GAVIN ON SURVIVOR

ETSU GRAD REALIZES LIFELONG DREAM TO COMPETE ON POPULAR SHOW

A New Campaign  |  Strength in Community  |  Surrounded by Culture
Throughout our history, our alumni, donors, students, faculty, and staff have campaigned for East Tennessee State University.

In fact, it was a campaign for improved public schools in Tennessee that led to the creation of East Tennessee State Normal School in 1911. During the Great Depression, President Charles Sherrod campaigned to keep the doors of the institution open. There were many missed paydays in the early 1930s. Revenues were dwindling. Appropriations were being reduced. In late December of 1932, Dr. Sherrod read in a Nashville newspaper that a senator was introducing a legislative bill that would abolish the teachers colleges. He began a campaign to show the value of those colleges to the state, citing figures on financing, qualifications of faculty, supply of teachers, and cost of attendance. Eventually the bill was killed. But the idea did not die. In 1936, the legislature debated closing the school and called it an “unnecessary luxury.” Dr. Sherrod fought tirelessly to keep the school open, even refusing increases in his own salary for several years.

Another campaign some of you may not have heard about is the one for us to achieve university status. Burgin Dossett was President of East Tennessee State College when the push was made for the school to be recognized as a university. When this proposal was met with opposition, President Dossett marshaled civic leaders, service and professional groups, political leaders, school boards, owners of television and radio stations, editors, and publishers to join the campaign. He prepared a booklet filled with statistics on population and economic and industrial growth. Students and citizens wrote letters, signed petitions, and visited Nashville. The legislation to make ETSC ETSU passed both the House and Senate unanimously, and Governor Frank Clement signed the bill on March 5, 1963.

Many other campaigns stand out in our history books. A movement during the early 1990s to establish an honors enrichment experience for undergraduate students led to the creation of the Honors Program, which began in 1993 with four students. A decade later, the program expanded to become an Honors College which, during the 2017-18 year, had 460 students enrolled in its programs. One of the most dramatic chapters in Tennessee politics was a campaign that resulted in the authorization of a medical school for ETSU in 1974. Campaigns led by our students helped bridge the return of football to our campus and also became the foundation for the renovation of the D.P. Culp University Center, which is currently underway. And, of course, there is the landmark campaign in 2005 when our community raised $5 million in just 58 days to start our pharmacy school.

And now, a new campaign has begun. During our Distinguished President’s Trust Dinner this past April, we launched the Campaign for ETSU, a $120 million capital campaign that will transform our campus. Significant support for our students and faculty as well as for facilities, research, and for new and current academic programs will propel us toward our strategic goals and position our university as a destination for students seeking premier education to prepare for the careers of tomorrow.

I invite you to join us for the Campaign for ETSU and help write the next chapter in our institution’s history. Thank you for all that you do for East Tennessee State University!

Sincerely,

Brian Noland
President

Godspeed and Go Bucs!
On the evening when ETSU recognized its top donors for their past contributions to the institution, leaders unveiled a campaign that will set the course for what promises to be a transformative future.

During the Distinguished President’s Trust Dinner on April 12, President Brian Noland and Lieutenant General Ron Hite (U.S. Army, Retired), Chairman of the ETSU Foundation, launched the Campaign for ETSU, a $120 million comprehensive campaign that, according to Noland, will transform the campus and provide new opportunities for students and faculty.

“Campaigns have been part of this institution’s history, going back to the days when our doors first opened in 1911,” Noland told the guests. “People campaigned for ETSU because they believed in this institution and because they believed in our mission, a mission to improve the quality of life for the people of this region.”
Among those most notable campaigns Noland referenced were the push for the creation of the Gatton College of Pharmacy, the name change from East Tennessee State College to ETSU, the return of football to campus, the construction of a performing arts center, and the landmark establishment of the Quillen College of Medicine.

A significant priority of the Campaign for ETSU is to create more opportunities to assist students, with a goal of raising $21 million in scholarships and other types of support.

“This is necessary in order for the institution to recruit and retain the best and brightest undergraduate and graduate students,” Hite said. “Support from our donors is needed to establish and enhance competitive scholarships, study abroad experiences, and graduate student stipends, and also make participation at major academic conferences possible.”

During the dinner, guests heard from Mollie Rutledge, a 2014 graduate of ETSU’s Roan Scholars Leadership Program, who discussed how the program did more than just prepare her to become a teacher but rather transformed her life. The Roan Program is a comprehensive leadership development experience established by longtime university benefactor Louis Gump. Since the establishment of the program in 2000, nearly 100 ETSU students have participated.

“You have no idea how your gifts can change the lives of our students,” Rutledge told the guests.

Another major goal of the campaign is to raise $40 million for future building and renovation projects. This initiative includes securing the necessary matching dollars for a proposed $71 million humanities building that would be built in the center of campus.

Current major projects on campus include the renovation of the D.P. Culp University Center, which is being funded through a dedicated student fee, and the construction of the Martin Center for the Arts. Both are expected to be completed in 2020.

“Faculty are also at the heart of the Campaign for ETSU,” said Pam Ritter, Vice President for Advancement and President/CEO of the ETSU Foundation. “The minds and lives of tomorrow’s leaders are shaped and influenced by our faculty who, through their teaching and research, are sharing new knowledge and building new ideas.”
According to Ritter, the campaign has a specific goal of $23 million that would be used to empower faculty through opportunities such as distinguished professorships and chairs and new endowments.

The Campaign for ETSU will also raise approximately $35 million in support for new academic programs that are aligned with emerging job market demands.

Though the Distinguished President’s Trust Dinner marked the official launch of the campaign, a silent phase began two years ago, Noland announced. Already, the university has raised over $50 million.

“Every person in this room has campaigned for ETSU in some way and, in doing so, you have carried forth a legacy that began more than a century ago,” Noland said. “The Campaign for ETSU is our opportunity to script the future of East Tennessee State University, and tonight, that next chapter begins.”

Joe Smith is Executive Assistant to the President for University Relations and Chief Communications Officer at ETSU.
In addition to launching ETSU’s new comprehensive campaign, President Noland used the Distinguished President’s Trust event as the setting to recognize one of Tennessee’s most respected leaders in higher education.

Longtime ETSU administrator Dr. Bert C. Bach has announced his plans to retire in January 2020 following 43 years of service in Tennessee higher education. Bach most recently served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at ETSU, a role he held since 1994. He served as Interim President of ETSU from 1991-92.

“Without a doubt, Dr. Bach stands as one of Tennessee’s greatest and most respected leaders in higher education,” Noland said. “From the moment he arrived on this campus in the early 1990s, he has had a profound influence on our academic programs as well as our student success initiatives. He has been a true champion for East Tennessee State University, and we are fortunate that he chose this institution as his academic home for more than two decades.”

Bach’s presence in higher education extends beyond Tennessee. He has served with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and the Southern Regional Education Board, as well as with the Tennessee Board of Regents, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and Tennessee College Association.

Noland announced that the new theatre in the Martin Center for the Arts will be named the Bert C. Bach Theatre.

“Dr. Bach is known for many things, including a love for baseball and as a profound supporter for the arts, especially theatre,” Noland said. “Though his love for the performing arts often takes Dr. Bach to theatres in New York City and London, he never misses an ETSU Theatre and Dance production, which our students and faculty deeply appreciate. He has developed and supported academic scholarships for Theatre and Dance students, and this act of generosity has already dramatically changed the lives of so many students.”
Galaxies move around in space. They interact and collide. They get distorted by gravitational forces and occasionally produce other galaxies. Little bits and pieces can fly out into intergalactic space, and they might become other independent galaxies. Around our Milky Way are a couple of dozen small galaxies. Maybe they were produced by just this kind of process. Or maybe they have been around since the beginning of the universe.

This isn’t a monologue from a science fiction film. It’s the kind of talk you’re likely to hear in the classrooms of Brown Hall on the campus of East Tennessee State University.

Dr. Beverly Smith is an ETSU astrophysicist who researches the formation of dwarf galaxies, and she is part of an energetic academic organization, the university’s Department of Physics and Astronomy. She has taught at ETSU for almost 20 years.
“It’s very unusual to have so much astronomy work going on at a regional university,” Smith said. “One year, we had 17 students who graduated with physics degrees.”

In 2015, the department was recognized by the American Institute of Physics for being a leader among undergraduate-only physics departments in the number of students who graduated with B.S. degrees in Physics.

Several years before Smith’s arrival, ETSU joined the Southeastern Association for Research in Astronomy (SARA), which operates a 0.9-meter telescope at Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona. From then on, the university’s reputation in astronomy grew.

ETSU runs its own observatory, named for Dr. Harry D. Powell, a longtime physics professor at the university. It is the site of popular “Star Parties,” begun by ETSU’s Dr. Gary Henson to bring the community to the campus to explore the heavens. The observatory houses a radio telescope purchased with the aid of a NASA Education Public Outreach Grant. Middle and high school teachers use it for workshops, and high school students from throughout the region gaze through its lens.

Smith said it’s that kind of public outreach that attracted her to ETSU and that has kept her here for nearly two decades. “And the region is so wonderful and beautiful,” she adds.

Dr. Don Luttermoser, Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, describes ETSU as “a leader in broad community outreach communicating physics and astronomy with open houses, planetarium shows, public talks, popular newspaper articles, and leadership in regional grade school and high school student science events like science fairs and the Science Olympiad.”

There are more astronomers and astrophysicists at ETSU than any university in the Southeastern United States. One of them is Dr. Mark Giroux, who is married to Smith. They’re often seen strolling the campus, hand in hand. Smith and Giroux both attended Brown University but did not know each other at the time. They met in Austin, Texas, when Giroux was a graduate student and Smith a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Texas.

“What do two married astrophysicists talk about at the dinner table?” I ask Smith. “We talk about advising the physics majors,” she answers without hesitation.

Not only is Smith married to someone who makes a living in the academic world, she is the daughter of two university mathematics professors, who taught at the University of Tennessee and the University of Connecticut. With their encouragement and the inspiration provided by a very special high school teacher, she chose to enter the male-dominated field of physics.

“My experience made me realize just how important high school teachers are,” she said, pointing to recent ETSU graduates such as Rachel Horn, who is on the physics faculty at Daniel Boone High School. Having also earned a Master of Arts in Teaching, Horn is an evening instructor for ETSU’s astronomy labs as well.

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“After that, I worked closely with Dr. Smith, cataloguing and filtering stars from a NASA infrared telescope,” Horn said. “This experience, along with Dr. Luttermoser’s ‘Computational Physics’ class, greatly increased my technology and computer programming skills. The following summer I was awarded a two-month paid research experience at Dr. Richard Ignace’s alma mater, the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Smith has mentored many women over the years, guiding them toward STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) careers. For the first time this semester, a course she developed, “Women in Astronomy,” has been officially added to the curriculum.

“I don’t know of another school that focuses on women in astronomy,” she adds. And men make up about half the enrollment in the course.

“Dr. Smith spearheaded the creation of ETSU’s new STEM Community Outreach Scholarship Program, nicely dovetailing two high priorities of our department,” adds Luttermoser.

Smith takes me across the hall to the office of Dr. Robert Pattie, the newest member of the Physics and Astronomy faculty at ETSU. I learn that Pattie had worked at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. That relationship has resulted in a first-ever collaboration between ETSU and the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center.

“We’re actually building equipment for Los Alamos here at ETSU,” Pattie says, “and one of our undergraduates, Isaiah Cox, will be working there this summer.”

On the day of our interview, Los Alamos had just sent to the ETSU Department of Physics and Astronomy a new data acquisitions system, consisting of some $50,000 worth of electronics.
As an experimental nuclear physicist, Pattie brings to the department valuable expertise in the field of particle physics, a branch of the discipline that studies the elementary constituents of matter and radiation and the interactions between them. As Pattie describes it, he is working “on the boundary of nuclear and particle physics.”

The Los Alamos Neutron Science Center has been in existence for more than 30 years. According to its website, it provides “the scientific underpinnings in nuclear physics and material science needed to ensure the safety and surety of the nuclear stockpile into the future.” In addition, the center provides “the scientific community with intense sources of neutrons and protons to perform experiments supporting civilian research and the production of medical and research isotopes.”

Pattie explains that his work involves the Ultracold Neutron source at Los Alamos. “There is a high-powered proton accelerator that we can smash into tungsten. When that happens, you boil off a bunch of neutrons. You basically liberate neutrons. But they’re really high energy—the same neutrons that you would make in a nuclear power plant. We cool them down so they can’t get out of materials. They bounce around in tubes like ping-pong balls. And then we can transport them off to an experiment, where we do things like measure the neutron lifetime—how long it lives before it breaks up.”

Pattie hadn’t taken a physics class before he enrolled at North Carolina’s Surry Community College, where he was a catcher on the baseball team. Although he didn’t continue his baseball career when he transferred to Virginia Tech to major in physics, the sport figures into his physics classes at ETSU.

“His students consider a baseball hit at a certain angle and with a certain initial velocity. “Does it get over the fence at Fenway Park?” Pattie asks. Or, “If a pitch is thrown with this angular velocity and this speed at this height, where is it going to end up when it hits the strike zone?” asks the Baltimore Orioles fan, who admits watching his team of late with a certain amount of depression.”

On the wall of Pattie’s office is an unusual Periodic Table of the Elements, organized differently than the ones posted in American classrooms. In the margins there is writing in Arabic. It’s a reminder of another defining part of Robert Pattie’s life: his military service.

During his sophomore year at Virginia Tech, he joined the Marine Corps Reserves—specifically the 4th Combat Engineers Battalion operating out of Roanoke, where he learned to be a heavy equipment operator. He loved the experience so much that he continued to commute to Roanoke while working on his doctorate at North Carolina State University.

In 2005, during his second year in Raleigh, he began a nine-month deployment to Anbar Province in Iraq.

“We had a lot of interaction with the Iraqis,” he says. “They wanted to be safe, they wanted electric power, food, water, and to make sure their children were taken care of. The country was in such disarray. When the power went out, citizens didn’t know where to turn. They saw guys in green uniforms with guns and assumed we were the ones who could take care of getting their power restored. They were used to the kind of society where strong men with guns control everything.”

Pattie says the Marine Corps prepared him very well for the experience in Iraq. “They gave us a huge amount of information,” he says. “They even gave us a reading list, with books about Arab culture.”
Pattie says his time in the Marine Corps figures into his approach to teaching physics, especially when it comes to outlining expectations for first-year students. “The Marine Corps teaching style is to focus on objectives,” he says.

Luttermoser says the addition of Pattie “substantially broadened the department’s research interests,” pointing to his national connections at both Los Alamos and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.

“And we continue to pursue and obtain public funding through NASA’s Space Grant and the National Science Foundation’s Noyce program, as well as private funding for our undergraduate majors through LEAP (Learning Experiences in Astronomy and Physics) Foundation scholarships,” Luttermoser adds with pride.

Daniel Boone High School’s Rachel Horn summarizes graduates’ feelings about how this dynamic department on the ETSU campus is shaping their future: “I am forever grateful for my experience as an undergraduate student in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and I share my enthusiasm for scientific endeavors every day that I am teaching in my high school physics and astronomy classes.”

Fred Sauceman holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from ETSU and is Executive Editor of ETSU Today.

Destinations and Careers of Some Recent ETSU Physics Graduates:

- Second Lieutenant, United States Army
- Medical Student at the University of Tennessee
- Nuclear Operator at BWX Technologies
- Medical Student at ETSU’s Quillen College of Medicine
- Graduate Student in Physics, University of Florida
- Physics and chemistry teacher, Science Hill High School
- Graduate student in Medical Physics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Graduate student in Chemical Engineering, Northeastern University
- Graduate Student in the Physics and Astronomy Department, Florida State University
- Graduate Student in Mathematics, Clemson University
- Graduate Student in Engineering, Georgia Tech
- Graduate Student in Physics, Vanderbilt University
- Physics teacher, Cherokee High School, Rogersville, Tennessee
- Graduate Student in Physics, Clemson University
- Graduate Student at the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Employed at Eastman Chemical Company
- Graduate Student in Physics, Texas A&M University
- Graduate student in Medical Physics at the University of Toledo
Dr. Kelly Price-Rhea can see beyond the horizon of academia.

Her aspirations are not bound by the limits of physical, traditional classroom space. She envisions an evolving digital learning environment. Since 2013, Price, Associate Professor of Marketing, has taught almost entirely online. An experience that was first overwhelming has become a fascination.

“I view the interactions that happen in the online classroom from a psychology standpoint, and while those interactions are different, there are things we as instructors can do to ‘be there.’ A lot of my research focuses on professor presence,” she says.

Price taught on ground for 10 years before she was asked to help build a new graduate program focused on an emerging career field, Digital Marketing. Given the nature of the subject matter, it made sense for the program to be offered entirely online. Price admits she was hesitant at first but has since come to realize that online courses are the future of higher education and argues that she actually gets to know her online students much better.

“When I taught on ground courses and had more than 100 students, I didn’t have the opportunity to see them in the same way I do online. I saw them a couple times a week. Online, I interact with everyone all the time.”

She and colleague Dr. Don Shemwell, Professor of Marketing, built the Digital Marketing program from the ground up. The discipline is always changing, so the curriculum must adjust to reflect the latest trends and tools available. While Price, who coordinates the program, might not be able to reuse materials she developed the previous semester, that’s part of what she claims to enjoy most about the online experience.

Aligned with the research she has read and conducted surrounding professor presence, Price has developed a series of fluid syllabus items. Many of her students are familiar with “Dr. P’s Question of the Week” assignments delivered by an audio recording instead of typed text. She begins her courses by posting an intro video that seems more like a social media post and less like a typical college lecture.

“It is so rewarding to watch students from across the country interact in the digital learning environment where they can cultivate understanding and evaluate other perspectives and experiences,” she explained.

Price is deeply connected to both the digital and tangible versions of the ETSU campus. She is a two-time alumna of the university, and both her parents earned degrees from ETSU. Price graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Fashion Merchandising in 1995 and worked as an apparel buyer. Feeling a bit burned out from the retail business, she came home to ETSU to study professional communications.

Looking back, Price says it was a big decision to leave her professional life in Colorado behind, but studying at ETSU was meant to be.

“I took a research class and I remember exactly where I was sitting in Warf-Pickel Hall when I realized that I never wanted to leave academia,” she recalls.

A short time after completing her Ph.D. in Human Ecology with a concentration in Retail and Consumer Sciences at the University of Tennessee, she eagerly accepted an adjunct teaching position at ETSU and says she has no regrets about returning to her roots.

In addition to professor presence, Price actively researches consumer behavior and is planning a new digital marketing ethics course. She also teaches a social media course and when she’s not immersed in online learning, she enjoys playing and writing about women’s golf.

Amanda Mowell is Interim Director of Communications in the ETSU Office of University Relations.
Darack Nanto is an inventor, a graduate student, a personal trainer, an Olympic hopeful, and a leader. He is determined to show those in his home country of Togo that he can succeed at both his academic and athletic aspirations. Darack is building a prototype of his invention, the Eco Smart Can, while balancing his time between graduate classes and training to become an Olympic athlete. His goal is to become the first person from Togo to compete in bobsled skeleton at the winter games in 2022.

What was it like adjusting to life in the United States as an international student?

I had never been to the U.S. I came in the spring semester 2013 and it was really cold. I brought my jacket from home and it was not made for winter. When I was at the airport I asked my friend to bring me a winter jacket because what I had cannot hold me. I was frozen. The other thing was getting used to the accents, “y’all” especially, and people were having a hard time understanding me so I had to work on articulating my words. I tried my best to integrate and learn as much as I can about American culture.

Last year, you won a business pitch competition at ETSU (iBucs). What is your invention and what phase are you at now?

One day I was walking to the CPA (Center for Physical Activity) and saw a maintenance guy emptying trash near Rogers-Stout Hall. The can was barely filled, but he emptied it and replaced the plastic bag and went to the next can. In my head, I thought, “Those cans have almost nothing inside. Why would you empty it?” As an engineer, I was thinking why. It seemed like a waste of time and resources. Is there a way that we could know the trash level before, so we don’t have to collect the trash if it’s not needed?

I started researching and applying for funds for startup and to get the equipment to develop it. To track the level of trash, I am using IOT (Internet of Things) technology and I had to start learning about it. We learned main electronic components in the manufacturing engineering technology program, but this is different because you take normal hardware and try to make it talk to the internet. I had to really start researching online, troubleshooting, failing at it, and trying and trying again. I first had a basic version for my undergraduate honors thesis. I won the competition, and other people on campus discovered my project. The College of Business and Technology took an interest in it, and I went to an entrepreneurship conference in Nashville and talked to other people with startups across Tennessee. I really got inspired. I invested in books and equipment. Right now I’m working on a prototype with a solar panel and a compactor inside, which will be fully automated. It can identify and compress the trash at certain levels. When the trash is at 50 percent filled, it can compact it to around 30 percent.

When you’re not working on the Eco Smart Can prototype in your lab in Wilson-Wallis Hall or studying, what other activities are you involved in?

Currently, I’m President of the Muslim Student Association and if I’m not in the lab, I try to work with the association, or because I am an athlete as well, I will be training. I’m hoping to represent my country Togo in the next Winter Olympics in the sport of bobsled skeleton. So if I’m not in class or in the lab learning, I’m in the CPA working out or in the Mini-Dome training. I’m also a personal trainer, so during the summer I work at the CPA to help people reach their fitness goals. I am also a Presidential Ambassador for the university.

How did your Olympic dream begin?

I grew up participating in sports, mostly martial arts, and I was a goal-keeper in high school. When I came to ETSU, I wanted to join a team, but I couldn’t commit the time. Then I started on a workout journey and I just wanted to be a fit man and work hard. People started noticing me. I always had a dream to be an athlete, but sometimes people think that you can only do one thing—academics or athletics. What if I can be well-rounded? What if I can have degrees and still be an athlete? I just want to start this bobsled journey and compete in a winter sport even though I am from a country on the continent of Africa and we don’t have snow. I want to do a sport that’s not even offered in my country to show to the younger generation that you can dream big.

It doesn’t matter where you come from, you can achieve whatever you put your heart into and you work on. That’s what’s pushing me and motivating me to try to do the Olympics and represent my country. Hopefully, with my hard work and support from friends and family, I’ll be at Beijing in 2022.

Has the Olympic Training Site at ETSU influenced your decision to train for bobsled skeleton?

I wanted to become a weightlifter, but my country does not have a weightlifting federation so it was really hard to make it happen. The Olympic Training Site played a role because there are people here who know what they are doing. You see international and U.S. athletes coming to train here.

What’s the next step in your journey and what do you hope to accomplish?

Finances are the next step. It’s a small sport and expensive. I believe I have the drive, the motivation, and the strength to make it happen. I’m building from scratch. I have to get the equipment on my own. I hope people will believe in me and invest in me so I can prove you can dream big and make it happen. In May I graduate with my Master’s in Technology with a concentration in Engineering Technology and a Certificate in Business Administration. I would like to invest my time to develop a company to sell and advertise the product (Eco Smart Can). My ultimate goal is to inspire the younger generation that you can do whatever you want to do as long as you put time and effort into it. Because of my field of study in manufacturing, I have a lot of options and I can almost work anywhere. It really depends on the opportunities that happen.
WHO’S GOING TO ETSU?

PHOTO BY CHARLIE WARDEN
Matthew Hill says that if anyone had told him when he was an undergraduate at East Tennessee State University that he would one day run for state representative and win – and represent his alma mater in his district – he would have said, “You’re crazy.”

But run for state representative he did, and now, not only is he serving his eighth consecutive term as representative for the 7th House District – tying him for sixth in Tennessee House seniority – he was named Deputy Speaker of the House for the 111th General Assembly.

Hill’s experience from his seven previous terms, as well as the communication skills honed through his career in broadcasting, earned him the opportunity to succeed the former Deputy Speaker, Representative Steve McDaniel, who retired.

In this new role, Hill works to move legislation through the House and advises both House leadership and the chairpersons of various committees and subcommittees.
He chairs the House Rules and Ethics committees, and, as a member of the Budget Subcommittee, he examines the allocations and expenditures of all Tennessee governmental departments and agencies.

“This affords me the opportunity to have a lot of access to our leadership, including our new Governor,” Hill says. “Just to be able to build that relationship with Governor Bill Lee and his staff is invaluable in my role as Deputy Speaker, and will continue to be very helpful to me as the Representative for the 7th District, as well.”

Hill’s goals in this role, he says, are, “number one, to make sure that the agenda of the Republican majority in the House, which is lower taxes, less regulation, and more individual liberty, is pushed forward, and number two, to continue to make sure that Johnson City, Washington County, and, I might say, ETSU, are represented well in the House of Representatives. In this new role, we’ll always make sure that ETSU is part of the conversation.”

From the entire time Hill has spent in the state legislature thus far, he says he is most proud of being “able to help literally thousands of people.” He and his longtime legislative assistant, Carol Burroughs, keep a file of thank you notes from constituents and groups they have assisted through the years.

“I’m thankful that file is very full,” he says. “That’s why I’m there – the folks of the 7th House District. They send me to Nashville to represent them, and when they need help with their state government, I’m there to help. I genuinely enjoy getting to help people. That’s the best part of everything.”

Hill draws upon his education from ETSU each day, whether he’s on the House floor or working in his career as Vice President for Operations at Appalachian Radio Group, which has four stations based in the Tri-Cities. After earning his associate degree from Northeast State Community College, he went on to graduate from ETSU in 2003 with a bachelor’s degree in Communication with an emphasis in Broadcasting and a minor in Political Science.

“That minor was excellent preparation for what I’m doing now,” Hill says, “because our classroom discussions sometimes broke out into debates. That really sharpened my rhetorical skills to be able to argue in committee or to advocate strongly for a position on the House floor, and I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that those skills were either acquired or honed very well at ETSU. Classes were really infused with everyday life, to prepare you to get out in the real world and work at your chosen profession.

“When I was at ETSU, I had no idea I was going to run for State Representative and serve in the Legislature as long as I have, but to be able to constantly, consistently, every single day, draw upon those skills and that knowledge base that I first learned at ETSU is invaluable.”

Hill adds that he comes from an “ETSU family.” His parents met as students in Theatre at ETSU, and his brother, Tim (also a state legislator, representing District 3), is a graduate of ETSU. His wife, Amanda, was a member of the first class of the bachelor’s degree program in Dental Hygiene after it converted from an associate degree program, and together they have two children.

“I do consider it a real honor and privilege to represent ETSU in the legislature,” Hill says.

...TO BE ABLE TO CONSTANTLY, CONSISTENTLY, EVERY SINGLE DAY, DRAW UPON THOSE SKILLS AND THAT KNOWLEDGE BASE THAT I FIRST LEARNED AT ETSU IS INVALUABLE.

Matthew Hill

Jennifer Hill is Assistant Director of University Relations at ETSU. | Photos courtesy of Photographic Services, Tennessee Department of General Services, Nashville
Gavin Whitson ‘16 outwitted, outplayed, and outlasted his fellow tribemates for 39 days, ultimately becoming first-runner up. But his Survivor journey goes back much further.

I read you always dreamed about playing Survivor and applied five times. Why did it appeal to you?

Being on Survivor was a dream of mine since I was a kid. I think part of it was being drawn to the challenges. I always thought I would excel in them. I was also amazed by the fact that it was filmed in locations so much different than Tennessee, and before Survivor I hadn’t traveled much at all. It was an experience I wanted to have that not many other people can say they’ve had.

Did the experience live up to your expectations? In what ways?

The experience was everything I wanted... okay more. I didn’t realize how hard Survivor actually was until I got to participate. It’s a lot easier sitting on the couch eating a cheeseburger and wondering why these people are making the decisions they make. When you are actually out there living it with no food and no comfort, it puts things into perspective. I have so much more respect for the game now.

I loved the family visit episode and your story about moving up your wedding for Survivor. Did you know Carly when you were a student at ETSU? Will you share how the decision to move up the wedding played out?

Carly and I actually started dating while we were both students at ETSU. We dated all through college and got engaged while we were students there as well, so ETSU played a big part in our relationship. When I found out I had the opportunity to be on Survivor, Carly and I had to make a decision whether we were going to move the wedding so I could play or skip out on the opportunity and keep the wedding plans we had set. We ultimately decided that I was going to play and Carly made the final decision because she knew this had been my dream since I was a kid and she wanted to let me pursue my dream. The family visit on Day 30 was a day I will never forget for the rest of my life. I was so happy I made it that far so Carly was able to come share a piece of this adventure with me.

Melissa Nipper is Assistant Director for Communications in the Office of University Relations at ETSU.
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On October 1, 2018, ETSU acquired the 74,000-square-foot building from the City of Johnson City, specifically, the Johnson City Building Authority. The purchase jumpstarted the creation of a Cybersecurity concentration in the Department of Computing and provides a temporary solution to a lack of meeting and event space while the D.P. Culp University Center undergoes a major renovation. The pedestrian bridge and the adjacent parking garage were also included in the purchase and will help support the increased flow of foot and vehicle traffic as campus extends across State of Franklin Road.

Motorists on that busy thoroughfare eagerly watch the Martin Center for the Arts take shape on the property beside the Millennium Center. Because of its close proximity to the forthcoming performing arts center, the Millennium Center’s purchase by ETSU did not come as a big surprise.

Some said it was simply meant to be.

“The original vision back in 1999 when the Millennium Center opened was to offer an educational component and its use has been flexible over the years,” explained Jeremy Ross, ETSU’s Chief Operating Officer and one of the architects who helped design the Millennium Center. “It was foreseen that ETSU could eventually be the owner.”

Even if the purchase was predicted, it made good sense.

ETSU already operated the Niswonger Digital Media Center in a wing of the facility and was one of its main clients, hosting numerous conferences, lectures, and celebrations annually. Because university staff already plan and facilitate events in the Culp Center in conjunction with food service provider Sodexo, they were prepared to take on the new space. In fact, ETSU continues to run the Millennium Center as an events facility for university and community use, while portions of the building transition to academic use over time.

Although much about the Millennium Center remains as it was, one of the first big changes was the spelling of the facility’s name from “Centre” in order to maintain consistency with other buildings on campus. Additionally, the Millennium Center provided a unique opportunity for academic expansion without the wait for a new building to be constructed. ETSU’s Department of Computing began offering courses at the Millennium Center during the spring semester and through several phases, additional square footage will transition to academic space as the department prepares to offer cybersecurity courses.

“There are many of these types of programs available, but our emphasis on incorporating contemporary issues around contemporary network applications, IoT (Internet of Things) and cloud computing will make us unique,” says Dr. Tony Pittarese, Chair of the Department of Computing.

“We will focus on protecting our digital resources not only as they reside on computer systems but also as it travels from place to place.”

Before the Millennium Center came into focus, Pittarese said he was unsure if a proposed curriculum focusing on cybersecurity and modern networks would ever make it to a classroom. The department’s current home in Nicks Hall is at capacity as the department has grown 15 percent in the last two years. Every lab and classroom is completely booked.

More space is the key to growth.

The Department of Computing is projecting more than 100 new students through the addition of a Cybersecurity and Modern Networks concentration, which will have a selective admission process.

“We want to recruit the absolute best and brightest students to take advantage of the cyber security training,” Pittarese says.

Sections of the Millennium Center will be renovated in phases with the goal of creating technology-forward classrooms and specialized computing and networking labs that position ETSU as the pinnacle for computing education in the region. The institution is already among a small number of universities to have three programs under one roof—Computer Science, Information Systems, and Information Technology—all accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET.

To enter the Cybersecurity and Modern Networks (CSMN) concentration, students must first complete two years of computer science courses at ETSU. They can then join a cohort of students who will complete the CSMN concentration together over the next two years. The first junior-level cohort will be admitted in fall 2021, making freshmen entering ETSU in fall 2019 the first candidates eligible for this new program.

Whether it was foresight, perfect timing, or maybe a bit of both, incorporating the Millennium Center onto ETSU’s campus was a major investment that will pay off dividends in new possibilities, especially for students.

“I foresee many opportunities for interdisciplinary interactions between students in the performing arts and students in business and technology,” Pittarese says. “The Millennium Center expands our ability to serve our students and our community.”

Amanda Mowell is Interim Director of Communications in the ETSU Office of University Relations.
Patients will begin seeing the name ETSU Health on the health care landscape of Northeast Tennessee.

Earlier this year, students, faculty, and staff gathered to celebrate the launch of ETSU Health, the new name for the five colleges in East Tennessee State University’s Academic Health Sciences Center.

The name refers to the educational, clinical, and research pursuits of ETSU’s Quillen College of Medicine, Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing, College of Public Health, and College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences.

“The name ETSU Health will unify our colleges and providers and will help shape the future of the education and care that we provide,” said Dr. Wilsie Bishop, Senior Vice President for Academics at ETSU. “The AHSC name was descriptive of what we are, but beyond the academic arena, it really did little to identify the comprehensive nature of our educational program offerings, clinical health care delivery, or research activities.”

With 30 clinical locations, 250 health care providers, and the five AHSC colleges, ETSU Health is on the front lines of efforts to improve the region’s health. ETSU Health includes the university’s existing comprehensive primary and specialty medical clinics (including Quillen ETSU Physicians and ETSU Family Medicine clinics), nurse-managed clinics, allied health clinics, and interprofessional care provided in the clinics.

Working with its wide range of regional partners, ETSU Health providers offer leading-edge health care in dozens of specialties. They serve the region, with clinics in five counties with a commitment to caring for the citizens of the region.

“Our patients are already familiar with the high-quality care we provide at our clinical sites,” Bishop said. “As this year progresses, they will also become familiar with the name ETSU Health.

“Our goal is that this name will represent team-based care and a seamless experience for our patients.”

The university also took an official step toward introducing ETSU Health earlier this year when it joined the Nashville Health Care Council, a premier association of health care leaders. Joining the Nashville Health Care Council was a natural first step in the rollout of the ETSU Health name, Bishop added.

“The council is committed to improving health care, and ETSU Health is a leader in health care in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia,” Bishop said. “Our mission and values align with those of the council, and we are excited to contribute and collaborate with its membership.”

For a comprehensive listing of ETSU’s clinical locations and to learn more about ETSU Health, visit www.ETSUHealth.com.

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Melissa Nipper is Assistant Director for Communications in the Office of University Relations at ETSU.
Dr. Nick Hagemeier, Associate Professor in ETSU’s Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy, will never forget the day the opioid crisis crossed his professional path and changed the course of his career.

He was working in a retail pharmacy in Indiana when a man with a mask entered the store and demanded all of the OxyContin. The masked man started counting down from 20, waiting on Hagemeier and the pharmacy technician to comply.

After cleaning out their supply of OxyContin, the man fled and was apprehended about a mile down the road. Months later, Hagemeier received a letter of apology from the man, telling him that he was sorry, but he had been hurting and needed help.

“That was a game changer for me,” Hagemeier said. “I didn’t know how to relieve the hurt and help him. So that was the driver for what I wanted to focus on in my research—because if I was feeling that way, I was probably not the only one.”

And he wasn’t alone.

In Tennessee, during 2017 more than 1,700 people died due to drug overdoses, and even greater numbers battle opioid use disorders every day and the effects on their babies, jobs, and families.

Experts from across the five colleges in the Academic Health Sciences Center at ETSU are grappling with the issue of the opioid crisis in their research and clinical practices. In addition, professionals throughout Northeast Tennessee, such as pharmacists, psychologists, public health experts, physicians, nurses, dentists, criminal justice professionals, social workers, and even funeral home directors are all exploring ways to prevent and treat prescription drug abuse.

To address this issue, a group of ETSU faculty and community members formed the Prescription Drug Abuse/Misuse Working Group (“the Working Group”), an interdisciplinary team comprised of experts from ETSU and individuals from throughout local communities who play a role in fighting the opioid problem.

Since its inception in 2012, the Working Group has been transformational in the fight against opioid morbidity and mortality in Northeast Tennessee, according to Dr. Robert Pack, Executive Director of ETSU’s Center for Prescription Drug Abuse and Treatment and Associate Dean and Professor in ETSU’s College of Public Health.

“The purpose of the Working Group is to assemble key stakeholders to discuss what we can do together,” Pack said. “It is trust-building, relationship-building, and it’s proven to be so valuable.”

The Working Group holds its meetings on the second Tuesday of each month from 4:5:30 p.m. in various locations on ETSU’s campus and in the community. Currently, there are more than 280 people from throughout the region on the email invitation list, and the meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend.
The combined efforts of the Working Group have led to many positive outcomes in the state and region, including 13 projects totaling approximately $4.5 million in extramural funding. Members have collaborated on more than 100 public presentations and more than 20 peer-reviewed publications, Pack said.

Another development that came from the Working Group’s discussions is Overmountain Recovery, an outpatient opioid treatment program that provides evidence-based treatment of opioid use disorders. It is a joint project of ETSU, Ballad Health, and Frontier Health. Overmountain Recovery recently received a grant from the Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services to expand its treatment services in the region.

The Working Group also led to the establishment of ETSU’s Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment, which has received state and national attention for its efforts to combat the opioid crisis.

Last year, Pack was among a handful of public health experts to take part in a Congressional briefing in Washington, D.C., to discuss the complexities of the opioid crisis. The same year, the team received a national award from the United States Public Health Service Interprofessional Education Collaborative. In addition, Hagemeier, who is also part of the Working Group, was one of just 28 individuals—and one of only two pharmacists—across the country appointed to a national task force charged with looking at best practices related to pain management.

“The biggest challenge is understanding and teaching others that there is no silver bullet,” said Angela Hagaman, Director of Operations for the Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment. “This is a wicked public health problem with multiple contributing factors. A comprehensive approach is a must due to the complexity of the problem.

“Over the past seven years, our team and corresponding Working Group have engaged with partners across the state and region. In addition, we are frequently asked to serve on national panels and make presentations to elected officials in Nashville and D.C.”

Last year, the center received a $500,000 state appropriation from Tennessee to bolster its work, and those funds have helped support the salaries and research of faculty members of the center.

This year, the center received more good news: a one-year Eugene Washington Engagement Award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to establish the Opioids Research Consortium of Central Appalachia (ORCA). ETSU partnered with Virginia Tech to apply for the grant, which will facilitate planning for a research blueprint on opioids for the Central Appalachian region.

Ballad Health and Carilion are key partners in the grant, and university partners include ETSU, Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, Marshall University, and the University of Kentucky. Other university partners in the region could also be included.

While grant money is key to funding important research, Pack is also seeing the center’s influence in other ways throughout the community, including through faith-based initiatives.

“There is a group of highly-motivated, supremely talented students around ETSU’s main campus and medical and pharmacy schools who have organized a faith-based initiative called Adoration,” Pack said. “Their vision is to have 1,000 churches represented at a praise and worship service once a year to pray and learn more about the opioid problem.”

The center partnered closely with the student group to ensure that they were presenting concrete data, supported by best practices.

“What is profound about this event is that the people they invited to attend were senior leaders of their congregations, and at the event they were exposed to really excellent content,” Pack said. “Hundreds of faith leaders in the region are better informed because of what those students are doing.”

This community-focused approach is what Pack and his colleagues find so gratifying about the Working Group and ETSU’s centrality to the region’s efforts to battle the opioid crisis.

“Our work is by no means complete, but we’re on the right path and we’re making progress,” Hagemeier said. “It’s a blessing to work at an institution that is leading the charge and, in the process, positively impacting the region. It’s operationalizing stewardship of place.”

Melissa Nipper is Assistant Director for Communications in the Office of University Relations at ETSU.
The announcement of Dr. William Block as the new Dean of ETSU’s Quillen College of Medicine marked an important milestone in the medical school’s 45-year history.

Block, a 1992 graduate of Quillen, is the first alumnus of the college chosen to lead the medical school. He was appointed Dean earlier this year, after serving more than six months as Interim Dean.

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Block, a 1992 graduate of Quillen, is the first alumnus of the college chosen to lead the medical school. He was appointed Dean earlier this year, after serving more than six months as Interim Dean.

“Dr. Block is the right person at the right time to lead the Quillen College of Medicine,” said ETSU President Dr. Brian Noland. “Not only is his background strongly rooted in Quillen, he also has a compelling vision for its future.”
Quillen connections

Born and raised in Florida, Block moved to Tennessee to attend The University of the South in Sewanee. After earning a bachelor’s degree in Physics, Block came to ETSU to attend medical school. He completed his residency at the University of South Carolina and a fellowship at Wake Forest University. He earned his Master of Business Administration from Emory University in 2012.

Block held numerous faculty positions at Quillen from 1998 to 2004. After working as the Medical Director for the Minnesota Perinatal Physicians, he returned to Quillen in 2016 as Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology before becoming Interim Dean in 2018.

While the medical school has grown and changed since Block was a student, several familiar faces welcomed him back as faculty—including his mentor, Dr. T. Watson Jernigan, who currently serves as Interim Chair and Professor of OB/GYN at Quillen.

“One of the most gratifying aspects of returning to Quillen to teach was the opportunity to work alongside my mentor, Dr. Jernigan,” Block said.

The feeling was mutual. Jernigan recalls that as a student, Block was “a member of one of the best clerkships on OB” during Jernigan’s tenure as the Clinical Care Coordinator at Quillen in 1991.

Jernigan was working in private practice when Block joined Quillen’s faculty, and he collaborated with him on several deliveries during that time, including Jernigan’s last delivery in 2004 after 25 years of active obstetrical care.

“My patient was a scheduled repeat cesarean section,” Jernigan said. “I had planned to perform the procedure myself as I did in those days. Yet, Dr. Block showed up to assist me and share the experience of my last delivery. The nursing staff on Labor and Delivery made a very nice memory book of that entire delivery. It is one of my most treasured items and memories.”

Now that Block is at the helm at Quillen, Jernigan looks forward to their continued work together.

“He can relate to all members of the Quillen community as one of our own,” Jernigan said. “I simply cannot think of a finer representative of Quillen to lead the institution at this critical time.”
Clinical experience

Complementing his strong academic experience, Block also has an impressive clinical background.

In addition to serving as the Physician Manager at Minnesota Perinatal Physicians, once the largest perinatal medicine practice in the country, Block also founded the Midwest Fetal Care Center at Minnesota Children’s Hospital. He trained as a visiting fellow in fetal surgery at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

Block is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology as well as in Maternal/Fetal Medicine and is a diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners.

“Focusing on fetal surgery, I was able to perform procedures that resulted in healthy children who would not have survived to birth without intervention,” Block said. “When these types of procedures go well, the lasting impact to the family is obvious. When the same type of procedure is not successful, the impact of caring for that family is just as important and will remain with them forever.

“Anything I, or my team, could do to lessen a family’s pain was extremely rewarding. Teaching other physicians this same skill set allowed this impact to ripple outward and hopefully impact a much broader population.”

Block’s experiences in the operating room and the classroom have uniquely prepared him for his new role.

One of his goals as Dean is to continue Quillen’s commitment to the region by preparing physicians to practice rural medicine. He also wants to increase the community’s awareness of the medical school’s contributions in patient care and research.

“I believe Quillen will grow into a much stronger presence in the local community and region,” Block said. “The clinical, educational, and research programs are on the brink of expanding in size and influence as the school matures into its new role. Partnering with other institutions such as Ballad Health and the VA will further enhance these opportunities to fulfill the missions of Quillen.”

Melissa Nipper is Assistant Director for Communications in the Office of University Relations at ETSU. | Photos by Matthew Carroll
NOVEMBER 8
The Department of Physical Therapy unveils newly renovated facilities which include increased classroom capacity with state-of-the-art information technology and audiovisual equipment as well as more study and lounge space for students.

NOVEMBER 15
ETSU and the Niswonger Foundation announce a partnership to provide online dual enrollment opportunities for high school students. Through Niswonger Online, students can earn both high school and college credit at ETSU, and application and qualifying course fees will be waived.

NOVEMBER 25
Winners of NBC’s Next Olympic Hopeful are announced and include LaDarren Landrum, who trained at ETSU’s Olympic Training Site and was chosen for the show after participating in an open tryout event at ETSU.

DECEMBER 6
The ETSU Department of Biomedical Sciences announces that faculty earned $6.7 million in new extramural funding during 2018.

DECEMBER 12
Dr. Ted Olson, Professor of Appalachian Studies, and former student Beth Lawrence are among the nominees for the 2019 Grammy Awards.

DECEMBER 21
An article is published by ETSU paleontology alumni Evan Doughty and Lauren Lyon about the discovery of two extinct species of peccary found at the Gray Fossil Site.

JANUARY 2
The College of Nursing offers its LPN-BSN program to Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga as part of a major expansion of LPN-BSN educational opportunities offered by ETSU across the state.

JANUARY 9
ETSU is expanding scholarship opportunities and waiving out-of-state tuition for military service members, veterans, or members of military service families. Incoming military-affiliated students may be eligible for one of 15 $1,000 scholarships per semester awarded to qualifying military spouses or children. Additionally, 10 scholarships of $1,500 each will be awarded to military-affiliated student veterans who have exhausted or expired GI Bill® benefits. Out-of-state tuition waivers will be applied to incoming undergraduate and graduate military-affiliated students. In order to be eligible for the scholarships, students must maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA or higher and cannot receive any other ETSU scholarships.

JANUARY 23
In an effort to decrease the number of unreported sexual assaults in the Appalachian Highlands, the College of Nursing announces plans to use a $1.4 million federal grant to train more sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE nurses) and expand patient access to sexual assault evidentiary exams.

JANUARY 28
ETSU begins its inaugural Festival of Ideas with keynote speakers Jennifer Palmieri, former White House Communications Director and New York Times bestselling author, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin. The festival also included a panel discussion with a group of ETSU faculty members and President Brian Noland on the media and politics.
**MAY 14**
University School is ranked 9th in Tennessee by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The College of Nursing reports a 100 percent Doctor of Nursing Practice pass rate for 2018.

**MAY 15**
Researchers announce that a new species of rhino has been found at the Gray Fossil Site.

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**JANUARY 31**
Eight regional high school students are selected as members of the Roan Scholars Leadership Program Class of 2023. These students were selected from among more than 100 nominees in 27 counties in Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Western North Carolina.

**FEBRUARY 5**
Dr. Wilsie Bishop, Vice President for Health Affairs, was awarded the Demetria N. Gibbs Outstanding Chair Award at the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges annual meeting.

**FEBRUARY 6**
Alumnus Dr. Bill Block is named permanent Dean of the Quillen College of Medicine.

**FEBRUARY 22**
Dr. Bert C. Bach, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, announces his plans to retire from ETSU following 43 years of service in Tennessee higher education.

**MARCH 5**
ETSU alumnus and former Buccaneer quarterback Austin Herink signs to play professionally with the Dacia Vienna Vikings, an American football club based in Vienna, Austria.

**MARCH 12**
The 2020 *U.S. News* Best Graduate Schools Rankings names the ETSU College of Public Health in the top third of schools and programs of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

**MARCH 25**
ETSU announces a new graduate certificate program that will prepare professionals to be addiction counseling specialists.

**APRIL 1**
Gatton College of Pharmacy’s Generation Rx committee is named first runner-up for “best overall Generation Rx committee in the country” by the American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists.

**APRIL 17**
ETSU raises $225,000 from 675 donors (with an original goal of 350 donors) during the Day of Giving.

**APRIL 25**
The university launches ETSU Health, the new name for the five colleges in the Academic Health Sciences Center.

**MAY 4**
Over 2,000 degrees are conferred at spring ETSU Commencement.
Diabetes took her eyesight, but it only strengthened her vision. In 1968, one year before the celebration of Johnson City’s centennial, Dr. Shirley Chapman joined the faculty of East Tennessee State University’s Department of Political Science.

During her brilliant career, she would come to symbolize the evolving and mutually beneficial relationship between the city and the university. She not only taught political science, she lived it, entering the governmental affairs of the city and becoming one of its legendary leaders. As Johnson City celebrates its sesquicentennial this year, ETSU remembers the life of Dr. Shirley Chapman.

After earning a Ph.D. from Emory University, Dr. Chapman began to marshal the resources to create a new degree program at ETSU, the Master of City Management (MCM), which she described as “a professional career-oriented degree,” mixing coursework with six months spent in “full time internships on-the-job under the direction of practicing local government practitioners with close ETSU faculty advisement.” The educational mix, she said, was “both theoretical and practical,” preparing graduates for “demanding positions as practicing public administrators.”

Among those whose careers were boosted by Dr. Chapman’s visionary curriculum and academic risk-taking is current Johnson City Assistant City Manager Charlie Stahl.

“I recall Dr. Chapman to be an insightful, engaging personality who remained current on the national, state, and local political issues at the time,” Stahl told ETSU Today. “For me personally, she encouraged me to apply for certain positions in local government, and for other graduate students she provided similar encouragement, following their careers over the years.”
Not only did Stahl absorb Dr. Chapman’s knowledge in the classroom, he also followed her on the campaign trail, pitching in to help with her second, and successful, campaign for Johnson City Commission in 1983. She was re-elected in 1987.

“She was, I believe, the fourth woman to be elected to the City Commission by that time after May Ross McDowell, Marcia Songer, and Louise Sells, and the second woman Mayor after McDowell (East Tennessee State Normal School class of 1916),” Stahl said.

“She had a fine mind and never let obstacles stop her,” adds Mickii Carter, who continued the tradition of women leaders on the commission and in the mayor’s chair, from 1995 to 1997. “It was never easy for women to be elected to the City Commission, and I can only imagine how difficult it was for her.”

Dr. Chapman had lost her eyesight to diabetes at what Stahl describes as “the peak of her career.” Yet, he said, “She managed to move forward and continued to remain an influential figure both within the ETSU community and the greater Johnson City community.” At the time, she was the only blind mayor in the country.

Students recall Dr. Chapman taking breaks between her political science classes on the steps of Rogers-Stout Hall, accompanied by her beloved seeing-eye dog Vandy, who was also a patient and well-behaved spectator through many City Commission meetings that lasted far into the night.

Somehow, despite the demands of being an academic department chair and a city official, Dr. Chapman carried a full teaching load and continued her scholarship. In fact, just a year after she took the ETSU job, Rand McNally published her book State and Local Government, a high school text that supplemented an American history book written by Dr. Henry Graff of Columbia University.

Eight years of research into election data from Tennessee’s First Congressional District and interviews with more than 800 voters led to the 1977 publication of her book Democrats Challenge Traditional Republicanism in Upper East Tennessee. It was the fifth book published by ETSU’s Research Advisory Council and the first printed by the ETSU Press. She observed that “Democrats and Republicans are growing much closer together in their Upper East Tennessee vote totals, particularly in the urban areas.”

Two years later, she published a treatise entitled Need for Local and State Government Action to Meet Industrial Development Challenges: Upper East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.

Along the way, she developed ETSU’s Legislative Internship Program. It still thrives today, pairing undergraduate students directly with senators and representatives from the Tennessee General Assembly and their staff members in Nashville.

Dr. Chapman took great pride in keeping track of MCM alumni and reporting on their jobs and accomplishments in the pages of the East Tennessee State University Alumni Quarterly (later ETSU Today).

That tradition continues long after her death. The descendant of the MCM program at ETSU is today’s Master of Public Administration program, whose website reports: “Over 90 percent of the alumni of the MPA program at ETSU are currently employed in some aspect of public management, with over two-thirds holding positions in urban administration. Approximately a third of the alumni are city managers or town administrators. Others serve as planners, financial and personnel officers, federal and state civil servants, managers and administrative officers of non-profit and private sector organizations, and other occupations connected with urban affairs.”

One of Dr. Chapman’s prominent pupils was Gary Mabrey III, former President and Chief Executive Officer of the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce. With his MCM degree in hand, Mabrey became the first City Administrator for Lenoir City, Tennessee. He took every class Dr. Chapman taught.

“She practiced what she taught as a very effective City Commissioner with a keen sense of ‘town and gown,’” Mabrey said. “We city management students were well prepared for our careers in local government and other professions.”

“Dr. Chapman exemplified how a disability becomes an asset as she saw life with a unique sense of clarity that helped her students truly see government from a different vantage point.”

Dr. Chapman insisted that MCM interns should not limit their experiences to time spent in offices and in meetings. Her students rode in police cars, climbed onto fire trucks, and made daily rounds with garbage collection crews.

“These activities provide concrete examples of the topics text books talk about in general terms,” she wrote in the Winter 1972 Alumni Quarterly.

Dr. Shirley Chapman died in 1997, but her work continues to shape and inspire her adopted city and her university.
ETSU hosts a boot camp twice a year, but its “recruits” do not have to do push-ups or pull-ups. Their inspections don’t involve uniforms or barracks, and their instruction has nothing to do with weapons or warfare. The “recruits” learn, instead, how to organize large amounts of information into a coherent whole, overcome the fear of the blank page, and ignore the distractions of work assignments, dirty dishes, text messages, and more.

The Thesis and Dissertation Boot Camp is offered each semester by ETSU’s School of Graduate Studies in collaboration with the Office of Professional Development in the School of Continuing Studies and Academic Outreach to help graduate students tackle these big projects and overcome many of the barriers to writing.

The Boot Camp began in the fall of 2012 under the leadership of Dr. Cecilia McIntosh, an ETSU Professor of Biological Sciences who was Dean of the School of Graduate Studies at that time.

McIntosh, who retired from her role as Dean and returned to the classroom in 2018, had learned of the “boot camp” concept at a Council of Graduate Schools conference from schools that were aiming their programs at full-time graduate students. She believed it would be beneficial to students at ETSU, and not just full-time students, but also working professionals who were balancing school with employment and sometimes families, as well as students in programs that did not incorporate much writing into the curriculum. It seemed these students often hit a roadblock with the thesis or dissertation.

“My motivation,” McIntosh says, “was seeing the struggles of some very talented people as they tried to finish analyzing their work, synthesizing the information, and writing a dissertation.”

After gaining approval of the concept from the university’s Graduate Council, McIntosh and Emily Redd, Thesis/Dissertation Coordinator in the School of Graduate Studies, worked with Professional Development to bring it to fruition, incorporating input from graduate students and faculty regarding their needs.

McIntosh says ETSU’s program is unique in that it is offered on Friday evenings and Saturdays, making it accessible not only to working professionals, but also full-time students whose graduate assistantship duties might preclude their participation in a weekday program.

For a $150 registration fee, participants get four weekends of workshops on organization, research, writing, the review process, and more.

A dedicated team of faculty and staff from Graduate Studies as well as the Sherrod Library and numerous ETSU colleges provides the direction and assistance students need to start these major writing projects and stay on track to completion.

“We had a great panel of people who helped design Boot Camp,” McIntosh says. “Many give workshops on a volunteer basis in the interest of helping our students. ETSU is great that way.”

Participants also receive something that can be hard to obtain anywhere else—a place and time to truly focus on the task at hand.

“One of the biggest components of Boot Camp is that it gives these students a place to come away from their lives,” Redd says. “Get away from the laundry, silence your phone, remove yourself from your office or your home or wherever you spend most of your time, and go somewhere separate. We give you food. There’s dinner on Fridays and breakfast and lunch on Saturdays. And the bathroom’s
just down the hall. You’ve got no reason to get up and move. No excuses. The resources are there. It just gives a focused environment to get it done.”

In addition to the actual writing, participants are asked to do a bit of homework for Boot Camp, including progress reports and project timelines.

Thesis and Dissertation Boot Camp is not required, but a number of professors strongly recommend participation. Redd says some faculty also find it convenient to check in with their students who are working on their projects at Boot Camp, rather than scheduling in-person or online meetings to address the content-related questions.

“That’s a big thing, because our Boot Camp team does not advise on content,” she said. “We need the advisor there to help the student stay in the right lane in terms of content. We provide everything else.”

Boot Camp isn’t just for graduate students, either, nor is it only for ETSU students. It is also open to undergraduate students working on capstone projects, and students from other universities—some from as far away as Memphis—have signed up for ETSU’s Boot Camp. In addition, it has made a positive impact on ETSU’s retention and graduation rates.

Redd, who has shared the story of ETSU’s Thesis and Dissertation Boot Camp with other schools through conferences, says Boot Camp finishes with many “happy customers,” and word-of-mouth praise from those students helps drive registration in subsequent semesters.

One of those is Christy Lee (’15), who worked two (and sometimes three) jobs and cared for two children while working on her M.S. in Allied Health, at a time when her husband was also in a doctoral program.

“I finished my course work in a reasonable amount of time,” Lee said. “After many life setbacks and time passed, it was difficult to return to the role of student. It had been so long since I had written anything, and I felt like I was starting all over. I signed up for Boot Camp, just to see if something could really push me back into that groove.

“Boot Camp did that, and so much more,” she continued. “It not only forced me to devote scheduled time to being a student again, it showed me how. Other campers and faculty all had helpful hints, tips, and stories to share. I took guidance from them all. Every person was extremely helpful with every question, problem, or difficulty, even if it seemed to be off-the-wall. I do not think I could have finished without Boot Camp.”

**MY MOTIVATION WAS SEEING THE STRUGGLES OF SOME VERY TALENTED PEOPLE AS THEY TRIED TO FINISH ANALYZING THEIR WORK, SYNTHESIZING THE INFORMATION, AND WRITING A DISSERTATION.**

Dr. Cecilia McIntosh, former Dean of the School of Graduate Studies

“Without fail, the most common remark from graduates is that it helped them put their thesis or dissertation as a priority for a semester,” McIntosh says, “and many have finished, earned their degrees, and moved on with their careers. I am most proud of the ETSU spirit behind Boot Camp, with the professionals who share practical advice and pointers that help students finish. And I am very proud of the number of students who have completed their doctoral or master’s degrees with the help of 40-plus hours of writing time and some great workshops and moved on with their careers and dreams.”

Jennifer Hill is Assistant Director of University Relations at ETSU. | Photos by Larry Smith
Dalton Bryant, an ETSU economics major, is currently an Academic Performance Scholarship student worker at the Reece Museum. He describes himself as an analytical thinker.

Bryant recounts, “During my first semester at the Reece, I was trained to photograph artifacts and was assigned the museum’s large Mountain Dew collection. Over 100 service hours and months of work went into that first assignment.

“The early bottles had personality,” he said, “and the collection includes some of those quirky, more personalized bottles that reflect the days before corporate standardization and uniformity became the norm. In fact, this duality between the unique and the uniform only deepened my interest in the collection.

“What particularly interested me was how fearless earlier bottlers were to experiment; to try something—fail—and try something else. Particularly for local bottlers, after World War II, it was like the ‘Wild West’ for the U.S. soft drink industry. That kind of trial-and-error approach flies in the face of what many contemporary business schools teach.”

Bryant was captivated with the work. By this point, he knew the intricacies of the Mountain Dew collection better than most of the museum’s staff. During one of his many excursions to local antique stores, he discovered, purchased, and subsequently donated the bottle shown here since he knew the museum’s collection did not include one.

This year, as Johnson City celebrates its sesquicentennial, the Reece Museum is hosting three city-related exhibitions highlighting the anniversary. One of those exhibitions, The Tri-City Beverage Story: A History of Dr. Enuf and Mountain Dew in Johnson City (July 22 – September 13), coincides with the unveiling of a Tennessee historical marker commemorating Tri-City Beverage Corporation as the first bottler of today’s Mountain Dew. A documentary film about the bottler is also in the works.

“I am still shocked that at the time I was wrapping up photographing the last items in the Mountain Dew collection, an opportunity arose to retell the Mountain Dew/Dr. Enuf/Tri-City Beverage story in a Reece Museum exhibition,” Bryant says. “It is surreal that I have had the opportunity to meet people and tour places that are such an integral part of my work with the Mountain Dew collection.

“I am grateful to have met Chuck Gordon, owner of Tri-City Beverage, and author Dick Bridgforth, whose dad, in 1958, created a revised version of the Mountain Dew beverage when he was plant manager at Tri-City Beverage. This unpredictable series of events has made me feel personally connected to the collection in a way I could not have imagined when I first came to the Reece.”

Randy Sanders is Director of the Reece Museum, a unit of the Center of Excellence for Appalachian Studies and Services at ETSU.
Beginning with this issue of *ETSU Today*, we share brief excerpts from commencement addresses given on the East Tennessee State University campus.

**DECEMBER 15, 2018:**

Just days before she became President of Northeast State Community College, former ETSU professor Dr. Bethany Flora addressed the fall 2018 graduating class:

*FINISHING WHAT YOU start is a remarkable trait. Finishing what you start is a trait that companies tell us they are looking for in our graduates. Finishing what you start is a trait that faculty spend hours cultivating in students.*

*SOME CALL THIS trait grit. Others call it resilience. Regardless of the term, your ability to finish what you started is what has enabled you to walk across the stage today.*

**THE FACULTY AND STAFF** at ETSU are people marked by grace. One of the greatest gifts we enjoy in our lives is the gift of being surrounded by those who see our shortcomings and hold out a finish line on the horizon anyway.

**AS WE SET** out to finish what we start, may we maintain postures of humility, spirits of unity, and hearts of gratitude toward those who have helped us.

Just days before his retirement from the United States Senate, the Honorable Bob Corker from Tennessee also addressed the fall 2018 graduating class:

**THE BEST THING** that you can possibly do is master something. Make sure you’re indispensable. Do everything you can to be the first person there and the last person to leave. Make sure the people around you understand that you’re on a mission and you’re indispensable.

**HAVE A BOLD** vision. Think boldly. And I promise you it will cause you to go places that you would have never imagined.

**GIVE BACK.** There’s nothing that causes you to be whole as a person like giving a portion of your life to other people.

**MAY 4, 2019**

Mike Krause, Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation:

**WE ARE ALL** defined by place, and more than any other university in this state, place is a parent of this campus.

Can you imagine ETSU anywhere but in these mountains? This geography and this region’s culture are seamlessly intertwined with the experience you have all had here on campus.

I should also note you can’t imagine ETSU anywhere else but East Tennessee because that would require you to imagine a life without milkshakes from Pal’s....And, trust me, I live in Middle Tennessee and this is not a world you want to imagine.

Since 1911, this university has operated not as an isolated island of higher education, but as a partner with a mission focus that says “We won’t just graduate people who live in this region; we will graduate the people who build this region.”

One of the fun parts of my job is that I get to visit every higher education institution in Tennessee, and often, get a sense of the culture on each campus. What I see here, perhaps more than on any other campuses, is a sense of service.

Whether it is the $2 million in free health care provided by ETSU every year, the efforts being undertaken by this institution to battle the opioid epidemic, or the thousands of hours in service you, the students, dedicate to this community every day, it is clear to any outside observer that giving back isn’t an elective here. Leading in the community is part of being a Buccaneer.

Dr. Scott Lillibridge, ETSU Class of 1977, Senior Medical Advisor for the International Medical Corps:

I URGE AND beg you to think about your personal “quality of life” as you pursue your career. Choose projects that bring value and joy to your life and not just material wealth. Work with people who help you be productive, because in the end, it’s not how long you lived or how much money you made, it is how well you have honored the time and opportunities that were given to you.
Kecskemet, Hungary—Here in the land of the Magyars, the famous wines are found in the north, the Sopron beer comes from the west near the Austrian border, and the romanticized Hungarian plains are found in the southeastern part of the country.

In Kecskemet, just an hour south by train from Budapest, the notable musical lineage includes famous composers such as Zoltán Kodaly and modern-day pop singer Adrienne Nagy.

East Tennessee State University graduate Desonta Bradford, the Southern Conference Player of the Year in 2018, searched the internet to learn more about Hungary before heading overseas for his first season of pro basketball in Europe. Upon arrival he got his first glimpse of Budapest, the geographical and spiritual center of Hungary.

“It was beautiful,” said the soft-spoken Bradford, sitting in a chair courtside before a recent game here in central Hungary. “I like it; you could tell it was historic. It was beautiful; I plan to go back.”

Hungarian is one of the hardest languages for a non-native speaker to learn, with 14 vowels and 44 letters to start things off. English is the universal language of basketball, though, and Bradford has several American teammates and a coach who speaks English. But Bradford, who is from Humboldt in West Tennessee, has picked up a few Hungarian words.

So how did the guard, who played for four years for the Bucs, end up in Hungary?

Like most Division I standouts, Bradford hoped for a career in the NBA after college, and certainly that is still not out of the question. But he was not drafted by the NBA and did not hook on with a team as a free agent.

“I went to New Orleans; I was with the Pelicans in the summer (in 2018) and that didn’t work out,” Bradford said. “So I said why not (head overseas)? It’s a free trip to see the world.” His agent looked into other countries in Europe, but they picked Hungary.

Bradford plays for Kormend in the northern Hungarian city of Eger, which has been inhabited since the Stone Age, but modern roots date to when it was formed by St. Stephen, the first Christian king of Hungary,
in the 10th century. Today Eger has a population of about 53,000 people and is home to the famous Eger Castle.

In addition to weekly games in the top Hungarian league, Bradford’s team plays in the Alpe Adria Cup, which means better competition against other well-funded clubs in other countries. The team has made trips to Prague in the Czech Republic and to Austria.

On the court, Bradford is showing promise as a rookie pro in Hungary, often a good starting point for Americans who wish to advance to higher leagues in Western Europe or perhaps Turkey, China, or Russia.

Xavier Thames, one of his American teammates with Kormend, said Bradford has great potential.

“Off the court he’s fun,” said Thames, who was drafted out of San Diego State by Toronto of the NBA in 2014. “He’s young; he has a great heart. On the court he’s special. The sky is the limit for him.”

As a senior for the Bucs in 2017-18, Bradford averaged 15.8 points, 5.8 rebounds, and 3.5 assists per game for Head Coach Steve Forbes.

The 6-foot-4 guard, who turned 23 on April 12, averaged 14 points, 4.2 boards, and 2.5 assists in his first 14 games in the top Hungarian league.

Bradford is provided the free use of a car and apartment on top of his monthly salary. It is possible for former Division I players to spend 10 years overseas and eventually make six figures per year.

What have been his biggest adjustments on and off the court?

“On the court, the game is played much faster than college,” he said. “You have a 24-second shot clock instead of the 30. I feel that is the biggest thing. Off the court, it is getting used to the food and the language.”

Most American imports are expected to carry a heavy scoring load, especially in Hungary where the top teams have a roster filled with American and Serbian starters.

“My part, I don’t feel like I am here to score. I bring energy and play defense and score when I am asked to.”

Virginia native and free-lance writer David Driver lived three years in Hungary with his family when his wife was a visiting English literature professor. He has interviewed American basketball players in more than 10 countries in Europe and contributed to many alumni magazines and major daily newspapers on the topic. He returned to Szeged, Hungary, this semester as his wife was once again a visiting professor.
It was a rough start on the diamond for ETSU baseball's redshirt senior pitcher Daniel Sweeney. In his first three years, he pitched a combined 4.1 innings. He was the designated “walkie-talkie” bullpen guy who communicated between the coaches and the pitching staff. His 2018 saw an increased workload but not exactly the numbers Sweeney desired on the mound.

In 2019, ETSU may have found its diamond in the rough.

A Science Hill graduate, a Johnson City native — and possibly the most passionate Buccaneer fan this side of the Mississippi — Sweeney, a 6'5" righthander, has represented his school proudly.

The redshirt senior — a “super senior” in the eyes of his teammates — said a few years back he would’ve never imagined being in this position. Prepping just minutes away from ETSU’s campus, Sweeney had zero offers out of college. No D1, D2, D3, NAIA, or JUCO offers. Former ETSU Head Coach Tony Skole, now at The Citadel, saw Sweeney in action a few times at Science Hill and gave him his only opportunity — as a walk-on.

“My only options were to either walk on here and play baseball or don’t play baseball anymore,” he said. “Coach Skole called me and said he wanted me to be a part of the team but couldn’t offer me a scholarship. I waited about a week and got another call from one of the assistants saying I had 24 hours to decide or they were moving on. At that point I decided, ‘Well, I guess I’m playing at ETSU.’”

Sweeney knew throughout high school that college baseball might not be a possibility, even though it was his biggest desire.

“I always told my dad I wanted to play baseball in college and he said to have a backup plan if that doesn’t work out. So I walked on and we had too large of a roster, so I thought for sure I was going to get cut. It was pretty clear that I was not good enough to be on the team.”

But Sweeney survived.

“Some things happened to certain guys, and Coach Skole didn’t have to cut anybody. I redshirted and got to stay on the team, but I thought the next year I would for sure get cut. After throwing 1.1 innings that year, I thought I would get cut the following year — and I was pretty positive this time.”

Sweeney didn’t get cut but only pitched in three innings in 2017.

The first three years were tough. Sweeney said people openly disclosed their opinions to him and his family.

“I remember being at an event, and this guy came up to me and wasn’t sugar-coating anything,” he explained. “He was just kind of talking to me and made a point to say, ‘I hope you know you’re never going to pitch here. You might want to consider transferring.’ Throughout my career, that’s always been in the back of my mind.

“Nobody thought I would ever be able to pitch here. Random people would go up to my dad and say, ‘Hey, have you thought about transferring him?’ Or just telling me I would always be known as the walkie-talkie guy sitting at the end of the bench.”

Sweeney said the humiliation really kicked in for him when he would be used in the starting lineup as a designated hitter for matchup purposes before being subbed out.

“When the DH position came up, the coaches would see if the righties or lefties were getting out and determine which hitter would match up better with the pitcher,” he said. “My name would be on the card, but once I’m subbed out — I’m done. If I saw my name on the lineup card, I knew I wouldn’t get to pitch that day. But everything happens for a reason.”

Sweeney said maybe he needed that experience to grow. Maybe he wasn’t ready. Maybe he would get cut or have to transfer the fourth time around.

That offseason, he got a phone call that caused even more uncertainty.

“I was in Alaska playing summer ball when Coach Skole called me and said he was taking The Citadel job,” Sweeney said. “I told him I understood and I was happy for him, and he wished me luck. Two or three weeks went by, and we had no idea what would happen with the coaching job (at ETSU).”

Enter Joe Pennucci.

A first-time head coach coming from Stony Brook as one of the nation’s most prolific recruiters, Pennucci came to Johnson City without a single connection to the area. His first interaction with Sweeney came via a phone call.

“Coach Pennucci called me right before one of our summer games, and I walked away from the field to answer it, knowing this could be our coach. He introduced himself and asked me if I was playing summer ball. When I told him I was in Alaska, he loved it. He and Coach (Micah) Posey and all his staff are big summer ball guys.

“Still, in the back of my mind, I thought, ‘He’s a new coach. I’m going to get cut.’ With my numbers, I didn’t think he would keep me around.”

But in Pennucci’s eyes, there was potential.

The new skipper saw a veteran who was willing to take on any role he could get to help the four letters on the front of the jersey — instead of the two-digit number on the back.

“Dan is a fabulous kid, a hard worker, and he has been a good leader for our young players,” Pennucci said. “This is a difficult game, and there are plenty of ups and downs. His resilience and continued work should be a lesson for everyone.”
Sweeney had his moments in 2018. He pitched 37.0 innings with a 3-2 record and a 6.08 ERA, making nine starts with 17 appearances. He never went beyond five innings but helped in some tight spots as a reliever and midweek starter.

He earned his first career start against Eastern Kentucky on March 7, 2018, on short notice.

“Coach Posey told me during batting practice that I would be starting — I did not know the entire day,” Sweeney said. “I said, ‘Sounds good,’ but inside I was freaking out thinking, ‘How can you not tell me? I could’ve been preparing last night.’ But I started and did well and got to keep starting and get innings.”

One of the rarest feats in baseball, even in the pros, is the immaculate inning — nine pitches for three strikeouts in a single frame. Sweeney was one of only two pitchers in NCAA Division I last season to accomplish this feat.

Micah Posey, ETSU’s second-year pitching coach who had success in the Los Angeles Angels organization nearly a decade ago, said Sweeney’s role on the team is crucial both on and off the field.

“No one bleeds blue and gold more than Daniel Sweeney,” Posey said. “His career path has not been easy, but it has made him into the person he is today. He has been a blessing and an excellent example for our younger players.”

Sweeney credits Posey for most of his development both as a pitcher and as a leader.

“Being around Coach Posey has helped me a lot — and anybody will tell you that,” he said. “He is a great pitching coach. Getting experience and being around him and guys like Micah Kaczor who really understand pitching and understand baseball has helped a lot.”

As a fifth-year player, Sweeney is viewed by his teammates as the clubhouse leader.

“Getting to play with Sweeney over the past two years has been awesome,” said Kaczor, a 2018 transfer. “Just to watch a guy who works as hard as he does develop into the pitcher and man he is now has been special.

“He has been a huge part of our team, especially for the younger guys, to look up to him and see what happens when you put in the hard work. From not getting any innings as a freshman, to now starting as a senior, he has done it right the whole way.”

Kaczor said there were a lot of instances when Sweeney could have spoken negatively about not getting playing time, as some might do in his situation. But Sweeney took the high road — leaving a lasting impression on him.

“He never talked bad about teammates or coaches when he wasn’t given the opportunity, but stayed ready,” Kaczor said. “When the opportunity presented itself, he took full advantage. Sweeney has been one of my favorite teammates to play with over the years. Just the way he interacts with guys and goes about his business has helped set a standard for what ETSU Baseball should be.”

Mike Ezekiel is a Graduate Assistant in Athletic Media Relations at ETSU.
Benavia Jenkins is the seventh ETSU Head Volleyball Coach in program history. Before coming to Johnson City, she spent the past three seasons as an assistant coach at the University of South Florida. Prior to her time at USF, Jenkins coached as an assistant at Coastal Carolina, Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida, and was the Head Coach at Lincoln Park Academy.

Jenkins played collegiately at the University of Florida from 1999-2003. During her playing career, she helped guide the Gators to a 127-12 overall record (72-0 in Southeastern Conference play) and two Final Four trips, including an appearance in the 2003 NCAA Championship.

As a team, USF won 20 matches in 2018 and made its first postseason appearance since 2002. The 20 wins were also the most by a Bulls team in over 15 years.

Prior to USF, Jenkins spent the 2015 season at Coastal Carolina where the Chanticleers went 29-5 overall, 14-0 in the Big South, and went to the NCAA Tournament.

Jenkins began her coaching career at Lincoln Park Academy in 2010. After three years there, she took over as an assistant coach at Santa Fe College.

Jenkins was an All-American middle blocker at Florida, where she totaled over 1,000 kills and 600 blocks. The Fort Pierce, Florida, native became the first Gator to finish with over 600 career blocks and was a three-time AVCA All-American and four-time all-SEC performer. During her four years in Gainesville, Florida won four straight SEC championships and advanced to back-to-back Final Four appearances, while reaching the championship game in Jenkins’ senior season. Jenkins was inducted into the Florida Hall of Fame in 2017.

Jenkins played professionally from 2005-14, for teams in Spain, Austria, Turkey, Switzerland, and Florida.
2019 ETSU FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

AUGUST 31
AT APPALACHIAN STATE

SEPTEMBER 7
SHORTER

SEPTEMBER 14
VMI

SEPTEMBER 21
AUSTIN PEAY

SEPTEMBER 28
AT FURMAN

OCTOBER 5
WOFFORD

OCTOBER 17
AT CHATTANOOGA

OCTOBER 26
AT SAMFORD

NOVEMBER 2
THE CITADEL

NOVEMBER 9
AT WESTERN CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 16
MERCER

NOVEMBER 23
AT VANDERBILT
The ETSU National Alumni Association presented its 2019 Alumni Awards during the association’s Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting, which is held as part of the university’s spring commencement weekend.

**Outstanding Alumni**

**Outstanding Alumna Dr. Flora Joy** is credited with being ETSU’s youngest graduate to date, as she graduated with honors and began her teaching career in 1963 at the age of 18. She later earned a master’s degree in education at ETSU and a doctorate in education at the University of Tennessee. After several years in the public schools, during which she was named a Tennessee Teacher of the Year, she returned to ETSU as a professor. During her nearly four decades at ETSU, she received Distinguished Faculty Awards in both teaching and service. The founder of ETSU’s renowned Master's Degree Program in Storytelling and the journal *Storytelling World* is an inductee of the Clemmer College Hall of Fame, and Flora Joy Lane adjacent to Warf-Pickel Hall is named in her honor.

**Outstanding Alumnus Dr. Scott Lillibridge** is senior medical advisor for the International Medical Corps, a United States-based nongovernmental organization with activities in more than 30 countries. He is a former director of the Center for Global Health and...
Innovation for Texas A&M’s AgriLife Research and taught in Texas A&M’s Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, where his research was part of a national effort to develop and manufacture vaccines to address pandemic influenza and other public health threats. In addition, he was the founding director of the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Lillibridge was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation from ETSU in 1977 and served in the Medical Service Corps. He earned his M.D. from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland.

**Awards of Honor**

**Larry D. Smith** purchased his first camera to document his travels and activities while he was in the U.S. Air Force. In taking photographs in his off-duty travels to Turkey, Greece, Israel, and Eastern Europe and learning film processing and printing on base, he developed a lifelong passion that he decided to turn into a career.

When he returned home, Smith attended ETSU and worked as a photo assistant before graduating in 1978. He soon became university photographer and served as ETSU’s lead photographer in University Relations until his retirement. His photographs of ETSU’s people, activities, and campus scenery have appeared in numerous university publications, media outlets, and displays throughout the university and the region.

Smith received the university’s Distinguished Staff Award and Career Award presented by the Staff Senate. He was also honored with a “True Buccaneer” designation by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics for his quarter-century of athletic event coverage.

**Julie (Jules) Wortman**, a 1989 graduate of ETSU, is president and CEO of Wortman Works Media & Marketing based in Nashville. The veteran public relations and marketing strategist has developed a number of national and international campaigns for record labels, brands, commercial developments, authors, music, sports entertainment, special events, and more.

Wortman began her career with an entry-level job at Nashville’s Network Ink Public Relations. She went on to hold senior executive posts at such major record labels as Warner Bros., MCA/Universal, and Atlantic and at a top professional wrestling organization before founding her own firm. Her clients through the years have included many national brands and music legends.

Wortman is a recognized expert in her field, often serving as a respected voice in the media as an authority on entertainment and media relations. She also serves as an adjunct instructor at Belmont University in Nashville.

**Honorary Alumni**

**A.R. Freddy Gonzalez** graduated from Texas A&M University in 1969 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He served in the Army for 10 years, both on active duty overseas as a paratrooper and military policeman and in the reserves.

While attending graduate school at Texas A&M, Gonzalez was offered a job with General Motors, and he worked in various parts of the country as a district sales and service manager. He left GM in 1987 to begin a new career in sales in San Antonio. In 1993, Gonzalez and his wife, Susan E. Gonzalez, came to Johnson City and purchased Chaparral Buick GMC Trucks, a dealership which has consistently been recognized as one of the top 500 Hispanic companies in the U.S.

**Susan Gonzalez**, a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, has worked in each department of the dealership to learn how everything operates, including running the body shop for two years. She and daughter Danielle have been doing the commercials for the business since Danielle was six years old. Danielle continues to be a part of the dealership’s promotion team, and the Gonzalez’s son, Freddy Jr., is a manager.

**Fred Warren** came to ETSU in 1986 to restart the men’s golf program, which had been dropped for budgetary reasons in 1983. He started two months before classes began with no players and limited financial support, but led the program to national prominence.

Under Warren’s leadership, the Buccaneer men’s golf team has won 15 Southern Conference and two Atlantic Sun championships and over 55 tournament titles, and made 22 NCAA regional and 14 NCAA championship appearances. Warren, a 2003 Golf Coaches Association of America Hall of Fame inductee, has been recognized as Southern Conference Coach of the Year 12 times and Regional Coach of the Year twice, and he was runner-up for National Coach of the Year in 1996.

Before coming to ETSU, Warren coached at Texas Christian University and Oklahoma State University. He is a graduate of UCLA and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

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**Lee Ann Davis is Director of Alumni Programs.**
The East Tennessee State University Class Ring is your way to show the world your achievement. This personal token of excellence connects you to your experiences during your time in the shadow of the mountains every time you put it on.

Custom crafted for East Tennessee State University, the designs of the official rings are based upon ETSU’s legacy of values and traditions.

The official ETSU seal is placed with “East Tennessee State University” around the top emblem. A diamond, blue sapphire, or a cubic zirconium stone can be incorporated into the ETSU seal.

The front steps of Gilbreath Hall have the words from the ETSU Alma Mater “In the Shadow of the Mountains” inscribed on a banner that flies proudly above the original university building, which is placed on the right side of the ring. Pictured in the distance from the Hall is the Amphitheater built in 1936. Embracing the Amphitheater is your degree.

Built in 1999, The Charles C. Sherrod building is featured on the left side of the ring with the individual graduation year of the student. All these elements come together to symbolize the university’s past, present, and future - an ETSU graduate ready to carry on the ETSU legacy with Pride.

THE BESSE BROWN COOPER

Class Ring Story

Besse Brown Cooper was the oldest living graduate of our original institution until her death in 2012. In honor of this significant life achievement and in tribute to her steadfast love of her alma mater, the ETSU National Alumni Association has honored Ms. Cooper with the renaming of the Class Ring Ceremony, portraying the class ring legacy she so fondly exemplified.

Besse Brown Cooper is an alumni member of ETSU who has broken the Guinness Book of World Records and other sources by being the oldest living person in the world.

Cooper’s life and legacy was her love of East Tennessee State Normal School. For over nine decades she continued to proudly wear her ring. Twirling it on her fingers over time made the ring almost smooth, but for 94 years, the ring was her tie to ETSNS and her college education.

For more information, please visit us online at balfour.com/etsu or call 1-866-225-3687.
Ron Ramsey (BS ’78) of Blountville has had the Cordell Hull Building tunnel to the Tennessee Capitol named in his honor. His degree is in Industrial Technology.

Senator Rusty Crowe (BS ’74) of Johnson City received the 2018 Statesman of the Year Award from the Tennessee Association of Optometric Physicians. His degree is in Law Enforcement.

Larry Manis (BSW ’73) of Johnson City was inducted into Johnson City’s Parks and Recreation Department’s Wall of Fame. His degree is in Social Work.

Dana Moore (BS ’81) of Nashville has been recognized by the Tennessee Principals Association as a difference maker. Her degree is in Political Science.

Lorrie Goff (AS ’86, BS ’88, MA ’01) of Johnson City has been named an ABC Tri-Cities Community Hero. Her degrees are in Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice, and Sociology.

Laura Watkins (BS ’88) of Morristown has been named one of Hamblen County’s Teachers of the Year. Her degree is in Elementary Education.

Brian Wilhoit (BS ’89) of Greeneville has been re-elected for a second term as a member of the Greene County Board of Education. His degree is in Engineering Technology.

Bryan Daniels (BS ’95, MS ’97) of Maryville has been named the Tennessee Economic Development Council’s Vice President for 2018-19. His degrees are in Speech Pathology and Engineering Technology.

Calvin Clifton (BGS ’98) of Kingsport has been named the American Public Works Association’s Government Affairs Committee Chair for 2018-19.

Alison Johnson (BBA ’01, BSN ’04) of Elizabethton was named to The Business Journal’s list of 40 Under Forty for 2018. Her degrees are in Management and Nursing.

Amanda Bristol (BS ’02) of Johnson City was named to The Business Journal’s list of 40 Under Forty for 2018. Her degree is in Computer and Information Science.

James Mumpower (BBA ’05) of Unicor was named to The Business Journal’s list of 40 Under Forty for 2018. His degree is in Management and Accountancy.

Nicholas Lawrence (BS ’06) of Blountville was named to Knoxville magazine’s list of 40 Under 40 for 2018. His degree is in Engineering Technology.

Parker Bohon (BBA ’07) of Johnson City was named to The Business Journal’s list of 40 Under Forty for 2018. His degree is in Management.

Jacob Hutchison (BBA ’07) of Kingsport was named to The Business Journal’s list of 40 Under Forty for 2018. His degree is in Accountancy.

Jennifer Hunt (BS ’08, MPH ’10) of Jonesborough was named to The Business Journal’s list of 40 Under Forty for 2018. Her degrees are in Public Health.

Dr. Paula Masters (BS ’03, GCR ’07, MPH ’09, DPH ’18) of Jonesborough was named to The Business Journal’s list of 40 Under Forty for 2018. Her degrees are in Health Care Management and Public Health.

Kellie Simpson (BBA ’08) of Fall Branch was named to The Business Journal’s list of 40 Under Forty for 2018. Her degree is in Finance.

Jonathan Tipton (BBA ’08) of Johnson City was named to The Business Journal’s list of 40 Under Forty for 2018. His degree is in Finance.

Marissa Greene (DPT ’09) of Gulf Breeze, Florida, has been named Navy Medicine’s Physical Therapist of the Year. Her degree is in Physical Therapy.

McKenzie Calhoun (PHARMD ’11) of Johnson City was named the 2018 Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year in Tennessee. Her degree is in Pharmacy.

Joseph Powers (BS ’11) of Bristol, Tennessee, has been named to The Business Journal’s list of 40 Under Forty for 2018. His degree is in Engineering Technology.

Kristie Spoone (MA ’12) of Morristown has been named one of Hamblen County’s Teachers of the Year. Her degree is in Reading.

Katie Westbrooks (BA ’12) of Kingsport was named to The Business Journal’s list of 40 Under Forty for 2018. Her degree is in Art.

Dr. Charlie White (BS ’63) of Wytheville, Virginia, was named Interim President of Virginia Highlands Community College. His degree is in Biology.

Joyce Elizabeth Bowers (BBA ’80, MBA ’92) of Pensacola, Florida, has been appointed Vice President of Finance and Administration at the University of West Florida. Her degrees are in Business and Business Administration.

Ken Vittum (MCM ’83) of Pearisburg, Virginia, has been named Interim Town Manager of Abingdon, Virginia. His degree is in City Management.

Dr. Bonny Copenhaver (BS ’89, EDD ’02) of Superior, Wisconsin, has been named President of New River Community and Technical College in Beckley, West Virginia. Her degrees are in English and Educational Leadership.

Chris York (MBA ’92) of Waxahachie, Texas, has been named President of Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Grapevine. His degree is in Business Administration.

Tony Seaton (BS ’77) of Johnson City has been named to the Tri-Cities Pro Bono Hall of Fame. His degree is in Business.
Shannon Mincey (MA ’01) of Jefferson City, Tennessee, has been named Volleyball Coach at Lakeway Christian Academy in White Pine, Tennessee. Her degree is in Physical Education.

Adam Strachn (BS ’07, BBA ’09, MACC ’11) of Crossville, Tennessee, has been appointed CEO of The Cosby Harrison Company. His degrees are in Biology and Accountancy.

Christopher Carroll (BS ’09) of Washington, DC, has been appointed Communications Director for Congresswoman Elaine Luria of Virginia. His degree is in History.

Anthony Farnum (BS ’10) of Bristol, Virginia, has been elected to the Bristol, Virginia, City Council. His degree is in Public Health.

Michael Parker (BS ’10, MPA ’16) of Piney Flats has been named Director of Economic Development at NETWORKS Sullivan Partnership. His degrees are in Political Science and Public Administration.

Dr. Dustin M. Price (MD ’12) of Jonesborough has taken a position at Watauga Orthopedics in Kingsport. His degree is in Medicine.

Dana Glenn (BBA ’13) of Kingsport has been named Director of Marketing and Business Development at NETWORKS Sullivan Partnership. Her degree is in Management.

Dr. Fatemeh Yamani (RES ’13) of Kingsport joined the HMG Primary Care team in Weber City, Virginia. Her residency was in Family Medicine.

Brian Harding (BS ’16, MS ’18) of Blountville has been named Assistant Equipment Manager at Tulane University. His degrees are in Sports and Leisure Management.

Jason Keiser (BA ’18) of New Almaden, California, is now leading the band The New Acoustic Collective. His degree is in Bluegrass, Old Time, and Country Music Studies.

Dr. Amanda Thomas (AUD ’18) of Powder Springs, Georgia, is an Audiologist at the Marietta Hearing Center. Her degree is in Audiology.

Anthony Farnum (BS ’10) of Bristol, Virginia, has been elected to the Bristol, Virginia, City Council. His degree is in Public Health.

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NOTEWOORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Rita Quillen (BS ’80, MA ’85) of Gate City, Virginia, is releasing her book Wayland this year. Her degrees are in English.

Gary Harrell (BS ’73) of Johnson City, a retired U.S. Army Major General, spoke at the Johnson City Lions Club. His degree is in Industrial Technology.

Lori Erickson (BBA ’99, MBA ’14) of Johnson City has been named Executive Director of Human Resources at ETSU. Her degrees are in Management and Business Administration.

Dr. Shaoqing Gong (MPH ’10, DRPH ’17) of Johnson City authored an article for Scientific Reports entitled “Geographic differences in obesity prevalence and its risk factors among Asian Americans: findings from the 2013-2014 California Health Interview Survey.” Her degrees are in Public Health.

Anne G’Fellers Mason (MA ’13) of Jonesborough has released her book The Summer Between through Mountain Gap Books. Her degree is in History.

Erika Herrera (BS ’14) of Chesapeake, Virginia, received her degree from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Carolina Campus. Her degree is in Health Sciences.

Beenish Kamran (’18) of Ooltewah, Tennessee, completed her Health Equity Fellowship with Community Health Innovations of Rhode Island. Her certificate is in Health Care Management.

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1940s
Mary Ann Hunt – Asheville, North Carolina
November 10, 2018
BS ’42 Elementary Education

Arlene W. Bird McGhee – Austin, Texas
January 7, 2017
BS ’45 Education

Kate Callaway Carter – Johnson City
September 22, 2018
BS ’46

Jemima A. Milhorn – Ft. Myers, Florida
October 14, 2018
BS ’47 Social Science

LaWanda C. Baskette – Kingsport
August 12, 2018
MA ’50 Biology

Betty Jo Fisher Estep – Bristol, Tennessee
September 15, 2018
BS ’51 Chemistry

1950s
Luther William Payne – Johnson City
December 11, 2018
BS ’50 Chemistry

Gene J. Quarles – Jefferson City, Tennessee
October 27, 2018
BS ’50 Chemistry, MA ’55 Education

Jack L. Gillam – Alpharetta, Georgia
July 18, 2018
BS ’52 Industrial Arts & Technical Education

LaWanda C. Baskette – Kingsport
August 12, 2018
MA ’53 English

Bettie Jo Fisher Estep – Bristol, Tennessee
September 15, 2018
BS ’54 Home Economics

1960s
Jerry Semones – Jarratt, Virginia
October 31, 2018
BS ’60 Social Science

Phyllis W. Lovette – Elizabethtown
July 24, 2018
BS ’61 Music

Roger N. Trinkle – Bristol, Tennessee
July 22, 2018
BS ’61 Economics

1970s
Teresa M. Brown – Charlotte, North Carolina
August 19, 2018
BS ’70 Elementary Education

Horace Virgil Stephens – Kingsport
December 8, 2018
MBA ’70

Claude F. Sanders, III – Blountville
July 28, 2018
BS ’71 Physical Education

Jacob Emal Edwards, II – Johnson City
October 28, 2018
BS ’71 History, MA ’83 Elementary Education

Vicki Ferguson Bostic – Baton Rouge, Louisiana
August 20, 2018
BS ’72 Journalism

OBITUARIES

Ottis Farrell Blankenship – Clinton, Mississippi
October 10, 2018
BS ’55 Business Administration

William Labe Gentry – Colonial Heights, Virginia
December 7, 2018
BS ’56 Industrial Arts/Tech Education

Thomas H. North, Sr. – Kingsport
September 29, 2018
BS ’56 Business

James Thurman Pierce – Johnson City
November 7, 2018
BS ’56 Business Administration

Sidney Luther Campbell – Cecil County, Maryland
August 9, 2018
BS ’57 English

William Edward Saylor – Johnson City
September 28, 2018
BA ’57 English

Carroll L. Broome – Elizabethtown
July 28, 2018
BS ’58 Business Administration

Donald Jack “Pete” Haulsee – Johnson City
August 29, 2018
BS ’58 Business Administration

George Thomas Chambers – Bristol, Tennessee
November 2, 2018
BS ’58 Business Education

Harry Haynes Sisk – Johnson City
November 15, 2018
BS ’58 Industrial Arts Education, MA ’66 Industrial Education

Avery Quillen Eiseman – Morristown
August 21, 2018
BS ’59 Business Administration

Jack Dalton Daniels – Johnson City
November 23, 2018
BS ’59 Accountancy

Freddie Joe Flick – Cookeville, Tennessee
September 22, 2018
BS ’65 Accountancy

Bill McFall – Williamson, South Carolina
September 29, 2018
BS ’65 Biology

Elizabeth Maxine Clark Sams – Bristol, Tennessee
November 22, 2018
BS ’66 Chemistry

James Allen Moyer – Gainesville, Georgia
January 6, 2019
BS ’66 Business Administration

Charles E. Woods – Oneida, Tennessee
August 7, 2018
BS ’66 Management

Leonard Raymond Gallimore – Radford, Virginia
August 15, 2018
MA ’62 Educational Administration

Lt. Col. Willis M. Grimm – Kingsport
November 11, 2018
BS ’62 Philosophy

Thomas E. Lawless – Maynardville, Tennessee
August 11, 2018
BS ’62 Mathematics

Ronald R. Light – Kingsport
April 13, 2018
BA ’62 Chemistry

Gerald Dennis Powers – Erwin
October 24, 2018
BS ’62 Geography

Tommy H. Smithson – Kingsport
July 31, 2018
BS ’62 Industrial Arts Education

Jean Row Clay – Johnson City
August 16, 2018
BS ’63 Elementary Education, MA ’79 Reading

Carl Douglas Zimmerman – Johnson City
October 1, 2018
BS ’63 Biology, MA ’71 Educational Administration and Supervision, EDS ’89 Educational Administration and Supervision

William Henry Lawson – Atlanta
October 15, 2018
BS ’63 Accountancy

Mollie Frances Ball – Kingsport
August 26, 2018
BS ’65 Business Administration

James Darrell Cline, Sr. – Kingsport
November 23, 2018
BS ’66 Management

Allen D. Gouge – Cary, North Carolina
October 7, 2018
BS ’67 Geography

Fred Atkins Palmore – South Boston, Virginia
December 13, 2018
BS ’67 Physical Education

Veda M. Romney – Salt Lake City, Utah
October 10, 2018
MA ’67 Elementary Education

Harry Curtis Williams – Johnson City
December 19, 2018
BS ’67 Sociology

Ivan Leigh Burrell – Orlando, Florida
October 27, 2018
BS ’69 Environmental Health

Willie Dean Hammons – Mountain City
October 8, 2018
BS ’69 Marketing

Dale Kenneth McNabb – Rogersville
October 23, 2018
BS ’69 History, MED ’83 Elementary Education

Alice J. Robertson Myers – Worthington, Indiana
September 11, 2018
BS ’69 Music

Larry Dwight Tolliver – Kingsport
January 28, 2019
BS ’69 Accountancy

Thomas L. Perry Jr. – Johnson City
October 18, 2018
BS ’54 Biology, MA ’60 Biology

James Darrell Cline, Sr. – Kingsport
November 23, 2018
BS ’66 Management

Allen D. Gouge – Cary, North Carolina
October 7, 2018
BS ’67 Geography

Fred Atkins Palmore – South Boston, Virginia
December 13, 2018
BS ’67 Physical Education

Veda M. Romney – Salt Lake City, Utah
October 10, 2018
MA ’67 Elementary Education

Harry Curtis Williams – Johnson City
December 19, 2018
BS ’67 Sociology

Ivan Leigh Burrell – Orlando, Florida
October 27, 2018
BS ’69 Environmental Health

Willie Dean Hammons – Mountain City
October 8, 2018
BS ’69 Marketing

Dale Kenneth McNabb – Rogersville
October 23, 2018
BS ’69 History, MED ’83 Elementary Education

Alice J. Robertson Myers – Worthington, Indiana
September 11, 2018
BS ’69 Music

Larry Dwight Tolliver – Kingsport
January 28, 2019
BS ’69 Accountancy
John Wesley Buckles, Jr. – Kingsport
December 28, 2018
BS ’72 Marketing

John Oliver Jones – Chattanooga
August 16, 2018
BS ’72 Real Estate

Mary Elizabeth Haren – Johnson City
September 14, 2018
ASN ’73 Nursing

Carlos Preston Salyer – Elizabethton
January 26, 2019
BS ’73 Physical Education

Ronald R. Coleman – Chattanooga
July 3, 2018
BS ’73 Physical Education

Johnny Patrick Scruggs – Elizabethton
January 12, 2019
BS ’76 Journalism

Joyce Drew Estep – Limestone
January 3, 2019
BS ’77 Elementary Education

Patricia Diane Ramsey Hatcher – Moorsburg, Tennessee
January 25, 2019
BS ’77 Biology

David Ronald McGoldrick – Knoxville
January 6, 2019
BS ’77 Law Enforcement

Robert Lee Hooks – Chuckey
September 28, 2018
AS ’78 Law Enforcement

Kim Lower – Kingsport
August 19, 2018
BS ’78 Dental Hygiene

Steven Ray McLaughlin – Johnson City
January 9, 2019
BS ’78 Physiology

1980s
Danny Ray Julian – Unicoi
November 18, 2018
BS ’80 Political Science and Sociology

Gregory Lee Manning – Ventura County, California
November 24, 2018
BS ’80 Music

Jean Osborne Newton Cottier – Savannah, Georgia
September 4, 2018
BS ’80 General Psychology

Kathy Lee Graves – Johnson City
November 12, 2018
BS ’80 Physical Education, MED ’95 Media Services

Scott Richard Frye – Kingsport
November 2, 2018
BS ’80 Geography

Barbara Jean Chadwick – Knoxville
January 15, 2019
BS ’81 Criminal Justice and Criminology

Deborah Sue Davis – Church Hill
October 24, 2018
BS ’81 Elementary Education

Kathryn Jane Dugger-Edwards – Elizabethton
September 14, 2018
BBA ’82 Finance

Margaret C. McConnell – Fort Blackmore, Virginia
August 5, 2018
ASN ’82 Nursing

Donald Houstin Littrell – Bluff City
September 5, 2018
BS ’82 Industrial Arts Education, MS ’85 Industrial Technology

Andre Lamont Motley – Christiansburg, Virginia
July 30, 2018
BS ’84 Engineering Technology

Karen Lynn Fisher – Hampton
January 11, 2019
BS ’85 Elementary Education, MED ’96 Special Education

Frankie Myron Bailey – Erwin
September 9, 2018
BS ’86 Engineering Technology

Ronald K. Speer – Kingsport
November 18, 2018
BA ’86 Political Science

Susan Diane Archer – Kingsport
November 6, 2018
BS ’87 Criminal Justice and Criminology

Ellen F. Patrick – Abingdon
August 6, 2018
MFA ’87 Art

Teresa G. Hardin – Elizabethton
August 27, 2018
BBA ’88 Economics

Sandra Louise Jen – Mosheim
November 22, 2018
BBA ’90 Business Management

2000s
Nichole Christine Dahlin – Johnson City
January 11, 2019
BS ’08 Physical Education

2010s
Jason Juroff – Jefferson City, Tennessee
February 17, 2018
BA ’10 History

Sharon S. Jessee – Rutledge, Tennessee
July 28, 2018
MSN ’11 Nursing

Cindy Ann Hatcher Bass – Mountain City
January 30, 2019
MSN ’12 Nursing

Dr. Manisha Nukavarapu, a second-year resident physician with the ETSU Quillen College of Medicine’s Department of Internal Medicine, was among the 157 people who died in the Ethiopian Airlines plane crash on March 10, 2019.
FACULTY AND STAFF OBITUARIES

Dr. David B. Benner of Johnson City, February 1, 2019. He taught in the Department of Biological Sciences from 1971-99. He was honored as Professor Emeritus in 2000.

Coy B. Brickey of Elizabethton, October 17, 2018. He was a commercial printer who retired from the University Press.

Sharon E. Chandler of Jonesborough, September 11, 2018. She was an Office Manager in the Department of History.

Dr. Christopher Stephen Dula of Johnson City, January 8, 2019. He was a Professor of Psychology.

Mary Jane Fields of Rogersville, October 25, 2018. She was a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Career Specialist.

Kathy Lee Graves (BS ’80, MED ’95) of Johnson City, November 12, 2018. She worked as Assignment Coordinator in the ETSU Office of Housing and Residence Life for more than 40 years.

Karen Kemp Gregory of Johnson City, October 31, 2018. She was the former Head Women’s Basketball Coach.

Dr. Norman E. Hankins (MA ’62) of Afton, February 11, 2018. He was a former Professor in the Department of Psychology and the Department of Human Development and Learning, which he founded.

Dr. Carroll R. Hyder (BS and MA ’67) of Johnson City, April 5, 2019. In addition to serving on the faculty and as Chair of the Department of Technology at ETSU, he was a former Dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology.

Dr. Angela Radford Lewis of Johnson City, January 18, 2019. She was Vice Provost and Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives.

Dr. Clyde L. Orr of Knoxville, February 6, 2019. He was a Professor and Chairman of the Department of Supervision and Administration.


Dr. Angela Radford Lewis of Johnson City, January 18, 2019. She was Vice Provost and Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives.

Dr. John V. Quigley of Johnson City, October 25, 2018. He was an Associate Professor in the Department of Management and Marketing.

Dr. Angela Radford Lewis of Johnson City, January 18, 2019. She was Vice Provost and Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives.

Tony Early Stout of Bluff City, February 15, 2019. He had worked as a Lead Repair Technician for ID Services since 2007.

Page Whitson of Jonesborough, September 4, 2018. He worked as a Supervisor in the Carpentry Shop.

Carolyn Miller Wood of Johnson City, March 10, 2019. She had retired after many years as a Secretary in the President’s Office.

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ATTEND THE ANNUAL LUNCHEON UNDER THE TENT, FOOTBALL GAME AND MORE
Join us for the weekend to see friends, enjoy the BucWalk, catch an event and see ETSU.

All Fraternity and Sorority Alumni Reunion
November 1, 2019
If you are a sorority or fraternity member (including those organizations not currently active on ETSU’s campus) make plans to attend.

ETSU vs. The Citadel
Saturday, November 2, 2019
Tailgating opens early
www.ETSUBucs.com for tickets

Watch for details on additional events, ticket availability and hotel information at www.ETSUAlumni.org.