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Third Thursday

From the Chancellor



Buddy Mitchell

This issue of *Third Thursday* is chock full of faculty and staff achievements. **People are receiving high honors and doing outstanding work. There is excellent momentum in research, teaching and outreach, and that's no surprise, given the talent of the people who make up our enterprise.**

While it's good to celebrate our achievements—both those reported here and others that you achieve every day—**there are also serious matters at hand. On January 26, Extension announced its new staffing plan. The plan was necessary due to the loss of state funding since 2008. Using a combination of vacancies created by retirements and attrition, Extension will eliminate 60 full-time equivalent positions.** The net result is that many county Extension offices will have reduced agent staffing and there will be fewer state Extension specialists to provide research-based information, curriculum and other resources. **Nineteen individuals from across the state have been asked to transfer to 28 vacant positions to redistribute a smaller work force and refill critical positions.**

As Extension Dean Tim Cross says, we remain committed to a county-based program and fulfilling our mission: **helping Tennesseans to improve their quality of life and solve problems, and we will work together to ensure this continues to happen.** I appreciate the dedication of our staff who will make possible maintaining the level of quality for which we're known.

Best wishes,

Buddy

The Chancellor Search Committee to find a replacement for Joe DiPietro met for the first time on January 31st. Chaired by UTK Chancellor Jimmy Cheek with the assistance of Parker Executive Search, the 25-member committee is working on a preliminary timeline of making recommendations to the president in late spring. The committee members represent all units of UTIA, students, partners, faculty, industry and the Board of Trustees.

Brad Harter



Football fans have the Super Bowl, baseball fans have the World Series, bird dog lovers have Ames Plantation. Here 2010 Grand Champion In the Shadow shows his stuff. The 2011 National Championship of Field Trialing Bird Dogs began Feb. 14 and will continue until a new champion is selected. Visit www.amesplantation.org to follow the action online.

Two Deans Accepted to Leadership Institute

Caula Beyl, dean of the UT College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and Bill Brown, dean for Research and director of UT AgResearch, have been accepted as members of the newest class for the Food Systems Leadership Institute. The FSLI is dedicated to advancing and strengthening food systems by preparing a set of new leaders with the skills and knowledge necessary to invent and reinvent the food systems of the future. **It is a two-year program of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, with initial funding provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.**



Caula Beyl



Bill Brown

The FSLI is an executive leadership development program for academia, industry and government that emphasizes the development of leadership competencies, skills for organizational change, and a broad, interdisciplinary perspective of food systems. The FSLI experience prepares scholars for upper-level leadership roles in food system programs and to assume broader leadership responsibilities within their organizations. **UT System President Joe DiPietro and Dean Tim Cross of UT Extension are graduates of the program.**

UTIA
Research
Productivity
Increasing

What's News

- » Professor **Joe Bozell** of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries and **Neal Stewart**, professor of Plant Sciences and Ivan Racheff Chair of Excellence, are among an elite group of researchers participating in an integrative program designed to boost the number of Ph.D.s in energy science and engineering. The new doctoral program offered by UT and ORNL is called the Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Education. Bozell and Stewart are two of 38 CIRE faculty. Details on this new collaboration are available at <http://cire.utk.edu>.
- » **Dates of the spring 2011 Pet Loss Support Group meetings presented by CVM's Veterinary Social Work Program have been announced.** Call 865-755-8839 or visit www.vet.utk.edu/socialwork for more information.

Fenwick Honored as AAAS Fellow



Bradley Fenwick

Bradley Fenwick, professor of Pathobiology and adjunct professor of Microbiology, is one of eight UT faculty members named by the American Association for the Advancement of

Science to its latest class of fellows. UT continues to be among the top 10 universities in the nation for the number of new fellows inducted into the association.

Fenwick was honored for his distinguished contributions in the field of veterinary and comparative medicine, scientific association leadership, editorial review and research program development and administration. **His tenure at UT has included service as vice chancellor for Research and Engagement.**

UTIA Research Productivity Increasing

We Can be Proud of Our Accomplishments; There is Still Room to Grow

by Bill Brown, Dean for Research and Director, UT AgResearch

As we enter 2011, faculty are completing their annual accomplishment report and documenting plans for this year. Various administrative offices are preparing reports, documenting inputs, outputs and productivity over the past year.

UTIA faculty and staff have a great deal to be proud of from accomplishments over the past year, and even with the current financial challenges, we have a great deal to look forward to in the coming year and beyond. A few quick examples of this include several new technologies that were patented and successfully licensed to private partners. In 2010, 14 patent applications were made and four patents were awarded as a result of inventions by UTIA faculty. These technologies will result in direct advantages to our clientele and those we serve. New knowledge, products, procedures, evaluations and processes have been developed that have been delivered directly to our clientele, resulting in improvements in their productivity. Over the past year, faculty have received prestigious awards and served on important agency panels. Unique refereed publications steadily increased from 2007 through 2009. As might be expected from the current economic downturn and budget reductions, our number of Ph.D. students (Top 25 Initiative measure) has declined as compared to 2007. We need to work on this as we move our programs forward.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 (first six months)
Unique refereed publications	255	268	316		
Grant awards, \$M	38.9	46.7	46.9	48.3	
Grant expenditures, \$M	31.9	31.7	35.7	39.3	
Grant proposals, \$M			69.7	81.4	134.8

Faculty should be proud of the recognition they are bringing to their programs, their departments and UTIA through success in grantsmanship. Grant awards are up from approximately \$39 million in 2007 to approximately \$48 million in 2010. Grant expenditures are also increasing; up from \$32 million in 2007 to more than \$39 million in 2010. Indirect cost returns from grantsmanship are up from about \$3 million in 2009 to \$4 million in 2010. **A particularly exciting observation speaks positively for the future: in the first six months of fiscal year 2011, faculty have requested nearly \$135 million in external funds, which is close to the total requests of 2009 and 2010 combined.** Many of these grant proposals will be awarded, leading to further advances in the UTIA research mission of developing solutions for the people we serve.

As I was reviewing these award numbers along with the **Faculty Incentive Program** bonus awards this year, I heard several comments related to the reluctance of some faculty (particularly pre-tenure faculty) to participate in the Faculty Incentive Program. Guidelines and requirements for this program are currently being revised (look for a note soon).

I want to reinforce the appropriateness of the use of this program. Faculty members (independent of career stage) must balance the needs of their programs relative to funds required for materials and supplies, technical salary, graduate student support, and assistance to the Research and Education Centers when field work takes place; however, it is appropriate to participate in the Faculty Incentive Program as it fits into their program. **UTIA's Faculty Incentive Program is somewhat unique among land-grant institutions, and it appropriately rewards grantsmanship that supports UTIA's mission of service to the citizens of Tennessee and the world.** ☺

UT Turfgrass Team Receives Two High Honors

Department of Plant Sciences' Associate Professor **John Sorochan** was selected as the 2011 recipient of the **Dr. William H. Daniel Founders Award** by the **Sports Turf Managers Association**. The Founders Award, STMA's highest honor, recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to STMA and the sports turf industry through his or her research, teaching or extension outreach. **Jim Brosnan**, assistant professor of turfgrass weed science, was named **Tennessee Turfgrass Professional of the Year** by the **Tennessee Turfgrass Association**. TTA's highest honor, the award recognizes individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the turfgrass industry in Tennessee.



John Sorochan



Jim Brosnan

State 4-H Places Fourth Nationally in Tractor Supply Company's Paper Clover Campaign

Each year the Tractor Supply Company and its affiliate, Del, join with 4-H to sponsor the Paper Clover Campaign. Customers of these two retailers can purchase paper clovers at checkout for a dollar with proceeds used to support local and state 4-H activity. For 2010, Tennessee's 4-H'ers placed fourth in the nation, with \$13,000 contributed by their supporters. Watch your Tractor Supply Company next November to support this worthy cause.

New Human Resources Policy on Background Checks

UT has begun requiring background checks for regular position new hires. Current employees who apply for positions within the University that involve security, finances, children or the use of master building keys also will be subject to background checks. **For the Institute of Agriculture, this policy also applies to term and limited-duration appointment positions.** For more information, go to: http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/011211_background.html

Entomology and Plant Pathology's Stewart Recognized for Multi-State Work

Based in Jackson, Associate Extension Professor **Scott Stewart** is one of nine Mid-South entomologists on a five-state team who earned the "Friends of IPM 'Pulling Together'" award from the Southern Region Integrated Pest Management Center. Stewart and his colleagues received the recognition for approaching regional pest management issues and developing solutions that are applicable across state lines to growers throughout the Mid-South region.



Scott Stewart

UT Faculty Receive Funds from UT Research Foundation to Drive Further Development of Technologies

The UT Research Foundation has selected nine researchers or research teams to receive technology development grants for 2011. Grant funds will allow researchers to further develop or "mature" their technologies so that they are better positioned for licensing and commercialization.

Researchers were invited to propose work on inventions and discoveries that had been previously disclosed to UTRF or to propose work on new inventions and discoveries. **A total of 41 proposals were submitted from UT's four campuses and three institutes. The foundation funded eight proposals for a total of \$117,750. Funding for one additional program for \$15,000 was provided by UT AgResearch.**

UT Institute of Agriculture UTRF grants:

- **Raul Almeida, Doug Luther and Maria Prado** (Department of Animal Science) for developing a vaccine for several strep-based illnesses
 - **Muthu Balasubramaniam, Blake Joyce and Neal Stewart** (Department of Plant Sciences) for developing plants that can sense arsenic and other pathogens
 - **Zong-Ming (Max) Cheng** (Department of Plant Sciences) for work that allows crops to withstand multiple environmental stresses such as drought and heat
- UT Knoxville-UT Institute of Agriculture (joint proposal):
- **Jayne Wu** (Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, UTK) and **Shige Eda** (Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, UTIA) for development of a bacterial diagnostic device based on lab-on-a-chip technology. *-Joy Fisher*

Peers Vote Chris Main Extension Cotton Specialist of the Year

At the 2011 Beltwide Cotton Conferences in Atlanta, Chris Main, an associate professor and Extension cotton specialist with the Institute, was named by his peers as the Extension Cotton Specialist of the year for 2011.

Main is a weed scientist by training, and he performs most of his work at UT's West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson. He is involved in a broad range of cotton agronomic research, coordinates numerous outreach programs, and he oversees the University of Tennessee Official Cotton Variety Trial sites. —Ginger Rowsey



UT Extension Specialist Chris Main (left) talks cotton with Gibson County farmer Jason Luckey.

Ginger Rowsey

Memories, Affection Abound for 'Prof' Lidvall

Ed "Prof" Lidvall passed away peacefully on December 26th after a period of declining health. "Prof" or "Lid" as he was known by his students was a fixture of the Animal Science Department for more than 39 years, where he attracted national attention for his teaching talents and work in applied animal production.

Before UT, he served as a bomber pilot and instructor during World War II and later received a degree from Iowa State University. It was at Iowa State that he met his wife Dorothy (Dee). They were married for more than 60 years.

According to his close friends, Lidvall cherished his memories of mentoring UT students and maintained close connections as they embarked on their careers. He was recognized nationally for his ability as a livestock judge and coached UT's 1962 national champion livestock judging team. Lidvall won multiple teaching awards, including the 1978 UT National Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award. He also served as the national president of his fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, and *Progressive Farmer* magazine named him Man of the Year in 1988.

As we remember the legacy of Ed "Prof" Lidvall, we hope that you will consider a gift to one of the honorariums that will maintain his legacy as a professor, mentor, colleague and friend. Giving opportunities include the E.R. Lidvall Teaching Award for Faculty, the Professors Lidvall and Cole Judging Teams Association Endowment, the Alpha Gamma Rho Scholarship Endowment and the Alcoa First United Methodist Church Building Fund, 617 Gilbert St. Alcoa, TN 37701.

For more information, contact Tom Looney or Rhodes Logan at 865-974-1928 or email tom.looney@tennessee.edu. Contributions to UT may be mailed to Development, 107 Morgan Hall, 2621 Morgan Circle, Knoxville, TN 37996-4513. —Rhodes Logan



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