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University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Sponsored Programs Office

2017 July

# Office of Sponsored Programs Newsletter

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## Message from the Director

> Thank you for your patience as our office has been trying to maintain the same level of service while being short-handed.

In June we submitted over 70 proposals and in July over 40.

In April we lost Shirley Phillips; in June, Traci Stanley; and in July, Courtney Holbert. Traci is now a Research Associate with Dr. David White, and Courtney is Director of Research and External Funding with the College of Education, Health & Human Sciences. We wish them congratulations and best wishes in their new positions. The responsibility of processing subawards has been reassigned from Courtney to Will Helmraht.

We will soon be fully staffed again and look forward to welcoming DeeDee Wilder from the Department of Chemistry, Liz Hebert from ORNL

and Everly Manes from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

I hope you enjoy this issue of our newsletter. Please check out the faculty Spotlights on Drs. Brosnan (AgResearch), Kania (CVM), and Walker (Extension). The goals of the Office of International Programs is described by its Director, Dr. Tom Gill. Agency updates include the roll out of EzFedGrants, a new grants management system for USDA applications and award management.

Jane Burns has included an updated schedule for Lunch and Learn compliance updates.

Hope you have enjoyed the summer so far. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to receive the latest news.

Thank You,

*Debbie Hampstead*

> Launched in 2015 with the generous support of UT alumni Donnie and Terry Smith, UTIA's Office of International Programs (OIP) works to advance the international engagement of UTIA by empowering faculty, staff and students to think and act globally in pursuit of sustainable solutions to our world's agricultural, food, and natural resource challenges. Our donor-funded projects address agriculture and natural resources issues around the world with a particular focus on low- and middle-income countries. By facilitating collaborations across UTIA units within CASNR, CVM, AgResearch and UT Extension, we are working to build teams and develop long-term international partnerships.

Our goals are to:

- 1) build interdisciplinary faculty programs focused on cutting-edge science and technology,
- 2) develop academic programs to provide our students with opportunities in international agriculture and natural resources,
- 3) strengthen international partnerships and networks, and
- 4) highlight the importance of global engagement to our communities in Tennessee and around the world.

The office consists of six members: Dr. Tom Gill - director, Dr. Adam Willcox - study abroad and International Agriculture and Natural Resources minor coordinator, Drs. Dave Ader and Amanda Kaeser - post-doctoral fellows, Emily Urban - project coordinator, and Catherine Moore - undergraduate intern.



*Photo (from left to right): Dave Ader, Tom Gill, Amanda Kaeser, Adam Willcox, and Emily Urban*

## #FundingOpp >>>

- **USDA AFRI Foundational Program**— [link](#)
- **USDA NIFA**: <https://nifa.usda.gov/page/search-grant>
- **NIH**: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding\\_program.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm)
- **Non-NIH Opportunities for Predoctoral & Graduate Researchers**: [link](#)
- **Postdoctoral Non-NIH Opportunities**: <https://www.fic.nih.gov/Funding/NonNIH/Pages/postdoctoral.aspx>
- **NSF**: <http://www.nsf.gov/funding/index.jsp>
- **Grants.gov**: <http://www.grants.gov/>
- **PIVOT (University of Tennessee — Knoxville)**: [https://pivot.cos.com/funding\\_main](https://pivot.cos.com/funding_main)
- **Tennessee State Government**: <http://www.tn.gov/ruraltaskforce/section/grants-resources>
- **Rural Assistance Center**: Various TN Funding Opportunities at <http://www.raconline.org/states/tennessee/funding>
- **Philanthropy News Digest (Foundation Center)**: <http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/>
- **Morris Animal Foundation**: <http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/researchers/>
- **Grant Resources in Science, Math, and Integrated STEM**: <http://www.cesa2.org/programs/stem/STEMgrants.cfm>



### Jim Brosnan

Originally from Massachusetts, Dr. Brosnan earned a M.S. from the University of

Massachusetts Amherst, along with both a B.S. and Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University. He came to UTIA from the University of Hawaii where he worked as an Assistant Specialist in Turfgrass Management. Currently, Dr. Brosnan is an Associate Professor of Turfgrass Weed Science in the Department of Plant Sciences.

Dr. Brosnan's research focuses on strategies for controlling unique and problematic weeds of turfgrass systems, particularly annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and goosegrass (*Eleusine indica*) with resistance to herbicides. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed research articles and has been recognized by the Crop Science Society of America, as well as both the Northeastern and Southern Weed Science Societies for his research efforts. Recently, Dr. Brosnan was invited to give a keynote presentation at the Global Herbicide Resistance Challenge on managing herbicide resistant weeds in turf.

Despite receiving limited funding from federal agencies, Dr. Brosnan has successfully been able to support his research efforts via competitive grant funding from the United States Golf Association as well as partnerships with several industry partners. These relationships have facilitated the development of new weed management technologies for Tennessee's \$5.8 billion turfgrass industry.

In 2017, Dr. Brosnan was named Director of the new UT Weed Diagnostics Center (WDC). Supported by both AgResearch and UT Extension, the WDC is a revenue-generating entity to provide end-users a wide range of diagnostic services from basic weed identification to herbicide resistance screening. All diagnostic test results are complemented with research-based control recommendations to promote proper weed management practices in the field. Additional information about the WDC can be found online at [www.weeddiagnostics.org](http://www.weeddiagnostics.org).



### Forbes Walker

Forbes Walker received a Ph.D. in Soil Science from North Carolina State University in 1998 and since then has worked as the Environmental Soils specialist



for the University of Tennessee Extension. As the Environmental Soil Specialist he is responsible for coordinating educational and research programs in Tennessee in the areas of the areas of cover crops and soil health, nutrient and manure management, the appropriate use of alternative fertilizer materials, waste utilization, nutrient cycling and water quality. Much of his work today is related to the impact of agriculture on the environment and assessing practices that will improve agricultural productivity without negatively impacting the environment, specifically water and air quality. He has received a number of grants from agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. He currently

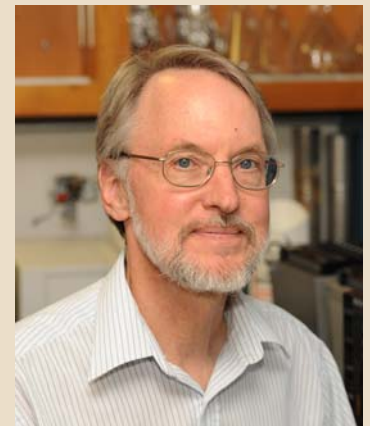
manages several research and extension projects looking at the impact of agriculture from the plot to field to watershed scale. Since 2015 he has been the lead investigator in a statewide \$5 million climate change adaptation grant from USDA involving partners from five Universities across Tennessee.





Stephen Kania

Dr. Kania received his Master's degree in veterinary microbiology from Washington State University and his PhD studying veterinary molecular microbiology at the University of Florida. He currently is a professor with a primary appointment in the Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences at the College of Veterinary Medicine. He directs the CVM Diagnostic Immunology laboratory and has appointments in the UT Genome Science and Technology Graduate program and the Institute for Biomedical Engineering.



His research interest in *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* began when clinicians at the UTCVM grew concerned about the sudden appearance of methicillin resistance in dogs they were treating for skin infections. His research group discovered that the methicillin resistant *S. pseudintermedius* (MRSP) isolates were part of a clonal population spreading across the United States. Dr. Kania joined an international consortium that established research priorities and divided research tasks to address this emerging problem. He secured funding from the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, developed a new genetic typing system and discovered three strains of MRSP prevalent in the US. Samples from this investigation included some bacteria resistant to all antibiotics available to veterinarians. This prompted studies of alternatives to conventional antibiotics. Funding from the Center of Excellence in Livestock Diseases and Human Health has allowed Dr. Kania and his research group to examine bacteriophages, small molecule inhibitors and vaccines as alternative treatments. The inhibitors were developed in collaboration with colleagues in the Department of Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology. The vaccine effort targets proteins involved in protecting the bacteria from their host's immune system. Determining the identity and location of the proteins was made possible by DNA sequence information obtained from whole genome sequencing of isolates representing all three major strains of MRSP coupled with mass spectroscopy analysis performed with a collaborator at the UT-Battelle Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Coming full circle Dr. Kania is planning clinical trials of the new therapies with the clinicians who alerted him to the MRSP issue more than a decade ago. The UT Research Foundation is working with Dr. Kania to further develop and commercialize these technologies. Additionally, Dr. Kania has qualified for contracts through the CDC's Safe Healthcare, Epidemiology, and Prevention Research Development (SHEPHERD) Program, which establishes UT as an approved research facility with expertise necessary to address future CDC sponsored work in antimicrobial resistance. This process required assembling a team with diverse expertise capable of studying antibiotic use practices, effectiveness and outcomes.

## Evisions Reports

Department heads and business managers, the link to Evisions reports has changed. You can access Evisions proposal and award reports by logging in here:

<https://utsystem.tennessee.edu/sites/researchreporting/reports/Pages/default.aspx>

Contact Jane Burns at [janeburns@utk.edu](mailto:janeburns@utk.edu) or 865-974-7375 for help with Evisions reports.

> EzFedGrants...not so easy

**EzFedGrants** is a new web portal that USDA is rolling out to submit non-competitive grant applications and to manage competitive and non-competitive awards, agreements, amendments, reports, and invoices. For the time being, competitive grant applications will still be submitted through grants.gov.

Currently, USDA has rolled out EzFedGrants for use in applying to Foreign Agricultural Service and APHIS and for capacity funding (Hatch, Animal Health, McIntire-Stennis, Smith-Lever, EFNEP). Rural Development and Forest Service are next on the roll out, we think.

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Sponsored Project Accounting have been watching webinars over the last 6 months in preparation. In June, Shannon James from USDA visited with us to help work out several bugs (still on-going) and discuss issues particular to UTIA and its multiple DUNS numbers. Individuals with access under a DUNS number can't have access to other projects under a different DUNS number, at least until the next major update expected in October.

**DUNS:** 134399448 is Extension, 133891015 is AgResearch, 962110003 is Vet Med

In order to use the system, the institution has to have 3 roles, Grants Administrator Officer (GAO), Grants Processor (GP) or Signatory Official (SO).

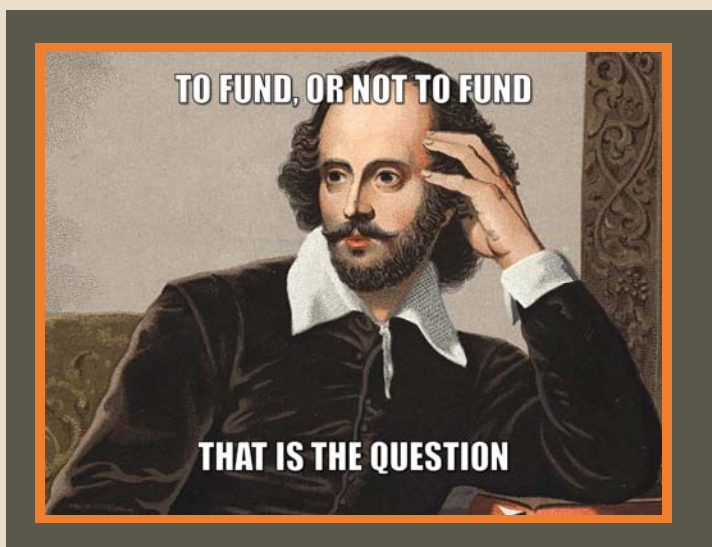
- The **GAO** is the Grants Manager, each DUNS has a different GAO in our office
- The **GP** is the Grants Administrator, each DUNS as a different GP in our office
- The **SO** signs applications and awards, each DUNS has a different set.

The GAO, GP, or SO can also be set up to have a secondary roles of Certifying Official (Accountant) or Reviewer.

If you have an award with an agency using EzFedGrants, your progress report will need to be submitted in the system. When progress reports are due, your pre-award (OSP) or post-award (SPA) office will assist you.

Currently, both OSP and SPA are set up to work in EzFedGrants.

*\* Please contact us if you have questions at [aggrant@utk.edu](mailto:aggrant@utk.edu) or (865) 974-7357*



> Office of Sponsored Programs spotlight is on Cathy Creswell



A Knoxville native, I graduated from UTIA in 1977 with a BS in Forestry. Since then, I have been busy farming, gardening and planting trees on our Sevier County farm, which I still enjoy from my home in Knoxville. In 1986, I organized and implemented the Tree City USA Program for Sevierville, TN and was a founding member of the Sevierville Tree Board. I have also served on the Board of Directors for the Foothills Land Conservancy and volunteered for the National Park Service. I started my UT career in 2000, and have served in various roles and departments. In 2008, I was invited to help establish and organize the new UTIA Sponsored Programs Office, which now has a staff of ten specialists providing pre-award services to the Institute of Agriculture.

> **Compliance Lunch Schedule:**

Our next **Compliance Lunch** and Learn is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15, 2017 (Noon - 1:00 pm), featuring Steve Crouch and Jacob Payne from the UTIA Safety Office. Watch for details in your e-mail the week before the lunch. Also, mark your calendar for these compliance learning opportunities:

- Thursday 9/21/17          noon-4:00          RCR Workshop
- Tuesday 10/24/17        noon-1:00          Plagiarism Software
- Tuesday 11/14/17        noon-1:00          Human Subjects and Working with the IRB

Please contact Jane Burns at [janeburns@utk.edu](mailto:janeburns@utk.edu) or 865-974-7375 with any questions or suggestions for compliance lunches.

> **RESOURCES**

- USDA NIFA Grant Training—<https://nifa.usda.gov/grant-training>
- USDA NIFA 2017 RFA Schedule—<https://nifa.usda.gov/request-application-rfa-schedule>
- NIH Standard Due Dates—<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/due-dates.htm>
- *Storytelling in Grant Writing* — <http://grants-plus.com/?newswire=summer-2013-gp-newswire-storytelling-in-grant-writing>
- UT Data Services Guide— <http://libguides.utk.edu/dataservices>

**UTIA Office of Sponsored Programs Facebook & Twitter pages are avenues we use to keep you up to date with the ever changing events in Research Administration.**

An additional source of information is our web page. ([link](#))

You may submit questions, ideas or suggestions for improvements of our newsletter to [aggrant@utk.edu](mailto:aggrant@utk.edu).

