

Roane State | Today



About the cover



Students and faculty members contemplate the scenic overlook at Canyon de Chelly at an Arizona Navajo reservation during the first Southwest Field Trip in 1977. Professor Gary Heidinger is seated, wearing a striped shirt. Professor Pete Charton took this photo.

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Right: Softball coach Sue Niemi hangs out with the Lady Raiders

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Letter | from the President

As we began our journey to build an alumni program at Roane State Community College, we quickly realized how important traditions were, not just to this magazine but to education as a whole. Traditions are significant and practiced throughout every civilization known to man, shedding light on significance and basic truths. It is comprised of emotion that helps individuals better understand themselves and their relation to society.

In this issue we are proud to highlight several of our finest traditions. First, we pay tribute to the Southwest Field Trip, an annual event since 1977. While the field trip may be the tradition, its real importance is the emotion and understanding it has provided to those students who stepped out of the lush green hills of Tennessee and into the harsh desert of the Southwest. In the innovative times of the '70s', it was one of the first classes that blended history, sociology, archeology, geography, ecology and more into one class. For most of our students who had never been west of the Mississippi, it was their first glimpse into the diversity of culture and landscape that makes up this great country.



Sports are another great tradition at Roane State Community College. Historically, athletics at community colleges are not large programs like one would see at a university; however, their role is just as valuable. It's not just about winning the game. It's also about developing the student as a whole. In this issue we recognize Andy Landers, head coach at RSCC from 1975-79. Coach Landers is currently the head coach of the University of Georgia Lady Bulldogs, and ranks as the third women's basketball coach in NCAA history to have earned career coaching victory number 700. According to Landers, the years spent at Roane State "were the best four years I've ever had coaching."

Finally there is the tradition of academic excellence through innovation. Programs such as GIS (Geographic Information Systems) were unheard of at the time of the first Southwest Field Trip in 1977, but today, the technology has been integrated in all facets of technology, business and industry. In the work world, GIS can mean a million applications for a million employees. Governments use GIS for environmental studies, land-use planning and tax records. Newspaper circulation managers might devise the best delivery routes with GIS. We are proud of our role in developing one of the first and finest GIS programs in the south.

At Roane State Community College, our mission is to continue our tradition of academic excellence and innovation, for our students and to the community. We invite you to visit us, walk our new campuses and share the wealth of tradition of which you are such an integral part.

Wade B. McCamery

Roane State Presents

performing and visual arts

Schedule of Events



The college will continue its new tradition of holding two commencement ceremonies. Both events, to be held in the gym on the Roane County Campus, will be equal in presentation, with academic deans and executive staff attending both ceremonies.

Friday, May 6 at 7 p.m. EST for certificate and Associate of Applied Science degree recipients

Saturday, May 7 at 9 a.m. EST for Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree recipients

Roane State alumnus **Dave Cooley** will be the speaker at both ceremonies. Cooley is deputy to the governor of Tennessee. He also directed Governor Bredesen's transition team and served as senior strategist during his successful gubernatorial campaign. Cooley works closely with the governor to ensure the administration's policies are carried out effectively.

Cooley, 43, is a Rockwood native. He holds a bachelor's degree from Tennessee Technological University and a master's degree from the University of West Florida.

March 31 – 2

"Spring Concert"

The Roane State Concert Choir perform Gloria, the most widely performed of Vivaldi's sacred works. Celebration, Jazz Band and music faculty join the Concert Choir for the final concert of the season. RSCC Theatre (March 31 at 6 p. m., April 1 at 2 p.m., April 2 at 8 p.m.), tickets \$5 and available at the door. Information: (865) 354-3000, ext. 4236.



March 31 – April 2

Gallery Exhibit

Art will be on display by John E. Cole, who works in watercolor, pen and ink, pastel, clay and printmaking.



April 10

"Broadway Bound"

Roane Choral Society performs the memorable tunes of Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin and many others. RSCC Student Lounge, 3 p.m., tickets \$7/\$5 and available at the door. Information: (865) 376-6710.

April 14 – 16, 21 – 23

"Play On"

The RSCC Playmakers present this Rick Abbott work, a play within a play centering around a community theater group staging a murder mystery penned by a local, novice playwright. The playwright's creation is called "Murder Most Foul," a title stolen from Agatha Christie. The playwright continually brings in script changes even as the director and her cast are closing in on opening night. Join the madness and fun as the actors struggle, bumble and jumble this silly murder mystery. RSCC Theatre, 8 pm, tickets \$5 and available at the door. Information: (865) 882-4589.

April 14 – 23

Gallery Exhibit

Nancy McDonald, Roane State faculty member, presents works in watercolor and printmaking.



April 29 – May 1

Spring Dance Concert

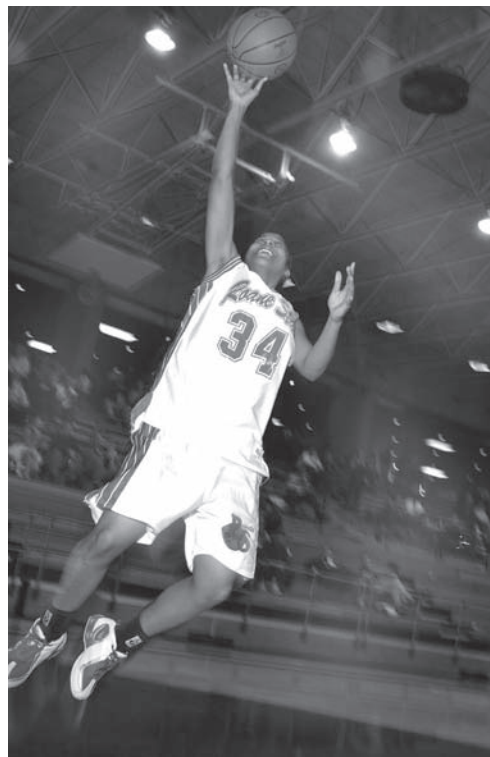
This is the annual spring dance concert by area dancers from the Arts in Motion Dance Studio in the RSCC Theatre. Tickets sold only through Arts in Motion. Tickets \$10/\$8 and available only in advance beginning April 8. For tickets call (865) 376-0295.

April 29 – May 1

Gallery Exhibit

RSCC Student Art (Juried show)

Vistas | of Roane State



Roane County Campus

Harriman Hoops

March Madness came to the college, as the TJCCAA/NJCAA region VII basketball tournaments were held at the Roane County Campus March 8-13.

Roane State's squads fell to Walters State in the second round. Walters State went on to take the tourney titles in both men's and women's competition.

Raiders Doyle Hudson and Zachary Chandler were named to the all-Eastern Division team, and Hudson also made the all-TJCCAA team.

In addition to host Roane State, schools in the tournament included Chattanooga State, Cleveland State, Columbia State, Dyersburg State, Hiwassee College, Jackson State, Motlow State, St. Catharine College, Southwest Tennessee State, Volunteer State and Walters State.



"Our region has some of the top-rated teams in the country, so it was a pleasure and an honor to host the tournament," said Johnny Jones, Roane State associate professor and tournament director. "The community got to see some great competition."



Oak Ridge Campus

The popularity of this campus is creating some growing pains. Due to increased enrollment, the student parking lot overflows into an adjacent field most days. This spring, the college will add 237 parking spaces and address drainage problems in the existing lot and along access roads. The project will cost around \$311,000. Construction is slated to begin in April and may take up to four months to complete, so students should have a shorter trek to class by fall semester '05.



Campbell County Campus

The new Campbell County Higher Education Center is under construction. Site preparation work is continuing and the building should “come out of the ground” in the next few weeks. The facility is scheduled for completion in late 2005 or early 2006. Community leaders are hard at work raising the necessary funds to furnish and equip the new campus.



Cumberland County Campus

The Plateau Education Association—a new Cumberland campus club—is part of the “Cumberland Experience,” according to Mike Mueller, assistant professor of education. “The ‘Experience’ creates an easy transition for students from local schools to Roane State and to Tennessee Tech,” Mueller said. The PEA has planned a community school supplies drive this spring to collect at least 1,000 school supply items for elementary school children in Cumberland County. To find out more, go to www.teacherweb.com/tn/rscc/teacherclub.



Fentress County Campus

Some 93 students are enrolled this spring at Roane State’s newest center, located on the York Institute campus. All are attending part-time, and two-thirds of the students are female. The student population is mostly young adults, with 80 of the 93 students under the age of 35. The majority of the students—78—live in Fentress County. Five are from Cumberland County and two each from Anderson and Morgan counties. Pam May is interim coordinator at the center, and Cathi Jolly is her assistant.



Knox County Campus

Graduates of the Polysomnography program at this campus decode sleep disorders. An estimated 40 million Americans suffer from sleep disorder at some point in their lives, said Donna Plumlee, director of Roane State’s polysomnography certificate program. The three most common disorders are insomnia, obstructive sleep apnea, and restless legs syndrome, Plumlee said. Prospects are sunny for graduates. “We’ve seen a significant increase in the number of sleep centers in the Knoxville area over the past year,” according to Plumlee.



Loudon County Campus

In many ways, Dr. Pat Bailey is the face of the Loudon County Campus. The mathematics professor is stationed at the downtown Lenoir City center, teaching developmental and college-level algebra to the majority of students who pass through there. The longtime teacher—she came to Roane State in 1978—loves working at the Loudon County Campus. “I get to know many of the students, and I’m able to develop an ongoing relationship with them,” she said. “It is a ‘family’ atmosphere.” Bailey has the distinction of being a Roane State alumna herself, graduating in 1975.



Scott County Campus

Roane State’s Math/Science Division is sending full-time faculty members to teach science courses at the Scott County Campus, thanks to the “wet” laboratory at the Huntsville Campus. “Having a lab at Scott County allows students to complete both portions of the Anatomy and Physiology course without having to travel long distances to take the lab,” said Dr. Bruce Fisher, professor of biology. “It also means that they have the same teacher for lecture and lab, which is an effective situation for their learning of the material.”



Home Is Where the Heart Is

by Jeff Gary, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

One of the Jim Barna's Log Systems' 100+ staff members is Roane State alumna Darlene Branim, President/CEO of the internationally known corporation. With founder Jim Barna's unexpected and untimely death last year, longtime employee Branim—she started with the company 21 years ago as a receptionist—was named company president and CEO and is going about the business of continuing Barna's dream, which is to make the process of designing, choosing and building a log home easy enough for anyone to accomplish.

Winding your way up the tree-lined rolling road, your destination nears its end.

Off in the distance, you catch a glimpse—at the summit—of an amber, wooded structure. The closer you get, the more it comes into view. Soon, you are there. It is home.

It's not YOUR home, but you could own one like it. Actually, the kiln dried, pre-cut, pre-drilled, and fully-engineered log walls and gables of this structure are home to the corporate headquarters of Jim Barna Log Systems in Oneida.

"I want to take this company further, to make the employees proud to work here and to continue to produce a quality product," she says. "I also want to give our employees a chance to grow like I had. I know if we all work together, the sky's the limit.

Actually, Branim says her chance to grow came early in her career. Like so many Roane State graduates, Branim was a working adult

with a family when she enrolled at the college. She

completed her work at Roane State in 1994 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree at Tusculum College in 1996.

At some point during that process, Barna asked Branim what she ultimately wanted to do. "I jokingly said 'I want to take your chair,'" she recalls. "I knew I wanted to go further. And he saw my drive to be an achiever and he gave me some opportunities to advance."

Branim says she would have had a greater challenge to advance were it not for the convenience of having the Roane State Scott County Higher Education Center nearby in Huntsville—just down the road from the Barna offices on Alberta Street in Oneida.

She says it was great to be able to attend classes with people she knew—many of whom were at roughly the same stage of life. They could discuss real-world issues in an open forum with spirited debate and small class sizes.

"Coming from a rural area like Scott County, UT was the closest option and that meant driving an hour and a half one way. As a working mother with a family, that was a tough proposition. Fortunately, Roane State came to Scott County. It is one of the best things that has happened in our county."

Many people will add that it is fortunate that Barna came to Scott County as well. Branim says more than 150 people are employed at their facilities. In the 30+ years of the company's existence, it has sold more than 13,000 log home packages. In May 2002, Builder Magazine recognized Jim Barna Log Systems as the #1 log home manufacturer in America.

On the company website, 70 different building plans are displayed, but the company can alter any of those plans for the specific needs and desires of its customers. And in 20+ years with the company, Branim has seen those needs and desires change dramatically.

"When I first started here, the industry was for 'Do It Yourselfers' and weekend retreats. The industry was just a small niche in the market.

"Now, we aren't just about log cabins. We're about log homes. We have

structures in all sizes—from a small 500 square foot cabin to a 5,000+ square foot home. The percentage of log homes in the market has grown dramatically in the last 10 years. It was a major victory for us."

That victory continued as life became more fast-paced and stressful. The events of 9/11 further enhanced this shift.

"People work in the artificial concrete world all day long. But at the end of the day, they want to go home to reality—to what really matters. They want to live somewhere that gives them peace.

"And our log homes are modern. As we continue to refine our models, we have needed more skilled workers and we've added additional service-oriented workers. We sell value—with building support, construction classes and training. It's a value, not a kit.

"And, it's nothing like the log cabins our pioneers lived in years ago."



"We're average people helping people to achieve their dreams."

—Darlene Branim

As the industry continues to evolve, Branim

says the company will shift its focus to commercial structures.

"We'll still continue to provide high quality service for our residential customers. It's still our bread and butter. But, we'll see development in the commercial sector as people want to have that warmth we provide in the workplace."

Transitions are very much on Branim's mind these days. Even as the company continues to reposition in the corporate market, she thinks very much about Barna's unexpected death last year and the challenge that transition provided her personally and the company as well.

"There's no question. It was a transition for me. I kept saying 'I'm not going to let this beat me.'"

"But, I think because the employees knew me, it was a smooth transition. I consider myself a servant-leader. I have an open door policy and I'm willing to listen. The employees knew that. And, the support from the staff gave me the courage and strength. I knew 'I could do this.'"

She also derives strength from her strong faith—the Branims are members of Mountain View Baptist Church—and also the support of her family, husband Alfred and their two children, Ryan, 19; and Whitney, 16.

Her husband is also a Roane State alumnus. He is a purchasing manager for Armstrong Flooring. It is inevitable, she jokes, that they talk shop at night, at home.

"Yes, we do talk wood," she says. "But we also have similar management philosophies. And, he's very supportive of me."

Plus, they have a mutual respect for one another.

Branim says Barna employees, too, share a similar mutual respect for one another. She says the group stresses the importance of open communication. That makes the team stronger; the bonds tighter.

"I don't consider myself any better than anyone; I have a different title, that's all. And, I don't consider that I have changed; only my title has changed.

"One employee came up to me recently and said, 'You're a great lady. I admire you.' What bigger compliment could you receive?"



Top to bottom: Branim displays one of Barna's more popular house designs; a Barna showhouse onsite; Branim consults with co-worker John Vernon Thompson Jr.

Up Close |



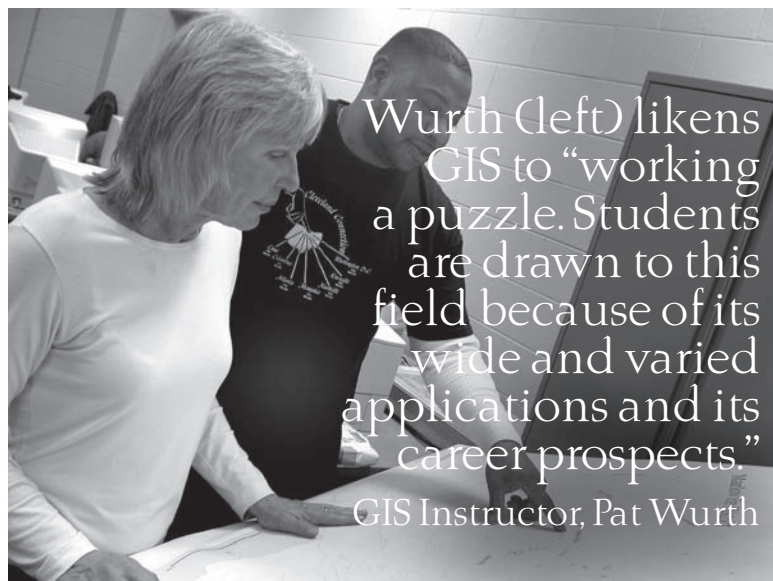
The Sky's the Limit

By Tammy Stanford, Alumni Publications Editor

Roane State's GIS students have the world at their fingertips. The GIS (Geographic Information Systems) program draws recent high school graduates preparing for a first career, working adults gearing up for 21st century jobs and professionals engaged in post-doctoral studies.

Just what is this wide-ranging computer program? "GIS is a tool for creating, storing, analyzing, maintaining and displaying digital spatial data for decision making," said Pat Wurth, Roane State GIS instructor.

Looking to start a bookstore but not sure whether you'll have enough patrons? Use GIS to map nearby competing bookstores, the education level of the local population and area utilities available. Striving to run a more responsive police department? Employ GIS to pinpoint where and what types of crimes are



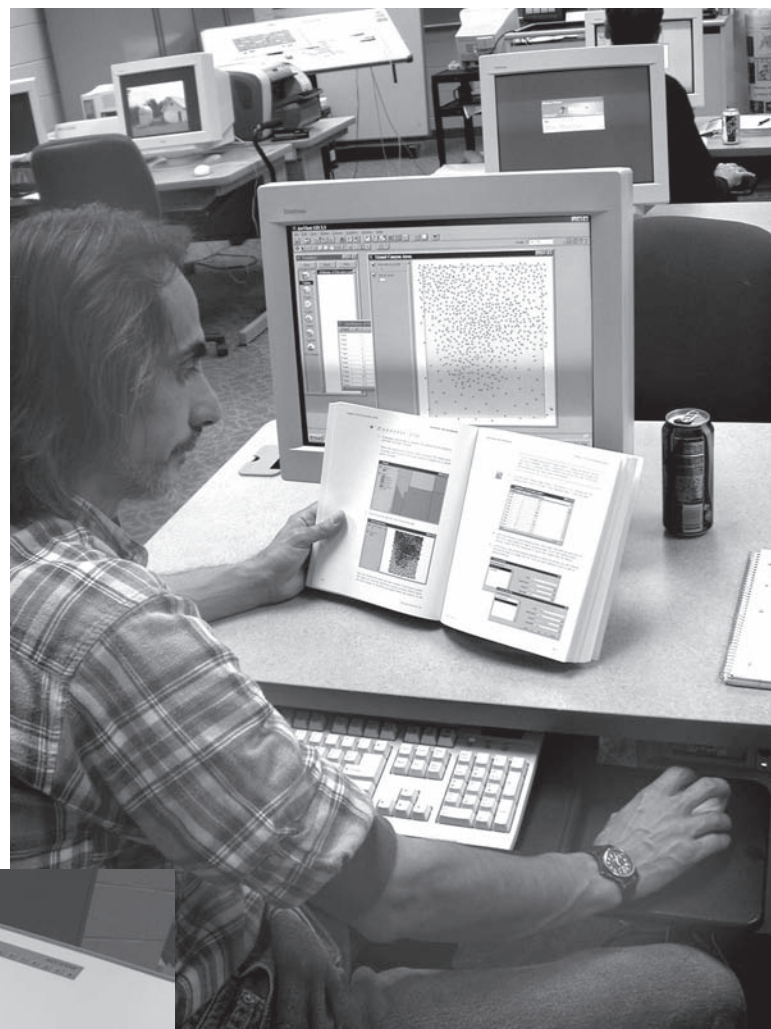
happening in your jurisdiction. Need to know the location of every Wal-Mart in the continental United States? GIS can plot that data.

In the work world, GIS can mean a million applications for a million employees. Governments use GIS for environmental studies, land-use planning, and tax records. Newspaper circulation managers might devise the best delivery routes with GIS. And the possibilities for military uses are infinite—from mapping the mosques of Mosul to siting barracks on an Army base to picking the best spots for artillery outposts on the battlefield.

And there are plenty of “puzzles” to be worked, Wurth said. “There are a tremendous amount of GIS jobs available throughout the US and overseas. A real boost to GIS job opportunities in this state has been the Tennessee State Base Mapping Project, which is providing each county with GIS data.”

Wurth’s GIS students take on real-world projects. Classes recently have worked for the City of Morristown—mapping zoning districts, producing a digital file of the location of the city’s fire hydrants, and creating GIS layers of driveway locations by interpreting aerial photos.

“(This cooperation) allows the GIS students to get real work experience, while giving the City of Morristown a product that we can use,” said Richard DesGroseilliers, a planner with the City of Morristown. DesGroseilliers, who graduated from Roane State’s GIS program, said he was drawn to Roane State’s GIS program because it was the first



college in East Tennessee to offer the innovative study option. “As a city planner, I realized the importance of GIS.”

Wurth said she became interested in the technology because “it was a new field, and the job market was good.” Like many Roane State GIS students, Wurth was older when she returned to college seeking a new direction.

Roane State GIS student Tony Verdera has his eye on the future for sure. The former tool-and-die worker was forced to change careers by hip replacement surgery. His daughter is studying for a bachelor’s degree in architecture then plans to seek a master’s degree at Cornell. “I eventually want to work for her,” Verdera said. “It’s going to be a family business.”

Clint Gaskins, 24, sees himself employed by an outdoor recreation organization such as TWRA after finishing his GIS studies at Roane State. “I like mapping wetlands, restoration, tracking migratory birds, that sort of thing,” said Gaskins, of Knoxville.

Charla Hurst may work “behind the scenes” on what she terms “the other side of GIS—making sure servers are working, backing up data.” She already works full-time for Morristown Utility Systems. “This system is powerful enough to interpret tons of data in a meaningful way,” she said of GIS, noting that the City of Morristown is at the forefront of using this emerging technology.

You Must Remember This |

the big '80s

Skinny ties, tight Levi's, upturned Polo collars. That's what boys were sporting. Spiral perms, shoulder pads, glasses as big as saucers. That's what girls were wearing. Tell the truth. When did *you* throw away that last pair of acid-washed jeans?

MULLETS

rat tails



"jelly" sandals

high-top Reeboks

button-down oxfords

suspenders

Chic jeans
parachute pants

moon boots



members only jackets

MESH SHIRTS



peg-leg jeans

IZOD shirts

OCEAN PACIFIC



crop tops

Socks with pom poms on the back



Reflections |

leaving a legacy

Dr. Louise Greene



Dr. Louise Roberts Greene, who passed away Dec. 12, 2004, was a familiar face at the college. She worked at Roane State from 1971 to 1989, serving in various capacities—including director of Admissions and Records, executive assistant to the president, and associate dean of Institutional Advancement.

Dr. Greene went on to serve as vice president of Catawba Valley Community College in North Carolina. She later retired in Asheville. Dr. Greene is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren, three stepdaughters, and four brothers. She was laid to rest in Poplar Springs Cemetery in Kingston.

Dr. Cuyler Dunbar, Roane State's first president and currently president of Catawba Valley Community College, eulogized his longtime colleague at a recent memorial service. Here are excerpts from that speech:

"A popular phrase making the rounds across the country these days is one that is tremendously relevant for those of us gathered in this setting. The statement, 'Leave A Legacy,' challenges each of us. We are here to remember, celebrate and pay tribute to a truly remarkable Southern lady who, by 'Leaving us a Legacy,' did make a difference.

"The first meeting I ever had with Louise (Roberts at that time) was in a classroom at Fairmont Elementary School. Roane State was just beginning. My introduction to Louise's devotion to her faith and to her family occurred in that conversation as she shared her plan as a single parent to complete her bachelor's degree at UT to better provide for her two daughters."

"In that conversation, I remember making the comment that, as an educational institution, we would need to support our employees in moving beyond the degrees they currently possessed (as she would remind me several times in later years). Louise continued to pursue her educational efforts while maintaining family commitments and also being a significant leadership force within the community. Not only did she manage to work full time and fulfill the role of parenting while she accomplished these goals, but she also completed her master's and her doctorate.

"Former Roane State coach Andy Landers--now head women's coach at the University of Georgia--sends his heart-felt sympathy to the family. We were unable to reach Coach Jim Davis at Clemson, but I know that his sentiments are the same. Why do these nationally renowned coaches have these feelings? Because Dr. Greene's dedication and loyalty to the total institution caused her to attend their games, to know the student players and to provide support where possible. Now in my 35th year as a community college president in two different states, I can confidently say that Louise Greene was at the top of my list of most loyal and dedicated employees.

"Her family, her associates and untold thousands will benefit because she made choices to always go above and beyond. Louise Greene 'Left a Legacy'--and those who follow benefit because she made a difference."

The Ultimate Classroom

By Tammy Stanford, Alumni Publications Editor

Resourceful people surviving and thriving in a beautiful but harsh land—that's the essence of the story of East Tennessee. For 28 years, Roane State students have traveled to see, hear, touch, taste and feel that same story, but in a place as foreign as the moon.

Photos by Bruce Fisher and Gary Heidinger





The annual Southwest Field Trip (SWFT) began as a way to teach Roane State students, many of whom had never been west of the Mississippi River, about the Four Corners area—where Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona come together.

In 1977—the year of the first field trip—“integration” of learning disciplines was a radical new trend. The trip’s organizers strove to assure that the trip blended history, sociology, archeology, geography, ecology and more. Then and now, the itinerary emphasizes how Native Americans past and present have adapted to the realities of their surroundings and circumstances, acknowledges the region’s diverse ethnic makeup, and celebrates the amazing diversity of the land features, flora and fauna of the Four Corners.

The trip has changed little over the years. Students and faculty members still travel by bus (although not in the notorious rattletrap from the early years). They sleep in tents and cook many of their meals in camp.

Roane State alumni who didn’t take the trip probably know a fellow student who did. Many Roane Staters—not just those who actually went on the SWFT—have heard stories about a place where browns, not greens, are the prominent landscape colors; where water is scarce; where the land stretches flat for miles and miles.

On the next two pages are SWFT stories and comments from four of the people most important to the venture: faculty members Pete Charton, Bruce Fisher, Gary Heidinger and Bill Hoagland.

highlights from the itinerary:

Colorado
New Mexico
The city of Santa Fe
Grand Canyon
Chaco Canyon National Historical Park
Arizona
Navajo National Monument
Canyon De Chelley National Monument
Kaibab National Forest
Mesa Verde National Park
Anasazi Heritage Center
San Juan Mountains
Potato Lake
The city of Durango
Sangre de Cristo Mountains
Sante Fe Trail

Broadening minds

Charton enjoyed watching the students, often strangers at the beginning of the trip, become good friends by the end. “The trip did what it was designed to do: break down social and cultural barriers,” Charton said. “Of all the activities I’ve been involved with through Roane State, the Southwest Field Trip is the one thing I’m most proud of.”

The universal language

At the Hubbell Trading Post, a National Historic Site in Arizona, Heidinger spotted a stately Navajo man dressed in traditional tribal wear. Heidinger wanted to take the man’s photo and asked for permission. When the man did not reply, Heidinger assumed he did not speak English and began gesturing to try to convey his request. Finally the man said, in perfect English, “Yes (you can take a photo), for \$5.”

How things change

Bill Hoagland notes that outside forces have forced changes to the trip. “Twenty or so years ago when visitation at national parks was sparse, students were allowed to roam among the ruins and pick up artifacts and examine them as long as they were put back,” Hoagland said. “You would never see (notable) artifacts out in the ruins today nor be able to touch them. Most places the early (groups) went to are no longer open to the public, and no one goes anywhere unattended by a park ranger.”

You can see forever. Really.

In camp on the rim of the Grand Canyon, several students decided to walk down in the canyon and hike to the Colorado River— all in one day. Charton tried to explain that the river is much farther away than it appears. They were undeterred and struck out before daylight the next morning. They returned after dark that night, after dinner was over. “The students walked back into camp single file like a bunch of zombies, didn’t speak a word to anyone, walked straight to their tents, went to bed and did not move at all the next day,” Charton recalls. He noted that the river, which looks close, is really 15 to 20 miles away. The path is essentially straight down on the trip to the river, and thus straight up at the end of the day.

Eye opener

The trip participants are almost forced to challenge conventional “truths.” An example, Fisher said, is water. “Put people from East Tennessee in the arid Southwest, and it makes them rethink their water usage. Those types of things are so pointed and explicit, it’s easy to talk about.”

Learning as you go

“That first year, we were clueless,” Heidinger said. “It was an experience in improvisation. At the time, I thought we’d be lucky to do the trip for two or three years. Here we are, getting ready to go the 29th time.”

Good times

“Students have told me repeatedly that the Southwest Field Trip was the greatest adventure of their lives,” Hoagland said.

Therapy for the soul

“There’s a quality to the trip, an almost metaphysical thing,” Heidinger said. “We come back renewed and refreshed. You can go to the Four Corners for a lifetime and still not experience it all.”

A new kind of classroom

“Opening up students’ minds in a classroom is a fulfilling thing,” Fisher said. “But to take people to a place they’ve never seen and witness the wonder of learning, that is an absolutely enriching experience. You turn these people on to things they’ve never seen in their lives. As a teacher, that’s an opportunity I can’t pass up.”

Life changing

“Lots of students crystallized or redefined their educational goals while on the trip,” Heidinger said. “I think that all the students—one way or another—come back with a different view.”

Big Sky Country

Students are struck by the “big sky” phenomenon. Noted Fisher: “The sheer size, the border, the skyline, all are awe-inspiring. On the first day of the trip, students go to sleep in a van and wake up at the border of New Mexico, and they can see forever.”

Artist’s rendering

Alumna Beverly Howard of Oak Ridge took the SWFT in 1991 as a student, and also joined the SWFT group briefly during the trip a few years later. A fine artist, Howard said the experience changed her world. “I have a painting background. Seeing different landscapes, seeing how other people lived, it was incredible. I felt so at home there.”

After the almost claustrophobic beauty of the Eastern mountains, the wide-open Southwest was a revelation to Howard. “I could really relate to that landscape, the openness and the ‘going on forever.’”

Howard also was thrilled to learn about the ancient cultures that flourished in the American Southwest. “It tells me that the story goes on. And I’m a part of that.”



“It was my first trip out west. It was fabulous. My favorite part was Durango, Colorado. I’d recommend the class to anyone, especially science or sociology majors.”

Student Chris Bell of Oneida is a biology major who went on the SWFT in '04.



Students are required to apply for permission to go on the trip; 15 to 20 people are chosen each year.



The trip typically takes place in late spring or early summer.

Class roll from the 1977 inaugural trip:

Timothy Mark Alcorn
Lisa Ann Alexander
Thomas West Alexander
Terry Stephen Austin
Timothy Michael Bunn
Charles Kenneth Collier
James Richard Hogan
Sara Margaret Leitnaker
Deborah Ann Massey
Matthew Lane Range
Jessica Ute Regan

The trip is actually a class, for which students receive six hours of social science or natural science credit.

Spirit |

picking up the pace

Last November, **Sue Niemi** was named the new head coach of the Roane State Lady Raiders softball team. In announcing the new position, RSCC athletic director Randy Nesbit stated that Niemi has more than 12 years of coaching experience in Michigan, Arizona, and Europe, and brings a competitive freshness to a struggling program.

“We’re happy to have found someone with Coach Niemi’s background and experience,” said Nesbit. “She brings a proven track record of success to the program, and we are pleased to have her aboard.”

College President Dr. Wade B. McCamey stated, “Sue is a welcome addition to the Roane State athletics department.” He added, “We are excited about the direction we believe she will go with the program.”

The Blissfield, Mich., native comes to Roane State from Taipei American School in Taipei, Taiwan, where she served as athletic director and women’s basketball coach. According to Niemi, she was attracted to Roane State because of the opportunity to build a successful and competitive softball program.

According to Niemi, competitiveness cannot be achieved on the practice field or through desire alone. With that in mind, the new head coach has doubled the Lady Raiders schedule for the 2005 campaign.

The Lady Raiders compete in the Eastern Division of the Tennessee Junior and Community College Athletic Association (TJCCAA). Last season, Roane State finished fifth in the division, some 14 games behind division-leading Chattanooga State.



“My initial goal is to improve the win-loss record, and build a competitive base of success for the Lady Raiders’ softball program.”

Former Raiderettes Coach Notches Milestone Win

Congratulations to former Roane State Raiderettes head basketball coach **Andy Landers**, who earned career coaching victory number 700 in January.

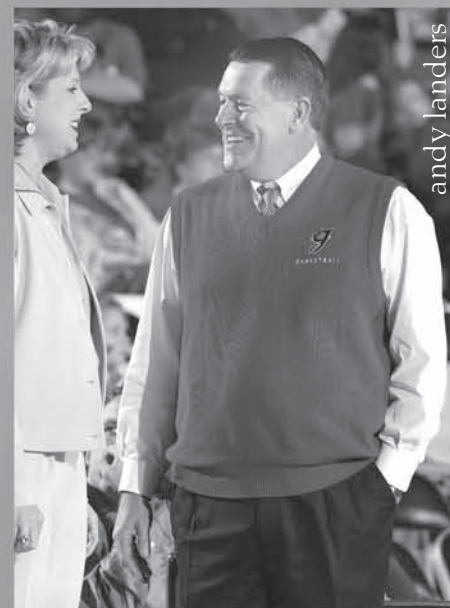
Landers, now the head coach of the University of Georgia Lady Bulldogs, is the third women’s basketball coach in NCAA history to reach the 700-win plateau. With the achievement, he joins exclusive company, namely Tennessee Lady Vols coach Pat Head Summitt and University of Texas head coach Jody Conradt.

Along with the milestone win, Landers received an added surprise when one of his former Raiderettes appeared on the floor the following evening during a pre-game ceremony to present the coach with the historic game ball.

The presenter, **Gay Teefteller** (pictured with Landers below), was a member of Landers’ first-ever recruiting class at RSCC. She is currently a school teacher in Maryville, Tenn.

Landers, a Maryville native, served as head coach at RSCC from 1975-79, where he compiled an overall record of 78 wins and 20 losses.

According to Landers, the years spent at Roane State “were the best four years I’ve ever had coaching.”



Spirit page copy provided by Donnie Hall, RSCC Writing Specialist

News Notes |

from the headlines

The college is **number 5 in the nation** in the number of degrees granted in the “science technologies/technicians” category, according to Community College Week. Roane State’s general technology majors are counted in that category. Community College Week reports that Roane State had 39 graduates in science technologies/technicians in 2003. General technology majors typically fall into one of two groups: students who have earned a diploma at a Tennessee technology center or a technical certificate at the community college; and students seeking a customized degree program not available through Roane State’s regular associate of applied science programs.

For an unprecedented third year in a row, Roane State has earned a **perfect score** on an evaluation by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC). Roane State is the only college in the state to receive 100 points in 2002 and 2003 and one of only two schools to achieve 100 in 2004 on THEC’s Performance Funding. The THEC assessment considered such measures as scores of graduating students on exit exams and licensure tests; job placement rates; student and alumni surveys; and the college’s five-year plan to use the assessment to improve student learning.

Roane State is slated to **expand its nursing program** in Knox County beginning fall 2005 through a newly established partnership with Pellissippi State Technical Community College. The partnership allows Roane State to begin offering its nursing program at Pellissippi State’s Magnolia Avenue Campus, forming the TBR (Tennessee Board of Regents) Magnolia Avenue Nursing Center. Initially, an additional 30 students will be admitted to the program. The partnership will make it possible for additional students to have the opportunity to become nurses, easing the critical nursing shortage in this area. Currently, predictions are that by 2020 there will be more than 808,000 openings for registered nurses nationwide.

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) at Roane State held a donation drive to assist the Florence Crittenton Agency (FCA), a home for at-risk female teens. SIFE, a business student organization, passed on gifts of female-related hygiene products to the agency.

Determined to get fit in 2005? At Roane State, get in shape without the hassle of signing up for a credit class. Students in **“Fitness for Living”** (PHED 1380) enjoy the use of Roane State’s fully equipped fitness centers at the Roane County and Oak Ridge campuses. Some of the students are degree-seeking, looking to earn a physical education credit. Others are community members in the non-credit program who may sign up for the course at any time during the semester. For more information, contact Johnny Jones at 882-4584 or jones_jw@roanestate.edu, or Misty Griffin at 354-3000, Ext. 4388 or griffin_m@roanestate.edu.

Four Roane State **opticianry students recently won national scholarship awards** for excellence in writing technical papers. The awards funded a trip to the Contact Lens Society of America’s annual education meeting in San Diego for the students: Laura Caves of Crossville; Leigh Hampton of Harriman; Hannah Rice of Oliver Springs; and Mike Rotters of Kingston.

Sharon Tanner, Roane State dean of nursing and health sciences, has been elected president of N-OADN (National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing). N-OADN represents some 800 associate degree nursing programs at community colleges and universities throughout the country. Tanner has served as a faculty member and administrator in diploma and bachelor programs in nursing education. She has been at Roane State since 1997. Associate degree nursing celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2002. Each year approximately 60 percent of the nursing graduates in the United States are educated in associate degree nursing programs.



Left to right: Some of the college’s many nursing alumni on the clock at the Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge; Dean Sharon Tanner; students conducting a scientific experiment; community members exercising in Roane State’s Fitness Center.

News Notes (continued)

RSCC President Dr. Wade McCamey recently announced the promotion of 10 longtime faculty and staff members:

Beverly Bonner, assistant vice president for Student Services and Multicultural Affairs. She has worked at Roane State since 1987.

Dr. Larry Bouldin, dean of Math/Science. A math professor, he has taught at the college since 1972.

Karen Brunner, assistant vice president for Institutional Effectiveness and Research and special assistant to the president. She's been at Roane State since 1990.

Bill Fuqua, executive vice president for Financial Services. Fuqua has served as the college's chief financial officer since 1981 and also was Roane State interim president in 2000-2001.

Kathy Gethers, assistant vice president for Human Resources and Wellness and Title VI coordinator. Gethers has worked at the college for 18 years.

Dr. Paul Goldberg, vice president for Continuing Education. Goldberg has worked at the college since its founding in 1971.

Melinda Hillman, vice president for Institutional Advancement. Hillman, who has worked at the college for seven years, also is executive director of the Roane State Foundation.

Dr. Adolf King, vice president for Academic Services. A chemistry professor, King was dean of the Math/Science Division for more than a decade before being named vice president.

Dr. Myra Peavyhouse, dean of Humanities. A Roane State alumna, Peavyhouse has taught at the college since 1985.

Judy Tyl, vice president for Students and Enrollment Management. She has been at the college since 1985.

Class Notes

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

'75

Robert L. Osborne (A.S.-Education) is a teacher in Owen County, Ky. He's also head baseball coach and assistant basketball coach at Owen County High School, and a member of the Owenton City Council. He and his wife, Linda, are the parents of Sarah, 22, and Matthew, 20. While a student at Roane State, Osborne played baseball for Coach Larry Works' varsity squad.

'03

Lesley Henry (A.A.S.-Radiologic Technology) married Justin W. Sapp in April 2004. She's a radiographer at Cumberland Medical Center

In memoriam

2004, Mary Kate Bowman of Rockwood Ct 1999, A.S.-General

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)

EHAA met in November to form a new partnership with industry, students and the community. Members are interested in networking with other alumni and mentoring and fostering relationships with current and prospective environmental health students. Dan Hyder, director of Roane State's Environmental Health Technology program, was the guest speaker, reflecting on the challenges, successes and effects of demand fluctuations from industry on student enrollment from inception of the curriculum to the present.

The first slate of EHAA officers was elected: John Tilley, president; Jeff Salamacha, vice president; Sherry Couch, secretary; Rebecca Charles, treasurer; Wayne Underwood, historian; Brad Parish (3-year term), Susan Thomas (2-year term), Portia Jones (1-year term), joint directors.

In February, several members of the EHAA taught the Environmental Science merit badge at the Roane State's 18th annual Boy Scout Merit Badge College. Experiments were set up to illustrate the greenhouse effect, soil erosion, and the difficulties associated with cleaning up oil spills. EHAA members also talked about their life experiences in the environmental career field.



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.

"Yesterday in the mail I received (Roane State Today) and it was great to see and read about Roane State Community College. Many years ago I attended the first year of my college life at the old school in Harriman, after serving in the Air Force. Thank you for including me in the mailing and keep up the good work."

Rogers Anderson
Williamson County Mayor, Tennessee

"I am pleased to be receiving Roane State Today. . . It has been nearly 30 years since my days at Roane State Community College. The college has made great achievements in its history. I was working with the Tennessee Valley Authority, at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant when I attended the college. The years have gone by very quickly."

Gary L. Rogers, Ph.D.
East Ellijay, Georgia

"This is to say thank you for the prints and the article in the RSCC magazine. The article (Mrs. Braden was featured in the fall 2004 edition) caused quite a few comments. . . Thank you. My purpose was to encourage older people to attend college. It had such an impact on my life."

Mildred Braden
Oliver Springs, Tennessee



Outstanding Alumnus Sought

Roane State Community College is seeking nominations for the 2005 Outstanding Alumnus Award in recognition of outstanding service to his or her profession, to RSCC and to the community. If you know someone you feel should be recognized, it's easy to make your nomination.

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, 2005

Contact Alumni Relations to request an application, or you may 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 | ed wheeler



Ed Wheeler takes helping his home community to heart. His commitment and caring earned him the Council for Resource Development's 2004 Benefactor of the Year award, a national citation awarded in Washington, D.C. in December.

Home for Ed is rural Campbell County on the Cumberland Plateau—where citizens of all ages often have to scrap and struggle for opportunity. But the quest for a better life is a bit easier with people like Wheeler around.

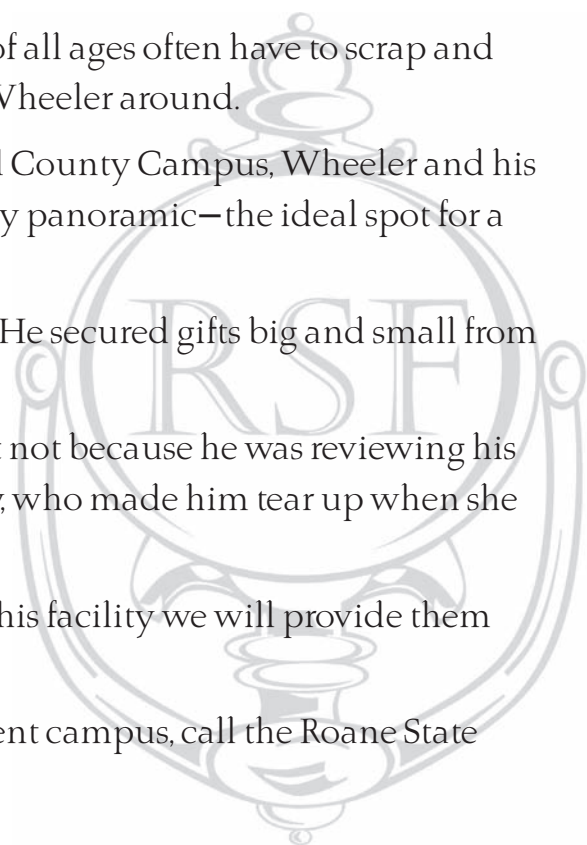
When Roane State was searching for a suitable place to build a permanent Campbell County Campus, Wheeler and his wife, Carol donated acreage in LaFollette that is both centrally located and gorgeously panoramic—the ideal spot for a mountain campus.

Wheeler led the Campaign for Campbell County to raise funds for the new campus. He secured gifts big and small from others who shared his vision, and contributed a large personal donation to the cause.

Wheeler was visibly emotional at a groundbreaking for the new campus last fall. But not because he was reviewing his many contributions. It was a young Roane State student from Jellico, Brandie Bradley, who made him tear up when she said thank you to those assembled to ceremoniously turn the dirt.

“Brandie and young folks like her are our future,” Wheeler said. “We hope that with this facility we will provide them with better education, better jobs, and a higher standard of living.”

To join Wheeler in bringing opportunity to Campbell Countians through a permanent campus, call the Roane State Foundation at (865) 882-4507.



Calendar

coming up at your community college

april

- April 1 ▲ Raiders vs. Walters State (2 p.m.)
- April 1-2 ● Roane State Concert Choir in performance
- April 2 Public star-gazing at Tamke-Allan Observatory
- April 1-3 ■ East Tennessee Cutting Horse Association
- April 2 ■ Tennessee Paint Horse Club
- April 2 ▲ Raiders vs. Walters State (2 p.m., doubleheader)
- April 5 ▲ Raiders vs. Blue Ridge (1 p.m., doubleheader)
- April 7 ▲ Lady Raiders vs. Tennessee Wesleyan (2 p.m.)
- April 7 Awards Night in Roane Campus theatre (7 p.m.)
- April 8-9 ■ Smoky Mountain Classic All Breed Horse Sale
- April 10 ● Roane Choral Society in performance
- April 12 ▲ Raiders vs. Blue Ridge (1 p.m., doubleheader)
- April 12 ▲ Lady Raiders vs. Walters State (2 p.m.)
- April 14-16 ● Roane State Playmakers present "Play On"
- April 15 ▲ Lady Raiders vs. Columbia State (2 p.m.)
- April 15 ▲ Raiders vs. Cleveland State (2 p.m.)
- April 15-17 ■ Circuit By The River Quarter Horse Show
- April 16 Public star-gazing at Tamke-Allan Observatory
- April 16 ▲ Lady Raiders vs. Vol State (noon)
- April 16 ▲ Raiders vs. Cleveland State (noon, doubleheader)
- April 21 Academic Festival
- April 21-23 ● Roane State Playmakers present "Play On"
- April 22-24 ■ Tennessee Reining Horse Association
- April 23 ▲ Lady Raiders vs. Hiwassee College (2 p.m.)
- April 24 ▲ Lady Raiders vs. Young Harris (1 p.m.)
- April 29 ▲ Raiders vs. Dyersburg State (2 p.m.)
- April 29-30 ■ East Tennessee Cutting Horse Association
- April 29-30 ● Arts in Motion presents spring dance concert
- April 30 ▲ Raiders vs. Dyersburg State (noon, doubleheader)

may

- May 1 ■ East Tennessee Cutting Horse Association
- May 2 Last day of spring semester classes
- May 6-7 Commencement ceremonies in Roane Campus gym
- May 7 ■ National Barrel Horse Association
- May 7-8 ■ Tennessee Reining Horse Association
- May 13-15 ■ Ron McLoughlin Horse Handling School
- May 14 ■ Roane County 4-H Show
- May 20 Public star-gazing at Tamke-Allan Observatory
- May 20-21 ■ Smoky Mountain Walking Horse Association
- May 28-29 ■ Oak Ridge Kennel Club

june

- June 1 First- and full-term summer classes begin
- June 2-5 ■ Region III Hillbilly Classic Quarter Horse Show
- June 9-11 ■ Smoky Mountain District 4-H Show
- June 15-19 ■ Dogwood Classic Quarter Horse Show
- June 24-26 ■ Fortune 5 Barrel Show
- June 29 Second-term summer classes begin

july

- July 1-2 ■ Liberty Classic United Horse Show
- July 1-3 ■ East Tennessee Cutting Horse Association
- July 8-10 ■ Ron McLoughlin Horse Handling School
- July 9 ■ National Barrel Horse Association
- July 16 ■ Tennessee Paint Horse Club
- July 16-17 ■ Tennessee Reining Horse Association
- July 23 ■ National Barrel Horse Association
- July 27 Last day of summer term classes
- July 30-31 ■ Southern Welsh Association

- 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.

Go west, young woman.

in his office he can day dream for hours. I

The second part of to hike up to Lookout Point good to get some exercise could have imagined. At the top was sat on the very edge at one point and let our legs hang off. It was a little nerve racking but it was exciting. I laid down and enjoyed the sun. We were so high that you could hear the wings of birds beat in the air as we had

which makes people wonder if some big world movement was taking hold of people, like a new religion. It was amazing to think of people living high in the cliffs. Children playing with dogs, mothers weaving and making pottery, maybe grinding some corn for tomorrow's meal, and the men coming back from hunting & gathering with nuts, berries, and rabbits. I bet it was a wonderful time to live. Even though it was a bit of a head, it was so peaceful to look east and see as long as I could before

Tuesday, May 18th

Today was my first day to see the southwest. No pictures or movies can properly display the beauty of this area. I'm so used to the gently rolling hills of Tennessee but these canyons are so naked & sharp. By 9:15 this morning we were up to 5,403 ft in elevation. A little later we were up to 6,920 ft in elevation which is higher than the highest peaks in Tennessee which is Mt. LeConte. Here the land is very flat and

Adrienne Wiest writes about the Southwest Field Trip in a 2004 journal she kept during the experience. Wiest, a nursing student from Rockwood, plans to graduate next May. For more about the college's most famous field trip, see page 14.



**Roane State Community College
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