

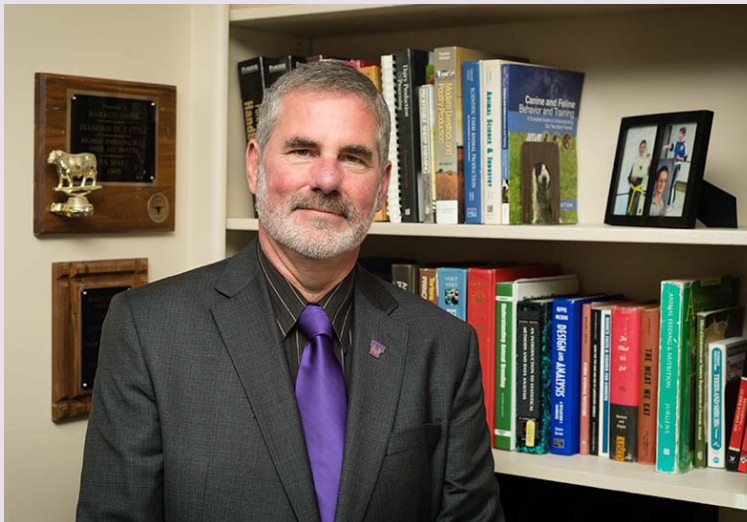
Tennessee Tech University

COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE and HUMAN ECOLOGY

The newsletter for alumni and friends of the College of Agriculture & Human Ecology | Spring 2021



Greetings from Oakley Hall!



I am Darron Smith the new Dean of the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology. One of my goals as the new dean is to engage our alumni. I thought the best way to start this was to send out a newsletter showing what we have been up to over the last year. I purposely am adding lots of pictures so you can scroll through and stop on what interests you. These updates will be sent out quarterly from now on. Of course, we would love to have you visit and see all this in person.

CAHE Alumni Update

Some quick hits:

- I am constantly asked how we are doing with the COVID pandemic. I am happy to report all is going well at this point with minimal impact to our faculty, staff and students. We have made adjustments to our classrooms and flow through the building. Of course we have the best student body on campus and they are making the adjustments with a smile on their face. I am proud of everyone.
- Enrollment is a constant battle as we look to recruit more students, especially during a pandemic. Don't hesitate to reach out to your family, friends and neighbors and push them in our direction. Alumni also make great recruiters.
- We have been fortunate to receive some very generous donations over the last year from some new

donors. Dr. Reece and his mother established two \$100,000 scholarships, plus an additional \$100,000 for some much needed equipment.

- The MacIndoe's established a scholarship and the preservation of the historic costume collection. See an exhibit below.
- Shipley and Oakley Farms are running well. We have the best farm crews around.
- We will be searching for five new faculty this fall — three for agriculture and two for human ecology. More to follow.

Finally, please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or if you would like to give us an update on your life. See you in July!



SCHOOL of AGRICULTURE

The school of Agriculture was awarded an almost \$2 million dollar TBR grant to build a poultry research center. After many challenges the bid was awarded to W&O Construction. I am so excited to say construction has started, and I will keep you all updated as construction progresses!

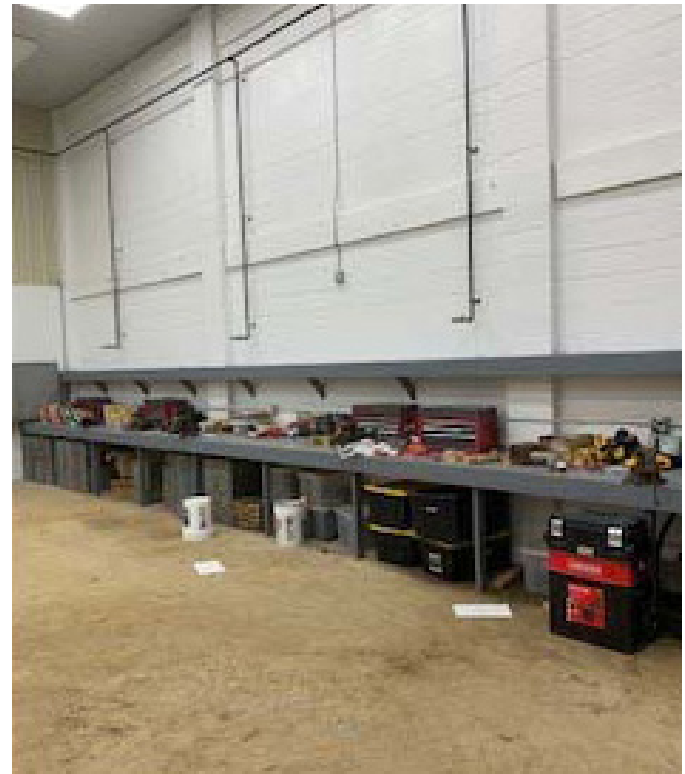


Poultry Barn - We have broken ground!



SCHOOL of AGRICULTURE

A couple of years ago the university needed to take over the old Engineering and Technology lab on campus. The university provided funding to build a new laboratory by converting the old dairy loafing barn hay storage area into a laboratory, complete with a new bathroom. Faculty are teaching in the lab this fall.



Agriculture Engineering and Technology Lab is completed!



SCHOOL of AGRICULTURE



Converted Hay Storage Area



New Bathroom

This is the remaining dairy barn loading area. It is our wish to convert this broken down building into a small engine, ag engineering and technology student success center. We are currently looking at different funding opportunities.



SCHOOL of AGRICULTURE



Though this early morning photo doesn't show it, you can imagine just how many cars and ambulances were there every day. In addition to the before and after photos below, right after Christmas they worked hard under Rusty's leadership to convert Hyder Burks Arena into the Putnam County COVID-19 vaccination site. This was no small undertaking as it had to be completed in four days. Great Job!

And yes, they also kept farming and working around that site!

Some Fun Before and After Farm Photo Improvements



Hay storage



TWO new hay barns!



SCHOOL of AGRICULTURE



Eyesore next to red barn



Converting to a sheep feeding pad



Termites in the greenhouse classroom



New classroom wall!



SCHOOL of AGRICULTURE



Dumpster covering broken septic tank



Filled in and safe



*Structurally insecure silos
See all the holes at the bottom?*



Removed!



SCHOOL of AGRICULTURE



Equipment shed roof breaking on both ends



Repaired



SCHOOL of AGRICULTURE

Meet the New Agriculture Faculty



Dr. Michael Natrass is the new assistant professor of Agronomy and Soils. He comes to Tennessee Tech from Mississippi State where he received his MSc in Agronomy, evaluating enhanced efficiency fertilizers in row crop production and a Ph.D. in Plant and Soil Sciences, conducting research on constructed wetland phytoremediation. In his first academic year, he taught two soils courses, soil fertility, soil and water conservation, and soil chemistry. His research interests include nutrient management in various cropping systems, soil health, and water quality. In supporting the Rural Reimagined initiative, Dr. Natrass seeks to improve Upper Cumberland agricultural production systems by using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and smart farm technologies.

“From day one, Tennessee Tech has been awesome! Working with the faculty, staff and students in the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology has been amazing. I am excited for the opportunity to help the local ag community overcome the challenges they face!” says Natrass.



William D. Campbell is the new Agribusiness instructor at Lawrenceburg. Mr. Campbell's first career spanned more than 25 years trading fixed income securities and derivatives. During that period, he managed a multi-billion dollar portfolio for a global hedge fund, served as head risk manager for a trading company, and designed proprietary risk management systems. Stepping back from active portfolio management, Bill then founded, grew and sold two fintech firms.

Following the sale of his second firm, Bill earned his master's in economics specifically to teach at the university level. During his tenure with the University of Wyoming, he accumulated a number of honors for both advising and teaching. In addition to teaching, his research focuses on the rural economy and builds on his ag econ background. Bill is an Eagle Scout, retired scoutmaster, and active in several service organizations.

Final Thought. See Dr. Fennewald try to explain his chicken tenderloin research to Awesome Eagle.



SCHOOL of HUMAN ECOLOGY

The School of Human Ecology is Offering the First Ever Master's Degree in the College

This degree is intended for two audiences: graduate students who desire to complete the experiential learning required to sit for the RDN exam, and practicing RDNs who seek a master's degree. The curriculum provides advanced content knowledge in rural community health and nutrition.

This program is an accredited as a demonstration program under the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) Future Education Model Accreditation Standards.

These accreditation standards integrate didactic coursework with supervised experiential learning in a competency-based curriculum designed to prepare nutrition and dietetics practitioners for future practice. Program graduates will be eligible to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing

exam to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Prospective students do not have to have an undergraduate degree from a DPD program in order to be admitted to this program, but they must complete certain pre-requisite courses in order to be eligible for enrollment in the supervised experiential learning track.

For those practicing professionals who are interested in obtaining a master's degree in Community Health and Nutrition, but do not need the supervised experiential learning necessary to sit for the registration exam for dietitians, it is a 30-credit, 100% online program. Both the degree and the experiential learning can be completed over a 22-month time period.

We have had a lot of interest in this new program and are excited to be able to offer this opportunity to those seeking to advance their skills in community health!

Friday Cafe is Still Up and Running Preparing Delicious Friday Lunches!

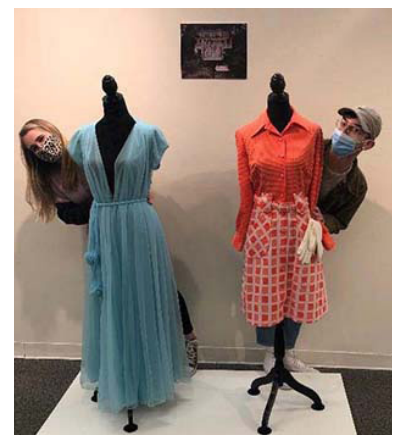
Friday Cafe is the hands-on learning experience for foods and nutrition students in Human Ecology. The Friday Cafe is a student-led restaurant located in Oakley Hall, room 005. Open only on Fridays for lunch, the cafe provides a real-world learning experience for students enrolled in HEC 3240 Quantity Food Production, led by Dr. Melinda Anderson. Students experience every aspect of meal management including menu planning, food production, purchasing, service, food sanitation and safety and marketing.

(P.S. This is a stock photo! Today everyone wears masks, unfortunately.)



SCHOOL of AGRICULTURE

Historic Costume Collection Exhibit at the Appalachian Center for Craft



SCHOOL of HUMAN ECOLOGY

Meet New HEC Faculty Allison Barlow



Hello, my name is Allison Barlow. This is my first year as a faculty member at Tennessee Tech University. I earned my bachelor's degree from Tennessee Tech in 2016, and I am excited to be back! I am a registered dietitian and lecturer for the Nutrition and Dietetics Concentration. I am teaching various nutrition courses, such as Medical Nutrition Therapy, Medical Terminology, and Nutrition Education and Counseling, Nutrition and Disease, and Clinical Dietetics. I serve as a faculty advisor for our nutrition-related student organization, the Food Nutrition and Dietetics Club. I am currently working toward earning a Ph.D. from Tennessee Tech in Exceptional Learning with a concentration in Health Behaviors and Wellness Education. I also have an interest in sports nutrition — I am working with Tennessee Tech athletics and My Sports Dietitian to obtain experience hours to sit for the examination to become a certified specialist in Sports Dietetics. I am passionate about nutrition and enjoy both clinical and sports dietetics! I am thrilled to be a faculty member within the wonderful College of Agriculture and Human Ecology here at Tennessee Tech University!

Meet Our Foundation Support for the College



Michelle D. Arbogast

Director of Corporate
and Foundation
Relations

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Amanda Fabrizio-Grzesik,
M.Ed.

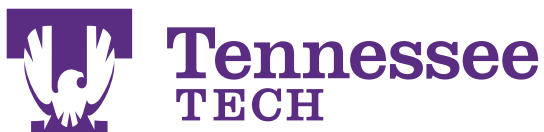
Development Director

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I hope you have enjoyed this update for the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology. I plan to bring you updates every quarter. I very much enjoy meeting with alumni, so please do not hesitate to reach out. Have a great "Wings Up" day. We will continue to be BOLD, FEARLESS, CONFIDENT and KIND!

Darron L. Smith
Dean of CAHE



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