

**Welcome to the first issue of the Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science (BESS) newsletter. This newsletter was created with two goals in mind: a) provide a streamlined method for distributing internal departmental and UTIA notices and news to BESS faculty and staff, and b) serve as a tool to share news from the department with alumni and friends. We welcome your suggestions about how to improve the newsletter, and encourage your submissions.**

## Department Head's Comments:

As I wrap up the first 30 days as the new department head of BESS, I want to thank the BESS faculty and staff for easing my transition from the "east campus" here at UT, where I spent the last 25 years on the faculty of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Although I am a newcomer to BESS, my teaching and research background is in the area of soil mechanics, and I have had research collaborations with BESS faculty and staff and have served on several graduate committees in Biosystems Engineering over the years. I have much to learn about BESS and the UTIA, but I am grateful for the patience and enthusiasm shown to me since my arrival. I know I can speak for the entire department

when I thank George Grandle for his service as Interim Head, and I appreciate his continued help as I continue my "west campus" education.

---Eric Drumm



## STUDENT PROFILE



**Eric Caldwell** received his Master of Science in Biosystems Engineering Technology in May 2008, under the guidance of Brian Leib. His focus was on making crop irrigation more efficient, by

measuring how much moisture is available to plants in different soils. Research for the project has been done on Experiment Stations as well as private farms. Although his Massachusetts accent is unmistakable, Eric has felt at home and was pleased to find the warm hospitality of East Tennessee everywhere he went. He and his wife Erica are moving to Aiken, SC soon, and Eric would like to say a "Fond Farewell, and thanks for the patience and help everyone has given me."

## GOOD NEWS

**Dr. Larry Wadsworth**, Emeritus Professor, has received the **Lifetime Technical Achievement Award** for 2008 from INDA, the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry. This award will be presented during the annual INTC Conference, in Houston September 8-11, 2008.

**Jason Head's** essay has been selected as a winning graduate student submission for the **Future of Delta Cotton** award. The award includes a \$1,000 prize to use for continuing his education.

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Please submit news items to Darla O'Neill at [doneill1@utk.edu](mailto:doneill1@utk.edu). BESS NEWS is issued on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month. Archived issues will post to our [departmental website](http://departmental website). To subscribe (or unsubscribe), email [doneill1@utk.edu](mailto:doneill1@utk.edu)

Calendar – see page 2

## **B.E.S.S. Departmental Mission Statement:**

*“...To fulfill our unique land-grant responsibilities to our broad range of constituents by helping society anticipate and recognize opportunities and problems concerning biological, environmental, ecological, and agricultural systems; meeting those needs by discovering and developing innovative technologies, ways of using them, and the information to support them; and disseminating and encouraging the broadest possible use of the resulting knowledge, technologies, and information through educational and outreach programs.”*

## Calendar

	<u>Promotion and Tenure Workshops – Faculty/Department Heads:</u>
September 4	2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., University Center - Room 225
September 5	9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., University Center - Room 225
September 10	2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., University Center - Room 225
September 4	COE “Kick Off to Engineering Careers Success Day”
September 4	The UT Educational Advancement Program "Tutor Recruitment" 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. in International House – Great Room
September 12	CASNR Workshop “Teaching Strategies to Match Student Learning Styles” 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Hollingsworth Auditorium.
September 19	Professional Development and Research Awards deadline <a href="http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/ProfDeve/PDAMemo0809.pdf">http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/ProfDeve/PDAMemo0809.pdf</a>
September 16	COE Open Forum for Faculty and Staff – 307 SERF
October 1	Career Fair 2008 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Hollingsworth Auditorium
October 4	Varsity Visit
October 16	Engineer’s Day
October 18	Ag Day
October 22	BESS Faculty Meeting with Dr. Brown
November 7	Reception for Dr. Klindt; 10 a.m. – Noon, 156/157 Biotech
November 10	BESS Faculty Meeting; Retention meeting afterward
November 18	COE Faculty Meeting – 307 SERF
December 3	BESS Faculty Retreat; Tenure & Promotion meeting afterward
December 11	Retirement Reception for Dr. Goan
December 15	BESS Holiday Party – Hollingsworth Auditorium
April 17	BESS Awards Banquet – Hollingsworth Auditorium