

## ETSU to host talk by acclaimed author Rick Bragg

Rick Bragg, the winner of a Pulitzer Prize for his newspaper feature writing in 1996, will give a free public lecture Thursday, April 14, at the Millennium Centre. ETSU presents "An Evening with Rick Bragg" at 7:30 p.m., followed by a book-signing.

A native of North Alabama, Bragg says he learned to tell stories by listening to the masters, the people of the foothills of the Appalachians. "They talked of sadness, poverty, cruelty, kindness, hope, hopelessness, faith, anger and joy of their everyday lives, and painted pictures on the very haze of the early evening, when work faded into storytelling."

Bragg's first book, *All Over But the Shoutin'*, was a bestseller. It recounts the life of the author's mother, who absorbed the cruelties of an alcoholic husband haunted by his service in the Korean War, and showed how she struggled, in endless cotton fields, to make a living for her three sons.

Bragg followed that book with *Ava's Man*, the tale of a whiskey maker, poacher, roofer and folk legend who was his mother's father, the grandfather Bragg never knew. It, too, was a national bestseller.

After working at several newspapers across the South, Bragg joined *The New York Times* in 1994. He covered the murder and unrest in Haiti, the Oklahoma City bombing, the school killings in Jonesboro, Ark., and Susan Smith's trial for the killing of her children in

**Continued on page 2**

## Medical school ranked seventh by *U.S. News*

ETSU's James H. Quillen College of Medicine is once again ranked among the top schools in the country for rural medicine education. *U.S. News & World Report* listed the school as seventh in the nation in the recent "America's Best Graduate Schools 2006" edition.

ETSU tied with the University of Iowa and has consistently been ranked in the top seven for the past several years.

"A significant factor behind this news is that we earned our impressive ranking based on reputation surveys sent to other medical schools in the United States," said Dr. Ronald D. Franks, ETSU dean of Medicine and vice president for Health Affairs. "Clearly, the Quillen College holds distinction and respect across the nation as one of the leading institutions for training rural pri-

**Continued on page 2**

## 'Children of a Lesser God' mixes worlds of the hearing and the deaf

Like thousands of Tri-Cities residents on race weekend, Libby Tipton's family opened their home to a visitor. However, Tipton's friend came to hunt turkeys instead of tickets, because he had recently learned to "call" them. He just needed someone to let him know when the wild birds called back because Tipton's friend is deaf.

The notion of a deaf person calling a turkey may be surprising to those in the hearing world. And, Tipton says, surprises like that are what can be found in the upcoming play "Children of a Lesser God," presented as a partnership between ETSU's Division of Theatre and Silent Bucs organization.

Written by Mark Medoff, the play details the romance and marriage of a sensitive, spirited deaf girl and the devoted, hearing teacher whom she meets at a school for the deaf where she is employed as custodian.

Tipton serves as the director of interpretation for the play, which is directed by Bobby Funk, director of theater at ETSU.

"I couldn't have done it without Libby and the people at Disability Services," Funk said. "Libby has really put a lot into this play. She is the assistant director and she is responsible for the sign language. In a lot of ways she is a 'dramaturge' for the deaf. She

asks, 'Is that the best sign for this word?'"

Tipton, who is the lead interpreter in ETSU's Disability Services, admits working with the play has been quite difficult at times.

**Continued on page 6**  
**See related story on page 4.**



**James (Lyle Martson) and Sarah (Karisha D. Little) try to bridge the distance between the worlds of the hearing and the deaf in "Children of a Lesser God."**

**"In the long run, men hit only what they aim at. Therefore, they had better aim at something high."**

— Henry David Thoreau

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**Contributing writers this issue:**

Dr. David Champouillon, associate professor, Music  
Elizabeth Cook, student writer  
Carol Fox, coordinator, University Relations  
Kristin C. Fry, director, News and Information Services  
Jennifer L. Hill, coordinator, News and Information Services  
Fred Sauceman, executive assistant to the president for University Relations  
Joe Smith, coordinator, University Relations

**Photographs by ETSU Photo Lab**

Larry Smith, director  
Jim Sledge, photographer

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**Southern Association of Colleges and Schools**

East Tennessee State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Ga., telephone number 404-679-4501) to award certificate, associate, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, doctor of education, Ph.D. and M.D. degrees.

*East Tennessee State University is fully in accord with the belief that educational and employment opportunities should be available to all eligible persons without regard to age, gender, color, race, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status or sexual orientation.*

*ETSU makes available to prospective students and employees the ETSU Security Information Report. This annual report includes campus crime statistics for the three most recent calendar years and various campus policies concerning law enforcement, the reporting of criminal activity, and crime prevention programs. The ETSU Security Information Report is available upon request from ETSU, Department of Public Safety, Box 70646, Johnson City, TN 37614-1702. The report can be accessed on the Internet at: [http://www.etsu.edu/dps/security\\_report.asp](http://www.etsu.edu/dps/security_report.asp).*

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## Nicks Lecture features executive director of American Association of School Administrators

Dr. Paul Houston, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators, is the featured speaker for the 2005 Roy S. Nicks Distinguished Lecture on Thursday, April 14, at ETSU.

Houston's 7 p.m. talk addressing "Current Issues in Education" will be preceded by musical entertainment provided by the Jonesborough Novelty Band beginning at 6:30 in the D.P. Culp Center ballroom. The evening is open to the general public as well as regional educators and ETSU students, faculty and staff.

The Nicks Lecture Series is named in honor of Dr. Roy S. Nicks, former ETSU president and chancellor emeritus of the Tennessee Board of Regents. The Nicks Endowment Fund and its lecture series were established to "encourage the fellowship of people and exchange of ideas on issues relevant to the improvement of the educational system," while also providing for high-quality professional development and intellectual stimulation.

Houston has served as head of the AASA since 1994. He has established himself as one of the leading spokespersons for American education through his extensive speaking engagements, published articles and regular appearances on national radio and television. He has also served in an adjunct capacity for the University of North Carolina and Harvard, Princeton and Brigham Young universities. A consultant and speaker throughout this country and overseas, Houston has published more than 100 articles in professional journals.

The event is co-sponsored by the Student Government Association's 606 Fund, the Claudius G. Clemmer College of Education, doctoral students in the Educational Leadership Association, and the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis.

For more information, contact BettyAnn Proffitt at 439-4430 or [proffitb@etsu.edu](mailto:proffitb@etsu.edu).

— Kristin Clark Fry, Director  
News and Information Services

## Rick Bragg

### Continued from page 1

South Carolina, while he was a national correspondent based in Atlanta.

Just in time for the international battle over Cuban Elian Gonzalez, Bragg was named Miami Bureau Chief for *The Times*. He later became a roving correspondent based in New Orleans.

Bragg has twice won the prestigious American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Award, in addition to more than 50 other writing awards during his 20-year career. In 1992, he became a

Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, under the direction of ETSU alumnus Bill Kovach, then curator of the Nieman Foundation.

Bragg left *The Times* in 2003 and wrote a best-selling biography of West Virginian Jessica Lynch. *I am a Soldier, Too* describes her dramatic capture and rescue in Iraq. He is also the author of *Somebody Told Me*, a critically acclaimed collection of his newspaper stories.

"An Evening with Rick Bragg" is part of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of ETSU's Center for Appalachian Studies and Services and is co-sponsored by the ETSU Chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and the ETSU Office of University Relations. For more information, call 439-4317.

— Fred Sauceman, Executive  
Assistant to the President  
for University Relations

## U.S. News ranking

### Continued from page 1

mary care physicians. And that is exactly what we set out to do some 31 years ago."

Franks added that ETSU was also ranked in the top 25 percent of medical schools for primary care education.

— Joe Smith, Coordinator  
University Relations

# Renowned trumpeter Jon Faddis to headline Tri-Cities Jazz Fest

Renowned trumpeter Jon Faddis is the featured guest artist for the 2005 Tri-Cities Jazz Fest sponsored by the Department of Music in ETSU's College of Arts and Sciences.

This third annual Jazz Fest will take place Friday, April 29, at 7 p.m. in the D.P. Culp Center's Martha Street Culp Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door.

Faddis will perform in concert with the ETSU Jazz Ensemble. Additional artists include Dick Davis on saxophone, Dr. David Champouillon on trumpet, The Jazz Doctors and the Science Hill Jazz Ensemble.



Faddis

Faddis, director of the Jazz Orchestra of New York, formerly the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, has a special connection to ETSU – he is married to Laurelyn Douglas, daughter of James H. Quillen College of Medicine faculty member Dr. John and Dorothy Douglas.

According to Ed Keane Associates, Faddis is “a complete and complex musician, conductor, composer and educator (who) possesses full command of his instrument, consistently demonstrating a virtually unparalleled range and making the practically impossible seem effortless.” *Time Out New York* calls him “the world’s greatest trumpeter ... (who displays) brash soloistic

logic and breathtaking technical acuity.”

Faddis “summons forth and sustains stratospherically high notes in one moment, and in the next, masterfully captures enchantingly thoughtful melodies. (He) evokes the voices of Louis Armstrong, Roy Eldridge, Miles Davis and of course Gillespie (no easy feat), all the while remaining true to his own.”

Born in Oakland, Calif., in 1953, he began playing trumpet at age 8, inspired by Armstrong’s appearance on the “Ed Sullivan Show.” After high school, Faddis, 17, joined Lionel Hampton’s big band on tour as a featured soloist and moved to New York. That same year, he became lead trumpeter for the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Big Band, a four-year affiliation that would include touring the former Soviet Union for the U.S. State Department.

In his 30-plus years as a professional, Faddis has toured and recorded with the Duke Ellington and Count Basie orchestras, as well as with Gil Evans, Charles Mingus and John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie, among others. He has served as music director and conductor for various jazz bands, including Gillespie’s 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Big Band and the Grammy-winning United Nation Orchestra, the Carnegie Hall Centennial Big Band, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, and the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band and its successor, the Jon Faddis Jazz Orchestra, now the Jazz Orchestra of New York. In August 2004, the Chicago Jazz Ensemble named him as its artistic director.

Remaining true to the tradition of honoring one’s teachers, Faddis continues to champion the music of his primary mentor and close friend, Gillespie. Among other things, he has served as music director for the Dizzy Gillespie Alumni All-Stars and the Dizzy Gillespie Alumni All-Stars Big Band, including for the recording “Things to Come.” Gillespie, in turn, says of Faddis, “He’s the best ever, including me!”

Faddis’ jazz recording credits include well over 500 albums, ranging from early duets with Oscar Peterson and Eubie Blake to soundtracks for film and television (including “The Cosby Show,” *The Gauntlet* and “Bird”) to the Grammy-nominated recording “Remembrances,” with original arrangements by Carlos Franzetti, as well as

“Into the Faddisphere,” “Hornucopia” and “Legacy.” He has recorded with Ray Brown, the Heath Brothers, Joe Henderson, Milt Hinton, J.J. Johnson and Lalo Schifrin, among others. His recordings with the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band include a self-titled CD and “Eastwood After Hours: Live at Carnegie Hall.”

His jazz opera, “Lulu Noire” with libretto by Lee Breuer, premiered at the Spoleto USA Festival in 1997 and was performed at the American Music Theater Festival in Philadelphia that same year; *USA Today* named it one of its “Top Ten” picks for all of 1997.

Faddis headlines regularly as a guest artist with symphonies and orchestras and as a leader of his own combos in clubs and in concerts around the world. He also possesses an enduring commitment to the accessible and quality education of young musicians, routinely leading master classes nationally and internationally. At Purchase College-State University of New York, he is an artist-in-residence, professor and director of jazz performance at the Conservatory of Music, as well as director of the Purchase Jazz Endeavor ensemble.

In addition, he serves in an advisory capacity with the International Association for Jazz Education; the International Trumpet Guild; the Commission Project in Rochester, N.Y.; the Jazz Foundation of America and Veritas’ annual Friends of Charlie Parker Concerts, New York; the Mandela Crew, Boston; and the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation.

Faddis received the Manhattan School of Music’s first-ever honorary doctorate in Jazz Studies. His other honors include the Milt Jackson Award for Excellence and Accessibility in Jazz.

The Tri-Cities Jazz Fest continues to bring top musicians in the field to the region. Artists who have performed at the event in previous years include Maynard Ferguson, Marvin Stamm and Rich Willey.

For more information, call Champouillon, executive director of the Tri-Cities Jazz Fest and associate professor of trumpet and jazz studies in the ETSU Department of Music, at 439-6955, or the department at 439-4270.

# Larger productions made possible By growth in Division of Theatre

Recent growth and developments within the ETSU Division of Theatre allow larger and more elaborate productions, say theater faculty members.

Such productions include last fall's "The Crucible," which was directed by stage, film and television performer Patrick Cronin,



The cast of "The Crucible"

Permanent Artist-in-Residence, associate professor of theater in the Department of Communication in ETSU's College of Arts and Sciences, and director of the Arts Scholars Program within the new Honors College at the university. The play included a 20-member cast and a large group of behind-the-scenes workers, and it involved intricate costumes and detailed set and lighting design.

The upcoming performance in April of "Children of a Lesser God" will also prove challenging. This joint production with the Silent Bucs, an ETSU organization that addresses specific issues related to students who are deaf or hard of hearing, is "a major step forward in (the Division of Theatre's) diversity and collaborative efforts," Cronin said.

He explained that the entire play, which is set in a school for the deaf, will be "shadowed." The Division of Theatre has, for several years, held performances in which interpreters situated in front of seats at one side of the stage signed the dialogue of the plays for hearing-impaired members of the audience. However, using the shadowing technique, each character is played by a speaking actor who is followed, literally like a shadow, by another actor who signs in American Sign Language as the speaking actor recites the lines. "All of the actors in this play who are not deaf have learned sign language for this production," he said.

"ETSU Theatre has reached the point where its members can not only meet the challenges that plays like 'The Crucible' and 'Children of a Lesser God' present, but also exceed them," Cronin said.

The division has undergone much growth and many changes in recent years.

Factors in this growth include an increase in the number of plays produced each year and the implementation of a summer theater

program, with students and faculty participating in Rogersville's annual "Shakespeare and Friends: A Renaissance Faire" festival and other projects. The Friends of Theatre support group was reorganized to help provide funds for scholarships and productions, and the division began working more closely with other regional theaters.

And, the university secured a lease of the historic Memorial Theatre on the grounds of the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Mountain Home, which provided another venue for performances in addition to ETSU's Bud Frank Theatre in Gilbreath Hall. Fund-raising is ongoing for the restoration of this facility, which reminded renowned actor Hal Holbrook, who visited campus in 1999 to help garner support for the project, "of some of the other wonderful, old, historic theaters in the United States which have been restored. It's reminiscent . . . of the design of Ford's Theatre in Washington, and the Galveston Opera House in Galveston, Texas. It has real style."

These changes have allowed the types and scale of productions performed to grow exponentially, according to Cronin. "The evolution of ETSU Theatre has enabled the division and everyone involved to reach impressive milestones," he said.

Not only have productions been enhanced by changes in the division, he continued, but the future for theater students continues to become brighter and brighter.

Continued on next page



Director and playwright Bobby Funk with the cast and crew of "The Brave and the Free"

“ETSU theater graduates are getting into impressive graduate programs, and this is always good for the reputation of the university,” Cronin said. “Students are going on to advanced studies in theater all over the country and in some very tough-to-get-into programs. One of our graduates is now at UCLA, where he is studying under some well-known theater professionals; in fact, he’ll study under Anthony Hopkins next semester. This says something about the quality of theater students coming out of ETSU.”

Another former student, Amy Townsend, now works for Theatre IV, a Richmond, Va., company, doing national tours.

One other milestone, Cronin says, is the number of students in the theater program, which has doubled in the last six years.

“People are beginning to realize that theater majors can do more than just act, and this has increased our number of theater majors noticeably,” he said. “Because we have more students involved in the program, we can do larger productions like ‘The Crucible,’ which require larger casts.

Students in the program have noted the changes, as well. “We are having much larger turnouts for auditions, and this allows us to not only have a larger cast, but also have more flexibility with the size of productions that we can perform,” said recent graduate Rick McVey, who starred in numerous productions, including “The Crucible,” during his time at ETSU and is a full company member at well-known Barter Theatre in historic Abingdon, Va.

These larger productions are also possible, in part, because of the new and diverse faculty members who have been brought in, Cronin said.

“After the years of Bud Frank and his wife, Daryl, who were instrumental in bringing a theater division to ETSU, the interest in ETSU Theatre and the number of people who attended plays began to decline,” he said. “The public seemed to have lost interest in the division and the plays that were being performed.”

In 1998, Bobby Funk from the University of Alabama-Birmingham was hired as the division’s director. Funk, who has worked professionally as an actor and director off-Broadway and in regional theatres across the country, authored the book, *The Audition Process: A Guide for Actors*. He has also written a number of plays,



**Division of Theatre Director Bobby Funk instructs actors in Shakespeare’s “Comedy of Errors.”**

including, “Co. Aytch: Memoirs of a Confederate Soldier” and “The Dream Continues: The History of the Civil Rights Movement in America,” as well as “The Brave and the Free,” “Hear That Whistle Blow . . . Erwin Train A Coming” and “River Rising: TVA and the Town of Butler,” which were taken from the oral histories of regional residents and produced through the Expanding Community Partnerships Program, which is funded by the third grant awarded to ETSU from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich.

Cronin first came to ETSU in the spring of 1999 as chairholder of the Wayne G. Basler Chair of Excellence for the Integration of the Arts, Rhetoric and Science, “in hopes that he would create enthusiasm for the program and bring a new level of expertise,” according to Funk. At that time, he played the recurring role of car expert George “Sparky” Henderson in “Tool Time” on the hit ABC sitcom, “Home Improvement,” and was also a regular on several other shows.

Karen Brewster, an acclaimed costume designer with Barter Theatre and wife of Dick Majors, who directs Milligan College’s theater program, and noted set designer and lighting technician Melissa Shafer also joined the division and quickly went about enlarging the costume and set design shops to accommodate expansion in the theater program.

“The growth of the faculty and staff provided the division with a complete theatrical team,” said Brewster, who has been with ETSU since 2000. She notes it is much easier to mount a large show with

**Continued on page 8**



**Costume designer Karen Brewster assists a student in making alterations.**

# ‘Children of a Lesser God’

Continued from page 1

“The biggest challenge for me as an interpreter of the script was to try to reflect it as accurately as possible,” said Tipton, who is American Sign Language-certified and grew up in a family with deaf relatives, including her parents and grandparents. “As the hearing character James becomes more involved with (Sarah), his signing changes.”

Though the play and the subsequent film version feature a love story, romance is not the central point to be made.

“The movie kind of glossed over the plot and made it a love story and that was pretty much it,” Funk said. “But that’s not what the play is about. I think the play asks the question, ‘Is love enough?’ These two people are madly in love with each other, but they are from two totally different worlds. No matter how hard (James) tries he cannot understand the deaf world. And no matter how hard (Sarah) tries she will never fit into the hearing world.”

“This play is more about differences in culture than abilities and disabilities,” Tipton said. “It’s about celebrating the cultures and differences. I think we will be better if we can focus on the individual first and the disabilities and abilities second.”

The play also touches on the topic of pity in the lives of the deaf and hard of hearing. “Whatever difference another person has, I can’t think of them as, ‘Oh pity them. They are children of a lesser god,’” Funk said. “They are my equal and maybe my better. The play keeps saying over and over, ‘We don’t want pity. Don’t feel sorry for me.’ But at the same time, it says, ‘I deserve some rights and some understanding.’”

Tipton echoed those comments as well, mentioning that though there has been progress in the treatment of the deaf and hard of hearing, there is still room for more understanding by hearing people.

Funk decided to address that need by working with the Silent Bucs, an ETSU organization for students and alumni who are interested in deaf and hard of hearing issues. Tipton serves as their adviser.

“What that did was bring deaf and hard of hearing students into the production who never would have thought about being in a play,” Funk said. “Last semester we had a class, ‘Signing for Performance,’ that Libby and I did. Everyone in the cast took that class. In a lot of the productions of this play, the actors are not deaf and they don’t know sign language.”

In ETSU’s production, four of the actors and stage crew are deaf or hard of hearing, while there are six hearing actors. “This has been a great experience for the Silent Bucs because it gave them leadership opportunities,” Tipton said. “They were not depending on somebody else, but they had others depending on them.”

In an attempt to promote more understanding for the audience, Funk decided to incorporate “shadows” into the play.

“A shadow is a step beyond an interpreter,” Funk said. “The shadow is actually a character who follows someone on stage, and, as the person speaks, the shadow signs. And I’ve gone a step further with ‘speaking’ shadows. So that if a character signs the shadow speaks.”

“We picked this up from a group from Knoxville called InterAct. It’s a children’s theatre company, and every production they do is signed. They came in last semester and did a workshop with our actors on shadowing.”

With all the challenges and complexities that this play presented, Funk said this was the hardest thing he ever worked on.

For Tipton, working on this play has been extremely rewarding. “I see ETSU as a frontrunner not just for academics, but for social life, too,” said Tipton, who also serves as the director of shadowing. She said a Harvard specialist “wrote that college students’ biggest life-changing and eye-opening events were outside of the classroom. Working with this play has definitely been an eye-opener for me and the students, as well. The theatre is so close to what I do for a living as an interpreter.”

Funk is confident that audiences will find “Children of a Lesser God” to be an exciting and entertaining play. He added that the play is not for young children, as it deals with some adult situations.

It features an ensemble of nine actors and shadows. Lyle Martson performs the role of James and Karisha D. Little portrays Sarah. The cast also includes John Piver, T.J. Kent, Meg Montgomery, Elizabeth Choate, Amy Laws, Brad McKenzie and Melissa Webb.

The stage-manager for the production is Tabatha Williams, who is assisted by Mitzi A. Shook. Melissa Shafer designed sets and lighting designer is Corey Zackary. Karen Brewster is costume designer and Scott Koenig is sound designer.

“Children of a Lesser God” will be performed Thursday-Saturday, April 14-16, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 17, at 2 p.m. in the Bud Frank Theatre in ETSU’s Gilbreath Hall.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students with valid ID. On Saturday, April 16, ETSU employees with valid ID will be admitted free of charge.

For reservations or more information, contact the Division of Theatre box office at 439-7576 or [theatre@etsu.edu](mailto:theatre@etsu.edu). Additional information is available online at [www.etsu.edu/theatre](http://www.etsu.edu/theatre).

— Josh Watson, Graduate Assistant  
Division of Theatre

The ETSU Chorale and male vocal group 7BucsWorth present the annual

## Spring Concert

Friday, April 22, 8 p.m., Free  
First United Methodist Church  
900 Spring Street

Accompanied by the church’s refurbished three-manual, 38-rank Reuter organ, the Chorale will perform settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis — texts from the Gospel of Luke — and other works. 7BucsWorth will perform a variety of gospel songs and spirituals. For more information, call 439-4270 or 439-6949.



# Campus News Briefs

## Authors needed for Festival

Following the success of the Festival of ETSU Authors Book Signing during the university's inaugural Fall Family Festival last semester, this event will be held again this year on Homecoming Day, Saturday, Oct. 29.

All ETSU faculty, staff and alumni who have published books are encouraged to save this date on their calendars.

Authors planning to participate should contact the ETSU Bookstore's Jennifer DePonti at 439-6880, 439-4436 or [jcooke@etsubookstore.com](mailto:jcooke@etsubookstore.com) as soon as possible to allow adequate lead time for book orders.

## 'Garden Voices'

A book discussion and signing with Carolyn Freas Rapp, author of *Garden Voices: Stories of Women and Their Gardens*, will take place Thursday, April 14, at 7 p.m. in the D.P. Culp Center's meeting room 6.

Countless gardening books tell readers what, when, where and how to plant, but few explore the reasons why gardening becomes so central and, in certain circumstances, crucial to so many people's lives. In *Garden Voices*, Rapp explores the relationships of women with their gardens, revealing sources of joy that go far beyond the pleasure of harvesting flowers, herbs or vegetables.

A reception will follow the book discussion and signing. This free public event is sponsored by the ETSU Arboretum and Women's Resource Center; copies of Rapp's book will be available for purchase.

For more information, call 439-7847.

## Sarut display extended

A display of paintings by ETSU graduate student Paula Sarut in the university's Advisement, Resource Career (ARC) Center on the second level of the D.P. Culp Center has been extended through May 1.

Sarut's exhibit is entitled "metanoia," a Greek term that refers to a transformational process. This collection began as her undergraduate senior exhibit and continues to "embody the process of 'metanoia.'"

"There comes a point in each person's life when she must decide consciously, for the first time, what composes her identity and how she chooses to live her life," she says. "Graduating from college initiated that process for me. As I walk through young adulthood, the process continues; it's a breathing in and out, a push and pull, a weaving together of positive and negative spaces to flesh out a continually evolving life."

Sarut is pursuing a master of arts in teaching degree from ETSU and intends to teach high school art when she graduates. She moved to Tennessee from her home state of Michigan in March 2001 and lived with friends on their small, organic farm near Kingsport. There, she milked a cow named Ginger every morning, tended vegetables by hand during the day, and collected fresh, free-range chicken eggs in the evening. She later "scraped the mud off her boots" and moved to Johnson City.

The ARC Center is open from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 439-8650.

## Planetarium show

"Navigating by the Stars" is the topic of a planetarium show to be held Thursday, April 21, at 7 p.m. in the Hutcheson Hall planetarium.

This free public program describes how the ancient seafarers traveled the world and how people may find their way around the sky and Earth today. It is sponsored by the Department of Physics, Astronomy and Geology in ETSU's College of Arts and Sciences.

Visitors may enter Hutcheson Hall at the east end of the building where the elevator is located.

For more information, contact Dr. Gary Henson at 439-6906 or [hensong@etsu.edu](mailto:hensong@etsu.edu).

## American Institute of Banking courses

The Center for Banking at ETSU will offer the second annual Credit Analysis Program, with classes to begin April 26.

The American Institute of Banking (AIB) courses include consumer, commercial and mortgage lending. Teachers for these classes come from among the ranks of lenders in Tri-Cities banks.

To register or for more information, contact Dr. Steven Dennis or Pam Plücker of the Center for Banking at 439-4402.

## Arboretum tour

"New Introductions and Old Favorites at the ETSU Arboretum," a walking tour, will be held Tuesday, April 26, from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Participants should meet at the new kiosk on the walkway between the Sherrod Library and the ETSU Post Office in the D.P. Culp Center.

This free public event is sponsored by Adult, Commuter and Transfer Services, the Wellness Committee and the Arboretum. For more information, call Dr. Tim McDowell at 439-8635 or visit [www.etsu.edu/arboretum](http://www.etsu.edu/arboretum).

## TSB Person of the Year

District Director Clint Smith will announce the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2005 Tennessee Small Business Person of the Year at ETSU's Innovation Lab at 9 a.m. Monday, April 18.

The state winner, nominated by the ETSU Tennessee Small Business Development Center, will represent the Volunteer State at the SBA Expo in Washington, D.C., from April 26-28.

The Innovation Lab is located at 2109 W. Market Street. For more information, call Michael Martin at 439-8505.

## Earth Day celebration to include demonstrations, giveaways, performances

Special demonstrations, performances, giveaways, informational booths and more are all part of the many activities planned in observance of Earth Day at ETSU.

This celebration marking the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day will be held Friday, April 22, and features a variety of activities to be held at the Amphitheatre and Pedestrian Mall.

From 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., booths for regional environmental and outdoor groups and university organizations and depart-

ments will be set up in the Pedestrian Mall area. Vendors scheduled to participate with giveaways and information include Blue Lizard Sunscreens, Dr. Enuf, The Acoustic Coffeehouse, Starbucks and Mahoney's. Campus participants include Environmental Studies, Friends of Nature, Campus Greens, Campus Recreation, Climbing Club, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance and the Department of Physics, Astronomy and Geology, which will offer visitors a chance to bring any fossils they may have in their

possession for identification. Others are the Kingsport Citizens for a Cleaner Environment, Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club, Cherokee Forest Voices, Johnson City Parks and Recreation, the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy.

Music will be provided in the Amphitheatre from noon-2 p.m. by the local band EverybodyFields and from 2-3 p.m. by the ETSU Bluegrass Band.

Other activities include a cob oven demonstration, a presentation by Appalachian Sustainable Development on locally produced organic foods and grass-finished meats, and an 11 a.m. Permaculture planting with plants donated by Evergreen. Permaculture, or "permanent agriculture," is known as "the use of ecology as the basis for designing integrated systems of food production, housing appropriate technology and community development. It offers a practical, creative approach to the problems of diminishing resources and threatened life support systems now facing the world."

For more information, contact Dr. Joel Hillhouse at 439-4309 or [hillhou@etsu.edu](mailto:hillhou@etsu.edu).

## Division of Theatre continues to grow

Continued from page 5

a full team, and said this also provides a much better teaching model, by showing students how a complete theatrical team operates.

The Division of Theatre also brings in a variety of guest artists to help students. Instructors from InterAct Children's Theatre for the Deaf in Knoxville were brought in to teach the student actors in "Children of a Lesser God" how to shadow. Michael Aulick, a faculty member at Northeast State Community College, teaches classes for the division, and next year, ETSU alumna and award-winning author Jo Carson will teach playwriting.

These new and guest faculty members, in addition to existing theater faculty, have increased the diversity and interest in the ETSU Division of Theatre, which is evident in the enthusiasm that surrounds the program's larger shows, Cronin said. "Big shows tend to excite people, and with the help of theater faculty members and students, we are able to give the public a big show."

On the horizon for the theater program, Funk says, is the implementation of a full theater major, which should take place within the next two years. Currently, students studying theater must major in communication with a concentration in theater.

"We are putting together a new curriculum for our major and minor," he said. "ETSU theater is different from any other program in East Tennessee or Southwest Virginia, because we teach performance for both the stage and for television and film. Not even the University of Tennessee does this. The new curriculum will reflect this and allow students to choose the track they

feel will best help them prepare for a career."

Funk said the division is also looking into the possibility of beginning a master of fine arts degree program in theater.

Shows currently being planned for the 2005-2006 season include Shakespeare's "King Lear," a Halloween showing of "Dracula," and a joint production with ETSU's Department of Music of the musical "Forever Plaid."

— Elizabeth Cook, Student Writer, and Jennifer L. Hill, Coordinator, News and Information Services



Melissa Shafer, technical director and lighting designer, and a student work behind the scenes to make sure special effects work properly for a Division of Theatre production.

## Academic Excellence Convocation

ETSU will recognize 308 students for superior achievement during the annual Academic Excellence Convocation on Tuesday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the D.P. Culp Center's Martha S. Culp Auditorium.

The 35 Faculty Award winners; graduating students achieving a 3.5-4.0 grade point average, denoting cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude academic standings; and graduating students in the ETSU Honors Scholars Program will be recognized.

The special speaker is Dr. Michael Woodruff, vice provost for Research, chief operating officer of the ETSU Research Foundation, and professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology in the Quillen College of Medicine, who has served as the chief research officer for ETSU for 10 years.

This free public event will be followed by a reception in the Culp Center ballroom. For more information, call 439-6456.