UTM FACS makes impact in Ecuador

Dr. Sue Byrd, Professor of Fashion Merchandising at UT Martin, and Richard Gibson, Plant and Soil Science student, brought a little of UT Martin to the Cloudforest in the Andes Mountains of Ecuador.

While there they worked in the small town of Mindo at the Milpe Bird Sanctuary to use their expertise.

Dr. Byrd worked with women in the area who learned sewing and craft skills that can be used in producing products to be sold to tourists who are ever increasingly visiting the region.

Mr. Gibson served as a consultant in the further development of a botanical garden in the area. During the visit, Byrd and Gibson were also able to learn more about rose production and export; roses are the number one export in Ecuador.

They were also able to interact with Otavaleños who are known world-wide for their textiles.

During the fall semester students at UTM will learn more about Ecuador and be involved educating others on campus and in the community. They will also sell some of the crafts produced in Ecuador.

A return visit to Ecuador is being planned, where more students will have the opportunity to volunteer in the Mindo area in reforestation, trail restructuring, nutrition education, teaching sewing skills and many other possibilities.
UTM is pleased to welcome the new dean of the college of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, Dr. Todd Winters.

He and his wife Susan have a daughter, Sloan, and a son, Luke. Dr. Winters grew up on a dairy farm in Yakima Valley, Washington. He holds a bachelor's degree in Animal Science from Washington State University, a master's in animal science from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. in Endocrinology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

After earning his Ph.D., Dr. Winters spent some time teaching at the University of Virginia Medical School. He and his family have spent the last 19 years at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Dr. Winters served as faculty member and administrator. Susan serves as the director of the nursing department, which she started. Sloan is currently a freshman at SIU studying Human Development and Family Services with plans to one day be a pediatrician. Luke enjoys playing soccer at the local high school.

Dr. Winters first visited UTM 15 years ago to meet with Dr. Darroch, professor of Animal Science, to discuss the swine units the campus had at the time. He remembers he really liked what he saw and was impressed by the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

When the dean position became available, it just seemed like a good fit. Dr. Winters said the university has exceeded his expectations. He also boasts about the great faculty that cares about student learning.

“The opportunities are endless, especially the opportunities in research and engagement. I believe that we can extend the impact of college not only nationally, but internationally,” says Winters.

Dr. Winters studies reproductive and nutritional endocrinology in animals and humans. He also has an interest in novel methods for agricultural and renewable resources education. He serves on the National Board of Directors of Non-land-grant Agricultural and Renewable Resources Universities (NARRU) and is active in the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU).

Students gain valuable experience- Students from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences spent their summer completing field experience. Back row left to right: Dr. Sue Byrd, Interim Department Chair, Morgan Whiteaker, Amber McClary, Whitney Biggs, Darlene Bratcher, Hannah Wade and Emily Reese; Front Row: Jordan Jones, Whitley Southerland, Libbi Verdell, Brittany Peeler.
CAAS welcomes students back with BBQ

The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences recently held its annual “Welcome Back” celebration. The students enjoyed a BBQ dinner served by their teachers right outside of Brehm Hall. Organizations and clubs within the college set up booths and told a little bit about themselves to recruit new members. Fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended. CAAS is looking forward to a great school year!

New Dean-
Dr. Todd Winters introduces himself as the new Dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and gives out a few door prizes donated by the campus bookstore

Sigma Alpha- The ladies of Sigma Alpha recruit for new members during the Welcome Back BBQ

Giving hands- Faculty members happily serve the students their BBQ dinner

Student fellowship- CAAS includes students from Agriculture, Geosciences, & Natural Sciences, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Military Sciences. Students of all areas were able to mingle with each other.
CAAS Dean retires after 39 years at UTM

By: Jesi Ogg

Dr. Gresham never intended to be a teacher, and he certainly didn’t plan to stay at UTM for almost 40 years, but that’s exactly how things worked out for him.

Jerry Gresham grew up on a wheat and cotton farm in Altus, Oklahoma. His love of animals came from showing cattle and swine for his high school FFA chapter, and he decided to pursue a degree in Animal Science from Oklahoma State University.

He was the first one in his family to attend college. While at OSU, Gresham participated in the ROTC program, graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate, and met his wife, Carolyn.

His intention was to make the Army his career. After graduation, he spent four years serving in Vietnam. At the end of that time he resigned his commission and headed back to OSU. It was decided that he would earn a masters while Carolyn finished her degree in business administration.

While there, Gresham was offered to get his doctorate, and he says, “the rest is history.” It was during his sophomore year of undergrad that Gresham began working in the meats lab on campus. This led to his masters and Ph.D. in meat science.

In 1973, the Greshams headed to Tennessee with two children in tow. Again, his intentions were to stay two or three years for experience and then move on. However, that time never came. The family decided to stay in Martin and simply never relocated.

While at UTM, Dr. Gresham taught animal science, meat science, introduction to animal science, genetics, animal evaluation, livestock judging, nutrition, animal breeding, and many more classes pertaining to the science of animals. He served as the department chair and eventually became the Interim Dean for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences when Dr. Byford retired.

He spent three and a half years in this role before his retirement in the spring of 2013. Dr. Gresham says that the acquisition of the farm property from the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture was one of the most memorable times while he was at UTM. “It made the department what it is today,” he says.

Dr. Gresham says that what he loved most about his time here was the teaching and the interactions with the students. He remembers the friendships he developed with the students in his early years of teaching.

Today, Dr. Gresham and his wife are enjoying their retirement (Carolyn also retired from UTM). He loves to play golf and he says he spends a great deal of time mowing the grass on their 22 acres. They have two grandchildren that they often visit, and they are doing a little bit of traveling.

This fall they will visit their alma mater for OSU’s homecoming, which they haven’t been to since they graduated. This life may not have been what Dr. Gresham first intended, but it seemed to suit him just fine.

Welcome back to all CAAS students, faculty and staff!