

Third Thursday

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE **UT**
INSTITUTE of
AGRICULTURE

JANUARY 2010



Joe DiPietro

A Proud Past and Promising New Initiative

We welcome in the New Year with a celebration of our past and with optimism about the future. Calendar year 2010 marks a century

of UT Extension and 4-H in Tennessee. Throughout this year we will be commemorating milestones of these programs, their accomplishments, and their current and future directions. The transformational impacts that these units have had on making Tennesseans' lives better for 100 years cannot be overstated. The article in this month's issue of *Third Thursday* conveys only a portion of what these two units have achieved to date.

As we reflect on our past, a newly proposed interdisciplinary graduate program beckons us to look to the present and the future. Governor Phil Bredesen has announced a joint venture between UT and ORNL to establish a world-class graduate energy sciences and engineering program. The program is projected to attract 400 new graduate students and could double the research budget from \$200 million to \$400 million. I'm appreciative to Chancellor Jimmy Cheek and to Thom Mason of ORNL for involving me in planning for this new program. I envision that an expansion of UT's ties with ORNL will bring exciting new opportunities for the Institute of Agriculture's scientists and programs.

These truly are developments to celebrate.

All the best,
Joe

Our Past, Your Future

UT Extension Celebrates 100 Years of Transforming Tennessee

by Tim Cross, dean, UT Extension

This year, UT Extension will reach a milestone: 100 years of educational programs for Tennessee's farmers, families, youth, and communities. While the economy continues to show little to no growth and additional state budget reductions are likely, a centennial only happens once in an organization's history. Recognizing this unique opportunity, a Centennial Celebration planning committee has planned ways to celebrate past accomplishments while looking ahead to future opportunities. We will observe the Extension Centennial throughout 2010, using the anniversary as a way to increase awareness of Extension programs and reaching new audiences.

The beginning

The state's first county agricultural agent was appointed December 1, 1910. The name of the first agent seems to be lost to history, but it is surely recorded by Almon Sims in the 1939 work, *The History of Extension Work in Tennessee: Twenty Five Years of Service to Rural Life*. Sims recorded that date and writes that by the end of February 1911, six farmers were employed as county agents three days each week, nine months of the year. In truth, the USDA employed a state agent in Jackson in the fall of 1909, but the county-level activities and direct contact with individuals—the hallmarks of Extension—did not begin until 1910. Youth programs organized as 4-H clubs also began in Tennessee in 1910, so this marks the Centennial for our youth work as well.

Virginia P. Moore was appointed to help organize Canning Clubs for girls on December 12, 1910, and the first home demonstration agents (now called family and consumer sciences agents) were appointed during the canning season of 1911. They were employed at first by the State Department of Education in cooperation with local county boards of education, with most receiving just \$50 per month plus traveling expenses. On July 1, 1914, all the early workers were



Happy
Birthday UT
Extension
and 4-H



Changes for Three Administrators



Robert "Buddy" Moore, associate dean for research and graduate programs for the College of Veterinary Medicine, **has been named executive director of the University of Tennessee Space Institute.** At UTSI, he will lead the Institute's research and instructional mission with an eye for building new partnerships and graduate enrollment.



Leon Potgieter has been appointed interim associate dean of Research and Graduate Programs of the **College of Veterinary Medicine.** He is also serving as interim department head for Comparative Medicine.

Cont., Our Past. Your Future.



Tim Cross

reorganized under the federal Smith-Lever Act as part of the University of Tennessee Division of Extension. This included 20 county agents, 22 home demonstration agents, and eight additional staff and faculty.

UT Extension today

Today, UT Extension, in cooperation with county governments, employs a total of 159 agricultural agents; 209 family and consumer sciences agents, and 167 youth development agents in all 95 counties in the state. They remain jointly funded by federal, state and local government, and the youth development programs rely heavily on local volunteers (5,489 in 2008). An additional staff of 177 subject matter experts provides educational support and research-based information to agents, producers, consumers and communities throughout the state.

Tennessee 4-H has remained a national leader for its first century, with last year's membership including 301,958 youth participating in activities that range from traditional livestock and crop development and management and sewing to more modern projects that involve Web site development and GPS tracking.

In addition to school-based and local activities, three 4-H camps throughout the state offer youth summer camping experiences and school-based outdoor science educational programs. In Extension's first 100 years more than 4 million youth have been served by local 4-H Clubs and adult volunteers.

Each county will sponsor local activities that will offer individuals a chance to re-connect with Extension and their own family history. Dena Wise, a professor of family and consumer sciences, is chairing the statewide Extension Centennial History Subcommittee. She invites interested individuals to contact their local county Extension office. "Buried in family albums and unpublished memoirs are countless examples of Extension's connection to the history of each county and the state," she said. "If you'd like to share a treasured family photo or story, please give us a call." Wise may be reached directly at dkwise@utk.edu, or 865-974-8198.

And what's in the future for UT Extension? At the turn of the century we worked the land with mules and plows, and we taught young people proper animal husbandry. Today we help farmers adopt precision agriculture tools with sound conservation practices. 4-H youth are learning computer-based communication skills and families are being taught how to improve their health and be better parents. Who knows what the next 100 years will bring? 🌱

In AgResearch, **Kevin Thompson** has been appointed director of the Dairy Research and Education Center and also the Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center following the retirement of **Dennis Onks.** He will contribute to identifying and executing synergies that capitalize on the assets of these two facilities.



Endowment to Benefit Ag Campus Main Grounds

Mike and Martha Keel recently pledged more than \$100,000 in lifetime giving to the Campaign for Tennessee and the Institute of Agriculture to establish the Mike and Martha Keel Agriculture Grounds Enhancement Endowment.

Earnings from the endowment will be used to support the improvement and upkeep of the grounds on the main agriculture campus in perpetuity, which includes nearly 65 acres from Third Creek to Alcoa Highway. The Keels made this commitment to ensure a beautiful landscape for all to enjoy for many years to come.

Mike is director of Business Services for the Institute of Agriculture and Martha is a professor in Family and Consumer Sciences. They have been a part of the university family for nearly 30 years and have been loyal employees by giving generously of their time and financial support to things such as the 4-H Foundation and the Institute. The pride they feel about UT Agriculture is evident.

"Martha and I love working for the University of Tennessee and the Institute of Agriculture," says Mike. "The Institute has been good to us. We thought we should do something to give back to the institution that has supported our careers and family. The Institute offers quality teaching, research and outreach programs. However, we feel the UTIA grounds will probably never be funded at a level necessary to reflect the same quality. The purpose of this endowment is to communicate that the UTIA is about excellence. Hopefully, this endowment will encourage others to join us in ensuring that the UTIA campus grounds will be a source of inspiration and pride for our faculty, staff, students, visitors, and the community for years to come."

Buddy Mitchell, associate vice president for Agricultural Development and good friend of the Keels, said, "Mike and Martha have been long-time outstanding employees of the Institute of Agriculture and it is a great affirmation of our programs when our own employees contribute generously to programs that are meaningful to them. I urge other employees to contribute to this important endowment that will insure the beauty of the landscape grounds on the Agriculture Campus for generations to come. This outstanding commitment is also a great example for all of us in the Institute of Agriculture to support the programs of our choice within the Institute."

If you would like to make a gift to the endowment please send to Tom Looney in the Agriculture Development Office, 110 Morgan Hall, Knoxville TN 37996-4502.



Rich Maxey

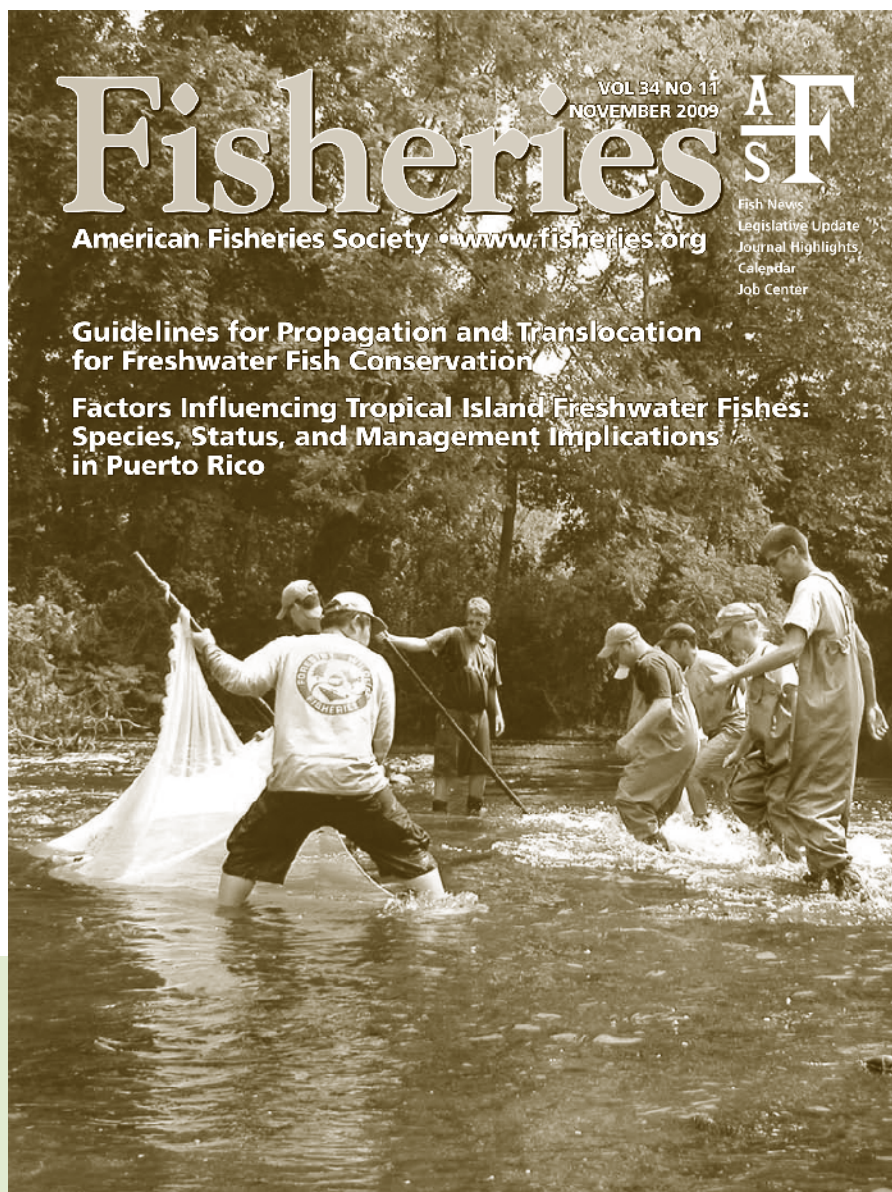
With the belief that UTIA's landscape should match the high caliber of its people and programs, Mike and Martha Keel have made a generous pledge that will fund the grounds' upkeep and improvement in perpetuity.

UT Extension County Director **John Bartee** of **Montgomery County** has been inducted into the **American Gelbvieh Association Hall of Fame**. The Hall of Fame presentation was held on Jan. 9 at the 2010 American Gelbvieh Association annual convention.

Each year the American Gelbvieh Association honors individuals who have "left their mark on the Gelbvieh breed and Bartee is no exception," the Association announced in a news release. "John Bartee has undisputedly contributed more to the advancement of the cattle industry in general and to the Gelbvieh breed in particular than anyone else in the state of Tennessee," said Dale Walker, secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Gelbvieh Association."



CASNR's fisheries students are gaining national recognition. Of the seven students featured on the cover of a recent **Fisheries** magazine are current students or recent graduates. The publication represents the **American Fisheries Society**, and the article the students were associated with calls for establishing guidelines to reestablish locally extinct populations and augment declining populations of imperiled fishes in the US.



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