We have been rapidly moving to fill our vacant positions. We are advertising for one fertility/chemistry and are developing adds for turf molecular work at Dallas. We are also developing a position to cover the responsibilities previously held by Dr. Redmon as he transitioned to Associate Department Head for our Texas A&M AgriLife Extension activities. We also welcomed Dr. Curtis Adams to Vernon at the first of the month, where he will work in agronomy.

The department was well represented at the National meetings of ASA-CSSA-SSSA with award winners, former students winning awards, students winning, and faculty presentations (see separate notes in SCSC newsletter and on the web). We had a huge crowd for our Aggie gathering at the Rock Bottom Brewery in Minneapolis. It is a pleasure to serve on the executive committee when our crew is so active. Thanks and see you in Phoenix, AZ, Nov 6-9, 2016.

It was great to participate at the College of Agriculture Legacy and Leadership Banquet. Exceptional students combined with caring donors always makes a fun event.

This past week was the meeting of the Texas State Seed and Plant Board in Austin, that I currently chair. Unfortunately, the focus of the meeting was on 14 seed arbitration cases based on sunflower crops that had not performed well, but these were moved out of arbitration. The group approves all cultivars that are certified in Texas. I also had the opportunity to serve on strategic planning for CAST (Council for Agriculture Science and Technology) as a board member in Des Moines. This provides an opportunity to engage our scientist on developing CAST publications.

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. These include opportunities for the production of Feverfew as part of a cancer treatment grant. I also had discussions with our regional partners on aflatoxin, looked at major grant opportunities in soil carbon, hosted Dr. Cantrell with Monsanto and considered patent protection for two new inventions by our faculty.

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. I will also be participating in several commodity meetings in west Texas around the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show and the Texas Plant Protection Conference.

A special shout out to our work groups to prepare our review materials and to Dr. Terry Gentry for keeping us moving. We still have lots of details to work out along with classes, grants to write, numerous meetings and travel, but thanks to our great staff and hard work it is moving forward in a very exciting way. Our vision of priorities for positions, infrastructure and program is really coming together.

See you at the Thanksgiving Day Feast, Tuesday, Nov. 24.
You and your guest
are invited to the home of

Dr. & Mrs. Baltensperger

Saturday, December 11, 6 - 8 pm.

RSVP Appreciated
845-3041

4747 Scrimshaw Lane
Nantucket Subdivision
College Station
Dr. Aitkenhead Peterson (right) received the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Diversity presented by Dr Mark Hussey.

Al Nelson (left) received the Dean’s Excellence Award for Staff, presented by Dr. Mark Hussey.

Dr. Smith (right) received the Dean’s Excellence Award for Excellence in Administration. Presenting the award is Dr. Mark Hussey.

Dr. Mark Hussey presented the Dean’s Excellence Team Award to the TAM Wheat Improvement team. (Pictured from left to right) Drs. Clark Neely, Jackie Rudd, Amir Ibrahim, Mark Hussey-presenter, Joseph Awika, Shuyu Liu and Qingwu Xue.
This year the University of Córdoba in Córdoba Spain hosted a meeting of the International Union of Soil Science Pedometrics commission. Approx 130 people attended the conference.

Representing the Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Science at the meeting were Professor Cristine Morgan and graduate students Gregory Rouze and Jason Ackerson. For his presentation “Continuous depth-profiles of soil clay content from penetrometer-based in situ VisNIR spectroscopy”, Jason was awarded the prize for best student presentation.

The TAMU team placed 1th in the group competition, and placed 2nd overall. Comprising the team were Michael Bartmess, Kevin Knapick, Landon Lancaster, James Lenart, Sam Shroyer, Sarah Vaughan, and Kacie Wynne. They gained valuable experience both independently and as a team. Because of their placement at 2nd overall, they qualify to compete in the National Soil Judging Contest in Kansas in the Spring of 2016. We all hope the snow will be melted and the more importantly the soil will be thawed by then.

Kudos!

Jason Ackerson was awarded at the IUSSP conference

Click here to read entire article.
ASA Awards

**Dr. Boellstorff** and her team were awarded a certificate of excellence for a 16 page publication. The co-authors for the publication are Drew Gholson, John W. Smith, Ryan Gerlich (BAEN), Mark McFarland and Kristine Uhlman.

Her team has also been awarded the AgriLife Extension Superior Service Team award.

---

**Manuel Chavarria** won 1st place for the C5 (turfgrass science) division poster award with 'Use of Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy for Elucidating Salinity Tolerance Mechanisms in Warm Season Turfgrasses'

Co-authors are Ben Wherley, Ambika Chandra, Russell Jessup, M. Pendleton, and R. Cabrera.

CONGRATULATIONS!

---

**FAC News**

The SCSC Faculty Advisory Committee is currently preparing documentation for the Academic Program Review which will occur in March 2016. SCSC faculty will be receiving requests for various metrics and documents over next few weeks. We appreciate your prompt response to these requests and your assistance with this important process.

Congratulations to Dr. Jourdan Bell and Dr. Paul Schwab who were recently elected to the FAC! Their terms will begin in January 2016.
Larry Redmon, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service state forage specialist, has been named the associate department head and AgriLife Extension program leader of soil and crop sciences at Texas A&M University, effective Nov. 1.

"Larry brings a strong background in new program development to the position," said David Baltensperger, soil and crop sciences department head in College Station. Redmon's new role will include leadership for soil and crop science faculty across the state, including budget development, evaluation, commodity group relations, industry partnerships, response coordination and visioning for the future, Baltensperger said.

Travis Miller, AgriLife Extension interim director for state operations in College Station, said in discussion of the state forage specialist position being vacated by Redmon: "We obviously need a leader in forages for the state; someone to coordinate and plan effective programming for forages and stakeholders who depend on forages."

He said Redmon, who will be filling the position Miller held for 13 years, will be great for the job.

"Larry has done a lot for the department and for forages in Texas," Miller said. "He is very innovative, coming up with many new ideas for programs. He's a team player who puts a lot of different people in the room to solve problems and address issues."

Redmon said he is sad to be transitioning away from many of his AgriLife Extension and teaching duties but still will be involved in educational programs to some extent. Complete article here

Dr. Larry Redmon

VERNON – Dr. Curtis Adams has been hired by Texas A&M AgriLife Research as the cropping systems agronomist in Vernon. He will also have an assistant professor position in the Texas A&M University department of soil and crop sciences.

"Dr. Adams certainly has the academic training and research experience we were looking for as cropping systems agronomist in the Rolling Plains," said Dr. John Sweeten, AgriLife Research director for Vernon.

“He also comes from a family farm and cattle ranching background in southern Utah, which can really help bridge research gaps between integrated crops and livestock systems in water-limited situations such as the Texas Rolling Plains.”

Adams has a background in whole-plant physiology and crop ecology. His primary research interests are plant nutrition, enhancing ecosystem services, plant-environment interactions, water-use efficiency, biofuels and agricultural systems research.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in crop science, his master’s degree in plant sciences and his doctorate in crop physiology, all from Utah State University.

To see complete article click here

Dr. Curtis Adams
Texas A&M Undergraduate Agronomy Society

The 1st Annual Texas A&M Agronomy Society Corn Maze was a tremendous success with >2,000 people attending in just two weekends of operation. In addition, the Corn Maze was highlighted in reports by multiple local, state, and even national news organizations. It proved to be a great venue for the Agronomy Society to highlight agriculture and the outstanding research, extension, and teaching being done at Texas A&M. A heartfelt ‘Thank You’ is offered to everyone who assisted with the maze this year and helped to make it successful. We are already making plans for next year, so please let us know if you would like to help or if you have any suggestions for how to make the 2nd Annual Texas A&M Agronomy Society Corn Maze even better.

David Cottrell, a senior Plant and Environmental Soil Sciences major and the president of the society, lead the project and helped turn their idea into a finished product.

Aggie Turf Club

Aggie Turf Club meets every other Wednesday at 5 pm in Heep 440. The club is off to another great fall semester. Some great student presentations have been given on summer internships from around the country, including Washington Nationals, Carlton Woods, TPC Four Seasons Las Colinas, and Shadow Hawk Golf Clubs. The club also participated in the recent Texas A&M Turf Research Field Day, where students operated a hole in one contest and silent auction during the event, with proceeds going to support travel to upcoming GCSAA and STMA Conferences.

We also represented the Soil and Crop Sciences Department at the recent AGLS tailgate, where students held a ‘spin the wheel’ contest and gave out prizes for correct answers on lawn care questions. For updates and the latest Turf Club news and events, please visit the club’s webpage.

Click here for the Club Page.
The 2015 Texas Turfgrass and Landscape Field Day was held October 14, at the Thomas G. Hildebrand Equine Complex in College Station, Texas.
Thanksgiving Lunch

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Serving in Room 424, Heep Center
@ 11:45 a.m.

Seating in atrium areas and conference rooms.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Each person should bring a dish to serve eight.
(If you bring a guest, please bring a dish on their behalf, or make one dish to serve at least 12.)

Turkey and Dressing will be provided by Soil and Crop Sciences.
Ham and Rolls will be provided by Entomology.
### 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov.24</td>
<td>Annual Thanksgiving lunch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.26-27</td>
<td><strong>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.30-Dec.2</td>
<td>Amarillo Farm &amp; Ranch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Texas Commodity Symposium - Lubbock &amp; Amarillo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Annual Faculty Reviews beginning in Vernon &amp; Amarillo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.2</td>
<td>Focus on APR review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.2-4</td>
<td>Lubbock Cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.5-8</td>
<td>CSSP - Washington D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.8-9</td>
<td>27th Annual Texas Plant Protection Conference - Brazos Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.15-17</td>
<td>Turfgrass Meeting - San Antonio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 18</td>
<td>Graduation 9:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 24 - Jan. 1</td>
<td><strong>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 5-7</td>
<td>2016 Beltwide Cotton Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 12-14</td>
<td>AgriLife Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2021</td>
<td>Red River Crops Conference in Altus, OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Departmental Review with Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 26-28</td>
<td>2016 TX/OK Cotton Physiology Meeting - San Angelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 31-Feb.4</td>
<td>Society for Range Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The teaching office welcomed in a new semester with donuts and coffee for everyone in Heep.