

HOST OF THE 112TH MEETING: EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

KRISTN CLARK FRY, DIRECTOR OF NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICES

East Tennessee State University

East Tennessee State University (ETSU) opened its doors in 1911 as East Tennessee State Normal School, established under the General Education Bill by the General Assembly in 1909. Reflecting the institution's expanding role in education, a series of name changes culminated in 1963 with the attainment of university status.

The 350-acre main campus is in Johnson City, with centers in nearby Kingsport and Elizabethton and sites in Bristol and Greeneville, within the Tri-Cities Tennessee/Virginia region—the first region in the country to be designated as an All-America City.

ETSU is one of six universities governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), the sixth largest system of higher education in the nation that also includes 13 two-year colleges and 26 technology centers. A statewide leader, ETSU shares numerous agreements with many state and regional colleges and universities, allowing students to transfer credit hours easily.

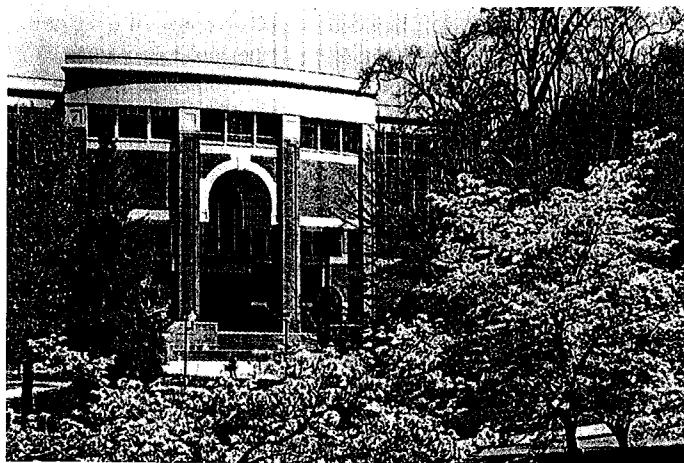
A recently completed long-range comprehensive private giving campaign garnered tremendous internal and external financial support for the university. ETSU now sets the pace in private giving for the TBR system, and is considered a model for other institutions. In addition, ETSU is the first public institution in Tennessee to create its own Research Foundation to enhance future scientific endeavors while strengthening region-wide economic development efforts. In addition, our new Innovation Laboratory serves as a business incubator for biotechnology and entrepreneurship, and fostered the creation of our \$1 million Eastman Chemical Company Distinguished Chair of Business Leadership Endowment.

Our reputation for excellence in leadership development is due to several initiatives, including the prestigious and highly competitive Roan Scholars Leadership Program established in 1997. Students from regional high schools are chosen for this four-year, full scholarship program. At present, 15 Roan Scholars are participating in community service activities, leadership studies, mentoring programs, and international learning opportunities.

In addition, our University Honors Program offers students demonstrating high academic achievement and promise the opportunity to experience a challenging interdisciplinary curriculum with outstanding faculty. Many of these students hold key leadership positions in student government, the Greek system, residence halls, and other areas throughout campus. We have 80 top students in the overall Honors Program, plus many more in college honors.

Currently, ETSU has more than 11,500 students who pursue studies in over 100 academic programs within the areas of arts and sciences, business, education, health sciences and services, and technology.

Available degree programs include associate's and bachelor's degrees, graduate certificates, a variety of master's degrees,



Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee.

and specialist in education (EdS), doctor of education (EdD), doctor of medicine (MD), doctor of philosophy in biomedical sciences (PhD), doctor of science in nursing (DSN), and doctorate of audiology degrees (AuD).

ETSU has colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business and Technology, and Education, and schools of Graduate Studies and Continuing Studies. ETSU is unique as the only TBR institution with a Division of Health Sciences, formed in 1988, which includes our College of Nursing and College of Public and Allied Health, as well as our James H. Quillen College of Medicine. Created by the Tennessee Legislature in 1974, the Quillen College enrolled its first 24 students in 1978, and ETSU bestowed the first MD degrees four years later.

ETSU is widely recognized for its unique focus on the health sciences, which support the health and wellness of the people of Southern Appalachia, with special emphasis on rural populations. In fact, ETSU is the only major academic health sciences center between Knoxville, Tennessee, and Roanoke, Virginia. In the 2004 "Best Graduate Schools" issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, our Quillen College of Medicine ranks third in the nation for excellence in rural medicine education, 16th in family medicine training, and 17th for primary care.

An example of state/federal partnerships is our recently opened \$36-million Stanton-Gerber Hall basic sciences building located on the grounds of the Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center, adjacent to the main campus. ETSU also is using an \$8 million federal grant to preserve and develop the unique Fossil Site discovered in nearby Gray, Tennessee, which is another excellent example of a state/federal partnership that will benefit generations to come.