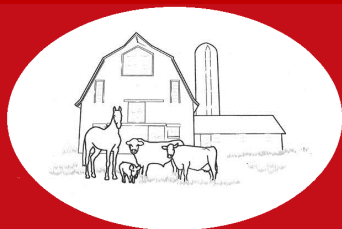


2013 Newsletter



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Alumni:

Greetings from all the faculty and staff in the WKU Department of Agriculture. I hope that the year that has passed since our last newsletter has been prosperous for you and yours. When we sold our soybeans last fall, we were lucky and caught the market on a high end and sold them for more than \$17 a bushel.

Our corn and soybeans look very good; but, it has been a difficult year for hay production. The rain seems to catch us more times with hay down than in recent years.

The dairy herd is healthy, and we are milking around 35 head. Some additional hay storage has been planned and old fences have been torn out and new fence built. The cheese facility should have been up and running by this time but regulations and

equipment issues have slowed the process to a crawl. We hope to be operational before Christmas.

The beef herd is healthy, and we had an excellent crop of calves. The pastures are green and lush, all due to a cool summer with an abundance of rain. We are in the planning stage for a new swine facility. The old one just has to be moved, we have new neighbors within 50 feet of our boundary fence, and we really want to be good neighbors.

The vineyard continues to draw increased interest and expand sales of table and wine grapes. We sold out of every jar of WKU honey before September. Our bees have offered the students another opportunity for learning something old but also something new.

The Horticulture program

continues to expand with the addition of the Floristry minor as well as the business at the WKU Floral Design Training Center. The Shop stays busy with weddings, funerals, special events, holidays, and a growing walk in business.

The importance of the Farm for the education of our students becomes more evident with each passing year. The lines between urban and rural life continue to get closer together. More than ever WKU students can stand out because of a well-rounded education that includes a focus on hands-on learning.

With every newsletter I invite you to come to the campus and the Farm. You are always welcomed, and we have much to show you. See you at Homecoming 2013.

Jack L. Rudolph, Jr.
Department Head

Survey of U.S. Agriculture Class Visits Iowa and Illinois

The Survey of U.S. Agriculture class made a spring break trip to the cold and snowy Midwest. We first visited one of our recent alumni, Mr. Aaron Leftwich (originally from Barren County, Kentucky), an employee of Consolidated Grain and Barge. Then we visited the Big Rivers Resources Ethanol Plant in Burlington, Iowa; the Iowa State University in Ames; the John Deere Pavilion and the John Deere combine assembly plant; the Central Illinois Amish; and the

meat processing laboratory of Dr. Floyd McKeith at the University of Illinois in Champagne-Urbana. Pictured below is Dr. Steven King, the directors of the Big River Resources Ethanol Plant in Burlington, Iowa, and the members of the Survey of U.S. Agriculture class.



Also pictured are WKU Agriculture students visiting the meat processing laboratory of Dr. Floyd McKeith at the University of Illinois.



Submitted by: Dr. Linda Brown Gonzales

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**If you would like to receive the
newsletter by e-mail,
please send your e-mail
address to:**

agriculture@wku.edu



HOMECOMING BRUNCH

Saturday, October 26 - 10:00 A.M.

WKU L.D. Brown Ag Expo Center



MENU

Biscuits

Gravy

Sausage, Country Ham, Pork Tenderloin

Hash Brown Casserole

Cheese Omelet Casserole

Fresh Fruit Cups

Assorted Mini-Muffins

Juice

Coffee



HOMECOMING TAILGATING

Saturday, October 26 - 11:30 A.M.

WKU Floral Design Training Center

514 Regents Ave

Come join us for food and fun!

GEAPS Conference 2013

Drs. Steven King and Linda Brown Gonzales took 15 students to the National Grain Elevator and Producers Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on February 25, 2013. The Conference organizers invited Western Kentucky University Agriculture students to visit on Student Exchange Day. Also in attendance were students from Murray State University, The Ohio State University and Purdue University. Students were afforded the opportunity to visit educational seminars, exhibits, and special student-centered sessions. Students were also given lunch as well as one-year complimentary memberships in the GEAPS organization.



Pictured above is Dr. Gonzales and Dr. King with students at the GEAPS Conference.

Submitted by: Dr. Linda Brown Gonzales

Celtic Agriculture

For the third year in a row, the Department of Agriculture offered a Faculty-Led Study Abroad course taking students to Scotland, but this year there was the added attraction of exploring agriculture in the Republic of Ireland! Dr. Linda Brown Gonzales and Mr. Roger Dennis led the class, taking students to agriculturally and culturally significant sights in Ireland for one week then in Scotland for the next week. Assisting in this endeavor was animal scientist Dr. Fred DeGraves. The class included seven agriculture students, earning credit for their study, and four non-degree-seeking travelers.

The best way to get a glimpse of the educational scope of these valuable travel experiences is to read what the students themselves have written. The following are excerpts from some of the journals submitted by the students. Enjoy!

IRELAND

Excerpt from Journal of Lindsay McCrary

June 19, 2013: "Departing from the hotel, the butcher shop of Callaghan's was the first stop of the day. A family-run business of four generations, it was kept up very nicely and was obviously very popular and well-known. I thought it was cool, but seeing all the raw meat kind of made me sick, so I was ready to leave. A long trip was to be taken in order to make it to Alltech. Alltech was amazing! I never thought I would learn as much as I did even though I knew nothing of Alltech beforehand. Our guide, the head of Ireland's headquarters, was very good at explaining Alltech's work and kindly giving us a descriptive tour. Lunch was provided and shirts were given!

Battle of the Boyne, one of Ireland's important history makers was to be explored. I love learning about weapons, thanks to my dad, so I was definitely enjoying myself! Afterwards we visited a seed potato production unit. I did obtain some information but it was late in the day and I was worn out from earlier today. I did learn about fairy rings though. I thought that legend was really creative and cool!"

Excerpt from Journal of Kate Dennis

June 22, 2013: "We left Cobh this morning and headed to the Blarney Castle to Kiss the Stone. (We) explored, climbed on stuff, and ate our favorite ice cream snack called TWISTERS! I'm so excited we got to visit a 600 year old castle and kiss the Blarney stone!"

We got to meet the man that produces the meat for the McDonald's in Ireland, he also grows barley for Guinness and Heineken. His name is Liam Delaney! We had some good conversation and I stuck close to his side so I could learn more."

Figure 1. Corn planted into plastic-covered soil? That's right! Pictured in the center is Mr. John Foley of MaizeTech in the Republic of Ireland. Students and faculty are learning about this relatively new application of plasticulture farming to provide a longer season in a place where cool soil temperatures have prevented maize production, historically.



Figure 2. Corn planted into the plastic clearly has a developmental advantage compared to corn that missed the plastic, as evident in this picture.



Excerpt from Journal of Corinn Sprigler SCOTLAND

June 28, 2013: "Today we went to the Stirling Castle, which was one of my favorite castles. I liked all the statues and architecture of the castle and the story behind it. There was an extravagant graveyard beside the castle too that I had to roam around in. It was beautiful and really old. Some of the headstones were so grand and detailed. We then went to my favorite place of all time, the Wallace Monument. I have never seen "Braveheart"* or know much about how Scotland gained their independence other than what that exquisite little old man told us. After climbing those stairs and getting to the top, I saw the MOST BEAUTIFUL view my eyes have ever had the pleasure of seeing!!!!!! It was AMAZING. I was on top of the World! Just to see that beauty is a blessing. Most people will go a whole lifetime never laying eyes on something so magnificent. I never wanted to leave. Truly incredible."

**Instructor's note: "Braveheart" is the Mel Gibson movie in which he plays the role of William Wallace. Wallace died in 1305. The monument was finished during the 1860's and has 246 steps of winding staircase to the top. The Scots are unique in being the only people never really conquered by the English.*

Figure 3. This is a small part of the magnificent view from the top of the Wallace Monument.



Figure 4. WKU Faculty and Staff pose in front of Edinburgh Castle. Pictured (left to right) are: Linda Brown Gonzales, Professor; Lorna Inglis, Accounts Specialist; Roger Dennis, Instructor; Fred DeGraves, Associate Professor.



Figure 5. Waiting at the train station. Train travel is just one of the modes of transportation we used during our Celtic Agriculture class, but it is one we learn quickly. Here, the class gets breakfast and news from the train station coffee shop on Platform 2.



Would you like to join us for an agriculture adventure to Europe next summer? Email roger.dennis@wku.edu or lin-da.gonzales@wku.edu for more information.

Submitted by: Dr. Linda Brown Gonzales

Viticulture News

The past year has been a busy and productive one for the WKU Viticulture program. Fall semester 2012 represented our 2nd offering of the Advanced Viticulture class; the class participated in several classroom and field-based activities and also assisted with the harvest of approximately 3,100 pounds of fruit from the research vineyard and an additional 1,000 pounds from the educational vineyard. For the 2nd consecutive year most of our seedless grapes were marketed to the Warren County Schools and our wine grapes were marketed to Crocker Family Winery of Franklin, KY.

2013 vineyard activities began with dormant pruning in March and April; the vineyards were again utilized to train students enrolled in the introductory Viticulture class in pruning and shoot thinning techniques. This fall will be the first time that we will be harvesting from our newest vineyard – 3 year old ‘Cabernet Sauvignon’, ‘Syrah’, ‘Malbec’, and ‘Tannat’ will be producing fruit for the first time. Two former class members are currently serving as interns with Kentucky vineyard/winery operations; Erik Livesay is at Cave Valley Vineyards/ Winery in Park City and McKenzie Buckley is working at Purple Toad Vineyards/ Winery in Paducah.



Ripening grapes – July 2013

Ryan Phelps is the newest staff member of the department; he accepted the position of Viticulture Technician on July 1. Ryan had served as an undergraduate vineyard assistant prior to his appointment. Ryan is ably assisted this summer by Jake Osborne (Graduate Research Assistant) and Tara Watkins (Undergraduate Assistant). In addition to our Viticulture courses we’re now offering two enology courses. Blake Layne recently completed his Certificate in Winemaking from UC-Davis and is teaching Wine Fundamentals and Wine, Food, and Film this coming semester. Last semester’s Wine Fundamentals course had an enrollment of 24 students.

Numerous tour groups and individuals toured the vineyards this past year and we’ve toured a bit ourselves; we visited Cave Valley Vineyards in July and have plans to visit vineyards in the Owensboro/Henderson area in August. We encourage you to stop by the vineyards for a visit; they are located just south of the L.D. Brown Agriculture Exposition Center. Call (270) 745-3151 or email: todd.willian@wku.edu or ryan.phelps@wku.edu to schedule a visit!

Submitted by: Dr. Todd Willian



Ryan Phelps, Tara Watkins, Jacob Osborne in the WKU Vineyards

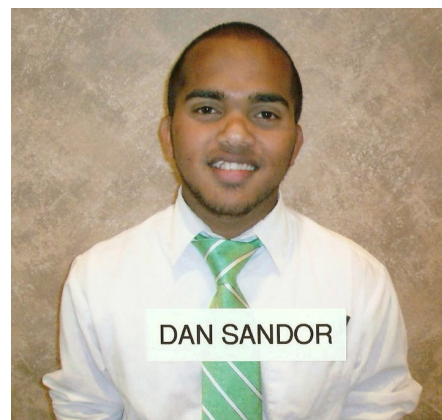
Turfgrass Management News

Dear Alumni,

What a great year! This has been the best year to grow cool season turfgrass that I can remember in years. The weather has made it difficult to stay ahead of the mowing at the Taylor Center, but the course looks great. In addition, the old fence has been removed in preparation for new fencing around the course. Another improvement to the Taylor Center has been new stools for the classroom. This is an improvement that will be much appreciated by our students

as they begin a new semester.

Research efforts associated with the turfgrass program have been on the increase this past year. Studies investigating spring dead spot on ultradwarf bermudagrass, effects of cover types on seeded bermudagrass and zoysia establishment, and seeding, sprigging, and nitrogen rate effects on traffic tolerance of new established bermudagrass have been initiated. In addition, research investigating bermudagrass control in tall fescue turf is ongoing. This research is being



Turfgrass Management News Continued

conducted by Dan Sandor, a M.S. student here at WKU. His work, along with the spring dead spot research, have both been highlighted as cutting edge research by the GCSAA and featured in the GCSAA magazine. Dan recently graduated this past summer and accepted a research assistant position at the University of Arkansas to begin a Ph. D. program. His research efforts in Fayetteville will be focused on wetting agents utilized in turf. Dan received the Elmer Gray Outstanding Agriculture Graduate Student award. We cannot say enough good things about Dan, and he will be sorely missed within our department.

I would like to finish by relating to you some of the efforts of our undergraduates. Jerry Edmonds received the Dwight Barkley Scholarship from the KTC and also another scholarship from Jacobenson. He along with Landry Spears, Nathan Neely, and Cameron Baker assisted in the overseeding project

at Augusta National this past year. Nathan Neely received the outstanding turfgrass student award and took a position with Victoria National upon graduation. Our undergraduates continue to acquire excellent internships and are in high demand upon graduation. Best wishes to you in 2013/2014 and GO TOPS!

Sincerely,
Paul B. Woosley



WKU 2013 Livestock Judging Team

After several years without a livestock judging team, the team is back competing at the national level. During the 2013 Spring Semester, twelve WKU Department of Agriculture students represented Western Kentucky University at a couple livestock judging contests across the country. Team members this spring were Chad Burcham, Dustin Ogburn, Katie Oliver, Alex Richardson, Lydia Richardson, Kelsi Ryan, Rachel Schmitt, Olivia Schroeder, Molley Scott, Jacob Smithson, and Cory Wallace. These students put in long hours prior to contests evaluating livestock and giving reasons.

In January, five students had the opportunity to travel to the National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO. Chad Burcham, Dustin Ogburn, Katie Oliver, Olivia Schroeder, and Molley Scott represented WKU. The team traveled across 6 states in 4 days as they stopped at 7 farms/ranches/universities preparing for the contest. Students competed not only in the livestock judging contest which consisted of 12 classes (beef, sheep, swine,

and goats) and 8 sets of reasons (beef, sheep, swine, and goats), but also the carload judging contest which consisted of 6 classes and 1 set of questions. The team would like to thank WKU Alum, Wes Korthaus, for helping chaperon the trip.

In April, the full team traveled to the All-East Livestock Judging Contest which was hosted by University of Tennessee-Knoxville in Knoxville, TN. This particular contest consists of 3 different contests, a meat animal evaluation contest (estimating carcass data and economic value on 6 classes), breeding selection (evaluating 9 livestock classes with the aid of performance information and answering questions), and a traditional livestock judging contest (evaluating 12 classes and giving 8 sets of reasons), over 3 days. The team ended up 5th in Sheep for the livestock judging contest and 7th overall out of 13 universities.

This fall the team will hopefully be competing in several more contests. These contests include Keystone International in Harrisburg, PA, Boiler Maker and Stockman's

in Indiana, American Royal in Kansas City, MO, and will conclude with the national contest at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. The team is looking forward to the competitions this fall.

If you have livestock that you are willing to allow the team to work out on or if you would like to make a donation to the team, please contact Dr. McKeith at amanda.gipe@wku.edu.

Submitted by: Dr. Amanda Gipe McKeith,
Assistant Professor & Livestock Judging
Coach



Oh, The Places You'll Go!

This past December nine students from WKU had the opportunity to go to California for two weeks for a study away course – Floral Design at the Rose Parade. During the first week we took part in the 124th Tournament of Roses Rose Parade. The theme for the Parade was “Oh, The Places You’ll Go!” We worked with students from Cal Poly Universities on their float, *Tuxedo Air*. From preparing flowers to gluing onion seeds, we assisted with all aspects of decorating the float. It was the only float in the parade that was designed and put together by college students. The students at Cal Poly Universities grew most of their own flowers for the float. The *Tuxedo Air* float won the Bob Hope Humor Award, which is awarded to the Most Comical and Amusing Entry.

The next week students did some sight-seeing in California. While in Hollywood, we were able to visit the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Dolby Theatre, Grauman’s Chinese Theatre, and even got to see the Hollywood sign from Mulholland Drive Park. We were also able to visit the LA Farmer’s Market. While in the area of Los Angeles and Hollywood, we also visited two gardens– Huntington Gardens and Descanso Gardens.

After leaving Hollywood, we headed to Yosemite National Park. We were able to see El Capitan, a vertical rock formation which is a favorite for rock climbers. When we left Yosemite, we travelled to Napa Valley where we visited Cakebread Cellars and Grgich Hills vineyards and wineries. We then headed to San Francisco where we visited the San Francisco Botanical Gardens and Conservatory, the Golden Gate Bridge, and Fisherman’s Wharf. We were also able to tour Alcatraz while in San Francisco.

This trip was the opportunity of a life time. We were able to see some amazing things in California in just two short weeks.

Submitted by: Danielle Berkshire & Lindsay Meeks



Moriah Sweeney and Sarah Hay gluing seaweed on one of the many penguins on *Tuxedo Air*.



Tuxedo Air



Golden Gate Bridge
Photo courtesy of Kate Dennis



Back row (left to right): Moriah Sweeney, Adam Martin, Travis McCoy, Kristin Goodin, Roger Dennis, Erica Vaughn, Josh Stephens

Front row: Kate Dennis, Danielle Berkshire, Sarah Hay, Debbie Gabbard, Lindsay Meeks



Yosemite National Park– in front of El Capitan

Agricultural Ambassadors



Pictured from left to right: Caleb Thomas (Agribusiness) from Buffalo, KY; Alexandra Trovillion (Agribusiness) from Gallatin, TN; Jared Scott (General Agriculture) from Sparta, KY; Loren Gross (Agriculture Education) from Elizabethtown, KY; Haley Bryant (Agriculture Education) from Muhlenberg County, KY; Molley Scott (Animal Science) from Munfordville, KY. *Not Pictured:* Rachel Schmitt (Animal Science) from Tipton, IN.

Jewels of Europe

Join us to see Jewels of Europe in the Summer of 2014!

Mr. Roger Dennis, Instructor of Horticulture and the Director of the WKU Floral Design Training Center, Dr. Linda Gonzales, Professor of Agronomy, and Dr. Petra Collyer, Visiting Assistant Professor of Animal Science, will offer 3-credit-hour classes discovering horticulture, agronomy and animal science in the Netherlands, Germany and France over a two week period.

Highlights of this trip will be visits to the vibrant cities of Amsterdam, Berlin, Munich and Paris, along with travels along the Rhine River and visits to beautiful Alsace. Dr. Collyer, a native German, brings her familiarity with the countries and languages to the trip. This journey will enhance the participants' educational experience through a close encounter of European history, modern life, and of course insights into European agriculture. Participants will experience a variety of cultures, and get an insight into the diversity of European societies. This trip will be preceded by several meetings during the spring semester 2014 in preparation for the journey.

Interested? Contact us in the Department of Agriculture, or send us an email: roger.dennis@wku.edu, lin-da.gonzales@wku.edu, petra.collyer@wku.edu

Agricultural Education Society

The Agricultural Education students in the Department of Agriculture are looking forward to another exciting year of growth and teaching. With new standards and benchmarks for pre-service teachers, the evolution for Agricultural Education students from post-secondary prep to licensed teachers will soon become a reality. The Agricultural Education degree program is currently a potpourri of subject matter offerings and opportunities that allow WKU students to excel in the secondary classroom. With the addition of the new Youth Development course and the birth of the Agricultural Education Society (AES), I am confident that each will add its own dimension to the undergraduate program. As the students continue in their training, it is important to note the ever changing landscape of the agricultural instructor. I remind my students often that they have chosen this profession and need to fully understand the commitment they are making to themselves and to their future

students. The innovativeness of their curriculum planning and technology based teaching models must be applied now more than ever. The fast paced electronic society will surpass their methodologies if Blogs, Wikis, and classroom response systems are not utilized. Incorporating new technologies into lessons can be time consuming, but serving the technologically obsessed students with intuitive digital mediums that enhance their educational experience is exciting and worth the time. Remember, that technology can improve with age – just as the skilled agriculture instructor improves with each teachable moment.

Submitted by: Dr. Tom Kingery



Charter members of the AES. (L to R). Kate Dennis, Kyle Kittrell, Hannah Simmons, Ryan Ritter, Katie Royse (Vice President), Loren Gross (President), Callie Franks, Aaron Brooks (Secretary/Treasurer), Stephanie Robbins, & Tom Kingery (Advisor).

L.D. Brown Agricultural Exposition Center

The Expo Center continues to make every effort to stay as busy as possible, with as many events as possible. Tried and true events, including the Lone Star Rodeo, West KY Horse Sales, West KY Flat Shod Sales, Southern KY Ranch Horse Shows, and Southern KY Team Penning continue to maintain a presence, while newer events that include the Dog Agility Trials, the Shrine Circus, the Statewide Livestock Skill-a-thon and the Longhorn Cattle sale have all found a good fit with the Expo Center's available facilities and all will hopefully grow in size and recognition for many more years.

On the horizon are even more events that are looking at calling the Expo Center home. Arena football and motocross racing are good possibilities at this time. We get new calls each week, and we are always excited to book a brand new show.

The Expo Center remains the location for many Agriculture Department and Agriculture club activities as well as providing classroom space for several classes and labs. While outside events are necessary (and sometimes fun...) these endeavors fulfill the most important mission of the facility, namely to be

an asset the Department of Agriculture utilizes in attracting and educating students.

Submitted by: Tim Jones

For more information about the Expo and the Schedule of Events: www.wku.edu/expo



Lone Star Rodeo February 2013



Longhorn Cattle Sale April 2013

Agriculture Students Striving for Effective Tomorrows (ASSET) Conference

This year's ASSET Conference was extremely successful thanks to the work and support of each counselor, faculty, and staff member.

ASSET began on Sunday, June 2nd with students arriving at Douglas Keen Hall. From there the students were taken to the L.D. Brown Agricultural Exposition Center for activities that began with ice breakers and volleyball. Later that afternoon, students had a faculty meet and greet BBQ with introductions from Dr. Rudolph and a "Going to College" session with Dr. Coffey. The students returned to campus and participated in a scavenger hunt covering the campus. We began at the Floral Design Training Center after a tour by Mr. Dennis. The night ended with reflections and goals for the week.

Monday was the industry tour day for this

year's conference. Dr. McKeith, Dr. DeGraves, and Dr. Stone drove the vans. We began with a tour of John's Meats in Smiths Grove. As Mr. John took apart the rear quarter of beef, his partner Ms. Amy explained what each cut was and discussed how work plays into the cost of meats they purchase. Most of the students had never seen this done before so they found it quite enjoyable. Dr. Stone led the next tour at the Baker Arboretum and the Downing Museum. The next stop was the Expo where students met with the professors and discussed prospective majors. We then loaded up on a hay ride for a farm tour. We were accompanied by Marion County FFA on the farm tour. That evening Dr. McKeith and Dr. Kingery held a BBQ and Food Safety Lab including the history of BBQ, BBQ sauces, food preparation,

and sanitation, and they ended it with a meal. The students were able to grill their own pork chops, and the rest of the meal was prepared on the grill. The evening ended with gutter sundaes at the Floral Design Training Center and "capture the flag" game on campus.

On Tuesday we started the day with the WKU ROTC for a morning of low ropes and leadership activities. Dr. Gilfillen, Dr. Gonzales, and Dr. Stone drove the students to Mammoth Cave National Park for a picnic lunch and the Historic Tour of Mammoth Cave. The students were not only amazed at the wonders of the cave but also the story behind the passages they were walking through and the explorations that led to their discovery. After our return

ASSET continued

students dressed in formal attire and went to the Kentucky Museum to have an Etiquette Dinner with alumni and professors. Dinner was followed by a question and answer panel. Alumni Mrs. Fran McCall, Mrs. Julie Brown, Mr. Wilson Stone, and Mr. Caleb Smithson discussed WKU, careers, and how the WKU Agriculture Department got them where they are today. Students said the alumni panel discussing their experiences at WKU was very helpful for them in understanding what WKU has to offer and more importantly what the Department of Agriculture offers.

Wednesday began at Lost River Cave for a guided boat tour. The students found Lost River Cave interesting because of the contrasts from Mammoth Cave the previous day. Once the students were back at the farm, it was time to start the labs. They began with the dissection of a hog pluck and head at the Livestock Pavilion led by Dr. DeGraves. The students learned very quickly why Dr. DeGraves

said the lower G.I. track needed to be the last thing opened. Next, the students went to the Taylor Center to have an electricity lab with Dr. Rudolph. At this lab, they learned how to wire a light bulb. The next lab was the floral design lab with Mr. Dennis. During this lab they did the floral arrangements for the luncheon the following day. Students then returned to the Taylor Center for a slip-n-slide set up on the turf. Thanks to the help of Dan Sandor, tarps had been set up for a very large slip-n-slide. The night ended with a pizza party and Reflections with Mr. Warren Beeler. Students said this was an eye opener on the extent of the opportunities they had been able to participate in during the week.

On Thursday, students cleaned up their dorm rooms and went to the Expo for the luncheon and recognition program. Students Raeann Magill and James Edington gave a summary of the week. They also discussed what ASSET was to them and the other students. Students who participated were presented with framed certificates.

ASSET 2013 was a tremendous success.

Submitted by: Loren Gross

If you have a high school junior or know of one that might be interested, please contact the Agriculture Department (agriculture@wku.edu or www.wku.edu/agriculture) and we will make sure that the student receives an application.



Participants: Kendal Bartlett— Maceo, KY; Sara Chism— Brandenburg, KY; Allie Cline— Bowling Green, KY; Lacey Crail— Alexandria, KY; Kyle DeVary-Hodgenville, KY; Kelly Dressler-Rosedale, IN; Jim Edington-Lawrenceburg, KY; Ann-Thomas Emberton-Frankfort, KY; Ava Ferguson— Bowling Green, KY; Alex Gibson-Glasgow, KY; Jamie Glauber-Carrollton, KY; Katie Glauber-Taylorsville, KY; Emilee Graves-Springfield, KY; Courtney Hall-Bowling Green, KY; Cole Hamilton-Owensboro, KY; Austin Hazelwood-Harrodsburg, KY; Miranda Kuretz-Georgetown, KY; Isaac Logsdon-Clarkson, KY; Raeann Magill-Yuba City, CA; Kyle Mobley— Elizabethtown, KY; Jason Nall-Cecilia, KY; Emily Noel-Union, KY; Moriah Peters-Cecilia, KY; Thomas Poole-Auburn, KY; Jacob Scott-Sparta, KY; Matt Scott-Munfordville, KY; Michael Thompson— Owensboro, KY; Hallie Thornton-Bowling Green, KY; Demontray Watts-Louisville, KY; and Vasi Wilk-Rineyville, KY
Counselors: Loren Gross, Callie Franks, Stephanie Jackson, Kyle Kittrell, Nicki Seay, Jared Scott, Bryan Smith, and Shelby Sullivan

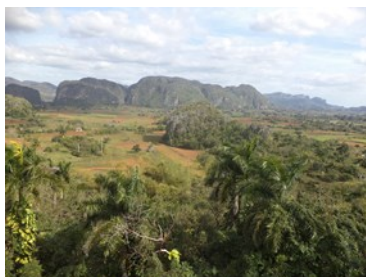


Cuba– Exploring Art & Agriculture

Spring break was the time to fly down to Cuba to explore the Cuban artist scene and visit agricultural sites. Dr. Miwon Choe, WKU professor of Art Education, and Dr. Petra Collyer, visiting assistant professor in the WKU Agriculture Department, conducted interviews with internationally well-known Cuban artists such as Fuster- the 'Picasso of the Caribbean,' Flora Fong and Choco, to name just a few. This video footage is going to be part of a television documentary about Cuban art. Locations for agricultural tourism and potential foci for future study abroad trips were explored. The Viñales Valley in the province of Pinar del Rio is a UNESCO world heritage site due to the bizarre karst landscape and traditional agriculture. This area is where the best tobacco is grown in Cuba. Fruit, coffee, and vegetable production offer a variety of study opportunities. Pinar del Rio is one of the

centers of the cigar industry but has various interesting locations to visit, such as the Cuban Horse breeding facility and an agriculture department at the local university. University faculty from Pinar del Rio were helpful and interested in meeting with us.

Submitted by: Dr. Petra Collyer



Viñales Valley- traditional agriculture between dramatic rocky outcrops, the 'mojotes'



Visiting the Cuban Horse breeding facility



Friends across borders- Drs. Choe, Collyer, Linares and Cabrera

One Month In Costa Rica

Students interested in animal science and livestock physiology & welfare had the opportunity to earn class credits in the unique tropical setting of Costa Rican rainforests, volcano landscapes, beaches, and mountains.

Dr. Petra Collyer, Visiting Assistant Professor of Animal Science in the WKU Department of Agriculture, was part of the KIIS (Kentucky Institute for International Studies) faculty offering agriculture, Spanish language & culture, and photography & drawing classes to students from all over the Commonwealth. Twenty-five students went on a 28-day-long adventure spotting parrots, macaws, sloths, monkeys, and huge iguanas along the road.

Local farmers and horse owners were delighted to give students full exposure to their operations. The focus of the course was to explore the differences between Costa Rican and U.S. animal management and agriculture. Students visited a palm oil plantation, a coffee factory coop, a sugar cane factory, and a butterfly export business as well as a wildlife rescue center. The beautiful Costa Rican beaches were explored even at night. On our excursion to Bocas del Toro in Panama, it took a brisk 2-hr-walk during the night and in the rain to see a sea turtle laying eggs on the beach and returning to the sea!



Animal Science Class visiting a high performing dairy farm in Costa Rica

Costa Rica offered a unique learning and teaching environment, such as the bakery below- freshly baked rolls and coffee included!

Submitted by: Dr. Petra Collyer



Ride through the rainforest after the equine behavior and horsemanship demonstration



Animal Science session, La Paz, Costa Rica



KIIS Costa Rica 2013

Students interested in the Costa Rica experience can contact Dr. Collyer (petra.collyer@wku.edu) or check out the KIIS website: kiis.org.

Agronomy News

Student News

Dan Daly, Josh Dennis, Randy Helfert, Ben Ryan, and Caleb Thomas participated in the 2012 Southern Regional Soil Judging Competition, which was hosted by the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Darwin Newton and Becky Gilfillen went with the group as coaches. The team also competed in the NACTA Soil Judging Contest hosted by Texas Tech University in April 2013.

Jameson Wilcockson was the Outstanding Senior Agronomy Science Student this year. He will graduate this fall from WKU with a concentration in Agronomy-Plant Science and Agribusiness.

In the spring, the Soil Fertility Class and the Agronomy Club went on a field trip to Crop Protection Services and Waters Agricultural Laboratory in Owensboro. We appreciate all the support from our local Agricultural Industries and the time they take out of their busy schedules to provide tours.

Research

The Agronomy Faculty continues to focus on research in the area of Waste Management in cooperation with the USDA-ARS unit located at the WKU Farm. We are assisted in our efforts by undergraduate students Ashane Netthisinghe and John Scarpa and graduate student Dan Sandor. We are continuing the two studies that began in 2011. One study investigates microbe survival in soil and fescue after poultry litter, dairy manure or inorganic fertilizer applications. Information about soil nutrient accumulation and fescue yields

will also be determined in order to facilitate information between the studies. Our second project examines nutrient accumulation under a feedlot setting. In addition to soil samples, greenhouse gas samples were also collected. The hopes of this project are to determine where excess nutrients from the field lot are accumulating and being released. This coming fall, both projects will be changed to undergo a remediation process to look at faster removal of soil nutrients. Dr. Annesly Netthisinghe has been the principal investigator on this project and has used his expertise in GPS to allow a geo-spatial understanding of nutrient movement. He will be offering an integrated GIS course for the second time this fall for both Agriculture & Geography Students. Other research projects include the use of poultry litter and dairy manure as a fertilizer source to grow field and forage crops. Drs. Becky Gilfillen and Annesly Netthisinghe presented papers at the International American Society of Agronomy Meetings in Cincinnati, OH. Dr. Becky Gilfillen also made a presentation at the Southern American Society of Agronomy Meetings in Orlando, FL. She has served as Past-President this year for the Southern Branch of ASA.

Dr. Elmer Gray continues to lead a number of field research projects, the majority of which are located at the WKU AREC. Among Dr. Gray's numerous trials are continued investigations into baby corn production, edible soybeans, black beans, utilization of waste paper as a mulch, and sunflowers for cut-flower production.

Dr. Linda Gonzales continues to be very active in providing domestic and international travel experiences for our students. Dr. Gonzales' most recent travel class visited the Midwestern U.S. and she was accompanied by Mr. Roger Dennis, Instructor of Agriculture, Dr. Fred DeGraves, Professor of Agriculture, Lorna Inglis, Accounts Specialist, and several students to Scotland and Ireland this past June.

Dr. Todd Willian is participating in a field experiment funded by Syngenta which is evaluating early maturing corn hybrids for the mid-south region. Dr. Willian has also been involved in monitoring a population of Palmer pigweed which 'arrived' on the university farm last year. This weed species is perhaps the most troublesome in the south and mid-south area due to its prolific seed production, astounding growth rate, and its biotypes which are resistant to several herbicide modes of action. Thus far, our small population of this species has been successfully contained within a small area of the farm thanks to the efforts of the farm staff (Bob Jaynes, Cris Scudder, and Jeremy Waddell).

Submitted by: Dr. Becky Gilfillen & Dr. Todd Willian





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