

NOVEMBER 2013

the
SASES Times

Issue 4, Volume 1 | An Undergraduate Organization of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA



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This certification is for any individual whose education, experience, and career path is associated with the practice of agronomy in any form. When it comes to protecting and promoting your agronomic community, being a Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) assures professional credibility and opens your career to opportunities you've never realized were available.

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Registration: **October 7, 2013**
- **December 6, 2013**

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Officer Spotlight

Bailey Morrell, SASES Corresponding Secretary



Education: Senior, Iowa State University

Major: Agricultural Studies, minors in Agronomy and Ag Business

What is your involvement in your university's club?

Outgoing College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S) Council representative, after serving two years on the council

What do you enjoy most about being a National

Officer? I enjoy the networking. There are a lot of really great people in this organization who do a lot of really amazing things within their clubs, the industry and their community and I'm just the person who gets to share everyone's stories.

Favorite SASES Memory? I don't know that I have a single favorite memory. There are just many to choose from! ...But if I did, there is a group of about 10 people (from across the nation) who I met on SASES trips that I've gotten to be good

friends with; friends like that have helped make SASES trips memorable and are the kind of friends I hope to keep in touch with even after we're too old to be SASES members.

One piece of advice for members: You make your own friends, opportunities, and errors in life... embrace all of them, because they are the reason you are who you are today.

Plans after graduation: Working in the industry and advocating on behalf of our producers, the industry and the scientific community that supports agriculture's progress

Ag Internships & Industry Opportunities



By now, everyone knows that internships are a vital step in progressing through your collegiate career and particularly helpful to have when it is time to get the "big kid job." What everyone doesn't always know is how to go about getting that internship or experience. So whether you're looking for full time, internship or co-op position, my advice to you is that use the same approach every time. There's no magic formula that's going to get you the experience or even the interview that rockets you into a six figure starting salary (...but wouldn't that be nice?!?!); so be consistent and take every opportunity for what it is. Apply for what interests you. Apply for the positions that have your long-term goals in mind. You should also apply for those opportunities that are not necessarily what you want, but will get your foot in the door with a company that interests you. The bottom line: It's not about the title, it's about the experience and what you are able to take away from it! Below are eight tips that I keep in mind every time I am searching and applying for positions. I hope at least a few will help. Best of luck!!

Eight Tips to Landing the Position:

- ⇒ Be Professional... ALWAYS!! (You should update your materials often and go into interviews knowing that you will be taken as seriously as you present yourself.)
- ⇒ Don't underestimate your qualifications
- ⇒ Utilize your network of friends, professors, and industry to find opportunities
- ⇒ Keep a list of the company, position title, and status of your application when searching/applying (I'm a list person, so I love this one!!)
- ⇒ Be Patient (The agricultural industry is reported to have more jobs than qualified people to fill them. Graduation will come soon enough!)
- ⇒ Google yourself (If you don't like the search results neither will your future employers.)
- ⇒ Know something about the company and the position they are offering
- ⇒ Enjoy the journey (I forget about this one all the time! We often get caught up in the tiresome process or the rejection letters, but don't forget)



2014 REGIONALS ANNOUNCEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln



The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Agronomy Club has been busy planning and fundraising to host the 2014 SASES Regional Meeting. This year we will be highlighting Nebraska's agriculture and the University of Nebraska to attending schools. The Regional Meeting's theme is promoting our industry through social media, a slogan we are calling #media4ag. UNL Agronomy Club has been successfully planning for the meeting through developed committees and assistance from UNL's Agronomy Department Head Dr. Roch Gaussion. Exciting tours, speakers, meals, and socials are planned, not to mention Nebraska's decision to extend the regional meeting an extra day!

On Thursday we plan to take everyone to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo for an exciting dinner in the Durham Tree Tops Jungle Restaurant. Friday will bring us a day of tours, and Saturday will consist of career development sessions, learning how to promote our industry as college students, and meetings for delegates and presidents.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Lincoln on **March 27, 28, 29 2014!** Shirt designs are completed, orders are being placed, and rooms reserved. Keep an eye on your club mail for a packet from us!



FYI: We almost had a record-breaking attendance in Tampa! Let's keep the momentum going; talk to your club about attending the 2014 Regional Meeting! It provides a great opportunity for newer members in your club to get a taste of what our organization is and does.

If you have any questions, email the UNL Agronomy Club at unlagclub@hotmail.com or contact our club President, Allison Siekman, at 402-619-6566.

MU Agronomy Club Sows Seeds in the Community

The students in the MU Agronomy Club at the University of Missouri recently joined forces with Home Depot to host an educational day for the Boy and Girl Scouts of America. This special event was held at the Women and Children's Hospital in Columbia, Missouri. The community service project's goal was to renovate the outdoor facilities around the children's playground area to improve the landscape appeal and make it more energetic for the children.

To reach this goal the MU Agronomy Club dedicated a few days of their time to lay brick for a new sidewalk, plant flowers around walkways to brighten the area and assembled new benches for seating. The club also enlisted the help of the Boy and Girls Scouts of America to help plant more flowers.

Unfortunately, due to the Mid-West Missouri



weather, the event had to moved indoors on account of a rainstorm. However, the students and kids didn't let a little bad weather stop the fun and community service.

The MU Agronomy Club students ended the day answering questions about the plant sciences industry that the kids and families had, as well as teaching them how to start a small family garden. In all, this day was a perfect opportunity to help grow our community while sharing it with a great group of kids from the Boy and Girl Scouts of America.

Kaitlin Flick | University of Missouri

National SASES Tour Recap

Tour 1: Hydric Soils



Although we got off to a rainy start, the hydric soils tour was interesting, informative, and fun. When we arrived at Hillsborough River State Park, we received a warm welcome from Mr. Myakka himself, Frank Watts, who is very proud of Florida's state soil, the Myakka fine sand. Mr. Jared Sweat and other organizers then graciously collected a couple soil profiles in the pouring rain so that the group could learn more about the texture and quality of Florida soils from the comfort of the picnic shelter. After the rain ceased, the group was able to walk around the park and see where the profiles were taken from as well as inspect the local flora as a way to identify wetlands. The second part of our tour consisted of learning the process of delineating wetlands. The group split up and rotated through a few spots of interest. These spots included a cypress dome, where the wetland area is relatively dynamic and has changed frequently over time, and a few spots where hydric soil conditions like muck and gleying were easily found. The tour was a great way to learn new skills and explore a little bit of Florida!

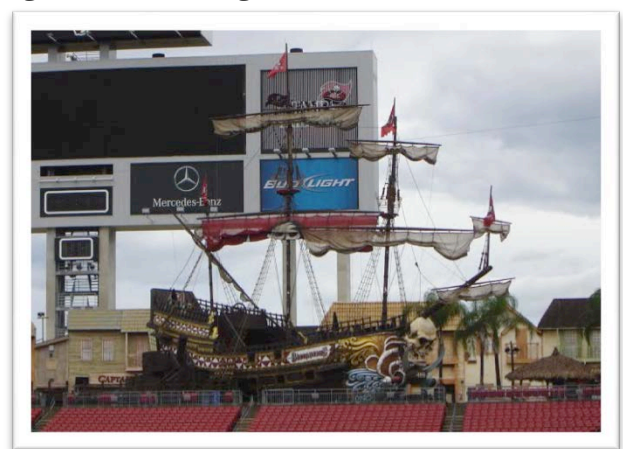
Jordan Beehler | Oklahoma State University

Tour 2: Turfgrass



The day started out early and with heavy rainfall. Luckily, the turfgrass bus was able to escape the rain for our first stop, the Masters Sod Farm. Here we saw different kinds of equipment and learned about the hard labor involved in taking care of and harvesting sod. As the rain loomed overhead, we piled back into the bus to go to the Buckhorn Springs Golf and Country Club. Unfortunately, the rain caught up with us, so we all stood under the building's awning during the speakers'

presentations, but with a nice view of the golf green. We did go out onto the green for a few minutes, in order for the speaker to show us how they test the green for evenness. Everyone got back on the bus and headed to the Raymond James Stadium, home of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers football team. Thankfully, the rain stopped so we could spend some time down on the field, which was made of real turfgrass. The stadium was pretty neat. Everyone quickly heard the monkey and bird calls being played throughout the stands, and many pictures were taken of the giant pirate ship. As a special treat, we were able to eat lunch in the Press Box which gave a neat view of the field. Everyone enjoyed their time in the stadium, but it was time to head to our last destination, the University of South Florida (USF). USF has a lot of different fields that have turfgrass. We were able to visit the football, soccer, baseball, and softball fields. One of the football fields had artificial turfgrass, and it was easy to see the differences between the real stuff. It was thicker, harder, and overall felt very much like plastic. Everyone



had a great time on the tour, eagerly chatting away on the way back to the convention center in preparation for the excitement the rest of the SASES trip had to offer!

Jarai Carter | University of Illinois



Tour 3: Forage

This tour provided a wide variety of experiences addressing forages, animals & their habitats, and animal diets, as well as composting-recycling, horticulture and fish farming. The students learned about topiaries and how they are an intricate part of the gardens. Staff members provided great information to the group on the horticulture side of the gardens.

(Tour 3 Continued on PAGE 5)





This camel will be part of the nativity scene this Christmas season and will require over 950 plant plugs. Later in the day, the group loaded into touring trucks and got to see and learn about animals in their natural habitats. In between lightning threats, everyone got to feed the giraffes, which was one of the tour highlights according to the group. Thru the pouring rain, we learned about Bush Gardens recycling and composting projects. By

composting the animal manures with the vegetative residue they are able to reduce their litter by 85% and use the compost in the various gardens and have begun a project using the compost on a banana research project. The Aquaculture-Fish Farm research facility is working on breeding and growing aquarium fish for the hobbyist. Presently these fish are wild caught. The outside ponds use topography and gravity to replenish the pond water. The top pond fills and then water flows underground from the top pond down.



The "Purdue Crew" | Purdue University

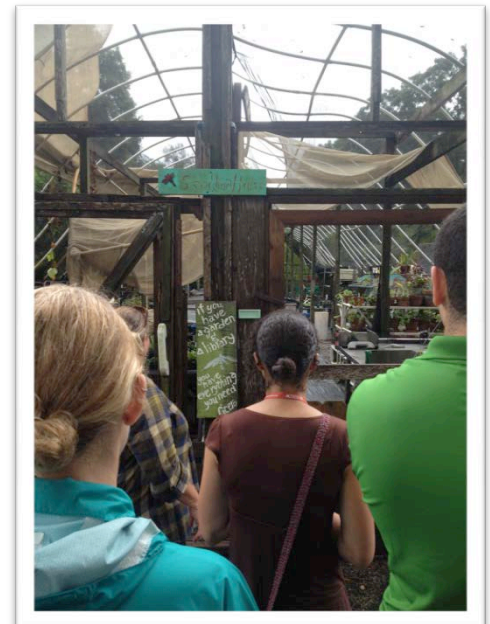
FUN FACT: A family of tortoises fed a diet too high in protein will result in the raised points on the scutes of this tortoise. Several staff members, interns and volunteers spend hours a day preparing special balanced diets for the multitude of animals at Bush Gardens



Tour 4: Organic Farms

The first location we visited was a local farmers' market. Thankfully, this was the only stop that was accompanied by a noteworthy amount of rain. The products available ranged from macadamia nut butter to Nubian Shea butter, and were more varied than the perishable goods one might find in a chain grocery store. The next stop was at Gateway Organic Farm, located across the bay from Tampa. This three or four acre plot is owned and operated by the Sindlinger family.

Pamela Sindlinger, the employee listed on the business card as "the farmer's wife," did the vast majority of the speaking during our tour. Her husband and two children, both homeschooled, were also there to host us. Apparently, "the farmer," Hank Sindlinger, had left a high-paying, engineering-related profession a few years back.

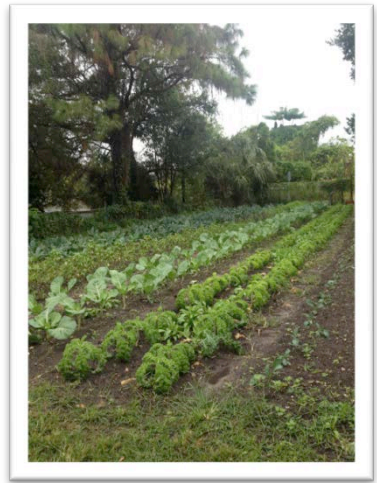


(Tour 4 Continued...)

He and his wife determined that their family would grow better on a small farm, albeit in Florida. Even more remarkable is the fact that this humble family had once been offered more than a million dollars for their land, an offer which they declined. In addition to perpetual weeding and homeschooling, the younger personnel at Gateway do their fair share of the paperwork required for the farm's certification. The USDA's 'National Organic Program' requires farmers to record extensive data in order for their operation to attain and retain certification as a "USDA Organic Farm." Overall, Gateway Organic Farm was a pleasant and unique farm to tour.

The third and final stop was another USDA-certified farm, operating with more land and personnel than Gateway. We were split into two groups and given a detailed tour of the main compost heap, the seedling nursery, the numerous vegetable patches, and the chicken coops. Our experience here catered more to an understanding of the economically viable products of the industry, or at least those that can be grown in the sandy soils of Florida. All three visits were memorable experiences, each with their own original qualities. In my opinion, knowledge of the organic farming industry that we gained during this tour was worth the time we spent.

Morgan LePage | Auburn University

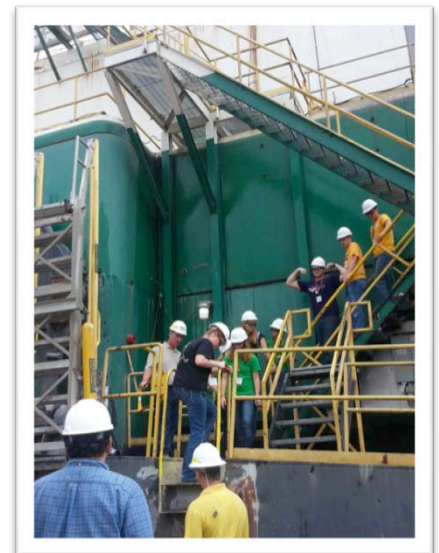


Tour 5: Research Centers



Tour # 5 went to the Four Corners mining center and the one of the University of Florida's research centers. Mosaic is the number one mining company in Florida. They are most well known for mining phosphate rock from the soil. Their company supplies 13% of the entire world's phosphate fertilizer. All together they have 11 locations; nine in Florida and

two in Louisiana. We toured the Four Corners mining facility in Polk, Florida, which was founded in 1985. They have 9 production dragline machines, which they use to obtain the matrix. Matrix is a mix of phosphate rock, sand, and clay. The final product of the mining process is pebbles, which are the phosphate rocks that are then put into fertilizer. We went out to see how the draglines were operated. Our van got stuck twice in the mud on our ways to the draglines, which made for quite the adventure. Next we went to one of the many research centers managed by the University of Florida. They took us through the facilities, such as the labs and then out to the fields, which mostly consisted of fruit, such as their famous strawberries.



Bliss Betzen | Kansas State University

Carissa Maskus | Colorado State University



A Golden Opportunity

I had the honor of being selected as a Golden Opportunity Scholar, an award recognizing juniors or seniors excelling in Agronomy, Soils, or Crop Science. This award was funded by the Agronomic Science Foundation, which allowed me to travel to Tampa, FL, where I attended the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA annual meetings.

Golden Opportunity Scholars are paired with a mentor to guide them for a year. The mentors are normally faculty from universities or industry professionals reflecting the student's future career path. Scholars were divided into groups and asked to present how we would go about solving issues related to food, water, or energy. These presentations were then given to the mentors and discussion followed on how to address these challenges.

The scholars were selected nationwide from BYU-Idaho to Colorado State to North Carolina State University just to name a few. Many of the scholars are planning to become the next generation of plant breeders. I was able to meet with one scholar that had plans of becoming a local extension specialist and another scholar who really enjoyed working on remote sensing applications and site-specific management.

While in Tampa, I participated on a turfgrass tour. The tour included stops at a Bermuda grass operation that produced sod and sprigs for golf courses, a stop at Raymond James Stadium, which is home of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Florida Atlantic Owls, where we discussed issues of having natural grass fields verses artificial turf fields.

I had the opportunity to listen to some amazing speakers, such as Matt Rush who spoke on

how important agriculture is and how important it is to share what you do every day in agriculture. Another speaker I enjoyed was Alan AtKisson. He spoke about the challenges that agriculture faces and the opportunities we have to resolve these challenges.

Thanks to being selected as a Golden Opportunity Scholar, I was able to meet with industry professionals who are experts in their field, network with professionals and professors from other universities, and network with other agronomy clubs across the nation allowing me to exchange ideas for fundraising, community service, and meeting activities. There was also a boat cruise social around the bay, which allowed undergraduates to meet and network with each other.

I would recommend this program to any undergraduate junior or senior who is interested in pursuing graduate school. The Green Scholar Award will be added for students planning to go straight into industry with plans of becoming a Certified Crop Advisor.

I feel like I really gained useful knowledge and contacts from this trip. I encourage my fellow classmates to apply next year by visiting goldenopportunitiescholars.org for more information.

**Benjamin Trampe | University of
Nebraska - Lincoln**

Congratulations to all of the 2013 Golden Opportunity Scholars!

Jeana D. Bane
Jordan Beehler
Matthew K. Caldwell
Ansilta Zulima De Luca-
Westrate
Emily E. Delorean
Chris Dermody
Garth W. Duncan

Carley Fuller
Loren V. Goodrich
Michael Hannewald
John C. Kuhn
Sarah Le'Jeune
Lily Niknami
Katharine E. Parker

Nicholas C. Peterson
Morgan Riley
Austin G. Scott
Touyee Thao
Benjamin T. Trampe
Stephanie Verhoff
Zane Thomas Walker
Dustin G. Wilkerson

Letter from the Editor

As the winter weather begins to set in for many of us, this issue's tour recap was a bitter-sweet reminder of the "sunny and 75" we all were experiencing about a month ago. Regardless, I hope you all had as much fun as I did down in Tampa! The tours, speakers, events, and contests this year were all fantastic... and how about that cruise ship?! Aside from having tons of fun, I hope that you were also able to take something away from the trip and back to your clubs. If your club is doing something awesome, there is something impacting the industry in your area, or whatever it may be, I hope you will put it into text and send it in to be published in the SASES Times. This is your publication; I can't do it without you!

To submit an article, send it to bmorrell@iastate.edu as well as kmf9r3@mail.missouri.edu (I'll be training Kaitlin to take over my duties, and then she will fully take over after the first of the year).

Warm Wishes,
Bailey Morrell | Iowa State University
SASES Corresponding Secretary
SASES Times Managing Editor



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