Rosson’s Roundup

First, congratulations to our graduates! We have 120 undergraduates and 13 graduate students who will ‘walk’ Saturday night. I want to wish all of them the best in their chosen careers and welcome them back to the department any time. With more than 7,000 graduates from the University, along with numerous other events, such as baseball and softball, it may be a bit busy around campus on Friday and Saturday. Drive carefully, please!

Congratulations to Dr. Vicky Salin on promotion to Professor effective September 1, 2013. We received official confirmation yesterday from the Vice Chancellor, so please join me in congratulating Dr. Salin.

Bob Thompson, Visiting Scholar at Johns Hopkins University and former Director of Agriculture and Rural Development at the World Bank, was here Monday and provided a great presentation for the Blue Bell Lecture Series. The lecture series is part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Grand Challenges program. His slides on “Global Agricultural Trade and Food Policy,” are posted on the departmental web site. Thanks to Gary Williams who suggested Bob as a speaker and to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for hosting his visit.

Tuesday morning, John Park and I met with two of the officers of Farmers Fight. This student led agricultural advocacy organization now has 320 members campus wide, and is growing. Mason Parrish (AGEC) and Victoria Pilger (ANSC) are leading efforts to grow membership nationwide with a major conference planned for October 4-6 at Texas A&M. If you have ideas for programs, speakers or can assist by advising the organization, please let John or I know.

Rich Woodward, Mark Waller, Gerard Kyle (RPTS), Pamela Plotkin (Sea Grant), John Jacob (Sea Grant Extension) and I had a conference call with Pat Louchouarn, Department Head of Marine Sciences and Interim VP at Texas A&M University – Galveston to discuss possible collaborative programs. We discussed several alternative approaches, but ended up focusing the possibility of having faculty on graduate committees, the development of certificate programs and the ease with which students can take courses at both campuses. We agreed to pursue this further in the fall with a joint seminar here. Your thoughts and ideas about this are welcomed.

REMINDER: A Grand Challenges Town Hall meeting is going to be held May 23, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the AgriLife Center. This program will begin with a plenary overview and then move to breakout sessions to develop themes and objectives for White Papers on each challenge and culminate with a presentation by each of the five Grand Challenge working groups. Lunch is included at this event. All faculty are strongly encouraged to attend this event. This is our opportunity to have input into where funding resources will be directed in the future. Thanks in advance for your participation in this process.
Position Announcements

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at the LSU Agricultural Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana has the two following position announcements:

**Water Policy/Economist**

**Instructor/Assistant/Associate Professor**

To view job descriptions and for application instructions go to:

https://lsusystemcareers.lsu.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1367524650025

**Click here for more position announcements**

Faculty, staff, and graduate students are encouraged to submit articles and photos on current events. Deadline for all submissions is noon, Thursday. Please send your information to valnoyes@tamu.edu

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**New Publication**


**Just For Laughs**

A farmer was milking his cow. He was just starting to get a good rhythm going when a bug flew into the barn and started circling his head. Suddenly, the bug flew into the cow's ear. The farmer didn't think much about it, until the bug squirted out into his bucket. It went in one ear and out the udder.

**Upcoming Birthdays**

Cindy Fazzino 5/10
Donna Adcock 5/13
David Anderson 5/23

**Aggies at NAPFA**

Gene Nelson, Taylor Cruze, Molly Beard, and Blake Menn are learning about financial planning in Las Vegas this week. They are attending the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors Conference. NAPFA emphasizes fee-only advisory services. Travel scholarships were provided by Aggie financial planners and NAPFA.

**Thank You!!**

Dr. Litzenberg

for hosting Friday coffee