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A Word From The Department Head

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Another crop of graduates is out the door, field crops are progressing and a new group of students will soon be joining us. The summer is flying by and even though we have had plenty of heat units to keep the crops moving, it has certainly been more pleasant than last summer.

Thanks to Scott Senseman, his team, each of you and the FAC for all the efforts on a successful retreat. It was a very good opportunity for discussion to help build our future. There is much to follow up on and more work to be done. Thanks to Dr. McCutchen and Dr. Hussey for joining us.

It was great to see us well represented at the National Association of Plant Breeders in Indianapolis. Dr. Stelly will be president and Dr. Murray will continue with the web support. A special thanks to our staff that made us look so good in the transition of accounting to ACCESS. Industry continues to place a premium on our graduates.

We had a stimulating meeting with the Texas Turfgrass Association in Galveston. Soil and Crop Sciences faculty members make up the backbone of their program. Water issues continue to be of major concern. A special thanks for their continued support of our TTREE fund and many scholarship opportunities.

Guar continues to gather interest and Dr. Travis Miller and I, along with the Energy Institute and Corporate Relations have been facilitating meetings with several from industry that are impacted by the short supply.

We are in search of long-term partnerships to enhance US competitiveness in guar production.

The joint management team for our partnership with Scott’s held their meeting in Marysville, Ohio. It provided a real opportunity to explore partnerships with their scientists. We continue to facilitate our long-term partnerships with Bayer, BP, Ceres, Monsanto and others along with developing new partnerships. We also had the opportunity to meet with Cotton Inc., Texas Cotton Producers Board, and the Small Grains Workers and Advisory Committee.

I was not able to participate in the retirement celebration for James Grichar, but thanks to Peter Dotray and his crew for organizing it. Thanks again for a wonderful career.

MEPS International lunch was a great success again this year. The students are to be commended on an outstanding event. This sets the stage for our other clubs and teams as the new semester kicks off. During our faculty retreat our students were representing us at the University Research Forum. It is always rewarding to hear from others on the success of our students.

Thanks to Scott Senseman, Larry Redmon, and Cristine Morgan for their Participation in Development Training. As we expect this to play a bigger role in future departmental funding, we will be forming a team to provide guidance in development opportunities.

If you have not seen it in action, stop by and visit the new water runoff facility in our turf area. The sod is laid and the water is running! Congratulations to the team!
Lyndsey Owens joined the Soil & Crop Sciences Extension group as an Administrative Assistant on June 1st. Lyndsey has two children, Sabrina age 6 and Aidan age 5. In the fall, Sabrina will enter first grade and Aidan will begin Kindergarten. Lyndsey comes to us from the Department of Humanities in Medicine at the College of Medicine where she worked for five years. She enjoys fishing, spending time outdoors with her children and playing tennis. She also loves to spend time with her pets that include two dogs and five cats. If you haven’t met Lyndsey, please take a few minutes to say “Hi” and welcome her to our department.

Condolences

Robert Myatt’s grandfather, Vernon Myatt, of McAllen, TX passed away last month. Please keep Robert and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Robert is a research assistant in Dr. Bill Rooney’s program.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to all those who were involved in the shooting that occurred near campus this week. We are especially sorrowful for the families who lost loved ones. Please keep these families in your prayers, as well as those who were injured.

In Memory of a Former Student

William M. Rountree ‘41, Agronomy, Sulphur, OK

New Baby - Congratulations!

Congratulations to Curtis and Beth Jones on the birth of their daughter, Abby Kathleen. Abby weighed 4 lbs. 3 oz. and is doing great.

Curtis is Assistant Professor and Blackland Extension Agronomist in Commerce.
Congratulations Graduates

Department of Soil & Crop Sciences
Spring 2012 Graduates

Undergraduates

AGRO - Agronomy, PSSC - Plant and Environmental Soil Science

Beamsley, Andrew - AGRO  
Daly, Thomas - AGRO  
Ebeling, Jacquelin - AGRO  
Gambol, Ryan - AGRO  
Garza, Joel - AGRO  
Hardin, William David - AGRO

Harrington, Ryan - AGRO  
Kerns, John - AGRO  
Kimball, Keesey - AGRO  
McIntosh, Jordan - AGRO  
Fisher, Dianna - PSSC  
Schumann, Mitchell - PSSC

Graduates

AGRO - Agronomy, FSTC - Food Science and Technology, PLBR - Plant Breeding, SOSC - Soil Science, WMHS - Water Management and Hydrologic Science

Camargo, Edinalvo R. - PhD AGRO - Dr. Senseman, Advisor
Darapuneni, Murali K. - PhD AGRO - Dr. G. Morgan, Advisor
Tuncil, Yunus E. - MS, FSTC - Dr. Awika, Advisor
Mahan, Adam L. - MS, PLBR - Dr. Murray, Advisor
Washburn Jacob D. - MS, PLBR - Drs. Jessup & Murray, Advisors
Beyer, Benjamin M. - PhD PLBR - Dr. Smith, Advisor
Hoffman, Leo - PhD PLBR - Dr. B. Rooney, Advisor
Kothari Neha, Nayankumar - PhD PLBR - Dr. Hague, Advisor
Muller, Ryan M. - MS SOSC - Dr. Hallmark, Advisor
Ng, Justin - PhD SOSC - Dr. Gentry, Advisor
Verbree, Cheryl - PhD SOSC - Drs. Peterson & Payne
Cioce, Danielle - MS WMHS - Dr. Peterson, Advisor
Here are a few bits of information about archiving your email. It accumulates quickly and this poses several concerns: our email system only allows up to 2GB’s of storage, finding specific emails becomes more difficult, and it can be a liability issue... if you have ever been involved with a Public Information Act request, you know that sorting through all of your email can consume massive amounts of your time. To address these concerns, there are retention policies in place that help reduce the amount of email that we keep.

DELETED ITEMS: 30 Days Retention
JUNK E-MAIL: 30 Days Retention
SYNC ISSUES: 30 Days Retention
SENT ITEMS 180 Days Retention
DRAFTS: 180 Days Retention
CONVERSATION HISTORY: 180 Days Retention
RSS FEEDS: 180 Days Retention
For all other folders (inclusive of the INBOX folder) no automated retention rules will be applied.

If you do decide to retain any of your email, you may archive it. This removes it from your mailbox freeing up space. You have two options. Most of us will have a folder in Outlook called “Archive – youremailaddress” This is a 1GB storage space on the email server which does allow you to set an auto-archive process in place to store the email there. The smaller size of this archive is intended to force you to be mindful about not storing everything there. The nice thing about this archive is that it is online and accessible from any computer and the archive process can be automated.

The second option, Local archives: Due to the potential liabilities, we are discouraged from using a local archive. A local archive is a file that is stored ‘locally’ on your PC. Since it is on your PC it does not have the same size restrictions but it is only accessible on that PC. What tends to happen is email that is stored there will accumulate indefinitely without any incentive to clean it up. Do you really need it? If so, you can create a local .pst file but most of you will have to manually drag-and-drop your email to it- it cannot be automated.

Outlook does offer a nice “Cleanup” tool which helps to sort through your email and allows to you perform copy/move/delete actions on large selections all at once.

If you would like more information on archiving, email Scott Vajdak at svajdak@tamu.edu
John Ayers, Class of 1937, was presented with a plaque to commemorate the 75th anniversary of his graduation from the Texas A&M University’s department of soil and crop sciences.

“We really wanted to take time to recognize your contributions to society: the fact that you kept the farm going and in the family for 100 years, the fact that you contributed through the military and through the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, and through your farming operation and community service for so many years,” said Dr. David Baltensperger, Texas A&M soil and crop sciences department head, as he presented Ayers with a plaque at his home in McKinney.

“We appreciate the courage of the young men who helped found Texas A&M and make it into the great university it is today,” said Patrick Williams, Texas A&M Foundation director of development. “It was either courage or naïveté, but either way you all have helped us build an extraordinary university.”

Ayers, 96, was born on the Ayers Ranch near Chillicothe and lived there on and off until he climbed down from his final horse ride at the age of 80 and retired.

He attended school in the Chillicothe Independent School District. It was while he was there that he made his first campus visit to Texas A&M with a 4-H group. He said he liked the college and made a decision to attend when he graduated.

He borrowed $500 from his grandfather, John G. Ayers, to go to college and his father, Sydney Ayers, drove him to the campus in an open touring car. He remembers a few things from that first day: eating in the mess hall, being dropped off with his suitcases at a new dorm and that it was a very hot day. Continued at: http://today.agrilife.org/2012/07/18/texas-am-alumnus-ayers-honored-on-75th-anniversary-of-graduation/

Baltensperger said the soil and crop sciences department recently started a recognition program for its alumni, and Ayers, along with Leo Witkowski of Hereford, are the first to be recognized for their lifetime accomplishments and reaching the 75th anniversary of graduation.

Alumni can give back to the department in a multitude of ways that advance agriculture and continue to help turn Aggies, like Ayers, into outstanding citizens and build well-rounded, positive leaders whose lifetime contributions are immeasurable, Baltensperger said.

To discuss giving opportunities or learn more about the program, contact David Baltensperger at 979-845-3041, dbaltensperger@ag.tamu.edu; visit http://soilcrop.tamu.edu where the “Donate Now” link can be found at the very top of the page; or go directly to http://bit.ly/KP6D1M.
We had approximately 30 students visit the turf field laboratory from STARS camp. STARS camp is for high school students, put on by COALS recruiting coordinators. Tim Pepper, an undergrad student assistant and I, put on a short workshop where we introduced the students to turfgrass science major. We shared with them the agronomics of turfgrass science; various turfgrasses, management issues, and cool gadgets/gizmos used for monitoring health of the turfgrass. Most of the students were visiting from Houston area high schools. - Dr. Ben Wherley

STARS is a summer enrichment program hosted by AGLS. The goal is to provide participants with experiences enriching their skills in agriculture and related sciences, as well as exposing them to programs and opportunities in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
The faculty met for a retreat on July 31 in Rudder Tower to discuss issues related to the future and direction of our department as part of a strategic planning effort. Over 40 faculty participated in the program and there was some great discussion surrounding the four key issues of 1) production agronomy, 2) water, 3) urban issues in soil and crop science, and 4) bioenergy. As a result of the discussion and breakout sessions, we as a group were able to produce some key emphasis points, potential positions and/or realignment of current positions, and infrastructure recommendations to move forward as a department within each of the four key issues. The Vice Chancellor and Dean, Dr. Mark Hussey, came toward the end to provide some thoughts and updates on the College as well as his observations on what we had summarized as a group. In my opinion, we did a great deal of good by meeting as a faculty where we could work together toward a single goal instead of simply reacting to what has seemingly been a continuous flow of difficult challenges. There was some fantastic interaction from what I observed and some positive energy that I hope we can all build on in the coming months.

I would like to thank the Faculty Advisor Committee once again for their input on getting the four key issues as discussion points and particularly the four group leaders (Diane Boellstorff, Frank Hons, Seth Murray, and Cristine Morgan) who directed the discussions in each of the four breakout groups. Thanks also to Debbie Sutherland, Linda Francis, and Jim Lukeman for their assistance in getting materials and making sure that the retreat went well during the day. A special thanks goes to Judy Young for putting all of the plans together for the accommodations, meals, and the happy hour. Thanks also to Dr. Baltensperger for paying for all of the festivities and the guidance in putting the retreat together. Finally, thank you Faculty for being willing to spend a day to help shape the future of the department.

- Scott Senseman
Faculty Retreat Pics
Congratulations to Nina Stanley and her crew on the clean up of the Soil Chemistry Research Lab. Her crew included Cherie Fisher, Swati Kale, Jodi Amos, Alvin Walker, Dave Rice, Jeff Truss, and Jason Ward. Work is still going on including the installation of new counter tops, but it is well on its way to being completed.

**GREAT JOB!**

Before

After

**Retirement Reception**

Please join us for a reception honoring

**Glenda Kurten and Mark Hall**

as they celebrate retirement from the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences and their future plans of transitioning into “new” positions.

**Monday, August 20, 2012, Rm. 440, 3:00 p.m.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 14-17</td>
<td>Nutrient Management Shortcourse - Abilene</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 20</td>
<td>SAVE THE DATE Appreciation &amp; Transition Reception for Mark Hall and Glenda Kurten, Rm. 440, 3:00 pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 21-24</td>
<td>Nutrient Management Shortcourse - College Station</td>
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<td>Aug. 28-30</td>
<td>2012 Great Plains Sorghum Conference and 29th Biennial Sorghum Research and Utilization Conference, Manhattan, Kansas</td>
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<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>College Outstanding Awards Ceremony/New Faculty Introductions</td>
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<td>Sept. 27-29</td>
<td>COADC Fall Meeting</td>
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<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>College Tailgate</td>
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<td>Oct. 3-4</td>
<td><strong>Growing Texas</strong> - Water and Energy in Texas: Solutions from Texas A&amp;M, Hilton, College Station</td>
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<td>Oct. 4-5</td>
<td>Surface Mine Reclamation Workshop - Best Western, Bryan, TX</td>
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<td>Oct. 9&amp;10</td>
<td>Turfgrass and Landscape Field Day - Turf Field Lab, College Station</td>
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<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>College Appreciation and Recognition Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 21-24</td>
<td>ASA, CSSA, and SSSA International Annual Meetings - Cincinnati, OH</td>
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<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>College Holiday Social</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 6-7</td>
<td>24th Annual Texas Plant Protection Conference - Brazos Center, Bryan, TX</td>
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