

I want to welcome you to our College AGNR Newsletter Update. Being a part of a very active College, there are so very many great things to highlight and talk about. Knowing that in this news update we will not begin to touch a tenth of what all goes on, our hope with this newsletter is that it will give you a flavor of what has happened over the past few months. Our target audience for this information is you...our great alumni, students and stakeholders that passionately support the Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture & Natural Resources.

Over the past 6 years, the College has progressively increased in student numbers, such that we split the Department of Animal, Range and Wildlife Sciences (ARWS) into two separate departments. Heavy and consistent growth in the number of students interested in the Pre-Veterinary Animal Sciences and Veterinary Technology programs have led to need to reorganize the college to better academically serve our students. We are proud to have established a new department, The Department of Animal Science and Veterinary Technology (ASVT) led by Dr. Jason Apple as a newly recruited Department Chair. Meanwhile, we have renamed the ARWS department led by Department Chair, Dr. Scott Henke, as the Department of Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences (RWSC).

One of our very notable nationally and internationally recognized research and educational units anchors each department. The Dept ASVT is associated with animal science faculty specialists in the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management (KRIRM). The Dept RWSC appropriately incorporates our range and wildlife faculty researchers engaged in the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (CKWRI). The Department of Agriculture, Agribusiness and Environmental Sciences (AAES) appropriately consists of plant science faculty researchers located at the TAMUK Citrus Center (CITR) in Weslaco, Texas.

We are expanding into new territories as well. This Fall 2020 semester we are venturing into starting an Agribusiness B.S. program located at the TAMU System RELIS campus located in Bryan, Texas. Our College has a long history of recruiting transfer students from Blinn College from this region. We are excited to provide opportunities to students located in the Bryan/College Station region that do not have the luxury to transfer down to Kingsville, and still provide them with an opportunity to earn a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness.

Students on campus have new educational opportunities to explore as well in the area of Environmental Sciences. In the Dept of AAES, under the leadership of Dept Chairperson Dr. Greta Schuster, and Dr. Ambrose Anoruo, students can enroll in a new environmental science (ENVR) concentration area. Meanwhile, graduate students are able to enroll into a new M.S. degree entitled: Environmental Systems Management (ESM), where student obtain specialized training in environmental sciences, systems thinking, and earn a certificate in business management from courses taken in the College of Business Administration at TAMUK. The objective of this ESM graduate degree is to prepare students to be future managers and decision makers engaged in making sound policies related to environmental systems in the business community.

For those who have not visited for a while, you will notice changes around the buildings where you have spent quality time or years in the past. We have updated classrooms and lab facilities, and we are proud of the very modern Veterinary Technology complex housed near campus. We welcome our alumni back anytime to check things out. We hope to see you soon.

Shad Nelson, Dean