

Third Thursday



Joe DiPietro

From the Chancellor

On March 18, the University of Tennessee System launched a Compensation Advisory Board (CAB).

This board is new to the university and will be instrumental in reviewing the university's total compensation program and recommending a long-term plan to address compensation and benefits issues — including internal equity and market benchmarked parity.

The board, which I chair, represents multiple university constituencies including staff, faculty and administrators from every campus, institute and the administration. **UT Extension Dean Tim Cross** is a member representing the Institute of Agriculture.

The board is exploring options and reviewing suggestions received by employees regarding compensation and benefits. Our goal is to help guide the university's compensation philosophy, structure and programs. The scope of the board is advisory in nature and will provide input and feedback, as well as recommend changes regarding the university's compensation philosophy, policies and practices.

Despite challenging financial times, the CAB is determined to identify possibilities and options to further recognize employees for their contributions day in and day out to the university. If you have ideas you'd like to have considered, please share them with me.

All the best,

At the June meeting of the **University of Tennessee Board of Trustees**, the full board **revised the bylaws to change the title of vice president for agriculture to chancellor of the UT Institute of Agriculture.**

This new title clarifies the role of the Institute of Agriculture's chief officer in academic and tenure decisions. This position will continue to report directly to the president.



An Eye on Terrapins – Summer Research Intern Josh Smith is tracking the homing ability of bottomland box turtles in an experiment supervised by David Mercker, Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries extension specialist. The project, underway at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center, uses ATS mountable reptile transmitters to track their trails.

Revised Name of Veterinary Hospital to Reflect Growth and Scope of Comprehensive Capabilities

Since its beginning in 1978, the UT Veterinary Teaching Hospital has become much more. To better reflect the scope and depth of the comprehensive services and expertise it now houses, **the facility will now be known as the UT Veterinary Medical Center.** The VMC is a major medical center comprised of experts in nearly every specialty area of veterinary medicine who are backed by basic and clinical scientists advancing the understanding of health and disease.

The academic veterinary medical center provides teaching, patient care, scientific discoveries and diagnostic laboratory services used by veterinarians throughout the world in its four fully staffed and equipped veterinary hospitals – Equine, Small Animal, Farm Animal and Exotic Animal.

While the teaching hospital has evolved into a medical center, **Dean Jim Thompson** explained that teaching is and will remain the number one mission. "All our clinicians must be extremely knowledgeable, not only in their specialty discipline, but also in the wealth of knowledge impacting the general health and well-being of all our animal patients and be capable of transferring this knowledge to new generations of veterinarians."

What's News

UT Gardens is hosting a Harvest Market each Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. or when produce sells out. The market features fruits, vegetables, herbs and greens grown at the Organic Crops Unit at the **East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center** by five student interns participating in all aspects of the farm market from business planning to production to marketing. The market will continue until August 13.

Television and Radio News Producer Chuck Denney of Marketing and Communications won a Gold Award for Script Writing for Visual Media from ACE. The honor was for the "Ghost of Morgan Hall" story. Denney and **Information Specialist Doug Edlund** won a Silver Award for Electronic Media Programs for *UT Connections'* Summer Celebration episode. ACE is the Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences.

The Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center in Oak Ridge hosted a film crew doing a full-length program for *"Dog 101,"* a series on the Animal Planet Channel. The subject of their filming was the use of Boykin Spaniels to locate box turtles, an ongoing project of the **Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization (CRESO) research program.** The center's recent **Healthy Hardwoods Field Day** at the **Highland Rim Forest** was a big success, attracting 80 participants and representing a team effort of UT Extension and AgResearch in putting together a valuable program.

Tennessee's Chapter of the International Agriculture Honor Society, **Gamma Sigma Delta**, received a **Gold Chapter Award** in recognition of a report of their activities and achievements. **The chapter also won first place in a national poster competition.** The poster will circulate among academic buildings on campus to raise awareness among students of the society.

New Services Offered by UT Veterinary Medical Center

by Jim Thompson, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine



Referring veterinarians are critical members of our medical team, and we are constantly seeking better ways to enhance this partnership. Three new veterinary service offerings were announced this spring to provide the best possible services in support of our referring veterinarians' work with animals. Your own community veterinarian may well be one of those benefiting from these new, supportive services.

The UT Veterinary Medical Center has created the "VOLVet Portal," a gateway into the hospital's electronic medical records system that provides real-time

information on the status of patients that community veterinarians have referred to us. This new portal system also provides immediate access to results of laboratory tests that referring veterinarians have sent to our diagnostic laboratories. Once referring veterinarians have logged onto our secure website, they can access their patients' medical records including lab work results, diagnosis and treatment plans. Referring veterinarians will still receive conventional client communication information such as discharge instructions and referral letters, but the new portal system allows veterinarians to review medical information about their patients in a timely, convenient manner. We believe this real-time access will allow better case management between our UT medical teams and referring veterinarians.

The Veterinary Medical Center will provide daily courier service (Monday through Saturday) for diagnostic test submissions (ranging from bacterial cultures to biopsies to chemistry/electrolyte panels) to greater Knoxville area veterinary clinics. Along with expanding direct access to the Veterinary Medical Center laboratories, the overarching objectives are to decrease lab sample transit time to and from UT, allow for later pick-up times, and decrease turn-around time for results. With the new courier service, community veterinarians can receive important diagnostic information about their clients' animals sooner, resulting in earlier diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Our equine hospital is now accepting appointments from referring veterinarians for high-field Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). This powerful diagnostic tool provides high-quality images that will help the equine clinician provide more targeted therapeutic plans for horses in their care. Equine MRI scans are currently limited to legs only, but will be of great help in accurately diagnosing underlying lameness disorders; animals scanned must undergo general anesthesia for this procedure as the patient must remain completely still for a period of time. Results are interpreted by a board-certified radiologist, and the written report will be sent to the referring veterinarian on the next business day. Plans are underway to expand our equine MRI capabilities to include the head and neck, but this will have to wait until the renovation and expansion of the equine hospital is complete.

Our outstanding clinicians are proud to provide these three new services to referring veterinarians, both locally and across Tennessee.

UTIA and AstroTurf® Break Ground on \$1.5 Million Research Center for Safer Athletic Fields



From l-r, Caula Beyl, dean, UT College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources; Andy Belles, AstroTurf® brand manager; Jim Brosnan, assistant professor UT Department of Plant Sciences; Jim Prettyman, AstroTurf® chief operating officer; Bob Augé, department head, UT Plant Sciences; Eric Berry, former Tennessee Volunteer and first-round draft pick for the Kansas City Chiefs; Bobby Simpson, director, East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center; James Berry, Eric's father; John Sorochoan, associate professor UT Department of Plant Sciences; Buddy Mitchell, associate vice president, UT Institute of Agriculture; Bill Brown, dean, UT AgResearch.

The Institute of Agriculture and AstroTurf® broke ground June 18 on the Center for Safer Athletic Fields. Eric Berry was a special guest at the ceremony, which was held at the research site located at the **Plant Sciences Unit of the East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center.**

The center is a comprehensive research initiative to improve athletic performance and reduce injuries that can occur on both natural and synthetic turf playing surfaces. The Tennessee Turfgrass team and AstroTurf® announced their partnership in July of last year.

"AstroTurf® possesses all facets of synthetic turf manufacturing from polymer development to field installation, making them an integral research partner," explained **Jim Brosnan**, assistant professor of Plant Sciences and research co-investigator with **John Sorochoan**, associate professor. "We had to be able to

work with a company that has the ability to use our research findings to advance the products installed in stadiums across the globe. It is our hope that comparing natural and synthetic turf surfaces to this scale will allow for fields to be safer at all levels of play."

"Our top priority is ensuring the highest standards for athletic field safety and outstanding performance," explained **Jim Prettyman**, chief operating officer of AstroTurf®. "Advancing the science behind injury prevention helps athletes of all ages and the sports turf industry overall."

During the groundbreaking ceremonies, special guest **Eric Berry**, former Tennessee Volunteer and first-round NFL draft pick for the Kansas City Chiefs, discussed the importance of the initiative. "Reducing playing field injuries keeps professional and student athletes in the game longer," said Berry. "When I heard AstroTurf® was launching this program with my alma

mater, I definitely wanted to attend in light of my commitment to player safety. As athletes we already have 11 guys trying to take our heads off. Why have the turf taking our heads off too?"

The Center for Safer Athletic Fields aims to make a long-term difference. While determining the safety and performance of AstroTurf® products compared to various natural turfgrass systems, UT turfgrass scientists will also monitor these relationships over time. Additionally, they will evaluate the environmental impacts of each system. The research should lead to the development of new, more accurate methods for testing the safety and performance of all synthetic turf systems. Initial research will start as soon as fall 2010, and the center will be fully operational by 2011. – *Lorna Norwood*

You've Got People!

Members of the UTIA Advisory Council want to remind all Institute personnel that they have representation on the council and to encourage everyone to provide input to the council on any issues, concerns or questions they may have. Visit the council's website at <http://advisory.tennessee.edu> to identify your representative, read more about the council's charge and view meeting minutes.

Institute leaders use the council as a sounding board. The council was utilized in articulating the recent Space Committee Policy and UTIA Vision and Mission Statement. The council's next meeting is in August, so send your suggestions or questions now. The incoming council chair is **Gina Pighetti**, associate professor of Animal Science.

AgResearch Taps New Assistant Dean and Directors

Steve Oliver, professor in the **Department of Animal Science** has accepted the position of **assistant dean for Research and assistant director, UT AgResearch**. Oliver began his new duties in June. "Steve brings a great deal of academic and research experience and success to this position. His success in grantsmanship, intellectual property development and protection, and publication will assist faculty and UTIA in advancing our programs," said **Bill Brown**, dean for Research and director, UT AgResearch.

In his new position, Oliver manages research programs at the ten statewide Research and Education Centers, and coordinates development of field days and technology transfer events. He also promotes AgResearch relationships with commodity groups, agencies and professional groups.

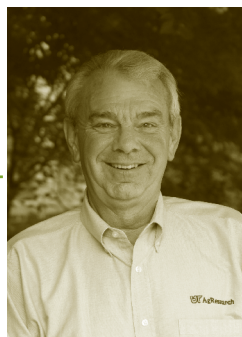
John Hodges, former director of the **East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center**, has been named **assistant director of UT AgResearch**. Hodges oversees the infrastructure and maintenance of the AgResearch and Education Centers. **Bobby Simpson**, **associate director of the center, is now director of the East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center**. "We've put together an excellent team that will provide us with visionary leadership to accomplish our mission of research excellence that enhances lives in Tennesseans and the world," said Brown.



Steve Oliver



Bobby Simpson



John Hodges



UT 4-H Centennial – Helping with the War Effort

During World War II, Tennessee 4-H members turned their attention from individual service projects to war food production, bond sales and other wartime activities. They easily surpassed the goal of each member, which was producing enough food to support one service member. Members also invested their personal savings in \$300,000 worth of war bonds. So significant were the contributions of Tennessee 4-H members that in 1944, the U.S. Maritime Commission granted Tennessee 4-H the honor of naming a ship. Members assisted at the christening of the Liberty Ship S.S. Charles A. Keffer, named after the first director of Tennessee Extension. –Justin Crowe

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