Welcome Back AGED Students and Happy 2016!

**MSU Agricultural Education Student Teaching Candidates**

**teaching though out the state of Montana!**

Our Spring 2016 Teaching Candidates (student teachers) and interns include:

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<tr>
<th>Teaching Candidate</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Cooperating Teacher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Austin Jones</td>
<td>Fergus of Lewistown High School</td>
<td>Jared Long</td>
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<td>Veronnaka Klamert</td>
<td>Absarokee High School</td>
<td>Tim Zumbrun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalee McRae</td>
<td>Park City High School</td>
<td>Kari Hanson</td>
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<td>John Park</td>
<td>Sheridan High School</td>
<td>Rodney Braaten</td>
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<td>Tieler Soumas</td>
<td>Cascade High School</td>
<td>Eric Tilleman</td>
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<td>Lindsey Wilson</td>
<td>Charles M. Russell High School, Great Falls</td>
<td>Jodi Koterba</td>
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<tr>
<th>Intern</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Cooperator</th>
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<td>Sarah Maninger</td>
<td>Montana 4-H Congress</td>
<td>Hannah DelCurto</td>
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Best wishes to each of these students as they wrap up their last semester as an MSU Undergraduate student. They will be on the lookout for teaching and/or county extension positions!

A huge thanks to our Coopers who volunteer their time and expertise to mentor our students!
President’s Award for Excellence in Service Learning

Shannon Arnold, associate professor in agricultural education, has won the President’s Award for Excellence in Service Learning. The award recognizes a faculty member and community partners who use a service learning activity to meet a community need. For this award, Arnold will receive $800.

To meet the need for increasing interest among youth in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, Arnold’s students collaborated with county 4-H leaders to design a STEM-based day camp. The goal of the camp was to foster the exploration of knowledge and research in STEM fields.

The camp was successfully held at MSU in 2015, with Arnold’s students teaching workshops to 4-H youth and leaders. Overall results of a post-workshop test showed that youth increased their knowledge, interest and career aspirations in STEM and natural resource concepts as a result of attending the camp. The largest increases were seen in the understanding of STEM concepts, interest in engineering and agriculture, the desire to pursue a career in a STEM-related field and in the awareness that STEM concepts are integrated into agriculture.

In her role as course instructor, Arnold was responsible for the design, collection and analysis of information from 4-H audiences and students. She secured workshop facilities and was responsible for scheduling, student program development assistance, workshop instruction, 4-H participant travel arrangements, development of educational materials and oversight of the student project.

Community partners were Nikki Bailey, Carbon County 4-H; Christina McRae-Holland, Gallatin County 4-H Mentoring Partnership Program Coordinator; Kelton Jensen, Gallatin County 4-H; Lisa Terry, Stillwater County Family and Consumer Science; and other 4-H leaders in Gallatin, Stillwater and Carbon counties.

CONGRATULATIONS SHANNON!

Spring Convocation 2016 Awards Ceremony
In the last newsletter, I mentioned this:

“We have steadily been preparing for the inaugural meeting of the Montana STAR program team in December. “The National Teach Ag Campaign launched the State Teach Ag Results (STAR) program in the spring of 2014 to increase recruitment and retention efforts at the state level. The STAR program is designed to assist states in creating sustainable and effective recruitment and retention plans.” (http://www.naae.org/teachag/starstates.cfm). The inaugural meeting will be an assessment of our current situation and the beginning of a plan for a growing future.”

That inaugural meeting was postponed due to a snowstorm that kept some of our advisory board away and the key moderator in Minneapolis. While we are anxious to get started, it gave us a moment to reconsider if we really are including everyone that can help us.

I spent the early part of January in Washington DC with other AgEd department heads, learning about the state of Agriculture and Agricultural Education. We’ve already heard the report released by the USDA shows tremendous demand for recent college graduates with a degree in agricultural programs. An estimated 57,900 high-skilled jobs are open annually in the food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, and environment fields in the United States. However, there is only an average of 35,400 new U.S. graduates with a bachelor’s degree or higher in agriculture related fields, 22,500 short of the jobs available annually. Annually, we are falling 22,500 short annually*. I say this to illustrate that it’s not just Ag Education with 7,200 of those jobs in the education, communication, and leadership sector, it’s all of agriculture.

So, in every way, it’s going to take all of us working together to promote agriculture and agricultural education. As we reschedule our STAR program initial meeting, we will be broadening our invitations, to reach further to our teachers, organizations, alumni, farmers, ranchers, growers, and everyone in between. If you’ve read this far in my diatribe, you are likely concerned too. If you are interested or know someone that should help us, please contact me (tracyaod@montana.edu). There will be many ways to be involved. The initial STAR program assessment takes place on April 12, 10am-3pm at MSU. We’ll be looking for new ideas on ways to recruit and retain Agricultural Education students and reframing how and where we teach Ag.

Looking forward to a growing future---Tracy
AGED 482 Workshop

Students in Dr. Arnold’s AGED 482- Non-formal Teaching Methods course created and taught an agricultural education workshop for 40 Bozeman elementary school students at the Museum of the Rockies. The workshop entitled, AgVenture, helped students to understand the importance of agriculture and the impact it has on their everyday lives. Topics included animal production and management, beekeeping, and the relationship between soils and plants. Thanks to Museum of the Rockies for their support of this program!

AGED Club Chili Cook-off in January 2016

And the winners are:
Kaitlyn Goroski won first place
Cassady Guinnane won second place.
Congratulations!
Important 2016 Dates to Remember

Feb 3 - Last day to drop courses without a grade.
Feb 3 - Students who have not confirmed their bill (paid tuition and fees) will be dropped from classes at 4:30 PM
Feb 15 - Holiday; No classes. Offices closed.
Mar 21 - Advising begins for continuing students
Mar 25 - University Day Holiday; No classes. Offices open.
Apr 15 - Last day to withdraw from a course
Apr 19 for approval of Thesis, Dissertation, or Professional Paper
Apr 29 - Last day of classes
May 2-6 - Final examinations
May 7 - Spring Commencement
May 16 - Jun 24 - First summer session
Jun 27 - Aug 5 - Second summer session
Aug 29 - First day of fall classes

Thank you to Carl Igo, Tracy Dougher and Shannon Arnold for your contributions to this newsletter.