

The CAAS Correspondent

February 2016

Students receive scholarships

UT Martin students Morgan Plunkett and Tanna Norman were selected as recipients of the Sigma Alpha Sorority Educational Foundation Scholarship to attend the 2016 Leadership Seminar.

These recipients are recognized for their outstanding leadership skills within Sigma Alpha Sorority and given funds to offset the cost of attending the Seminar in either St. Louis, Atlanta, Denver or Pittsburgh.

Each spring, Sigma Alpha agriculture sorority conducts Leadership Seminars in conjunction with Alpha Gamma Rho agricultural fraternity. Attendees hone their professional skills by attending sessions pertaining to leadership, conflict management, communication, diversity and teamwork.

Plunkett is a plant and soil science major from Estill Springs, and Norman is a Communications major and Agriculture minor from Williamsport.



Morgan Plunkett



Tanna Norman

Seminars set for careers in animal science

This spring, CAAS will be having a monthly seminar series featuring guest speakers from a variety of animal science backgrounds and companies.

The seminars are scheduled for the following Tuesday evenings: February 23, March 22 and April 26. All seminars will begin at 5:30 p.m. in 107 Brehm Hall and will last roughly an hour with plenty of time for questions and discussions.

The seminars will be a great opportunity to learn about the many careers available in animal science and agriculture as well as network and potentially gain internships or jobs.

Many of these companies have positions that are not animal science related (business, engineering, food science, public health, environmental issues, etc.), so all

AGN students are encouraged to attend.

The speakers/companies represented and topics they will cover are as follows:

February 23

Ben Neale, BioZyme/Vitaferm (livestock feed/nutrition)

March 22

Representative from Tosh Farm/Tosh Pork (swine/hogs, both live production and meat/food perspectives)

April 26

Dr. Justin Rhinehart, UT Extension Beef Specialist (beef cattle, extension and education, graduate school)

News for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

Changes occur in faculty, staff

• **Dr. Wesley Totten** has been named chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources after serving as interim chair. He is also an associate professor of plant science.



• **Mike Pierce** is now serving as the University of Tennessee at Martin's Farm Manager.



Pierce joined the UTM staff in June of 2015. Before becoming farm manager, Pierce was a senior equipment operator for the teaching farm. In his spare time, he enjoys running stocker calves and a few cow/calf pairs. In his new role, Pierce is most looking forward to rebuilding the teaching farm and the agriculture pavilion.

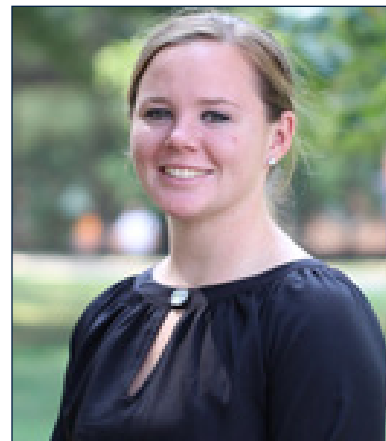
• **BeLynda Jones** is now the administrative assistant at the diagnostics lab. Before joining AGN, she worked in the Bursar's Office. Jones decided to switch roles at UTM because she had the opportunity to be a part of a growing and exciting program while continuing to work with the students. Jones enjoys going to the lake with her husband, going to football games and spending time with family and friends.



• **Jessica Crews Garcia** joined the College as an agricultural economics lecturer. She previously worked as an IT Specialist in the Instructional Technology Center at UTM. Garcia is currently utilizing her experience in the IT field and incorporating the knowledge gained in her own teaching

and support of online agriculture students. In her spare time, Garcia enjoys the outdoors including fishing, hunting, boating, photography, and horseback riding.

• **Tracie Moss** is now the administrative assistant for the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. She is leaving her position as the athletics administrative assistant, where she assisted the athletics director, athletics staff and student athletes with clerical needs while also managing all athletic injuries being processed through insurance payments. When she has spare time, Moss and her husband love hiking, camping, traveling and spending time with their granddaughter.



• **Renee Stubblefield** is a new lab instructor for veterinary health technology.



Group headed to Iceland in May

Dr. Chris Karmosky and Dr. Stan Dunagan are taking 13 students to Iceland as part of a UT Martin-sponsored travel-study in May.

The trip dates are from May 9 to May 18, 2016.

A majority of the students going on the trip are

geoscience majors with concentrations in Geology and Meteorology, but the trip also has students participating who have majors in Psychology, Education, Mathematics, International Studies, Biology and Computer Science.

News briefs

- The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Student Academic Recognition Ceremony and Reception will be held at 5 p.m. Monday, April 18, in the University Center ballroom.

- Brad Buttrey, Dr. Emalee Buttrey and Dr. Ross Pruitt recently presented classes on reproduction, marketing, and nutrition to the Weakley County Advanced Master Beef Class held recently in Martin.

- The search committee is working hard to fill the Agricultural Education/Communications position left vacant by Dr. James Butler's retirement in December 2015. The position will be filled by August 2016.



- The FarmSpec team of UTM Agricultural Graduates won the People's Choice Award at the Farm Bureau Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge in January with over 3,000 votes. They received \$10,000. Pictured above is UTM Ag alumnus Shawn Butler receiving the award.



Pictured at We Care Ministries are, from left, Julie Smith, a junior from Ramer; Riley Pitts, a senior from Erin; Bobbie House, We Care volunteer; Charles Birdwell, Birdwell Deer Processing; Ray Parker, We Care volunteer; Alicia Sheffield, We Care food bank manager; and Dr. Emalee Buttrey, assistant professor of animal science.

Students support We Care Ministries

Students from the animal science program and the Student Cattlemen's Association donated about 600 pounds of pork to We Care Ministries before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Jimmy Tosh, of Tosh Farms in Henry, donated eight hogs to the university to give students hands-on experience working with the livestock. Students enrolled in a variety of animal science courses were able to work with the animals to study their habits and nutritional needs. The Student Cattlemen's Association

donated the money needed to process four of the hogs, which were then donated to We Care Ministries.

"UT Martin is training employees for the agricultural community in this rural area, so we want to provide the students not only with connections to local farmers and producers, but also with a sense of community and giving back to those who help support them," said Dr. Emalee Buttrey, assistant professor of animal science and faculty adviser to the Student Cattlemen's Association.

The next edition of the CAAS newsletter will be distributed in Spring 2016.