STUDENTS ORGANIZE

ExploreACES

Agricultural education students and faculty were involved in planning and implementing ExploreACES 2016. Members of the college-wide ExploreACES Steering Committee were: Abby Marten, Kaity Spangler, and Dr. Cecelia Suarez.

I've gained valuable real-world communication, teamwork, event planning, and project management experience.

Abby Marten
ExploreACES Co-Director
Agricultural Leadership Education Student

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED DURING

Team I-Flags Ceremony

A dedication ceremony was held on January 27th at the Student Dining and Residential Programs (SDRP) building on campus for a new flag display. The display was a result of a collaborative group project between students in the AgEd 480 class and University Housing. The team’s goal was to create awareness around international inclusivity on campus through a display of the flags of the United Nations.

These flags are a colorful symbol of collaborative leadership and the power of student-led innovation.

Dr. Kari Keating
AgEd 480 Instructor
KEATING EARNs ACES
teaching Award

Dr. Kari Keating, Teaching Associate in the Agricultural Education Program, was selected as the 2016 recipient of the University of Illinois College of ACES Teaching Associate Teaching Award. Keating will be recognized during the College of ACES Awards Banquet in April.

Keating was selected as the winner of this award through an extensive application process. Supporting materials for the application included a summary of her contributions at the program, college, and campus levels towards instruction, student success, and other campus initiatives. Several faculty and students provided letters of support and comments about the overall impact she made on their experiences at the university and in their careers. Based on the criteria for the award, Keating was selected as the recipient because of her consistent teaching performance, her impact on students, the innovative approaches she uses for teaching, the numerous contributions she has made to improve instruction, and the professional contributions she has made to the academic community.

Keating is in her fifth year as a Teaching Associate for the Agricultural Education Program. Prior to her employment at the University of Illinois, she worked for 11 years as the Executive Director on the Economic Development Council for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce in Florida. She is responsible for teaching six courses in the Agricultural Leadership Education concentration of the Agricultural Education Program.

I am thankful each day to work in a campus and college community that inspires excellence. My coworkers, colleagues, and especially the Illinois students empower me to take pedagogical risks. I enjoy connecting students to practical, real-world projects and professional pursuits.”

Dr. Kari Keating
Agricultural Education Teaching Associate

STUDENTS CELEBRATE FFA WEEK

#FFAroots Campaign

University of Illinois students celebrated National FFA Week by sharing their #FFAroots story on social media. Students proudly displayed FFA jackets and shared their personal stories about the ways FFA impacted their lives.
# Graduate Student Research Projects

University of Illinois graduate students are required to complete a thesis or research project about a specific area of interest in agricultural education or agricultural leadership to earn a Master of Science degree. This newsletter focuses on our on-campus graduate students. Our next issue will include our online students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Patrick Andress</td>
<td>Analyzing relationships of stress, biorecovery, and performance of collegiate livestock evaluators at nationally recognized livestock judging contests.</td>
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<td>Blaze Currie</td>
<td>Calculating FFA membership changes as a percentage of the population to more accurately assess specific areas where FFA membership is growing.</td>
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<td>Rachel Hazen</td>
<td>Explore the impact that lack of knowledge about social injustice and inequality in agriculture history has on underrepresented and minority peoples.</td>
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<td>William Haas</td>
<td>Developing instructional curriculum based on the integration and application of livestock evaluation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan Doggett</td>
<td>Analyzing the involvement that members of ag RSOs had during high school and their college careers to investigate potential effects of their involvement on their leadership development.</td>
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<td>Jacalyn Meisner</td>
<td>Developing a unit of instruction which addresses the impact of food labeling practices on consumer misconceptions.</td>
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<td>Brett Kneeskern</td>
<td>Developing a unit of instruction which addresses the impact of food labeling practices on consumer misconceptions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine Riley</td>
<td>Impact of experiences with livestock evaluation competitions on participants’ personal development and efficacious beliefs for their advancement in the livestock industry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor Wilkinson</td>
<td>Exploring the effects and possibilities of Illinois agri-tourism sites with a focus on various Illinois orchards and staycations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Nelson</td>
<td>Analyzing the involvement that members of ag RSOs had during high school and their college careers to investigate potential effects of their involvement on their leadership development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Warfield</td>
<td>Assessment of National FFA Career Development Events (CDE) frequencies by state.</td>
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<td>William Haas</td>
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Morgan Doggett and Taylor Hardy traveled with 40 other students from around the country to Washington D.C. with Agriculture Future of America (AFA) for their policy institute. Before heading to Capitol Hill to lobby on National Agriculture Day, students went through training programs associated with the event. Their main goal was to celebrate agriculture. On Capitol Hill, Taylor met with Representative Davis and watched an Agriculture Committee hearing which Representative Davis chaired. For the remainder of the trip, students toured with USDA and met with Deputy Under Secretary Alexis Taylor, Chuck Conner the President and CEO of National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, and many other men and women in the Agriculture Policy industry.

Agriculture Future of America is a non-profit organization with the mission to identify, encourage, and support outstanding college men and women pursuing careers in the agriculture industry.
C-FFA MEMBERS COMPETE IN
State PAS Conference

Students from various College of ACES disciplines competed in the Fall and Spring Illinois Post-secondary Agriculture Student (PAS) organization conferences. Students earning first in individual and team competitions are eligible for the National PAS Conference in March in Kansas City, Missouri.

Catherine Riley, graduate student in Agricultural Education, is the PAS and Collegiate FFA Advisor.

Results from the Spring and Fall state competitions are listed below.

College Quiz Bowl - 1st place
Morgan Doggett, Alex Elliott, Dodie Langham, Emilee Moshbacher, and Jaylyn Maxey

Agribusiness Administration Employment Interview - 1st place
Morgan Doggett

Ag Education Employment Interview - 1st place
Willow Krumwiede

Impromptu Speaking - 2nd place
Dodie Langham

Crop Production Employment Interview - 1st place
Clayton Carley

Ag Education Career Event - 1st place
Kaity Spangler

Agriculture Discussion - 2nd place
Tommy Justison

Forestry Employment Interview - 3rd place
Valarie Repp

Maggi Maxstadt, a sophomore in Agricultural Leadership Education, was invited to join Pinnacle Foods for The Art of Leadership, a leadership learning workshop held January 13-15 for a select group of ACES students. Pinnacle Foods, Inc. is a national food processing and packaging corporation, with recognizable brands such as Duncan Hines, Vlasic, Mrs. Butterworth's, and Lender's. Workshop participants applied knowledge learned throughout the workshop including how to identify and resolve values-based arguments. The capstone activity simulated market conditions, as participants were asked to design, manufacture, and sell goods to their consumer. Pinnacle Foods Regional HR Manager Brian Brunner, a former Ag Ed major at UWM, led the event. “It is great to learn from a former Ag Ed student about leadership studies and how he has applied that knowledge to his career,” said Maxstadt.

Maggi Maxstadt, Agricultural Leadership Education Student

One of my favorite parts about the Ag Ed Program at Illinois is that we apply what we learn through hands-on activities instead of tests. Because of this experience, I am more aware of how to plan and execute a multi-day workshop.”

Maggi Maxstadt
Agricultural Leadership Education Student