

# The CAAS Correspondent

October 2014

## McBride goes all out for TN and Nat'l FFA

By: Jesi Ogg

FFA has always been a family tradition for the McBrides, and, true to the 2014 National Convention theme, Stephen plans to “Go All Out” for FFA.

It's easy from the outside looking in to see the many similarities among Stephen, his father Mark, and his oldest brother Matthew when it comes to FFA. All competed in the public speaking CDE and led their respective state officer teams as president, Mark in 1980-81, Matthew in 2006-07 and Stephen in 2012-13.

The McBride name is well known within the Tennessee FFA circle and, while Stephen doesn't mind, he's still determined to make a name for himself.

“I've always heard ‘following in their footsteps.’ I'm following the same path they did, but I'm making my own footsteps,” says Stephen.

McBride was in the running to be selected as the 2013 Tennessee candidate, but came up short to Mitch Baker. At National Convention last year, Stephen watched his good friend and former team mate get elected to a national office. He zipped up his jacket for what he had prepared to be his last time to wear his official dress.

Fast forward to Spring 2014. Stephen attended state convention wearing his suit and business clothes. It was here that he was reminded of his passion for the FFA and how much it meant to him. Stephen decided



to try again for national office.

However, Stephen had a completely different approach this year, and says that the year off made him a better person and a better candidate.

“The first time around, it was just the ‘next step’ on the FFA list. I'm at peace with everything now and my heart is in the right place,” says Stephen.

Stephen hasn't relied on any one person as a coach. Instead he has leaned on 1 Corinthians 9: 24 and the support of his friends and family.

“I know that on Saturday I will zip up my Tennessee jacket and unzip it and take it off. Regardless of what

else happens, that's a definite. I will either take it off and never put on a other one, or I will take it off and put on my national officer jacket with nothing but the emblem on the back. Either way, I've had a good run,” says Stephen.

Stephen also credits his FFA career in helping him prepare for national office.

“I believe I have been preparing for this moment my entire FFA career. I've been a sponge and soaked up all of the skills FFA has offered me and it has prepared me for this,” he says.

That's good advice for any former or current FFA member preparing for anything in their lives.

At the time this article was written, Stephen made it to the next round of National Officer selection. The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences would like to wish Stephen the best of luck on this adventure!

**News for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences**

# Master Sergeant Postel joins Skyhawk ROTC

Master Sergeant James C. Postel is a native of Pleasant Hill, Missouri. He enlisted in the Army as an 11B Infantryman in Grandview, Missouri in August of 1996.

Master Sergeant Postel's previous duty assignments include 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade 101<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Fort Campbell, KY as a basic Infantryman through Team Leader, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Fort Drum, NY as a Team Leader and Squad Leader, 6<sup>th</sup> Ranger Training Battalion Eglin Air Force Base, FL as a Ranger Instructor, 159<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade's Pathfinder Company 101<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Fort Campbell, KY as a Platoon Sergeant, 6<sup>th</sup> Ranger Training Battalion Eglin Air Force Base, FL as a Senior Ranger Instructor, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Fort Knox, KY as a company First Sergeant.

Master Sergeant Postel's military education includes Basic training and 11B Infantry Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning Georgia, Ranger School, Air Assault School, Airborne School, Pathfinder School, the Fast Rope Master Course, Unit Movement Operations Course, Combat Lifesaver, Emergency Medical Technician, and UPL. He is also a graduate of the Warrior Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course and the Senior Leaders Course.

Master Sergeant Postel's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal four oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with one Silver oak leaf, Afghan Campaign Medal with four stars, the Armed Forces Expeditionary and Service



Medals, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon fourth award, NATO Medal second award, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Airborne, Pathfinder, Air Assault, and his Ranger Tab. In addition he has been awarded five sets of foreign jump wings and the Infantry Order of Saint Maurice.

Master Sergeant Postel assumed duties as the Senior Military Instructor at the University of Tennessee at Martin in August 2014. He is married to his wife Christina and has two sons Zack and Tyler.

## *Earn 3 credit hours*

with

# SKYHAWK ROTC

If students do not wish to remain in the program and be contracted/commissioned as an officer upon completion of the program then the course can serve as an elective.

# 75 years of monitoring weather

The UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources was recently recognized for 75 years of service to the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Program.

Program volunteers take daily weather observations and send these observations to the National Weather Service and the National Climate Data Center. The Coop site is also the official climate site for Martin. Coop representatives were on campus Sept. 18 when they spoke to a synoptic meteorology class and later presented a plaque recognizing the 75 years of service.

Pictured are Dr. Chris Karmosky, assistant professor of meteorology; Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, chair, Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources; Dr. Todd Winters, dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Jim Belles, meteorologist-in-charge, Memphis National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office; Dr. Mark Simpson, professor of geography; and



Zwemer Ingram, data acquisition program manager, Memphis National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office.

Not pictured is Zach Maye, meteorological intern with the Memphis forecast office, who spoke to the UT Martin class about El Nino and the Southern Oscillation and also provided the current forecast for the upcoming winter season.



2014 Dietetics Interns- Front (L to R) Alison Owens, Louise Peery, Jaimee Cooper, Megan Sylwanowicz, Lori Henry, Kim Boldt, Dee Pratt - UTM Alum and Co-Owner of Dietitian Associates Inc. in Memphis. Back (L to R) Jasmine Turner, Sally Harper, Karly Hines, Riley Auvenshine, Hannah Curran - Dietetic exchange student from Ireland doing an internship with Dietitian Associates, and Brian Carroll - UTM Dietetic Internship Director.



2014 Family and Consumer Sciences Ambassadors: Front (L to R) Lauren Hudson, Miranda Paschall, Karina Pulido, Alison Roland, Andrea Richardson, Elizabeth Sanders. Back (L to R) Dr. Sue Byrd, Chair, Zoe Stringer, Heather Dunn, Tracy Valentine, Graduate Assistant Mike Davis, Aries Lewis.

# Green Acres is the place to be

The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences celebrated Homecoming 2014 with a Green Acres theme. Brehm Hall 256 was transformed into Oliver and Lisa Douglas' (portrayed by Dr. Mehlhorn and Dr. Buttrey) farm, complete with hotcakes, the famous telephone pole, and Arnold the pig. Other faculty and staff members completed the cast as members of the Hooterville community. They earned 1st place!

