



On September 15, 2017, the second annual *Escape from Rape: A Cultural Change Conference* is scheduled to train and educate our campus and community in prevention, response, advocacy, and treatment for sexual assault victims.

Around 1 in 5 women may experience sexual assault at college.

The conference focus continues to eliminate misconceptions and to create an environment that will better take care of victims/survivors. **FBI Special Agent Bianca Pearson**, from the Johnson City office, will be the keynote speaker. For over four years, she has investigated criminal matters, focusing on violent crimes against children. Prior to joining the FBI, Pearson served six years as an enlisted Navy Cryptologic Linguist. While in the Navy, she deployed to Central and South America in support of counter drug operations.

The agenda for *Escape from Rape: A Cultural Change Conference* includes presentations by forensic professionals, regional domestic violence shelter professionals, and breakout sessions. In addition to Pearson, other guest speakers include FBI Victim Advocate Beth Appleton; Carolyn Abbott, Mission Health forensic coordinator; and Dr. Dottie Green. Melissa Nipper, Dr. Michelle Byrd, Dr. Jeff Howard, Dr. Stacy Williams and Dr. Kristin Anders will be leading sessions throughout the day. K.C. Gott will be on the plenary panel along with Patricia Turner and Donna Lockerby-Morrow.

Conference registration begins at 8:00 a.m. at the Millennium Centre. Opening remarks are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Registration fee for the conference is \$85.00 for faculty, staff, and community members. The student registration fee is \$55.00. Please register online at <https://etsuaw.etsu.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=173-9019A-5&Publish=ANYWAY>. CEUs will be offered. Breakfast, lunch and breaks are provided.

Dr. Anthony Delucia, *Breaking the Silence: A Survivor Art Show*; Tipton Gallery, and Women's Resource Center are the corporate sponsors for this conference, partnering with ETSU's Office of

Professional Development. Non-profit exhibitors also will be on hand and include the SAFE House of Kingsport, ETSU Counseling Center, Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee, ETSU Women's Studies, Appalachian Mountain Project Access, and Johnson City Downtown Day Center.

For more information or registration by phone, please contact the Office of Professional Development at 800-222-3878.



Vocal activist Melanie DeMore coming to the ETSU campus

Singer-songwriter **Melanie DeMore** (pictured above) has a remarkable voice, weaving the fibers of African-American folk music with soulful ballads, spirituals, and her own original music. She beautifully brings her audience together through her music and commentary. DeMore has toured extensively, singing at festivals, universities, in coffee houses, and concert halls. Her recordings *Share My Song* and *Come Follow Me* are both heartfelt collections of her music.

The first of several programs and events that **DeMore** will be presenting on the ETSU campus is her **"Sound Awareness Workshop."** Scheduled for Thursday, September 28, 2017, location is the East Tennessee Room, D.P. Culp University Center, and start time is noon.

DeMore's workshop deals with the political, emotional, and cultural effects of the media – in particular music and sound – on young people. In addition to her solo work and workshop presentations, she is on the music faculty at St. Paul's School in Oakland, California, where she teaches a cappella singing. DeMore is also a founding member of the Grammy-nominated, critically acclaimed vocal ensemble 'Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir', a group that tours extensively in the United States and abroad.

DeMore traces her interest in music to her parents who started one of the first Black theater groups in Alaska in the early 1960s. She majored in music at Incarnate Word University in San Antonio, Texas. DeMore describes her music as "in the African-American

folk tradition of Odetta,” to whom she has often been compared, noting, “I have a very, very, very low voice.” She has shared the stage with numerous artists including Buffy Saint Marie, John Prine, Josh White, Jr., Laura Nyro, Sweet Honey in the Rock and Pete Seeger.

Sponsors for the **DeMore** events are Buctainment, Mary B. Martin School of the Arts, Women’s Resource Center, UMOJA/Unity Festival Committee, and the Student Organization Resource Center.

For more information on **DeMore’s “Sound Awareness Workshop,”** contact the Women’s Resource Center at 423-439-5772. For more information on **DeMore’s** additional programs, that are **TBA**, contact Joy Fulkerson, assistant director for Leadership and Civic Engagement in the SORC, at 423-439-8328.

Article contents adapted from the **Melanie DeMore** web site at <http://www.melaniemore.com/press/>.

Murray conducting ‘journey of discovery’ workshop in October 2017



I invite you to join me,
Pam Murray, on a writing
“Journey of Discovery!”
Write the waves of your
life. I dare you.

Dear Reader,

Most of us long to find our unique way of being. We long to know who we are, to express and create our lives from that place of knowing. **What can help us get there?**

Pen, paper, and envelope . . . in other words, letter writing! By journeying inside beneath the layers, you can see what comes up onto the page. Writing by hand provides a slowing down to the present. It is a very tactile way to open up and find clarity. Letter writing is an endearing, ancient art form of communicating, conducive to disclosing private and powerful revelations from the core.

Come join me, **Pam Murray, B.A., M.B.A.**, creative coach and artist, on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, for **“Journey of Discovery: The Undelivered Letters.”** Location is the Global Understanding Video Conference Room, room 233 in the Campus Center Building. Start time is noon.

In putting pen to paper, stirring up mysteries deep within, you will explore, feel, and know your beliefs about any topic – tangible or intangible, from fun and light-hearted to more serious, no limits (I once wrote to my childhood pogo stick) – through the process of the incredible and much-forgotten art of letter writing. The type of letters you will write are most often written not

for delivery through the regular mail, but for delivery in an energetic sense, sending and receiving messages in a flow of self-revelation and exploration.

Here are a few lines from an undelivered letter:

Dear Extra Weight,

. . . Maybe I know why you came. I think I may have called you in to guard me, to “prove” I was right about my unworthiness, my unlovability. A gazillion short, sweet satisfactions or numbed eating actions over time to cover the feelings . . .

The process of writing letters in connection with your soul and heart space is a nourishing, fun and empowering journey of discovery. Adding some colorful doodles with them can deepen your awareness too. I invite you to join me. Open up, imagine, be curious, ride away on the waves of the moment with whatever topic you desire to explore! See you there!

Joy-filled wishes,
Pam

P.S. As a participant, you will receive a little gift (from me) to take with you!

Reservations are required. To reserve a space for **Murray’s Women’s Personal Enrichment Workshop**, contact the Women’s Resource Center at 423-439-5772. This workshop is free and open to the public.

Opal Tometi to present “Black Lives Matter” lecture in November 2017



Opal Tometi (pictured left) is a New York-based Nigerian-American writer, strategist, and community organizer. She is a co-founder of **#BlackLivesMatter**. The historic political project was

launched in the wake of the murder of Trayvon Martin in order to explicitly combat implicit bias and anti-black racism and to protect and affirm the beauty and dignity of all Black lives. Tometi is credited with creating the online platforms and initiating the social media strategy during the project’s early days. The campaign has grown into a national network of approximately 40 chapters. In recognition of their contribution to human rights, Tometi and the **#BlackLivesMatter** co-founders received the BET’s Black Girls Rock Community Change Agent Award, recognition among the world’s fifty greatest leaders by *Fortune* and *POLITICO* magazines, and the first-ever Social Movement of The Year Award from the Webbys during 2016.

On Tuesday, November 7, 2017, **Tometi** is presenting a lecture entitled **“Black Lives Matter”** on the

ETSU campus. Location is the Martha Street Culp Auditorium in the D.P. Culp University Center. Start time is 7:30 p.m.

Tometi is currently at the helm of the country's leading Black organization for immigrant rights, the **Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)** founded in 2006, is a national organization that educates and advocates to further immigrant rights and racial justice together with African-American, Afro-Latino, African and Caribbean immigrant communities. As the executive director at **BAJI**, Tometi collaborates with staff and communities in Los Angeles, Phoenix, New York, Oakland, Washington, D.C., and communities throughout the Southern states. The organization's most recent campaign helped win family reunification visas for Haitians displaced by the 2010 earthquake. BAJI is an award winning institution with recognition by leading intuitions across the country.

Prior to becoming executive director, Tometi worked as co-director and communications director at **BAJI**. Her contributions include leading organizing efforts for the first ever Black-led rally for immigrant justice and the first Congressional briefing on Black immigrants in Washington, D.C.

Tometi has been active in social movements for over a decade. She is a student of liberation theology and her practice is in the tradition of Ella Baker, informed by Stuart Hall, bell hooks and Black Feminist thinkers. Tometi has been published in the Oxford Dictionary of African Biographies, was #10 on the 2015 Root 100 list and she was named a "New Civil Rights Leader" by the Los Angeles Times in 2015 and *ESSENCE* magazine in 2014, for her cutting edge movement building work which bridges immigrant and human rights work to the ever-growing Black liberation movement. She was a lead architect of the Black-Brown Coalition of Arizona and was involved in grassroots organizing against SB 1070 with the Alto Arizona campaign. Tometi is a former case manager for survivors of domestic violence and still provides community education on the issue.

Tometi holds a bachelor of arts degree in history and a master of arts degree in communication and advocacy. The daughter of Nigerian immigrants, she grew up in Phoenix, Arizona. Tometi currently resides in the Republic of Brooklyn, New York, where she loves riding her single speed bike and collecting African art.

Sponsors for the **Tometi** Lecture are the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Black Affairs Association, the Kaldegg Lectureship, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Office of Equity and Diversity, Residence Hall Association, Buctainment, and Women's Resource Center.

For more information on the **Tometi Lecture** contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at 423-439-5872.

Article contents adapted from the **Opal Tometi** web site at <http://opaltometi.com/meet-opal-tometi/>.

Saluting the Women of ETSU



Epps receives 2017 Distinguished Faculty award

One female faculty member was recognized on Friday, August 25, 2017, with a Distinguished Faculty Award in the area of service. The annual awards, which are the highest honors given by ETSU to faculty members, were presented during the annual Faculty Convocation ceremony.



Dr. Susan Epps (pictured left) is the recipient of the **2017 Distinguished Faculty Award for Service**. She is an associate professor in the Department of Allied Health Sciences within the College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences.

In receiving the award, Epps was recognized for her long and distinguished history of service to the university, which includes currently serving as president of ETSU's Faculty Senate. "Through her service to East Tennessee State University, Dr. Epps has embodied a passion for students, a commitment to shared governance and a spirit of stewardship for our institutional mission," one individual wrote in a letter of support for her nomination. "Dr. Epps embodies the values of our institutional mission to improve the lives of the people of Central Appalachia. There are few faculty, or staff, on campus who are more engaged with this mission."

In addition to serving as the president of Faculty Senate, Epps holds a variety of active positions on campus. She serves as the NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative for the institution, a role that positions her to be an advocate for student-athletes at ETSU.

Epps also helps students through her service as the chair of the University Judicial Board and is the immediate past chair of the Instructional Development Advisory Committee. She is a member of several boards and committees at ETSU, including University Council, Academic Council, the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee and the Student Activities Allocations Committee.

Epps received her undergraduate degree in English from Wake Forest University. She graduated with her master's degree in student development from Appalachian State University and received an Ed.D. degree in educational leadership and policy analysis from ETSU in 2002.

Congratulations, Dr. Epps!

Some article contents adapted from the ETSU web site at http://www.etsu.edu/news/2017/08-aug/nr_dist_fac_awards_2017.aspx.

ETSU Women's Resource Center
Program Schedule

For more information on the events listed contact the *WRC* at 423-439-5772.

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2017

Main Campus and Off Campus Programs

Friday, September 15

“Escape from Rape: A Cultural Change Conference” – A Special Event Conference. Now in its second year, this conference is designed to educate campus and community in prevention, response, advocacy, and treatment of sexual assault victims, this conference is designed to be a first step in eliminating misconceptions and creating an environment to better care for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Corporate sponsors are Dr. Anthony Delucia, *Breaking the Silence: A Survivor Art Show*; Tipton Gallery, and Women's Resource Center for this conference, partnering with ETSU's Office of Professional Development. See article page 1.

LOCATION: The Millennium Centre, 2001 Millennium Place, Johnson City, Tenn.

REGISTRATION: 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

CONFERENCE: Welcome – 9:00 a.m., Closing Remarks – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 20

Book Review Group. Participants will meet to discuss *Creeker: A Woman's Journey* by Linda Scott DeRosier. New readers welcome.

LOCATION & TIME: Women's Resource Center, Campus Center Building, room 220, noon.

Thursday, September 28

“Sound Awareness Workshop” – A Personal and Professional Enrichment Lunch Break Seminar. Singer-songwriter Melanie DeMore is guest speaker. DeMore's workshop deals with the political, emotional, and cultural effects of the media – in particular music and sound – on young people. Participants will look at the influence of the media through the arts and how the media shapes their minds. This is the first of several programs that DeMore will be presenting on the ETSU campus. See article pages 1-2.

LOCATION & TIME: Campus Center Building, Global Understanding Video Conference Room, room 233, noon.

Tuesday, October 17

“Journey of Discovery: The Undelivered Letters” – A Women's Personal Enrichment Series Lunch Break Seminar. Pam Murray, B.A., M.B.A., local artist and creative coach, is guest facilitator for this one-session workshop. Murray invites participants to join her on a writing “journey of discovery,” in other words, letter writing! By journeying inside beneath the layers, you can see what comes up onto the page. **Reservations are required.** See article page 2.

LOCATION & TIME: Global Understanding Video Conference Room, Campus Center Building, room 233, noon.

Wednesday, October 18

Book Review Group. Participants will meet to discuss *the book that matters most: A Novel* by Ann Hood. New readers welcome.

LOCATION & TIME: Women's Resource Center, Campus Center Building, room 220, noon.

Tuesday, November 7

“Black Lives Matter” – A Special Event Lecture. Nigerian-American writer, strategist, and community organizer Opal Tometi is guest speaker. A co-founder of #BlackLivesMatter, Tometi is credited with creating the online platforms and initiating the social media strategy during the project's early days that was launched in the wake of the murder of Trayvon Martin. See article pages 2-3.

LOCATION & TIME: Campus Center Building, Global Understanding Video Conference Room, room 233, noon.

Wednesday, November 15

Book Review Group. Participants will meet to discuss *Two Sisters: A Novel* by Mary Hogan. New readers welcome.

LOCATION & TIME: Women's Resource Center, Campus Center Building, room 220, noon.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

MORE CAMPUS NEWS & UPDATES



Breaking the Silence: A Survivor Art Show

Location: The Tipton Gallery,
126 Spring Street

Date: September 1 – 13, 2017

The inaugural "*Breaking the Silence: A Survivor Art Show*," sponsored by the East Tennessee State University Office of Professional Development, will be on display at the Tipton Gallery from September 1-13.

"Breaking the Silence" features works by individuals in the community who have been affected by sexual violence and abuse. Art offers a channel through which they can share their experiences and heal through the powerful vehicle of art.

The Tipton Gallery is open on First Fridays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., also on Thursdays and Fridays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and by appointment.

The Red Flag Campaign

Tuesday, October 10 through Thursday, October 12, 2017

The Counseling Center at ETSU's OASIS program is coordinating events for **The Red Flag Campaign**. This national campaign brings campus awareness to relationship and sexual violence, and teaches students how to be active bystanders who SAY something when they see or hear something.

On Tuesday, October 10 through Thursday, October 12, 2017, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., students are encouraged to stop by the Pedestrian Lawn to learn more about what to say or do if they see relationship or sexual violence red flags, view the flags, and fill out flags of their own. For more information on **The Red Flag Campaign** contact Kate Emmerich, senior counselor in the Counseling Center at ETSU and OASIS program coordinator, or Jessica Cook, graduate assistant for the OASIS program, at 423-439-4841 or email oasis@etsu.edu.

For more information on **The Red Flag Campaign** visit the web site at <http://www.theredflagcampaign.org/index.php/>.



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

ETSU will be closed and classes will not be in session
Friday, November 24, 2017.

FALL SEMESTER BREAK

Fall Break is October 16-17, 2017. Classes are not in session, however administrative offices remain open.



Women's Resource Center NEWSLETTER

The ETSU Women's Resource Center Newsletter is published quarterly at
East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tenn.
Mailing Address: PO Box 70272, Johnson City, TN 37614.
Phone: 423-439-5772. Fax: 423-439-5760.

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Visit our web site at: <http://www.etsu.edu/wrcetsu/>

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