The week was headlined by TTI Recognition Day, the Grand Challenge Mini-Symposia and Graduation in Aggieland!

First, congratulations to all of our 148 students who are graduating today. We have three PhD and eight Master students walking across the stage. Our undergraduate numbers are quite a bit larger, with 74 graduating with degrees in Agricultural Economics, seven of whom are Honor students. Agribusiness has 63 graduates, with nine Honor graduates. Congratulations to all of you and thanks for your hard work and dedication! We will miss you, but you are always welcome back to visit and we hope you stay engaged in our programs in some tangible way.

Brooke Kosub received the Undergraduate Scholars Award on Thursday. Congratulations Brooke!! Thanks go to Senarath Dharmasena who advised Brooke on her research project.

On Tuesday, Luis Ribera and I attended the Texas A&M Transportation Institute TTI Day celebration and luncheon. Along with about 500 others, we were spellbound by General Joe Ramirez, Commandant of the Corps of Cadets, who spoke about his 31 year career in the US Army and how leadership is a crucial trait for all professions. It was a tremendous event. Thanks to all TTI employees for their efforts to make the organization a world renowned institution.

The Grand Challenge mini-symposia were held on Wednesday. The morning session focused on reducing food waste and losses. Featured presentations were given by Roger Norton, Ariun Ishdorj and Marco Palma. Thanks to all of you for a great job and for your leadership in this critical area of research. The afternoon session was on STEM Education and had sessions on things employers are looking for in our graduates, such as honesty, team orientation, flexibility, intelligence, passion and optimism. There were also sessions about the new Hill County Science Mill in Johnson City that allows children of all ages to learn how to apply science to their daily lives in hopes of attracting them to the discipline and Texas A&M. Texas 4-H is directly involved in this initiative and doing a great job. We also had a session on how to attract more undergraduates to research by developing and employing the leadership skills of graduate students. Both the symposia were excellent, with many lessons learned.

Have a great weekend and enjoy the rain!!
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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