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Recommended Citation

Institute of Agriculture, "Third Thursday 6-2009" (2009). *Third Thursday*.
https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_thirdthursday/36

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'Scentsational'
new garden, back
cover



Joe DiPietro

Center for Profitable Agriculture has measurable impact

**Members of the State House
Agriculture Committee formally
recognized the Center for
Profitable Agriculture in May**

**for 10 years of value-added service to the citizens of
Tennessee.** The Center, which is a partnership program
of the Institute and the **Tennessee Farm Bureau
Federation**, works with farm families to evaluate new
ways to add value to food and fiber products, such as
through processing, improved packaging, and direct
marketing to the public. **The Center's director, Rob
Holland, and its talented staff have helped to develop
dozens of new products and farm-based enterprises.**
They work one-on-one with producers to analyze
value-added agricultural enterprises and determine the
viability of new products and ventures.

The Center has helped to improve Tennessee producers'
profitability and sustainability by assisting them in
adding new income streams or capturing more value
through capitalizing on byproducts of their operations.
Activity in this arena has accelerated markedly in recent
years. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture,
the total value of agricultural products sold directly to
consumers from farmers in Tennessee increased by 83.5
percent—up from approximately \$8.4 million in 1997
to \$15.4 million in 2007.

**Since its establishment, the Center has generated
more than \$1.25 million in external grants that
have helped provide value-added educational
opportunities to more than 3,000 Tennesseans.**
Key to the center's success has been support from **UT
Extension, the Tennessee Farm Bureau, and the state
Department of Agriculture.**

As it works with producers and conducts wide-ranging
educational programs on value-added ventures and
services, this entrepreneurial Center exemplifies the
land-grant mission of the Institute: to serve the citizens
of the state and help better their lives.

All the best,



Greg Hirschboren

*As part of National Dog Bite Prevention
Week, the College of Veterinary Medicine
gave a free dog bite prevention DVD to
every first grader in Knox County. Almost
5,000 DVDs were distributed. The effort was
made possible thanks to financial support from
Knox area plastic surgeon Dr. Tom Gallaber
and Pet Safe Village. To learn more about dog
bite prevention, visit [www.vet.utk.edu/
dogbiteprevention](http://www.vet.utk.edu/dogbiteprevention).*



Ginger Trice

*Leaders, agents, and Center directors from the Institute,
AgResearch, and Extension recently toured the state's largest
grain ethanol facility, Green Plains Obion. According to
Extension Program Leader Richard Powell, the collabora-
tive tour provided insight into opportunities for Tennessee
agriculture. The plant can process 100,000 bushels of corn a
day. Roughly half of the corn comes from local markets; the rest
is supplied by Illinois farms. —Ginger Trice*

What's news

- » **Siqun Wang**, associate professor with the Tennessee Forest Products Center, has received the distinguished honor of being **elected a fellow of the International Academy of Wood Science**. The academy promotes on the international level the concerted development of wood science.
- » **Forestry junior Sam Jordan** is one of 80 scholars chosen from a national pool of 515 to be a **2009 Morris K. Udall Scholar**. The honor is bestowed on students who have demonstrated commitment to careers related to the environment. Jordan will use part of the \$5,000 award to study natural resource management at Massey University in New Zealand. **Senior Brandon Stephens** will study forest management at the University of Joensuu in Finland through the **International Student Exchange Program**.
- » Extension 4-H Specialist **Justin Crowe** has been named by the National 4-H Headquarters to be part of a **Citizenship Mission Mandate Task Force**. He is one of eight 4-H leaders named to the group
- » **Debbie Joines**, manager, Soil, Plant, and Pest Center, **received the David Shoup Outstanding Research Award from the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences**. The honor was for her research thesis, "Effect of Sulfur Applications on Vaughn's #1 Bermudagrass Hay Yield and Forage Quality."
- » **Thanks to a generous donation from IAVO Research and Scientific Corporation, Institute researchers, professors, and students are able to use GeoGenesis software**. The program produces very accurate camera models of aerial and satellite imagery and is a valuable research tool preparing the Institute for the future.

What's news continued on page 4

CASNR enrollment is increasing



Caula Beyl

*by Caula Beyl, Dean,
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources*

At a time when many colleges of agriculture are experiencing declining enrollments, **student numbers in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources are increasing**. Our **undergraduate enrollment grew from 858 in 2007 to 925 in 2008**, representing an 8 percent increase! **The trend is continuing with 134 confirmed for our incoming fall 2009 freshman class**, relative to the 123 last year. Some particular successes since 2007 have occurred in soil science (going from 43 to 59 undergraduate majors), biosystems engineering (38 to 50), and food science (65 to 80).

Recruitment is a team effort involving department heads, dedicated faculty, our own ag ambassadors, but much of the success can be attributed to our dynamic program coordinator for recruitment, **Anna Filipek**. Under her leadership, a new approach to recruitment has resulted in visits to 45 counties, a brochure featuring CASNR Points of Pride, information pages designed for influencers, and a new Web page.

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If you go to the CASNR Web site and click on "Future Students," you will see some of the video and Web design work created by **Rachel Rui**, a talented graduate student in Communications, who has been working with our students, ag ambassadors, department heads, and faculty to capture the essence of agriculture and each of our majors. Featured on the Web site are **Kari Jones** and **Dan Houlihan**, two of our most outstanding undergraduates. Clicking on any of the hot spots that surround them will bring the prospective student information on choosing an academic program, answering questions, seeing a CASNR photo album, applying to CASNR and for scholarships, registering for a campus tour, and imagining their future.

When **Anna** became aware of the lack of understanding about what agriculture was really all about, she and **Theresa Cooper**, our program coordinator for retention, **conducted an orientation session for admissions counselors. They changed the perception of agriculture from "cows, sows, and plows" to something much more dynamic, futuristic, and encompassing everything from the food you eat to cutting edge science such as biotechnology and biofuels**. As a result of that effort, Anna developed a brochure called "Agriculture is..." containing 24 images depicting various aspects of our exciting field to visually show prospective students all that they could look forward to by majoring in agriculture.

Another resounding success was obtaining agreement from Enrollment Services to make Animal Sciences the default home for all pre-veterinary students. This long-awaited change gives students the opportunity to work directly with animals and enhances their chances of getting into veterinary school. Much of our success in getting promising students admitted into CASNR has been due to the **hand-in-hand cooperation from Richard Bayer, assistant provost for Enrollment Services**. As you can see, recruitment is a team effort that involves everyone, **so the entire CASNR family from the coordinator to department heads to faculty and students should be proud of their achievement!** 🍀

Research Profile: The West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center

We interviewed **Center Director Bob Hayes** about the **West Tennessee Research and Education Center** and **what it offers UTIA scientists.**

Describe your location and general facilities:

The West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center occupies more than 600 acres in the heart of Jackson. We devote more than 200 acres to agronomic and horticultural plot land, of which around 50 acres have available irrigation. We also have 200 acres of bottomland forests, 60 acres of loblolly pines, 50 acres of turf-grasses, an arboretum and ornamentals, 20 acres of warm season grass, and 10 acres of fescue. Two- and three-bedroom homes can be available for graduate students.

How many and what types of employees work at your Center?

The Center employs about 75 full-time workers, but only about 28 of those have an AgResearch appointment, with eight research faculty. There are four USDA scientists, three with AgResearch adjunct appointments. Twelve Extension specialists, directors, and associate directors, plus 10 support personnel work at the Center. We also have nine Institute of Public Service consultants plus one administrative support person on site. In addition, the Center employs 25 to 35 full-time term employees who assist with the AgResearch and Extension programs during the summer growing season.

What can your Center offer faculty in terms of land and infrastructure resources?

We maintain our own 20-saw cotton gin as well as a 10-saw gin for small plots. We have a grain center with batch dryer and two 5,000-bushel bins. Our Center provides researchers with more than 2,000 square feet of laboratory space with forced air dryers and separate plant and soil grinding rooms. We also have two 24' by 36' glass greenhouses.

Equipment includes planters, combines,

pickers, sprayers, a 15-foot grain drill, backhoes, numerous mowers, a hay bailer, and rake. Equipment for small scale plots is available. For small-seeded crop research we have a Monosem™ precision planter. In addition, we have tomato grading equipment.

Our agronomic cropland is comprised mostly of silt loam soil, of which about 50 acres have access to irrigation. Significant acreage is devoted to bottomland species, including persimmon, oak, sycamore, walnut, cypress, and sweetgum. We have numerous established turfgrass plots, as well as native warm season grass plots.

A list of equipment and resources is accessible to faculty through the Intranet. Log in at <http://taes.tennessee.edu/dynamic/> and click on WTREC Resources.

Tell us about current research and extension projects currently underway at your Center:

We have several projects devoted to soybean cropping systems research as well as cotton production and physiology. We also have a research focus in ornamentals and turf.

Describe some success stories that have come from work at your Center:

Genetically Enhanced Crops. Scientists at the Center have cooperated with seed companies to evaluate and develop crop varieties (cotton, corn, and soybean) with enhanced genetics that will improve crop yields and quality, resist insects and nematodes, and allow environmentally soft herbicides to control weeds. Collectively, these genetically

enhanced crops have improved environmental quality by reducing the quantity of pesticides applied and reducing fossil fuel use by making fewer trips across the field.

No-Spray Roses. Under the direction of professor Mark Windham, Jim Mynes, graduate student in Entomology and Plant Pathology, initiated his Ph.D research to identify “no-spray” rose cultivars that would not require intensive pesticide applications. Several cultivars were identified and a publication and Web posting have provided this list to the public. These results will benefit the ornamental trade, as well as the environment, through reduced pesticide applications.

Weed Control. Weed scientists at the center were among the first to identify glyphosate-resistant (Roundup-resistant) weeds. Through their research, they have developed management strategies for weed control that allow producers to continue no-tillage crop production, saving soil and reducing costs. By reducing production costs, Tennessee producers can remain competitive in the global market. 🌱



Bob Hayes

Weed control is a critical issue for Tennessee farmers. At the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center researchers and associates strive to develop weed control strategies.

New Beall Family Rose Garden to be 'scentsational'

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of Sam and Mary Anne Beall, the UT Gardens in Knoxville will soon celebrate the addition of The Beall Family Rose Garden. The Beall Family Rose Garden will showcase an outstanding water feature, a 22-foot gazebo and, when completed, an estimated 110-120 roses. The gardens will showcase a mixture of AgResearch-identified no-spray roses and roses selected for color and fragrance.

In addition to providing the funding to construct the rose garden, the Bealls also provided a substantial gift to create an endowment that ensures the Beall Family Rose Garden will be maintained in perpetuity. The Bealls have visited many rose gardens throughout the country and wanted to create one in Knoxville.

They are especially encouraged that it will be used for teaching classes and internships, sowing and researching new roses, and the general enjoyment of everyone



Andy Pulte

who visits. Construction is well underway and the official dedication is set for **September 13th** (the time is yet to be determined). We hope you will join us on that day to celebrate this beautiful new addition and thank the Bealls for their very generous support of UTIA! –*Mark Clark*

What's news *continued*

- » **2009 TAE4-HW** presented the following UT Extension agents and 4-H workers with Service Awards. George Foster Award: **Lori Belew, Meagan Brown, Sarah Ferrell, Anna Johnson, T.C. Loughery, and Amy Willis.** Achievement in Service Award: **Johnny Barnes, Carol McDonald, and Karen Marshall Nelms.** Distinguished Service Award: **Heather Deckard, Tracy Hagan, Heath Nokes, and Tom Rison.** Meritorious Service Award: **Martin Koon Jr.** Twenty-Five Years of Service: **Linda Bower and Tim Cross.** American Spirit Award: **Donna Bradley.** Air Force Recruiting Salute Award: **Steve Sutton.**
- » **Mark Windham**, distinguished professor of plant pathology, **has been named executive vice president of the Sidney B. Meadows Scholarship Endowment Fund.** He will be responsible for a number of areas including fund business, scholarship announcements, application evaluation, and scholarship awards to students in 16 southeastern states who are interested in pursuing a career in ornamental horticulture. 🌹

UTIA News is published monthly by the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture.

Send comments and suggestions to Margot Emery, memory@tennessee.edu

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