



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY

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AgriLIFE RESEARCH  
& EXTENSION  
Texas A&M System

# Department of Soil and Crop Sciences

Volume III, Issue 5



## THE AGGIE AGENDA

### *Congratulations Graduates!*

Congratulations to our spring 2009 graduates. It was a great crowd that gathered in the departmental celebration this year with family and friends of the graduates. Thanks to all for making this a highlight.

As you are aware we have been very active in the review process this past month. It has been a pleasure to review the productivity of our staff and faculty during this process. I congratulate the department as a whole for vesting in the review process with both planning and reporting. The culture of sharing how we make a difference and what more we could do is one that bodes well for the departments future.

Trips to Weslaco for annual reviews, Beeville for forage workers meeting, and Lubbock for soils critique have provided valuable interaction with numerous faculty during the past three weeks. With all open forage and soils positions filled for the first time since I arrived, there is an exciting future in place for both groups.

The faculty meeting on Wednesday June 3, at 1:30 will focus on our response to review teams reports, curriculum review, urban ecology development and budget. I look forward to these discussions along with seeing many of you at our numerous field events over the next few weeks.

*David*



## Tenure and Promotion Procedures - 2009

The promotion and tenure process will soon be initiated and the candidates should be developing packet materials to submit (see dates below).

The Departmental Promotion and Tenure Committee shall consist of all faculty in the department with the rank of Professor and Associate Professor and who hold a majority appointment with TAMU, AgriLife Research and Extension. Associate Professors will only consider and vote on candidates for promotion from Assistant to Associate professor, and shall be excused from the Committee during deliberations on candidates for promotion from Associate Professor to Professor. In tenure considerations, only faculty with higher rank or tenure will consider and vote on such promotions and vote of tenured members will be reported separately.

This process is important for retaining and rewarding faculty members who develop distinguished programs within their disciplines. It is advisable that candidates provide their packets to their mentoring committee prior to departmental submission to the Departmental Promotion and Tenure Committee so that they can be adequately and thoroughly reviewed.

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*The following schedule will be utilized and should be closely adhered to in order to meet university deadlines.*

**May 30, 2009** - Potential candidates wishing to be considered for tenure/promotion should submit their request in writing to the Department Head/Resident Director. Department Head/Resident Director and Associate Department Heads will review request with potential candidates.

**June 8, 2009** - Associate Department Heads will request specific information from the candidates (curriculum vitae, outside references, etc.). Outside letters will be requested.

**July 10, 2009** - Complete list of potential authors for letters of reference.

**July 31, 2009** - All requested documents are due to the main departmental office for review of documentation. Comments and suggestions will be relayed to the candidates prior to distribution to the committee.

**August 21, 2009** - Final packets will be distributed to Promotion and Tenure Committee.

**September 4, 2009** - Promotion and tenure committee meets to discuss candidate's packets and record votes.

**September 25, 2009** - Packets, accompanied by vote of promotion and tenure committee and unit head recommendations, forwarded to Dean/Director (date tentative).

Tenure and/or promotion represent major milestones in an individual's career. Care must be taken to ensure that the process is conducted in a fair and equitable manner.

*Please let us know if you have questions or comments regarding these procedures.*



## Golden Housekeeping Award

*Congratulations to Dr. Awika and his team for the great clean-up job they accomplished on the lab in room 423.*

*BSL-2 Approved!*

*Great Job!*



## Awards



*Congratulations to Dr. Sam Feagley on receiving the “Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Teacher Award” and the “College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Honors Professor Award”.*

Each year Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture, recognizes the teaching achievements of one faculty member within and one outside of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Student representatives from varied academic departments and disciplines within COALS, who sit on the COALS Student Council, collaborated with the Gamma Sigma Delta Executive Committee in the nomination and selection process for this year’s Outstanding Teaching Faculty Member within COALS.

The Honor Professor Award is presented by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Council to one professor each year at convocation. The award recognizes the professor who the students feel is unselfish with his or her time and devoted to undergraduate education. Dr. Feagley’s leadership of study abroad programs is legendary. Numerous students touted the trips as one of their most memorable educational experiences at Texas A&M. Dr. Feagley received a plaque and a check for \$1000 as this year’s recipient.

*Kudos!*

## Faculty Advisory Committee

The Faculty Advisory Committee of the Soil and Crop Sciences Department met for its monthly meeting on May 12th with all members participating. David Baltensperger, Travis Miller, and Wayne Smith also were present. Frank Hons was reelected as Chair of the Committee. Items discussed included a draft of a departmental endowment plan (fundraising), the departmental response to the report of the external committee that recently reviewed our academic programs (this will go to the Provost), the status of plans for the new Urban Ecosystems Center and the Soil, Water, and For-

age Testing Lab, a comprehensive review of our curriculum, faculty salaries compared with other land grants in the southern region, and an update on vacant positions.

***Committee members are Tom Cothren, Dirk Hays, Tom Hallmark, Frank Hons, Jim Muir, Larry Redmon, and Lloyd Rooney. Please contact any of us if you have questions or input concerning the above items or if you have additional issues that should be considered by the Committee.***

## Project Highlights - Corn & Grain Sorghum Hybrids

In 2009, **Dennis Pietsch**, Crop Testing Director, is focusing on the agronomic performance of corn and grain sorghum hybrids in Texas. He hopes to help farmers select hybrids that will adapt well to their areas. The right selection could increase productivity and cash flow. Dennis said, "Some corn hybrids that are evaluated in performance tests have been genetically modified. They could potentially help protect the environment by reducing the number of insecticides applied to corn."



Visit <http://varietytesting.tamu.edu> to see variety trials.

## Position Updates - See job descriptions at: <https://greatjobs.tamu.edu>

- Extension Water Quality, College Station - Diane Boellstroff Accepted
- Extension Wheat Specialist - Advertised
- Extension Agronomist, Uvalde - Advertised
- Extension Cotton Specialist, College Station - Gaylon Morgan Accepted
- Crop Stress Physiology, Amarillo - Advertised
- Sugar Cane Breeder, Weslaco - Advertised
- Turf Ecology, College Station - Developing Ad

We're on the web! <http://soilcrop.tamu.edu>

# Congratulations Graduates!



## Graduate Students

Nyland Falkenberg, PhD - AGRO  
Lynda Njongmeta, PhD - FSTC  
Jing Yu, PhD - PLBR  
Greg Berger, MS - PLBR  
Maria Gritsenko, MS - FSTC  
Herminia Salvatore, MS - SOSC

Abdul Mohammed, PhD - MEPS  
Vivek Sharma, PhD - PLBR  
Morgan Arnett, MS - SOSC  
Stephen Caster, MS - SOSC  
Frederico Ribeiro De Barros, MS - FSTC  
Yen-Hsuan Wu, MS - PLBR

## Undergraduate Students

Julie Bain, BS - AGRO  
Cody Fisseler, BS - AGRO  
Kyle Hahn, BS - AGRO  
Robby Jan, BS - AGRO  
Jeffrey Kuder, BS - AGRO  
Manuel Michel, BS - AGRO  
Amanda Pena, BS - AGRO  
Brandon Roberts, BS - AGRO  
Aaron Turner, BS - AGRO  
Caleb Warren, BS - AGRO  
Cort Winkle, BS - AGRO  
Maiko Uga, BS - PSSC

Payne Burks, BS - AGRO  
Jim Florey, JR, BS - AGRO  
Alex Hayden, BS - AGRO  
Aaron King, BS - AGRO  
Tim Merta, BS - AGRO  
Duane Nadeau, JR, BS - AGRO  
Joe Roberson, BS - AGRO  
John Taylor, BS - AGRO  
Jeffrey Van Meter, BS - AGRO  
Travis Wilson, BS - AGRO  
Ninfa Rodriguez, BS - PSSC



## New Faces



**Dr. Gaylon Morgan named as Associate Professor and State Extension Cotton Specialist -**

The department finished the interview process for the State Extension Cotton Specialist position on April 1. Following strong recommendations from the faculty search committee and the cotton industry, Dr. Gaylon Morgan has agreed to serve in that role, beginning May 1. Dr. Morgan is well known to the department, our faculty and Texas farmers and ranchers, serving in the capacity of State Extension Small Grains Specialist since January 2003. He was widely recognized for his capacity to develop an effective statewide program involving cross disciplinary teams. His successfully developed statewide uniform variety testing in small grains as well as leading efforts in weed and herbicide resistance, seed treatments, disease management, variety selection and other critical issues to small grains. We look forward to his involvement in the cotton team.

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**Dr. Diane Boellstorff is named Assistant Professor and Extension Water Resources Specialist -**

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Boellstorff to her new role in the department. She has been part of the Extension water team, working as Extension Program Specialist III under the direction of Dr. Mark McFarland, serving in that role since May, 2001 where she worked as project manager for a 13 state, 21 institution CS-REES Extension water quality team, as well collaborating with other water related educational programs supported by the team. She has a strong background in water and in developing effective Extension programs related to water at the state and regional level. She will provide Extension agents with educational support in water resources including community choices regarding long-term water resource planning through Watershed Protection Planning or TMDL analysis, a Master Well Owner Network to serve residents using drinking water wells, and by expanding the Department and AgriLife Extension's efforts to respond to community and partner agency requests for delivery, facilitation and support for watershed education, water conservation and watershed protection planning.

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**Kristen Richardson joined the Instruction office staff the end of March.** She is the first person you will meet when you come to 217 Heep and you may have enjoyed her efforts in providing refreshments for the departmental seminars. She is helping Anna provide clerical support for the classes in Soil & Crop Sciences.

Kristen graduated from Caney Creek High School in Conroe, Texas in 2003. She is married to Grant Richardson a December 2007 graduate with a B.S. in Genetics. They have been married for 1 1/2 years and live in downtown Iola where they are renovating an 80 year old home.

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We're on the web!  
<http://soilcrop.tamu.edu>



## Calendar Events

- May 27-28** Soils Critique - *Lubbock*
- May 28** Syngenta Field Day - *Farm*
- May 29** O.D. Butler Field Day - *Circle X Land & Cattle Company*
- June 3** Faculty/Staff Meeting (statewide) - *1:30pm, RM 440 (TTVN will be available)*
- June 5** PU 790 Extension Monthly Meeting - *Rm. 440, 8:30 am*
- June 16** Stiles Farm Field Day - *Thrall, TX*
- June 30** Eagle Lake Field Day - *Eagle Lake, TX*
- July 9** Beaumont Field Day - *Beaumont, TX*

# *WE'RE GROWING!*



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