“I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident, they came by work.”

Thomas Edison
Recruiting students for the Division of Agricultural Education

by Dr. Carl Igo

Dr.'s Carl Igo, Dustin Perry and Shannon Arnold developed a lesson plan for the recruiting presentation at the FFA District Leadership Schools. The title of the lesson plan was *The Ideal FFA Advisor – Grammatically Speaking.* (Yes, it is true, even college professors develop and use lesson plans in their teaching!)

Carl Igo, with assistance from students in AGED 397, presented the lesson and activity at the Southeastern FFA District Leadership School on September 8 and at the Southwestern FFA DLS on September 15. Assisting the Southeastern DLS with Igo were Faith Dyrud and Gwynn Simeniuk, while Taylor Brown assisted at the Southwestern event.

The DLS recruiting trips yielded contact information for eleven high school students who noted they were considering a degree in agricultural education and 65 additional students who expressed interest in gaining more information about opportunities at Montana State University.

Additionally, a few highlighted outcomes from the trips were sentences describing the ideal FFA Advisor:

“Our knowledgeable idol is super passionate.”

“A knowledgeable mentor who supports us in all we do.”

“The ideal FFA Advisor is passionate, outgoing and proudly believes in us.”

“Ideal FFA Advisors enforce perfection on their students while generously giving above and beyond of their time.”
Gwynn Simeniuk selected for a Scholarship from National Association of Agricultural Educators

Gwynn Simeniuk, an Agricultural Education major at Montana State University-Bozeman, has been selected for the Upper Division Agricultural Education Scholarship from the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

Simeniuk’s hometown is Glasgow, Mont.

The $1,500 scholarship is awarded to upper level agricultural education majors to help offset expenses during their student teaching experience. Twenty-five students from across the United States were selected based on their academic performance as well as on leadership and service activities.

The funding for the NAAE Upper Division Scholarship program comes from Growth Energy, National Geographic Learning | Cengage Learning and donations by NAAE members.

NAAE is the professional organization in the United States for agricultural educators. It provides its’ more than 8,000 members with professional networking and development opportunities, professional liability coverage, and extensive awards and recognition programs. The mission of NAAE is “professionals providing agricultural education for the global community through visionary leadership, advocacy and service.” The NAAE headquarters are in Lexington, Ky.

In October 2016, Dr. Arnold received a $10,000 Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT) grant from the American Quarter Horse Association. This grant proposal involves a collective team of Montana State University (MSU) faculty, Cedar Ridge Equine (CRE) horse facility, and the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA). The goals are to: 1.) Deliver four educational outreach clinics to increase public knowledge, awareness and understanding of EAAT for use in personal growth and development, and 2.) Host an EAGALA Part I and Part II Certification Training at Cedar Ridge Equine in 2017. Clinics December 3, and February 4 from Noon-3:30PM at Cedar Ridge Equine, 555 Rocky Road, Bozeman.

RSVP is required. to shannon.arnold@montana.edu

Clinic held Oct. 7 2016
Twenty-three aged majors representing 14 institutions will participate in the 2016 FAST symposium that will be held Sept 20-22 in Sioux Falls, SD in conjunction with National Teach Ag Day.

Shelby Ball, University of Florida
Tyler D’Angelo, University of Florida
Abigail Marion, University of Florida
Ellie Rethmeier, Dordt College
Lindsey Kaufmann, South Dakota State University
Eric Koehlmoos, Kansas State University
Sara Chism, University of Kentucky
Samantha Ludlam, Michigan State University
Shelbie Rochel, UWI-River Falls
Hanna Hartmann, South Dakota State University
Kassandra Niska, South Dakota State University
Abbey Weninger, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Gwynn Simeniuk, Montana State University
Mattison Sullivan, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Kristianne Dowd, Rutgers University
Renae Tokach, North Dakota State University
Hanna Minson, Oklahoma State University
Victoria Herr, Penn State University
George Dietrich, Penn State University
Kasey Schmidt, South Dakota State University
Kyle Kidwell, West Virginia University
Brandon Thomas, West Virginia University
Tiffany Harvey, West Virginia University
Preparing students for a career working with Montana’s most important natural resource: People

The Division of Agricultural Education is dedicated to serving the needs of all students and agricultural professionals through a dynamic and comprehensive program of rural leadership, technological advancement, and proven scientific and educational practices. The program is grounded in basic and applied research aimed at improving professional and technical skills in the realm of Montana agriculture.

Notes from Tracy

In preparing to meet this month with the MSU Ag Education Advisory Board, I spent some time summarizing and reflecting on the past year’s accomplishments. You’ll see much of that across this newsletter, so I wanted to highlight our programs and some of the projects that we have accomplished.

Our biggest news is that Ag Education enrollment has reached record levels this year! The largest growth was in the Broadfield Teaching option.

We offer both a face-to-face and online only Master’s program which accommodates both Ag Teaching and Extension.

The Ag Relations option is now named the Ag Communications, Leadership, & Extension option to more accurately reflect what our students are learning. Watch for more information on this change!

Dr. Igo led the charge in developing the workshop “The Ideal FFA Advisor – Grammatically Speaking” for our recruiting trips. Recruiting efforts have taken us across the state to FFA District Leadership Schools, 4H Congress, Montana Ag Live, and MSU Extension Faculty Fair.

With our record enrollment, we are encouraged in our efforts.

Our faculty continue to garner national recognition for their teaching. This year saw Dr. Arnold earn the Excellence in Teamwork Award from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents and the President’s Award for Excellence in Service Learning.

Our graduate students brought home TWO poster presentation awards from the Western Region Agricultural Education Research Conference. Ethan Igo for the Distinguished Innovative Idea Poster Presentation and Kyle Gavin the Distinguished Research Poster Presentation.

Undergraduate students earned eight Ag Education scholarships from the division and numerous scholarships from the MSU College of Ag.

For the first time ever, two students, Josh Toft and Gwynn Simeniuk, garnered national recognitions and scholarships through the National Association of Agricultural Educators!

Joining forces with 3 other universities, Dr. Perry acquired a large grant through the National Institutes of Health. He will be travelling through Montana, South Dakota, and Utah to train educators through the Agricultural Safety Education Initiative.

Please share this newsletter with your community. Help us spread the word about Ag Education!