



The AgriBulletin

Volume 5, April 2007
Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences



A bi-monthly effort to communicate the activities of faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences, this month's issue highlights activities from February and March.

Biofuels Research Receives Boost

- ✓ Once again the Bio-Diesel Research Initiative has been blessed. The program has been awarded a \$5,000 donation from the Parten Foundation of Houston, Texas. Joe Muller and Doug Kingman are excited about the mounting support that the program is receiving. The money will likely be used to supplement the project's fuel storage and handling capacity, as well as support undergraduate student wages. In addition to the over \$10,000 in donations and in-kind contributions, a sophisticated engine power output monitoring device worth \$19,600 was also added. Besides establishing SHSU as a leader in the area of alternative fuels, the project has enhanced and increased the experiential learning opportunities of the students. Muller and Kingman continue to seek further funds to complete the construction of the bio-diesel research facility, purchase more laboratory equipment, and employ undergraduate student researchers.

Delta Tau Alpha Inducts New Members

- ✓ The SHSU chapter of Delta Tau Alpha, the national agricultural honor society, inducted 26 new members on March 5th. Membership is by invitation only, with initial qualification based on several criteria, including: top 35% of the University class, minimum 3.0 GPA, at least 45 total hours completed, at least 12 hours in agriculture courses completed, and at least one full semester completed at SHSU. Members who pursue a career with the federal government begin two pay grades higher than other college graduates, with a nearly \$7,000 higher starting salary.



Agricultural Mechanization Plays Vital Roles at Houston Livestock Show

- ✓ Doug Kingman, Joe Muller, and approximately 15 students from the Agricultural Mechanization Club fulfilled various, yet prominent roles at the 2007 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Kingman and Muller served as assistant superintendents and helped conduct the Agricultural Mechanics Project Show in addition to the Tractor Technician Contest. This year over 400 projects were displayed and judged.

Hort/Crop Science Club Has Strong Showing at National Competition

- ✓ Ten members of the Horticulture and Crop Science Club traveled to Lansing, Michigan on March 28th to participate in a landscape industry competition. The competition was sponsored by PLANET (professional landcare network) and approximately 700 college students from across the nation participated. Each student received points in their events based on their placing. In individual point totals, Sean Radabaugh, SHSU junior from Cleveland, ranked 5th in total points out of nearly 700 students at the end of the competition. In the leadership skills event, Lauren Birdsong, a junior from Aubrey, finished 1st. This was a successful event for students to demonstrate their skills, learn more about the landscape industry, and network with others.

National Convention for DTA a Success

- ✓ Four members of Delta Tau Alpha attended the organization's annual national convention on March 22-25 in Richmond, Kentucky. Held at Eastern Kentucky University, attendees participated in business sessions, the Ag Quiz Bowl, election procedures, and social activities. Jordan Kiker (junior Agricultural Mechanization major from Winnie) was elected national vice president, southern region, succeeding fellow SHSU student Chase Kizziah (senior Agricultural Mechanization major from Richmond). Kiker teamed with Staci Vincent (senior Animal Science major/pre-vet option from Dale) and Tracy Mallett (sophomore Agricultural Business major from Houston) to advance to the semi-finals in the Ag Quiz Bowl.



Multiple Faculty Members Present Research Internationally

- ✓ Four faculty members presented research at two conferences held March 26-29 in Mazatlan, Mexico. The international conferences included authors from 121 institutions and 21 countries. Departmental faculty member participation in the International Applied Business Research Conference included the following presentations:
 - *Texas Public School Nutrition Program Menu Analysis: Assessment and Effectiveness* – Marcy Beverly, Roger Hanagriff, Tim Murphy
 - *A Descriptive Review of U. S. Branded Beef Companies and Their Degree of Involvement in the Supply Chain: Preliminary Results* – Roger Hanagriff, Marcy Beverly, Stanley Kelley
 - *Administrator Perceptions of the Effectiveness of Career and Technology Student Organizations* – Dwayne Pavelock, Doug Ullrich, Ben Shaw, Roger Hanagriff
 - *Determining Factors Affecting Demand for Branded Beef: Applying a Logit Model to 2004 Neilson Home-Scan Data* – Steve Martinez, Roger Hanagriff, Michael Lau, Michael Harris
 - *Assessment and Effectiveness of the Square Meals Educational Materials Program* – Marcy Beverly, Roger Hanagriff, Sara Rogers
- ✓ The College Teaching and Learning Research Conference also contained faculty research presentations as follows:
 - *Development of a New Curriculum: An Equine Science Minor at Sam Houston State University* – Matt McMillan, Marcy Beverly
 - *Academic Success and Higher Education Readiness of Career and Technical Education Students* – Dwayne Pavelock, Doug Ullrich, Ben Shaw, Roger Hanagriff

Gibbs Ranch Plays Prominent Role in Department

- ✓ North of Huntsville on State Highway 75, the SHSU Gibbs Ranch is a sprawling 1730 acres that serves the Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences in various capacities. It is a fully functional agricultural operation and a site for laboratory learning and research. Recently, a largemouth bass management program was established in two ponds. Pine production is found on 180 acres. The ranch is also used for forage crop and hay baling systems research projects. Plots established at the ranch also provided important data for a recent departmental master's thesis, completed by Sajeewa Amaradasa. The most recent deer census conducted by the Game Animal Production class and graduate students found there were approximately 77 white tailed deer; 52 different bird species were also identified. Animal agriculture is also visible in the three horses, 23 meat goats, and beef cattle production that includes a total of 251 head:
 - Registered Angus = 8 bulls, 50 cows, and 16 heifers
 - Registered Brangus = 1 bull, 20 cows, and 7 heifers
 - Crossbred Cattle = 1 bull, 119 cows, and 29 heifers