

Roane State Today

The Roane State Community College
Alumni Magazine 2019



Striding Toward
Success

Tomorrow's leaders today

A Fight Against
Hunger

**Campuses work to
address food insecurity**

from the President

I am continually thankful for the generosity and spirit of Roane State faculty and staff.

Every day, they do their work with an understanding that it connects to a broader and profound purpose. Their day-to-day role might be to teach a math concept, process a financial aid form, advise a student on which class to take, paint a wall, replace a light bulb, approve a purchase order, correct a paper, or conduct an experiment.

Beneath the surface of those daily tasks, though, is a heart for students and their well-being that amazes and humbles me. In this issue, you'll learn more about the dreadful plight of food insecurity that affects community college students at Roane State and across the country.

The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice conducted a study of 86,000 students from 123 U.S. educational institutions. The center's research noted that 41% of university and 48% of two-year college students reported food insecurity.



We know many of our students simply do not have enough to eat. Our faculty and staff see it, and over the years, many have offered assistance to students.

But we wanted to do more. We wanted to create systems to not just help a student on occasion, but to provide for student needs every day because we know that a student without enough to eat will struggle to graduate.

I do not have all the answers. The problem is overwhelming. But when given the challenge, our faculty and staff stepped forward. We started small, but we now have food insecurity initiatives across the college.

We can and must do more, and we'll need your help to support our efforts. As we reflect on how far we've come, though, I greatly appreciate the empathy of our Roane State family and their drive to help students overcome any obstacles they may face.

**The Roane State
Community College
Alumni Magazine 2019**

Volume XVII

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We want to hear from you. Tell us what you think about the alumni magazine and what you would 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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Freshman student Chloe Hall enjoying Michael Golebiewski's lecture.

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Mike Baker, Chris Hall, Pam Hild-Parisian named outstanding alumni



Roane County Campus

Dave Harnish has been named Roane State's new head women's basketball coach. Harnish, was the coach of the Western Nebraska Community College's women's team for 29 years and built a remarkable career record of 764 wins and 155 losses. He succeeds longtime Lady Raiders coach Monica Boles, who stepped down at the end of the 2018-19 season to return to teaching full-time. He is joined by assistant coach Angel Allen.

Campbell County Campus

Eighth-graders had a lot of fun imaging themselves in college thanks to the "Capture the Dream" project at the Campbell County campus. Through a President's Imagination Mini-Grant, campus director Tracy Powers purchased career props that represented academic programs at Roane State. Students had fun posing for photos with the props. "The project was a fun way to get eighth-graders thinking about college early and to imagine exciting possibilities for their future," Powers said.

Cumberland County Campus

The campus has launched the Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL), a program that seeks to provide an opportunity for all Cumberland County residents and visitors to experience a supportive, community-based environment which enriches the lives of adults, regardless of age, background, or educational level, through continued learning. Fall classes, taught by volunteers, included topics such as Conversational Spanish, History of the Dulcimer, the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln, Sensory Creative Writing, and much more.

Fentress County Campus

Campus director Tinisha Key and colleagues Susan Williams and Michelle Adkisson launched the "Card the Yard" initiative. The purpose of the "Card the Yard" project was to allow local businesses, citizens, schools, etc. to proudly show their support for Roane State by publicly displaying a yard sign outside their location. The project originated in Fentress County and spread to all Roane State locations.

Knox County Campus

Jewelry Television (JTV) donated \$5,000 to support the Roane State Foundation's Pay-It-Forward awards program. The Pay-It-Forward awards provide emergency aid to students to help them stay in school, including: assistance with tuition or books for students near completion of their degrees; assistance for licensure/certification exam fees; and assistance to adult students who do not qualify for any state-funded tuition assistance programs, or whose aid has otherwise been exhausted. JTV is located next door to Roane State's Knox County Center for Health Sciences, and leaders from both organizations consistently collaborate on ways to help Roane State students succeed.

Loudon County Campus

Maria Paulina Juarez of Lenoir City was awarded Roane State's highest student honor, the 2019 President's Award. Her journey started at the college's Loudon County campus. She noted that she spoke limited English, but campus director Susan Williams was patient and supported her. Juarez graduated in May 2019 from the college's radiologic technology program. "Roane State is for everyone," she said in her graduation speech. "It does not matter who you are, your age, or your culture. This college has shown me that everyone is welcome."

Morgan County Campus

Roane State student and Morgan County Commissioner Eli Anderson was named president of the Student Government Association. Anderson, a Petros resident, started at Roane State's Morgan County campus. At age 18, he won a three-person race for a seat on the Morgan County Commission. After he graduates from Roane State, he plans to transfer to Tennessee Tech or the University of Tennessee and pursue a career in government or another type of public service.

Oak Ridge Campus

Students in the Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Harriman built a pipe rack to help train students taking Roane State's chemical engineering technology courses at the Oak Ridge campus. Established with the assistance of UCOR, CNS, Tate & Lyle and additional partners, Roane State's chemical engineering technology program trains students to work as chemical operators. "Historically, TCAT-Harriman and Roane State have co-existed and thrived near each other," said TCAT-Harriman President Danice E. Turpin. "This positive co-existence benefits both the graduates of our higher education facilities and the employers in our area."

W. H. Swain Scott County Center

A free STEM camp for middle school girls was held at the W.H. Swain Scott County Center. The camp was part of the Verizon Innovative Learning program. The 38 participants received a computer tablet and experienced an exciting three weeks of learning opportunities. The camp included instruction in coding, 3-D printing, virtual reality and visits to UT, Knoxville Botanical Gardens, Takahata, and the Big South Fork Airpark. One session included a video conference with an aerospace engineer from NASA. Roane State's Cumberland campus first hosted the camp, and then it expanded to Scott County.



A Fight Against Hunger

Too many students have too little to eat, but Roane State initiatives are making a difference

By Bob Fowler and Owen Driskill
Roane State staff writers

According to a study by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, more than 40% of community college students are food insecure. The data aligns with the experiences of Roane State faculty and staff, who for years have worked with students who lack enough to eat.



Roane State President Dr. Chris Whaley challenged the college to systematically address the issue, and faculty, staff, and community partners have answered the call. The development of food insecurity initiatives is another example of Roane State's commitment to support students inside and outside the classroom

Scott County

Campus director Sharon Wilson and the staff at the Scott County campus established the first formal effort to address food insecurity. They designated a small area in the student lounge for grab-and-go snacks and solicited donations. Students took 175 items in the first semester alone.

"We knew we were on the right track to meet a critical student need," Wilson said.

The Scott County initiative established that a grab-and-go snack model could work, especially for smaller campuses with space limitations. The next step was to offer a more robust service to meet longer-term student needs.

Cumberland County

Campus director Holly Hanson and the campus staff opened the college's first full-service food pantry in September 2018. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) supported the purchase of shelving and refrigeration equipment.



"We know that college students in particular can experience high levels of food insecurity, and we also know that too much of our food is going to waste," said Kendra Abkowitz, assistant commissioner for TDEC's Office of Policy and Sustainable Practices.

Through partner agencies, food is purchased from Second Harvest Food Bank. The campus is also an approved distribution center for USDA surplus food. Frozen meats and vegetables, along with canned meats and fruits and vegetables, are available. Cereals, soups, peanut butter, diapers and school supplies are also stocked.

continued...

Fight Against Hunger (continued)

“The partnerships and teamwork at the campus have made the food pantry project possible,” Hanson said. “We know that food insecurity limits student academic achievement, and we want to do all we can to ensure students have enough food so they can focus on classes and ultimately earn their degrees.”

Oak Ridge

Designed as a blend of grab-and-go snacks and goods from Second Harvest, the Oak Ridge food pantry project launched in March 2019. Campus staff have partnered with First Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge to manage purchase of Second Harvest food. Faculty, staff, and community members donate the grab-and-go snacks.

The pantry has the brand name BrainFood, which frames the service in terms of student academics. Art professor Bryan Wilkerson developed the BrainFood artwork, and a space in the campus café was re-named BrainFood. The intent of the branding was to remove any stigma associated with use of the pantry. In eight weeks, approximately 2,500 snacks were distributed.



Roane County Campus

An August 2019 ribbon-cutting formally opened the Raider Pantry at the main campus in Harriman.

“At least 40 percent of students in higher education suffer from some form of food insecurity,” Dr. Whaley said. “That’s appalling.”

The Raider Pantry is located in a small space just inside the Roane State gymnasium. Everything from granola bars to noodles, eggs, cheese crackers and an assortment of meats is available. The pantry will also stock a limited amount of toiletry items and school supplies. Fresh vegetables grown in a greenhouse may also be available.

The Raider Pantry is the result of partnerships between the college, the Roane State Foundation, the Kroger Co. Foundation, the Mid-East Community Action Agency and Second Harvest Food Bank. A \$1,000 gift from the Kroger Co. Foundation was used to stock the pantry.

“We know that college students are often living on tight budgets,” said Melissa Eads,

Corporate Affairs Manager for the Kroger Nashville division. “We know that meals matter, and through our ‘Zero Hunger Zero Waste’ plan we are committed to ending hunger in our communities and eliminating waste in our company. Supporting Roane State and this campus food pantry initiative is one way we can do that.”

Additional efforts

Initiatives to address food insecurity have spread to all Roane State locations.

- Knox County Center for Health Sciences: The food pantry is in the student lounge with grab-and-go items and is open when the campus is open. It’s maintained and stocked with items donated by the campus staff and faculty.
- Campbell County Campus: Snacks are available for in the student lounge. Items are donated by local churches.
- Due to space limitations, Fentress, Loudon and Morgan campuses do not have dedicated areas for snacks but provide occasional food items to students as needed.

How to help

The Roane State Foundation accepts financial contributions for the college pantries. For information, call (865) 882-4507.



Above: Mid-East Director Jerry Johnson and Student Services Director Brenda Rector cut the ribbon officially opening the Raider Pantry.; Vice President of Institutional Research Karen Brunner, gives a tour of the Raider Pantry.

FOOD INSECURITY FACTS:

- Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or the ability to acquire such foods in a socially acceptable manner. The most extreme form is often accompanied with physiological sensations of hunger.
- 42% of community college students indicated that they were at the lowest or very lowest levels of food security.
- 9% of community college students and 6% of university students said they had gone at least one whole day during the last month without eating because they lacked money.
- Almost one-third of community college students and one-quarter of university students said that because of a lack of money they skipped meals or cut the size of their meals in the last month.
- Just 41% of community college students and 48% of university students were completely secure, never experiencing food or housing insecurity or homelessness during the past year.

Source: Still Hungry and Homeless in College, Wisconsin HOPE Lab, April 2018

Roane State's Technology Building renamed for Senator Ken Yager

One of the first buildings constructed on the Roane County campus has been renamed in honor of a lifelong public servant who is now a state senator.

The Tennessee Board of Regents has approved the community college's request to rename the 41-year-old Technology Building the Ken Yager Building.

"Senator Yager has been an advocate for Roane State students for many years, as Roane County Executive, as a Roane State faculty member and dean, and now as a member of the Tennessee General Assembly," Roane State President Dr. Chris Whaley said.

"He has diligently worked with local and state leaders to ensure that the needs for our students are well-known and supported," Dr. Whaley wrote in a letter to TBR Chancellor Flora Tydings.

"I am truly honored that President Whaley and the Board of Regents have named the Technology Building for me," Sen. Yager said. "Roane State Community College provides life-changing opportunities for our citizens throughout the region. I am proud to have been associated with the college and happy to be in a position to help."

Ground was broken in early 1977 for the three-story Technology Building, which opened in December 1978. A special naming committee of Roane State educators and administrators recently voted to request that the building be renamed in Yager's honor, and the Tennessee Board of Regents approved the renaming during its June meeting.

"Senator Ken Yager is a passionate advocate for higher education in his home community, Roane County, and across his senatorial district," Chancellor Tydings said.

Sen. Yager has worn many hats during his career: educator, Roane County Attorney, six-term Roane County Executive, and now in his third, four-year term as state senator of the 12th Senatorial District. That district encompasses some of the most rural counties in Tennessee: Campbell, Fentress, Morgan, Rhea, Roane, Pickett and Scott. Five of those counties are in Roane State's service area.

Yager's longtime association with Roane State includes service as an adjunct instructor, assistant professor, Dean of Business and Technology, and program director of paralegal studies.

As a state lawmaker, Yager advocated for more than \$16 million in state funding, including recent improvements, for Roane State's Henry/Stafford East Tennessee Agricultural Exposition Center.

He also played a key role in securing a science lab wing for Roane State's Campbell County Higher Education Center and sponsored the legislation to create the Middle College scholarship program, which has funded scholarships for more than 223 students in his service area.

He also founded and sustains the Malinda Raby Yager Scholarship, awarded annually to a Roane County graduate of Oliver Springs High School.

Yager's "passion for student access to higher education is matched only by his tireless work to increase student graduation rates," Whaley said.

Bob Fowler
Staff Writer



Roane State inducts first class into new Athletics Hall of Fame

Bob Fowler
Staff Writer

Friendships were renewed, memories rekindled and athletes and their coaches honored during the Inaugural Roane State Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in May.

The event was highlighted by the unveiling of the new Hall of Fame plaque in the mezzanine of the Roane State gymnasium.

Inducted into the Hall of Fame, which will grow annually with new inductees, were Andy Landers, who coached the Roane State women's basketball team from 1975 through 1979 and started his coaching duties when he was 22 years old; Jim Davis, coach of the Raiderettes from 1979-1985; and members of Davis's 1984 national championship team.

"It's one of the highlights of our lives," team member Angela Fletcher said, "and we worked hard for it."

The team compiled at 34-3 record, and fans throughout the region greeted their triumphant return from the championship game.



"I can't believe it's been 35 years," said another team member, Joni Skiles Keith, "But we picked our friendships back up right where we left off."

Another teammate, Teresa Duncan, is now Roane State Community College's vice president for workforce and community development. She said the hall of fame has been in the works for several years.

"Is this not an incredible sight?" Roane State President Dr. Chris Whaley asked the crowd of some 150 people present for the ceremony. He called audience members "some of our most outstanding alumni that ever walked these hallways."

"This has been a long time coming," Roane State Athletic Director Randy Nesbit acknowledged of the Hall of Fame. He said athletic events are often "the window that people view a college from, and we want to enlarge that window for the future."

Jim Davis was the women's basketball coach from 1975-1985 and posted a 127-35 record. His 1984 team won the Roane State's only national title in a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) sport.

Davis went on to coach at major colleges and the Women's National Basketball Association. He spent much of his career at Clemson University, where his teams won 355 games, earned two ACC championships and made 14 NCAA Tournament appearances.

But Davis told the Roane State crowd that "the best basketball coaches are junior college coaches because we had to do it all."

Nine of the 12 members of the national champion Raiderettes were present for the ceremony (opposite): **Kim Franklin, Cathy Johnson, Connye Crockett, Angela Fletcher, Michelle Holloway, Sandy Martin, Sue Roberts, Teresa (Sherrill) Duncan, and Joni Skiles Keith, along with manager Wendy Johnson. Other team members were Marlisa Parkes, Kathi LaMotte and Macy Hitson, and Tracy Whittenbarger was the other manager.**



Andy Landers said his years as the coach of the Raiderettes, now called the Lady Raiders, "may well have been the best four years of my life." He said as a novice coach, "I didn't know what I was doing, but I was going to fake it until I make it." He said he started his first season at Roane State with only seven players.

During his Roane State tenure, the Maryville native and Tennessee Tech graduate posted an 82-21 record and had three top 10 national finishes in four years.

Landers left Roane State to become the University of Georgia's first full-time women's basketball coach and retired in 2015 after 36 years at Georgia. He averaged 24 wins per season, among the best all-time in the sport, and had 944 career wins.



Above: Former Roane State players unite for Coach Andy Landers (left) and Jim Davis (r) induction.

Tennessee Board of Regents honors ORNL, ORAU for support of higher education



Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Oak Ridge Associated Universities were honored with Tennessee Board of Regents awards for their support of Roane State and Pellissippi State community colleges.

The Regents Award for Excellence in Philanthropy, which both ORNL and ORAU received, recognizes those organizations and individuals who have been “very generous” to one or more TBR institutions. TBR is the largest system of higher education in the state, governing 40 community and technical colleges – including Pellissippi State and Roane State.

“ORNL and ORAU understand the investments they are making in the futures of our students with the partnerships they support for Roane State and Pellissippi State community colleges,” said Regent Danni Varlan, who presented ORNL and ORAU with their Regents Awards at an East Tennessee Economic Council meeting in Oak Ridge. “We are grateful for their leadership and commitment to education and workforce training.”

Roane State nominated ORNL for the lab’s nearly two decades of support of many of the college’s educational initiatives, ranging from an innovative program for high school students to scholarships and grants to a major building project. The Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Harriman and Pellissippi State supported the nomination.

“We partner with Roane State and Pellissippi State because they effectively prepare students to succeed in diverse fields, including some that are still rapidly evolving,” said Dr. Thomas Zacharia, director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. “Oak Ridge National Laboratory exists to tackle some of the most compelling challenges facing our nation in energy, science, technology, and national security, and we are fortunate to have both of these excellent colleges right in our backyard.”

UT-Battelle manages ORNL and since 2015 has supported Roane State’s unique Middle College with \$119,000 in scholarships for high school students so they can graduate from both their high school and the college at the same time.



UT-Battelle in 2011 provided an initial \$10,000 to buy supplies for the new “Lab-in-a-Box” program where middle school educators are given materials to use in teaching their students about biology, geology, chemistry and other sciences. Roane State faculty train the teachers. The program is still in place and provides assistance to schools in Roane State’s service area.

In 2008, UT-Battelle contributed \$100,000 to help in the construction of the three-story Goff Health Sciences & Technology Building on Roane State’s Oak Ridge campus.

ORNL, through UT-Battelle, also has supported numerous other educational programs at Roane State through gifts of scientific equipment; support for the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at Roane State; backing for federal grants, including more than \$1 million for the development of the college’s Mechatronics program; support for career-readiness training for wounded veterans; and access to lab facilities and volunteer staff support.

“Oak Ridge National Laboratory’s tremendous engagement with both Roane State and Pellissippi State benefits students and contributes greatly to workforce development in the region,” said Roane State President Chris Whaley. “ORNL is a wonderful partner, and we are deeply thankful for their support of the region’s community colleges.”

Pellissippi State nominated ORAU for its longtime support of Pellissippi State and Roane State, both financially—\$340,000 and counting—and through countless hours of volunteer time and expertise assistance. Roane State provided a letter in support of the nomination.

“Community colleges are so important in terms of advancing science and education in the workforce and in bringing in the talented workforce that East Tennessee is going to need in the next 10 to 15 years,” said ORAU President Andy Page. “ORAU is privileged to be a member of this community, and we have to be able to pay that back by investing in Pellissippi State, Roane State and their many students.”

Through the support of ORAU, Pellissippi State offers an annual middle school mathematics contest. During the past 18 years, more than 10,000 students from 32 East Tennessee schools have participated in the event, which is free for them to enter.

ORAU also partnered with Pellissippi State to offer an Advanced Manufacturing Internship, a six-week program designed to prepare students to enter this high-tech workforce, and provided scholarship support to Pellissippi State students, who worked as math tutors during their time at the college.

Most recently ORAU pledged \$100,000 to support Pellissippi State’s Bill Haslam Center for Math and Science on its Hardin Valley Campus.

“ORAU’s continued commitment to Pellissippi State and Roane State has strengthened both institutions and made a positive impact on students and the community,” wrote Pellissippi State President L. Anthony Wise Jr., in nominating ORAU for the award.

Below: Andy Page, president of Oak Ridge Associated Universities, accepts the Regents Award for Excellence in Philanthropy. From left are Roane State President Chris Whaley, Page, Regent Danni Varlan and Pellissippi State President L. Anthony Wise Jr.; Dr. Thomas Zacharia, director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, accepts the Regents Award for Excellence in Philanthropy. From left are Pellissippi State President L. Anthony Wise Jr., Zacharia, Regent Danni Varlan and Roane State President Chris Whaley. Opposite: Lab in a box workshops with Arthur Lee, Sylvia Pastor



Banking executive **Mike Baker**, Remote Area Medical chief operations officers **Chris Hall**, and AT&T executive **Pam Hild-Parisian** have been named Roane State Outstanding Alumni.

Baker graduated from Harriman High School in 1975 and attended Roane State during the college's early years. He received his A.S. degree in Business Administration and transferred to the University of Tennessee where he graduated in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in finance.

Baker spent four years with Bank of America (Bank South) in Atlanta, but his Tennessee roots called him home in 1985 where he worked for the former First American Bank in Knoxville for almost 20 years. During his tenure at First American Bank, Baker advanced to a Senior Vice President of Corporate Banking.

In 2003, Baker joined BB&T as an Area Executive over Blount and Loudon counties. He was promoted to Market President VI for Southeast Tennessee. While in the Cleveland/Chattanooga area, Baker developed a \$300 million commercial loan portfolio along with a \$45 million individual loan portfolio. Four years later, Baker was called back to East Tennessee with SunTrust Bank before joining CBBC of Blount County in the summer of 2015.

Working closely with senior management, Baker became President in January 2017 and joined the board of directors at the same time.

Baker is involved in the Roane State Foundation, Blount County Chamber Foundation, City of Alcoa Industrial Board, Blount Memorial Hospital Foundation Board, Knoxville Museum of Art Board, Maryville City Schools Foundation Board, Boys and Girls Club and many additional civic and community organizations.

Baker and wife Cindy live in Knoxville, and have two children: Will and Elizabeth.



Mike Baker

Timothy (Chris) Hall received his associate degree in opticianry (now called vision care technology) in 2005, graduating magna cum laude and credentialed as a licensed dispensing optician.

He first volunteered at Remote Area Medical (RAM) events when he was just 13. Hall continued to volunteer until he joined RAM's professional staff in 2013, taking a leadership role in the United States' largest mobile clinic operation.

Hall has seen many lives changed by RAM. Since 1985, more than 740,000 underprivileged men, women and children have received much-needed, free dental, vision and medical care in East Tennessee and in other remote and underserved locations around the world.

After graduating from Roane State, Hall worked in management for Lens Crafters. Hall continued to volunteer with RAM until 2013 when he became their Chief Operations Officer (COO). His accomplishments include extension of RAM's services to states such as Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, New York, Florida and Texas; addition of a program to deliver eyewear to the underserved populations in Haiti; development of RAM's international and disaster response capabilities; and introduction of new technology to the clinic model, including the United States' first FAA-approved drone delivery of medication at a clinic in Wise, Va.

Hall has also remained connected to Roane State. He has served on the Vision Care Technology program's advisory board, encouraged students to volunteer with RAM, assisted with student job placement, and provided hands-on training for Roane State students.

Hall resides in Knoxville with wife Karie and their two children: daughter Paisleigh and son Rhett.



Chris Hall

“Our new member bring diverse backgrounds and talents to the organization.”

Executive Director
Scott Niermann



Roane State Foundation names seven new members to its board of directors.

“We are very grateful to have them aboard and supporting our efforts across the region,” Scott Niermann said.

New board members are Mike Belbeck, executive vice president of operations for Covenant Health; Vickie K. Duncan, co-owner of the Duncan Family Automotive Group; Philip Hall, pharmacist and owner of Hall Family Pharmacy in Jamestown; the Rev. Ron Jordan, retired executive minister of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City; Pepe Perron, director of Camp Nakanawa in Cumberland County; Pat Row, retired from SAIC; and Ted Wampler Jr., president and CEO of Wampler’s Farm Sausage Co.

Established in 1979, the Roane State Foundation supports the college with capital projects, equipment, educational programs and scholarships. Board members are elected by a nominating committee and approved by the full board.



Mike Belbeck

Belbeck is the former president and chief administrative officer of Methodist Medical Center. He has a long history of working with nonprofit health organizations.

Belbeck has served on several boards, including Anderson County United Way and Oak Ridge Public Schools Foundation and is a past chairman of the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife, Janice, live in Oak Ridge with their three children.



Vickie K. Duncan

Duncan is a former Roane State Foundation employee and daughter-in-law of Emeritus board member Judy Duncan and her husband, Jerry. The company she co-owns with husband Marty, Duncan Family Automotive Group, is based in Harriman.

“I have personally seen students have hope after losing jobs and then being offered the opportunity to go back to school to gain other job skills,” Vickie Duncan said. “Roane State is a tremendous asset in all of our service area.”



Philip Hall

Hall is a pharmacist and owner of Hall Family Pharmacy in Jamestown. He said he plans “to work to establish a permanent campus in Fentress County.” The Fentress County Higher Education Center is now located on the campus of York Institute in Jamestown.

Hall is also pastor of Pine Haven Baptist Church and an assistant coach of the York Institute baseball team. He and his wife, Jenny, own several businesses in Fentress County, and she teaches English at York Institute. They have three children.



The Rev. Ron Jordan

The Rev. Jordan has been a pastor for 23 years in West Virginia, Texas and Tennessee. Now retired, he was most recently executive minister of First Baptist Church in Lenoir City for 17 years.

He’s served on the Lenoir City Board of Education and the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability. He’s also been the chaplain at Fort Loudoun Medical Center. The Rev. Jordan has been active in numerous civic organizations, including serving as president of Loudon County’s Committee of 100 and Lenoir City Rotary Club, chairman of the Loudon County Literacy Board, and treasurer of the Loudon County Visitors Bureau Board. He and his wife, Mary Sue, live in Lenoir City and have 10 children.



Pepe Perron

Perron for 38 years has been the director of Camp Nakanawa, a girls camp near Crossville. He formerly was supervisor at Perron Hatcheries Inc., and production manager at Babcock Southeast.

He’s active in numerous civic groups in Crossville and Cumberland County, including as a board member of the Cumberland County Playhouse and Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association. He’s the former president of the Crossville Rotary Club and former chairman of the Greater Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce.

“The Foundation is important to every Roane State student,” Perron said. “Money raised helps students to reach their goals of a college education. Simply put, I want to help the students of Roane State.”

Perron and his wife, Ann, live in Crossville. They have three children and four grandchildren.



Pat Row

Row, now retired, served as an administrative assistant at several companies including Lockheed Martin Energy Systems Inc., SAIC, and as a virtual assistant at Auto Build Inc.

“I accepted the honor of being a part of the Roane State Foundation Board to help further the efforts of Roane State to see that any and all of those people interested would have the opportunity to get the education they seek,” she said.

“I think the Roane State Foundation is the best way to provide educational opportunities to the most students.”

Row, an Oak Ridge resident, is vice president of the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society and former president of the Tennessee Division of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. She’s the wife of Emeritus Foundation member Tom Row.



Ted Wampler Jr.

Wampler Jr.’s company has won several awards as an innovator in solar energy and environmental protection efforts.

He was the first recipient of the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce’s Outstanding Person of the Year Award in 2012, and his company won the Tennessee Wildlife Federation’s Conservation Achievement Award in 2014.

Wampler has served on several boards, including the former First Central Bank, now United Community Bank. He and wife Sherri, vice president of Wampler’s Farm Sausage Co., live in Loudon County and have four children and seven grandchildren.



To support the Roane State Foundation student scholarships and other programs, please visit...

www.roanestate.edu/donate or contact our office.

Every contribution makes a difference in the lives of students.

Roane State Foundation, 276 Patton Lane, Harriman, TN 37748
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The **Radiologic Technology Program faculty** have a new teaching tool – “Baby Jackie.” Baby Jackie resembles a plastic doll, but it’s formally called a newborn radiographic phantom. It has orange, translucent skin over a tiny rib cage and life-sized internal organs. Baby Jackie was named in honor of Jacquelyn Wilson, the college’s dual studies coordinator who applied for the federal Perkins Grant that paid for the \$8,000 doll.



Vision Care Technology program student **Zach McDaniel** won a national event where opticianry students compete in a “Jeopardy”-style format to answer technical questions about the eye, glasses, and contact lenses. The National Federation of Opticianry Schools’ College Bowl was held in New York City as part of Vision Expo East. The annual competition was sponsored by the global company HOYA.

A third collection of short stories by assistant professor **Elizabeth Genovise** was published by Texas Review Press and includes “Irises,” which won the esteemed O. Henry Prize in 2016 for short stories. Genovise’s other two books of short stories are “A Different Harbor,” (Mayapple Press 2014) and “Where There Are Two or More,” (Fomite Press, 2015).

A trio of first-year students in the dental hygiene program won first place in a state poster research competition and then went on to capture second place in the national contest. It was only the second time that students in the Roane State program competed on the national level. Students **Kayla Burchfield** of Lenoir City, **Han Vo** of Powell and **Andrea Layne** from Clinton were the state and national winners.

Roane State received a \$496,888 federal grant to improve distance learning opportunities. The college has invested in Zoom video conferencing technology to replace legacy interactive video systems at each of its campuses. Through the **Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant**, administered by the Rural Utilities Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the college was reimbursed for Zoom technology installed in Summer 2018. The grant also funded a second Zoom room at the Fentress and Morgan campuses. Finally, the grant enabled installation of 86-inch interactive touchscreens and cameras in all standard classrooms at the Fentress, Morgan, and Scott campuses.



Assistant professor of English **DeAnna Stephens** won the poetry competition at the Tennessee Williams New Orleans Literary Festival. She also received first place in the fiction category at the Tennessee Mountain Writers Conference Awards Banquet. Stephens’ poetry has been published in such venues as “The Lascaux Review,” “Rumble Fish Quarterly,” and “64 Parishes.”

Roane State was awarded a three-year, \$299,793 National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education grant to support the mechatronics program. The **“Co-Req Mech” project** will improve the preparation and increase the program completion of mechatronics students by integrating assignments and activities in general education courses that directly relate to the concepts taught in the mechatronics program.

William “Chip” Kain has been named Roane State’s new director of public safety and police chief. Kain has been an adjunct faculty member for nearly five years, teaching courses in juvenile justice and corrections. He previously worked for the University of Tennessee Police Department and as police chief of the Baneberry, Tenn., and Norris police departments. Kain has a master’s degree in criminal justice from Bethel University.

Three Roane State students won two bronze medals at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. **Kevin Spakes** won his honor for programming, while **Cory Watson** and **Dylan Tipton** took home the bronze for cybersecurity. The 2019 National SkillsUSA conference was held in June in Louisville, Ky., and some 6,500 students from across the country competed.



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