



The ALUMNUS

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March 2019 | E-newsletter for Tennessee Tech Alumni & Friends



Tech grad's characters Sammy Soil and Ruby Raindrop teach children about conservation for 50 years

When Ernest "Howard" Whitaker dreamed up the conservation character Sammy Soil, he never could have imagined that 50 years later, Sammy would have educated tens of thousands of students across the country. Whitaker, '56 agricultural science, credits Tech for changing the course of his career path and ultimate success.

[Read More >](#)

Wings Up Weekend Registration Now Open



Wings Up Weekend Registration is now available! Scheduled for the weekend of April 12-13, Wings Up Weekend will include the Evening of Excellence Alumni Association Awards Banquet, Civil and Environmental Engineering Golf Tournament, Friday Cafe, Nursing Reunion, Nursing Legal Conference CEU Course, ROTC Golf Scramble, Multicultural Affairs Alumni Advisory Council (MAAAC) Legacy Gala, Baseball Game versus Central Arkansas, Backdoor Playhouse production of *The Rivals*, Window on the World, STEM Center Safari Saturday, National Baja Race, Cookeville History Hike, and more!

[Register for a Wings Up Weekend event >](#)

Opinion columnist Peggy Noonan praises Tech in Wall Street Journal article

OPINION | DECLARATIONS

Kids, Don't Become Success Robots

Tennessee Tech is an amazing school, and nobody breaks the law to get admitted.



By [Peggy Noonan](#)

March 14, 2019 7:03 p.m. ET

Opinion columnist Peggy Noonan wrote about Tennessee Tech in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed last week. In contrast to the college admissions scandals in the news recently, the column's headline really says it all. Noonan visited Tech three years ago to speak at a College of Business Fall Celebration and recalls that the Tech students she encountered were mature, gracious, and welcoming. She concluded that despite the negative press regarding some elite universities, Tech is evidence that we are going to be okay.

The link to the op-ed is below, but please note that you will need to be a subscriber to read the full column.

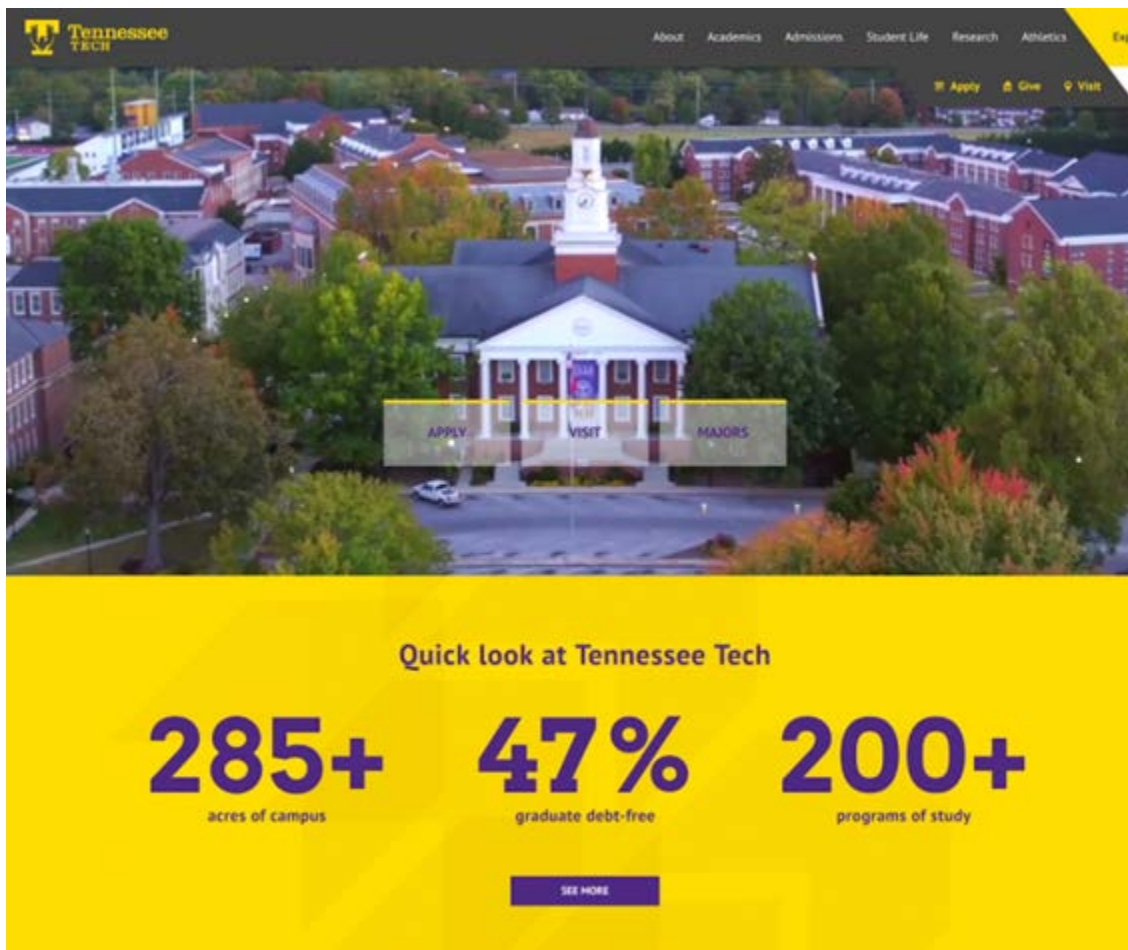
[Read full Wall Street Journal article >](#)

Tech reveals strategic plan's Grand Challenge



On Mar. 19, Tech formally announced its Rural Reimagined Grand Challenge. Rural Reimagined seeks to harness Tech's strengths to transform rural living, develop success that can be replicated throughout the country and the world, and engage every academic discipline. More will be shared via email and social media in the coming weeks.

Tech Launches New Website



On Mar. 7, Tech launched a new website, and with this launch came the largest change to the university website in five years. The site includes a new calendar, community section, redesigned admissions pages, and majors/careers section.

[View New Tech Site >](#)

[View New Crawford Alumni Center Site >](#)

Tech's First-Ever Digital Day of Giving Scheduled for March 27



On Mar. 27, Tech will kick off its first-ever digital Day of Giving and attempt to make the most impact in 1,915 minutes--about 32 hours. (On Mar. 27, 1915, a charter was signed to establish an institution of higher education in Cookeville.) On the Day of Giving, Phonathon student callers will text as many alumni and friends as possible and ask them to make a gift. If you receive a text from a number you don't recognize on Mar. 27, it may be a Tech student. While any gift of any amount will count towards the Day of Giving, the "I Heart Tech Students" Campaign focuses on three key areas: Tech's Food Pantry, Eagles Wings Student Veterans Center, and new Eagle Assistance Grant. Watch for more information on Mar. 27 via email and social media.

The Alumni Association Board presents: An Evening of Excellence



Join us for an Evening of Excellence when the Alumni Association recognizes the 2019 award recipients:

- Outstanding Young Alumnus Award: Dr. Janey Camp
- Outstanding Service Award: Philip Gibbons
- Outstanding Philanthropy Award: Mark and Mindy Odom
- Distinguished Alumnus Award: Dr. Morgan Chitiyo

[Register for the Evening of Excellence Awards >](#)

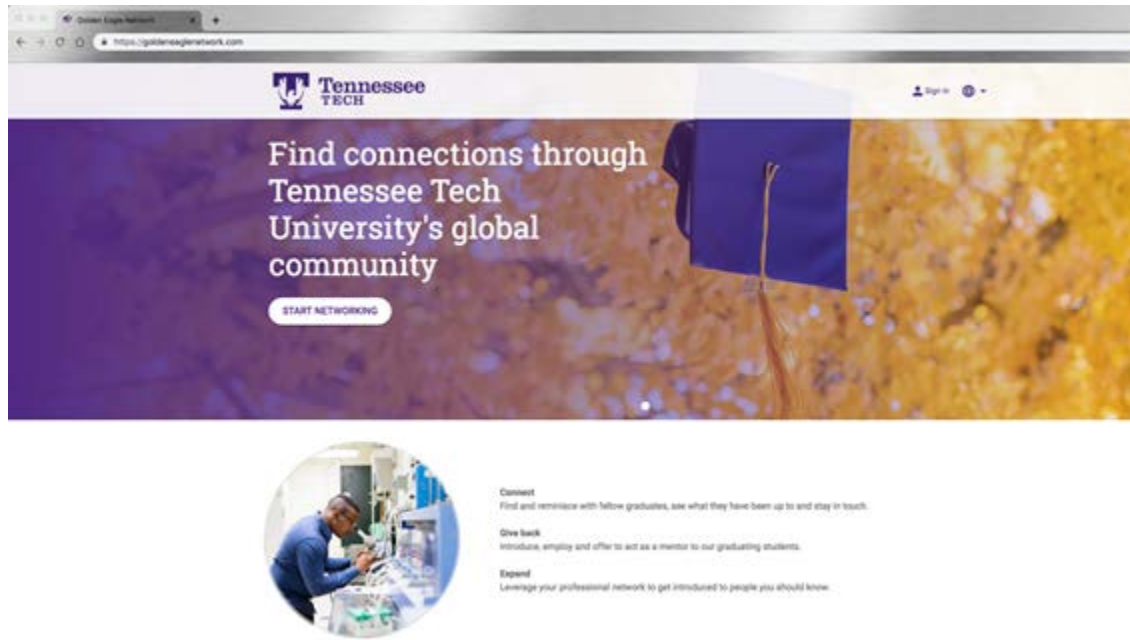
HireTennessee hosts career fair April 25 at Belmont University



HireTennessee, the premier job fair for alumni from the area's top universities and colleges, will host a multi-school alumni career fair Thursday, April 25. The event will run from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will be held in the Maddox Grand Atrium at Belmont University. All majors, degrees, and industries are welcome.

[Register for the Career Fair >](#)

Golden Eagle Network and Handshake partner to help alumni find career opportunities

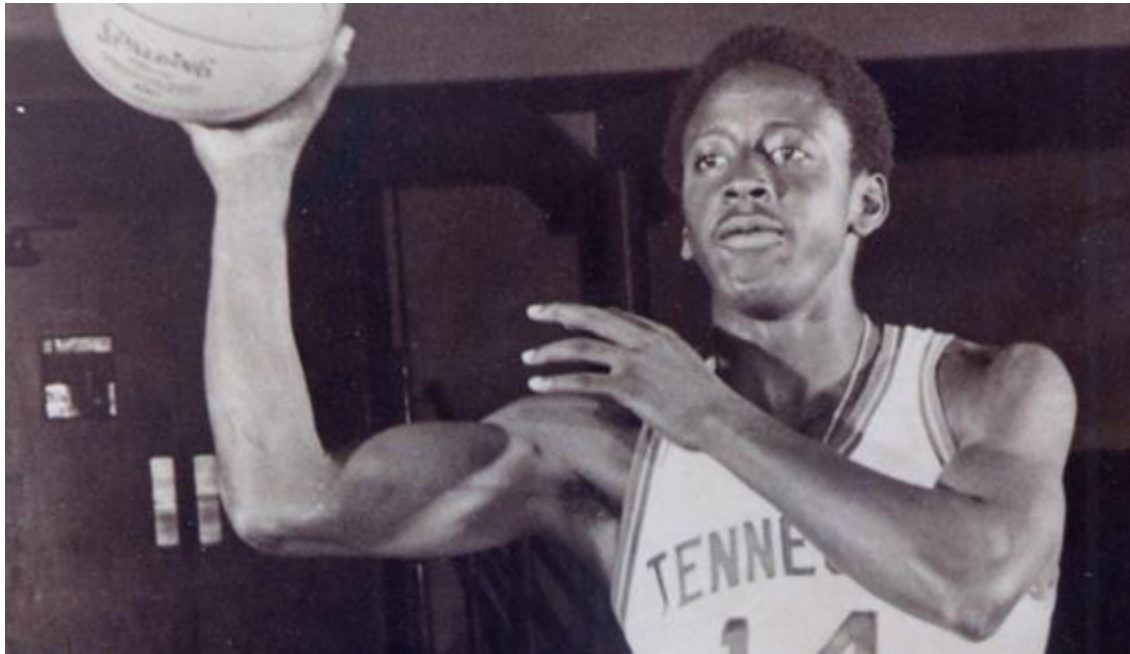


Golden Eagle Network, Tech's alumni and digital career community, and Handshake, a platform where students, alumni career centers, and recruiters meet online to talk and share opportunities, have joined forces to offer the most up-to-date career information to our alumni!

[Read More on Golden Eagle Network >](#)

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Former Golden Eagle Wayne Pack inducted into Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame



Wayne Pack, a member of the Tennessee Tech University Sports Hall of Fame Class of 1996, will be inducted into the 2019 Men's Induction Class for the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame today, March 20, 2019.

Vickie Rector named Teacher of the Year



Vickie Rector, '93 early childhood education, was recently named Teacher of the Year at Jere Whitson Elementary School!

Have you been named Teacher of the Year or received a similar honor at your school? If so, [email us](#) and let us know! We will include your name in a feature story in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week.

[Read More on Golden Eagle Network >](#)

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Vice President for Student Affairs Marc Burnett describes giving back to Tech as both an honor and privilege. Burnett is 30 years True To Tech and recently made it his mission to promote the Ethnic Diversity Scholarship Initiative which seeks to extend a Tennessee Tech education to a diverse population.

[Read More >](#)

**Tennessee Tech Alumni Association
Crawford Alumni Center**

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