Management.

Clifford "Earl" Martin (BS '61) of Gray on July 2, 2015. He was humble, generous, soft-spoken, and a man of faith who was loved by his family and respected by all who knew him. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business.

Bobby Jack Alvis (BS '62) on October 26, 2015. He earned his bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts Education.

Homer Harold Clevenger (BS '62) of Kingsport on May 17, 2015. He served as Director of Industrial Relations for Kingsport Press, Vice President of Industrial Relations for Arcata National, and Vice President and General Counsel for Ricoh Corp. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He earned a bachelor's degree in English.

Harriet R. Locke (MA '62) on May 4, 2015, in Kingsport. She earned a master's degree in Biology. She was born in Canton, China, and came to the U.S. for high school. She taught in the Sullivan County School System for over 30 years and retired in 1992. She then joined the Peace Corps to be an educator in Nepal and the Philippines. She was the first female from Tennessee to hike the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. She also completed 19 marathons.

Mary Ellen Payne (BS '62) of Kingsport on July 2, 2015. She was a long-standing member of Eastern Star Freewill Baptist Church. She earned a bachelor's degree in Health Education.

McDaniel "Danny" English Sams (BS '62) of Erwin on August 12, 2015. He earned a bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts Education and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. He was a member of Erwin Presbyterian Church and retired from the State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services.

Leonard Earl Richardson (BS '63) on June 30, 2015. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. He taught at Edison College in Fort Myers, Florida, for 29 years. He earned a bachelor's degree in History.

Virginia Ann Woody Counts (MA '64) of Bristol. She was an active member of First United Methodist Church of Bristol, where she was part of the Shaw-Anchor-Friendship Sunday School Class.

David Dean (BS '65) of Louisville on September 14, 2015. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and enjoyed dealing in antiques and flea market shopping. He earned a bachelor's in Geography.

Ronald Fannon (BS '65) of Elizabethton on October 26, 2015. He was a U.S. Army veteran, having served during the Vietnam War. After his military service he started working for the Pharmaseal Company and then owned and operated Fannon's Market in Johnson City. He then worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Watauga before retirement.

Terry L. Gillenwater (MA '65) of Kingsport on September 22, 2015. He was a chiropractor in Bristol, Virginia, for several years.

Susanne "Penny" Simonds (BS '66) of Kingsport on October 24, 2015. She earned her bachelor's degree in Physical Education.

Danny Keith "Dan" Lee (BS '67) of Mt. Juliet on September 10, 2015. He served as a Hospital Corpsman in the U.S. Navy from 1960-64. He began his insurance career as an underwriter with Nationwide Insurance in 1967 and after moving, became the CEO of PENCO, a division of Willis, before retirement in 1997. After retirement, he started his own agency, Argus Insurance Services, in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Shelby J. Miller (BS '67) of Elizabethton on October 3, 2015. She was a former employee of Beaunit Corporation and a homemaker who enjoyed making crafts and cooking for her family. She was of the Baptist faith.

Agnes R. Crisp (BS '68) on June 25, 2015. She served as the Reservation Manager for the High Hampton Inn and Country Club in Cashiers, North Carolina, for nearly 40 years. She earned a bachelor's degree in Home Economics.

Thomas Watson Helvey (BS '68) of Kingsport on September 1, 2015. He earned a bachelor's degree in History.

Judy Ann Cates Honeycutt (BS '68) of Hampton on September 24, 2015. Judy taught school at Midway, Clouland, and Hampton Elementary for 23 years before retiring. She was a member of Little Doe Freewill Baptist Church where she was the pianist for 25 years before joining the First Baptist Church of Elizabethton in 2001. She took great pleasure in gardening and tending to her flowers and loved to travel.

Nelson L. Ross (MA '68) on April 30, 2015, in Jefferson City. Nelson earned his master's in Physical Education. He went on to teach biology and coach both football and wrestling at high schools in Virginia and North Carolina. He served as Alumni Director and Director of Major Gifts at Carson-Newman University. He retired in 2000 and went on to found the Izaak League Clean Water Center in Knoxville.

James Marshall Bradley Jr. (BS '69) on September 6, 2015. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V" device, Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, and Navy Unit Commendation. He then served as Marketing Manager for the Commercial Banking Division of what is now Bank of America. He earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science.

David J. Britton (AS '69) on June 19, 2015. He earned his bachelor's in English.

Nellie Hannabas (BS '69) of Jonesborough on August 30, 2015. She earned her bachelor's degree in Education and served as Washington County/Jonesborough Librarian for many years.

James M. Phillips (MA '69) on June 3, 2015. James earned a master's degree in Educational Administration. He served as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, taught at multiple schools in Cocke, Jefferson, and Hamblen counties, and served as deacon of Hillcrest Baptist Church.

Rev. John Edwin Shore (MA '69) of Stuart, Virginia, on August 25, 2015. He was an educator, coach, and principal in the Patrick County School System for 35 years. He was ordained by the Cornerstone Conference and spent 26 years in the ministry.

Ernest B. Wallen Jr. (BS '69) of Blountville on June 19, 2015. He was a member of Living Word Lutheran Church and was a U.S. Army veteran. He was employed in the banking industry for most of his life and for the past 27 years at United Southeast Federal Credit Union's corporate office as Vice President of Lending.

1970s

James Carroll Ellis (BA '70, MA '75) of Johnson City on October 23, 2015. He was a U.S. Navy veteran, an educator, a contractor, and was known for his musical talent. He worked in the Carter County School System and, after retiring, entertained with his musical group "JC and the Boys" in nursing homes throughout the area.

Elizabeth Ward Nash (MA '70) of Lebanon, Virginia, on September 8, 2015. She taught for the Bristol, Virginia, and Tazewell County school systems. In her retirement, she was a devoted grandmother. She was a dedicated Christian.

Roger Dale Norris (BS '70) of the Little Rock Creek Community on May 19, 2015. He was a member of Roan Valley Baptist Church and worked as a salesman for Summit Building Supply in Burnsville, North Carolina. He enjoyed woodworking and making docks.

Richard D. Sammons (BS '70) of Elizabethton on June 16, 2015. He was a CPA for many years as well as President of Sammons Restaurants Incorporated. He served on many local boards in Elizabethton. He earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science.

James Laymon Cress (BS '71) of Mountain City on August 20, 2015. He served in the U.S. Air Force for four years before becoming an accountant and the Town of Mountain City Recorder in 1974.

Dr. Carol Hartman (EDD '71, BA, ED, MA) of Greeneville on October 5, 2015. She was a graduate of Greeneville High School and earned four degrees from ETSU. She was a teacher and principal in the Union, Grainger, Kingsport, and Greeneville City school systems. She was a retired professor from Tusculum College. She had also been affiliated with United Methodist Holston Home for Children. She was a member of Hardin's Chapel United Methodist Church.

Larry Dean Hughes (BS '71) of Sulphur Springs on May 20, 2015. He was a U.S. Army veteran, having served with the 1st Cavalry Airborne Division in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Medal for Heroism. He retired from Bosch in Johnson City and enjoyed farming, hunting, and traveling.

Brenda McQueen Nave (BS '71) of Elizabethton on September 13, 2015. She earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and retired from Keenbug Elementary School in 2000 after 30 years of service as a second-grade teacher. She was a member of the Elizabethton Church of Christ.

Lou Jean Hillman (AS '73) of Kingsport on September 3, 2015. She earned her associate degree in Nursing.

William Hull (MA '72) of Gray on April 20, 2015. He was a member and past elder of Boones Creek Christian Church and co-president of the Joy Sunday School Class. He was also a member of the Washington County Beekeeper's Club and Washington County Cattlemen's Association.

Mary Mae Kyker (MA '72) of Telford on September 12, 2015. She was an English and Spanish teacher and librarian at Baileyton High School and then served in those positions at Washington College Academy, where she was also Assistant to the Dean of Girls. She was listed in the *World's Who's Who of Women* in 1973, *Personalities of the South* in 1975 and 1976, and *Who's Who of American Women* in 1975 and 1976. She loved reading and tracing genealogy. She attended church whenever able and possessed an amazing knowledge of the Bible.

Margaret L. Phillips (MA '72) of Gibson City, Illinois, on September 23, 2015. She received her master's degree in Education and was an elementary school teacher. She served in the Douglas County, Illinois, School District as well as in the Johnson City School System. She married Elwyn Phillips on August 11, 1943.

Phil Allen Street (BS '72) of Johnson City on May 28, 2015. He loved his community and served as a deacon of Central Baptist Church, where he was a member of the William Ridgell Class. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War and was a member of the Veterans Memorial Committee. He graduated from ETSU with a bachelor's degree in Management.

Patricia Carver (BS '73) of Mount Carmel on September 4, 2015. She earned her bachelor's degree in Nursing.

Michael L. Jones (MS '73) on June 5, 2015. He earned a master's degree in Microbiology.

Alice "Jo" Malone (BS '73) of Piney Flats on April 28, 2015. She was a second-grade teacher at Mary Hughes School, retiring after 35 years of service. She loved her family and enjoyed spending time gardening and reading. She earned her bachelor's degree in French.

Clarence Miller (BS '74) of Watauga on August 20, 2015. He was a U.S. Army veteran, having served in Vietnam. He was a member of Lynnwood Christian Church for 15 years and was also a member of the Doorkeepers Quartet. He earned a bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts Education.

Robert W. "Bill" Mottern (BS '75) of Maryville on July 31, 2015. He and his wife were chemists in Oak Ridge as part of the Manhattan Project. Following VJ Day, they began to travel all over the United States, finally settling in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Bill retired from the Sandia National Laboratory in 1990 after 38 years of service. He earned a bachelor's degree in Art.

Mabel Bowen Shipley (MA '75) on May 18, 2015. She earned a master's degree in Instructional Communication.

Rev. Kenneth C. Verran (MA '75) of Greeneville on August 10, 2015. He was a retired U.S. Air Force Chaplain and Paratrooper, 11th A/B Division, U.S. Army, and also served in the 278th National Guard. He retired as a United Methodist minister and was also retired from the Greene County School System. He earned a master's degree in Psychology.

Michael Lawrence Woods III (AS '75) of Johnson City on July 26, 2015. He was a U.S. Army, E-7 retired veteran who served in Germany, Korea, and Vietnam. He also served Carter County, Tennessee, Juvenile Court as the First Youth Service Officer, retiring after 29 years. He earned an associate degree in Law Enforcement.

Pete Zannis (BS '75) of Johnson City on September 18, 2015. While at ETSU, Pete played on the tennis team and won intercollegiate singles and doubles titles. He continued to play after college and won the Southern Hard Court Championships in 1981. He coached at Science Hill High School for 14 years and led the school to five Class AAA team state titles, three doubles titles, and one individual championship. He was inducted into the ETSU Hall of Fame in 1996.

Steven K. Byrd (BS '76) of Atlanta on August 23, 2015. He taught in the Sullivan County School System for several years and opened his own gallery, the Steven K. Byrd Gallery, in Kingsport before moving it to Atlanta in 1991. His work appeared in *Traditional Homes* magazine and won many juried art shows. He earned a bachelor's degree in Art.

Susan Beth Febuary (BS '76) of Elizabethton on July 14, 2015. She retired as an educator from the Carter County School System and had also taught the Pre-School Class at First United Methodist Church. She enjoyed working at her church, Southside Christian Church, and loved spending time with her family and friends. She earned a bachelor's degree in Special Education.

Evelyn Mchacht (BS '76) of Madison, Wisconsin, on August 23, 2015. She was President of the B'nai Shalom Sisterhood, a member of the Board of Directors for the Johnson City Symphony Orchestra, a lay member of the Institutional Review Board of Johnson City Medical Center Hospital, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Title IV Homemaker Program. She earned a bachelor's degree in Social Work.

James Lynn Flannagan (MA '76) of Bristol on May 23, 2015. He earned a master's in Educational Administration.

Elizabeth V. Flick (MA '76) of Crossville on May 7, 2015. She was retired after many years as a real estate broker, having owned and operated Cornerstone Realtors in Crossville. She was also a member of First United Methodist Church.

Donnie (Don) L. Harmon (BS '77) of Johnson City on July 21, 2015. He was a member of First Christian Church of Elizabethton and was a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans. He served in Korea from 1966-69. He concentrated his studies in real estate at ETSU.

Phillip E. Lockhart (BS '77) on April 27, 2015, in Arlington, Texas. He earned a bachelor's degree in Management and was an analyst for Vought Aerospace.

Ernie Dean Marshall (BS '77) of Church Hill on May 30, 2015. He retired from his Parks Manager position with the Tennessee State Parks in 2001 but continued to volunteer on multiple boards to fund and promote new park and trail projects. He earned a bachelor's degree in General Science.

Rebecca Jean Crockett (BS '78) of Teays Valley, West Virginia, on September 21, 2013. She spent most of her career as a high school history teacher at Buffalo High School in Buffalo, West Virginia. She was known as a funny, kind, and sharp-witted woman who loved to serve others.

Peggy Ann Hartley Morrell (BSW '78) on June 23, 2015. She loved to go to Community Baptist Church. She earned a bachelor's degree in Social Work.

Patrick Allen Cox (BS '79) of Kingsport on May 23, 2015. He loved music and was a music teacher and band director at high schools in Virginia as well as at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He played guitar and sang in a bluegrass band, Bushy Mountain Boys, and was also a songwriter. He earned a bachelor's degree in Music.

Patricia Ann Stevens Fleenor (BS '79) of Hiltons, Virginia, on September 2, 2015. She earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

Peggy J. Myers (BS '79) of Greeneville on September 8, 2015. She earned her bachelor's degree in Home Economics.

1980s

Gregory Douglas Morrell (BS '80) of Bristol on April 27, 2015. He was President of the Student Government Association while at ETSU and worked to make the campus barrier-free and accessible to any student with disabilities. He served as Executive Director of the Appalachian Independence Center for over 25 years, where he worked to help persons with disabilities be able to live productive and independent lives and be able to participate in activities in a barrier-free and accessible community. He earned a bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology.

Angaline Hamilton Cummins (BSN '81) of Bristol on July 22, 2015. She was a nurse at Bristol Memorial Hospital for 45 years and played the organ and piano at McIver Memorial Presbyterian Church.

William Holladay Tiller (AS '82) of Bristol on June 9, 2015. He was a Certified Dental Technician and owned his own dental ceramic laboratory for over 25 years. He earned an associate degree in Dental Laboratory Technology.

Kimberly Beth Bailey Fern (BSW '83) of Abingdon on June 28, 2015. Kim was a member of Shady Grove United Methodist Church and was serving as the Senior Intellectual Disability Support Coordinator for Highlands Community Services at the time of her passing. She earned a bachelor's degree in Social Work.

Carl F. Ingram (BS '84) of Gray on July 18, 2015. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran having served in World War II. He was the owner and operator of Carl's Home Supply. Carl earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology.

David Eli Landy (BS '84) of Johnson City on June 18, 2015. He worked as a Rehabilitation Therapist at the VA hospital for 20 years. After his retirement, he went into the Morgan horse business and had a successful vocation and avocation with his horses and "Bar L Ranch" in Johnson City.

John Ward Morton (BS '84) of Cumming, Georgia, on July 13, 2015. He was a key contributor to AT&T where he became Senior Technical Director and was granted five U.S. patents in telecommunications development. He was President of the Tennessee Gamma chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at ETSU. He earned a bachelor's degree in Computer and Information Sciences.

LTC Craig Edward Terry (BS '84) of Bluff City on June 17, 2015. LTC Terry earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology. He served many years in the U.S. Army and was Professor of Military Science at ETSU before retirement. He later served as a Sullivan County Constable.

Arvil C. Vance (BS '84) of St. Petersburg, Florida, on April 3, 2015. Arvil earned a bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts Education and served honorably in the U.S. Air Force.

Duncan I. Street (BBA '85) of Johnson City on September 13, 2015. He was President of the Carter County Bank and was an active member of the community. He had a love for classic Cadillacs, golfing with his son Matthew, and walking in the park with his children.

Zane Branson (BS '86) on July 25, 2015. In the 1970s, he ran on ETSU Coach Dave Walker's teams and helped the Buccaneers win team conference titles and receive three top-10 national team cross country finishes before beginning his career as an agent in the 1990s. He is remembered not only for his athleticism but also for his funny personality and joyful presence.

Edith (Edie) Lakin (EDS '86) of Talbott on March 4, 2014. She retired as Hamblen County Schools Media Supervisor after serving many years as an elementary schoolteacher. She attended Magna View Baptist Church.

Gerald Price (BBA '86) of Knoxville on August 6, 2015. He earned a bachelor's in Accountancy.

Jamie Bull (BS '87) of Corryton on July 16, 2015. She served her country as a Captain and nurse with the U.S. Army before opening her own practice, Family Medical Care, to provide primary care, preventive care, and urgent care for the underserved Corryton community. In addition to her medical practice, she operated Spurs and Stars, a ministry at her horse ranch for underprivileged and troubled children. She earned a bachelor's degree in Nursing.

Wilma Jean Collins (MED '88) of Rogersville on September 8, 2015. Her family says she was saved at the age of eight and later baptized. Her joy was serving the Lord through song, helping in ministry, and playing her favorite guitar.

Mark Kevin Gentry (BS '88) of Chilhowie, Virginia, on June 16, 2015. He was a member of Seven Mile Ford Christian Church and earned a bachelor's degree in Social Science.

Rebecca Dawn Grogg Hilton (MED '88) of Johnson City on September 14, 2015. She spent many years as a Medical Laboratory Assistant.

Caroline Dover Jackson (EDD '89) of Maryville on June 27, 2015. She worked with the ETSU Department of Art from 1979-98 and from 1998-2014 was with the University Advisement Center. She loved working with students and had many accomplishments on campus. She earned her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership.

1990s

Sharon Lynn Hicks (BS '90) of Kingsport on August 25, 2015. She was President and Treasurer of the PTA at Sullivan Elementary and Sullivan Middle schools and received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Sullivan Elementary PTA. She was known for serving the Lord and attended Living Waters Free Will Baptist Church.

Michelle Hope (BSN '92) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 17, 2015. She earned her bachelor's degree in Nursing and worked as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at Park West Hospital for 16 years, bringing comfort and humor to expectant mothers. She was a devoted mother to her two boys and was an amateur photographer.

Jack Wayne Ramsey (BS '95) of Bristol on April 23, 2015. He was a U.S. Army Veteran who retired with 20 years of service with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell. He served in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and received many medals and ribbons. He earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology.

Lowell T. Bryant (BBA '96) of Dandridge on May 26, 2015. He was active in the National Outboard Association where he was the National High Point Champion and set several world records in boat racing. He was an accomplished fisherman and enjoyed the sport with his son.

William S. Ramsey (BBA '98) of Gray on May 12, 2015. He had been with McDonald's for 25 years and was an owner/operator in partnership with his parents. He was working on his doctorate in Education at ETSU.

Deborah L. Webb (BS '98) of Johnson City on September 16, 2015. She earned a bachelor's degree in Social Work. She was also an avid fan of the Dallas Cowboys.

Melody Diane Henry (BGS '99) of Jonesborough on October 3, 2015. She was employed in the ETSU Computer Science Department. She was a member of the Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church in Fall Branch and loved to crochet, sew, read, cook, and spend time with her family.

2000s

Thomas Haynes Chandler (BS '00) of Greeneville on September 5, 2015.

Derrick W. Lowe (MBA '02) of Elizabethton on August 5, 2015. He served as Civil Clerk to the Hon. O. Robert Lidums of the Circuit Court for Cecil County, Maryland. He was an active member of his community, serving on the Board of Directors for Mount Aviat Academy and as a lay Eucharistic minister for St. Augustine Parish.

Christina Michelle Turbyfill (MED '03) of Kingsport on September 6, 2015.

Teri Renea Parker (BS '06) of Greeneville on July 22, 2015. She was a Registered Nurse with Mountain States Health Alliance who touched many lives. She earned a bachelor's degree in Nursing.

Jason Bryan Kennedy (BS '07) of Abingdon on June 22, 2015. He earned a bachelor's degree in Geography.

Nicole M. Yoder (MD '08) of Harrisonburg, Virginia, on May 5, 2015. She loved to serve others and that desire led her to ETSU where she received a Doctor of Medicine degree. She used this degree to serve others in family practice at Roanoke Memorial Hospital and through many trips around the world with Medical Ministries International.

2010s

Kevin Andrew Lyles (Pharm.D '10) of Nashville on June 7, 2015.

Brenda Gail Powers (BS '10) on May 5, 2015, in Telford. She earned a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. She had worked at ETSU since 1991 and held various positions on campus. She retired in 2013 as a Graduate Program Specialist in the School of Graduate Studies.

Debra Broyles (BS '12) of Jonesborough on April 22, 2015. She was Case Manager for Arc of Washington County.

Linn Donald Johnson (BBA '12) of Johnson City on May 28, 2015. He was a loving husband and devoted father who always fought for what he believed in. He loved to play golf and football and was known to have a kind heart, always inspiring and challenging others.

David Aaron Murphy (BS '12) of Johnson City on June 13, 2015. He graduated from Science Hill High School in 1996 and then completed a bachelor's in Psychology at ETSU. He loved his family, nature, hiking, and the spirit of God.

Faculty and Staff

Dr. Thomas P. Copeland on June 22, 2015 in Johnson City. He served as Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at ETSU, retiring in 1983 as Professor Emeritus.



James Gordon Frierson of Johnson City on September 25, 2015. After receiving a degree in law, he practiced law in Jonesboro, Arkansas, with Frierson, Walker, and Snellgrove before starting his teaching career. He taught at Pittsburg State University and then moved to East Tennessee State University where he was a Professor in the Department of Business and Technology's Department of Management and Marketing. He earned the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1977 and the ETSU Foundation Research Award in 1986.



Carson R. Gentry Sr. on September 13, 2015, in Johnson City. He was a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Army and was a prisoner of war for 33 months during the Korean conflict. After his military retirement, he spent 23 years as Purchasing Control Manager at ETSU.



Dr. Robert J. "Jack" Higgs on September 22, 2015, in Johnson City. He taught in the ETSU Department of English for 27 years, retiring in 1994 as Professor Emeritus. He was known internationally as an expert in the literature of sports. He was a prolific author and in great demand as a public speaker.

Dr. William L. Maden on April 29, 2015, in St. Augustine, Florida. He taught at the Quillen College of Medicine as the Psychiatric Residency Training Director. In 1995, he became the Director of Mental Health at the Daytona Beach VA clinic.

Elizabeth Jo Shortridge of Johnson City on May 13, 2015. She retired from the Accounts Payable Department at East Tennessee State University and was an avid ETSU Buc fan. She was of the Presbyterian faith.



Rodney Allen Williams of Johnson City on May 23, 2015. He served in the U.S. Army. He also served in law enforcement for 37 years, including a long tenure with the ETSU Department of Public Safety. At ETSU, he received the Unsung Hero Award and saved at least two lives.



In Memory of Longtime University and Regional Benefactor, James Martin

The ETSU family was saddened to hear of the passing of James C. Martin on Saturday, December 19, 2015.

Martin was a chemist at the Eastman Chemical Division of Eastman Kodak and held numerous patents for his innovations. His late wife, Mary, held a bachelor's

degree in chemistry from ETSU and also worked at Eastman.

The Martins were lifelong supporters of the arts, and in his wife's memory, James Martin established a \$1 million endowment in the ETSU Foundation which led to the creation of the Mary B. Martin School of the Arts in 2009. He followed that with an additional \$3 million in support of the school. Since its founding, the school has fostered collaboration and coordination among the university's various arts programs and brought unique and innovative arts programming to ETSU and the region.

Martin later gave the first contribution toward ETSU's new fine arts facility—a gift of \$3 million. He was an honored guest at a celebration of the arts ceremony in October 2015, when ETSU announced the official site of the arts

facility and recognized Martin for his steadfast determination in seeing the project come to fruition.

The Martins' support of ETSU through the years also benefited the Department of Chemistry, public radio station WETS-FM/HD, and the Reece Museum. In addition, their generosity has enhanced the arts throughout the region, including naming gifts in Mary's memory to the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough and to Milligan College, as well as donations to other arts organizations.

The Tennessee Board of Regents honored the Martins with the Chancellor's and Regents' awards for Excellence in Philanthropy in 2010 and 2013.



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