A Message from Dr. Whorton

As we wind down for the holiday season and a well-deserved break, this is a great time to look back on this past year to reflect, celebrate, be thankful, and re-energize ourselves for the year to come. In the pages to follow are highlights for the fall, a welcome to our new team members, and a remembrance of our friend, Dr. Bob Rhodes. I’m honored and glad to have been part of the UTSI family for the past 2.5 years. Thank you for your hard work and spirit. I hope you have a great holiday break and I look forward to working with you to make the next one great.
Fall Highlights

The Space Institute held its annual Fall Picnic on September 14, 2018. The day started off with a one mile fun run & walk that morning, followed by a homemade dessert contest, and later; pontoon boat rides, games, bingo, lots of door prizes, and Whitt’s BBQ. Everyone had a wonderful time and looked awesome rocking their blue BIG ORANGE, BIG IDEAS shirts!
New Students & GRAs

Back L to R: Sam Smith, GRA; Cameron Craig, student; Jack Cobourn, GRA; James Chism, GRA; Justin Jones, GRA.

Front L to R: Zefung Lyu, GRA; Austin Thomas, GRA; Brittany Jenio, GRA; Stephen Harris, student; and Jacob Taylor, GRA.

Not in group photo:

Ernst Muller, student
Vesta Howell joined the dining hall staff this summer and resides in Tullahoma with her husband of 34 years, Kelvin. They have 2 kids; Astarte is 28 and Perry is 24. Both live in Chicago, IL where Vesta lived until she moved back home to care for her mother. She also enjoys container gardening.

Jennifer Kernan-Young started at UTSI on October 1st in the Budget & Planning office. Jennifer previously worked at the Tullahoma Area Chamber of Commerce as the Director of Finance & Membership. Prior to moving to Tullahoma, Jennifer and her husband, Michael, moved from Ohio to Memphis in October of 2008. In Memphis, Jennifer worked at Cook Systems International as the Accounting Coordinator. Jennifer and Michael currently reside in Moore County and enjoy spending time at home with their dog, Buster Brown, their two cats, Luna and Coffee Black, and their horse Spider.

Dr. Mark Gragston received his B.S. with a double major in Physics and Mathematics from the Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA in 2012 and an M.S. in Engineering in 2015. He completed his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 2018. Accolades during his Ph.D. work include receiving the Tennessee Space Grant Graduate Fellowship in 2016 and a Best Student Paper Award in Aerospace Measurement Technology at AIAA SciTech 2018. He also has two U.S. provisional patents from work related to his dissertation. His primary research interest is laser diagnostics with application to aerospace measurements, combustion diagnostics, plasma diagnostics, and more. Mark is a current member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the American Physical Society, and the Optical Society. Outside of work, Mark enjoys playing guitar, hiking, and weight training.
Accolades

Patricia Burks—Jelks, UTSI HR Director delivers an inspirational talk on December, 4 to the UT Human Resources Staff at Knoxville. Her talk was entitled, “Lessons Learned.” Patricia related uplifting and encouraging messages and stories to her audience. A few topics included; seeking knowledge by developing skills, setting and living by your standards, building relationships with others by implementing trust and respect, and remembering and rejoicing in successes as well as failures. As we all have seen, Patricia is always positive, uplifting and willing to help every one of us. How fortunate we all are to have such a warm-hearted HR Director!

Thanks for always being there Patricia!!

Dr. Jackie Johnson and her rescue dogs assisted the Tennessee Task Force in their efforts to clean up after Hurricane Michael in October of 2018. Thank you for your brave efforts Jackie, Crush, and Gizmo!
Dr. Mark Balas received the AIAA Aerospace, Guidance, Navigation, and Control Award for 2018. This lifetime achievement award recognizes individuals that have made important and substantial contributions in the field of guidance, navigation, and control. He was nominated for his sustained excellence in developing the frontiers of theory and practice in advanced adaptive control systems.

**Congratulations Dr. Balas!!!**

Julie King is not only a student working on her PhD in Biomedical Engineering but also a published author. The title of the book is Glioblastoma: State-of-the-Art Clinical Neuroimaging. The target audience is practicing physicians, scientists, and medical graduate students. Julie is the first author of Chapter 29 “MRI-Guided Laser Induced Thermal Therapy of Glioblastoma”.

**Great Job Julie!!!**

Human Resources won the door decorating contest! **Congratulations!!!**
Established in 1984, the CLA team strives for excellence in several different fields in laser applications. The team works in Bio/Nano photonics, Materials Science, Laser Materials Interaction, Laser Spectroscopy, and Non–Equilibrium Fluid Physics. The strengths and interest of lasers for diagnostics and materials processing represent a unique university-based combination that is critical for industrial, defense, and basic science applications. The MABE department has started working in the CLA labs this year, which aligns with the original mission of forming alliances to foster multidisciplinary work.

Thanks for all your hard work!!
• Reportable accident rate .8 per hundred people per year. National and state average are 2.9.
• Comprehensive safety training program. All students, faculty and staff are required to complete safety training dependent upon job classification and risk factors.
• 20% of campus population is CPR/AED certified
• One Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) for every 12 people on campus.
• Virtually crime free campus
• Clery Act compliant
• Licensed armed security on duty 24/7 365
• UTSI maintains a comprehensive emergency notification system including text, email, voicemail, video monitors, radio communications, giant voice mass notification, and digital telephones.
• Campus-wide video system allows for real-time monitoring and review of past events.
• Electronic programmable door locks ensure only authorized persons may access specified areas and records name, time and date of entry.
• UTSI is a Franklin County 911 Limited Terminal Agency
• Listed as a National Weather Service Storm Ready Supporter
Holidays at UTSI

UTSI Holiday Office Door Decorating Contest
Tuesday, November 27th
Winner will be announced Tuesday, December 4th at the UTSI Holiday Luncheon

UTSI Angel Tree Project
Supporting the Coffee County foster Child Support Group.
Please see HR for angel adoption.

UTSI Tree Lighting
Tree Lighting Ceremony in the Lobby
Thursday, November 29, 2018 10:00 AM

Holiday Celebration Luncheon
Monday, December 10, 2018
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
UTSI Dining Hall
...and what to bloom at UTSI

Upcoming training, short courses, and events this Spring

February
Black History Month Program
Math Counts Competition Feb. 5
Engineers Week & Student Design Competition Feb. 19

March
UTSI Life Planning Seminar March 19, 20, 21
Wu Student Presentation Competition Week of March 25 –29

Holiday and Administrative Closing Schedule
Tuesday, January 1—New Year’s Day
Monday, January 21— Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Friday, April 19— Spring Holiday
Monday, May 27—Memorial Day
Thursday, July 4—Independence Day
In remembrance of Dr. Robert (Bob) Rhodes

Dr. Rhodes passed away from a heart attack on October 3, 2018; survived by his wife of almost 70 years (Sally) and their two children. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA; he moved to Tennessee after meeting UTSI’s founding father; Dr. Goethert in 1956. He was hired into AEDC by Dr. Goethert, and worked there for 29 years. In 1985 he started at UTSI as a research scientist and worked here for 33 years until the day he passed. Dr. Rhodes was a respected scientist receiving many recognitions over the years. He also had many hobbies and talents including; sailing, hunting, camping, gardening, and woodworking. Dr. Rhodes lived a full and exciting life and touched many lives, he will be missed.

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Photos by Laura Horton