The Board of the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) met in Washington, DC early this week. I attended the Monday and Tuesday board meetings where we discussed how to more closely align what we do with AAEA, and how to garner more support from departments and regional associations across the country. We also had briefings from the Economic Research Service, the National Institute for Food and Agriculture and the CHS Foundation. Much of these discussions focused on how to align the C-FARE strategic plan with the Grand Challenges to better meet the needs of the profession.

Without doubt, the highlight of the meeting was the Brandt Forum held at the Capitol. The theme was Strategies for Investing in Rural America. We had 63 people attend the session in the House Agriculture Committee hearing room and another 160 tune in online. In addition, we had Representatives Conaway, Lucas and Peterson drop in to close out the Forum. They all have served consecutively as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. So, it was great to have them attend.

Wednesday was spent at the US Agency for International Development (USAID) providing overviews of the Conflict and Development Center and the Higher Education Solutions Network program. Ed Price, Leslie Ruyle, Melanie Balinas and I conducted this part of the program. Deputy Administrator Larry Garber attended the final session and was highly complimentary of all that has been accomplished. Rich Woodward arrived late Wednesday in order to conduct program briefings on Thursday and Friday.

Friday morning the COALS Administration and Department Heads attended a breakfast in honor of Dr. Bill Dugas and to recognize his service as Acting Vice Chancellor and Dean over the past 16 months. The Department Heads presented Dr. Dugas with a framed letter thanking him for his service and leadership. Dr. Mark Hussey returns to Texas A&M AgriLife on May 1.

I noticed we’ve had quite a bit of rain while I was gone so the yards will need more mowing soon. Hopefully we will get a bit of sunshine over the weekend. Have a great weekend!
Position Announcements

Assistant Professor in Agribusiness, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
The University of Georgia. Full-Time Tenure Track, 9-Month Appointment, 60% extension and 40% teaching split. Qualifications: A Ph.D. in Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, Applied Economics or a closely related field is required with a strong knowledge of economic theory and quantitative methods, willingness to work in a team environment, and excellent oral and written communication skills. The position is located on The University of Georgia campus in Athens, a city of 67,000 and located 65 miles northeast of Atlanta. Additional information about the department can be found at http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/agecon/. Interested candidates are also encouraged to visit the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences’ website at http://www.caes.uga.edu/ and The University of Georgia’s website http://www.uga.edu/. The position is located in Athens, a city of 67,000 and located 65 miles northeast of Atlanta. Additional information about the department can be found at http://www.caes.uga.edu/departments/agecon/. Interested candidates are also encouraged to visit the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences’ website at http://www.caes.uga.edu/ and The University of Georgia’s website http://www.uga.edu/. Please send a cover letter, vita, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, a job market paper, and arrange for three reference letters to be sent to: Dr. Cesar L. Escalante, Search Committee Chair, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. Phone: 706-542-0740. Email: cescalan@uga.edu. Electronic submission of applications is required. Please indicate “UGA Faculty Position Application” in the subject line of your submission. Review of applications will begin on April 30, 2015. Expected Start Date: August, 2015.

Assistant Extension Professor, Center for Farm Financial Management, Department of Applied Economics, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Minnesota. Twelve-month, 100% non-tenure track appointment with promotion track within the Extension system. The person in this position will work as part of a vibrant team at the Center for Farm Financial Management to strategically plan, develop, and deliver farm financial management educational programs. Qualifications: Masters degree in agricultural economics, applied economics, economics, finance, agricultural education or a closely related field by the date of appointment. Applicants must be able to pass a background check. Starting date July 1, 2015. Review of applications will begin on May 15, 2015. Apply online at: http://z.umn.edu/cffmposition. Cover letter and CV must be attached online. Other required documents can be mailed to address listed below. A COMPLETE application must include: 1) Letter of application that explains how your career goals, training and experience support your candidacy; 2) A complete curriculum vitae; 3) An official graduate transcript; 4) One or two examples of written or published work or a Power Point you have presented; and 5) Names and contact information for three individuals who can comment on your abilities and experience. Send all materials that cannot be submitted online to: Robert Craven, Director, Center for Farm Financial Management, University of Minnesota, 1994 Buford Ave., Rm 130, St. Paul, MN 55108, rcraven@umn.edu

Thank You!! AFCERC for hosting Friday coffee

Upcoming Birthdays
Ximing Wu 4/26
Loren Burns 5/2
Gary Williams 5/6

Click here for 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