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From the Chancellor



Buddy Mitchell

This is my last column, and it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your vice president/chancellor for the third time. Incoming Chancellor Larry Arrington will be on board September 12, and he brings exceptional leadership and management skills to his new role

with us. I am strongly confident good years lie ahead for UTIA. Dr. Arrington will have a great leadership team of deans, associate deans, assistant deans, department heads and directors with which to work. They have steered and pushed me around the track for my last lap, and they will serve Chancellor Arrington and the institute well in the days ahead.

We have accomplished many things in recent months including strong raises for deserving faculty and staff; beginning a dialogue with state officials about our inadequate funding; retaining and hiring talented faculty and administrators; clarifying the departmental status and committing to enhance the Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications Department; as well as dedicating a new Center for Athletic Field Safety and breaking ground for the Large Animal addition to the UT Veterinary Medical Center.

We continue to make strong progress in exceeding our \$85 million goal in the Campaign for Tennessee and will successfully complete that seven-year effort at year's end. I could continue listing many other major faculty accomplishments in teaching, research and Extension, some of which are reported in this issue of Third Thursday.

I am especially proud of the people and the culture that make UTIA a unique organization. As I interviewed candidates for various positions I was frequently asked, "How do you keep everyone so happy, engaged and committed if they haven't had a raise in four years? Everyone I talked to said this is a great place to work." UTIA is, indeed, well known as a great place to work. We are blessed with a loyal workforce committed to the very worthwhile work we do, which creates a positive work environment. **We should be very proud of that reputation, and since we all benefit from that good work environment, each of us should feel obligated to contribute to that positive atmosphere.**

I will continue in my vice chancellor for development and government relations role this fall and will retire to half-time status on January 31, 2012. **I thank you all for the grand experience of my work at this great University of Tennessee and our splendid Institute of Agriculture.**

Best wishes,

Buddy

New Roles for Three

A UT system employee, an alumnus and an Extension area specialist, 4-H, all have new responsibilities within the Institute.

UT system architect Steve Glafenhein began work in mid July as director of services. He follows **Mike Keel**, who concluded 30 years of service on July 29. As architect for UT system, Glafenhein worked closely with Keel and has guided many projects across the institute's statewide campus.

"I have developed a strong passion over the years for the mission and vision of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture" Glafenhein said. "I am really excited about the future and being a part of the most unique and diverse campus of the UT system."

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UT President Joe DiPietro snags a pass from Bryan Peeples, president of AstroTurf®, before an enthusiastic crowd. The symbolic gesture marked the opening of the UT Center for Athletic Field Safety, a one-of-a-kind facility dedicated to researching the performance and safety of natural and synthetic turf surfaces used on athletic fields.

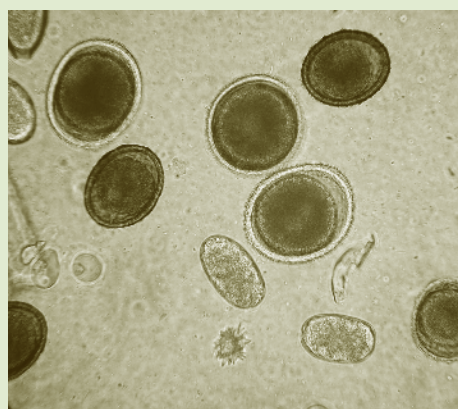
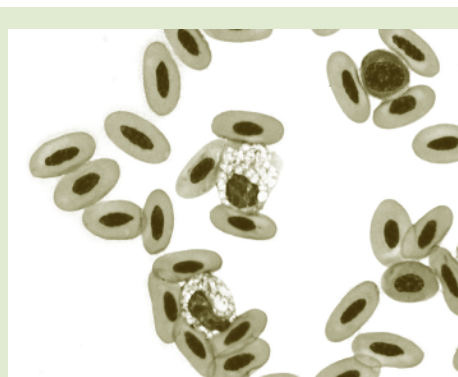
Progress in the College of Veterinary Medicine and a Big Tennessee Welcome to New Students

by Jim Thompson, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

While the renovation and construction of the new large animal hospital currently serves as the most visible sign of progress in the College of Veterinary Medicine, there are several other areas of progress that I want everyone to know about in support of our college mission. At the June 2011 UT Board of Trustees meeting, we received approval to merge our departments of Comparative Medicine and Pathobiology into a new department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences. Several key benefits accrue to this new academic configuration, most notably of which is the ability to seek national accreditation for our veterinary diagnostic laboratories. I have said repeatedly that the quality and breadth of expertise found within our diagnostic laboratories is a unique college strength. Securing national accreditation for our diagnostic labs will also open additional opportunities to better serve the veterinary profession. In association with these benefits, we are now reaching out to veterinary practices worldwide with low cost access to our diagnostic laboratories and our faculty and staff expertise. We recently signed a contract with FedEx to provide low-rate diagnostic sampling shipping to UTCVM from across the world, which will provide a greater revenue stream to the college.

We are excited about progress on our plans to build a Teaching and Learning Center within the college in support of our primary purpose—teaching the next generations of veterinarians. Additionally, we are developing plans to consider establishing a four-year bachelor's degree program in veterinary nursing. The vision is to work with our UTIA academic units and our Tennessee community and technical colleges to provide the framework to produce high-quality veterinary nurses for veterinary practices. We envision our veterinary students working and learning side-by-side with veterinary nursing students, developing together as professionals and fostering professional working relationships for the improvement of animal health.

This month, we look forward to greeting our new students in the Class of 2015 and their family members with a big Tennessee Welcome. Our Tennessee Welcome provides entering students with the opportunity to get acquainted and develop leadership skills and also allows family members to enjoy a 'mini' veterinary education to better understand what their veterinary students will experience during their four years at UTCVM. It's a great time for all!



Veterinary practices across Tennessee and beyond can now submit lab samples, along with MRI scans, ultrasounds and X-rays, to the College of Veterinary Medicine's laboratory diagnostic services via CVM's daily courier service or UT's FedEx contract.



See the names of faculty and staff honored with 2011 awards and promotions at <http://agriculture.tennessee.edu/facultyandstaff/2011AwardPromProg.pdf>

News around the institute

A College of Veterinary Medicine researcher has been tapped to serve the U.S. Department of State as a science advisor in Washington, D.C. Brad Fenwick, professor of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences, has been named a Jefferson Science Fellow, one of 13 scientists chosen for 2011.

The Farmland Legacy Partnership has been awarded the Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for achieving excellence in agriculture and forestry. The partnership represents more than a dozen organizations working together for the common good of helping Tennessee agricultural producers make sure that their land can be successfully passed to the next generation of producers. **Institute members active in planning and delivering workshops in the effort are** Extension Area Specialist **Alice Rhea**; Research Associate **Jane Starnes**; Extension Area Specialist **Alan Galloway**; and Associate Professor **Chris Clark** and Assistant Professor **Michael Wilcox** of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

The Tennessee Viticultural and Oenological Society has awarded Javier Vargas with the Harry and Lora Westcott Scholarship for his ongoing research in conjunction with Plant Sciences faculty members **Greg Armel, James Brosnan and David Lockwood.**

The National Science Foundation's video news site, Science 360, is featuring two UTIA video news stories produced by Chuck Denney and Doug Edlund of Marketing and Communications. Forage research at Highland Rim with **Pat Keyser and Barry Sims** and pond management with UT Extension's **Creig Kimbro** in Grundy County can be viewed at <http://news.science360.gov/archives/20110721>.

New Roles for Three, *Continued*



Steve Glafenstein

Also in July, **Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries alumnus Kevin Hoyt** began work as **director of the Forestry Resources AgResearch and Education Center and Arboretum**, headquartered in Oak Ridge. Hoyt succeeds Richard Evans, who is retiring after 39 years of service to the university. Hoyt earned B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from CASNR. Prior to his appointment, he worked as a senior forestry analyst and sustainable forest manager in Crossville. He has also worked as an adjunct in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries.

Hoyt is thrilled about his new role. "Being named as the new director of the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center is truly an honor and fulfills my lifelong goal of working in public outreach, education and for the advancement of natural resources research at my alma mater."



Kevin Hoyt

Martin Koon is the new regional agriculture program leader for UT Extension's Central Region, headquartered in Nashville. He began August 1 and will work with directors, specialists and agents in the 31-county area that covers all of his native Middle Tennessee. Koon, who holds an M.S. in agriculture and Extension education from UT, will lend support in the areas of adult agriculture and 4-H and also work with the Family and Consumer Sciences program leader in staff development projects. In his 18-year career with UT Extension, Koon has worked with youth, adults, animals, computers, bows and arrows, ATVs and video games.

"It is a great honor to serve as program leader, and I am looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that will go along with this position," Koon says. "One of my goals is to develop a 'Young Professionals Cohort' for newly employed agents to prepare them for work with UT Extension. I believe our employees are our greatest resource, and we must provide them with training to help them be successful."



Martin Koon



Reminder: The third annual Fall Gardeners' Festival will take place starting at 10 a.m. on August 30 at the UT Plateau AgResearch and Education Center in Crossville. The wide-ranging event is expected to be both fun and informative.

Missing 'Miss A'



Mary Neal Alexander

Mary Neal Alexander or "Miss A," as UT Extension members in former Upper Cumberland District IV knew her, passed away in July. Although she retired in 1971, she kept abreast of issues facing today's families through her involvement with the Nashville Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, her church and other groups.

She helped many people in their time of need and educated those who needed it most in survival techniques and everyday tasks. **Support for 4-H was important to her, and every year she gave a scholarship to a 4-H'er from her former district to attend the college of his or her choice. She also made a donation each year to fund the Mary Neal Alexander Award honoring an outstanding new 4-H agent.**

Even at the age of 95, she stayed very active and enjoyed getting together with family, friends and former co-workers. **"Miss A will be missed more than she probably would have realized," said Linda Tinch,** accounting specialist with Extension's Central Region. Contact the Development Office at 865-974-5779 if you'd like to help continue the awards that were so important to Miss A.

Agricultural stakeholders, government leaders, industry executives and clean energy advocates met on the institute's campus in Knoxville in July to discuss the challenges and opportunities that come with the application of renewable energy technologies in Tennessee. The Tennessee 25x25 State Alliance, in association with the UT Center for Renewable Carbon, hosted the Tennessee 25x25 Renewable Energy Forum. Forum participants, including Stuart Thomas of DuPont Danisco Cellulosic Ethanol and Julius Johnson, Tennessee's commissioner of agriculture, examined the economic impacts associated with the use of energy crops, agricultural and forestry residues, and other clean, renewable energy technologies in the state.



Bob Longmire

New Facilities Ahead

The Institute of Agriculture has been very successful in our portion of the “Campaign for Tennessee,” and we would like to thank everyone who was involved including donors, faculty, staff and especially our fundraising volunteers for their hard work. **However, as we start to celebrate surpassing our goal of \$85 million, we would like to point out that over \$200 million in needs were identified at the start of the campaign, and this list has grown during the campaign period, as well.**

Here is a preview of a few of the exciting fundraising projects that will help transform the Institute of Agriculture and are currently in the planning stage. You’ll hear more about them in the coming months:

- The opening of renovated buildings for the departments of Animal Science and Food, Science and Technology. These updated facilities will propel these units forward in teaching and research. Many naming opportunities will be available.
- An educational center for the UT Gardens is in the planning stage that will make an essential addition to this great asset of the institute, and naming opportunities will be available.

- A proposed teaching facility for Animal Science at the East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center’s Blount Unit will make a tremendous difference in hands-on learning experiences of students in that department.
- The Large Animal Hospital addition to the Veterinary Medical Center will transform the current facility into a state-of-the-art building serving the state of Tennessee and beyond. Many naming opportunities will be available to help equip and finalize this outstanding facility.
- Endowed assistant professorships and professorships are badly needed in every department. Endowed positions propel academic departments to a new level of excellence.

If you know someone who may have interest in investing in one of these projects or one of the many others within the Institute of Agriculture, please contact the Development Office at 865-974-5779. —Rhodes Logan

Featuring an array of produce, food, music and information, the UT Farmers Market continues from 4 to 7 p.m. each Wednesday through October 26 in the UT Gardens in Knoxville. The market will have a “re-grand opening” on August 17 to welcome back students. **Rumor has it that CASNR Dean Caula Beyl will transform herself into “Caula Deen” and conduct a cooking demonstration with Southern flair on the 17th.**

The UT Veterinary Social Work Program will host its 5th annual Pet Memorial Day on Sunday, September 11th. This is a day of remembrance to honor the companion animals that have touched owners’ lives and hearts with their unconditional love, service and devotion. To learn more, call the Veterinary Social Work helpline at 865-755-8839 or visit www.vet.utk.edu/socialwork.



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