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Third Thursday

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Third Thursday

A message from Chancellor Larry Arrington



Happy New Year!

As we begin 2014, I would like to congratulate our UTIA Advancement Team for a productive year and thank the team for the support they provide to our faculty, staff and students. Net progress in private support for our programs for FY 14 is up 250 percent from the same period last fiscal year (\$8,984,866 versus \$3,601,357). Highlights over the past six months have included:

- A \$3.2 million endowed chair. (A formal announcement is coming soon!)
- A \$414,000 bequest to the College of Veterinary Medicine.
- A \$100,000 gift in support of the West Tennessee 4-H Center.
- More than \$1 million committed to the Commodities for Communities program.

Thank you to the entire team. You help make our programs outstanding.

I wish everyone a productive 2014.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry".

P.S. Follow me on my new Twitter account: Larry Arrington @UTIAChancellor

ADVANCEUTIA
UTIA INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



If you're looking for some spot-on descriptions of the Institute's Four Pillars and how our programs are transforming Tennessee and the wider world, visit the new website for Institutional Advancement: advanceutia.com

The site outlines how UTIA faculty, staff and students (along with partnerships from our constituents) are advancing academic excellence, delivering discoveries, promoting hands-on learning and serving our communities. "It's a great resource to help folks understand the importance and breadth of UTIA programs," says Keith Barber, UTIA vice chancellor of Institutional Advancement. He invites faculty and staff to familiarize themselves with the Giving Definitions listed under the "Contribute" link. An added plus is the pithy comments from deans and students alike, including this gem from Tim Cross, UT Extension dean: "Follow any road in Tennessee and you'll find people whose lives have been influenced by at least one of our program areas."

CVM admissions process refined



In an open letter, Claudia Kirk, associate dean of academic affairs for the College of Veterinary Medicine, explains the admissions process for the college, which this year includes a more holistic review of the candidates as well as earlier interview dates. This will allow the college to be more competitive with top candidates who receive offers of admission from multiple institutions. [More ...](#)

Year ends on high note; more than \$11.9M of external funding

Sponsored projects and UT Extension county billings for the fourth quarter of 2013 total more than \$11.9 million. Congratulations to the principal and co-principal investigators! [See the report.](#)

External funding remains vital to our overall

Grants & Contracts

program, and UTIA appreciates the support and efforts of everyone engaged in enhancing our external funding.



UT AgResearch scientists provide solutions to everyday problems experienced by producers. Embryo loss is a costly problem for cattle producers that animal scientists Neal Schrick and Lannett Edwards address through their patented "Embryo Guard." Their work is featured in the **Winter issue of Tennessee Alumnus**.



Tim Campbell, with UT Extension Dyer County, and row crop and livestock farmer Larry Joe Maupin of Newbern both participate in a program through which farm operators are able to make a direct transfer of an agricultural commodity such as corn or wheat to the UT Foundation. *Commodities for Communities* has recently capped \$1 million in gifts to UTIA.



UTIA will welcome USDA Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden on January 22 while she is also on a trip to meet with the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board. The Deputy Secretary will be treated to an overview of UTIA's four units and is also expected to tour the Center for Renewable Carbon and meet with a group of 4-H youth representatives.

What inspires professor, student to their shared goal



Plant molecular biologist Tarek Hewezi and doctoral student Aditi Rambani share a desire to improve the world's food supply through research that makes soybeans more resistant to damage by soybean cyst nematodes. Read about what inspires them. [More ...](#)

Continuing education for Tennessee producers, forest managers

As part of state agricultural leaders' 10-year strategic plan to increase rural Tennessee's capacity to produce, UT Extension is offering updated educational programs for beef cattle, dairy cattle and goat producers. Additional courses will be available for beekeepers, equine owners, loggers and nursery operators. "These educational opportunities provide practical, science-based information that producers can implement on their operations," said Robert Burns, assistant dean of UT Extension. [More ...](#)



New horizons for Sutton, 4-H and ALEC

After 40 years of service to UTIA, Steve Sutton, director of 4-H Youth Development, is retiring. As Sutton closes the door on his career, 4-H is entering a new phase in its campus presence. 4-H and the Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications Department are being joined into a new department designed to serve students and staff focused on careers in agricultural



leadership through youth development, education and communications. **More ...**



Following initial positive findings in late December by UT Veterinary Medical Center Diagnostic Laboratory Services, state animal health officials have confirmed two cases of Bovine Trichomoniasis in bulls in Tennessee. For more details about the disease and ways to prevent it, go to the **CVM website**.



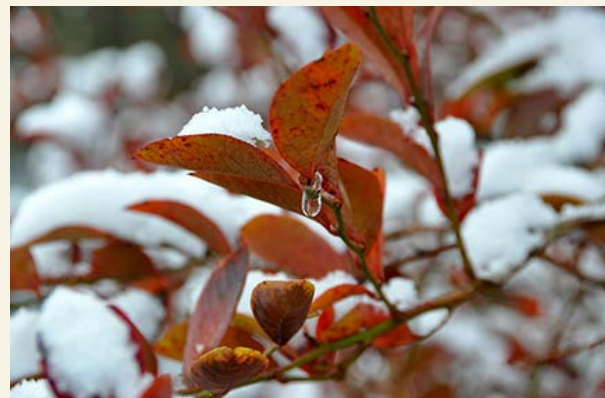
Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science (BESS) has selected Charlie Parker as director of CASNR's new Construction Science Program. UT joins schools across the country in housing a strong, industry-based construction management program. More than half of the nation's top-25 public universities have similar programs. **More ...**



More than 200,000 young Tennesseans have participated in On My Own, an award-winning financial education program available through UT Extension Family and Consumer Sciences. The program meets the new Common Core Standards adopted by the Tennessee Department of Education. See a **short video** explaining the program. **More ...**

Baby, it was cold outside

Early January brought the coldest temperatures in 20 years, and broadcast media across the state looked to UTIA experts for information on how to deal with the extended thermal dip. WBIR TV in Knoxville interviewed UT Extension agents David Vandergriff, Knox County, on plants and insects ([link](#)) and John Goddard, Loudon County, on caring for livestock ([link](#)). Dr. Jennifer Herring of the CVM discussed measures for protecting pets on Knoxville's WVLT ([link](#)) and UT Extension entomologist Frank Hale appeared on Nashville's News Channel 5 (URL not available) to explain the cold weather's effect on insects. AgResearch's Jason Reeves, horticulturist with the UT Gardens, Jackson, was interviewed by WBBJ ([link](#)). His topic? Dealing with freeze-damaged plants and winter gardening.



Blake Brown took this wintry image of barbed wire at the UT AgResearch and Education Center at Milan, where he serves as director. His photo was an entry in the 2012-13 Institute-wide Photo Competition. Share your images in this year's contest by March 14. [More ...](#)



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