



Joe DiPietro

Catch Us If You Can

"Catch Us If You Can." That title of the 1960's hit song by the Dave Clark 5 is my new adage for the Institute's Bioenergy Programs. On July 15th, we launched an additional biofuels component, our biodiesel production unit in Knoxville,

that further positions UTIA as a leader in bioenergy research and demonstration efforts. I am confident that collectively through efforts of our faculty, staff, and students we will remain vigilant, focused, and committed to our bioenergy programs and will continue to lead the way for the state, nation, and world.

Our new biodiesel production unit converts used cooking oil and other feedstocks into cleaner-burning alternative fuel. Integral to this effort is our partnership with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, led by Executive Director Stephen Smith, a UT CVM graduate. Funding from an Alternative Fuels Innovation Grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, in partnership with SACE and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, made this new initiative possible.

Enthusiasts from state and local government to local restaurateurs are poised to help biodiesel succeed. Capitalizing on economies of scale, the biorefinery will have a small footprint, yet is large enough to produce 380,000 gallons of biodiesel a year. UT students will have a chance to gain experience in production, and researchers will be able to test new feedstocks all the while making a difference by supplying fuel to the university, the City of Knoxville, community businesses, and others.

Today more than ever the best universities, like UT, are known for forging strong and meaningful partnerships. Partnerships that advance educational programs for students, partnerships that yield important discoveries that through our outreach are translated to day-to-day use and foster economic development and growth. Good examples are our partnership with SACE, TDEC, and TDA on the biodiesel production unit, as well as with Dupont-Danisco Cellulosic Ethanol on the cellulosic ethanol biorefinery under construction in Vonore. Partnerships enable us to do far more than we'd ever achieve on our own. For that we are very grateful.

All the best,

Joe

Mall Mania Teaches Smart Shopping

Fashionista **Lacey Bell** is on a mission—find accessories for those new back-to-school clothes at the Dyersburg Mall. "I love the mall. I'm a girl, and I really love to shop," she says.

Bell is one of about 50 teenagers who took part in "Mall Mania" in Dyer County. It's a UT Extension Consumer and Family Sciences and 4-H program that includes a fashion show. The youth picked out what they wore for their trip down the runway.

But "Mall Mania" is far from just a day of shopping. Participants also learned tips for finding bargains and how to avoid impulse spending.

"We teach a little resource management hoping that they will manage their dollars wisely because a lot of them have allowances and parents have sent quite a bit of money up here for them to splurge and buy an outfit," says **Lynn Brookins** with UT Extension in the Western District.

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Rich Maxey

The Tennessee Agricultural Leadership Summit recently toured programs and facilities at the Institute of Agriculture. The Summit was convened by State Representative and Tennessee House Agricultural Committee Chair **Stratton Bone**. Members included the Tennessee House Agricultural Committee and other state representatives, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, the Co-op, the USDA, and other agriculture stakeholders in the state.



Shirley Hastings

EFNEP...Improving Nutrition and Health for 40 Years

by Shirley Hastings, Associate Dean, UT Extension

The year is 1969: Neil Armstrong lands on the moon, Richard Nixon is president, construction begins on Disney World in Orlando, the New York Jets win the Super Bowl, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid is a favorite movie, and TVs are tuned to Star Trek, Bewitched, and Hee Haw. A loaf of bread costs 23 cents, a gallon of gas costs 32 cents, and a new car costs \$2,000, while the average income is \$6,500. **At the same time the USDA Extension Service launches the Expanded Food Nutrition Program (EFNEP).**

The federally funded program was created to deliver nutrition education to limited resource families. Now 40 years later most things have changed dramatically, however, EFNEP is still making a difference for families across America. EFNEP is a unique program that currently operates in all 50 states, reaching more than a half million families each year. Tennessee, one of the first states to adopt the program, has implemented EFNEP for the past 40 years. To celebrate this important anniversary, a luncheon was held in Nashville to recognize the contributions of the program and honor those who made the success possible.

Several current and retired employees were honored for their long service. Among those honored were **Rowena Nash** (Putnam County), **Mary Ross** (Shelby County) and **Ann Smith** (Davidson County) 40 years; **Pauline Holland** (Davidson County) and **Pauline Willis** (Shelby County) 38 years; **Lorena Morgan** (Hamilton County) 34 years and; **Doris Caffey** (Shelby County) 30 years.

EFNEP curriculum is taught as a series of 10 lessons by paraprofessionals, many of whom live in the communities where they work. The hands-on, learn-by-doing approach allows the participants to gain practical skills necessary to make positive behavior changes. EFNEP also has a youth component that provides nutrition education at schools as curriculum enrichment in after school programs and day camps. In addition to lessons on nutrition, food preparation, and food safety, there are lessons on related topics including physical activity and health.

EFNEP directly addresses national priorities such as hunger, health, and obesity. Specifically, EFNEP helps families to improve diets, handle food safely, manage food dollars, develop skills, and change behavior related to diet and food preparation.

EFNEP uses an interactive approach and applies research-based information to achieve consistently strong results. For example, results of a cost-benefit analysis in Virginia indicate that for every dollar spent to implement the program, \$10.64 will be saved on future health care costs. These savings are due to improvements in diets that reduce risks of chronic disease; fewer unsafe food storage and preparation practices that contribute to food-borne illnesses; and fewer low birth weight babies. Additionally, EFNEP leads to public savings. Research shows that better health is associated with reduced health care costs, less absenteeism from work, and less dependence on emergency food assistance. The impact is an economic one.



What's News

Knoxville served as the host site for the **American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences**. The meeting occurred June 23 through 26, and it was the Centennial Celebration of the association. **Extension's FCS unit** devoted a lot of time and effort in organizing and carrying out the meeting, and their effort reflected well on their leadership and national visibility in their disciplines, according to Associate Dean **Shirley Hastings**.

When a dad or mom is stationed overseas in a war zone, the heartache and worry can be especially tough for his or her kids. In July Tennessee 4-H did something special to help these children. **"Operation Military Kids 4-H Fun Day" is a one-day visit to a Tennessee 4-H camp.** The event was free to youth in grades 4 - 12 who are children of an adult in any branch of the military service who is currently deployed, will be deployed in the future, or who has been deployed in the past. Since its inception OMK has touched 88,000 military youth and provided information to 21,009 community members across the United States.

Thirty-eight area farmers received acceptance letters into UT's second season of a switchgrass farmer incentive program. The farmers will be growing switchgrass for conversion to cellulosic ethanol. **A total of 1,901 acres located in nine East Tennessee counties were enrolled in the 2009 program.** The total land enrolled over the past two years is more than 2,600 acres.

You can watch videos featuring the **College of Veterinary Medicine** and **UT Extension** on YouTube. Just search UTCVM and UT Extension at www.youtube.com/.

Research Profile: The Forest Resources Research and Education Center

We interviewed **Center Director Richard Evans** about what the **Forest Resources Research and Education Center** offers Institute scientists.

Describe your location and general facilities.

The UT Forest Resources Research and Education Center encompasses the Oak Ridge Forest & Arboretum (2,260 ac.) in Oak Ridge, the Cumberland Forest (12,000 ac.) in Morgan and Scott counties, and the Highland Rim Forest (860 ac.) near Tullahoma. Each is in a different physiographic region of the state: Ridge and Valley, Cumberland Mountains and Plateau, and Highland Rim regions. The diverse forest types, soils, and ecological conditions broaden the Center's capabilities to serve its mission of: (1) providing the land and supporting resources necessary for conducting modern and effective forestry, wildlife, and associated social, biological, and ecological research programs; (2) demonstrating the application of optimal forest and wildlife management technologies; and (3) assisting with the transfer of new technology to forest land, industries, and other users. Each forest has an office, shop, and equipment sheds and other structures to support the Center's program and management functions.

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

While the Center's diversity of land resources is a strength, additional value for research, teaching, and outreach lies in the Center's historic database records that come with 50 to 70-plus years of research and management. For example, on the Cumberland Forest we have 60 years of records and maps that document events that have influenced the growth and development of our forests—events such as wildfire, beetle kills, and timber harvest.

The natural resources associated with the Center's properties have given rise to many creative research and teaching

projects. On the Highland Rim Forest, for example, we have a 50-year fire ecology research project (possibly the oldest in the Southeast) that has been the subject of several studies of changes in plant associations, soils, and small mammal populations. At the Oak Ridge Forest we've initiated a research project focused on the artificial and natural processes of re-vegetation of disturbed sites, such as road cuts, mine spoils, land fills, etc. There are also research projects on chickadee vocalization, box turtles, king snakes, dogwood pollinators, switchgrass disease, and many forest silviculture and management projects.

What types of employees work at your Center?

Each forest has its own resident forest manager. The support staffs are classical "Jacks of all trades." While each person has their own set of special skills, they also can perform many tasks, whether it is operating a chainsaw, tractor or dozer, or building structures such as sheds, aviaries, and kiosks.

Describe some recent success stories that have come from your Center.

When I think of "success stories," my first thought is of the students who, through their work and study at the Center, have developed and refined their skill to the level of calling themselves professionals. In many circumstances, the Center was a pathway to their first real job, or it gave them the confidence and desire to pursue further education.

On the research stage, success comes from having good ideas and having the resources to implement those ideas. Research on the reclamation of disturbed sites was a good idea, but without the critical resources for implementation. Success came when the Center was able to partner with a private rock quarry, Rogers Group, Inc., to supply overburden material on which to conduct the tree planting experiments. Because this research was important to their

industry's conservation goals, they also provided some critical funding to support a graduate student and operation costs. Success, in this case, was a product of teamwork between faculty, the Center, and a private partner to accomplish a strategic goal. This is an example of the role our Research and Education Centers can play in advancing our collective missions.



Jack Parker

Many Forest Resources Center research and management projects double as demonstrations that extend knowledge to forest landowners and forest resource managers.

Mall Mania,

continued

But that's splurge within reason. Leaders of this program want kids to know it's okay to spend money, but do so with a smart purpose.

"I know that's how I shop," says Becky Willis, 4-H agent in Dyer County. "I have three children of my own and you have to shop throughout the year and shop at different sales to get those good buys."—*Chuck Denney*

Rogers Group Helps Advance UT Arboretum

Rogers Group has been a good neighbor to UT's Forestry Research and Education Center in Oak Ridge for many years. However, Rogers Group's commitment to the Arboretum Endowment moved them beyond good neighbor to good neighbor and great supporter.

With a \$500,000 commitment to the Arboretum, the Rogers Group kicked off a \$3 million dollar fund-raising campaign to enhance the program capability and secure the future of the Arboretum.

Even though Rogers Group is the largest privately owned producer of crushed stone in the country, they have always recognized the importance of the Forestry Research and Education Center and its public face in the Arboretum. Their close relationship with UT has lasted for more than 40 years and their presence in the Oak Ridge community predates the Research and Education Center, where the Arboretum is located.



Richard Evans

Support from the Rogers Group will help sustain and grow the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge.

The \$3 million dollar Arboretum Campaign, supported by the Rogers Group will include the addition of an auditorium and a coordinator position to expand youth and environmental programming. The high public visibility of the UT Arboretum lends itself well to serving as a focal point for outreach activities, especially for nontraditional agriculture audiences who know little about the Institute of Agriculture. Richard Evans, director of the Forestry Research and Education Center, said that "enhancing the program capabilities of the Arboretum to host meetings and present programs is a strategic move toward capturing the full potential of the Arboretum in outreach. Key to the success of this initiative is having an auditorium facility and a person to coordinate program activities."

We thank the Rogers Group for their lead gift in this effort.—
Rhodes Logan

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