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Upcoming Events

May 2015

25th-Memorial Day Holiday

June 2015

2nd-Summer I begins

From left to right: Parliament delegate, Chase Dorsett, Parliament delegate, Coryne Levine, Ryan Wise, Fernando Ramirez, Danielle Bracho, Ashlie James, Gideon Kotkowski, Parliament delegate

Rosson's Roundup

Our study abroad students are in Ghana (see pictures) and Swaziland. Others will be heading to France very soon, so summer is off to a great start.

On Monday, the department heads met with Dr. Nessler, Director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research for breakfast. The discussion focused on the key role we play and the importance of focusing research efforts in order to build on our strengths.

Tuesday afternoon I had the opportunity to meet with President Michael Young and Provost Karan Watson. This was at the monthly meeting of the Department Heads Steering Committee, which has one representative from each college on campus. President Young provided an overview of some of his initial impressions of Texas A&M, including the high degree of energy on campus and our optimistic outlook, the need to strengthen interdisciplinary efforts in order to secure more funding for our programs and the need to communicate clearly what our strong points are and the impacts we are having.

Thursday and Friday I'm at Clemson University discussing agricultural trade prospects with Cuba as part of Southeastern Agricultural Lenders School. So, have a great weekend and let's hope there's ample opportunity to watch or listen to lots of Aggie baseball! I've asked Luis Ribera and Marco Palma to provide a synopsis of their recent trip to Cuba, which follows.

A few weeks ago Marco Palma and I (Luis Ribera) spent four days in Havana, Cuba as part of the Texas Cuba Trade Alliance delegation. Other members in our delegation included Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Wheat Growers Association, U.S. Rice Producer Association and a reporter from the Dallas Morning News. Our delegation met with the Cuban Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Agriculture, ALIMPORT (government agency in charge of food imports), as well as visits to the port of Mariel and a farm.

Cuba has a population of around 11 million and their workforce is very educated. It was very common to see engineers, economists and biologists, to name a few, as cab drivers or working at the tourist's hotels in Habana. Cuba has a dual currency, the Convertible Peso (CUC) with an exchange rate paired one-to-one with the U.S. dollar; however if you want to exchange dollars there's a 10-12 percent tax. The CUCs are used by tourists and to import goods and services. The National Peso (CUP) has an exchange rate of 27 CUP for one U.S. dollar and it's used as the main currency for the locals. Monthly salary rates are around \$20 dollars and everybody gets the same salary from a custodial person to a surgeon. Cubans are not supposed to have access to CUCs, but workers that service the tourist industry have access to CUCs, hence they have a much higher purchasing power than the rest of the population.

The other sector that has a different pay scale is the port of Mariel. The port is 45 minutes west of Havana at a cost of \$850 million financed by Brazilian capital. The port has the capacity of handling 829,000 containers per year, but currently only handles 2,600 containers per year. The minimum salary at the port is 7-10 times the salary of a Cuban worker and has a pay scale that goes from 3,000 CUPs to 14,000 CUPs depending on the job description and requirement. The interesting part is that the Cuban government is very supportive of the pay scale.

Overall, the trip was very interesting and we learned quite a bit. Even if the embargo is lifted it will take Cuba a long time to be a significant trade partner, but the potential is there. Significant investment in infrastructure and a solid financial system is required to improve the trade situation.

Upcoming Birthdays

Shahriar Kibriya 5/27
Luis Ribera 6/3
Mark Waller 6/5
Kerry Litzenberg 6/10



*The next Friday Coffee will be held
on June 5th!*

*There will be a special announce-
ment, so please plan to attend!!*

Position Announcements

Chief Executive Officer, Illinois Farm Business Farm Management Association, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Campus. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is expected to provide leadership and vision to the activities of Illinois Farm Business Farm Management (FBFM) Association with the overall objective of assuring Illinois FBFM continues to be recognized as the leading resource for financial and business consulting services to farmers throughout Illinois. Required Qualifications: Bachelor's degree with emphasis in agribusiness, finance, accountancy, business administration or related field. M.S., MBA degree, or other advanced degree OR an equivalent combination of education and related experience sufficient to perform the essential functions of the job. Record of leadership and management. Interested candidates should prepare: (1) a letter expressing interests and addressing their accomplishments related to the qualifications for this position, (2) a resume, (3), a statement of leadership philosophy emphasizing their vision for an organization like FBFM and their ability to foster staff development and visions of innovative products and services, and (4) contact information for three professional references (include name, title, address, phone, email) by close of business July 17, 2015 to Melissa Warmbier (mwarmbie@illinois.edu). For additional information contact: Dr. Paul Ellinger, pellinger@illinois.edu, 217-333-5503.

Manager, FMC Feeds & Supply, LLC, Graham, TX. FMC Feeds & Supply, LLC is a custom feed mill with two retail locations in Graham, TX. The company was originally founded in 1906, with the feed mill having been constructed in the 1950's. Today, FMC Feeds & Supply, LLC is expanding by vertical integration within the agricultural industry. If you are interested in working with a goal-oriented team in a company that has a big vision for the future, contact us today. Skills/Requirements: -4 year agricultural degree or equivalent experience, -Eager spirit and work ethic, with a desire to learn the feed and ranch supply business, -Strong customer service mentality, -Excellent communication skills, -Team oriented, -Prefer an agricultural background/experience, -Working knowledge of the beef cattle industry and/or wheat farming and forage production is a plus. Contact: Philip Gough Phone: 940-549-1484 Email resume to: pgough@fmcfeeds.com

Visiting Assistant Professor of Agribusiness, Sam Houston State University, Department of Agricultural Sciences and Engineering Technology. Qualifications: An earned doctorate in Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, or closely related field is required. Evidence of success in teaching, research, and service is desired. Excellent communication skills are required. Candidate must have a strong commitment to undergraduate education and interdisciplinary collaboration. Responsibilities: Seventy-five percent teaching, twenty-five percent research/service appointment. Primary teaching responsibilities will be in agribusiness with emphasis in food and fiber marketing. The successful candidate will also assist with undergraduate research and coaching the SHSU NAMA team. Electronically submit a letter of interest, curriculum vita, and State of Texas employment application at <https://shsu.peopleadmin.com>. Send official transcripts for all university work and documents detailing the candidate's philosophy of teaching, research, and service directly to the search committee chair. Three letters of recommendation should be sent by references directly to the search committee chair. Dr. Foy D. Mills, Jr., Search Committee Chair, Department of Agricultural Sciences and Engineering Technology, Sam Houston State University, Box 2088, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2088 Email: foymills@shsu.edu Phone: 936-294-1207, Fax: 936-294-1232 Closing Date: Review of materials will begin immediately and a suitable candidate is expected to be identified before August 15, 2015. Starting Date: September 1, 2015.

[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