

UT Institute of Agriculture
2009 State of the Institute Address

Bobby, thank you and the Council for what you do for the faculty and staff of the Institute.

Although she couldn't be here, I wanted to publicly thank Dr. Svetlana Zivanovic for her service as Chair of the Council this past year. At the spring Council meeting, we will present to her a plaque of appreciation as an acknowledgement of a job well done.

Could I ask any other members of the Advisory Council here today to stand and let us show you our appreciation?

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

These individuals serve on the Council in addition to everything else they do. It's a real commitment, but an important one as they advocate for all of us and watch out for the best interest of the Institute. Thank you all.

(PAUSE)

INTRODUCTION

If you're like me, you've noticed something about modern times. Each year that goes by seems to be more challenging than the one before. That's true in our everyday lives, and it's especially the case in the workplace.

Here at the Institute of Agriculture, we know what a challenging year looks like.

A still struggling economy and shrinking budget makes it hard to do the good work we're doing without sacrificing quality. We are expected to do more and more with limited resources.

The "times-are-tough-all-over" cliché is very real today.

Tennessee just experienced a historic full year of negative growth. Have we hit bottom? Some analysts think so. We hope so.

Yes, it can be disheartening, but in the midst of all this I applaud each of you for your hard work, effort and caring.

I'm constantly amazed by the resiliency, creativity and passion demonstrated by our people.

As Vice President, I'm surrounded by talented and dedicated administrators, researchers, teachers, veterinarians, Extension agents, and all kinds of support staff.

It is my honor to work with you, and for you.

Every day top notch professionals within our Institute MEET THE CHALLENGE in front of them... the challenge to be better, and to do more.

Sometimes we have no choice but to embrace adversity, prioritize our goals, and move ahead.

With challenge, comes opportunity. That's not just "self-help psychobabble." That's today's reality.

There are hopeful signs that things will get better. We expect that our economy will improve enough in the coming years that we may return to a more normal way of doing business. In the meantime, we must deal with our circumstances, difficult as they may be.

And I have the utmost confidence in you meeting this challenge, and you did this past year. I am happy to share with you today some of the accomplishments and successes across the entire Institute:

CASNR

Educational programs are the primary reason for our existence here at the Institute.

I'm pleased to announce that CASNR's enrollment increased to 1,193 students (950 of those are undergraduates). That's an increase of 2.7 percent over the past year--but that's

just part of the story. Our largest major is Animal Science with 36% of total undergraduate enrollment. We've also seen significant enrollment gains in Biosystems Engineering (up 26%), Food Science and Technology (up 17.5%) and Wildlife and Fisheries Science (up 29.5%).

We have some of the best and brightest students in the UT System here at the Institute. Not only can we be proud of their academic achievements, but their work in the community as well. Take Green T, for example. This caring group of students planted a "Healing Garden" at UT Hospital. In this place of beauty, patients and their families can take a relaxing stroll among over 600 plants. It truly is a place of respite to enjoy nature's healing touch.

Recent CASNR graduate Whitney Parks says it's great to take what they learn in the classroom and turn it into compassion. Take a look **(roll video)**

I want to take a moment to talk about recruiting. I'm not talking about prospects for the football team, but prospects for CASNR. It's up to all of us, me included, to help identify the quality students that make CASNR the vibrant place it is today. Students truly are the reason our Institute exists. We must never forget our responsibility when it comes to making sure the best and brightest continue to enroll at CASNR.

UT's prospective student information on the web is can be intimidating if you're a high schooler trying to wade through this sea of information. We knew there had to be a way to make this a more user-friendly experience. CASNR recently launched an impressive multi-media web experience created by a student for students. On this web site, prospective students can take a tour of the ag campus, learn how to apply to UT, and even meet students and faculty in all of our majors. It's all done in a fun and interactive way. You can see on this screen shot what the site looks like and the different options prospective students now have for finding information.

Another CASNR highlight is that Agricultural Economics is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. Since 1919, Ag Econ has prepared students for careers in business management, marketing, customer relations, and agricultural equipment systems management, just to name a few.

AgEcon is having a 90th Anniversary dinner tonight, and they have gotten great attendance response from their alumni. Congratulations!

(PAUSE)

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

The CVM Class of 2009 outperformed the national average on the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). Passing the NAVLE is a requirement before being able to practice veterinary medicine in North America. The average pass rate for all seniors enrolled in accredited schools who took the examination for the first time was 93 percent...while 97 percent of OUR senior students passed on their first attempt. Our seniors also met or exceeded the national score in all individual subject areas.

This year, the legislature gave the CVM the authority to spend \$21 million on the expansion and renovation of the large animal hospital. Although we have not secured all the monies to move forward with the plans, we have worked to capture an initial \$17.6 million and are working diligently to raise private gifts to secure the remaining \$3.3 million to complete the project. The university has put a program in place for a limited time that will match—dollar for dollar-- gifts of at least \$12,500.

The CVM continues to sink its teeth into a public health problem—dog bites. Each year about 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs—of those requiring medical care, injury rates are highest among children. Knox County has the third highest incidence of people requiring hospital treatment as the result of dog bites. The college, with financial support from donors,

provided a free copy of its kid-friendly dog bite prevention DVD to 5,000 first graders in Knox County and hope to expand the program.

Since opening its doors, the college has seen and treated over 1 million animals. Among that number is almost 300 lions, tigers and other big cats at Tiger Haven—a big cat sanctuary in Roane County. The college enjoys a national reputation in avian/zoological medicine—and its residency programs are highly sought after—as the students see one of the largest caseloads of avian and exotics of any veterinary teaching hospital in the country.... The section's new facility—almost a “hospital within a hospital,” housed within the John and Ann Tickle Small Animal Hospital, allows UTCVM to push the bar of contemporary educational standards to a new level.

Dr. Stephanie McCain and a number of other faculty and students at CVM regularly visit Tiger Haven. These animals are nature's royalty, and our people work very hard with the staff there to make sure these cats live long, healthy lives. Mary Lynne Haven, Owner of Tiger Haven, talks about the exceptional care provided by CVM.

(Roll Video)

(PAUSE)

AgResearch

In AgResearch, the Tennessee Tree Improvement Program celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2009. This program took root in 1959 and has flourished into a wide-ranging research and education effort. Since its inception, the program has introduced more than 300 million genetically improved trees into Tennessee's forested lands. With projects across the state, these high quality seedlings will contribute to tree improvement for generations. This means cleaner air, better soil, and more natural areas for all Tennesseans to enjoy.

One of the main projects of the program is the restoration of the American Chestnut. This past spring, we planted more than 1,200 cross-bred chestnuts in three southern national forests. The chestnut once accounted for one-fourth of all the trees in the Appalachian region - but disease wiped out many between 1900 and 1950. Today Scott Schlarbaum and others are working to change that. UTIA has been working for several decades now to develop blight-resistant trees.

Another project of the Tree Improvement Program is at the Shackelford Orchard at Ames Plantation where majestic oaks stand proudly next to towering pines. A decades-long research project on this 100 acre site consists of 22,000 trees under study.

Drs. Allan Houston and Scott Schlarbaum have been watching the growth of several forests, including the genetically

improved white oaks that are about 20 feet tall. High quality seed from these young oaks will eventually be passed along to Tennessee landowners. Dr. Houston is searching for trees that will benefit Tennessee's timber industry, and still provide habitat and food for wildlife. **(roll video)**

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office awarded patents to seven UT Institute of Agriculture scientists this past year. As a result of hard work and scientific research, the discoveries of these inventors will have measurable impacts on the livestock industry, horticulture industry, and crop production. Discoveries and inventions like these are an indication of the innovative people and programs here at UTIA. **(Photo)**

The patents were awarded to:

Dr. Shige Eda, Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries, for a patented method of diagnosing Johne's (y⁵'nəz) Disease.

Drs. Bob Trigiano and Mark Windham of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology for a dogwood tree named "Missy's Appalachian Morning."

Drs. Bob Trigiano and Mark Windham and Allan Windham of UT Extension for a new dogwood tree variety named "Appalachian Joy" that's resistant to powdery mildew.

Dr. John Wilkerson, Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science, and Dr. Melvin Newman, Entomology and Plant Pathology, for a control system for high-speed fluid dispensing. A prototype was developed to help farmers reduce the amount of pesticides they apply to cotton, but this invention is good for all crops and has other potential industry-wide applications.

AND

Dr. Bob Conger, professor emeritus from the Department of Plant Sciences, received a Plant Variety Protection Patent for 'Persist' orchard grass. This patent represents 50 years of discovery and plant breeding work.

The hard work of our scientists has measurable impacts on society. In their quest for knowledge, there is both the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. I am grateful for their willingness to be persistent.

AgResearch's Field Days continue to enjoy success as farmers and homeowners alike utilize these opportunities. In 2009 we added two new events to our Field Day schedule, Organic Vegetable Production and Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods. Both were well attended and proved to be successful additions. Despite economic concerns, visitors still flocked to our special events. Attendance grew at many events, and plant sales at Summer Celebration were up 70 percent

from 2008. The field days remain an excellent outreach tool for the communities in our state.

Our organic crops research and extension initiative is turning up fertile ground. More than 450 people have participated in either a workshop series or the first Organic Crops Field Day. Our faculty are named collaborators in a \$2 million grant with Washington State and Texas A&M, including Annette Wszelaki in Plant Sciences, and Doug Hayes, Jaehoon (JAY-HOON) Lee and Larry Wadsworth (Emeritus), in BESS. This project is even reaching across the campus to involve Robert Jones in the Department of Sociology. Also, we have opened a search for an Organic and Sustainable and Alternative Crops Faculty Member to expand the team.

The Institute continues to make great strides in the area of biofuels. I've said it before and I'll issue the challenge again today, "Catch us if you can!" Construction of the Biorefinery in Vonore (VON OR) is entering the final stages. We expect to make cellulosic ethanol at the site with our industrial partners DuPont Danisco Cellulosic Ethanol before the end of the year. Also, 40 area farmers are now participating in the second year of the switchgrass farmer incentive program, with a total of 2,600 acres enrolled.

Dr. Joseph J. Bozell, associate professor in biomass chemistry, is among some 700 senior investigators nationwide

who will participate in a collection of 46 Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs) recently established by the Department of Energy. Dr. Bozell will lead the associated UT research. He is expected to be funded for a total of \$1.1 million over the next five years.

Dr. Alvin Womac, professor of biosystems engineering, will be the principal investigator for a \$4.9 million project awarded to Genera Energy. This DOE grant will allow Womac and others to develop high-tonnage equipment systems to efficiently supply energy crop materials to the new Vonore (VON OR) biofuels facility and other commercial-scale units.

The East Tennessee Research and Education Center is now home to the region's first biodiesel production unit. The Institute is partnering with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy to produce useable fuel from cooking oil. The unit can produce almost 380,000 gallons of biodiesel per year at full capacity. SACE aims to supply biodiesel to UT, community businesses and others. The program will also provide students with an educational opportunity to have a hands-on learning experience regarding process operations, maintenance, evaluation, and distribution of biodiesel.

In July we announced a partnership between the Tennessee Turf Team and AstroTurf® to create the Center for Safer Athletic Fields. With a \$1.5 M grant, the new facility at the East Tennessee Research and Education Center will feature 60

small-scale athletic research fields constructed from a variety of playing surfaces. UT turfgrass faculty will compare the safety and performance of synthetic playing surfaces to a variety of cool and warm season grass surfaces with the goal of improving athletic performance and reducing injuries.

(PAUSE)

UT Extension

2010 will mark the 100th anniversary of UT Extension and 4-H. This proud organization is the Institute's "front porch" statewide - and **THE** University of Tennessee in every county.

Throughout the coming year, we will celebrate this historic milestone. We'll kick off the Centennial Celebration this spring at 4-H Congress, and will conclude the celebration at the Extension annual conference in November.

Now if you're a numbers historian, you may be thinking... "Smith Lever Act ... of 1914!," but it's documented that the first-ever Tennessee Extension agent started work four years earlier than that.

Now let's flash forward to modern times. This past year, UT Extension had more than 4.8 million contacts with Tennessee citizens. That's the highest total ever.

The SUPER system allows us to more accurately count Extension contacts now, and that includes measuring the

number of contacts made by volunteers - trained by Extension personnel. SUPER also reports the overall economic impact of Extension's efforts to the state was \$343 million dollars.

With literally dozens of amazing programs out there, it's difficult to choose which ones to highlight - but here are a few of which we are particularly proud.

In Lincoln County, UT Extension teaches parenting skills to teens and young adults in a program called "Baby and Me." Sometimes young girls become moms before they're really ready emotionally. But that doesn't mean they can't be a good parent.

The goal of "Baby and Me" is to keep pregnant teens from dropping out of school.

Teen Mom Chelsey Daniel talks about what the program means to her and her daughter, Jalea (JA Lee uh). FCS agent Shea (SHAY rhymes with HAY) Austin teaches the 'Baby and Me' curriculum, and admires the determination and courage of these young women.

(Roll Video)

Extension's FCS unit also does an amazing job at working to improve the health of Tennesseans of all ages. In Wilson County, agents teach the "Healthy Steps" pilot program. It

focuses on the youngest age group ever targeted by Extension in a healthy lifestyle curriculum – PRE-kindergarten.

There's no bigger issue in our time than the economy. Now there's the national economy - and then your "personal economy." Extension FCS agents teach a class called "Getting By in Tough Times." The program includes information about saving for emergencies and how to purchase needed items without going into debt.

Extension also does exemplary work in agriculture, natural resources and rural economic development.

The Master Beef Producer program continues to have tremendous results in increasing profitability for our state's number one agricultural commodity. The program's goal is to improve genetics, herd management and marketing of Tennessee beef so our farmers can compete nationally and globally.

The joint AgResearch and Extension Agronomic Crop Variety Testing Program focuses on improved seed yield for farmers and seed quality traits for the processing industry for corn, soybeans, cotton, wheat, grain sorghum and some specialty crops. Based on survey data and Tennessee Ag Statistics crop acreages and average grain commodity prices,

the economic impact, just from increased farm-gate receipts, is more than \$100 million per year.

Extension, along with the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, also continues its rewarding and productive partnership with the Center for Profitable Agriculture.

C-P-A celebrated its 10th anniversary this past year.

C-P-A helps farm families and businesses to capture a larger share of the consumer dollar by adding value to their food and fiber products through processing, packaging and marketing. Now, more than 500 Tennessee farms are involved in agritourism, and many of them work with CPA in marketing efforts.

Extension can boast one of the nation's highest 4-H enrollments - more than 300,000 youth and some 20,000 adult volunteers. But it's not just the number of 4-H'ers that we have - but the impact they're having in their hometowns.

Last year 4-H'ers and adult volunteers performed more than 100,000 hours of volunteer service in their communities. This year 4-H'ers collected items for a Nashville Senior Citizens Center, and materials that were donated to the five Tennessee hospitals that make up the Children's Miracle Network.

4-H'ers have collected many items for our troops overseas for several years, and now 4-H offers a program called

“Operation Military Kids”- where children of armed service personnel can attend a 4-H camp for free. It’s a chance for a respite from the worry and stress of having a mom or dad in a war zone.

(PAUSE)

Scorecard

Now, to measure our overall success this year by the numbers, I’d like to share with you what the UT System calls Scorecards for our success indicators.

(REVIEW AND EXPLAIN SCORECARDS)

(PAUSE)

Budget Recap and Update:

The biggest challenge we faced this year was addressing reductions in state funding. Our leadership team grappled with this issue all year long, guided by the following principles in making decisions:

- Minimizing negative impacts on core activities
- Striving to minimize layoffs of personnel
- Maximizing efficiencies, consolidating operations and reducing operating expenditures.

AND

- Looking at opportunities for growth in non-state resources.

In FY 12, our resources will drop significantly from where we are now, as is illustrated here (CHART).

DR. D., INSERT YOUR BUDGET NOTES HERE

I wish I could tell you that things are looking up, but the state shortfall is still tracking over \$1 billion for the most recent 12 months. Just this week, we received instructions from the State Department of Finance and Administration mandating a 6 percent reduction for the fiscal year beginning July 1. There is a further 3 percent cut from which higher ed is exempt. These reductions again will be made up with stimulus funds until July 2011.

The economy is beginning to show signs of improvement, but it may not improve fast enough to mitigate the impact of these reductions when the stimulus money runs out

(PAUSE)

Services Update:

The IT migration to Outlook and deployment of SharePoint is nearing completion. Even during tough economic times, we've been able to keep up our infrastructure, especially in the technology arena. It is so important to our global world today; we have to stay on technology's edge. It's how we reach our students, clientele, and potential faculty. I appreciate your patience this summer through the migration.

We continue to make incremental progress with our capital projects, but if the state is going to be successful in higher education, there has to be a dedicated revenue source for capital expenditures. We need an improved system for capital

projects. Upgrading our facilities infrastructure is critical, and we have \$71 million capital dollars in play with these projects. I'll just touch on a few.

September

- CVM Tissue Digester – bid mid-September \$ 3,100,000
- CVM Cherokee Unit Repairs – construction has started
\$ 3,300,000
- ADA Renovations @ Clyde York 4-H Center Crossville,
bid Sept. 23 \$ 500,000
- UT Dairy – Construction started. Anticipated completion
September 2010 \$12,000,000
- Large Animal addition – Architect assigned, program being
written \$21,000,000

October

- Milan REC Headquarters Building start construction
October 1 \$ 625,000
- Greenville Staff Housing – Bid October 22
\$ 2,000,000

November

- Bio-energy Lab – bid first of November \$ 1,250,000
- Brehm/McLeod – bid opening November 4 \$25,000,000

- Greenhouse Phase III -Design development complete
bid first of 2010 \$ 2,500,000

Total \$71,275,000

Campaign for Tennessee

As you could probably surmise from the budget graphic I showed you, our state appropriations continue to shrink. While we need to be aggressive in seeking other sources of revenue to make up the shortfall, we must also be aggressive in seeking private gift dollars. The Campaign for Tennessee has been very successful for our campus, with each unit nearing or exceeding its goal. Institute wide, we have reached 98 percent of our \$85 million goal.

Our development officers Institute wide have done a great job in this campaign, with still 28 months left to go. However, we are going to have to do even more to help make up for our budget reductions. Fundraising has always been important, but now...it's more important than ever.

(PAUSE)

Looking Ahead

- **Continue to prepare for state budget reductions**
 - Strive to be less dependent on state resources

- Grow success in fund raising activities
- Minimize negative impacts on students

- **Review, analyze and build key programs.**
 - CASNR: Refine and Implement Programs such as the Masters of Landscape Architecture
 - CVM: Primary Care medicine and Surgical Education
 - AgResearch: Biobased Fuels, chemicals and materials
 - Extension: Expand educational programs to address obesity and health issues.

- **Grow CASNR enrollment**

- **Help people understand** who we are, what we do and the value we bring to the state.

- **Plan and begin Large Animal Hospital renovations.**

- **Articulate our best interest in the redesign of the UT System's** operations and services.

- Continue to **grow and foster collaborative efforts and a strong working relationship with the East Campus.**

- **Strengthen and foster relationships with ORNL.**

(PAUSE)

Conclusion

In closing, I believe we all care deeply about this Institute. We want to see it continue to succeed. I will be the first to tell you I certainly don't have all the answers, but I do know where to find some great answers - and that's with you.

After all, this place is about people, passion, performance, pride and programs.

- People, passion, performance, pride and programs that educate.
- People, passion, performance, pride and programs that make remarkable discoveries.
- People, passion, performance, pride and programs that carry out important outreach.
- People, passion, performance, pride and programs that provide solutions and touch lives across the state and beyond.

Please know that I continue to want to hear from you. An effective leader needs to do a lot more listening than talking.

My door is open, and please come to me with your ideas concerns and solutions.

As individuals, we can only be so effective. **But as a team** we can accomplish much more and overcome greater adversity. Ending by saying “thank you” seems like an insignificant gesture, but perhaps never in our Institute’s history has it been more important to let you know how much I appreciate the work you do.

We have not been able to give raises in some time, and the reality is that may continue for a while. About all I can give you right now is my gratitude and praise. Please know that you are appreciated. You are valued, and the administration of this Institute will always work on your behalf to secure the resources you need and deserve.

As I stated earlier, we continue to believe strongly that our economy and our situation will improve, but it will take time. And, it will take patience on our part between now and then to get through this trying era.

We may not be able to predict our future, but that doesn’t mean we can’t be excited about it.

A week ago Monday, UT Interim President Jan Simek visited the Ag campus, and talked to faculty and staff about the current state of affairs within the UT system. Jan can be

straight-forward - not a sugar-coater by any stretch. He talked of the difficulties we face now - of budget shortfalls and times of more belt-tightening. But he also spoke of the many positives he sees all around us.

He talked of the quality of students UT is now attracting. He spoke about the Cherokee campus across the river, where such exciting research is planned. And mostly he talked about a future where better times are inevitable. AND, earlier I talked about us meeting the challenges in front of us in 2009 and 2010. Years from now I believe we will look back on this time and say - "We MET the challenge."

It is a privilege and honor to serve as your Vice President.

Thanks for your time today.

(CALL FOR QUESTIONS-STALL IF DVD IS LOADING.)

(ANNOUNCE SPECIAL REPORT FROM MORGAN HALL)

You can thank Chuck Denney for the wonderful script on that piece and Doug Edlund for the excellent videography and special effects. I understand they had a budget of 0.0. Great work guys!

I'd also like to thank Babbet Harbison and the CVM video services staff for their help with the Webcast today.

Again, thanks for coming. Don't forget about Ag Day tomorrow. I'd invite you and your families to come join us for some fun activities before the game. Have a great rest of the day and weekend.