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Spring 3-1-2021

2021 March - East Tennessee State University Retirees Association Newsletter

Retirees Association, East Tennessee State University

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ETSURA President Report

Dear Fellow Retirees,

It seems we are beginning to see a glimmer of light at the end of the COVID tunnel. We all are looking forward to returning to some semblance of normalcy. In spite of this past year's challenges, we recognize that challenges bring about opportunities. We are looking forward to better days ahead.

It may be a fair assumption to say that most of our ETSURA members by now have received one or both doses of the COVID vaccine. Even though this will provide increased confidence to gradually reengage in day-to-day activities, medical experts continue to warn us to practice safety guidelines after receiving the vaccine. One big unknown is the impact of new variants of the virus.

Our goal is to return to in-person meetings as soon as it is safe to do so. However, the earliest resumption of our normal in-person activities will likely be later on in the year. Our plans are to gather in person for the Annual/Fall meeting, scheduled November 5. For this gathering, we will be meeting in the ballroom of the newly renovated Culp Center.

Unless the COVID landscape changes, our plans now are to host the Annual/Summer Luncheon and Eat and Chat sessions via a zoom format. A pause has been put on our planned tours until September. However, we will be able to resume our volunteer work at Second Harvest within the next month or so.

(Please see page 2 for ETSURA scheduled activities for 2021.)

Even in the midst of the challenges of 2020, the board continues to look for innovative ways to serve our membership. As we endeavor to deepen our connection to the University community, we value your thoughts and suggestions for future programs and activities. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to ETSURA.

Jack Rhoton
President ETSURA 2021



Bucky's Food Pantry

Donations can be made to the Bucky's Food Pantry. The mission of the Bucky's Food Pantry is to diminish or end hunger 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.

Scheduled Programs for 2021

Date and Time	Event	Speaker	Topic
February 25, (11:30-12:30) via Zoom	Eat and Chat	David Ramsey, author of the "Rocky Fork Hidden Jewel of the Blue Ridge Wild,"	ROCKY FORK Discovering a Tennessee Mountain Treasure
April 21 st , (11:30-12:30) via Zoom	Eat and Chat	Dr. Blaine Schubert, Professor and Director of the Center of Excellence in Paleontology	The Evolution and Paleobiology of Short-faced Bears
June 11, (11:30-1:00) via Zoom	Summer Luncheon	Todd Barber, Senior Propulsion Engineer, Jet Propulsion Laboratory	Mars Expedition
September 9, (11:30-12:30) In person	Eat and Chat, location to TBD	Dr. Keith Johnson , Chair/ Professor College of Business/Technology, VP Equity & Inclusion	Equity & Inclusion at ETSU
November 5, (11:00-1:30) In person	Fall/Annual Luncheon, Culp Ballroom	Dr. Robert Pack, Professor of Community and Behavioral Health	University-Community Collaboration to Address Substance Use Disorder in our Region.

Dr. Blaine Schubert to Speak, via Zoom

Wednesday, April 21st Eat and Chat, 11:30

Dr. Schubert is a vertebrate paleontologist at East Tennessee State University. There he serves as the Executive Director of the Center of Excellence in Paleontology, which oversees the Gray Fossil Site & Museum. He is also Professor in the Department of Geosciences where he teaches courses in paleontology and museology. Dr. Schubert's research focuses on late Cenozoic amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. Recent areas of concentration include the paleobiology of short-faced bears, Pleistocene extinctions, and cave paleontology.

Dr. Schubert's talk is titled "The Evolution and Paleobiology of Short-faced Bears." This presentation will cover many topics, with an overview of the early Pliocene Gray Fossil Site, a unique and unusual forested ecosystem preserved in an ancient sinkhole in northeastern Tennessee. In addition to

looking at this site, we will track the evolution and paleoecology of short-faced bears, from Gray, TN, to Argentina, and from Saltville, Virginia, to underwater caves of the Yucatán. Join us as we venture through museum collections, swamps, caves, and time.



Blaine Schubert

December Retirees

Dr. Fred Alsop, Biology, Professor
Dr. Gary Burkette, Accountancy Professor
Dr. Bruce Dalton, Social Work, Professor
Dr. Joseph Disque, Counseling & Human Services,
Professor
Dr. Edward Dwyer, Curriculum & Instruction,
Professor
Dr. James Fox, Educational Foundations & Spec Ed,
Professor
Dr. Aimee Govett, Quillen Chair Education, Chair of
Excellence/Professor
Dr. Victor Hopson, Dental Hygiene, Associate
Professor
Dr. Patricia King, Physical Therapy, Chair/Professor
Dr. Warren Mackara, Economics & Finance,
Associate Professor
Dr. Richard Manahan, Accountancy, Professor
Mr. Michael Marks, Mathematics & Statistics,
Assistant Professor
Dr. Kenneth Silver, Environmental Health,
Associate Professor
Dr. Michael Small, Management & Marketing,
Professor
Dr. Jean Stead, Management & Marketing, Professor
Dr. Mahmoud Yasin, Management & Marketing,
Professor

January Retirees

Ms. Sonya Batchelder, Computing, Exec. Aide
Mr. William Clements, Trio Outreach, Advisor
Ms. Mary Cradic, Office of President, Office Manager
Mr. Brian Evanshen, Environmental Health, Research
Specialist
Mr. Richard Felts, Power House Operations, Boiler
Mechanic Lead Worker
Dr. Kenneth Ferslew, Biomedical Sciences, Professor
Dr. David Ginn, Internal Medicine, Professor
Dr. John Kalbfleisch, Assoc. Dean Academic Affairs,
Professor
Dr. Lori Marks, Educational Foundations and Special
Ed, Chair/Professor
Mr. Harold McInturff, Power House Operations,
Boiler Mechanic Lead Worker
Ms. Francine Miller, Academic Programs Student
Services, Advisor
Mrs. Linda Raines, Nursing-Office of Student
Services – Recruiter
Dr. Mitchell Robinson, Biomedical Sciences,
Professor
Mr. Phillip Shirley, Power House Operations,
Boiler Operator 2

Mrs. Carolyn Sliger, College of Medicine Rural
Programs, Rural Programs Coordinator
Mr. Andrew Stevens, Plant Maintenance & Repairs,
Plumbing Shop Supervisor
Dr. William Stone, Pediatrics, Professor
Dr. Patricia Vanhook, Office of Practice, Professor/
Associate Dean
Ms. Jane Waddell, Tax & Revenue Services, Bursar
Dr. Ahmad Wattad, Pediatrics, Professor
Dr. Deling Yin, Internal Medicine, Professor

February Retirees

Ms. Anne Sparkman, Res Imp Comm Outreach,
WIOA Career Specialist



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

**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.

ETSURA Officers 2021

Congratulations to our newly elected officers and board members. For the first time, the slate of ETSURA officers and board members were approved by electronic voting. The officers are Jack Rhoton, president; Fred Tudiver, president-elect; Susan Burkey, secretary; Gail Burleson, treasurer; and Jeff Wardeska, past president. ETSURA Board of Directors meet at 3:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month currently by Zoom. No board meeting is scheduled for June, July & December.

Panel of 2021

Susan Burkey
Charles Moore
Norma Hogan
Fred Tudiver

Panel of 2022

Chu-Ngi Ho
Donald Gotterbarn
Scott Champney
Cynthia Burnley

Panel of 2023

Gail Burleson
Jack Rhoton
Bonny Stanley
Jeff Wardeska

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)

Our Condolences

Carolyn Gillespie Swartz passed away September 3, 2020, she worked in Human Resources for 32 years.

Dr. Richard Blaustein, died November 3, 2020, he was a professor in Sociology.

Ms. Patricia Barnett, Library Assistant 3, Sherrod Library, passed away December 1, 2020.

Mr. William Blevins, Facilities Management, passed away December 10, 2020.

Ms. Mary R. Christensen, Photo Offset Machine Operator, University Press, passed away December 19, 2020.

Dr. F. Forrest Lang, Professor of Family Medicine, died December 20, 2020.

Ms. Lena Andrews, passed away December 24, 2020, she was a Custodial Lead Worker for the Physical Plant.

Dr. James C. Pleasant, Computer & Information Technology Professor, died January 3, 2021.

Ms. Alice Bennett passed away January 4, 2021, she was the Business Manager for OB GYN.

Mr. Nelson Hall, died January 14, 2021, he was a Secretary for the College of Education.

Dr. James “Jack” Mooney, Professor of Communications, passed away February 8, 2021.

Ms. Pam J. Reising, an avid Buccaneer fan for more than 25 years passed away February 8, 2021.

News From Around Campus

As I do my daily walk around campus, I am reminded how much it has changed since my arrival in 1990. The Culp Center has been renovated once again, and if our plans for the Annual Meeting is a go for a face-to face meeting in November, you will have a chance to see something quite spectacular. As Jack has announced, we hope to have that meeting held there in the ballroom with catering by the current university food service. Plans are still iffy but stay hopeful.

In addition, there is a new plaza under construction which extends from the Culp Center to Jack Vest Drive. I've included a photo taken from the Culp Center outdoor dining area for a good view of the plaza in progress. We are getting closer to achieving a safe walking campus at last. I keep hoping that the plaza will be extended all the way to the football stadium. Many of us remember the days when walking through campus was hazardous as drivers were maneuvering their cars while looking for the best parking spot.

I miss the hustle and bustle of students this fall and spring, and whether or not students will be back in class by fall 2021 is still undecided. Of course, the COVID-19 virus statistics will be the determining factor, but the declining numbers of infections and deaths statewide are good indications that fall enrollment will be back to normal.

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



I am still representing the ETSURA on Faculty Senate. Two new dean searches are underway for the Colleges of Nursing and Arts and Sciences. Also, there is a search for a new Provost as Dr. Wilsie Bishop is retiring. The new James C. and Mary B. Martin Center for the Arts is complete and currently in use for student classes. Dr. Anita DeAngelis, the major energy and drive behind this “Dream Come True”, is retiring, but we have been promised tours in the near future. We will let you know. ETSU has a new police chief, Mr. Cesar Gracia, a 27 year veteran of law enforcement and a graduate of ETSU. His main focus is on community policing and he has sent forth his officers to meet and greet around campus. Last, Dr. Virginia Foley has been elected by Faculty Senate to serve on the ETSU Board of Trustees and reports that a new major in occupational therapy has been approved.

See you all soon.

Dr. Priscilla Ramsey



(Trying to) Live in 2 Countries in the Time of COVID-19

All our family members were born and raised in Canada, but we (myself and my spouse Judy) moved to the US in 1998 to take up a post at SUNY Upstate. Eventually we ended up in East Tennessee and have happily been here ever since.

However, the next generation of our family including two dear young grandsons have stayed in Ontario, Canada. And, as the saying goes, “blood is (a lot) thicker than water”. So, for 20 years, we have been going back and forth to Canada to be with family and some dear friends we left behind in 1998. We keep Tennessee as our principal residence, but have gradually increased our time in Canada over the years, especially since our 2016 retirement and the birth of those precious boys.

Crossing the border into Canada has been easy as we hold dual passports. Just a hello and a wave to the border crossing agents and we’re done. We always got a warm welcome into either country.

Not so since March, 2020.

Everything changed. At first it was more questions, but it quickly accelerated to asking about medical symptoms, temp checks, and a lot more detail of the purpose of our trip. And 14-day quarantines. If we had not held dual citizenship and passports we likely would not have been allowed into Canada for the past year. And I must confess that growing with your grandkids by Facetime is just not the same!

The second to last change in the summer, 2020 was to up the ante on the 2-week quarantines. This included daily check-ins, online or by phone.

They required a full run down of symptoms, plus ensuring we did not leave the quarantine property, etc., etc. And fines up to \$75,000 even if we got caught off our property! Thankfully our property is a “roomy” 20-acre rural site north of Kingston, Ontario and a 4 hours’ drive from our young family. But very rural. This meant “importing” 2 full weeks of groceries into Canada each time. Each time we cross the border I now fear we will be arrested for smuggling food! It is amazing what two retirees can eat in 2 weeks!

The call-ins and restrictions were tedious, but worth it, of course.

Then the 3rd wave hit.

More restrictions. On top of all the above, we now have to get Covid-19 testing three times each trip! One within 72 hours before crossing the border. A second one is taken as we cross the border. And a third test at the end of quarantine. Pray that none of them is positive. At least we have had our two vaccinations.

This now requires as much planning as the trip itself!

But grandbabies....Yup, still very much worth it. The anxieties of them not knowing us reign supreme!

We are not sure what else Canada customs can throw at us, but we’ll keep you informed!

Fred Tudiver



Mr. Barber is a JPL senior propulsion engineer, wrapping up two decades as lead propulsion engineer on the Cassini mission to Saturn, following part-time work on the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) mission, Deep Impact mission, and the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) mission, which landed the large rover Curiosity on the red planet on August 5, 2012. Cassini was launched on October 15, 1997 on its two-billion-mile, seven-year journey to the ringed planet. It “took the plunge” into Saturn’s atmosphere in 2017 after thirteen years in orbit around Saturn. The MER team

launched twin rovers to the red planet in June and July of 2003, and Spirit and Opportunity lasted six years and fourteen years, respectively, into their three-month missions. Todd also worked as the lead impactor propulsion engineer on Deep Impact, which successfully crashed into Comet Tempel-1 on Independence Day, 2005, at twenty-three-thousand miles per hour. Todd recently completed working on the Dawn mission, an ion propulsion mission to the two largest main-belt asteroids, Vesta and Ceres. He also recently began supporting the Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) mission and the Mars2020 project. Much to Todd’s delight, he is now supporting the Voyager mission as well, more than forty years after launch.

Mr. Barber worked on the Galileo project for over seven years and his primary responsibility was getting Galileo into Jupiter orbit on December 7, 1995. Todd also worked part-time on the Space Infra-Red Telescope Facility (SIRTF) mission and on the Stardust mission, as well as the Mars Sample Return mission and a Mars airplane study. Todd received NASA's Exceptional Achievement Award in 1996 for his work on Galileo. In 2018, Mr. Barber was also honored to receive NASA’s Exceptional Public Service Medal for heading up Cassini’s propulsion team for nearly two decades.

Mr. Barber is a native of Wichita, Kansas, and attended MIT between 1984 and 1990, obtaining B.S. and M.S. degrees in aerospace engineering, with a humanities concentration in music. He is also a composer of church choral music, with two pieces published to date. His hobbies include singing charitably and professionally, playing the piano, snagging degree confluences (exact integer latitude/longitude intersections), visiting all the U.S. tri-state corners and national parks, playing basketball (though it’s been a while), and amateur astronomy.



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:
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ETSURA, Human Resources
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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.

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ADDRESS: (Street) _____ (City) _____

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

EMAIL: _____

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER: \$100

HUSBAND & WIFE: \$150

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PROGRAM 999; CHART: E

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