Age Age of Friday Newsletter DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

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Inside this Issue

- Rosson's Roundup
- Today's Seminar
- Undergrad Open House
- Staff Appreciation Week
- Upcoming Birthdays
- Thank You
- Position Announcements

Rosson's Roundup



<u>Upcoming Events</u> February

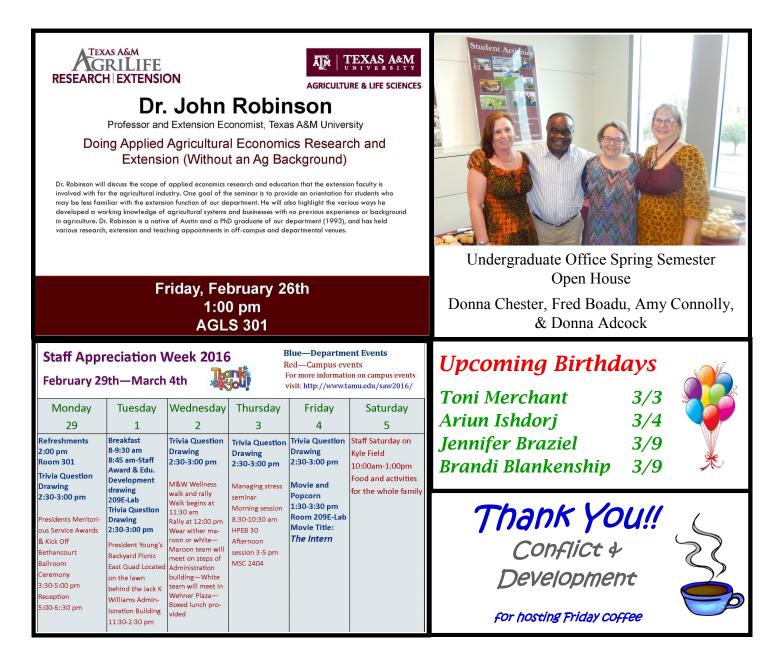
26th-Seminar 29th-March 4th-Staff Appreciation Week **March** 1st-Retiree Coffee Staff Breakfast 4th-Staff Movie *The Intern*

For most of this week I was in Washington, DC to attend the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum and talk to several colleagues at USDA about their projects and areas for collaboration. Howard Buffett was the keynote speaker and had a one-on-one discussion with Secretary Vilsack about conservation tillage around the world and how it might be applied to agriculture here to make it more productive and sustainable. One of the other features of the Outlook Forum was the session on Big Data. While there appears to be many benefits for producers and society associated with Big Data, there is also a downside. Security, privacy, use, control, access, and why not pay me for it? These are just a few of the questions being asked about the use and roles of Big Data from a producer's perspective. The American Farm Bureau Federation and USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) are working to resolve some of these issues. AFBF has designed a transparency evaluator that producers can use to assess alternative data management offers and decide which is best for them. The system already has about 35 private sector firms onboard, with more to follow. AMS has designed an electronic system to facilitate the collection and dissemination of market news, real time. It's well underway in development and should be available to the public in about two months. It's referred to as the MARS project and appears to have many research and extension applications, so look for its release-and it could prove very useful in some, if not, most of our courses.

There were many more concurrent sessions I could not attend, but as usual, the conference was very well organized, with ample networking opportunities and great speakers. Most of the information has now been released by USDA, so you can access it at <u>www.usda.gov</u>.

Let me take this opportunity to recognize our staff who will be observing Staff Appreciation Week beginning Monday. Please take the time to thank them for their great work and the significant contributions they make to our mission. We will have the staff appreciation breakfast Tuesday morning, followed by presentation of Staff Exceptional Service Award. I hope you can attend.

I hope everyone has a great weekend, and it's always good to return to Texas A&M after a trip to our nation's capital.



Position Announcements

Assistant Professor, Agribusiness Management/Agricultural Science, Cal Poly Pomona. College of Agriculture. Tenure track, academic year, faculty position will begin preferably in Fall Quarter 2016, to serve as Assistant Professor in the Agribusiness Management/Agricultural Science Department. The department currently includes two majors: Agribusiness Management, and Agricultural Science, as well as a minor in Agribusiness Management. Additional information on the university, college, full description of the position and application procedures are available at http://www.cpp.edu/~faculty-affairs/open-positions/college-unit/ag/index.shtml Review of applicants will begin April 1, 2016.

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