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Fall 9-1-2021

2021 September - East Tennessee State University Retirees Association Newsletter

Retirees Association, East Tennessee State University

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ETSURA President's Report

Dear Fellow Retirees:

Following almost two years without any ETSURA in-person meetings, we are looking forward to having face-to-face gatherings. With the recent uptick in COVID cases due to the Delta variant, we are mindful of the need, going forward, to exercise caution and stay abreast of the recommendations from health officials. Depending on the situation, the format of future events is subject to change.

As of now, however, our goal is to hold in-person meetings for the remainder of activities scheduled this year. These include a tour of the Martin Center of the Arts building on Thursday, September 2, from 10:00--noon; Eat and Chat session on September 9th, from 11:30-1:30 p.m. at the One Acre Café; and our Annual/Brunch Luncheon, scheduled on Friday, November 5, from 11:30-2:00 p.m. in the Ballroom of the newly renovated Culp Student Center. Mask will be required except when eating and, where possible, social distance protocols are encouraged.

Even in the absence of past face-to-face gatherings, the ETSURA Board continues to work on your behalf, meeting monthly for board meetings via zoom. We have also held two zoom sessions for our membership: one in the spring with David Ramsey, who gave an overview and history of the Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park; and one this summer with Todd Barber, who provided a presentation on the rovers on Mars, with a focus on rover Curiosity. Both sessions were interesting and informative.

We are always looking for suggestions and ideas from you regarding upcoming events. If you have recommendations for future topics, speakers, activities or tours, please let us hear from you.

Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to Eastman Credit Union (ECU) for their continued support of ETSURA. This sponsorship makes it possible for the Association to defray expenses associated with many of our activities, including mailing the newsletter and annual meetings. Their support is very important to our Association and does not go unnoticed.

Jack Rhoton, President
ETSURA 2021

Reflections from new Provost and Senior Vice President for Academics at ETSU

As I near the completion of my first two months as a member of the East Tennessee State University community, I welcome the opportunity to reflect on my journey so far. I was honored to be invited by President Noland to step into the role of Provost and Senior Vice President for Academics. I benefited from spending time with Dr. Wilsie Bishop during my transition. Dr. Bishop's grace and wisdom helped me as I joined the team and began planning for the fall semester. I knew that I was joining ETSU at an exciting time in its history. Just a couple of weeks after my arrival this summer I attended the first official in-person event at the beautiful new Martin Center, which was a white coat ceremony for the Quillen College of Medicine Class of 2025. On the following day there was a white coat ceremony for the class of 2024 which had been postponed last year because of the pandemic. As a new provost I appreciated the opportunity to participate in these significant events for our students in the Martin Center, a place that represents the vision and dedication of the ETSU community and will have lasting positive impact on the region. In addition to the College of Medicine events we also hosted the Gatton College of Pharmacy White Coat ceremonies and the College of Nursing commencement. Celebrating the success of students in these programs was a highlight of my first month here.

My favorite time of the academic year has always been the beginning of the fall semester, and this year was more excit-



Kimberly D. McCorkle, J.D.

ing than usual as I had the chance to experience the start of the new year here at my new campus. As part of the ETSU tradition in the week before classes resumed, we hosted the Faculty Convocation at the Martin Center and the world-class ETSU Bluegrass Band performed and stole the show.

Reflections , continued

The theme of convocation was “Stepping Forward Together,” which was intended to capture the campus spirit and to welcome students, faculty, and staff back as we return to mostly in-person teaching and learning this year. We celebrated recent faculty emeritus appointments, as well as those faculty who achieved distinction in teaching, research, and service.

While the start of the Fall 2021 semester has been different than we anticipated, I have been impressed by how well the campus community has adapted and embraced the opportunity to return. With the rising health concerns related to the Delta variant, the university issued a mask mandate weeks before classes began in accordance with guidance from medical experts and began campaigns to encourage and incentivize vaccinations. We wanted to bring the campus back together as safely as possible, so we knew these steps had to be taken. We have watched the campus return and it has been heartening to observe. As I have walked around this beautiful campus, I have observed smiles, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of community. I am proud to be at ETSU and know that we continue to play a vital role in helping to improve lives in our region and contributing to the societal good.

Over the course of this year as we continue to keep people first and focus on safety, we will also move forward with important initiatives like continuing the strategic visioning process in Chapter 125 Part 2, developing new state-of-the-art academic spaces that will serve the needs of students into the future, and expanding educational opportunities for students that will contribute to their future success. It is a wonderful time to be at ETSU and I look forward to the days ahead of us.

Kimberly D. McCorkle, J.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academics

Panel of 2021

Panel of 2022

Panel of 2023

ETSURA Officers 2021

Susan Burkey
Charles Moore
Norma Hogan
Fred Tudiver

Chu-Ngi Ho
Donald Gotterbarn
Scott Champney
Cynthia Burnley

Gail Burluson
Jack Rhoton
Bonny Stanley
Jeff Wardeska

Executive Committee:

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

Date and Time	Event	Speaker	Topic
September 3,(10:00)	Martin Center	Guided Tour with ETSURA	
September 9, (11:30-12:30) In person Canceled	Eat and Chat, One Acre Cafe	Dr. Keith Johnson , Chair/ Professor College of Busi- ness/Technology, VP Equity & Inclusion	Equity & Inclusion at ETSU
November 5, (11:00-1:30) In person Decision for in person or not to be made soon.	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.

The Unexpected Joys of Retirement by Norma Hogan

When I planned my full retirement for May, 2019, I expected what many people expect—more opportunity to travel, more time with grandchildren, maybe some interesting volunteer activities in the community, and more time to pursue hobbies like cooking, gardening, and reading. I knew I was not going to be bored or have trouble finding interesting stuff to do. I certainly didn't expect that the Pandemic of 2020 would put three of my four planned activities on hold for over a year. However, during the past two years, I have discovered some unexpected joys in retirement.

Unexpected Joy #1: Dramatic improvement in sleep: My periodic bouts of insomnia have diminished in frequency and severity. Insomniacs will tell you that the pressure of knowing you need to get some sleep makes sleep impossible. Lying there dreading the alarm and knowing you have an eight o'clock meeting or class is stressful and so is functioning the next day (or two or three days) on inadequate sleep.

For the first time, except for a few long vacations, I have been able to let my body decide when to go to sleep and when to wake. It turns out that, when I get enough sleep on a regular, sustained basis and don't worry about crashing if I need to, I fall into a fairly regular pattern. Now, if I do have difficulty sleeping, I know that I have more flexibility to deal with it.

Unexpected Joy #2: Discovering the pleasures of the mid-week world: Retired people are free to roam around Monday through Friday while most other folks are at work. This means that banking and other business, shopping, doctor's appointments and recreation are easier and more enjoyable. Lines are shorter and appointment times are more flexible away from peak times. The Virginia Creeper Trail is much more fun to bicycle on Tuesday than on Saturday; more camping sites are available, and highways less congested during the week. Taking your car for an oil change is quicker and easier on Wednesday morning. Especially since the pandemic lockdown began to ease, weekdays also are better for social distancing.

Unexpected Joy #3: Time to learn how much of a valued hobby is enough: Retirement gives enough leisure to pursue hobbies fully, even to the point of satiation. I have finally had enough time to learn how much gardening I want to do. After a lifetime of longing for a bigger garden and more time to dig in the dirt, I have learned my limits. I've learned I want to make only enough pickles for family. I no longer feel obligated to can, freeze, pickle, jell, or dry everything I grow. I can even cut back some. I've learned how much digging my back and knees can tolerate. I no longer begrudge the possums their strawberries. (I do wish they'd eat the whole berry instead of just taking a big bite.)

Unexpected Joy #4: Time to slow down and observe: Retirement has given me time to observe seemingly trivial things that turn out to be interesting. I have come to appreciate my cat better. I've always known she had a distinct personality, and we have been buddies for fourteen years. Now that I'm home more, I've become more aware of the rhythms of her daily life and the intelligence she brings to it. I've also spent time sitting by the creek, watching patterns in the flow of water and discovering shadows that turn out to be tiny crawfish so pale they are almost transparent.

Not everything is so joyous: After expressing all these unexpected joys I can't pretend that things are perfect. Retirement is not happily ever after, and aging is a damn nuisance. Nonetheless, my core health is good; life is a blessing, and I have been able to travel, see grandchildren, and do a little volunteer service in 2021.



We thank Eastman Credit Union for their generous donation and for always supporting our activities.

Alliance for Continued Learning by Dr. Scott Champney

Due to increasing concerns about Covid19 infections, the Alliance for Continued Learning will not meet this Fall. We hope to resume the program in the Spring of 2022.

Scott Champney

A Review of the Zoom Summer Luncheon by Charles Moore

I suppose it is easy to overlook those things that now happen often. Space science and launches are beginning to happen often enough that we certainly do not pay attention to them like we did in the old days. Until something goes wrong.

Todd Barber, from the Jet Propulsion Lab, Pasadena, Calif., has been on the ground floor for many of the missions to Mars. (The names and achievements of the rover missions gets confusing). Like all good achievements, the rovers on Mars are a culmination of decades of science, testing, and hope. Even if the first flights to Mars were in the 1970s just realizing that it could be done was almost more the magical moment.

For our sake of keeping track, Todd Barber talked mostly about Curiosity which landed before the Perseverance rover famous for ferrying the drone copter Ingenuity.

In 50 years since the first attempt to examine Mars, we've seen some great discoveries and a few disasters. The failure record is sort of like one flight-too short, one flight too-long, and one flight-too fast. There's not a whole lot of room for error or the opportunity to take another lap or circle the airport.

The missions to Mars are partly pure exploration and partly mythical curiosity. The many years of the canals of Mars have given rise to the hope of resources that would allow habitation. The environment is so inhospitable is part of challenge. One of the reasons the Curiosity rover landed in the Gale Crater is this depression of several miles that would be more likely to have underground water than other places at "sea level." But also it is an exploration for the basic building block chemicals of life as we know it, of the timescale of water and oxygen, and the effects of radiation. Living in a canyon might be a good thing but the effects of weather and climate are unknown.

Todd Barber also credits our good fortune in learning so much of Mars to the incredible long life of the rover equipment. The Spirit rover launched in 2003 had a six-year run. Its co-worker Opportunity lasted 14 years.

The landing zone is about 12x12 miles across and three miles below sea-level. Landing on the steep walls of the crater would have destroyed the lander.

I tried to imagine trying to land at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, remotely from millions of miles away. Curiosity weighed in at 1,982 pounds and was powered by a nuclear battery. It won't race like a Tesla. And don't let the idea of nuclear battery necessarily impress you. It puts out enough juice for a 100-watt lightbulb. That allows the rover a top speed of an exciting 2-inches per second. Because the time delay makes driving difficult, more design is in Curiosity's ability to drive itself. Although, it takes a "Martian" driver's license to sit at the controls. An interesting note was that females make better drivers than males if only because they have more patience. The soil surface varies from hard rock to sand and so far it's been difficult to always avoid the sand.

And then there is Martian time. Mars and Earth are out of sync for day/night time as we know it. You maintain one clock at Martian local time, one clock Earth local time (for the sake of us Earthlings running this thing), and Universal time that coordinates efforts around Earth.

The trip to Mars takes 8-9 months and the two planets are not at all lined up until about the last step. None of this is easy! And in case they run into a rock wall, or Martians, there really is a Martian Death Ray that is designed to powder rock for analysis.

Twenty-one folks signed up this very interesting program. On behalf of the board of ETSURA we'd like to thank the folks that attended and wish them well. And we'd like to thank Tisha Harrison for coordination at the ETSU Space Command Center in Dossett Hall. And we'd like to thank Todd Barber for sharing his time and effort and wonder achievements. Good luck to him.

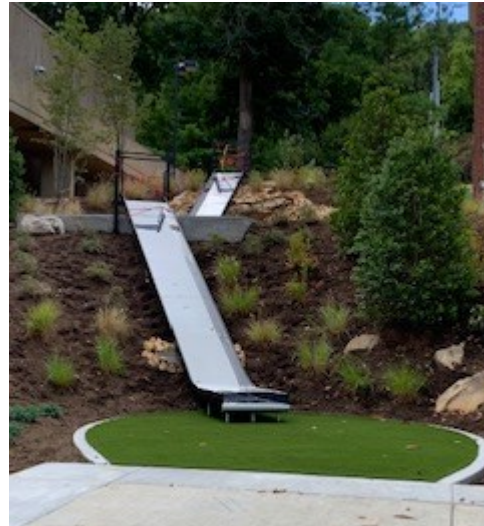
Its finally finished! After a long summer of construction, the famous Noland's Canyon is ready for use. Noland's Canyon is a giant slide so that students can slide down the hill instead of taking the stairs. It is located between the Culp Center and the dorms (see pictures). As I have observed its completion during my summer walks around campus, it has been fun watching as crews of workers had to remove giant rocks and old pine trees. Thank you Hampton Construction.

Seriously, some non-football Saturday or Sunday, take a walk around the new University Commons (formerly the parking area and street in front of Lamb Hall) and see the fun things students can do to relax and enjoy games of basketball, shuffle board, horse shoes, and a putting green. I have not seen any progress on the proposed candy and soft serve ice cream shop to be located on the bottom corner of Carter Hall, but President Noland has assured me it will be ready soon.

Dr. Noland spoke before Faculty Senate at our annual Fall Retreat. He stated that enrollment is down about 300 students but expects that to increase in the next couple of weeks with late admissions. The budget is balanced, he said, thanks in part to CARES funding which also provides \$500 stipends to all students who qualify. He had to rescind the required mask mandate while on campus due to Governor Lee's saying otherwise, but masks and Covid-19 vaccinations will be available and strongly recommended. Of concern is the 30 custodian vacancies, and even outside agency workers are not available. Hopefully that will change soon. Finally, 55% of classes will return to the classroom, and Dr. Noland says he does not expect a return of all online classes like last year. For many faculty and students, this was good news.

On a bright note, renovation of Lamb Hall has begun, and funding has been approved for the Center Building (old student center and early medical school), the Humanities building, and Brown Hall. Start dates have not been announced, but its something to look forward to. There has also been a lot of activity in the Minidome, and I am told that renovations are taking place to meet fire codes. As many of us can remember, half the Minidome seating had to be closed off because of fire code violations. Look for a new and more functional Minidome in the future.

Last, we had a chance to meet Dr. Kimberly McCorkle who is our new provost replacing Dr. Wilsie Bishop. She is very enthusiastic to be here from South Dakota, an she has been busy learning her way around campus meeting faculty, students, and staff. We will miss Wilsie, but after 43 years of service, she certainly deserves a long and happy retirement. We all wish her well.



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.

Congratulations to Retirees

May Retirees

Ms. Anita De'Angelis, Associate Dean/Professor/Director, College of Arts & Sciences

Mrs. Sarah Dickeson, Custodian, Custodial Services

Dr. Joseph Florence, Professor, Family Medicine

Mr. Joshua Ragan, Patient Care Specialist, Academic Support Kingsport

June Retirees

Dr. Andrew Battista, Associate Professor, Political Science, International Affairs, Public Administration

Ms. Valerie Bodell, Information Research Tech 1, Degree Programs

Dr. William Duncan, Vice Provost for Research, Office of Sponsored Programs

Dr. Gail Kase, Associate Professor, Psychiatry

Dr. Cecilia McIntosh, Professor, Biology

Dr. James Myers, Professor, Internal Medicine

Mr. Herbert Parker, Professor, Theatre and Dance

Mr. Randall Sanders, Director, Reece Museum

Ms. Celia Szarejko, Professor, Library Administration

Dr. Larry White, Chair/Professor, Chair of Banking

July Retirees

Dr. Charles Collins, Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr. Joseph Florence, Professor, Family Medicine

Dr. Kenneth Hall, Professor, Literature and Language

Mr. Thomas Horan, Lecturer, Engineering, Engineer Tech, Surveying

Ms. Debra Marsh, Technical Clerk, ETSU at Kingsport

Ms. Annalisa Mills, Director, Experiential Programs

Mr. David Mueller, Assistant Director, Campus Recreation

Dr. Kerry Proctor-Williams, Professor, Audiology and Speech - Language Pathology

Mr. Jeffrey Reed, Telecommunications, Network Administrator

Ms. Lola Yates, Clinical Instructor, Curriculum and Instruction

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: harrisc@etsu.edu.

Our Condolences

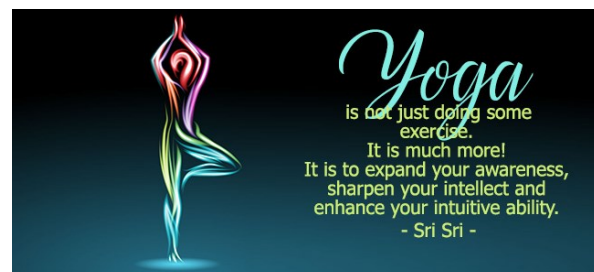
Dr. MeLinda Lucas, passed away June 1, 2021, Professor of Pediatrics, Quillen College of Medicine.

Mr. Jerry Shuttle, died July 11, 2021, Associate Professor, Sherrod Library.

Mr. Jackie Rhea, passed away July 18, 21, Locksmith Supervisor in Facilities Management.

Second Harvest Food Bank and Volunteer Opportunities by Dr. Jack Rhoton

During the second Wednesday of each month, from 8:00 a.m. to noon, members of ETSURA are invited to volunteer a few hours at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee. The work is very enjoyable and plays an important role in getting food out to a growing number of children and adults who are experiencing food insecurity in our region. In addition, this is an opportunity to come together, in person, and interact with our retired colleagues. The Food Bank is housed in the old Sam's Club building located at 1020 Jericho Drive in Kingsport, off of Interstate 81 North, airport exit 63. Upon arrival, please drive all the way around to the back of the building and enter the door at the loading dock. We look forward to seeing you there on September 8, anytime between 8:00 and noon.



Peggy Cantrell will be teaching three yoga classes through the CPA Group Fitness program this fall semester. She was hoping this might be an opportunity for folks to try yoga with an instructor who is a fellow ETSURA member.

She will be leading a "sunrise" yoga practice every Tuesday morning at 7:00-7:45am via Zoom, and in-person practices at the CPA on Wednesday and Thursday evenings 5:30-6:30pm. The in-person sessions have participant limits due to COVID-19 protocols, and participants must register on the CPA Group Fitness Web Page or at the CPA. Registration is open 24 hours prior to and right up until session time. If anyone is interested or has questions, I can be reached at cantrell@etsu.edu.

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/PARTNERS 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/PARTNER NAME _____

ADDRESS: (Street) _____ (City) _____

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

EMAIL: _____

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER: \$100

MEMBER & SPOUSE/PARTNER: \$150

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

PROGRAM 999; CHART: E

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ETSURA, Human Resources
Box 70564
Johnson City, TN 37614-1707
(Your check will be your receipt)

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

TELEPHONE: (____) ____ - ____ EMAIL: _____

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Memorial To or In Honor Of: _____

PLEASE NOTIFY OF THIS GIFT: _____

Investment Account: Banner 653110/2552/550

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