

MINUTES
Departmental Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2016
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
129 AGLS

1. 2:00 – 2:15 Welcome/Announcements/Bus Recognition **(A)** Elliot
- ❖ Years of Service Pin – Will be held until recipient is available.
 - ❖ Howdy Farm Advisory Board - Sharon Wagner will serve as our representative.
 - ❖ Dr. Strong introduced the new IT person, Zack Nelson
 - ❖ Dr. Elliot distributed two information sheets dealing with the upcoming OMEGA II conference. The housing list will familiarize everyone where participants are coming in from. There are four scheduled seminars which are open to all. He thanked Elke for organizing and planning this meeting. He also thanks all student workers and staff who assisted her as needed.
 - ❖ Note was made of the many awards taken by our faculty and graduate students during the recent AAAE Conference in San Antonio. See **A, e and f** for a list of those recipients.
 - ❖ Also make note in **A, 3-e-i-v** of the latest five grants to be funded.
 - ❖ Dr. Dunsford announced that there were 193 shifts for interns at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. She has been busy conducting interviews to fill these spots. She is also working with Animal Science in assisting 100 of their students looking to be interns. Changes this year are that a fingerprint login will be implemented. She thanked Kristina Beevers for being a tremendous help. Dr. Archer will be replacing Dr. Starr.
 - ❖ Bring your bus/van/truck/wrecker:
 - Briers
 - Prather and Homeyer
 - Fulton to IT Search Committee
 - Cadena to Boggus
 - Edney
 - Hanagriff to Dunsford
 - Homeyer to McCorkle
 - Stavinoha to Beevers/Turner
 - Bauer to Fulton
2. 2:15 – 2:30 Sponsored Research Services Lois Swanick/Kay Keefer
- Tanya introduced Kay Keefer. She is a Senior Proposal Administrator II with Texas AgriLife. Kay covered important dates to remember and to contact her with any questions as soon as you start work on a grant. She acknowledged that the budget was probably the hardest part to complete. There are 130 proposals going out next week. Kay's specialty is pre-awards. She also noted that the difference between submitting through TAMU or AgriLife is that TAMU requires time and effort, AgriLife does not.
- Dr. Elliot reminded faculty to keep Tanya in the loop from the very beginning of grant planning.
3. 2:30 - 2:35 Update on Alumni Relations/Development Kujawski
- Jenna announced that both Boards are full now. Bucky Lamb resigned and his spot was filled with Brent Gattis. Mr. Gattis works in DC and is very excited about joining the group.
- For the upcoming Board meeting, 16 of the 24 Board members will be attending. Several will be bringing their spouses. Faculty and staff are not only invited, but

encouraged to attend the dinner at 5:30 on Thursday, April 7th in 129 AGLS. In order to order food, please let Jenna know if you plan to attend.

Dr. Elliot applauded Jenna on her monthly newsletter. She is doing an amazing job and receiving lots of positive feedback.

4. 2:35 – 2:40 2016 ALEC Departmental Review Report Elliot/Associate Heads
Very positive review.

5. 2:40 – 2:45 ALEC Academic Program Review Elliot/King
The External Review Team Nominee list was submitted to the Academic Review Program Office two weeks ago.

6. 2:45 – 2:50 IT Updates Nelson
Zack reintroduced himself. He commented that he was working on getting all “assistance needed” calls responded to. Server issues, however, have to be his priority for the immediate future.

Megan made available the Social Media Analytics sheet **(B)**.

7. 2:50 – 2:55 DE Opportunities Elliot/Fulton
See Graduate Associate Head report **(E)**. Dr. Doerfert is no longer TTU Program Coordinator for the Doc At A Distance program. Dr. Scott Burris has assumed his position.

The Distance Education Committee is composed of the following members: Elliot, Strong (R), Harlin, Murphrey, and Shackelford. Their purpose was to discuss and explore distance education opportunities across international countries. Clarice has created a one page flyer providing current and future opportunities for faculty to use to advertise these options. Dr. Elliot has a planned trip to Taiwan and will share with those he meets with.

8. 2:55– 3:00 AGSS Update McCorkle
Having a great year so far. Kelby said that he hasn’t been able to visit all new graduate students but was still working on it. AGSS will once again participate in the BIG EVENT. The next Professional Development lunch is next Friday.

9. 3:00 – 3:15 Associate Head Reports Rutherford/Murphy/Cummings
Extension. See **(C)**. Dr. Cummings reported that the unit was undergoing some reorganization. He also noted that there are multiple new faces, six student workers have been hired. The unit also has a COE intern, Collin Murray. He will graduate in the Spring with a degree in Human Resource Development. He will be on board for 13 weeks.

Undergraduate. See **(D)**. Upcoming academic deadlines:

- Reading Day – no classes, March 25
- Pre-registration for summer and fall 2016, April 7-22, 2016
- Q-drop deadline, April 19
- May 2, May 3 (Friday classes) – No course exams, except lab and one hour courses.

Graduate. See **(E)**

Travel Request Form Deadlines

Domestic (30 days prior to trip): e.g., travel April 1, 2016 due by March 1, 2016
International (60 days prior to trip): e.g., travel May 1, 2016 due by March 1, 2016

Upcoming Events

Southern Region AAAE, February 5-9, 2016, San Antonio
OMEGA II on campus, February 16-19
ALEC APR, April 2-5, 2017
Competence 2016 Wageningen, The Netherlands, October 19-21, 2016

Upcoming Departmental Meetings

(All meetings in 129 AGLS)

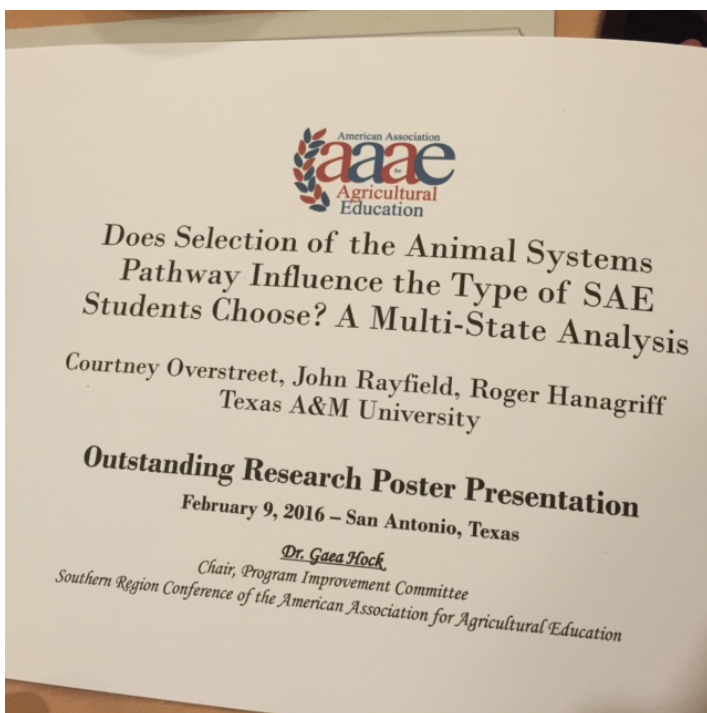
March 9 @ 9:00 am
April 12 @ 2:00 pm
May 4 @ 9:00 am

ALEC Departmental Meeting
February 11, 2016

1. Congratulations, Thank You, and Welcome
 - a. Welcome to **Zak Nelson** as our new IT associate.
 - b. Congratulations to **Dr. Kirk Edney** for his acceptance to participate in the 2016 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Critical Thinking Academy.
 - c. Special thanks to **Drs. Lombardini, Harlin, Dooley, Piña, Strong and Strong, Dromgoole, Briers, Lindner, Mazurkiewicz, Rutherford, Dunsford, and Kevin Andrews, Vidya Patil, and Kasee Smith**, for graciously opening their homes to OMEGA II participants.
 - d. A giant OMEGA II thank you to:
 - i. **Elke Aquilar** for organizing and coordinating OMEGA II.
 - ii. **Aggie Repts** and **AGSS** for providing drivers.
 - iii. **Student Workers, Charlene, Jamie, Elke, and Debbie** for assisting with setup and cleanup.
 - e. Congratulations to **Dr. John Rayfield** as recipient of the Distinguished Research Award, and **Dr. Tim Murphy** of the Distinguished Teaching Award at the AAAE Southern Region conference in San Antonio
 - f. **Dr. John Rayfield, Dr. Roger Hanagriff and Courtney Overstreet** received Outstanding Research Poster, **Dr. Tracy Rutherford, Dr. Holli Leggette, and Brooke Prather** received Outstanding Innovative Poster at the AAAE Southern Region / SAAS-Ag Comm conference in San Antonio
2. Publications/Presentations
 - a. **Odom, S. F., Burbank, M., & Reed, D. W.** (accepted for publication). An examination of a graduate learning community in a college of agriculture. NACTA Journal.
 - b. Grabsch, D., & **Odom, S. F.** (2015). Outcomes from a dialogue about diversity in a graduate learning community. Poster accepted for the Campus Climate Conference, Texas A&M University.
 - c. **Leggette, H. R., Hall, T., & Murphrey, T. P.** (2016). A photovoice process exploring Indonesian journalists' perceptions of biotechnology in United States agriculture. Oral presentation at the meeting of the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education, Portland, OR.
 - d. **Leggette, H. R., Jarvis, H., & Redwine, T.** (2016, February). Teaching social media concepts with the industry in mind. Poster presented at the meeting of Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists, Agricultural Communications, San Antonio, TX.
 - e. **Prather, B., Leggette, H. R., & Hall, D.** (2016, February). Exploring students' identity development in a major writing assignment. Poster presented at the meeting of Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists, Agricultural Communications, San Antonio, TX. Note: Awarded Outstanding Innovative Poster.
 - f. **Leggette, H. R., Hall, T., & Murphrey, T. P.** (2016, April). A process of educating international journalists: A tour of biotechnology in U.S. agriculture. Poster presented at the meeting of the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education, Portland, OR.
 - g. **Karyssa Zavala's** paper was accepted to be presented at the SHSU-Universality of Global Education Issues Conference. **Shiva Thompson's** paper was also accepted to be presented at this conference.
 - h. **David Walther's** paper "What does Mom Think? Parent Opinions of Study Abroad" has been accepted for presentation at the 2016 AIAEE Conference to be held April 4 - 8 in Portland, Oregon
 - i. **Ashley Stewart's** two papers have been accepted for presentation at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois to be held on May 17-21, 2016.
 - j. A manuscript titled, "Leadership Mindsets of First-Year Undergraduate Students: An Assessment of a Leadership-Themed Living Learning Community" by **Dr. Summer Odom, Dr. Lori Moore, and Allison Dunn** has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Leadership Education.

AAAE Southern Region/ SAAS-Ag Comm:

- k. Teaching Social Media Concepts with the Industry in Mind. **Holli Leggette, Holly Jarvis, and Tobin Redwine**. Research Poster
 - l. Exploring Students' Identity Development in a Major Writing Assignment. **Brooke Prather, Holli Leggette, and Dajonna Hall**. Research Poster
 - m. Student Teaching Changed Me: A Look at Kolb's Learning Style Inventory Scores Before and After the Student Teaching Experience. **Kasee Smith, John Rayfield**. Presentation
 - n. National FFA's Brand through the Eyes of Its Members: A Content Analysis. **Jackie Hill, Victor Salazar, Tracy Rutherford**. Presentation
 - o. Lessons Learned: Describing the Preservice Preparation Experiences of Early-Career Award-Winning Agricultural Educators. **Lockie R. Breeding, John Rayfield, Kasee Smith**. Presentation
3. Grant Management 101(should provide 3 out of 4 of these to the Department – meaning faculty become managers or facilitators of the grants).
- a. Salary Savings (100% to Department [50% - Department] and PIs [50%] – restricted discretionary)
 - b. Indirect (40% to be split 60/40 between Department and PIs - discretionary)
 - c. Personnel (project director, support staff, GTAs, etc.)
 - d. Operations (e.g., travel, supplies, copying, printing, etc.)
 - e. Funded:
 - i. Odom, S. F., Rangel-Posada, J., Rutherford, T., & Strong, R. (2015). Developing critical thinking by implementing concepts from biomimicry into a leadership course. PESCA grant accepted. \$24,998.50
 - ii. CTA Development Grant Award. Barry Boyd. \$975
 - iii. Neuhaus-Shepardson Grant. Tracy Rutherford. \$2000
 - iv. Neuhaus-Shepardson Grant. Summer Odom. \$2000
 - v. ALEC Travel Funds. Courtney Overstreet, Brooke Prather, Dajonna Hall, Michael Burbank, Kasee Smith, Jackie Hill. \$750 each
 - vi.
4. Dutch treat lunch with Dr. E. – Contact Debbie King to schedule and leave a contact number (for rescheduling): February 26, 29; March 1, 9, 10, 11, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30; April 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 25, 27, 28, 29



ANALYTICS



FOLLOWERS

1830
↑ 29

334
↑ 25

341
↑ 19

REACH

483/Post

100 Total Likes*

49/day

*Instagram currently does not have analytics on reach



GOALS




Increase likes and shares

Create monthly competitions

Post daily on Facebook and 2-3x weekly on Instagram & Twitter

TWITTER

Tweet activity X



ALEC @ALECaggies
Welcome back, Aggies! Here's to a great semester! #ALECaggies #springshare
[pic.twitter.com/WpPhQBzOk](https://t.co/WpPhQBzOk)

Promote your Tweet
Your Tweet has 9 total engagements so far. Get more engagements on this Tweet!

Get started

Impressions 440

Total engagements 9

Media engagements 3

Retweets 2

Likes 2

Profile clicks 2

INSTAGRAM



29 Likes

ab_70D1_courtesyagencies evylef_comp_team_sarah_mansuethan

2 Comments

Good times! Safe travels to our group headed to PDI!

Not a caption

Last year, ACT visited Florida to attend the National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow Professional Development Conference. This year, they are learning to deliver in OK. Have fun! #BAALEC #ALI Caggies #readincomm #readinC #ACT

FACEBOOK

Post Details

TAMU Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications
Published by Megan Halmeyer January 23 at 11:00am

The presidents of HELPS International, along with two senior agricultural students shared how they prepare international development students to be effective leaders in Guatemala with ALED 341 students by rooming.



1,684 people reacted

47 Likes, 4 Comments, 5 Shares

45 Likes: 18 OK Papp, 33 Chryssina

8 Comments: 10 Da Pede, 10 Da Alpha

2 Shares: 1 Da Pede, 1 Da Alpha

120 Post Comments: 88 Public Open, 11 Not Public, 78 Clear Choice

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Miss Post, 0 Miss All Posts

0 Report as Spam, 0 Unhide Page

Like Comment Share

2015
ALEC Extension Highlights
ALEC

Key Accomplishments

TexasPlanning and TexasReporting Modules – Both modules were released and fully functional in 2015. Since the release, several updates and upgrades have been made to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the system.

TexasInfo Module – TexasInfo module was released in 2015. This module provides the mechanism to retrieve reports from both TexasPlanning and TexasReporting. To date, the following reports are available on the system:

- **LBB Report** – Provides filtered data to submit the quarterly LBB report to the state.
- **TexasReporting Data** – Provides full retrieval of all data in the TexasReporting module. Data can be filtered by state, region, district, unit, and individual. In addition, program area data can be filtered.
- **Individual Performance Report** – This retrieval provides comprehensive data on an individual's reports and data reach. This tool provides data for performance reviews and tracking of individual performance.
- **Compliance Report** – This retrieval is used by central leadership to track reporting compliance.
- **Plan Summary Retrieval** – This retrieval allows for the searching and downloading of plan summaries entered into the TexasPlanning module.

TexasData Portal Help – A key aspect of the unit's service to the agency is providing assistance with the TexasData portal. In 2015, we provided the following assistance:

- Phone Calls – 482
- Email/FirstCall Tickets – 750
- Lync Calls – 425
- LiveChat Sessions – 559

Program Excellence Academy Sessions – The Program Excellence Academy is an in-depth training course designed to enhance the competency of Agents in Program Development. The course is a two-part, nine-day event that covers all phases and steps of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Development Model. Program Excellence Academy sessions were held in April (75 participants) and November (96 participants) of 2015. In addition, an academy for specialists (15 participants) was also held in November.

Customer Satisfaction Reporting – Customer satisfaction reporting in a state required annual performance measure. Fifty-one (51) randomly selected counties are required to submit customer satisfaction results for FY15. A county satisfies the requirement for the fiscal year when an agent uses one of the agency's official forms for collecting customer satisfaction data for at least one program event in the fiscal year and submits the forms to Organizational Development for

ALEC Teaching Accomplishments – 2015

Programmatic accomplishments

New Hires

Faculty: Tobin Redwine, AGCJ
Senior Lecturer: Erica Bobbitt, ALED
Advisors: David Turner, ALED, Kristina Beevers, AGCJ, Adolfo Cadena, AGSC

High Impact Experiences

- Study Abroad
 - Six study abroad trips were led by ALEC faculty: Costa Rica, Brazil, Greece, Guatemala (Spring Break), Namibia, and Poland serving 58 students.
 - The department, through HIE allocation, provided \$90,000 in student support.
 - A three year USDA-NIFA grant supports the partnership of ALEC and PVAMU in the Namibia study abroad to increase study abroad participation by underrepresented groups while increased collaboration between TAMU and PVAMU. Program emphasis is on development of career competencies with a global perspective.
- Study Away
 - 16 students from six majors in the college participated in a 10-day study away, traveling from College Station through Oklahoma to Kentucky returning through Tennessee and Arkansas; visited Amish communities, National FFA Convention, Monsanto, and Oklahoma State University.
 - 11 students from six majors in the college participated in a 6-day study away, camping at Davis Mountains State Park and Big Bend Ranch returning through Austin in collaboration with Texas Parks & Wildlife. Students engaged in photo and video shoots and used post production software through the development of a documentary film and a photo repository for Texas Parks & Wildlife.
 - 7 graduate students in a course that concentrates on learning about institutions serving agriculture in developing nations met with 12 different organizations that conduct international development programs over a five-day period in Washington, D.C.
- Undergraduate Research
 - Thirty-six ALEC (AGCJ, ALED, and AGSC) undergraduates enrolled in undergraduate research in four cohorts. Two cohorts (18 students) participated in a two-semester research sequence that began or culminated with data collection in three western states (California, Oregon, Washington) during a high-impact field research experience. As an outcome of undergraduate research, seven students participated in the Undergraduate Research Scholars program (3 completed in spring 2015, four will complete during the spring 2016 semester). One undergraduate has collaborated with instructors to have two research abstracts accepted for presentation to the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI) Spring 2016.
- Capstone courses and projects
 - 35 undergraduate students and 4 master's students were placed in 35 cooperating student teaching centers across Texas.
 - 120 undergraduate students participated in internships. Internships included Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy, Country Radio Seminar, Marvel Comics, Professional Bull Riders, Cargill, HEB, Sewell Automotive, Target, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, FAO-Rome, National Finals Rodeo and many more.
 - High Impact Experiences served as capstone projects in several courses, which included trainings at federal prison in Bryan, Christmas angels, Padre Island rehabilitation, and residence life.
 - Development of Fusion FM Radio, a communication and education partnership with ALEC and Bryan Broadcasting. Advising role with TAMU student radio station KANM.

Faculty Recognitions

- Dr. Jennifer Strong – USDA Regional New Teacher Excellence Award,
- Dr. Glen Shinn – AIAEE Senior Fellows.
- Dr. Julie Harlin – 2015 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean's Outstanding Achievement Award in the Teaching category

processing. FY15 final totals are in the table below.

Required counties reporting (of 51)	Non-required counties reporting (of 203)	Number forms processed	Customer Satisfaction Index	Overall satisfaction with activity	% anticipating economic benefit (as program goal)	% anticipating economic benefit (all programs)
41	10	12,189	4.65	4.59	68.0%	67.6%

Customer satisfaction results, aggregated to agency level, are reported to the state via the LBB as a mandated performance measure for the agency including the customer satisfaction index – an aggregation of 6 individual customer satisfaction measures using required counties only. The index thus far for FY15 is 4.65 (out of 5.0 possible), higher than FY14’s final result (4.61).

Scanning Services – One function of the unit is to provide survey scanning services for Extension personnel. In 2015, 1,601 sets of surveys were scanned representing 57,978 surveys. These surveys represented evidence of program value for personnel in all program areas.

Extension Career Intern Training and Education (EXCITE) Program – Research shows that college students involved in meaningful internship opportunities with Extension significantly increases the chance that they will stay in that career field after graduation. In 2015 there were 27 paid interns. The fundamental elements that were developed in 2015 are as follows:

1. Host county experiential learning on a day-to-day basis in County Extension offices.
2. A weekly blog that provides information about Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and encourages thought provoking interaction with the intern’s mentor/host agent.
3. A journal kept by each intern that enhances engagement in the learning process.
4. An EXCITE Conference in College Station that provides information about Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Preparing Students for 21st Century Careers through Educational Engagement with the Roscoe Collegiate School District – The STEM Agricultural Research Center is part of is a 30,000 square foot state of the art facility. This facility offers students an opportunity to experience age-appropriate STEM program in the agricultural field. Work on agricultural research has already begun through an Texas AgriLife Extension initiative that focuses on experimental learning activities to support STEM education in the classroom.

The success of this program is predicated on collaboration with other Institutions of higher education in Texas. Some of the other colleges and universities that are actively involved with this program include Texas A&M, Texas Tech University, Angelo State University, Western Texas College, and other regional colleges and universities.

This project began in 2012 and the following are impacts related to county 4-H enrollment when comparing enrollment prior to 2011/2012.

- Total enrollment increased 176%.
- White enrollment increased 131%.
- Minority enrollment increased 247%

- Dr. Tobin Redwine - 2015 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean's Outstanding Achievement Award in the Advising category
- Dr. John Rayfield – Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award –College Level Teaching
- **Two** Neuhaus/Shepardson Faculty Development Grants - \$2,335
- Dr. Jack Elliot – 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award at The Ohio State University
- Dr. Tim Murphy – Southeastern Conference (SEC) Faculty Travel Grant Program Award
- Dr. Gary Briers – Chancellor's Academy of Teacher Educators
- Dr. John Rayfield – Selected for the *Paper Review and Submission Manager* position by the AAAE Board of Directors
- Dr. Lori Moore – Robin Orr Outstanding Practitioner Award for the Association of Leadership Educators
- Dr. Robert Strong – Managing Editor of the Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education
- Dr. Theresa Murphrey – Service Award at the AIAEE annual conference
- Dr. Glen Shinn – Leadership Award at the AIAEE annual conference
- Dr. Robert Strong – Fellow award at the AIAEE annual conference
- Dr. Kim Dooley – AAAE Fellow Award
- Dr. Alvin Larke – AAAE Honorary Life Membership Award
- Dr. Robert Strong – AAAE Outstanding Early Career Award

Undergraduate Programs

(Fall 2015: 1,262, +3.1% students, Fall 2014: 1,224 students)

Agricultural Science (151 flat%)

- 12 AGSC Students participated as judge's assistants at the 2015 HLSR Ag Mechanics Project Show. They assisted with unloading and setting up agricultural mechanics projects, interviewing high school students and their teachers, and assisting the judges with the Ag Mechanics Project Show.
- 35 undergraduate students and 4 master's students were recommended for certification in Texas as a teacher of agricultural science and technology for grades 7-12.

Agricultural Communications & Journalism (244, -11%; 16 minors)

- AGCJ faculty involved in two media training workshops: Texas AgriLife Extension New Agent training.
- 4 undergraduates collaborated with two faculty members and a graduate student to complete a needs assessment for Country Radio Broadcasters (CRB), a national organization for music industry professionals in Nashville, TN.
- 1 undergraduate collaborated with a graduate student to present the findings of a multi-state research project (conducted by thirteen undergraduate researchers in five southwestern states during 2014) to NIFA's WERA 1010 in Tucson, Arizona.
- 23 undergraduates worked with industry partner, Rodeo Austin, to collect economic impact data in a randomized experiment conducted over a two-week period. Face-to-face data collection resulted in over 1,500 responses.
- 2 undergraduates and three graduate students presented results of a multi-state research project at the national meeting in Madison, WI.
- 23 undergraduates collaborated with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to collect professional development needs assessment data during the fall semester.
- 46 AGCJ students enrolled in an undergraduate research course. As an outcome of the research course, seven students are participating in the Undergraduate Research Scholars. One undergraduate has collaborated with instructors to have two research abstracts accepted for presentation to the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI) Spring 2016.

Agricultural Leadership Development (484, -10%; 82 minors) University Studies-Leadership (280, +7%)

- HLSR - \$5,000 to support the service-learning project of the Dr. Joe Leadership Fellows Additional private funds secured (\$30,000). Government officials, private business owners, philanthropic developers, and noted professors have served as program speakers.

International Agricultural Development Minor (5)

Extension Education Minor

- Officially begins Fall 2016, currently recruiting students

**Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications (ALEC)
Research/Scholarship Accomplishments - 2015**

Productivity

The faculty in ALEC collectively published 35 refereed research publications in leading journals. Our graduate research is most often communicated through conference proceedings and posters. The department faculty reported publishing 67 conference proceedings, 67 refereed posters and abstracts, and 55 other scholarly publications.

Grants, Contracts, and Funding

ALEC faculty reported developing 62 grant proposals for state and local grants and contracts in 2015. There were 37 funded projects awarded to faculty in ALEC, with a total value of \$3,478,257 in 2015. Many funded projects in our department do not fit the norm for reporting. Examples include: In 2015 we applied for renewal of a TEA Grant that has generated approximately \$340,000/year. The multi-year curriculum-development project with Lincoln Electric expended over \$350,000 in 2015.

The department, as a whole, is clearly increasing its focus on pursuing external funding through grants and contracts as a proportion of our effort. As grant funding becomes increasingly competitive, we continue to expand our search for alternative sources of funding including contracts and development initiatives. Increases in industry and commodity funding, internal grants, gifts, and fee based funding are noted in our Research Spreadsheet.

Notable Initiatives

ALEC had 7 Texas A&M University **Undergraduate Research Scholars** and a total of 36 students who were involved in undergraduate research.

Samantha Alvis, Ph.D student in ALEC, completed Class #7 of the **Leland International Hunger Fellows Program**, sponsored by the Congressional Hunger Center. Samantha spent a year at **Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania** with the Innovative Agriculture Research Initiative (iAGRI), run by Ohio State University. Samantha was hired by **APLU as their Assistant Director for International Development and Programs** where she continues to advocate for the role of higher education in development. She plans to complete her Ph.D. in 2016.

Ian Sprouse, Dr. Tim Murphy's 2014 Undergraduate Research Scholar, graduated and spent the Fall working with the **FAO in Rome, Italy**. Ian was assigned to the Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES), a part of the food chain crisis network. His focus was on animal health issues, specifically transboundary diseases (TBD) affecting wildlife and livestock. Ian has been assigned to **US Embassy in Banjul, The Gambia** for the Spring of 2016.

Dr. Tim Murphy completed a national welding education curriculum development project with Lincoln Electric, with the potential to complement the ongoing development initiatives seeking funding for the "STEM Integration" facility. Tim continues to serve on the Classroom Teacher Standards Advisory Committee of the **State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC)**.

ALEC faculty organizing the research for the **2015 MANRRS National Meeting** and hosted the **2015 National AAAE Conference** in San Antonio, TX. The **2016 Southern Region AAAE Conference**, held in conjunction with SAAS, will be in San Antonio, TX.

Graduate Programs

(155 students 67 Doctoral, 86 Masters, 2 G6)

The Joint Doctoral Program with Texas Tech University (Doc@Distance) inducted a new cohort of 17 students in August 2015. The second largest cohort since the program's inception in 2000. Currently, the program is recruiting for the Fall 2017 cohort. Relationships with AgriLife Extension were prioritized, and we hope to recruit Extension leaders from across the southern region during 2016.

Research productivity among graduate students declined in proportion to their number. Redirecting funds to address shortfalls in tuition support, 8 ALEC graduate students were reimbursed \$6,000 for conference travel to present research in 2015. Per graduate student, productivity remained strong. Students presented research papers and posters at annual regional and national research conferences, and were recognized for distinguished efforts in research and scholarship.

The existing partnership with the TAMU Center for Food Safety continues to provide graduate assistant funding to support communications and marketing efforts.

ALEC Research Concerns

The primary concern for the graduate and research program in ALEC is graduate recruiting, especially doctoral students. In general, the faculty remain overly committed to teaching (average 35.6 classroom teaching credits/year) due partly to the increasing numbers of undergraduate students. Increasing reliance on short-term solutions has redirected effort from recruiting doctoral students to recruiting lecturers and instructors to offer sections of high-demand courses on a semester-by-semester basis.

Space to conduct ALEC scholarship remains a concern. Currently, 2 faculty offices, a conference room, and a curriculum storage facility have been retrofitted for scholarly activities. The addition of space in AGLS, and replacing the aging Agricultural STEM Integration Laboratory facility, are long overdue initiatives that will improve productivity throughout the department and college.

Over the past several years, we have established and elevated a research expectation among our graduate assistants and faculty. The "departmentally-funded" assistant's contributions to research productivity have been especially important for our junior faculty. Our graduate assistant master's/doctoral ratio has historically been about 2:1. **In 2013 it was 1.34:1, this year it was 1.28:1.** The college's programs to fund tuition for some master's students, especially those assigned heavy teaching loads, was an important component of our graduate assistant budget.

For 2015, the dedicated graduate student budget remained static at \$103,092. This was leveraged with funds from HLSR graduate funds, COALS tuition support, grants and contracts, graduate enhancement fee funds, differential tuition, etc.. In all, \$358,122 was allocated in support of graduate assistantships, ~\$28,000 less than last year (\$386,494), and ~\$96,000 less than 2012. The percent of department resources such as differential tuition, enrollment growth, etc. dedicated to graduate assistantships has increased to compensate for the loss of tuition at the masters level resulting in a total loss of assistantships..

From 2011 through 2013 the total number of funded assistantship positions increased from 25 to 28. This was explained by a reduction of the typical Master's Assistantship from 12 to 9 months of support. **In 2015, our number fell to 22.**

Report
Undergraduate Faculty Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2016, 2:00 p.m.
AGLS 129

1. 2016 Course Catalog Updates
 - a. Updates for 2016-2017 catalog begin Feb 15, each workgroup will need to review their course listing for accuracy based on the university approved course descriptions, etc.
 - b. Visit catalog.tamu.edu to see current edition
2. Summer and fall 2016 Schedules – Kristina Beevers/ Elke Aguilar
3. Undergrad Curriculum Committee
 - a. Summer Odom, chair
 - b. Role: The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) reviews all proposed courses, changes, and programs at the undergraduate level and recommends appropriate action to improve and develop the undergraduate academic programs. ALL course changes, 289/489, W/C proposals, Core Curriculum/ICD proposals will route through this committee before submission to the college or university committees.
 - c. Committee members will communicate with their respective programs.
 - d. Deadlines are listed below.
4. Upcoming academic deadlines
 - a. Reading Day-no classes, March 25
 - b. Pre-registration for summer and fall 2016, April 7-22, 2016
 - c. Q-drop deadline, April 19
 - d. May 2, May 3 (Friday classes) – No course examinations, except lab and one hour courses.

Links to Remember

Travel away from campus for all students, https://studentactivities.tamu.edu/app/form_travel

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Change of Major for AGCJ, ALED, USAL – LED due March 10

AGCJ Workgroup Meeting February 25, 2:00 p.m., AGLS 266

AGSC Workgroup Retreat March 10, 12:00 p.m., IMS

ALED/USAL Workgroup Meeting, March 7, 2:00 p.m., AGLS 200

EXED Workgroup Meeting – TBD

ALEC Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Deadlines							
Dept. Comm Deadline	Dept. meeting	College UPC Deadline	College UPC meeting	UCC Deadline	UCC Meeting	Faculty Senate Deadline	Faculty Senate Meeting
1/4/16	1/11/16	1/28/16	2/4/16	2/19/16	3/4/16	3/14/16	4/11/16
1/25/16	2/8/16	2/25/16	3/3/16	3/18/16	4/1/16	4/11/16	5/9/16
2/29/16	3/14/16	3/24/16	3/31/16	4/22/16	5/6/16	5/9/16	6/13/16
3/28/16	4/11/16	4/28/16	5/5/16	5/20/16	6/3/16	6/13/16	7/11/16
4/25/16	5/9/16	5/26/16	6/2/16	6/17/16	7/1/16	7/11/16	8/8/16
5/31/16	6/13/16	6/23/16	6/30/16	7/22/16	8/5/16	8/8/16	9/12/16

The college's Undergraduate Program Council meets the first Thursday of each month. Agenda items are due the Thursday the week before the meeting. Dawn Kerstetter posts the agenda items prior to the meeting at <http://agrilife.org/collegecouncils/gpc/upc/> .

The deadline for the 2016-17 Catalog will require items to have Faculty Senate approval by the December 2015 meeting. A representative from the program/course should plan to be present for the College, University and Faculty Senate meetings to answer any questions about the course or other curriculum change going before those groups.

Graduate Program
Associate Head Report – February 11, 2016

1. Important Information and Dates & Deadlines

- a. Both Summer and Fall schedules are in review for edits. Clarice is collecting information to submit by February 15.
- b. Pre-registration for Summer and Fall 2016 will open mid-April.
- c. Admission decisions for Summer and/or Fall 2016 January review have been determined. Decision letters have been mailed out. Applications for the April review are beginning to come in. Admission discussion meeting is scheduled for April 5, 10:30 am, AGLS 129.
- d. Prospective Graduate Student Day – Friday, March 4, AGLS 200. Faculty introductions at 9:30 am.
- e. The proposed changes for the Graduate Course Rotation were distributed at the November and January Graduate Faculty meetings. Upon scheduling the Fall 2016 course offerings, some changes were proposed. The updated rotation will be attached as part of the minutes of this meeting. In addition, the Five Year Graduate Program Course Rotation will be updated. This information is provided as part of the Graduate Faculty meeting minutes every month for all faculty to review as a planning document for teaching load and upcoming course offerings. It is suggested that faculty review these documents for accuracy each month.
- f. Reminder – If you have students hoping to graduate in May, last day to conduct the defense is March 11. Last day for Non-Thesis option is April 15.
- g. Mark your calendars – ALEC Awards Reception, April 8, 2:00 pm, Agrilife Center.

2. D@D Information

- a. Dr. David Doerfert is no longer the TTU Program Coordinator. He accepted the position of Associate Dean in the Graduate School. This change was effective January 1. He will remain as faculty in the department teaching a class and serving as chair/member of student committee. Dr. Scott Burris has assumed the duties of Graduate Studies Coordinator.
- b. Cohort members are not required to attend the AAAE National Conference in Kansas City this year, however several joint faculty will be attending. Dr. Elliot and Dr. Frazee decided to still host a TAMU/TTU meal during the conference activities. A dinner is scheduled on Wednesday, May 18. Registration for the conference is now open and there is an option to select to attend the dinner on the registration form. The price of the meal is \$20.00. Details of location and time will be provided soon.

3. Graduate Curriculum Committee meetings

- a. Chair, Dr. Gary Briers
- b. Purpose: Review all new course requests, Special Topics requests (689), and other proposed curriculum items
- c. Meets on an as needed basis
- d. The committee reviewed the addition of an online offering of ALEC 681 Seminar – An Overview of Content Areas Across Agricultural Education. Dr. Murphrey submitted the course syllabus for approval and the committee approved.

4. Distance Education Committee

- a. Members include: Dr. Jack Elliot, Dr. Robert Strong, Dr. Julie Harlin, Theresa Murphrey, and Dr. Philip Shackelford.
- b. Dr. Elliot established this committee for the purpose of discussing and exploring distance education opportunities across international countries (Taiwan, Ecuador, South Africa). Several faculty are engaged with trips abroad and more interest is emerging asking what DE degrees/certificates we have available. Clarice created a one page flyer providing current and future opportunities for faculty to use to advertise these options.

Upcoming Dates

Graduate Faculty mtg - Feb. 12, 9:00 am, AGLS 129;
Graduate Faculty mtg- March 7, 10:00 am, AGLS 129
Graduate Faculty mtg – April 5, 2016, AGLS 129
ALEC Awards Reception – April 8