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CASNR Chronicle

Spring 2014

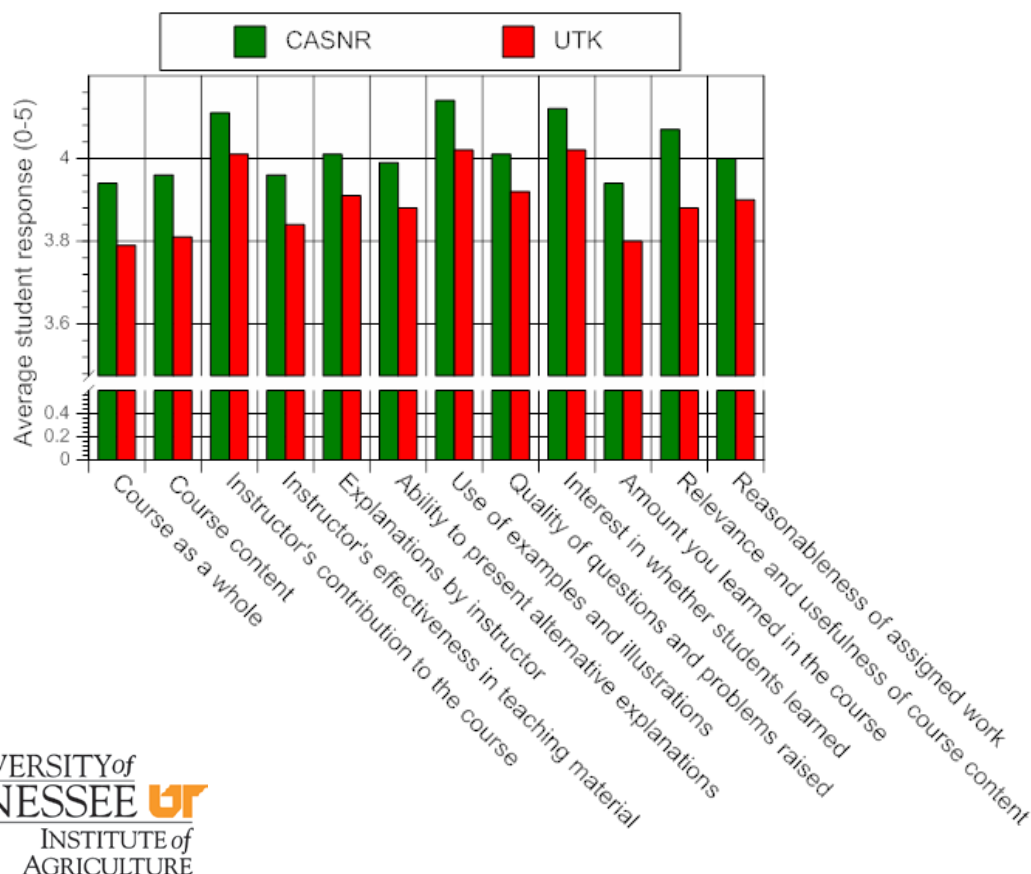
In this issue, you will see how much CASNR students value their instructors and the quality of teaching. You will learn about the launch of CASNR 2020, our new strategic plan. CASNR students are also doing some exciting things through the CASNR Living Learning Community to broaden their college experience. We are very proud of the excellence of our students and the dedication of our faculty to the mission of teaching.

Caula Beyl, Dean

Student Responses to Course Evaluation Point to Outstanding Teaching

Each semester students are given an opportunity to evaluate their instructors using the Student Assessment of Instruction System (SAIS). These evaluations take place near the end of the course when they have experienced enough of the instructor's style, knowledge, and engagement to make an informed judgment. These results are studied by each college, department, and individual faculty to determine where improvements should be made and what is being done that is effective. They can rate different categories from very poor (0) to excellent (5). As a college dean, I am very interested in how students perceive classes offered by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources compared to how students across the entire university campus view their classes.

This graph shows the mean of over 2,000 responses for several categories on the SAIS form for students taking CASNR courses relative to over 39,000 responses from students taking classes in other discipline areas at the university. In these categories, CASNR faculty really excel for teaching effectiveness and students value the education they are receiving. Our faculty members truly care about their students and their teaching mission – the data below underscore that outstanding dedication



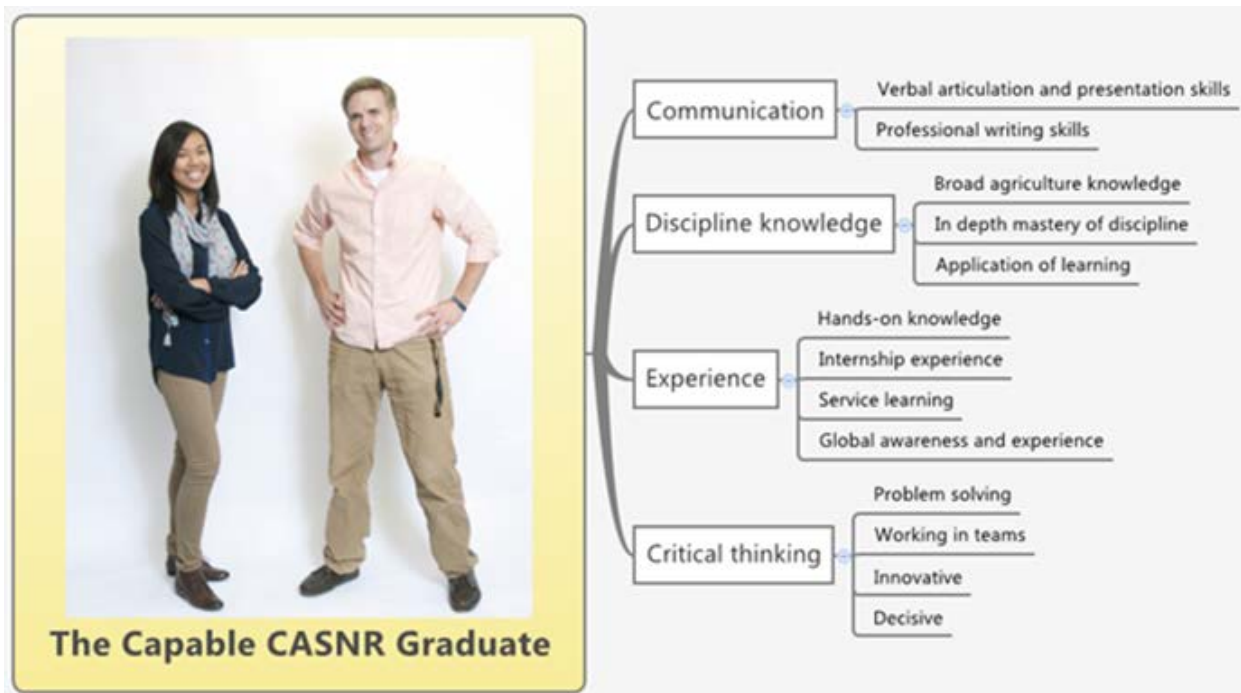
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CASNR Launches its Strategic Plan

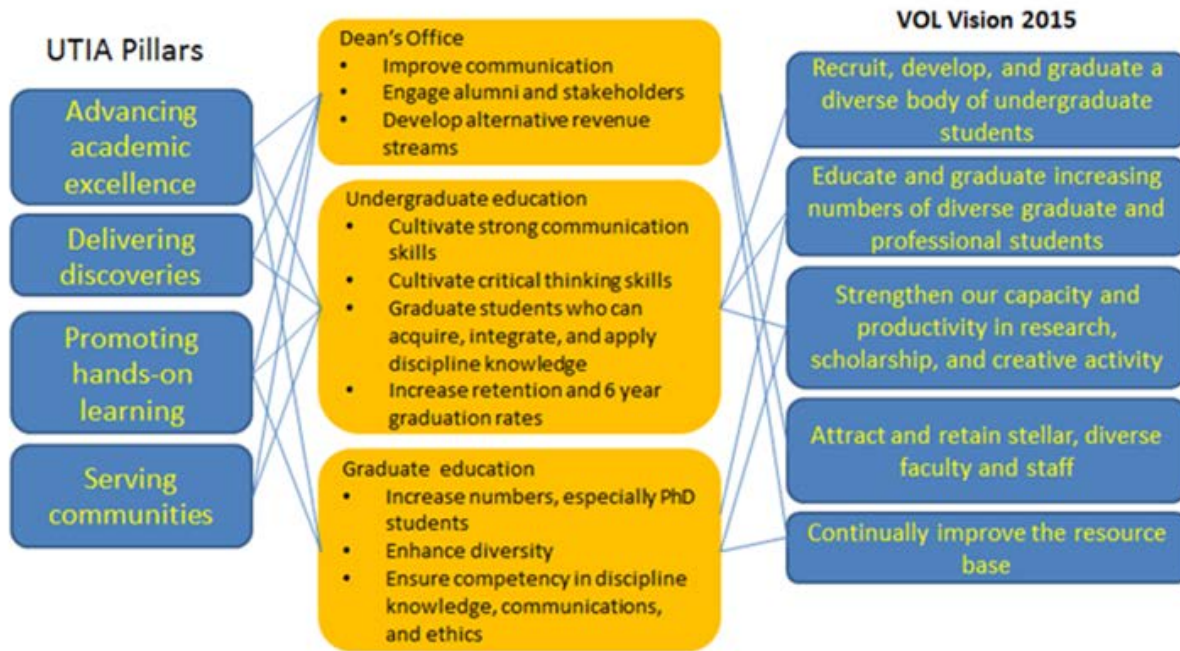
CASNR initiated a process to develop its CASNR 2020 strategic plan in 2012. This process involved obtaining input from all levels throughout the college from faculty, staff and even students involved in the teaching mission. In 2013, CASNR underwent a five-year program review and incorporated into its strategic plan suggestions given to make CASNR stronger.

The result was a plan that revolved around the dean's office, undergraduate programs, and graduate programs. It also articulated what the ideal student graduate would be able to do, think, and know as a result of the CASNR college experience. These capabilities centered on four themes: communication, discipline knowledge, experience, and critical thinking.



The CASNR 2020 strategic plan also supports and connects strongly with the two strategic initiatives that guide the overall direction and mission of the college – the UT Institute of Agriculture's Four Pillars and the University of Tennessee's Vol Vision 2015: The Pursuit of the Top 25.

CASNR 2020 Goals



The dean and assistant dean will be meeting with each department within the college over the summer to determine where attention should be focused. However, some activity has already occurred to recognize students who have embraced various experiential learning opportunities by awarding them achievement pins to wear as tangible evidence of their participation in the CASNR Learning Community, internships, international experiences, service learning, and undergraduate research. Experiential learning opportunities enhance the CASNR graduate's ability to acquire, integrate, and apply discipline knowledge.

The CASNR 2020 strategic plan can be found at the following website:

<https://ag.tennessee.edu/casnr/Documents/CASNR%202020%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf>



Learning Community



International Experience



Internship



Service Learning

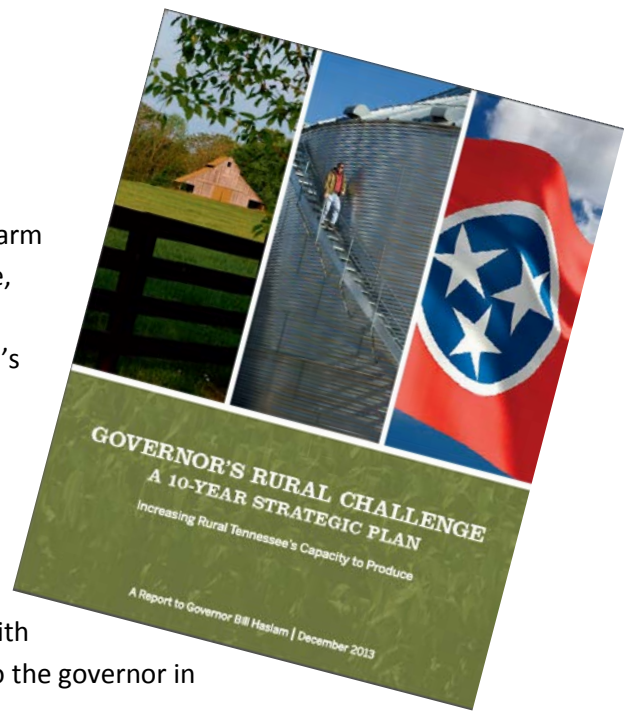


Undergraduate Research

CASNR's Role in Governor Haslam's Rural Challenge

In December 2012, Governor Bill Haslam tasked Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, and the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture to develop a 10-year strategic plan to “increase rural Tennessee’s Capacity to Produce.”

The document to the right was the result of an intense planning process that involved guidance from a 28-member steering committee, input from the three UTIA Regional Advisory Councils, TDA employees, various commodity groups, interviews, surveys, and conversations with industry leaders. This 10-year strategic plan was presented to the governor in December 2013, one year after the idea had been launched.



RECOMMENDATION FOUR

Increase the scope and depth of a skilled and educated workforce through career, technical and higher education.

A key recommendation that came out of these discussions was the critical need to invest in developing a strong, educated workforce to fill the high-technology jobs required by today's agriculture industries and rural development opportunities. The three actions most directly influencing CASNR are the following:

Action 4.1: Actively promote and endorse Governor Haslam's "Drive to 55" initiative to enhance rural Tennessee's economic outlook, and to ensure that agriculture and forestry have a technically trained workforce for tomorrow's farms and forests.

Action 4.4: Increase support for CTE (career and technical education) by re-establishing three full-time regional supervisory positions for secondary agricultural education programs in Tennessee. Conduct a labor needs assessment in collaboration with industry and revise the curriculum as needed to meet labor demands in Tennessee.

Action 4.6: Review and revise the agricultural and natural resources curriculum in higher education to align with contemporary needs of employers.

We already see a greater demand in agriculture and natural resource fields for trained and educated graduates. The following quote from Governor Bill Haslam's speech at the October 15, 2013, Tennessee Agriculture Leadership Forum sums up the importance of CASNR's role in this statewide initiative best:

"We face a challenge in educating the workforce we will need, and agriculture is certainly among the many industries that will need a skilled workforce."

Julius Johnson is the Featured Speaker at CASNR Graduation

On May 7, graduates of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources had the opportunity to hear from Julius Johnson, the current Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture. As commissioner, he directs the work of more than 800 full- and part-time employees with responsibilities ranging from farm and agribusiness development, food safety, and pesticide regulation to animal and plant health protection and forest and water resources management.



Before serving as Commissioner of Agriculture, he served as chief administrative officer of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, serving 37 years in various positions with one of the leading farm and rural advocacy organizations in the nation. Having had extensive experience in working with government at local, state, and federal levels, he is widely regarded as a leading authority on farm policy and rural issues.

When he graduated with his bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of Tennessee, he probably never envisioned the many roles he would play and how he would influence agriculture across the state. He has served on the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's Development Board and in leadership with the Maury County Chamber of Commerce. Among his many activities and achievements, he has been recognized by numerous organizations including the Future Farmers of America and the University of Tennessee Gamma Sigma Delta Honorary Society and Alpha Gamma Rho agricultural fraternity.

Jimmy Cheek and Caula Beyl Receive Honorary State FFA Degrees

During the week of March 23-26 of this year, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, experienced a surge in the number of people wearing blue corduroy jackets. These jackets were emblazoned with the FFA logo and those wearing them represented some of the best and brightest that Tennessee has to offer. As part of the Tennessee state convention activities, a group of people including UT Knoxville's Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek and CASNR Dean Caula A. Beyl received Honorary State FFA Degrees. Beyl also had the honor and the challenge of serving as part of the FFA Leadership Nomination Committee. This role involved three rounds of interviews, questions, and challenges with the committee for the aspiring leaders as well as written tests. The job of selecting nominees was made tougher by the extraordinary talent that was evident among the candidates.



The Job Picture – Mars Petcare

A standing-room only crowd of over 60 graduate and undergraduate students and six faculty members attended the on-campus Mars Petcare job and internship information session on March 5, 2014. Three of the five Mars Petcare representatives were alumni of CASNR, and it is always great to see our successful graduates back on campus recruiting for their companies. Representatives provided an interesting overview of the company and personal accounts of their work experiences. Following the presentation, students participated in a question and answer session with the representatives. Several CASNR students were able to schedule interviews for the following day. In November 2013, Mars was ranked No. 22 by the first global workplace excellence ranking, the World's Best Multinational Workplaces list by the Great Place to Work Institute.



Beyl welcomes Jarrod Kersey, Mars Petcare Director of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs

The Job Picture – Poultry Expo, Opportunity Amid the Storm

In late January, 18 CASNR students braved the rare winter storm that paralyzed Atlanta to participate in the College Student Career Program held in conjunction with the International Production and Processing Expo. At the Expo, industry leaders from all over the world gather to share the newest ideas, most innovative technologies, and advanced education programming available in the meat, poultry, and feed sectors today. The show included an estimated 26,000 attendees, more than 400,000 square feet of exhibit space, and over 1,100 exhibitors. Students from 25 universities registered for the program and submitted resumes to be reviewed by 30 companies. Company representatives selected students for interviews in advance of the event. Some companies also allowed students to sign up for interviews onsite. Emily Gray, CASNR director of student services, and Mary Mahoney, UT Career Services, accompanied students and helped them prepare by reviewing resumes, providing interview guidance, discussing professionalism, and answering questions about the trip.

Undergraduate and graduate students from five majors including agricultural economics, animal science, environmental and soil science, food and agricultural business, and food science and technology were able to complete over 40 interviews for full-time jobs and 12 for internships. While these interviews resulted in multiple job offers and second interview opportunities, the weather severely impacted the interview schedules with over 20 interviews being cancelled by employers who had been unable to travel to the Expo.



Here are some student comments about the experience:

“It was a great opportunity to learn more about the poultry industry and interact with employers who are specifically looking to hire college graduates upon graduation. I wish I would have known about the IPPE last year when I was looking for an internship!” – Meredith Beach

“It was an incredible experience. I have never had such positive feedback from any career fair. When I stepped out into the exhibit, I was stunned. I had never seen anything like the IPPE, where so many companies were represented in one area.” – William Brainerd

“This event gave us the opportunity to expose ourselves to a variety of food-related industry and learn more about how we can contribute with our careers to the food production worldwide.” – Ana Andino

“The amount of new technology not just for poultry, but all meats, was amazing to see. The amount of companies there and the atmosphere made it really easy to network.” – Alexis Menees

“The International Poultry Processing and Production expo is an invaluable place to learn not only about the forefront of the industry but also network with different companies.” – Jaclyn Earle

“The IPPE was a wonderful event and is a great way to bridge the gap of academics and business.” – Kallie Hopper



The Job Picture – Students Participate in Sanderson Farms Event

A group of five students - Asti Budicahyani, Brian Duke, Nicole DelFraino, Karrol Courtney, and Alexis Meneese - attended the two-day Senior College Super Chicken Road Show at the Sanderson Farms Corporate office in Laurel, Mississippi. The event started with a reception and dinner where company representatives discussed operations of Sanderson Farms as well as opportunities offered by the company. The following day, students got the opportunity to tour processing and production facilities, including the McComb Processing Plant, Hatchery, and Feed Mill.

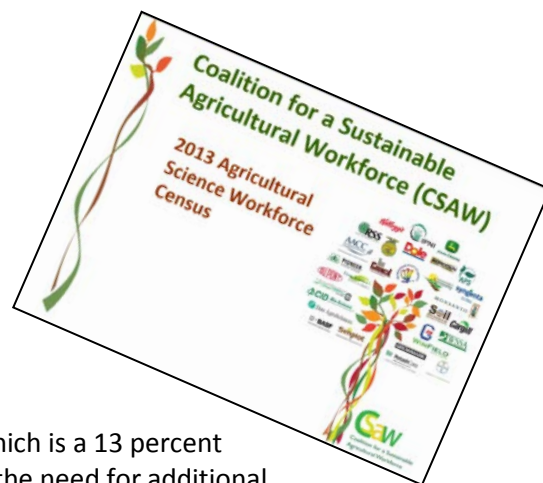
Nine universities participated in the event, including Alcorn State University with 72 students attending, University of Southern Mississippi with 59 students, and Mississippi Valley State with 37 students. While the CASNR group was the smallest group of students to attend the event, Sanderson Farm representatives reported that this group made the largest impression on the company. From the moment they arrived and checked in, Sanderson Farms Human Resource Management went out of their way to introduce our small group to corporate management. Whether it was during a social time or facility tours, the CASNR group was up front and center asking questions and engaging Sanderson Farm employees. It was a great opportunity and would be a great yearly experience for students. As a result of this event, Sanderson Farms has planned a campus visit to interview students.



Karrol Courtney, Nicole DelFraino, Alexis Meneese, Asti Budicahyani, and Brian Duke.

The Job Picture – CSAW Workforce Census

The Coalition for a Sustainable Agricultural Workforce (CSAW) conducted a web-based survey and sent it to 18 CSAW member companies. Results were aggregated from six large life science companies, including Bayer Crop Science, Dow Agro Sciences, Dupont Pioneer Hi-Bred, Dupont Crop Protection, Monsanto, and Syngenta.



Results from the survey project 8,474 total Ag Scientists by 2015, which is a 13 percent increase over the numbers for 2012. This predicted job picture and the need for additional scientists underscores a need we have been seeing for trained graduates in agriculture and natural science related disciplines across the nation in the last couple of years. With retirements occurring among the baby-boomer generation, this need will only become more acute.

Of the positions needed, 46% will be doctoral, 27% masters, and 26% bachelor's. The report states that these will include molecular biologists, ecologists, environmental chemists and modelers, entomologists, plant breeders, plant pathologists, regulatory scientists, statisticians, and weed scientists.

Alysse Ness Completes her Third Co-op Rotation with Duke Energy

I am junior in biosystems engineering and I just completed my third co-op rotation with Duke Energy, the largest utility company in America. I spent two rotations working in Environmental Services and one rotation in Strategic Engineering, Water Programs. Most of my projects within Environmental Services dealt with air, water, and waste regulatory compliance guidelines. We worked closely with the EPA and the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources. I learned a great deal about the environmental restraints that are driving the industry.

In Strategic Engineering, Water Programs, I gained a working knowledge of wastewater treatment system design, specifically for the treatment of flue gas desulfurization (FGD) wastewater. I helped provide technical support, analyze operational data, and monitor performance of two state-of-the-art biological treatment systems in our fleet. This work sparked my interest in the complex chemistry and kinetics of the water treatment systems and how these systems can be improved.

I was able to apply the fundamentals of science and engineering I learned in the classroom to the operation of Duke Energy's power stations. Before working with Duke Energy, I had questions about what I wanted to do with my biosystems engineering degree and what opportunities were available. Now I feel more prepared to enter the workforce and confident I can get a great job when I graduate next spring.



Alysse Ness inspecting selective catalytic reduction equipment, used to remove NO_x from the flue gas airstream.

Internships – Amanda Plante and the Royal Botanical Garden in Kew



Amanda Plante, graduate student in the Department of Plant Sciences, has received a prestigious fellowship award from the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, located in Richmond, near London England. The gardens at Kew are one of three Royal Botanic Gardens that the United Kingdom enjoys. The other two are located in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Edinburgh, Scotland.

Understandably, Amanda is very excited about the chance to travel and enhance her expertise in public gardens at such a renowned location. "I'm really grateful for the opportunity to participate in this program, and I appreciate the overflow of support from the department and

CASNR during the application process," she said. Amanda will intern from June 23 -September 5. She will be working on-site within a designated garden area at Kew Monday through Friday. Interns are also encouraged to conduct additional independent study outside of normal work hours and are required to develop a "plant of the week" profile each week. Completion of a monthly identification test is also required. Amanda will chronicle the experience throughout the internship by recording daily entries in a practical work journal.



Internships – In Washington DC

Emily Buck, a senior in animal science, is completing an internship in Washington, D.C. with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and the Public Lands Council. She quickly became immersed in the fast-paced environment, conquered the complexities of the Metro, and even attended a hearing for a Supreme Court Case. Although this sounds intimidating, Emily found a warm welcome at the NCBA's office with its cowhide rugs, mounted longhorns on the walls, and friendly and supportive staff.

Whether this means a future for Emily in Washington, D.C. after graduation, we are not certain. We do applaud Emily for her courage and willingness to leave her comfort zone and take on this internship adventure!

Dustie Strasser at the East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center



At the East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center, students can participate in a Live and Learn internship, named because the opportunity provides housing as well as an interesting and challenging internship. Dustie Strasser's initial work rotation as a Live and Learn intern provided her with exposure to several of the center's units, but given her interest in dairy production, her rotation is now based at the Little River Animal and Environmental Unit. She has been heavily involved with feeding pre-weaned calves and has also assisted with reproductive examinations of cows. She has also taken the opportunity to discuss dairy genetics decisions with Charlie Young, the manager of the unit, and has also demonstrated a keen interest in the evaluation of dairy cattle body conformation and structure.

Having the opportunity to work at a UT AgResearch facility (that also faces the real-world challenges of a working dairy farm) adds depth and breadth to Dustie's academic experience at CASNR. She has the opportunity to hear about, and see first-hand, some of the new ideas, hypotheses and management practices that are being tested at this research facility. Bobby Simpson, director of the center says, "Our interns seem to gain a greater appreciation for the overall magnitude, impact, and diversity of agriculture, that reaches beyond their specific major or interest." He is an avid proponent of the program and each year carefully screens and evaluates applicants.

As more CASNR students learn about the opportunity, the number of applicants for the internship has increased. Priority is given to upperclassmen and care is taken to distribute the participation of students across as many of the academic departments in CASNR as possible. "We look for students who have demonstrated determination and a strong work ethic, solid academic performance, along with the desire to learn more about the many, diverse areas of agriculture," said Simpson. This is just what employers are looking for, too!

Gamma Beta Phi Gets Two New Advisors and Inducts 62 New Members

CASNR representatives Sharon Jean-Philippe and Craig Pickett, Jr. are the new co-advisors for UT's Chapter of Gamma Beta Phi. The national honor and service society inducts thousands of academically excellent students who share its mission of promoting education and providing community service to their colleges and communities. The society has made a major impact across America. In recent years, the Gamma Beta Phi Society has collected thousands of books for St. Jude Children's Hospital, 6,000 pairs of shoes for citizens of Iraq, collected thousands of hats for the Heavenly Hats Foundation, thousands of letters to the servicemen and servicewomen onboard the USS Kitty Hawk, and bought a gift Ark for Heifer International. Currently, there are approximately 40,000 active student members of Gamma Beta Phi.

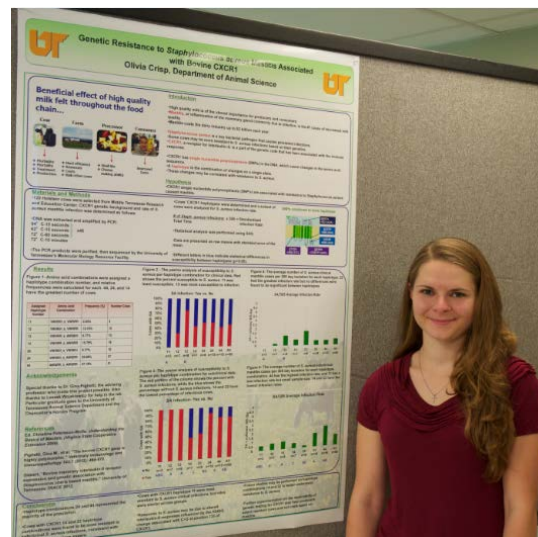


UT's Chapter of Gamma Beta Phi was founded over 30 years ago by Larry Wilson, Professor Emeritus of Fishery Sciences within the CASNR Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. Upon his retirement in 2013, Wilson passed the organizational reins to Jean-Philippe, with Pickett coming on board as the co-advisor in 2014. Jean-Philippe and Pickett facilitated an interest meeting for qualified participants in March, with dozens of students in attendance. While there, students had the honor of meeting the current executive director of the national organization, Jimmy McNutt. On Sunday, April 6, Jean-Philippe and Pickett held the formal induction ceremony for Gamma Beta Phi. Over 100 people came to celebrate this accomplishment. The guest speaker, Margaret McCauley (the national executive director, emeritus) encouraged students to honor the organization's mission and foundation. Altogether, Gamma Beta Phi inducted 62 new student members from the University of Tennessee in spring 2014 (the largest number of UT inductees in several years).

CASNR Students Excel in EURēCA Competition

UTIA's CASNR students won top awards at the Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EURēCA), an annual event that showcases creative activities by undergraduates in collaboration with a faculty mentor. Entries can be either individual or group and a panel of UT faculty members judges the projects. This year over 35 CASNR students participated in the showcase.

Olivia Crisp, a senior in animal science from Seymour, Tennessee took home the two top awards with her research on the link between staph bacteria and mastitis. Her research presentation won both the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society's Best of Show Award and the top prize in Natural Sciences (gold medal) for CASNR.



Olivia Crisp and her award-winning poster.



Stephanie Kerrigan and Sean Knox with their poster.

Stephanie Kerrigan, a senior in Biosystems engineering and soil science from Hendersonville, Tennessee and her team consisting of Tyler Stanley, Grant Davis and Sean Knox competed with a team project seeking on an economic alternative for farmers to survey their fields using aerial drones. They won the William Franklin Harris III Undergraduate Research Award for their project as well as the gold medal in the College of Engineering Category.

Both Crisp and Kerrigan credit EURēCA with providing valuable experience in presenting research to both peers and faculty. "It teaches you how to think and about the why," said Crisp.

Other winners from CASNR include:

- Dixie Daniels, silver award for her research into the walnut twig beetle and its connection to thousand cankers disease.
- The team of Chistian Wiberley, Coleman Bradley, and Hunter Hill (Biosystems Engineering) for their project on a plot switchgrass harvester.
- Lindsey Rogerson for her project, "Extraction of Phenolics from Oak."
- Alexander Houck for his project, "Understanding the Role of PSAP in Apoptosis and Gamma-Secretase Cleavage."
- Devarshi Ardeshta and Samantha Brown (Animal Science), for their project, "Heat Shocked Enanced Conjugation in Campylobacter."

Results from the 2014 Annual Collegiate Discussion Meet

The 2014 Annual Collegiate Discussion Meet was held on Wednesday, February 19, in Morgan Hall at the UT Institute of Agriculture. This year focused on how to engage young farmers to get involved in Farm Bureau and other leadership roles in the agricultural community. The winners were Anna Ingleburger (first place winner, far left), Billy Rochelle (second place winner, second from left), Laura Galloway (third place, second from right), and Grant Davis (fourth place, far right). All four contestants come from different parts of Tennessee, as well



as different academic programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Anna is a native of Winchester, Tennessee and a freshman studying agricultural communications. Billy is a junior majoring in food and agribusiness, and is from Centerville, Tennessee, where he hopes to return to his family farm. Laura is a senior in food and agribusiness from Jamestown, Tennessee. Grant hails from Bedford County and is a senior majoring in Biosystems Engineering.

The Discussion Meet, sponsored by Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, also offers cash awards to winning participants with \$800 for first place, \$500 for second place, \$350 for third place, and \$250 for fourth place. Anna will compete in the State Final Collegiate Meet, Saturday, July 19, 2014 at the Young Farmers & Ranchers Annual Conference in Columbia, Tennessee with winners from Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee Technological University and University of Tennessee, Martin.

Wildlife and Fisheries Students Gets Down and Dirty at the 2014 Conclave

Students in the Wildlife and Fisheries Society Student Chapter performed exceptionally well at the 2014 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave hosted by Clemson University on March 20-22. UT placed second overall, second in Quiz Bowl, and third in the Team Field event proving not only their physical prowess, but also their mental acuity!

The students also won many individual awards. They truly represented their university very well and should be commended for their competitive spirit and professional behavior. The student competitors included Caylor Romines, Jared Chrisp, Aaron Adkins, Ariel Elliott, Nathan Wilhite, Drew Mallinak, Andrew Isenhower, Alex Jackson, Ravin Thomasson, Martin Wood, Spencer White, Don Chance, Austin Merical, Ethan Newman, Caleb Marshall, Luke Hoehn, Sam Bingham, Jordan Nanney, Emily Judson, Jarred Brooke, Cody Young, and Laura Hendrixson.



Members of the Quiz Bowl consisted of Andrew Isenhower (captain), Alex Jackson, Nathan Wilhite, and Jared Chrisp (left to right).

These achievements are even more impressive when you consider how many schools participated and competed in the conclave. The 22-member student team, co-advised by Dr. David Buehler, Chris Graves, and Dr. Emma Willcox from the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, competed against 21 other universities and colleges with wildlife programs across the Southeast.

Hosted by a different school every year, the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave is an event that attracts over 500 wildlife students, educators, and professionals for three days of competition, educational field trips, professional networking, and fun. The University of Tennessee hosted the very first Southeastern Wildlife Conclave in 1991.



A wildlife volunteer

CASNR's Trip to the Capital

On Thursday, March 6th, the CASNR dean's office and the CASNR Ambassador Program sponsored a "Trip to the Capital." The trip was coordinated by Billy Rochelle (junior – food and agricultural business) and Robert Warden (junior, biosystems engineering), who both serve as CASNR Ambassadors. They worked with Craig Pickett, Jr. (coordinator for student life and diversity) to coordinate and implement the trip. On March 6, the three took Mautrice Lee (sophomore, animal science) and Zachary Fox (freshman, plant sciences) to Nashville, Tennessee, for a power-packed day of networking. They started their morning by attending a Chamber Session. Together, they sat in the gallery and observed as all 99 state representatives debated bills and policies on the legislative floor for 90 minutes. After the Chamber Session, the students were fortunate enough to meet Carol Coley McDonald, who serves as the assistant commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. In addition, they met Andy Holt, the state representative for District 76. Together, the two of them provided the CASNR students with information regarding individual duties and state officials, followed by tips for career and professional success. From there, the students participated in an hour-long tour of the Capitol and learned insightful information about the history behind Tennessee and our legislative system.

Each of the participants indicated that they benefited tremendously from the experience. In fact, Mautrice received a special benefit from her participation in the program – a summer internship offer! After attending the morning Chamber Session, Holt spoke to the students about the importance of professional development. After Mautrice spoke of her major and career ambitions, Holt offered her an internship opportunity with Tosh Farms for summer 2015! She is tremendously excited and appreciative. CASNR hopes to sponsor similar trips in the future in an effort to provide more students with professional development opportunities.



Left to Right – Robert Warden (junior, biosystems engineering) Billy Rochelle (junior, biosystems engineering), assistant commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Carol Coley McDonald, Tennessee District 76 state representative Andy Holt, Mautrice Lee (sophomore, animal science) and Zach Fox (freshman, plant sciences)

CASNR Students Attend the 2014 IAAS National Summit

In mid-April, representatives from the CASNR Chapter of IAAS (International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences) traveled to Seattle, Washington, for the 2014 National Summit. IAAS is a worldwide network of students, promoting the exchange of knowledge, experience, and ideas and to promote mutual understanding between students in agriculture and related sciences around the world. The conference theme (“Sustainable in Seattle”) focused on international development, water sustainability, agricultural systems, natural resource management, and intercultural communication.

Leann Fowler presented research on a recent \$3.2 million gift to UT’s Institute of Agriculture for an endowed chair in international agriculture. She presented insightful strategies to promote international awareness, education, and agricultural sustainability and participated in a Q&A forum with representatives from the University of Illinois, Iowa State, and Washington State University. They discussed ways to promote sustainability from a global perspective. Lockard Cassity facilitated a presentation surrounding the “water war” between Tennessee and Georgia. She highlighted the timeline of events that led to the controversial issue and engaged participants in a discussion around possible solutions. Joined by students from Washington State University, she participated in a forum on the uncertainty of water quality and highlighted innovations being implemented in developing countries. In addition to the two student representatives, Sharon Jean-Philippe, assistant professor, urban forestry, led a presentation surrounding natural resource management, giving attendees information regarding current urban forestry research and talked about the importance of urbanization in today’s society. Like the other presenters, Jean-Philippe participated in a 60-minute Q&A session surrounding natural resource sustainability.

In addition to the conference presentations, attendees participated in a slew of organized activities, including the annual IAAS Trade Show, which highlighted CASNR memorabilia and authentic Tennessee products, such as Tennessee

Taffy and Tennessee Bourbon Chocolate. Participants also visited the Oxbow Organic Farm and Educational Center in Snoqualmie Valley. The 25-acre farm produces mixed vegetables, tree fruit, and berries. From there, attendees visited the Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery, 15 minutes outside of Seattle. The facility (which serves as Washington’s oldest winery) prides itself on making sound decisions regarding product development, while promoting long-term wellness within the community. Finally, attendees toured the famous Pike Place Market, Seattle’s first farmers market. Originating over a century ago, the market now serves as the hub for more than 80 Washington farmers to sell produce 7 days a week, 362 days a year.

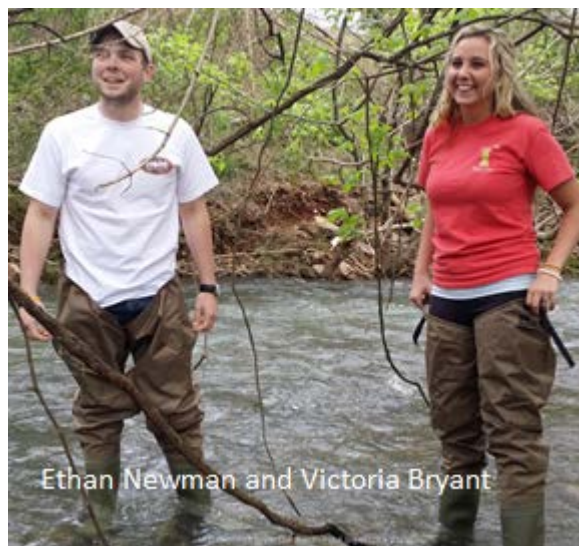


CASNR Living Learning Community Explores the Great Outdoors

CASNR is proud to host one of the 18 Living Learning Communities throughout the University of Tennessee. Living Learning Communities are specialized programs that combine the conventional residential experience with support from faculty, integrated resources from sponsoring departments and offices, and an abundance of opportunities for experiential learning. Throughout the academic year, the CASNR LLC provides ways for students to learn about the departments within the college, while participating in a slew of outdoor programs and excursions.

In April, the CASNR LLC participated in a stream tour, facilitated by Joanne Logan, associate professor of applied climatology and climate change. After providing a quick lesson on the various rivers and streams throughout the state of Tennessee, Logan led students on a tour of the Third Creek Greenway, which runs parallel to the campus. She pointed out areas of both healthy conservation and possible erosion. Students stepped into the stream and experienced the water current while testing the waters for pollutants.

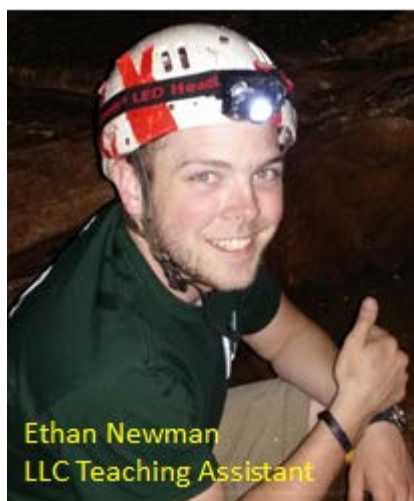
Three days later, the CASNR LLC participated in the annual cave spelunking trip. The trip (facilitated by student leaders from the Maryville College Mountain Challenge Program) took place at a private cave site in Greenback, Tennessee. Students participated in a three-hour excavation, going deep inside a cave and exploring various pathways. The facilitators provided students with insightful information about cave formation and preservation. Aside from few cuts and bruises, students thoroughly enjoyed the experience!



Ethan Newman and Victoria Bryant



Katie Springer, Jamie Devoe and Amber Cleghorn listening to instructions from the Maryville College Mountain Challenge Facilitator



Ethan Newman
LLC Teaching Assistant

Craig Pickett, coordinator for the CASNR LLC, is already planning outdoor activities and excursions for the 2014 – 2015 class of LLC students. Future activities include tours of several farms throughout East Tennessee, along with a return to the Greenback Cave.

CASNR Living Learning Community's New Teaching Assistant

One of the highlights of the CASNR student experience is the Living Learning Community. The community (managed by Craig Pickett, Jr. – coordinator for student life and diversity) provides incoming students with an opportunity to connect with other students in the college.

Members of the CASNR Living Learning Community participate in experiential learning workshops conducted by faculty and staff members throughout CASNR for the purpose of learning how all majors/departments in the college are interconnected. During the spring, the community focuses on leadership and community service activities facilitated through experiential learning and group activities. By living in the same residence hall and taking courses together, these students quickly meet others who share the same academic or career interests, form study groups, and expand upon the educational component of their classes. All of the participants live on the same floor in Morrill Hall.



After interviewing numerous candidates throughout March, Jessie Richards emerged as the new undergraduate teaching assistant. Jessie is a rising junior, animal science major from Cross Plains, Tennessee. Jessie is one of CASNR's brightest students, excelling both inside and outside of the classroom. She recently completed a Leadership Certification Program through the National Society of Leadership and Success. She looks forward to helping first-year students transition to CASNR and the university environment. Through the upcoming academic year, Jessie will work to create a stronger community among the Living Learning Community. She will serve as an advocate and mentor for students by promoting academic success, social integration, and professional development. In addition, she will facilitate classroom discussions within the LLC class (AGNR 103: Teambuilding). Lastly, she will help plan, organize and implement monthly field trips for participants – previous trips have included cave spelunking, a trip to Nashville for Ag Day on the Hill, and tours of the College of Veterinary Medicine. The dean's office looks forward to Jessie's contributions as we continue to create a positive and supportive experience for all CASNR Living Learning Community students.

CASNR Living Learning Community – Honors Dr. Smith

On March 12, Michael Smith, a professor in animal science received this letter from the CASNR Living Learning Community.

Congratulations Dr. Smith!

You are receiving this token of appreciation because one of our Living and Learning Community students believed you should be recognized for your outstanding contribution to his or her learning experience. Living and Learning Community students are given the opportunity to nominate a professor or instructor that has made a positive impact on them. Living and Learning Communities – through the combined support of University Housing and numerous departments, offices, and campus partners – are provided with collaborative learning opportunities with a merged residential experience, educational components, and academic coursework. Living and Learning Communities promote student learning through a seamless learning environment that supports, motivates, and inspires students to actively engage in educationally purposeful activities

From these nominations the Department of University Housing selects one outstanding faculty per week to be recognized for their notable influence. University Housing and its Living and Learning Community students truly value all that professors and instructors do for students, and this is our way of saying “thank you.”

Below are is an excerpt from the submission form:

“...He makes my educational learning experience beneficial and fun. Every day he has a joke... I've learned that studying early and in more detail helps you learn the material you're learning better. Also, I've learned about a variety of animals in a small amount of time... he's a great advisor who helps plan my future to greatness.”

Once again we thank you for all you do inside and outside the classroom!

Congratulations, Dr. Smith!

MANRRS Students Participate in National Conference

In late March 2014, several CASNR students participated in the 2014 National MANNRS Conference in Birmingham, Alabama. The MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences) UT chapter is one of 28 chapters throughout the nation that works to continuously increase and support the number of minorities seeking degrees and careers in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. Students meet twice monthly, and representatives attend a fall regional conference and a spring national conference.



Sharon Jean-Philippe, Shaylind Nance, Mautrice Lee, Laria Nelson, Jeneen Abrams, and Craig Pickett



Jeneen Abrams after her second place win

The UT Chapter (co-advised by Sharon Jean-Philippe and Craig Pickett Jr.) took four students to the national conference this year. Throughout the three-day event, over 1,600 students from across the country participated in a wide range of activities for personal and professional development. All of the participants attended a large career fair – students had an opportunity to speak with representatives from almost 60 companies (including Cargill, Agriculture Future of America, Dow AgroSciences, Bureau of Land Management, John Deere, and Farm Credit) and graduate school programs. Participants obtained insightful information regarding internships, part-time jobs and full-time jobs. In addition, students attended a wide range of workshops and professional development presentations, with topics covering international experiences, interviewing skills, and strategies to obtain a successful career within the animal science industry. One of the CASNR participants, Jeneen Abrams, PhD Candidate in plant sciences, won second place in the National Oral Research Graduate Division Competition. The UT Chapter of MANRRS looks

forward to continuing the organization's mission by providing minority CASNR students with advice, guidance, and support as they seek career within agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences – and they are looking forward to the 2015 National MANRRS Conference in Houston, Texas!

Recruiting for Diversity – CASNR Hosts JUMP Enrolled Class of 2018

Each year, the UT Office of Undergraduate Admissions implements its annual Jump Program. This endeavor serves as a special event for multicultural high school seniors who have been accepted to the university. The two-day experience serves as an opportunity to help acclimate students to life on campus. Visiting students learn about academics, financial aid, and student life. In addition, participants have the opportunity to meet and speak with a variety of faculty, staff, and students. Students also participate in a wide range of campus activities, while taking tours of campus.

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources hosted 14 admitted minority students and their families on Saturday, April 5. The college provided attendees with a tour of the ag campus (facilitated by two CASNR Ambassadors – Brittney Woods and Belina Sengmanyvong). After the tour, students and parents participated in a 45-minute Q&A session. The session, facilitated by Craig Pickett, Jr. (coordinator for student life and diversity) provided students with an opportunity to speak with current students from the MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences) Executive Board – Dewayne Smith, Laria Nelson, and Cresa Lennox. In addition, students had an opportunity to meet Sharon Jean-Philippe, assistant professor for urban forestry. Together, the CASNR representatives answered questions regarding academic credit, career options and student involvement. Students also received information about the CASNR Living Learning Community, with many participants expressing an interest in signing up for the program. Pickett provided students and parents with information regarding two collaborative programs between CASNR and the College of Engineering – the new STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Mathematics) Minority Mentoring Program, as well as the Intercollegiate Summer Bridge Program (running throughout July). Together, these two initiatives will provide incoming minority students with personal and professional guidance in an effort to ensure a strong foundation for future success. Both students and parents expressed sincere interest in both programs, with almost all attendees signing up to receive further information. CASNR looks forward to serving as a supportive network for minority students with the goal of academic achievement, retention, and professional success.



CASNR Participates in UT Sneak Peek

On Friday, February 21, and Saturday, February 22, the University of Tennessee held its annual Sneak Peek Program, which serves as a major recruitment initiative for minority high school juniors from across the state of Tennessee. This unique two-day experience introduces students to life at UT. The weekend program provides students with opportunities to learn about academic courses, financial aid and student life, while providing them with opportunities to speak with faculty members, staff, and current UT students.



This year, the UT Office of Undergraduate Admissions provided CASNR with two opportunities to promote the college during the Sneak Peek program. Craig Pickett, Jr. represented the college at its Academic Browse, with the help of two enthusiastic CASNR Ambassadors – Belina Sengmanyvong and Brittney Woods. They spoke to over 220 minority students during the two-hour college fair/academic browse event. They provided students with information regarding each of the departments within the college, along with information regarding student life, study abroad and academic success.

After the Academic Browse, CASNR partnered with the UT College of Engineering to hold a STEM presentation. The session (facilitated by Travis Griffin, director of engineering diversity), provided students with an overview of all of the STEM majors at the University of Tennessee. Afterward, students broke up into groups based on their academic areas of interests and had the opportunity to ask specific questions regarding their college of interest. Pickett, Woods, and Sengmanyvong spoke with students who had a specific interest in CASNR. The three provided in-depth answers for students regarding academic rigor, college life, and academic success. By the end of the session, the visiting students were extremely eager to join the CASNR family in the near future!

Recruiting for Diversity – CASNR Partners with the City of Knoxville on the 2014 Dr. E.V. Davidson Teen Step Show Collegiate Weekend

CASNR partnered with the City of Knoxville to implement the 2014 Dr. E.V. Davidson Teen Step Show Collegiate Weekend (February 28 – March 1). Each year, the City of Knoxville invites middle school and high school step teams from across the country to compete in the Teen Step Show. For the second year in the row, the city partnered with CASNR to add a collegiate element to the program and expose step show participants to the opportunities available at the UT Institute of Agriculture and UT Knoxville.

This year's massive program, coordinated by Sharon Jean-Philippe and Craig Pickett, Jr. with the assistance of colleagues from across the university, was enabled by generous donations from the CASNR dean's office, along with donations from the UT Knoxville Provost's Office, UT College of Law, UT Extension, AgResearch, the Graduate School, the UT College of Education Health and Human Sciences and the UT College of Social Work. This two-day minority recruitment and educational program hosted over 250 students and parents from Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky and Missouri!



On Saturday, March 1, the collegiate portion of the two-day program provided students, parents, and coaches with interactive programs, workshops, and activities. With the help of about 40 student volunteers, including members of MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Science), UT TLSAMP (Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance Minority Program) and the CASNR Ambassadors, students from across the country participated in three major activities – a tour of Neyland Stadium, a tour of the ag campus, and a college fair. The college fair served as a campus-wide collaboration. In addition to having representatives from every department within CASNR, the fair hosted representatives from engineering, social work, education health and human sciences, and the UT Library. They even included a representative from the Buffalo National River. Students had opportunities to ask questions, talk to UT Knoxville students, and learn about the university. Jean-Philippe and Pickett surprised over 20 students with door prizes and UT memorabilia. In addition to the student programs, parents were invited to participate in special Parent Workshops. These sessions focused on important topics, including the college application process, academic success, and student engagement. Guest panelists and facilitators included Maxine Thompson Davis, the dean of students for UT.

At the end of the event, Caula Beyl provided all of the visiting participants with vital advice about academic success and personal motivation, and she encouraged all participants to examine the University of Tennessee as they start their college search process.



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