



AGFACS LINK

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SCIENCES

Summer 2011

Linking the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences
with its Alumni and Friends



School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37209



August 15, 2011

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Things in the world of Big Blue are moving rapidly and positively. We have a dynamic interim President, Dr. Portia Shields (read about her in this issue) who took charge of the University at the beginning of the year and has made a big impact on the future of this great university, and also on our favorite School, the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences!!!

A Task Force Report on Academic Program Prioritization (read about this in this issue) that was submitted to President Johnson has been implemented with additional refinements by the new president. With the exception of Early Childhood Education, the academic programs in the School fared well in this prioritization proposal. I am thankful to School's faculty and staff for making this possible and certainly thank our students for choosing to study with us. Another part of this academic program prioritization includes restructuring the University's academic and research units under which our school will become a college. We will talk about these changes in the next issue of this newsletter. However, in this issue, I want to highlight the progress the School has made in the last three years during my tenure as the Dean.

When I came to Tennessee State University in 2008, the research, extension and teaching programs of the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences were operating in isolation and administered by three separate units. Research faculty were housed in the Institute of Agriculture and Environmental Research and were headed by a Dean and Director of Research. Extension faculty and county agents were grouped under the Cooperative Extension Program and were supervised by an Administrator of Extension. Academic programs were under the direction of an interim Dean. Cooperation among these three programs and their personnel was minimal. Student enrollment had been declining steadily for some time. A few research scientists taught classes but were not eligible for appointment to Graduate Faculty status. State support for agriculture was the minimum required by law.

During the last three years, we have successfully integrated the research, extension and teaching components of the School. Most of the faculty now teach and either conduct research or participate in outreach activities. We have seen tremendous growth in areas such as student enrollment, external funding, and stakeholder contacts, (see highlights of progress, 2008-2011, Pages 20-23) through synergies in research, teaching and outreach. However, the most important occurrence is a cultural change: slowly dissolving walls of separation among faculty and instilling pride among faculty, staff and students to belong to agriculture!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chandra Reddy', written in a cursive style.

Chandra Reddy, Ph.D.

Dean and Director of Research/Administrator of Extension



Over 200 nursery professionals attended the day-long event that featured facility tours, commercial exhibits and educational seminars presented by university faculty and nursery industry professionals.

2010 Tennessee Green Industry Field Day

The 2010 Tennessee Green Industry Field Day was held Tuesday August 10th, 2010 at the Tennessee State University Otis L. Floyd Nursery Research Center in McMinnville, Tennessee.

This event was sponsored by the TSU School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences and the Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association. Over 200 nursery professionals attended the day-long event that featured facility tours, commercial exhibits and educational seminars presented by university faculty and nursery industry professionals. All presentations, tours, and exhibits were designed to target grounds maintenance professionals, nursery and greenhouse producers and other professionals associated with the Tennessee green industry.

Educational sessions included:

- Research to improve management of borers in Tennessee nurseries, Dr. Jason Oliver and Dr. Samuel Ochieng
- Plant Regulatory Update: What landscapers, nursery growers, and garden centers need to know about quarantined and regulated items, Mr. Gray Haun, Tennessee Department of Agriculture
- New trends in landscape sustainable design, Dr. George Smith, Tennessee State University
- Weed control in turf and ornamentals, Dr. Greg Armel, University of Tennessee
- A fresh look at micro and macro nutrient requirements of trees, Dr. Douglass Airhart, Tennessee Technological University
- Nursery and landscape pond best management practices, Mr. Creig Kimbro, University of Tennessee

New developments in crop insurance for nursery producers, USDA Risk Management Agency

Of special interest to nursery producers was a demonstration area that explained the correct application methods for imported fire ant quarantine treatments in nursery stock and a demonstration of a greenhouse plastic recycling program for Middle Tennessee. Nursery Research Center laboratories were open for tours and tours of field research areas were held.



School Of Agriculture And Consumer Sciences Hosts Poinsettia Open House



Sarabjit Bhatti, a research associate in Ag. Sciences, is in charge of the poinsettia operation with guidance from Dr. Roger Sauve, Professor of Plant Pathology. This year, Chad Rowland, a graduate student, assisted with the project and gained first-hand experience in growing poinsettias.

The school held its 8th annual Poinsettia Open House on December 17, 2010 at the Main Campus Agricultural Research and Education Center. The purpose of the event is to allow the general public, along with growers, marketers and retailers, the opportunity to see how a select group of new poinsettia releases perform under Middle Tennessee conditions. This year, 32 poinsettia cultivars, provided by Ecke and Dummen were showcased.

Each year the event, which has become an annual tradition at the school, attracts between 200-300 visitors from the university community

as well as the general public. This year we had a total of 210 attendees, over 80 of them came from Metro Nashville and the surrounding counties. Visitors not only saw the beautiful flowers on display, but each person who visited was given a plant upon completing a personal preference survey. The survey is conducted to determine which new varieties are the most popular among the attendees. Poinsettias of different shades of red, white and pink and plants with different flower forms are displayed to visitors to find out what they are interested in. The information gathered is given to plant breeders to help them decide which types would be best in commercial production.

TSU Gets A New President And A New Outlook

Dr. Portia Shields was appointed to the presidency of Tennessee State University effective January 2, 2011 – the first female to assume the role of President in the history of the institution. Before her appointment at TSU, Shields served as first female chief executive officer and chief academic officer at Concordia College in Selma, Alabama, from November 2007 to December 2009. At Concordia, she improved academic programs and institutional effectiveness, raised campus academic standards, enhanced the college's financial operations and led the effort to address accreditation concerns from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.



Shields assumed the executive post at Albany State University in 1996, becoming its first female president and retiring in 2005 after serving for ten years. As the University's seventh president, Shields inherited a campus recovering from the destructive floodwaters of the Flint River, which had consumed nearly two-thirds of the 204 acre campus in 1994. Her leadership was critical to the university, as she spearheaded a \$153-million rebuilding program that revitalized the institution. She was also instrumental in securing an unprecedented \$3 million donation from Georgia-born performing artist Ray Charles in 2002, and procured more than \$25 million in external grant funds in the following academic year.

Prior to her leadership at Albany State, Shields served as Dean of the School of Education at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she initiated the University's first comprehensive early learning and pre-college preparation programs. She previously served as director of medical education and biomedical communications in the University's College of Medicine, where she led the design and construction of state-of-the-art science and technology lab and faculty development initiative.

Shields earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the District of Columbia Teachers College, one of three institutions that were later merged to form the University of the District of Columbia. She earned a Master of Arts degree in Education from George Washington University, Washington, D.C., and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from the University of Maryland at College Park. She pursued advanced study completing a post-doctoral fellowship in West Africa, awarded by the African American Institute, New York, New York. Additional scholarly research and studies were completed at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Columbia University, New York, New York; American University, Washington, D.C.; and the University of the District of Columbia.

Named in 2004 as one of Georgia's 50 Most Influential Women by the Georgia Informer, Shields is distinguished as one of the founding presidents of the American University of Ethiopia. She has a wide range of stellar experiences and accomplishments in the field of higher education with appointments and affiliations with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Inc., American Council on Education, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Communities in Schools of Georgia and Georgia Appleseed. Additional memberships include Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., National Council of Negro Women, and Phi Delta Kappa and Kappa Delta Pi Honor Societies.



TSU's School Of Agriculture And Consumer Sciences Unites Against Hunger



Each September a committee headed by Dr. Godwin is formed in the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences to determine the best way to observe World Food Day in October. During this year's World Food Day observance at TSU, representatives from Samaritan Ministries as well as Room In The Inn participated in a discussion panel with TSU students, faculty and staff to grapple with issues of hunger and discuss their experiences as employees and volunteers. Also, winners of the student essay contest were given an opportunity to share their award-winning essays on the World Food Day Theme: United Against Hunger-The Power of One. The observance also featured Dr. Olive Yao Li, TSU Research Assistant Professor of Agricultural Sciences, who shared her research on ultra rice and Sizwe Herring, a representative from Community Food Advocates, who discussed the importance of dirt as well as his ongoing efforts with community gardening. Mary Mafuyai-Ekanem, shared information about the role of women in agriculture and the role agriculture plays in fighting world hunger.

According to Dr. Sandria Godwin, TSU Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences and Chair of the World Food Week Committee, the activities during the week served as an opportunity for members of the Nashville community to have a timely and much-needed dialogue about poverty and world hunger.

"We opened our doors, much like we have done each year, in an effort to encourage students, faculty, staff and concerned citizens in the Nashville community to join with us as we addressed issues of poverty and malnutrition to heighten public awareness about world hunger." Godwin has spearheaded the World Food Day commemoration at TSU since 1982.

Samples of foods from various countries were provided to show how, goats, eggs, pigeon peas, and grains from around the world are used to prepare various dishes. Also, some participants brought socks and canned green beans to give to the Room In The Inn and Samaritan Ministries representatives as part of the food and clothing drive that took place throughout the week.

For more information about World Food Day contact Richard Stone at (615) 963-1375 or rstone@mytsu.tnstate.edu, or visit <http://agfacs.tnstate.edu/>.

TSU Presents Samaritan Ministries With The *United Against Hunger Award*



Tennessee State University recently presented Samaritan Ministries of The Temple Church with the TSU School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences United Against Hunger Award. The annual award, which was presented on October 13th during TSU’s World Food Day observation, is to “honor organizations and individuals who have made a difference in the lives of the underserved populations of Tennessee through their generous, ongoing effort to help alleviate hunger and inequality.”

Samaritan Ministries has provided relief and positive assistance to thousands of individuals and families for almost three decades, thus improving the quality of life of despairing people in North Nashville. Organized by Alexine A. Hamby in 1983 as a community outreach agency, Samaritan Ministries is the only program that provides its unique services to homeless, destitute and elderly persons in the predominately African-American North Nashville/Hadley Park area.

As part of World Food Week, TSU students, faculty and staff volunteered at Samaritan Ministries and at Room In The Inn, another local assistance facility, October 6th through October 8th to show their local support in the global fight against hunger.

United Against Hunger

By Michael Diallo McLendon

*Last night I had a dream that made me quite upset.
I met one billion hungry people whom I shall never forget.
They rammed on my windows and pounded on my door.
They pleaded with me so desperately that I could not ignore.
They said they needed food to make it through the night.
They suggested that on this fruitful earth to have it was their right.
One billion hungry people boldly asked me why
Those of us who have enough sit back and watch them die.
They thought I had enough bread to feed each one a meal.
I knew that if I gave my last some would be hungry still.
I knew that all the food I had could never meet the need,
But if I fed them all I had then that would be a seed.
When morning came I awoke in shame as I heard a small voice scream
The one billion hungry people I met did not just live in my dream.
The one billion hungry people I met are crying out today
To those of us who have enough for help without delay.
Will we stand united against hunger or stand united with greed,
Because one billion hungry people today live desperately in need?
They don't need everything we have—only what we can spare.
The question they simply pose to you, my friend, is, "Do you care?"*

Students Initiate Earth Day Beautification Project

Tennessee State University students in the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences recently celebrated Earth Day by initiating a beautification project in the courtyard of the Farrell-Westbrook Agricultural Complex. After weeks of planning and working with representatives from the TSU Cooperative Extension Program, the students planted a variety of flowers donated by the Gardens of Babylon, a local garden center, and TSU Facilities Management. Facilities Management also provided tools and topsoil for the project. Mostly members of the Collegiate FFA Organization, the students hope this year's inaugural effort will grow into an annual campus-wide beautification activity next year.

“We wanted to show our love and appreciation for our campus and the environment,” said Clarissa Parks, an Agricultural and Extension Education major from Homestead, Florida. “This activity proves that the students, faculty, and community members are willing to help, so I would love to see our efforts extend beyond the School of Agriculture.”



Community Garden Program Initiated

The Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Program held an open house at the TSU Agricultural Research and Education Center adjacent to the main campus on Saturday April 23rd to celebrate the opening of its new community garden.

The open house, which started at 10:00 a.m., provided an opportunity for participants to familiarize themselves with the land set aside for the garden as well as their personal 30' x 30' plots. Approximately 100 people gathered at the site where TSU Extension Assistant Professor of Horticulture and Project Coordinator Arvazena Clardy says the university will assist members of the Nashville community with growing fresh fruits and vegetables.

“There are a lot of people who have always wanted to garden or who would like to start gardening again so they can eat fresh food on a regular basis,” said Clardy. “We want to provide them with an opportunity to save a little money, eat some healthy food and get a little exercise in the process.”

The garden is open for participants Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. As a follow-up to the open house, TSU hosted its first in a series of weekly basic gardening workshops beginning Saturday, April 30th at 10:00 a.m. at the community garden site. The first workshop was hosted by Richard Winston, Former Special Assistant to the Dean for Cooperative Extension Program. He is a TSU alumnus and has over 30 years of experience as a plant and soil specialist with the TSU Cooperative Extension Program.

Wintson, and a number of TSU Extension specialists, will be available at various times during the season to provide support for participants who need guidance with issues such as irrigation, tilling and what types of fruits and vegetables to plant.

The TSU Community Garden is one of a series of new efforts instituted under the leadership of Dr. Chandra Reddy, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences.

For more information about the TSU Community Garden or to request an application, contact Dr. Arvazena Clardy at (615) [963-4887/](tel:6159634887) aclardy@tnstate.edu.

Reddy Leads Committee In Restructuring Of TSU

To address budget and enrollment issues, a task force was appointed in November 2009 to review the academic program at Tennessee State University for their relative productivity and relevance to the University's mission by then-president Dr. Melvin Johnson. Dr. Chandra Reddy, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences was chosen to lead the task force. After an exhaustive process, the committee announced the findings of the study in Fall of 2010.

Following the issuance of the Task Force Report, the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Kathleen McEnerney, met with the deans of the academic colleges and schools to develop a process for preparing operational reports in response to the Report.

President Shields, after considering recommendations from the Academic Program Prioritization Committee, the Prioritization Operational Plan Advisory Group, faculty, staff, and students, eliminated six low-producing programs from a list of 26 low-producing programs. She further reorganized and consolidated several others. These moves preserved every faculty job and gave extended life to several low-producing programs.

Several of the above actions had a direct effect on the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences. As of July 1, 2011, the School was renamed the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences, and the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Biology were added to the new college. In addition the Center for Health Research was renamed the Center for Prevention Research and was also moved to the new college. Dr. Chandra Reddy is the Dean of the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Sciences.

School Sponsors Conference In India

The TSU School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences sponsored an International conference on "Managing Sustainable Development of Rural Economy and Agribusiness" at the Institute of Agriculture Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India from January 21st to 23rd, 2011. Dr. S. P. Singh, Professor of Agribusiness and Sammy Comer, Director International Program attended the conference and presented a paper entitled "Entrepreneurship and Rural Development: Creating Entrepreneurial Community".

Dr. S. P. Singh also attended a workshop on "Emerging Rural Markets of India" at Amity Business School, Amity University, Lucknow, India and presented/discussed the topic "Linking Farmers with Markets-Examples from the United States".





2011 Food Agriculture And Consumer Sciences Week

The School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences held its Annual Food, Agriculture and Consumer Sciences Week April 5-9, 2011, on Tennessee State University's Main Campus, using the theme "21st Century Agriculture." Activities for the week included tours of the school's laboratories, presentations by faculty, a student cookout, an awards luncheon, and a series of informational sessions for students, faculty and staff.

Dr. Chandra Reddy, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, and Director of Land-Grant Programs, commented on the successful week of events "This week has been remarkable, with so many outstanding programs and enthusiastic participation of our students, staff, faculty, colleagues and students from other areas of the University and our partners from the local schools, the USDA, and University of Tennessee at Knoxville."

The first day of Ag Week focused on recruiting and sharing information about the School's programs with local high school students. Family and Consumer Sciences faculty presented information on topics related to health and obesity on Tuesday. On Wednesday, colleagues from University of Tennessee at Knoxville, including UT President Dr. Joe DiPeitro, participated in presentations and discussions designed to build new, synergistic relationships between the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences and the University of Tennessee. Dr. DePietro's visit was the first visit by a sitting UT president to the TSU campus. The relationship and collaborations built with UT will enhance the research, teaching and extension capabilities of both institutions, and provide TSU with a partner to pursue new grants and programs not attainable on our own. On Thursday the Department of Agricultural Sciences presented "Past, Present and Future", a historical perspective of agriculture at Tennessee State University. The week culminated with recognitions of the accomplishments of our top students, faculty and staff, who, based upon evaluations from colleagues, have truly excelled in their respective fields. The honorees included:

Toney Tillman – Outstanding Undergraduate Student School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences

Alex Frederick – Outstanding Undergraduate Student Family and Consumer Sciences

James Tyus – Outstanding Graduate Student – School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences

Ms. Linda Buchanan – Outstanding Administrative Staff Member

Dr. Surendra Singh – Outstanding Teacher

Dr. Roger Sauve – Outstanding Researcher

Dr. Javiette Samuel – Outstanding Extension Specialist

Ms. Charlotte Moore – Outstanding Extension Agent

Tennessee State University Helps Nursery Producers Save Money And Labor Disposing of Greenhouse Plastic

A new program sponsored by Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee helps nursery producers save money and reduce labor costs while practicing good environmental stewardship. Growers typically cover shade houses with plastic to help keep plants healthy through the winter. The plastic is removed and discarded in the spring. By using a plastic rolling machine, the plastic from a typical greenhouse house can be rolled up by one person in less than four minutes. Up to 400 pounds of plastic can be spooled onto one roll, which can then be dropped off at a collection site for recycling; saving labor, disposal fees and needless tons of used plastic entering landfills.

In a pilot program conducted in the spring of 2010, middle Tennessee nursery producers recycled over 60,000 pounds of greenhouse plastic. Growers in Warren and Dekalb counties used a roller, provided free of charge, to collect their plastic into compact rolls which were

collected at the TSU Nursery Research Center. Delta Plastics, an irrigation tubing manufacturer in Arkansas, recycles the plastic into pellets that are sold to various plastic fabricators. Delta Plastics uses an extensive cleaning process for the plastic, hence it is perfectly acceptable if the plastic is dirty or has staples.

Everyone that used the roller said it was much easier and faster than their usual methods that required a lot of hand labor to pull, fold, and load it. It is easy to pull the roller to the first house, roll the plastic, and pull forward to the next house and repeat the process. The roller does it all faster and easier than doing it by hand. Recycling the plastic not only saved disposal fees, but the roller made the job fast and efficient.

The recycling program, jointly operated between UT Extension and the TSU Nursery Research Center plans to add another roller for use next season.



Family And Consumer Science Students Research Sustainable Practices

In the fall of 2010 students enrolled in DIGN 2010 Environmental Design and ECFS 4650 Principals of Parenting helped design tutorials that promote “greener” living. Students in the design class researched information related to household chemicals, recycling, landscaping, food choices, and household textiles. Information covered the environmental, economic and human impact of various consumer choices on families. Students enrolled in the parenting course used that information to create learning modules that would inform families about the issues and promote best practices. These activities fit within the funded Capacity Grant “Bringing Sustainable Environmental Consumer Practices to the Community and the Classroom through Development and Implementation of Learning Modules”. Ms. Sue Ballard de Ruiz and Dr.

Margaret Machara are co-investigators on this project that will enhance student learning on global sustainability issues while educating community members. The workshops will be conducted in partnership with Jeff Barrie of Kilowatt Ours to broaden the scope of delivery.



Students in the photo are (L to R) seated: Darreka Carney, standing: Markieth Price, seated: Adrienne Drummond and Mediha Barucic, standing: Lezlie Knight

The students involved in the first phase of the project rated the experience positively. Students reported learning information that they can use in their own lives, making them consider their own consumer behavior more. One student mentioned that she shared the tutorial with her children so that they can start learning best practices early.

Another student expressed amazement at how much money can be saved by using energy efficient products. The next step in this project will be implementing the learning modules that have been created in the community.



Was It The Flu Or A Foodborne Illness?

Written by Richard Stone

Super Bowl Sunday finally arrived and I decided to attend a potluck party some friends were having. Throughout the game, I snacked on finger foods that were brought by the other people attending the party. The next day, while getting ready for work, I thought to myself that I should have worn a coat to the party because I felt I might be getting a cold or even worse, the flu. While at work, I began to think about the night before and the foods that I ate. I realized that I was not experiencing the symptoms of the flu but rather those of a foodborne illness. So how did this happen, and is there anything I could have done to prevent this awful feeling? To answer these questions I needed to think about the characteristics of a foodborne illness and how this could have happened to me.

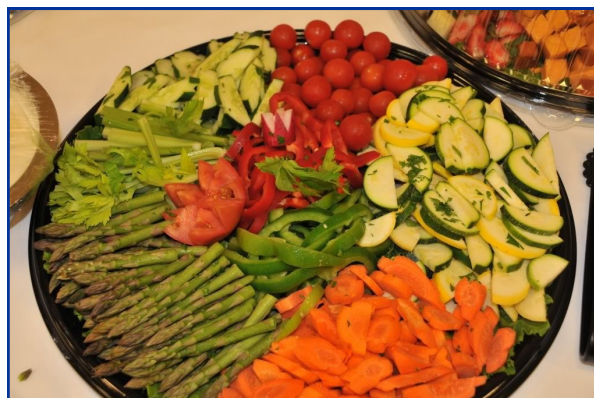
The Centers for Disease Control estimates that that each year roughly 1 out of 6 Americans (or 48 million people) get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die from foodborne illness. Foodborne illnesses are caused by bacteria or other harmful organisms on food or in beverages that have been consumed. Everyone is susceptible to a foodborne illness, but those who have a chronic illness, weakened immune system, or are over 60 years in age have

a greater risk. Symptoms of a foodborne illness are: sharp abdominal cramps, diarrhea, vomiting, fever, fatigue, chills, dizziness, stiff neck, severe headache, and vision problems. Although there are a great number of symptoms, they will probably not arise at the same time, and may occur at differing levels of severity. While some of these symptoms may be the same as those associated with flu, the main difference is that flu typically causes an inflammation of the respiratory tracts.



Now that I understand the causes and symptoms of a foodborne illness, it is time for me to take a look back at the potluck party. I am not 100% sure that it was the origin of my foodborne illness but, there are some pretty good hints that would lead me to that conclusion. When I first arrived to the party I placed the guacamole that I

made in the refrigerator. As more people arrived, items were moved around in the refrigerator. The raw hamburger patties ended up on the top shelf above the guacamole. The cover over the guacamole was loosened when someone decided to sneak a taste. So there is a possibility the raw hamburger juice leaked into the guacamole.



This circumstance is called cross-contamination. The food itself (guacamole) may not contain any bacteria, but becomes tainted with bacteria during food preparation, cooking, or serving. Another example of cross-contamination may have occurred when guests at the party were serving themselves with their hands. Once all the food was laid out on the table people began to eat. The burger I received was a little rare and I asked the grill master if all the burgers were this rare, and he responded “they all looked done to me”. He did not use a thermometer to check the internal temperature of the burgers. Using a thermometer is the only way to make sure your food is cooked to a safe temperature. Once the fourth quarter of the football game started, I walked past the food table on the way to refill my drink and decided to grab a couple chicken wings. The chicken wings had been on the table since the start of the game with nothing to keep their temperature above 140°F. When I look back on eating those chicken wings, I am reminded of the saying “keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold”. I could keep talking about items or events at the potluck party that may be culprit, but I will attribute my foodborne illness to cross contamination and improper cooking and storage temperatures.

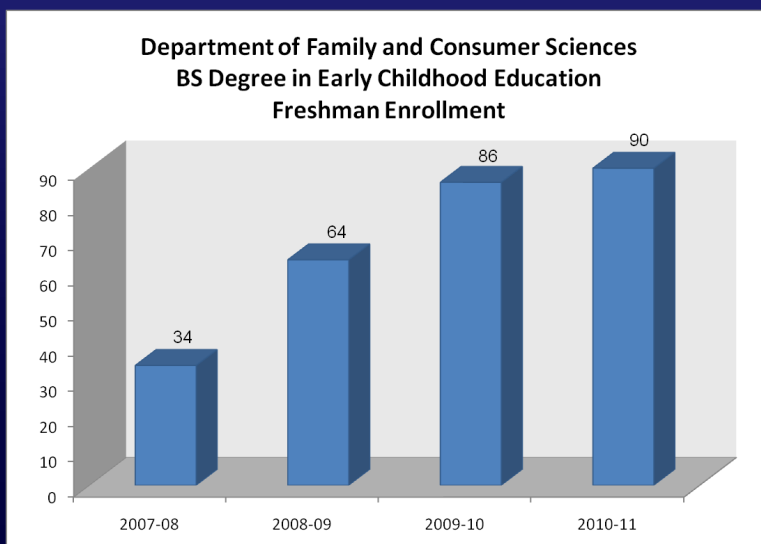
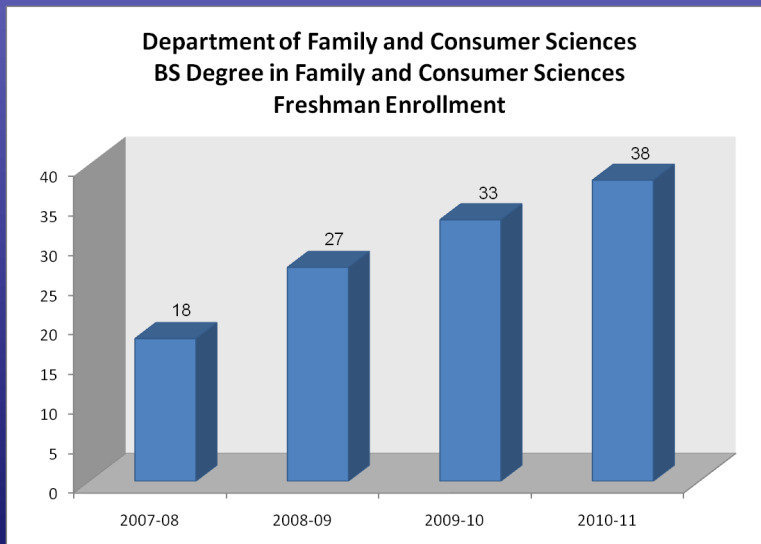
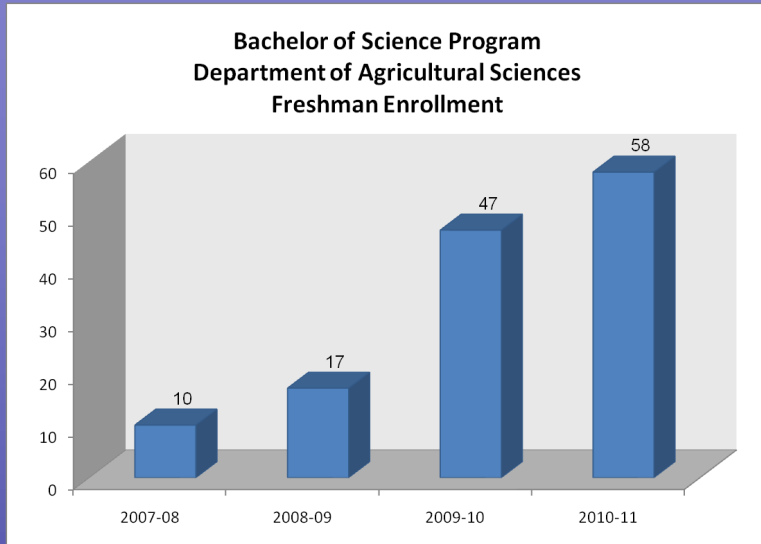
Now it is time for the bad news. Once you have a foodborne illness, your body becomes dehydrated so you need to drink plenty of clear liquids. You should not drink beverages high in

caffeine because they will cause you to lose fluids. In addition, you need to adjust your diet away from high fiber foods, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, because these foods make your body need more liquid. I was lucky that I did not need to see a doctor since I did not have bloody diarrhea, excessive vomiting and diarrhea, or the symptoms of a stiff neck, severe headache, and fever all at once.

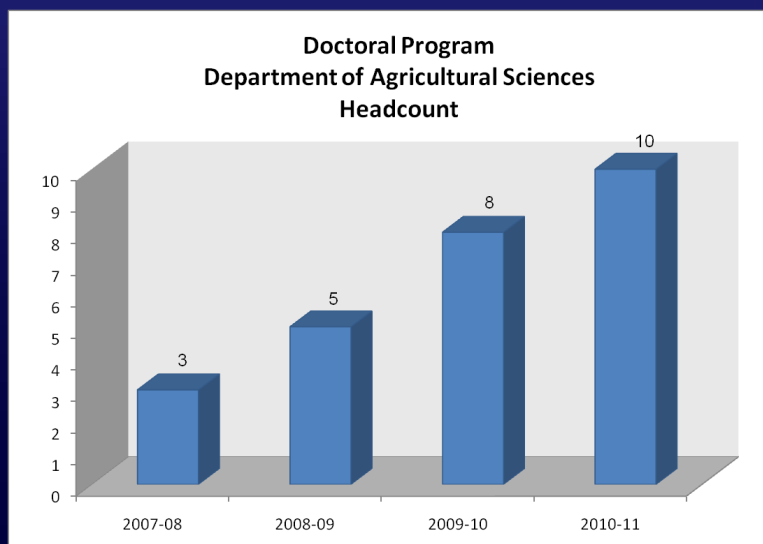
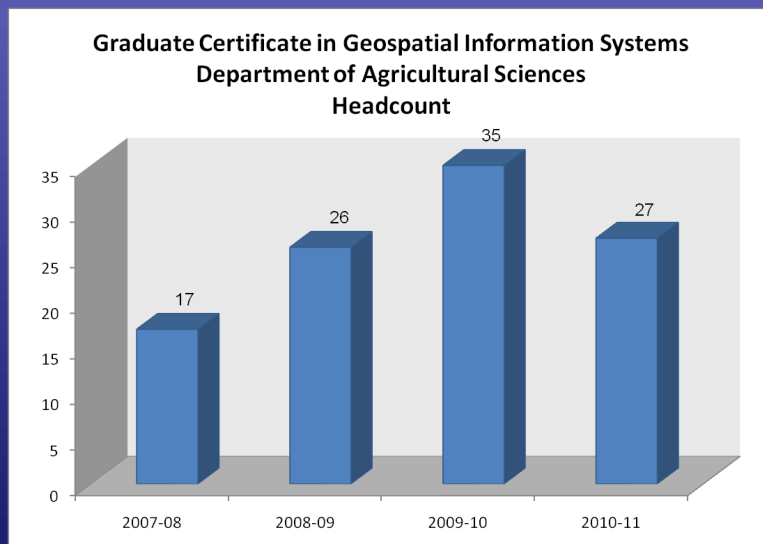
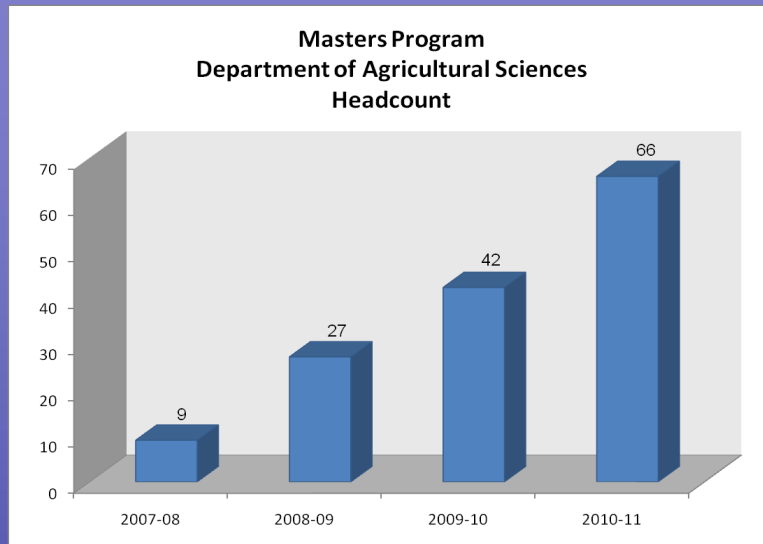
In the future I will remember that consumers are the last line of defense in preventing foodborne illness. Always remember to cook foods thoroughly, keep surfaces and hands clean, keep cold foods cold, hot foods hot, and avoid cross contamination. For further information on preventing foodborne illness, contact Dr. Sandria Godwin at 615-963-5619 or Richard Stone at 615-963-1375.



SACS's Undergraduate Enrollment



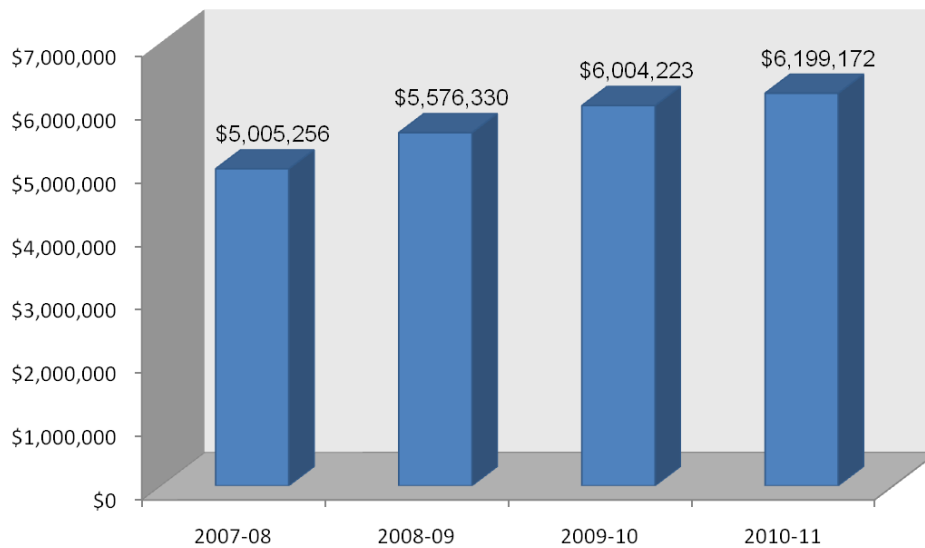
SACS's Graduate Enrollment



Growth Of The School Of Agricultural And Consumer Sciences

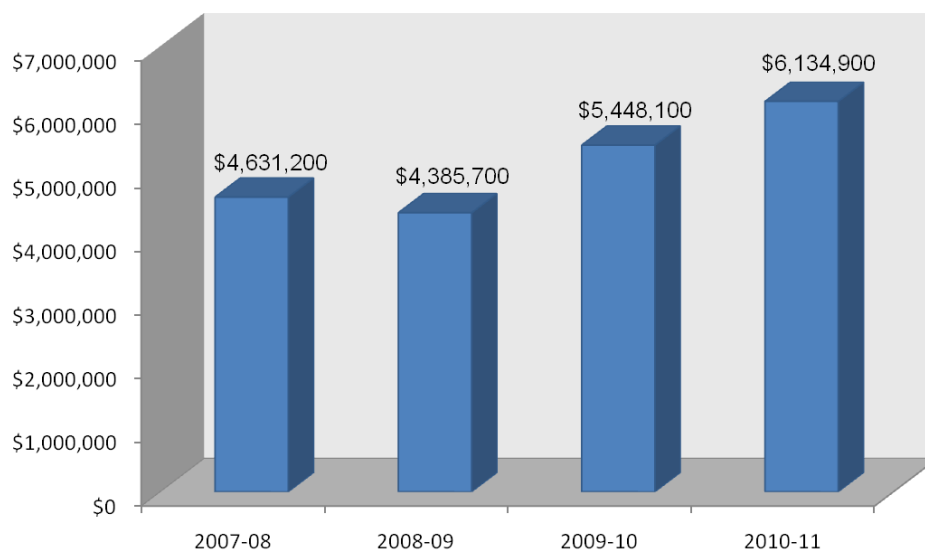
Agricultural Research and Extension Base Funding

Federal

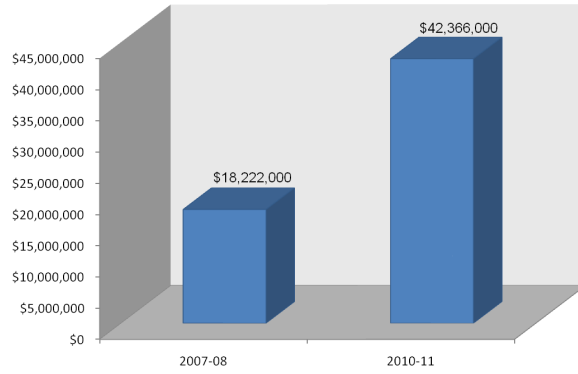


Agricultural Research and Extension Base Funding

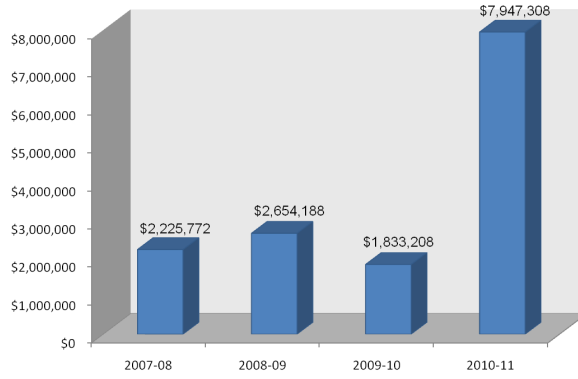
State



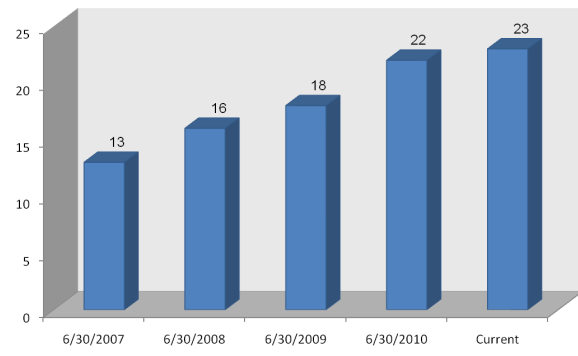
Total Research and Extension Funding



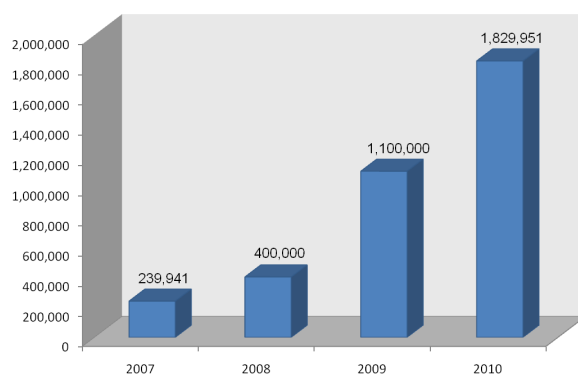
Faculty Secured Research / Extension Grant Funds



Number of Counties Served by Tennessee State University Extension



Number of Stakeholder Contacts



TSU's Future Farmers Of America

TSU at the National FFA Convention

Three TSU students attended and worked very hard for their school at the record setting 83rd National FFA Convention. Rachel Hendrix, Dr. John C. Ricketts, Clarissa Parks, and Racheal Gregory invited potential TSU students from around the country to become a Tiger. In addition they heard from excellent speakers and learned much about providing opportunities for youth in agricultural education.

There were 54,942 FFA members, advisors (teachers), sponsors, and guests present including our TSU Ag & Extension Education students (see photo below). The National FFA Organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 523,309 student

members as part of 7,487 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a Federal Charter granted by the 81st United States Congress, and it is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for

FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. For more information visit www.ffa.org, and follow FFA on Facebook, Twitter and FFA Nation.



TSU AEE Celebrates National FFA Week

On Tuesday, February 22nd SACS hosted the Tennessee State FFA Officers for one of the first stops of their annual Goodwill Tour across the state. TSU AEE students and SACS leaders heard from the State FFA Officers and impressed with the caliber of young people are leaders of agricultural education in Tennessee. SACS leaders welcomed the state FFA leaders to campus and informed them of the many opportunities available through SACS at TSU. Our leaders encouraged them to join TSU, and they asked the state officers to share the good news of everything great that is happening at TSU.



TSU Hosts Regional FFA Competitions

Middle Tennessee's best in Agricultural Sales came to TSU to compete in the regional Agricultural Sales competition. TSU Ag & Extension Education faculty and staff and several volunteers made sure that the event was a huge success. Many high school students participated in the day-long event that tested their knowledge and skills in sales and communications. Teams had to complete a knowledge test and "sell" a product to a set of

judges. Thanks to everyone in SACS who helped make the event a success. TSU AEE also hosts the Middle Tennessee Nursery and Landscaping Career Development Event (CDE) and the Floriculture CDE. In these competitions, students will have to identify over 50 plants, disorders, or industry-related tools. They will also have problem-solving and customer service activities in which they will compete. This event was held on March 24th.



TSU's Honorary State FFA Degree Recipients

Dean Chandra Reddy and Dr. John C. Ricketts will both be receiving the Honorary State FFA Degree at the State FFA Convention in Gatlinburg, TN. According to Article V, Section E of the National Constitution for FFA housed at the United States Department of Education (USDE). Honorary Membership is awarded to those who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service to the organization.



Collegiate FFA Charter

There's going to be a new leadership development organization on campus! Ms. Racheal Gregory, Ag Ed Undergraduate, worked very hard this year to help us charter the TSU Collegiate FFA program. The Collegiate FFA will provide an integral role as a place where students in the growing BS and MS programs of Agricultural and Extension Education can learn and lead as preservice agricultural educators.



TSU's Cooperative Extension

Gathering Project Wins State Award

The “Gathering of Homestead Entrepreneurs” is an Extension program that provides networking opportunities for home-based businesses in an eight county area---six in Tennessee and 2 in Kentucky. In January of 2011, the program received the 2011 Outstanding Local Program Award from the USDA Tennessee Rural Development Committee. The foundation of this project was built on removing barriers and providing opportunities for individuals and groups to create safe food and homestead products in Montgomery and surrounding counties.

Initially, a coalition of 50 key leaders working together personally contacted one or more leaders in underrepresented counties and areas, with the goal of having 3 or more coalition members per county. The coalition also assisted in the creation of a brochure about the “Gathering” and distributed it among all surrounding counties. A result of the “Gathering” brochure was the development of community catalogs where starter businesses were made known to the local community. The creation of community banners, utilizing the

communities’ pictorial ideas, helped each community market their own local product. A joint newsletter is also published with program partners and surrounding counties called “Sustainability Makes Cents.” This newsletter is made available to entrepreneurs, key decision makers, coalition members and interested others. Program coordinator, Martha Pile said that the program’s success is a collaborative effort of several agencies and member businesses. The goal, she states, is to help build successful businesses. Along with Martha Pile, these program partners accepted the award: Annette Cole, UT-Stewart County Extension, Karla Kean, TSU-Montgomery County Extension, Chandra Owens, Five Rivers RC& D coordinator.

The “Gathering” will continue to meet monthly to provide educational sessions, tours of local businesses and distribute the “Sustainability Makes Cents” newsletter. For more information you may go to:

<http://www.the-gathering-of-entrepreneurs.org>



Alvin Wade, Richard Winston, Javiel Samuels and Barbara Canada celebrate with TSU Horticulture Agent, Karla Kean, on the receipt of the USDA 2011 Outstanding Local Program Awards presented on January 27th, 2011 by the Tennessee Rural Development Committee.

Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today: TSU Cooperative Extension Making A Difference!

As part of the work proposed in the grant entitled *"Building Our Future through Entrepreneurial Development ...Youth and Adults"*, 140 youth and 245 adults in several counties, Hardeman County and Davidson County, TN and Clay County, MS, were provided with entrepreneurial training sessions. The project team (Drs. Barbara Canada, Surendra Singh, Tyrone Miller and Ms. Jonell Hinsey) developed an interactive program entitled Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Technology Series (L.E.T.S.). Through the L.E.T.S. Program, youth participated in comprehensive workshops to enhance their skills as leaders and business owners who are technologically savvy. In addition, 14 one-on-one counseling sessions with aspiring and



Hardeman County Bolivar Middle School

budding entrepreneurs have been held in partnership with our collaborative partners in Clay County, MS at the North Mississippi Center for Higher Educational Attainment. Upcoming training sessions are scheduled for Davidson and Hardeman Counties in Tennessee and Clay County, Mississippi.

TSU Entrepreneur Summer Camp Participant, Ms. Kennedy Beasley, has embarked on her journey with the 4-H group at her school in Smyrna, Tennessee as a result of her experience. An

interview was conducted at the Rutherford County Extension Office and the project team interviewed her regarding her success in becoming a 4-H Leader.

Dining With Diabetes Cooking School Teaches Meal Preparation To Help Manage Diabetes

Are you troubled by how to plan your diabetic meals for diabetes management? Help is available through the University of Tennessee & Tennessee State University (UT-TSU) Extension program called "Dining with Diabetes" for people with diabetes and their families. Program partners for promoting diabetes care and diet management include: Volunteer State Health Plan, Volunteers in Medicine, Hamilton County Health department, and Chattanooga Parks and Recreation.

The first step in controlling blood sugar is following a carefully planned menu. This seems to be one of the hardest steps in diabetes control. The Dining with Diabetes Cooking School allows opportunity for hands-on cooking experiences, nutrition education along with sharing and receiving information to carefully

plan for success in taking charge of the diabetes.

For information about the next Dining with Diabetes Cooking School, please call the UT-TSU Extension Office at (423) 855-6113 or e-mail Dorothy Simmons, dsimmons@tnstate.edu for program information.



New Members Appointed To The Tennessee Extension Advisory Council

Dr. Chandra Reddy has appointed three new members to the Tennessee Extension Advisory Council; these members represent the Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) of the Tennessee State University. They are Sonya Patterson of Nashville, Davidson County, John L. Pointer of Columbia, TN, and Jesse Wilcox of Montgomery County. Each member will serve for three years. The Tennessee Extension Advisory Council is a joint collaboration between Tennessee State University and The University of Tennessee. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to serve the Tennessee Extension System to advise and counsel Extension administration regarding program direction and strategies; review, react to, and develop specific proposals regarding Extension programs and organization; assist in educating key decision makers and support groups about Extension; and assist, when appropriate, in locating resources (human, financial, curricula, and other resources) for Extension.

Sonya D. Patterson



Sonya Patterson is a native of Nashville, TN. She received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Tennessee State University. Her BS degree is in Family and Consumer Sciences Education, and her MS degree is in Curriculum and Instruction. Her professional experience consists of having worked at Tennessee State University in Cooperative Extension for five years as the coordinator of the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program. She has a total of eight years experience with the Metro Nashville Public Schools system. She teaches family and consumer sciences, focusing on the Teaching and Training Pathway Program at Whites Creek High School; and she is also co-team leader of the Public Service Academy at Whites Creek School. Ms. Patterson is president-elect of the Nashville Area Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, and she is also a member of the Tennessee Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

John L. Pointer



John Pointer resides in Cane Ridge, TN. He received his BS degree in English with a minor in Communications from Vanderbilt University. He attended Dawson University with a concentration in Small Business Management, and London School of Business focusing on Small Business Accounting. He is a former professional football player with a six-year career. He has received recognition for distinguished service by the US Federal Highway Administration. He has worked tirelessly to get Congress to implement actions to stop federal waste. Mr. Pointer was recently appointed to the State of Tennessee Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Plan. In 1990, he was recognized as Minority Businessman of the Year by the Shelby County Minority Business Council for providing quality service to the city and to the county. He served as assistant director of marketing in working with small and corporate businesses for funding opportunities on behalf of the athletic marketing division at Middle Tennessee State University. His small business development experiences and training have been in federal and state small business regulations. He currently works in the underserved community of Columbia, TN in order to aid inner city organizations to receive potentially well over \$1.4 million to assist the community in fighting obesity, breast feeding awareness, job training, and urban garden development.

Jesse R. Wilcox



Jesse R. Wilcox was born in Montgomery County, TN. He is the second child and oldest son to Jesse Lee and Josephine Wilcox. Mr. Wilcox was a member of the 4-H club and the Future Farmers of America. He graduated from Burt High School in Clarksville, TN. He is a graduate of Tennessee State University where he received his BS degree in Agronomy. He currently serves as a member of the Soil Conservation Society of America; Montgomery County Agriculture Committee; Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council; and the Montgomery County Soil Conservation District Board. He is a past member of Kiwanis International and Toastmasters International. Mr. Wilcox retired in 1995 from the USDA Soil Conservation Service/Natural Resource Conservation Service after 30 years of service. He continues to work part time as a conservation consultant in middle Tennessee and Kentucky.

Ford To Represent TSU As CARET Delegate

Former State Conservationist James Ford will represent Tennessee State University as a delegate to the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) for 2011. Ford, who served as Tennessee's State Conservationist from 1997 to 2007, was recently selected for the position by Dr. Chandra Reddy, Dean and Director of Research and Administrator of Extension in the Tennessee State University School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences.

As a CARET Delegate, Ford will collaborate with agricultural producers, agribusiness leaders, local officials, consumers, and members of land-grant university advisory groups to enhance national support and understanding of land-grant mission and involvement in the food and agricultural system.

“As a second generation graduate of an 1890 land-grant institution, I believe in the mission and the goals of these institutions,” he said. “The land-grant institution I attended afforded me the opportunity to obtain a quality education, and I would like to do all I can to advance their pursuits.”

Ford, who worked with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for 38 years in the National Resources Conservation Service, will participate in CARET activities regionally and nationally throughout the calendar year, including functions at Tennessee State University. He will work closely with Dr. Reddy as well as interact with members of Congress and other political officials.

A native of Jakin, Georgia, Ford has received *The Hammer Award* for his work on flood recovery efforts after Hurricane Alberto. He also received *The USDA Outreach Award* from the U.S. Forest Service for assisting and empowering communities in Tennessee.

Founded in 1982, CARET is a grassroots organization created by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) that works with national agricultural organizations to promote agriculture.



Rutherford County 4-H Honors Members

By Rebecca Henry



Forty-three Rutherford County 4-H'ers were recognized at a reception on February 20, 2011 for their project work, leadership, and citizenship efforts. 4-H members are invited to the reception by winning 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at a county contest or by representing Rutherford county at a regional, state or national event. Outstanding 4-H'ers in each of five divisions were recognized: Explorer (4th grade), Junior (5th grade), Junior High (6th – 8th grade), Senior High Level I (9th – 10th grade), and Senior High level II (11 – 12th grades). Outstanding 4-H'er is determined by a point system for project involvement, competition, leadership and citizenship activities. Those members were: Explorer – Savannah Sandlin of Murfreesboro, Junior – Scott Ayers of Christiana, Junior High – Olivia Gum of Readyville, Senior High Level I – Ariel Chism of Murfreesboro, Senior High Level II – Jonathan Belcher of Rockvale.

The School of the Year was also recognized. This award is determined by the level of participation in three projects: Public speaking contest, Demonstration contest, and Exploring 4-H book (4th grade)/Project activity sheets (5th grade). Our 2010 School of the Year is Brown's Chapel Elementary. Teacher of the Year was also honored. The nominees were: Brandi Breneman 5th grade, Brown's Chapel Elementary, Jason Eaton 5th grade, Smyrna Elementary, Kay Monroe 5th grade, Barfield Elementary, Mike Perry 5th grade, Walter Hill Elementary, and Michelle Slusher 5th grade, Brown's Chapel Elementary. The 2010 Teacher of the Year was Kay Monroe. We also honor a business or individual who has been very supportive of the Rutherford County 4-H program as our Friend of 4-H. The 2010 recipient was the Doughtie Family.

Rutherford County 4-H has an enrollment of 4,570 youth in 4th – 12th grade. We have youth enrolled in 237 clubs (including in-school), project groups, or classes.

4-H Engineering Project Holds Pinewood Derby

By Rebecca Henry

On October 30, 2010, the 4-H Engineering project group held a Pinewood Derby as the first project for the 2010-2011 school year. Prior to race day, two educational sessions were held to help the students plan the design of their cars. Topics included friction, aerodynamics, and weight distribution. Race day included classes for 4th & 5th grades, 6th – 12th grades and an Outlaw class for parents and younger siblings. There were 22 participants. In the 4th & 5th grade class, Gianni Arauz took 3rd, Preston Riley was 2nd, and Weston Cotton placed 1st. In the 6th – 12th grade class, Branden Taylor finished 3rd, Harrison Marshall placed 2nd & Ethan Neal won 1st. In the Outlaw class, Beck Robinson finished 2nd & Scott Marshall placed 1st. There were also design category awards including Most Original, Best Paint, Best Wedge Shape, Best Detail/Craftsmanship, Most "4-Hish". All competitors did a fabulous job!



TSU Specialists Provide Home Gardening Workshops

Department of Agricultural Sciences Extension specialists Dr. Dharma Pitchay (horticulture) and Dr. Jason de Koff (agronomy and soils) and graduate students Steven Kennedy and Stephen Lewis initiated a weekly gardening program for members of the TSU and Nashville communities. The program is participant-driven and focuses on proper soil and plant management for gardeners. Topics explored during the workshops include garden soil testing and classification, growing seedlings (fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals), plant propagation, composting, organic farming/gardening, hydroponics, nutrient and water management, plant selection, plant pests, and plant disease. The program is a way for the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences to increase fresh food access while teaching the concepts of sustainability.



Pitchay To Assist Women Farmers In Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam

Tennessee State University Assistant Professor of Horticulture Dharma Pitchay will be traveling to Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam over the next few years to develop strategies to assist and promote a sustainable peri-urban and urban garden cropping enterprise system for small and minority women growers.

According to Dr. Pitchay, the project which is led by Tennessee State University in conjunction with University of Georgia, Kasetsart University and Asian institute of Technology, is expected to stimulate economic activities by creating employment opportunities for women to improve their income in peri-urban areas.

“The USDA under the USAID program has initiated a program called the Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program (HortCRSP) in these countries whereby US scientists will earmark certain projects based on scientific research to increase food products using horticulture crops,” said Dr. Pitchay. “What the USDA wants to do in conjunction with the USAID Project, is instead of supplying them food every time, we want them to grow their own food and so on.” He says the women in these urban communities will be able to feed

their families the nutritious food they produce, and then sell the extra products to generate income for their families.

Other researchers from the TSU School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences involved in this project include TSU Professor of Agribusiness Surendra Singh, and TSU Assistant Professor of Agricultural Science Sam Comer.

The initial objectives of this project will be to assess the various countries and interact with the farmers and provide them with technology, training and support.

“More projects like this can be implemented in different parts of the world,” added Dr. Pitchay. “I hope each and every one of us take some kind of responsibility and do our part wherever we are to make this a better world so every human being will have access to good food.”

For more information about HortCRSP, contact Dr. Dharma Pitchay at (615) 963-4890 or visit <http://hortcrsp.ucdavis.edu/main/24PeriUrban.html>.

Achievements And Honors In The School Of Agriculture And Consumer Sciences

Dr. Reddy Presents Keynote Address At An International Conference In India

Dr. Chandra Reddy, Dean and Director of Research/Administrator of Extension, School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences gave a keynote address at the 2nd International Conference on Environmental Management, Hyderabad, India, during October 25-28th, 2010. His address was on *Sustainable Agricultural Practices for Maintaining Environmental Quality*. In his address, he reviewed the factors of global warming, contributions from agricultural sector, and some agricultural practices that can sequester carbon into agricultural soils based on his 15 year long-term study at Alabama A& M University, Huntsville, AL.



Dean Reddy Appointed To USDA Advisory Board

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the appointment of Tennessee State University School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences Dean Dr. Chandra Reddy to serve on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board. This Board advises the Secretary of Agriculture and Land-Grant colleges and universities on top national priorities and policies for food and agricultural research, education, extension and economics.

In addition to providing program and policy advice to USDA on its Research, Education and Economics mission area, the Board reports to Congress, holds stakeholder listening sessions, evaluates the Agricultural Research Service scientific peer review process for national programs, conducts an annual review of all agricultural research, extension, or education activities conducted or funded by the Department for relevance to national priorities

and adequacy of funding, and provides input on Specialty Crops and Renewable Energy priorities through respective mandated subcommittees.

The Board is comprised of 25 appointed members, each representing a specific category of agricultural stakeholders as outlined in the 2008 Food, Energy, and Conservation Act. Each member appointed to a full term on the Board serves a 2- or 3-year appointment effective October 1, 2010. Terms for members overlap so that each year approximately one-third of the Board is replaced and/or reappointed.

“We appreciate the contributions that these individuals are making to help advance agricultural research, education, extension, and economics within the Department,” Vilsack said. “Their expertise and advice is valuable in the development of long- and short-term research, extension, education, and economic priorities in the food, fiber, and fuel systems.”

Dr. Thelma Sanders-Hunter Is Recipient Of Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Thelma Sanders-Hunter received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences in Portland, Maine in September 2010. The award recognized Dr. Sanders-Hunter for her dynamic leadership and creative implementation of extension programs for personal and professional growth. Dr. Sanders-Hunter has served as a state specialist for 18 years in the Cooperative Extension Program at Tennessee State University. She plans, implements, and evaluates family life education programs, as well as conferences and trainings, across the state of Tennessee and the southern region. She was also recognized in 2007 by the National Association of State Land Grant Universities and Colleges (NASULGC), now known as Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) for Excellence in Extension Programs. Her most renowned program is family caregiving to which she has given multi-state and regional leadership.



Dr. Gearldean Johnson Honored In Phoenix



Dr. Gearldean Johnson, Department Head, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, received the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences' (AAFCS) 2011 Distinguished Service Award at the 102nd Annual Conference & Expo in Phoenix, AZ, June 23-25, 2011. A recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Affiliate of AAFCS, Dr. Johnson has also been honored by the National Coalition for Black Development in Family and Consumer Sciences (NCBDFCS) with the Outstanding Professional Award. Dr.

Johnson was nominated for the award by the NCBDFCS.

Ricketts Appointed to USDA Committee

Dr. John C. Ricketts appointed to the Experiment Station (ESCOP) Social Sciences Subcommittee. The purpose of this committee is to encourage and assist USDA research program leaders in incorporating social science perspectives into their research priorities, grants programs, and other initiatives. The committee has made significant headway in recent years, and in fact, played a large role in development of the new Experiment Station Science Roadmap that will be released later this year.

Mmbaga Serves On Review Panel

Dr. Margaret Mmbaga participated in the 2011 NSF Panel Review for Graduate Research Fellowship Program Competition Feb 10-13, 2011. Masters and PhD level graduate students in Organismal Biology submitted approximately 2,000 proposals. This covered Plant Science, Animal Science, Entomology, Zoology, and Animal behavior. The quality of many of the proposals was amazing, the broad impact that some of the students have had and plans to have from their projects was highly impressive. Approximately 10-15% of the proposals will be funded.

Three SACS Members Receive FFA Honorary Degree



The Tennessee FFA acknowledged the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Consumer Science, a faculty member, and one graduate student for their service and commitment to the FFA organization at the 2011 Tennessee FFA State Convention. Chandra Reddy, John C. Ricketts, and Michelle Page were awarded honorary FFA state degrees during the third convention session held on March 28 at the Convention Center in Gatlinburg, TN.

Chandra Reddy serves as the Dean of Tennessee State University's School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences (SACS). He also serves as Administrator of Extension at Tennessee State University. Reddy not only brought Agricultural Education back to TSU, but he has been an avid supporter of the program, which is evidenced by, among other things, hosting of key activities (*i.e.* FFA Career Development Events) for the organization.

John C. Ricketts, Extension Associate Professor at SACS, has served Tennessee FFA as a teacher, CDE judge, activities coordinator (Ag Sales, Horticulture, State Stars, etc.), and as an advocate. Ricketts recently returned to Tennessee after several years working with Agricultural Education in Florida and Georgia. He coordinates the undergraduate and graduate Agricultural Education Concentrations in the Department of Agricultural Sciences at TSU.

Michelle Page is a graduate student in Agricultural Sciences, but she is also a veteran teacher who has contributed to the organization

in countless ways (*i.e.* judging, event coordination, etc.). She is a leader among her teacher peers, and can be relied upon for whatever the organization has asked of her over the years.

Each year the state association selects individuals who have made significant contributions to the FFA at a state or local level. The honorees are awarded a plaque and a medal and are honored at the state convention. The FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 506,199 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,429 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The FFA changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The organization operates under a Federal Charter granted by the 81st Congress of the United States, and is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

Congratulations to the TSU recipients of the Tennessee Honorary FFA Degree.

Sam Comer Receives International Honor



At the 2011 annual meeting of the Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD) in Washington, D.C., Tennessee State University Professor Sammy L. Comer received the AIARD Special Service Award. This award is given to individuals that have made important international contributions to alleviating global hunger, promoting community development, and implementing changes in agricultural practices and policies.

Professor Comer, in the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences in the Department of Agricultural Science, has devoted his career to research and teaching related to agribusiness, rural development, community development, and farm management. He has worked with the Farmer Home Administration and Tennessee Valley Authority. Professor Comer, an expert in agribusiness, has also served as a consultant on numerous international projects, which include work in Tanzania, Botswana, Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho, Thailand, Indonesia, Turkmenistan, South Africa, Hungary, Cambodia, and India.

Samuel Nahashon Wins Research Mentorship Award



Congratulations to Dr. Samuel Nahashon, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Sciences, School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, the second winner of the Research Mentorship Award.

Dr. Nahashon was awarded this honor for serving as mentor/advisor to the greatest number of winning student research entries during the 33rd Annual University-Wide Research Symposium, 2011. Four of Dr. Nahashon's nine student entries placed in the student research competitions. He received \$1,000 cash in recognition of his research mentorship.

List of Dr. Nahashon's Winning Student Research Mentees

Graduate Oral Presentation-Science 1

1st Place –James Tyus
2nd Place-Thea Boatswain

Graduate Poster Presentation-Science

1st Place-James Tyus and Niesha Bonner
2nd Place-Carl Darris and Ashley Tinnan

Employees Recognized For Longevity At TSU

Congratulations to the employees from the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences who were recognized at the 19th Annual Awards Celebration Luncheon held this spring. They were:

5 Years

Dr. Korsi Dumenyo
Dr. Graham Matthews
Helen Oumer
Cassandra Williams

10 Years

Dr. Arvazena Clardy
Leslie Speller-Henderson
Dr. Suping Zhou

15 Years

Dr. Margaret Mmbaga

20 Years

Dr. Fitzroy Bullock

35 Years

Dr. Constantine Fenderson
Dr. Geraldean Johnson
Alvin Wade

Tyus Wins First Place



In early February, James Tyus, a graduate student under the direction of Dr. Samuel Nahashon, took first place in the graduate paper (oral) competition at the 2011 American Society of Animal Science- Southern Section Meeting, held jointly with the annual Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists meeting in Corpus Christi, TX. The presentation made by Mr. Tyus, "*Evidence for the expression of a genetically-diverse glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide gene in the avian hypothalamus*", was one of only three presentations using poultry species as animal models. The award came with a plaque and a \$200 cash prize. Tyus states, "It was quite an honor to win, as there were more graduate students competing this year than in any previous years of the meeting. Also, TSU was the only 1890 school represented in the competition."

Agriculture Sciences Graduate Accepted Into PhD. Program

Zong Liu, a graduate student in Agricultural Sciences mentored by Drs. Zhou and Sauve, has been accepted into the PhD. Program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Liu graduated in August 2010 with a degree in Agricultural Sciences. His thesis work dealt with the mechanism of cold tolerance in *Hellebores orientalis*. A manuscript of his work is being reviewed for publication in the Journal of American Society of Horticulture. Liu feels confident that because of the excellent training he received at TSU, he was prepared to take on his new research assignment at Wisconsin. His current project deals with the development of a method to monitor the occurrence of Torque Teno Virus (TTV) in sources and drinking waters. TTV is a small, unenveloped ssDNA virus, which occurs worldwide in humans. It has potential to be used as a viral indicator for providing a more effective measure of likely health risks from infectious viruses.



Congratulations, Zong!

From Nashville To Naples

After graduating in December of 2009 with a concentration in Child Development and Family Relations, Charisse Adams had the opportunity to participate in a Military Extension Internship. She reports that her experiences in Naples Italy, with the Navy's Child and Youth Program have been amazing. Charisse has gained tremendous insight on how their programs are run, giving her a very solid foundation for which to base future career choices. Her goal in life is to be able to have a positive impact on children, ultimately making a difference in their future. Charisse states, "This internship has helped me to grow professionally, as well as personally; by challenging me to do things and create things that I did not know I was capable of doing. The exposure to the new culture was also an amazing and an enlightening aspect that will help to keep me well rounded and open minded towards any new experience that I may encounter."



Frederick Wins First Place At PAWC



Tennessee State University sophomore Alex K. Frederick recently received First Place in the Undergraduate Competition for his presentation titled *Microbiological Safety of Irrigation Water Used By A Local Farmer* at the *The 68th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC)*, at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Frederick, a sophomore in the Nutrition Department presented a research paper and a PowerPoint presentation as well as a speech before being questioned about his project by three judges. As the first place winner he received a certificate of recognition as well as a \$500 cash prize.

“I saw a few posters around TSU about it, and I didn’t really think too much of it,” he said. “But Dr. Godwin came to me and asked me if I wanted to attend, and I had a lot going on at the time to be honest. I asked her if she thought it would be good for me, and she said I should attend if I had the time. She really is the one who pushed me into it.”

A sophomore in the Nutrition Department, Frederick credits the support of Dr. Sandria Godwin, Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics as well as TSU School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences Research Associate Professor Dr. Fur-Chi Chen and Research Associate Richard Stone with helping him obtain this award.

According to Dr. Godwin this is the eighth year of the Agriculture Honor Society sponsored competition which is just a small part of the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference.

“What we like most about him (Alex) is his enthusiasm,” she said. “He loves it. He gets so excited about the challenge, and he really tackles it.”

Dr. Chen who advised Frederick through the process of collecting and analyzing data as well as developing his project also described Frederick as an exceptional student.

“Alex is a dependable student who is willing to take on responsibility,” he said. “He is motivated to do research.”

According to Frederick the entire research project took him almost three months to complete.

“A local farmer in Nashville was having some irrigation issues with his water source. It was seen as being dirty so we studied his water and found out the microbiological contamination levels to see if it was safe or not,” he said. “We collected samples for about two months and there were about two weeks of planning beforehand.”

Frederick competed against 14 students from six different institutions to win the award.



Kudos Ms. Parks



Ms. Clarissa Parks, Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant, was invited to speak at the "Achieving the Dream" Conference (<http://www.achievingthedream.org>) held February 8-11 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Following this presentation, she was invited to present her ideas about education articulation to a committee of HBCU leaders as well. She has been a leader at TSU, but we are proud that others have recognized her abilities as well. Congratulations Clarissa!

Four TSU Agriculture And Consumer Sciences Students Receive Top Honors At ARD Conference In Atlanta

Four Tennessee State University students recently received top honors for their oral and poster presentations at the 16th Biennial Research Symposium sponsored by the Association of Research Directors, Inc. held April 9-11th in Atlanta, Ga.

Gary Kelly and Caleb Kersey, both Ph.D. students in Biological Sciences, received first place recognition for poster presentations in their respective categories.

Kelly, a native of Chattanooga, won first place in the Sustainable Plant and Animal Production Systems Graduate Competition for his poster presentation "Identification of Key Proteins Associated with Fat Accretion in Broiler Chickens Using a Proteomics Approach". Dr.

Samuel Nahashon, Research Associate Professor of Animal Sciences, served as his advisor. Kersey, a Mount Pleasant native, won first place in the Food Safety and Global Food Security Graduate Competition for his poster presentation "The Magnesium, Cobalt, Nickel Transporter, CorA Affects Exoenzyme Production and Virulence in the Soft Rot Pathogen, *Pectobacterium corotovorum*". Dr. Korsi Dunmenyo, Research Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology, served as his advisor.

Simbarashe Pasirayl, a native of Harare, Zimbabwe and a M.S. student in Agribusiness, received a first place award in the Family, Youth, Community and Economic Development Graduate Competition for his oral presentation "Assessment of Risk Reducing Strategies of

Small Farm Operators in Tennessee" under the advisement of Dr. Surendra Singh, TSU Professor of Agribusiness. Alex Frederick, sophomore nutrition major from Chapel Hill, won second place in the Family, Youth, Community and Economic Development Undergraduate Competition for his oral presentation "Impact of Irrigation Practices on Water Quality of Two Community Gardens in Nashville, Tennessee". He was advised by Dr.

Sandria Godwin, TSU Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Other Tennessee State University students who made presentations at the conference included: Maria Blacksmith, Thea Boatwain, Ashlev Brown, Ravindra Golkonda, Leslie Hughes, Xuan Le, Leclair Martin,

Syrta Murray, Toney Tillman, Jr. and Nicholas Williams. TSU students competed among approximately 300 students from seventeen 1890 land Grant Institutions.

Dr. Portia Shields, President of Tennessee State University, was one of the only 1890 presidents who attended the conference. Madame President presided over the official opening of the the poster presentation session.

The Association of Research Directors (ARD), Inc. is the federation of the eighteen (18) autonomous 1890 land grant universities that provide coordination of research initiatives among member 1890 Institutions in cooperation with federal, state and private partners.



Dr. Shields and Dr. Reddy attending the ARD Poster Presentations.

New Faces In The School Of Agriculture And Consumer Sciences



Dr. Lan Li holds a Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics from University of California, Davis, and joined TSU in November 2010 as an assistant professor. Her research is in the fields of agricultural economics, and currently focuses on (i) empirical industrial organization, market structure and competition, food marketing, food retailing, price and demand analysis, and related policy issues; and (ii) local food systems and related issues on supply chain management and marketing opportunities, small-scale farms, produce and specialty crop industries, and related policy analysis.



Dr. Alicia Bray has joined the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences (SACS) as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the entomology program at the Otis L. Floyd Nursery Research Center on November 1, 2010. Dr. Bray will be working with the TSU entomology program to develop improved traps, lures, and management methods for wood-boring insects; this group of insects poses a severe threat to forests systems and commercial nurseries in North America.

Dr. Bray received her doctorate degree in Entomology from Michigan State University (MSU) in August 2009. Her dissertation evaluated the invasion genetics of emerald ash borer in North America. Dr. Bray also has a Master's degree in Entomology from MSU and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology / Biochemistry from Eastern Michigan University. Before coming to SACS, Dr. Bray served as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN. Dr. Bray has a diverse teaching background, including Entomology, Invertebrate Zoology, Animal Physiology, Organismal Biology, Cell and Molecular Biology, and Introductory Biology for non-science majors. Dr. Bray's entomological experience includes molecular characterization of invasive wood-boring insects, working with ovipositional behavior of the malaria mosquito (*Anopheles gambiae*) in Kenya, and work with aggressive behavior, mating behavior, and circadian rhythms in diapausing flesh flies (*Sarcophaga*). Dr. Bray has participated in field surveys for natural enemies of emerald ash borer in China, South Korea, and Japan in cooperation with USDA classical biological control programs. Dr. Bray also has extension/outreach experience with several MSU sponsored entomology camps and presentations, 4-H workshops, and Master Gardner programs, and she has presented at over 20 national/international scientific conferences.

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