Ag Ed Students Recognized for Achievements

Agricultural Education students have earned significant national accomplishments during the Fall 2012 semester.

Clayton Carley - American FFA Star Farmer
Clayton Carley was named the National FFA Organization’s 2012 American Star Farmer at the National FFA Convention in October. Clayton is a UIUC and Parkland Pathways student pursuing a double major in Agricultural Education and Agronomy. His SAE began when he wanted to earn money to buy his own car and progressed into his Sweet Corn Shack business. His first crop was three-tenths of an acre, which was once part of his family’s front yard. Utilizing his experiences from his time with the Cisna Park FFA Chapter, Carley now raises more than seven acres of sweet corn that he sells to local residents. In addition, he farms more than 400 acres of corn and soybeans. He conducts extension research to determine best management practices for his operation and hopes that his experiences will allow him to graduate college debt-free and pursue a career in agriculture. Clayton’s high school FFA advisors are Jeff Clifton and Ron Lynch, and he is the son of Kenton and Lisa Carley.

Jacob Dickey - White House Champions of Change Award
Jacob Dickey, a sophomore student in the Ag Ed and Parkland Pathways Program, was recognized in October as a White House Champions of Change recipient. His seven years of FFA leadership experience, combined with his work on community service projects, helped him earn the award. He organized FFA members, civil service organizations and local businesses to provide activities for the Special Olympics and the United Nations World Food Programme. Jacob traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in discussion groups that advocated for agriculture youth organizations and toured various sites throughout the city. He was nominated by his FFA Advisor, Ms. Kathy Novotney.

Mark McKown - AgGateway Conference
Mark McKown, a junior in Ag Ed from Sullivan, IL, was selected to participate in an all expense paid trip to the national AgGateway Conference in Albuquerque, NM, in November. The program provides students an opportunity to network with agri-business professionals and increase awareness of e-business opportunities in agriculture. Mark was mentored by representatives from AgData, participated in workshops, and shared in roundtable discussions.
Fourteen students from the UIUC Agricultural Education Program participated in the National Alpha Tau Alpha (ATA) Conclave during the National FFA Convention. Students competed in five different events, and took top honors in 3 of the 5 areas.

**Program of Excellence – 1st place**
*Members included: Danielle Brown, Caitlin Chrzanowski, and Mark McKown*

The Program of Excellence Award requires students to present a written summary and oral presentation of activities that are conducted in the Agricultural Education Program throughout the previous year. Students are evaluated in the areas of: Community Service, Professional Development, Fundraising, and Fellowship. The University of Illinois received 1st place in the Community Service and Professional Development divisions and earned 1st place overall for their Program of Excellence. In addition to earning a small monetary award and a plaque, the program also received a welder, donated by Lincoln Electric.

**Debate Team – 1st place**
*Members included: Caitlin Chrzanowski, Jacob Dickey, Claire Geiger, and Liz Harfst*

The purpose of the debate is to provide members an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to clearly communicate and defend their position on a provided topic. This year’s topic was a comparison between traditional teacher preparation programs and alternative forms of teacher certification. Students are evaluated on their knowledge of the topic area, public speaking skills, and ability to effectively communicate their stance on the issue.

**Parliamentary Procedure – 1st place**
*Members included: Kirsten Blackford (Chair), Jacob Meisner (Secretary), Jake Ekstrand, Kiersten Kasey, and Mark McKown*

The purpose of the Parliamentary Procedure competition is for students to simulate a meeting using Robert’s Rules of Order. Students are evaluated on their knowledge of proper parliamentary law, public speaking ability, and their skill in presenting discussions and motions that relate to a provided topic. The team earned 1st place overall. Jacob Meisner was awarded 1st place Secretary, and the team received 2nd place in the Written Test.

**Quiz Bowl – 3rd Place**
*Members included: Kirsten Blackford, Jake Ekstrand, Lauren Hawker, and Bryanne Kalous*

The quiz bowl was conducted in a bracket structure format. Students were asked questions that related to the history of Agricultural Education, teaching strategies, knowledge of FFA facts, and competency in the area of animal sciences.

**Essay Competition**
*Members included: Jennifer Boberg, Liz Harfst, and Caroline Hoff*

Each student submitted an essay that addressed a specific topic in Agricultural Education. This year’s topic related to Extension’s role in providing education to third world countries to address the hunger issue.

ATA is a National Professional Honorary Agricultural Education organization that plays a vital role in the preparation of students who have chosen a major in agricultural education or extension education. The purpose of this organization is to promote the highest standards of agricultural education and a more intimate acquaintance and closer relationship with individuals who have chosen a major in agricultural education or extension education.
Five UIUC Agricultural Education students earned their American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention in October. Those students were:

- Kirsten Blackford, Paxton-Buckley-Loda FFA
- Clayton Carley, Cissna Park FFA
- Jacob Dickey, Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley FFA
- Jacob Meisner, Southwestern FFA
- Brandon Smith, A-C Central

Registration is now open for courses in the online Master of Science in Agricultural Education degree program. Online courses that will be offered in the Spring 2013 semester include:

- AGED 430: Youth Development Programs
- AGED 545: Research Methods and Design

**NOTE:** You do not need to be enrolled or accepted into the Online Master of Science in Agricultural Education Program in order to take classes and apply credit from those courses to your degree. You may take up to 12 hours of coursework prior to application and acceptance into the program.

Visit the Agricultural Education Program website to learn more about the Online Master of Science Degree, or to sign up for courses.

Contact Dr. Richard Clark, Associate Director of the Agricultural Education Program, for additional questions about the Master of Science Degree programs. Dr. Clark can be contacted by email at clark6@illinois.edu or by phone at (217) 244-6909.

Six UIUC Agricultural Education students competed in the Illinois Fall Post-secondary Ag Students (PAS) Conference at Spoon River College on November 9th. Students competed in one or more employment interviews and/or team competitions in a variety of agricultural areas.

Students who competed and their placings were:

- Jacob Meisner - Discussion Meet, 2nd place
- Liz Harfst - Ag Communications, 2nd place
- Caroline Hoff - Natural Resources, 2nd place
- Trent Hawker - Floriculture Team
- Kiersten Kasey - Ag Education and member of 2nd place Overall Livestock Specialist Team
- Austin O’Neall - Crop Production and member of 2nd place Overall Livestock Specialist Team

Ag Ed UIUC/Parkland Pathways students who competed were: Clayton Carley, Jacob Dickey, and David Fulton.
The University of Illinois Agricultural Education Program recently launched a new website! The website is designed to highlight program information, current students, alumni, and provide valuable teaching resources for current and future teachers. Lesson plans, labs, worksheets, SAE handbooks, and FFA materials can be found in the RESOURCES area of the website. If you would like to share resources to add to the website for current and future teachers, please send your materials to dskorte@illinois.edu.

**Illinois Ag Teachers Recognized at NAAE Conference**

Congratulations to all the Illinois agriculture teachers and affiliates who were recognized at the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Annual Conference on Nov. 27-Dec. 1 in Atlanta. Those recognized from NAAE Region IV were:

- **Charlie Sappington, Cumberland** - Completed term as Region IV Vice President
- **Parker Bane, Pontiac** - Elected as Region IV Secretary
- **Jesse Faber, Pontiac** - National Agriscience Teacher of the Year
- **Alan Merriman, Bluffs** - Outstanding Teacher Mentor
- **Jay Runner**, former FCAE State Coordinator - Outstanding Service Citation
- **Ann Ochs, Shawnee** - Teachers Turn the Key
- **Lisa Oellerich, Scales Mound** - Teachers Turn the Key
- **Jay Solomonson, Orion** - Professional Development workshop presenter
- **Amanda Corban and Jacob Ralph**, University of Illinois students - Upper Division Ag Ed Scholarship Recipients