Agriculture Future of America is a non-profit organization with the mission to identify, encourage, and support outstanding college men and women pursuing careers in the agriculture industry. This year, AFA hosted 600 college students and 450 agriculture leaders and professionals at their annual Leaders Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Shelby Cooper, Ag Ed senior, served as one of nine Student Advisory Team members who coordinated and facilitated the conference. A group of 35 students from the College of ACES were also selected to attend the conference, including six ag education students.

Clayton Carley was selected to attend the Future Agriscience Teacher Symposium in Washington, D.C. this September. The symposium, hosted by the national Teach Ag Campaign, welcomed 20 agricultural education majors from colleges and universities across the country. The group conversed with representatives from the US Department of Education, National FFA, and American Farm Bureau Foundation about current efforts to recruit, develop, and retain agricultural educators. Additionally, they participated in the National Teach Ag Day Webinar.

"The conference was an amazing opportunity to have an impact on Ag Education, while growing as a teacher myself."

Clayton Carley
Future Agriscience Teacher Symposium

Andrew Klein, freshman in Agricultural Science Education, represented the Illinois Association FFA and the College of ACES as a National Officer Candidate at the 88th National FFA Convention. The convention was held in Louisville, Kentucky, and hosted over 60,000 FFA members, advisors, and guests. Andrew was one of 41 National Officer Candidates to participate in several rounds of interviews to contend for one of six revered positions. Andrew was an excellent representative for Illinois FFA, the College of ACES, and the Agricultural Education Program. Great job, Andrew!

Shelby Cooper, senior in Agricultural Science Education, attended the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Convention in New Orleans with 650 agricultural educators from across the country. The convention provides professional development for ag teachers and promotes the sharing of ideas and resources to better agriscience education in high school classrooms. Shelby assisted in presenting visuals during sessions and completed her work from the previous summer as an NAAE Communications Intern.
EIGHT STUDENTS AWARDED
Ag Ed Scholarships

Eight students earned Agricultural Education Program scholarships. Thank you to our generous donors for supporting Agricultural Education and student achievements!

- Denver C. & Mildred F. Corn Scholarship:
  Amy Loschen & Jacqueline Walters
- Marshall J. Scott Scholarship:
  Clayton Carley & Morgan Doggett
- Lloyd Phipps Scholarship:
  Jacob Meisner
- Doak Scholarship:
  Clayton Carley, Jacob Meisner, & Hannah Raver

AG ED STUDENTS FINALISTS FOR Outstanding Senior

The Hugh P. Morrison scholarship, funded by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., is awarded to a College of ACES senior with a strong academic record, evidence of leadership, and a demonstrated commitment to agriculture. Three of the six finalists for the 2015-16 award were Agricultural Education students -- Clayton Carley, Shelby Cooper, and Jacob Dickey. Congratulations to Clayton Carley on earning this prestigious award!
LEADERSHIP MINOR STUDENTS INSPIRE

Team I-Flags Campus Display

Students from Dr. Kari Keating’s AGED 480 class celebrated a successful collaborative project with the help of Ikenberry Commons and the University of Illinois Division of Housing. Sparked by a teammate’s unique idea to celebrate diversity on campus, the team developed a prototype and raised money to help purchase and install 196 flags representing the countries of the United Nations in the lobby of the Student Dining and Residential Programs building in Ikenberry Commons. Team members (pictured left to right) were: Malay Sapra, Bill Hilger, Sarah Wright, Jennie Stevens, Kyle Peters, and Matt Siegel.

AG EDUCATION STUDENTS PREPARE FOR

Student Teaching in Spring

Six students will complete their student teaching experience during the Spring 2016 semester. In addition to teaching responsibilities, students will help prepare Career Development Event (CDE) teams, lead FFA events, and assist members as they prepare for proficiency award competitions.

Clayton Carley
Student teaching with:
Mr. Tim McDermott &
Mrs. Carrie Koester
Waterloo HS

Shelby Cooper
Student teaching with:
Dr. Penny Haase-Wittler
Lincoln Community HS

Brett Kneeskern
Student teaching with:
Mr. Mike White &
Mr. Doug Anderson
Paxton-Buckley-Loda HS

Jacalyn Meisner
Student teaching with:
Mrs. Christie Joehl
Carrollton HS

Jacob Meisner
Student teaching with:
Mr. Mark Steber, Mr. Jamie VanDyke, & Mr. Rylan Rusk
Richland County HS

Hannah Raver
Student teaching with:
Mrs. Heather Obert-Belden
Marengo HS

I am excited to help students grow and succeed academically, while also expanding my teaching knowledge and abilities.”

Brett Kneeskern
Graduate Student
Student teaching Spring 2016
MEMBERS EARN NATIONAL

Awards at ATA Conclave

The annual Alpha Tau Alpha (ATA) Conclave is held in conjunction with National FFA Convention. The conclave offers the opportunity for college members to sharpen their skills and compete against others in the same major from all over the country. The University of Illinois Ag Ed team was extremely successful, bringing home first place in Debate and Parliamentary Procedure team events. Morgan Doggett earned Top Secretary honors in Parliamentary Procedure. The team also competed in the Quiz Bowl competition, and placed second for the Program of Excellence award.

Students pictured: (left to right, front row) Harley Carlson, Morgan Doggett, Kaillyn Bickers, Betsy Kueker, Willow Krumweide, Maggi Maxstadt; (left to right, back row) Clayton Carley, Kaity Spangler, Molly Novotney, Megan Vogt, Hayden Kinkade, Adam Rosentreter, and Treavor Taylor.

AG EDUCATION FACULTY ATTEND

Research Conferences

North Central AAAE Conference: Dr. Erica Thieman
The first week of October, Dr. Erica Thieman attended the North Central American Association for Agricultural Education (AAAE) Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She served as Chair of the Research Committee and was selected as a discussant for the research session on Teacher Development. Dr. Thieman is also serving as the Chair for Conference Restructure. She hopes to return next fall with graduate students who have submitted their own research, and encourages teachers to contact her with interest in submitting a thesis or non-thesis project for the conference next fall.

Spain Leadership Conference: Dr. Dave Rosch
In October, Dr. Dave Rosch traveled to Barcelona, Spain, for the annual conference of the International Leadership Association. University educators, public service employees, human resource professionals, and students gathered at the conference to gain insight on the latest research in developing leaders. Dr. Rosch will be able to apply what he learned about improving professional and social organizations and effective leadership to his courses in Agricultural Leadership Education.