Brandon Allen reacts on Dec. 11 as Purdue President Mitch Daniels presents him with the One Brick Higher Award. To see why the ASEC graduate student deserved the high honor, visit http://bit.ly/2FPML2V.
Greetings from the department head

Renaming a Purdue University department is a major undertaking. We are very grateful to all who helped us decide that our mission is best described by these words: Department of Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication.

We believe that the new name more clearly defines the research, engagement and professional development opportunities we offer through our academic programs. It also expresses our vision to address the global challenges facing agriculture, food and natural resource sciences in the 21st century and beyond. The Purdue Board of Trustees made it official on Feb. 9.

This summer our entire department, (graduate students, staff and faculty) will relocate to Lilly Hall of Life Sciences. This will provide room for increased graduate student numbers, a hands-on teaching laboratory and a dedicated active learning classroom nearby. Our staff and faculty will have a green room for video recording and digital learning production.

The move to Lilly comes as our undergraduate enrollments have grown to about 160, the highest level since 2007. The student professional organizations, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) and Indiana Association of Agricultural Educators (IAAE) Purdue, are also more engaged in leadership roles on the national level.

We are proud of our dynamic and diverse graduate program with 30 students earning their MS and PhD degrees in Agricultural and Extension Education, Agricultural and Science Communication, or STEM Learning Systems. Our faculty and programs are empowering learners with breadth and depth of knowledge, skills and practices that contribute to professional careers and societal impact.

We were thrilled to recognize departmental distinguished alumni Jane Ade Stevens, Darrell Allen and Alan Goecker; proud that the Purdue Agricultural Alumni Association awarded the Merit Award to John Fritsch; and pleased that the College of Agriculture recognized Jane Ade Stevens and Eric Steiner as College Distinguished Alumni.

As always, let us know how we can improve. You can choose to receive this newsletter in the mail or via email. And go to www.ydae.purdue.edu/alumni to keep us up-to-date about your accomplishments.

Best wishes,
Mark Russell, Professor and Department Head

Have you heard?

We have a new name: Department of Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication.

Our new name means many changes - from website to logos to social media, etc. Bear with us. It will take a while.

Departmental staff, faculty and student awards

Allie Abney - Student Responder, Spring 2018 Commencement
Brandon Brunt - Student Responder, Winter 2017 Commencement
Elizabeth Byers-Doten - Outstanding Service to Students
Levon Esters - Outstanding Graduate Mentor and Teacher
Kathryn Orvis - Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award and Outstanding Undergraduate Counselor Award
Linda Pfeiffer - Early Career Award

Departmental Outstanding Students

Lauren Jacobs
Outstanding Freshman
Agricultural Education

Kayla Groen
Outstanding Sophomore
Agricultural Communication

Derek Berkshire
Outstanding Junior
Agricultural Communication

Elizabeth Brown
Outstanding Senior
Agricultural Education
Equine conference sends ASEC graduate students Down Under

Four Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication graduate students, along with Professor Colleen Brady, attended the 13th annual International Society for Equitation Science Conference at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, Australia.

At the November event, equestrians exchanged ideas with people from many equine backgrounds and participated in workshops, panels, demonstrations, and scientific presentations.

Lauren Brizgys, Brandon Rice, Elise Lofgren, and Chloe Wires presented their research. Lauren and Brandon are currently master’s students; Elise and Chloe are PhD candidates.

Rice and Lofgren’s research focused on youth and adult perceptions of equine welfare issues. Brizgys’ research was on the role and locus of control on the welfare of working horses in Central and Latin American communities. Wires’ research explored horse reactivity and habituation across work types.

After presenting his research, Brandon was asked to interview with TheHorse.com for an article. Additionally, Lauren was elected to be the Student Representative to the Governing Council of the Society.

Distinguished Alumni Awards

2017 Distinguished Alumni Darrell Allen, Dr. Allan Goecker, and Jane Ade Stevens

College of Agriculture Distinguished Alumni Eric Steiner and Jane Ade Stevens

From left: Mark Tucker with Agricultural Communication Alumni Hannah Vorsilak, Roger Stevens, Jane Ade Stevens, Megan Kuhn and Jeff Goecker

The nomination deadline for 2018 Distinguished Alumni will be August 1st, 2018. Nominations should be sent to Jayne Price at price80@purdue.
Ohio conference lesson:
Learning curve never ends

A group of ASEC students and faculty involved with Purdue Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) attended a mid-January professional development conference at The Ohio State University’s Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster. The annual conference is held by the National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow.

Favorite activities included touring facilities such as Weaver Leather Goods in Millersburg and Certified Angus Beef in Wooster. After the tour the group enjoyed dinner with a group of Amish men from Weaver Leather.

The group’s major takeaway from the conference was that a good communicator is never really finished learning.

ASEC senior Hannah Tucker said the conference was a good reminder of how dedicated those in the agriculture industry are to making sure young professionals succeed.

“The professionals and advisors I met at the conference go out of their way to support students like myself, and that is so encouraging,” said Tucker.

The next professional development conference will be hosted in conjunction with the National Association of Farm Broadcasting.

ASEC members at the January conference, from left: Melina Delaloza, Emily Dougherty, Emily Marsh, Josh Calhoun, Grace Bickel, Rebecca Frazier, Travis Koester, and Hannah Tucker

Student teacher gains perspective on Crow reservation

Like many of her peers, Jordan Paine, a senior in agricultural education, is spending her last semester in ASEC student teaching. Unlike her fellow student teachers, however, she chose a school that is very different from the ones found in Indiana.

Jordan is a student teacher at Lodge Grass Jr./Sr. High School. This school is on the Crow Indian Reservation in Lodge Grass, Montana.

Because she does not expect to use her Agricultural Education degree in a traditional Indiana school setting, Jordan decided a unique environment would be rewarding.

“I wanted all of the benefits that come from student teaching and a cultural experience,” Paine said. “I’m building the skills for my future that I would have in a normal school, but additional skills as well.”

The culture at Jordan’s school is far from what she is accustomed to. A semester study abroad trip to New Zealand helped her prepare.

“New Zealand was a lot like America in many aspects, but very different in others,” said Paine. “That is kind of what it is like here.”

After graduation, Jordan plans to attend Boston University School of Law through its distinguished scholar program. She can already tell that her student teaching experience will be beneficial in that new adventure.

“The skills I am getting through my student teaching can’t compare to anything that could be taught in a classroom,” she said.

ASEC Senior Jordan Paine during her time in New Zealand

Like many of her peers, Jordan Paine, a senior in agricultural education, is spending her last semester in ASEC student teaching. Unlike her fellow student teachers, however, she chose a school that is very different from the ones found in Indiana.

Jordan is a student teacher at Lodge Grass Jr./Sr. High School. This school is on the Crow Indian Reservation in Lodge Grass, Montana.

Because she does not expect to use her Agricultural Education degree in a traditional Indiana school setting, Jordan decided a unique environment would be rewarding.

“I wanted all of the benefits that come from student teaching and a cultural experience,” Paine said. “I’m building the skills for my future that I would have in a normal school, but additional skills as well.”

The culture at Jordan’s school is far from what she is accustomed to. A semester study abroad trip to New Zealand helped her prepare.

“New Zealand was a lot like America in many aspects, but very different in others,” said Paine. “That is kind of what it is like here.”

After graduation, Jordan plans to attend Boston University School of Law through its distinguished scholar program. She can already tell that her student teaching experience will be beneficial in that new adventure.

“The skills I am getting through my student teaching can’t compare to anything that could be taught in a classroom,” she said.

ASEC Senior Jordan Paine during her time in New Zealand