

AUGUST 2013

the SASES Times

Issue 1, Volume 1 | An Undergraduate Organization of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA



Photo Credit: Emma Gantz

Growing More Than Pumpkins...



As with many other clubs the Gopher Crops and Soils Club members are busy this summer with internships that have led them throughout the upper Midwest. As summer is coming to a close we are all getting ready for the upcoming school year.

Our club pumpkin patch is growing well this year. The pumpkins are grown on campus and were planted by the club's members, as well as maintained by the few members that are near campus for the summer. Come harvest, the pumpkins will be sold to students and faculty of the University of Minnesota for Halloween decorations. The proceeds are then used to help finance club members' travel costs to attend SASES regional and national meetings.

In fact many of the members are looking forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new peers interested in soils, agronomy, and environmental sciences at Tampa, FL this fall!

Luke Schrodt | University of Minnesota

Save the Date!

September
23rd

Non-Abstract
Contest Deadline

October
7th

Registration &
Housing Closes

November
2nd - 4th

ASA, CSSA, &
SSSA International
Annual Meetings -
Undergrad Program

SASES Tours Announced!



One highlight for students during both Regional and National Meeting has always been the tours. Tours give students a snapshot of the agronomy, soil, and environmental work that is being done in the particular region that the meetings are held in. This year's tours will be on November 2nd. You can submit your tour preference along with registration.

- [SASES Tour #1: Hydric Soils Tour](#)
- [SASES Tour #2: Turfgrass Tour](#)
- [SASES Tour #3: Forage Tour](#)
- [SASES Tour #4: Organic Farms Tour](#)
- [SASES Tour #5: Research Centers Tour](#)

Form more information on the tours please visit:

<https://www.acsm meetings.org/program/undergraduates>



Officer Spotlight

Mark Sullivan, SASES President

Education: Senior at University of Illinois

Major: Ag Business

What is your involvement in your university's club? "Former club Vice-President and regular volunteer at club activities."

What do you enjoy most about being a National Officer? "The opportunity to meet all of the new people and show other students the opportunities that are available in the organization."

Favorite SASES Memory? "The river boat cruise in Ohio."

One piece of advice for members: "Your reputation is everything, in life, work and everything you do. Especially with new technology, what you say on Facebook, what you do in a job, and what you do at school will be with you for life so make the most of it!"

Plans after graduation: Obtain a job in Precision ag field working with customers to create variable rate and product placement mapping systems



Going Global: My Study Abroad Experience

Every time I look back on the things that I have done, I remember another adventure. My adventures have been filled with people and memories that I will not soon forget, and experiences that have shaped who I am. As I reflect, I find that my adventures are all tied together by one commonality: Agriculture.

On January 1st of this year through June 17th, I embarked on a study abroad adventure that took me 8,000 miles from my home in Rushville, IL, only to find myself in the middle of New Zealand with 17 of my peers. There were many chapters of this adventure; one took me to the farms scattered across the land to study the native horticulture, another to Christchurch, where an agricultural family opened up their home and shared their livelihood with me, and my final chapter concluded at the Lincoln University.

This adventure gave me the opportunity to sit back and take in an outside view of what is possible in farming. Not just new technology and bigger equipment, but using old ideas combined with the new to maximize what we have at our disposal. This is an experience I could never have learned in a classroom, and am very grateful for. I recommend that all of my SASES peers take the leap to travel to another country and immerse themselves in another way of life. It truly is the adventure of a lifetime.

To get my full adventure from New Zealand, visit my blog at <http://marksnzadventures.wordpress.com/>



A Welcome Note From SASES Co-Advisor:

As a SASES advisor, I would like to welcome everyone back to their respective campuses as many institutions are ramping up for fall semesters. I would like to encourage SASES club advisors to welcome new students, and quickly introduce new freshmen and transfer students to the clubs in their majors or areas of interest. The return of students on campus always brings with it a renewed energy, and I hope that we can all capitalize on that energy to achieve some important objectives this year. Everyone - remind students to bring a friend to club events!

Clubs, as members reengage with ongoing projects and initiate new endeavors, remember to be thinking about the Presidents' Trophy Competition at the national meeting in Tampa, Nov. 1-6. The Presidents' Trophy Competition gives clubs an opportunity to showcase their public service, fund raising, and club development activities, promotion of the applied sciences, and professional development. Just keep in mind that the registration deadline for this contest is September 23. Also, add to your calendars that the deadline for submissions to the National Visual Presentation Contest is September 23. Other contests have early deadlines too. Find the listing of all the contests at <https://www.agronomy.org/students/contests>.

Speaking of contests, check out the four winning Gateway to the Future videos which are posted at <https://www.agronomy.org/students/video-contest/>. Two videos, one created by the University of Missouri Agronomy Club and one produced by Brandon Gerrish from Texas A&M, tied for first place.

The University of Arkansas CSES Club placed third and Victoria Bertolami from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point placed fourth. Congratulations to all the winners. As you are planning your own club

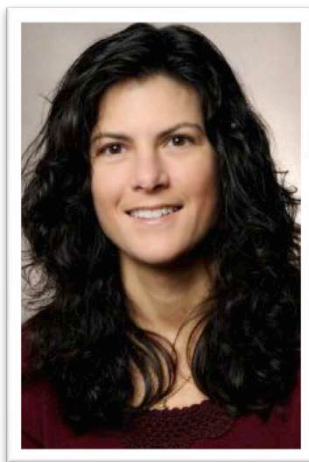


Photo Credit:
University of Arkansas

events for the fall and registering and making plans to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting, I can attest that your national SASES student leaders have been meeting all year to plan events for Tampa (Nov. 1-6). Among many events, there are five tours scheduled on Saturday, Nov. 2, and a riverboat cruise scheduled for that Saturday night. There will be some changes to the program instituted, including changes for the quiz bowl contest to try to address concerns from last year. The officers have also initiated a Club President's Table to provide an opportunity for club officers to interact in informal round table discussions and help each other develop ideas for club activities. Find out what other clubs are doing, or have tried and did not work and why. Then, maybe your club can try initiating something new, but avoid some costly mistakes.

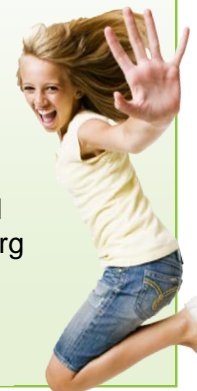
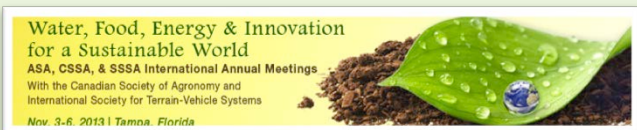
One final piece of advice for students attending the 2013 Annual Meeting; take advantage of the opportunity to meet professionals who work in the areas that interest you. I just heard from a student who returned from a summer internship where he conducted a research project with a company out west. He developed some new skills, made some great contacts for his future career, and was offered a job. Undergraduate students who have attended the national Annual Meeting have made important contacts that have led to internships, jobs, graduate school, and very importantly, new friends.

Dr. Mary C. Savin | University of Arkansas
National SASES Co-Advisor
University of Arkansas CSES Club Co-Advisor

Remember to stay connected with SASES via
<https://www.agronomy.org/students/Facebook>
<https://www.facebook.com/SASES.students>.
Or Google +, www.Gplus.to/SASES

SASES INTERNSHIP AVAILABLE!!

Want to contribute to the success of the annual meetings and earn cash? Sign-up now to help ASA, CSSA, and SSSA staff with various meeting activities! The internship program is open to graduate and undergraduate student members of the Societies. The deadline to join is September 5th. Any questions can be directed to Emily Fuger, at efuger@sciencesocieties.org or 608-268-4949, or visit <https://www.acsmeetings.org/internship>.
See you in TAMPA!



Reasons to be thinking TAMPA!

I can't believe it's almost time for another round of National Meetings! As the officer team ties up the loose ends for this year's trip to Florida, we believe there are many reasons why students should seek out this opportunity.

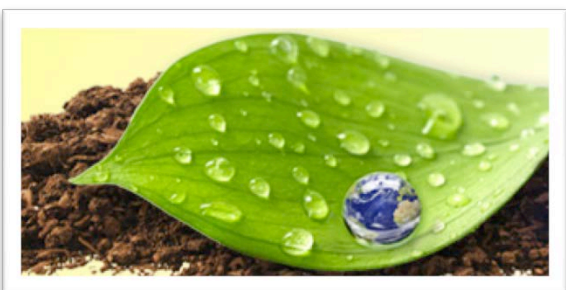
First of all, you will never find a better way to travel. Funding from clubs, sponsorships, and scholarships allows student costs to be minimized, releasing some of the financial burden. The stress of planning the travel is typically delegated through the clubs, and the SASES Advisors and Officers take care of the itinerary and everything else.

Secondly, once you get to the meeting's destination, there's never a dull moment. For those who have been on past SASES trips, I think you all would agree with me when I say they are very much a whirlwind trip. Between the speakers, meetings, competitions, local culture (and food!), tours, socials and meeting new people, there is little time for much else.

SASES Meetings are something to look forward to; whether you like attending the Regional Meeting, National Meetings, or have the opportunity to both. It's fun to visit with old friends that you only get to see once or twice a year, to see the agronomic industry in a new region, and especially to experience something new. For all those who have never been on a SASES trip, I highly recommend it.

To the SASES Members who have never been on a trip before, ask yourself, "why not?" If the reason is because you are not an active member, then become one. If the reason is money, then just spend it. Sure, a couple hundred is a lot to take away from a college students' budget, but when in your life will you get the opportunity to do this again? (The correct answer is "Never.") To the SASES Members who I will be seeing again down in Tampa, I challenge you to meet 5 new people and network with one Tri-Societies Member. Doing this will only help your experience. I know this because I've done it. Not that I counted off the people as I met them, I just let it happen; and as result, I have friends all across the nation.

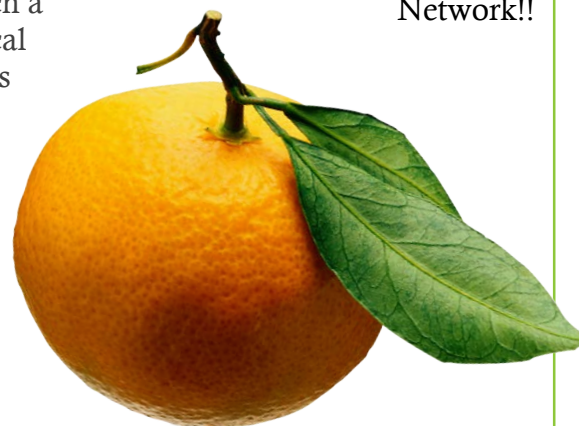
In the end, the reasons why you spend the money and take time away from class to participate in SASES events is all your own. My only hope is that you all make the most of your experience. With that being said, I am very excited to see both new and old members at this year's National Meetings in Tampa, Florida!



10 Reasons Why You Should Attend SASES

Meetings:

- 10.) Because You Love Agronomy, Soils, & Environmental Sciences!
- 9.) You Can Run For Office
- 8.) Clubs Bonding Over Shared Travel Experience
- 7.) Great Keynote Speakers
- 6.) Valuable Educational Trip
- 5.) Tours Are Always exciting!
- 4.) Compete in the Contests
- 3.) Experience New Places
- 2.) Make New Friends & Reconnect with Old Friends
- 1.) Network, Network, Network!!



Bailey Morrell | Iowa State University

Visit the website!!

For more information about what is planned for this year's SASES National Meetings, visit

<https://www.acsmeetings.org/program/undergraduates>

Education & Passion For Agriculture: A Texas A&M Tradition

Texas A&M University is said to be an extraordinary university throughout the nation. During the fall of 2012, Texas A&M reported enrollment of 53,337 students. A university as prestigious and large as Texas A&M, I am proud to say I was accepted into the university and able to study here. When I first came to Texas A&M, I was undeclared in a major, as are most students coming into their college years. It took me a year to find a major that I felt fit my goals and aspirations. After careful consideration, investigating various majors and departments, I selected a major which provided a background I had something in common with, Agronomy.

Agronomy at Texas A&M has had many forms and names since the early 1900's. The Department of Agronomy originated in 1912. In 1962, the department was established as the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences. This new department encompassed Agronomy, Horticulture, and Floriculture. This was for a short period until 1976, when Horticulture and Floriculture separated to their own Department of Horticulture Sciences. After 1976, The Department of Soil and Crop Sciences has come to what we know it as today, including two undergraduate majors, Plant and Environmental Soil Science and Turf grass Science, and a graduate program including Agronomy, Food Science and Technology, Genetics, Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences, Plant Breeding, Soil Science, and Water Management and Hydrologic



Science. While we may be small with 150 undergraduates and 140 graduate students, we provide a large impact on today's world.

The Department has a wide variety of interests including: biofuels, corn and sorghum, cotton, crop physiology, environmental physics, food science and cereal quality, forages, landscape processes and mineralogy, peanut, plant breeding, plant genomics and biotechnology, rice, soil chemistry and fertility, soil microbiology, turf grass, weeds, and

wheat and small grains. Professors provide a unique opportunity for students, student worker positions, undergraduate research, and networking with other professionals in the industry. Undergraduates are required to complete an internship, undergraduate research or study abroad providing students with the skills to continue into a success career.

Coming from a small town, as many do, where everyone knows your name to a core class with 300 students; a small, close "family" in your major's department is a relaxing feeling. This closeness of the department helps with everything from the adjustment to college life to help with school work. The home town feel is what I appreciate most about the department, knowing I can talk to a professor in the hall, or walk into the advising office for a question. While this is a very brief look at Texas A&M Agronomy, you have a glimpse into what makes up our department at Texas A&M.

Corey Carpenter | Texas A&M University

Do you want to write for us?



I hope that you have enjoyed the first issue of the SASES Times! If you have any inspiration for articles or if your club is doing something that you would like to showcase, send them my way!

I'd like to thank the individuals who contributed articles and pictures for this month's issue. (Many of the stock pictures used in this issue were provided by Emma Gantz from Kansas State University.)

Without their contributions, this would not be possible. That being said, thank you for reading, & we hope to be seeing articles from your club soon!



Email me your articles @ [bmorrell@iastate.edu!](mailto:bmorrell@iastate.edu)

Best Regards,
Bailey Morrell | Iowa State University
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and Environmental Sciences
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