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February 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. This will be the fourth year that The Irrigation Association has organized an irrigation-related topic for the GCSAA conference under the Allied Association Partnership. Last year's irrigation presentation attracted 130 people. Contact The IA office at (703) 536-7080 to request your registration packet and free pass to the GCSAA show.

Denise Stone Returns to Irrigation Association Staff



The IA is very pleased to announce that Denise Stone has returned to the IA staff as Director of Meetings. As many of you know, Denise was instrumental in leading the International Irrigation Show to a period of record growth during recent years. During

the interim she worked for the Electronic Retailing Association. Denise Stone replaces Shelley Hamilton, who resigned as meeting planner after this year's International Irrigation Show.

Illinois Irrigation Law Expires in January, 2003

The current Illinois irrigation law will automatically expire in January 2003. Should the law expire only licensed plumbers can install, maintain and repair lawn sprinklers. The Illinois Turf Irrigation Association requests all Illinois irrigation companies to encourage the Department of Public Health to push for a permanent law.

Texas A&M to Build Premier Irrigation Testing & Research Facility

Texas A&M University is going public with its plan to build a 500-acre Irrigation Technology Center (ITC) near San Antonio. A January 29 press conference in San Antonio outlined the details of a 10-month development campaign to raise the funds necessary to build the center. To date, the ITC has received more than \$286,000 in pledges/commitments toward the total \$464,000 needed for initial funding. ITC is requesting financial support from the irrigation industry.

ITC will have four primary missions: develop design and performance standards for agricultural and landscape irrigation systems; establish an equipment testing and certification program; provide training and educational services for irrigators, agency and industry personnel; and develop new and improved irrigation technologies, methods and management practice. **ITC will coordinate its programs with the Center for Irrigation Technology.**

The center will have five divisions: Urban Programs Division; Agricultural Programs Division; Testing and Certification Division; Wastewater Reuse Division; and the International Division. Because of its size, ITC will develop design and performance standards for agricultural and landscape irrigation under actual operating conditions. Effects of wind, soils, landscape area, plant types and other environmental factors will be determined in detail, thereby allowing for the development of design standards. For more information on ITC, contact Dr. Guy Fipps at (979) 845-7454. Email: g-fipps@tamu.edu Web site: <http://itc.tamu.edu>