Rosson’s Roundup

Thanks to Jason Shogren, Stroock Professor at the University of Wyoming, who visited with us last week as part of the Presidential Initiative. We had some excellent meetings and he gave a great seminar. I hope we can invited him back to visit again in the near future.

This week we had two international opportunities for the Department. The first was Monday morning when Gary Williams, Vicky Salin, Flynn Adcock, Daniel Chavez and David Leatham met with a delegation from the state of Yucatan to discuss potential for collaboration. Representatives from government, academia and business provided a synopsis of their interests, followed by an overview of our departmental capabilities. The Yucatan group seemed most interested in measuring economic impacts of their research, market analysis, transportation and logistics, and faculty/student exchange opportunities. I expect this initial meeting to lead to an opportunity to travel to Merida to more fully explore what we might do together. Thanks to all who participated in this event, and to Alan Sams and Rebecca Binder who arranged for the visit and coordinated activities across the College.

Wednesday morning Yvette Zhang, Ximing Wu and I met with Yu Lu from the International Cooperation and Exchange Office at Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU) to discuss potential for student and faculty exchange. We have hosted several undergraduate students from FAFU over the last several years and did a study abroad there last summer with excellent success. Now we have the opportunity to continue to do that, plus send our students to FAFU for classes and additional study abroad programs. In addition, FAFU has offered to host some of our students who are interested in learning Chinese and earning a masters or PhD. We will continue to explore these opportunities and see if we can develop additional programs for our students at one of the oldest and top agricultural economics programs in China.

Congratulations to Mariel Braun, Mitchell Byrum and Stephen Chambers who won third place at the FASTech Quiz Bowl at the Financial Planning competition in Dallas on Thursday. Texas Tech and Utah Valley University placed first and second, respectively. BUT, the better news is that on Saturday the results of the Case Study competition will be announced, and our team is well positioned to do very well in this event. So, congratulations again and all the best in the Case Study competition!! Thanks to Nathan Harness who coached, mentored and prepared this team. We look forward to the final results of their efforts.

Finally, Thursday afternoon, David Bessler, Jug Capps, Desmond Ng, John Penson, Vicky Salin, Ximing Wu and I participated in DOF sponsored Search Committee training. As you may know, this is now required of all department heads and chairs of search committees, and the training is effective for two years. The session focuses on building diversity, the search, the interview, the hire and post-hiring best practices. We learned much in the two hour plus session, and I’ll send the materials around to all faculty. I’d suggest reading through it, especially the part about what questions NOT to ask someone interviewing for a position. Thanks to all who attended. We will be having more of these in the future.

It’s opening day and opening weekend for Aggie Baseball at Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park against Holy Cross!! The weather appears cooperative, so enjoy a great weekend!
Assistant Professor and Extension Economist – Management, District 12, Weslaco, Texas. 100% Extension (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service) through the Department of Agricultural Economics. This is a permanent, full time, non-tenure track position. Responsibilities involve district leadership and coordination for Extension education programs and applied research in management, marketing, resources, and policy by providing technical expertise and educational program development for industry audiences such as farmers and ranchers, merchandisers, processors, irrigation districts, lenders, and users. A Ph.D. degree, either completed, or all but dissertation, in Agricultural Economics or closely related field along with coursework in one or more of the following areas; farm management, management, marketing, policy, and risk management is required. Closing Date for Applications: March 15, 2015. Application Process: Go to greatjobs website to apply electronically. https://greatjobs.tamu.edu/ Refer to Notice of Vacancy (NOV) # 08177. Please send cover letter, resume, transcripts, and have letters of reference sent to Dr. Rosson at the address below. Parr Rosson, Professor and Department Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, 2124 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2124, Phone: 979-845-2116; fax 979-862-1563  E-mail: PRosson@tamu.edu