



# THE ORICL ORACLE

## November 2020

A Biennial Newsletter of the Oak Ridge  
Institute for Continued Learning

### ORICL-Funded Scholarship Winners Named by Roane State

The Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning (ORICL) announces the 2019 and 2020 winners of two different scholarships that the organization funds for students attending Roane State Community College.

The John Million Scholarship, in memory of a longtime ORICL member, is supported by a \$5,000 annual donation from ORICL to the Roane State Foundation.

The 2019 winners of the John Million Scholarship were Jessica Osborn, majoring in health sciences; Darlena Ivey, majoring in nursing; Taylor Hatfield, majoring in wildlife biology; Sara Nesbitt, majoring in health sciences; and Amy Cox, majoring in dental hygiene.

Cox was one of three students nationwide invited to the College Promise Campaign in Washington, D.C., last October, and she described how Tennessee's Reconnect program which provides tuition-free scholarships to older students made it possible for her to enroll in the dental hygiene program.

The 2020 winners of the John Million Scholarship are Jessica Johnson, majoring in nursing; Tabitha Giles, majoring in radiological technology; and Lucita Piotrowicz, majoring in massage therapy; as well as Cox and Ivey whose scholarships were renewed. Giles will be a first generation college graduate who plans to complete a four-year degree in radiation therapy. Johnson said the money gives her "another sign that she is making the right choices."

The second scholarship is awarded yearly and is funded from an endowment provided by ORICL. This year's winner is Maria Campos Nuci who is in her first



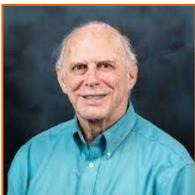
From left: Joy Goldberg, Foundation board member; Priscilla McKenney, ORICL board president; Roane State student Amy Cox, one of the scholarship winners; Pam Rudnitzki, scholarship specialist for the Roane State Foundation; and David Bradshaw, chairman of the Roane State Foundation. Photo by Bob Fowler

year as a dental hygiene student. She says she hopes to someday be able to "help another student feel the same sense of encouragement and support you have given me."

The Roane State Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) corporation governed by an independent board of directors and established to provide financial support for Roane State students and programs. The Foundation seeks to enhance community awareness of the college, to secure private contributions and bequests, and to manage monies or properties given to the Foundation.

Roane State and ORICL's partnership began when ORICL was established in 1997. Roane State provides office and classroom space to ORICL at no charge.

### Thank You, **Murray Martin**, for Your 20-Year Commitment to ORICL



Murray Martin has retired as Chair of the ORICL Curriculum Committee following the finalization of the Winter/Spring 2021 curriculum. His involvement with ORICL began around 2000 and he has served as chair since 2007. In that role, he oversaw the identification of hundreds of courses and the recruitment of countless volunteer instructors. Wrangling committee members divided into 14 disciplines, to both develop curriculum and meet the deadlines three times a year, is not an easy task. Thank you, Murray, for your 20-year commitment to ORICL.

## Message from Incoming Board President Chuck Darling

During the pandemic, we have successfully learned to use Zoom and cope with limited Roane State meeting opportunities. In addition, we are exploring ways of engaging more people in Zoom education. Our hope is to rebuild our program of courses and gradually expand in-person education when it is safe.

Many of you may not be aware that ORICL has subsidized membership fees for over a decade. We have used gains from a small, well-managed endowment fund and your contributions for this purpose. The membership decline related to the pandemic has made this strategy risky.

We will implement a fee increase next fall to help us better cover our fixed expenses (currently around \$60,000/year). As always, ORICL will still be an incredible value.

Your Board of Directors and administrative staff would appreciate any suggestions that you have to improve our organization and continue to meet your needs. Please communicate by phone (865-481-8222) or email ([ORICL@roanestate.edu](mailto:ORICL@roanestate.edu)). ORICL needs your engagement and your membership support

I wish you all continued good health.

*Chuck Darling*

## Five Members Join the ORICL Board of Directors



### **Pat Bryan**

Pat was born & raised in upstate New York (Rensselaerville). He has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from University of Buffalo, and an MS in Engineering Management from UT. He moved to Oak Ridge in 1989 and has enjoyed taking ORICL classes since 2007 (following his *first* retirement). He lives in West Knoxville, with his wife, Mary Ann Reeves (who has also been active in ORICL for many years).



### **Jim Palmer**

In retirement, Jim is focused on organizations that are important to the future of Oak Ridge. He is currently Chair, Roane County Industrial Development Board; Chief Manager, Roane County ETC Project, LLC; Board Member, Oak Ridge Housing Authority; Vice Chair, Oak Ridge Community Development Corporation; and Co-founder and Organizer of “Career Pathways for ORHS Students.” He believes ORICL is very important to the future of Oak Ridge and the surrounding area.



### **Ann Rigell**

Ann received a B.A. in English from Maryville College and an M.S. in Communications from UT. She and husband Craig lived in Oak Ridge for 27 years before moving to Ten Mile. She worked for ORAU for 31+ years in Human Resources and has been retired for almost eight years. She has been a Lion for more than 20 years, and is on the Maryville College Board of Directors. She loves ORICL, especially Mark Banker’s class on Appalachia, and Ray Smith’s Stories of the Secret City.



### **Becky Rushton**

Born in Indiana, Becky has lived in Oak Ridge since 1974. Her degrees include an undergraduate in Spanish and a Masters in library science. Ever enthusiastic about ORICL and its offerings, she served on the board from 2008 to 2014; recently as chairperson of the Trip Committee; and now in the challenging role as Curriculum Committee Chairperson. She looks forward to hearing members’ ideas about a curriculum which will continue to further ORICL’s mission of lifelong learning.



### **Jackie Rylander**

Jackie Rylander graduated from Augustana College in Illinois with a major in performance piano and a teaching minor in art. She taught music in the public school system, taught piano, and built an interior design business. She retired to Ten Mile in 2006 and became a realtor, selling lakefront homes. She moved to Oak Ridge after a second retirement and was introduced to ORICL by a neighbor. She believes ORICL is a great way to meet knowledgeable seniors and remain active.

## Member Donations Provide ORICL with Much Needed Operating Funds

Thanks to these members who contributed to ORICL above the required membership fee. Donations were recorded so far this calendar year.

### Sustaining Members (\$25 or less over the membership fee)

Jean Bangham	James E. Giles	Bob Smallridge
Fred Barry	Linda Holmes	Katherine Smith
Sandra Barry	Denise Lay	Nadine Smith
Charles Crowe	Joe McGrory	Susie Stooksbury
Gayla Cutler	Thelma McGrory	Irene Sullivan
Alfred Denny	LaVem Meyers	Barbara Taylor
Margaret Dory	Don Nalls	Baxter Thomason
Heidi Dudich	Lucille Niemann	Susan Thomason
Virginia Eyman	Kathryn Olsen	Miriam Wankerl
Barbara Ferrell	Judy Rosenberg	Janice Watkins
Jane Gibson	Margie Skipper	Richard Wright

In addition, there were three anonymous donors in this category.

### Sponsoring Members (\$50 or more over the membership fee)

Reeva Abraham	Melvyn Halbert	Dan Robbins
Syd Ball	Nancy Hardin	Dick Roop
Juanita Barnes	Camden Hubbard	Mimi Rosenthal
Connie Battle	Jayne Hubbard	Murray Rosenthal
Thomas Bookhart	Carolyn Krause	Jim Rushton
Elaine Culbert	Herb Krause	Maggie Slankas
Chuck Darling	Barbara Landau	Lee Smalley
Mary Daugherty	Cathy Marciante	Duane Starr
Blanche Dresner	Murray Martin	Nancy Starr
Larry Dresner	David Mason	Thomas Tague
Louise Dunlap	Priscilla McKenny	James Thompson
Diane Edwards	Trygve Myhre	Mary Uziel
Ruth Gat	Hella Peterson	Mildred Wallace
Uri Gat	Pete Peterson	Ann Walsh
Norwood Gove	Willa Reister	George Walsh
Ruth Gove	Nancy Richards	

In addition, there were five anonymous donors in this category.

## THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!

### To all instructors and volunteers for the summer and fall 2020 terms:

Thank you for your commitment to ORICL, for your flexibility in dealing with new ways of delivering course material, and for braving all the on-campus COVID-related restrictions. You are indispensable! ORICL couldn't exist without you.

### And to all ORICL members:

Thanks for enrolling. You know what they say: Neither sleet, nor snow, nor COVID can keep ORICL members away!

### ORICL Board Members

Chuck Darling, President

Trygve Myhre, Treasurer

Becky Rushton, Curriculum Chair

Syd Ball

Pat Bryan

Linda Holmes

Carolyn Krause

Jim Palmer

Ann Rigell

Jim Rushton

Jackie Rylander

Phil Sklad

Miriam Wankerl

### Staff

Susan Perry, Office Administrator and Secretary to the Board

Melanie Neal, Assistant Office Administrator

### ORICL Office

Room F-111  
Roane State Community College  
701 Briarcliff Avenue  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

**Hours:** M-F, 9 am-Noon

**Note:** Friday office hours are suspended during the pandemic.

**Phone:** (865) 481-8222

### Website:

<https://roanestate.edu/ORICL>

ORICL is a 501 (c)3 not-for-profit organization in partnership with Roane State Community College.

## Pandemic-Caused Decline in ORICL Membership Concerns Board

In addition to monitoring income and expenses, the ORICL Board of Directors continually tracks membership numbers to ensure that ORICL remains a viable and healthy organization. Since most of ORICL's income is generated by membership fees while costs for salaries and printing remain fixed, the number of members has always been a meaningful indicator of ORICL's general health.

Most members join in the fall so they can take advantage of a full year of classes. However, this fall, the Board noticed a significant decline in enrollment – a 40 percent drop! To investigate why this happened, the Board undertook a phone survey of people who had been members in the fall of 2019 and winter/spring of 2020 but who did not renew their membership in fall 2020.

The survey involved calling more than 200 people. Everyone contacted appreciated the personal outreach from ORICL and reiterated that they love ORICL, an incredibly reassuring and motivating message. As to reasons for not enrolling, the following summarizes the general findings of the survey.

As expected, the Covid-19 pandemic and concern about individuals' health were the main causes of the decline in enrollment. Uncertainty about Zoom was the second most prominent reason voiced for not enrolling in the fall. One unexpected finding is that the printed catalog has a special

appeal to many of ORICL's potential registrants. As a result, the Winter/Spring catalog will be mailed to all members and potential members in November, in addition to posting it online. (The fall catalog was only available online.) Several members are learning to use Zoom and are now more comfortable with it, although a common sentiment was that people missed the social interactions of classes held on campus. Some want to wait to enroll until in-person classes resume. A number of respondents mentioned that they did not see class subject matter that interested them in the Fall.

*Submitted by Jim Rushton*

### Thank You, Retiring Board Members

Joe McGrory, 2014-2020  
Priscilla McKenny, 2014-2020, including,  
2017-2020 tenure as president  
Lee Smalley, 2014-2020

## Treasurer's Report

ORICL is a 501(c)(3) no-profit, tax exempt organization, with a fiscal year beginning August 1 and ending July 31. Income is received from membership dues, investments, and donations. Employee salaries, catalog printing costs, registration costs, insurance, instructor/volunteer lunches (these were not held in 2020 due to the pandemic), office supplies, telephone, and equipment leasing and depreciation account for major expenses. Membership dues account for about 74% of income, while employee salaries account for about 70% of expenses. The total investment market value on September 30 was \$126,205. The September total assets of \$213,786 increased by \$16,594 compared to the end of the last fiscal year, July. The J. Million bequest decreased \$169 to \$126,521, due to depreciations for computer and new chairs purchased in 2019. The J. Million Speaker fund was unchanged at \$5,449 since the twice yearly lectures sponsored by ORICL were not held in 2020. The Board Designated Contingency fund was unchanged at \$20,928. Donations so far this calendar year were \$9,015. The \$3,930 donations received during August and September were \$1,780 (82%) greater than for the same period last year. The approximate 40% decline in membership has resulted in a 36% decline in membership dues, so far. Total expenses of \$10,336 were within 1% of what was budgeted, and 30% below last year expenses, mainly due to not printing and mailing a fall catalog.

*Trygve Myhre, Treasurer*

### ORICL CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER THROUGH JANUARY

Dec 4	Fall Classes End
Dec 8	Winter/Spring Online Registration Opens
Dec 15-Jan 1	Holidays – Roane State Closed
Jan 4	Office Opens
Jan 13	1 <sup>st</sup> Curriculum Committee Mtg. for Summer
Jan 18	Holiday – Roane State Closed
Jan 25	Winter/Spring Schedules Mailed

### ZOOM Out of Pandemic Fatigue and into the Magic of ORICL

Tired of staying cooped up at home? Nervous about being inside with many others during the pandemic? Let Zoom, the online meeting platform, whisk you away to a world of literature, science, music, religion, and history where you can soak up interesting content and still interact with others. It's a miracle cure for boredom. All you need is a computer with internet access. ORICL's admin staff sends you a link for each class meeting and that's it. It's safe and easy!

