

DEPARTMENT HEAD'S COMMENTS:

We continue to grow! The most recent enrollment figures (officially recorded as the enrollment on the 14th day of classes) have indicated that the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science continues to enjoy a growth in undergraduate enrollment (Figure). Tracking the enrollment since 2002 (the first year of data for the combined BsE & ESS programs), we see that the overall department enrollment has increased by over 190 percent, with growth of over 90 percent for the Biosystems Engineering program and powered by growth of over 430 percent for the Environmental and Soil Science program. ([continued here...](#))

Visit the BESS Booth!

Ag Day is October 18

An Ag Campus tradition, AG Day is a great time to visit with students, faculty, staff and alums. UT's mascot Smokey will be there as well as UT's famous insect petting zoo. Enjoy live music, antique tractors, face painting, and a moonwalk. Departments will have displays highlighting their activities. Free refreshments will be provided but the Student Cattlemen's Association will have sirloin steak sandwiches and hot dogs available to purchase as well.

When? 3 p.m.

Where? Chapman Drive between the Plant Biotechnology Building and Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science. Parking will be available around Morgan Hall on a limited, first-come, first-served basis.



STUDENT PROFILE



CONSTANCE MARIE HUGO is a Master's student in Environmental & Soil Science. She came here from South Africa to study Soils with Dr. Neal Eash. "I came here by suggestion of Brian Oldrieve of Zimbabwe, founder of Farming God's Way, to study under Dr. Eash. Brian is one of hundreds of people in Africa who are bringing the 'good news to the poor', literally!"

Conservation farming is a highly effective method for (subsistence) farmers in Africa that might help them not only feed their families, but even make a profit. The approach starts from the bottom and works it way upwards by its evident success. Orphans and widows are often the ones desperate enough to put these 'new' ideas to practice, and are now reaping the fruit and being shining examples for all to follow. Governments have started to implement these ideas after seeing its success."

Conservation farming is aimed at keeping as much nutrient-rich topsoil as possible from eroding away from the farmlands. Constance Marie is looking forward to returning to Africa, to live in villages and teach what she has learned here at UT. Most of Africa and Tennessee have similar challenges, as their soils are very easily eroded. The lessons learned here will serve her well.

**CLICK BELOW
 FOR IMPORTANT
 NEWS ON:**

instruction

extension

research

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students



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

BESS NEWS - INFO - CALENDAR

Fall 2008 Seminar Schedule

October 24	Vinay Mannam, Dusty Graham (Proposals)
October 31	Ryan Blair, Bryan McConkey (Proposals)
November 7	Rajesh Jena (Proposal), Robert Hull (Final)
November 14	Jessi Journey, Naga Potteti (Final Presentations)
November 21	Brian Chomicki, Josh Rowe (Final Presentations)

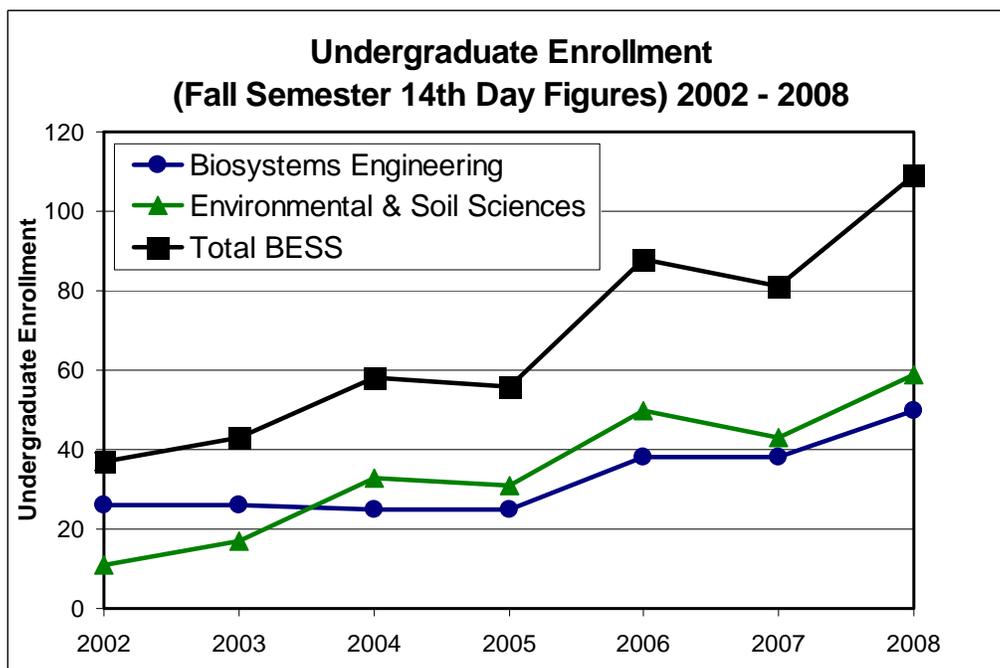
Faculty Meetings

October 22	BESS Faculty Meeting with Dr. Brown
November 10	BESS Faculty Meeting; CRIS/HATCH info; Retention meeting afterward
December 3	BESS Faculty Retreat; Tenure & Promotion meeting afterward

Continued from Front Page.....

Department Head's Comments:

While we have not been able to attribute this growth to a specific activity, it does reflect a conscious and extensive departmental focus on recruitment. Our faculty and staff continue to put out the message that we provide broad-based science and engineering programs of study, an emphasis of high quality teaching with a favorable student/faculty ratios, and outstanding employment opportunities upon graduation. Keep up the good work!



STUDENT INFO & CALENDAR

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERS (ASABE) is an organization spanning 100 countries and comprised of over 9000 agricultural, food, and biological engineers. Here on campus, however, ASABE is a much smaller, tight-knit community of Biosystems Engineering students. Being involved with ASABE on this campus gives you a chance to participate in community service, gain valuable leadership skills, and have a load of fun with fellow classmates.

Any student who has spent time in the student lounge, located in the BESS Lab building, or made a purchase from the ASABE snack shop, has seen the influence of UTK's ASABE chapter. What many students don't see is the variety of other things Biosystems undergraduates can gain by joining ASABE. ASABE is involved yearly with multiple community service experiences such as participating in the Ronald McDonald House and the Third Creek Clean-up. Because ASABE is a student-run organization, members get an up-close and personal view of the leadership skills involved when scheduling, organizing, and executing ASABE functions. Focus is also placed on furthering members' careers by inviting guest speakers from potential employers. Lastly, ASABE has not forgotten to include plenty of fun in our activities! Members of ASABE participate in fun events throughout the year such as the recent whitewater rafting trip or last year's cookout.

That, in a nutshell, is what ASABE does around campus. Biosystems undergraduates owe it to themselves to join ASABE and take advantage the many opportunities provided by the club. We always welcome support and new members, so please contact me at hduncan2@utk.edu for more information on the local ASABE chapter.

Submitted by Adam Duncan

ROWLAND JUNIOR FELLOWS PROGRAM (HARVARD):

"I have written to you before about the Rowland Junior Fellows program. Currently, we have nine Fellows, and a look at our website will show that they are a scientifically diverse group. This is to let you know about the sixth round of applications, which will be completed on November 30. The Rowland Junior Fellows are young experimentalists who have the opportunity to perform independent research under ideal conditions: a five year term, full salary, funding for start-up, operation, and apostdoc, help from technicians, and, best of all, full access to the Institute's shops and services. These Fellows are unusual people, with both good ideas and good hands. They are selected for their scientific achievement, their creativity, their resourcefulness as experimentalists and their ability to work independently. We are again soliciting applications in all the natural sciences and engineering, with special attention to interdisciplinary research and the development of new instrumental methods. We expect to take two more Fellows next year. Although we put no hard restriction on prior experience or career path, the program is aimed at fresh Ph.D's or postdocs with up to two years experience. The deadline for applications is **November 30**, 2008.

I hope that you will bring this exciting opportunity to the attention of promising students in your department and encourage them to apply. A brochure on the program is enclosed. In a few days, we will send you an e-mail with a PDF version of the brochure [here: http://www.rowland.harvard.edu/rjf/images/RJF_2009.pdf], convenient for distribution to your faculty and students and postdocs." [more info: <http://www.rowland.harvard.edu/index.php>]

Sincerely yours,

Frans Spaepen, Director

Franklin Professor of Applied Physics

EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT/MCNAIR PROGRAM:

Tutors are still needed for Biology 120 & 130, Physics 222 and Genetics 240. For more info contact: Jeffery L North Tutor Coordinator/Counselor, 201 Aconda Court, Knoxville, TN 37919, Office-865.974.7900, Email-jnorth2@utk.edu

FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY ABROAD

"If you are interested in locating funding opportunities for international research and professional activities, please take a look at our revised website: <http://ipanr.tennessee.edu/> On the left side of the page, click on funding. If you are part of the teaching faculty or have contact with students, on the right side of the homepage, we have posted information on CASNR's two study abroad programs for 2009 and also a direct link to the Center for International Education's webpage on scholarships for study abroad. I hope there is something here that serves your needs."

Sincerely,

Bob Orr

Dr. Robert H. Orr

Director of International Programs

Office of the Vice President

Institute of Agriculture

320 Morgan Hall

University of Tennessee

Knoxville, TN 37996-4516 USA

phone: 865-974-7476

fax: 865-974-7464

STUDENT INFO & CALENDAR

“Living Green” Freshman Seminar Class:

As part of Joanne Logan’s Freshman Seminar Class: Living Green, Let’s be eco-friendly, freshman took a tour of the Alcoa Wastewater Treatment Plant. Most of the students in the class grew up in homes on city sewage systems, and had no idea where the wastewater ended up. In this picture, students are learning about how the bacteria used to treat the water are removed.



CASNR INFO & CALENDAR

CASNR Presents "Mondays at the Movies" – Mondays, Sept 8 – Nov 17, noon, Room 157 Biotech.
<http://casnr.tennessee.edu/newsandevents/CASNRarticles/2008articles/08-08MondayMovies.html>

25th Annual World Food Day Teleconference

Choices for a Warm and Hungry Planet

The University of Tennessee will broadcast the World Food Day Teleconference live from Washington D.C. on **October 16**, 2008 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time in Hollingsworth Auditorium on the Ag Campus. The World Food Day teleconference is a three hour program of a panel presentation, documentary film, and question and answer session with panelists. The panel presentation will feature three panelists to discuss important issues related to world hunger and global warming, led by Ray Suarez, senior correspondent for PBS Jim Lehrer NewsHour.

Format of the teleconference will be as follows:

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Panel Presentation

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. PBS Documentary: Global Warming: The Signs and the Science

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Question and answer session with panelists

Featured Panelists:

Dr. Nancy Birdsall--Founder and President of the Center for Global Development

Dr. Siwa Msangi--International Food Policy Research Institute (Tanzania)

Mark Ritchie--Secretary of State of Minnesota

Topics to be addressed:

- Critical global issues that are impacted by climate change and global warming
- How and why the poor are especially affected
- Challenges and Choices for the academic community and civil society

For more information, contact Dr. Joanne Logan at Loganj@utk.edu

UT-K & COE INFO & CALENDAR

Chancellor's Professors Reception:

It is my pleasure to invite you to a reception honoring the inaugural class of the Chancellor's Professors. The reception will be held from 2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. on **Monday, Oct. 20** on the University Center Plaza or, in case of inclement weather, in the Executive Dining Room of the University Center.

We would appreciate any help you can give in encouraging those in your departments to attend this event.

The new Chancellor's Professor designation constitutes the highest permanent academic honor that can be accorded to a member of the faculty by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. It honors extraordinary achievements in research, teaching and service.

The first group of Chancellor's Professors includes: Hap McSween (Earth and Planetary Sciences), Charles Glisson (Children's Mental Health Services Center and College of Social Work), Sally Horn (Geography), Joy DeSensi (Exercise, Sport and Leisure Studies), Tom Mentzer (Department of Marketing, Logistics, and Transportation), George Pharr (Materials Science and Engineering) and Carol Tenopir (School of Information Sciences).

--Jan Simek, Interim Chancellor

Digital Commons demonstration:

The University Libraries invites you to a demonstration of *Digital Commons*, a digital archiving and publishing service developed by the Berkeley Electronic Press, on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 in 128 John C. Hodges Library from 1:30 to 3:00 pm.

Digital publishing services enhance international collaboration and global academic networks through electronic access to the work of our scholarly community. Many universities are building digital collections of papers, conference presentations, reports, images, performances and exhibitions, theses and dissertations, and other multi-media works. These collections increase the visibility of faculty scholarship and provide a platform to explore new forms of scholarship. Join us in exploring services that preserve and promote the expanding digital content produced by members of the UT community.

Engineer's Day: **October 16**, 2008

EXTENSION INFO & CALENDAR

GRANTSMANSHIP WORKING GROUP SESSION: To support grantsmanship efforts along with responding to new USDA CSREES programs including the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) and the recently released Specialty Crops Initiative, UTIA will sponsor a special working group session on **October 29, 2008** in Ellington Auditorium. Objectives of this session are to discuss these new programs, develop faculty groups and organization to facilitate proposal preparation and submission and to have presentations on successful grantsmanship. Detailed information will be sent soon, but we wanted for you to save the date of October 29 for this event which will be held in the Ellington Auditorium. The day will begin at 8:30 am and will end at approximately 4:00 pm. Discussion topics will cover the current information we have about the AFRI program, use of grants.gov, presentations from faculty who have received federal funding and have served on federal grant panels. Individual work groups will be formed surrounding the broad areas of the AFRI program and the Specialty Crops Initiative. Additional information on the AFRI program can be found at http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/reporting/stakeholder/an_stakeholder_afri.html Additional information on the Specialty Crop Initiative can be found at http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/specialty_crop.html The first RFA for the Specialty Crop Initiative can be found at the following. A second RFA is expected in January 2009 http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/08_specialty_crop.pdf .

2008 Regional and State Extension Specialist Faculty Conferences

Plans are underway for the 2008 Regional and State Extension Specialist Faculty Conferences. Again this year the Eastern Region and Knoxville State Extension Specialist Faculty will meet together on **Monday, November 3,** at Rothchild's Catering and Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM and conclude after the Association meetings which will begin around 2:15 PM. If unable to attend, please contact Brenda Voiles <bvoiles@utk.edu> so that we can have an accurate count for lunch. Please remember to wear your name tags to the conference. If you are needing a name tag, please contact Debby Bowers as soon as possible to get one ordered: <dbowers@utk.edu>. Please state the exact name that should appear on the name tag.

Agenda

9:00 AM Farewell Coffee for Dr. Charles Goan
9:20 AM Welcome/Regional Director
UT Extension Dean's Report/Tim Cross
9:40 AM TSU Cooperative Extension Administrator's Report/Clyde Chesney
10:00 AM Institute of Agriculture Update/Joe DiPietro
10:15 AM Break
10:30 AM Program Highlights:
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Resource Development
11:50 AM Greeting and Remarks/John Petersen
12:00 noon LUNCH
Introduction of New Staff and Retirees/Regional Director
1:15 PM Change Agent States for Workplace Diversity/Herb Byrd
(Survey Results and Next Steps) Thelma Sanders-Hunter
1:30 PM Update on Marketing and Communications/Lorna Norwood
1:45 PM Epsilon Sigma Phi Meeting
2:15 PM Association Meetings
TEAFCS
TAE4-HW
TAAA&S

TDA – Water Resources Program “Request for Proposals” FY 2009 319 Partners:

Deadline for submittal of proposals (and Watershed Based Plans, if required) is **December 1, 2008.**

Link to RFP: <http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/nps/319-RFPF.pdf>

([Click here](#) to read memo from Sam Marshall, Nonpoint Program Manager)

TAES INFO & CALENDAR

Export Control Workshop:

Date: Monday, **October 20**, 2008 Time: 10:00 am – 11:00 am Location: The Shiloh Room at the University Center

The Office of Research, in partnership with the College of Engineering, will host a workshop focusing on complying with U.S. export regulations. These regulations may affect research work in which you are involved, the security of research facilities, proper application of research activities, and upholding the laws of the country as it affects export control. The workshop will include information on how to handle a project that starts out as fundamental research, non-export control and changes to applied research with export restrictions. The workshop features two guest speakers, Special ICE Agent John Witsell and FBI Agent Beth O'Brien. Witsell is a special agent from the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) National Security Unit focusing on counter-terrorism and efforts to combat the counter proliferation of arms and strategic technologies. O'Brien is Special Agent of the FBI and is experienced in White Collar Crime and Computer investigations. She is currently assigned to intelligence operations. Both are experts in export control regulations.

GRANTSMANSHIP WORKING GROUP SESSION: To support grantsmanship efforts along with responding to new USDA CSREES programs including the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) and the recently released Specialty Crops Initiative, UTIA will sponsor a special working group session on **October 29**, 2008 in Ellington Auditorium. Objectives of this session are to discuss these new programs, develop faculty groups and organization to facilitate proposal preparation and submission and to have presentations on successful grantsmanship.

Detailed information will be sent soon, but we wanted for you to save the date of October 29 for this event which will be held in the Ellington Auditorium. The day will begin at 8:30 am and will end at approximately 4:00 pm. Discussion topics will cover the current information we have about the AFRI program, use of grants.gov, presentations from faculty who have received federal funding and have served on federal grant panels. Individual work groups will be formed surrounding the broad areas of the AFRI program and the Specialty Crops Initiative.

Additional information on the AFRI program can be found at

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/reporting/stakeholder/an_stakeholder_afri.html

Additional information on the Specialty Crop Initiative can be found at

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/specialty_crop.html

The first RFA for the Specialty Crop Initiative can be found at the following. A second RFA is expected in January 2009

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/08_specialty_crop.pdf .

Invitation to Join SERA38, an Information Exchange Committee on Bio-based Energy

SERA38 was recently formed. SERA38 stands for Southern Extension and Research Activities Committee #38 which is titled "Bio-based Energy Research and Information Exchange Committee." The committee has a multi-disciplinary focus encompassing extension and research. Currently the committee has 32 participants (16 from the southern region and 16 from other regions) and is open to individuals in any region. Additional participation by interested individuals is invited. Individuals may join the group through their Experiment Station or Extension Director's office.

SERA38 was formed to:

- A) Exchange information, strengthen partnerships, and facilitate the coordination of research and educational efforts relating to renewable and bio-based energy;
- B) Strengthen partnerships between extension and research professionals, industry partners, end users, government agencies, policy makers, and other effected parties.

Additional information about SERA38 can be found on the NIMSS (National Information Management and Support System) website (<http://nimss.umd.edu/>) and/or by contacting Dr. Phil Kenkel, co-chair of SERA38 by phone (405-744-9837) or email (phil.kenkel@okstate.edu)

continued next page

Invitation to join NC TEMP190: Your institution/agency/entity is invited to participate in a new or revised project/activity, NC_TEMP190. The following are directions for viewing the project proposal entitled "Increased Efficiency of Sheep Production" and for creating in Appendix E to authorize participation by your scientist(s) /specialist(s) in this proposed activity.

Please submit the Appendix E no later than 12/01/2009

To View the Proposal:

1. Go to the National Information Management Support System at <http://nimss.umd.edu>
2. Insert your login and password. (If you don't have a login ID, you'll need to register, also at the URL above.)
3. In the Top Menu, Select Project then Select View Projects
4. Enter the project number, NC_TEMP190

To Create and Submit an Appendix E for a Proposed Project:

1. Go to the National Information Management Support System at <http://nimss.umd.edu>
2. Insert your login and password. (If you don't have a login, you'll need to register, also at the above URL.)
3. In the Top Menu, Select Participants then Select Draft/Edit
4. On the Left side Menu, Select "Draft New"
5. Select the project number NC_TEMP190
6. Fill out the form.
7. Click on Submit.

Thank you. Please contact the Administrative Advisor(David S Buchanan) if you have questions about the proposed project.

Contact your System Administrator (in your Executive Director's office) if you have questions about the use of NIMSS.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

RFP: " Enhanced Movement and Release of Pesticides from Soil Surfaces to Crop Seed/Root Zones ."

I am contacting you to make you aware of NineSigma Request, RFP# 50788-1, " Enhanced Movement and Release of Pesticides from Soil Surfaces to Crop Seed/Root Zones ."

Our client, a **Diversified Global Chemicals Corporation** , invites proposals for **technologies that will enhance redistribution of pesticide compounds from the soil surface into the root zone of emerging crop** . NineSigma has identified you as a party with the potential to respond to this request, or as a contact who might know of someone with expertise in this area.

This invitation is not a complete description of the project. More information is available in the Request for Proposal (RFP) document online at <http://www.ninesigma.com/mx/50788-1>. The final submission date for Proposal Briefs is **October 24, 2008** .

If after reviewing the full RFP document you are interested in submitting a proposal or would like more information, please contact me by email and reference **RFP# 50788-1** in the subject line.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Roe, Ph.D.

Program Manager

NineSigma, Inc.

23611 Chagrin Blvd., Ste. 320

Cleveland, Ohio 44122-5540

PhD@ninesigma.com

To receive our newsletter that includes all active projects, register online at

http://www.ninesigma.com/registration_form

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REMINDERS -- FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Tobacco Education and Research Council, Inc. (TERC)

TERC has an availability of approximately \$800,000 in funds to support tobacco research, education and extension projects that provide support and benefit to the largest number of Flue-cured and Burley tobacco growers in the following areas: improved leaf quality; improved competitiveness in a global market; reduction of tobacco specific nitrosamines and/or suspected harmful substances in tobacco leaf. Proposals from faculty with tobacco responsibilities at all seven land-grant universities with tobacco research programs will be accepted. The North Carolina Tobacco Foundation, Inc. (NCTF) at NC State University has agreed to assist with the TERC application and proposal process. If your organization is interested in submitting an application, please use the attached guidelines and application or visit <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/advancement/terc.htm>. Applications are in MS Word format and can be typed on, then printed for copying and submission. Please note that applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, **October 24**, 2008 and that funds will be available beginning on January 1, 2009. Please contact Kathy Kennel, Executive Director, NCTF, at 919-515-9262 if you have any questions. Kathy Kennel, NC Tobacco Foundation, Inc., College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NC State University, Box 7645, Raleigh NC 27695-7645, 512 Brickhaven, Raleigh NC 27606
Phone: (919) 515-9259 Fax: (919) 515-5274 Email: kathy_kennel@ncsu.edu

UTRF MATURATION FUNDING PROGRAM

UTRF announces the second annual UTRF Maturation Funding Program to help UT researchers further develop technologies that have the potential for commercial success. Up to \$15,000 (direct costs) will be awarded to the highest ranking proposals.

Rules:

- *Open to all UT researchers (faculty, staff and students) at all campuses and institutes.
- *Projects must be related to an existing UT invention/creation disclosure **OR** a proposal can be accompanied by a *new* UT invention/creation disclosure.
- *Projects should provide new data or further demonstrate the technology to increase its commercial readiness.
- *Funds should be directed to labor, materials and services necessary to achieve the proposed deliverable(s).
- *Proposal should not exceed 3 pages and should describe the technology, the plan of work, the expected results, a budget (direct expenses only), and your assessment of the commercial opportunities for the technology.

Judging Criteria:

- *Demonstration of a path for commercial development; *Market potential; *Stage of development

Deadlines and Schedule:

Deadline for proposal submission:	November 21 , 2008
Awards announced:	December 19, 2008
Project start date:	January 15, 2009
Project completion date:	October 15, 2009
Final report to UTRF:	November 16, 2009

For more information on the deliverables, rules and judging criteria, view the document posted at <http://utf.tennessee.edu> or contact: Memphis: Dr. Richard Magid, (901) 448-1562; rmagid1@utmem.edu

TDA – WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM “REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS” FY 2009 319 PARTNERS:

Deadline for submittal of proposals (and Watershed Based Plans, if required) is **December 1**, 2008.

Link to RFP: <http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/nps/319-RFPF.pdf>

There are several changes in this year’s RFP, so please read it over carefully before writing your proposal.

TDA anticipates receiving approximately \$3.1 million from EPA in FY 2009 and will disperse that money across the state by funding projects aimed at abating nonpoint source pollution. *Please keep in mind that the number one goal of this program is to remove streams from the 303(d) list.* When allocating money, highest priority will be given to projects that have that as a primary goal. It is also important to point out that all projects that receive funds for BMP implementation must have a Watershed Based Plan developed for the area in which the project will be done. This year’s RFP attempts to provide a brief format to follow in order to quickly write a complete Watershed Based Plan. We no longer fund projects with the sole purpose of writing a Watershed Based Plan. These plans should now be written following the format in the RFP and submitted along with the proposal for implementation projects. The deadline for the submittal of proposals (and Watershed Based Plans, if required) is December 1, 2008. Proposals may be submitted as hardcopies, but e-mail submissions are much preferred. If you have any questions about Watershed Based Plans or the process of submitting proposals, please contact Sam Marshall, sam.marshall@state.tn.us. Ellington Agricultural Center, 440 Hogan Road, Nashville, TN 37220

Telephone: 615-837-5306 Fax: 615-837-5025

Call for Proposals for the Advancing Sustainable Agriculture Matching Planning Grants

Southern SARE invites planning grants from states seeking to build long-term capacity for sustainable agriculture. In anticipation of Congressional Authority to appropriate greatly increased funding for SARE that can include matching grants of up to \$1 million, Southern SARE’s planning grants will offer states the opportunity to lay the ground work for applying for those matching grants. Proposals for the Advancing Sustainable Agriculture Matching Planning Grants are due Monday, **December 1**, 2008. Obtain the call for proposals at <http://www.southernsare.uga.edu>

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REMINDERS -- FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

6th Annual P3 Awards:

A National Student Design Competition for Sustainability Focusing on People, Prosperity and the Planet

URL: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2009/2009_p3.html Open Date: 09/22/2008 - Close Date: **12/23/2008**

Summary: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of the P3 Award Program, is seeking applications proposing to research, develop, and design solutions to real world challenges involving the overall sustainability of human society. The P3 competition highlights the use of scientific principles in creating innovative projects focused on sustainability. The P3 Awards program was developed to foster progress toward sustainability by achieving the mutual goals of economic prosperity, protection of the planet, and improved quality of life for its people - people, prosperity, and the planet - the three pillars of sustainability. The EPA offers the P3 competition in order to respond to the technical needs of the world while moving towards the goal of sustainability. Please see the P3 website (<http://www.epa.gov/P3>) for more details about this program.

Recognition Reception

Please join us in honoring Dr. Thomas H. Klindt for the leadership he has provided as
Interim Dean to the
Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station

Friday, November 7, 2008

10 am to 12 pm

Rooms 156/157 Plant Biotechnology Bldg

Brunch will be served



UTIA INFO & CALENDAR

State of the Institute Address

Friday, **October 17**, Hollingsworth Auditorium, 11:00 a.m. EST
You are invited to attend Dr. DiPietro's State of the Institute Address.
This event will be webcast here:

<http://mediabeast.ites.utk.edu/mediasite4/Viewer/?peid=14dad9fcb20d4a4eb47c2f220047aa24>

(Note: link not active until Oct 17; 11 a.m.)

Make Plans Now for Ag Day 2008

Saturday, **Oct. 18** <http://agriculture.tennessee.edu/news/releases/2008/0808AgDay.html>

A CUP OF JOE...WITH JOE!

All Faculty-Staff-Students: Please join Dr. Joe DiPietro for coffee & conversation
Tuesday, **October 28**, drop in between 3 – 4 p.m., Hollingsworth Auditorium, Ellington Plant Science Bldg.
"Bring your favorite coffee cup or mug...we'll provide the coffee..."

Faculty Development Leave

Deadline is **November 1** for receipt in Provost Office. Allow time to route by Department Head and Dean for approvals. Policy at <http://provost.utk.edu/development/>
Forms at <http://provost.utk.edu/docs/facultyleave/facdevleavecontract.pdf>

Public Records Requests

Dear Employee,

Portions of the Tennessee Public Records Act were amended in the recent legislative session. Below is the procedure that all UT employees should follow when they receive public records requests.

"The University of Tennessee is committed to principles of open and participatory government. Accordingly, the university has formulated guidelines designed to uniformly facilitate reasonably prompt and efficient responses to requests for public records under the Tennessee Public Records Act. A public record is broadly defined as a record made or received pursuant to law or in connection with the transaction of official business of the university, regardless of physical form and specifically including electronic records. UTIA Employees should refer all requests to view or copy university records to **Lorna Norwood, Director, Marketing and Communications, 865-974-7141 or lorna@tennessee.edu**. That office will analyze the records request and work with the appropriate records custodians to promptly and efficiently respond to the request. Consistent with the university's guidelines, Human Resources will continue to respond to requests for personnel files, and the Purchasing Office will continue to respond to requests made by bidders or prospective bidders."

ADA Amendments Act of 2008:

On Thursday, September 25, 2008, President George W. Bush signed into law: S.3406, the "ADA Amendments Act of 2008." The amendment clarifies and broadens the definition of disability and expands the population eligible for protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The amendments made by this act become effective on January 1, 2009.

Please review this ADA Act of 1990 and the 2008 Amendment with your co-workers. In addition, Regional Directors should distribute to County Directors with instructions to discuss with county staff and to include a printed copy in the county Civil Rights file with other ADA materials. The ADA Amendments Act of 2008 is also available on the Extension Evaluation and Staff Development web site under "Administrative Resources" Civil Rights Documents for County Files.

For Extension programming, "Reasonable Accommodation," public notification relative to accessibility of programs, and providing alternative delivery methods of educational information where needed will continue to be our practice. On the employment side, we will continue to consider the essential functions of positions and evaluate whether the job requirements can be performed by a qualified applicant with or without accommodation.