Agricultural Education Welcomes 21 New Students!

The Agricultural Education program is excited to welcome 11 freshmen and 10 transfer students to campus this Fall! This diverse group of students brings experiences from all different backgrounds. Students joining the program will pursue degrees in both Agricultural Leadership Education (ALE) and Agricultural Science Education (ASE).

Welcome to the U of I Agricultural Education family!

Freshmen students include:
• Cassie Campbell
• Wyatt Dozier
• Sarah Jones
• Rachel Lauritsen
• Maggi Maxstadt
• Jessica Shapiro
• Kaity Spangler
• Megan V ogt
• Jacqueline Walters
• Kayla Wills
• Jamie Wright

Students transferring to the program include:
• John Ahern
• Sara Barton
• Timothy Callahan
• Morgan Doggett
• Rebecca Livingston
• Jacob Meyer
• Philip Meyer
• Andrew Nagy
• Hannah Raver
• Nataly Sandoval

Some of the students who are new to the campus include: (top row, L-R) Cassie Campbell, Jacqueline Walters, Jake Ahern, and Kaity Spangler; (row 2, L-R) Megan Vogt and Sarah Jones; (row 3, L-R) Jessica Shapiro and Philip Meyer; (row 4, L-R) Maggi Maxstadt and Jamie Wright; (bottom row, L-R) Rebecca Livingston, Wyatt Dozier, Hannah Raver, and Rachel Lauritsen.
The University of Illinois Agricultural Education program has received a gift of $150,000 from the CHS Foundation, the giving entity of CHS, Inc. CHS is a farmer-owned cooperative that is a leading global agribusiness owned by farmers, ranchers and cooperatives across the United States.

Richard Clark, associate director of the Agricultural Education Program, said the gift will be used to renovate the major classroom and meeting facility in 122 Bevier Hall.

“We’re in the midst of a tremendous growth in our undergraduate and graduate programs, attracting highly qualified students in agricultural leadership education and agricultural science education,” said Clark. “The current classroom doesn’t resemble the training and education environment they will encounter in their future jobs. This is a transformational gift that will create a state-of-the-art teaching and conferencing facility.”

The space will also be used as a flexible multi-purpose learning environment. The proposed renovation would design the space to serve multiple functions, including a small classroom with a teaching lab for agricultural education student teachers; video and audio conferencing with Illinois agriculture teachers and agribusiness professionals; a location for hosting and recruiting potential students and their families; a resource library for students to develop curriculum materials; and a classroom for on-campus graduate students and on-line graduate students to attend class simultaneously through distance education.

Clark said representatives from CHS visited the University of Illinois and saw first-hand the quality of the students and the faculty. “They also visited 122 Bevier and realized the need to match the quality of the educational facility with the quality of the students,” he said.

“CHS is committed to investing in future leaders in cooperative business and agriculture at the collegiate level through scholarships, grants and resources,” he continued. “This program is designed to encourage academic, professional and leadership development among today’s college students pursuing careers in the agricultural industry.”

“This gift will truly pay for itself with highly-trained students who will become the future face of agriculture,” Clark concluded.

Flournoy FFA Jacket Dedicated to Smithsonian

Corey Flournoy, director for the Illinois Center for Urban Agricultural Education and University of Illinois alum, was recently honored at the Smithsonian Institution for serving as the first African American National FFA President in 1994-1995. Flournoy was one of only five individuals who had their FFA jacket dedicated to the special exhibit.

“I feel very honored for the invitation to donate my National FFA President jacket to the Smithsonian Museum of American History,” Flournoy said. “Although the jacket is a reminder of the wonder and life changing years I experienced through the National FFA Organization, I recognize it also represents the breadth and diversity of the agricultural industry with its ability to impact young men and women in urban and rural communities representing a variety of cultures throughout the country.”

To read more, visit the National Museum of American History blog at: http://goo.gl/M2aX71.
Suarez Joins University of Illinois Ag Education Program

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) is proud to announce that Dr. Cecilia E. Suarez has been selected to join the Agricultural Education Program faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Among other responsibilities associated with the position, Suarez will primarily teach courses for the Agricultural Leadership Education (ALE) concentration and the campuswide leadership minor.

Earning degrees in biology, higher education administration, and recently a PhD in Education Policy Studies, Suarez brings a unique perspective and fresh fusion between science, education, and politics. Her professional experience as an educator and as a student affairs professional create a classroom that is focused on helping students understand self, their environment, and their impact on the community while developing as leaders and catalysts.

Over the past four years at the University of Illinois, Suarez has worked to support the campus in identifying, understanding, and strengthening leadership skills by serving as a campus facilitator for StrengthsQuest, DiSC, and various other campus wide leadership programming. Additionally, Suarez has worked with the Latino Resilience Network, La Casa Cultural Latina, The College of Education, and Student Affairs units on campus to assist in supporting undergraduate students establish, navigate, and achieve higher education goals. Continuing her leadership off campus, she currently serves as the National Chair for The Placement Exchange, a premier job placement resource for student affairs. Dr. Suarez’s research and passion are focused on equality of academic access, academic quality, and academic support for underrepresented populations, particularly in higher education.

Ag Ed Faculty Published

This past summer, Dr. David Rosch was published twice in the Journal of Leadership Education. One article, written in collaboration with Dr. Kari Keating and Lisa Burgoon in the Ag Education Program, was titled, “Developmental Readiness for Leadership: The Differential Effects of Leadership Courses on Creating ‘Ready, Willing, and Able’ Leaders.” It focused on how important it is for students to have confidence and motivation to lead to make skill-based gains through participating in leadership programs. The second article, written with Dr. Barry Boyd from Texas A&M University, and was titled “Students’ Self-identified Long-term Leadership Development Goals: An Analysis by Gender and Race.” It was focused on the their study that showed women and men participate in long-term leadership programs to learn quite different things. A copy of either article can be viewed at: www.leadershipeducators.org/JOLE.

Where Are They Now?

Congrats to recent alumni with career updates:

- **Grant Loranger**  
  Associate Operations Trainer for cars.com
- **Danielle Brown**  
  Lawrence County Farm Bureau Manager
- **Caitlin Chrzanowski**  
  Richland County Farm Bureau Manager
- **Sara Haag**  
  Outreach Activities Coordinator for the Institute for Genomic Biology at the University of Illinois

Are you an Ag Ed alum with career news to share? Tell us!  
aces-aged@illinois.edu
Ag Ed Study Abroad Program Visits Italy

Dr. David Rosch recently led a group of 23 graduate and undergraduate students to Italy for 11 days to study both ancient and modern leadership styles and techniques. Taking place this past May, the trip was an expanded version of a pilot program he coordinated two years ago in the summer of 2012. During the trip, the students studied the history of the Roman Empire with a specific focus on transitional leadership moments and the roles that historical leaders played in building the Roman Empire and even effecting today’s world. They also spent time at the United Nations – the World Food Programme is headquartered in Rome – to learn about the WFP’s “2050 Goal” for globally feeding needy populations; learned about leadership in the Italian and Sicilian mafia; and visited the corporate headquarters of Ducati Racing Motorcycles. Much of their time was spent in Rome, with short trips also to Florence, Bologna, and Venice.

For many students, the trip represented the first time that they left the Western Hemisphere, so the opportunity represented a cultural immersion experience as much as an opportunity for leadership and professional development. In addition to time spent in the classroom and the excursions mentioned above, the students were also able to tour the Coliseum and ancient city ruins in Rome, St. Peter’s Basilica and the Vatican. While the trip was open to all University of Illinois students, preference was given to students in the Ag Education Program and students enrolled in the campuswide Minor in Leadership Studies – both programs were heavily represented within the study abroad program.

Senior Earns National Scholarship from NAAE

Jacob Dickey, senior in the University of Illinois Agricultural Education Program, has been named a recipient of the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Upper Division Scholarship.

Prior to transferring to the University of Illinois, Dickey attended Parkland College through the Parkland Pathways Program. He is actively involved in several organizations on campus and serves in leadership positions for the Ag Ed Club, College of ACES Council, Collegiate FFA, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) National Executive Committee. Some of his previous honors include the American FFA Degree, White House Champions of Change Award, and the Coca Cola National Scholar recognition. Last year, Dickey served as a facilitator for the FFA Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) and was a National FFA Collegiate Agricultural Ambassador.

Dickey is a former member of the Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley FFA Chapter, and will be student teaching this fall with Mr. Jay Solomonson at Orion High School in Orion, Illinois.

The $750 scholarship is only awarded to 15 students nationwide who are pursuing careers as agriculture teachers. The scholarship is sponsored by Cengage Learning | National Geographic Learning.