

the SASES Times

Issue 1, Volume 1 – A Tri-Societies Organization



Putting the 'Ag' in Swag

The Agronomy Club at Virginia Tech, one of the oldest clubs on campus, may be a small part of the Virginia Tech University, but with the help of its members and advisor, Dr. Ozzie Abaye, it has a large impact on the campus and the surrounding

community.

Being a member of the Agronomy Club is much more than attending meetings. It is a chance to make lifelong friendships, network with industry professionals, help out in the community and participate in fundraising and fun events. The Agronomy Club has guest speakers present at meetings regularly. This past year, Leonard Gianessi from CropLife Foundation and a group from Crop Production Services spoke to us about pesticides and internship opportunities in their businesses. The Agronomy Club has also had the opportunity to attend SASES Meetings and compete in the Quizbowl competition. Having the ability to travel has helped the Agronomy Club network with other agricultural students

across the United States.

Along with networking opportunities, the Agronomy Club at Virginia Tech also helps the Blacksburg community out with club service activities that raise money for organizations such as the Heifer

International. The club donates books, participates in road clean-ups and other University-sponsored community service activities. Each fall, the club hosts its biggest and most popular fundraiser of the year, the Peanut Sale. This sale is run from start to finish entirely by the club. Members are in charge of advertising, taking orders, as well as packing and distributing the local Virginia peanuts. In the spring, the Club hosts a Chili Dinner for the College of Agriculture which is also a big fundraiser for the club. Lastly, the club hosts a Pig Roast for the Crop and Soil Science Department as an end-of-the-year "thank you" and get together before the semester comes to an end.

The Agronomy Club at Virginia Tech strives to stay active in the community and inform the public about agriculture. For more

information about the club, please visit their website, www.sites.google.com/site/vtagronomy to get the most up-to-date information about the club's activities and events they participate in!

Lauren Woloochjan – Virginia Tech

Keynote Announcement!



The officer team is pleased to announce that Matt Rush will be this year's Keynote Speaker at the SASES National Meetings in Tampa! Rush travels the country as a professional speaker conducting leadership and motivational seminars. He is also the Executive Vice President of the New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau. Rush is full of energy and passion for agriculture; he is sure to provide a great opening keynote to kick off the meetings!

To learn more about Matt Rush, visit his website at: MattRush.net

Save the Date!

**October
7th**

Registration & Housing Closes

**October
20th**

Deadline to submit articles for October Newsletter

**November
2nd – 4th**

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



Officer Spotlight... Brandon Gerrish

Name: Brandon Gerrish

Year/School: Senior at Texas A&M University

Major: Agronomy with a minor in Horticulture



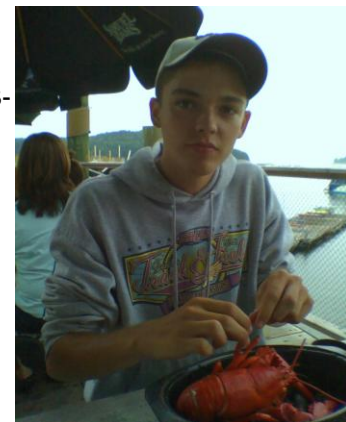
Plans after graduation: Attend graduate school at Texas A&M University studying plant breeding. Following that I would like to work as a plant breeder for a seed company.

What is your involvement in your university's club?: President for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years.

What do you enjoy most about being a National Officer?: Being able to be meet and work with other students from around the country.

Favorite SASES Memory?: Attending the quiz bowl at my first SASES meetings in San Antonio, TX and seeing the excitement and competition from the various schools.

One piece of advice for members (be it school, life, or SASES): *"The difference between success and failure is not in a lack of strength, not in a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will. The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender."*- Vince Lombardi. Do your best in everything that you do and don't be afraid of making mistakes



From Maine to Texas: The Diversity of American Agriculture

Recently on an assignment I was asked to write about why American agriculture is successful. This topic really got me thinking about how diverse agriculture is in America. Being from Lebanon, Maine and going to school in College Station, Texas has given me the opportunity to work with a broad range of crops: from potato fields in southern Maine to cotton fields along the Mexican border. I believe this diversity is one of the significant reasons American agriculture is successful and why it provides so many opportunities.

This past summer I took part in a plant breeding internship at Texas A&M University where I was able to work with small grains, vegetables, and cotton breeding operations for a month each. During this time I was able to travel to several areas of Texas and visit growing regions that differ greatly from what I am used to. Perhaps the most interesting of these was the lower Rio Grande Valley where peppers, citrus, and many other crops are raised almost year round. In Maine, the growing season is generally a little over four months in length. I think sometimes it is easy to forget how varied American agriculture is and over the summer I was able to see this first hand.

This internship helped confirm to me what I would like to do after graduation and it also allowed me to meet many people who work both in the research and production sides of agriculture. I would like to encourage other students to take advantage of internship opportunities and be willing to go outside of their comfort zone. Like Mark said in last month's issue, these are experiences that you could never learn in a classroom. You will discover new things and you never know who you may meet and what other opportunities may become available as a result.

Brandon Gerrish – Texas A&M



An Invitation from our President

Hello All!

My name is Mark Sullivan and I am the President of SASES. I wanted to write you all to formally invite you, not only to the national meetings in Tampa, but also to join me and the rest of the officers for a roundtable style meeting on Monday November 4th at the meetings.

We as an officer team want to bring together two representatives from each club to share information and ideas about how to improve your club and your members. Aside from serving as your invite to attend, this email is to get you excited and to start you all thinking about what you would like to share.

Each year at the meetings we listen to the president's trophy presentations and see all of these great fundraisers, volunteer activities and club events that other chapters are doing. What we want to get out of this round table is the behind the scenes information to it all. How do you delegate responsibilities? How do you decide who is in charge? How do you spread the word? How do you get members interested? These are the questions that other groups face, especially some of our newer groups that are still trying to get off the ground.

I hope that all of your clubs will be able to send representatives to share your ideas and gather valuable information for your club to continue growing and fostering learning!

I look forward to seeing you all at the meetings and hearing your great ideas!

Mark Sullivan
SASES President

Why should YOU be excited about this years meeting??



Tampa.

That's all it took for me, I heard the meeting was in Tampa and I was sold! Let's be real honest here, a trip to Tampa in November? Who is going to pass on that? Well let me tell you, it gets better!

Socials

This year Tom Bradford and Crop Production Services have come through in a big way to allow us to organize another boat cruise again this year! For those of you that were in California and Ohio you know what a good time this can be. There will be a D.J. and a cash bar so come looking for a good time.

Tours

Again this year we have some great tours lined up for all of our members! Tours will include Hydric soils, Turf grass, Forage, Organic Farms, and Research. These are a great opportunity for members to get out and see Florida from a whole new direction.

Remember that the socials and tours are only the icing on the cake. The business meetings, guest speakers, career fair, and networking opportunities are what make these meetings great! I just hope you are all ready for the best SASES meetings yet!

Mark Sullivan – University of Illinois

Advisor Spotlight

David Weaver

Year/School: Professor, Auburn University since 1981

Major: Plant Breeding and Genetics, Cotton and Soybean

Plans for the future: My plans are to keep working for a few more years then retire.

What is your involvement in your university's club? I serve as Advisor to the Auburn Agronomy Club, whose name will soon be changed to the Auburn Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences Club.

What do you enjoy most about being a National Advisor? I enjoy the interaction with students, particularly meeting and talking with different students from different schools and different parts of the country.



Favorite SASES Memory? I remember my first national meeting well. The organization was not SASES then, but was still an organization affiliated with ASA of undergraduate students in agronomy. The meeting was held in Las Vegas, NV, and it was my first trip to the gambling capital of the world, and only my second airplane flight. I represented the University of Georgia in the speech contest and won first place. Between that and a lucky slot machine, I returned home with more money than I took.

One piece of advice for members (be it school, life, or SASES): Take a chance. Be prepared to move outside your comfort zone. Do something that makes you just a little nervous when you are given an opportunity. Whether it turns out to be a positive or negative experience, you will learn from it. Even when things don't turn out well, you can usually laugh about it later

Sudden Death Syndrome in soybeans



Rain is essential during the growing season. The wrong timing can be an influence to disease growth unfortunately. This year most of east Kansas saw a wide infection of sudden death syndrome in the fields. A late rain plus a week of cool weather proved favorable for SDS. Farmers are very concerned about how the soybean yields will be affected.

Emma Gantz – Iowa State University

If you or somebody from your chapter has a topic about an agronomic, soil, or environmental issue you would like to have featured please send it to bmorrell@iastate.edu



Do you want to write for us?

Well there you have it; another issue of the SASES Times is in the books! I hope you have enjoyed this issue and it has inspired you to take that next step in whatever it is your considering, whether it's coming to the annual meeting in Tampa, being more active in your chapter, running for national office, or writing an article to be in next month's issue. GO FOR IT!



I'd like to thank all of the individuals that wrote articles or helped with getting this month's issue together! A special shoutout to Mark Sullivan for putting in some extra time to help get this put together and for the pictures featured in this month's issue. This newsletter wouldn't be possible without you the members so please keep sending articles and ideas!

Bailey Morrell – Corresponding Secretary

Email me your articles @ bmorrell@iastate.edu!

Your 2013-2013 Officer Team



Mark Sullivan- President

Brandon Gerrish – Vice President

Elizabeth Newell – Membership Liaison

Tawney Caudle – Recording Secretary

Bailey Morrell – Corresponding Secretary

SASES Advisors

Dr. David Weaver – Auburn University

Dr. Mary Savin – University of Arkansas

Dr. Steve Hague – Texas A&M University

Emily Fuger – ASA, CSSA, & SSSA Liaison

