

Third Thursday

From the President Elect



Joe DiPietro

Dear UTIA Colleagues, as I reflect on my years with the institute and UT, I think of the many, many great friendships and experiences I have had. You warmly welcomed Deb and me, supported me as chancellor and together we have accomplished a number of great things of which we can all be proud.

Now as I prepare to be president of UT, I promise I will do everything I can to make you proud. I thank you for all you do for the institute and university day in and day out to advance our education, discovery and outreach programs in so many important ways. Please keep in touch and keep the ideas and suggestions coming my way.

All the best,

CVM Extends
a Tennessee
Welcome to
its Students,
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It's Holiday Express time in the UT Gardens.

Come see a model train extravaganza great for adults and youth of all ages. Hours are Nov. 24-27, 12 to 8 p.m.; Nov. 28, 12 to 6 p.m.; Dec. 4-Jan. 2, 12 to 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 12 to 6 p.m. on Sundays. On Dec. 24 and 25, from 12 to 6 p.m.

The show benefits the beloved UT Gardens and adds an extra sparkle to many East Tennessee families' holidays.

National Honor for 4-H's Sutton



Rich Maxey

Of the four "H's," it was his "heart" that Steve Sutton gave away so willingly years ago to the youth of Tennessee. Nearly four decades later, he is being recognized for his caring and committed effort to educate and serve thousands of young people throughout Tennessee.

The National Association of Extension 4-H Agents has presented Sutton with the U.S. Air Force Recruiting Salute Award. He was nominated as Tennessee's selection by 150 NAE4-HA members and then selected as the national winner among the 50 states. The award is based on professional accomplishments and recognizes individuals who create a positive image through leadership and citizenship as it relates to the 4-H program.

Sutton has served for 37 years in Tennessee 4-H, currently as director and state 4-H leader.

"Steve sets the standard when it comes to serving 4-H youth, and this is now being recognized nationally as he receives the top award presented to 4-H Youth Development professionals," says Tim Cross, dean of UT Extension. "His lifelong dedication to positive youth development is an inspiration to us all."

Sutton was a 4-H'er as a young man growing up in Cocke County. He later volunteered his time when he coached a county 4-H Livestock Judging Team while

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Campus Chest 2010 Exceeds Goal

Campus Chest Director **Mike Keel** reports that **the 2010 campaign is over and members of the Institute pledged \$67,065, which is 103 percent of our goal of \$65,000.**

Twelve units met or exceeded their goal: **4-H, General Services, BESS, Comparative Medicine, CVM Administration, East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center, AgResearch Administration, FCS and Extension Administration, Food Science and Technology, UTIA Administration/Development/Gardens, Pathobiology, and Small Animal Clinical Sciences.**

Congratulations to each of these units for their support.

Pathobiology made 211 percent of their goal. This is a UTIA record—a special thanks to this unit for their outstanding generosity.

Thousands of people in our community will benefit from our pledges and contributions through the participating agencies that provide assistance to those in need.

“This will be my last Campus Chest Campaign. I would like to thank you for your pledges and contributions and hard work over the past 25 years. It has been a pleasure working with all of you,” Keel said.

“Working on behalf of Campus Chest with such caring, generous people has been a blessing in my life that I will never forget.”

Sharon Patton “worms” her way into the hearts of students’ family members as she teaches them more than they ever wanted to know about parasites.

Greg Hirsboren

Expanding Our Students’ Support Network



Jim Thompson

by Jim Thompson, dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

This fall the College of Veterinary Medicine started a new tradition with our inaugural Tennessee Welcome for incoming students. The Friday before classes began, we invited not only the first year veterinary students but also their husbands, wives, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters and special friends to our campus. More than 300 people in all, including the 85 students, were embraced into the fold of our family that day.

We always see the students’ loved ones fill the auditorium during the White Coat Ceremony, where students are formally welcomed to the study of our profession, and then again at our hooding ceremony, four years later. However, our college hasn’t reached out to the students’ families in the time between those first and fourth years. **The Tennessee Welcome is our first step toward creating a connection and a stronger support network for our students throughout all four years of their veterinary education.**

The event, designed to give family members a feel for what their students experience, included tours of our Veterinary Medical Center, a mini-vet school that included a “class” in our parasitology lab delivered by **Sharon Patton** who regaled the audience with tales of voracious blood suckers, a necropsy lesson with pathologist Robert Donnell, sitting in on “medical rounds” with **Joe Bartges, Carla Sommardahl, Matt Welborn** and **Mike Jones**, and learning about our robust outreach programs.

Following the mini-vet school, we all gathered in the UT Gardens for music, a cookout and games. **Our second year students were a key component in the camaraderie of the Tennessee Welcome, fostering a big brother/sister atmosphere in Big Orange Country.**

The feedback we have received from both first and second year students has been, “We love it!” and, “We’re looking forward to doing it again next year!” The students have taken ownership of the event, which is what we had hoped. Parents have sent notes of appreciation. They are glad they participated and are more comfortable with the knowledge that their students’ support network didn’t shrink when the families left campus—the support network grew larger. 🐾



Longtime Director of UT Forests Announces Retirement

Richard Evans, longtime director of the University of Tennessee Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center including the UT Arboretum, has announced his intent to retire.

Evans plans for the 2011 fiscal year, which began last July 1, to be his final year of service to the university. **His effective retirement date will be June 30, 2011, after nearly 39 years of service.**

Evans has served as director of the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center since it was established in 1972. The center is the largest of the holdings of the UT Agricultural Experiment Station system of outdoor research facilities. Evans oversees the programs conducted on the Center's 11,000 acres, and under his leadership, UT AgResearch has grown into a recognized leader in developing new technologies applicable to modern forestry, wildlife resources management, and environmental stewardship. **Center locations include the Oak Ridge, Cumberland, and Highland Rim forests and at the UT Arboretum.**

Dean for UT AgResearch Bill Brown said, "Richard's contributions to the state's

forest and conservation management practices have been integral to the research, teaching and Extension mission of the Institute of Agriculture for nearly four decades. **He has provided guidance that vastly improved both the public and private management of forests, wildlife and natural resources in our region. He has developed vital and sustained relationships with the state's foresters, the UT Arboretum Society and other regional and national environmental stewards during his career with UT.** We congratulate Richard on his retirement and have a challenge in replacing a valued member of AgResearch."

Evans says he is most proud of his work with students. "Over the past 39 years I've directed more than 90 summer intern students with the purpose of giving them a true professional experience that may help them in obtaining that first job, and I have assisted numerous graduate student develop their thesis research or class projects." The long-time forest professional is also proud to be passing on some healthy, productive land to future generations. "I'm proud to pass on a healthy forest to those generations who follow and will, in some

ways, always exhibit the management decisions I've made during my stewardship over those university resources," he beams.

A search to fill the position of center director will begin in the near future with the goal of finding a suitable candidate no later than summer 2011. Evans has agreed to remain part-time at the center for approximately six months after retirement to assist during the transition to new leadership. —*Patricia McDaniels*



Richard Evans

Margot Emery

UT Extension Centennial Observances

2010

Tough Times. Tough Choices. Across Tennessee, mortgage and bankruptcy rates are skyrocketing, as one of 10 workers is unemployed. Stress paralysis keeps some individuals facing economic hardship from being proactive when it's most critical that they take action to restructure their finances and lives.

Along with strategies for managing stress, Extension specialists and agents teach practical steps that families facing financial crisis need to take to reduce spending, manage credit and make lifestyle adjustments to new economic realities. Extension identifies local support for helping families assess their situation and act to ensure that things don't get worse. Additional efforts engage families in transformation to more secure, sustainable and healthy approaches to living in changing times.

Celebrating the Centennial. In November, Extension agents and specialists throughout the state gathered in Franklin for a four-day celebration and educational conference designed to commemorate the centennial and deepen Extension personnel's knowledge of issues shaping their work and lives.

Sutton, cont.

a UT student. "That's when I started to think I might do this as a career," he says.

Sutton would go on to serve as a 4-H agent in Washington County. He has also been a state 4-H specialist and has worked at the state 4-H headquarters on the UT agriculture campus for the past 24 years. In addition to his administrative duties, Sutton provides leadership to 4-H Congress, 4-H Roundup, Electric Camp and serves as the primary author and editor of the weekly 4-H electronic newsletter.

While his list of innovative projects is lengthy, Sutton remains modest. "I have always just tried to do my job to the best of my ability," he says. —*Chuck Denney*

UT Students Embark on New Concentration, Leads to New Construction Careers

Students at UT who are interested in construction as a career have a new opportunity. Starting this fall, students can pursue a concentration in construction science in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources' Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science. The new program uses current offerings in agriculture, business, engineering, and science with new construction science courses to prepare students for a future in the construction industry.

“Not all students with an interest in construction want to be engineers,” says Eric Drumm, department head. “But before we started this program in construction science, the only option at UT was a construction concentration within the civil engineering degree. I’m excited for the opportunity to grow this program at UT. My hope is that this will serve the regional construction industry, and we will be producing graduates when the construction segment of the economy turns around.”

The program will evolve over time to include aspects of both vertical construction, such as buildings, and horizontal construction, such as roads, bridges and earthwork. Five students enrolled in this year’s class, and Drumm predicts a swell in growth due to the current level of interest and plans for an articulation agreement with Pellissippi State Community College.

Support to develop the program is needed, according to Development Director Tom Looney. “Over the next year, Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science seeks to raise \$500,000 in immediate support to grow the construction science program as it seeks accreditation. **To date we’ve raised \$100,000. A.G. Heins Company, Inc. and The Wakefield Corporation have each committed \$50,000.** This fund-raising effort would not be possible without volunteers like Gordon Heins and Jim Wakefield who have been championing the cause by promoting the benefits of the program to the industry. Others in the industry are currently considering support and are willing to help shape the program so that graduates will be marketable upon graduation.

“The long-term goal is to raise \$6 million to build lab and classroom facilities and to attract qualified faculty and instructors.”

For more information on the program, visit http://bioengr.ag.utk.edu/students/tech_options.asp



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