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UT INSTITUTE OF Agriculture

News for Employees, Students & Friends March 2008

When tornadoes struck Tennessee Feb. 6, the Institute took action. Personnel across the state corralled cattle, distributed meals and bottled water, and contributed funds, pet cages and pet food. Our response efforts continue, from advice to farmers to workshops on harvesting and marketing storm-felled timber.

J.C. Raines



ADDING A NEW PATH DOESN'T MEAN THROWING OUT THE MAP

One of my projects for the next several months is to help craft a vision statement for the UT Biofuels Initiative. A draft has been circulated, and the key point reads like this:



Joe DiPietro

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture will become the national and international leader in cellulosic bioenergy and bioproducts research and education within five years.

A UTIA Task Force is forming to carry out a planning effort for the Initiative. It will engage faculty and others in ensuring the Initiative's success.

We plan to achieve prominence through excellent scholarship and visibility among higher education institutions, private sector companies and government entities as well as through research that produces economically viable biofuels. Also key will be the development of advanced technology that results in new products entering U.S. and world markets; publications in refereed journals and intellectual property worthy of patent and licensing programs.

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UNIV. OF FLA. LEADER NAMED RESEARCH DEAN

The UT Institute of Agriculture has named **William F. Brown** dean for research and director of the **Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station.**



IFAS

William Brown

As dean of one of four units of the UT Institute of Agriculture, **Brown will coordinate the research programs of some 130 agricultural and natural resource faculty** in seven academic departments. In addition, **he will oversee the management of 10 research facilities** operated in strategic locations across the state.

Brown's appointment is effective July 1. He has served as assistant dean and assistant director of the **Florida Agricultural Experiment Station**, along with program director of the **Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture Research Program** and co-director of the **Center for Tropical Agriculture** at the **University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.** Since 2002, the offshore exclusion or mitigation of invasive alien species

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Share your ideas on a name for a new hiking trail, back cover.

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threats to Florida has been a major focus of the center's activities.

In an e-mail announcing Brown's appointment to Institute faculty and staff, UT Vice President for Agriculture **Joe DiPietro** wrote, "We look forward to the transition of TAES to his leadership as he brings a wealth of academic, research, administrative, and leadership talents and experiences to the position."

Brown is no stranger to UT. Between earning his bachelor of science at the University of Florida in 1977 and his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska in 1983, he earned a master's in animal science from what was then known as the UT College of Agriculture.

A professor of animal science, Brown has published widely in both the scientific and trade literature and has served in editorial and review capacities for a number of scholarly publications, including the *Journal of Animal Science* and the *Journal of Production Agriculture*.

Regarding his appointment, the new dean said, "I am very pleased and excited to be returning to the University of Tennessee. The UT Institute of Agriculture is composed of world-class faculty and staff who are engaged in the discovery and implementation of new knowledge and technologies that will advance agricultural production and natural resource management as well as shape Tennessee's future."

Brown also emphasized the important role land-grant research plays in the state's economy. "Agriculture, natural resources, and community development are important to Tennessee, and the research arm of the Institute of Agriculture is ideally suited to address both traditional and emerging needs of citizens of the great state of Tennessee," he said.

—Patricia Clark McDaniels

TENNESSEE 4-H: WIRED FOR SUCCESS

by *Alice Ann Moore, Director,
Tennessee 4-H Youth Development Department*



Alice Ann Moore

Each year our state 4-H council members, made up of teen representatives from across the state, select a theme for the Tennessee 4-H program. This year's theme is "Tennessee 4-H: Wired for Success." When the theme was submitted for our approval, my first thought was to suggest that the 4-H'ers reconsider their theme selection. I hesitated because I thought the theme to be unorthodox and I wondered what parents, volunteers, and donors would think. As I thought more, though, I decided the theme is perfect and, as usual, our youth's ideas and suggestions are right on target.

Tennessee 4-H is wired for technology and innovation. We are wired for enthusiasm and excitement, and we are tuned into youth development, teaching life skills, and experiential learning.

4-H science, engineering, and technology programming is prevalent throughout 4-H in-school and after-school programs as well as our environmental education program at our 4-H centers. Examples include the Science Lab in Warren County, an in-school science education program; the Engineering Club in Anderson County, an after-school club led by volunteers; and, of course, Electric Camp and Computer/Technology Camp held each summer.

Tennessee 4-H'ers are enthusiastic about good citizenship, community service, and service learning. More than 12,000 4-H youth conducted service projects, giving 62,749 hours to their communities at a value of \$1,177,798.

Tennessee 4-H'ers are wired for success as they receive education and learning experiences to provide them with skills in preparation for college and careers. They learn presentation and interview skills as well as how to write résumés. Over 383,823 educational contacts were made with youth last year to assist them in the area of workforce presentation. Not only that, but 4-H'ers learn how to partner and network as they move into careers. In addition, over 97 scholarships in the amount of \$77,550 were awarded to 4-H'ers last year through the Tennessee 4-H Awards and Recognition program with funds provided by donors from the Tennessee 4-H Foundation.

The Tennessee 4-H program is tuned in to both youth and adults. We provide diverse programs to diverse youth. Over 335,000 youth are involved in 4-H in Tennessee. Of those youth, 13 percent live in large metropolitan areas and 8 percent live on farms, making youth living in rural and suburban areas the majority of our youth involved. There are 13.2 percent African American participants and 3.19 percent Hispanic youth participating in 4-H. Consistently, Tennessee 4-H'ers are selected to serve as part of the National 4-H Congress Design and Leadership Teams.

Tennessee 4-H initiatives in science, engineering, and technology, workforce preparation, citizenship and leadership, and natural resources/environment will continue as well as adding priorities such as healthy lifestyles choices including nutrition and fitness programs during the next three years.

Tennessee 4-H will continue to be successful because we are wired to the youth in Tennessee.

WHAT'S NEWS

The **Tennessee Department of Agriculture** will hold its **2008 Farmers Market Forum** at the **Smith County Agricultural Complex** in Carthage on **March 31st**. Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. with the first guest speaker starting at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Laura Fortune at (615) 837-5349.

The **Tennessee Association of Extension 4-H Workers (TAE4-HW)** will have its **statewide conference April 30-May 2** at **Paris Landing State Park**. The organization works to advance the professional status of the University of Tennessee and Tennessee State University Extension personnel involved in 4-H work.

The **Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration** has announced the unanimous decision of the Board of the Celebration to select **retiring UT Extension horse specialist Doyle Meadows** for the position of **chief executive officer**.

"Doyle is well recognized within the greater horse industry and he has served in many capacities that make him uniquely qualified to serve in this role," said search chair Pat Marsh.

Meadows will retire March 31, closing a 20-year career with UT where he led the statewide horse program including 4-H horse shows, the nationally recognized Tennessee 4-H judging contests, and many other multi-state horse events.

The **College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Ambassadors** and **Emily Gray**, director of student services, will participate in the **Relay for Life** held overnight Friday, April 18, through Saturday, April 19. Their reason to relay is to join people around the world in celebrating those who have survived cancer, remembering the people who've been lost, and supporting the lifesaving mission of the **American Cancer Society**.

To make a donation to the cause or to join the team, go to <http://tinyurl.com/2h3sne>.

Melissa Kennedy, a clinical virologist with the **College of Veterinary Medicine**, was interviewed at the **Pet Connection** Web site and by the **San Francisco Chronicle** newspaper regarding rumors of a new, deadly strain of canine parvovirus that some dog owners worry is not protected against by current vaccines.

TWO NEW LEADERS ABOARD

The **College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources** and **Tennessee 4-H Youth Development Department** have added new administrative leaders.

The college is welcoming **Anna Filipek** as **program coordinator**. She will serve as the recruiter for its academic programs and her enthusiasm and energy, says Dean **Caula Beyl**, "will bring a lot to this position."

Filipek comes from a strong agricultural background that includes growing up on a horse farm. Her educational credentials include a bachelor's in business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master of education in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in college student affairs from the University of South Florida.



Rich Maxey

Anna Filipek

Vet Med on Show—East Tennessee area families are expected to turn out in numbers on **Saturday, April 12**, when the **College of Veterinary Medicine** and its teaching hospital hosts its **annual open house**. The 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. event features tours, animal agility demonstrations, and the ever-popular parade of horse and dog breeds. For more information, call (865) 974-7377.



UT 4-H

Justin Crowe

Justin Crowe began work March 3 as **4-H Youth Development Department Extension specialist**. Formerly a 4-H youth development agent for Davidson County, Crowe will now have responsibility for the statewide citizenship/civic engagement program, teen councils, the All Stars, and community service/service-learning programs.

He holds a bachelor's in behavioral science from Freed-Hardeman University and earned a master of arts in education in curriculum and instruction from Tennessee Technological University.

"We are pleased to have Justin join the UT 4-H Youth Development Department. He will be a great asset to our 4-H youth development program," said Director **Alice Ann Moore**.

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The ultimate results will be economic growth, rural community development and sustainable use of natural resources; undergraduate, graduate and other educational programs that meet society's needs; and partnerships that leverage resources and build relationships.

Achieving our goal will require an expanded effort and commitment of faculty and staff and, of course, needed programmatic funds. Teamwork, entrepreneurial spirit, persistence and resilience will be needed to complete specific tasks, like

- Developing curricula and structure to deliver degree and certification programs
- Growing outreach efforts that translate scholarship to application
- Soliciting the continued support of the UT System, elected officials and stakeholders
- Increasing access to expertise specific to cellulosic bioenergy and bioproducts
- Expanding linkages and joint programs with the UTK East Campus
- Sustaining collaboration with Oak Ridge National Laboratory and other national laboratories

All that being said, I have been reminded by concerned parties of a few old adages:



Richard Evans

New Arboretum Trail—Hikers cut a muscadine vine “ribbon” to launch a new hiking trail at the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge in mid February. Richard Evans, Arboretum director, guided participants along the trail and described the unique and interesting natural and historical features found along the 0.7-mile loop through the Arboretum’s forested area. The new trail is the first of several trail additions and extensions. When the grant-funded project is finished, 2.3 miles of additional trails will be added to the existing five miles of trails and walkways in the Arboretum. The Forest Resources Research and Education Center is hosting a “Name the New Arboretum Trail” contest. Details are at <http://forestry.tennessee.edu/newtrail.htm>.

“Don’t forsake your roots” and “Dance with the one that brung ya.”

Important as the new Biofuels Initiative is to the national energy debate, state economic development, and our land grant mission, the Initiative should not displace the need for our best research and educational efforts in traditional agricultural, natural resources and veterinary medicine sectors. UTIA remains

committed to the support of these vital interests.

This is truly an exciting time to be at UTIA. I look forward to the advancements we can all achieve in the next five years.

All the best,

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