



Inside this Issue

- Rosson's Roundup
- Dreams Symposium remarks
- Upcoming Birthdays
- Thanks



Upcoming events

- Graduation
May 13-16
- GSA Social
May 8th 5:30

Rosson's Roundup

Congratulations to Senarath Dharmasena and Jug Capps, along with former faculty member, George Davis, who will receive the WAEA award for outstanding article in the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the joint AAEA/WAEA Annual Meetings in San Francisco, CA. Congratulations again and thanks for a job well done!

Monday evening Dave Reed and I traveled to Houston for a meeting with the Brazil – Texas Chamber of Commerce (BRATECC). The highlight of the event for us was getting to meet the President of Petrobras, the Brazilian national oil company. We also had a chance to visit with the Brazilian consulate and his wife, along with the President of BRATECC. They are interested in working with us on some type of Agribusiness relationship and subsequently, programs. I'll keep you posted as this develops.

I also attended several AGEC 317 presentations this week. Our students did an excellent job of presenting, explaining, and discussing their research results with faculty. Thanks to Alex Hlavinka and Pan Liu for doing a great job with these presentations and the new course approach. It's working, and I think it is preparing our students really well for some of the things they can expect in the business world.

The Rural Entrepreneurship Dreams Symposium was held Tuesday through Friday at the Equine Complex. There were about 300 people in attendance, and it was an excellent event (see p. 2). Congratulations to Ed Rister and the Rural Entrepreneurship team for another highly successful program.

I had the opportunity to have breakfast with Chris Narayanan who was here for the Rural Entrepreneurship program. We discussed some of his ideas about integrating concepts related to commodity research, sales, and trading into the classroom, and high impact learning. I think he's got some very good ideas and I'll be exploring these with him over the next several months.

REMINDERS:

Double-check grade deadlines and course certifications!!

Friday, 5:30 is the GSA end of year social. Thanks to the Mjelde's for hosting this event, to Erin Hardin and GSA leadership for organizing it, and to Kerry Litzenberg and Jim Mjelde for frying the turkey and preparing the Dutch oven cobblers. It will be a great time!

We will be conducting interviews for Assistant Professor and Extension Economist - Community Economics and Business Development, the week of May 31. JoJo Estrada, State Comptroller's Office and Craig Carpenter, Michigan State University, are the candidates.

Corrigan-Goddard Foundation Entrepreneurial Dreams Symposium

The 2015 Corrigan-Goddard Foundation Entrepreneurial Dreams Symposium activities occurred this week for our AGEC 425 Rural Entrepreneurship students. More than 150 entrepreneurs and other professionals, including numerous AGEC 425 Survivors and other former students participated. Participants traveled from California, Iowa, and Kansas, plus various locations across the state, stretching from McAllen to Stamford and from Huntsville to Junction! During the poster session held Tuesday afternoon at The Thomas G. Hildebrand, DVM '56 Equine Complex, Daylon Koster, Kenneth Closs, and Michael Limon were selected by the mentor expert participants as best understanding and communicating their business ideas and the economic and financial viability thereof. On Wednesday morning, the event continued, with Austin Meade, Daylon Koster, and Kenneth Closs identified as having the best presentations and Q&A dialogues with the mentor expert panel. More than \$44,000 of scholarships were awarded Wednesday afternoon, including recognition of Kenneth Closs as Rural Entrepreneur of the Year. Thanks to all of our faculty and staff who have instructed and assisted all of the AGEC 425 students during their time in our department and who assisted with this event – the students represented our department very well.

Other highlights of the 2015 Corrigan-Goddard Foundation Entrepreneurial Dreams Symposium dinner on May 5 included Poster Garner III '79 of the Association of Former Students welcoming our former students to campus and the return of AGEC 425 Survivors James Decker '06 and Heather Salopek '11 to discuss their experiences in beginning and sustaining their businesses. Benjamin Knox '90 of Knox Gallery also provided insightful and encouraging remarks to our young and old entrepreneurs while recognizing Decker and Salopek with his Aggie ring drawing prints. An additional special feature of the evening program included the induction of four new members into the Tyrus R. Timm Honor Registry – Steve Cooper '78 by John Zacek '82, Ken Leiber '81 by Walt Richburg '65, Ray Smaistrle '85 by Joe Swinbank '74, and Troy Thompson '89 by Lynn Elliott '73. These new inductees bring the membership of the Registry up to a total of 72, with eight additional new members already selected for induction during the coming months.

During the Symposium lunch on May 6, Coach G Guerrieri of the Texas A&M University Aggie Soccer team provided a electrifying, enthusiastic review of the building of the Aggie soccer program, identifying the entrepreneurial elements of the program's development and its ascension to being one of the nation's premier programs. In doing so, he challenged all of the Symposium's participants to strive for excellence and integrity in all of their pursuits. He left our audience abuzz with Aggie Pride and a high appreciation for the role of an obviously outstanding coach, gentleman, and Aggie in enhancing the Spirit of Aggieland!

Upcoming Birthdays

Donna Adcock 5/13

Donna Chester 5/20

David Anderson 5/23



Thank You:

Business Office

For Friday Coffee

[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