

Roane State Today

The Roane State Community College
Alumni Magazine 2016



Head of the Class

**Roane State student Arlene Pemberton
has a favorite teacher—her son.**

I could define Roane State many ways.

I could define the college by its history, how it grew from Fairmont Elementary School into a regional college with locations in every county that we serve.

I could define the college by its culture, how we put students first, serve in our communities and work together as a team.

I could define the college by its technology, how we have been early adopters of new innovations from interactive video to iPads.

Often, though, the best way to define Roane State is by the simplest, most fundamental relationship at the college—the relationship between student and teacher.

In this issue, you will read about two outstanding alumni, one a professor and the other his former student.



You will read about a mother who came back to school at age 64. One of her English classes was taught by a professor she knew well—her son.

Education at every level has changed dramatically. We have discussions every day about improving technology, processes and curriculum.

Innovation is important and necessary. What defines the college, however, has been and always will be those moments in a classroom when students and professors connect.

I hope you enjoy learning about the special student-teacher bonds in this issue, and I encourage you, when you have a moment, to please send a quick note of thanks to the Roane State professors who have touched your life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Chris White". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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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 website (www.roanestate.edu/alumni) allows you to email the Alumni Relations staff. Are you receiving duplicate copies of Roane State Today? Email 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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Foundation

Your donations help us give students that little bit extra that makes all the difference.

President Dr. Chris Whaley and son Jonathan, wife Cindy and daughter Tori make Roane State a regular part of their family life. Go to a game or a play, and you will likely see the Whaleys there.



Roane County Campus

Students who receive the Tennessee Promise scholarship—a statewide effort to ensure students can go to a community college tuition-free—are required to complete eight hours of community service for each semester of college. To help students meet the requirement, Roane State hosted a Tennessee Promise day in the college's community garden, located near the main campus. Half of the bounty from the garden is donated to local charities to help feed the needy. On Tennessee Promise day in the garden, students braved the rain as they picked up rocks, pulled old okra plants, spread mulch, and planted potatoes and onions. Anyone interested in helping with the garden is encouraged to contact Mare Thomas, (865) 354-3000 ext. 4473 or thomasmr4@roanestate.edu.



Campbell County Campus

Art instructor William Sarno brings a wealth of experience to the Campbell County campus. Sarno, who teaches art appreciation, has taught in Thailand, sculpted pieces for Miller Brewing Company and spent three years creating a major exhibit for the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Sarno taught figure modeling/portraits, model building and basic design studio for the University of Pennsylvania, an Ivy League school. He earned his master's degree in fine arts from Penn in 1989. "A lot of people are scared of art," Sarno said. "What I try to teach students is that their opinion is as good as anyone else's."



Cumberland County Campus

The excitement and opportunity of the Tennessee Promise scholarship program appears to be making a difference in Cumberland County. Enrollment at the Cumberland County campus was up approximately 8 percent for fall 2015, an increase that campus director Janice Poole said is likely due to Tennessee Promise. "We're excited," Poole said. "Tennessee Promise has helped make people much more aware of the value of community colleges and of the opportunities available right here at Roane State's local campus."



Fentress County Campus

Students helped spruce up the Fentress County campus for the holidays. Lauren Matthews, Tanisha Rascoe, and Avena Jones placed decorations on the Christmas tree in the main office. They also helped prepare the colorful gifts that went under the tree to get everyone in the holiday spirit.



Knox County Campus

EMT and paramedic students can get hands-on experience in an ambulance simulator located at the Knox County campus. The simulator is located in a classroom and includes everything that is in a real-life ambulance. Students can practice in the simulator while being observed by their classmates and teachers. The \$29,000 simulator was funded by grant funds received under Title 1 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.



Loudon County Campus

High school students decorated the sidewalk behind the campus as part of a Chalk Walk organized by Lenoir City High School art teacher Susanne Tyler. The event gave students an opportunity to use their artistic talents and raised community awareness of the downtown area. Campus director Susan Williams judged the Chalk Walk entries and visited with the students.



Morgan County Campus

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) competed in the city of Wartburg's annual Paint the Town Pink contest for Breast Cancer Awareness month. Businesses in the community displayed decorations to support breast cancer awareness. The CAB's theme was "Hunting for a Cure." Students Seth Stewart, Rachel Smarsh and Bailie Ehlers helped arrange the decorations, which won second place in the rookie category.



Oak Ridge Campus

Roane State art professor Bryan Wilkerson worked with Oak Ridge High School art teacher Gisela Schrock to offer dual credit ceramics courses. The Oak Ridge students also collaborated with Roane State students to create a piece on display at the Oak Ridge campus. "Bryan and I go back a long way," Schrock said. "It's something I have been wanting to do for a while. We combine our shared experiences. You always benefit from two views. I think the kids have benefitted a lot. I know that they are performing at a college level."



Scott County Campus

Bill Swain, an accomplished businessman and longtime supporter of the Scott County Campus, passed away June 23, 2015. Swain's professional accomplishments were considerable. He was the face of First National Bank for more than 50 years, and he led and advocated for numerous infrastructure improvements in Scott County. Swain served on the State Board of Education, started a mini-grants program to benefit teachers, and provided scholarships for adults going back to school to better their lives. "He would always say we need to raise expectations for our students," campus director Sharon Baird said. "He was a visionary who knew the importance of education."



Feature

All in the Family Affair

Arlene Pemberton has shared her time at Roane State with two people she loves most—her grandson and her son.

By Leslie Kennedy, Contributor

John Coltrane's smooth jazz melody plays softly in the background.

The mood is conducive for learning as the students settle in to begin their assigned writing task for the evening.

As you scan the classroom, you observe students of varying ages. As you talk to them, you learn they have been drawn to this evening English composition class at the Scott County campus for varying reasons.

But one student has the best reason of all.

Her son is teaching the class.

continued



Starting on a path

Fall 2007 was a pivotal point in Arlene Pemberton's life. After spending over 40 years raising a family with husband Brad, she made the decision to embark on a path that many adult Tennesseans are choosing—to return to the classroom.

Arlene had worked for awhile here and there and received an LPN license. In 2007, she enrolled in a two-year program at Roane State. As life would have it, she encountered some roadblocks and speed bumps along the way. She found herself working and attending college. With the arrival of a new grandbaby, she added babysitter to her list of activities.

Of all the hats she found herself wearing, Arlene knew she had to once again make a critical choice.

"I was just about to crash and burn, so I chose babysitting," she said.

She put school on hold, left her employment and focused her attention on what was most fulfilling—caring for her grandbaby.

Staying the course

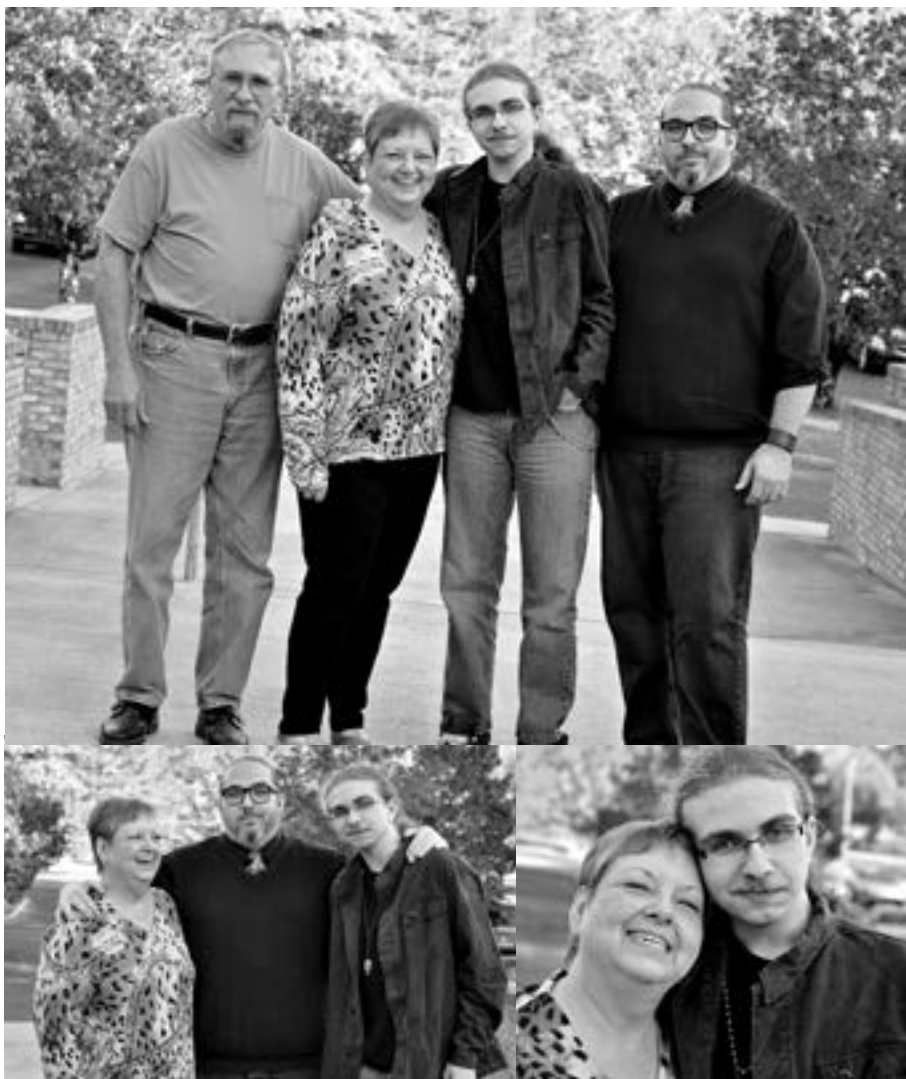
Arlene never gave up on her college aspirations. Determined not to let time be a deterrent, in fall 2014 at age 64, Arlene once again took a seat in a classroom. One of her fellow students was certainly a familiar face.

While she spent her days taking care of one grandchild, she spent her evenings with another, Zen, a classmate in Pemberton's American government course. Zen started high school at age 12 and enrolled at Roane State at age 16.

"The students knew she was my grandma," Zen said of taking a course with Arlene. "On occasion she would nudge me for an answer, but most of the time we shared some fun competition. It was really cool being in class with her."

Zen and grandma could have taken another course together, but Zen opted to take Ralph Monday's English class. Arlene picked an English course taught by a different instructor—a guy by the name of Matt Hundley. Arlene knew him pretty well.

She raised him, after all.



A long journey to becoming his Mom's teacher

You guessed it: Matt is Arlene's son. At the mention of Matt's name, Arlene beams with pride. She's not as interested in sharing her story as she is in expressing how proud she is of Matt. As they both candidly shared, where Matt stands today—at the front of the class teaching composition to his mother—is a testimony and inspiration to any who have struggled in the past.

Although Matt was talented academically, high school became increasingly difficult for him. He excelled in physics, but his grades in other courses fell by the wayside. Matt left high school, explored film-making for a time, worked two jobs, began to raise a family and ran into a brick wall at almost every corner he turned.

Life was becoming increasingly difficult, and Matt was getting nowhere fast. Eventually he moved from Michigan to join his parents in Tennessee. At age 31, Matt received his GED. His parents suggested he enroll in Roane State. He did, as a biology major. But that didn't hold his interest.

Roane State students receive one-on-one assistance and encouragement to forge ahead even in the face of difficulties and adversities. Professors get to know students personally. In Matt's case, his English and American history teachers identified and cultivated Matt's love of writing and predicted that, one day, he would teach.

"The professors that inspired me most were the ones who had a passion for what they taught," Matt said. "It wasn't necessarily what they taught me, but rather how they taught me. I always felt that it was an exchange of ideas with them rather than just a one-sided flow of information."

The results speak for themselves. Matt graduated from Roane State with an associate degree, transferred to UT, and in 2006, received his bachelor's degree in English literature. He earned his master's in English from National University in 2009.

Matt teaches English, American literature, world literature, and developmental writing and reading. He remembers where he came from and without hesitation, gives back by showing a personal interest in each of his students. Matt's laid-back approach, his ability to look for any opportunity to commend a student and his openness about his own educational trials have drawn students to him.

His son, Zen, as well as his mom, Arlene, without partiality, say students freely speak of how they love Matt's class. It's never boring, and he motivates students to want to do their best, Mom included.

(continued)

Opposite: Arlene Pemberton is supported by her family as she pursues her education at Roane State. From left are husband Brad, grandson Zen and son Matt.

A few tears on the first day of class

Matt had to be sure not to show favoritism toward his Mom, but he also didn't want to try so hard not to that he was tougher on her than other students. A fine line exists between Mom and student; Matt knew exactly how to walk it. He would just do what he does best—motivate and teach.

"I was a bit reluctant at first," he said. "I wasn't sure how to go about it, but in the end, teaching is about being honest with your students. In order for them to accept what you want them to know, they have to trust you on a certain level. They have to believe what you say. So I decided to just be honest with my Mom. I tried to see her as I would any other student."

Arlene also knew that there would have to be boundaries. She could not call him Matt with the same familiarity she does when speaking with him as a son, so the first step was to be sure and call him Professor Hundley. For Matt, it wasn't Mom, but Mrs. Pemberton, or Arlene.

"Sometimes at school 'Mom' comes through, and I'll kiss his cheek," Arlene said. "He's quick to remind me I'm a student."

Arlene shared that she cried in the very first class as Matt stood at the front, ready to teach; she cried relating how she cried during the very first class! They were tears of joy, tears of a proud Mom because as she sat in that class, only she knew every detail, every struggle Matt overcame to get to where he was that day.



Matt Hundley lectures while his mother, Arlene, takes notes.

"Initially I didn't ask as many questions as I probably should have because I didn't want to irritate Matt," Arlene said.

But with time she settled in and became more comfortable with the entire experience.

"Being in Matt's class has been great," she said. "I have gotten a chance to see how gifted he is relating to his students and see how much they like and respect him."

Arlene has continually been an A student, proving that she can carry her own weight. In true-to-form mother fashion, she kindly spoke with some students to let them know what she knew Matt would not tolerate: tardiness, disrespect for him or others, and skipping class.

The students do not view Arlene as an old woman taking a class beyond her reach. Although she is the most seasoned student in the class, she thoroughly enjoys interacting and learning with fellow students.

"They are all very friendly and quick to help me if they can," she said. "I have always been treated like just another student. A few of the students I have met during my time in school have become very close friends."

She has formed bonds with some that she fondly refers to as "her buddies," in particular fellow adult students Chris Bauswell and Johnny Duncan (shown below). Their personal experience and determination to continue their education while carrying a full load in life has touched and inspired Arlene.

What are Arlene's plans for the future?

"Although I have taken all the paralegal courses, I'm still taking classes I need to

continue in higher education," she said. "I would like to get into social work of some kind. I just love learning and will take classes as long as I can. I will have Matt's Comp II class next semester. Some of the students from this semester will be in the class also, so I'm really looking forward to it."



Arlene will no doubt forever cherish her experience of sharing a seat in class next to her grandson, Zen, and of taking notes as her son, Matt, delivered a lecture.

For her, the joy of being able to make it a family affair will always bring a beaming smile to her face, a thump in her heart and tears to her glistening eyes.

Middle College Make

Program allows high school students to graduate with diploma and associate degree.

By Owen Driskill
Director, Marketing and Public Relations

Jessica Stroud from Anderson County High School wants to become a nurse practitioner, a path that would normally take about six years after high school.

Because she is a Roane State Middle College student, Stroud could become a nurse practitioner just four years after high school.

“I’m not sure I could power through grad school if it’s six years after high school,” she said. “Now it’s just four years. I’m working toward a very tangible goal.”

(continued)

Roane State Middle College students, from left, Brandon Buck, Brianna Casaus and Madison Duncan chat as they take a break during final exam week.

making a Difference



Spotlight (continued)

Available in Roane County and Anderson County, Middle College gives students an opportunity to finish high school with their diploma and an associate degree from Roane State. To be eligible for the program, students must be rising juniors who scored 22 or above on the PLAN test, a pre-test for the ACT.

In the mornings, Middle College students come to Roane State to take college classes. In the afternoons, the students return to their high schools for activities such as sports, yearbook and band.

After earning an associate degree and a high school diploma at the same time, students who attend a university could start as juniors and finish their bachelor's degree just two years after high school. The program is especially attractive for high school students already planning to go to graduate school.

Alexis Wade from Anderson County High School, for example, plans to major in



accounting at the University of Tennessee and then pursue her master's degree. Because she started in Middle College, she could finish her master's degree four years after high school, the same time when most students are just completing their bachelor's programs.

"I've really enjoyed Middle College," she said. "All of the teachers are really good about helping us. I like the idea of getting started on college, and knowing I can get my master's degree now in the same timeframe as a bachelor's degree."

During their first year, Middle College students take the same general education courses—courses all college students must take—in English, science, math and additional subjects.

During their second year, students take different classes based on their major. Students in the same major take the same classes.

"I have learned how to study, and I have learned that if you want to make good grades, it takes work," said student Brandon Buck from Oliver Springs High School. "I also had to come in and make new friends. It's been fun, and it's been good for me that I had to make new friends."

Madison Duncan from Harriman High School said Middle College helped her develop her time management skills as she adjusted to intense, 15-week courses.

"It's definitely a step up," Duncan said, noting that she had spent six hours one day preparing for a chemistry final. "We were always working the whole time we were in class."

Duncan said that college faculty and staff helped Middle College students learn to handle the increased workload. Chemistry professor Steve Ward, for example, came to class early every day to answer questions. An advisor and an academic coach are assigned to work with Middle College students.

Student Brianna Casaus of Roane County High School said she "liked the freedom and how the teachers treat us like adults." She also enjoyed interacting with other Roane State students.

"You get to hear new ideas, and you have people with different experiences," she said. "I think Middle College is a good middle ground between knowing everyone (in high school) and meeting new people."

Casaus also said that although Middle College has a challenging workload, that's exactly what she wanted.

"I like having something to keep me busy, to constantly challenge me," she said.

The college hopes to expand Middle College to more counties. For more information about Middle College, visit roanestate.edu/middlecollege or contact professor David Lane, Middle College coordinator, at 865-882-4538 or lanedr@roanestate.edu.

Top to bottom: Anderson County Middle College students take notes as professor Steve Ward teaches a chemistry lesson.; Roane County students were the first to participate in Middle College. Their college experience started in fall 2014 with their first orientation.

Connect

with Roane State

Through Roane State's official social media accounts, you can share memories, connect with old friends and explore what's happening at Roane State.

Don't miss a moment. Stay connected with Roane State on the college's official social media.



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A professor and the student he once taught are Roane State Community College's 2015 Outstanding Alumni.

The recipients are biology professor **Bruce Cantrell** and **Dr. Jason Eble**, physical therapist and clinical director for Champion Physical Therapy in Harriman.

"To get the award and have one of your students getting the same award at the same time is just a great honor," Cantrell said. "It shows you that what you do might make an impact."

After graduating from Harriman High School in 1969, Cantrell enlisted in the Navy and served in Vietnam. He came to Roane State in 1973, and in 1975, he was part of the college's third graduating class.

"When I came to Roane State I was right out of the military," Cantrell said. "I wanted to do everything. I was in student government. I was on the debate team. I got involved with the newspaper. One day, the debate coach, Bill Yates, pulled me aside, and he said 'Bruce, you can't do everything. You've got to pick and choose and do what you want to do, and do it well.' That advice from Bill, through the years, has been a guide."

Yates' advice, and Cantrell's work ethic, led him to focus on three areas—service, science, and teaching. Cantrell graduated from Tennessee Tech in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in biology. He joined the U.S. Army and served for 15 years, rising to the rank of major.

During his second stint of military service, Cantrell attended a variety of schools including Air Assault School, Security Management, Terrorism Counteraction, and Nuclear and Chemical Target Analysis. He led a team that provided specialized training in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons defense. Agencies that Cantrell's team trained included the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Secret Service and the CIA. Cantrell is a regular guest lecturer at the Defense Intelligence College.

Cantrell also earned his master's in biology from American University. As a graduate student, he participated in a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research program studying ocean dumping and marine pollution. Cantrell's love for marine science, which traces back to his Navy service and his coursework at Tennessee Tech, is a passion he shares with his students.

A certified divemaster with multiple specialty certifications, Cantrell has taken students to Key Largo, Costa Rica and Honduras to give them field experience in marine science. Many students who participate have never seen an ocean. In fall 2014, Cantrell and colleague Jessica Fain lived underwater for 73 days, setting a new world record while educating people around the world about the importance of the oceans.

Cantrell began teaching at Roane State in 1992, pausing briefly to serve in the state legislature, and he remains heavily involved in community service.

"Roane State is probably one of the biggest blessings that Roane County has ever had," Cantrell said. "It opened up postsecondary education to so many people who would never have gotten it. Over the years, we have expanded that. Every year, we are bringing education to the people. The more we grow, the more people we get to serve, and the faculty will go wherever we are needed."



Bruce Cantrell

Jason Eble, Cantrell's former student, is among those the college has served. A 2005 graduate of Harriman High School, Dr. Eble graduated magna cum laude from Roane State in 2007 with an associate degree in biology.

Dr. Eble transferred to East Tennessee State University, where he graduated summa cum laude in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in exercise science. Dr. Eble played baseball at Roane State, and his career path blends his background as an athlete and his interest in medicine. As an undergraduate at ETSU, Dr. Eble worked with the college's athletes and decided to pursue physical therapy. He earned his doctor of physical therapy from ETSU in December 2012.

"Roane State was a great experience for me," Dr. Eble said. "I was able to stay at home. I was able to stay close to my family and friends while getting an education. Roane State offers a lot of opportunities. You have one-on-one relationships with your teachers and smaller classes. For me, it was a better learning experience, and it really set the foundation for me at the next level. I think that's why I was so successful at ETSU because I got a good foundation here."

Dr. Eble said professors such as Cantrell helped him establish a good academic foundation and positioned him for success on the challenging road to becoming a doctor.

"When I started out, my first few grades were not exactly what I wanted them to be," he said. "My teachers were all on site. They were all accessible. They taught me how to study, how to prepare for eight-chapter tests, things I wasn't capable of doing at the time."

Dr. Eble uses his knowledge of physical therapy to serve his community. He provides injury prevention programs to area schools and offers free injury screenings to high school athletes. Dr. Eble has provided community seminars on injury prevention and on concussions. He supports organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club and area athletic programs.

Dr. Eble also provides internships to Roane State physical therapist assistant students and participates in career days to raise awareness of opportunities within his field.

"I had a great time when I was here," Dr. Eble said. "It was tough in that I had to grow up a little bit faster than I wanted to, but I am glad that I chose this path instead of a four-year university because I know that I wasn't ready for that. Roane State was a perfect opportunity and stepping stone for me."



Jason Eble

Pay it Forward

Donna Ross officially became a nurse because of you.

Your donations paid the fee for her licensing exam, the one she had to pass to put 'RN' after her name. She did it, with your help.

She was so grateful, that she agreed to Pay It Forward and committed to helping other students in need.

That's the point of the Roane State Foundation's Pay It Forward awards. We help students, and they pledge to help future students.

It all starts with you.

Please give to the Roane State Foundation's Pay It Forward awards program.

If you are interested in contributing, please visit www.roanestate.edu/donate to see all the ways you can give.



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www.roanestate.edu/foundation



Saturday, January 30, 2016

Music Department Faculty Recital

Princess Theatre, 2 pm. Free to the public. RSCC Music Department faculty performs solo and small ensemble works from Classical and Jazz to original compositions.

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Mardi Gras Masquerade

Rockwood Event Center at 116 W. Rockwood St., 6-9 pm. (865) 285-9458 (presale tickets) \$15 per person/\$25 per couple (including dinner). Join the festivities as the REC and RSCC Music Department celebrate New Orleans style! There's delicious food, music, games, dancing, and more! Call ahead to reserve your tickets!

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Solo Class Midterm Recital

Roane County Campus, O'Brien Theatre Lobby, 5-6 pm. Free to the public. Roane State student soloists perform a variety of vocal and instrumental works.

Saturday, April 9, 2016

Music Department Alumni Concert

O'Brien Theatre, 7 pm. Donations accepted at the door. What began with a celebration of RSCC's 40th anniversary has turned into an annual showcase of RSCC Music Department alumni talent and achievement! Alumni Celebration Singers, Bluegrass Band, Concert Choir, Jazz Band, and soloists perform, the 2015 Virtual Choir and Jazz Band projects debut, and Outstanding Music Department Alumni are awarded!

Saturday, April 23, 2016

Sophomore Recital

Princess Theatre, Time TBA. Free to the public. Sophomore music students present a solo program of music studied while at Roane State.

Friday, April 29, 2016

Music Department Vocal Showcase

O'Brien Theatre, 7 pm. Donations accepted at the door. RSCC Celebration Singers and Concert Choir join with Harriman and Rockwood High School choir students and director Justin Jenkins to present a concert of eclectic vocal music!

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Music Department Instrumental Showcase

O'Brien Theatre, 7 pm. Donations accepted at the door. RSCC Jazz Band, Bluegrass Band, Stage Band, and guests present a program of varied instrumental music.

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Solo Class Final Recital

Princess Theatre, 3 pm. Free to the public. RSCC music students perform a program of solo and small ensemble selections.

Friday, May 6 and 7, 2016

RSCC Music Department Scholarship Auditions

Roane County Campus, room O-128, 2-5 pm. All prospective, incoming, and current RSCC students are invited to audition! Awards apply to Music Department ensembles and vary in size and commitment. Check out www.roanestate.edu/musicdept for links to more details!

Theatre

Music department
events 2016

Details for all events are subject to change. Check the website for the most up-to-date information on dates, times and venues at www.roanestate.edu/theatre or call (865) 882-4567.



Director Clarissa Feldt leads a rehearsal for The Glass Menagerie. From left are students Elizabeth Beck, Larry Hankins, and Amanda Cole.



Roane State professor **Ted Stryk**, a highly regarded amateur astronomer, was in the operations center at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland when NASA's New Horizons spacecraft made its Pluto flyby. Stryk specializes in taking data from space missions and rendering high-quality digital images. He was a mission science collaborator for the New Horizons flyby and was quoted by NASA in the agency's communications about the project.



Engineer and educator **Gordon Williams** has been named director of Roane State's mechatronics program. Williams, a veteran teacher in Oak Ridge and Anderson County, brings over a decade of education experience to Roane State along with 20 years of experience in manufacturing. He previously taught engineering courses at Oak Ridge High School and was the faculty sponsor for the high school's elite robotics team. Based at the college's Clinton Higher Education and Workforce Training Facility, Roane State's mechatronics program trains students to become technicians who operate, maintain and repair high-tech automated manufacturing systems.

Roane State, working in partnership with Oak Ridge Associated Universities, was selected as a designated **Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) in Geospatial Sciences**. The college, which offers one-year and two-year programs in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), was the only community college chosen for the program and joins 17 CAE GS academic institutions nationwide. Organized by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the CAE GS program is a new endeavor designed to cultivate centers of academic excellence in geospatial sciences such as GIS.

Roane State College was one of 16 community and technical colleges selected in 2015 into the **Achieving the Dream National Reform Network**. The Achieving the Dream National Reform Network, including over 200 institutions, more than 100 coaches and advisors, and 15 state policy teams—working throughout 35 states and the District of Columbia—helps more than 4 million community college students have a better chance of realizing greater economic opportunity and achieving their dreams. College leaders plan to use participation in the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network to study best practices at two-year colleges, scale up scheduling initiatives such as cohort scheduling and block scheduling, and to improve enrollment, retention and engagement of adult students.

Joey Smith with the Oak Ridge Fire Department was named Roane State's paramedic student of the year. Dr. Roger Brooksbank with TeamHealth Emergency Medicine presented the award to Smith during Roane State's annual Knoxville paramedic program luncheon. Students completing the paramedic program were recognized at the event, which was sponsored by TeamHealth. "This is an excellent program to be in," Smith said. "The instructors are down-to-earth, open and friendly. They are there for you, and they support you."



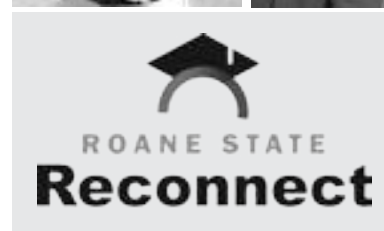
Faculty member **Jala Daniel**, assistant professor of biology, received the college's 2015 Sarah Ellen Benroth Award for Outstanding Teaching. **Darren York**, coordinator of instructional technology, was named the college's 2015 administrative staff member of the year. **Diane Cox**, office supervisor, was named the 2015 outstanding support staff member.

Roane State softball first baseman **Kelly Cooper** of Maynardville received a National Junior College Athletic Association Marucci Elite Hitter Award. The award honors players with the highest batting average in their district. Cooper, a Tennessee Community College Athletic Association first-team all-conference selection, had a .620 average to lead Region 7. She signed with Southern Wesleyan University in Central, S.C.

Roane State basketball player **Kassidi Freeman** of Madisonville earned top academic honors in the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association (TCCAA). Freeman had the highest grade-point average (3.83) of any women's basketball player in the TCCAA. She was named a TCCAA Distinguished Scholar-Athlete. Roane State sophomores **Cayla Oglesby** (Lake City) and **Danielle Slack** (Madisonville), and freshmen **Haley Cornellison** (Kingston), **Madison Hampton** (Dayton), **Amber Hudgens** (Sparta), and **Sydney Marek** (Cookeville), also received Distinguished Scholar-Athlete recognition.

Roane State received a \$27,310 **Tennessee Higher Education Commission Ready to Reconnect grant** to support adult students. The grant will fund communication tools (email newsletter, texting services and mailings) that will help adult students better understand their degree options and how to navigate the enrollment process. The grant will also pay for training that will teach faculty how to assess whether adults' work experience could count toward college credit.

Independent filmmaker and Roane State alumnus **Keith McDaniel** of Oak Ridge donated a copy of his documentary on renowned scientist Alvin Weinberg to the Roane State Library, represented by Laura Vaughn. The film was written and directed by McDaniel and tells the story of the former Oak Ridge National Laboratory director, one of the world's foremost authorities on nuclear energy.



Keep up with what's happening at Roane State.

- www.roanestate.edu/news
- www.roanestate.edu/athletics
- www.roanestate.edu/expocenter
- www.roanestate.edu/theatre

Alumni news and class notes

Outstanding Alumni Sought

Roane State Community College is seeking nominations for the 2016 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

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

To nominate someone, print the Nominee Information Form directly from: www.roanestate.edu/alumni or call (865) 882-4640 to have an application mailed to you.

Deadline for submission of nomination: May 15, 2016.



[facebook.com/RoaneStateAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/RoaneStateAlumni)



[@RSCCalumni](https://twitter.com/RSCCalumni)
twitter.com/RSCCalumni

In Memoriam

Monette Gheesling ('82) A.S., Office Information Technology, Oak Ridge

Travis Beach ('99) A.S., Business, Oakdale

Patrick Space ('11) Certificate, EMT, Knoxville

Friends of Roane State we have lost

Billy Smith, RSCC Retired Professor

Ed Smith, RSCC Retired Professor

William H. Swain, Benefactor, Scott County

Bob Thomas, RSCC Retired Professor

Doug Wilson, RSCC Foundation

Submit your class notes!

We love to hear good news from our alumni. Let us know about your new job, honors, civic involvement, etc. Email your news to alumni@roanestate.edu.

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

Name _____

(First)

(Middle Initial or Maiden)

(Last)

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

Home Phone# _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email 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, . . .) _____

Coming up at your
community college

men's basketball

Jan 13	at Cleveland State	5:30pm
Jan 16	Chattanooga State	2pm
Jan 18	Maryville College JV	6pm
Jan 22	at Southwest	5:30pm
Jan 23	at Dyersburg State	2pm
Jan 29	Columbia State	5:30pm
Jan 30	Jackson State	2pm
Feb 5	at Volunteer State	5:30pm
Feb 6	at Motlow State	2pm
Feb 10	Cleveland State	5:30pm
Feb 13	at Chattanooga State	2pm
Feb 16	at Bryan College JV	7:30pm
Feb 20	at Walters State	2pm
Mar 1-5	Region VII Tournament at Gallatin	

women's basketball

Jan 7	at Lawson State	4pm
Jan 13	at Cleveland State	7:30pm
Jan 15	Vincennes	5pm
Jan 16	Chattanooga St	4pm
Jan 22	at Southwest	7:30pm
Jan 23	at Dyersburg State	4pm
Jan 29	Columbia State	7:30pm
Jan 30	Jackson State	4pm
Feb 5	at Volunteer State	7:30pm
Feb 6	at Motlow State	4pm
Feb 10	Cleveland State	7:30pm
Feb 13	at Chattanooga State	4pm
Feb 15	at Gadsden State	5:30pm
Feb 20	at Walters State	4pm
Mar 1-5	Region VII Tournament at Gallatin	

For the most up-to-date schedule of sports, Expo Center and theatre events, visit:

www.roanestate.edu/athletics
www.roanestate.edu/expocenter
www.roanestate.edu/theatre

theatre & the arts

Jan 30	Music Department Faculty Recital	2pm
Feb 16	Mardi Gras Masquerade	6-9pm
Mar 3	Solo Class Midterm Recital	5-6pm
Apr 9	Music Department Alumni Concert	7pm
Apr 23	Sophomore Recital	TBA
Apr 29	Music Dept Vocal Showcase	7pm
Apr 30	Music Dept Instrumental Showcase	7pm
May 1	Combined Solo Class Final Recital	3pm

expo center

Jan 8 - 10	Oak Ridge Kennel Club - Agility trial	8am - 4pm
Jan 12	Open Ride	5pm - 10pm
Jan 19	Open Ride	5pm - 10pm
Jan 23 & 24	Oak Ridge Kennel Club confirmation	8am - 4pm
Jan 26	Open Ride	5pm - 10pm
Jan 30 & 31	Last Lap IEA	8am - 8pm
Feb 2	Open Ride	5pm - 10pm
Feb 5 - 7	TN Valley Kennel Club	8am - 4pm
Feb 9	Circus Pages	4:30 & 7:30pm
Feb 13	Fortune 5 Barrel Race	TBA
Feb 16	Open Ride	5pm - 10pm
Feb 19 - 21	East TN Cutting Horse Assn	8am - 7pm
Feb 23	Open Ride	5pm - 10pm
Feb 26 & 27	NCA Pro Rodeo	8pm - 11pm
Mar 4 - 6	TQHA - Celebration Circuit	8am - 11pm
Mar 12 & 13	TQHA - All Novice	8am - 11pm
Mar 18 & 19	4-H Clover Classic	8:30am
Mar 25 - 27	TN Reining Horse Assn	8am - 10pm
Apr 1 - 3	East TN Cutting Horse Assn	8am - 7pm
Apr 8 - 10	Oak Ridge Kennel Club	8am - 5pm
Apr 15 - 17	TQHA Country Music Circuit	8am - 10pm
Apr 23	TN Paint Horse Club	8am - 10pm
Apr 29, 30 & May 1	East TN Cutting Horse Assn	8am - 10pm
Apr 29, 30 & May 1	TN Australian Shepherd Show	8am - 5pm
May 7	National Barrel Horse Assn Exhibitions Race is at 2pm	10am
May 14	National Team Roping League Regionals	8am - 6pm
May 28 & 29	TQHA Hillbilly Classic	8am - 8pm
Jun 2 - 4	Region 4 - H	8am - 10pm
Jun 10 - 12	TN Reining Horse Assn	8am - 10pm
Jun 18	National Barrel Horse Assn Exhibitions Race is at 2pm	10am
Jun 16-19	TQHA - Dogwood Classic	8am - 10pm



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A long time ago on a lake not too far away, a ragtag band of Roane State faculty and staff competed in the annual Oak Ridge Dragon Boat Race. The team's Star Wars theme—May The Oars Be With You—explains why dean Kathy Rhodes (center in white) was sporting Princess Leia hair. The force was strong with the Roane State crew. Team members had a lot of fun and were all smiles as President Chris Whaley took a selfie. Artist Jeremy Pulcifer designed the T-shirts, which were a crowd favorite.



Roane State Community College is a TBR and AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs and activities sponsored by Roane State. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Director of Human Resources/Affirmative Action, humanresources@roanestate.edu, 276 Patton Lane, Harriman, TN 37748, (865) 882-4679. The Roane State policy on nondiscrimination can be found at www.roanestate.edu/nondiscrimination. RSCC Publication #15-051. Graphic Design by Sandi Roberts. 21,000 copies printed at United Graphics, Mattoon, IL.