STUDENTS COMPETE IN
National ATA Conclave

Ten agricultural education students competed in the national Alpha Tau Alpha (ATA) Conclave in Indianapolis, Indiana. The event was held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention in October. Students who competed and their team placings were: Parliamentary Procedure, 1st place team, members were Jerry Brockett, Harley Carlson (1st place secretary), Andrew Klein (1st place chair), Aaron Slack, and Kaity Spangler; Debate members were Wyatt Capps, Harley Carlson, Rachel Recker, and Adam Rosentreter; Quiz Bowl members were Wyatt Capps, Harley Carlson, Andrew Klein, and Adam Rosentreter. The chapter also placed first in the Program of Excellence Fellowship division. Gary Ochs is the advisor for the University of Illinois ATA.

THANK YOU to the agricultural leadership education students who organized and facilitated workshops for high school 4-H members from Southern Illinois on November 9th. Illinois 4-H members from Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski, and Union counties visited the College of ACES as part of a program sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension.

STUDENTS TRAVEL TO WISCONSIN FOR Professional Development

During the first weekend of December, five ACES students, along with Mr. Ochs, participated in a professional development trip to Wisconsin! Normal Community and Streator High Schools were two stops on the trip north. Students gained experience in other high school agriculture programs and listened to valuable words of advice shared by the agricultural teachers.

After a few more hours in the car, the group arrived in Sauk City, WI, home of the Culver’s headquarters. The group received a warm welcome from employees, free root beer, and knowledge of marketing and training strategies within the company. From there the group enjoyed real Wisconsin cheese curds in Green Bay!

On Saturday the students were able to walk through the Lambeau tunnel and on the field of the greatest football team in NFL history. Then they stopped at Wrightstown High School where they learned about Wisconsin teaching qualifications. The trip concluded in Milwaukee with fresh custard and a visit to the horticulture conservatory.

Written by Sarah Van Asten
Freshmen from Kaukauna, WI
Agricultural Science Education
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION STUDENTS BEGIN

Thirteen agricultural science education undergraduate and graduate students will complete their student teaching experience in Spring 2018 with outstanding teachers, students, and communities throughout Illinois.

Elise Hackett
Taylorville

Caseelynn Johnston
Pittsfield

Alicia Kabat
Richland County

Andrew Klein
Waterloo

Kelley Koester
Rochelle

Willow Krumwiede
Mt. Vernon

Meg Meeker
St. Joseph-Ogden

Ben Oakley
Richland County

Kaity Spangler
Prairie Central

Megan Vogt
Carlyle

Courtney Walker
Monticello

Jacqueline Walters
Tri-Point

Kayla Wills
Mahomet-Seymour

“I am excited to student teach at Pittsfield for many reasons: talented students to teach, a supportive community to work with and an amazing mentor/ag teacher to learn from. I know I will gain so much from the experience and I hope I can share my skills and passion for agriculture to help students!”

Caseelynn Johnston
Senior, Student Teaching at Pittsfield
Agricultural Science Education

THANK YOU to the cooperating teachers who are mentoring students: Sue Schafer, Katie King, Jody Heavner, Mark Steber, Jamie VanDyke, Rylan Rusk, Tim McDermott, Carrie Koester, Donna Page, John Kabat, Cherie Rogier, Katie Duitsman, Becky Freed, Kyle Miller, Kole Stadt, Tamra Gerstenecker, Jeff Jacobs, Elizabeth Rost, Diana Loschen, and Jennifer Wherley.
CONGRATULATIONS TO

December Graduates

Three students from the agricultural education program completed their degree requirements in December 2017. Congratulations to Abigail Petersen (graduate student), Lacy Pruitt and Clare Wagner (undergraduate students) on their graduation!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS OFFER Leadership Opportunities

College students know participation in a student organization looks good on a resume. But, according to a University of Illinois leadership researcher, student organizations also offer a wealth of leadership development opportunities if structured properly.

“The idea is for universities to start thinking about advising and working with student organizations less from a risk-management perspective, and instead recognizing all the development opportunities that we might leave up to chance if we don’t address them in a structured way,” says Dave Rosch, associate professor in the Agricultural Leadership and Science Education Program at U of I.

In a recent issue of New Directions for Student Leadership, Rosch curated eight articles from experts in leadership education, specifically relating to opportunities for leadership development in college student organizations. Rosch says the issue is designed for advisors in colleges and high schools, coaches, people who teach leadership classes, or lead co-curricular leadership retreats. “If they only have an hour and a half in the next month to think about this, this issue summarizes everything they need to know,” he says.

Articles in the issue examine how student organizations can be optimized for student leadership development. “You hear college students say all the time, ‘Once I get out in the real world, it’s going be different.' But really, the struggles, the successes, and the dynamics of student organizations are the same as those in any professional workplace,” Rosch says. “It’s important for students to understand that if they learn how to create success while they’re students, they’ll be better suited to create success when they’re a professional.”

The level of leadership experience and training offered by student organizations depends on the way they are set up and managed by student participants and university administrators. The bulk of the issue addresses these practical matters, and includes chapters on designing and advising student organizations; structuring identity-based and professions-based organizations; and bridging divides between high school and college student organizations.

“It turns out there’s no formal pipeline that helps students who are involved in student organizations in high school stay involved when they get to college,” Rosch says. “There are a ton of organizations in high schools that are analogous to those in college. But even if they’re in the same town, there’s no relationship between them, much less at a national level. None of these relationships exist; we need to start doing this.”

The issue, “The role of student organizations in developing leadership,” is published in the New Directions for Student Leadership series. Rosch curated and edited the issue; the eight articles are authored by researchers across multiple institutions.

Written by Lauren Quinn, Ph.D.
Newswriter, College of ACES
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT

NAAE Conference

Mr. Gary Ochs, agricultural education program instructor, and Alicia Kabat, agricultural science education senior, attended the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, on December 5-9. Mr. Ochs served as a representative for the Illinois Association of Vocational Agricultural Teachers (IAVAT) Board of Directors. Kabat was selected to participate in the convention as part of the Future Agriscience Teacher Symposium (FAST), a program designed for pre-service teachers. Each participated in professional development workshops, attended award ceremonies and meetings, and networked with other agricultural education professionals.

“Attending #NAAE17 changed my perspective on teaching, gave me more confidence, and helped me learn more about my #AGED family. It was all things great, wonderful, and purposeful!”

Alicia Kabat
Senior, Agricultural Science Education

HAMMEL REFLECTS ON HER

Internship Experience

As part of my Agricultural Leadership Education degree requirements, I completed an internship last summer. While working as the intern for Illinois Master Gardeners, my boss entrusted me with the responsibility of growing our social media presence.

I was able to put into practice the knowledge I learned from my agricultural leadership education courses (AGED 230) to develop an effective media and communication strategy. I started by posting daily articles related to horticulture and regularly inviting people to like our page. After some time, I created our Twitter account, followed by an Instagram account in the fall.

I regularly use the knowledge and skills I learned in my AGED courses when creating infographics and using specific hashtags, images, and GIFs. This has enabled me to help Illinois Master Gardeners create and grow their social media presence and followership. We now use a social media schedule that includes a theme for each day. Some of the themes include Sick Day Saturday, where we feature a plant that is currently stressed with tips to revive the plant, and Master Gardener Monday, when we highlight our hard-working members. Since applying our new social media daily themes, we have increased the number of social media followers and have expanded our educational impact with the help of retweets from the U of I Extension flagship account.