ExploreACES Event

The College of ACES hosted the 10th annual ExploreACES on March 13-14, 2015. This is an excellent opportunity for prospective and admitted students to meet faculty and undergraduate students from every department in the College of ACES.

Representatives from the Ag Education program visited with prospective students and parents who wanted to learn more about classes, opportunities, and benefits of the degree. Students at the Ag Ed Club booth talked about various activities and provided an opportunity for participants to recognize their ag teacher(s). Two ag education students -- Morgan Doggett and Rachel Lauritsen -- organized a workshop to showcase the ag education program and career opportunities. Thank you to everyone who attended ExploreACES this year and made it a successful event!

External Advisory Committee Meeting

The University of Illinois Agricultural Education Program External Advisory Committee meets annually to provide suggestions for the Agricultural Leadership Education (ALE) and Agricultural Sciences Education (ASE) concentrations.

Members of the committee are:
- Ginger Boas, Illinois Extension, County Director
- Dr. Maria Boerngen, Lake Land College
- Mindy Bunselmeyer, Illinois FFA Center
- Sheila Fowler, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences
- Bill Harmon, Lincoln Land Community College
- Bryce Hoffman, Monticello High School
- Dr. Tracy Hoover, Pennsylvania State University
- Carrie Kuhns, GROWMARK
- Mindy McDermott, Monsanto
- Dr. Dave Mouser, Tri-Valley High School
- Jess Smithers, FCAE Coordinator
- Dave Stille, Illinois Farm Bureau

Need Scholarship Money?

Scholarship applications are available from several businesses and organizations, such as: Illinois Pork Producers Association, Illinois Agri-Women, Murray Wise Associates Foundation, CHS Foundation, Farm Credit Illinois, College of ACES, and many more!
Twelve seniors are completing their student teaching experience in high school agriculture programs throughout Illinois. During the spring semester, students have demonstrated their teaching skills and knowledge in a real-world setting with outstanding cooperating teachers and agriculture programs. In addition to teaching responsibilities, students also helped prepare Career Development Event (CDE) teams, assisted FFA members with proficiency award competitions, and helped supervise students during conferences and numerous other leadership experiences.

After completing their student teaching experience, students will return to campus to complete their coursework, prepare for graduation in May, and participate in a professional development trip to Puerto Rico. The trip will include tours of high school programs and specialty crop farms.

Amanda Goin  
**Hometown:** Foosland, Illinois  
Student teaching with  
Steve Zimmerman  
Greenville High School

Brianna Harmon  
**Hometown:** Moweaqua, Illinois  
Student teaching with  
Corinne Galvan and Ann Knowles  
West Prairie High School

Malory Hughes  
**Hometown:** Tolono, Illinois  
Student teaching with  
Diana Loschen  
Tri-Point High School

Sarah Moore  
**Hometown:** Jerseyville, Illinois  
Student teaching with  
Monty Elvidge, Sue Schafer, and Stephanie Ruppert  
Taylorville High School

Jeff Reale  
**Hometown:** Rantoul, Illinois  
Student teaching with  
Mike Delligatti  
Canton High School

Brandon Smith  
**Hometown:** Ashland, Illinois  
Student teaching with  
Tim Reed  
Southwestern High School

Nic Turner  
**Hometown:** Oakland, Illinois  
Student teaching with  
Charlie Sappington  
Cumberland High School

John Andress  
**Hometown:** Dothan, Alabama  
Student teaching with  
Doug Anderson & Mike White  
Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School

Jennifer Boberg  
**Hometown:** Paxton, Illinois  
Student teaching with  
Don Lockwood  
Sullivan High School

Jacob Dickey  
**Hometown:** Gibson City, Illinois  
Student teaching with  
Jay Solomonson  
Orion High School

Josh Evans  
**Hometown:** Mahomet, Illinois  
Student teaching with  
Terry Brown and Mike Butler  
Athens High School

Claire Geiger  
**Hometown:** Highland, Illinois  
Student teaching with  
Jody Heavner  
Pittsfield High School

Agriculture Science Education (ASE) Students: Learning & Teaching in Schools
Learning by Doing: Student Internships

For Agricultural Education students, internships are a great way to get experience in industry, make connections with agribusiness professionals, and earn credit towards graduation. Ag Leadership students are required to have at least one internship experience to graduate. Many companies and organizations across the Midwest support this experience. This summer, students have accepted positions with AgriGold, Bayer Crop Science, Chicago Park District, College of ACES, Cook County Farm Bureau, FLM+, University of Illinois Extension, and many other businesses. Visit the Ag Education website to see videos of previous internship experiences and view new opportunities. (http://aged.illinois.edu/content/agricultural-education-internships)

Ag Leadership Education students pursuing internships have an exciting opportunity to apply their professional development skills in AGED 310, a class taught by Dr. Kari Keating. To help prepare them for internships, guest presenters from GROWMARK, Illinois Farm Bureau, University of Illinois Extension, AgCreate Solutions, and ADM visit the class to provide insight on future careers. Another application of skills comes in an externship -- a 2-day, hands-on experience with an organization of the students’ choice. Externship areas of interest include youth development, sales and marketing, corporate training, and human resources.

Career Spotlight: Kirsten Blackford

Agricultural Leadership and Science Education alum, Kirsten Blackford, talked about her career path during a special feature on WCIA Channel 3 TV. Ms. Blackford is the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Blue Ridge High School in Farmer City, Illinois. WCIA 3 TV Video: http://goo.gl/6hfuQm

Ag Leadership Education: Case Study Award

Jaclyn Benekohal, Ag Leadership Education senior, earned the Ag Ed Program’s Outstanding Leadership Case Study Award. To fulfill a requirement for the Ag Leadership Internship course taught by Dr. Kari Keating, Jaclyn wrote a teaching case study based on her experiences as a summer intern for the University’s Labor & Employment Relations office. Her case study entitled “Human Resources for Human Resources” used Contingency Theory, Leader-Member Exchange Theory, and the Style Approach to analyze situations she faced in the workplace. Jaclyn aspires to attend graduate school and pursue a career in human resources. Great job, Jaclyn!

Field Experience Observations

Three graduate students and five juniors are completing early field experiences with ag teachers during the Spring semester. Thank you to each cooperating teacher!

- Clayton Carley, Seneca with Jeff Maierhofer & Kent Weber and PBL with Mike White & Doug Anderson
- Shelby Cooper, Iroquois West with Sara Jane Caise
- Brett Kneeskern, Unity-Tolono with Rich McCabe and Monticello with Bryce Hoffman & Elizabeth Rost
- Jacalyn Meisner, Armstrong with Jennifer Hogan and Oakwood with Darcy Nekolny
- Jacob Meisner, Heyworth with Jestun Nutter
- Phillip Meyer, Monticello with Bryce Hoffman & Elizabeth Rost
- Hannah Raver, Somonauk-Leland-Sandwich with Tony Saso Gabriel
- Ashley Warfield, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences with Sheila Fowler
Professional Development Opportunities in Ag Ed

Seven Ag Ed students traveled to Southwestern Illinois last semester to visit local agribusinesses and agriculture education programs. The trip was designed to provide students opportunities to tour potential employers and introduce them to careers that utilize skills gained in their coursework.

Over the course of two days, the group was introduced to careers in agricultural communications and urban agriculture programming. They also toured the Mississippi River lock and dam, and learned about educational philosophies and practices from current high school agriculture teachers.

Thank you to professionals from Osborn Barr, Gateway Greening, and Melvin Price Lock and Dams, as well as Southwestern and Waterloo High Schools, for hosting the Ag Education students!

Summer Courses for Teachers

The University of Illinois Agricultural Education Program is offering four opportunities to earn Master’s degree credit this summer.

BSAA Lab Course (June 1-3): Sign up for the course at http://go.illinois.edu/BSAA. Hotel, meals, and supplies will be provided free of charge. Participants will be responsible for payment to earn course credit.

SAE Record Book Course (June 29-30): Sign up for the course at http://go.illinois.edu/RB. FCAE will pay for the course; participants are responsible for all other expenses.

Leadership in Contemporary Organizations (May 19-July 29): Taught by Dr. Dave Rosch, this class is designed for advanced study in selected phases of agricultural education applicable to agricultural educators in schools, community colleges, universities, cooperative extension, agribusiness, and community and governmental agencies.

CASE (July 12-22, Pontiac, IL): Pontiac Township High School is hosting the CASE “Principles of Agricultural Science - Animal” course this summer. Contact Dr. Erica Thieman (thieman@illinois.edu) or Dr. Dave Rosch (dmrosch@illinois.edu) to learn more about earning graduate degree credit from the University of Illinois for completing the CASE institute.

ASE & ALE: Which option is right for me?

The Agricultural Leadership and Science Education degree at the University of Illinois offers two different concentrations -- Ag Science Education (ASE) and Ag Leadership Education (ALE).

Ag Science Education prepares students for a career in formal secondary (high school) agriculture classrooms as an ag teacher and FFA advisor. This concentration focuses on teaching strategies, learning theories, and FFA program management. Each student completes a student teaching experience during their final semester.

Ag Leadership Education prepares students for educational roles in agricultural businesses and organizations. This concentration focuses on understanding human development, group dynamics, and communication. Students complete a 10-week internship with an agriculture business or community organization.

Students attending the professional development trip were (left to right): Trent Hawker, Kaitlyn Bickers, Rachel Hazen, Rachel Lauritsen, Megan Vogt, Clay Carley, and Jacob Meisner