Upcoming Blueberry Season

The blueberry season is only weeks away! Please watch for further announcements on the News and Upcoming Events section of the Agricultural Sciences web page. Also available this year will be produce and plants from the university farm.

A Fond Farewell to Graduating Agricultural Science Students

Agricultural Sciences wishes to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate the following students who are graduating this semester. We commend you for your hard work and extend to you our best wishes in all your future endeavors. We hope that you have enjoyed your experience here as much as we have enjoyed having you. Good luck and remember that you are always welcome to return and visit at any time!

Bachelor’s Degrees:

Amie Wood  
Ashley Rainey  
Barbara Ingram  
Charlotte Van Ettinger  
Chesney Dunn  
Cleborn Freeze  
Courtney Harris  
Debra McEnturff  
Decent Vaidya  
Hannah Graham  
Joseph Molina  
Joshua Bonney  
Katherine Dyess  
Kurt Jones  
Leslie Green  
Lindsey Smith  
Lucas Parr  
Megan McGuffey  
Melissa Ford  
Michael Burkard  
Michael Woodall  
Nicole Harper  
Payden Franks  
Peter Coenen  
Sara Bass  
Steven Estes  
Thomas Bailey  
Yesenia Pham

Master’s Degrees:

Ashley Armstrong  
Michael Berry  
Stephanie Herreros  
Amy Lewis  
Kasey Russell  
Courtney Pitts

Agricultural Sciences Hosts CDE Day

The Department of Agricultural Sciences hosted the annual FFA Career Development Events Day on April 11, 2012. This is the largest one-day service event and recruiting opportunity for our department. A total of 1640 FFA students from Area V and VI high schools participated in contests both individually and as teams. Career Development Events, known as CDEs help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly, and perform effectively in a competitive job market. Competition categories included Dairy Cattle, Livestock, Agricultural Mechanics, Nursery & Landscape, Floriculture, Dairy Products, Farm Business Management, Poultry and Veterinarian Science followed by an awards ceremony at Ferguson auditorium.

The event was a tremendous success due to the combined efforts of both faculty and staff with a special thanks going to Dr. Robert “Dr. Bob” Williams for his leadership in putting this event together.
Agricultural Sciences Faculty Receive Awards at Academic Affairs Spring Awards Ceremony

Dr. Jose Lopez, Dr. Robert Williams and Dr. Jim Heitholt received awards at the Academic Affairs Spring Awards Ceremony held on April 9, 2012 in the Sam Rayburn Student Center.

Dr. Lopez and Dr. Heitholt each received the 2012 Provost Award for Research and Creativity - College of Science, Engineering and Agriculture.

Dr. Lopez was also a recipient of the Spring 2011 A&M Student Recognition Award for Teaching Excellence.

Dr. Williams received The Trezzie Pressley “Ceaseless Industry” Award.

Ag Students Attend TSCRA Convention in Fort Worth

Dr. Aaron Cooper and his ANS 312 students attended the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Convention in Fort Worth on March 29. Sessions included artificial insemination and palpation, forage identification, equipment usage and equipping a ranch horse. This is the 135th year for the convention whose members gather annually to conduct business and learn about issues of the day.

Graduate Research Assistants Participate in Graduate Symposium

Graduate Research Assistants participated in the Graduate Symposium on Monday, April 23 in Sam Rayburn Student Center. Participants presented their research presentations in the form of a poster, PowerPoint or written summary.

Participants from Agricultural Sciences included Baleshka Brenes, Charle Blackburn, Lauren Ramsey Weir, Chen Cheng, Barton Day, Amy Lewis, Mirian Ortez, Camme Pearson, Kandy Rojas, Samantha Durburow and Joe Whinery.

TAMU-Commerce Equine Show Team Competes in Bluebonnet Arabian Club Open Show

Lindsey Walton, Equine Manager and the Texas A&M University-Commerce Show Team traveled to Terrell, Texas and participated in the Bluebonnet Arabian Horse Club Open Show on April 28. Congratulations on your performances!

Bluebonnet Results:

Madison Fain with Bella - 1st place in Stock Seat Walk/Jog Beginner Rider
Kaycie Heard with Gabby - 2nd place in Trail Walk/Jog Adult Rider
Shelby Bates with Sebastian - 1st place in Trail Leadline in Hand
Kaycie Heard with Wayne - 2nd place in Trail Leadline in Hand
Texas A&M University-Commerce Students Compete in State Farm Bureau Collegiate Agriculture Discussion Contest

Four students from the Department of Agricultural Sciences competed on Saturday, April 28, in the Farm Bureau Collegiate Agriculture Discussion state contest in Waco. Michelle Aguilar-Agribusiness major from Mineola, Brandon Boerner-Agribusiness major from Pilot Point, Bill Dufrene-Animal Science major from Sulphur Bluff, and Jerome Jones-Agricultural Science & Technology major from Lancaster competed in the event. Students from several universities and community colleges competed in the contests that are similar to the roundtable discussion format used in news talk shows, with 4-5 persons in each round of discussion. The contest is intended to help students develop their interpersonal communication and leadership skills while becoming more familiar with current agricultural issues.

Horticulture Club Assists in Greenhouse Project

Students from the Horticulture Club and the Plant Propagation class helped Dr. David Crenshaw, former Agricultural Sciences Department Head, erect a greenhouse on his property just south of Commerce. The greenhouse is a 12 x 16, A-frame house that was ordered and shipped ready to assemble. The students were surprised by the vast array and number of small screws and parts that could be used to build a greenhouse.

The students were led by Dr. Derald Harp and Mr. Cleborn Freeze, who worked tirelessly to make sure the building was square, snug, and built the way it was supposed to be.

We hope Dr. Crenshaw enjoys his new greenhouse!

2011-2012 Faculty and Staff Changes

The past school year has seen several personnel changes in Agricultural Sciences. The department extends a warm welcome and congratulations to all of you.

Dr. Aaron Cooper joined the department as the new Assistant Professor of Animal Science in September of 2011 after completing his Doctorate’s degree at Texas A&M University – College Station in August, 2011.

Erin Fortenberry is the new Greenhouse Manager and lecturer in Agricultural Sciences this semester. Erin completed her B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Sciences at TAMU-Commerce. Erin started her career with the university as an Academic Advisor and Success Coach before joining the department.

Chris Ellason was hired as Farm Manager in 2011 while continuing his job as a lecturer. Chris joined the university in 2007 after completing his B.S. and M.S. degrees here at TAMU-Commerce.

Lindsey Walton was recently named Equine Manager and remains a lecturer, too. She began working for the university as a farm technician and lecturer after completing her undergraduate and graduate studies at TAMU-Commerce in 2007.

Kay Parrish became the Departmental Secretary in November 2011, replacing Kathy Hoskison who retired after 24 years of service with the department.

Rick Terrell, Research Technician, retired in January, 2011.

David Hooper, Farm Technician, retired in January, 2012.
The Department of Agricultural Sciences, in conjunction with the Texas Agri-Life Extension Service and the Hopkins County Professional Agricultural Workers Association, is in the second year of a three year USDA grant that is funding a beginning farmer and rancher development program. The program, named Breaking Barriers, provides community-based workshops on agriculture and agribusiness, specifically for the Hispanic farming community of northeast Texas.

**Dr. Robert Williams**, Associate Professor of Agricultural and Family Education is Project Director and is supported by individuals who have strong agricultural and Hispanic backgrounds:

**Dr. Teresa Duch-Carvallo** is an Extension Associate responsible for the development and scientific/technical editing of documents such as fact sheets, questionnaires, presentation, and other training materials requiring translation from English to Spanish (and in some cases, Spanish to English).

**Dr. Jose Lopez**, Assistant Professor of Agribusiness, helps with coordinating, occasionally delivering seminars and ensuring that the Spanish materials used by Breaking Barriers are technically accurate.

**Dr. Curtis Jones**, an Extension Agronomist with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service provides crop science background on the project.

**Paulette Aguilar**, an Extension Associate oversees program promotion, recruitment, and community-based engagement.

**Baleshka Brenes, Kandy Rojas** and **Mirian Ortez**, three bilingual graduate assistants with degrees in Agriculture from Zamorano Agricultural University in Honduras, assist in delivering seminars, recruiting participants and developing instructional materials into Spanish.

**Janis Cirkles**, the administrative assistant for the project and **Roxanna Alvarado**, a senior liberal studies major at A&M-Commerce, are also key members of the team.

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**Faculty/Lecturers**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Aaron Cooper</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Animal Science</td>
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<td>Chris Ellason</td>
<td>Farm Manager, Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erin Fortenberry</td>
<td>Greenhouse Manager, Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Derald Harp</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Horticulture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Jim Heitholt</td>
<td>Department Head &amp; Crop Physiologist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Curtis Jones</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Agronomy</td>
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<td>Dr. Robert Williams</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Agric. Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paulette Aguilar</td>
<td>Ext. Assoc./Breaking Barriers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Braley</td>
<td>Research Technician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janis Cirkles</td>
<td>Admin. Asst./Breaking Barriers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teresa Duch-Carvallo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danny O’Neal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kay Parrish</td>
<td>Department Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toby Reeves</td>
<td>Farm Technician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Stewart</td>
<td>Research Technician</td>
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