2015 Awards

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.

Christopher M. Cooper
Extension Agent II
Shelby 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.

J. Michael Stanley
IT Administrator III
UTIA Information Technology Services
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.

Emily K. Osterhaus
Extension Agent III
Bedford 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.

**Camille M. Jessee**  
Extension Agent III  
Carter County

**TAAA&S-Hicks Award 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.

**Michael E. Barry**  
Extension Agent III and County Director  
Davidson County

**Jeffrey Lannom**  
Extension Agent III and County Director  
Weakley County

**Jeremy H. West**  
Extension Agent III and County Director  
Scott County
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.

Linda S. Hyder
Extension Agent III
Sevier County

Creig C. Kimbro
Extension Agent III and County Director
Grundy County

Timothy R. Smith
Extension Agent III and County Director
Obion County
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.

Mitchell C. Beaty
Extension Area Specialist III
Extension Eastern Region Office
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.

“SP 766 Creating Signage that Sells: Guidance for Specialty Crop Growers Marketing Direct to Consumers”

Megan Bruch Leffew
Extension Specialist II
UT Center for Profitable Agriculture

“PB 1821 A General Guide to Marketing Live Animals for Custom Harvesting and Processing”

Senior Author:
Robert W. Holland
Extension Specialist III and Director
UT Center for Profitable Agriculture

Secondary Author:
Megan Bruch Leffew
Extension Specialist II
UT Center for Profitable Agriculture
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.

Joanne Logan
Associate Professor
Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science

Justin D. Rhinehart
Assistant Professor
Animal Science

David S. Stone
Financial Specialist II
AgResearch Administration

Ann R. Viera
Associate Professor
Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Library
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.

Tressie D. Brown-Nuchols
Administrative Support Assistant II
Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences

William T. Miles, M.D. Memorial Award for Community Service

Named for William T. Miles, and respected medical doctor, this award was established by his son, the late Curtis W. Miles, a longtime 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.

Sarel R. Van Amstel
Professor
Large Animal Clinical Sciences
Gamma Sigma Delta Institute of Agriculture Team Award

This award will be given annually to the 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

CVM Feral Fixin’ Team

Amanda D. Dykstra-Wessel  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Small Animal Clinical Sciences

Teresa L. Fisher  
Program Administrator  
Biomedical and Diagnostic Services

Zenithson Y. Ng  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Small Animal Clinical Services

Jaime L. Norris  
Administrative Specialist II  
Biomedical and Diagnostic Services
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.

Karen M. Tobias
Professor
Small Animal Clinical Sciences

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.

Lori D. Osburn
Manager – Greenhouse Management
AgResearch Administration
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.

Roland K. Roberts
Professor
Agricultural and Resource Economics

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.

Sujata Agarwal
Research Associate II
Plant Sciences
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.

Arnold M. Saxton
Professor
Animal Science

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 of and interests of the student.

David A. Golden
Professor
Food Science and Technology
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.

David M. Butler
Assistant Professor
Plant Sciences

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 or international levels within the faculty member’s scientific discipline is also expected.

Robert N. Trigiano
Professor
Entomology and Plant Pathology