Rosson’s Roundup

Hail and Farewell: Today is Pam Vernon’s last day at work. Pam is retiring after 36 years of service to Texas A&M. She spent 25 of those years in the Department of Agricultural Economics advising students, training student workers, assisting faculty and staff with student related issues and reaching out across campus to her multitudes of contacts to make our lives easier, and very simply, to ‘get things done.’ Pam and I came to the Department about the same time, and I can honestly say that she has always ‘gone above and beyond’ for students. I have lost count of the number of former students who have told me they would not have succeeded without the guidance, mentoring and heartfelt support of Pam Vernon. So, Pam, though your presence will be missed, your kind deeds and that occasional kick in the ‘you know what,’ will live forever in the annals on AgEco lore. I want to wish you all the best in retirement and extend an open invitation to come visit us anytime you can pry yourself away from Iola. A simple Thank You for now—but much more to follow Tuesday, February 3, at the ‘official’ retirement ceremony. Until then, enjoy your first weekend in retirement!!

Welcome: Norton de Freitas arrived last week from Brazil. Norton is a visiting Fulbright Scholar working with Bruce McCarl. He is from Sao Paulo and works at the Botanic Institute there. The title of his research project is “Working Forests for Energy Generation and the Restoration of Riparian Ecosystems.” Norton resides in 375 AGLS and will be here through May 31, 2015. Please stop by and welcome him to the Department.

Student Activities: Two of our undergraduate students, Mariel Braun and Austin Lankford, are attending TDAmeritrade Institutional (TDAI) Conference in San Diego, CA. Nathan Harness is attending and advising the students. Tom Nally, President of TDAI, recognized them and announced their continuing TDAI support for the Financial Planning program in the Department. Thanks to Nathan for organizing and to our students for attending, and of course, to TDAI, for strong support for the program.

As some of you know, we are in the middle of faculty evaluations right now—and that’s how I’m spending most of my time. However, Mark Waller and I participated in the Departmental Review Tuesday morning, and things went well. I’ll provide a synopsis of the results at the next Faculty Meeting.

Until then, have a great weekend, and oh yes, enjoy the Super (deflated) Bowl—if you are so inclined!! And, on a related note, you have seen that the Seahawks are giving up on the use of the term 12th Man.
The Food Distribution Research Society is pleased to accept applications for the 2015 Richardson-Applebaum Award, which is awarded annually for outstanding student research in the area of food distribution and marketing. The competition is open to all graduate students with scholarly interest and career aspirations in the food distribution system who have completed the degree in 2014, or by May, 2015. The categories are: • Best Ph.D. Dissertation, • Best M.S. Thesis, • Best M.S. Case Study or Research Paper. Students can learn more about submitting an application in the attached Call for Applications or at www.fdrsinc.org. Applications are due May 30th, 2015.

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

Tenure track Assistant Professor in Agribusiness Marketing, Purdue University, Department of Agricultural Economics is seeking a self-directed candidate to develop a nationally recognized scholarly research and teaching program in the area of agribusiness marketing, management, and/or agricultural markets. The person filling this academic year position will be expected to develop a highly visible research and teaching program including acquisition of external funding and development of innovative educational delivery. Qualifications: The candidate must have a Ph.D. in agricultural economics, economics, business, marketing, management or other closely related field. Application Procedure: Applications must be sent to Debby Weber, Assistant to the Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, 403 West State St., Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907–2056, weberdl@purdue.edu. A complete application includes: 1) a short statement describing research, teaching and Extension interests, 2) graduate transcripts, 3) a writing sample, 4) contact information for three references, and curriculum vitae. Screening of applicants will begin February 28, 2015. A background check is required for employment in this position.

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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