

DiPietro Named UTIA Vice President

The University of Tennessee has named **Dr. Joseph A. DiPietro** as its new vice president for agriculture. He is currently the dean of the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine.

"Dr. Joseph DiPietro brings a world of experience to the University of Tennessee," said UT President John Petersen. "He brings the leadership that will keep UT's Institute of Agriculture positioned as a major component of economic development and outreach in every county of the state, and this will ensure UT's continued success in fulfilling our



land-grant mission." Dr. DiPietro will begin in his new role in late February.

He has served in his current position in Florida since 1997. Prior to that, he served as the associate dean for research at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and as the assistant director of that institution's agricultural experiment station. In addition to his administrative background, he has conducted research on the epidemiology, control and treatment of parasitic diseases of livestock, specifically horses, cattle and swine.

"The Institute of Agriculture has a long tradition of providing outstanding educational programs, new knowledge and meaningful, relevant and helpful information to Tennesseans statewide regarding agricultural and forestry enterprises, human

health, families and communities, the environment and natural resources and the veterinary profession and animal health," said DiPietro. "I am excited about the opportunities this position presents and look forward to working with the faculty, staff and students as well as the agricultural and natural resource industries across the state."

As UT's vice president for agriculture, DiPietro will oversee the operations of the UT Institute of Agriculture, which includes the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station and UT Extension.

"Working at a great comprehensive land-grant university like UT is a privilege and a high calling," said DiPietro.

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CASNR Report

CASNR Report is published during the academic year by the UT College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the CASNR Student Council.

Submissions from departments and departmental clubs are welcomed. Articles, as a Word file, or an e-mail message, should be e-mailed by the second Thursday of the each month to the Dean's Office, casnr@utk.edu, for inclusion in the next issue. Articles may be edited for style and length.

Digital photos of club events may also be submitted. Photos should be sent as separate email attachments and not embedded in the message or Word file. They will be used on a space-available basis.

Student Council meets the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 P.M. in 226 Morgan Hall

September 15	October 20
November 17	January 19
February 16	March 16
April 20	

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E01-1105-00-002-06

DiPietro Named VP

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"It's a place where every faculty member, every staff member, every student, and every alumnus can make a real difference."

Chosen from 50 applicants and nominees for the position, DiPietro will succeed UT Associate Vice President for Development Buddy Mitchell, who has served as the interim vice president for agriculture during the search.

"Buddy's service as interim vice president was critical to the success of this transition, and we thank him for his hard work," said Petersen.

UT Chancellor Loren Crabtree chaired the search committee for the position. The vice president for agriculture position was vacated by Jack Britt in 2004 when he became UT's Executive Vice President.

*Provided by University of Tennessee Communications, Jay Mayfield
UTIA Marketing and Communications,
Patricia McDaniels*

Clement Wins in San Antonio

Dr. Neil Rhodes, head of the Department of Plant Sciences, reported that **Ms. Jenny Clement**, a graduate student working with **Dr. Owen Gwathmey**, won the graduate student research poster contest at the Beltwide Cotton Conference. The conference was held in early January in San Antonio, coordinated by the



National Cotton Council of America.

Jenny presented her MS research on non-structural carbohydrate concentration at bloom and cutout observed in DP555 & PM1218 (more determinant & indeterminate) cotton cultivars.

Dr. Gwathmey, associate professor of crop physiology, is located at the West Tennessee research and Education Center, Jackson.

Horticulture Club to Compete in Utah

The Department of Plant Science's Horticulture Club will represent UT at the 30th annual Student Career Days. This competitive event will be held March 22 – 26, at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah that will host 60 Horticulture and Landscape Design programs from around the country. Twelve students and two faculty advisors, Professors Garry Menendez and Curtis Stewart, will

make the trip. In addition to training sessions, new product displays and competitive events ranging from Sales Presentation to Plant Identification, this gathering also hosts a career fair with over 100 companies offering full and part time jobs to students preparing to enter the green industry. For more information, contact Professor Menendez at menendez@utk.edu.

Career Services Spring 2006 Events

February 7 Résumé Doctor,
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Brehm
Lobby

Come by for a critique of your
résumé by Career Services
personnel.

February 8 Résumé Doctor,
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Ellington
Breezeway (near Room 130)

Come by for a critique of your
résumé by Career Services
personnel.

**February 15 Summer Job and
Internship Fair, 10:00 AM – 2:30
PM, University Center**

Opportunity to talk with employers
seeking either summer hires or
interns.

**March 7 Tyson Foods
Information Session, 6:00 PM –
7:30 PM, Morgan Hall 212A**

Learn about job/intern opportunities
with this company.



Tyson Foods, Inc.

**March 8 Tyson
Foods Interviews,**
8:30 AM – 4:30
PM, Plant BioTech
118

**March 15 Farm
Credit Services
Interviews, 8:30 AM
– 4:30 PM, Morgan
Hall 301**



**April 6 Career Expo, 10:00
AM – 3:30 PM, University Center
Ballroom**

Meet representatives from many
different companies to talk about
job opportunities.

To view jobs and internships offered
by the above companies conducting
on campus interviews, log on to e-
Recruiting at www.career.utk.edu.

Must be registered and have a
résumé in the system to request an
interview.

For information on these events,
please contact **Emily Gray**,
ecgray@tennessee.edu or 974-8502.

Faculty and Instructional Technology

How do you update and convert 110
pages of transparencies with today's
technology and find the time to do
it? You don't. Rather you enlist the
help of the ITC and Student
Technology Assistants for Research
and Teaching. Team. Students in the

START program assisted **Dr. Michael
Smith**, associate professor in the
Department of Animal Science, to
update overheads, enhance Power
Point presentations with photos,
charts, and graphs. They helped him
develop a course management tool

Online@UT uploading syllabus,
lecture notes, and lab exercises. He
was trained on how to effectively
make Power Point presentations
using SMART Board technology to
highlight his presentations and

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Robinson Retires

An era comes to an end. After a long
career, Mrs. Beverly Robinson,
administrative services assistant in
the College of Agricultural Sciences
and Natural Resources and the
Tennessee Agricultural Experiment
Station, will officially end her career
at the end of February. She began
working at The University of
Tennessee in 1962. She had been
working for an attorney part-time
while attending business college, but

when her father was laid off at Oak
Ridge, she started looking for full-
time work to help the family. She
was only 18 when she began
working for Dr. J. T. Miles, Head of
the Department of Dairying.

With a five-year gap in her service,
she has 38-plus years of service to
The University of Tennessee. During
that time Mrs. Robinson worked for
two Department Heads, two Deans, a

Vice Chancellor, and numerous other
administrators.

She will be missed – her ready smile,
her laughter, and her helpful
attitude. Those who worked with her
wish her well and enjoyment in her
much-deserved retirement. She will
be getting a good start with a two-
week Hawaiian trip/cruise booked
for early March. Bon voyage and best
wishes!

New Ways of Communicating in the New Millennium

Responding to the university's emphasis on developing good communication skills, the Department of Plant Sciences offered its first course last semester with the Communication through Writing (WC) designation. PLSC 448, Horticultural Internet Technology, takes advantage of the power of the internet for communication. Available for both undergraduate (senior standing) and graduate credit and open to majors in all departments, the course gives students the opportunity to become web masters while increasing knowledge of particular areas of agriculture or natural resources.

Students select their web site topics, design their own sites and provide site content, guided on content by a technical advisor (an expert in the particular web site topic). Many students are dubious in the beginning – some joke that their level of cyber savvy means needing technical assistance to turn a computer on – but by the end of the first week of class, students have learned to establish a working web site and communicate with the university's server. At this point, the sites are very simple, perhaps no more than a welcoming sentence that shows they are "live" on the World Wide Web. Learning and practicing web techniques and working with text and images over the short span of the next three months, the student web sites ultimately become quite sophisticated.

The course emphasizes real-world applications, and several of the web sites created by students continue to

serve various segments of society after the semester ends.

For example, one student created a web site for the Garden Girls radio show hosted by Dr. Sue Hamilton and Beth Babbitt, Sunday afternoons on 100.3 WNOX. By the end of the semester the site was live with its own web address, gardengirls.tennessee.edu, offering a detailed garden calendar, audio streams of recent radio shows, recipes, and a even a store that offers Garden Girls merchandise. Other students created working sites for professional or student organizations, such as the Tennessee Turf Association; the UT Horticulture Society; and the local chapter of Pi Alpha Xi, the honor society for floriculture, landscape & ornamental horticulture. These sites give the organization's mission, events calendar and/or conference schedule, membership form, job postings and other relevant information. Another student created a web site devoted to heirloom vegetable gardening, complete with photos, historical details and cultural information for several dozen prominent and interesting heirloom vegetables. This site also portrays how this important area of horticulture is featured in the UT Gardens.

The list of web sites built by PLSC 448 students last autumn is impressive. Sites feature natural and historical resources, such as the Rankin Wildlife Management Area and the UT Agriculture Campus Burial Mound & Native Plant Park; a variety of research projects, e.g. horticulture as therapy in adult

education and homelessness programs, use of botanical oils in horticulture, and financial analysis of poultry processors; and course web sites, e.g. the beginnings for a new online course in turfgrass pathology.

As part of building their web sites and honing their communication skills, students usually establish important professional contacts. They also acquire teamwork experiences, with service learning projects such as building Frequently Asked Questions resources for various university units. Most students become fairly fluent in working with digital images, which comes in handy in applications other than web sites. By the end of the semester, most students have earned the name of "web master".

The sites created by students last semester can be viewed at <http://plantsciences.utk.edu/PLSC448/roster.htm>. Have a look!

For more information contact Dr. Robert Augé, professor, Department of Plant Sciences



*Accepting
payment of
annual GSD
dues
(only \$10)
Send to Dr.
William Hart
Biosystems
Engineering
and Soil Science*

CASNR Graduate Featured in UT Alumnus Magazine

The most recent issue of the Tennessee Alumnus Magazine ran a feature story on **Nicole Gamble**, a two-time graduate of CASNR with a BS in ornamental horticulture and landscape design and an MS in Entomology and Plant Pathology. Nicole manages the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. She also serves as the interim director of gardens services. The Day Butterfly Center encompasses 4.5 acres, where its conservatory—the largest in North America—houses a thousand tropical butterflies representing more than 50 species, along with tropical plants and birds.

Nicole credits several faculty members with her success including **Drs. Ernest Bernard and Jerome Grant** of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology and **Dr. Susan Hamilton**, Department of Plant Sciences.

At Callaway Gardens, Nicole oversees horticulture, butterfly and insect husbandry, plant and butterfly production, guest services, and daily programs at the center.

To view the full article by Linda Cabbage go to <http://pr.tennessee.edu/alumnus/alumarticle.asp?id=652>



Public Horticulture Graduate Student Helps ‘Green’ the Air Waves

Tune into “The Garden Girls” radio show which airs every Sunday afternoon from 2:00-4:00 pm on WNOX 100.3 and you won’t just hear the ‘Girls’, UT’s Dr. Sue Hamilton and Beth Babbit, but you’ll hear CASNR graduate student, Andy Pulte, as well.

A Public Horticulture graduate student in the Plant Sciences Department who comes to UT from Nebraska, Andy has taken a keen interest in the show and has demonstrated a lot of talent. He has become a regular on the show known as ‘Andy the Garden Guy’. With a dynamic voice and enthusiasm, he substitutes as a co-host whenever one of the ‘Girls’ is absent. He manages the show’s website, which he happened to create, where you can find recipes,

books, monthly gardening calendar items touted on the air and an archive of past shows. He created a ‘Garden Girl’ logo used on shirts, jackets, mugs, coasters, and mouse pads all available through the website’s store. Check it out at <http://gardengirls.tennessee.edu/>. Through his involvement, Andy has learned a lot about gardening in this region of the country, how to create and manage a website, and how to produce a garden-talk radio show. Educational experiences, such as these, are invaluable and unique to UT’s Public Horticulture program and a major purpose of what we have wanted to do with the show. There are few if any opportunities for students in public horticulture programs across the U.S. to participate in a garden-talk radio show. This radio show sets UT’s

public horticulture program apart from others.

The good training and educational experiences in radio work prepares students for professional careers in public gardens and horticulture education and communications. Graduate and undergraduate students in the program are invited to get involved to the extent of their interests. Those interested take turns reporting the ‘Plant of the Week’ and assisting in answering call-in questions. Since the show went live one year ago, one undergraduate and five graduate students in UT’s Public Horticulture program have participated.

From Dr. Sue Hamilton, Associate Professor and Director, UT Gardens

MANRRS Hosted Region III Workshop



The Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS)

Region III Workshop – 2005 was hosted by the UT MANRRS chapter this last semester. Forty-eight participants from six MANRRS chapters — Alcorn State University; Tennessee State University; University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; The University of Kentucky; and The University of Tennessee — were in attendance, as well as Ms. Jewel Moore, MANRRS National President-Elect, and Ms. Venus Welch, MANRRS Region III Undergraduate Vice-President.

The MANRRS Region III workshop, held in the Plant Biotechnology Building on the Ag Campus, was designed to enhance the knowledge and leadership skills of MANRRS members and the ultimate goal of the workshop was to foster the development of well-rounded

individuals and to equip them with essential skills that will aid them in their future academic and professional endeavors. The workshop was comprised of several seminars focused on the theme, *Tools for Success: Providing Essential Skills for Future Professionals*. Seminar topics included

- Graduate School: Admissions/ Strategic Planning,
- The Job Search: Resume' Writing and Interviewing Skills,
- Parliamentary Procedures: The 'How To' According to Robert's Rules, and
- Time Management: Finding a Healthy Balance.

Participants also heard from keynote speakers, **Dr. Mary Albrecht**, associate dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and **Dr. Michael J. Blackwell**, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Tennessee.

At regional business, Region III Officer Nominations, date and location of the 22nd Annual MANRRS Training and Career Conference, Chapters in Good

Standing, and On-line Resumes were covered.

After all the hard work, networking and training was completed, participants were able to relax and enjoy a night of bowling and music at the *DownUnder*, the University Center's on-campus bowling facility. This was a great opportunity for participants to mix and mingle in a relaxed setting and a great way to close the Region III Workshop-2005. Overall, the Region III Workshop - 2005 was a tremendous success!

MANRRS Region III would like to thank all sponsors and their respective agencies for their generosity in providing funding for the MANRRS Region III Workshop – 2005. Thank you's go to **Mr. Theotis Robinson**, UT Vice President for Equity and Diversity, **Mr. Buddy Mitchell**, UT Interim Vice President for Agriculture, and **Ms. Ginger Perry**, Farm Credit Services of Mid-America. Without their support and generous donations, this workshop would not have been possible

From Catherine Cosby

Instructional Technology

(Continued from page 3)

capture the work. The benefits to the students are 24/7 availability of course materials, easily updated presentations that incorporate the latest research findings, and online collaboration among students as they work on a nutrition experiment.

Dr. Matt Gray, assistant professor in

the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, integrated various collaboration tools available in *Online@UT*. With guidance from the ITC, Dr. Gray was able to provide structure for group work, equalizing individual contributions to group work, and incorporate combination GPS/PDA units to share project data among team members. According to Dr. Gray, there was an observable

increase in student interest and productivity over the previous year's course.

To learn more check out the spring 2006 newsletter *ITC Topics* at <http://itc.utk.edu/about/newsletter/>. Check out *Seeing the Need, Finding the Time*, and *Contemporizing Curricula for Success*.

Call for Nomination for CASNR Awards

Mark your calendars for the CASNR Awards and Scholarship Banquet scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2006 for Hollingsworth Auditorium. During the evening, awards are presented to outstanding students, faculty and staff. If you have started working on nominating exceptional students, faculty and staff, now is the time to get started.

Nominations are due by Friday, February 17 in 126 Morgan Hall for the following awards. Nominations may be initiated by any student, faculty member, staff person, departmental awards committee, or student organization.

A maximum of ten full-time students are honored as **Outstanding Students**. No more than one freshman, two sophomore, three junior and four senior students will be selected.

Outstanding Staff Member Award is presented to one staff member who has displayed extraordinary service and devotion to the CASNR. The recipient may be a full-time exempt or non-exempt staff member who is involved with the teaching program. More than one award may be presented in any given year.

Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award is presented to a faculty member (tenured, tenure-track or non-tenure

track) who provides academic advice to undergraduate and/or graduate students, and serves as an



advisor to student organizations.

W.F. and Golda Moss Outstanding Teaching Awards, two awards are presented, one each for a faculty member with greater than ten years of faculty experience and with ten or fewer years of faculty experience.

The above awards are selected by the CASNR Student Council Awards Committee.

*Nominations due
Friday, February 17, 2006
In 126 Morgan Hall*

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award of Merit is awarded to graduate students who demonstrate excellence in classroom and work with undergraduate students in other ways that enhance the undergraduate educational experience. More than one award may be presented in any given year. The recipient(s) will also receive the NACTA Graduate Student Teaching Award of Merit Certificate

W.S. Overton Faculty Award of Merit is presented to a faculty member who makes notable contributions to the development of students and who has a very positive impact on students. Recipient also receives the NACTA Teaching Award of Merit Certificate.

The above two awards are selected by a faculty committee appointed by the associate dean.

CASNR Distinguished Alumnus Award is presented annually to a graduate (at least 10 years) of the CASNR, or its predecessor, the

College of Agriculture, for outstanding achievement in the academic or corporate community and/or noteworthy public service, which have brought distinction to the graduate and The University of Tennessee.

Departmental Outstanding Student Awards: The faculty associated with each academic major may recognize a freshman, sophomore, junior and senior. If the faculty decide there is no student in any given class who warrants such distinction, they may chose not to present such an award.

The **Williams-Lidvall Outstanding Teaching Award** is presented to a current faculty member in CASNR with a record of success in the classroom and demonstrated commitment to the interest of students as evidenced by their performance as an academic adviser, as well as their support and participation in student initiatives and activities, such as serving as an adviser to student clubs or organizations.

This award is selected by a faculty-student committee appointed by the associate dean. Note that this award is presented annually at the Institute of Agriculture's Promotions and Awards Luncheon held in July.

Complete nomination information for all awards can be found posted on the CASNR web site (follow CASNR Home Page > Faculty and Staff > General Information > College awards and nomination process, 2005 to down load a PDF file).

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***Our students...
challenged to be the best***

Visit us on the web —
<http://casnr.tennessee.edu>

Planning on a May Graduation? Then You Need to Read This!

Graduation is going to be here sooner than you realize! If you have not yet applied for graduation, contact the Graduation Office at Student Services (974-2101 or graduation@tennessee.edu) as soon as possible.

There are several options to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Graduate students participate in the Graduate Hooding Ceremony on Thursday, May 11 at 6:00 p.m. See <http://gradstudies.utk.edu/ddategraduation.shtml> for more detailed information.

The all university ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 12 at 8:30 a.m. in Thompson-Boling Arena and



Assembly Center. Detailed information is available at <http://registrar.tennessee.edu/graduation/commencement.shtml>. The Graduation Office requires that you register for the ceremony for planning purposes. Online registration should be open soon.

CASNR's ceremony will be held Friday, May 12 at 11:00 a.m. at the Knoxville Convention Center (Exhibit Hall B). All undergraduate and graduate students of CASNR are invited to participate.

The deadline to register for the college ceremony is March 31. Complete the online registration form at <http://casnr.tennessee.edu/forms/commencementreg.htm>.

If you will not be able to participate, please stop by the Office of the Dean, 125 Morgan Hall, and complete a post-graduation employment survey. This also applies to those who plan to attend graduate or professional school after graduation.