

ETSURA Newsletter

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RETIREES ASSOCIATION

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Hello again Fellow Retirees,

This newsletter marks the end of the year's activities for ETSURA. Events that occurred since the last report were the Sept. Eat & Chat, the Oct. Annual Meeting & Brunch, and the Nov. Annual Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association (THERA) meeting (see articles). We also helped at the 2nd Harvest Food Bank, Bank of Tennessee Invitational Tournament, and WETS fund-raising campaign (see article).

In the last newsletter, we discussed what ETSURA does for others, namely, provide scholarships to ETSU stu-

dents and help at the Food Bank, ETSU Move-In Day, ETSU Golf Tournament, and, more recently, WETS fund-raising. There has been some discussion of whether we should focus on ETSU projects, to distinguish us from other service-oriented groups. Input from you on this would be most helpful.

For those new to ETSURA, we have also had service provided *to* the membership, most notably, by the late Willene Paxton and Bill Fisher. Willene oversaw the development and fruition of "Tales of the University," a compilation of first-hand stories of ETSU by notable people at the university. These tales (along with many other tidbits of information) have been saved on the ETSURA website. I encourage you to check the website (ETSU.edu/humanres/etsura)--you will probably see a picture of yourself, or at least some other useful information. Bill Fisher, as most people know, was the icon behind all the important economic information provided to university faculty and staff and retirees. The contributions of both to ETSURA and the university cannot be overstated.

The three stages of life have been described as *Learn* (school), *Earn* (work), and *Return* (service). Service is important to ETSURA since we, as retirees, are clearly in the third stage. I would argue there's a fourth stage, *Enjoy*, but that's another story. Another point is that, by working, you have also served...to educate, develop, and mold the next generation of

scholars, professionals, and citizens from ETSU. This next generation, particularly of health professionals, has been important to us as we unfortunately age. Many of us have benefited from their compassion, service and, expertise, and for this we are truly grateful.

Thanks go to the board members for their camaraderie and sage advice, and special thanks go to Diana McClay and her staff, for all the work behind the scenes and website and on whom the existence of ETSURA depends. I am humbled and privileged to have served as your president and look forward to many enjoyable years with the association. Dave Kalwinsky will be your president next year, and I know he will do an outstanding job (even though he's not an "Island Boy").

Mele Kalikimaka, and Haole Makahiki Hou,

Mike Miyamoto





ETSURA 29th Annual Meeting

The 29th ETSURA Annual Meeting and Luncheon was held at Johnson City Country Club on Friday October 14, 2016. We had nearly 100 attendees who enjoyed a delicious brunch buffet. Our members were entertained with music from Ed Snodderly of the Down Home followed by a presentation on the Gray Fossil site by Steven Wallace, PhD., Professor of Geosciences at ETSU and Gray Fossil site Director.

Dr Wallace reviewed the significance of the site, its major finds and the site's impact on the ETSU educational program. Decorations were donated by University Advancement and tables were decorated by Lynda Newman of Balloon-A-Tics depicting fossil finds in their habitat using sketches, stuffed animal toys from the Gray Fossil gift shop and fossil replicas.

Door prizes included Ed Snodderley CDs and fossil replica stuffed toys. The membership voted by acclamation for new board members: Gail Burleson, Charles Edwards, Jack Rhoton and Jeff Wardeska. Our annual meeting/luncheon was generously supported by a donation from Eastman Credit Union.



THERA 12TH ANNUAL MEETING

Fall Creek Falls, TN
November 6-7, 2016

Ethel Garrity, Jerry Gehre, Charles Moore and Judith Story attended the 12th Annual Meeting on behalf of ETSURA. Other attendees were: Cheryl Maxwell and Bill Crump from U of M; Michael Betz and Tom Hood from UTK; Jim Clemmer from Austin Peay; and Mack Lipsay and Helen Barrett from TSU as guests.

The first session was a meet and greet reception in the Pine Room including introductions and posters representing activities from the past year by the attending institutions. Thanks to Diana McClay and Krista Richesin for assembling our wonderful poster. One panel highlighted the work of Bill Fisher, our tireless founder as well as THERA founder.

Each institution spoke about one activity during the past year. Ethel Garrity presented information about our volunteer activities: Move-in-Day, Second Harvest Food Bank (every 2nd Wednesday throughout the year), WETS, and the Bank of Tennessee Intercollegiate Golf Tournament. Jim Clemmer reported that sadly the dynamics of APSURA have changed and the group has become very dispirited. They do have one new activity called CONNECTIONS which occurs on the last Tuesday of the month. Michael Betz and Tom Hood, UTK, spoke about the Chancellor's Open House a "Mile-High-Experience" held in the Chancellor's Box at Neyland Stadium. They also spoke about their group being moved from HR to Alumni Affairs and the difficulty in merging their mailing lists and the fact that their luncheons have become more

expensive. Cheryl Maxwell spoke about activities at the U of M. Support for the Retirees has been reduced.

The second session was entitled "Honoring our Founder: Professor Bill Fisher". Jerry Gehre spoke on behalf of ETSU. He described Bill as being interested in the political, economic and social issues. He has known Bill since 1968. Bill was active in the political arena both statewide and area wide. If there was a



Portion of poster board made in memory of
Dr. William "Bill" Fisher

legislative breakfast, Dr. Fisher was there. He was interested in Washington County teacher issues as well as those of faculty at ETSU. He was interested in Medicare, all three parts, A, B and D and in Gap supplements. He would have been involved with us as we make these choices today. He was always concerned with the choice between TIAA and CREF or TCRS and was always concerned with each individual making the right choice. Betty Tester submitted a written comment which was made available to participants. Tom Hood read a tribute to Bill from Dr.

Henry Fribourg of the University of Tennessee. The two of them discovered that Higher Education had no input on the Tennessee Insurance Committee and Bill served as a member of the TCRS Board of Trustees for 15 years.

Bill Crump of the University of Memphis said that Bill had great insights and was very helpful to him in implementing ideas with the UMAR retiree association. Michael Betz noted that Bill was very involved in benefits issues and in moving the THERA meetings from Morristown to Fall Creek Falls.

Cheryl Maxwell stated that UMAR had lost a member and is instituting an award for the best thesis at U of M to honor this person.

This tribute to Bill Fisher was followed by a session on Membership Criteria. Michael Betz and Tom Hood presented some of the issues that UTK is still experiencing. After the move from Human Resources to the Alumni Office, there were mailing list issues and many retirees are not getting their notices. Chancellor Jimmy Cheek did give them a \$10,000 budget. There should always be a conversation about who controls the mailing list. Each institution has a unique culture and that should be a consideration as to governance of its retiree association.

One additional point to be taken under consideration is that retiree associations in universities now under control of the TBR need to make sure that they are not lost under governance of new local boards. Appearances at the President's council to make presenta-

tions would make us more visible.

On Monday, November 7th, the first session covered benefits afforded to retirees at the different institutions. The UT system list covers institutions across the system. They include library privileges, e-mail service, parking including a coveted Emeritus parking service good for any lot other than gated lots, access to UT Medical Center, use of Pharmacy at the Student Health Center, University store discounts, athletic tickets, fee waivers for UT courses, aquatic and rec center use; TN Parks and Rec discounts, UT Federal Credit Center, Small Animal Clinic at the UT Vet center; UT Autumn Festival Picnic and the Club LaConte University Center which is by invitation only with fees applying.

ETSU has many of these same benefits. Retirees generally receive the same benefits as employees. These include University Bookstore and local discounts; Membership at the Center for Physical Activity, including use of the pool; TCRS and Health Insurance; parking and use of the Tennessee Teachers Credit Union. Other Perks can be seen on our ETSU web page.

Austin Peay retirees receive the same benefits as employees with some limits at the library such as use of JStore. Parking stickers are good forever. They also can receive legal services and convocation invitations.

The next morning session topic was: What is your institution doing to empower black youth: Discussion and response to: www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1 ("Investing in Young Men of Color as Community Assets").



Above and Below: ETSURA Members, Charles Moore and Judy Story chat with member from other schools during a session break.



UTK efforts are mostly with those already on campus. Math Camp is for incoming freshmen. SOAR (Summer Opportunity for Academic Recovery) is for students who were dismissed at the end of Spring semester. If they pass they can return to UT in the fall.

Dropouts mean "black" homeless children fall out or go to gangs (Memphis). The minutiae keep them out. They don't have life skills.

TSU has resources others don't since they are a minority serving institution. They have a NIH Minority Research Program (note that ETSU does also). They have NSF Engineering Programs as well as grants from the US Department of Agricul-

ture. TSU wants to raise their admission requirements but if they do so they may lose 50% of their students. It was mentioned that retirees might be involved in some mentoring. It has been noted that "The classroom is a lousy place to learn anything". In 1973 Mark Lipsky started a program called College in Prison at the request of Dr. Roy Nicks. The AA program led to a 20% graduation rate and one then completed a BA. Governor Alexander stopped the program which was very economical.

In light of all these issues then what can retirees do? They can provide caring adult support and mentoring. The college might provide space where retirees can work with students. They can go where the students are, feed them and ask them what they need. When such help is provided attention should be paid to culture when so that the person is not insulted. Don't be just a do-gooder.

Cheryl Maxwell of UMAR who has been on the AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) board for two years reported on the 2016 Meeting in Seattle.

Submitted by Ethel Garrity

WETS-FM Volunteering

Two ETSURA Board Members, Jerry Gehre and Charles Moore, volunteered for the fall fund raising at WETS-FM. Taking donations over the telephone was easy and quick. They also found it to be funny at times, rather intense other times; and always satisfying to talk with a listener.

There will be a chance for all ETSURA members to help with a year-

end fund raising in mid-December and, of course, the next big event will be announced in the spring.

Contact **WETS-FM** at **439-6440** to volunteer.



Eat and Chat



Geoff Stunkard, Carter Railroad Museum, speaking at the September Eat and Chat

The September Eat and Chat, held on Sept. 15th at the Golden Corral Restaurant, was attended by 18-20 people. The speaker was Geoff Stunkard, the volunteer coordinator and representative of the Carter Railroad

Museum. He spoke on the formation of the museum and its current offerings and policies. He also discussed the annual trade show held in the mini dome and the museum spon-

sored-train excursions to local destinations.

Geoff is a photojournalist by trade and has written numerous articles and edited several magazines. He has published a book on railroad memorabilia and two books on "muscle cars." His banter on cars drew as much interest as that on trains.

Communications Committee Report

The Communication Committee is in contact by telephone with those without email to inform them of upcoming events. This also helps the Committee keep in touch with those members who are ill or homebound. Please let Diana McClay know if any of our retirees of whom we are not aware needs a card or a telephone call just to keep in touch.

Passings

Dorothy Baird Carpenter passed away on September 16. She had retired as a Library Science Associate Professor. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clayton. Survivors include her stepdaughter and grandson. Dorothy was a life member of ETSURA and a former active member of our group.

Helen Clark passed away on July 30. She had retired as a Research Assistant in Psychiatry. She is survived by her husband Gene; two children and their families.

Joan Cecilia Dressel passed away on September 2. She had retired as an

Assistant Professor in Developmental Studies. She is survived by her niece. Joan was a life member of ETSURA and a former active member of our group.

Linda A. Foister passed away on September 11. She had retired as an Information Research Technician for the Office of Financial Services. She is survived by her husband, Harold, her daughter and her granddaughters.

William (Bill) Hicks-Caskey passed away on October 28. Bill retired as a Professor in the Department of Human Development & Learning. He is survived by his wife Wanda (Sue); his children, and grandchildren. He was a life member of ETSURA.

Mariel Oster Brawner Cathey passed away on June 28. She had retired as a Clerk-Typist in the University Testing Center. She was preceded in death by her husband, John. She is survived by her children and grandchildren.

Terrence A. Tollefson passed away on September 23. He retired as a Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Development. He is survived by his children and grandchildren. Terry was a life member of ETSURA and an active member of our group.

Carmon Whisnant passed away on July 10. He retired as a Security Officer from the Department of Public Safety. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte; three daughters and five grandchildren.

June C. Smith Wilson passed away on September 9. She retired as a Secretary in the Mathematics Department. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Bennie Smith and Charles Wilson. She is survived by her daughters and grandchild. June was a life member of ETSURA and a former active member.

Recent Retirees

Mr. Christopher Ayres, Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation, Chair/Associate Professor

Mr. Donald Barnett, University Relations, Manager of Printing/Publications

Ms. Roberta Brownlee, Psychiatry, Specialist

Dr. Terry Countermine, Computing, Chair/Professor

Dr. John Franko, Family Medicine, Chair/Professor

Ms. Janice Grindstaff, Facilities Management, Custodian

Mr. Allen Haney, Intercollegiate Athletics, Equipment Manager

Ms. Esther Hayes, Admissions, Assistant Director

Ms. Michele Markstrom-Frisch, Admissions, Academic Credential Evaluator

Ms. Joy Matson, Child Study Center, Teacher 1

Ms. Deborah Stuck, TRIO Outreach, Executive Aide

Dr. Attila Szebeni, Biomedical Sciences, Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Katalin Szebeni, Biomedical Sci-

ETSURA 2017 Board of Directors

Ms. Gail Burleson	3 years left in tenure*
Mr. Donald Carter	2 years left in tenure**
Dr. Charles Edwards	3 years left in tenure *
Dr. Jerry Gehre	1 year left in tenure
Ms. Georgia Greer	1 year left in tenure
Mr. Tod Jablonski	2 years left in tenure
Dr. David Kalwinsky	1 year left in tenure
Dr. Mike Miyamoto	2 years left in tenure
Dr. Priscilla Ramsey	1 year left in tenure
Dr. Jack Rhoton	3 years left in tenure*
Ms. Judith Story	2 years left in tenure
Dr. Jeff Wardeska	3 years left in tenure*

*Elected at the Organizational Meeting on October 14, 2016.

**Filling a vacated two-year Board appointment.

The Board will vote on the 2017 Board Officers following the printing of this newsletter. Please check our ETSURA website for updated information, <http://www.etsu.edu/humanres/etsura/>

ences, Assistant Professor

Ms. Gabriella Weiss, Sponsored Programs, Fiscal Affairs Coordinator

ETSU Human Resources Announces a New “PERK”

The Perks program provides a wide range of discounts to ETSU retirees and family members including discounts at hotels, restaurants and other local and nationwide businesses as well as online purchases and gift cards.

To sign up, visit www.perksconnect.com and click ‘Register Now!’. Enter ETSU16 as your Group Code to get our ETSU discount benefits. Click ‘Printable

Card’ from your home page to print your Perks Connect card to show or scan at local businesses. To scan from your smart phone, download the PerksConnect app in the App Store or on Google Play.

For more information on this and other retiree benefits, visit the ETSURA website at www.etsu.edu/humanres/etsura/benefits.





Employee Giving Campaign

This year 32 ETSURA members donated \$9,375 the ETSU Giving Campaign. The University's Campaign raised a total of

\$76,455. Our University retirees play a huge part in making the campaign successful, and in helping those who are in need. Thank You!

Important Dates

Eat and Chat

February 9, 2017, Sunny Sandos will be speaking on Planned Giving

April 5, 2017, Guest Speaker from ETSU Bluegrass

*Both Eat and Chats will be from 12 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Golden Corral (3104 Browns Mill Road, behind Logan's Roadhouse).

Reminder



Please remember to contact Diana McClay if your email changes.

ETSURA Scholarship Endowment

Individuals are encouraged to express their sympathy to the family of a deceased retiree or spouse by making a contribution to the ETSURA Scholarship Fund. The deceased's family will be notified by card of the memorial. Make checks payable to: East Tennessee State University and mail to:

**ETSURA
Office of Human Resources
Campus Box 70564
Johnson City, TN 37614-1707**

Current Balances as of November 17, 2016

**Investment - \$196,678
Interest Income - \$20,410**

Join ETSURA

ETSURA's final membership count for the 2016 calendar year is 368. All retired ETSU employees and their spouses, and spouses of deceased ETSU employees are eligible for membership in ETSURA. In addition, other persons employed by ETSU for five years or more who are retired from other institutions or corporations are also eligible for membership with their spouses.

Not a member? The membership campaign has now begun for 2017. Membership is \$10 per person per calendar year (January 1 – December 31) or \$100 for a lifetime membership. Retirees and spouses may purchase a joint lifetime membership for \$150.

June, September and December newsletters are mailed to ETSURA paid members only.

Membership Committee Report:

Letters were sent to our most recent retirees, and three have joined the ETSURA. Currently there are a total of 368 members. Again, we encourage retired faculty and staff to invite other retirees to join our retirement association. ETSU one of the largest retirees associations, and we want to reach as many as possible to keep this number growing.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM ETSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

NAME: (Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____ (Title) _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: (Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____ (Title) _____

ADDRESS: (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

TELEPHONE: (____) ____ - ____ EMAIL: _____

FORMER STATUS WITH ETSU: ☐ FACULTY ☐ STAFF

AMOUNT PAID (\$10 PER PERSON): ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20

ACCOUNT NO: FUND 821350, ORG 79998, Banner Account: 29300

PROGRAM 999; CHART: E

Make check payable to ETSU and mail to:
East Tennessee State University
ETSURA, Human Resources
Box 70564
Johnson City, TN 37614-1707
(Your check will be your receipt)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION FORM

Enclosed is the applicable life membership fee. It is understood that this is a nonrefundable deferred gift to the ETSURA Endowed Scholarship Fund in the ETSU Foundation. The funds will be invested by the university with the income being used for current expenses of the association until my (our) death at which time it (one half if husband or wife) will be transferred to the Endowed Scholarship Fund. It is understood that any benefit received from ETSURA, the university or its foundation or this contribution will be of nominal value and it is fully deductible for tax purposes in the year paid.

NAME OF MEMBER _____ SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: (Street) _____ (City) _____

(State) _____ (Zip) _____

TELEPHONE: (____) ____ - ____ EMAIL: _____

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER: ☐ \$100

HUSBAND & WIFE: ☐ \$150

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

PROGRAM 999; CHART: E

Make check payable to ETSU and mail to:
East Tennessee State University
ETSURA, Human Resources
Box 70564
Johnson City, TN 37614-1707
(Your check will be your receipt)

CONTRIBUTION FORM ETSURA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

NAME OF MEMBER _____ SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: (Street) _____

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

TELEPHONE: (____) ____ - ____ EMAIL: _____

AMOUNT PAID: _____

To or In Honor Of: _____

Memorial PLEASE NOTIFY OF THIS GIFT: _____

Investment Account: Banner 653110/2552/550

Make check payable to ETSU and mail to:
East Tennessee State University
ETSURA, Human Resources
Box 70564
Johnson City, TN 37614-1707
(Your check will be your receipt)