AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION:
Lead • Teach • Inspire

AG EDUCATION STUDENTS CONDUCT
ExploreACES Activities

Several agricultural education students served on the steering committee to coordinate and facilitate ExploreACES. Congratulations to Abby Marten (ExploreACES Co-Chair), Kaity Spangler, Maggi Maxstadt, Harley Carlson, and Jerry Brockett for their many hours of service and commitment to this event. Special thanks also to the ag education students and faculty who conducted workshops or volunteered time during the two-day event.

Maggi Maxstadt, Ag Leadership Education junior, and Dr. Kari Keating, Teaching Associate, visited with University of Illinois President Tim Killeen during at meet and greet event at Allerton Park Mansion in Monticello.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS TRUSTEE
Visits Ag Ed Students

Ed McMillan, member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, visited with Ag Ed Club members about the value of agricultural education and provided valuable career advice. As a College of ACES Alum and current CEO of McMillan L.L.C., M and A Transaction Consultants, McMillan challenged students to find a career that aligns their greatest skills with something they enjoy doing. McMillan grew up in Bushnell, Illinois, and currently resides in Greenville, Illinois.

Pictured (left to right) are: Ed McMillan, Adam Rosentreter, Rachel Recker, Kaity Spangler, Harley Carlson, Oakley Whalen, and Kade Hill.

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DAVID ROSCH EARNST

Teaching Award

Dr. David Rosch, Assistant Professor in Agricultural Leadership Education, was named the 2017 recipient of the College of ACES Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching. He will be recognized during the College of ACES and Paul A. Funk Awards Ceremony in April.

Rosch was selected for this award after completing an extensive application process. Required materials included student and faculty letters of support, a summary of career accomplishments, and student evaluations of his teaching performance.

Rosch is completing his sixth year as an Assistant Professor in the Agricultural Education Program. Prior to this appointment, he served as Assistant Director and Instructor for the Illinois Leadership Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In addition to teaching several classes in the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, Dr. Rosch is also an academic advisor for graduate students, oversees the online and on-campus graduate degree programs for the Agricultural Education Program, and coordinates a study abroad experience for students who are pursuing a degree in Agricultural Leadership and Science Education or a Minor in Leadership Studies.

“I love that the program is filled with faculty and students who care very much about each other, about being successful in their jobs and career goals, and about helping the AGED Program grow to achieve its potential!”

Dr. David Rosch
Assistant Professor
Agricultural Leadership Education

AG LEADERSHIP & SCIENCE EDUCATION

Graduate Student Research

Graduate students in the Agricultural Education Program at the University of Illinois are required to complete a thesis or research project about a specific area of interest in agricultural education or leadership to earn a Master of Science degree. Students can focus their research on topics which span a broad range of disciplines within education, leadership, and agriculture.

Examples of current thesis and project ideas include:

- Career readiness and college preparation levels of high school agricultural education students
- Experiences in Greek student organizations that foster development of leadership skills
- Consumer experiences of Agritourism in Illinois
- Comparison of levels of leadership involvement between high school and college academic careers
- Career choice predictors for high school students
- Community college animal science curriculum which promotes positive changes for the livestock industry
- Differences in perceived leadership abilities among varying gender and race demographics
- Predictive influence of high school leadership commitment on collegiate involvement in student organizations

Information about the online & on-campus graduate degree options is available at:
aged.illinois/grad/concentrations

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**JUST A TYPICAL DAY IN**

**Ag Education Classes**

Agricultural Leadership and Science Education students apply theories discussed in the classroom to experiential learning opportunities in real-world environments. Students acquire experiences facilitating workshops, planning programs and events, collaborating with peers on projects, and providing instruction for learners of all ages. In the process of applying theory to application, they familiarize themselves with principles of adult learning and education, while also learning about a broad scope of agricultural disciplines.

**PRESERVICE TEACHERS COMPLETE**

**Experiences with Teachers**

First year graduate students and undergraduate juniors in the agricultural science education (teacher licensure) concentration are acquiring experiences in high school agriculture classrooms throughout Illinois this semester. Thank you to the following agriculture educators who are serving as cooperating teachers for 15 U of I students:

- Ryan Robinson, Central Burlington
- Charlie Sappington, Cumberland
- Malory Hughes, Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley
- Heather Obert-Belden, Marengo
- Wayne Griffith, Marion
- Karl Rabe, Mattoon
- Joe Steffen, Newark
- Darcy Nekolny, Oakwood
- Josh Berg, Okawville
- Mike White and Kirsten Blackford, Paxton-Buckley-Loda
- Parker Bane and Jesse Faber, Pontiac
- Roman Fox and Grant Kelly, Rantoul
- Katie Duitsman, St. Joseph-Ogden
- Jennifer Barker, Stewardson-Strasburg
- Riley Hintzsche, Streator
- Don Lockwood, Sullivan
- Sue Schaefer and Katie King, Taylorville
- Diana Loschen, Tri-Point
- Caitlin Morris, Tuscola
- Corinne Galvan and Sam DeCounter, West Prairie
University of Illinois Collegiate FFA and PAS members attended the Illinois Annual PAS Conference in Springfield, IL. Students competed in the Agricultural Education, Soils, Dairy, Horticulture/Landscape specialist areas and in the Collegiate Quiz Bowl. Congratulations to Madalyn Hammel and Olivia Ashby for placing 3rd in the Team Horticulture/Landscape specialist area, and to Kaity Spangler for placing 2nd in the Agricultural Education specialist area! These awards are in addition to the team’s accomplishments at the Fall PAS Contests:

- **Agriculture Discussion Meet:** 1st Place, Andrew Klein
- **Agriculture Discussion Meet:** Runner-up, Stephen Riskedal
- **Ag Education Job Interview:** 3rd Place, Wyatt Capps
- **Ag Sales Job Interview:** 2nd Place, Tommy Justison
- **Forestry & Natural Resources Job Interview:**
  - 1st Place, Valarie Repp
- **Impromptu Public Speaking:** 1st Place, Dodie Langham
- **Overall Crops Specialist:** 3rd Place, Danielle Brinkmann & Jaylynn Maxey
- **Prepared Public Speaking:** 2nd Place, Meg Meeker
- **Swine Specialist:** 2nd Place, Alicia Kabat & Meg Meeker

Many of these outstanding students will be eligible to compete at the National PAS Conference in St. Charles, MO in March. Congratulations are also due to Dodie Langham, UIUC CFFA Secretary & Treasurer, on her election as President for the Illinois PAS organization!

Members of the University of Illinois PAS competing at the 2017 Spring Conference were (back row, left to right): Jaylynn Maxey, Dodie Langham, Morgan Doggett, Wyatt Capps, Joseph Harmon, Kaity Spangler, Maddie Hammel; (bottom row, left to right) Oakley Whalen, Valarie Repp, Olivia Ashby, Alex Elliot, Rachel Sirek.

If you are an agricultural education graduate from the University of Illinois, email your career story to aces-aged@illinois.edu. Your story may be featured in an upcoming newsletter or on the Ag Education website.

MCCANN ATTENDS PINNACLE FOODS, LLC

**Art of Leadership Workshop**

Samantha McCann, a senior in Agricultural Leadership Education, was invited to join Pinnacle Foods, LLC for The Art of Leadership, a leadership learning workshop. A select group of ACES students were invited to attend the event. Pinnacle Foods, LLC 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.