

The Roan Scholars Leadership Program

View From The Top
Fall Semester 2008

Editor: Chris Mynhier

Roan Scholars Leadership Program Celebrates Ten Years Since Founding



The Roan Scholars celebrated a decade of excellence on the ETSU campus and in the community on September 23, 2008. Friends, donors, scholars, supporters and many others in the Roan Scholars family gathered during this special event to recognize the tremendous accomplishments in so many areas to date.

Groundwork for the program began in 1998 as founder Louis H. Gump and President Paul E. Stanton, Jr. formally decided to start the “Roan” on the campus of ETSU. With the help of Dr. Nancy Dishner, a pro-

gram followed that nowadays offers a dynamic four-year curriculum that most college students never encounter in their lives.

While not only celebrating their ten years of successful leadership and scholarship, founder and steering committee chair Louis H. Gump announced future goals for the program, to include increasing the endowment from \$6.4 million to \$25 million, funding at least 10 scholars per year, as well as providing the scholars with an international experience.

During the event Mr. Gump was honored with a scholar video giving thanks and recognition to his contributions, and Dr. Stanton’s dedication was recognized with the creation of the “Paul E. Stanton, Jr. Roan Scholarship Fund”, a programming resource exceeding

\$12,000. Additional greetings and recognitions were transmitted via video from Senators Alexander and Corker, Governor Bredesen, and NASCAR driver Darrell Waltrip.

When asked about the scholars, Mr. Gump said, “they’re amazing. Diverse, you know, different intellects, different abilities but I think of our criteria — leadership, character, intellectual curiosity and physical vigor — and they have these characteristics to different degrees, but they have this desire to do well and it’s interesting and rewarding to see their development.” It was an exceptional evening!



International Week 2008

This past fall, the Roan Scholars had the privilege of attending the International Week at ETSU. At the different events, the students enjoyed activities including an international talent show, lectures, an international dinner, and also had the opportunity to explore International Exchange options. The Student Exchange Fair provided ample information about the different study abroad options ETSU offers. The scholars got an insight into opportunities that would change their lives forever.

One of our seminars this semester featured Dr. Deborah Harley, who shared a presentation helping to identify who our mentors, coaches, and cheerleaders were. She encouraged us to surround ourselves with a wide range of people who could influence and teach us and from whose guidance and wisdom we could truly grow and succeed.

She explained the value of a mentor (someone who could regularly give us insight on where we should be going in

“Players, Coaches, and Cheerleaders”

life), coaches (people who accompany us on our journey and help us as we try to walk along the path that we feel called to by our mentors), and cheerleaders (people who could daily encourage us and give us feedback as we continue to face challenges in life).

She also shared with us that it is very difficult, both in group dynamics and as individuals, to accomplish a goal unless all parties have a clear vision of what the end result of the given project looks like.

Third Annual Coaches & Sport Science College

Over the weekend of December 12, I had the privilege of attending the Third Annual Coaches & Sport Science College. The two-day event allowed me to listen to many world-renowned doctors and Sports Science Specialists. The theme for the entire weekend was "Bridging the Gap between Sport Science & Coaching." Dr. Meg Stone, a two-time Olympian and distinguished Strength and Conditioning Coach, Director of the Center for Excellence for Sport Science and Coach Education, provided a sponsorship to me. I want to thank Dr. Stone, as well as everyone who put the conference together.

I will be able to use many of the tools and drills that I learned in the upcoming season as I continue to coach high school baseball. The Sport Science Institute at East Tennessee State University is in the process of receiving its accreditation. Many advancements in "why the body reacts a certain way" will be included in the research that will be done in the new department.

Thank you again for providing me with a special opportunity.

Written by: Tim Vanthournout

Ed Brenegar Pays Visit



Dr. Ed Brenegar, whom we were first introduced to at the Institute of Human Values last spring, paid a visit and presented the book The Adventures of Johnny Bunko: The Last Career Guide You'll Ever Need, by Daniel Pink, which is written in the style of a comic strip.

The book follows the everyday life of Johnny Bunko, a 'normal' guy who begins to wonder if there is anything more to life. One night, he meets "Diana" who gives him 6 valuable lessons for thriving in the world of work. Dr. Brenegar challenged us to come up with a "7th Lesson," one we could create and live by as we make our move into the work force.

Seniors Enjoy International Experience in Germany



Two of our very own seniors got the privilege of enjoying the first guided Roan Scholar international experience. Tim Vanthournout and Brittany Moore, along with their program director, traveled overseas to learn about the culture and lifestyles in northern Germany.

Before arriving in Germany, the group got the unexpected opportunity to explore one of our very own historic cities. Because of a delay in the flight, the group enjoyed a historic tour of Philadelphia, the "City of Brotherly Love." After a very brief stay, however, they were off to one of the most memorable experiences of their lives.

While in Hamburg, Tim and Brittany toured the Airbus manufacturing facility and saw where the planes were assembled. Another destination was the Hamburg harbor, largest in Europe and located on the Elbe River.

The next stop on the trip was Berlin, where the group toured Charlottenburg, the largest palace in Germany.

A favorite among the many museums and sites visited was Checkpoint Charlie. The museum documents the war and the destruction of the Berlin wall, as well as many other significant points in history. Standing on the exact location of the line between former east and west was remarkable.

The trip overall was a lifetime experience, and as Brittany Moore described it, "This is a place that I would definitely visit again, possibly even live for a while." A big thank you to all of the supporters that made this experience possible.

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A special thanks is in order to Dr. Mike Browder and his wife, Linda, for giving us the opportunity to once again enjoy a day on the lake as another school year unfolds. Your kindness in having us every year gives us unforgettable experiences of fellowship and fun as a way to relieve the stress of the school year.

Thanks again for all your support!



A special thank you goes to Dr. Jennie Carter Thomas for her generous book donation to our leadership library. Your resources are an invaluable addition to our Program!

For recent updates on the Roan Scholar Leadership Program, we encourage you to visit our web site at www.etsu.edu/roanscholars.