



...A report to Soil & Crop Sciences Faculty by David Baltensperger



<http://soilcrop.tamu.edu> ✂ December 11, 2006

A salute to those that made our departmental review go so smoothly! It was really a powerful overview of a outstanding group that we were able to present thanks to everyone's help. I am sure that it will lead our discussions for many months to come, regarding how and where we push to become better. It was extremely helpful to me to get a better picture of how the department fits together. I have received some suggestions based on thoughts from the review or the review document and look forward to hearing others.

Congratulations to Dr. Norman Borlaug on clearing Congress as a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. This is a tremendous endorsement of the work that you have done. Also congratulations to Dr. Chandler on being named the outstanding teacher of weed science this week.

On Monday and Thursday we had candidates interviewing for the position at Uvalde and we finish up with the interviews next week. Monday was a chance to meet with the Dept. Heads council and learn a bit more about the NRC reporting for comparisons of faculty across the country. Since this is the first time ag has been included it will be important to spend some time to make sure we present ourselves well in this national effort. At the council meeting we also discussed potential improvements in the P&T process. It looks like we are moving forward to a greater share of budgeting decisions being made at the department level in the next budget cycle.

On Tuesday morning I had the opportunity to participate in the Texas Plant Protection Conference in the morning and handle a few last minute items for the review. The plant protection conference featured several of our faculty, students and former students. I was very impressed with the leadership exhibited by our scientists.

The department will be well represented at the National Turf meetings in San Diego as we are sending two teams for the quiz bowl and a total of nine students. We wish them the best as they prepare for this over the New Year!

I had an opportunity to meet on Friday with Dr. Murano and Dr. Nelson. They encouraged a second meeting with Drs. Price, Runge, Smith, and Ms. Phillips regarding a major campus event.

We also had an opportunity to meet with department heads of the faculty involved with the interdisciplinary program of food science. It sounds like we have reached agreement on a new structure for this group that will once again allow credit for students that are trained by our faculty to be accounted for.

This week, I begin Sunday evening with a report to the Board of Directors of the Texas Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show and a day of participation in the meeting at Austin. Tuesday and Wednesday I will be in Lubbock at the TX State Support Committee Project Review. As mentioned earlier, Friday we will interview the final candidate for the position at Uvalde and on Thursday I will be holding discussions on potential interaction with Horticulture and the IPGB.

David

Future Events:

- No Seminar this week
- December 11-13 - Texas Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, Austin, TX
- December 21, 6:30 to 9:00 - Open house at the Baltensperger home.
- January 10, 2007 - Annual Meeting Soil & Crop in Room 101 @1:30 pm.



OPEN HOUSE

You and your guest are invited to the home of:

Dr. & Mrs. Baltensperger

5202 Cascades Dr.

College Station, TX

Thursday, December 21, 2006

Hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served from 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

Position Updates:

Turf Breeding Position at Dallas --- Advertised
Environmental Soil Scientist at Vernon --- Advertised
Soil Clay Mineralogist at College Station --- Advertised
Extension Forage Specialist at Overton --- Advertised
Wheat Breeder at College Station --- Interviews scheduled
Extension Agronomist at Uvalde --- Interviews scheduled

If you have future events for the Aggie Agenda, please send them to Judy Young at:
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