

# Alumni Agenda

VOL. X, Summer 2002

A Newsletter for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

## Pretty Good Shape For the Shape We're In Dean's Reflections

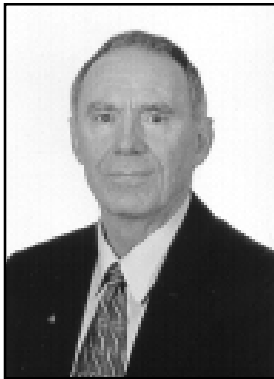
I've been in higher education for 33 years, and I've seen a lot of change – but, I've seen more change in the last three years than the previous 30! Some of the change has been positive, and the rest has ranged, from little effect – to catastrophic.

Higher education has needed to change for some time. We simply had to respond to new technology, changing constituents, and their needs. Unfortunately, until recently, higher education has been slow to change – not anymore!

The September 11 tragedy and the recession that followed took its toll on higher education throughout the country. Some major land grant universities have had budget cuts in the 18-23% range. Another problem not related to budget we all face is the shortage of Ph.D.'s and the intense competition to recruit faculty.

But, higher education institutions in Tennessee are further behind than our colleagues in other states. The state tax dilemma has been ongoing for four years now -- and that was preceded by over 10 years of little more than level funding -- during a time of unprecedented economic growth. We were underfunded when most

other states had their best budget years ever. As I'm sure you've heard by now, Tennessee has the 49<sup>th</sup> lowest tax base and the 48<sup>th</sup> lowest contribution to education – while at the same time, Tennessee has the highest number of high school graduates of all our southern state counterparts. Not a proud moment for Tennessee.



*Jim Byford, Dean,  
College of Agriculture  
and Applied Sciences*

Now – having said all that, let me tell you something that may surprise you. Compared to the misery many of our counterparts are facing, we're doing alright. In fact, most of the change I've experienced the last couple of years – though often difficult – has been invigorating. Why? Because I believe we've changed to better meet the needs of our

constituents – because money from private and corporate gifts have helped ease the burden – and because we now have good campus leadership, a sense of collegiality among faculty and staff, and high morale.

Here are some of the good things that have happened recently:

1. This year, because of the budget shortfall and low enrollment in Landscape Science and Management, we had to release a professor in that area. However, at the same time, we were able to initiate a curriculum in Turf and Golf Course Manage-

ment, one that holds great enrollment possibilities.

2. In spite of intense faculty recruiting competition with other universities, we've been able to fill 11 faculty positions with excellent people. We're searching to fill one other position now and have to keep three open because of the budget shortage.

3. The Brehm Hall renovation was completed and we moved into a beautiful, functional building this year. (Long story – the Brehm renovation was funded six years ago, before our latest budget problem, but the needed expansion was not funded as the budget problem reared its head. Bottom

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# Pretty Good Shape for the Shape We're In

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line – the building's great but we're short 10,000 square feet. As soon as the state's financial crisis is over, the expansion is third on the UT system list for funding.)

4. UTM fared extremely well during its re-accreditation visit by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – only had 15 recommendations out of 452 criteria.

5. We successfully launched a new Master of Science degree in Agricultural Operations Management. This is an online degree to serve working agriculture and natural resources professionals who need an advanced degree, but who can't come to campus to get it.

6. We are working under a National Science Foundation grant to develop an articulation arrangement with Jackson State Community College's precision agriculture program. The end result? UTM Agriculture graduates who choose this route will receive up-to-date certification in the latest precision agriculture technology.

7. Working under a USDA Rural Development grant – and in cooperation with a host of agriculture agencies and organizations – UTM hosted the first Marketplace for Ideas in Agriculture Conference. Dr. Peggy Hamlett with the Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service took leadership of this conference that attracted around 450 people. The topics focused on: alternative crops, value-added processing, and cooperative marketing – all ways to increase income of the region's beleaguered farmers. We've just received a second USDA Rural Development Grant to host a second conference, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003.

8. The UTM Agriculture and Natural Resources Complex is a facility designed as a teaching and demonstration facility for students (UTM and K-12), farmers, agriculture and natural resources professionals, and the general public. Though not yet complete, the complex went from a dream to reality in one year.

The Complex consists of a multi-species livestock teaching center, wildlife demonstration area, fish pond demonstration area, plant sciences demonstration area, greenhouse, beef cattle development area (including a national Belted Galloway development center), public walking/cycling greenway trail, picnic area, and the Ned McWherter West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion.

The agricultural pavilion was opened in 1986, but all other aspects of the ANR Complex began in 2001 when an old abandoned dairy and 240 acres of land were transferred from the UT Agricultural Experiment Station to UTM. With no public funding, but a great deal of corporate help and private gifts, the complex has become a reality during a time of depressed state funding. A great deal of work has already been done, but development is continuing.

9. Students and professors have traveled and have several trips planned:

- 12 Wildlife students / 2 professors / US Natural Resources Tour
- Family and Consumer Sciences / Scotland / England (5 professors and 4 students)
- Fashion Merchandising students to Atlanta / Dallas
- Numerous Family and Consumer Sciences trips for students in state
- Wildlife students / Southeastern U.S. professional meeting
- Japan / 10 students, 1 professor

Planning trips to:  
▪ Hirosaki University, Japan / Nancy Warren is invited lecturer  
▪ Brazil/Rainforest /students and professor  
▪ Brazil / Agriculture / local young farmers and professor  
▪ Russia / students and professor

In addition, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources hosted 10 Japanese students and professor.

10. The Agricultural Pavilion hosted 56,120 visitors at 56 events during the year.

11. The Dept. of Family and Consumer Sciences has attracted \$2.1 million in grants to help children and families in West TN.

12. The undergraduate dietetics program has received full accreditation.

13. The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences has developed three distance courses for child care workers and teachers.

14. The Department of Nursing had 100% employment of its graduates.

15. 100% of UTM nursing graduates passed the national nursing exam – compared to 86% for Tennessee and 88% for the U.S.

16. The Department of Military Science has had a 25% increase in enrollment and a 50% increase in cadets commissioned to 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant.

17. Our faculty keep on serving; in one week alone this spring we had 23 faculty involved in nine different public service events external to the university. This doesn't include numerous university, college, and departmental committee activities our faculty were involved in that week.

In addition, we're proud to say that Nancy Warren, Chair of our Nursing Department is the incoming president of the UTM Faculty Senate.

**So, we've had a tough year, but we've had a good year. On second thought – we've had a great year! Yep – I'd say we're in pretty good shape for the shape we're in.**

*Alumni Agenda is a publication of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, The University of Tennessee at Martin. It covers the activities and issues that concern the College's alumni.*

*Jim Byford, Dean  
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# Agriculture and Natural Resources

## New Masters Program Off to a Great Start



The Master of Science in Agricultural Operations Management (MSAOM) is nearing the end of its first year. This new program has generated considerable interest throughout Tennessee, as well as from surrounding states. All courses are offered in convenience formats with most of the courses available online. This means that our

graduate students can complete their degrees without having to leave their homes and places of work. We began offering courses for the MSAOM in August, 2001. In each of the fall, spring and summer terms, we have offered two online graduate courses for the program. Other courses have also been available through interactive TV and internship/research courses have also been offered. A total of 16 students have been admitted to the MSAOM program so far. Our students have bravely plunged into the new frontier of online distance learning and have adapted well to this new method of learning. Our faculty, too, have taken up the challenge of teaching in this new medium. Although most of our students have enrolled with the intention of completing their Masters degree, our program is also well suited to individuals who want to take just a few courses at the graduate level every now and then to further their education.

Dr. Timothy N. Burcham, P.E., has been recently hired to fill the position of the Gil Parker Chair of Excellence in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Dr. Burcham is a registered Professional Engineer with B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricultural

Engineering from Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from Clemson University. Dr. Burcham will serve as the new Graduate Coordinator for the MSAOM program and teach many of the Agricultural Engineering Technology courses associated with the degree. Dr. Burcham served as a researcher and teacher at Mississippi State University before joining UTM. He worked extensively in MSU's Agricultural Engineering Technology & Business undergraduate program helping to

increase enrollment from 15 to over 80 students. Dr. Burcham hopes to bring the same type of growth to the MSAOM program. Dr. Burcham's research interests include: animal waste management & design, onsite wastewater treatment, and robotics in agriculture.

Dr. Barbara Darroch has served as the Interim Graduate Coordinator for the MSAOM. She is working with Dr. Burcham to insure a smooth transition for all students and faculty associated with the MSAOM. Our thanks to Dr. B. Darroch for guiding the MSAOM program through its first year.

Timothy N. Burcham, P.E., Ph.D.  
Professor and Parker Chair



*Dr. Tim Burcham*

### Five Outstanding Wildlife Officers are Graduates of UTM

Each year, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency designates one of its officers as Tennessee Officer of the Year. Of the last eight honorees, five have been graduates of UTM's Wildlife Biology program. Officers receiving the prestigious recognition are:

1994 - Joe King      1995 - Greg Barker      1998 - Ty Inmon      2000 - Jeff Skelton      2001 - Jereme Odom

A wildlife officer wears many hats, in addition to enforcing the state's fish and wildlife regulations. They assist other law enforcement officers (local and state police), conduct educational programs, write news articles, appear on radio and television programs, collect food and habitat data (which helps in setting seasons and bag limits), operate hunting check stations, assist landowners and others with wildlife damage control – to name a few. They also capture and re-locate wildlife to help re-establish populations in areas when they have been depleted. Tennessee wildlife officers, along with biologists, are responsible for today's thriving populations of deer, turkey, otters, and bald eagles in Tennessee.

To be recognized as best in the state is an honor – and UTM is proud of its alums who've received that distinction!

# Livestock Judging Team Completes Top-10

The UT Martin livestock judging team accomplished its year-long goal of a top-10 national finish by winning eighth place in the National Livestock Judging Contest, Nov. 12-13, in Louisville, Ky. The five-member team began competing last January and is the university's first livestock judging team since 1985.

"The team handled it (the pressure at Louisville) extremely well," said Kyle Rozeboom, livestock judging team coach. "I was very proud of their performance." Judging team members Matt Barnes of Selmer, Tenn., Justin Williams and Clint Bain of Savannah, Tenn., Ben Neale of Lynnville, Tenn., and Michael Simpson of McMinnville, Tenn., competed in Louisville and throughout the year against the top livestock judging programs in the country.

Rozeboom said the team had a "really exceptional fall" in regional judging contests before the Louisville trip. The team opened with a ninth-place finish at the All-American Swine Breeders Classic in Des Moines, Iowa, and then followed with second-place finishes in three contests: the Mid-South Fair in Memphis, Tenn., the Georgia National Fair in Perry, Ga., and the Premier Stockman Contest in Columbia City, Ind. Three team members also achieved individual recognition with top-five finishes at the regional events.

Besides regional competition, the team enjoyed success at one other national contest by finishing fourth at the American Royal Livestock Judging Contest in Kansas City, Mo.

"I'm extremely pleased with how quickly we went from pretty much not having a program to being one of the top-10 programs in the country," Rozeboom said, adding "and I believe one of the top-five programs in the country if you look at our track record throughout the whole fall."

Matt Barnes, a junior agriculture business major who was named to the national 10-member All-American Livestock Judging Team, said the team gained confidence throughout the fall and thought a higher national finish was possible. However, he said the team was "pleased to accomplish their original goal," and for him, the Louisville contest is something he will never forget.

"It (Louisville) was a very memorable experience," Barnes said. "I think as far as judging goes, that contest will probably stay with me forever."

Michael Simpson, a junior animal science major, agreed with Barnes about the finish at Louisville. "Of course we'd all liked to have been better," Simpson said. "But that's a good place to have finished for a team its first time out."

Although team members will remember the high-level competition, all agreed that the judging-team experience taught them much more. Ben Neale, a senior animal science major said he "enjoyed just being on the road and learning."

"I've learned so much more about the industry ... than I would have if I'd been in the classroom learning from a book," Neale said. "You get a picture of the (livestock) industry as it operates."

"It's a very good experience, because you learn so much more than just about livestock," added Justin Williams, a junior agriculture business major. "You learn about public-speaking



Dr. Jim Byford (left) with the Livestock Judging Team: (left to right) Ben Neale, Matt Barnes, Clint Bain, Justin Williams, Michael Simpson, and Coach Kyle Rozeboom

ability and how to talk to other people, which will help you in the future as far as interviews and just being more conversational with other people."

As for the team's rapid success during the past year, all agreed that Rozeboom deserves much of the credit. Clint Bain, a senior animal science major, remembered Rozeboom telling the team that success on the judging circuit requires plenty of hard work. "He (Rozeboom) has that drive that wants him to keep winning each and every day," said Bain.

Dr. Jim Byford, dean of the UT Martin College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, said he is "extremely pleased with the consistent quality" of the team's performance. He, too, credits Rozeboom for the team's strong showing in judging contests across the country.

"Kyle has done a great job as UT Martin livestock judging coach," Byford said. "He works the team very hard, but he has demonstrated a good balance between optimism and realism, between encouragement and critique."

Looking ahead, Rozeboom expects the livestock judging program to reach higher levels of success. However, he will have to build the program with new team members.

"This team is done in their eligibility," said Rozeboom, who is now recruiting for the 2002 judging team. "College livestock judging contestants are granted one year of eligibility, and once they're finished, they can no longer compete."

Even so, he won't soon forget his first UT Martin livestock judging team, adding that it will be "extremely hard" to see his first team leave.

"When you spend over 30 hours a week together, and we've traveled approximately 35,000 miles in a 12-passenger van together, you become really close," he said. "These students are almost like kids of my own."

## Matt Barnes Memorial Scholarship Endowment

**M**att Barnes never missed an opportunity to help others. Now, his friends are making sure that the University of Tennessee at Martin student will long be remembered for his influence at the Martin campus. Proceeds from the sale of a heifer auctioned April 13 will benefit the new Matt Barnes Memorial Scholarship Endowment.

Barnes, a third-year agriculture business major from Selmer, Tenn., and a member of the university's livestock judging team, was killed in a vehicle accident April 5 in Weakley County. The heifer was donated by the Tennessee Livestock Producers with the auction proceeds going to the endowment that bears Barnes' name.

The heifer was the first animal auctioned during the Tennessee Livestock Producers/UT Martin Replacement Heifer Sale held at the university's Livestock Teaching Center. Charlie Rowlett, center manager, organized the auction with the help of Barnes and other students before Barnes' death.

Dr. Jerry Gresham, UT Martin animal science professor, said the university's

livestock judging team led a campaign to raise money to purchase the heifer. A total of \$8,500 was pledged to the fund before the auction, he said.

"The team bid on and purchased the heifer for \$8,500 with the proceeds going to the scholarship fund," Gresham said. "After the bid was announced, the team then donated the heifer back to be sold a second time with the bidder then keeping the heifer."

The heifer was then purchased by Matt's parents, Rod and Linda Barnes. Linda Barnes told the crowd that the heifer will spend the rest of her life on the family farm as a tribute to Matt.

The Barnes family's purchase of the heifer brings the scholarship fund total to \$10,000. Additional gifts can be made to the Matt Barnes Memorial Scholarship Endowment by calling the UT Martin Office of Development, 731-587-7620, or by sending a check to the Office of Development, University of Tennessee at Martin, 328 Administration Building, Martin, Tenn. 38238.

## Butler Receives FFA Award

**D**r. James Butler, assistant professor of agricultural education, received the Tennessee FFA Association VIP Award during ceremonies at the State FFA Convention in Gatlinburg. Butler was honored for providing service to FFA members by coordinating various regional and state FFA activities and conducting numerous professional development programs for agriculture teachers across the state.



*Dr. James Butler*

## Students Receive American FFA Degrees

**S**tudents from the University of Tennessee at Martin received American FFA Degrees at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. In the front row are: Lacy Stanford, Richland High School; Sara Watkins, Richland High School. In the back row are: Jamie White, Peabody High School; Derek Norman, Peabody High School; Jason Doggett, Richland High School, Adam Hill, McNairy Central High School, and Jamie Tosh, Henry County High School. Not pictured is Zach Watkins, Richland High School.



# Wildlife News

**F**ifteen students majoring in Wildlife Biology accompanied Dr. Eric Pelren, Assistant Professor of Wildlife Biology, and Dr. James Butler, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education, on a 19-day, 6,900 mile travel course across the northern U.S. to the Pacific Ocean last May. Course participants were exposed to key federal wildlife research and management facilities, a wide range of ecosystems, and diverse wildlife communities across the continent. Trip highlights included waterfowl and shorebird nesting grounds of the Prairie Pothole region, Yellowstone and Jackson Hole elk and bison herds, Columbia River salmon runs, Cocany fishing in the Wallowa Mountains, coastal seabird, seal, and tide pool colonies, spotted owl nests and old growth forests in the Cascades, a late-night High Desert rail search, airboat rides on the Great Salt Lake, and a visit to alpine habitat in Rocky Mountain National Park. The trip encompassed 3 National Wildlife Refuges, 5 National Parks, and 11 National Forests. Participants identified 120 bird species, 30 mammals, and approximately 12 reptiles, amphibians, and fish.



*Wildlife students take time out to study the fish species found in one of the lakes visited during their travels.*

## Block and Bridle

*by Kyle Rozeboom, Club Advisor*

**T**he Block and Bridle Club is a collegiate organization of students who are interested in all areas of animal science. Our dedicated members work hard to promote animal science, increase scholastic achievement, and to bring about closer relationships among students pursuing animal science as a profession. At UT Martin, the Block and Bridle Club has students interested in the cattle, sheep and swine industries. Being multifaceted has helped the group reach all sorts of new students and develop new ideas.

The Block and Bridle officers for the 2002 Spring semester were: President, Jon Travis; Vice President, Jason Doggett; Secretary, Annette Thomas; Treasurer Shelby Arnett; Activities Chair, Nancy Warden and Sargent of Arms, Brad Buttrey.

Block and Bridle remained very busy this year participating in many activities and programs. Prior to school starting last fall B&B hosted the first annual Skyhawk Classic Lamb Show. The Skyhawk Classic is a market lamb show open to all 4-H and FFA exhibitors. The show drew 95 lambs exhibited by 40 exhibitors from four states. The B&B is extremely proud of the success of this first show and is excited about hosting the the second annual show on July 6, 2002. This year's show is in honor of B&B member Matt Barnes who was killed in an auto accident this spring. If you would like information on the show please contact Kyle Rozeboom at UTM.

Block and Bridle began the school year with the annual Fall Fest. Once again, the club set up a booth and board to promote its purpose and its yearly activities to interested students.

In October, UTM held it's second annual Little International

Livestock Showmanship Contest. The club organized the show, set up corrals, looked after paper work, and generally kept the show running. Both experienced exhibitors and rookies came out and showed beef cattle, swine, goats, and horses. Only some left with ribbons but everyone enjoyed it.

In November, Block and Bridle helped the Collegiate FFA with their annual FFA and 4-H livestock clinic. They set up and tore down livestock pens and helped serve food to the many high school students that participated in the clinic. Members also served as officials judge for the contest and listened to reasons. Proceeds received from hosting the clinic were used to fund club activities.

At Santa's Village, held Decemer 6-9, 2001 at the Ag. Pavilion, B&B sponsored a petting zoo for the public to interact with farm animals. There were also rides for the whole family and much more. Even Santa himself showed up.

During the November visit to Martin Healthcare, a local nursing home, the club went from room to room talking and passing out gifts. During a second visit in March, B&B members participated in many games of BINGO and passed out gifts as prizes. The elderly seemed sweet and meek but when it came to a game of BINGO, they were ruthless!

During the first day of UTM's spring collegiate rodeo, Block and Bridle coordinated the Honorary Cowboy program. Mentally or physically challenged children from the Obion County area participate in the fun filled activities. The Equestrian Club provided a couple of calm horses for the children to ride while B&B members led them

*Continued on page 7*

## Our New Farm

**H**ereford and Holstein cows, Yorkshire sows, and the old Beef Barn and Dairy. Brings back a lot of memories doesn't it? Boy, you should see us now!! In case you haven't been back in the last two years, let me give you an update and what has happened since you left.

A few years ago, there were several changes regarding the livestock on the farm. Remember all the animals we used in class were property of the Martin Experiment Station and the Experiment Station staff operated the farm. Therefore, we did a lot of traveling off-campus to find different breeds and animals to use. To make a long story short, the Experiment Station got rid of all the animals on the farm and at the present time they only operate the swine research

center with about 100 crossbred sows.

However, good things began to happen for us. We were able to acquire about 250 acres of the experiment station land for a teaching farm. Our first job was to find a Farm Manager, and we hired Charlie Rowlett in March, 2001. Charlie has been instrumental in putting together our operation, and currently serves as both Farm Manager and Director of the Agriculture Pavilion following Dr. Thomsen's retirement. Through private donations we were able to renovate one of the old equipment sheds at the dairy into an equine stalling barn and the old milking parlor into laboratory classroom space. We now keep 8-10 horses on the property for teaching and use by the equestrian team coached by Dr. Darroch. A graduate of another department on campus

donated to us 22 head of Belted Galloway cattle. This gift has grown into 50+ head along with additional land and barns adjoining the experiment station that has been leased with a donation from a prominent Belted Galloway breeder from South Carolina. We also have about 20 purebred Hampshire ewes and 20 Boer meat goats for teaching purposes. We ran 100 commercial replacement heifers during the past year and hosted a sale where they averaged \$965 per head. These animals are the basis for Kyle Rozeboom's work with the livestock judging team and we even have a cattle show team that showed some of our Belties at Louisville last fall.

Besides the livestock work, we have been able to develop several wildlife teaching plots for Dr. Pelren on the land, and are preparing to build several ponds for use by both our department and Biology. Geology is building a demonstration site on the land, and the City of Martin is planning a Greenway Trail through our property. We have developed partnerships with groups such as area John Deere and Sooner Trailer dealers, Gallagher Fence, Purina Mills and others to supply equipment and feed. So, you can see a lot of things are going on. If you get a chance, come see us and take the tour!!



**SARA DUNAGAN MAKES GIFT TO UT MARTIN** - A gift to the University of Tennessee at Martin by Sara Dunagan (center) of Caruthersville, Mo., made possible the renovation of the university's Agricultural Demonstration/Teaching Complex Headquarters Building. The building was dedicated April 19 in honor of Harry Henderson (left) of Martin for his 38 years of service to the university's farm and experiment station. Henderson served as Martin Experiment Station superintendent from 1981-1996. Also pictured is Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor and son of Sara and the late Horace Dunagan of Caruthersville.

## Block and Bridle

*Continued from page 6*

around the Ag. Pavilion. Roping lessons were given, pictures were taken, and gifts including hats and belts were passed out to the children.

Plans are underway for another great year next fall. The Block and Bridle plans on continuing many of the activities performed last year as well as developing new and educational ones for the upcoming year. For more information on the UTM Block and Bridle Club, contact Kyle Rozeboom-Club Advisor 731-587-7936



# UT MARTIN EQUESTRIAN CLUB & TEAM NEWS

By Dr. Craig Darroch, Faculty Advisor and IHSA Team Coach

The 2001-2002 year has to be considered an all-round success for the club, team and the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In the summer of 2001, we renovated one of the old dairy free-stall barns into a 10 stall horse barn, now called "Graves Stables." This was made possible by Danny Graves, a UT Martin Alumnus and rodeo team member, who provided money and a construction crew to aid in the renovation. The stalling barn was dedicated to Mr. Graves in November 2001 and is part of our Agriculture Teaching Center. Along with the new stalling barn, we have developed 4 pastures for horses and will be building an outdoor riding arena this year with the help of the Tennessee National Guard. In September of 2001, UT Martin acquired its first

horse, a Thoroughbred named "Romeo" through a donation from Eugene and Carol Mangiante of Memphis, TN. Mr. Craig Laman from Alamo, TN contracted with the university to train and exercise two paint horses. This summer, Ms. Jennifer Snyder of Collierville, TN has donated an Arabian mare, and Ken Travis of Newburn, TN has donated three Thoroughbred horses and a Standardbred horse. The presence of these horses and student horses on campus has created opportunities for the Equestrian Team



*Romeo*

to practice regularly; and for the club to support a variety of equine events on campus and in the community. Some of these events included a horse judging clinic, the West Tennessee FFA Horse Judging Contest, and the West Tennessee 4H horse judging contest. In April, Jillian Edwards and Jessica Clark (club & team members) and myself used three horses in a children's program at the Margaret Perry Children's Center on campus. It was exciting to watch the reactions of 3-5 year old children as they touched and rode the horses for the first time! Horses were also used by the Block & Bridle Club in their Honorary Cowboy Day during rodeo week. The horses have also been used in Dr. Darroch's equine



*Dedication of "Graves Stables" at UT Martin Agricultural Teaching Center, November 2001*

classes, and occasionally in other animal science classes to provide students with some hands-on experiences around horses. This spring, Dr. Darroch taught an equitation class to beginner riders. As a club fund-raiser, we have started to offer riding lessons to area residents. This summer, three youths from the Martin area took private lessons with Katie Schuman, an animal science major and hunt seat equestrian team captain. Both riders and parents have been pleased with our riding program. Club members traveled to Natchez Trace State Park again this year to participate in the Tom Boyd Memorial Trail ride, and all those attending had a good time, even the horses! Club members also traveled to local horse shows during the summer; which provided practice for club and team members, and furthered the training of the horses. In January, the Equestrian Club invited Kim Smith, Equine Specialist with Tennessee Farmers Cooperative to talk on horse nutrition. Fifty-two people attended the on-campus seminar.

In IHSA team news, we saw our intercollegiate team grow in size. The western team had 15 students pay their national dues and the hunt seat team had seven eligible riders. Mike Pierce was the western team captain, and Katie Schuman was the hunt seat team



*Rachel Alley (age 8) on Spot, taking riding lessons at UT Martin, June, 2002.*

captain for the 2001/2002 school year. Individually, team members did very well and we had three riders (Mike Pierce, Jared Patterson and Katie Schuman) qualify for the western regional show in Marion, IL. Katie placed third in Intermediate Western Horsemanship at the regional show, and went on to the Zone Finals at Midway, KY in April. Among our team members, Mike Pierce, Agricultural Science major with 19 points was our high point western team rider for 2001/2002 year. Katie Schuman was hot on his heels *or hooves* with 18 points. Samantha Silvey, an engineering major took top honors on the hunt seat team with 27 points.



*From left to right, Jared Patterson, Katie Schuman, Mike Pierce and Dr. Craig Darroch at IHSA regional finals in Marion, IL, March, 2002*



*Family and friends supporting the Hunt Seat Equestrian Team at MTSU in February, 2002.*

If you would like information about our Equestrian Team or Club, riding lessons, horse related activities at UT Martin; or would like to donate or sponsor a horse, please contact Dr. Craig Darroch at 731-587-7259 or email: [cdarroch@utm.edu](mailto:cdarroch@utm.edu). If you or your horse club needs some help with a horse event, please call us, we'd be happy to assist you.

# Dr. Rodney Thomsen Retires

by *Richard Shadden*

Another era has ended in agriculture at The University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Rodney Mac Thomsen has retired! Agriculture and natural resource management alumni may fondly remember (and Doc might say some not so fondly) lectures on futures, odd shaped graphs, bell shaped curves, economic planning, etc. and all those other seemingly illogical things, at least to some, with which economists deal and wonder how in the world they are ever going to be taught in a sensible way without Doc.

Dr. Thomsen, addressed by most people as simply "Doc", commenced and ended his teaching career in agricultural economics and business at The University of Tennessee at Martin. He started teaching in the fall of 1975 and taught for over 26 years. Due to poor health, he reluctantly went on leave in December 2001 and officially retired in May, 2002. However, his initial association with UTM was as a student from 1968 through 1971. His major was agricultural education and after a stint with student teaching in a high school agricultural education program, he decided his

future might be better served if he prepared himself to teach at a higher level. His agricultural economics professor at UTM, Mr. Carol Murphey, suggested he might want to do graduate work in agricultural economics and recommended him to the agricultural economics department at The University of Tennessee at Knoxville. So off he went to Knoxville where he completed requirements for a M.S. and a Ph.D. in

agricultural economics in 1973 and 1975 respectively. Fortunately, the stars were properly aligned about the time he received his Ph.D. in that the agriculture program at UTM needed an agricultural economist. An offer was made by Dr. Harold J. Smith, Dean of Agriculture at that time, and Dr. Thomsen accepted and launched his career as a college professor.

Dr. Thomsen was born on October 8, 1949, to V.C. and Ruth Thomsen. He was reared on a farm near Jackson, TN and determined early on that he was "into" agriculture. Like all young men, he had to find his way. Guided by a loving mother and

father who tutored him in agriculture and nurtured by an entrepreneurial grandfather, Mr. R.C. McAlexander, Dr. Thomsen grew up growing cotton and other crops common to West Tennessee and developing that business acumen which would ultimately define his life's vocation. He also was simultaneously developing a knowledge of and love for horses which served him well throughout his career and has become even more important in his retirement. Although it was not a given that he was going to col-

lege, due to the influence of his parents, his vocational agriculture teacher, Mr. Rommie Niesler at Northside in Jackson, and most importantly the challenge from his grandfather to get a college education, he decided to give it a try. Sadly, his grandfather passed away the day he started college. By his own admission, he was not a very serious student before college, but Dr. Thomsen was turned on at UTM and the

challenge issued by his now deceased grandfather spurred him on. Ultimately earning the Ph.D. is a pretty good testimony to the kind of student he became.

The number of students he has taught and their records of achievement are testimonies to the kind of teacher he was. Several teaching awards including The University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award came his way. Not only was he knowledgeable and well prepared in his subject but he also really cared about his students. He seemed to know what buttons to push to get a student on track and he worried about them if they were not "making it". Sometimes his approach was to give gentle, friendly advice; sometimes his help entailed the fatherly approach; and sometimes it was just a good old fashioned butt chewing. But he always seemed to know when help was needed and the right way to administer it. His help and concern did not stop when a student finished a course. He constantly had a steady stream of students in and out of his office seeking help in finding a job, either part time while in school or full time after graduation. Sometimes they came just because they needed advice, his opinion, or an ear to bend. He was always ready to listen and help. And it is a known fact that many have sought his advice and assistance even years after graduation.

Doc's service was not limited to teaching. In 1983 he was appointed as Acting Director of the newly established West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion and subsequently served as Director from 1984 until his retirement. Under his leadership, the facility has had a major and positive impact on the department, the university, the economy and even the culture of the region. It was the first of its kind in the state and has served as a model for many others that have followed in the state and region. Many agriculture freshmen students who took his Agricultural Economics 110 course in the fall semester will forever remember the



*Dr. Rodney Thomsen*

# Hathcock Retires

by Bob Duck

**D**r. Bob Hathcock, 59, a stalwart member of the Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty at UTM for more than 30 years, retired Dec. 31, 2001. Some 140 students, alumni, and colleagues celebrated his career achievements with a banquet in his honor at the UTM University Center December 7.

A classic illustration of "hometown boy makes good," Hathcock completed a BS in Agriculture at UTM in 1963. Following completion of an MS (Soils) at UT-Knoxville in 1966 and a PhD (Plant

## Doc Thomsen

experience of working on Santa's Village in early December because of some "encouragement" from Doc. There are countless other memories that could be recalled and some memories that some people may not want to recall. Doc was known for being willing to help students who got in trouble and we are not talking about grade trouble. Over the years there have been a few who were the recipients of this special help, but they shall remain anonymous.

Although it ended a little prematurely, we can evaluate his career with the university in only one way. It was excellent! Someone will soon be found to fill his position, but Doc cannot be replaced! Something about the mold being broken, they don't make them like that anymore, or other similar comments seem appropriate. In any event, we wish him well in his retirement. And if you are over Dresden way, there is no doubt he would be glad for you to stop by and visit. Retirement has already helped his ailments somewhat such that you can usually find him out at the barn puttering (and sometimes sputtering) around in his overalls and cap and associating with his horses.

The department is planning a retirement dinner in honor of his service to the university on October 5.

Breeding) at Texas A & M in 1970, he returned to his alma mater as an Assistant Professor of Agronomy beginning with the fall term, 1970. He was subsequently promoted to Associate Professor (1976) and Professor (1987).

Generations of alumni know Hathcock best as teacher of a broad spectrum of courses in the plant sciences area, from the introductory course to senior-level courses in crop management. His interest and expertise, coupled with evolving trends in agriculture, led to his development of courses in plant pathology, pesticides, weed science, and international agriculture. His courses are known for being challenging, but also interesting and stimulating. And he excelled at teaching; he

was recipient of the UT National Alumni Association "Outstanding Teacher" award for UTM in 1976 and again in 1989, and the Cunningham "Outstanding Teacher/Scholar" award in 2000.

While teaching was his primary responsibility, Bob was also active in research and for several years held a joint appointment with the UT Agricultural Experiment Station. His research emphasized crop management techniques and was reported in regional and national publications as well as Experiment Station field days and regional and national conferences.

Hathcock was also an active participant in departmental, college, and university committee activities. He was elected twice to the UTM Faculty Senate and

served on several committees of that body, and he also served on numerous departmental and college committees. His contributions to curriculum development and search committees for new faculty and staff were especially noteworthy.

Realizing the global importance and interrelationships of agriculture and human welfare, Hathcock has long been a proponent of "internationalization" of the curriculum. His international travels have included study and teaching assignments in Israel, United Kingdom, Uganda, Guatemala, Ecuador, Egypt, Cuba, Mexico (twice), Costa Rica (three times), Venezuela, and Japan (three times). Four of these excursions have involved leading

groups of UTM students in studies of foreign agricultural conditions and technology, and as this is being written he is in Japan (in retirement, no less!) with a group of seven students studying the agriculture of that region. His interests in global agriculture led to his serving as "International Coordinator" for the college from 1990 until his retirement.

Awards, certificates, and plaques notwithstanding, Dr. Hathcock is best known by students, alumni, and colleagues as an effective teacher, caring mentor, and friend. He and his wife, Lynda, will continue to live in Martin. Their daughter's family (Lorrie and Doug Worrell) resides in New Jersey and includes three children, while their son's family (Lance and Trisha) lives in Jackson, TN, and includes two children.



Dr. Bob Hathcock

## Agriculture/ Natural Resources

**1981**

**Jeffrey L. Jetton** is the market programs manager for Dow AgroSciences in Indianapolis, Indiana. He has one child, Paige, age 18. Jeffrey can be reached by email at: JJJetton363@aol.com.

**1992**

After graduating from UTM with a B.S. degree in Natural Resources Management (Wildlife Biology), **Mark Garner** attended graduate school at UTK and completed his M.S. degree in May of 1995 with a concentration in fisheries science. Mark then worked at UTK for a year and a half before beginning work on his Ph.D at Michigan State University in 1997. He completed his Ph.D. in May 2001 with a concentration in wildlife management. His thesis title was: Movement patterns and behavior at winter feeding and fall baiting stations in a population of white-tailed deer infected with bovine tuberculosis in the northeastern lower peninsula of Michigan. After completing his Ph.D., Mark worked as a technical services biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and then recently began a new position as a wildlife biologist with the U.S Forest Service, stationed in Columbia, SC. Mark married Angela Hainley in 1995. They have one child, Maisy Jo, who will turn one in August.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

**1999**

**Emily Anne Harding** completed her M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences at UT Martin in May 2001. During the 2000-2001 school year, Emily was also a graduate assistant for the Dept. of Family and Consumer Sciences. Emily is now the service coordinator for Tennessee's Early Intervention System in Murfreesboro, TN.

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