UT INSTITUTE OF
Agriculture
News for Employees, Students & Friends *January 2006*

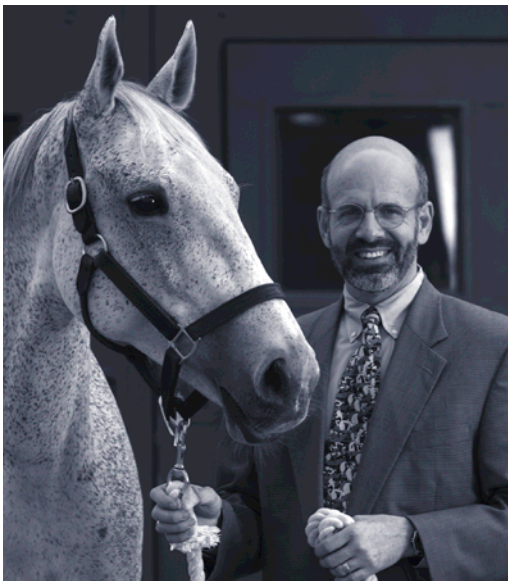
UT APPOINTS DIPIETRO VICE PRESIDENT FOR AGRICULTURE

The Institute's fifth leader brings record of leadership, innovation, and research

The Institute of Agriculture begins a new era this month with the appointment of **a new vice president for agriculture.**

Dr. Joseph A. DiPietro of the University of Florida becomes the fifth leader of the Institute. He succeeds **Dr. Jack Britt**, who was named executive vice president in 2004.

DiPietro, whose last name is pronounced *De-Pea-AY-Tro*, brings a distinctive blend of skills and experience to the position. He has led the **University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine** as dean since 1997. Prior to that, he served as associate dean for research at the **University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine** and assistant director of **Illinois' Agricultural Experiment Station**. DiPietro is the current president of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, and he has served in a number of capacities with that association, NASULGC, and other state and national organizations.



Dr. Joseph DiPietro. Photo courtesy of the University of Florida.

A love of horses led DiPietro to study **veterinary medicine**. As a researcher in the field of **parasitology**, he is known for scientific contributions to the **epidemiology, control, and treatment of parasitic diseases of livestock**, in particular ones affecting horses, cattle, and swine. He is credited with helping to advance **new drug therapies** that have saved hundreds of millions of dollars in the production of food animals and horses.

Continued, page 2

$7.2 million in third quarter grants and contracts,

Options for new training requirement,

Details inside

APPRECIATION FOR MITCHELL, SEARCH MEMBERS

While the national search that resulted in Dr. DiPietro's appointment was conducted, it was **Buddy Mitchell** who handled the day-to-day operations for the Institute. As UT associate vice president for development, Mitchell also continued with leadership and responsibilities for agricultural development and preparation for UT's upcoming capital campaign—enough work, in short, for three people.

"Buddy's service as interim vice president was critical to the success of this transition," said **UT President John Petersen**. "We thank him for his hard work." Petersen also expressed appreciation for the service of UT Chancellor **Loren Crabtree** and the **16-member committee** that conducted the search.

third thursday



Kurt Lamour of EPP leads the team effort.

UT LEADS DNA EFFORT TO TACKLE VEGETABLE BLIGHT

Plant pathologist **Kurt Lamour** of **Entomology and Plant Pathology** is the lead biologist participating in a new $3 million effort to sequence the genome of ***Phytophthora capsici***. The pathogen *P. capsici* has devastating effects on cucumber, squash, pumpkin, tomato, and pepper production.

P. capsici contains around 65 million nucleic bonds in its DNA sequence, making the **project's scale larger than any to date.**

For farmers, Lamour said, "molecular markers from this project will help us track the pathogen and **develop better ways to control the blight**."

NEED TRAINING HOURS? UT HAS OPTIONS

A number of options exist to help employees meet the new target of **32 hours of training per calendar year**.

Classes that count toward that goal include ones offered by campus offices and departments and Employee and Organizational Development, job-related conferences, and IRIS training. More than **800 online courses** are also available to employees throughout the state through Human Relations (HR), the Office of Information Technology (OIT), and SkillSoft. Visit OIT's Web site and click on computer-based training for details. HR delivers training classes across the state to groups of 25 or more

Continued, back cover

LEADERSHIP, *from page 1*

As an administrative leader, DiPietro is credited with helping to **transform fund-raising efforts** for Florida's veterinary medicine college. During his nine years with the university, **research and grant contracts** more than doubled. DiPietro also helped the **college advance toward its goal of building** new food animal and small animal facilities, and assisted in efforts to recruit and raise funds for student scholarships.

"Dr. DiPietro brings a world of experience to the University of Tennessee," said **UT President John Petersen**. "He brings the leadership that will keep the UT's Institute of Agriculture positioned as a major component of economic development and outreach in every county of the state, and this will ensure UT's continued success in fulfilling our land grant mission."

DiPietro says he is attracted to the potential he sees in UT and the Institute.

"This university is positioned to go to the next level," DiPietro said. "There's a lot of opportunity here to take a very good university and make it exceptional. The momentum for that is already underway through Dr. Petersen and the new administrative team. I'm tickled to death to be a part of it."

The Institute, DiPietro said, is particularly well suited to help UT advance its goals. "Given the statewide nature of the **Institute of Agriculture** and its unique ability to touch citizens in every county including both those involved in production agriculture and those who are not, the Institute of Agriculture is well positioned to help the university go to the next level and also to help Tennesseans understand how important UT is to their daily lives. Throw in the unique contributions of the **Research and Education Centers**, **Extension**, and resources and activities at **Oak Ridge** and the possibilities are endless for our ability to significantly advance UT's reputation."



***Outstanding—Judy Bell**, principal secretary in Marketing and Communications Services, is the recipient of the seventh annual **Award of Excellence** from the Extension's **Specialist District** Non-Exempt Staff Leadership Advisory Committee. The award honors a staff member who has made outstanding contributions. Congratulating Bell is Director **Garvin Quinn**.*

DiPietro will begin work at the Institute on **February 20**. In the weeks ahead, he says he looks forward to getting to know the faculty and students, and staff and specialists across the state, as well as Tennessee's agricultural and natural resource industries, and the Institute's constituents and partners.

DiPietro is a native of Ohio. He and his wife, **Deb**, an environmental educator, have three grown children, **Robin Wells, Joe**, and **Rose DiPietro**, and a six-month-old granddaughter, **Lily**.

FIELD DAYS SET FOR 2006

Thirteen **field days and special events** take place at **Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station** facilities across the state in 2006.

From May through October, the events will focus on beef cattle production, ornamental horticulture and landscape design, and tobacco and turfgrass research and production. The **Milan No-Till Field Day** returns in July. A full listing of the events is available at the Institute's Web site, http://agriculture.tennessee.edu.

Institute of Agriculture Grants and Contracts
July–September 2005

Thanks to the resourcefulness and competitiveness of our faculty, the Institute received awards totaling $7,187,308 in grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements from external agencies for the third quarter of 2005. At a time when most states are operating with constrained budgets, our ability to attract dollars for research and Extension from outside sources has become especially crucial. To the principal and co-principal investigators listed below, congratulations. To everyone, we appreciate your support and efforts in seeking external funding.

July

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Paul Ayers	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	6,500	National Park Service
Joseph Bartges	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	63,129*	Lloyd Inc
David Buckley	Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries	53,686	USDA Forest Service
David Buehler	Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries	30,000	TN Wildlife Resources Agency
Ernest Bernard; Carl Jones, Paris Lambdin	Ento & Plant Pathology	50,000	USDA Forest Service
Daniel De La Torre Ugarte; James Larson, Don Tyler	Agricultural Economics, Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	300,000	UT-Battelle
Michael Essington	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	25,000	UT-Battelle
Kellie Fecteau; Jack Oliver	Comparative Medicine	21,708	AKC Canine Health Foundation
Aaron Fisher	Animal Science	1,892	Bayer HealthCare
Mark Fly	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	13,844	University of Georgia
Carrie Ann Fritz	Agricultural & Extension Ed	11,672	TN Department of Education
Matthew Gray	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	80,659 32,547	Tennessee Valley Authority Bowater Paper Co Properties
Robert Holland	Center for Profitable Ag	20,000	Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development
Claudia Kirk	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	30,380	Pfizer Animal Healthy
Kurt Lamour	Ento & Plant Pathology	57,300	National Science Foundation
Elizabeth Long; Kurt Lamour	Ento & Plant Pathology	94,500*	USDA APHIS
Melvin Newman	Ento & Plant Pathology	9,000	North Central Soybean Research Program
Emmit Rawls	Agricultural Economics	13,800	TN Department of Agriculture
Richard Strange	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	16,500	Mississippi State University SRAC
Marie Walsh	Agricultural Economics	9,000	USDA CSREES
Larry Wilson	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	10,000	Department of Defense
Svetlana Zivanovic†	Food Science & Technology	34,646	US Environmental Protection Agency

Aug.

Tom Ammons	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	10,000	USDA NRCS
Robert Augé	Plant Sciences	21,000	UT-Battelle
Seung Baek	Pathobiology	108,000	National Institutes of Health
John Bartee	Montgomery County Extension	297,000* 21,400	Fort Campbell-U.S. Army U.S. Army-Ft. Campbell
Ernest Bernard	Ento & Plant Pathology	222,000	National Park Service
David Buehler	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	120,711 10,000	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Joseph Clark	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	459,775*	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Barbara Clarke	Family & Consumer Sciences	44,900*	TN Department of Health
Justin Crowe; George Killgore	Davidson County Extension	30,000	National 4-H Council
Sharon Davis	Blount County Extension	18,050	TN Department of Environment and Conservation
Madhu Dhar	Large Animal Clinical Sciences	55,000	American Heart Association

†*Lead at UTK*

**Combines several grants*

Grants and Contracts *July–September 2005*

Aug.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Robert Ellis	Research and Education Center at Greeneville	1,920	Berea College
Clark Garland	Agricultural Economics	50,000*	University of Georgia
Betty Greer	Family & Consumer Sciences	90,266	TN Department of Human Services
Judith Grizzle	Animal Science	175,000	Binational Ag R & D Fund
Patrick Hamilton; Alice Ann Moore	4-H Youth Development	25,000	National 4-H Council
Darrell Hensley; James Parkman	Ento & Plant Pathology	49,000*	North Carolina State University
Robert Holland	Center for Profitable Ag	261,345	USDA Rural Development
Martha Keel	Family & Consumer Sciences	211,611 40,500	TN Department of Health University of Georgia
William Klingeman	Plant Sciences	10,004	Virginia Polytechnic
Paris Lambdin; Jerome Grant	Ento & Plant Pathology	32,358	USDA Forest Service
Kurt Lamour	Ento & Plant Pathology	220,611	Virginia Polytechnic
Roland Mote	Experiment Station Admin	54,000	Philip Morris
Melvin Newman	Ento & Plant Pathology	17,000 10,000	USDA ARS Southern Illinois University
Vincent Pantalone	Plant Sciences	159,880*	United Soybean Board
David Rotstein	Pathobiology	203,754	US Department of Commerce
Hildegard Schuller; Mourad Majidi	Pathobiology	229,750	National Institutes of Health
Patricia Sura; Karen Tobias	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	12,960	AKC Canine Health Foundation
Adam Taylor	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	84,525	USDA Forest Service
Robert Trigiano; Mark Windham	Ento & Plant Pathology	527,925	USDA ARS
Donald Tyler	West TN Research and Education Center	93,921	USDA ARS
Gerald Tuskan	Plant Sciences	678,420 30,000	National Science Foundation US Geological Survey
Karen Vail	Ento & Plant Pathology	2,468	BASF Chemical
Frank van Manen; Joseph Clark	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	10,000	AR Game and Fish Commission
Hwa Chain Wang	Pathobiology	239,449	Philip Morris
Dan Wheeler	Center for Profitable Ag	135,000	TN Farm Bureau Federation
Larry Wilson	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	28,000*	TN Wildlife Resources Agency

Sept.

Paul Ayers	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	19,975	National Park Service
Ron Blair	Henderson County Extension	3,900	TN Department of Health
Max Cheng	Plant Sciences	50,000	UT Battelle
Burt English; Daniel De La Torre Ugarte, Marie Walsh, Jamey Menard	Agricultural Economics	34,452	UT Battelle
Nicholas Frank	Large Animal Clinical Sciences	36,331	American Quarter Horse Foundation
David Golden	Food Science & Technology	35,620	Smithfield Packing
Jerome Grant; Paris Lambdin, Ernest Bernard	Ento & Plant Pathology	303,644	USDA Forest Service
Gary Lentz	Ento & Plant Pathology	17,212	USDA ARS
Margaret Pile	Fentress County Extension	10,000	Marshall University
Timothy Rials	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	36,500	UT Battelle
Jennifer Stokes; Timothy Becker, Linden Craig, Robert DeNovo	Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Pathobiology	71,528*	Hill's Pet Nutrition
Gerald Tuskan	Plant Sciences	237,652	UT Battelle
John Tyner; Michael Essington, Jaehoon Lee	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sci	27,228	US Geological Survey
Frank van Manen	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	22,000	US Dept of Transportation Federal Highway Admin
Larry Wilson	Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	48,000 20,000	Southrn Forest Research Partnership Pigeon River Fund
Svetlana Zivanovic; Carl Sams	Food Science & Technology, Plant Sciences	125,000	USDA CSREES

**Combines several grants*

FARM BUREAU LEADER HAS STRONG UTIA TIES

The **Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation**'s new president earned two degrees from the **Department of Animal Science** and began his agricultural career as a **UT Extension** agent in Madison and Cumberland counties.



Lacy Upchurch

Lacy Upchurch is the seventh state president for the 84-year-old Farm Bureau. He succeeds Sequatchie County dairyman **Flavius Barker** who served with distinction as the organization's chief officer for the past 10 years. Barker announced earlier this year that he would not seek reelection and instead is returning to his farm near Dunlap to farm with his sons. After his years with Extension, Upchurch became a full-time farmer and began a successful swine operation. Later he moved more into beef cattle production. He is currently one of the county's major producers.

TOBACCO, ENVIRONMENT EVENTS AHEAD

The **Tennessee-Kentucky Tobacco Expo** will take place in Springfield Feb 9. The event features **Paul Denton, Steve Bost, Andy Bailey**, and **Bob Miller** presenting the latest information and research on tobacco production. The program runs from 1 to 8 p.m. at the Center on Main Street. Contact Extension agent **Paul Hart** for more information: (615) 384-7936 or pehart@utk.edu.

Dean Michael Blackwell, Veterinary Medicine, is among the speakers for the **East Tennessee Environment Conference**. The event occurs March 9-10 in Kingsport. Sponsors include the **Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the First Tennessee Development District, East Tennessee State University**, and **Keep America Beautiful affiliates**. More information is available from **Jan Compton**, (423) 854-5417 or by visiting www.tnenvironment.com.

POISON EDUCATION TEAM WINS FRIST AWARD

A partnership that is helping to save lives across Tennessee has won the **2005 Frist Foundation Award of Achievement for Team Building**.

The award recognizes the partnership of **UT Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Department** and the **Tennessee Poison Center** at **Vanderbilt University Medical Center**. The partnership is helping to extend and expand the center's poison prevention educational programs, and Extension's **Be Poison Safe Tennessee** program is an integral part of the effort. The award is bestowed on organizations and teams that produce outstanding results while fulfilling their mission in cost-effective ways.

With assistance from Family and Consumer Sciences, the Tennessee Poison Center has increased the number of educational programs in the state from 401 to 1,003. Program attendance increased from 35,687 in 30 counties to 448,845 in all 95 counties, and literature distribution grew from 112,817 pieces in 2003 to 642,084 pieces in 2004. The Poison Help hotline also saw a dramatic increase in calls in 85 of the 95 counties, due to promoting the hotline through programs and literature distribution. The impact of the partnership has been greater than expected, enabling the Tennessee Poison Center to **save lives in all 95 counties**. **This is the only partnership between Extension and a poison center in the country**. The Tennessee Poison Center has now become the seventh largest in the country due to the dedication of the UT Extension educators who help the Tennessee Poison Center spread the message of poison prevention throughout Tennessee.

POISON Help™ 1-800-222-1222

Bobbi Clarke, professor, Extension health specialist and co-director, **UT Center for Community-Based Health Initiatives**, leads Extension's poison prevention education program, which is offered through the statewide network of Family and Consumer Sciences Extension educators. You can learn more about this program and the partnership by visiting the UT Web site at http://fcs.tennessee.edu/healthsafety/ccbhi/p_bepoisonsafetn.htm.

WELCOME TO SEWELL, FAREWELL TO RAMAN

John (Ike) Sewell, retired associate dean of the **Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station** and a familiar face to many, has returned as interim head of the Department of Biosystems Engineeering and Soil Science.

He follows interim head **Raj Raman**, who accepted a faculty position at **Iowa State University** after 12 years of service to the department and Institute.

A national search is underway for a new department head.

IN SHELBYVILLE, ANIMAL SCIENCE AFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO STATE'S HORSE INDUSTRY

The **Department of Animal Science** hosted a luncheon in Shelbyville recently in cooperation with Alltech, Inc. for **horse breeders, industry leaders, and the equine press.**

The department affirmed its commitment to the horse industry in **the teaching, research, and Extension functions of a land grant university**. In addition, the department expressed appreciation to a number of breeding farms in the area that have cooperated in its **Walking Horse Research and Extension Initiative**. The farms provided valuable real world data to the department's horse research program.

Alltech is a multinational biotechnology company providing natural solutions to the feed and food industries. The company is starting its second year as a **corporate partner** of the department's **Horse Round Tables**.

Tim Cross, assistant dean of Extension, welcomed participants to the luncheon. **Alan Mathew**, head of Animal Science, provided an overview of the department and discussed its **commitment to undergraduate teaching**.

Assistant professor **Cheryl Kojima** presented initial findings on stallion semen quality as affected by pedigree and discussed future research with the cooperating farms. Graduate student **Paul Roberson** described a three-dimensional analysis technique that was used for the first time this summer in horses to study the **biomechanics of the Tennessee Walking Horse gait** and discussed the broad potential of the research to industry.

Extension horse specialist **Frederick Harper** discussed the department's **adult Extension horse programs**. Professor **Neal Schrick** addressed the topic of sperm analysis in stallions. Alltech representative **Adam Burnsted** discussed nutritional strategies to maximize fertility.

A number of horse breeders, horse association officials, veterinarians and members of equine publications in the midstate attended the program. Response was positive.



Cheryl Kojima, assistant professor of animal science, reports findings from the department's Walking Horse research program.

Other Institute representatives at the event were **Robert Holland, Warren Gill, Rhodes Logan**, and **Emily Tipton**.

TRAINING, *from page 2*

participants. And remember that **staff may apply for up to $200 in financial support** for development each year through **UT's Career Development Fund**.

Find out more at http://uthr.admin.utk.edu/TandD/.

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THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

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