Save the Date!

Wednesday, April 12, 11a.m.–2p.m.
UT’s Humanities Plaza

Enjoy friends and food at this springtime celebration hosted by Chancellor Beverly Davenport for faculty, staff, and retirees. No pre-registration needed. Special seating for retirees in the food area. Rain location: Thompson-Boling Arena.

Attention Retirees!
We need your email address!

Although we mail third-class mail, postage is a major expense for the Retirees’ Council. In order to stay within our budget, we need to send information and newsletters via email. To do that, we need the email that you regularly check so we do not miss sending you something. We will continue to mail items to retirees within a 50-mile radius of the Knoxville campus for whom we do not have updated email addresses, but after this newsletter, we will not send snail mail to addresses more than 50 miles from the Knoxville campus. If you are not receiving emails regarding retiree programs, we may not have your updated email address.

Send your preferred email address to phyllismoore@tennessee.edu or call 865-974-7318 to speak with her.

Inside This Issue

2 .......... A Visit to the UT Gardens, Lunch with Joan Cronan, and a Concert of the Mighty Wurlitzer
3 .......... Retiree Reps Meet and VAT Offers Rides
4-5....... Holiday Reception with Jimmy Cheek
6 .......... Meet Our Scholarship Recipients
7 .......... In Memoriam and an Honor for Jim Grubb

Send Us Your Stories
If you have news of a hobby or trip, please send details (with photos) to phyllismoore@tennessee.edu.

UPCOMING SPRING PROGRAM: SWIMMER BILL LAUER

Join us on for our spring gathering, Tuesday, May 9, 1:00–2:30 pm, at the UT Visitors Center, 2712 Neyland Drive. Light refreshments will be served. Attire is causal and the event is free, but advance registration is required. RSVP before Friday, May 5, to alumni.utk.edu/UTRCSpring17 or call 865-973-7318.

Bill Lauer, Senior Olympics swimmer and former associate dean of Architecture, has continued his passion and support of swimming both in and out of the pool since he retired in 1999. His proudest moment in the pool came in 2014, when he won the 400-meter individual medley title for the 80–84 age group at the FINA World Championship meet in Montreal, Canada. Lauer has been to a total of six world championships—two in the United States and one each in Italy, Sweden, Canada, and New Zealand. He also holds six US Masters Swimming national records (short course and long course) for the 80–84 age group in the 200 & 400 IM and the 100 butterfly. All that pales in comparison to his desire to help others learn and benefit from swimming.

Lauer attributes his passion for swimming to some advice from his dad when he left home for the Navy at 17. His father told him to choose his friends wisely and always get exercise. He has passed that message along to all the age-group summer swimmers he coached, encouraged, and mentored for 32 years, and he continues to mentor other masters swimmers when he works out at the Alan Jones Aquatic Center. He has developed an exercise presentation on the aging athlete that he teaches to UT kinesiology students as he continues to pass his dad’s advice to others.

Lauer wanted to make sure all retirees know the US Masters in Knoxville has an adult learn-to-swim program open to nonswimmers and/or those who might want to return to the water. Anyone interested in possible participation contact us via email (UTRC@utk.edu). He also encouraged participation in the 17 age-group sports available via the Senior Olympics in Tennessee.

For more information, visit tnseniorolympics.com.

Bill Lauer will talk about his passion for senior swimming.
Women’s Athletics Director Emeritus Joan Cronan entertained more than 50 members of the Retirees’ Council on October 12, with anecdotes from her new book, *Sport Is Life with the Volume Turned Up*, as well as from her days as vice chancellor and athletics director. Her messages on means of strengthening performance and achieving success in everyday and professional activities were complemented by lunch from Buddy’s Barbecue. Following her presentation, Cronan answered questions and signed books for members of the audience.

On July 26, members of the UT Knoxville Retirees’ Council were treated to the sounds of the Wurlitzer organ at the Tennessee Theatre. Bill Snyder, former chancellor of UT Knoxville, provided a history of the theater before playing several selections on the organ including “Rocky Top” and the “Tennessee Waltz.” Following the performance, Snyder invited the group onstage for an in-the-spotlight experience. The visit concluded with a private tour of the dressing rooms, many of which are named for actors/actresses or performers who are no longer living but appeared on the stage at the theater or were a part of the production of a performance. The event was a treat for all who attended!
Retiree Reps Hold Meeting at Fall Creek Falls

By Michael Betz and Tom Hood
Former Presidents of the UT Retirees’ Association

The 12th annual meeting of the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Associations (THERA) was held November 6–7, 2016, at Fall Creek Falls State Park. All public universities in the state were invited, but only five sent representatives. As former presidents of the UT Retirees’ Association, we coordinated and organized the agenda. In addition to honoring the THERA founder, Professor Bill Fisher of East Tennessee State University, we followed his past example by discussing what benefits and services our respective retiree associations provide and the criteria for membership.

The representatives from each school shared what their organizations were doing. Tennessee State University does not have a retirees’ organization. Austin Peay issues an excellent newsletter regularly, and its association sponsors presentations modeled on TED talks on the last Tuesday of each month. The University of Memphis hosts coffee and conversation events. After holding their first event in the university president’s home, their coffee-and-conversation events are now in the Alumni Center, which can host about 60 for a featured speaker. ETSU provides help to freshmen on move-in day—eight or nine volunteers working in shifts to handle paperwork for each student. Some ETSU members volunteer at the Second Harvest Food Bank, packing food boxes for children to eat on weekends.

Having an accessible website was noted as important to retirees’ associations, as was including both academic and support staff retirees in our respective organizations.

In the initial mailing, we asked each school to prepare an executive report summary before coming to the meeting. We asked them to prepare an answer to: “What is your institution doing to improve the potential of black males to contribute to our society?”

The events of the past year have heightened our awareness of the continuing racism in many sectors of American society. While the institutions we represent are only one piece of the postsecondary education picture, more public dollars raised by the state are allocated to keeping young black males in prison than are used to educate them or prepare them to be productive members of a 21st-century society. Elements in the success of young men of color include:

• Educational equity—improving college and career readiness and supporting dropout prevention and recovery;
• Workforce development and training—investing in summer and year-round employment;
• Youth development and well-being—meeting basic needs and expanding behavioral and mental health supports; and
• Public investment in young people—raising the bar at all levels of government.

We heard from UT, Austin Peay, ETSU, University of Memphis, and Tennessee State.

At UT, we have an active outreach program with our Educational Opportunity Center, which reaches out to six counties in Georgia, six counties in North Carolina, and 15 counties in East Tennessee to provide career assessment, counseling, educational planning, and the prospect of free tuition for technical school or college for eligible participants who meet household income requirements or are the first in their household to pursue a four-year college degree. The center also sponsors two ACT/SAT workshops/year in Memphis for sophomores and seniors. In addition to the SCORE program, UT sponsors the Big Orange Preview, which is an open house for high school seniors, and a Council on Diversity and Interculturalism.

VAT Benefits Both Giver and Receiver

By Michael Betz

Volunteer Assisted Transportation (VAT) is an agency for Knox County residents that provides accessible and affordable transportation services to seniors and persons with disabilities who require aid and assistance to travel safely. Every day across Knox County, there are retirees with a disability who can’t get to the doctor, the grocery store, or make some other necessary trip. Some UT retirees might qualify for its services or wish to volunteer as a driver in this great program run by the Community Action Committee.

VAT provides the vehicle, training, and insurance, while the volunteer driver provides nonemergency medical, door-through-door transportation. Volunteers assist seniors with disabilities who reside in Knox County and require assistance to travel for necessary trips.

The perks for becoming a volunteer driver include not only the “helper’s high” experienced by those who provide needed services but also:

• training in first aid and CPR certification;
• AAA driver improvement training;
• passenger assistance and sensitivity training;
• vehicle orientation to a hybrid car; and
• AA membership discounts!

• Vehicles and training are supplied by CAC along with flexible scheduling. VAT benefits both the giver and receiver.

Give them a call to volunteer or as a potential user at 865-673-5001 or email nancy.welch@cactrans.org.
Retirees’ Holiday Reception

featuring

Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek
For the second year, the Holiday Reception in the West Club at Neyland Stadium provided a means of visiting with former colleagues and meeting new people who have served UT. More than 150 people gathered on December 12, enjoying a buffet and holiday decorations. Betsey Creekmore, president of the Retirees’ Council and associate vice chancellor emeritus of space and facilities, welcomed attendees and introduced Lee Patouillet, associate vice chancellor of alumni affairs, who in turn introduced Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek. Chancellor Cheek thanked those present for their service to the institution and congratulated the group on its assimilation into Alumni Affairs.

Cheek noted items of progress that have been made during his eight-year tenure. He recounted the 2010 differential tuition plan which enabled the nursing school to grow—a solution that was later applied to engineering and business. He recounted Governor Phil Bredesen’s challenge to become a Top 25 public research university and the progress that followed. “We increased the four-year graduation rate from 30 percent to 50 percent. We branded our campus with the Power T. We renamed the Haslam College of Business through a $50 million gift as well as the Tickle College of Engineering with an anonymous amount of money.”

The chancellor told attendees that work continues on UT’s infrastructure. Two new science buildings and three new dorms will open on campus in 2017, including the Stokely Family Residence Hall, which welcomed 700 students in January.

“It all goes back to the people such as yourself who continue to focus on making this a better place,” Cheek said. “That includes the students who are here today volunteering their time as a commitment to the university. The Retirees’ Council is very, very important to our future. You can help us recruit students, spread the good word about what’s going on at Tennessee, and continue to be a part of this vibrant community.”

The council presented the chancellor with a wooden pen in a wooden box, both inscribed with UT Retirees’ Council. After the program, Margaret Ashworth, former administrative specialist with the Haslam College of Business, awarded door prizes, which included tickets to Christmas shows in Pigeon Forge and the poinsettia centerpieces.
Our Scholarship Recipients

Two scholarships were awarded for the 2016–2017 academic year. Recipients are Sara McCurry (below) of Dandridge, Tennessee, who is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Jared Baxter (right) of Knoxville, who is a senior in the Tickle College of Engineering and Honors College.

McCurry is a junior double majoring in psychology and English literature. Since her first semester, she has been a staff writer for The Tangerine, an editorially independent campus satire newspaper. She is now its managing editor. She has been a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honors society, and a psychology research assistant for the Development of Adolescents and Young Adults lab. McCurry has also worked for the UT Center for Transportation Research. She has a 3.88 cumulative GPA and is in the Psychology Honors Program, which requires her to complete a senior thesis of her choosing by the time she graduates. After graduation, she hopes to attend graduate school for a doctorate in counseling psychology.

quoted

“...The generous scholarship I have received from the UT Retirees’ Association has assisted me in paying off my tuition for the continuation of my remaining undergraduate career, for which I am incredibly grateful,” McCurry says. “I am, however, even more thankful for this scholarship because it has given me even more motivation to keep up my hard work in academics and extracurricular activities. This scholarship was an incredible pat on the back that let me know my efforts have not gone unnoticed. For that, I am forever grateful.”

Baxter has received the Outstanding Sophomore and Outstanding Junior awards at the annual Gonzalez Family Awards Dinner for the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He has conducted research at ORNL’s National Transportation Research Center in power electronics and electric machines and is continuing to conduct undergraduate research at UT. He says he has enjoyed getting to collaborate with students and professors on a number of different projects at UT. Last summer he was published for his work at ORNL at the IEEE PES General Meeting in Boston. After achieving his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering, he plans on pursing a PhD in electrical engineering. He notes, “I truly appreciate receiving the UT Retirees’ Association Scholarship and the support it has provided for my college education.”
In Memoriam

The university has always been blessed by the exceptional service of its employees. Several hundred years of institutional service are represented by colleagues who died in 2016. Although we strive to capture the names of all retirees who died in 2016, the list is probably incomplete. We would appreciate your letting us know of those we have missed.

Raymond Adams  College of Engineering
Jan Allison  Administrative Support Asst.
Leonard Allmon  UT Knoxville Campus
Magdalen Bakalar  UT Knoxville Campus
Roy Beauchene  Professor, College of Education, Health & Human Sciences
Houston Beeler  Institute of Agriculture
Barbara Bell  Senior Library Assistant
William Blass  Professor, College of Arts & Sciences
Robert Bryant  Maintenance Specialist II
William Bull  Retired Professor, Chemistry
Daniel Carroll  Professor & Department Head
Marilee Cavender  Institute of Agriculture
Eunice Doty  Institute of Agriculture
Jesse Francis  Institute of Agriculture
Elizabeth Galyon  Accounting Clerk
Betty Glass  UT Knoxville Campus
David Goodpasture  Civil & Environmental Engineering
Arthur Haas  Professor, History
Leonard Handler  UT Knoxville Campus
Sylvia Hart  Dean Emeritus, College of Nursing
Mark Hector  Professor, College of EHHS
Mary Hoover  Assoc. Dean, College of Law
Mary Hudson  Administrative Assistant
Barbara Huff  Institute of Agriculture
Paul Hurst  Maintenance Specialist

Thomas Innes  State Testing & Evaluation Center
Jewell Johnson  Administrative Specialist
Mary Jones  UT Knoxville Campus
Warren Jones  Professor, College of Arts & Sciences
Robert Linnabary  UT Knoxville Campus
Michael Logan  Professor, College of Arts & Sciences
Larry McBee  Senior Steam Plant Operator
Kenneth Monty  Professor, College of Arts & Sciences
Robert Moore  Assoc. Dean Research/Grad Programs
John Muldowny  Assoc. Professor & Acting Department Head, History
James O’Neal  Institute of Agriculture
Neal O’Steen  UT Knoxville Campus
Jacquelyn Queener  Building Services Assistant
Eleanor Read  Professor, College of Arts & Sciences
Charles Robertson  Senior Steam Plant Operator
Tammy Roe  Building Services Aide II
Barbara Rouse  UT Knoxville Campus
Robert Rubright  Coordinator, Student Health
Otis Stephens  Professor of Law
Patricia Summitt  Head Women’s Basketball Coach
William Swain  Research Associate III
Jerry Winkle  Maintenance Specialist
Sanders Wood  Senior Carpenter II
Alice Young  Accounting Clerk

Pursuits: Jim Grubb Honored by ACUHO-1

Jim Grubb, former executive director of Housing and assistant vice chancellor of Student Affairs, was honored at the 2016 annual conference of the Association of College and University Housing Officers–International for his service to the association. While serving on the board, he participated in a major self-study, which resulted in the expansion of the association by adding the “I” to the association name, the establishment of a central office at Ohio State, and the creation of the ACUHO-I Foundation. Many of the concerns identified by the self-study remain relevant today.

After Jim’s retirement in 2005, he quickly found a valued place as a UT Medical Center volunteer, focused primarily on helping patients and their families at the UTMC Emergency Room. He soon became the Emergency Room representative on the UTMC volunteer board and just finished serving a two-year term as president of the hospital’s auxiliary board. Amy Perkins, director of Volunteer Services, adds, “Jim has served as a terrific board president. His compassion for our patients and patient visitors allows him to be the perfect ambassador for UTMC Auxiliary and Volunteer Services, which coordinates the activities of three main groups of volunteers: adult volunteers, college student volunteers, and junior volunteers. Lifting the spirits of patients and families is what the volunteer program is all about. For more information, visit utmedicalcenter.org/jobs/volunteering.

Jim has also been the treasurer of the Sunday School class at a local church, which supports the Holston Home for Children and provides a charitable soup kitchen each week.

Grandfather Grubb is now focused on enjoying his nine very active and athletic grandchildren in the local and Raleigh, North Carolina, areas. His favorite getaway is going on cruises—14 and counting—with good friends.
One major benefit of our retiree organization becoming a special interest council of the Office of Alumni Affairs is the support of the UT Foundation Central Advancement Services, the keepers of UT alumni and retiree contact information, led by Assistant Vice President Michael Carter.

Retirees are now automatically part of the UT Retirees’ Council, rather than having to apply for membership. This means newsletters and event invitations that had formerly gone to about 800 retirees, now reach more than 2,800 Knoxville-area home addresses and 1,800 preferred email addresses.

As a practical matter, this meant that Carter and his colleagues had to merge data bases from several campus departments and update the contact information they found there. Still, accurate contact data is always a work in progress. If you have not been receiving UTRC emailed event invitations, please send your preferred email address to UTRC@utk.edu. When you change your email address or move, please update your information with us.

And thanks to Michael Carter and his staff for their efforts and continuing support!