The hiring process is progressing nicely. ESSM has completed the hiring for the forest genomics faculty member and the spatial scientists. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Claudio Rodriguez and Michele Lawing, respectively. They will be starting in January. The department head search for ESSM has narrowed the group for further reference checking. Soil and Crop Sciences is in the final stages of negotiations on weed science and the spatial soil and water sciences position.

The Texas Section of SAF met in October in the Woodlands. We had a great Aggie breakfast with our former and current students. It is always good to see our former students making an impact on one of Texas’s largest industries.

The department was well represented at the National meetings of ASA-CSSA-SSSA with award winners, students and former students winning awards, and faculty presentations. B.B. Singh was the keynote for the CSSA awards breakfast, Cristine Morgan invigorated the soil physics colloquium, Wayne Smith and Travis Miller worked the student recruiting tables and faculty recruiting opportunities. We had a huge crowd at the Green Iguana for our Aggie gathering. It is a pleasure to serve on the executive committee when our crew is so active. Thanks and see you in Long Beach, Nov 2-5, 2014.

I had the opportunity to provide the keynote at the International Plant Breeding Conference in Antalya, Turkey as President of CSSA. It was an incredible experience with more than 40 countries represented and simultaneous translation into four languages. I even got to take a quick tour of the region. The real highlight of the meeting though was when many scientists from Africa, to Asia, to Europe stopped me at breaks to tell me about their collaboration with one of our scientists or their experience at A&M.

The Texas Turfgrass Association met in Dallas last week. As usual, our faculty and students played a significant role in the success of the meetings.

Last week was the meeting of the Texas State Seed and Plant Board in Fort Worth in conjunction with the Texas Seed Trade Association. The group approves all cultivars that are certified in Texas. Each meeting typically has 200 or more pages of material to review. Fortunately, it was a long plane ride back from Turkey.

We have several companies visiting campus regarding ongoing and future opportunities during the next month. Thanks to all of you for your efforts to increase our interaction with these major industry partners. Congratulations to Cristine Morgan on initial efforts in soils with Monsanto.

Our scientists, former faculty and students and current students were a major part of
the Desert Technologies Conference in San Antonio last week. With desertification continuing to grow, this issue is especially timely for us to focus on.

Again through my role as CSSA President, I will be participating in the council of Scientific Presidents in Washington D.C. in early December. They provided me with the opportunity to co-chair a special session on population. It provided the opportunity to put together a panel of some of the best in the world on the impact of increasing population on Food Security, Ecosystem Services including fresh water, healthy soils and climate change and innovative ideas on how to address the issue.

Please join us for our annual Christmas Open House, December 14, 2:00 -5:00 pm. Soil and Crop Sciences and ESSM departments are invited.

See you at the Thanksgiving Day Feast Tuesday, November 26, 11:45 am, room 424.

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**Sympathy**

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the family of Dr. James Supak.

**James Raymond Supak**, 74, of Bryan passed away at his home surrounded by loved ones on Thursday, November 14, 2013.

James was born on May 22, 1939 in Columbus, TX. Upon graduating from St. Mary’s High School in Taylor, TX, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1958-1961. He attended Texas A&M University from 1962-1971 where he earned B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Plant and Soil Science, Soil Chemistry, and Soil Chemistry and Mineralogy, respectively. Dr. Supak joined the Texas Agricultural Extension Service (TAES) in Lubbock, TX as an Extension Agronomist in 1972. He became the Extension Cotton Specialist for the High Plains in 1974 and served in that capacity until he accepted the State Extension Cotton Specialist position in College Station in 1992.

In 1994, he was appointed the Associate Department Head and Extension Program Leader for the Soil and Crop Sciences Department at Texas A&M. He received numerous awards, honors, and publications resulting from his work with the cotton industry at the local, state and national levels. He retired from TAES in January 2001, as a respected colleague, mentor and friend to farmers across the state. He spent the next 12 years as a self-employed cotton consultant, associate director for the Office of Texas State Chemist, Professor Emeritus, advisor to the Texas Water Resources Institute, and Senior Scientist on an international cotton production project. He spent the final four years of his career with Texas A&M AgriLife Research where he coordinated programs focused on managing Texas’ Pierce’s Disease in grape crops and Zebra Chip Disease in potato crops. Dr. Supak retired again in January 2013. ~ The Eagle

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**Kathy Seaton’s** father, Mr. William “Billy” Peacock, passed away last month. Please remember Kathy and her family at this time. Kathy is a bookkeeper in the main office.

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Please keep **Heidi Mjelde** and her family in your thoughts and prayers on the passing of her father. Heidi is a Technician for Dr. Terry Gentry.

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**Allen S. Senseman**, Scott Senseman’s Father, passed away November 13. Scott Senseman was the Weed Ecology Professor in our department until he took a Department Head position in Knoxville, TN.
Congratulations!
ASA, CSSA and SSSA Research Poster Winners

A student from the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences won 1st place in the Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences undergraduate research poster symposium in Tampa, FL at the ASA, CSSA and SSSA national meeting. Ian Sprouse, an undergraduate double major in agricultural education and agronomy with a crops emphasis, and a member of the Texas A&M Agronomy Society presented a poster entitled “Status of Plant Biotechnology in Texas Secondary Agricultural Science Curriculum”. Ian competed against 39 competing posters in this session.

Katie L. Rothlisberger-Lewis, graduate student of Soil & Crop Sciences Department won the 3rd place award in the graduate student poster competition at the American Society of Agronomy meeting, Soil Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Emissions- Environmental Quality Section in November 2013. Katie’s poster was titled “Greenhouse gas fluxes as affected by lipid extracted algae application to soil”. Katie is a PhD candidate chaired by Drs. Jamie Foster and Frank Hons.

Award Winners for 2013 C-3 division Graduate Student Poster Competition

M.S. competition
1st place - Adam Gaspar, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison
2nd place - Martin Battaglia, Univ. of Kentucky
3rd place - Bryson Haverkamp, Kansas State Univ.

Ph.D. competition:
1st place - Alexandre Barreiro, Oklahoma State Univ.
2nd place - Alex Lindsey, The Ohio State Univ.
3rd place - Catherine Simpson, Texas A&M Univ.

Judges included:
Clark Neely - Texas A&M Univ., Laura Lindsey - The Ohio State Univ., Shaun Casteel - Purdue Univ.
Masoud Hashemi - Univ. of Massachusetts, Kip Balkcom - USDA-ARS NSDL,
Glen Harris - Univ. of Georgia, Chad Lee - Univ. of Kentucky, Glen Ritchie - Texas Tech Univ.
Diane Rowland - Univ. of Florida, Ignacio Ciampitti - Kansas State Univ.,
Jimmy Houx - Univ. of Missouri, R. Scott Tubbs - Univ. of Georgia
Dr. B.B. Singh, Visiting Professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences was honored by the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) with double recognition during the Annual Meetings of the American Society of America at Tampa, Florida on November 6, 2013.

Dr. Singh was declared the recipient of the CSSA International Service in Crop Science Award 2013 for his significant contributions to international agriculture and the award certificate was presented to him by Dr. Mark A Brick, President Elect of the Crop Science Society of America.

He was also invited to present the Distinguished Betty Clepper Lecture ‘World Food Security in 21st Century; Challenges and opportunities for Crop Scientists’.

Click here for more information

Soil and Crop Sciences Students Tie for First Place at AACC

Soil and Crop Sciences grad students Dorothy Herrman and Kristen Dunn, and Food Science undergraduate Eileen Quinn, tied for first place at the AACC International Product Development Competition for their product Simply Sweet Sorghum Treats.

Simply Sweet is a product line featuring ice cream and waffle cones prepared with whole grain sorghum. Utilizing the natural color variation among sorghum varieties allows the production of several different naturally colored options.

Three flavors of ice-cream were showcased at the competition: Spiced Sorghum, Sorghum Berry Blue (blueberry), and Chocolate. Three different types of cones are available, each made from white, brown (tannin), or black sorghum. The students were advised by Dr. Joseph Awika.

Click here for more information
# Thanksgiving Lunch

**Everybody is invited!**

**Thanksgiving Lunch**
**Tuesday, November 26, 2013**
**Room 424, Heep Center**

Turkey, ham, dressing, rolls and tea will be provided. **Bring a side that will serve at least 12.**

## 2013 Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 26</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Lunch, 11:45 a.m. Heep, room 424. Turkey, ham, dressing, rolls and tea will be provided. <strong>Bring a side that will serve at least 12.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 28-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 3-5</td>
<td>Amarillo Farm &amp; Ranch Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 4-5</td>
<td>Texas State Support Committee - Lubbock</td>
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<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Texas Cotton Producers Board Meeting - Lubbock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 13</td>
<td>SCSC Graduation - Reception for Graduates and their families - 7:00 am to 8:30 am.</td>
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<td>Dec. 9-13</td>
<td>American Seed Trade Association - Chicago, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 10-11</td>
<td>TPPA Conference - Brazos Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Christmas Open House at the Baltensperger’s Home. See next page for directions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 17</td>
<td>SCSC Christmas Coffee - 3:00 pm, room 440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 17</td>
<td>Quail Initiative Advisory Committee Meeting</td>
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## 2014 Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 7</td>
<td>Water Initiatives Team/Working Groups Meeting - College Station (location TBD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 7-10</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M AgriLife Extension Centennial Conference</td>
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<td>Jan. 15</td>
<td>Extension Snapshot Templates due</td>
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<td>Feb. 4-5</td>
<td>B.I.G. Conference - Waco</td>
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<td>Feb. 6-7</td>
<td>Texas Pest Management Association Meeting - San Angelo</td>
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<td>March 13-14</td>
<td><strong>---SPRING BREAK---</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4-6</td>
<td>Texas &amp; Southwestern Cattle Raisers’ Association Convention - San Antonio</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9-13</td>
<td>Texas 4-H Roundup - College Station</td>
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SCSC & ESSM

Christmas Open House

You and your guest are invited to the home of

Dr. & Mrs. Baltensperger

5202 Cascades Dr.
College Station, TX

Saturday, December 14, 2013

Hors d’oeuvres and desserts will be served from 3:00 to 5:00 pm

RSVP Appreciated - Judy at 845-3041