UT INSTITUTE OF
Agriculture
News for Employees, Students & Friends November–December 2007

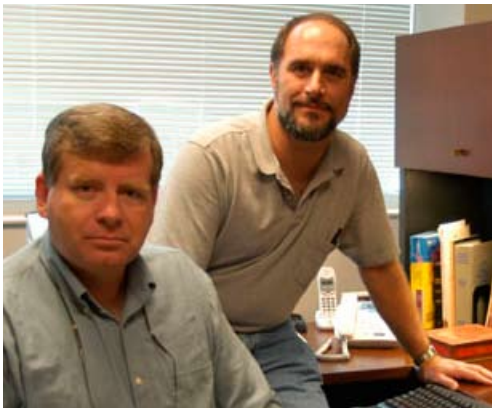
DOGWOOD DEVELOPERS WIN UT TECH TRANSFER PRIZE

Two UT plant pathologists whose work with disease-resistant dogwood trees has revitalized the state's nursery industry are the 2007 recipients of the university's most prestigious award for entrepreneurship.

Robert Trigiano and **Mark Windham** will share the **Wheeley Award for Technology Transfer**, which recognizes scientific achievement coupled with entrepreneurial accomplishments. Both are researchers in the **UT Institute of Agriculture's Tennessee Experiment Station** and teach in the **UT College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources**.

Trigiano and Windham have developed a number of dogwood varieties that are

Continued, page 2



Margot Emery

***Appalachian innovators**–Mark Windham, left, and Bob Trigiano have won acclaim for UT with their disease-resistant dogwood releases.*

OUR STRENGTH IN OUTREACH

I take pride in the fact that this is the second consecutive year in which researchers with the **Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station** have received UT's highest honor for entrepreneurship.



Joe DiPietro

The work that **Plant Pathologists Drs. Bob Trigiano and Mark Windham** have done in improving dogwoods has revitalized Tennessee's nursery industry, and I commend them for their accomplishments. Last year at this time, **Dr. Vince Pantalone** of **Plant Sciences** received the **Wheeley Award** for the profound impacts new varieties of soybeans he developed have on production.

These recognitions, combined with our impressive outreach figures, show that **we are excelling in UT's mission as a land-grant university. Our outreach impact continues to amaze me**. For fiscal year 2006, our outreach involved 348 full-time equivalent faculty, who served 5.3 million attendees and participants of our programs.

Continued, page 2

SEARCH LAUNCHED FOR EXTENSION DEAN

With the search for a research dean now underway, **a search committee has been established to fill the position of dean of UT Extension.**

Chaired by Associate Extension Dean **Shirley Hastings**, the 21-member committee is broadly representative. The Institute is working with UT Purchasing to secure the services of a search firm to assist with a national search.

Vice President Joe DiPietro encourages everyone to participate in the process enthusiastically and contact him if there are questions.

$5,115,860 in 3rd quarter grants and contracts

see inside

third thursday

REFLECTING AND LOOKING AHEAD

By Michael Blackwell, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

The UT College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) enjoys a national reputation for its culture—people who respect, challenge, trust, and encourage one another. I am a better person because of my experiences here.

I joined academia because of the public health challenges our nation faces. Seven years ago, when I retired as Assistant Surgeon General and Chief of Staff of the Office of the Surgeon General to join the college, I was alarmed that veterinary medicine, like much of the nation, was asleep about many of the issues affecting public health and our security.

Fortunately, the CVM is comprised of people who aren't afraid to take on challenges and create solUTions. In 2004, we collaborated with the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences to establish a veterinary concentration in an existing master's of public health program. Approximately two dozen students and veterinarians have enrolled in the program since its inception.

We have mounted a national response to threats of terrorism to agriculture and the food supply. In 2006, the college created the Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness. The center serves as a focal point for several key initiatives that will help protect the nation's food supply.

Public health also involves mental health. I believe our Veterinary Social Work program, founded in 2002, will transform the way veterinary medicine is practiced and will help this profession become what it can be as we seek to more clearly understand the human-animal bond. Veterinary social workers help with the human needs that arise in the course of veterinary practice.

Through our Companion Animal Initiative of Tennessee (CAIT), we have created a statewide focus on the surplus of homeless dogs and cats, and this semester are offering our first shelter medicine elective to expose our students to the realities of shelter medicine and the problems faced by sick, abandoned, homeless, and mistreated animals.



Michael Blackwell

The small animal hospital is expanding by 32,000 gross square feet to meet the increasing demands of the state and region. Even the people who scoop poop have a sense of empowerment. The people here face the challenges, figure out how to get things done, and believe they can get them done. That's an unstoppable organization.

As this college continues its forward momentum, it remains focused on training tomorrow's veterinarians for public health. Why? That's the reason veterinary medicine exists.

DOGWOOD DEVELOPERS, *from page 1*

resistant to dogwood anthracnose or to powdery mildew, two tree-killing diseases that have limited the use of the species in ornamental horticulture in recent decades. The varieties, or cultivars, are sold under the "Appalachian" trademark.

"Achieving disease resistance in dogwoods and other ornamental plants is an important scientific accomplishment," said **Fred Tompkins**, president of the **UT Research Foundation** and **UT associate vice president for research and economic development**. "With this breakthrough in hand, Trigiano and Windham then pushed to make the results of their science available to the general public by marketing the new varieties.

"The Wheeley Award is being presented to these two faculty members because of the combination of good science and a successful entrepreneurial venture," he added.

–Bill Dockery

OUTREACH, *from page 1*

And even as I write this, **CVM Dean Michael Blackwell** and **Dr. Max Cheng** of **Plant Sciences** are **wrapping up a trade mission** to **Beijing, Shanghai,** and **Hong Kong.** There, they accompanied Tennessee **Gov. Phil Bredesen, UT Pres. John Petersen, Chancellor Loren Crabtree, Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam,** and host of other officials on a trip intended to form and strengthen mutually beneficial ties with this thriving region of the world.

OUTreach and engagement in Tennessee, to the nation, and to the world. A job very well done by those in the Institute. That's for sure!

All the best,

Joe

Institute of Agriculture Grants and Contracts
July–September 2007

Thanks to the resourcefulness and competitiveness of our faculty, the Institute received awards totaling $5,115,860 in grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements from external agencies for the first quarter of 2007. At a time when most states are operating with constrained budgets, our ability to attract dollars for research and Extension from outside sources has become especially crucial. To the principal and co-principal investigators listed below, congratulations. To everyone, we appreciate your support and efforts in seeking external funding.

July.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Ernest Bernard	Entomology & Plant Pathology	26,910	Discover Life in America
Joseph Bozell	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	61,500	Georgia Tech
Nicholas Frank	Large Animal Clinical Sciences	77,945	SmartPak
		15,000	American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
Jennifer Franklin	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	20,490	National Coal Corp
Martha Keel	Family and Consumer Science	135,952	TN Department of Environment and Conservation
Claudia Kirk	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	30,000	Hills Pet Nutrition
Kurt Lamour	Entomology & Plant Pathology	15,000	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Chris Main	Plant Sciences	17,820	Monsanto
James Neel; Alan Mathew	Animal Science	300,000	State of Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Lawrence Steckel	Plant Sciences	4,000	Monsanto
Karen Vail	Entomology & Plant Pathology	15,000	EI Dupont
Jay Whelan	Animal Science	51,008	New Chapter, Inc
Steven Yen	Agricultural Economics	65,000	USDA/ERS

Aug.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Frank Andrews	Large Animal Clinical Sciences	6,700	Seabuck Equine, LLC
Ray Burden	Eastern Region-Hamilton County	2,500	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Joseph Clark	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	6,000	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
		3,000	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Mei-Ahen Cui	Pathobiology	240,270	National Institutes of Health
Linda Frank	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	39,774	ImmuCell
Nicholas Frank	Large Animal Clinical Sciences	50,015	American Quarter Horse Foundation
Clark Garland	Agricultural Economics	20,000	University of Georgia
		49,094	Texas Cooperative Extension
James Giocomo	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	5,000	Seven Island Foundation
Charles Hall	Agricultural Economics	3,000	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Ralph Harvey	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	12,500	Abbott Labs
Douglas Hayes	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sciences	133,950	National Institutes of Health
Darrell Hensley	Entomology and Plant Pathology	23,000	North Carolina State University
Fred Hopkins	Animal Science	10,000	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Juan Jurat-Fuentes	Entomology and Plant Pathology	159,866	National Science Foundation
Claudia Kirk	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	15,078	Nestle Purina Petcare
Dan McLemore; Vickie Witcher	Agricultural Economics	70,000	Philip Morris
Darryl Millis	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	35,650*	Novartis Animal Health
James Parkman; Jerome Grant, Ernest Bernard, Paris Lambdin, Carl Jones	Entomology and Plant Pathology	120,000	USDA Forest Service
Emmit Rawls	Agricultural Economics	35,000	Texas Cooperative Extension

*Combines multiple grants

Grants and Contracts *July–September 2007*

Aug.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Timothy Rials	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	15,000	South Dakota State University
Barry Rouse	Pathobiology	61,395	National Institutes of Health
Karen Vail	Entomology and Plant Pathology	9,000	Syngenta Crop Protection
Larry Wilson	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	104,000	Blue Ridge Paper Products, Inc

Sept.

PI; Co-PI	Department	Award	Agency
Joseph Bartges	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	40,400	Nestle Purina PetCare
Keith Belli	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	30,000	National Park Service
Seong-Hoon Cho; Roland Roberts, Donald Hodges	Agriculture Economics	30,868	Nature Conservancy
Joseph Clark	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	135,286	State of Louisiana
Wayne Clatterbuck	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	139,658	USDA Forest Service
Richard Davis	International Programs	4,800	Academy for Educational Development
Shigetoshi Eda	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	293,000	USDA CSREES
Mark Fly	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	155,100*	USDA Forest Service
Craig Harper	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	55,000	USDA NRCS
		30,000	USDA Forest Service
Ralph Harvey	Small Animal Clinical Sciences	5,500	Abbott Laboratories
Darrell Hensley; James Parkman	Entomology & Plant Pathology	40,000	NC State
Robert Holland	Center for Profitable Agriculture	120,000	Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Juan Jurat-Fuentes	Entomology & Plant Pathology	6,250	University of Georgia
Martha Keel	Family and Consumer Sciences	175,600	Tennessee Department of Health
Patrick Keyser; Craig Harper, Gary Bates, John Waller	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	398,725	USDA CSREES NRI
Clyde Lane; James Neel, William Gill, Frank Kirkpatrick, Aaron Fisher	Animal Science	126,200	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
David Mercker	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	20,640	USDA Forest Service
Stephen Oliver	Animal Science	50,000	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Bonnie Ownley; Kimberly Gwinn	Entomology & Plant Pathology	6,529	University of Florida
Charles Patrick	Entomology & Plant Pathology	2,642	UN of Kentucky Research Foundation
Timothy Rials; Timothy Young	Sun Grant Center	200,000	USDA Forest Service
Scott Schlarbaum	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	24,500	USDA Forest Service
Frank van Manen	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	45,770	Memphis Zoological Society
Marie Walsh	Agriculture Economics	6,000	USDA CSREES
Larry Wilson	Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries	34,000	US Geological Survey
Steven Yen	Agriculture Economics	35,000	MS State Univ-Southern Rural Development Ctr
		5,000	DHHS/FDA
Daniel Yoder	Biosystems Eng & Soil Sciences	74,000	USDA NRCS
County billing accounts for 2007			
David Amonett	Eastern Region	47,284	Morgan County
John Bartee	Western Region	159,788	Montgomery County
Emmanuel Bedwell	Eastern Region	103,199	Hamblen County
William Bruhin	Eastern Region	125,624	Sevier County
Garry Glass	Western Region	36,548	Decatur County
George Heiskell	Eastern Region	61,645	Claiborne County
Jeff Lannom	Western Region	67,575	Weakley County
Ricky Mathenia	Western Region	53,741	McNairy County
Jerry Parker	Western Region	69,886	Lauderdale County
Brian Signaigo	Western Region	34,685	Chester County

WHAT'S NEWS

College of Veterinary Medicine researcher Howard Plummer accepted Best Poster Award for "Tobacco Carcinogens Stimulate G-Protein Inwardly Rectifying Potassium Channel 1 (GIRK1) Protein Expression in a Small Cell Lung Cancer Cell Line," presented Sept. 11 at the **Ion Channel Targets conference** in Boston, sponsored by Technology Networks and The Online Journal of Scientific Posters. Plummer designed the poster himself. **Madhu Dhar and Michael Hance were co-authors.**

The **Tennessee 4-H program** continues to focus on **teen programming and youth/adult partnerships**. The program joined with Florida 4-H to host the **Southern Region Teen Leadership Conference** in Crossville at the **Clyde York 4-H Center. Approximately 220 4-H'ers and adults from eight southern states attended**. The youth and adults learned about leadership, teamwork, healthy lifestyles, and how to work together in partnerships whether in planning and conducting a community service project/service learning process or developing and facilitating groups. Also emphasized were technology with teens such as blogs and GPS/GIS. Tennessee will host the conference again in 2008.

The **College of Veterinary Medicine** presented two Knoxville-area **outreach programs for children ages 4-7 years** on topics of **pet ownership, responsibilities, and overpopulation.** The events were in connection with the release of a new children's book, "Jack the Healing Cat" by UT Creative Writing Professor Marilyn Kallet.

Tennessee's 2006 USDA-CSREES Federal Report received a great review. UT Extension was pleased to receive the most positive report ever from its federal review team for its 2006 Extension Report. This was possible because of the excellent results Extension personnel are reporting, the collection capabilities of **SUPER**, and the evaluation and writing abilities of **Joseph Donaldson**. All components of the report were praised, with the final general comments being: "This is an excellent annual report and difficult to offer constructive criticism other than keep doing what you are doing." To all involved, thank you for all you do. And, to paraphrase the review team, "Keep it up!"–*Herb Byrd and Charles Goan*

UT's Pond Creek Watershed Team received the Water Quality Extension Team Award at the Southern Region Water Quality Conference. The conference involves Extension personnel from 13 southern states. Pond Creek Watershed Coordinator **Lena Beth Carmichael** gave two presentations at the conference.

Steve Sutton, Extension specialist, 4-H Youth Development, **has been selected to serve on the Curriculum Priority Setting committee.** This committee, appointed by **National 4-H Headquarters**, will develop the process for determining priorities for future curricula.

The Institute and the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation held an educational public forum on the UT Biofuels Initiative and switchgrass production at the UT Plateau Research and Education Center in Crossville on October 22. **Lincoln Davis**, U.S. congressman representing Tennessee's 4th Congressional District, was a special participant in the forum.

You can visit the **Tennessee Department of Agriculture "Pick Tennessee Products" Web site and store** to learn where to find **live Christmas trees, purchase country hams and other Tennessee-grown and -produced products**. The address is http://picktnproducts.org/store/.



Richard Evans

OUTREACH–*The Second Annual Owl Prowl at the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge attracted an estimated 275 youth and adults. Participants listened to a presentation on owl habits and characteristics and then took to the woods to try their ears and eyes at owl detection.*

BRIEFLY: CARLOS JARA

Osuna Juan "Carlos" Jara is a seasonal worker at the **Highland Rim Research and Education Center** in Springfield. He and other migrant workers have been coming to the HRREC for up to 12 years and have become like family to many of the center's employees.


Barry Sims

Q: Where is your hometown?

A: Sentispac in Nayarit, Mexico

Q: What drew you to work for UT?

A: To make money!

Q: Why you like living here?

A: I like the work, the people, everything.

Q: How have you adjusted to life here?

A: I learned from HRREC employees where to go to send money home, to buy food and clothes. Also, I have friends and family who work at other places in Robertson County and Kentucky, so that helps, too.

AGRITOURISM CONFERENCE SET FOR JAN. 17-18

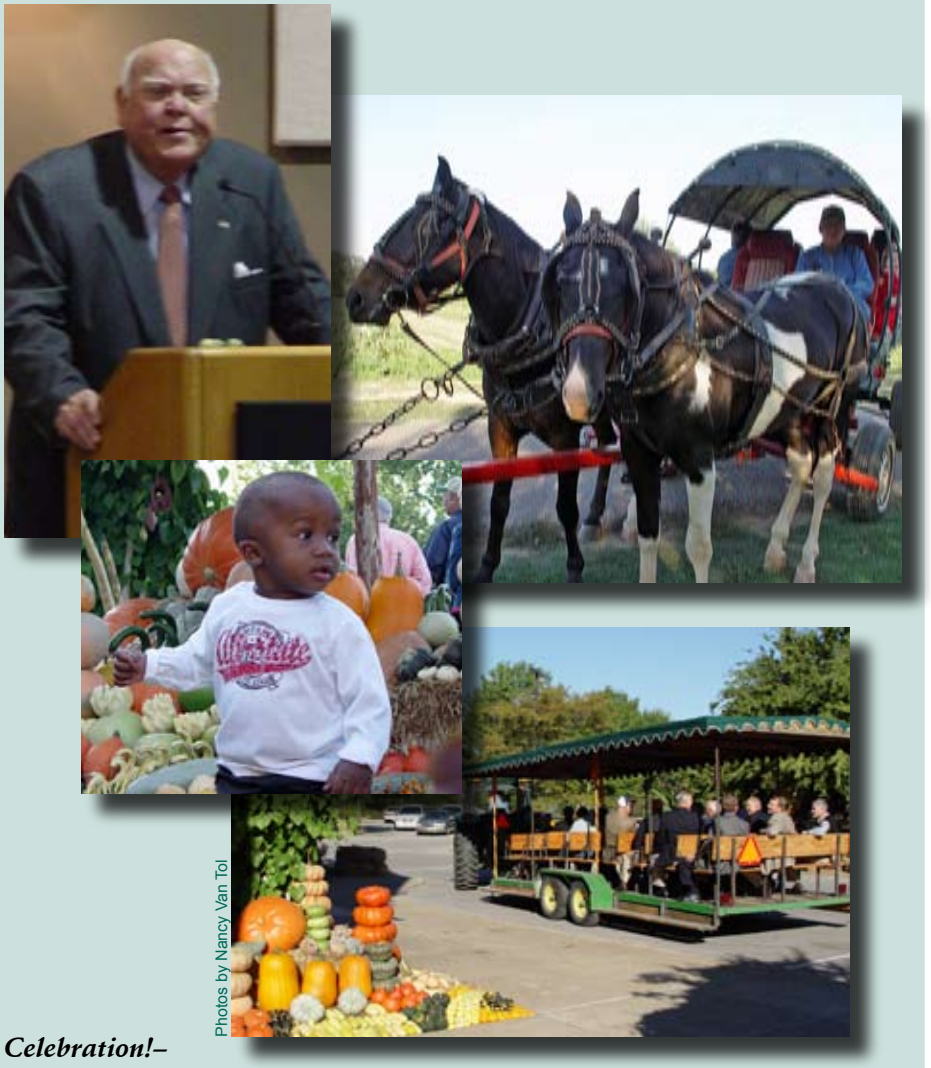
A conference for agritourism operators and farmers interested in agritourism will be held January 17-18 at Paris Landing State Park.

The **2008 Agritourism: Cultivating Farm Revenue conference** will include educational sessions, a trade show and opportunities to network with other entrepreneurs and service providers. The Tennessee Agritourism Association will hold its annual membership and business meeting at the event, as well.

The conference is among efforts sponsored by Tennessee Agritourism Initiative partners to build farm income in the state. Conference information, registration, and costs are available at the Center for Profitable Agriculture's Web site at http://cpa.utk.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

John Jett McDow, age 82 of Knoxville, passed away on Oct. 12. He served on the teaching and research faculties of several universities, including UT. He also served as head of agricultural engineering at both Louisiana Tech and UT. From 1973 through 1983, he was dean of Admissions and Records at UT.



Photos by Nancy Van Tol

Celebration!– *Former Governor Ned McWherter helped UT's West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson mark its 100th year. Civic leaders, children, and community members all joined in the spirit at the center's Centennial Celebration.*

UTIA News is published monthly by the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
Send comments and suggestions to Margot Emery, memery@tennessee.edu
Visit the Institute of Agriculture on the Internet at http://agriculture.utk.edu
UT is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution
E11-1101-00-001-07

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE UT
INSTITUTE of AGRICULTURE

101 Morgan Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996-4505