Rosson’s Roundup

First, congratulations to Kerry Litzenberg who was selected as a Director of the Western Agricultural Economics Association. Great Job Kerry!! And we look forward to working with you in your new role. Thank you for agreeing to provide this valuable service to the profession.

As most of you know, Tiffany Dowell joined the department in June as Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Agricultural Law. As a method of expanding outreach to a broader audience in her role as a specialist in legal aspects of oil and gas, water, and land leasing, Tiffany had developed a blog providing periodic updates on topical legal issues in the news. Please check her blog at: http://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/

Last weekend, I attended the USAID sponsored TechCon 2013 conference in Williamsburg, VA hosted by the College of William and Mary. This event showcased the progress that the seven Higher Education Solutions Network institutions (Texas A&M, Duke, Michigan State, California Berkeley, William and Mary, MIT and Makerere) have made toward conducting innovative programs to spur development activities across the globe. Our Conflict and Development Lab had great representation that engaged the other participants and provided overviews of the Texas A&M effort. Staff representatives included, Jerry and Meaghan Kenney, Sharia Kibriya, Vince Partida, Leslie Ryule and Ben Tchak. Student representatives included, Christopher Bielecki, Gabriel Vander Hey, Yu Zhang, and Clemente Southlande. Clement (BAEN) also received a cash award for his innovative work related to conflict and food security. Andrew Natsios, former USAID Administrator, and I provided leadership support and backup. Congratulations to all for a superb effort at an excellent event!!

This week I met with a number of former students and supporters of our department. Jake Betty (AGEC ’73) had lunch with Ed Rister, Taylor Sessions (AGEC ’14), Patrick Williams and I. Jake is retired from the US Army, lives in the area, and now volunteers for the Texas State Guard. We had a very useful exchange about how things have changed over the last several decades, and may need to change to meet the needs of the future. We also had dinner with Matt Bobbitt (AGEC ’96), Ty Timm recipient, who has supported all of our tailgates these past two years. Matt provided some sound advice to the many students who attended this event. Marc Adams, CoBank – Lubbock, had dinner with John Park, Torii Kapavik and I Wednesday night. CoBank is a great supporter of scholarships for our students and high-impact learning programs in the department, and we presented Marc with a plaque acknowledging his contributions.

Thursday evening and Friday afternoon I attended the workshop on “Emerging Issues for Financial Planners.” This program was put together by Gene Nelson and included our own John Penson as one of the keynote speakers, discussing macroeconomic trends in uncertain times, Nathan Harness, Texas A&M – Commerce talking on financial planning needs for middle-market planners and Alan Moore, Genesis Chair, Serenity Financial Consulting, providing perspectives from a 26 year – old for an industry whose average CEO is 56. Now that was an interesting talk! We had 10 of our students in attendance and I’m sure they all have some great stories to tell from their networking encounters with professionals from across the state. Many of our former students are financial planners and some attended this event. The support from the entire industry was very strong.

We will not be publishing AgEco Friday next week, so let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving, safe travels and BTHO: Tigers (twice)! Have a great weekend!
Position Announcements

Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist - Marine Economics, 45% Extension / 55% Sea Grant appointment, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University System. Responsibilities involve statewide leadership and coordination for extension education programs and applied research in marine economics with an emphasis in marketing/management and resource economics by providing technical expertise and educational program development. Travel in- and out-of-state is necessary to fulfill job responsibilities. More information about the SeaGrant program can be obtained at [http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu/WhoWeAre/StrategicPlan.html](http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu/WhoWeAre/StrategicPlan.html). The individual will report to the Department of Agricultural Economics. A PhD degree completed, or all but dissertation, in agricultural economics, economics, resource economics, business, or closely related field. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in extension, research, or similar work within the seafood industry. Position is based at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Corpus Christi, TX. Closing Date for Applications: January 15, 2014, or until the position is filled. Application Process: Go to greatjobs website to apply electronically. [https://greatjobs.tamu.edu/](https://greatjobs.tamu.edu/). Refer to Notice of Vacancy (NOV) # (07317). Parr Rosson, Professor and Department Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, 2124 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2124 Phone: 979-845-2116; fax 979-862-1563, E-mail: PRosson@tamu.edu

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

**Upcoming Birthdays**

- Norma Pantoja 11/29
- Flynn Adcock 12/4
- John Park 12/9
- Connie Moore 12/9
- Wayne Hayenga 12/12

**Department Resources Update**

Need a make-up exam room? Need to know what you can do to decorate for the upcoming Holidays? Click on the link for information. You can also find this information on our website. [http://agecon.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/DeptResources.pdf](http://agecon.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/DeptResources.pdf)

**Special Visitor!**

Dr. Daniel Padberg, Department Head from 1984 – 1990, will be visiting the Department on Tuesday, November 26, 2013. If you would like to stop by to say hello and visit, he will be in room 309E about 1:30 p.m.

**Thank You!!**

Caroline, Emmy, Kassie, Mark and John

for hosting Friday coffee

Two Ag Economics students, Allison Grainger and Michael Nepveux, recently participated in the World Youth Forum for Ethics in Business held in Geneva, Switzerland. Good job Allison and Michael!!