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Third Thursday

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Third Thursday

From the Chancellor



Joe DiPietro

I have been fortunate to work at three land-grant universities during capital campaigns. They were all great experiences seeing firsthand the impacts from developing relationships with friends and how their investments in those institutions were transformational in so many ways. Their investments improved the education of our students by providing classrooms with the latest technology, endowed professorships that helped us retain talented faculty, constructed new and sorely needed buildings to house our programs, and funded needed scholarships that allowed students to earn their degrees. **I am keenly confident that the gifts we've received in the current Campaign for Tennessee will have the same sort of transformational effect here in the Institute of Agriculture.**

We are very thankful to the thousands of donors who have made commitments to the Institute of Agriculture during the campaign, and our goal of \$85 million was surpassed a full year ahead of schedule. As of July 31, the total raised was \$89.8 million. I want to thank everyone for their support and note that, while we've succeeded with the campaign, we still have over \$110 million in unmet needs within the Institute. This figure will continue to rise given our state's economic condition and our determination to keep building for the future.

Since arriving at UT, I challenged all of us at the Institute to work to become an organization that focuses on core values of excellence, scholarship, accountability, service, respect, integrity, leadership and diversity. These values start in the classroom, the Veterinary Medical Center, Extension offices, our administrative units and at the AgResearch and Education Centers. They are seen in how we relate to each other as well as our students, clients, alumni and stakeholders. Excellence in these areas requires investment, and our faculty and staff have committed to investing their time and efforts to maintain a high level of excellence within our programs. **Now I hope you will encourage others to invest in us as well. If you know of an individual or company with a special affinity for our programs that has not considered making a pledge to a program in the Institute, please encourage them to do so.** Please contact Rhodes Logan at 865-974-1928 (wlogan@utk.edu) or any of

our development staff if you have questions about the process or how to get someone involved.

Development and fundraising are more important than ever particularly in light of state budget challenges we face. I remain committed in both good and difficult economic times to garnering private support of programs because it is key to our ability to do great work together and achieve even more exceptional results for those we serve. Thank you for all you do for the Institute.

All the best,

Please join us for Chancellor DiPietro's **2010 State of the Institute Address**. The presentation is at 11 a.m., Friday, Sept. 24, in Hollingsworth Auditorium. **Ag Day** follows on Saturday, Sept. 25, four hours before kickoff.



Genera Energy breaks ground on Tennessee's Biomass Innovation Park in Vonore – The Biomass Innovation Park will provide harvesting, handling, storage, densification, pre-processing and transportation for up to 50,000 tons of switchgrass and other energy crops and feedstocks. L to R: **Joe DiPietro**, UT Institute of Agriculture chancellor; **Kyle Althoff**, DDCE Feedstock development director; **Lacy Upchurch**, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation president; **Kelly Tiller**, Genera Energy president and CEO; **Dallas Tonsager**, U.S. Department of Agriculture under secretary for rural development; **David Millborn**, UT executive vice president; **Pete DeBusk**, DeRoyal Industries president; and **Dan Wheeler**, former Tennessee Agriculture commissioner, break ground on the Innovation Park.

What's News

- » **David Brian** and **Hung-Yi Wu** of the **College of Veterinary Medicine** have an article published in the *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science*. The article is titled "Subgenomic messenger RNA amplification in coronaviruses" and can be accessed at www.pnas.org/content/107/27/12257.full.
- » **Barry Rouse** and **Sharvan Sehrawat** of the **College of Veterinary Medicine** were invited to write a review article for *Nature Immunology*. The article is titled "Immunity and immunopathology to viruses: what decides the outcome?" and can be accessed at www.nature.com/nri/journal/v10/n7/abs/nri2802.html.
- » **Jason Reeves**, horticulturist and curator of the **UT Gardens at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center** in Jackson, made the Regional Picks pages of the August issue of *Fine Gardening* magazine. Reeve's feature, representing the Southeast region, included four "Focal Point Plants" from the Jackson Gardens. *Fine Gardening* is one of the most revered gardening magazines in the U.S.
- » The **Tennessee Valley Fair** in Knoxville is celebrating its 91st year and, in the run up toward its centennial, it is focusing on a specific theme each year. **This year's is agriculture, selected with a tribute to the 2010 centennial observance of UT Extension and 4-H, two integral partners to the fair.** With the theme, "Get you farm on," this year's fair runs from Sept. 10 through 19 and will feature an array of special agricultural exhibits. Learn more at <http://www.tnvalleyfair.org>.

You can view a program highlighting Institute faculty and staff honored with awards and promotions at <http://agriculture.tennessee.edu/facultyandstaff/2010AwardPromprog.pdf>.

Sharon Ngwenya of UT Research Foundation to Assist UTIA Scientists on Intellectual Property



Bill Brown

by Bill Brown, Dean and Director, UT AgResearch

UT AgResearch advances science in agriculture, food systems and natural resource management through the discovery of new knowledge, innovation of these discoveries into new products and processes, and the application of these innovations to enhance the lives of citizens of Tennessee and the world. UTIA scientists are conducting cutting edge research resulting in new scientific breakthroughs and development of new and unique plant varieties. Most of these research results will be communicated directly to agricultural producers, natural resource

managers and industry, and implemented directly into their programs; however, **an increasing amount of research at universities across the country has a linkage with private industry for implementation and in some cases faculty are working directly with companies in the development of new technologies.** These university/industry partnerships are structured in a manner that ensures UTIA scientists remain unbiased in their approach and their contributions focus on outputs that serve the public good. In these cases, the new technology is protected by various means and conditions for its use are established.

As a result of these new research approaches by UTIA faculty, the number of intellectual property disclosures, licenses, patent applications and company negotiations are increasing rapidly. **Because of increased demand and the need to expedite handling of intellectual property issues, UT AgResearch administration is partnering with the University of Tennessee Research Foundation and co-funding Dr. Sharon Ngwenya, who will be fully dedicated to intellectual property development by UTIA scientists.**

Dr. Ngwenya has a broad academic background and a variety of experiences in technology transfer that will be an asset as she works with UTIA scientists to develop intellectual property. She received her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in 2004 and went on to Emory University School of Medicine where she was a postdoctoral fellow from 2004-2008. During that time, she entered into the field of technology transfer as an intern for the Emory University Office of Technology Transfer. In 2008, Dr. Ngwenya took a position as technology specialist in intellectual property practice and biotechnology patent team for an Atlanta-based law firm.

As a licensing associate, Dr. Ngwenya will:

- be an employee of UTRF but will work exclusively on technology developed by UTIA scientists.
- be the point of contact for all UTIA intellectual property issues. UTIA will also have access to other UTRF professionals as needed and when appropriate.
- be housed on the UTIA campus at least three days per week.
- help faculty write invention disclosures, conduct marketing and patent analysis, work with faculty on marketing their inventions, and all other aspects of intellectual property development including facilitating the patent process.

We very much look forward to Dr. Ngwenya working with UTIA scientists. Please take the time to meet her and discuss with your research and how this might result in invention disclosures and other aspects of intellectual property development. ☺

UT Extension Adds Development Specialist



Donna Eason-Pile

Donna Eason-Pile has joined the Institute of Agriculture Development Staff in a temporary assignment to assist UT Extension in development related to Extension's centennial and other activities.

She is a UT graduate and has family connections to Extension through retired **Montgomery County Extension Agent Rodger Pile.**

UT Extension is celebrating its centennial this year, and to take advantage of this rare opportunity an emphasis has been placed on raising funds for Extension. Eason-Pile will be working exclusively with Extension offices across the state to promote fund-raising for 4-H and Extension programs.

Tim Cross, dean of Extension said, "Many of our program participants are passionate about their support of our educational activities and events. We're looking forward to Ms. Eason-Pile's help as we capitalize on this support to build our development funds and endowments to meet the needs of the next 100 years."

The Institute of Agriculture Development Staff is very excited to have an extra set of boots on the ground, so please help us welcome Donna Eason-Pile. — *Rhodes Logan*

Albrecht to Lead Top 25 Pursuit

Becoming a Top 25 university is a top priority for UT Knoxville, and to make sure the campus stays on task, Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek has appointed a project director to oversee the effort.

Starting this month, **Mary Albrecht**, associate dean for CASNR, is serving as associate vice chancellor for UTK to oversee the Top 25 project as well as work on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaccreditation process.

Bill Park, professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, has agreed to take over interim duties within CASNR. He has been working on a part-time basis for CASNR handling many of the duties dealing with undergraduate curricula and catalog since January of 2009 and this experience will ease the transition. A national search is planned to find a suitable replacement for Albrecht, and Park will serve as interim until the search is concluded successfully.

"Mary has done a great job coordinating projects and initiatives for CASNR, and we're pleased to have her take on these responsibilities," Cheek said.

UT Extension Centennial Observances

1960s



UT Extension works with the federal government to launch the **Rural Civil Defense Program in Tennessee as the Cold War heats up.** Escalation of the war and the fact that other nations, particularly the USSR, are building nuclear weapons brings the threat of widespread nuclear disaster. U.S. government agencies turn their attention to how to protect the populace and food supply in the event of a nuclear attack.

Funded by the Department of Defense, the Rural Civil Defense program encourages families to build and stock fallout shelters against the threat of nuclear attack. UT Extension provides plans and models for shelters and guidance for protecting household members as well as livestock, feed and fiber from nuclear fallout.

Also during this era, **the Buford Ellington 4-H Club Training Center** is dedicated in Milan (1962) and **Obion County Extension Agent Tom McCutchen** is appointed superintendent of the newly established **Milan Experiment Station** (1963), **where he will pioneer in no-till agriculture.**

Federico Harte Wins National Dairy Science Award

The American Dairy Science Association has honored Federico Harte of the Department of Food Science and Technology with its 2010 ADSA Foundation Scholar Award in Dairy Foods. The honor was created to recognize a young scholar from the Dairy Foods Division and his or her potential in research and educational leadership to identify critical issues affecting the future of the dairy industry.

USDA Names UT Professor to the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

David Golden, a professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology, is one of nine new members of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods.

The Secretary of Agriculture appoints committee members following consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Appointees are scientists from academia, industry and government, who serve as scientific experts representing disciplines related to health and food safety issues. Committee members serve a two-year term.

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Biosystems Students Win Top Awards

Student teams from UT's **Biosystems Engineering and Soil Sciences** Department won first place for a **dual solar roof design** and a **cryogenic sprayer** at the international meeting of the **American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE)** held in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The team of seniors, **Adam Duncan, Lori Gibson, Alex McLemore** and **Rebecca Messer**, took first place in the national AGCO (Allis-Gleaner Corporation) Design Competition for their work on a cryogenic sprayer. **William Hart**, Biosystems Engineering associate professor, and **Greg Armel**, Plant Sciences assistant professor, advised the team.

Meanwhile, the team of seniors **Warren Edmunds, Mark Newlin** and **J.D. White** won first place for a dual solar roof project in the National Gunlogson Environmental Design Competition. **John Tyner**, associate professor of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science advised the team. – *Doug Edlund*

CASNR Co-hosts Teaching Workshop

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources is collaborating with the UTK's Provost's Office and the Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center to offer a campus-wide workshop. Titled "A Win/Win Approach to Assessment," the event takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 30, in Hollingsworth Auditorium. To RSVP or for more information, call 865-974-3807 or email tenntlc@utk.edu.

The workshop will be followed by two others: "Teaching with Visual Media" on Oct. 26 and "Active Lecturing" tentatively set for Nov. 17. Locations for both are being determined. The Teaching and Learning Center is also organizing semester discussion groups with faculty experts. Contact them for more information on these programs.



Disease Outbreaks – August outbreaks of Emerald Ash Borer beetles and Thousand Cankers Disease in Knox County quickly brought state and federal entomologists and tree improvement specialists to Knoxville. The photo shows tissue death caused by Thousand Cankers to a black walnut tree. UT AgResearch and Extension specialists and agents are collaborating by scouting sites, harvesting walnut germplasm and preparing educational materials, as well as culturing fungal spores. The team hopes to contain Emerald Ash Borer. There's less hope that Thousand Cankers can be confined. Both are spread by movement of beetles on timber and firewood brought to the area.

UTIA News is published monthly by the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. Send comments and suggestions to Margot Emery, memery@tennessee.edu. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status. Visit the Institute of Agriculture on the Internet at <http://agriculture.tennessee.edu> | E11-1101-00-001-11

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