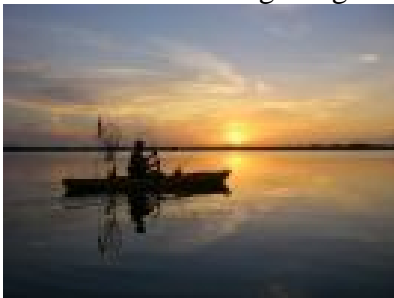


Message from the Vice Provost for Research

I am pleased to make a few comments as a preface to the 2007 annual report of sponsored programs activity at ETSU. It takes a good deal of hard work to produce this comprehensive report, and I very much appreciate the diligent efforts of Dr. Louise Nuttle, Director and Assistant VP for Research, Cynthia Hardin, Associate Director, Margaret Goergen, Research Technician and Carole Thomason, Information Technology Coordinator in making it possible. I have had the honor to be the chief research officer for 13 years and have been fortunate enough to hold the office during a period of unprecedented expansion of external funding for research, instruction and service at ETSU. Since 1995 the amount of dollars generated by sponsored programs at ETSU has increased from \$12,005,537 to \$43,166,261 for the 2007 fiscal year, a 3.6 fold increase. This success story is due to the hard work of the faculty and staff which have written the proposals and conducted the funded projects. FY 2008 appears to be on track to continue the trend. At the end of the second quarter, ETSU has received \$27,042,260 in grants and contracts.

This preface also gives me the chance to thank everyone at ETSU who has supported me over the years. As is usually said or written in such circumstances, I fear to start a list of names because I will surely omit many who should be included. I do thank each of the staff members who worked with me in the research office over the years. The one thing that I am completely confident in saying is that the current staff is superb and will continue to provide the level of service that is necessary to support the research, instructional and service missions of ETSU. I also specifically thank Dr. Bert C. Bach for his complete support over the years without which the Turning Toward 2011 Revisited research enhancement plan would have gone the way of previous such documents at ETSU, but instead is receiving funding as evidenced by an \$80,000 increase in the RDC fund, additional staff in this office and other enhancements that will appear in the FY 2009 budget.

I will close my 29-year career at ETSU at 4:30 pm on August 31, 2008. I thank my colleagues in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology for the honor of granting me the title of Professor Emeritus. While Judy and I are moving back to Florida, we will certainly continue to maintain contact with our many friends in Upper East Tennessee. As for what I will do in retirement, well at least part of my time will be spent as summed up in the picture below. (Special thanks to Dave Lawrence for getting me into kayak fishing.)



Best Wishes and Thanks to All.

Richard V. Weckert