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Winter 12-1-2020

2020 December - East Tennessee State University Retirees Association Newsletter

Retirees Association, East Tennessee State University

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Retirees Association, East Tennessee State University, "2020 December - East Tennessee State University Retirees Association Newsletter" (2020). *ETSU Retirees Association Newsletters*. 12.
<https://dc.etsu.edu/retirees-association-newsletters/12>

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Happy Holidays

Season's Greetings! It has been an honor for me to serve as your president for these past twelve months. We began the year with anticipation of participating in a full schedule of activities, including Eats and Chats, tours, summer and fall luncheons, volunteer opportunities, and the goal of implementing a new initiative. But this has not been a typical year. COVID-19 derailed our plans to gather in-person for any of the above mentioned events. But in the midst of the pandemic, the ETSURA Board has continued to meet monthly online. A special thanks to board members for their commitment and dedication to the Association. They have worked diligently throughout this process to advance and promote the welfare of ETSURA. I would also like to express my appreciation and thanks to Tisha Harrison, ETSU-ETSURA Board liaison, for the time, effort, and energy she has put into facilitating communications and coordinating activities. Thanks also go to Dr. Dean Blevins, President of TCAT-Elizabethton, for delivering our fall Eat and Chat session virtually; Dr. Randy Wykoff, Dean of the ETSU College of Public Health, for delivering our Annual Fall meeting; and to the ETSU Bluegrass Band for their excellence performance during the Fall zoom gathering (see a summary of Drs. Blevins and Wykoff's talk on pages 8 and 9).

We have all heard many times that 2020 will be a year for the history books. While this is quite true, I believe the history of this year as it pertains to East Tennessee State University will not focus on the fact that we were blindsided by a public health crisis. Instead, our institution will be remembered for its resiliency, its leadership and for extending hope and support throughout the Appalachian Highlands. The 2019-20 Annual Report, released earlier this fall, features many individuals who continued to find opportunities for success and rethink the way ETSU operates in a world surrounded by uncertainty. I invite you to read this digital publication available on the Office of the President website (etsu.edu/president).

I also want to take this opportunity to say thank you to each member of the Retirees Association for your continued support and engagement with our institution and our community. I commend the valuable work many of you contribute each month to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee and other volunteer opportunities. It is an honor to serve at a university where people come first and continue to be a part of our family in retirement.

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The Association continues to be financially sound. The major expense for us this this year has been postage, primarily with the newsletter. We did not have any expenses associated with the summer and fall luncheons. This past year we received \$2,230.00 from membership dues. The board voted to give a \$300 donation to the Bucky's Food Pantry. Our operating budget maintains a balance of approximately \$4,000. As has been reported previously, we have a separate scholarship fund from which the interest is used to support the Mack P. Davis scholarship. We currently have fourteen students who are benefiting from the scholarship, ten returning students and four new students added this year. Beginning last year, each student recipient of the Mack P. Davis scholarship receives \$1,000 to help defray some of the expenses associated with tuition. Students who receive these scholarships routinely express their thanks and appreciation for this liberal support. And we thank our membership for your generous financial support throughout the years.

Election of ETSURA officers and board members for 2021 will need to be considered differently this year. The election process is typically handled during the Fall Annual Brunch/Luncheon meeting. Since we were not able to meet in-person this year, the board has presented a slate of officers and board members on page 5 for your consideration. Closing out this year we had one vacancy on the board and one member, Louis Modica, rotating off the board, leaving two vacancies to fill. The board is proud to nominate Norma Hogan and Charles Moore to complete the slate of candidates for 2021. Both Norma and Charles are eager to serve. Per the information presented on the page 5, please email your response (vote) to Tisha Harrison or mail a hard copy to her. We appreciate your understanding as we deal with a different voting process this time around.

The members of the board look forward to providing an array of excellence programs for 2021.

Jack Rhoton
2020 ETSURA President

Several ETSU employees are in the process of writing their final chapters at ETSU and will soon have the opportunity to join colleagues in retirement. Many of these individuals participated in the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program offered earlier this year as recommended by the Strategic Operations Workgroup. Unfortunately, we were unable to honor our new retirees in the same way many of you were celebrated upon your final days of work at ETSU. There have been no in-person parties, no hugs, and many have returned to mostly empty offices to pack up ETSU memorabilia and personal belongings collected over many years. While these are all the effects of the turbulent year we have encountered, we faced these challenges together as a campus and a community. I hope you will join me in congratulating these individuals. A short video containing the names of those who are retiring through the end of the 2020 is available to watch at <https://bit.ly/33h9FKf>.

The year that we all look forward to moving out of has contained some of the most challenging months of my career, and in modern history for ETSU. Your continued support of our great university reminds me that these challenges are only temporary and together we will continue moving forward and envisioning how we can carry forward our mission to improve the lives of the people of this region. I encourage you to stay engaged with ETSU through social media, our ETSU News website (etsu.edu/etsu-news) and the Retirees Association. In the new year, we will share exciting news about the long-awaited Martin Center for the Arts and the re-launch of our strategic visioning process—Committee for 125, Chapter 2. Thank you for continuing to be a part of the ETSU family.

Godspeed and Go Bucs!

Dr. Brian Noland
President, East Tennessee State University



August Retirees

Dr. Edward Baryla, Chair/Associate Professor, Economics and Finance

Dr. Benjamin Caton, Professor, Music

Dr. Dorothy Drinkard-Hawkshawe, Assistant Professor, History

Mr. M. Wayne Dyer, Professor, Art & Design

Dr. Jeffrey Gold, Assistant Professor, Philosophy & Humanities

Dr. Teresa Haynes, Professor, Mathematics & Statistics

Dr. Karl Joplin, Associate Professor, Biology

Dr. Carolyn King, Associate Professor, Sociology

Mr. Lee Morrow, Assistant Athletic Director (Facility & Game Operations)

Dr. Rebecca Pyles, Associate Professor, Biology

September Retirees

Dr. Thomas Olmsted, Associate Professor, Psychiatry

Dr. David Walters, Professor, Surgery

October Retirees

Ms. Constance Alexander, Office Coordinator, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

Dr. Gordon Anderson, Dean, College of Arts & Science

Mr. Kirk Babcock, Custodian, Custodial Services

Ms. Sandra Benincasa, Coordinator, Allied Health Sciences

Ms. Carolyn Bond, Library Asst. 3, Library Admin.

Ms. Sarah Brennan, Operations Mgr., Family Medicine

Ms. Delores Britt, Custodian, Custodial Services

Ms. Margaret Carr, Office Coordinator, Clemmer College of Education

Mrs. Cathey Carty, Custodian, Custodial Services

Mr. Robert Collette, Electrician, Building Maint.

Mr. Earnest Cornett, MBA Coordinator, Accelerated Masters in Business Adm.

Dr. Maria Costa, Director, International Programs

Mr. Timothy Dills, Advisor, College of Business & Technology

Ms. Pamela Dobbins-Eaton, Patient Care Rep., Family Practice Resid. Bristol

Mrs. Rhesa Dykes, Coordinator, Biomedical Sciences

Ms. Jane Eargle, Office Mgr., Provost VP Academic Affairs

Ms. Lisa Erwin, Executive Aide, Mathematics & Statistics

Ms. Kathy Feagins, Director, Scholarship Office

Mr. John Fleenor, Media Collections Mgr., Achieves Administration

Ms. Cynthia Foley, Custodian, Custodial Services

Ms. Janice Gilbert, Coordinator, Student Services Administration

Ms. Connie Grindstaff, Executive Aide, Graduate School

Ms. Luanne Grindstaff, Information Research Tech 1, Medical Library Administration

Ms. Dorothy Harville, Executive Aide, Sociology

Mr. Carl Herron, Computer Operations Specialist, Information Tech. Computer Services

Mr. Thomas Hill, Maintenance Mechanic Lead Worker, Buc Ridge Maintenance

Mr. Michael Hughes, Custodial Foreman, Custodial Services

Dr. Katherine Kelley, Associate VP Admin. Services, Procurement & Contract Services

Ms. Jacqueline King, Library Asst., Senior, Library Administration

Ms. Michele Lamb, Graduate Program Specialist, Graduate School

Ms. Teresa Lawson, Director, Information Tech. Comp Services

Dr. Christine Loveday, Business Mgr., Psychiatry

Dr. Theresa Lura, Associate Prof/Assist. Dean, Associate Dean Academic Affairs

Mr. Michael Martha, Telecommunications Manager, Telecommunications

Ms. Vickie Martha, Information Research Tech2, Center for Nursing Research

Mrs. Diana McClay, Asst. Vice President, Human Resources

Mr. Sammy McCray, Electrician, Plant Maintenance & Repairs

Ms. Peggy McCurry, Financial Analyst 1, University Advancement

Mrs. Dawn McDaniel, Electronic Technician, Telecommunications

Ms. Nancy Meredith, Executive Aide, Student Services Administration

Mr. Geoffrey Moore, Lead Parking Attendant, Parking Service

Mrs. Jayne Morrell, Director, Procurement & Contract Services

Mrs. Deanna Mroziejewicz, Office Coordinator, Dean office of Honors College

Ms. Amy Murphy, Coordinator, Family Practice Resid Kpt

Ms. Pamela Musselwhite, Patient Health Mgr., Family Practice Resid Bristol

Mr. Lynn Myers, Director of Grant Accounting, Office of Financial Services

Ms. Thelma Neal, Information Research Tech 2, Biomedical Sciences

Mr. John Orr, Lieutenant, Safety Security



Our Condolences



Dr. Lyndell Kerley passed away September 12, 2020, he was a professor of Mathematics in the College of Arts & Sciences .

Dr. George Nilsen, a retired professor of the English Department in the College of Arts & Sciences, passed away October 4, 2020.

Mary L. Grubbs, a retired store clerk from the University Book store passed away October 17, 2020.

Rachel S. Henry, truly loved being an executive aide for the Blue Grass, Old Time, and Country Music. Rachel passed away October 24, 2020.

Bucky's Food Pantry

The mission of the Bucky's Food Pantry is to diminish or end hungry on ETSU campus for students and others who face food insecurity. If you wish to donate, please make check to ETSU and write Bucky's Food Pantry in the check's memo line and mail to: University Advancement, PO Box 70721, Johnson City, TN 37614.



Retirees, continued

Dr. Richard Osborn, Dean, Dean Continuing Studies & Academic Outreach

Mr. Curtis Painter, Custodian, Custodial Services

Ms. Josephine Paty, Associate Athletic Director, Athletic Development

Mr. Billy Paul, Custodian, Custodial Services

Mr. Kenneth Roark, Custodial Supervisor, Custodial Services

Mr. Johnny Roe III, Maintenance Mechanic Lead Worker, Plant Maintenance & Repair

Ms. Susan Rogers, Technical Clerk, Office of Admissions

Ms. Debra Shaw, Assistant Dean, Office of Graduate Medical Education

Ms. Dia Smith, Coordinator, Distance Education

Dr. Marie Tedesco, Prof/Director of MA in Liberal Studies, Degree Programs

Ms. Nancy Tucker, Executive Aide, Online Fee Distance Education

Ms. Brenda Watson, Custodian, Custodial Services

Mr. Tim Whitehead, Library Asst. 3, Library Administration

Mr. Hank Williams, Custodial Foreman, Custodial Services

Ms. Teresa Williams, Director of Advisement, University Advisement

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

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

423-439-6145

Email: harristc@etsu.edu.



Shelbridge Christmas 2018



Election of the ETSURA Officers and Board Members for 2021

Listed below is a slate of officers and board members the East Tennessee State University Retiree Association Board of Directors is presenting to the general membership for 2021. Article V11, Section 1 of the ETSURA By-laws state, "New Board members shall be elected by the membership at the annual meeting." The Bylaws further state, "Officers, as defined in Section 1, Article 111, shall be elected by its membership each year immediately following the annual meeting." (A full view of the Bylaws can be found on the ETSURA web site.)

It has been customary in previous years for a motion at the annual meeting to accept the slate of officers and board members by acclamation followed by a second and a voice vote (aye or opposed). Also, there has been an opportunity to open the floor for other nominations. Due to the COVID pandemic, the Association was unable to hold an in-person annual meeting this year. Therefore, we are requesting ETSURA members to accept or reject the slate of officers and board members as presented. Also you have an opportunity to write in the name for other nominations. Per the ballot below, please email your vote to Tisha Harrison [harristc@mail.etsu.edu] or mail a hard copy of your vote to Tisha Harrison, Office of Human Resources, PO Box 564, Johnson City, TN 37614. Your vote should be received by December 20, 2020.



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

Officers

Dr. Jack Rhoton, President
Dr. Fred Tudiver, President-Elect
Ms. Susan Burkey, Secretary
Ms. Gail Burleson, Treasurer
Dr. Jeff Wardeska, Past President

Panel of 2021

Ms. Susan Burkey
Charles Moore
Norma Hogan
Dr. Fred Tudiver

Panel of 2022

Dr. Chu-Ngi Ho
Dr. Donald Gotterbarn
Dr. Scott Champney
Dr. Cynthia Burnley

Panel of 2023

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

Committees

Executive Committee:

Membership Committee: Cynthia Burnley, Chair
Communications Committee: David Kalwinsky, Chair
Finance Committee: Gail Burleson, Chair
Program Committee: Fred Tudiver, Chair
University/ Community Service Committee:
Jack Rhoton, Chair
Liaison Committee: Dr. Priscilla Ramsey, (Faculty Senate Report)

I vote to approve the ETSURA slate of officers and board members as presented

I do not approve

My write in nomination _____

Meeting the Challenges of Teaching in 2020

The calendar year 2020 has been one of the most innovative and exciting years I have experienced in teaching. The ETSU community is blessed to have administrators and faculty that acted and adapted quickly to the pandemic environment, and they have spent years in preparing large segments of our academic departments with the skills and tools needed to address the challenge of the sudden shift to online delivery.

I completed the year-long training ETSU offered in Faculty Technology Leadership in 2010-11, and it still positively impacts my teaching as well as the dozens of others who have completed this faculty course. Led by Mr. Anthony Kiech, staff members in his office have always provided answers when faculty ask for help. On September 28, 2020, the ETSU Faculty Senate *unanimously* passed a resolution "In Thanks to Information Technology Services and Academic Technology Services" for all their efforts that have allowed us to be successful.

Additionally, ETSU is home to the Center of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Education (CEMSE). This partnership between the Clemmer College and the College of Arts & Sciences has provided extensive leadership in training faculty members from both colleges. Notably, CEMSE Assistant Director Dr. Chih Che Tai's extensive projects have focused on digital learning and thinking for the past few years. This work has focused on preparing elementary and secondary teachers in the schools and has provided many faculty members in multiple colleges a great head start in the transition to online delivery.

This semester I have experimented with what we call "On Ground with Remote Options." The first month of classes, I taught my students exclusively via Zoom from Warf-Pickel Hall during our scheduled class times. However, many of my students were expressing concern about their learning and spending hours and hours each day fixed to a screen. Following the university's protocols for being on-campus, I offered my students to join Zoom from the classroom in which I was teaching. The first week, 2 of my students (out of a total of 60) joined our class from the classroom where I taught. After a 3-hour session, I

realized that my in-person students needed to sit in line with my webcam. In the following weeks, I required students to sit directly in front of my view of my primary webcam (the student nearest to me was at least 12 feet away). While most students still join remotely, I am able to log into my Zoom session on 4 computers and utilizing 5 webcams. Two computers are in my office and the other two are in the classroom, which allows me to physically move to my different computers to visit my breakout rooms of students.

For asynchronous online courses (that is, courses that have weekly requirements but not set meeting times), ETSU has a rigorous process to approve these for online delivery. I have designed 2 of these courses and currently teach one this semester. Even with the online delivery through the D2L platform, I frequently meet with students in my office and, thanks to ETSU's resources, am able to meet with them online in a Zoom environment or face-to-face in my office. Our robust system of asynchronous online courses has been enhanced during 2020.

We professors at ETSU are exploring new frontiers of teaching as we work remotely. Our transition to online instruction is providing the next generation of educational innovation and we have been able to do that without shutting down. Overall, our students are very well supported and they are provided a chance to continue their education. As this pandemic comes to an eventual close, ETSU will be an educational institution stronger than ever due to the efforts of its people.

Ryan Andrew Nivens
Professor, Curriculum & Instruction
Clemmer College of Education



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

Christmas a la coronavirus

To say that Christmas will be different this year is to state the obvious. First a sense of loss sets in. We can't be with our two daughters in Massachusetts and Georgia and the six grandchildren. Dear friends are isolated, and our old friend who always enjoyed the marmalade I brought him at Christmas has died of the coronavirus. Loss on many fronts.

But all is not lost. Our son is a nurse working at the prison in Mountain City, so we can see him, albeit briefly and at a social distance. While Brooke and I will have Christmas dinner for two, our family has always said the Christmas leftovers are really the best part of the feast. Think turkey sandwiches, turkey soup, pecan pie, minced meat pie, etc. We will fix a generous care package of turkey, stuffing, creamed onions, pie, and other goodies for our son and his girlfriend.

Several old friends are in assisted living facilities where they are truly isolated even from each other. They might enjoy some cherry jam from the Stanley orchard. Good buys are also available these days in blooming plants such as paper whites and amaryllis.

What about Christmas cards and presents? I buy Christmas cards on sale each year to use the next year, so I am in good shape there. Another appealing option is Jackie Lawson Ecards available on the internet. For a very low price you can send as many as you wish.

As for presents, the internet is a great resource for those of us trying to stay out of stores as much as we can. How about shopping your own home? A young cousin got married recently; I sent her one of her great-grandmother's silver serving spoons. My niece Helen graduated from Rice University virtually in June. My family draws names for Christmas gifts, and I drew Helen. I am sending her a favorite vase made by an ETSU art student which I bought at the students' sale of their work several years ago. I suspect both the heirloom spoon and the lovely vase are nicer than anything I could have bought in haste whirring around the stores in the Christmas rush.

In a time when so many in our community are out of work, and we see pictures of long lines of cars snaking around food bank parking lots, surely the many charities and churches that help the needy among us should be at the top of our gift giving list. The need is all around us.

Will we miss seeing our youngest grandson Orrin bound down the steps from his bedroom to the living room and dive into his stocking? Of course we will, and many other cherished family traditions as well, but as the poet Tennyson tells us, "Though much is taken, much abides." I plan to make a nice hot cup of tea on Christmas Eve afternoon and tune into our public radio station's broadcast of the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols from Kings College Chapel, Cambridge. I can see the little boy with the clear treble voice walking steadily down the length of that vast dark nave carrying a flickering candle and leading the choir behind him singing, "Once in Royal David's City." Yes, much abides.

Isabel B. Stanley

"Home" to Holiday Orphans

Beginning in 1965 our home became a "home" to holiday orphans on Christmas Eve. My mother had returned to teaching and a colleague, Dot, lost her husband in November. Dot and her 13 and 15-year-old sons were invited to come to dinner with our family. Another family friend, Wanda, whose husband was playing Santa for underprivileged children was invited too. That Christmas a tradition was born. That tradition has sustained for 55 years.

We eat, laugh, eat some more. We play games until late in the night and families have to go home to prepare for Santa's visit.

Dot and her son Charlie attended until Dot's death. Her son Mac moved to Atlanta. Charlie brings his cousin Jacqueline now. Charlie's son Trey came until he moved to Colorado.

Wanda and her son Kent came until Kent was grown. Wanda brings her sister Janice now.

There are people who are always there on Christmas Eve and others who come and go depending on holiday travel plans. Three years ago we moved the celebration from my mother's home to my daughter's so we would move while my mother was still with us and could be a guest instead of a host. A new tradition was born for my daughter's family when they took over hosting Christmas dinner for her husband's extended family since the house was decorated, extra seating available, and plenty of holiday desserts left over.

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September Eat and Chat

Dr. Dean Blevins, President, Tennessee College of Applied Technology at Elizabethton (TCAP), was our speaker for the September 24th Eat and Chat program. This session was delivered via a WebEx format. He emphasized the Tennessee Focus Act of 2016 and the implications this legislation had on higher education in Tennessee. He said that this legislation incorporated independent governing boards to oversee each of the state's six public universities, which ultimately report to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC). The Act allows for the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) to have jurisdiction over the state's 13 community colleges and 27 technical colleges. Rather than TBR coordinating the 46 total institutions, the FOCUS Act redistributed this responsibility by allowing TBR to have a greater focus on Community colleges and technical schools. This change is the primary vehicles of former Governor Bill Haslam's Drive to 55 initiative, with the objective of having 55 percent of the citizens of the state with completed collegiate education or training by 2025.

President Blevins said that TCAP was the premier provider for workforce development in the five counties it serves: Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington. His description of the array of programs offered by TCAP was truly impressive. The College offers 17 major programs with numerous certificates subsets offered within each program. Instructors work closely with students, individually and in small groups. Students spend six hours a day with the instructor five days a week. This close association between the instructor and student allows the instructor to "hold the student's hand," while nurturing the student through the learning process. Under Blevins leadership Stracker Research named the TCAP as the best College in Tennessee in May of 2019. Dr. Blevins expressed pride in the College being one of only five regional training centers in the nation for training and delivering nationally recognized industry certifications. The college recently created the first ever Kubota Diesel Certified Technician program in the nation, which is training technicians for Kubota. Dr. Blevins stated that TCAP this past year had a 94 percent on-time, debt-free completion rate and a 93 percent placement rate in related jobs for its graduates and a 98 percent licensure pass rate.

Dr. Blevins mentioned two future campus expansions for TCAP Elizabethton. The vacated K-8 Boones Creek Elementary School campus is being made available to the college by Washington County. Training emphasis for the Boones Creek campus will be on construction trade technology, heavy equipment technician (operation and repair), hospitality, and early childhood education. He said that other nationally recognized certification partners are joining TCAP Elizabethton. Some of these partners will include the following: Fab Lab, Trane, Dremel, Greenlee, and Kubota. A second expansion is being planned in Bristol. Dr. Blevins met with a benefactor in Bristol last year who wants to build a \$30 million extension campus in the industrial park located in Bristol, TN. Programs currently offered on the Elizabethton campus would be delivered and made available in the Bristol and Sullivan county area. A unique aspect of this new addition will allow for a continuum of education at all levels involving TCAP, Northeast State Community College, and East Tennessee State University.

Jack Rhoton

"Home" to Holiday Orphans, continued

Our family has grown. My mother had 3 children, 10 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. It's been a few years since all of the family was in attendance, but last Christmas Eve there were 38 "regulars" and at least a dozen more in attendance, some of whom we met for the first time Christmas Eve. We are not sure what 12/24/20 will look like for us. Mother died in July. Ten of the "regulars" are over 65 and one recovering from cancer.

Our current plans are to ask everyone to be extremely vigilant during the month of December and come to Christmas Eve as normal if feeling well and willing. For the first time we will ask anyone who is bringing a new holiday orphan to check with us first. We are faced with the decision to remain open to those who need a place to be and belong as my mother intended or put self over others and limit to close family.

We will have more seating than we typically do so we can distance. We will stagger arrivals and departures so we can still eat, drink, and be merry. We are cautious, but also recognize that we need our traditions more than ever during this season of our lives. Wishing everyone the gift of family, friends, and health!

Virginia Foley

November Annual Meeting Speaker

Dr. Randy Wykoff, Dean of the ETSU College of Public Health, was the guest speaker at the first virtual ETSURA Annual Fall Brunch/Luncheon on November 6th. The title of his talk was “COVID-19: Its First Year.” The talk was very informative and provided an excellent overview of the current status of the COVID-19 virus. The talk provided basic information about the COVID-19 disease, what we have learned in the past year about the virus, and what that indicates about how to control it. The talk was followed by a discussion about vaccines and who will decide on their distribution. What are the possibilities that the vaccine will only provide short term protection and, like the flu vaccine, require annual injections?

The talk was given on the one year anniversary of the first human case of COVID-19. Randy showed how the fact that it is such an easy spreader makes it more deadly than many other diseases. He stressed that it is NOT the common flu but is 5 times more deadly than the flu. He also pointed out potential long-term damage to the lungs and heart of those who “survive” the virus. It was disturbing to see some of the animated slides showing how it spread uncontrolled throughout the world.

He showed a map indicating how it spread from major population centers and is now most dangerous in rural areas. Although it has spread originally in major population centers, it has now spread into rural communities. He indicated that the current spread chart from the last two weeks looks like an electoral map with most infection in the red states.

One of the things he stressed is that we are still learning new things about the virus, and we have to follow that new information. A significant question arising from the behavior of the virus is that after some control the virus is re-emerging in Europe raising questions about whether this is due to a viral mutation or that once having the disease does not provide long-term immunity.

He spoke about ways to address the spread of the virus indicating problems with the “herd immunity” approach requiring a minimum of 1.3 million deaths in the US with many survivors who would experience diminished health. This approach would also put an “unbearable burden on

the health care system.” He also discussed some of the problems with developing a vaccine and proving its safety with small clinical trials.

He said the bottom line is at present the best we can do is to change our behavior to prevent its spread. So we need to understand how it spreads and follow all the changing discoveries about it. This was an effective argument to follow the admonitions to social distance, wear masks, and avoid crowds. This is important for everyone, especially since most of those who are infectious do not know they are infected and can harm others. Any reopening needs to take all of this into consideration, be supported by contact tracing, and be ready to change when new information becomes available

After the talk, Randy addressed some interesting questions from the audience. “What advice would you give to whoever is inaugurated in January?” He indicated that he hopes the response to the virus will no longer be a political issue but that there will be a bi-partisan plan to follow the science which will lead to “encouraging people to practice what we now know:” wearing masks, developing rapid tests, and managing virus hotspots quickly. This was followed by some discussion of concerns about a vaccine. “If there are multiple vaccines, how do we know which is more effective? How effective will different vaccines be on different populations/demographics? And who will determine which populations are the first to get the vaccine? It was good to hear a competent scientist give such a clear presentation on this critical subject. (A link to Dr. Wykoff’s talk is being made available to ETSURA members who were unable to join the zoom meeting.)

Don Gotterbarn

Do you have questions about your Retiree Insurance?

Contact the Benefits Administration
and select Option 2.

Hours 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday,
Central Time
800-253-9981





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

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(Your check will be your receipt)

ETSURA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT DONATION FORM

NAME OF MEMBER _____ SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: (Street) _____

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

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AMOUNT PAID: _____

Memorial To or In Honor Of: _____

PLEASE NOTIFY OF THIS GIFT: _____

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