ABBY MARTEN SELECTED FOR Homecoming Court

Abby Marten, senior studying Agricultural Leadership Education, was selected as one of only 20 University of Illinois students to represent the 2016 Homecoming Court. In addition to maintaining an outstanding academic record, Abby earned the College of ACES Robert M. Harrison Leadership Award, is currently serving as co-director for the Explore ACES Steering Committee, and works for the College of ACES Academic Programs. Additionally, she has held leadership positions in the Agricultural Education Club and the 4-H House Cooperative Sorority. Abby is a member of Illini Pride, participated in study abroad experiences in Italy and Brazil, and is a Leadership Paraprofessional at the Illinois Leadership Center.

AG EDUCATION STUDENTS BEGIN Student Teaching Experience

Seven agricultural science education undergraduate and graduate students will complete their student teaching experience Spring 2017 with outstanding teachers, students, and communities throughout Illinois.

I am excited to be a part of something bigger and to learn from the unexpected opportunities during student teaching. I am also excited about the chance to potentially impact students’ lives during my experience.

Buddy Haas
Graduate Student
Students attending the professional development (pictured left to right) were: Megan Vogt, Connor Carmody, Rachel Recker, Harley Carlson, Eileen Urish, Abby Marten, Treavor Taylor, Adam Rosentreter, Kade Hill, and Andrew Klein.

Eleven agricultural education students organized and participated in a professional development trip to Lincoln, Nebraska, in October. The purpose of the experience was to learn more about the agriculture industry and agricultural education programs. Students networked with agricultural education students from the University of Nebraska throughout the weekend and attended the football game. Students also visited business innovators in the dairy industry and toured Chillicothe’s Grand River Technical School. Each activity provided an opportunity for the students to see a variety of unique ideas to implement in their own classrooms or places of employment. Additionally, they expanded their professional network and improved their knowledge of the agriculture industry. Gary Ochs is the Ag Ed Club advisor.

Thank you to the members of the Agricultural Education Advisory Committee who met on October 14 to strategize ways to enhance current course offerings and recruit students to the program. Members of the committee include: Ginger Boas, University of Illinois Extension; Mindy Bunselmeyer, Illinois Association FFA; Sheila Fowler, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences; Bill Harmon, Lincoln Land College; Carrie Kuhns, GROWMARK; Rich McCabe, Unity-Tolono High School; Mindy McDermott, Monstanto; Jess Smithers, Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education; David Stille, Training & Development; Dr. Susie Whittington, The Ohio State University; Bryce Hoffman, Olympia High School; and Ken Dallmier, Clarkson Grain Co., Inc. We appreciate your continued support!

Students in the agricultural science education (teacher licensure) concentration participated in four learning by doing workshops this semester. The workshops were designed to give preservice teachers firsthand experiences in specific content areas or FFA Career Development Events (CDE). Workshop topics included soil science, floriculture, construction, agriculture sales, meat evaluation, agronomy, and dairy products. Thank you to all agricultural education teachers and graduate students who organized and presented workshops!
STUDENTS COMPETE IN

National ATA Conclave

Nine agricultural education students competed in the national Alpha Tau Alpha (ATA) Conclave in Indianapolis, Indiana. The event was held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention in October. Students who competed and their team placings were: Debate, 1st place team, members were Morgan Doggett, Willow Krumwiede, Maggi Maxstadt, and Adam Rosentreter; Quiz Bowl, 1st place team, members were Morgan Doggett, Andrew Klein, Willow Krumwiede, and Andrew Rosentreter; Parliamentary Procedure, 2nd place team, members were Harley Carlson, Morgan Doggett, Andrew Klein, Kaity Spangler, and Oakley Whalen. Gary Ochs is the advisor for the University of Illinois ATA.

ILLINOIS FFA MEMBERS ATTEND

Greenhand FFA Conference

Nearly 450 Illinois FFA members and state officers attended the 2016 Greenhand FFA Conference. Led by Kaity Spangler, Conference Coordinator, the Greenhand Conference Committee organized and trained more than 60 university student volunteers to facilitate the leadership conference. Volunteers who assisted were members of the Collegiate FFA, Ag Ed Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau and many other student organizations across the College of ACES. The theme for the 2016 conference -- Heart, Brain, Courage -- challenged FFA members to find their passion, discover a path to achieve their goal, and have the courage to invite others to join them in the journey to success.

“Having the opportunity to organize a conference for over 400 Greenhand FFA members was daunting, but incredible. We are blessed to have such an amazing program with so many willing volunteers who go above and beyond to make events like this successful!”

Kaity Spangler
GHC Conference Coordinator
ANDREW KLEIN NAMED WINNER OF ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU DISCUSSION MEET

Andrew Klein, junior studying agricultural science education, was named winner of the 2016 Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) Discussion Meet. The competition was held during the 2016 Post-secondary Agricultural Student (PAS) Organization Fall Conference in Bloomington, Illinois. Andrew will represent Illinois in the Collegiate Discussion Meet in February 2017 during the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Good luck, Andrew!

Congratulations to Jenna Baker and the Somonauk-Leland-Sandwich FFA Food Science and Technology Career Development Event team! The team placed third at the National FFA Convention. Jenna is a freshman studying Agricultural Science Education. Their FFA advisors are Toni Gabriel and Sarah Landers, alumnae of the University of Illinois Agricultural Education Program. The Food Science and Technology CDE is sponsored by Kerry Taste and Nutrition and U.S. Poultry & Egg Association.

COLLEGIATE FFA MEMBERS COMPETE IN ILLINOIS PAS FALL CONFERENCE

Ten members of the University of Illinois Collegiate FFA competed in the Illinois Post-secondary Agricultural Students (PAS) Organization Fall Conference on October 14th. The group is advised by Courtney Walker, a graduate student studying agricultural science education.

Overall Crops Specialist, 3rd Place Team
Jaylynn Maxey and Danielle Brinkmann

Swine Specialist, 2nd Place Team
Meg Meeker and Alicia Kabat

Impromptu Public Speaking, 3rd Place
Dodie Langham

Impromptu Public Speaking, 1st Place
Tommy Justison

Ag Sales Job Interview, 2nd Place
Tommy Justison

Prepared Public Speaking, 2nd Place
Meg Meeker

Forestry and Natural Resources Job Interview, 1st Place
Valarie Repp

Agriculture Discussion Meet, 1st Place
Andrew Klein

Agriculture Discussion Meet, Runner-up
Stephen Riskedal

Agricultural Education Job Interview, 3rd Place
Wyatt Capps

Members of the University of Illinois PAS competing at the 2016 Fall Conference were (top row, left to right): Meg Meeker, Jaylynn Maxey, Andrew Klein, Valarie Repp, (bottom row, left to right) Alicia Kabat, Dodie Langham, Wyatt Capps, Stephen Riskedal, and Ethan Plote.