Position Announcement
Professor and Head, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology

The University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture is seeking applications and nominations for the position of Professor and Head of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology. This is a 12-month, tenured position, located in Knoxville, TN.

The Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology is a multidisciplinary department with diverse and vibrant research, extension, teaching and outreach programs. We take a comprehensive molecular to ecosystem approach to the study and management of arthropods, nematodes, and microbes affecting agroecosystems, humans and their structures, animals and wildlife, urban landscapes, and forests. The department offers two graduate programs: Master of Science (thesis required) with concentrations in entomology, plant pathology, or bioinformatics and genomics; and a Doctor of Philosophy with concentrations in biodiversity and ecosystem resilience; bioinformatics, genomics, and molecular interactions; organismal biology and ecology; and sustainable disease and integrated pest management systems. We also offer undergraduate and graduate minors.

The department supports the undergraduate teaching programs of the Departments of Animal Science, Plant Sciences, and Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries. Encouraging undergraduate participation in research, creative achievement, and real-world experience is a departmental strength. College-based undergraduate research and honors programs are housed in the department.

Teaching, research, extension and outreach activities are accomplished by 22 tenured/tenure-track faculty, five non-tenure track faculty, and 25 professional, support, and administrative staff on the Knoxville campus as well as at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson, and the Soil, Plant and Pest Center in Nashville. Approximately 32 graduate students are enrolled in the department’s MS and PhD programs. Additional information about the department is available at https://ag.tennessee.edu/epp and more information on the Knoxville area can be found at http://knoxvilletn.gov.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Department Head’s responsibilities include leadership of all departmental programs and administrative responsibility for planning, fiscal management, human resources, and facilities. The Department Head reports to and works with the Deans of UT AgResearch, UT Extension, and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources to accomplish departmental goals and objectives. The Head guides the Department in its mission to deliver nationally and internationally recognized programs in teaching, research, extension, and outreach. The Head articulates and promotes the Department’s vision to provide high quality, relevant education and training for undergraduate and graduate students that emphasizes value creation, original ideas, and leadership.
The successful candidate is expected to:

- Lead education, research, extension, and outreach activities in the Department with fairness and integrity;
- Effectively represent and advocate for the Department to internal and external constituencies (including alumni, agricultural industries, state and federal agencies, and professional organizations), and the administration within the university;
- Recruit, motivate and support faculty, staff, and students through active engagement, mentoring, and professional development programs;
- Exercise fiscal responsibility and transparency with departmental finances;
- Develop and implement a dynamic, progressive, and strategic vision for excellence and expansion for all departmental programs, in collaboration with faculty;
- Adhere to university policies and bylaws, and respect and value faculty governance;
- Foster an environment of collegiality, teamwork, diversity and respect for multicultural and multi-disciplinary settings;
- Interact with faculty, students, and stakeholders to determine direction and priorities;
- Enhance cooperation and collaboration with other departments, colleges, and universities;
- Cultivate externally sponsored opportunities to support our programs, including fundraising and establishment of endowments; and
- Promote a culture of inclusivity, civility, and community; and expand diversity in the Department and in the university community.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate must qualify for the rank of Professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology and have earned a doctorate in Entomology, Plant Pathology, or related field (interdisciplinary training or appreciation desirable).

In addition, the candidate must demonstrate the following:

- An understanding of and commitment to excellence in the three missions of a land grant university;
- A record of outstanding professional accomplishments, including team building skills;
- Effective communication, consensus building, interpersonal and leadership skills;
- Excellence in at least two of the following: (1) research or scholarly activity; (2) teaching; (3) extension, service, or outreach; (4) academic or administrative leadership;
- Appreciation for the disciplinary breadth of the department; and
- Demonstrated knowledge of inclusivity, civility, and diversity and commitment to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

We seek a collegial leader with the following qualifications:

- Experience in and a willingness to engage in assessing priorities, strategic planning and implementation, and adapting to change in a multidisciplinary environment;
• Skills in effective management of personnel and a desire to encourage productive teamwork;
• Demonstrated fiscal and resource management skills, and a commitment to financial transparency;
• International reputation in specialty area, successful grantsmanship at regional and national levels, active involvement in appropriate scientific societies; and
• Evidence of positive group leadership at the department level and/or in multi-investigator projects.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Compensation is competitive and will be based on education, experience, and qualifications. UT offers a comprehensive benefits package to all regular employees, including health and dental insurance, life insurance and multiple retirement plans.

NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

The Search Committee will review and continue to receive applications until an appointment is made. Nominations of qualified individuals are sought and should be sent via electronic means to the Chair of the Search committee at the address shown below. Prospective candidates from underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged.

Applications will be reviewed beginning November 30, 2015, but will be accepted indefinitely until the position is filled. Applications should include: (1) a letter of application summarizing the applicant’s qualifications and vision of departmental leadership; (2) a complete curriculum vitae; and (3) names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of at least five professional references that the Search Committee may contact.

Application materials should be submitted electronically as attachments to: Kim Campbell (kcamp@tennessee.edu).

Nominations and other inquiries should be addressed to:

Dr. Keith L. Belli, Search Committee Chair
Professor and Head
Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries
425 Plant Biotechnology Building
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-4563
Phone: (865) 974-7989
Email: kbelli@utk.edu

All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admissions without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status. Eligibility and other terms and conditions of employment benefits at The University of Tennessee are governed by laws and regulations of the State of Tennessee, and this non-discrimination statement is intended to be consistent with those laws and regulations. In accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The University of Tennessee affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and this policy extends to employment by the University. Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, and national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), ADA (disability), Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, telephone (865) 974-2498. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Equity and Diversity.