The University of Tennessee
Institute of Agriculture

Awards and Promotions Luncheon

August 1, 2014
Program

Invocation

Introductions

Recognition of Recipients of Promotion and Tenure

Presentation of Awards

Closing Remarks

Announcements
Promotions and Tenure

From County Extension Agent I to County Extension Agent II

Keith Bridges – Hamilton County
Meagen Y. Brown – Meigs County
Elizabeth K. Elizondo – Washington County
Connie R. Greiner – Campbell County
Brenda L. Hannah – Moore County
Elizabeth D. Hobbs – Hamblen County
Sherri C. Morris – Fayette County
James C. Rains – Bledsoe County
Anthony M. Shelton – Washington County

From Extension Agent I/County Director to Extension Agent II/County Director

Shannon L. DeWitt – Union County
Melissa R. LaGraff – Jefferson County

From Extension Agent II to Extension Agent III

David L. Bussell – White County
Margie K. Hudson – Lawrence County
Linda S. Hyder – Sevier County
Sarah M. Kite – McMinn County
Karen M. Nelms – Grainger County
Jerri Lynn Sims – Humphreys County
David S. Vandergriff – Knox County
From Extension Agent II/County Director to Extension Agent III/County Director

B. Anthony Carver – Grainger County
Rebecca C. Muller – Tipton County
A. Ty Petty – Unicoi County
Jeremy H. West – Scott County

From Extension Area Specialist II to Extension Area Specialist III

J. Carol Reese – Western Region
Lena Beth Reynolds – McMinn County
Joetta T. White – Gibson County

From Extension Specialist I to Extension Specialist II

Justin E. Crowe – 4-H Youth Development
Karen L. Franck – Family and Consumer Sciences

From Extension Specialist II to Extension Specialist III

Michelle L. Vineyard – Family and Consumer Sciences
Promotion to Senior Lecturer

Andrew J. Pulte – Plant Sciences

Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure

Bente Flatland – Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences
Brandon J. Horvath – Plant Sciences
Bridgett J. McIntosh – Animal Science
Marcy J. Souza – Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences
Brian K. Whitlock – Large Animal Clinical Sciences
Xinhua ‘Frank’ Yin – Plant Sciences

Promotion to Clinical Professor

Linden E. Craig – Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences
George A. Henry – Small Animal Clinical Sciences
Dianne I. Mawby – Small Animal Clinical Sciences

Promotion to Professor

Ann A. Berry – Family and Consumer Sciences
Neal S. Eash – Biosystems and Soil Science
Matthew J. Gray – Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries
Jun Lin – Animal Science
Federica Morandi – Small Animal Clinical Sciences
Carrie A. Stephens – Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications
Qixin Zhong – Food Science and Technology

Professor with Tenure

David E. Anderson – Large Animal Clinical Sciences
2014 Awards

The Charles and Julie Wharton Award for Outstanding Extension Achievements

This award is presented to three UT Extension agents annually. These agents may conduct programs in any area, including agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and resource development. Special consideration is given to those individuals who have demonstrated excellence in serving local needs for five years or more.

A. Ty Petty
Extension Agent III and County Director
Unicoi County

Martha M. Pile
Extension Agent III
Montgomery County

Steve E. Walker
Extension Agent III and County Director
Macon County
J.E. Moss Achievement Awards

Established in memory of J.E. and Ann Moss, this award recognizes excellent achievement in teaching, research and Extension for the Institute of Agriculture. Awards are provided each year for each of the four units of the Institute of Agriculture. They are selected by a committee of the chancellor, and the four deans of the Institute.

F. Lee Ellis
Research Associate I
East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center

Janet B. Jones
Clinical Director
Small Animal Clinical Sciences

Jennifer K. Richards
Research Assistant Professor
Food Science and Technology

Annette L. Wszelaki
Associate Professor
Plant Sciences

G.L. Carter Jr. Outstanding 4-H Youth Development Agent Award

This award was established by Dr. G.L. Carter Jr., whose Extension career began in 1949 in Greene County where he
served as a 4-H agent. He was also a Hamblen County 4-H member. Dr. Carter was the first in his family to graduate from college, later earning an M.S. and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. His 44-year career included working as the youth editor of a farm and ranch magazine; serving as a state 4-H staff member in both Tennessee and North Carolina; and helping to create the Journal of Extension, a professional publication for Extension agents and specialists. Dr. Carter has provided the funding through an endowment to recognize an Outstanding 4-H Youth Development Agent.

Melissa A. Henry
Extension Agent III
Putnam County

Alice Ann Moore Outstanding 4-H Agent Award

This award was established by Alice Ann Moore, former director of UT Extension 4-H Youth Development programs, who, for over 30 years, has provided exemplary service to the University of Tennessee in many capacities. She herself was a 4-H member in Crockett County. Under her leadership, Tennessee 4-H developed a life skills evaluation system that is nationally recognized as a groundbreaking scientific means of providing feedback on the effectiveness of 4-H youth education programs. She is also an honorary life member of the Tennessee 4-H Foundation.

Kenneth M. Herndon
Extension Agent III
Carroll County
Vernon and Ida Darter Award

Named for the late Extension Dean Emeritus Vernon W. Darter and his wife, the late Ida Darter, this award recognizes excellence among the ranks of Associate Extension Agents.

Shelly N. Barnes
Extension Agent II
Wilson County

The Lloyd and Nettie Downen Endowment Fund Leadership Enhancement Award

Established by Dr. and Mrs. M. Lloyd Downen, dean emeritus of the Agricultural Extension Service, this award recognizes Extension faculty members who serve in leadership roles across the state.

Jeffery D. Via
Extension Agent III and County Director
Fayette County
TAAA&S-Hicks Awards of Excellence

Established by the Tennessee Association of Agricultural Agents and Specialists and other endowment funds, this award is presented annually to up to three agricultural Extension faculty who are also members of TAAA&S.

**Rebecca C. Muller**  
Extension Agent III and County Director  
Tipton County

**Lena Beth Reynolds**  
Extension Area Specialist III  
McMinn County

**Jeffery D. Via**  
Extension Agent III and County Director  
Fayette County

Professional/Academic Award for Outstanding Service

Provided by the Institute of Agriculture administration, this award is given to a recipient among the professional and other academic employees who has contributed most to the attainment of the objectives of the Institute of Agriculture.

**J. Missy Kitts**  
Financial Specialist I  
Extension Administration
William D. Bishop
Outstanding Service Award

Presented in memory of Dean Emeritus William D. Bishop, this award recognizes a member of the field force of University of Tennessee Extension who has contributed most to the attainment of Extension objectives.

A. Ruth Correll
Extension Agent II and County Director
Wilson County

Williams – E.R. “Prof” Lidvall
Outstanding Teaching Award

Established by Mr. Donald E. Williams, a 1961 graduate of the College of Agriculture, this award honors his former professor and mentor, Professor E.R. “Prof.” Lidvall. The award recognizes faculty who exemplify Prof. Lidvall’s commitment to excellence in the classroom and his commitment to the needs and interests of the student.

Svetlana Zivanovic
Professor
Food Science and Technology
Webster Pendergrass Outstanding Service Award

This award is presented in memory of former Vice President for Agriculture Webster Pendergrass and recognizes a teaching, research or Extension faculty member who has contributed most to the fulfillment of the Institute’s goals and objectives.

**Michael O. Smith**
Professor
Animal Science

Mildred Pendergrass Award for Outstanding Service

This award, presented in memory of Mildred Pendergrass, wife of the former Vice President for Agriculture Webster Pendergrass, is given to employees among the technical, skill and service staff of the Institute.

**Darol H. Copley**
Agricultural Service Supervisor II
Milan AgResearch and Education Center
T.J. Whatley Distinguished Young Scientist Award

Established by Dr. Thomas Whatley, associate dean emeritus of the Agricultural Experiment Station, this award recognizes a young scientist who has less than 12 years of professional experience, with a minimum of five years of service on the agricultural faculty.

James T. Brosnan
Associate Professor
Plant Sciences

AgResearch Impact Award

This award is presented to an AgResearch faculty or professional staff member whose efforts have had a profound effect on improving the efficiency, sustainability and/or economic viability of the food and fiber industry of rural areas of Tennessee.

Patrick D. Keyser
Professor
Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries
William T. Miles, M.D. Memorial Award for Community Service

Named for William T. Miles, a respected medical doctor, this award was established by his son, the late Curtis W. Miles, a long-time devotee of the Field Trials at the Ames Plantation in Grand Junction, Tennessee. In accordance with the younger Miles’ life philosophy, “Treat people like you want to be treated,” the award is intended to recognize significant contributions and service to the Knoxville community.

Bonnie H. Ownley
Professor
Entomology and Plant Pathology

E.J. Chapman Outstanding Service Award

Established by the late E.J. Chapman, who served the university in a wide range of capacities from agronomist to assistant vice president for agriculture, this award recognizes a member of the supporting staff of the teaching, research or Extension divisions.

Rebecca L. Greene
Accounting Specialist III
Small Animal Clinical Sciences
Cavender Outstanding Award for Best Publication

Established by Dutch Cavender, former director of communications, and his wife, Marilee, this award recognizes excellence in the development of published material produced by professionals in the Institute of Agriculture. This year, we recognize two publications. These co-winners were chosen from peer-reviewed publications produced by units of UTIA.

“PB 1810 Identifying Hickory and Walnut Trees Native to Tennessee Using Brief Recognizable Features (BRFs)”

Senior Author:
David C. Mercker
Extension Specialist II
West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center

Secondary Authors:
David S. Buckley
Professor
Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries

Karen Kuers
Professor
University of the South

Brien M. Ostby
Research Associate I
Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries
“PB 1806 Sales Tax in Tennessee on the Purchase and Sale of Farm Products”

W. Hal Pepper
Extension Specialist II
Center for Profitable Agriculture

Gamma Sigma Delta Institute of Agriculture Team Award

This award will be given annually to each member of a team of two or more faculty who have made an outstanding contribution to research, teaching, and/or Extension, either directly or indirectly related to agriculture and related disciplines. Gamma Sigma Delta members are responsible for the promotion, evaluation and selection of the award. A monetary supplement is provided by the Institute of Agriculture and is divided equally among the team members. Membership in Gamma Sigma Delta is not required for nomination. This year’s winning team is the Tennessee Quality Milk Laboratory.

Raul A. Almeida
Oudessa K. Dego
Barbara E. Gillespie
Susan I. Headrick
Stephen P. Oliver
B. Ray Thompson Sr. Outstanding Faculty Performance Award

This award is made possible by earnings from the Thompson Faculty Endowment and is presented annually to faculty in the Institute who have distinguished themselves by their exceptional performance. This award rotates among the four divisions within the Institute of Agriculture.

Alvin R. Womac
Professor
Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science

UTIA “Institute Professor”

The title of Institute Professor may be awarded to a faculty member who has served at the rank of professor for a period of at least seven years, in recognition of consistent outstanding performance over this period. This performance is evidenced by excellence in teaching, research, extension, or clinical practice, and in the case of faculty members holding joint appointments, would be expected to reflect the distribution of the appointment. Leadership and reputation through service at the national and/or international levels within the faculty member’s scientific discipline is also expected.