

Quillen

MAGAZINE
SUMMER 2018

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Climb it, Run it, Raise it

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Mt. Kilimanjaro
to fund teaching
position in hospital

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Dr. Greg Ordway

A FOCUS ON
RESEARCH



Cover Photo by
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Quillen Magazine

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Printed by

Kingery Printing Co.
Franklin, Tennessee



It has been less than a year since the last issue of *Quillen Magazine* hit your mailbox and here comes a new issue, with even more stories of the great work our students, our faculty and your fellow alumni are doing. The annual publication is one of the best ways for us to share the wonderful things happening each and every day at - or because of - our medical school.

Traditionally, we put out the magazine in late Fall, but we have decided to shift the release date to mid-summer to better coincide with some of the celebratory events at Quillen. With the shift, readers get an early look at journeys of our newest graduates as they move from student life to residencies across the nation.

This year, members of the Class of 2018 earned residency positions in everything from family medicine, emergency medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine and general surgery to anesthesiology, child neurology, dermatology and ophthalmology. Some will travel far from their Quillen roots to complete their training in states including Idaho, Minnesota, California, Texas and Florida while others will remain in the Appalachian region, and some right here at East Tennessee State University.

No matter where they are, or where they go from there, members of the Class of 2018 now join the ranks of the alumni of Quillen College of Medicine and ETSU. What they do, how they do it and who they become is connected forever to the education they received here. Like all of you, I have no doubt these newest alums will represent us well in the world and we all look forward to hearing all about their accomplishments in the years to come.

As the College prepares to welcome our newest first-years into the Quillen family, I am also excited to see what this incoming class – the Class of 2022 – will bring to their four years here. As they get to know this university and this region, and as they read and hear stories of those who sat in those classroom seats before them, they will quickly realize they have big shoes to fill. I have every confidence that their achievements will soon be gracing the pages of this publication as they leave their own marks as part of the Quillen legacy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert T. Means, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Robert T. Means, Jr.
Dean, Quillen College of Medicine



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A Merged Health Care System

It's a new day for health care in the Tri-Cities, as the two biggest health care providers in the region officially merged in February 2018 to form Ballad Health. The merger also marks a new day for ETSU and its health sciences programs.

"The vision Ballad Health leaders have for developing an academic health system is cutting edge," said Dr. Wilsie Bishop, vice president for Health Affairs at ETSU. "It is an opportunity that means significant growth for both ETSU and the health services provided by Ballad Health."

As part of the Ballad Health merger agreement, the health system has made enforceable commitments with the state of Tennessee and the commonwealth of Virginia that include the investment of \$308 million over 10 years to improve population health, expand access to care and support health research and medical education.

The commitment includes \$85 million in academics and research to educate and train health care providers that are in short supply in the region, and build the research capacity of universities and colleges serving the region to spur economic development. Ballad Health has also established a \$10 million innovation fund to invest in emerging technologies in conjunction with regional higher education institutions.

"Preserving and growing the research capacity and graduate medical education programs of our local institutions is a major goal for Ballad Health, and ETSU is our primary partner in those efforts," said Alan Levine, executive chairman, president and chief executive officer of Ballad Health. "I look forward to our continued partnership with ETSU and all that we're going to accomplish in the future."

The merger was officially announced on Feb. 2, after nearly three years of work on the part of health system leaders, state officials, ETSU leadership and community advocates to create a region-wide health improvement organization.

Bishop said the "power of the merger for ETSU" is in the ability to serve as a real partner in strategic planning that addresses not only health services delivery but also the educational needs of the region. ETSU President Brian Noland agrees.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will dramatically change health care delivery and health care education in this region for generations to come," said Noland, who, as the ETSU president, also serves as a member of the Ballad Health board. "By coming together, the entire game has changed for the better."



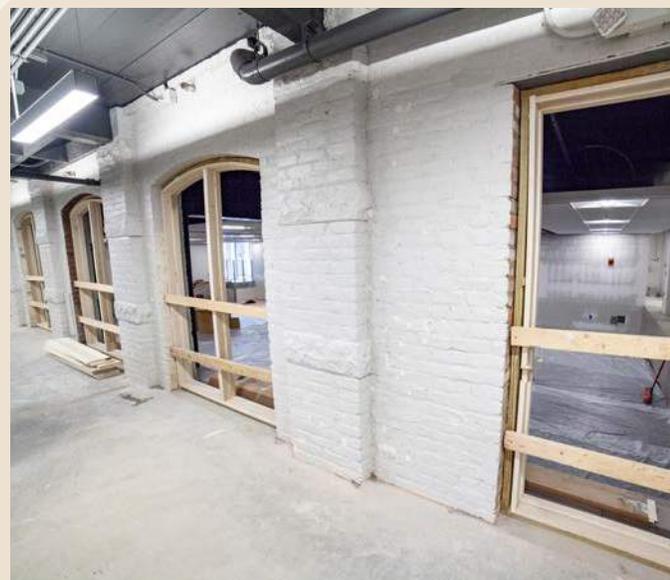
"Preserving and growing the research capacity and graduate medical education programs of our local institutions is a major goal for Ballad Health, and ETSU is our primary partner in those efforts."

- Alan Levine

Building 60 Renovation

Efforts to transform a historic building into a state-of-the-art interprofessional education center are well underway on the university's VA campus. Building 60, as it is known, once served as a quartermaster's storehouse for the Veterans Administration and then a fire station. In November 2016, ETSU leaders broke ground on the \$13 million renovation of the structure to turn it into ETSU's Interprofessional Education and Research Center. The renovated and repurposed building will not belong to any single health sciences college, but instead represent a space where students, faculty and staff from all five such colleges at ETSU can work and learn in a team-based environment. The renovation work continues inside the building, with a projected opening date planned for this summer.







Research Team Discovers Possible New Treatment for Depression



Research team members, from left to right, Dr. Greg Ordway, Dr. Michelle Chandley of the Department of Health Sciences in the ETSU College of Public Health, and Dr. Russ Brown.

For his entire career, Dr. Greg Ordway has studied the biology of depressive disorders in humans. It has taken the better part of 30 years, but now Ordway, a professor in Quillen's Department of Biomedical Sciences, believes he and his colleagues may have found a new solution to treating depression.

According to Ordway, approximately 10 million people in the United States suffer with depression. "About one to two million of those individuals don't respond to current antidepressant drugs at all, and another three million only have a partial response," he said. "For many years we studied biochemical pathways related to existing antidepressant drugs, but that didn't really lead us to any data that would produce new antidepressant drugs. So, we started to study other systems that were unrelated to the mechanisms by which current antidepressants work."

In doing that work, Ordway, along with fellow Quillen professor and researcher Dr. Russ Brown and their team, discovered an enzyme that was abnormally elevated in the brains of people who died with major depression.

"It is unique because it wasn't in an expected pathway that is usually talked about in terms of how antidepressant drugs work to treat depression," Ordway explained. "So, Russ and I decided to see whether, if you block that enzyme, it could have antidepressant activity."

To their surprise, it worked. In fact, according to Ordway, it worked just as well as some current drugs on the market that treat depression. Even better, the inhibitor they used to block the enzyme is already on the market as an FDA-approved drug used to treat patients with ovarian cancer.

"Now we just have to wait and see whether our findings in experimental models will pan out in humans, and that could happen rapidly because these drugs are already on the market and just haven't been used for depression before," Ordway said. "It is just a matter of a research clinician using the drug in an off-label fashion for the treatment of treatment-resistant depression."

In the meantime, the ETSU researchers also have partnered with a drug company to work on creating a new version of the drug that is specifically designed to treat depression.

"Depression is a major risk factor for suicide and our suicide rate in this country has been going up for many years, with Appalachia having one of the highest rates in the nation," Ordway noted. "A new drug that would boost current antidepressant drugs or work on its own to treat depression would be superb. That is what brings us to work each day – the possibility of making a difference."

In April, Ordway received more than \$430,000 in funding from the National Institutes of Health to further his research. Through the funding, Ordway and his team will work to unearth depression-related vulnerabilities of specific brain cells uniquely susceptible to oxidative damage in hopes of discovering novel targets for drugs that could prevent or reverse brain pathology in depression.

That is what brings us to work each day – the possibility of making a difference."

– Dr. Greg Ordway



Wang Studying Ways to Better Treat Hepatitis C

“Understanding such a mechanism is essential for designing strategies to maintain host immunity for virus control and vaccine response.”

— Dr. Ling Wang

Dr. Ling Wang, an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, is studying ways to better treat patients who have hepatitis C or other chronic viral infections. She is currently trying to understand how certain enzymes in the body are prevented from repairing DNA in individuals suffering from viral infections.

“Chronic viral infection can build DNA damage and accelerate premature aging of some cells,” Wang said. “But how some pathways in the body are prohibited from preventing these things from happening remains poorly understood.”

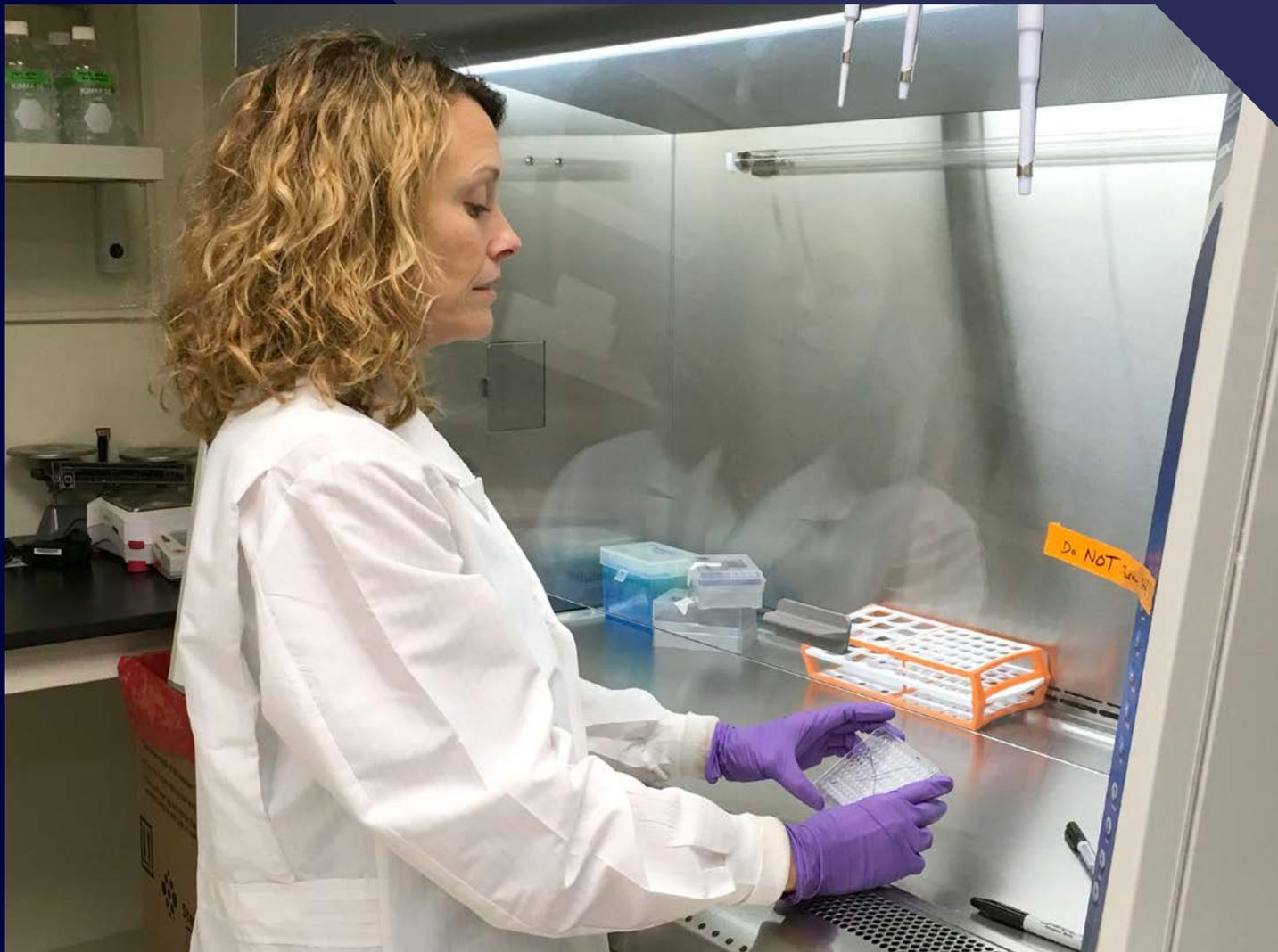
Through an ETSU Research Development Committee grant, Wang aims to better understand the fundamental mechanisms underlying immune aging in chronic viral infection and develop effective ways to restore the body’s ability to produce a normal response to many infectious diseases.

“Understanding such a mechanism is essential for designing strategies to maintain host immunity for virus control and vaccine response,” she said.

Wang believes the inhibition of the enzyme known as ATM, or ataxia telangiectasia-mutated protein, accelerates DNA damage and the erosion of a person’s T-cells, which are cells that actively participate in the immune response.

“So, restoring the ATM pathway may open a new avenue to prevent unwanted DNA damage and T-cell aging, and that would help maintain a patient’s ability to respond to the chronic infection,” she explained. “In essence, manipulating the ATM pathway could rescue the impaired immune responses.”

Ozment Receives \$1.4M Grant to Study Susceptibility to Fungal Infections



Dr. Tammy Ozment, research associate professor in the Department of Surgery, was awarded more than \$1.4 million in federal funding for her research related to fungal infections.

The five-year, R-01 grant from the National Institutes of Health is allowing Ozment to investigate the role of a specific protein – Dectin-1 – in individuals' susceptibility to fungal infection.

"Dectin-1 is integral to the immune response to fungal infection," she explained.

Ozment believes defects in Dectin-1 occur with age and critical illnesses, predisposing some patients to fungal

"My hope is this research will lead to better treatments for those predisposed to fungal infection, especially our growing elderly population."

– Dr. Tammy Ozment

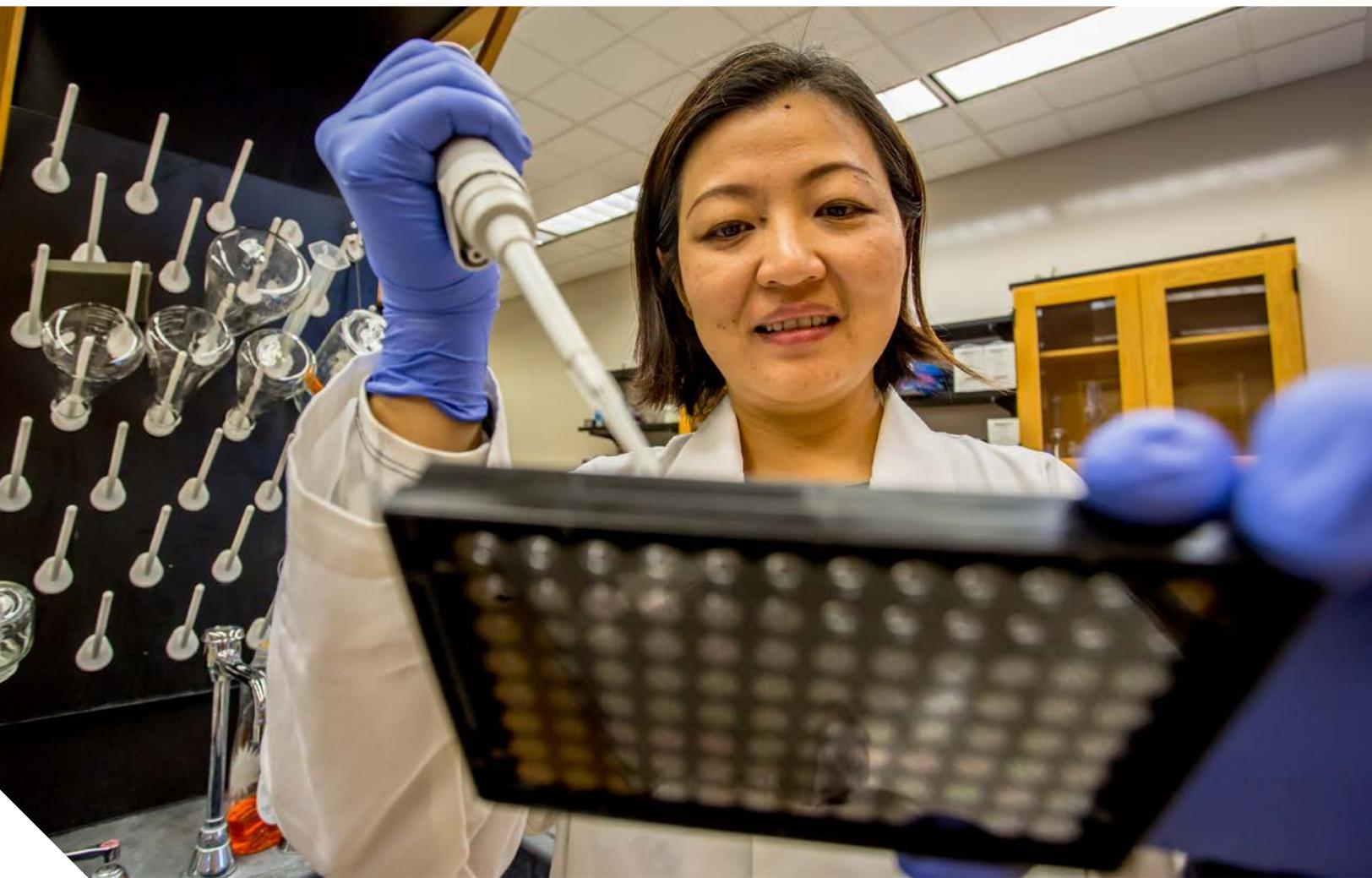
infection. Her research focuses on better understanding the underlying reasons for that increased susceptibility.

"The mortality rate of systemic fungal infections is quite high, with 30 to 40 percent of Intensive Care Unit patients succumbing to the illness. This research could lead to an increased understanding of the function of patients' anti-fungal defense mechanisms," Ozment said. "My hope is this research will lead to better treatments for those predisposed to fungal infection, especially our growing elderly population."

Ozment is also a member of ETSU's Center of Excellence in Inflammation, Infectious Disease and Immunity.

Gilead Sciences Research Scholar in Liver Disease

Assistant professor honored



An assistant professor at Quillen College of Medicine is among just four people in the nation to receive funding from the Gilead Sciences Foundation for her research related to liver disease.

The Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Program provides financial support to junior faculty researchers for two years. Dr. Quan Xie, a faculty member in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, received \$130,000 in funding from the program to study hepatocellular

carcinoma, the most common type of liver cancer in adults.

Xie's research relates to the use of genetically modified T-cells and their potential to halt tumor growth and possibly extend life expectancy.

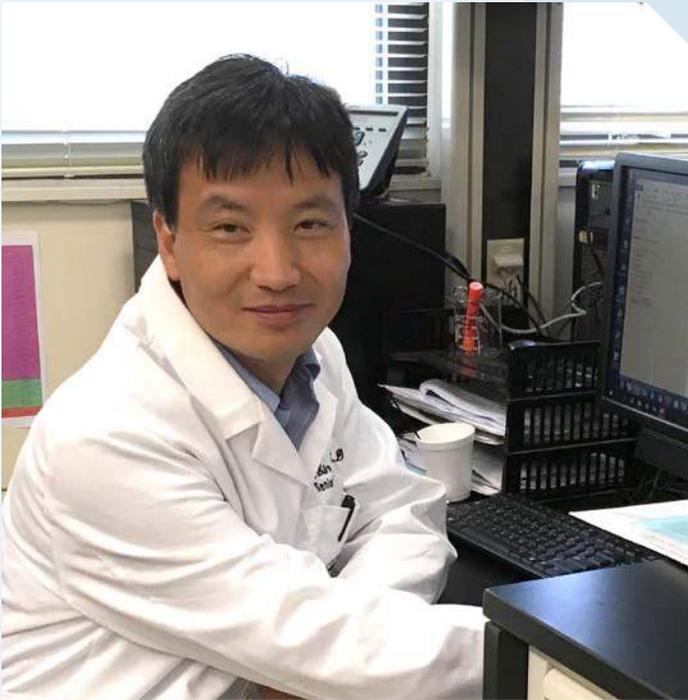
In being named a Gilead Research Scholar in Liver Disease, Xie was recognized for her research proposal, which was evaluated for innovation and significance, approach and feasibility by a committee

comprised of internationally recognized efforts in basic and clinical research in the field of liver disease.

She and three others were selected for funding out of more than 55 applicants within the United States.

In addition to serving as an assistant professor at Quillen, Xie is a member of ETSU's Center of Excellence in Inflammation, Infectious Disease and Immunity.

Research Team Using Grant to Study Lymphoma, Potential Therapeutic Targets



Dr. Shunbin Ning, an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, has been awarded a \$444,000 Academic Research Enhancement Award from the National Institutes of Health. Through the three-year grant, Ning is exploring how a certain protein is regulated and the role it plays in the latency of the Epstein-Bar Virus (EBV), which is mostly known to cause mononucleosis and remarkably contributes to AIDS-related deaths.

Ning believes the particular protein – LIM domain-containing protein 1 (LIMD1), as it is known – may play a significant role in the transformation of normal cells into cancer cells, specifically lymphoma. He hopes the research project will provide a better understanding of the underlying mechanisms of the regulation of the LIMD1 protein and its role in the development of cancer.

“This could identify LIMD1 as a potential therapeutic target for these malignancies,” Ning noted. “It is also an excellent training opportunity for students in the field of biomedical research.”

Also known as an R-15 grant, student involvement is a hallmark of the competitive funding program. Three students are working alongside Ning to conduct the research. Co-investigators conducting research as part of the project include Dr. Ling Wang, an assistant professor at the Department of Internal Medicine, Dr. Jonathan Moorman, a professor of medicine at Quillen and section chief for infectious diseases at the Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Dr. John Yao, also a professor of medicine at ETSU and director of the Hepatology Program at the VA.

All four faculty members are members of ETSU’s Center of Excellence in Inflammation, Infectious Disease and Immunity.



Dr. YouTube: What’s Your Diagnosis?

Evaluating the educational quality of flu videos online

Research conducted by a resident physician in Quillen’s Department of Internal Medicine earlier this year now is garnering international attention.

With more and more people turning to the Internet for health advice, ETSU resident physician, Dr. Lakshmi Kallur, served as the lead researcher on a project that evaluates the educational quality of seasonal influenza videos found on YouTube. She, along with her team, conducted a keyword search of “seasonal influenza” from January 28 to February 5, 2017, then analyzed the top most-viewed videos for their characteristics, source and content.

Kallur and her team utilized the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to create a scale to evaluate the quality of content provided in each video. Three hundred videos were analyzed and the source for each was classified as either health care provider, alternative-medicine provider, patient and/or patient’s parents, company, media or professional society.

“This study confirmed that most YouTube videos on seasonal influenza are provided by professional societies and health care providers with over half of the videos attempting to educate patients,” Kallur said. “However, these videos, although containing accurate information, did not fulfill our criteria as far as educating patients thoroughly.”

Kallur shared further results from the study at the American College of Chest Physicians CHEST Annual Meeting 2017 in Toronto.

Faculty & Staff

Toward leaving their mark



NIH asks Bailey to Present on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Late last year, Dr. Beth Bailey, vice chair of research and professor in the Department of Family Medicine, was invited by the National Institutes

of Health to present as part of an expert panel at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism's Interagency Committee on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders.

At the meeting, held in late November in Rockville, Maryland, Bailey was part of a special panel discussion to inform funding priorities for the next five years. During the discussion, Bailey presented on pregnancy alcohol use screening practice and detection rates from medical records.

"I am really thrilled that Dr. Bailey's prominence in this field has been recognized at such a high level," said Dr. Reid Blackwelder, department chair. "It is a testament to the quality of her efforts and a nod to the efforts we have made for the interprofessional and interdepartmental work she has been doing."

Bailey joined the Department of Family Medicine in 2003. Her research interests include studying the long-term effects of prenatal environments, including exposure to drugs and alcohol, prenatal interventions, domestic violence, child psychopathology and health disparities. Since at ETSU, Bailey has implemented research funded by a variety of sources, including the university, the State of Tennessee, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the March of Dimes, Health Resources and Services Administration, the NIH and others.

She has also been involved in the development of assessment and screening tools to evaluate drug and alcohol use, violence exposure and behavioral outcomes, and interventions to address these issues, in obstetric and primary care settings.



Means Appointed to State Commission on Pain and Addiction Medicine Education

Quillen College of Medicine Dean, Dr. Robert Means Jr., is among three members of East Tennessee State University's Academic Health Sciences Center and just 19 individuals across the state to be appointed to Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam's new Commission on Pain and Addiction Medicine Education.

The commission, established as part of the TN Together plan to help end the opioid epidemic, is charged with developing competencies for Tennessee's medical educational institutions to address proper treatment for pain, safe and effective prescribing practices, and proper diagnoses and treatment for individuals abusing or misusing controlled substances.

Also representing ETSU on the commission are Dr. Wendy Nehring, dean of the College of Nursing; and Dr. Sarah Melton, professor in the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy.

As members of the commission, they will help develop competencies for current and future curricula so that future prescribers receive instruction and training regarding effective treatment for acute and chronic pain; the potential risks and effects of using opioids to treat pain and effective discontinuation of opioids; proper identification of and treatment for patients demonstrating misuse or abuse of opioids; and utilization of the controlled substance monitoring database.

In addition to representatives from ETSU, the commission includes representation from other public and private medical educational institutions, the Tennessee Department of Health, a broad group of professional associations and licensed health care practitioners.



Lewis Named Associate Dean of Finance and Administration

for Quillen ETSU Physicians, the director of internal audit with The United Company in Bristol, Virginia, and controller at Southwood Healthcare in Elizabethton. He is a licensed CPA with professional membership in the Tennessee Society of CPAs, the American Institute of CPAs, the Medical Group Management Association and the American Medical Group Association.

“Rusty has been a part of the Quillen family for many years and his move to serve Quillen in this role will help the medical school continue to succeed in its missions,” said Dr. Robert Means, Quillen dean.

An ETSU alumnus, Lewis earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from the university. He went on to earn his Master of Business Administration from Colorado State University.

A retirement reception for Wilgocki was held in December 2017. At the event, ETSU Vice President for Health Affairs Dr. Wilsie Bishop told Wilgocki she appreciated his “exemplary financial work” and his “value-centered leadership.”

“He worked with integrity and with his heart focused on the mission of the university,” she added.

Rusty Lewis has been named the executive associate dean for Quillen College of Medicine’s Department of Finance and Administration. Lewis took over the position at the start of 2018, replacing longtime executive associate dean Greg Wilgocki, who retired after 32 years of service at ETSU.

Lewis comes to the position after serving for nearly 20 years as the executive director of Quillen ETSU Physicians, where he was responsible for a \$40 million budget and 350 employees. Prior to that, Lewis held roles as the associate administrator of finance

Quillen Hires Ostapchuk as New GME Associate Dean

Quillen College of Medicine has named Dr. Michael Ostapchuk its new associate dean for Graduate Medical Education (GME). He comes to ETSU from the University of Louisville School of Medicine where he served as the associate dean of GME and Medical Student Affairs.

Through his role at ETSU, Ostapchuk manages the university’s residency programs, which include more than 250 residency positions in areas of study including anatomic and clinical pathology, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopaedic surgery, pediatrics, psychiatry and surgery. It also includes fellowship programs in areas such as cardiovascular disease, gastroenterology, infectious diseases, medical oncology and pulmonary/critical care.

Ostapchuk also serves as an associate professor at Quillen.

He received his medical degree from the University of Kentucky School of Medicine and completed residencies in both pediatrics and family medicine at the East Carolina University School of Medicine and University of Louisville School of Medicine, respectively. He also holds a master of education from the University of Southern California.

Board certified in pediatrics and family medicine, Ostapchuk previously has served as the director of pediatrics at a residency program in east Kentucky as well as a staff pediatrician at a clinic in Hindman, Kentucky. He is a member of several professional organizations, including the Academy of Pediatrics, the American



Academy of Family Medicine, the American Medical Association and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine.

Ostapchuk’s experience in and focus on rural health was a significant factor in his being hired for the GME position at ETSU.

“Dr. Ostapchuk’s history and background greatly complement the missions of the Quillen College of Medicine and helped make him a stand-out candidate for this position,” said Dr. Robert Means, dean of the Quillen College of Medicine. “The training of rural primary care doctors is an area in which our medical school excels and we have received significant national attention for our efforts in this area. We look forward to Dr. Ostapchuk’s contributions furthering that mission here at Quillen.”

Caduceus Awards

The Caduceus Awards ceremony was held in April, with several members of the Quillen family being recognized by the medical students. Each year, a designated committee hosts the event to recognize attendings, residents, faculty and staff members who consistently go above and beyond in medical education. Nominations are made by students spanning all four years and the final votes are held by the entire student body. The 2018 Caduceus Award Winners are:

M1 Outstanding Course of the Year

Medical Human Gross Anatomy and Embryology

M1 Outstanding Professor of the Year

Dr. Tom Kwasigroch

M2 Outstanding Course of the Year

Clinical Neuroscience

M2 Outstanding Professor of the Year

Dr. Earl Brown

M1/M2 Outstanding College of Medicine Staff Award

Rob Becker

M3 Outstanding Resident Awards

Dr. Harirajan Mani (Family Medicine)

Dr. Abdul Khan (Internal Medicine)

Dr. Kiana Brooks (OB/GYN)

Dr. Victor Smith (Pediatrics)

Dr. David Jensen (Psychiatry)

Dr. Trevy Ramos (Surgery)



M3 Outstanding Attending Awards

Dr. Jason Moore (Family Medicine)

Dr. Jack Goldstein (Internal Medicine)

Dr. Racine Edwards-Silva (OB/GYN)

Dr. Shawn Hollinger (Pediatrics)

Dr. Jill McCarley (Psychiatry)

Dr. William Browder (Surgery)

Dr. Kathryn Xixis (Subspecialties)

M4 Outstanding Resident Award

Dr. Nandita Rao

M4 Outstanding Fellow Award

Dr. Venugopal Bhattad

M4 Clinical Teaching Recognition

Dr. Jack Goldstein

M4 Mentor of the Year

Dr. Dawn Tuell

M3/M4 Outstanding College of Medicine Staff Award

Shelly Higgins



Dr. Mark Dalle-Ave

Dalle-Ave Named Rural Health Worker of the Year

Dr. Mark Dalle-Ave, a family medicine physician in Rogersville as well as a clinical associate professor of medical education and preceptor for Rural Primary Care Track students at Quillen, has been recognized for his efforts in the area of rural health.

Dalle-Ave was awarded the Rural Health Worker of the Year award by the Rural Health Association of Tennessee (RHAT). The award is bestowed upon an individual who has made an outstanding contribution of major significance to rural health.

Dalle-Ave began working in Rogersville in 1995 and has been serving the community ever since. He is a founding member of the ETSU Health Center in Rogersville, an initiative between ETSU and Hawkins County that aimed to provide clinical and community-based education experiences for health sciences students as well as quality care to the community. Today, Dalle-Ave continues to work with ETSU students and serves as co-director of ETSU's Rural Primary Care Track in Rogersville.

Dalle-Ave is a full-time family physician at the Rural Health Services Consortium, a Federally Qualified Community Health Center. He is also the team physician for Cherokee High School Athletics and serves as the medical examiner for Hawkins County.

"It is without a doubt that the work of Dr. Dalle-Ave has improved the health of his community," said Dr. Joe Florence, professor of family medicine and director of rural programs for the College of Medicine. "His innovative approach to caring for individual patients and the community as a whole has provided outstanding benefits to the public's health."

Third-year medical student Kaitlyn Shirely called Dalle-Ave "the most encouraging physician I have ever worked with," noting that he starts nearly every patient encounter with some sort of affirmation.

"His encouragement of his patients motivates them to continue making positive changes to their health, and his encouragement of me motivates me to continue to grow in my medical knowledge and skills," she said. "I can think of no physician more deserving of this award."

Meet Jay Johnston



A member of the Quillen Class of 2018, James Johnston transitioned from serving in the U.S. Army's Special Forces to becoming a medical student at ETSU. Between 2002 and 2012, Johnston was deployed seven times to Afghanistan and Iraq. He spent seven of those years also getting his bachelor's degree by taking night classes. In this conversation, Jay talks about his experience at Quillen. Johnston is continuing at ETSU as he enters into his Family Medicine residency at ETSU Family Physicians of Kingsport.

Why did you decide to go to medical school?

In 2005, my teammate and friend was mortally wounded on a mission. I decided after that. It was one of those moments when you realize you need to do more. I was a Special Forces Medic in the U.S. Army and pursuing a P.A. or M.D. seemed the next logical step for my background. I knew I needed a degree to get into either type of program so I started my premedical degree requirements while on active duty. I chose to become an M.D. as it provided me the greatest autonomy of care for my patients and career options.

Why did you choose ETSU?

The faculty and students treat everyone as family. Staff are always super helpful and try to make an already stressful course of education into an enjoyable experience. The school also has a dedicated medical student study center that is great for me as I have a family of five and studying at home is not possible. The local area has lots of stuff for families and outdoor activities.

What are your goals?

My goals are to work at a Level 1 Emergency Room somewhere in the southeast that also trains residents, as I like to teach. I also will continue my military career in the National Guard as a Commissioned Medical Officer, most likely serving as a Battalion Surgeon.

What has been the most rewarding aspect or moment at medical school?

Working at the VA is very rewarding to me. The rapport with a veteran is almost instant and I feel they are always glad a fellow veteran is one of their providers. I think there is an understanding that veterans acting as providers are there to take care of them because of a common bond, and that is true.

What has been your biggest challenge so far in pursuing a post-military education?

The balance between family and medical school is very hard, you have a lot of stuff you have to learn but you also must make time for your family. This can be a difficult task and different classes requires different balances. It can be real fluid at times, depending on how many tests you have and when, etc.

Class of 2018

Match Day and Commencement

The Quillen Class of 2018 enjoyed a successful National Resident Matching Program outcome, with 96 percent of the class able to secure residency training positions in 17 different specialties/sub-specialties at 42 residency sites throughout the United States. Check out where they are going and what fields they are entering:

1 CHILD NEUROLOGY

Baylor College of Medicine

3 NEUROLOGY

Duke University Med Center
Beth Israel Deaconess Med Center
Palmetto Health Richland



1 UROLOGY

University of Mississippi Med Center

2 PSYCHIATRY

University of Tennessee COM
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

2 DERMATOLOGY

Wake Forest Baptist Med Center
Medical College of Georgia



1 OB-GYN PRELIMINARY

East Tennessee State University



5 ANESTHESIOLOGY

University of Arkansas COM
Wake Forest Baptist Med Center
University of Alabama Med Center
University of Tennessee Grad SOM
Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems



1 RADIATION ONCOLOGY

University of Oklahoma COM

2 SURGERY - PRELIMINARY

Greenville Health Systems/
University of South Carolina
University of Tennessee COM



3 RADIOLOGY - DIAGNOSTIC

Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education
Barnes-Jewish Hospital
University of Tennessee Grad SOM

4 OBSTETRICS/ GYNECOLOGY

Orlando Health
East Tennessee State University
Tufts Medical Center



10 PEDIATRICS

University of Arkansas COM
 University of Oklahoma COM
 Naval Medical Center
 Vanderbilt University Med Center
 Palmetto Health Richland
 Johns Hopkins Hospital
 Greenville Health Systems/ University of South Carolina
 Cincinnati Childrens Hospital
 Wake Forest Baptist Med Center



5 EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Palmetto Health Richland
 University of Tennessee COM
 George Washington University
 University of Texas Southwestern Med School

7 INTERNAL MEDICINE

University of Louisville SOM
 White River Health System
 East Tennessee State University
 University of Utah Affiliated Hospitals
 University of Alabama Med Center
 Case Western Reserve University, University Hospitals Cleveland Med Center
 Univ of Vermont Medical Center



4 ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Medical University of South Carolina
 University of Kentucky Med Center
 University of Missouri
 Penn State Hershey Med Center

9 FAMILY MEDICINE

University of Tennessee, St. Thomas Hospitals
 University of Minnesota Med School
 Naval Medical Center
 Idaho State University
 University of Tennessee COM
 East Tennessee State University



1 PATHOLOGY

Vanderbilt University Med Center

4 GENERAL SURGERY

East Tennessee State University
 Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
 Abington, PA Memorial Hospital
 University of Tennessee, St. Thomas Hospitals



3 OPHTHALMOLOGY

Texas A & M, Scott & White Med Center
 Medical College of Georgia
 University of Kentucky



Student Awards

During a hooding ceremony May 5, several members of the Class of 2018 received graduation honor awards for their work and activities conducted during their time at Quillen. Those earning recognition are:



ABBY SCHULTZ received the **Ann Trnum Hawkins Award for Excellence in Women's Health** for demonstrating the most

significant involvement in areas of women's health over the course of her medical school career. Schultz also received the **2018 Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award** presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation. This award is given to the student, as judged by her peers, who consistently demonstrates compassion and empathy in the delivery of care; demonstrates professional behavior and cultural sensitivity in working with patients; pays attention and is sensitive to the patient's psychological well-being; and displays concern for the general welfare of the community. Additionally, Schultz received the **Dillard M. Sholes Society Award** for her academic excellence during the junior year of OB/GYN clerkship.



KATELIN MCCALL PANNELL received several awards, including the **Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians Scholarship**

Award and the **H. Cowan Moss Family Medicine Award**, which is given to a student who exhibits devotion, caring and compassion toward patients and patient families. It also recognizes her qualities as a statesman for health care beyond the required clinical responsibility, having a genuine love of life and the ability to balance professional obligations with needs of self and family. McCall was among three members of the class to receive the **Ronald S. McCord, M.D. Rural Family Medicine Award**, which recognizes those who exemplify commitment in rural medicine,

are compassionate and demonstrate excellence in caring for and healing patients. Classmates **JESSICA HAYNES CROWDER** and **KELSEY LLOYD** also received the award.



JOHN KIRBY earned the **Dean's Distinguished Student Award**, given to the student who demonstrated superb clinical skills and shows potential for becoming an excellent physician.

The **Philip John Hinton, M.D. Career in Surgery Award** went to **TIMOTHY DIPERI JR.** for exhibiting the most promise for an outstanding surgical career.

ALEXANDER ANKAR received the **Bieber Award** for establishing a record of keen interest in sciences prior to entering medical school or evidence of a desire to seek a career in research.

JAMES ROWE was presented with the **Kevin Swabe Memorial Honor Award**, recognizing him as the most outstanding graduating senior entering pediatrics.

LINDSAY CROSNOE SHIPLEY earned the **Department of Internal Medicine Award** for achieving the highest aggregate grades in the internal medicine subspecialties during the clinical years.

The **James Christopher Corbin Memorial Award in Psychiatry** went to **HUGH ROBINSON CALDWELL III**, recognizing him as an outstanding senior who demonstrates an interest in and enthusiasm for the field of psychiatry.

REBECCA ROLAND received the **Department of Pediatrics Award**, presented to a student entering a primary care specialty who has demonstrated a keen interest in child health and development and possesses an informed

and disciplined mind as well as kindness and sensitivity to cultural diversity and humility. Roland was also one of two members of the class to receive the American Medical Women's Association's **Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Award**, presented to one or more females graduating in the top 10 percent of their class. **LIZZIE MONROE** also received the award.

The **Dr. Jay & Mina Mehta Family Award in Preventive Medicine** went to **MARIE MOULTON** for exhibiting the most promise for an outstanding medical career in the areas of preventive medicine, epidemiology and/or public health. Moulton also received the **Outstanding Performance Junior Surgical Clerkship Award**.

The **Dr. David E. Daigneault Memorial Award** went to **AHMED MINHAS** for demonstrating the compassion and empathy that the award's namesake did for his patients.

REBECCA LEE received the **Cheryl L. McLemore, M.D. Memorial Pediatrics Award** for demonstrating a keen interest in child health and development and possessing an informed and disciplined mind, a sensitivity to cultural diversity and an outstanding commitment to patient care.

The **Henry Clay Reister Award** went to **OMAR MCCARTY** for starting his medical career later in life after having a previous career.

TYLER STANNARD earned the **Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award**.

Based on leadership and scholastic achievement, **MORGAN BUDA** and **BRADLEY MULLER** each earned the **Merck and Company, Incorporated Book Award**.

SIRMA CHAUDHARY and **PARTH SHETH** each received **The Medical Mystery of the Week's Osler Award** for demonstrating exceptional knowledge of the clinical manifestations of disease.

Meet Dr. Trey Robertson, Resident Alumnus

Dr. John “Trey” Robertson is a quiet hero. He prefers working behind the scenes in his role as a surgeon at Franklin Woods Community Hospital and Johnson City Medical Center, making a difference in people’s lives without drawing attention to himself. While he shies away from special attention, Robertson’s impact has been substantial.

He was the first physician at Mountain States Health Alliance, now Ballad Health, to perform fecal microbiota transplants, a cutting edge treatment that has a cure rate of 95 percent or higher for patients fighting recurrent *C difficile* infections. Robertson was also instrumental in Franklin Woods receiving designation as a Center of Excellence for minimally invasive colorectal surgery, the first of its kind in Tennessee, by The Joint Commission.

“Our colorectal program and the designation as a center of excellence is a huge milestone that has changed how we look at our patients and healing,” he said. “(We have) the opportunity to not only improve our patient care approach, but also to continue to build on this program’s foundation.”

Robertson is among the handful of surgeons at Franklin Woods who uses the state-of-the-art da Vinci Xi Surgical System, the most advanced technology in the field of robotic surgery. But it’s not just his clinical expertise that makes him special; it is also Robertson’s approach to his patients. He combines advanced technology with a kind heart and a passion for learning.

A native of Chattanooga, Robertson graduated from David Lipscomb University in Nashville and the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Kentucky. He then completed his general surgical residency at ETSU in 2001-02.

Robertson is always seeking more information and research to make sure he’s providing the best and most innovative care to his patients. He’s also known for the genuine care he displays toward everyone, both inside and outside the hospital. Patients and families, as well as co-workers, say he truly listens to them and goes the extra mile to make sure they understand the situation, treating everyone with the same respect, from the environmental services worker to the frontline nurse to the CEO.

Dr. Robertson was honored by his employer in 2017 with a Servant’s Heart Award, given to someone who selflessly serves others and follows the principles of patient-centered care and, that same year, was named a Healthcare Hero by the *Business Journal of Tri-Cities Tennessee/Virginia*.



Climb it, Run it, Raise it

Alum spends two years in Tanzania, climbs Mt. Kilimanjaro to fund teaching position in government hospital



It was during a 3 a.m. trauma shift that Dr. Kayla Griffith said, “Why not?”

Why not pause her life as a surgeon in the United States, move to another continent and help start a teaching hospital?

“I think a lot of people spend their lives asking, why? Why would you do that?” said Griffith, a member of the Quillen Class of 2008. “You limit yourself in a lot of ways. Sometimes it’s OK to say why not, to explore boundaries and new adventures.”

Griffith isn’t one to shy away from a challenge. She regularly takes backpacking trips alone and has always been curious about new people and cultures.

“Tanzania wasn’t part of some sort of lifelong dream I had to travel to Africa and practice medicine,” she said. “It was an opportunity that fell in my lap at the right time in my life.”

It was during that 3 a.m. trauma shift that Griffith spoke with a colleague who had recently returned from Africa. The two exchanged photos and stories, as Griffith had just visited Myanmar in Southeast Asia. The colleague spoke of an opportunity in Tanzania where a teaching hospital was being established and a surgeon was needed. Before he could provide any details, Griffith was called to perform surgery on a gunshot victim. Once she stabilized the patient, though, Griffith returned to ask for the details.

“It was the right time in my life where I could step away,” Griffith said. “It was something I had been interested in doing for a long time, but I just assumed it wouldn’t be feasible until retirement age.”

Little did she know that she would instantly connect with the people of Shinyanga, Tanzania, and embark on a physically and mentally exhausting journey in their honor. Griffith was assigned to the Shinyanga Regional Referral Hospital, a 300-bed government-run tertiary care center in a rural, remote region inhabited mostly by farmers.

Tanzania is extremely deficient of health care providers. Physicians and assistant medical officers (AMOs) receive little hands-on training before performing procedures and seeing patients on their own. Because there is no emergency room at Shinyanga Regional, there is no real triage system and patients

are funneled into four branches of the hospital – surgery, internal medicine, pediatrics and obstetrics.

“If there’s a problem with any body part or abdomen, it comes to surgery,” Griffith said. “We don’t have a lot of resources. The trigger reaction we are taught in the United States is to order an exhaustive panel of labs, CT, ultrasound, MRI. In Shinyanga, we’ve got X-Ray, hemoglobin, white blood count and urinalysis. That’s about it.”

Working at Shinyanga helped Griffith reconnect with her training and passion for medicine.

“You actually have to use your hands,” she said. “It actually comes down to the art of medicine. Using your skills and a lot of the physical exam techniques we learned in medical school, right here at Quillen, and not always used in my surgery residency because of my own reliance on modern systems, suddenly came back into play.”

“Now we’ve got people with massive traumas and blood loss walking out of the hospital and that’s something they didn’t fathom before. You see people realize their own success.”

- Dr. Kayla Griffith

Upon her arrival to Shinyanga, Griffith encountered numerous patients who did not survive routine surgeries due to the lack of post-operative care. Many of their stories are detailed in her blog. At times, it may have seemed that the odds were stacked against her. She was delivered a particularly devastating blow when her 10-year-old friend died due to complications from Type 1 Juvenile Diabetes. Likely another preventable death.

“If you go into a hospital in Africa you can find a thousand things that are wrong and that you want to focus on, but that’s neither feasible nor sustainable, which means you need to take some time and invest in the people,” she said. “Quillen invested in my growth and success as a person, a human, a physician.”





This was Griffith's opportunity to pass it forward. To give others the priceless gift she had received as a medical student – education.

“Now we've got people with massive traumas and blood loss walking out of the hospital and that's something they didn't fathom before. You see people realize their own success,” she said.

With all the progress made by the hospital staff, it was difficult for Griffith to face the reality of what would happen once her two-year commitment in Shinyanga ended. She knew the hospital needed continuity, needed someone to educate the physicians and AMOs.

While spending New Year's Eve in Zanzibar, she sketched a fundraising plan on a bar napkin and #KiliForACause was born.

Again, Griffith asked herself, ‘Why not?’ Why not climb it, run it, raise it?

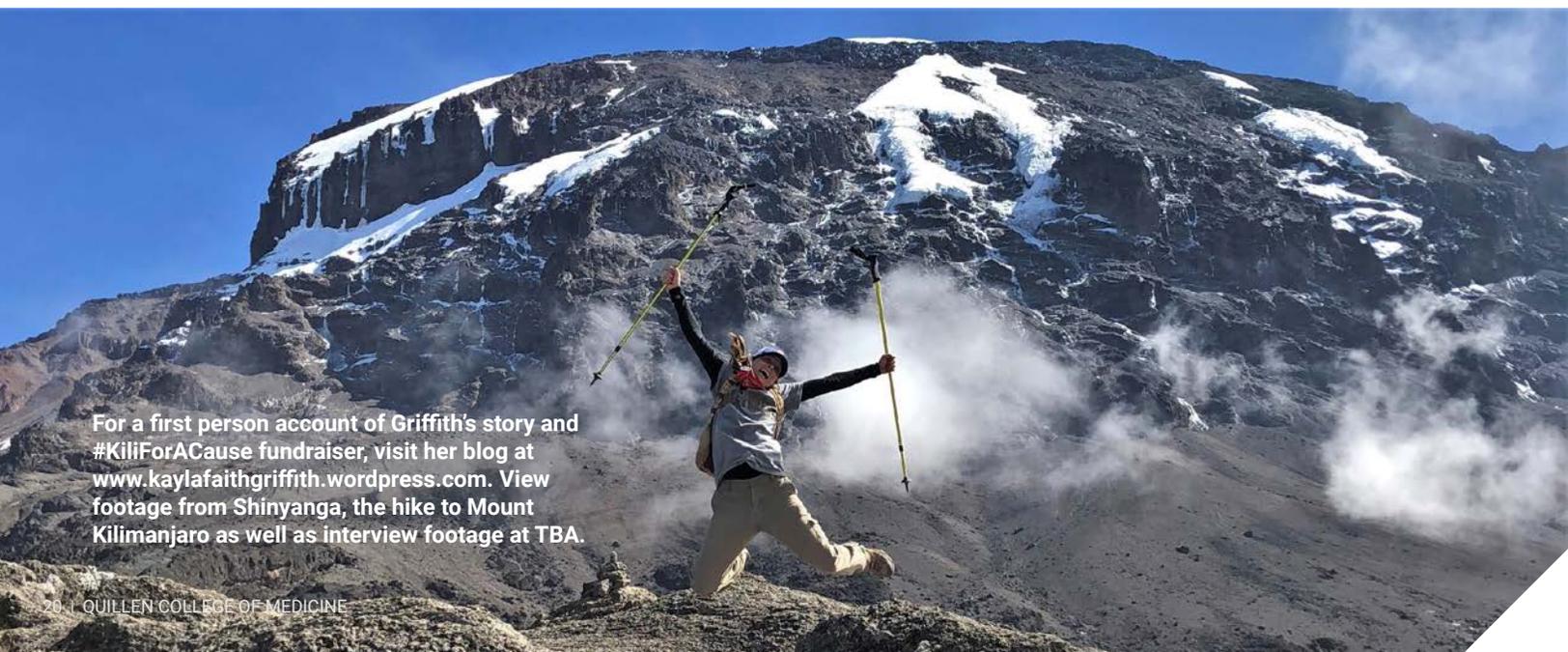
She immediately began training and preparing to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, then, run all 26.2 miles of the annual Kilimanjaro Marathon seven days later. Reaching Uhuru Peak took its toll on Griffith, but she was determined to complete the mission. Her friends were counting on her to raise \$50,000.

“I wasn't ready to see this relationship disintegrate” Griffith said. “There's a community of people who have become very dear to me. The exchange of information happening on both sides is vital. I've seen a profound difference in the course of two years in the motivation of human beings. I met the goal with the help of thousands of people.”

Griffith is working with Wake Forest University to establish a position to continue the work in Tanzania. And while a bit of her heart remains in Shinyanga, Griffith is embarking on a new journey – a breast oncology fellowship with Georgetown University and Washington Hospital Center.

“I hope to continue working in oncology here in the States and then continue my international work, as well, to have a foot in both worlds. I think it's completely feasible and possible to do both,” she added.

“It's not all about me. I hope that in 10 years, I can still say, ‘It's not about me' and that this system continues to grow and flourish. You want to train and teach so well that you as the teacher are no longer relevant, no longer needed. That is the ultimate goal: sustainability. I can personally do surgeries all day and change one particular patient's life at a time, but if you can simultaneously educate and train people then you have the infinite capacity to make a difference in an exponential number of lives. It's not about you.”



For a first person account of Griffith's story and #KiliForACause fundraiser, visit her blog at www.kaylafaithgriffith.wordpress.com. View footage from Shinyanga, the hike to Mount Kilimanjaro as well as interview footage at TBA.

Class Notes

1985

Dr. Doug Davis currently practices internal medicine at the University of Tennessee at Pellissippi.

1986

Dr. Joseph Earl "Pete" Kelley, Jr. practices pediatric surgery in his hometown of Chattanooga with University Surgical Associates. He is also an assistant professor of surgery with UTCOM, Chattanooga.

1988

Dr. Elaine Watson Hatch moved to Chattanooga, where she completed a pediatric residency and served as chief resident in her 3rd year. She currently practices at Beacon Health Alliance.

Dr. Tim Powers (Class of 1988), **Dr. Kathryn Baker** (Class of 2004) and **Dr. Thomas Dahl, Jr.** (Class of 2003) are in practice together at The Eye Center of Oak Ridge. All three are ophthalmologists and eye surgeons.

Dr. Wilma Proffitt is a staff anesthesiologist at Blount Memorial Hospital in Maryville.

1989

Dr. Jim Proffitt specializes in internal medicine in an outpatient private practice in Alcoa.

1991

Dr. Larry Howard has retired from private practice at Howard Internal Medicine. He also worked for Memorial Health in Chattanooga.

Dr. Lynda Knight Rogers is a radiologist at Tennessee Valley Radiology in Sweetwater.

1992

Dr. Jean Radovich Murphy retired from family practice in Knoxville and now enjoys farming and being a grandparent.

1994



Dr. Richard Scranton has been named Chief Scientific Officer at Pacira Pharmaceuticals, where he oversees the company's health outcomes and value assessment programs, academic research collaborations, scientific communications, and market access strategies.

1996

Dr. Keith Campbell established Tennessee Vein Center in Alcoa, where he currently practices phlebology.

2000

Dr. Alan Elliott completed residency in internal medicine at Mayo Jacksonville and rheumatology at UNC Chapel Hill. He practiced in Charlotte, North Carolina, for seven years and currently is a rheumatologist at Arthritis Associates in Hixson.

2001



Dr. Andy Russell has been named chief medical officer at Williamson Medical Center in Franklin.

2003

Dr. T. Benjamin Skelton has joined Garden Park Physician Group in Mississippi.

Dr. Margaret (Meg) Weigel currently works for the Trauma Recovery Program (PTSD treatment team) at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. She completed the 2017 Ironman 70.3 Augusta, Georgia, race with Quillen classmate, **John Robinson**.

2004

Dr. Bryan Helsel, retired military, has returned to the Tri-Cities where he is working as a cardio-thoracic surgeon at Ballad Health. Previously, he was featured in an ABC news segment called, "Afghanistan – The Golden Hour."

2005

Dr. Tara Mancl has joined Sovah Surgical Specialists located in Danville, Virginia.

2006

Dr. Eve Raburn Wadzinski was an Air Force pediatrician for three years. She is now an outpatient general pediatrician at Dayton Pediatrics in Dayton, Tennessee.

2008

Dr. Payne Stanifer has been inducted into the J. Frank White Academy Hall of Fame at Lincoln Memorial University. Stanifer is a thoracic surgeon at Columbia University Medical Center in New York.

2009

Dr. Matt Goldman completed a fellowship in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Wake Forest and has joined the faculty in Vascular Surgery at Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

Dr. Catherine Lindsay McKnight completed a general surgery residency in Greenville, South Carolina, and a trauma/critical care residency in Hawaii. She currently specializes in trauma/critical care at University General Surgeons and is an assistant professor with UT Knoxville.

Class Notes continued

2010

Dr. Stephen Pacifico is a general surgeon with Blount Memorial Physicians Group in Maryville.

2011

Dr. Timothy Brooks is a family physician at Naval Health Clinic Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor, Washington.

Dr. Jennifer Jackson Piel completed an internal medicine residency at MUSC in Charleston, South Carolina, and is currently practicing internal medicine at UT Knoxville.

2013

Dr. Jennifer Laird Brantley is currently working for Contemporary Women's Health in Knoxville.



Dr. Patricia McPherson, who completed an internship and residency at Quillen, has joined the staff at Banner Health in northern Colorado.

Dr. Brock Thomas "T.J." Mitchell currently practices internal medicine at UT Internists in Knoxville.



Dr. Andrew Parsons was recognized by the Greeneville City Schools Education Foundation, which awarded Parsons its Outstanding Young Alumni Award as part of the

2018 CORE Champion Awards. Parsons is an assistant professor in the hospital medical section of the Division of General, Geriatric, Palliative and Hospital Medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine and a hospitalist at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Dr. Jamie Whittemore Perry is an Obstetrician/Gynecologist at Women's Care Group in Knoxville.

Dr. Manisha Raj, Quillen Class of 2013, a specialist in internal medicine and pediatrics, joined the medical staff at Maury Regional Medical Center in Columbia, as a hospital medicine physician.

2014

Dr. Sarah McCary Baker practices with good friend and Quillen classmate, **Dr. Jacqueline Gentry**, at Memorial Primary Care in Chattanooga. Gentry also serves as physician leader and lab director for the practice.



Dr. Jonathan Goodnight, who graduated from Quillen College of Medicine in 2014 and completed his family practice residency here in 2017, has joined the Family Care Center of Taylorsville practice, a part of the Iredell Health System in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

Dr. Benjamin "Mark" Hoffman is completing a residency in neurology at Wake Forest and will begin a fellowship in immuno-neurology at Emory University in Atlanta. His interest area is neurological diseases, such as MS and ALS.

Dr. Haley Klimecki is completing a year as Pediatric Chief Resident at Wake Forest and will be moving to the Chattanooga area to join Highland Pediatrics Practice.

Dr. Sarah Himmelreich Shelton is an Ob/Gyn resident at UT Knoxville.

Dr. Laurie Bennie Tucker completed a pediatric residency at Vanderbilt in Nashville in 2017 and is a general pediatrician at Columbia Pediatrics in Columbia, Tennessee.

2016

Dr. Madeleine Garren is completing her residency in anesthesiology at UT Knoxville.

Dr. Jennifer Jaynes (Res '16) moved to Knoxville in 2017 and currently works for Oak Ridge Pediatrics/East Tennessee Children's Hospital, where she volunteered as an undergraduate.

2017



Dr. Daniel Gouger completed a one-year AMSA Fellowship in Washington, D.C., and is beginning residency training in anesthesiology at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Faith Woods Lindsay and **Dr. Ryan Mart** matched in the couples match at UTCOM, Chattanooga. Faith is completing a pediatrics residency and Ryan is completing an internal medicine residency.

If you would like to give us an update on your progress for the web page or next year's Quillen Magazine, please contact us by email qcomalumnisociety@etsu.edu.

Alumni Gatherings



CHATTANOOGA AREA ALUMNI SOCIETY GATHERING

Several Quillen College of Medicine alumni gatherings took place in various parts of the state, including in Chattanooga on March 13, 2018, and Knoxville on March 14, 2018.



CHATTANOOGA AREA ALUMNI SOCIETY GATHERING
L-R: **Jacy Gentry '14, Sarah Baker '14, Alan Elliott '00 and wife, Jakey Elliott**



KNOXVILLE AREA ALUMNI SOCIETY GATHERING
L-R: **Evelyne Davidson '87, Barry Bingham '87 and his wife Patty Bingham, Philip Torbett, Jennifer Jaynes Res. '16**



KNOXVILLE AREA ALUMNI SOCIETY GATHERING
Tim Powers '88, Doug Taylor, Doug Davis '85, Bob Elder '84



KNOXVILLE AREA ALUMNI SOCIETY GATHERING
L-R: **Michael Hemmert, Lindsey McKnight '09, Ryan Buckley '09, Ashley Buckley, Lindsey Pacifico, Stephen Pacifico '10**

Scholarship Appreciation Dinner



L-R: Becky Summers, Quillen Class of 2001 Mark Summers Memorial scholarship recipient Troy Nold and Robert Summers

Dr. Robert T. Means, Jr., dean of the Quillen College of Medicine, welcomed attendees to the biennial Scholarship Appreciation Dinner on Nov. 16, 2017.

“This event is our way of expressing gratitude to scholarship endowment donors for their generous support and to give them an opportunity to meet our deserving scholarship recipients,” Means said.

Dr. Ken Olive, executive associate dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs, gave an overview of why scholarship support is so important for medical education, noting that the average educational debt for Quillen Class of 2017 graduates was \$182,971, which is slightly higher than the national average.



L-R: Dr. May Votaw and Bertha B. Votaw scholarship recipient Claire Gleadhill

Dr. Tom Kwasigroch, associate dean for Student Affairs, thanked donors and reported that the Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee was able to award \$564,500 to 157 unduplicated scholarship recipients this year.

“I wouldn’t be standing in front of you today if it wasn’t for scholarship donors.”

— Lindsey Crosnoe Shipley

Lindsey Crosnoe Shipley, a four-year recipient of the Partners in Medicine Scholarship and member of the Class of 2018, thanked donors on behalf of all of the medical students receiving private scholarship support.

“Receiving a scholarship during medical training can make a huge difference,” she said. “I wouldn’t be standing in front of you today if it wasn’t for scholarship donors. We have the opportunity to pursue our dreams and make a difference in the lives of others – just as you have made a difference and lasting impression on mine.”

If you would like more information about establishing a new scholarship endowment or contributing to an existing scholarship, contact Carol Sloan, 423-439-6142 or sloanc@etsu.edu.

In Memoriam

Dr. Robert Wondergem



Dr. Robert Wondergem, a member of the original Quillen faculty, passed away March 21, 2018.

He was born in Wisconsin on January 17, 1950. He graduated from Calvin College, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as well as the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. His postdoctoral research was completed at the McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research in Madison, Wisconsin.

In 1978, he became an inaugural faculty member of Quillen College of Medicine, where he discovered his passion for research as well as teaching physiology to medical students. He has numerous journal publications to his credit; he presented talks and seminars at colleges and universities throughout the country and Europe; and he had many research collaborations with colleagues at ETSU, throughout the United States and abroad. His research took him to Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory in Maine for many summers. He spent a year as a Fulbright Research Scholar and Visiting Professor at the Katholieke Universiteit of Leuven, BE.



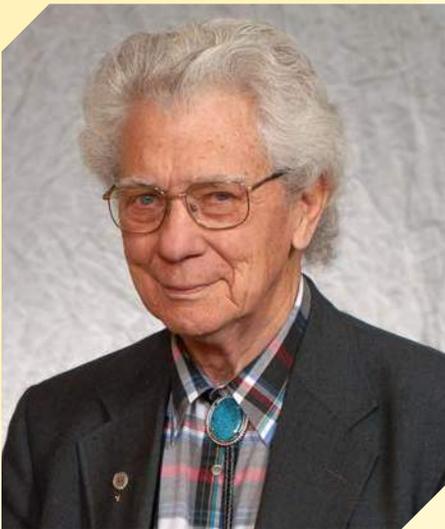
Dr. Lester Bryant Jr.

Dr. Lester Bryant, a member of the original Quillen faculty and former department chair, passed away May 2, 2018.

Bryant, after graduating at the top of his medical school class at the University of Cincinnati Medical School and doing his residency, pursued an academic career in surgery. He became the Section Chief in Cardiothoracic Surgery at LSU in New Orleans and then came to Quillen College of Medicine in 1977 as one of the founding faculty members. He was hired as chair of the Department of Surgery.

In that role, he successfully developed a surgical faculty and started the residency program in General Surgery. At the same time, he was a significant founder in the Medical Education Assistance Corporation (MEAC). He also established his own premier practice in Cardiothoracic Surgery and worked with Dr. David Sewell of Kingsport in developing the first cardiothoracic surgical program in the area.

He left the area in 1985 to become the dean of medicine at Marshall University, and from 1989-99 was dean of medicine at the University of Missouri - Columbia campus. He returned here post-retirement and continued to be active in various university and community causes.



Dr. Robert Rasch

by Paul Monaco & Brian Rowe

Dr. Robert (Bob) W. Rasch, professor emeritus (physiology) in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, passed away April 6, 2018.

Rasch was recruited by ETSU in 1977 as the inaugural chair of the Department of Physiology in the then-new medical school. He received his medical degree from Northwestern University School of Medicine in 1951 and his PhD in physiology from the University of Chicago in 1959.

Rasch served as an executive officer in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and spent two years as an internist in the Far East Command. His doctoral work focused on giant polytene chromosomes in *Drosophila*. He was a co-investigator with his wife, the late Dr. Ellen Rasch, on numerous Public Health Service grants. He was on the leading edge, developing analysis software for micro densitometry using DOS software that predated the "Microsoft revolution."

When Rasch assumed the chair role at Quillen, he was charged with the monumental task of designing a new course in Medical Physiology for the first class of medical students, and recruiting faculty to teach that course. He believed strongly in experiential learning, a concept that has currency in modern pedagogy/andragogy but met with resistance at the time. By 1982, his innovative course in medical physiology incorporated a weekly hands-on laboratory experience for medical students.



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EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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SAVE THE DATE!

**QUILLEN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
ALUMNI REUNION
JULY 26 – 27, 2019
CLASSES OF 1989, 1999, AND 2009**

If you would like information about being a class agent for your class, please contact us: QcomAlumniSociety@etsu.edu or 423-439-6316

QUILLEN CALENDAR

**White Coat Ceremony and Reception –
July 20, 2018**
Match Day – March 15, 2019
Graduation – May 3, 2019

ALUMNI EVENTS

Quillen College of Medicine Alumni Reunion
July 27 – 28, 2018
Classes of 1988, 1998, and 2008

**Quillen College of Medicine Alumni Society
Board of Directors Annual Meeting**
July 28, 2018

ETSU vs UT Football Game – at UT Knoxville
September 8, 2018
Additional information will be available at
<https://www.etsualumni.org>

2019 QUILLEN REGIONAL ALUMNI EVENTS

Dates and specific locations to be determined

**Chattanooga, TN
Knoxville, TN**

**Memphis, TN
Nashville, TN**