

From the Department Head:

There are a number of items of interest from the BESS faculty and students to be mentioned in this issue of the BESS Newsletter. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Michael Essington will begin service as the Vice Chair of the UT Graduate Council, which over a three year period will lead to him becoming Chair. We wish Michael well in this important function, and know he will serve the research faculty well in this capacity.

In the recent Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EURēCA), BESS students had two of the top three entries from the College of Engineering, and one of the top three entries from the College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources. Congratulations to these students and their sponsors. (For details of these awards and their advisors, click [here](#)).

In a very close contest (see story [here](#)), the UT Soils Judging team finished 5th among the 23 universities competing in the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest in Springfield, Missouri. The team members were Stephen Holland, James Hartsig, Brian Lester, Kinder Tuckwiller, Kyley Dickson, and Brenton Worley and were coached by Ryan Blair and Dr. Tom Ammons. The UT team qualified for the national competition based on their performance in the regional competition last fall.

Keep up the great work BESS students and faculty!

----Eric

Student Profile



JAMES HARTSIG, a graduating senior in Environmental & Soil Sciences, Soils concentration, has won an award from the American Society of Agronomy/Crop Sciences Society of America/Soil Science Society of America. The "Outstanding Senior for the 2009 National Student Recognition Program" award is given to recognize top-notch seniors that have been selected on the basis of their scholarship, leadership, and participation. Dr. John T. Ammons nominated James for the award, in recognition of James's unfailing effort in keeping people interested in Soil Science. He helped restart the PSES club (link: <http://pse.ag.utk.edu/>), has participated in several Soil Judging Competitions, and has plans to return in the fall for an MS in Environmental & Soil Sciences.

James was very pleased to receive the award, and said that he "really appreciates Doc for doing this." Congratulations, James!

CLICK BELOW
 FOR IMPORTANT NEWS ON:

BESS

Students

CASNR

AgResearch

Extension

UTIA

Breaking News!
Stimulus Funding for
Substantial
Equipment
Purchases—
 Click [here](#) for more

Please submit items
 to Darla O'Neill
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BESS NEWS is issued on
 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month.

Archived issues
 post to our

[departmental website](#).

To subscribe (or unsubscribe),
 email doneill1@utk.edu

BESS AWARDS BANQUET
 April 17; 6:00 p.m.
 Hollingsworth Auditorium
 RSVP by April 10 to Sandra
 Marine – smarine@utk.edu

THE UNIVERSITY of
 TENNESSEE 
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BE THE
BESS
 BIOSYSTEMS * ENGINEERING * SOIL SCIENCE
 YOU CAN BE

BESS NEWS

[Return to
Front
Page](#)

RECENT SPONSORED RESEARCH AWARDS:

SHAWN HAWKINS, JAEHOON LEE, FORBES WALKER, AMY JOHNSON; Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; *"Prioritizing Pollutant Causes and Sources Using CADDIS and ARC-SWAT for Biologically Impaired Streams in Tennessee."*

X. PHILIP YE; US Army; *"Investigation of Spore Inactivation Mechanisms using Rapid FTIR Techniques."*

REMINDER:

BESS AWARDS BANQUET is Friday, April 17, 6:00 p.m., Hollingsworth Auditorium. Be sure to **RSVP** to Sandra Marine, smarine@utk.edu, by **Monday, April 13**. Be sure to give the full names for those attending so we may prepare name badges. Don't miss out! Lots of good company and catering by The Entertainers.

Awards to be presented include:

Marlay A. Sharp Award – Freshman Engineering

Top Underclass Scholar in Environmental & Soil Sciences

Top Sophomore Scholar in Biosystems Engineering

Top Upperclass Scholar in Environmental and Soil Sciences

Top Upperclass Scholar in Biosystems Engineering

Undergraduate Student with Professional Promise – Environmental & Soil Sciences

Undergraduate Student with Professional Promise – Biosystems Engineering

Graduate Student with Professional Promise – Environmental & Soil Sciences

Graduate Student with Professional Promise – Biosystems Engineering/Technology

BESS Outstanding Service – Support Staff Award

BESS Outstanding Service – Faculty Award

BESS Distinguished Alumnus Award

Outstanding Teaching Award – Environmental & Soil Sciences

Outstanding Teaching Award – Biosystems Engineering/Technology

EURēCA AWARDS:

At the EURēCA awards ceremony, Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science students received two of the three awards in the College of Engineering Division! They are:

Crystal Kelly, Will Rutemeyer, Ken Swinson, Faculty sponsor - **Dr. John Buchanan;** *"Optimization Protocol for Nitrogen Removal from Domestic Wastewater."*

John Kruckeberg, Abdoulaye Samba, Chase Shaver, Mitch Groothius, William Nichols, Faculty sponsor - **Dr. Paul Ayers;** *"Automated Foldable ROPS."*

There were thirteen total engineering entries from five engineering departments.

In the College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources, there were fifteen entries. Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science students received one of the three awards for the CASNR division. The winning team is:

Alex McLemore and Adam Duncan, Faculty Sponsor - **Dr. Paul Ayers;** *"Coal Deposits Located in the Mouth of the Clinch River."*

The Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EURēCA) is an annual event that showcases research and creative activities by currently enrolled undergraduate students in collaboration with a UTK faculty mentor. Entries can be individual or group projects and are judged by a combination of UTK faculty members and community professionals. More info can be found here: <http://research.utk.edu/eurca>.

MORE BESS NEWS NEXT PAGE

BESS NEWS

SOIL VOLS FINISH IN TOP 5 IN NATION



The University of Tennessee soil judging team (SOIL VOLS) finished in 5th place in the National soil judging contest held in Springfield Missouri April 1 and 3rd. Twenty-three teams competed from all seven regions in the USA. Team members were **Brian Lester, Stephen Holland, Brent Worley, James Hartsig, Kyley Dickson and Kinder Tuckwiller**. The SOIL VOLS qualified by placing 2nd in the Southeastern Region in October. Kansas State University placed first followed by Purdue University, West Virginia University, University of Maryland and University of Tennessee. The top five universities received trophies with the national champion traveling trophy remaining at Kansas State University. A complete listing of participants and their placing is listed below. The team was coached by **Ryan Blair and Dr. Tom Ammons**. Special thanks for the support from the Plant, Soil and Environmental Science Club, Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science, and The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Rank for Team Total
Team
Total Team Rank
(3 high individuals + group total)

School	Team Total	Team Rank
Kansas State University	3105	1
Purdue University	3084	2
West Virginia University	3068	3
University of Maryland	3067	4
University of Tennessee - Knoxville	3058	5
Iowa State University	3052	6
University of Rhode Island	3039	7
University of Wisconsin - Platteville	3038	8
Oregon State University	3012	9
North Carolina State University	2986	10
South Dakota State University	2983	11
Northern Illinois University	2981	12
Utah State University	2977	13
Delaware Valley College	2972	14
Texas A and M University	2969	15
Texas Tech University	2953	16
Cal Poly St. Univ. - SLO	2923	17
University of Kentucky	2906	18
University of Idaho	2893	19
University of Tennessee - Martin	2865	20
University of Minnesota	2840	21
Tennessee Tech University	2832	22
Oklahoma State University	2756	23



Left to Right: Brent Worley, Kyley Dickson, Brian Lester, Stephen Holland, James Hartsig, Kinder Tuckwiller.

MORE BESS NEWS NEXT PAGE

BESS NEWS

[Return to
Front
Page](#)

To: UT Faculty and Staff

From: Chris Cimino, Assistant Vice President for Budgeting

RE: JOB-RELATED PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE TAX PAYMENT 2009

For the past six years, Chapter 856, Public Acts of 2002 has permitted the university to pay one job-related professional privilege tax on behalf of its faculty and staff. Provided there are no changes to this legislation, the university will once again remit this payment on your behalf.

If you are a regular full-time employee who is subject to this tax, you must complete and submit the requested information online no later than **Friday, May 1, 2009**, to be included in this remittance process. This benefit is no longer provided to part-time employees. It is imperative for you to respond no later than May 1, 2009. If you do not, you may be responsible for the payment of the professional privilege tax, plus any associated charges. Deans, directors, and department heads are to take action to secure and forward this information for any faculty or staff unable to respond by the deadline -- e.g., employees without e-mail; employees on any type of leave, including vacations; employees who are working away from the university; or any other such situation. Please provide as much of the information as possible and submit it before the deadline. The following professions are subject to the professional privilege tax: lobbyists; agents, broker-dealers, and investment advisors under Title 48, Chapter 2; accountants; architects; brokers under Title 62; engineers; landscape architects; audiologists; chiropractors; dentists; optometrists; osteopathic physicians; pharmacists; physicians; podiatrists; psychologists; speech pathologists; veterinarians; attorneys; and sports agents under Title 49, Chapter 7.

This applies only to employees with these specific licenses issued by the state of Tennessee. Only those employees required to pay this tax and who wish to receive this benefit need to provide this information. If you have any questions about this process, contact your campus business office for additional information. To complete the requested information, please access the following Web site: <https://web.dii.utk.edu/budget/ppt.aspx>. You will receive an e-mail confirming the submission of your data. Please keep this e-mail for your records. If you have difficulty with the Web site, contact Chris Cimino at cimino@tennessee.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS:

Tyaisha Alyce Blount, of Austell, Ga., and Wallace Dillon Jr., of Roanoke, Va., were married March 28, 2009. Tyaisha received her MS in Biosystems Engineering Technology in 2005, and is a physical scientist with the U.S. Forest Service in Georgia. Wallace Dillon is a soil scientist with the U.S. Forest Service. We wish them a long and happy life together!

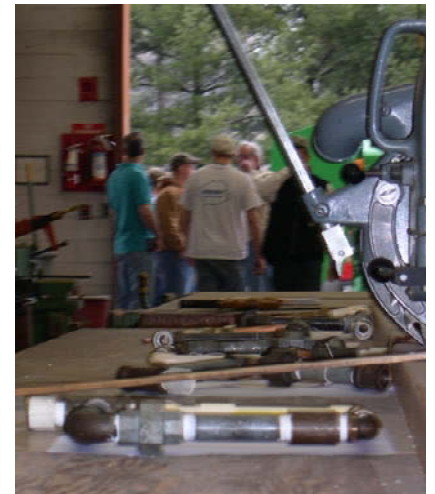


Also, Tyaisha recently won the Regional Forester's Award for Budget Operations Support for "Excellence in establishing standard business operations for the Travel Management and Off-Highway Vehicle Program in the Forest Service's Southern Region."

MORE BESS NEWS NEXT PAGE:



With the help of 16 faculty/staff, 3 graduate students, and 10 undergraduate students, Dr. Willie Hart of BESS again coordinated the **2009 FFA Agricultural Mechanics "Skills Day."** A total of 148 students from 19 high schools in East Tennessee participated in the contest this year. Claiborne County High School was the first place team, followed by South Greene High School and William Blount High School. Thanks to all who helped!



STUDENT NEWS

[Return to
Front
Page](#)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

E-STATEMENTS FOR FEES: UT will no longer mail semester fees statements to the permanent address. Rather, an e-statement will be emailed to the student's UTK email address. Please be reminded that the UTK email address is an official means of communication and students need to be checking that email on a regular basis.

EURECA AWARDS:

At the EURECA awards ceremony, three College of Engineering undergraduate research projects were singled out as award winners this year. The Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science Department garnered two of the three awards in the College of Engineering Division! They are:

Optimization Protocol for Nitrogen Removal from Domestic Wastewater, Crystal Kelly, Will Rutemeyer, Ken Swinson, Biosystems, Faculty sponsor Dr. John Buchanan

Automated Foldable ROPS, John Kruckeberg, Abdoulaye Samba, Chase Shaver, Mitch Groothuis, William Nichols, Biosystems, Faculty sponsor Dr. Paul Ayers

The awards come with a cash prize of \$400, given by the Office of Research and the College of Engineering. There were thirteen total engineering entries from five engineering departments.

In the College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources, there were fifteen entries; Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science Department received one of the three awards for the CASNR division:

Coal Deposits Located in the Mouth of the Clinch River, Alex McLemore and Adam Duncan, Faculty Sponsor Paul Ayers.

The Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EURECA) is an annual event that showcases research and creative activities by currently enrolled undergraduate students in collaboration with a UTK faculty mentor. Entries can be individual or group projects and are judged by a combination of UTK faculty members and community professionals. More info can be found here: <http://research.utk.edu/eurca>.

ESSAY COMPETITION

Once again, Syngenta and Farm Press are sponsoring an essay competition for students from selected southern universities. The essay of 750-1,000 words is to address the topic: "The Future of Southern Agriculture". The essay is due April 15. The contest is open to all current students from freshman to doctoral students. Even if you are graduating this semester you can still enter.

Last year, CASNR undergraduate and graduate students each won a \$1,000 scholarship for writing a short essay. This year the grand prize is a \$6,000 scholarship with a runner up prize of a \$4,000 scholarship. There is a category for graduate students and a category for undergraduate students and the prizes are the same for each.

More information about the topic and the contest can be found on the contest web site at www.futureofsouthernag.com.

Dr. John Riley, Ag Economics, 302 Morgan Hall, jriley@utk.edu, 974-7465, is the UT contact person for this contest.

Think about your essay, write down your thoughts carefully, and **enter this contest before April 15**. With tuition increasing, what an easy way to help pay that added cost!!!!

TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION – SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM:

Junior and Senior students are eligible. Please see Dr. Daniel Yoder (BsE) or Dr. Joanne Logan (ESS) if you are interested in this opportunity.

Interns will be working in one of the following departments: Public Affairs Department and the Special Programs Department. This is a twelve week position and pays \$4,000.00 for the 12 weeks work plus travel expenses incurred when traveling for Farm Bureau. Some of the work will include working conferences held on weekends including very long days. Applications are due by **April 15**.

NEW COURSE FOR FALL 2009

PS 115 Plants for Health, Aesthetics, and Recreation (3) Introduction to the wide variety of plants used in society to enhance health, beautify surroundings and facilitate recreational activities. Exploration of how cultures value their trees, flowers, vegetables, fruits, herbs and grasses, with emphasis on landscaping, people/plant interactions, sports turf, organic gardening and nutrition. **Class schedule:** (Section 001) Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:10-12:25.

Instructor: Mr. Andrew Pulte apulte@utk.edu, Information about our department can be found at

<http://plantsciences.utk.edu/>. My e-mail is rgualand@utk.edu. Please feel free to contact either me or Mr. Pulte if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time,
Richard Gualandi

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR OPPORTUNITIES IN ENGINEERING

From March to August 1, 2009, U.S. faculty and professionals are invited to apply for *Fulbright scholar grants at www.cies.org. Complimentary subscriptions are also available for *The Global Citizen*, the Fulbright Scholar Program's new, monthly e-newsletter. Sign up at www.cies.org.

**The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is the U.S. government's flagship international exchange program and is supported by the people of the United States and partner countries around the world. Since 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 286,000 participants from over 155 countries with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, to exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. For more information, visit <http://fulbright.state.gov/>.*

CSREES Announces the Availability of Grant Funds and Requests Applications for the Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship (NNF) Grants Program

Among other targeted areas is: Agricultural Systems Engineering - specifically biobased products, bioenergy and food products engineering. **Closing Date: May 8, 2009, Proposed Award Date:** September 15, 2009

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-CSREES-HEP-002116, **Program Code:** KK, **Funds Available:** \$3.6 million

CFDA Number: 10.210 ONLY ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS THROUGH www.grants.gov ARE ACCEPTABLE.

Grants.gov Synopsis:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=7LJ8J68B0p3Y8p20XQWCzx7HRLyL3bMJTbXgTGw pPVv8JDqQG6QJ!1057178580?oppld=46011&flag2006=false&mode=VIEW>

Grants.gov Application Package:

<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/GetGrantFromFedgrants;jsessionid=ZGTvJ68GS6zdQpzcLQ8fTTbHQds VwpJ1hbWX1kNJMySjBQTkn27J!1057178580?opportunity=USDA-CSREES-HEP-002116&agencycode=USDA-CSREE>

Soliciting applications for:

(1) Fellowships to train students for Master of Science and doctoral degrees in food and agricultural sciences in the Targeted Expertise Shortage Areas (TESA), **and**

(2) for Special International Study or Thesis/Dissertation Research Travel Allowances (IRTA) **for eligible USDA**

More information about the NNF Program will be found at <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/nnf/nnf.htm>.

See Program Brochure on the Internet at http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/offices/pdfs/natl_needs.pdf.

The RFA will be found at <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/graduateandpostgraduatefellowshipsserd.html>

IES Abroad Faculty Development Seminar in Quito, Ecuador

March 17 - 25, 2010 - Seminar Dates

March 25 - 28, 2010 - Optional Post-Seminar Trip to the Galápagos (additional fee applies)

Nomination Deadline: September 15, 2009

Overview: The seminar will include a series of workshops and lectures. Topics will include:

Tropical Forests: The seminar will study tropical forests of the Amazon Basin and analyze the major changes resulting from industrial extractions and oil and minerals. A four-day field study trip to the Tiputini Biodiversity Station in the Amazon is included.

Tropical Mountains: Different environments and diversity in tropical mountains will be discussed, including the effects of altitude on plants, animals and people and how humans adapt to it through social organization and other strategies.

Issues such as erosion, land distribution and the politics of land use will also be covered. **Climactic Change in the Tropics:** A panel will analyze the possible impacts of global warming on tropical ecosystems and biodiversity.

Possible Participants: Seminar nominees must be full-time professors at IES Abroad Member or Associate Member institutions. Nominees must be able to demonstrate that they are actively engaged in teaching and/or research in subjects relating to these fields: Environmental Studies, Biology, Ecology. Candidates' statements should address how the seminar will potentially impact their teaching. Faculty from all ranks and related disciplines are encouraged to apply.

Academic Research or Performance Proposals: Participants are invited to submit a proposal to present academic research or to give a lecture.

Cost Details: IES Abroad shares most costs with participants or can provide an invoice to institutions that prefer to cover all costs associated with the seminar (approximately \$3,000, not including the trip to the Galápagos Islands).

Participants from IES Abroad member institutions [NOTE: UT is a member] will be asked to contribute \$800. The contribution from participants from Associate Member institutions will be \$1,100. IES Abroad will apply this cost to trans-Atlantic transportation and other seminar expenses. IES Abroad will cover most other costs including hotel, group meals, and travel to the Amazon. IES Abroad will coordinate travel arrangements, including flights. Participants are responsible for incidental expenses and meals not taken with the group. Participants will be selected in the order in which their completed application is received. Please indicate on your application if you are interested in attending the optional Galápagos trip. Nomination and selection process are available on the **IES Abroad website**. For further information, please visit the **Get Involved** section of our website or contact IES Abroad via email at FacultyDevelopment@IESabroad.org.

Focus on Poverty Update and Next Steps

The purpose of this email is to provide a summary of our first "Focus on Poverty 2009-2010" Task Force Meeting, as well as to lay the groundwork for future meetings. I know that all of you were not able to attend the meeting last week, so please let me know if you have any questions about what you missed. Also, for attendees of the meeting, feel free to add or modify my comments below. I began the meeting with a brief history of UTK efforts leading up to the idea of a poverty-themed year for 2009-2010. This idea was an almost inevitable outgrowth of the on-going campus Ready for the World initiative and discussions within the Council on Diversity and Interculturalism (CDI). Both international and intercultural initiatives require us to view diversity broadly, and socio-economic disparity in general, and poverty in particular, provides a relevant and challenging platform for discussing some of the most pressing problems in today's global environment. "Glass Castles," identified as the common book for incoming freshman, has a decided theme around poverty in the US. The CDI is also planning a fall speaker for a campus-wide event on poverty. Along with the many and various poverty-related courses, research agendas, and extracurricular activities already in place on campus, it felt as if we had the makings of a synergistic year. In fact, the topic was one which seems to have very broad relevance to

many colleges, departments, and units across the campus. Finally, we do have campus-level funding for "Ready for the World" which can be used to support some of next year's initiatives, as well as a PR staff that has the capacity to help us generate publicity for these events. In short, many planets were lining up and it didn't seem like much of a stretch to make something big happen. While there is no doubt that Focus on Poverty could provide a meaningful context for learning throughout the coming academic year, some have raised a cautionary concern. Specifically, we do not want our initiative to become maudlin, condescending, or an opportunity for do-good behaviors and lip-service. Instead, as we couch our initiatives in a context that is educational, respectful, and meaningful, we can avoid cliché approaches and chauvinistic attitudes. That is certainly the intent. With that in mind, I would like to propose the following goals for the Task Force gleaned from our discussion last week.

1. To create a "Focus on Poverty" theme for the academic year 2009-2010 that will raise awareness, consciousness, and education about the role that poverty plays in the US and in the greater global context.
2. To consider poverty as one type of diversity that impacts our intercultural and international assumptions and awareness.
3. To use curricular-based programs and initiatives to help students understand the role of poverty not only in the world and their perspectives, but in their chosen fields of study and potential career paths.
4. To help students poverty through a lens that engages them in deep understanding of its consequences for our world as well as creative thinking about solutions.

5. To create meaningful activities for our students at the department, college, and campus-level across our academic units.

The first step is for us to consider what is already being done on campus relative to the topic of poverty. With that in mind, we have asked each college representative (that would be you!) to consider what current courses, research agendas, and extra-curricular activities in your college are already addressing the topic. This will be the foundation we will build upon. Before we start blue-skying new initiatives, it is important for us to start where we are and understand where there might be low-hanging fruit based upon current efforts. Where are there department/college/campus initiatives that might be synergistically combined? What specific theoretical frameworks are used in your college to consider issues of poverty?

We have set aside a meeting on April 2, 3:30-5:00 at the new Haslam Business Bldg., in the West Wing (room 440), for reports from each college. It would be helpful if each of you would send a brief one-page outline (or bullet points) on current activities in your college. If you will send them to me by April 1, I will make copies for the group.

The second step is for each of you to begin engaging the relevant faculty members in your college around a dialog for the coming year. It is my hope that each college will have at least one identifiable college-wide activity planned for 2009-2010.

Again, remember that all college faculty members do not and should not have to be involved. Go for critical mass and work with your most passionate faculty members on this topic. Good things will happen.

We have also slated a **May 6** meeting, 3:30-5:00, in the 4th floor conference room of Andy Holt Tower, for a second Task Force meeting before we scatter for the summer. At that meeting, I hope to be able to spend more time discussing potential campus-wide initiatives that could build on, complement, or integrate what is going on at the college level. We will probably start this discussion on April 2, but will need the follow-up meeting in May for further consideration of ideas.

Finally, in all of these discussions, we need to keep the following questions on our radar:

- ☐ What is the most effective way to engage the students, both in and out of class?
- ☐ How do we get "top down" support and visibility for these initiatives?
- ☐ How can we engage the faculty across campus who are working on poverty-related research, so that their research may be showcased, as well as providing opportunities for interdisciplinary research?

Thanks to all of you for your willingness to move forward on this. I look forward to your creative ideas.

Sarah Fisher Gardial, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs
Beaman Professor, Marketing
529 Andy Holt Tower
Office Phone: 865-974-6152
sgardial@utk.edu

(John Schwartz (CEE) has agreed to serve as the COE's rep to the Focus on Poverty committee which is a campus focus of next year. Please review the summary of the concept provided by Sarah Gardial below and provide John with a summary of any activities that your department or student groups might be engaged in related to poverty either on a local scale or an international scale. An example is the project that the Engineers without Borders group is involved in (John is a faculty co-advisor of that group). The Provost's Office is hoping that all colleges will have an active involvement in the program.)

10 Commandments of Lecturing

March 20, 2009

By Rob Weir

[Return to
Front
Page](#)

I. Thou shalt connect new lectures to previous ones.

It's always a good idea to start a new lecture with a nod to the one before. A small reminder reengages student minds, sets the tone for new connections, and allows you to build upon foundations built earlier. In a related vein, give a nod to what students should have read in their texts. (But don't rehash it, or they'll rightly wonder why they should bother coming to class.)

II. Thou shalt move beyond chalk and talk.

If you want students to be more interested, make attempts to engage them. Construct interactive lessons rather than treating students as passive, empty receptacles to be filled with your *bon mots*. Build in moments to ask questions. Ask students to come up with their own examples that parallel yours. Ask for open-ended feedback. Have a brief discussion, brainstorm, ask students to look at an image (or video clip), listen to a sound file, solve a problem, or surf the Web.

III. Thou Shalt Not Lecture Like a Caffeinated Hummingbird or a Tree Sloth

In my feckless youth students joked that I could boil a three-minute egg in 45 seconds. Not good! Learn to pace yourself in a way that students are neither harried nor bored. The changes of pace mentioned in the second commandment help, but lecturing is ultimately akin to music — you need to find a comfortable rhythm for you and your audience.

IV. Thou shalt not assume too much.

Move from basic to complex, not vice versa. Lead with the concrete and build toward abstraction. Far too many professors make theory central when it should be ancillary. It does no good, for instance, to discuss poststructuralism in a poetry class in which students have no idea what it means (and may not even know how to recognize metaphors). A discussion of critical race theory that does not define what "The Other" is will lose anyone who doesn't know. As an undergrad I once sat through 20 minutes of a lecture on the significance of the Pripet Marshes on European warfare before a befuddled peer blurted out, "What the hell are the Pripet Marshes?" Good question!

V. Thou Shalt Link Known to Unknown.

The bedfellow of the fourth commandment is getting students on the same page before you turn to a new one. Take something simple, ask students to contemplate it, and lead them to a new way of viewing it. I once watched a skilled geometry instructor walk into class, peel an apple, slice it into various shapes, and ask students about those shapes.

He built an entire lesson around the apple. A good friend teaches basic concepts in programming by discussing the architecture of computer games. At some point students design their own games and must explain each step (including the math that goes into it).

VI. Thou Shalt Be Enthusiastic.

If you want students to be interested in your topic, model that behavior. I'm stunned by the number of experts in their fields who lecture as if they're the poster children for barbiturate abuse. Your work is your passion, so don't be afraid to show it. Don't worry about blowing your cool because...

VII. Thou Shalt Not Be a Pompous Ass.

For heaven's sake, get over yourself. Teaching will humble you, so don't be afraid to lighten up. Never do any of the following:

☐ Make derogatory remarks about the quality of the student body at your college or about the college itself. (Rival institutions are fair game!)

☐ Make snide comments about any of your colleagues. (Though tasteful wisecracks about the administration go down a storm.)

☐ Appear smitten by your own cleverness. (Self-deprecating humor works much better.)

☐ Make remarks such as "This is far too complicated to discuss with you."

☐ Brag about your accomplishments.

☐ Make remarks about how students were so much better in your day.

☐ Constantly deliver lectures that go over students' heads.

☐ Communicate (verbally or through your demeanor) that students are an annoyance you must tolerate.

VIII. Thou Shalt Not Tolerate Disruptive or Disrespectful Students.

You have a duty to be respectful of students, but they too bear responsibility. You should start and end class on time and expect the same habits from students. Demonstrate early on that those who waltz into class 10 minutes late will have missed 10 minutes' worth of class and that you will not repeat material for them. Tell students to turn off their cell phones. Insist upon civility. Alert students that ideas can be attacked, but not individuals. Put an immediate kibosh to personal attacks. If students are chatting or texting during your lecture, stop and stare; a withering glance works 98 percent of the time. If it doesn't, tell the students to see you immediately after class and tell them in no uncertain terms that your class is not a junior high study hall, and that they are welcome to drop the class if they so desire. Contact the academic deans of abusive or disruptive students.

IX. Thou Shalt Not Lecture Outdoors.

Unless you're a botanist or geologist there's no pedagogical reason to teach outside. The first gorgeous day of spring semester will bring a clamor to meet underneath the spreading maple students spy from the window. Don't do it! That hour will pass with female students tugging at short skirts to maintain modesty, men in khakis seeking not to get grass stains on their trousers, fidgeting when everyone realizes the ground isn't as comfy as it looks, attention lapses every time someone walks by, the cupping of ears to hear comments carried off by the breeze, and untold amounts of day dreaming. You'd be better off declaring a learning moratorium than trying to teach outside.

X. Thou Shalt Seize Learning Moments.

There is no rule that says you must finish a lecture if something more educationally important presents itself. I've had many classes where an innocent question or comment has led me to change course. This is increasingly the case now that many classrooms have wireless Internet and students travel with their laptops. In a lecture on Wounded Knee, for instance, a student asked me when a particular pop song about the massacre was released. Off the top of my head I had no idea, but it took about 15 seconds for a student to find it. She read song lyrics that linked the 1890 massacre to

Leonard Peltier's 1977 arrest. Most students had little or no idea what that was about, so I asked them to Google it. They enthusiastically shouted out their findings and my lesson on 1890 turned into one about the American Indian Movement and Wounded Knee as an iconic moment. I never did finish all the details of 1890, but you tell me which was a better lesson: the one I planned, or the one I seized.

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AgResearch NEWS

[Return to
Front
Page](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

OFFICE OF RESEARCH WEBSITE FOR AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT INFORMATION:

The Office of Research has launched a new Web site to help inform UT Knoxville researchers about the effects of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The site features a frequently updated list of the most pertinent funding opportunities sorted by due date. There are also links to various federal agency Recovery Act sites and background information documents. This site's main page includes a list of recent updates so users can easily see what is new since the last time they visited. <http://research.utk.edu/recovery/>

TITLE: SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) PHASE I SOLICITATION

URL: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2009/2009_sbir_phase1.html

Open Date: 03/19/2009 - Close Date: **05/20/2009**

Summary: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites small business firms to submit research proposals under this Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Solicitation. The SBIR program is a phased process uniform throughout the Federal Government of soliciting proposals and awarding funding agreements for research (R) or research

and development (R&D) to meet stated agency needs or missions.

EPA is interested in advanced technologies that address GREEN BUILDINGS and EPA TECHNOLOGY NEEDS. The following topics are included in this solicitation: Green Building Materials and Systems, Innovation in Manufacturing, Nanotechnology, Greenhouse Gases, Drinking Water and Water Monitoring, Water Infrastructure, Air Pollution, Biofuels and Vehicle Emissions Reduction, Waste Management and Monitoring, and Homeland Security. The proposed research must directly pertain to EPA's environmental mission and must be responsive to EPA program interests included in the topic descriptions in this solicitation.

Applicable Category(s): Grant/Fellowship Announcements

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<http://twitter.com/usepancer/>

COS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Title: Technical Assistance and Support for Improved Ground Water Protection Sponsor: United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water (OW) Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) Register now at <http://www.cos.com/login/join.shtml>

RECOVERY ACT LIMITED COMPETITION: NIH CHALLENGE GRANTS IN HEALTH AND SCIENCE RESEARCH (RC1):

Request for Applications (RFA) Number: RFA-0D-09-003

Release/Posted Date: March 4, 2009

Opening Date: March 27, 2009 (Earliest date an application may be submitted to Grants.gov)

Letters of Intent Receipt Date(s): Not applicable

NOTE: On-time submission requires that applications be successfully submitted to Grants.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. local time (of the applicant institution/organization).

Application Due Date(s): **April 27, 2009**

Peer Review Date(s): June/July 2009

Council Review Date(s): August 2009

Earliest Anticipated Start Date(s): September 30, 2009

Expiration Date: April 28, 2009

NIH has designated at least \$200 million for a new initiative called the **NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research** (see http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/challenge_award/). This new program will support research on topic areas which address specific scientific and health research challenges in biomedical and behavioral research that would benefit from significant 2-year jumpstart funds. NIH Institute and Centers have selected specific Challenge Topics within each of the Challenge Areas. The research in these Challenge Areas should have a high impact in biomedical or behavioral science and/or public health. Among the 15 Challenge Areas are: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education (STEM) as well as Translational Science Also, most Institutes and Centers have identified additional Challenge Topics for funding under this FOA. A compilation of all Challenge Topics can be accessed in a single Omnibus at: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/challenge_award/Omnibus.pdf.

MORE AGRESEARCH NEWS NEXT PAGE

UPDATES: AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA)

Federal agencies have begun posting information on how they plan to allocate funding received under the American

Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), including in some cases how they will monitor and report their actual spending. Below are the web site links established so far. Note that NIH has posted the most details, including an ARRA funding announcement for Challenge Grants and special terms and conditions for ARRA awards. As expected these special terms and conditions contain the extensive reporting requirements described in the ARRA and in OMB's guidance to agencies, as we reported last week.

Federal Government Recovery Act Overview <http://www.recovery.gov/>

NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/challenge_award/

Overview Information: Recovery Act Limited Competition: NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-003.html>

NIH Standard Terms and Conditions: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/NIH_HHS_ARRA_Award_Terms.pdf

Recovery Act of 2009: NIH Review Criteria, Scoring System, and Suspension of Appeals Process

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-054.html>

National Science Foundation: <http://nsf.gov/recovery/>

Department of Defense: <http://www.defenselink.mil/recovery/>

Department of Energy: <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/>

NASA: <http://www.nasa.gov/recovery/>

National Institute of Standards and Technology: <http://www.nist.gov/recovery/>

NEW LAW MODIFIES SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, March 16, 2009 – The FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act, signed into law March 11 by President Obama, modifies language detailing in-kind support for grants under the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI).

In accordance with the new legislation, for the purposes of a grant made under section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, which established the SCRI, **in-kind support from non-federal sources in the form of unrecovered indirect costs may be used to meet the matching requirements**

under 412(e)(3). These indirect costs are those that are not otherwise charged against the grant and must be consistent with the approved indirect cost rate of the organization. This constitutes a change for the program and the SCRI request for applications (RFA) has been modified accordingly. Applicants may review updated information regarding SCRI matching

fund requirements at http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/scri/scri_matching_funds_FAQ.pdf.

Applications are due **April 15**. More information about the SCRI RFA is available at

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/specialty_crop.html.

USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) announced \$47.3 million in FY 2009 funds available for the SCRI. The SCRI was established to solve critical industry issues through research and extension activities. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. SCRI will give priority to projects that are multistate, multi-institutional or trans-disciplinary, and include explicit mechanisms to communicate results to producers and the public.

SOUTHERN SARE INVITES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRE-PROPOSALS

The Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Professional Development Program is requesting pre-proposals for projects of one to two year(s) duration that provide training in sustainable agriculture for agricultural professionals and educators who serve farmers and other interested people in USDA's southern region.

Obtain the call for pre-proposals at <http://www.southernsare.org>. Submission deadline is **June 5, 2009**. Awards will be made in February 2010. There is no funding cap for projects. To fund a broad portfolio of projects, priority will be given to those in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000. SARE is an inclusive program and encourages pre-proposals from land

grant and non-land grant universities, colleges, USDA agencies, community-based organizations, and non-governmental organizations. The Southern region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

MORE AGRESEARCH NEWS NEXT PAGE

AgResearch NEWS

[Return to
Front
Page](#)

TOP TEN FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR SPONSORED PROJECTS

Spending as agreed:

Employees are expected to be good stewards of the sponsor or donor's funds. All funds should be spent in the exact manner specified by the donor or proposed and agreed to in the award from the sponsor. Any deviations may require advance written approval.

Monthly review of accounting ledgers:

Charges appearing on the monthly financial ledger must be reconciled to supporting documentation to ensure validity and accuracy.

Familiarization with Federal regulations:

Employees participating in sponsored activities that are funded all or in part by the Federal government must be familiar with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars A-21, A-110, and A-133, as well as the sponsor's rules and the specific award document clauses.

Costing requirements:

Employees will ensure that all expenditures on sponsored projects are reasonable, allowable, fall within the time period of the award, and are allocable to the statement of work being conducted using a reasonable method of cost allocation.

Timely financial information and entries:

Employees will ensure that all charges, credits, certifications, and other accounting entries are performed in a timely manner as specified in fiscal policies. Principal investigators will ensure that support staff are given information about charges to sponsored projects immediately.

Avoid cost transfers:

Employees will endeavor to get charges on the correct sponsored project initially and will avoid using cost transfers except to correct errors. Errors should occur very rarely. Cost transfers will not be used to move costs from overspent projects to underspent projects or for any other reason of convenience or for funding considerations.

Effort certification and payroll charges are accurate and timely:

Employees will ensure that effort certification accurately reflects the actual percentage of work effort devoted to a sponsored project. Effort must be certified within 30 days of the sponsored project ending date. Anticipated changes in future effort are changed in the payroll cost distribution system promptly.

Timely closeout of sponsored projects:

All charges must be finalized on the project within 60 days of the project ending date.

No charges are incurred after ending date:

Sponsored projects may not be used as an interim funding source when other awards are late. Inapplicable charges must be moved to a non-sponsored account immediately.

Direct charging of costs normally in F&A rate:

Charges for items normally included in F&A recovery (administrative and clerical salaries, office supplies, basic local telephone service, cell phones, routine copying charges, memberships, journals and subscriptions, etc) can only be charged to sponsored projects if specifically approved in proposal by the campus pre-award office.

EXTENSION NEWS

[Return to
Front
Page](#)

Energy Training for Agriculture Professionals

We are pleased to announce a new training opportunity for Extension Agents and Specialists from the Southern SARE Region. We are asking for your help in identifying good candidates from your state and university. Complete information and application materials are available at the Energy Training for Agriculture Professionals website, www.entap.org. The goal of this project is to build a network of local resource persons who can assist farmers and landowners in managing their energy resources profitably and sustainably, promoting energy-related technologies and approaches that truly advance the goals of sustainable agriculture.

Participants will be chosen by a competitive application process to participate in an intensive training course. The training will include energy efficient farming systems, biofuels, biopower, solar, and wind energy. After successfully completing this training, graduates will return to their communities to provide energy-related technical assistance and will develop a network for information-sharing and support.

This training is being funded by the Southern SARE Professional Development Program. Tuition, materials, lodging, and meal expenses will be fully paid for successful applicants, along with most or all travel expenses. Our first course will take place from September 30 to October 2, 2009 at the Center for Environmental Farming Systems, near Goldsboro, North Carolina. We expect to recruit and train 25 to 30 Energy Educators in the first year. We are raising funds for our second year and beyond.

Please spread the word to Extension staff in your state and direct them to www.entap.org. The application deadline is **April 30**.

Thanks and best regards,

Mike Morris

National Center for Appropriate Technology, mikem@ncat.org, (919) 251-9680

Steve Moore

Center for Environmental Farming Systems, steve_moore@ncsu.edu, (919) 731-3440

Co-Chairs, Energy Training for Agriculture Professionals

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BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (BFRDP)

The Request for Application for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) is now available for public viewing and download.

Please find attached links to the Funding Opportunity Announcement, and Grants.Gov Download pages:

(i) CSREES Funding Opportunity: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/beginningfarmerandrancher.cfm>

(ii) Grants.Gov Application Package:

<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/GetGrantFromFedgrants.jsessionid=T6FLJ6vKgQVTJ8yRzVpxRT18SN1MLys7PpQMZS4sLrLZD5vtvQV!1057178580?opportunity=USDA-CSREES-BFR-002115&agencycode=USDA-CSREE>

More information about the BFRDP program and resources for writing grant applications will continue to be developed and made available at: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/familysmallfarms.cfm>

Please note that all applications must be submitted electronically. You will need to be registered ahead of time with grants.gov to submit an application and the registration process can take a few weeks. More information about submitting applications to CSREES is available at: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/application_info.html

If you need additional information, please contact the National Program Leaders: Suresh Sureshwaran at ssureshwaran@csrees.usda.gov or Janie Hipp at jhipp@csrees.usda.gov

BREAKING NEWS!

[Return to
Front
Page](#)

CALL FOR EQUIPMENT FUNDING:

The stimulus package funding from the Federal government will permit the Experiment Station to offer a call for equipment funding. Each department and center is invited to submit a prioritized list of equipment needs.

1. The program is intended to fund more substantial equipment purchases.
2. A brief description and justification/use for each item is needed.
3. Indicate whether the subject equipment might reasonably be placed in a communal equipment environment.

Since requests are due to the TAES dean's office by May 15, please submit proposals to Eric by **May 11**.

UTIA NEWS



EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

UT faculty and staff are invited to an employee appreciation day Tuesday, **April 14**, as the Tennessee Volunteers baseball team takes on the Bruins of Belmont University. Employees with a faculty/staff ID and up to five guests will receive free admission to the game, a free hot dog and soft drink, as well as giveaways and prizes including a baseball autographed by the team, a multi-game pass and 15 tickets for the Porch seating area on Tuesday, April 21, when the Vols host the Buccaneers of East Tennessee State University. Smokey the mascot and Smokey the dog will make appearances during the game.