Congratulations to all of our graduates and advanced degree candidates. While it comes at the conclusion of many years of study, the May 13 commencement ceremony marks the beginning of the next phase of your lives. For some of you the next phase may be entering the workforce, for others it may be working toward another degree. We wish each and every one of you the very best wherever the next road takes you.

April was a busy month for our department with many conferences and meetings, and many crops planted and fields prepared. Ranch Management University kicked things off, with 46 landowners taking part in that five-day program. The Bennett Trust Resource Conservation Stewardship Conference was held in Kerrville followed by the national Edgar McFadden Symposium and Winter Wheat Workers Workshop in San Antonio. This combined meeting attracted more than 150 scientists that provide the leadership for wheat research in the U.S. About twenty-five members of the McFadden family were present at a reception during the symposium honoring Edgar's legacy in wheat research. A special shout out to our teams that are participating in grand challenges. It is great to see the “Big Ideas” come to fruition as Soil Security, Automated Phenotyping, Gene Editing, and Root sensors move forward.

This month was highlighted by visits from Monsanto scientists, the President of Zomorano University, Cotton, Inc, and discussions with Cotton Gen. We are excited about Dr. Cristine Morgan's new research agreement with Bayer Crop Sci. and many grant submissions.

In the midst of the conferences, on-campus faculty evaluations have begun. I have been meeting with several faculty members each day, and remind all the supervisors that the evaluations should be completed by the 23rd. We also met with several candidates to fill our soil fertility position. It is again a pleasure to see all the progress each program has made over the year. It is obvious that there is much to do from the plans of work, but the accomplishments are tremendous. I also completed the departmental annual review and had an opportunity to present a case for new positions based on that review. We are focused on a soil carbon scientist and a soil microbiology scientist that would partner with our strong teams across Soil and Crop Sciences, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Plant Pathology, Horticulture, and Ecosystem Science departments and our new soil fertility position to reignite our leadership in soil science to solve pressing societal problems.

Dr. Smith and I had the opportunity to participate in a training workshop on recruiting, managing and celebrating our departmental diversity. This will be followed with a staff workshop and then a series of faculty sessions on focused topics.

Progress can be seen out at the new Scotts Miracle-Gro Lawn and Garden Research Facility. Concrete was poured recently for the first building and it shouldn’t be long now before we see the structure going up. The facility is scheduled to be completed this November.

Thanks to our library for making our core publications in SSSA, ASA and CSSA available through the library subscription to ACCESS Digital Library. This will be a great asset to our students, faculty and staff going forward and a special thanks to Jenni Simonsen for making it happen. http://lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/login?url=http://coral.library.tamu.edu/resourcelink.php?resource=8205.

As this newsletter goes to press I have the opportunity to be in Washington, DC to participate in Council of Scientific Society President's. Features of the conference focus on Dr. Jennifer Doudna, one of the leaders in breakthrough uses of CRISPER Cas9 for gene editing to prevent / cure human and plant diseases. There will be a presentation on the first detection of gravitational waves that were predicted by Einstein 100 years ago and great discussion on common issues facing scientists around the world. Next week will be more focused on our department as I meet with Southern Department Heads to compare strategies for our future.

We are looking forward to the Stiles Farm Field Day in June, as well as field days at the rice research facilities in Eagle Lake and Beaumont later in the summer.

I will be in Florida May 15-16 for SAC, and later going to Hawaii to celebrate my 40th anniversary. I will be out of the office from May 26 until June 6.
2016 Master’s and Doctoral Degree Candidates

Agronomy

Chenghao Deng
Chenghao received his Master of Science degree, under the supervision of Dr. Scott Finlayson. Chenghao is from Nanning, China. He received his BS in Agricultural Resources and Environment from Jilin University in China. After graduation he intends to be employed in agronomy, statistics or molecular science.

Food Science

Shima Agah
Shima received her Ph.D. under the supervision of Dr. Joseph Awika. She is from Shiraz, Iran and earned her master’s degree in Food Science Technology from Shiraz University.
2016 Master’s and Doctoral Degree Candidates
MEPS - Molecular & Environmental Plant Sciences

Yalin Li
Yalin received her Master of Science degree under the supervision of Dr. Dirk Hays. She is from Guangzhou, China, and received her B.S. in Biotechnology from South China Agricultural University. After graduation Yalin plans to be employed as a research associate in a plant breeding program or in research and development.

Ahmed Elsayed
Ahmed received his Ph.D. under the supervision of Dr. Dirk Hays. He is from Egypt, received his BS at Al-Azhar University in Agricultural Science and earned his MS in Wheat Biotechnology from Kassel University in Germany. Ahmed plans to continue working on improving crop efficiency to scientifically fight world hunger.

Soil Science

Nadezda Ojeda
Nadezda received her Master of Science under the supervision of Dr. Jacqueline Ann Aitkenhead-Peterson. She is from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and the first in her family to attend A&M, where she also earned her bachelor’s degree. She will remain in College Station this summer working for the sorghum breeding program, then pursue a career with an international environmental organization.
2016 Master’s and Doctoral Degree Candidates

Plant Breeding

Steven Anderson
Steven received his Master of Science degree under the supervision of Dr. Seth Murray. He is from Naples, Florida, and earned his bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Central Florida. After graduation, Steven will remain with Dr. Murray to work on his Ph.D.

Lorin Harvey
Lorin earned his Master of Science degree under the supervision of Dr. Steve Hague. He is from Grimes, Iowa, and earned his bachelor’s degree from Iowa State University. After graduation, Lorin will remain at Texas A&M, working on his Ph.D. with Dr. Bill Rooney.

Jingjia Li
Jingjia earned her Master of Science degree under the supervision of Dr. Hongbin Zhang. She is from China and earned her bachelor’s degree in Animal and Plant Quarantine from the Agricultural University of Hebei, China. Jingjia will remain at TAMU working toward a Ph.D. in Ecosystem Science and Management under Dr. Claudio Casola.
Mariana Machado

Mariana earned her Master of Science degree under the supervision of Dr. David Stelly. She is from Goiania, Brazil, and earned her bachelor’s degree in Agronomy from Universidade Federal De Goias in Brazil. Mariana spent one year at Institut Supérieur d’Agriculture et d’Agroalimentaire Rhône-Alpes in France. After graduation Mariana will join her husband in Fort Collins, Colorado. She is waiting for a response regarding a position there for which she has applied.

Luke Vacek

Luke earned his Master of Science degree under the supervision of Dr. Bill Rooney. He is from Taft, Texas, and earned his bachelor’s degree in Animal Science from TAMU in 2013. In January, Luke began a career as a research manager for Bartek Agriculture Research, Portland, Texas, where he will oversee research and consulting services in the Coastal Bend and South Texas.

Chad Matthew Hayes

Chad earned his Ph.D. as a distance student under the supervision of Dr. Bill Rooney. He is from Lubbock, Texas, and earned his master’s degree in Plant Breeding at TAMU in 2012. Chad is now employed as a research geneticist for the USDA-ARS stationed at the USDA Plant Stress Lab in Lubbock.
Soil and Crop Sciences Graduating Class of 2016

Plant and Environmental Soil Science-Crops

Amee Robin Bumguardner
In application process for a job in agronomy

Alexander James Driensky

Kyle Andrew Hoegenauer

Hieu Duy Trung Khaut

William Graham Kyle
After graduation will be working for Stark Farms

Daniel David Mielke
After graduation will be working for Dow AgroSciences as a sales trainee, promoting range & pasture and coastal crop products.

Bryan Lee Moore

Sadie Louann Snider

Brent Christopher Tymrak
After graduation will begin working on his MS in Agricultural Economics with a discipline in Farm Policy.
Class of 2016 (continued)

**Crops continued**

- Richard Jaymes Hermes
- Zachary Ryan Peoples
- Travis Hansen

**Plant and Environmental Soil Science - Soil and Water**

- Nicholas Grey Harris
- Charles Arthur Lynch
- Charles Hunter McKay

  - Charles Arthur Lynch
    After graduation will be job searching. His ideal career would be in the oil and gas industry.

  - Charles Hunter McKay
    After graduation will be working for the Pinkston Group, a PR firm in Washington D.C.

**Turfgrass Science**

- Daniel Garza
- Rodrigo Martinez
- Andrew Anthony Dunnam

  - Daniel Garza
    After graduation will be working for WaterCentric in Dallas as a licensed irrigator

  - Rodrigo Martinez
    After graduation will be looking for a job in research or sales.
In 1914, R. E. Dickson admonished landowners “Don't pray for rain if you can't take care of what you get.”

At the 3rd annual Bennett Trust Resource Stewardship Conference held in Kerrville April 14 and 15, Steve Nelle, Natural Resource Conservation Service (retired), explained to the gathered landowners that land stewardship is the backbone for sustaining land and water in Texas.

“Stewardship is not just a list of practices for a landowner to consider,” Nelle stated. “It is a deep respect and appreciation for the land. It is an understanding that land has character and capability that need to be nourished.”

The Kerrville area receives about thirty inches of rain annually, quite often several inches at a time. During the hard rains, much of the water goes down the creek. Nelle pointed out that landowners want the land to capture as much of the water as possible, and release it later at a more moderate rate.

“We want to do what we can to slow down the water in our riparian areas,” Nelle continued. “When we slow down the water we reduce erosion and trap sediments which help to create or enlarge the flood plain. This leads to better groundwater recharge and a sustained base flow in the creek.”

“The good news is that nature will heal the creek channels if managed properly,” Nelle said. “Vegetation is the key.”

An example of the restorative power of nature was made by Colleen Gardener, who told the story of Selah, the Bamberger Ranch Preserve. Through proper management, water and grass were restored on this property, transforming it from a virtual wasteland to a thriving ecosystem.

“Mr. Bamberger purchased this property because no one else wanted it,” Gardener explained. “There was literally no water on the property at that time. By controlling the junipers and using other management measures, there is now water year-round.”

Water was not the only resource considered during the conference. Robert Lyons, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist in Ecosystem Science and Management gave insights to balancing forage demands made by livestock and wildlife. Roel Lopez, director of the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, explained the effect of our increasing population on the natural resources.

“Between 1997 and 2012 the population of Texas increased by 36%,” stated Lopez. “During that time, over a million acres of agriculture lands were lost to development. More than 273,000 of those acres were in the hill country.”

As the number of landowners increases, an understanding of land valuation becomes even more important. Linda Campbell, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (retired), and Scott Fair of the Gillespie County Appraisal District, teamed up to explain the 1-d-1 Open Space land valuation.

“Get the term ‘Ag Exemption’ out of your vocabulary,” Campbell said. “1-d-1 is a tax evaluation, not an exemption.”

According to Section 23.51 of the Property Tax Code, qualified open-space land is “land that is currently devoted principally to agricultural use to the degree of intensity generally accepted in the area and that has been devoted principally to agricultural use or to production of timber or forest products for five of the preceding seven years.”

Fair stressed that not all rural land will qualify for the 1-d-1 evaluation, and when land changes hands the qualification does not automatically go with it.
“Just because a piece of land had a 1-d-1 valuation last year does not mean it will have it this year,” Fair stated. “If you purchase a piece of property, you must apply for the valuation.”

Specialists also discussed proper stocking rates, balancing wildlife and livestock, brush control and control of predators, specifically feral hogs.

“Feral hogs cause extreme damage to the land,” stated Dr. John Tomacek, Assistant Professor and TAMU AgriLife Extension Wildlife Specialist at San Angelo. “The population is growing rapidly. A harvest rate over 60% is needed just to keep numbers balanced.”

Day two of the conference, participants attended one of two concurrent tours of either the Hillingdon Ranch or the Kerr Wildlife Management Area.

The Hillingdon Ranch has been owned by the same family since 1887, and is an excellent example of resource and legacy management. The fourth and fifth generations of the family now operate the ranch which produces sheep, angora goats and Angus cattle. The Kerr Wildlife Management Area was purchased in 1950.

The next stewardship program sponsored by the Bennett Trust Stewardship program will be the 2nd Annual Ladies Conference, Oct 3-4 at the Inn on Barons Creek in Fredericksburg. A video and photos from last year’s Ladies Conference can be found at http://bennettrust.tamu.edu under “Past Events”
Researchers, graduate students and members of the McFadden family gathered in San Antonio April 17-20 for the 2016 Edgar McFadden Symposium and Winter Wheat Workers Workshop, a joint venture between Texas A&M University, South Dakota State University and the Hard Winter Wheat Workers.

Over 25 members of McFadden’s family, including his daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, attended a reception in his honor at the symposium.

This was the second such gathering for those in the wheat industry to celebrate McFadden’s accomplishments and share current research.

In 1916, McFadden was the first to successfully cross common wheat and ancestral wheat species, an accomplishment most scientists believed was impossible. The resulting wheat variety, which McFadden named “Hope” was resistant to black stem rust, a disease which then threatened the wheat crops from Mexico to Canada. Many varieties of wheat in production today are linked to Hope.

The Soil and Crop Sciences department was well represented both in the poster contest and at the podium.

Both Dr. Amir Ibrahim and Dr. Wayne Smith made presentations during the symposium. Ibrahim presented research regarding breeding wheat for durable disease resistance, and Smith gave an overview of the department’s distance degree program.

Conference scholarships were awarded to the top nine posters submitted for presentation at the symposium. Five of these scholarships were presented to TAMU soil and crop sciences graduate students. Those students were (in alphabetical order): Silvano Assanga, Fatima Camarillo, Smit Dhakal, Xiangkun Gu, and Yan Yang.

By Beth Ann Luedeker
Dr. Elsa Murano, Director, Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture, explained how this string is a planting tool for women in under-developed nations. The full string indicates the distance between rows, one section is the space between plants, and another directs fertilizer placement.

Murano spoke in place of Julie Borlaug, who was unable to attend due to the inclement weather.

Dr. Bill F. McCutchen, Executive Associate Director of Texas AgriLife Research welcomes the participants.

Dr. Amir Ibrahim, TAMU, and Dr. Kevin Kephart, SDSU with Edgar McFadden's daughter, Phyllis McFadden Huey and her husband, Garland Huey.

There is a new turfgrass handbook available from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension authored by two members of our department, Dr. Casey Reynolds and Dr. Matt Elmore; as well as Dr. Young-Ki Jo, and Diane Silcox Reynolds.

According to Dr. Reynolds, the 120-page guide will be useful for anyone responsible for maintaining athletic, golf course, landscape, recreational or utility turfgrasses.

This handbook and many other turfgrass publications may be found on the AggieTurf website at https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/publications/. A hardcover version may be purchased at the Texas A&M AgriLife Bookstore.

For direct access to the new handbook Click Here.
Jacobsen has selected Rodrigo Martinez to attend their Future Turf Manager’s Seminar which will be held at Jacobsen’s headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina May 23-26. This program is designed to help prepare graduating college seniors for an opportunity to get a real-world view of the turf industry from several different perspectives. Participants will tour some of the nation’s most prestigious golf courses and interact with some of the top names in the turfgrass industry. They will also learn to operate Jacobsen turf equipment.

Jacobsen selects participants based on nominations received from universities nationwide, with only one student per university allowed.

All transportation, food and lodging are provided by Jacobsen.

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**Texas A&M AgriLife Executive Associate Director Named**  
By: Kathleen Phillips

Dr. Susan Ballabina was named executive associate director for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service during this week’s Texas A&M University System Board of Regents meeting in College Station. “Dr. Ballabina’s devotion to the AgriLife Extension mission of improving the lives of people in our state makes her a natural for this new role of helping guide the overall course of the agency,” said Dr. Doug Steele, AgriLife Extension director. “She has demonstrated excellence in every effort from the regional level to the state program level, and I look forward to her leadership at this level.”

Ballabina served as interim executive associate director since the beginning of the year to provide “leadership for the vision and goals of the agency,” Steele said. She had been associate director for program development since December 2013 and was the agency’s East Region program director in Dallas from 2005-13.

Under Steele’s directorship, Ballabina will provide leadership to support the facilitation and management of the agency budget, strategic initiatives and impact programming.

As the associate director for program development, Ballabina supervised 12 regional program leaders responsible for regional program development, agent professional development and strategic partnerships in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, family studies, nutrition, health and youth development. She also provided leadership for the Healthy South Texas Initiative.

Ballabina joined AgriLife Extension in 1994 and served as an agent in Dallas, Williamson, Cherokee and Upshur counties prior to becoming regional program director.

Among the program teams Ballabina is credited with initiating or enhancing statewide are Master Wellness Volunteer, Dinner Tonight, Weight Management Issue, Sports Nutrition and Fuel Up to Play 60.

These programs help various audiences learn ways to make healthy, affordable choices in food consumption and exercise. She has encouraged not only local educational programs but the adoption of new technology to reach larger audiences, Steele noted.

Ballabina earned her bachelor’s in home economics education in 1994 from Tarleton State University, her master’s in communications from Stephen F. Austin in 1998 and her doctorate in public affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2007.
Kay Ledbetter of Amarillo has been named Science Communicator of the Year by the Texas A&M University chapter of Sigma Xi, according to Dr. Bill Klemm, senior professor of neuroscience and Sigma Xi chairman of the award selection committee.

Ledbetter has been writing news stories about science for Texas A&M AgriLife Research since 2005. As a media relations specialist, she serves the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension centers at Amarillo and Vernon, as well as 46 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service county offices in the Panhandle and Rolling Plains and several academic departments at Texas A&M University in College Station. Her news articles appear in AgriLife Today, the news outlet for Texas A&M AgriLife, as well as in local, state, national and international publications.

The award was announced May 3 during the annual banquet for Sigma Xi, a scientific research society whose mission is “to enhance the health of the research enterprise, foster integrity in science and engineering and promote the public’s understanding of science for the purpose of improving the human condition.”

Ledbetter is assigned to 85 AgriLife Research scientist writing news articles, taking photos and producing news videos about their research. She also handles the news needs for an additional 120 AgriLife Extension professionals, who also have research and ongoing educational programs for the public.

During the past five years she has written 133 science-specific news articles, snapped more than 130 science photos and produced 36 science news videos.

One scientist with whom Ledbetter has written news articles said he “routinely includes Kay as a collaborator on research proposals to assure her efforts to assist with reporting his results in the news media.” Another researcher said, “Kay provides her readers the power to understand the problem she is describing and the options of dealing with it.”

The topics of her news articles range from water policy to climate change to healthy “designer” potatoes to landscape plants, according to the nomination.

Ledbetter graduated from Groom High School in 1979 and earned a bachelor’s in journalism from West Texas A&M University in 1982 — the same year she began her career with the Amarillo Globe-News newspaper. She has earned numerous journalism and communications awards.

Matthew Rhine has been selected as a member of the 2016 Operation Student Connection Team at the 133rd Convention of the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA).

The ASTA convention is one of the most important seed industry meetings in the world and will be held in Portland, OR, in June.

Matthew is a PhD student in our distance plant breeding program located in Malden, Missouri, at the University of Missouri Fisher Delta Research Center.

His committee chair is Dr. Wayne Smith and his distance co-chair is Dr. Grover Shannon, Professor and Soybean Breeder at the University of Missouri – Delta Center.
Agronomy Society News

In an effort to replace its outdated logo, the Texas A&M Agronomy Society held a campus-wide contest to solicit slogans and logo designs offering prizes for the winning submissions. The members present at the Society’s March business meeting.

Nineteen unique logos and several slogans were submitted by students from throughout the campus. The logo design which was preferred by an overwhelming majority of members was submitted by Ally Calandro, a sophomore in general engineering. The winning slogan, “Cultivating the Future” was submitted by Michael Lobo, a senior landscape architecture student.

Ally’s design, shown below, is now the official logo for the TAMU Agronomy Society. “It features two stalks of wheat, which associate the Agronomy Society with agriculture, and has a clean design that can be seen and recognized from a distance,” said William Peebles, contest organizer.

The logo incorporates the colors maroon and yellow. Maroon signifies the Agronomy Society’s affiliation with Texas A&M University, and yellow represents the Agronomy Society’s commitment to the 2016 Corn Maze.

The Corn Maze is a major project for the group. According to President-elect Brayden Stockton, this year there will be three one-acre sections incorporating corn and other agronomic crops. Planting will begin late in May or early June.

In April, officers were elected to serve during the upcoming school year.

Pictured are:
front row left to right: Lauren Cloud - Secretary; Brayden Stockton - President; Sydney O’Daniel - Vice-President
back row left to right: David Cottrell - Risk Management Chair; Payne Whatley - Reporter; William Peebles - Merchandise Coordinator; Matthew Wilhelm - Treasurer
The Aggie Turf Club wrapped up the spring semester with the 2nd Annual Aggie Turfgrass Open, held at Briarcrest Golf Club. Twenty-four SCSC Turfgrass Science students, faculty, and staff came out to participate in the 2-person scramble event. This year, we had a 2-way tie for 1st place (+2) between the teams of Russell Rafter/Casey Reynolds and Wes Dyer/Rodrigo Martinez.

A big thank you to Briarcrest superintendents Bobby Holt and Jacob Menn for hosting the tournament, and to Brian Cloud (GCSAA) for sponsoring a ‘closest to the pin’ contest at the tournament.

Congratulations to the three Turfgrass Science students who receive their diplomas May 13 - Rodrigo Martinez, Daniel Garza and Andrew Dunnam.

Rodrigo was selected to attend the Jacobsen Future Turfgrass Managers Seminar in North Carolina later this month.

Rainwater Harvesting Program to be held in Monahans

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer a Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters rainwater harvesting program May 17 in Ward County, said program coordinators.

The event will be from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Ward County Convention Center, 400 E. 4th St. in Monahans.

It is free and open to the public.

The program will address rainwater harvesting techniques for homeowners, local watershed hydrology and lawn and landscaping management practices, said Dr. Diane Boellstorff, AgriLife Extension water resource specialist, College Station.

“Participants will learn about the benefits of rainwater harvesting, how to build an effective system and how to improve irrigation water use efficiency for their lawns,” Boellstorff said.

For additional information, contact Boellstorff at 979-458-3562 or dboellstorff@tamu.edu.
Soils team starts Evapotranspiration study

Dr. Cristine Morgan and her team started a new field campaign this week. Gregory Rouse, who started his PhD program under Dr Morgan this spring, and a BAEN PhD student set up Eddy Flux towers in the fields at A&M Farm Services complex west of the Brazos River. They will be testing evapotranspiration as a ground truth for the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) project. The information obtained will also be used by the Texas Water Observatory.

Soil Judging Team competed in Kansas

Dr. Cristine Morgan and the Texas A&M University soils judging team drove to the University of Kansas on Saturday April 2, to compete in the National Soil Judging Contest. Twenty-three teams qualified to compete, with A&M representing Region IV along with Texas Tech and the University of Arkansas.

Team members had four days to practice on the Kansas soils prior to the individual contest Thursday, April 7. Team competition following on Friday.

The team placed 16th, and Sarah Vaughan placed 16th out of 91 contestants individually.

Sam and Michael will be returning to compete next year.

The team is appreciative of financial support from the Soil and Crop Sciences Department and from Monsanto. They also raised funds by hosting 4-H and FFA soil judging clinics at the TAMU Beef Center.

Soil Judging Team: James Lenart, Sarah Vaughan, Michael Bartmess, Sam Shroyer, Kevin Knapick

See more pictures on the next page.
This month’s Golden Housekeeping Award goes to the new Rice Genetics Lab - room 335 Heep.

According to Dr. Thomson, the new lab will enable research to investigate the genetic mechanisms underlying key traits in rice using molecular tools. Future activities in the lab will include extracting RNA for whole-genome transcriptome analysis, PCR amplification and cloning of agronomically-important genes in rice, and developing constructs and transforming rice for gene editing experiments.

The lab has recently installed standard molecular biology equipment, including a biosafety cabinet, refrigerated centrifuge, freeze dryer, PCR machines, gel imaging system, and several freezers.

Most of the activities for DNA extraction and high-throughput SNP genotyping will take place in the previously established AgriGenomics Lab on Agronomy Road.

By this fall, Thomson and Dr. Septiningsih will have 6 graduate students working in the Rice Genetics and AgriGenomics Labs as they ramp up their activities to apply the latest genetics and genomics tools for rice improvement.

Wardah Mustahsah, a MS student in Plant Breeding under Dr. Michael Thomson, works in the new lab.
In Sympathy

Dr. Page Morgan, Professor Emeritus in Plant Physiology, lost his wife of 60 years, Joyce, on April 22. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Betty Priest, at the soil testing lab, is dealing with the loss of her great-grandson. On April 24, Joshua lost his battle with cancer at the age of 3 months 24 days. Betty asks for prayers especially for Joshua’s parents, Tina and Tyler.

Please remember the family of Dr. Earl C. Gilmore, Jr., who passed away April 29. Dr. Gilmore was a wheat breeder, and resident director of the research and extension center in Vernon. He retired in 1992 after 29 years of service to the A&M system.

Concerns

Dr. Joe Dixon is still struggling to recover from heart issues for which he was hospitalized on Feb. 1. He is continuing his physical therapy at Crestview, currently still unable to walk unaided.
Calendar

May

12 - Cross Timbers Brush Management Symposium - Stephenville

13 - Commencement for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
   9:00 a.m. Reed Arena

20 - O.D. Butler Forage Field Day - Camp Cooley Ranch, Franklin, Texas

24 - Lone Star Healthy Streams Workshop, Cameron
   contact: Matt Brown @ matthew.brown@tamu.edu

June

5-8 53rd Annual Meeting of the Clay Minerals Society, Atlanta, Georgia

15 - Soil Critique Meeting - Lubbock
   contact: Katie Lewis - Katie.Lewis@ag.tamu.edu

21 - Stiles Farm Field Day - Thrall Texas

July

17-19 - Texas Turfgrass Summer Conference, Hyatt Lost Pines Resort, Bastrop

23 - Texas Seed Trade Assn - Brazos Center, Bryan, Texas