Profs participate in Ecuador research study

A cross-discipline research team of eight professors from UTM spent 17 days this summer on a research travel study throughout Ecuador.

Among the group were four professors from the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences: Dr. Sue Byrd (Group Leader), professor of Fashion Merchandising; Dr. Martha Herndon, professor of Child and Family Studies; Dr. Craig Darroch, professor of Animal Science, and Dr. Bradley Ray, associate professor of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The group centered its efforts on the topic of gender roles and culture, with each participant identifying and conducting research within his or her area of expertise. Group members visited universities, hospitals, government organizations, nongovernment organizations, open markets, and faith-based organizations.

The primary objective of the study, which was an internal grant through UTM, is to strengthen international and intercultural awareness throughout the UTM curriculum.

Since returning, the researchers have been doing presentations and panels for groups and classes throughout the university and in the community. Additionally, many of the researchers are preparing scholarly papers that will be presented in journals and symposia regionally, nationally and internationally.
Christopher Karmosky: Geography

A bragging right for UTM would be that we have the only Meteorology program in the state of Tennessee. For this exact reason, Christopher Karmosky joined us as a new faculty member this year.

Karmosky has a B.A. (Geology and Geography) from Colgate University, a M.S. (Geography) from the University of Delaware, and a Ph.D. (Geography) from Penn State University. He joins the CAAS staff teaching Severe Weather, Intro to Remote Sensing, and other topics. Karmosky also studies snow and ice melts on the ice sheets of Antarctica and Greenland, as well as snowfall in the northeastern United States.

He chose UTM because it was a student-centered university that puts a high priority on teaching. “This is the only school in the state of Tennessee with a Meteorology program, and I am excited about the opportunity to be a part of it,” he says. “Really, the students are my favorite part. The meteorology students are inquisitive, eager, and good-hearted. I am impressed at how polite many of my students are!”

Whitney Simmons: Business Manager

Whitney Simmons is currently the business manager for the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources. Her job includes processing all accounts payable for the department, handling all reconciling functions, and some payroll and budget management.

Simmons is from Martin and graduated from UTM in 2008 with a B.S.B.A in Accounting and a B.S.B.A in Finance. “I chose to attend UTM because I wanted to stay close to my family and still get a good quality education,” she says. It looks as if her education is serving her well.

She is currently working on a M.B.A. and plans to graduate in May 2014. One day, she says, she would like to earn her Ph.D. in Accounting and teach. She and her husband, Dalton, live in Martin and are the proud parents of two daughters, Kella and Aubrey.

While here, Karmosky hopes to instill a sense of respect and wonder about Earth’s processes. He also hopes to be able to facilitate critical thought on the issue of climate change.
Family and Consumer Sciences students have been venturing to the West Coast for internships to learn about the fashion and interior design industries.

Savannah Williams performed her internship with Nordstrom’s in San Francisco in the summer of 2012, where she learned all aspects of how the company works and the importance of customer service for Nordstrom’s. Savannah continued working at this location after graduation.

Morgan Shepard spent her summer (2012) beginning her internship at Lee Jofa Interior Design Firm in Los Angeles, Calif., where she learned many aspects of the industry including fabrics, furniture, wall coverings, carpets, etc. Morgan continues to work for Lee Jofa and will graduate from UTM in December 2012.

During the summer of 2011, Jane Gordon worked at KNA in Los Angeles, where she was exposed to and helped work on high-end residential and hospitality projects. During her three months at the firm, she assisted with projects for Caesar’s Palace and Walt Disney World’s Grand Floridian resort. Jane is currently working at BPL Design group, a Los Angeles premiere design firm.
Each year, the National FFA Organization is proud to honor the FFA members who show the utmost dedication to the organization through their desire to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

That honor, the American FFA Degree, is bestowed upon a select group of individuals for years of academic and professional excellence.

This year, UTM had 15 students selected to join that exclusive list. They were awarded the American FFA Degree at the 85th National FFA Convention & Expo this fall in Indianapolis.

Students earning the degree were: Lauren Bennett, Seth Boroughs, Dakota Brasher, Jacob Everett, Olivia Fernandez, Charles Thomas Hammond III, Carrie King, Gina Locke, Clint Murby, Jesi Ogg, Beth Ray, Jacob Shea, Lindsey Turner, John Garrett Vincent, and Kaine Winstead.

The convention is known as the largest student gathering in the United States and took place Oct. 24-27, 2012.

The American FFA Degree is sponsored by Case IH, The Progressive Farmer, Farm Credit, Syngenta, and Pioneer, a DuPont Business, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. It recognizes demonstrated ability and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing or service programs.

To be eligible, FFA members must have earned and productively invested $7,500 through a supervised agricultural experience program in which they start, own or hold a professional position in an existing agriculture enterprise.

Recipients must also complete 50 community service hours, as well as demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement.

Each recipient of the American FFA Degree collects a gold American FFA Degree Key plus a certificate after being on-stage during the convention.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 540,379 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,489 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
Prof came ‘home’ to have impact

By Jesi Ogg

Many things have changed since Dr. Bob Hathcock was attending school in a one-room schoolhouse.

One thing that has not changed, however, is his utmost respect for educators and their great impact on society.

Hathcock was born and raised just 80 miles south west of Martin in Ripley, Tenn. On the small farm, Hathcock and his father raised hogs, cattle, soybeans, corn and various truck crops, which they sold at farmers’ markets in Memphis.

“It wasn’t a large farm, but we raised enough to make a living on and enough to eat,” Hathcock remembers.

It was also in Ripley that he met and married his high school sweetheart, Lynda.

In 1964, Hathcock received his bachelor’s degree from UTM, and went on to earn his master’s degree at Knoxville. While at Knoxville, Hathcock was inspired by a teacher he had and, after already admiring educators, he “got to thinking” about becoming a teacher himself. He graduated from Texas A&M in 1970 with his Ph. D.

By this time, Hathcock had two children and knew he wanted them to grow up around their grandparents, or as close to them as possible. For this reason, he turned down a research position with the University of Florida and instead set his sights on a teaching position at UTM.

“It wasn’t as much money as the research position, but there was also no teaching involved [at Florida]. I knew I wanted to teach and I wanted to be closer to home. I wanted to make a contribution to agriculture and I figured this could be it,” he said.

Hathcock taught for 31 years at UTM and retired in 2001. While here, he taught plant and soil science classes and was actively involved in travel studies. He also served as International Ag coordinator. This position led him to many places over the years, and he enjoyed each trip. In 1990, his family spent three months in Uganda, Africa, while he taught at Makerere University.

Hathcock says the best part about being a teacher is being there for the students.

“It was the attitude of the College of Ag in those days that your job wasn’t finished until you helped the student find a job or get into graduate school,” he said.

Students would come to him with their concerns about finding a job or getting married, and that is what he enjoyed, he said.

Now, Hathcock and his wife, who retired from a teaching position at Martin Primary School, are very active in their church and as lay ministers in foreign countries.

Each year, for example, the Hathcocks return to Puerto Rico to help a friend with the income taxes at his deaf ministry. Hathcock remembers the first year they assisted with this.

“The forms were due at 5 on Aug. 31, and we arrived at the post office at 4:30,” he said, laughing.

The Hathcocks plan to continue what they enjoy – traveling and setting up for mission teams.

Happy Thanksgiving!

The next edition of the CAAS newsletter will be distributed in December 2012.