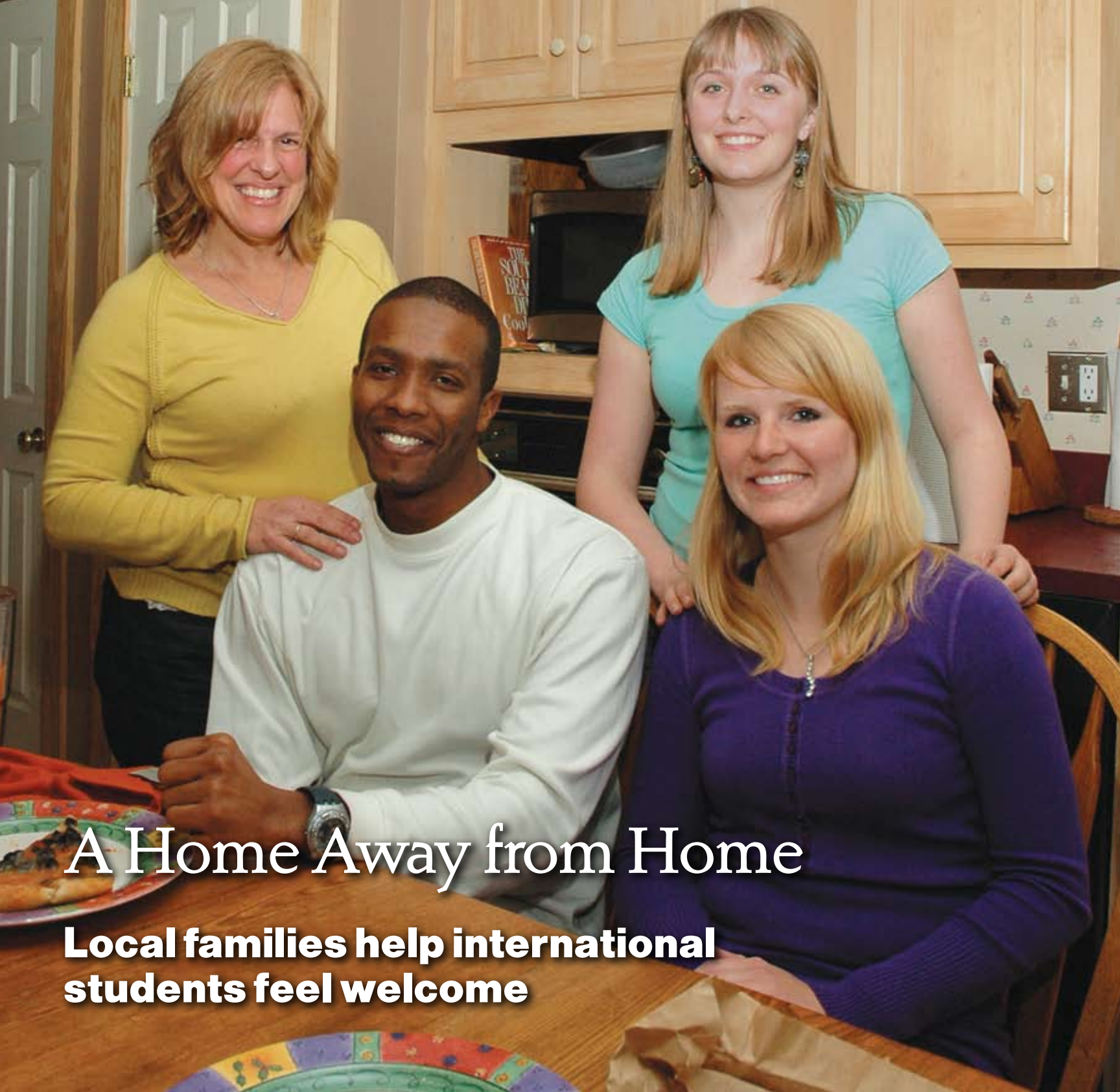


Roane State Today

The Roane State Community College Alumni Magazine Spring Summer 2010



A Home Away from Home

Local families help international students feel welcome

Letter | from the President



Tennessee lawmakers, in a special session, have passed comprehensive higher education reforms that will have long-lasting effects for Roane State and all Tennessee Board of Regents schools. The legislation is titled Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010.

I participated in the Senate hearings devoted to these measures and wanted to share some of my thoughts with you.

The measures call for a common course numbering system. The freshman composition course a student takes at Roane State will have the same course number as the freshman composition course at Middle Tennessee State University or Tennessee Tech. This common-sense change will give students a clear picture of which courses will transfer.

The reforms also state specifically that students who complete A.A. or A.S. degrees will have met all general education and university parallel core requirements for transfer to a Tennessee public university as a junior (with the exception of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville).

Many community college students run into inconsistent transfer requirements. These two reforms will cut through the red tape our students encounter. If students complete an A.A. or A.S. degree at a state community college, when they transfer, they are enrolled as juniors with all 60 credit hours transferring toward their bachelor's degree at any state university except UTK.

Another major change involves state funding for higher education. Currently, state funding for community colleges is determined by enrollment. The reforms will change the formula to emphasize outcomes such as student retention rates and graduation rates. Certainly, institutions would benefit from focusing more energy on improving outcomes than on boosting enrollment. Roane State ranks number two for graduation rates among our 13 community colleges.

What concerns me most are provisions that seek to standardize community colleges under a "comprehensive statewide community college system." In my experience, standardization often means long delays and a low level of responsiveness. Just recently, Roane State offered special scholarships to laid-off workers in Scott County. Quick action was required, and thanks to our partnerships with local leaders and our autonomy, we announced the new scholarships within days of a major layoff.

The needs of the areas that community colleges serve cannot be standardized. Therefore, why should community colleges all look and act alike? At Roane State, two-thirds of our students enter the workforce immediately after graduation and only one-third transfer to a university. That unique trait is why Roane State focuses on creating a high-skill, high-wage workforce with a secondary emphasis on our transfer mission. For other state community colleges, the needs for their area may require more emphasis on their transfer mission and less on their workforce development role.

Compromising local responsiveness of community colleges will hinder their abilities to listen to their faculty and staff, gather input from local employers, assess their local needs, and make effective, informed decisions about workforce and transfer programs that can be implemented quickly within the local service area.

TBR already manages community colleges as a unified system extremely well in partnership with our state universities. This partnership with our state universities is a major strength of the Tennessee Board of Regents. While more coordination would be beneficial, we need not get caught up in a one-size-fits-all mentality.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Loff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roane State Today

**The Roane State
Community College
Alumni Magazine**

**Spring Summer 2010
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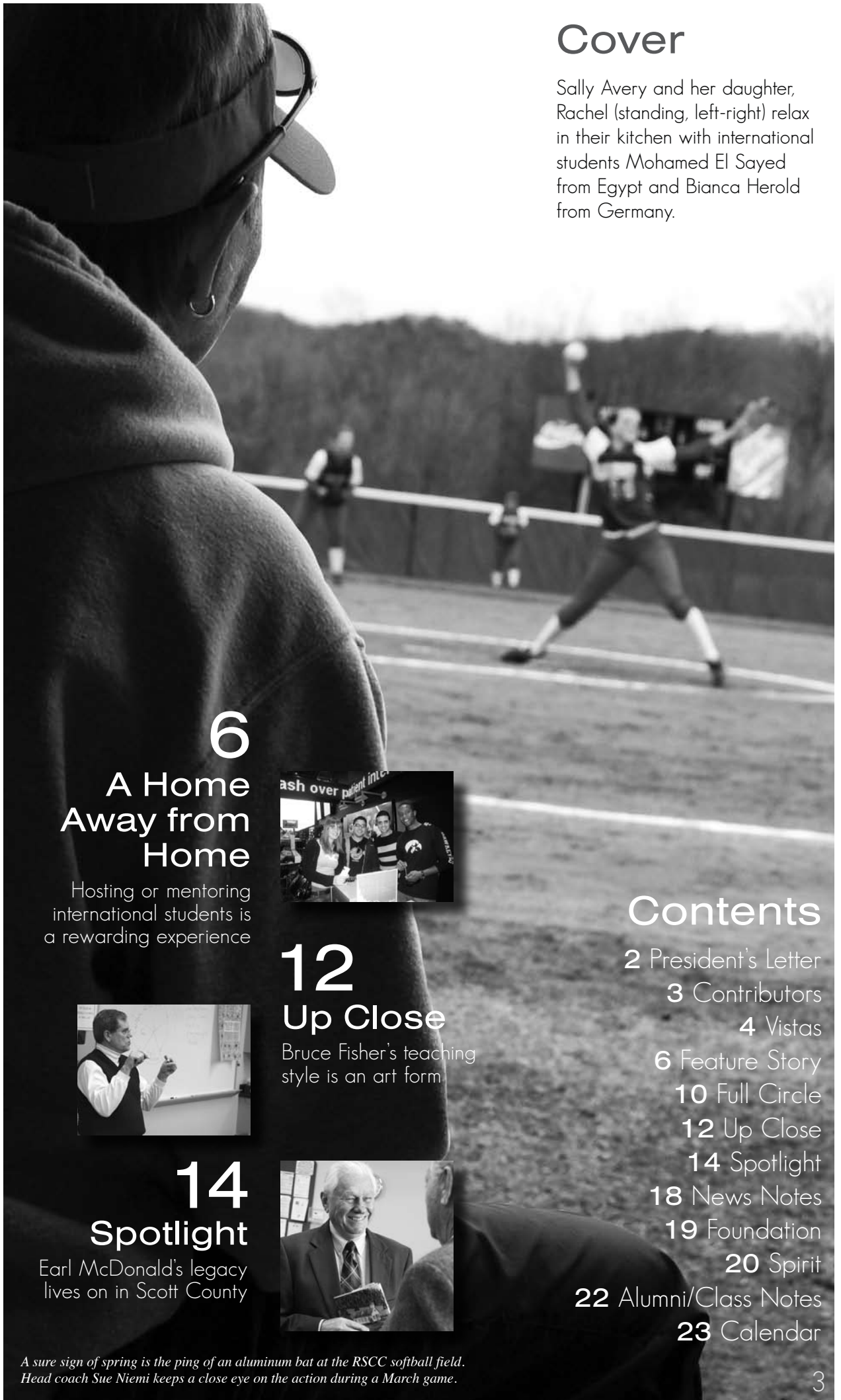
We want to hear from you. Tell us what you think about the alumni magazine and what you'd like to see in future editions.

The Alumni Relations Web site (www.roanestate.edu/alumni) allows you to e-mail the Alumni Relations staff. Are you receiving duplicate copies of Roane State Today? E-mail us at alumni@roanestate.edu

Roane State Community College is designated by the State of Tennessee to serve Anderson, Campbell, Cumberland, Fentress, Loudon, Morgan, Roane and Scott counties. The college also provides health-science education to Blount and Knox counties.

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Cover

Sally Avery and her daughter, Rachel (standing, left-right) relax in their kitchen with international students Mohamed El Sayed from Egypt and Bianca Herold from Germany.

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Hosting or mentoring international students is a rewarding experience



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Earl McDonald's legacy lives on in Scott County



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A sure sign of spring is the ping of an aluminum bat at the RSCC softball field. Head coach Sue Niemi keeps a close eye on the action during a March game.

Vistas

of Roane State



Roane County Campus

Roane State baseball players visited Kingston Elementary School and read to the students as part of Read Across America week, a nationwide event. The players read sports-related books to the students and answered questions about what it's like to play college baseball. Students, teachers and staff wore their favorite athletic jerseys. Participating baseball players were Taylor Denton, Kragen Caughron, Lucas Henderson and Nick Caldwell.



Oak Ridge Campus

Human rights activist and educator Naomi Tutu spoke to a packed house at the Oak Ridge campus. Tutu, daughter of Nobel Peace Prize winner and anti-apartheid activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu, gave a lecture about "Striving for Justice: Searching for Common Ground." The event was presented by the college's International Education program. "When we say 'I see in you a human being and, simply because of your humanity, I have to give you a chance to tell your story,' then we are on our way to finding common ground," Tutu said. "I've never been in a community where there are not stories waiting to be told and heard."



Campbell County Campus

The campus is an active participant in Campbell County Relay for Life, which raises money for the American Cancer Society. Students, faculty and staff formed a Relay for Life team four years ago, and the team raises about \$4,000 per year. The team hosts an event on campus each month in addition to participating in the community's Relay for Life event. "It's been tremendous," said campus director Tracy Powers, a cancer survivor. "Supporting the American Cancer Society is important, because their work is so far-reaching."



Cumberland County Campus

The campus hosted a kickoff meeting for a new program designed to help rural communities transform their local economies through entrepreneurship and small business development. The initiative is called CREST (Creating a Rural Entrepreneurial System in Tennessee). Crossville and Cumberland County are among eight communities selected to participate. Roane State professors Robert Safdie and Brad Fox are playing key roles in the new program, which is coordinated by the University of Tennessee Extension, the UT Institute for Public Service and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.



Fentress County Campus

The Fentress County campus is "a gift, a total gift," for retiree Cathy Jane Gernt, 61. Gernt regularly audits classes at the campus, something she wishes more retirees would consider. Disabled persons suffering from a permanent total disability, and persons 60 years of age or older, who live in

Tennessee are eligible to enroll in Roane State courses for audit without payment of tuition, technology fees, student activity fees or registration fees. The remaining fee (called an access fee) is minimal. Gernt typically pays \$5 a semester (plus costs for books), which covers as many classes as she wants to take. "I am like a kid in a candy shop," she said.

Knox County Campus

The Knox County campus played an important role in the historic 2010 Census. A census representative was stationed on campus during the census-taking period of March 19-April 19. Students also received information about job opportunities with the U.S. Census Bureau. The campus's participation highlighted Roane State's community service role and encouraged students to participate in the census.

Loudon County Campus

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) at the Loudon County campus had a busy year. Campus Activities Boards plan fun activities for students and get involved in the community. Loudon CAB president Kevin Sexton of Lenoir City and vice president Kayla Cargile of Greenback said the board held several fundraisers for Relay for Life, built a float for the Lenoir City Christmas Parade, organized a Halloween costume contest for students, published a newsletter each semester and organized many other activities. "There's more to education than just going to class," Cargile said. "You want to be a part of something bigger."

Morgan County Campus

The Morgan County campus hosted participants in Youth Leadership Morgan. The program for high school juniors includes 12 students and is the community's first youth leadership program. Youth Leadership Morgan is sponsored by the Morgan County Chamber of Commerce and Morgan County Board of Education. Participants learn about topics such as government, agriculture and education; visit community organizations; attend government meetings; visit the Legislature in Nashville; perform 20 hours of community service; complete assignments; and complete a community service project.

Scott County Campus

The campus hosted a Career Exploration Day as part of the college's efforts to help laid-off workers in the community, and 44 people attended. Visitors learned more about programs and services offered through Roane State, the local Tennessee Technology Center, Tennessee Technological University and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center. Through the Earl McDonald Scholarship Endowment, Roane State is committing up to \$100,000 per year, for the next three years, to help laid-off Scott County residents go to college and learn new skills.



A Home Away from Home

by Owen Driskill, Alumni Publications Editor





Sally Avery and her daughter, Rachel, live in Clinton and are among the area volunteers who serve as hosts or mentors for the college's international students. Bianca Herold, a visiting student from Berlin, lives with the Averys. The Averys also mentor Egyptian students Mohamed El Sayed and Moustafa Salem.

(continued on page 8)

(continued)

In the Avery family's kitchen, the stories are as good as the pizza.

There was the time Bianca locked her keys in her car, good-natured laughter about Mohamed's love of roller coasters and memories of the trip to the Indianapolis 500. For the Averys, these moments are what they had in mind when they signed up to host and mentor Roane State's international students.

"We wanted to step outside of our box and open our home to someone who is interested in Americans," Sally Avery said. "And we wanted to show other countries all that is great about our country and to learn about all that is great about their countries. It has been a wonderful experience."



From left, Rachel Avery, Sally Avery, Mohamed El Sayed and Bianca Herold share stories, laughter and some Big Ed's pizza in the Avery family's kitchen.

Host families provide a bed, meals and a place to study. The families do not have to provide transportation or buy any personal items for the students. Occasionally, host families may be asked to volunteer as drivers for field trips, but participation is optional. Host families receive a monthly stipend to help offset expenses.

Mentor families do not house the students; instead, they provide encouragement and support. Whether a family hosts or mentors a student, the student practically becomes family.

Rachel Avery, 17, said having Bianca, 23, and Mohamed, 25, around is "like living with older siblings; it's really cool." For the students, the host families and mentor families are crucial to their American experience.

"Sally helped me a lot," said Mohamed, who will return to Egypt this summer. "I'm so lucky to be with her. I'm really going to miss her a lot."

Bianca said she was homesick when she first arrived in the United States. The Averys prescribed a simple remedy.

"They kept me busy," she said.
"I came on a Sunday.
On Monday, we
went dancing."

Roane State's international students range in age from 18-25 and speak English, although skill levels vary. A support system composed of college staff members and other families provides assistance to host and mentor families.

Melissa Rahmanian is the college's coordinator for Youth for Understanding (YFU) and Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, two of the programs that send international students to Roane State. Roane State also hosts students through Community Colleges for International Development (CCID).

"If you have kids, and you don't have the means to travel regularly, hosting or mentoring international students is a way to bring a little bit of the world into your home," Rahmanian said. "You meet a lot of great people, and it gives us a chance to show other people what Americans are like."

Rahmanian hosted two students during the 2009-10 academic year: Pablo Crutzen from Belgium and Gun-Ju Kim from South Korea.

"You learn about other cultures and why they do things the way they do," Rahmanian said. "The experience also makes us examine our own cultures and what we value. It's very rewarding."

To volunteer as a host, you can call Melissa Rahmanian at (865) 242-1189 or e-mail her at rahmanianml@roanestate.edu.

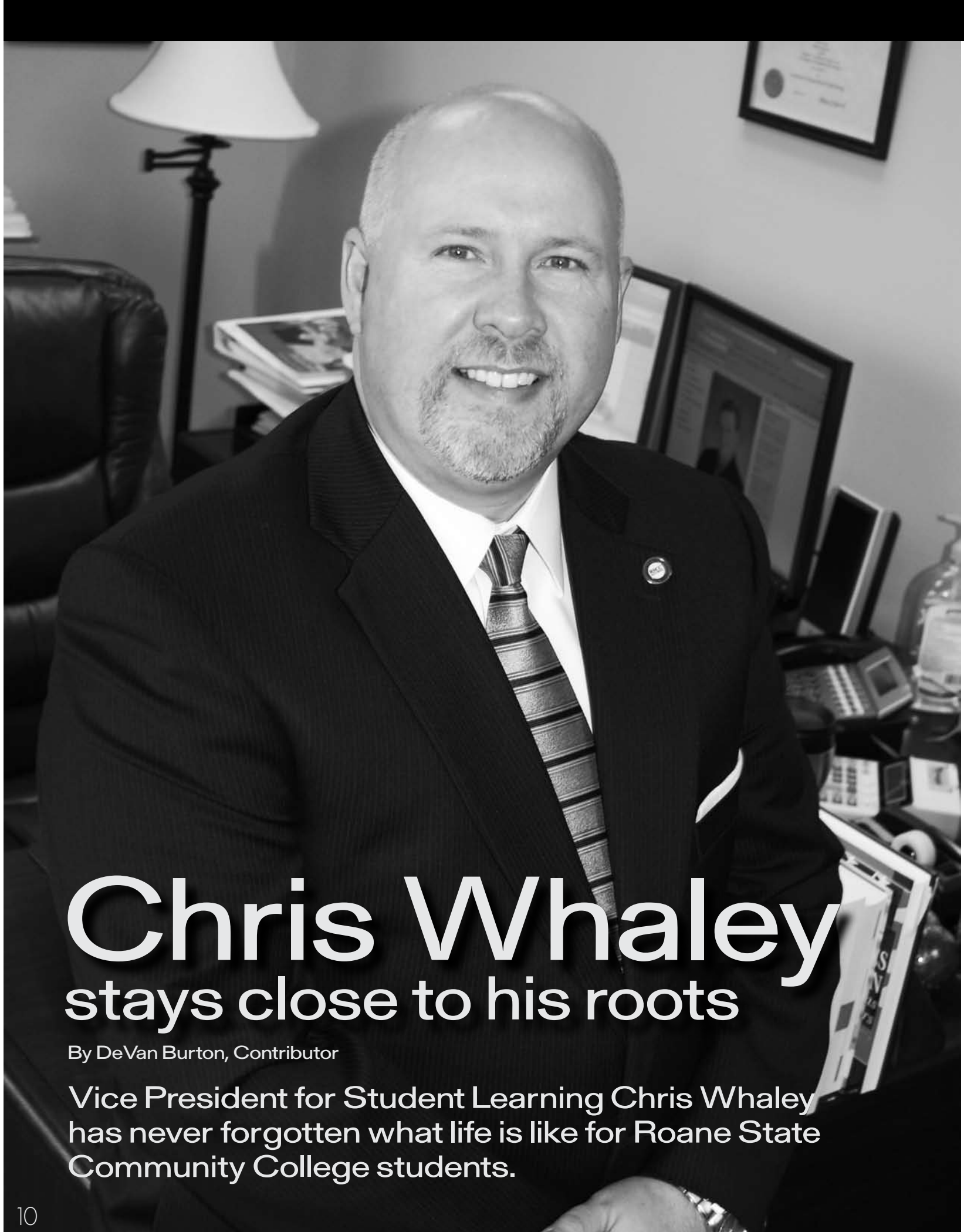
Those interested in serving as mentors may contact Will Lavender at lavenderw@roanestate.edu or LaShawn Smith at smithl4@roanestate.edu.

People may also call Roane State's International Education Office at (865) 882-4643.

Rachel Avery, left, said living with Bianca is like having a big sister.



Mohamed El Sayed is pumped during his trip to the Indianapolis 500, one of the many American adventures he enjoyed with the Avery family.



Chris Whaley stays close to his roots

By DeVan Burton, Contributor

Vice President for Student Learning Chris Whaley has never forgotten what life is like for Roane State Community College students.

“It’s not too many years ago that I was walking these halls,” Whaley said. “I was taking 19 hours, balancing work and worrying about scholarships.”

Whaley’s career at Roane State started in 1997 as assistant professor of legal studies. He most recently served as dean of the Social Science, Business and Education Division before becoming vice president for student learning in January 2010.



Chris Whaley (bottom, second from right) attended Roane State from 1987-1989 and was a member of Celebration Singers in 1987-88. Whaley was a bass, and he said one of his favorite songs that the group performed was “Careless Whisper” by George Michael.

As vice president for student learning, Whaley balances several objectives. When asked to describe his new job, Whaley said, “Everything that engages student learning from classroom instruction to advising.”

Whaley’s approach to his new role is rooted in his father’s experience at Roane State and his grandmother’s limited access to education. Whaley’s father, Lowell, worked as an accountant for the college in its early years. As a child, Whaley walked the halls of Roane State and learned from his dad that the college was more than just another workplace.

“My father often said that working at Roane State is like working with family,” Whaley said.

Whaley met his wife, Cindy, at Roane State. They now have two children: son Jonathan, 10, and daughter Tori, 3. Just as when Whaley was a boy, his children are often seen on campus, walking closely behind their dad.

Whaley graduated from Roane State and then earned a bachelor’s degree in political science at Middle Tennessee State University. He went to law school at the University of Tennessee and became an attorney.

The experience of Whaley’s grandmother, Russillo Trentham Whaley, guided him in the direction of education and, eventually, back to Roane State.

“My grandmother was one of the smartest people I have ever met,” he said. “But she was not afforded an education because of the times and where they lived.”

For Whaley, barriers to an education are an anathema. In his new role, Whaley defines his mission as ensuring a quality education for every student, keeping lines of communication between students and faculty free from confusion, and promoting an atmosphere that fosters growth academically and personally.

Before applying for his current position, Whaley asked himself, “Why am I the right person for this job?”

After becoming a professor, receiving tenure and becoming dean, the natural next step would be vice president. But Whaley said he did not take this new challenge just because it was a natural progression from being dean.

He enjoyed being a dean. It was a position in which he helped students reach their full potential. But his desire to help Roane State achieve more led him to his new role.

For Whaley, the decision to apply for vice president for student learning was based on his passion to serve the college, a place Whaley believes is second to none and a place he has considered almost like home since childhood.

“Nowhere else will students find a better quality of faculty,” he said. “Nowhere else will students find a faculty and staff and a college mission mindset that is as pro-student. It’s an unbeatable combination.”

This unbeatable combination has brought Whaley’s life at Roane State full circle.

Dr. Bruce Fisher explains complex subjects in a way that helps students learn and reach their goals

Roane State biology professor Bruce Fisher is teaching students about cell division. He wants them to understand the difference between manufacturing and assembling.

Dr. Fisher: “Have any of you worked in a factory?”

Student Patricia Stanley tells the class she worked in a plant, made jackets.

Dr. Fisher: “Did you make the cloth?”

Stanley says no.

Dr. Fisher: “So you took the cloth, which someone else made, and assembled the jacket. Do you see the difference?”

Heads nod. Of all the questions Dr. Fisher could have asked, he knew someone sitting in that biology lab had probably worked on an assembly line, and he knew the factory metaphor would help the students better understand cell division.

“Dr. Fisher can tap into our life experiences and explain things to us in a way we can remember,” Stanley said.

Dr. Fisher speaks in metaphors. His fingers are chromosomes. “Look at me,” he tells his students as he makes the shape of a cell. The furrow between two dividing cells is the furrow farmers cut into a field.

In three decades of teaching, Dr. Fisher has collected an explanatory tool for every biological process. A book of Dr. Fisher’s metaphors would be thicker than an anatomy textbook.

“Whether it’s conscious or subconscious, I realize this material is very difficult for our students,” Dr. Fisher said. “I try to make it come alive a bit. Most of them have some experience I can find and use as an example.”

Dr. Fisher also draws from his own life experiences. A physiologist by training, Dr. Fisher started teaching at Roane State in 1975.

He grew up in Northern Kentucky. His mom died when he was 7, and Dr. Fisher went his own way early, finishing high school at 15 and graduating from Lincoln Memorial University at 19.

He earned his master’s degree and doctorate from the University of Tennessee. After a research job fell through, he went into teaching, a twist of fate that generations of Roane State students can be thankful for.

Dr. Fisher was in the Marine Corps. He built houses during the summers when the class load was light –a source of many biology metaphors. With Gary Heidinger, he has helped lead the college’s Southwest field trip for 26 years.



He was in a car wreck in 1987. Badly injured, Dr. Fisher was unconscious for days. During his recovery, he could only read a few words at a time and struggled with his short-term memory. It's the kind of trauma most would like to forget.

For Dr. Fisher, it's another tool. He uses the accident to explain how cell loss affects people.

"It's a risk," he said. "You are putting yourself out there, but I've never been hurt by that. We get a variety of different people and skill levels and needs. I try my very best to meet those needs."

Dr. Fisher's students listened quietly while he discussed the accident.



Dr. Fisher explains a process to student Patricia Stanley during a lab session.

"He gives good examples from actual real-life experiences," student Tosha Hurd said. "It helps us see what we are learning in a different way."

"He's very knowledgeable about what he teaches," student Morgan Webster said. "He goes out of his way to make sure everybody is on the same page. He makes you get excited."

For Dr. Fisher, sharing his experiences, utilizing his library of biology metaphors, is his way of giving back to the people who taught him.

"A lot of people helped me along the way," he said. "I always think that God put these people in my path to help me. How do I thank them? I realized that I thank them by helping other people get where they are going."

He's in the lab.

"Look at me," he says.

Another metaphor is coming, another connection to help his students reach their destination.

Spotlight

Earl McDonald



The Bridge-Builder

The Earl McDonald Scholarship Endowment is changing lives in Scott County.

By Owen Driskill, Alumni Publications Editor

Three hours before she spoke about the late Earl McDonald, **Sharon Woodward** was in the library at Roane State's Scott County campus. The 32-year-old mother of three was studying before her next class. When Earl McDonald was driving the back roads from Scott County to Tennessee Tech many years earlier—many years before Woodward sat in that library—he might have dreamed of being able to get a college education a little closer to home, a little closer to his family. Somewhere on those back roads, the seed may have been planted to bring higher education to Scott County.



Woodward and many other students are the beneficiaries of McDonald's vision and legacy. They gathered at the Scott County campus to honor McDonald, whose generosity helped build the campus and whose posthumous \$2 million endowment is helping students like Woodward take advantage of it.

"I thank him for caring about others and being so generous," Woodward said. "What he's done for Scott County is heroic."

Laid off after 11 years in manufacturing, Woodward started taking classes at the Scott County campus in August 2008. To finish as quickly as possible, she enrolled in four classes during the summer 2009 session. Because she had worked the previous year, Woodward was not eligible for financial aid, but the Earl McDonald Scholarship Endowment helped pay for her summer classes. Completing those summer classes will allow Woodward to finish college sooner, reducing her tuition costs.



"That kept me from having to take that money out of my savings," Woodward said. "When you have three kids, every dollar you save makes a difference."

She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education through Roane State's 2+2 program with Tennessee Tech. Students in the 2+2 program take classes at Roane State for two years, transition into Tennessee Tech's elementary education program, and then complete their bachelor's degrees while continuing to take classes at the Scott County campus.

"Having this campus here is the best thing for this area," Woodward said. "With a family, I couldn't go off and live in a dorm. With this campus here, and the 2+2 program, it's the best thing to happen to Scott County and the people here."

The college is finding new ways to help students such as Woodward. To combat the community's high unemployment rate, the college recently announced it would use some of the endowment's funds to help Scott County residents who are laid off. The endowment will make sure that any laid-off worker from Scott County who wants to go to Roane State and pursue a new career can afford tuition.

The endowment also enables students to start college before they even leave high school.

Dual studies courses allow high school students to earn college credit and high school credit at the same time. The Tennessee dual enrollment grant, funded by the state lottery, gives students \$300 for one dual studies class each semester. Thanks to the Earl McDonald Scholarship Endowment, high school students in Scott County can take as many dual studies classes as they want, for free.

Kalah Burchfield, an Oneida High School senior, completed 28 hours of college credit—a year's worth of classes—in high school. Burchfield plans to pursue a career in medicine.

"I, along with my dual studies classmates, are very grateful for the benefits the Earl McDonald Scholarship Endowment has provided us," she said.

"We are more prepared for the college experience," she said. "It's so nice that people care."

Dr. Bill McDonald, Earl McDonald's nephew, listened closely as Woodward and Burchfield shared their stories and as others praised his uncle's generosity. Paul Phillips, chairman of the campus's site support committee, said, "We are sure proud Earl McDonald did not forget his roots in Scott County."

Roane State president Dr. Gary Goff noted, "We are blessed that the students here are the beneficiaries of his vision."

Sharon Baird, director of the Scott County campus, said, "I can't begin to express the magnitude of the legacy Mr. McDonald left for the people of Scott County. It is an honor and a privilege to be part of the endowment."

Bill McDonald enjoyed the kind words and the memories. When he addressed the crowd, he warned that he could not speak long because emotion would overwhelm him.

He recalled how his uncle finished college in seven years because to pay for it, he had to work for one year, then take classes for a year, then work for one year, take classes for a year.

A 1937 graduate of Tennessee Tech, Earl McDonald amassed a fortune in the telephone and cable businesses. Earl McDonald settled in Fayette, Ala., where he died in March 2006. Bill McDonald said that after his own father died in 1982, he went to see his uncle every month for the next 24 years.

"Generous, trustworthy, a gentle, kind man," Bill McDonald said. "Earl said God had given him this money, and he was going to give it back."

Toward the end of his speech, he read a poem about an old man who safely crosses a great chasm. Even though he could go on and let others face the danger for themselves, he stays behind to build a bridge, so that those who came after could find their way.

"That in essence says who Earl McDonald was," Bill McDonald said. "He was a bridge-builder for higher education."

The bridge has given, and will give, students like Sharon Woodward and Kalah Burchfield a way to cross into higher education, into a better life for themselves and for their families.

Spotlight

(continued)

“If a child gets a good education, that allows him to make a better living for himself. This also makes him a better citizen. And the more good citizens you have in the community, the better the community. Schools touch a lot of lives. Education strengthens the hands of society.”

Earl McDonald

from *Prince of Personality: The Earl McDonald Story*

By B.K. Smith

Available in the Roane State Library



Opposite, top, clockwise from left: Kalah Burchfield is one of the high school students benefiting from the Earl McDonald Scholarship Endowment. Students, faculty and staff enjoyed the reception honoring the late Earl McDonald. Opposite, center: Dr. Bill McDonald, Earl McDonald's nephew, (second from right), shares memories of his uncle. Opposite, bottom left: Dr. Bill McDonald, left, and Bill Swain, right, represent two great families instrumental in building and growing the Scott County campus. Opposite, bottom right, from left: Dr. Bill McDonald, Scott County campus director Sharon Baird, and Paul Phillips, chairman of the campus's site support committee, display the plaque honoring Earl McDonald.



How To Leave a Bequest

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

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 estate.

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 for 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.

If you would like to include Roane State in your will, please make the beneficiary the Roane State Community College Foundation and work with your attorney to make your wishes for the bequest clear.

For instance, you could designate funds for scholarships, a particular campus, faculty development or simply the college's area of greatest need. If you would like to discuss your plans with a Foundation Representative, please contact Melinda Hillman, Executive Director at (865) 882-4507.



News Notes

from the headlines



The Tennessee Board of Regents awarded an **Academic Excellence Award to Roane State** for the college's annual Academic Festival. The award recognizes programs and initiatives that exemplify excellence in teaching, research and public service.

Roane State completed its fundraising campaign for expansion of the Oak Ridge campus. **The college raised \$2.6 million** for the \$16.6 million project that will add a new 61,000-square-foot building to the campus. With \$2.6 million raised, the college is in line to receive about \$14.1 million in state funding through a matching program. The timeframe to receive money from the state will depend on budget conditions

Dan Foltz-Gray, associate professor of English, was honored by the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE). He received the organization's 2010 Award for Outstanding Service to Developmental Education Students.

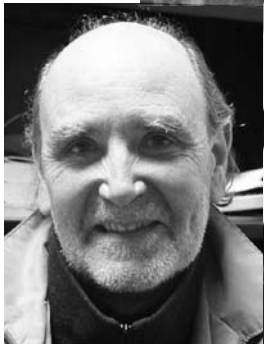
Myra Peavyhouse, dean of the college's Humanities Division, received the 2009 J. Neal Ensminger Distinguished Alumnus Award from Tennessee Wesleyan College.

An image processed by assistant professor **Ted Stryk** was featured in Sky & Telescope magazine, Astronomy Now (the largest British astronomy periodical) and on NASA's Web site. Stryk, assistant professor of English and philosophy, is a self-taught astronomer who specializes in taking data from space missions and rendering modern-looking digital images.

Ed Smith, director of developmental studies, was honored by the Tennessee Association for Developmental Education (TNADE). Smith received TNADE's 2009 award for "Outstanding Service to Developmental Education Students."

Amy Keeling, director of advising and articulation, received the Patriot Award, an honor that recognizes employers whose leadership and policies support National Guard and Reserve members. She received the award from the Tennessee committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

Roane State hosted a variety of events for **Black History Month**. The college's Jazz Band performed in the Roane County campus library. An artist born in Ghana exhibited his work and visited with students, and the college held a screening of the award-winning documentary "The Clinton 12," by Roane State alumnus Keith McDaniel.



Captions: High school students perform at the award-winning Academic Festival; Dan Foltz-Gray; Myra Peavyhouse; Ted Stryk; Ed Smith; Sandra Grice pins Amy Keeling with the Patriot Award; The Jazz Band performs as part of Black History Month.

Scholarship Profile

Myranda Robinson and Ken Beauchamp have much in common.

Roane State is a big part of their lives—Robinson is a student, and Beauchamp works at the college. As they chatted recently, it turns out Beauchamp’s wife had been a customer of Robinson, a cosmetologist.

They also share a common experience. Both went to college a few years after high school and have had to balance work with getting an education. Beauchamp’s compassion for students such as Robinson is the reason he supports the Kingston Rotary Club’s efforts to provide scholarships for non-traditional students. Robinson, a Roane State sophomore, is a recipient of one of those scholarships.

“I appreciate receiving a scholarship from somewhere in my community,” said Robinson, who grew up in and lives in Kingston. “It feels like extra support.”

The scholarship provided Robinson \$500 a semester for two semesters. Beauchamp, a member of the Kingston Rotary Club for 17 years, said the club knew students such as Robinson might need a little extra help.

“I know how hard it is—the decision to go back to school,” Beauchamp said. “The whole time I was in school, I had to work a full-time job. It was grueling at times. The Kingston Rotary Club just wants to be there and help where we can.”

Robinson graduated from Roane County High School in 2002 and worked for a while before enrolling at Roane State in spring 2009. She plans to transfer to Tennessee Tech and pursue a career in child psychology after finishing her associate’s degree this summer.

“I am honored to be one of the recipients of the Kingston Rotary Club scholarship,” she wrote in a thank-you letter to the club. “Thanks to your generous support, I will be the first in my family to complete my college education. I feel privileged that my community is helping me further my education.”

For more information about providing scholarships for Roane State students, contact the Roane State Foundation at (865) 882-4507.



Teresa Duncan is Committed to Positive Experiences for Every Student

For Teresa Duncan, the heart of Roane State's success is in how people speak of the college in their day-to-day conversations at church, at Little League games or even at the grocery store.

"It hurts me whenever someone says anything negative about Roane State," said Duncan, vice president of student services and enrollment management. "When I'm in the grocery store, and I hear that someone had a negative experience with Roane State, I ask 'what happened?'"

One of the reasons a negative remark feels personal for Duncan is that Roane State is an integral part of her life. She played basketball for Roane State and is an alumna. When the college has an activity, chances are Duncan is there. Her passion for the college and all it represents is evident in her voice.



In her new role, Duncan will have opportunities to share Roane State's benefits with prospective students. She has a unique job—touching the lives of students both before they become students and along their Roane State educational experience—and looks forward to those opportunities. "It's a real blessing to work here," she said.

Duncan, a graduate of Tennessee Wesleyan who earned her master's degree at Tennessee Tech, previously served as vice president for continuing education.

In her new role, she faces numerous challenges such as dealing with processes that frustrate potential and current students, serving a diverse student body, and advising students whose journey to a college education is often lined with adversity.

“Helping students pursue their education is similar to coaching a player,” she said. “As much as you prepare them to make the right choice, it’s up to them to make it.”

While students need to make the right choices, Duncan wants to make sure they have to sidestep as few obstacles as possible. For example, one of Duncan’s goals is to reduce cycle time. Cycle time is the time that it takes for receiving a student’s application, to processing financial aid, to when the student starts classes.

“The most difficult part of attending Roane State should be the rigor of the curriculum, not the administrative steps a student encounters to get into and stay in college,” Duncan said.

One of Duncan’s staunch beliefs is that Roane State students should have a positive experience the moment they step on campus “or even before a person steps on our campus.”

She understands that Roane State students have diverse goals. About two-thirds of the college’s graduates go directly into the workforce in a variety of careers. About one-third transfer to universities to pursue bachelor’s degrees.

Whatever a student’s interest, Duncan does not want the day-to-day processes to block a student’s path.

“Roane State is the first step to future opportunities,” Duncan said. “I do not want a student to miss an opportunity because they become frustrated or confused.”

As someone who believes firmly in the mission of Roane State and who embodies the spirit of the college, Duncan’s mission is personal for her. It’s the reason she’ll listen closely in the grocery store aisles, ready to take action if she overhears a complaint. She wants to make the college a better place for all students.

–DeVan Burton, Contributor



Duncan was a standout basketball player at Roane State from 1982-1984.

Outstanding Alumni Sought

Roane State Community College is seeking nominations for the 2010 Outstanding Alumni Award to be given to an RSCC alumna and alumnus in recognition of outstanding service to their profession, to RSCC and to the community.

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. To be eligible, nominees must have attended Roane State Community College for at least 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours.

Criteria for Selection

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

Selections will be made by the RSCC Alumni Recognition Committee.

Deadline for submission of nomination: May 30, 2010

Call (865) 882-4640 or e-mail a request for application (alumni@roanestate.edu) or you may print the Nominee Information Form directly from the Web at: www.roanestate.edu/alumni

We've missed you! Let us know where you have been by filling out the coupon below and sending it to:

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

1978 Steven M. Fowler

(A.S. Fire Science Technology) has been with the Knoxville Fire Department since 1990. He currently is the Assistant Chief for the City of Knoxville's Fire Department. He is married to Janice Fowler, and they have two children and four grandchildren.

1996 Whitney Minor Bolton

(A.A.S. Respiratory Care) received her BS in Human Resource Management from George Mason University and her law degree in 2009 from Columbus School of Law. She practices employment, family and corporate law. She is the mother of Riley, age 11, and they reside in Woodridge, Va.

Name _____

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

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

Home Phone# _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Occupation/Title _____

Employer _____

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, . . .) _____

Calendar

coming up at your
community college

may

May 1	National Barrel Horse Association
May 1 - 2	Arts in Motion Spring Concert
May 7 - 8	Commencement
May 8 & 9	North American Dog Agility Council
May 10	Classes Begin-Summer Expanded Term
May 10	Classes Begin-Maymester
May 14 & 15	Relay For Life, Smoky Mountain Walking Horse Show
May 22 & 23	Tennessee State Appaloosa Horse Club & Ponies of America
May 27 - 30	TQHA Hillbilly Classic
May 28	Classes End-Maymester
May 31	Memorial Day-College Closed

june

Jun 1	Classes Begin-Summer Full Term, First Term
Jun 3 - 5	Eastern Region 4-H
Jun 8 - 13	TQHA Dogwood Classic
Jun 19 & 20	Tennessee Reining Horse Association
Jun 24	RSCC Adult Education Graduation
Jun 25-27	Fortune 5 Barrel Race
Jun 25	Classes End-First Term
Jun 28	Classes Begin-Summer Second Term

july

Jul 2-4	East Tennessee Cutting Horse Association
Jul 5	4th of July Holiday Observed-College Closed
Jul 13 - 18	East Coast Reined Cow Horse Classic
Jul 22 - 25	TQHA Country Music Circuit
Jul 26	Classes End-Expanded Term, Full Term, Second Term

aug

Aug 6 - 8	East Tennessee Cutting Horse Association
Aug 14 & 15	Tennessee Reining Horse Association
Aug 20 - 22	Volunteer Ranch Horse Association
Aug 28	Fall Classes Begin
Aug 28	National Barrel Racers Association

sep

Sep 3 - 5	East Tennessee Cutting Horse Association
Sep 4	National Barrel Racers Association
Sep 6	Labor Day Holiday-College Closed
Sep 10 - 12	Tennessee Valley Kennel Club
Sep 18 & 19	TQHA All Novice
Sep 25	Tennessee Paint Horse Club

oct

Oct 1 & 2	Three Rivers Antique Tractor Show
Oct 1 - 3	Boy Scout Camporee
Oct 15 - 17	East Tennessee Cutting Horse Association
Oct 18 - 19	Fall Break-No Classes
Oct 23	Tennessee Paint Horse Club
Oct 30 - 31	Tennessee Ponies of America

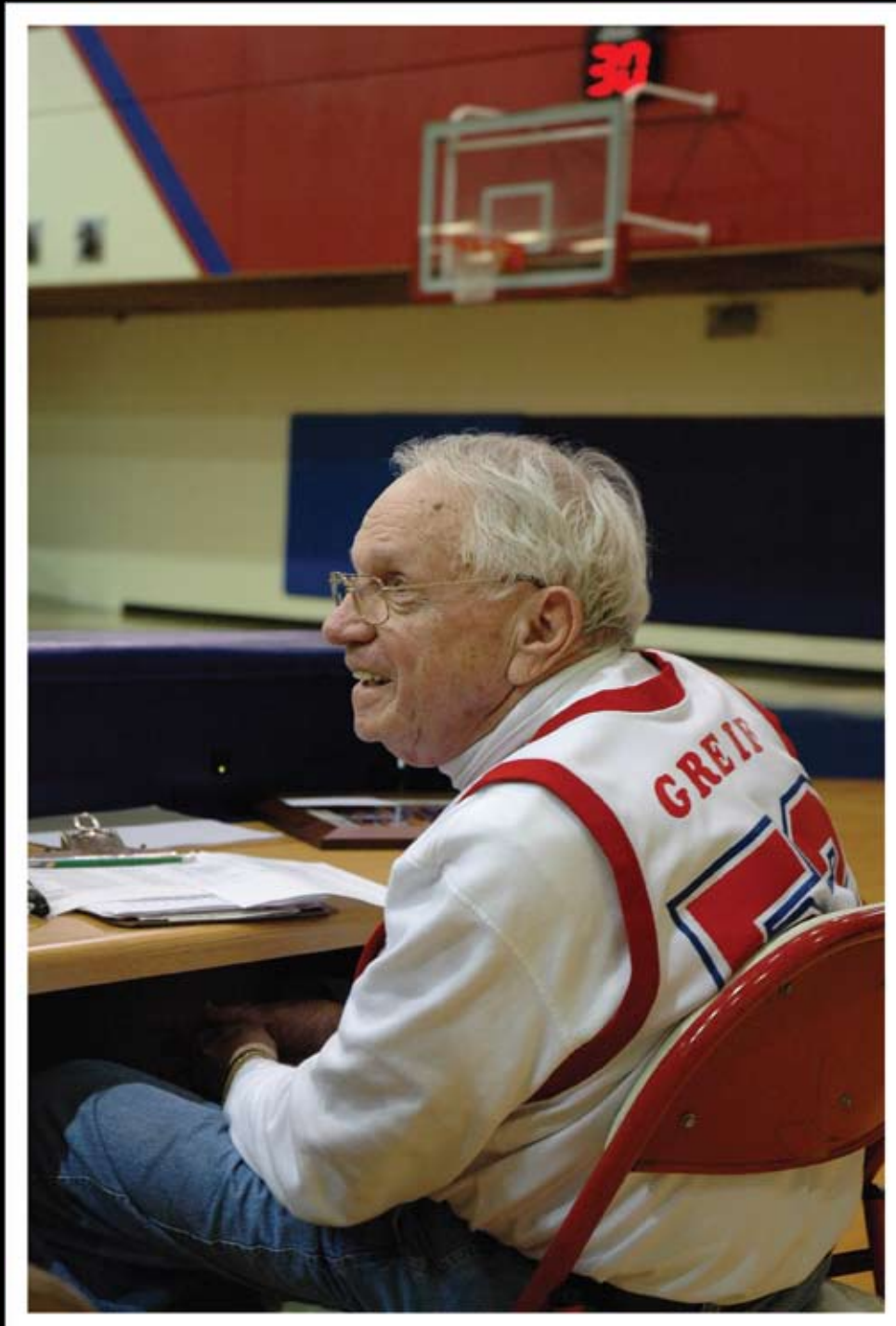
Visit www.roanestate.edu for the latest event information.



Roane State Community College
Office of Alumni Relations
276 Patton Lane
Harriman, TN 37748

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Maurice Greif hung up his microphone after five years as public address announcer for Roane State basketball. During a special ceremony, Greif received a plaque, a photo signed by the players, and his own jersey, which he proudly wore for his last game. Even though he won't be at the scorer's table next season, Greif will always be a part of the team.