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Summer 6-1-2019

2019 June - East Tennessee State University Retirees Association Newsletter

Retirees Association, East Tennessee State University

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President's Report

Greetings Fellow Retirees.

The March Eat and Chat at the Golden Corral featured a presentation by Dr. Colin Baxter who discussed his new book "The Secret History of RDX", the most powerful explosive ever developed until nuclear bombs. It was made in Kingsport at Holston Ordnance, during WW II and thereafter. One of its major accomplishments was that it was used to sink the new German battleship, Tirpitz, in a Norwegian fjord during WW II. As a chemist, I found the RDX discussion quite fascinating, and by a quirk of fate, we had just returned from a cruise along the coast of northern Norway (on the Viking Sky which later ran into a major North Atlantic storm), in which we visited the site where the Tirpitz was sunk. Despite being in a room which had no functioning electrical outlets, Dr. Baxter rose to the occasion and gave his talk without the benefit of his Power Point slides! His book is available for sale to anyone interested.

As detailed elsewhere in this Newsletter, on March 21st approximately 12 ETSURA members toured the newly renovated Building 60, the Interprofessional Education and Research Center on the VA campus.

We look forward to our 32nd Annual Summer Luncheon, June 14, in the Food City meeting room on the second level. Dr. Bethany Flora, the new president of Northeast Tennessee State Community College and former Associate Professor in the ETSU Clemmer College of Business will be our featured speaker. Musical entertainment will be provided by Iranian ETSU Bluegrass students performing a mix of Iranian and Bluegrass music. Look for details elsewhere in this Newsletter. Other events scheduled for this summer include the ETSU Move in Day at Governor Hall, August 22, and the September 19, Eat and Chat which will feature Dr. Bob Patton who will be discussing "Politics in Tennessee" which should be very interesting! We are trying a new location for this event, the One Acre Café. See the announcement in this Newsletter for details.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of any or all of these activities and we wish you an enjoyable summer!

Dr. Jeff Wardeska, President

ETSU Alliance for Continued Learning (ACL) to offer 2019 Fall Classes

The Johnson City/ETSU Alliance for Continued Learning (ACL) will offer a wide range of subjects during its fall session which will start Tuesday 9-17-19 and end on Wednesday 10-23-19. For a six-week period classes are held each week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am-noon in the upstairs meeting room (The Depot) of the Food City at 940 N. State of Franklin at Sunset Dr.

To give new members an opportunity to become acquainted with the organization the ACL will welcome all participants at a continental breakfast on Tuesday 9-17-19 at 9:30 am at the Food City where all classes are held. For the opening introductory session, we have asked Dr. Tom Lee, associate professor in the ETSU Dept. of History to speak on Johnson City's Sesquicentennial for the 1st hour and students from ETSU's Music Department to provide special entertainment during the 2nd hour.

This fall semester's courses include a wide range of subjects which were selected by the ACL participants and provide a variety of opportunities to learn something new. Some of this fall's presentations include Dr. Blaine Shubert on the Gray Fossil Site, Mr. David Ramsey on Rocky Fork State Park, Dr. Robert Pack on the Opioid Dilemma, Dr. Randy Wykoff on Health Issues in Appalachia, Dr. Ron Hamdy on Cognitive Dysfunction & Dementias, and several other lectures which one would not want to miss.

Sponsored by the ETSU's Office of Professional Development, the ACL is a member-empowered and member-governed organization with its motto as "Life Long Learning." No educational prerequisites, examinations or grades are involved in the course. Registration is \$45.00. For more information, a fall semester schedule, or to register, please call the ETSU Office of Professional Development at 423-439-8084 or visit and click "Community Groups".

John Hancock



Building 60 Tour photo.



Do you have questions about your Retiree Insurance?

Contact the Benefits

Administration at 800-253-9981
and select Option 2.

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



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



Our Condolences

Mr. Burley Surgill passed away March 4, 2019. He served as a custodian for the Physical Plant.

Mrs. Carolyn Wood, retired Executive Secretary for the President's Office, passed away March 10, 2019.

Dr. Carol Ray Hyder, Associate Dean for the College of Business and Technology, passed away April 5, 2019.

Congratulations To Our Recent Retirees

Mr. Richard Brosmore, Dental Equipment Service Worker, Dental Hygiene

Mrs. Cathy Chapman, Contract Administrator/ Buyer, Procurement and Contract Services

Ms. Donna Cox, Switchboard Operator, Information Technology Comp. Services

Mr. James Mayfield, Maintenance Lead Worker, Custodial Services

Ms. Angela Murray, Credentialing Coordinator, College of Education

Mac Davis ETSURA Scholarship Graduates

Congratulations to our graduating seniors who have received the Mac Davis ETSURA Scholarship. We wish them the best of luck for their future endeavors.

Brooke Hunt Madisonville, TN
Rachel Lawson Fall Branch, TN
Dara Roberts Lake City, TN

Eat and Chat

Eat and Chat (New location)

Sept. 19, 2019 (Thursday) The presentation by Bob Patton that was postponed because of a death in the family has been rescheduled for 11:30 a.m. Sept. 19, 2019 at the **One Acre Cafe** (instead of the Golden Corral). Dr. Patton will be talking about Tennessee Politics based on his years of experience in Nashville as our State Representative. Much of this is detailed in his book *Tennessee Political Fireworks* (Westview Inc., Nashville, 2011, 230 pp.).

The board voted to try a change of venue for a number of reasons: better food, choice of portions, ability to have slide presentations, and interest in supporting the community mission. Meals are offered in small, medium, or large sizes (\$5, \$7, and \$9 suggested donations, respectively). Drinks are included, but desserts are additional. As a charitable organization, there is no sales tax. Instead of tips, you can “pay it forward” to support others less fortunate. The location is 603 W. Walnut, Johnson City, TN, just across from the old General Mills building (soon to be Summers-Taylor offices). There is adequate parking, and the building is ADA accessible. If for some reason this does not work out, we can always go back to the Golden Corral.

Tour of VA Building 60 ETSU’s Interprofessional Education and Research Center

On Mar. 21, about 20 people toured the newly renovated VA building 60 to see the state-of-the-art features of the *Interprofessional Education Center*. The \$13 million renovation was started in Nov. 2016 and completed in late 2018. “Interprofessional” refers to the mingling of people from 5 ETSU colleges, *viz.*, Nursing, Medicine, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences, to work and learn together in a team-oriented environment, much as in real life. The building consists of 3 floors and a basement and was once a quartermaster’s storehouse and later a fire station with horse-drawn wagons.

A group of about 12 started off with lunch at the *One Acre Cafe* with Doug Taylor (Assoc. Dean of Admissions & Records) and Stephanie Cole (Student Affairs). Doug took the group to the VA campus, where the rest were waiting. The tour was led by Richard Campbell, Operations Director of the Center.

At the main entrance (Level 1), Richard pointed out the cafeteria with dining tables, TVs, delicatessen, and white boards for scribbling messages. There were also various offices on that floor. We next went to the basement (Level G) to see the remnants of the cobblestone corridor with horse stalls on each side. There was also a large lecture room with high-tech capabilities.

On Level 2 was a mock apartment for practicing in-home encounters with patients. There were also interview rooms for work with “standardized patients,” *i.e.*, volunteers trained to mimic signs and symptoms of various disorders to give students experience in interviewing. There were also lockers, offices, and mobile iPads that looked like *Segways*.

On Level 3 was the *Human Patient Simulation Laboratory*. We saw several different mannequins, including an adult male, an adolescent male, an African-American male, and a female that could simulate childbirth. Our guide was Andy, a Prince Harry lookalike, who demonstrated the capabilities of each unit. Costs varied from \$90,000 to \$120,000 each, with 3-year warranties. They were hooked up to LED monitors, so that vital signs could be followed under normal conditions and in response to injected drugs or maneuvers. They could also talk (via a wizard behind the curtain) and shed tears. The demonstration of child delivery unfortunately ran into a malfunction, so there was no happy event that afternoon.

In the back room, faculty could observe how students handled each exercise and provide feedback when needed. Speculation was that they used a guidebook called “*Human Patient Simulation for...Dummies*.”

The tour lasted about 2 hours, and everybody felt it was educational and worth the effort. You can take a virtual tour of all floors of the building at www.etsu.edu/ahsc/ipper/360_virtual_tour.php, but you will not see the mannequins.

-Mike
Miyamoto



Eat and Chat Review with Colin Baxter

On April 11, 25 people gathered at the Golden Corral to hear Dr. Colin Baxter discuss his recent book, *The Secret History of RDX: the Super-Explosive That Helped Win World War II* (Univ. Press of Kentucky, 2018). Prior to the advent of the atomic bomb, RDX (Research Department Explosive) was the most powerful explosive known, being 50% more potent than TNT. It was loaded into bombs, aerial depth charges, and torpedoes and is credited with winning the “Battle of the Atlantic.” It was also used as the trigger for the atomic bomb. Today it is still used in C-4 (Composition 4), *Semtex* (plastic explosive), and *Torpex* (underwater ordnance) and for controlled demolition to raze structures.

The chemical in RDX (a nitramide) was first reported in 1898 by a German chemist for its medicinal properties. It was very unstable but was eventually employed as an explosive in WWII by both German and Allied Forces. Use by the Allies was limited by supply problems in the U.K. and Canada, and major U.S. companies regarded RDX as too expensive and volatile to manufacture. In 1941 the NDRC (National Defense Research Committee) called on universities to improve on the method developed at Woolwich Arsenal (U.K.), which stabilized RDX with TNT and beeswax (the result was called Composition B or Comp B). As a result, Bachmann from the Univ. of Michigan came up with a “combination process” to significantly enhance its output.

The NDRC thereupon directed the establishment of 3 pilot plants for trials in mass production. One of these was at Tennessee Eastman Company (TEC), where they devised a continuous-flow procedure that sped up the slow process. This called for construction of the Wexler Bend pilot plant, a little wooden building, hastily built in Kingsport. Chemists selected were the cream of the crop; some were from Rochester, NY (Eastman Kodak), but

most were local. Due to its success, TEC was given the go-ahead to build Holston Ordnance Works (HOW) to mass produce Comp B. About 35% of the workers there were women, who lifted 50 lb. boxes, which by today’s standards would be limited to 25 lb. Health of the workers was constantly monitored by taking blood samples and X-rays and checking the environment. The plant required a lot of

water, which was a major reason for its location on the Holston River. It was probably the largest munitions plant in the world, greater than Y-12 at Oak Ridge, and cost over \$100 million in 1940 dollars. When the program ended about 1949, 5,000 people became unemployed. Col. Sanders of KFC fame is said to have worked in the cafeteria.

In 1962, there was an explosion at HOW (about the time of the U2 spy plane). The plant underwent several name changes (currently Holston Army Ammunition Plant) and got involved with little projects up to the mid 1980s. In 1997 TEC got out of munitions, and operations were taken over by BAE in Kingsport. HMX (high multi-explosive), used in propellants, is now produced at BAE. Baxter said he interviewed about 25 people who worked at HOW. A comment was made that Tennessee has been very instrumental in defense, in both past (RDX at HOW in Kingsport, Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge) and present (Nuclear Fuels Service in Erwin, Aerojet Ordnance in Jonesborough) operations.

Colin Baxter is originally from Harrow, England. He moved to the U.S. and attended Unicoi County High School and then East Tennessee State College. He received his Master’s and Doctoral degrees from the Univ. of Georgia in Athens. He taught history for many years at Furman University before coming to ETSU, where he served as Department Chair before his retirement. He has fond memories and admiration for the late Morton Brown (History) and Jack Higgs (English). He lives in Kingsport with his wife Kamela, whom he met at ETSU. His sterling credentials notwithstanding, he was elevated before his talk to the rank of General, when Jeff Wardeska introduced him as “Dr. Colin Powell.”

-Mike Miyamoto



Bucky's Food Pantry in Need of Food & Sundry

Members of the ETSURA and the university community have an opportunity to donate needed items to the Bucky's Food Pantry. The request for food has doubled this past year. We would especially like to request that our members donate to Bucky's. The Food Pantry is located in the main Central Receiving warehouse by the Buc Ridge Apartment complex, on Treasure Lane. This location also accommodates students to have a bus stop on the gold route.

For information to request food times or make a food donation delivery, send an e-mail to Carolyn Bond, Co-Manager, at cbond@etsura.com. Monetary gifts can be sent to University Advancement, Box 70721, Johnson City, TN 37614. The check should be written to the Bucky's Food Pantry. Additional information about the food pantry can be obtained by visiting their web page at www.buckypantry.com.

According to Ms. Bond, the food and sundry items currently in need include the following:

Food pantry items now depleted:

Crackers
Dry Rice
Dry Beans
Coffee
Creamer
Flour
Mac & Cheese
Granola Bars
Tea
Sugar
Jell-O & Jell-O Pudding
Potatoes
Oil/Shortening
Cereal/Oats
Canned Fruits
Juice
Cake Mixes/Icing
Chips

Food pantry items in short supply:

Peanut Butter
Jelly
Water
Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Meats

Sundry Items now depleted:

Toothbrushes
Mouthwash
Body Wash
Shave Cream
Razors

Sundry Items in short supply:

Shampoo
Conditioner
Deodorant
Toothpaste

Pres. Noland to Volunteer with ETSURA

President Noland to Join ETSURA Members at Second Harvest on May 8

We extend to our ETSURA colleagues a special invitation to volunteer three hours of your time to work with other members of our group, along with Dr. Noland, at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee on **Wednesday morning, May 8, from 9:00-noon**. Please consider marking this date and time on your calendar and joining us for this significant work. (The Food Bank is housed in the old Sam's Club building located at 1020 Jericho Drive in Kingsport, within a quarter of a mile off of Interstate 81 North, airport exit 63.) The scheduled time for our group to volunteer at Second Harvest is the second Wednesday of each month. The work that Second Harvest does cannot be overstated as it strives to provide food for a growing number of children and adults who are experiencing food insecurity in our region. We believe that Dr. Noland's presence will help to bring visibility to this important work and perhaps serve as a catalyst to encourage others to volunteer. We would be honored to see you at Second Harvest on the second Wednesday of each month.

Become a Volunteer at Second Harvest

Every 2nd Wednesday

Second Harvest of Northeast Tennessee

Join other ETSURA members at Second Harvest in Kingsport

Upcoming dates: March 13, 2019

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

Don't have time to volunteer?

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

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

ETSU Buccaneers Move-In Day: Volunteers Needed

Governors Hall

August 22nd, 2019

The ETSU Department of Housing has invited ETSURA to once again assist them in welcoming the new Buccaneers to Governors Hall on Thursday, August 22nd from 7:30 a.m.-12:00 noon. A sign-up sheet is available for those who might wish to volunteer for one or more hours during this time. Volunteers should arrive (lobby of Governors Hall) about 10 minutes prior to their assigned times. More than 400 students are expected to check in throughout the day on the 22nd. Each volunteer will be provided a roster of all students checking in on that day. As students arrived, they will check in alphabetically by last name. The volunteer will highlight the student's name on the roster and provide his/her assigned room number, after which time the volunteer will hand the new resident a packet of information (forms) that the Governors Hall staff has previously prepared. The volunteer will instruct the student to take the forms to their assigned room where a RA will be available to assist them in filling out the forms. When this is completed, the RA will direct the student to take the paperwork back to the front desk where the Governors Hall staff will examine it for completeness.

At this time the student will get their ID encoded. Once this is done, the student can move his/her belongings into the room.

Even though this activity does not require a lot of effort on the part of the volunteer, the Governors Hall coordinator, Robert Minton, says that volunteers play a crucial role in the smoothness of the move-in day and they would not be able to do this without the aid of the volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering on Move-in-Day, please contact Jack Rhoton at rhotonj@etsu.edu or phone 423-967-7000.

Volunteers needed!!



Join now!

Join ETSURA

ETSURA's membership count for the 2019 calendar year is 329. All retired ETSU employees and their spouses, and spouses of deceased ETSU employees are eligible for membership. In addition, other persons employed by ETSU for five years or more who are retired from other institutions or corporations are also eligible for membership with their spouses.

Membership is \$10 per person per calendar year, or

\$100 Lifetime membership, or

\$150 Joint lifetime membership for retirees and spouses

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM ETSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

NAME: (Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____ (Title) _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: (Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____ (Title) _____

ADDRESS: (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

TELEPHONE: (____) ____ - ____ EMAIL: _____

FORMER STATUS WITH ETSU: FACULTY STAFF

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

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

PROGRAM 999; CHART: E

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION FORM

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

NAME OF MEMBER _____ SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: (Street) _____ (City) _____

(State) _____ (Zip) _____ TELEPHONE: (____) ____ - ____

EMAIL: _____

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER: \$100

HUSBAND & WIFE: \$150

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

PROGRAM 999; CHART: E

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

ETSURA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT DONATION FORM

NAME OF MEMBER _____ SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: (Street) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

TELEPHONE: (____) ____ - ____ EMAIL: _____

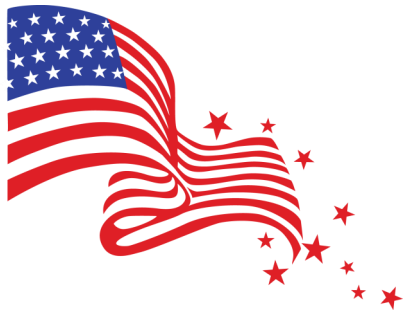
AMOUNT PAID: _____

Memorial To or In Honor Of: _____

PLEASE NOTIFY OF THIS GIFT: _____

Investment Account: Banner 653110/2552/550

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



Food. Fun. Fellowship.

ETSURA Summer Luncheon

You've invited to ETSURA's 32st Annual Summer Luncheon!

Dr. Bethany Flora, new President Northeast State Community College will provide information on the college, new initiatives, and her vision for the future.

Hamed Kolahi and Sasan Ahouvan will play some traditional Iranian music, jazz flamenco, and bluegrass tunes. They will use setar, tambour (both Iranian stringed instruments), and guitar.

When: June 14, 2019, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where: The Depot at Franklin Commons (2nd Floor of Food City)
920 N. State of Franklin, Johnson City

Cost: \$9 per person



All-American Fare

We will celebrate Flag Day with an "All-American Fare," consisting of: choice of All-American Hamburger, Pulled Pork BBQ, or All Beef Hot Dog, and Chicken Tenders, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, Fruit Tray, Cookies, Brownies and Drinks (Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks).

32st Annual ETSURA Summer Luncheon

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____

Number attending: _____

Amount Paid: \$ _____

Make check payable (\$9/person) to ETSU and mail by June 10, 2019 to:
East Tennessee State University, Human Resources, Box 70564, Johnson City, TN 37614-1710

