

March/April
2007

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE

CASNR Report

Turf students steal the show

From January 17 through 20, 2007, San Antonio, Texas was the host city for the Sports Turf Managers Association's Annual Conference and Exhibition. At the conference the sounds of "UT" was a common occurrence, and being in Texas it was especially surprising that the UT being referred to was the University of Tennessee and not Texas. Several educational workshops were conducted by **Dr. John Sorochan**, assistant professor, and **Dr. Tom Samples**, professor, of Turfgrass Science and Management in the Department of Plant Sciences. However, the conference was abuzz with the accomplishments of the UT students in attendance. **Adam Thoms**, Turfgrass Science and Management graduate student in the Department of Plant Sciences won the Dr. Jim Watson Outstanding Graduate Student Scholarship, and **Will**



Jellicorse, senior in the Department of Plant Sciences, won the Dr. Jim Watson Outstanding Undergraduate Student Scholarship. In addition to the two first place scholarships, **Tyler Mittlesteadt**, senior in the Department of Plant Sciences, was one of three winners for the SAFE Undergraduate Student Scholarship.

If that was not enough, the UT undergraduate team, coached by Adam Thoms (far right in photo), of **Tyler Mittlesteadt**, **Lucas Freshour** (senior), **Stuart Morris** (senior), and **Will Jellicorse** (left to right in photo) took home the first place trophy in the Student Challenge - Undergraduate Competition with Iowa

State University finishing second, and Pennsylvania State University finishing third, respectively. The Student Challenge was a two hour exam that consisted of turfgrass, insect, weed, and disease identification, sports turf and budgeting related case studies, pesticides application and calibration, irrigation and sports turf playability questions. There were 29 teams entered in the Student Challenge from various universities from around the country. By winning the Student Challenge, the UT four-person team will forever be recognized by having their university and individual names

(Continued on page 2)

In this issue

Wildlife grad students win best posters 2
Nyinyi honored by AOCS 2

Academic Quadrathlon Team has best ever finish..... 3
Ag Econ grad places second in National AFB Meet..... 3

2007 Discussion Meet concludes..... 4

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 160 Plant Biotechnology Building

January 18

February 15

March 22

April 19

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Turf students (cont'd)

engraved on the trophy. They also received first place medals, a trophy to bring back to the university, and finally \$4,000 for the UT Turfgrass Club. Needless to say, there were several very proud moments at the Annual Awards Banquet, with more than 1000 people in attendance

from the sports turf industry and academic arenas, getting to hear the UT students called up to the stage to receive their awards.

*Dr. G. Neil Rhodes
Head, Department of Plant Sciences*

Wildlife grad students win best poster awards

Tiffany Beachy (left) and **Ana Raymundo** (middle), graduate students in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries won Best Poster Awards at the Southeastern Partners In Flight conference in Memphis in February 2007. Ana is a new MS student from Merida, Mexico working on the effects of coastal development on migratory birds in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Tiffany is a second-year MS student working on cerulean warblers in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee and has developed a predictive habitat model for cerulean warbler migration stopover habitat for Central

America. Both students are part of Dr. David Buehler's lab in avian ecology and conservation science. Partners In Flight is one of the leading bird conservation organizations in the Western Hemisphere.

*Dr. David Buehler,
Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries*



Nyinyi honored by AOCS

Catherine Nyinyi, a graduate student in the Department of Plant Sciences, will be honored in May in Quebec, Canada as the third place recipient of the 2007 Biotechnology Student Excellence Award by the American Oil Chemists Society for her paper *Confirmation of Fatty Acid Modifier QTL in Soybean*, co-authored with

Drs. Vincent Pantalone, Fred Allen, Dean Kopsell, and Carl Sams, all in the Department of Plant Sciences. Catherine will receive an embossed Award Certificate, a \$100 honorarium at the awards ceremony. She is the fourth student mentored by Dr. Pantalone since 2002 to receive a major award from the AOCS.

Academic Quadrathlon Team has best ever finish

The 2007 UT Academic Quadrathlon Team, representing the Department of Animal Science, recently participated in the regional competition as part of the Southern Section ASAS Meetings in Mobile, Alabama held in February. The Academic Quadrathlon is a 4-member team, animal science-based, academic competition consisting of a written exam, quiz bowl, lab practicum and oral presentation. There were 11 teams representing universities from across the southeastern United States. The

UT team finished first in written exam (for the third consecutive year), eighth in quiz bowl, seventh in lab practicum and third in oral presentation making them second place overall. Team members include **Erin Fitzgerald** (senior from Chicago, IL), **Nathan Butler** (senior from Knox County), **Matt Backus** (senior from Blount County) and **Katie Oliff** (junior from Rutherford County), all Animal Science majors.



*Mr. Aaron Fisher
Instructor, Animal Science*

Ag Econ Grad places second in National AFB Meet

UT agricultural economics graduate **Drew Petty** took second place on February 11, 2007 in the National Discussion Meet at the American Farm Bureau's convention in Jacksonville, Florida. Drew is the first CASNR graduate to represent Tennessee in the national event since 1991. He graduated in December, 2006.

"It takes a good student," says Drew's coach, **Dr. Ernest Bazen**, as-

sistant professor in Agricultural Economics, "and one who is willing to take your advice and compete." Dr. Bazen competed himself at the national level as a student.

Petty has invested two-and-a-half months of preparation for the contest. Since students are judged not just on their knowledge of topical issues, Drew and Dr. Bazen focused on how to control the discussion and introduce new topics

For his second place finish, Drew received a cash award of \$1,250. Students from 28 states competed.



2007 Discussion Meet (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

student in Agricultural Economics. Chris was first place winner at Tennessee Technological University in 2006 and second place winner in the State Finals in July 2006. He attended the Nationals in Jacksonville, Florida, in February

2007 along with Drew Petty, the first place winner in 2006 UT and Tennessee contests. Drew, a 2006 UT graduate from Agricultural Economics and Business, was one of the four finalists at the national competition in Jacksonville (see above story).

Dr. Jim Larson, coordinator of the annual event wants to thank all who participated in this year's Discussion Meet. The Discussion Meet is held every year during the spring semester.

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

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<http://casnr.tennessee.edu>

2007 Discussion Meet concludes

The 19th Annual Collegiate Discussion Meet was held on February 28. Congratulations to: **Aaron Crowgey**, (first), **Amy Greene**, (second), and **Erin C. Fitzgerald**, (third place). Aaron and Amy are students in Agricultural Economics and Business major. Erin is a student in Animal Science/Pre-Vet program.

The Discussion Meet is sponsored by the Tennessee Farm Bureau. Cash awards are given to top three finishes with \$300 for first, \$150 for second, and \$50 for third. Aaron will compete in the state contest with winners from Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech, Middle Tennessee State, and UT Martin

this summer at the Young Farmers & Ranchers Annual conference in Columbia, Tennessee.

Moderators for the Discussion Meet were **Mr. Ken Purser** and **Mr. Jim Bell**, both Farm Bureau Regional Field Service Directors. Mr. Purser is a 1993 graduate of the Department of Agricultural Economics, a UT winner and state winner of the Discussion Meet in 1992. Judges were **Dr. Emmit Rawls**, professor extension agricultural economics, **Mr. Charles Curtis**, Director of Special Programs for the Tennessee Farm Bureau, and **Christopher Hicks**, graduate

(Continued on page 3)

CASNR Scholarship and Awards Banquet

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

Hollingsworth Auditorium

5:45 p.m.

Confirm attendance

with Office of the Dean

125 Morgan Hall, 974-7303

by March 23