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Fall 9-2020

2020 September - East Tennessee State University Retirees **Association Newsletter**

Retirees Association, East Tennessee State University

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VOL.33, ISSUE 3 SEPTEMBER 2020

President's Report

Dear Fellow Retirees.

I have been thinking about what a post COVID world might look like. The longer the virus is with us, the greater the strain in envisioning how the future might look different from the present. But with each obstacle that comes our way, we see new opportunities and innovations to deal with the challenge. Will the changes and innovations ushered in by the virus become habits and routines we will want to keep for how we live and do business in a post pandemic world?

The virus has had an overwhelming impact on higher education and our local school systems. It has affected the vast majority of students, not only locally, but also throughout the country and around the world. On-line learning has surged. As students return to campus this fall in a hybrid, fully virtual, or in-person format, life will be drastically different for them. School administrators have struggled to find the right options for safely bringing students back to the classroom. Even though the delivery and pedagogical aspects of virtual learning have improved, most of us would agree this delivery system falls short of offering students the rich experiences they would normally receive with in-person education. This format doesn't allow for the nuances of interacting and sharing life experiences with other students, discussions and participating in debates, and active, hands-on learning in the laboratories. Will virtual learning become the new normal for students? Will some of the new instructional and administrative habits of teachers and school officials, which have been inspired by the virus, become behaviors carried over after the virus is conquered?

We can ask similar questions about the impact COVID-19 is having on other sectors of our economy. And will the changes brought about by the virus become permanent fixtures in the future? Will the normalization of remote work become a reality? We have seen a significant increase in on-line grocery shopping. Will this method of grocery shopping become the new normal? Will there be permanent adjustments in our decisions about transportation and traveling? I find it an interesting exercise to imagine what other changes will take hold in the future as a result of this virus. Perhaps you can envision other ways life will be different when this pandemic is

something from the past. The changes will hopefully be for the good.

We are all looking forward to when this virus is history. Fortunately, science is offering us reasons to be optimistic about getting a vaccine against the virus. It is reassuring to know that animal studies have shown immune responses that appear linked to protection. The good news is that many of these studies have entered human clinical trials. Many researchers are of the opinion that a vaccine will eventually become available. We are anxiously awaiting for this to happen as well. And we are anticipating the time when we can meet in-person for our scheduled association activities. But until we have a vaccine, we all need to do our part to keep the coronavirus in check. It may sound like a broken record, but science reminds us to wash our hands, wear a mask, and maintain social distancing.

> Dr. Jack Rhoton ETSURA President 2020

Looking Ahead...

Dr. Dean Blevins, President Tennessee College of Applied Technology, Elizabethton, will be hosting the September 24 Eat & Chat via a zoom presentation. Dr. Randy Wykoff, Dean, College of Public Health and Director of the ETSU Center of Rural Health, who was scheduled to be our Summer Luncheon speaker, will also meet with us via a zoom format on November 6. An invitation on how to register for each of these sessions will be sent via e-mail one week prior to the event.

We have vacancies on the ETSURA Board. We hope you will consider serving on the Board. This is a wonderful way to help our association. We meet monthly, on campus, for one hour on the last Tuesday of the month from 3:30-4:30. However, we do not meet during June, July, and December. The Board meetings are held on the third floor of Dossett Hall, School of Graduate Studies Board Room.

In the midst of this pandemic disruption, the Board has been working diligently on your behalf. We hope you will stay in touch with the association. It is important that we have your current email address and phone number so that you can receive ETSURA communications. You can provide this information by contacting Tisha Harrison, Board Liaison, at harristc@etsu.edu or phone 423-439-6145.

Congratulations To Our Recent Retirees

May Retirees

Mr. Gary Bishop, Director, Facilities Mgmt. Operations

Ms. Mitzi Douglas, Assistant Director of Payroll Mrs. Betty Proffitt, Executive Aide, Education Leadership Policy Analysis

June Retirees

Dr. Larry Calhoun, Special Assistant to President, Dean College of Pharmacy

Dr. Benjamin Caton, Professor, Music

Dr. Dorothy Drinkard-Hawkshawe, Professor, History

Dr. M. Dyer, Professor, Art & Design

Dr. Jeffrey Gold, Assistant Professor, Philosophy & Humanities

Dr. Teresa Haynes, Professor, Mathematics & Statistics

Mrs. Marsha Hyder, Custodian, Custodial Services

Dr. Karl Joplin, Associate Professor, Biology

Dr. Carolyn King, Associate Professor, Sociology

Mr. Joel Kress, Maintenance Lead Worker, Plant Maintenance & Repairs

Ms. Doris Lowe, Director, Procurement & Contract Services

Ms. Elizabeth McConnell, Information Research Tech 2, Office of Financial Services

Dr. Rebecca Pyles, Associate Professor, Biology Ms. Karen Sullivan, Executive Aide, Physics &

Astronomy

Mrs. Nancy Williams, Custodial Foreman, Custodial Services

July Retirees

Dr. Mason Bailey, Professor, Computing

Dr. Andrew Czuchry, Chair of Excellence/

Professor, AFG Chair

LTC Shawn Dodge Chair/Pro

LTC Shawn Dodge, Chair/Professor, Military Science

Dr. Douglas Dotterweich, Professor, Economics & Finance

Dr. Richard Feit, Professor, Assoc. Dean Academic Affairs

July Retirees, continued...

Dr. Deborah Harley-McClaskey, Associate

Professor, Counseling & Human Services

Ms. Deborah Hosler, Senior Lecturer,

Mathematics & Statistics

Dr. Gregory Love, Lecturer, Chemistry

Dr. Allan Spritzer, Chair of Excellence/

Professor, Harris Chair

Ms. Colleen Trenwith, Senior Lecturer,

Appalachian Studies

Dr. David Walters, Professor, Surgery

Mr. Joseph Webb, Postal Services Coordinator,

Postal Services



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

Our Condolences

Mr. James Arley Allen, passed away June 25, 2020, he served as a custodian in Facilities.

Dr. James C. Mills passed away January 7, 2020. See the Obituary requested to be included by the family.

Margaret L. Brown, died March 27, 2020, she worked as a secretary in the President's Office.

Jean S. Copeland, died March 29, 2020, she worked in the Business Office.

Elaine Gerace, passed away May 3, 2020, she was a teacher a University School for more than 25 years.

Dr. Kenneth O. Hasson, died May 21, 2020. Dr. Hasson taught geology for 25 years.

Dr. John Allen Rider, II, died August 22, 2020. Dr. Rider was a professor in the College of Business.

Dr. Mack P. Davis Scholarship

Dear Friends,

Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Dr. Mack P. Davis ETSU Retirees Association Scholarship. I am beyond grateful for your generosity and it has really helped me out financially. To inform you a little bit about myself, I am from Columbia, TN (also known as the Mule Capital of the World). I went to a small private Christian School called Zion Christian Academy, where I was involved in volleyball, softball, tennis, and theatre. I am excited to be moving to Johnson City and continue my education. I will be a junior and I am pursing a bachelors degree in Business Administration. With this degree, I hope to learn about marketing and management, to help with being a realtor and hopefully one day I can own my own business or flip houses. Thank you again,

Sincerely, Maddy McNeece

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2020

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2022

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

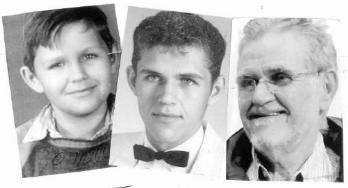
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Do you have questions about your Retiree Insurance?

Contact the Benefits Administration and select Option 2.

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



J. Mills

COLORING GUTSIDE THE LINES GOOD GRIEF! ... WITH MORE HEALTH ISSUES YHAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT, I FINISHED MY EARTH JOURNEY ON TANUARY ON THE CONTRARY TO WHAT SOME MAY BELIEVE, I DID NOT DIE ON PURPOSE TO AVOID THE IRS, THE MAFIA, OR OLD GIRL FRIENDS. KNOWN AROUND THESE PARTS AS "JAY" (OR DR. MILLS), I WAS ALWAYS PARTIAL TO "J.C.", MY BOYHOOD NAME. I WAS BORNIN A W. VA COAL CAMP TO PARENTS WHO COULD NOT READ OR WRITE WHEN I WAS 8 YEARS OLD, ON CHRISTMAS DAY, MY GRANDMA BARKER SAID: "J.C., PUT YOUR STUFF IN THIS POKE. YOU CAN GO HOME WITH ME." THE REST OF MY YOUTH WAS SPENT IN VINTON, VA WHERE THE ONLY BOOK IN THE HOUSE WAS AN OLD, DUSTY, UNREAD BIBLE. SCHOOL WAS YOUGH! I FLUNKED SECOND GRADE. IN HIGH SCHOOL, I GRADUATED NEXT TO LAST AND WAS VOTED "CLASS CLOWN". GRANDPA BARKER USED TO TELL ME I WAS TOO HARD-HEADED TO EVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING. AND THEN THERE WAS MY HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR WHO LAUGHED OUT LOUD WHEN I SAID: "I'VE BEEN STUDYIN' ON IT A RITE SMART, AND I'M A GOOD MIND TO GO TO COLLEGE!" SHE THOUGHT I WAS A MORON. IT MADE ME HOPIN' MAD. I TOLD MY BEST FRIEND: "YOU KNOW, A DIAMOND AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A LUMP OF COAL THAT GOT HARD. I'M SPIRITUAL GUIN' to GO TO COLLEGE!" アス AFTER HIGH SCHOOL I SERVED SHORT HITCHES IN THE ARMY AND THE MARINE CORPS... UNTIL I FIGURED OUT THAT I DIDN'T MUCH CARE FOR BEING BOSSED AROUND. LOOKIN' BACK ON IT, I SHOULD HAVE JOINED THE PEACE CORPS INSTEAD. DESPITE MY HARDSCRABBLE BACKGROUND, I EARNED DEGREES FROM SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE, BEREA COLLEGE, OBERLIN COLLEGE AND KANSAS UNIV. FOR SOME 30 ODD YEARS I PRETENDED TO BE AN ART PROFESSOR AT EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY. ETSUWAS LIKE A BIG DEPARTMENT STORE AND I GOT TO WORK PLAY IN THE TOY DEPT. A STUDENT WROTE ON A TEACHER EVALUATION FORM: "THE WORST THING ABOUT DR. MILLS' CLASS WAS THAT HE WANDERED OFF SUBSECT A LOT ... ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BEST THING ABOUT DR. MILLS' CLASS WAS THAT HE WANDERED OFF SUBSECT & LOT" THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS I REGRET ... BUT MOST OF ALL, I REGRET THE TIMES I LET OTHERS DEFINE ME AS A PERSON, A YEACHER, AND AS AN ARTIST. I WISH I WOULD HAVE HAD THE COURAGE TO SAY: "NO THANK YOU. I CAN CHEW MY OWN FOOD! THE TALES TOLD HERE ARE MOSTLY TRUE. A WHOLE BUNCH OF STUFF WAS LEFT OUT TO PROTECT SOME OF MY CRONIES. A FINAL

REQUEST ... TRY TO LEAVE MY FAVORITE PLANET A LITTLE BIT

MY SURVIVORS INCLUDE A SON JASON MIlls, DAUGHTER MEGAN Mills HERNDON AND GRANDAUGHTER ROWAN MILLS. I HOPE

THEY WILL ALWAYS CHOOSE TO DANCE WITH THE RHYTHMS OF THIS MARVELOUS, MAGICAL, MYSTERIOUS THING CALLED LIFE.

BETTER OFF THAN YOU FOUND IT. AMEN - SOBEIT-

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Observing Nature

Observations During COVID Times

A hole recently appeared in our front yard this summer. About 8 inches in diameter and 10 inches deep, dirt was scattered over a radius of a couple of feet and claw marks were evident on the sides of the hole indicating some critter had been at work. I dutifully refilled the hole, only to find it dug out again the next morning. After three such iterations, I decided to leave the hole alone; something really wanted it there!

Our house is bounded on two sides by forest, and even though we're close to town, we are blessed with an abundance of wildlife. This is a good year for squirrels, and we regularly see deer (goodbye rhododendron), rabbits, groundhogs, raccoons, and an occasional whiff of skunk, although, no encounters of the first kind, so far, with it. We have seen one lone turkey, an itinerant coyote, a red fox and we have been the god parents of two litters of red foxes, beautiful animals, and a very occasional black bear. An abandoned house in the woods behind us is home to two turkey vultures who like to sit on the roof at dusk giving an Alfred Hitchcock ambiance to the scene.

One memorable event several years ago involved a black bear who was interested in our bird feeder. I have a series of photos from a motion sensitive camera showing the bear approaching the feeder, sitting and looking at it and the final frame shows the feeder flat on the ground. (Squirrels steal food from the feeder, raccoons tear it apart, and bears demolish it.) It has withstood a lot!

In a time when time seems plentiful, watching nature is one of my favorite activities, and I heartily recommend it! Nature is truly fascinating and taking the time to observe nature is both rewarding (most of the time) and fun. Fortunately, we have a dog who likes to take her time on our walks, doing her own observing by sniffing (there seem to be a lot of interesting smells around) allowing a lot of time to observe.

Someday, maybe I will try filling that hole one more time! Stay safe.

Dr. Jeff Wardeska

- 1. Keep to a routine
- 2. Make a weekly to do list .You don't have to complete everything but stick with it. You have time.
- 3. Plan your grocery store trips. Early hours, mid-week with mask and wipes.
- 4. Call your relatives and friends. Do FaceTime or Zoom. Don't wait until Christmas.
- 5. Sit on your porch, socially distanced from your grandchildren. Everyone has a rocker. Time to chat.
- 6. Read a book a week. As we get older, we often forget what we've already read. It's ok...read it again.
- 7. Talk to your neighbor across the back fence.
- 8. Manage cabin fever. Try a day trip over Roan Mountain then through Mitchell County. No reason to get out of your car. Just sightseeing.
- 9. Learn to do exercises around your house. You don't need a gym. Garden if you can.
- 10. Why did we take Purell and Lysol wipes for granted? Who has bought all the Dial liquid soap? Will Ingles ever again stock napkins?
- 11. Judiciously listen to the news. Much is hyped. 24 hour news can drive you batty.
- 12. Church by Zoom is not too bad. While services can be a bit remote, I still sing along with the hymns (on mute). Sunday School with break-out sessions and zoomed church coffee hour work quite well for me.
- 13. Yes masks can be uncomfortable and warm. My glasses periodically fog. Nonetheless, why is it so hard to get everyone to help protect their neighbor?
- 14. How can high schools or colleges play football next month if most safe classroom learning is remote or with maximal social distancing?
- 15. Our economy will change. Brick and mortar retail will decrease as generations now shop online. What were Sears executives thinking of when they dropped their catalogue? They could have stayed a retail juggernaut with an online catalogue and efficient home delivery. Yes... I have Amazon prime and the UPS guy knows my house.
- 16. Keep a positive attitude. Don't sweat the small stuff.

ETSURA—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 scheduled for June, July, and December.

September: Board Meeting September 29, 2020 3:30 p.m. Room 309 Burgin Dossett Hall Board Nominations

Eat and Chat, 11:30 a.m., September 24th, One Acre Café, Speaker: *Dr. Dean Blevins*—President, Tennessee College of Applied Technology, Elizabethton. (Confirmed) (**Presented as a Zoom Session**)

September Newsletter, Volume 33, Issue 3

October: Board Meeting October 27, 2020 3:30 p.m. Room 309 Burgin Dossett Hall

WETS-FM Fall Fundraiser, Date TBD

<u>Tour</u>: Friday, October 16, 2 p.m., Tour of Northeast State Community College Technical Education Complex. (Canceled)

November: Board Meeting November 24, 2020 3:30 p.m. Room 309 Burgin Dossett Hall

Annual Brunch/Luncheon Dr. Randy Wykoff, Dean, College of Public Health and Director of the ETSU Center of Rural Health, who was scheduled to be our Summer Luncheon speaker, will also meet with us via a zoom format on November 6. . (The title of Dr. Wykoff's talk will be (Rethinking Health: What Makes TN Less Healthy than 43 other States.) Our original plans were to meet at the Millennium Centre for the Luncheon. Because of the continuing issue with COVID, this gathering was changed to a zoom format.

December: No Board Meeting—<u>December Newsletter</u>, Volume 33, Issue 4

Second Harvest of Northeast Tennessee

Join other ETSURA members at Second Harvest in Kingsport - Every 2nd Wednesday.

Upcoming dates: Canceled until further Notice!

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

Bucky's Food Pantry

Donations can also be made to the 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.

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 Fall Newsletter – Faculty Senate

I am sure all of you have been keeping up with the news of the many changes in campus life brought on by the Pandemic of 2020. In fact, so much has changed, some on a daily basis, I am confused most of the time. I thought perhaps a summary of changes might be helpful, with the caveat that by the time the newsletter reaches you, there might be new ones. I encourage readers to log on to the ETSU website, *etsu.edu/bucs are back*, for additional information.

The ETSU campus is now following the stage 2 health and safety guidelines which includes: reduction in number of on ground courses to lower campus population density of students, faculty and staff; a reduction in the density within the residence halls, and a reduction of indoor meetings and gatherings of 15 or less not associated with academic coursework. Policies are now in place to accomplish these goals. For example, masks are required for anyone on campus, including visitors. Eighty percent of instruction will be done online, and residence halls will have single occupancy, among others. This was no easy task, to say the least.

President Noland and his staff have done a great job providing the leadership to make this transition as smooth as possible for the entire campus community. Students will be arriving soon, and I am sure parents will have a lot of questions as well, but everyone is prepared. Faculty Senate has been involved all summer in the decision-making processes. I doubt anyone took a summer vacation this year!

I guess all of you know by now that athletics for fall has been cancelled. On August 13, Athletic Director Scott Carter issued a letter to the ETSU family announcing that the Southern Conference has cancelled all sports, conference and non-conference, in the best interests of the athletes, coaches, and fans. It was a big disappointment to all of us who look forward to Fall sporting events, but it was a good decision. On the bright side, next Spring, I will be doing my happy dance. Imagine three long months of football, soccer, baseball, and basketball and anything else I can fit in.

Also, in the good news column, the new D.P. Culp Center is now complete and open to visitors as well as students. I encourage all members of the ETSURA to stop in for lunch and do a tour. It is really spectacular and a showcase. So too is the Martin Center for the Performing Arts. It is nearing completion, and director Anita DeAngelis states that it will be in use for student courses in the Fall, and perhaps outside performances in the Spring, 2021. The Model Mill is almost complete, and the ETSU Office of University Advancement and National Alumni Association will move into leased spaces there sometime in October.

Another change – for those retirees who attend ACL (Alliance for Continued Education), you might be interested to know that it too will change. ACL is sponsored by the ETSU School of Continuing Education and Academic Outreach. This school will merge with the School of Graduate Studies to become the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies, with Dr. Sharon McGee as dean. I hope we can still have Darla and Robin as staff in that they have been so supportive to those of us who organize these meetings.

Last, the new 1911 Society welcomed its first 10 members from the Spring 2020 class. This Society recognizes the most notable undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs graduates for academic excellence, service, and leadership. The new issue of the ETSU Today lists all the recipients and their many accomplishments. Honoring outstanding students is another way the University reinforces its mission of excellence in the student experience.

Almost Retired: Don's Dodgy Retirement

In the first decade of the 21st century, my wife suffered great trauma. Her greatest fear was realized- I retired, no longer to spend most of my waking hours safely out of the house. As retirement approached friends joyously added to my retirement anxiety by constantly chanting about how bored I would be with nothing to do. Their chants diminished my joyous anticipation of "no mores": no more commencements, no more grading, and the blessing of no more committee meetings. Like most faculty, I actively worked for my professional association, wrote papers, gave presentations, and developed education materials all related to my work in my field, computer science. Most of this work was directed at trying to improve the quality of computing's impacts on society.

I read Bryson's <u>A Walk in the Woods</u>. To lessen my wife's distress about my distracting dallying at home, and as an exercise of retirement-sovereignty, I took to the outdoors and justified lazing about in nature by making it sound heroic calling it "Trail Hiking". This was quickly spoiled by claims that I needed to take a 5-mile UPHILL hike. That is when I decided to sit in a chair under a sun umbrella on a beautiful hillside spending a few hours putting paint on paper. It's called Plein Air painting; minimal walking, no athletic skills required, and cheaper than golf. If you get lucky, someone may buy your 'art', and your hobby almost pays for itself.

Retirement sovereignty requires good judgment in deciding amongst those things you always wanted to do. It is great fun, to go tubing down the French Broad, do volunteer work, join book clubs, help at Second Harvest, etc. Life fills up pretty quickly when you don't pay attention. You want to improve your painting so you join a local art league or two, end up on their executive committees, help with art shows, work in a local art gallery, etc. This year I even had the audacity to submit a painting to a juried art show.

But then those who think you are bored ask you to contribute in some way-volunteerism. They ask you to teach a class, write a paper with them, work on a research project, review conference papers, and help edit a journal giving you another opportunity to continue to contribute to your chosen profession (for free). I was lucky, they asked me to continue my mission of promoting socially responsible computing. Activities like teaching a virtual class in New Zealand, helping the UN use AI to improve agriculture in developing countries, and developing ethical standards for computing are all especially satisfying because you are contributing value doing what you know how to do.

In 2020, she was not going to have this retiree loitering about. He was scheduled to participate in events in multiple US cities and Spain, Brazil, Japan, France, and Tunisia. But, COVID-19 saved him from this coronary inducing schedule. All events became virtual and he became an instant expert in Zoomology giving international talks from his study. COVID-19 even impacted art appreciation. Someone made a mistake picking his painting to hang in the art show, which can only be viewed by people who call ahead to make an appointment.

I chuckle thinking of those who chanted "you will have nothing to do". Probably the best thing about Active Retirement decisions is that they are made for the right reasons; learn, grow, contribute. What you do may be of real value and it is not done merely because it meets FAPable job requirements. You also get to meet some great people along the way and may get asked to write an easy on retirement for ETSURA.

She laughs when she hears me say "I am retired".

Dr. Don Gotterbarn

Alliance for Continued Learning Program

The Alliance for Continued Learning (ACL) did not meet during the Spring of 2020 and is also not meeting during the Fall of 2020 because of the pandemic. The ACL Board will meet in January of 2021 to discuss meeting in the Spring of 2021. Fortunately, many of the speakers enlisted to speak during 2020 are willing to give a presentation whenever ACL talks resume.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM ETSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

| NAME: (Last) | (First) | (MI)(Title) |
|--|--|--|
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