First, I’d like to congratulate two of our students who participated in the Financial Planning Association national case study competition. Mariel Braun and Adam Harrison were selected as finalists from among 15 teams and participated in the finals competition in Seattle. Their team was the only one from Texas and placed fourth among the top eight teams. Congratulations on a great effort! Thanks also to Nathan Harness, former student, Bill Carter, Ty Timm Honor Registry member, and Gene Nelson for coaching, mentoring and preparing the team to compete at such a high level.

Monday, I attended a workshop on recruiting and retaining dual-career couples. This continues to be a challenge, not only for us, but for most other departments. There are some ‘best practices’ we can follow to help in the process, such as identifying the need for partner placement early in the recruiting process. I will be distributing more information on this when it’s received from the ADVANCE Center.

We also had a faculty meeting on development this week. Jon Rigelsky and Patrick Williams, our development officers, came to the department and met with faculty to discuss the process for identifying, cultivating and developing relationships with potential donors. I believe we, as a department, have tremendous development potential. Our assigned development officers play a crucial role in helping us realize that potential and develop the external resources needed to enhance teaching, research and extension programs. Please let me know if you want to discuss any potential prospects or if we can assist you in any way. Building relationships is the key to successful development and we are well on our way!

Luis Ribera, Flynn Adcock and I are in New Orleans participating in the meeting of the regional research committee, S-1062, Importance of US Food and Agricultural Trade in a New Global Market Environment. This is Luis’ introduction to the group with which I’ve spent the past 25 years working on trade research and extension programs. Our former master’s student, Amanda Leister from Colorado State University was also at the meeting. Flynn and Luis presented a paper on the impacts of increased fresh produce cargo on the South Texas ports of entry. This issue garnered Congressional and state legislative attention two years ago and our efforts led to some mitigation of the immediate problem, but more importantly, laid the foundation for a long-term solution.

Reminders:

October 11, COALS Tailgate, Ole Miss game, 3 Hours before Kickoff, AgriLife Center
November 15, Departmental Tailgate, Missouri game, 3 Hours before Kickoff, Tent just North of Clayton Williams Alumni Center.

Have a great weekend, and BTHO Mississippi State!!
Upcoming Birthdays

Dan Hanselka 10/10
Michele Zinn 10/10
Tracy Davis 10/14
John Nichols 10/20

Thank You!!

Commons Committee

for hosting Friday Coffee

Position Announcements

**Agricultural Economist**, Department Of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Job Announcement Number: FAS DE 2014-0083. For more information and to apply, go to: [https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/381892300](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/381892300)

**Tenure Track Faculty Position in Environmental Policy**, School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), Indiana University-Bloomington Campus seeks applicants for a full-time, tenure or tenure-track faculty position on the Bloomington campus in the area of environmental policy. The position is open-rank; we particularly encourage applications from mid-career and senior faculty. Multiple hires are possible. We are especially seeking candidates who will support a research-oriented Ph.D. program, and have research expertise in one or more of the following areas, either in the domestic or international environmental policy contexts: water, climate change, natural resources, energy, sustainability, and transportation. Review of applications will begin October 15, 2014. Please submit a letter of application, a current vita, statements of research and teaching interests, a writing sample, and names and address of three persons who could provide letters of recommendation through our online application system [https://indiana.peopleadmin.com](https://indiana.peopleadmin.com). If there are any questions, please submit to: David Reingold. Executive Associate Dean for Bloomington. SPEA Room 300, 1315 E. Tenth Street, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405-1701. Inquiries or questions about this job announcement can be forwarded to search committee chair Sanya Carley at scarley@indiana.edu. For more information see: [http://www.indiana.edu/~spea](http://www.indiana.edu/~spea).