

Roane State | Today



About the cover



Dr. Gary and Heidi Goff, Roane State's new First Family, enjoy a moment at the president's home in Harriman.

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We want to hear from you. Tell us what you think about the alumni magazine and what you'd like to see in future editions.

The Alumni Relations Web site (www.roanestate.edu/alumni) allows you to e-mail the Alumni Relations staff and other alumni. The site also has a digital copy of this magazine, including forms that you can receive online instead of by mail.

Are you receiving duplicate copies of Roane State Today? Want to receive an electronic version rather than a paper copy? Go to www.roanestate.edu/alumni.

Correction:

In the spring edition of Roane State Today, a News caption stated a photo showed "some of the college many nursing alumni on the clock at the Methodist Center in Oak Ridge." The caption should have read: "State nursing students talk with Jan McNally, Methodist Medical Center CEO; and Patricia Crotty, Roane State associate professor of nursing." McNally was the employee shown.

Background photo: Members of the Roane State Choir, Celebrating the Jazz Band are often together "on stage" – either rehearsing or

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Letter | from the President

My first week as the new president of Roane State Community College was fast paced, but extremely enjoyable as we honored two outstanding RSCC alumni that are featured in this issue of Roane State Today. At a presentation ceremony, Rhonda S. Longmire of Scott and Campbell counties and Christopher L. Whaley of Roane County were presented the 2005 Roane State Outstanding Alumni Award. Rhonda, a non-traditional Roane State student, continued the pursuit of her associate of science degree as a wife and mom with two children. She is now the president and CEO of the First National Bank of Oneida in Scott County. Chris, a traditional student, started the pursuit of his education at 18 at Roane State. He completed his jurist doctorate (law) degree and is now the dean of Social and Behavioral Science at RSCC. I was truly honored to recognize these two outstanding Roane State Alumni. They are both RSCC superstars.

As Roane State continues to provide higher education opportunities and open access for the students in our eight-county service area, our vision is to join with business, political, and educational partners to enhance the economic growth and development of our service area. Seven of our eight counties are below the Tennessee average per capita income level and family median income level. This requires RSCC, business leaders, our county and city governments, and local chambers of commerce to form partnerships to support economic growth. RSCC can play a major role in this endeavor by educating a high-wage, high-skill workforce through our many associate of science and associate of applied science degrees. We need the help of RSCC Alumni in getting the word out that we want to partner with any organization that is dedicated to improving the quality of life through economic development.

If you would like to give back to RSCC for the education you received, we are creating a Roane State Volunteer Corps to incorporate those citizens who would like to volunteer some of their free time to support our administrative and student support services. If you, or anyone you know, would like additional information or would like to participate in the newly created RSCC Volunteer Corps, please contact Tamsin Miller at (865) 882-4640 in the Alumni Relations Office.

Roane State Community College's exceptional faculty and staff join me in thanking you for your attendance at RSCC. Personal attention and a human touch are hallmarks at RSCC that are blended into every aspect of the teaching and learning process. At RSCC, we're proud that we can provide our students outstanding academic quality at a price they can afford. We're dedicated to providing the best learning experience possible for our students in the most advanced technological environment available. This benefits students not only in the classroom, but also after graduation as they move forward into the workplace or to a four-year university to pursue advanced degrees. Thank you for choosing RSCC as you pursued your higher educational needs. We are very proud of you. Our alumni are special to us, and we are measured by the success of our alumni.



Gary Loff

Roane State Presents

performing and visual arts

Check our Web site frequently for updates and additional performances at:

www.roanestate.edu
keyword: Roane State Presents

Schedule of Events

February 10 & 11 **"Music for Lovers"**

The Roane Choral Society presents a romantic evening of love songs, candlelight, flowers and desserts. Roane State Student Lounge, 8 p.m. Tickets \$18 general, \$12 season pass holders. Reservations required (865) 376-6710.

February 16-18, 23-25 **"Biloxi Blues" by Neil Simon**

Neil Simon classic about a young man coming of age during Army basic training in 1943. Roane State Theatre, 7 p.m. Tickets \$7, \$5 students, available at the door. Information (865) 882-4589. See accompanying gallery exhibit.

April 2 **"This is Our Country"**

To honor and celebrate our military veterans, police, fire and emergency personnel. Special guest: The 572nd US Air National Guard Band. Presented by the Roane Choral Society. Roane State Theatre, 3 p.m. Admission by donation. Information (865) 376-6710.

April 13-15, 20-22 **"Broadway Review"**

An homage to the musical by Concert Choir, Celebration Singers and the Jazz Band. Roane State Theatre, 7 p.m. Tickets \$10, \$5 for students, available at the door. Information (865) 882-4589. See accompanying gallery exhibit.

April 17-20 **Joe and Lefty Spray Can Art**

Street artists bringing their craft to an event free and open to the public. Call these campuses for dates and times: Roane, Oak Ridge, Campbell, Cumberland, Scott.

April 28-30 **"Spring Dance Concert"**

Arts in Motion's annual event performed by area dancers. Roane State Theatre, 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Tickets \$10/8 by reservation only (865) 376-0295.

Art Shows

Jan. 23-Feb 3 **Art Show—Mike Joyce**

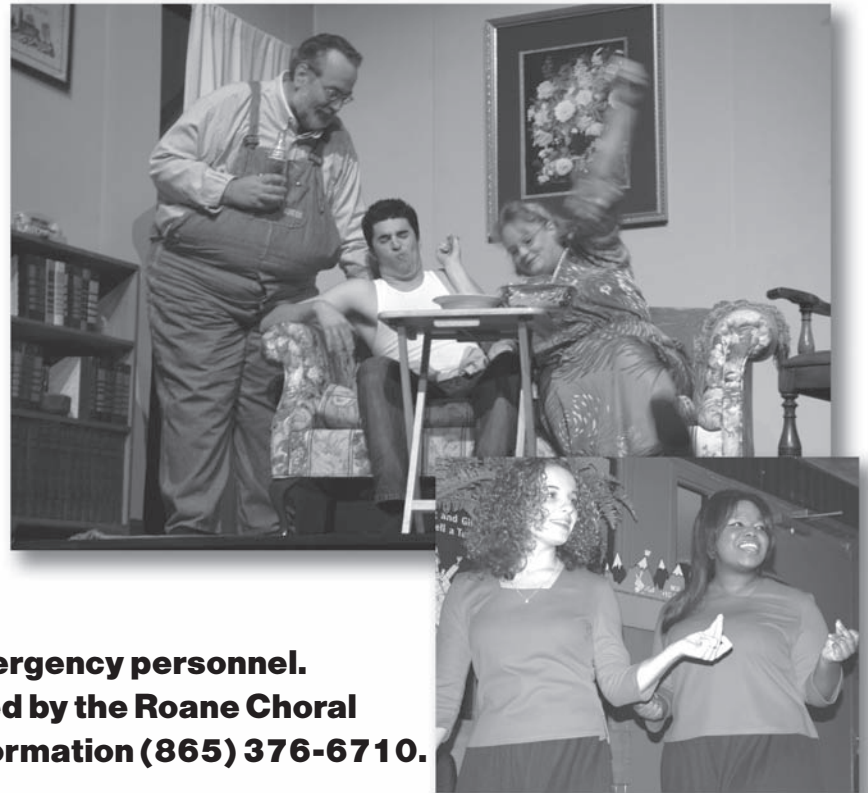
Feb. 16-18, 23-25 **Art Show—Marc Burnett**

Folksy watercolor on life as an African-American. Friday, Feb. 24 at 6:30-7:45 p.m. meet-the-artist reception.

March 20-24 **Art Show—Annual Student Art Exhibit**

April 20-22, 27-20 **Art Show—Tim VanBeke**

Conceptual abstractions. Friday, April 28 at 6:30-7:45 p.m. meet-the-artist reception.



February 23 **An Evening of Music, Dinner and a Play**

What better way to revisit your alma mater than a special evening with a great meal, songs by the college's music department, and a world-famous play. Dinner at 5:30 p.m., play begins at 7 p.m. By reservation only: \$25 a person (reservations must be made by February 20 by calling (865) 882-4507.)

Vistas | of Roane State



“Having a campus in Fentress County means many people who did not have the time or the transportation to drive to another campus can now fulfill their dream of a college education.”



Fentress County Campus

Domino's might not deliver to Fentress County, but Roane State does. For a year now, the community college has offered credit classes at a campus across the street from York Institute.

Residents are responding, said Pam May, coordinator of Roane State's Fentress County Higher Education Center (above, center). “I have had several people tell me that they wish this campus had been here when they went to college. We currently serve students from an age range of 16 to 66. We have 11 high school students from York Institute taking dual-credit English, and a senior citizen taking a computer class,” May said.

Having new opportunities on the York Institute campus is fitting. Alvin C. York, a war hero who shunned commercial fortune to return home to his beloved Fentress County, made it his life's work to promote education in his rural community.

Roane County Campus

A recent event allowed scholarship students and their families to meet scholarship donors. The “scholarship tea” drew some 20 recipients and 20 donors. During the reception, the Roane State Foundation also received a \$6,000 check raised by the Harriman High School Alumni Association for the C.R. Black Memorial Scholarship Endowment. In the academic year 2005-06, Roane State students received a total of \$175,000 in foundation scholarships.



Oak Ridge Campus

In what has become an East Tennessee tradition, artists of all ages and skill levels “chalked the walk” during the sixth annual Oak Ridge Street Painting Festival. The October event raised \$18,000 for Roane State scholarships. Over the past six years, the festival—which features stunningly creative chalk art along Oak Ridge Campus sidewalks—has raised more than \$120,000 for Roane State scholarships. The Rotary Club of Oak Ridge sponsors the festival.



Campbell County Campus

Summer classes will be held in the permanent campus under construction in LaFollette. The 18,000-square-foot facility is set to be completed this spring and will include classrooms, computer labs, a community room and a student lounge. The new campus is near the college’s current leased facilities in Woodson’s Mall.



Cumberland County Campus

Some 17 students are enrolled in the first paramedic class to be offered at this campus. They include emergency management workers from Bledsoe, Cumberland, Knox, Putnam, Roane, Scott and White counties. Cumberland County and City of Crossville officials have helped secure classroom space in the community so that EMTs and other emergency personnel don’t have to travel great distances for training.



Knox County Campus

There’s a new torso in town. This campus now has a Laerdal AirMan Difficult Airway Simulator—an adult upper-body mannequin used to train EMT/paramedic students. “In emergency medicine, there is nothing more important than maintaining an adequate airway and ventilation of a patient,” said instructor Marty Young. “This high-tech tool greatly enhances our ability to instruct our students in critically important airway management skills, particularly endotracheal intubation.”

Loudon County Campus

Site director Susan Williams is active these days in the East Tennessee Regional Leadership Association, which is dedicated to creating a network of leaders to exchange ideas and experiences. And, as Williams puts it, “This is my opportunity to share all the positive things about Roane State and Loudon County. Basically, I get to toot Roane State’s horn all over the region!” ETRLA most recently has focused on regional transportation issues.



Scott County Campus

Students in Education 223—Instructional Aids and Equipment—are enjoying the use of 30 laptop computers bought with Technology Access Fee (TAF) funds for this campus. According to professor Diane Ward, the future teachers use the computers to learn how to prepare PowerPoint presentations, edit digital photos, explore Internet resources and troubleshoot problems they may encounter when using technology in their classrooms.



The Yin Yang of the

She came to Roane State
beginning a career. He was
and eager for the tradition

Rhonda Longmire and
divergent paths at Roane
arrived at the same place.
the college's 2005 Outstanding





College Experience

By Tammy Stanford, Alumni Publications Editor

after getting married and
was just out of high school
with no formal college experience.

Chris Whaley followed
me to the State. But both have
received the Longmire and Whaley are
winning Alumni award winners.

outstanding alumni awards (continued)



Pictured clockwise from top: Whaley (second from right) with fellow members of Celebration Singers; Longmire consulting with a bank staff member; Whaley receiving his award from President Goff; Whaley counseling a student; Longmire and family after her Roane State graduation; Longmire receiving her award from the president.

Rhonda Longmire remembers her bank co-workers wondering why she wanted a college degree. Today, as president and CEO of First National Bank of Oneida, she has a ready answer.

“Roane State helped me change my thinking,” Longmire said, “I went from being someone who came in and did a job, to someone who was career-minded in a field that was dominated by males.”

Longmire went to Berea College right out of high school for a year before homesickness drove her home to her native Campbell County. She married and got a job at a bank. A while later, she enrolled in the first course Roane State ever offered in Campbell County.

“That was the beginning for me,” Longmire recalled. “I took other classes, and the hours began to add up. With my previous year (at Berea), I realized I was getting close to an associate’s degree.” Then, she says, a class “changed my life. When I finished that accounting class, I knew what I wanted to do. My total mindset changed and I began getting promotions at work.”

Longmire had the will, but sometimes the way was a bit dicey. She had two young children, Brandon and Brooke, and a full-time job. “My husband, Jesse, and I had our hands full,” Longmire recalled. “It was a major challenge to work, raise children and attend school.”

Rhonda’s sister, Dr. Rita Goins, was there to help. She’s now assistant director of Campbell County Schools and also got her educational start at Roane State.

“She kept the kids when my husband was at work,” Longmire recalled of her school days. “In a way, my kids have a second mom who never had children. It strengthened our family because my kids have someone today they are very close to and think of with much love.”

Longmire, who now serves as an adjunct instructor at Roane State, earned an associate’s degree from Roane State in 1988 and a bachelor’s degree at the University of Tennessee in 1992. She makes sure that her employees have the same shot she does at a higher education. “Through the years I’ve been able to hire Roane State graduates and students and have set flexible hours for them so they can pursue training. It made such a difference for me.”

Chris Whaley—now dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Roane State—practically grew up at the college. His father, Lowell Whaley, was a Roane State accountant in the early 1970s. “I remember when the Dunbar Building was constructed,” Whaley said. “As a little boy, I walked through it and thought, ‘how are they ever going to use all this space?’”

His fondest memory as a student in the late 1980s: “meeting my wife on her first day of college.” He and Cindy—now the parents of 5-year-old Jonathan—were typical college sweethearts, attending the dances Roane State often hosted during those days, and serving in the Raider Corps, a student leadership organization.

Whaley was also a member of Celebration Singers. Though he excelled in the fine arts, he decided to enter the law profession—a choice that isn’t as odd as it sounds. “In high school, I had been involved in the drama club,” said Whaley, a licensed attorney. “There’s a parallel there—the courtroom can be a stage.”

In 1989, Whaley won the president’s award, Roane State’s highest student citation. He went on to Middle Tennessee State University, then law school at the University of Tennessee. He practiced law full-time until 1997, when he was named Roane State’s director of Legal Studies.

Today, he believes his ultimate role as dean is to help faculty members “do what they already do so well—teach. I want them to be able to focus on the classroom and on the students.”

Whaley cites his stepfather, retired high school principal Estel Underwood, as his role model. “He is a true ‘servant-leader,’” Whaley said. “All those years, I watched his attitude in dealing with both students and parents. It was always, ‘Let me help you get where you want to go.’”

In the end, Whaley said, he was always destined to be in education. Along with his stepfather, mother Sandy Underwood also taught school. And his wife is a teacher at Harriman High School. “I liked the practice of law, but there was always something in me drawn toward the classroom,” Whaley said.

The Whaley family lives in Harriman and anticipates the addition of a new member soon; Chris and Cindy plan to adopt a baby girl from China.

You Must Remember This | rah rah sisterhood (and brotherhood)

Coed, confident and, well ... cheery.
Those terms defined yesterday's cheerleading squads at Roane State.



“Cheerleading began while the college was housed in the Fairmont Building around 1972 or '73,” recalled Sammie Mowery, Roane State alumna and one-time cheerleading sponsor.

The program was disbanded around 2000. But, along the way, RSCC cheerleaders fired up the fans, traveled with the teams and championed the college off the court at various community events. And they cheered the basketball Raiderettes to a national title in 1984.

The cheerleaders were no slouches themselves when it came to competition, according to Chris Creswell, also a former squad sponsor. “I always had a coed squad and they always won blue ribbons and trophies. We attended Universal Cheerleading Association camps with colleges and universities from across the United States.”

The late Don Bratcher, a Roane State dean, was perhaps the cheerleaders' biggest fan, funding scholarships for squad members.



Lifesavers

By Tammy Stanford, Alumni Publications Editor



Not so long ago, “ambulances” were hearses—literally and sometimes figuratively. Funeral homes ferried the sick and injured to the hospital. Under-trained and poorly equipped workers strove to help their “patients,” but too often the ride ended at the home office.

Today, highly skilled EMTs and paramedics save lives every day with “pre-hospital” care. It’s a well-kept secret that many—if not most—EMTs and paramedics in this region train at Roane State.

America’s emergency service workers were in a well-deserved spotlight after Sept. 11, 2001. The spotlight has dimmed, but these heroes are still on the job—answering the calls that matter the most.

Helping in Your Hometown

“It’s a wonderful blessing to think of all of the lives that we have been able to impact. I realize that this can be said for all teachers and other professionals, but there is something special about the positive things we do for people when they are experiencing traumatic and stressful circumstances.” Mark Bodine has been an EMT/paramedic instructor at Roane State since 1994.

“From 2000 to 2004, we have enrolled more than 1,200 EMT and paramedic students.” Maria Smith directs Roane State’s EMT/paramedic program.

“A lot of these students wouldn’t be able to go to other campuses for these classes because of their schedules. Out of 28 EMT/paramedics with my agency, 26 are Roane State graduates.” Jim Reed, Scott County EMS director, on the courses offered at the college’s Scott County campus.

Long Hours, Low Pay

“Most EMS folks work 60 to 80 hours a week to make a living. Our students are not taking these courses for the money. We still get paid almost minimum wage at the EMT level.” Maria Smith

“This profession can take a toll on family life. Many times the paramedic will be on shift during holidays, a child’s ball game, other family events. I teach my students that they must have a life outside of EMS. Don’t be on call 24/7, and make extra time for family and friends.” Rodney Byrd has taught practically every EMT/paramedic course the college offers.

“I think all emergency service personnel should be better compensated. Getting paid millions of dollars for throwing a baseball well—what’s up with that?” Roger Badger teaches Roane State EMT/paramedic courses and also coordinates clinical rotations for students.

The Best Part of Waking Up

“I get up every morning looking forward to coming to work.” Will Smith is a paramedic and field training officer at Rural/Metro in Knox County. He is a Roane State alumnus.

“I realized that what I truly wanted was to be in a profession where I felt like I could make a more tangible difference in people’s lives. But as an adult, I had a long list of reasons not to pursue this interest—long hours, low pay, high stress, the threat of communicable diseases. Eventually, though, I decided that I didn’t want to one day look back and wonder what it would have been like to be a paramedic.” Marty Young, who teaches EMT/paramedic classes at Roane State’s Knox County campus, on his decision to go into emergency medicine after trying other jobs.

“Saving a life because of the care you provide—that is something you’ll remember for the rest of your life.” Rodney Byrd

“The excitement, the challenge, being able to make a difference, and most important, caring for my fellow human beings.” Roger Badger on why he chose EMS.

“It is the progressive nature of medicine that helps make this, and all other health fields, so interesting. But no matter how advanced the technology is now or will be in the future, it’s essentially worthless unless it’s in the hands of a caring, competent professional. Ultimately, pre-hospital emergency medicine is about people helping people. That’s what makes this profession worthwhile.” Marty Young

“EMS to me is about easing someone else’s pain.” Rodney Byrd

Walking the Line Between “Clinical” and “Caring”

“Compassion is the biggest part of our job. Because we go help people at their ‘worst,’ we have to be at our best.” Will Smith

“Emotions always run high in an emergency. If the paramedic becomes too emotionally involved, it can make things even more stressful. But if the paramedic does not become somewhat emotionally involved, that will also affect the care they give. To keep a balance, one must understand that everything the paramedic does will have an effect on the patient—not just the treatment rendered but also the compassion shown while rendering that treatment. It’s sometimes very tough to balance the two.” Rodney Byrd

“You can’t force students to be compassionate or caring. We can attempt to instill and model some of these traits, but that’s their choice and it can make a difference in their success and satisfaction with their performances.” Mark Bodine

“Even if the paramedic has developed awesome knowledge and skills, without the caring attitude, they have totally—I think—missed the mark. It’s the difference between a good pre-hospital care provider and a great one.” Rodney Byrd

The Emotional Toll

“Paramedics see more sickness, injury and death in a few years than most people will see in a lifetime.” Rodney Byrd

“Losing a patient brings you down. But knowing that I did everything I could—eased their suffering—that’s what makes the difference.” Will Smith

“We can’t prepare them for everything out there, but we can give them the tools they’ll need.” Jennifer Tucker teaches EMT “accelerated” courses at Roane State.

“Just knowing that if they do what they’re taught they have done everything they can, and the rest is out of their hands.” Maria Smith on teaching students how to deal with loss.

The Essence of Emergency Medicine

“We’re really looking for folks who are dedicated to this field. If they don’t have that, they won’t last long. This is not just a job.” Jim Reed

“We have to teach students to be prepared, focused and goal oriented. We remind them to think of how they or their families would want to be treated if they were the ones lying there sick or injured.” Roger Badger

The Challenges Ahead

“Because of 9/11, our students are continually being challenged to learn more and take on additional responsibilities.” Mark Bodine

“The physical dangers, the diseases, the stress on their families from low pay and long hours.” Maria Smith on the worries she carries for emergency workers.

“I consider it a matter of ‘when,’ ‘where,’ and ‘how extensive’—not ‘if.’” Marty Young on the next stateside terror attack.

The Ultimate Reward

“The students I have helped teach are now ‘in the field,’ caring for many more patients that I ever could have on my own.” Marty Young



Whatever it Takes

By Jeff Gary, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

Throughout his life, Gary Goff has been put into situations that have tested his character and ability to persevere. Time and time again, he has passed each test and moved on to the next challenge with a growing track record of strong leadership.



From his childhood days as a part of a military family that frequently moved from post to post to working any job he could get his hands on to pursue higher education to completing his own very distinguished military career, this has always been the case.

And, upon entering a “second career” in the field of higher education, Goff agreed to serve in yet another leadership role when—in August—he was chosen to be the fourth president of Roane State Community College.

“I come to Roane State with no other desire than to make Roane State accessible to the people in our eight-county service area. I was blessed, as a youth, to have the doors of higher education opened to me. Now, I want to open the same doors to current and future Tennesseans.”

3x3 or 10x10?

Children of military families that move frequently are often referred to as “military brats,” but Goff was no brat. In fact, he was serious, hard-working and dedicated to achieving the task at hand. Still, he admits, his situation was unique.

“I went to nine different schools to get through my K-12 education,” he recalls. “At some schools, we were working on ‘3 x 3’ multiplication. Then, I’d move to another school and it would be ‘10 x 10.’ So, I had to learn how to fill in the gap. It forced me to play catch-up in many ways and to do so quickly.”

But, in a recurring theme throughout his life, Goff turned the opportunity into a strength. That talent, he says, would prove invaluable.

“I could have easily sat on the sidelines of the new schools I attended, but I developed the ability to make friends easily. Those social skills have served me well.”

At his numerous schools, Goff was often very active in extra-curricular activities including athletics. He played football and ran track. And, he showed an aptitude for music—playing percussion in most school bands.

And, he notes, as any student would have, there were some influential teachers along the way—Miss Shirley, his third grade teacher; Mr. Wolfe, a high school teacher; and Mr. Chen, also a high school teacher and one who would play a key role in Goff’s life.

Despite his athletic and artistic prowess, he says there was no expectation to pursue higher education. No one in his family had attended college and, in fact, there was an expectation that Goff would follow a path into the construction business.

But, Mr. Chen saw promise in the young Goff and encouraged him to consider a continuation of his education past high school.

“He saw in me a skill set that led him to believe I would succeed in college, so he strongly recommended that I pursue higher education.”

By that time (late in his senior year), Goff had missed college application deadlines. Still, he submitted his test scores and his application. He then graduated from high school and began the summer working in the construction business.

“Soon, the window of opportunity opened,” he recalls. “I received a letter saying that if I could get to MTSU in Murfreesboro by opening day, I could have a seat in the freshman class. I jumped at this chance and moved everything to Murfreesboro and enrolled in college.”

'Round the Clock

Over the summer of '65, Goff earned a decent wage on his construction job but, still, it would only take him part of the way through that critical fall semester. Determined not to fall short, he took any job he could get his hands on, literally.

As a work-study student, he worked 20 hours per week on the college farm. Twice a day, he milked the farm's 52 cows. In addition to milking, he also had the task of feeding 10,000 chickens. He also gathered and graded eggs for use in the school cafeteria.

Goff's connection to the cafeteria also proved fruitful in another, unrelated, way. He learned that a student working in the cafeteria during mealtimes was issued meal coupons he could redeem in the cafeteria.

In addition to his work study duties, Goff took other jobs to make ends meet—from selling shoes in a local department store to working for a janitorial service.

“Balancing work and school was a challenge,” he recalls. “Still, I knew I had been presented a great opportunity and I wasn't going to allow myself not to succeed.”

Duty Calls

Even as Goff burned the midnight oil at college battling the rigors of academe and the delicate balance of time management, another battle raged on half a world away. The Vietnam War was in full engagement by the time Goff arrived at MTSU and it would only escalate during his four years in college.

“Obviously, the war in Vietnam forced an extremely active military draft,” he says. “I knew I had a couple of options. I could join the ROTC, defer my military service and graduate with my degree and a commission or I could choose not to do that and risk being drafted out of school. I made the decision to join the ROTC and be commissioned as a second lieutenant of infantry upon completion of my bachelor's degree.”

Goff excelled in his ROTC participation and was one of the few students in his class commissioned a regular army officer.

“I graduated May 31 from MTSU and reported 1 June at Columbus, Ga. I drove all night,” he says.

He was first sent to a 12-week infantry course in Army leadership. Goff describes it as a hands-on environment in which officers learn such skills as: how to fire a weapon, how to navigate, map reading and how to call in artillery. Next up, he did a three-week airborne course, which ended with participants successfully completing five parachute jumps.

Then, he says, he completed 14 weeks that were pivotal to his tremendous success in the Army—Ranger School.

“Rangers are challenged to be the best,” he explains. “Greater things are expected of Rangers than others. Ranger School prepares you to meet tremendous challenges, both physical and mental. It creates the mental toughness you need in order to be successful.”

“When I look back at a 30-year career, Ranger school was the key to my mental toughness and it set me off from the other infantry officers.”

Goff recalls that of the 400 students who entered Ranger School at the same time he did, only 33 graduated with their Ranger Tab 14 weeks later.

“I didn't realize how important that experience was going to be until I reached Vietnam.”

Vietnam

Goff's first stop overseas was in Germany. After six months, the battalion commander placed him in command of a mechanized infantry company. “That's very rare for a brand new first lieutenant,” he notes.

Soon, Goff shipped out to Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division as a company commander of an infantry unit. Goff had 180 soldiers under his command.

“I wasn't personally scared of going to Vietnam but I was very careful not to do something stupid that could cost a soldier's life. I was always checking on the men to make sure they were safe. This experience made me revert back to my Ranger training.”

Goff says he slept very little—15 to 20 naps per day, about 10 minutes in length—and the group was constantly on the move, pursuing the enemy.

“We would wake around 4 a.m. and wait for the first light—that was usually when the North Vietnamese would attack. If they did not attack, we'd pack up and prepare to move. Some days we'd find the enemy. Some days we'd find more than we wanted to find. Other days, we found none.”

“We'd stop each day about 4 p.m. and dig in for the evening. The next day, we'd do it again. We did this day after day after day carrying 80-pound rucksacks on our backs.”

Other Opportunities

Goff says he originally thought he'd serve five years in the Army, but he continued to have great opportunities. “The Army sent me to great schools with great faculty. I had great jobs and great leadership command. When I look back, I did some unique things.”

For example, he was involved in the Dayton Peace Accords and the Bosnia mission in November 1995, which brought an end to the war in the former Yugoslavia. Also, he served in Northern Iraq during Operation Provide Comfort and worked closely with Kurdish leaders. He served a tour of duty along the DMZ in Korea, worked with the Honduran military to counter the Sandinistas, and was responsible for planning and conducting all joint training and exercises in the Middle East.

“More than anything, I am proud of my years of service and I was blessed to lead many outstanding young men and women. They are the true treasure of America.”

Throughout his years of infantry service, Goff was also involved in education and training. He says it is essentially a “second track” of specialization that balances the more physically and mentally demanding service as a Ranger. “It gives you a chance to recharge and refresh.”



Around campus and around town, people have asked about Roane State's new president. They want to know "what makes him tick." So, we asked Dr. Goff: 'What makes you tick?'

Hobbies

Boating—The Goffs enjoy boating and have moved their boat to the Caney Creek Marina in Roane County.

Snow Skiing—The Goffs try to plan at least one ski trip each winter.

On the Road Again

Cycling—To relieve stress, it is not uncommon for Goff to hop on his motorcycle—ride for a while—and then come back to take on the task at hand.

Dad/Grandpa

Goff has a son, Jason G. Goff, who is a deputy for Hillsborough County, Fla. Jason and his wife, Kerin, have a son, Logan, 2, and a daughter, Regan, who was born on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Goff also has a daughter, Dr. Amy Butler, who is a psychologist. "We are so blessed by these little ones; they are such a God-sent gift. We enjoy them almost each and every day."

Multilingual

Between the two of them, the Goffs know many languages. Heidi is bi-lingual in German and English. He speaks 'conversational German.' During the course of his military career, Goff also learned a little Spanish, Kurdish, Arabic and Korean.

On Wednesdays, at their home, the Goffs speak German. He says the practice is designed for him to maintain some facility with the language.

As this track of his military service unfolded, Goff received a Master of Business Administration degree from Southwest Missouri State University. He taught courses in Physical Education and Military Science. Later, as adjunct faculty at the University of Maryland, he taught night courses (when possible) in business.

He also served a number of years as a faculty member with the Armed Forces Staff College, rising to the position of dean. There he directed 75 faculty members and 28 support staff. This position would serve as a bit of foreshadowing for his post-military career in higher education.

After he wrapped up his 30 years of military service, Goff worked for a short time in the private sector, but found education was his calling. So, he applied for the position as dean of Business & Technologies at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa. He was named to the post and his second career officially began.

Higher Ed

At Hillsborough, Goff rose rapidly through the ranks. "In three years as an academic dean, I had a number of opportunities to serve. I marveled at how other people were not volunteering. So, if no one else was willing to take on a task, I'd step forward.

"I fell back on my Ranger training. If I saw something that needed to be done, I'd do it. My experience in the Army taught me that if there was a challenge, you just roll up your sleeves and get on with it."

One task that needed to be done, Goff surmised, was to add one missing piece to his own portfolio—a doctorate. Six months after being named dean, he started the wheels in motion and with the same military-like precision that marked his first career; he completed his mission—a Doctor of Education, Higher Education Leadership from the University of South Florida. From start to finish, he completed his doctorate in 38 months.

Along the way, he was promoted and named vice president for Administration and chief financial officer at Hillsborough. And soon, he began thinking seriously about pursuing a community college presidency.

"Once I finished my degree, I knew I could be competitive for a presidential position. For understanding and credibility, I needed to pursue the doctorate. But once I had accomplished that achievement, I knew I had the essential ingredients—education and experience—to become a president." And late in 2004, he began exploring the possibilities.

Roane State

After discussing matters with his wife, Heidi, the Goffs decided to narrow their search to three states: Florida, Texas and Tennessee and, in an ironic twist, the first presidential opening he noticed but did not apply for was at Walters State Community College. Dr. Wade McCamey, RSCC president at that time, was selected for that post.

McCamey's impending departure from Roane State meant its presidency was soon advertised. During the early part of the summer of 2005, Goff applied for the Roane State presidency. He made the first cut and then the second.

And, again, his Ranger training proved invaluable.

"One thing I learned in the Army was that you go find out everything you can about the enemy before you do battle with them. So, to extrapolate, in this case, 'go find out everything you can about the college.'" He made a trip to the region over the July 4th weekend and toured each Roane State campus. Goff also spent a great deal of time going through Roane State's Web site to learn everything he could about the college—from curriculum to faculty to institutional research data.

He also called Dr. McCamey as well as Dr. Sherry Hoppe, former RSCC president, to learn as much as he could about Roane State from the unique perspective of two individuals who had led the institution.

Soon, it was time for the final round—two days at Roane State for the Goffs. The first day was spent in meetings with various Roane State constituencies.

"At the end of that day, we were whipped. We came back to the hotel, ate a package of crackers and some grapes, drank a Coke and then went straight to bed."

Then, the second day, Goff was scheduled to meet with the search committee, but not without a little pre-interview 'excitement.'

As he and Heidi prepared to come to campus in their rental car, Goff found it had two flat tires. He changed the worst of the two tires, using the spare, but they immediately drove to C & D Tire Service in Harriman.

"This is when Heidi fell in love with the people of this area. I explained to Jerry, the manager at the tire shop, 'Look, I have a problem. I have a rental car. I have this interview at Roane State. I need to catch a taxi so I can go back to the hotel and dress for the interview...' and Jerry said 'I have four people ahead of you. Let me go and explain the situation to them and see if they would mind if I put you on the rack next.'

"He did and they all said they would have absolutely no problem with that. Within 20 minutes, we had new tires and we were on the way to Roane State for the interview."

Within a couple of days of the interview, TBR Chancellor Charles Manning called Goff with the good news that he was the choice of the search committee. Manning and a couple of regents came to Tampa to do one last check as a formality. Soon, the TBR made it official with a vote and Goff was on his way to Roane State again—this time as its fourth president—on August 19.

(continued on page 20)

Spirit | quick study

Todd Wright is ready to run. The new basketball coach reported to the Roane State Raiderettes program this fall with an up-tempo game in mind. “We’re going to be aggressive on defense, we’re going to attack the basket on offense, we’re going to push the ball up the floor.”

Wright and team won’t forget basketball basics amid the fast times. “We’ll be fun to watch, but we won’t sacrifice the fundamentals,” said the Oak Ridge native.

Speed fits the task at hand. When he accepted the head coaching job, Wright had less than a month to prepare the Raiderettes for the start of the 2005-06 season.

Before coming to Roane State, Wright directed the Oliver Springs High School girls’ team for six years, coaching the squad to two state tournament appearances. They finished 30-5 and 32-6 in his last two seasons there.

The biggest difference between the high school and college games: recruitment. Wright is prepared for the challenge. “I think I have the personality for recruiting. Building those relationships that are important to bringing solid student/athletes onto the squad – that’s what I’m going to enjoy.”

Wright has always talked to other successful coaches to hear their strategies and philosophies. He’ll continue that, he said. “I want to keep learning about the game.”

Wright wants to win. But he also wants to have a more lasting impact. “I remember my (high school) coach and the impact the had on me,” he said. “I want to have that positive influence on young people.”

He calls his family his biggest fans. Wright and his wife, Sondra, have a 5-year-old daughter, Briley, and an 8-month-old son, Baylor.

Wright replaces Misty Griffin, who left Roane State for a collegiate coaching job in Georgia. He’ll be assisted on the bench by volunteer coach Monica Ashburn, a former Raiderette and now a microcomputer specialist at the college.



Front row from left: Ashley Mowery, Cierra Williams, Amanda Harville, Destinye Pearce, Jessica McGlothlen, Heather DeLorenzo. Back row from left: Coach Todd Wright, Krista Clinard, Crystal Combs, Megan Lindsey, Angela Willis, Amanda Naff, Assistant Coach Monica Ashburn.

News Notes |

from the headlines

Dr. Paul Goldberg, vice president for Continuing Education and Workforce Development, has received the 2005 Robert M. Smith Outstanding Tennessee Leadership Educator Award. The award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of leadership education. Dr. Goldberg was cited for his contribution to Leadership Roane County, which he has coordinated for more than 20 years.

Students in **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** are benefiting from paid apprenticeships, thanks to a \$2 million grant for the Geospatial Hub Project. “The program gives students the opportunity to gain invaluable real world experience,” said Roane State GIS program director Pat Wurth.

Cindy Gardipe recently left the college for a job at a Florida community college. For years, Gardipe (whose last name was Vinsant during part of her Roane State tenure) was the “face” of the Campbell County campus, serving as coordinator and then director. Gardipe had worked at Roane State since 1991.

Scouts from Kingston Troop 101 volunteered to spruce up the woods trail at Roane State’s Tamke-Allan Observatory this summer. The Scouts and their leaders worked on the educational **“Trail of the Planets,”** which includes exhibits created by Roane State astronomy students.

Students, faculty and staff tried out **Segways**, two-wheeled electric “personal transportation” vehicles, on campus recently.

The Roane State Choir recently sponsored **“Community Stars of Tomorrow.”** The all-day music festival showcased local bands and raised money for the choir’s February performance tour in New York City.

Roane State observed **Constitution Day** in September with a Constitution Bowl competition and a debate by two legal scholars. Winners at the Constitution Bowl received iPod music devices as prizes. The winners—all Roane State students—were Seth Greene of Kingston, Stephanie Nolan of Kingston, Tyler Moore of Oakdale and Rose Young of Deer Lodge.

Area high school students are now eligible for **lottery grants** for courses at Roane State Community College and other state schools. The state lottery grants—worth up to \$300—pay tuition for Dual Credit classes, where credits count toward both high school and college academic requirements. Roane State offers Dual Credit courses throughout its service area. Some 170 high schoolers are enrolled in Dual Credit at the college.

More than 800 new students attended the **Freshman Experience**, a two-day orientation held just before fall semester begins. Freshmen spent one day at the Roane County main campus, and one day at the campus where they plan to attend most of their classes.



From left: Students in a team-building exercise at the Freshman Experience, Cindy (Vinsant) Gardipe, Dr. Paul Goldberg, students giving Segways a whirl on campus.

Best Part of the Leadership Team

While attending a conference at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, Goff met one of the Army's civilian staff members—its director of Travel and Transportation for Grafenwohr, Germany, the former Heidi Frank. The two clicked immediately and were soon married. And, as his career has developed, she has been at his side.

"We're a team in every sense of the word. She has had her own career, her own successes. Heidi worked for the US Army in Germany for 25 years. For me, she's been a great supporter, a great sounding board. I tell everyone here, she's the best part of this (Goff) leadership team."

Born in Germany, Heidi's family moved to England when she was 10. She's fluent in both German and English. As the Goffs continue to meet community leaders and college alumni, Goff says he believes his wife will play a key role.

Message to Alumni

And, in his first few months, Goff says he has met numerous alumni who tell him how appreciative they are of their Roane State experience.

"It's such a pleasure to hear from alumni and their families about the benefits of their Roane State education. As the new president, it was a special treat for me during my first week here to recognize our outstanding alumni for this year, Rhonda Longmire and Chris Whaley.

"And with the recent establishment of the alumni office and this alumni magazine, we'll do all we can to help keep you informed about Roane State. I think that is an essential part of continuing to nurture alumni relations. And, we encourage all alumni to communicate with us and let us know about what you are doing."

Vision

"I am an eternal optimist. At Roane State, we have challenges ahead but we'll meet them head-on. I think we have great days ahead of us.

"My vision is to spring-board off what the first three presidents did. We want to maintain our enrollment and work with local community and business leaders—to forge key partnerships—to enhance economic development and provide a better quality of life for the people who live in our communities."



Class Notes

Update fellow alumni about what's going on in your life. Fill out the coupon below and return to Alumni Relations.

'91 Beverly (Peddicord) Crabtree (A.S.-General) works for the Oak Ridge Retirement Community. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee and previously taught at Heritage Pre-School and YWCA of Oak Ridge. "I switched from kids to elderly and love it," she said of her current job. Crabtree and her husband, Ricky, live in Oak Ridge. They have four adult children and two grandchildren. Son Rush recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division. Crabtree first attended Roane State from 1971 to 1973.

We've Missed You! Where Have You Been?

Name _____
(First) (Middle Initial or Maiden) (Last)

RSCC Degree(s) and/or Year(s) Attended/Graduated _____

Home Phone# _____ SS# _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Occupation/Title _____

Employer _____

Permission to add to online directory? Yes No

Spouse's Name _____

Names/Ages of Children _____

Other news (marriages, births, promotions, awards, major accomplishments, retirement, other items of interest). Send photos (digital preferred). _____

Activities while attending Roane State (Student Government, Sports, . . .) _____

**Send to:
Alumni Relations
Roane State Community College
276 Patton Lane
Harriman, TN 37748-5011
e-mail: alumni@roanestate.edu
www.roanestate.edu/alumni**

Alumni

alumni chapter news

Environmental Health Alumni Association (EHAA)

During 2005, the Environmental Health Alumni Association began one of its first official duties by serving on the RSCC Environmental Health Program's Advisory Board. In this role, association members assist with resources and equipment needs and help guide the program into the future.

Members have addressed Environmental Health classes this year, discussing their real-world experiences in the field while offering networking opportunities. The association plans to teach the environmental health badge at the RSCC Boy Scout Merit Badge College in February.

The members of the Association believe that Roane State and the EH Program has played a major role in the betterment of their lives and the business community. For more information, contact board member Brad Parish at (865) 376-5242.

Campbell County Alumni Association

The Campbell County Alumni Association held its fall activity—a family Halloween party—on Oct. 29 at the Roane State Campbell County Center. Children and adults competed in a costume contest.

The association is raising funds for furniture for the new Campbell County Higher Education Center to open this summer. If you would like to donate to this project, call the Roane State Foundation at (865) 882-4507.

Office of Alumni Relations

Roane State Community College
276 Patton Lane
Harriman, TN 37748
(865) 882-4503
e-mail: alumni@roanestate.edu

Check our Web site for updates on chapters and upcoming activities.

www.roanestate.edu keyword: alumni

Readers' Comments

From time to time, we may publicize incoming mail to our office. We would like to share with you some of our readers' thoughts.

"I was in Starbucks this morning reading my Roane State Today magazine...WOW how RSCC has grown! I sincerely appreciate receiving the magazine. So many wonderful memories for me at Roane State...the best time of my life. I continued on and transferred to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville graduating in education in 1980. We all know that 'home is where the heart is' and that says it all. I close my eyes...and I remember everything. Magically, I'm back at RSCC, back home again.

Again, thank you so much for the magazine. It extends to the alumni the warmth of home and family, no matter where we may go."

Donald Moore
Las Vegas, NV



Outstanding Alumnus Sought

We're seeking nominations for the 2006 Outstanding Alumni Awards to be given an RSCC alumna and alumnus in recognition of outstanding service to their profession, to RSCC and to the community.

Nominations

Nominations can be made by anyone and must include:

1. the Nominee Information Form
2. a letter of recommendation
3. a resume of the candidate

Nominations should include the nominee's name, address, date of graduation and degree (to be verified by RSCC personnel) and information detailing how the nominee meets each of the three criteria.

Eligibility

Nominees must have attended Roane State Community College for at least 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours to be considered for this award.

Criteria for Selection

1. Noteworthy professional contributions
 - a. To one's profession (beyond normal requirements and expectations)
 - b. Recognized via professional awards or recognition
2. Contributions to the spirit and values of Roane State Community College
3. Contributions to his or her community through community service or volunteer work

Selection Process

Selections will be made by the RSCC Alumni Recognition Committee.

Deadline for submission of nomination: May 31, 2006

For more information, call (865) 882-4503. Or you may e-mail a request for application or print the Nominee Information Form directly from the web at: www.roanestate.edu keyword: alumni

Submit all nominations and materials to:

Office of Alumni Relations
Roane State Community College
276 Patton Lane
Harriman, TN 37748
(865) 882-4503
e-mail: alumni@roanestate.edu

Roane State Foundation |

why write a will?

The planning and writing of a will is both a family obligation and a personal privilege.

We live in a nation of laws. During all of our lifetimes, different laws apply to us. When we are born, our birth is registered as required by law. During life, we comply with legal requirements in purchasing a home, in paying taxes, in securing a passport and in many more of life's activities.

When we die, our life's passing is noted in securing a death certificate and in the probate process. In all of life's activities, the law is there.

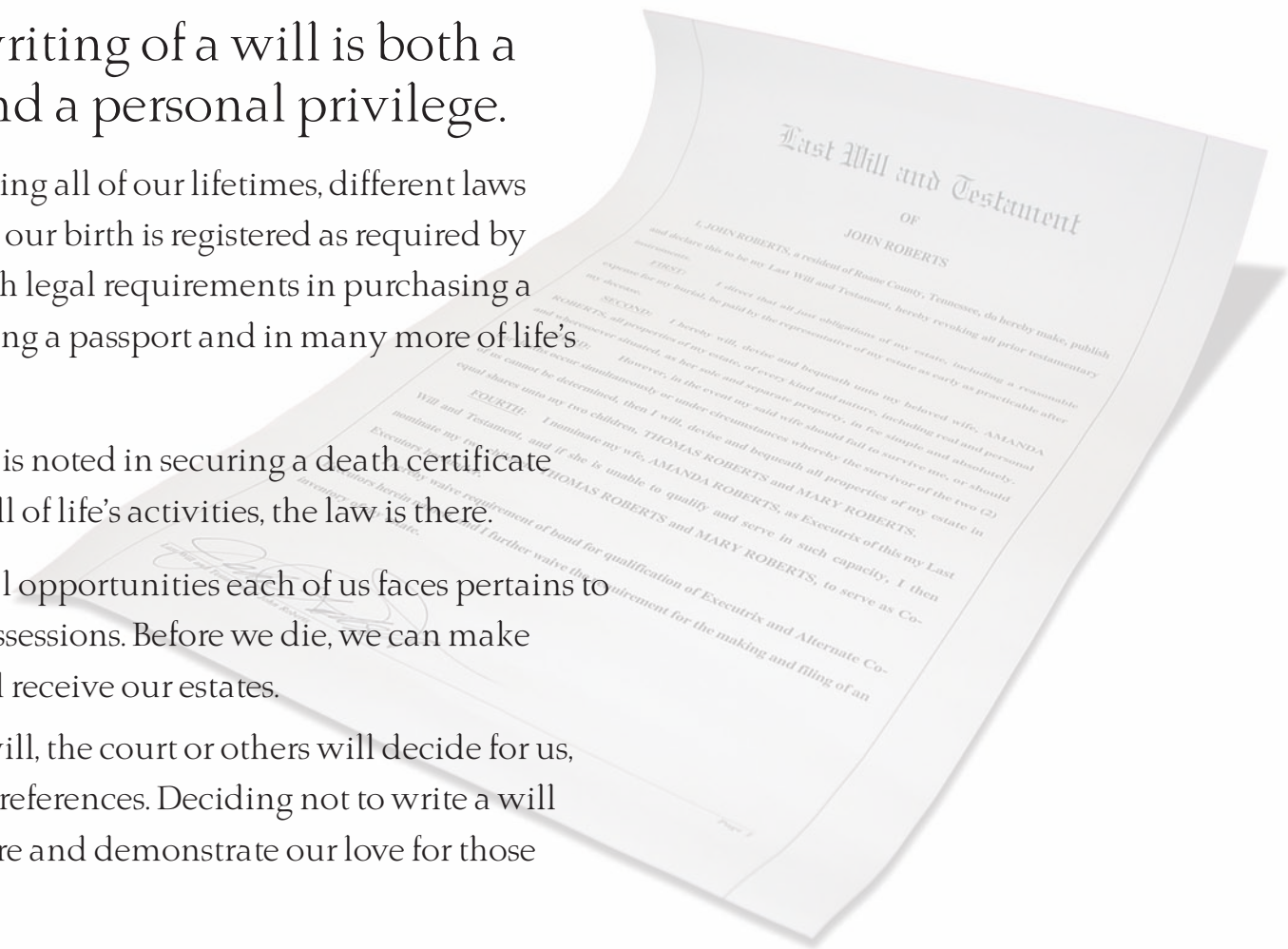
One of the most important legal opportunities each of us faces pertains to the future ownership of our possessions. Before we die, we can make a will that determines who will receive our estates.

In the event we do not have a will, the court or others will decide for us, often ignoring our important preferences. Deciding not to write a will reflects a lost opportunity to care and demonstrate our love for those whom we cherish.

Every person has the legal right to make a will. Details of your will include the naming of an executor, deciding who will serve as guardians of minor children, providing guidelines concerning how they will be raised, determining the use of accumulated wealth, and expressing gratitude for all of life's blessings by giving to the charity or charities of your choice. Life involves a string of choices, and the most important choices we make involve the use and disposition of what we have. This is called stewardship, the management of our resources.

As you can see, wills are not just for the rich. They are our last act and serve as the final testimony of our journey through life. We exercise a special privilege when we plan and write our own will.

For assistance, contact your attorney. Do it today. You never know what tomorrow may bring.



Calendar

coming up at your community college

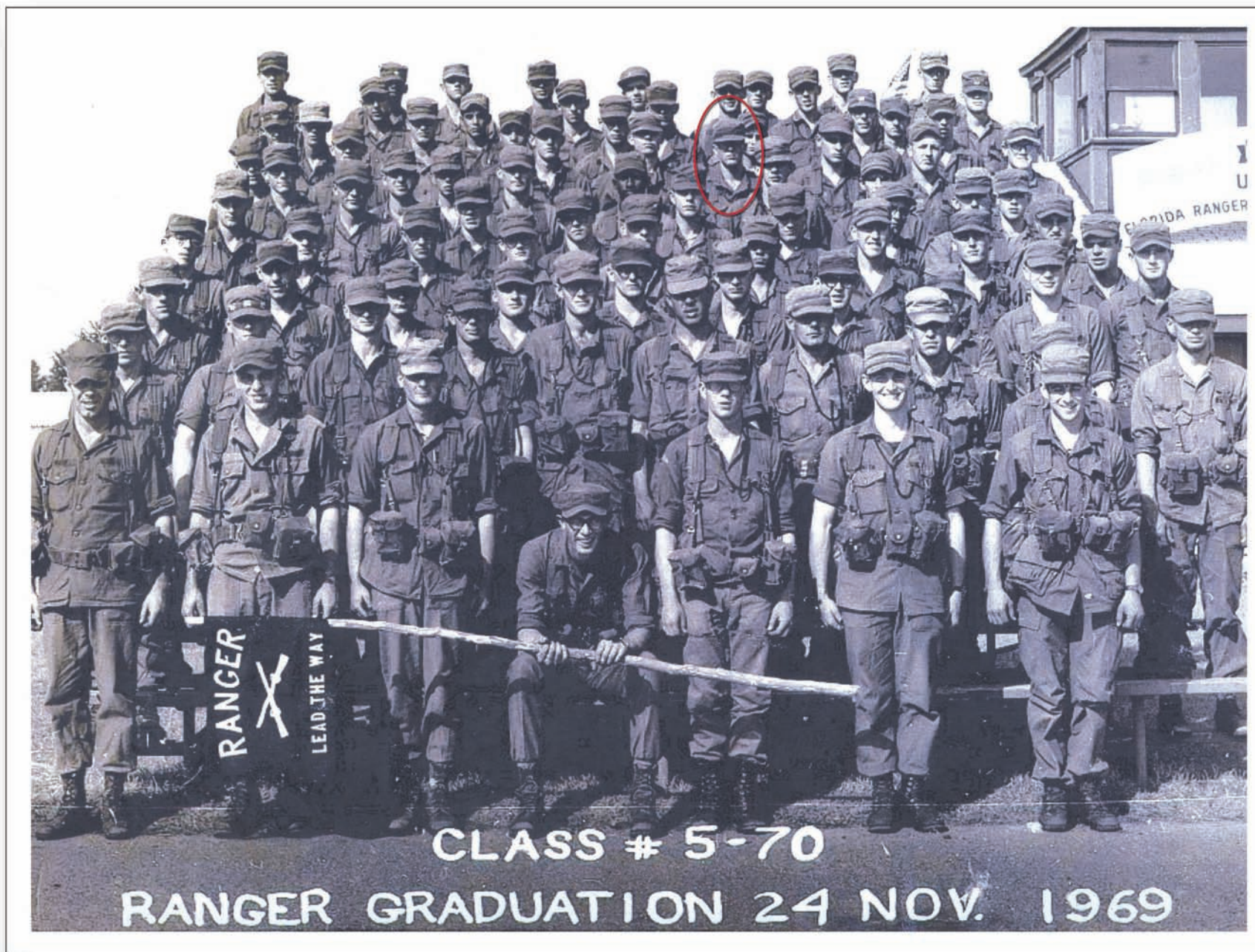
jan		mar	
Jan. 7-8	■ Oak Ridge Kennel Club agility trials	March 3-5	■ East Tennessee Cutting Horse Association
Jan. 7-8	■ J.R. Drake bull riding	March 6-10	Spring break
Jan. 17	Spring classes begin	March 10-12	Celebration Circuit
Jan. 20-21	■ Ron McLoughlin Horse-Handling Clinic	March 17-18	■ R.A. Bright Rodeo
Jan. 21	■ National Barrel Racers Association	March 17-18	■ Roane McLouglin Horse-Handling Clinic
Jan. 25	▲ Raiderettes and Raiders vs. Chattanooga State (6 and 8 p.m.)	March 20-24	● Annual Student Art Exhibition
Jan. 28	▲ Raiderettes and Raiders vs. Hiwassee College (6 and 8 p.m.)	March 24-26	■ Tennessee Valley Kennel Club agility trials
Jan. 23- Feb. 3	● Gallery Exhibit: Mike Joyce	March 25-26	■ Reis Ranch
feb		apr	
Feb. 1	▲ Raiders vs. Cumberland University (7 p.m.)	April 1-2	■ East Tennessee Cutting Horse Association
Feb. 3-5	■ East Tennessee Cutting Horse Convention	April 2	● Roane Choral Society presents "This is our Country"
Feb. 4	▲ Raiderettes and Raiders vs. Walters State (6 and 8 p.m.)	April 4-5	Academic Festival
Feb. 10-11	● Roane Choral Society presents "Music for Lovers"	April 7-8	■ Dale Hensley horse sale
Feb. 12	■ Turkey Federation Convention	April 13-15, 20-22	● Roane State Concert Choir in performance
Feb. 16-18, 23-25	● Roane State Playmakers present "Biloxi Blues"	April 13-15, 20-22	● Gallery Exhibit: Tim VanBeke
Feb. 16-18, 23-25	● Gallery Exhibit: Marc Burnett	April 14-16	Circuit by the River show
Feb. 17-19	■ Reining Horse Association	April 21-23	■ Reining Horse Association
Feb. 24	▲ Raiderettes and Raiders vs. Southwest (6 and 8 p.m.)	April 28-30	■ East Tennessee Cutting Horse Association
Feb. 25	■ National Barrel Racers Association		
Feb. 25	▲ Raiderettes and Raiders vs. Dyersburg State (2 and 4 p.m.)		

■ Call the Henry/Stafford Agricultural Exposition Center at (865) 882-4590 for details.

● Roane State Presents: All events are in the theatre on the Roane County Campus. Call the numbers listed on page 5 for more information.

▲ Games listed are played on the Roane County Campus.

Rangers lead the way.



New Roane State President Gary Goff (circled) poses with fellow graduates of Ranger School, one of the US Army's most challenging and rigorous training programs. For more on how membership in this elite group shaped Goff's life and leadership style, see p. 14.



**Roane State Community College
Office of Alumni Relations
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