



BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

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NEW/BEGINNING TEACHER COLUMN

by: Dr. Phil Ogline, PSU Adjunct Professor

I can empathize with all teachers when the bell rings signifying the beginning of another school year. Am I ready? What else should I have done? What new challenges will I face? Then add another dimension: I am a "new" teacher and I admit to apprehensions. Do I have the technical knowledge? My curriculum is not to the point I desire! Can I handle the rigors of classroom preparation, FFA activities, family/social life, community involvement and professional development? If only I did not have to sleep, I think it would be possible!!

My years of experience in the classroom have proven to me that the answer is "NO," not by myself. I must admit to myself that I do not know everything and feel comfortable with it. But does that mean I cannot do a good job? Personal humility helps us recognize our strengths and weaknesses. And if one will allow, a sign of strength is to ask for assistance. Ask yourself, where and/or who can assist? Analyze one or several of your best students in each class, recognize their strengths and interests and get them to assist with various facets of teaching/coaching. Visit them at home or at the workplace and recognize that parents or others have talents that they are many times willing to share. Invite key

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"Doing to Learn"



*Sitting: Dr. Dennis Scanlon, William Krill, Ben Mordan, Zach Deluca, Michael Clark, and Dr. Thomas Bruening
 Standing: Bethanie Marthie, Sara Hingle, Wendy Lenhart, Marni Davis, Joy Young, Wendy Auchenbach, Jessica Kelligher, Sue Clapsadle, and Bobbie Jo Cauffman*

"Learning to Do, Doing to Learning, Earning to Live, Living to Serve" – These twelve simple words are being brought to life through this semester's student teachers. Thirteen student teachers are completing their practicum experience in Pennsylvania – "Doing to Learn." Students have areas of emphasis such as agricultural production, mechanics, supplies, resources, products, forestry, environmental science and horticulture. Upon graduation, most of these students will seek teaching positions in public schools in the area of agricultural and environmental science education.

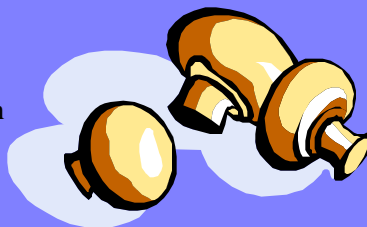
PA Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences

It goes without saying that agricultural science teachers play an invaluable role in shaping the future of agriculture in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and beyond. Many of the students who participate in the State's agriculture programs, will go on to become influential agricultural leaders. In support of your efforts to develop these leaders, the State established the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences (PGSAS) in 1986.

PGSAS is a five-week, intensive program for selected high school sophomores and juniors throughout the State. It provides a unique blend of hands-on learning in classes, field trips, and research and social opportunities. Together these opportunities provide students with a unique and exciting chance to explore the breadth of the agricultural sciences.

As a teacher, you have recently received a package of information about PGSAS. In

the month to come, we encourage you to make an effort to share that information with the outstanding students in your classes.



PGSAS is searching for those students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in the sciences and who have a high interest in food, agriculture, and/or the natural resource sciences. As an agricultural science teacher, you are in a great position to know who these students are and tell them about this opportunity.

This spring, 64 students will be chosen from across the state to participate in PGSAS 2001. To be one of the 64, the student's application must combine a strong academic transcript, strong teacher and

counselor recommendations, and carefully written essays. The most difficult of the three is the essay section.

If you are assisting students to complete their applications, encourage them to carefully write their essays. The essays play a significant role in selecting students. Essays must provide a sense of personal voice--that is, they should provide a clear sense of who the student is and evidence of a strong interest in the agricultural sciences. Additionally, like many things in life, it helps to be creative.

The deadline for this year's applications is Wednesday, February 7, 2001.

If you or your students have questions about the application procedure, please feel free to contact me, Dr. Marianne L Fivek, PGSAS Director at 814-865-7521 or mafivek@psu.edu, or visit www.pde.psu.edu/esgovsch.html.

Conservation Catalog Available

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with several environmental groups, has released the Conservation Catalog: Practices for the Conservation of Pennsylvania's

Natural Resources. The publication provides an explanation of the various conservation practices used in Pennsylvania from crop rotation to barnyard runoff control, and discusses how conservation benefits the community. To

receive a copy of the publication, contact your local conservation district or visit the NRCS' website at www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov.



Introducing... Brendan Hoover



How does a person who enjoys mountain biking, fly-fishing and hiking wind up teaching agricultural education? Brendan Hoover is just the person to answer that question.

Brendan received his teaching certificate in 1999 from Penn State, however he had already obtained his bachelor's degree in Landscape Contracting and a minor in Horticulture. So why did Brendan decide to get certified in agricultural education? "My father heavily influenced my decision to become a teacher. He was a successful professor at the Penn State Altoona Campus for 30 years. I saw first hand his influence on students and how they often came back and thanked my father for his guidance and help."

Just as his father experienced in teaching, Brendan is finding the occupation to be challenging and exciting. When asked about his 1st year experience Brendan commented, "I feel privileged to teach landscaping, greenhouse management and floral design in a brand new, state of the art facility." This new facility is located in Lycoming County at the Williamsport Area School District building.

In his free time, Brendan enjoys outdoor activities like mountain biking, fly-fishing and hiking. He is also working on wedding plans with

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New Freshman Scholarship Program

The Florida Department of Citrus and Florida Citrus Growers are again sponsoring the NAAE New Freshman Scholarship Program for 2001. Thanks to this sponsorship, NAAE will award ten \$500 scholarships to students who will enter a college or university in the fall of 2001 and major in agricultural education with the intention of becoming an agricultural teacher after graduation.

To be eligible for these scholarships, each applicant must:

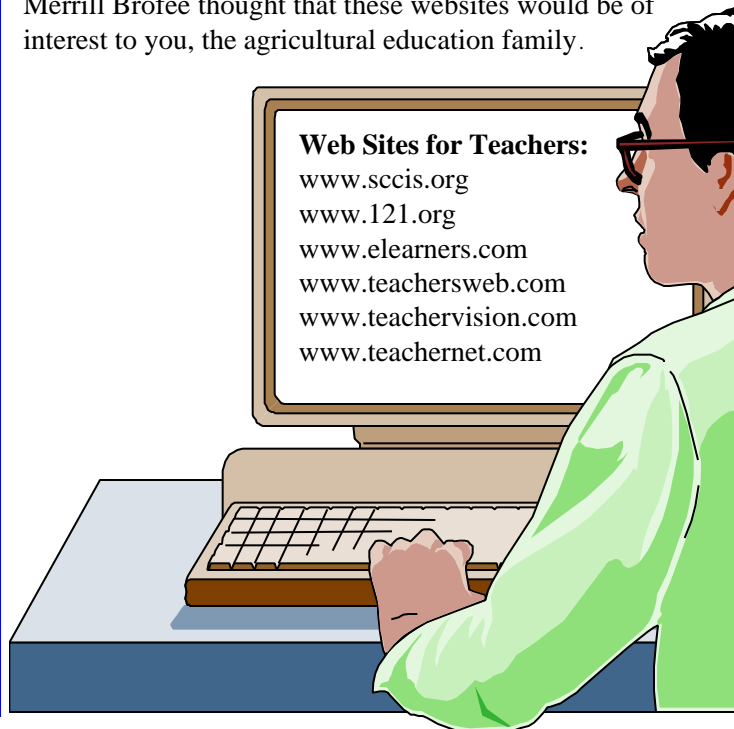
- * Be an agricultural education student and a FFA member.
- * Be a high school senior planning to pursue a career as an agriculture teacher.
- * Attend a high school where the agricultural education/ FFA program conducts a Fresh Florida Citrus Product Fundraiser.

Applications are available from the NAAE office by calling (800) 772-0939, ext. 4367. The postmark deadline for submitting applications is February 1, 2001.



Brofee's Picks

Merrill Brofee thought that these websites would be of interest to you, the agricultural education family.



Web Sites for Teachers:

- www.sccis.org
- www.121.org
- www.elearners.com
- www.teachersweb.com
- www.teachervision.com
- www.teachernet.com

A Week of Inspiration, Information & Fellowship

On December 2 – 6, the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) met in San Diego, CA for their annual convention. Teachers had the opportunity to hone their teaching skills and technology knowledge by participating in the NAAE Partnership EXPO, attending instructional workshops, visiting agricultural related sites in the San Diego area, and hearing speakers at general sessions.

Pennsylvania NAAE members were inspired by invited speakers like Brooks Coleman, Georgia State Senator, who's humorous and inspiring message centered on the life and times of Will Rogers and Dr. Charles W. Byers, University of Kentucky Professor of Agricultural Education. Dr. Byers encouraged agricultural educators to motivate students by effectively using student organizations.

Dr. Phil Ogline was presented on Honorary NAAE Life Membership. The Outstanding Service Award was presented to Doyle Paul and The Honorable Samuel Hayes received the Outstanding Cooperation Award.

Another highlight of the 2000 NAAE Convention was the silent and live scholarship auction. All proceeds from the auction went towards the upper division university scholarship for students who are preparing

to be agricultural educators. Penn State has had many recipients of this particular scholarship with Joy Young received the scholarship this past year.



Joy Young

LeRoy Dreibelbis, PAAE President, and Gerald Reichard, PAAE Executive Secretary served as official delegates for the NAAE Convention and Kerry Hoffman-Richards presented at the NAAE Partnership EXPO.

Pennsylvania was also well represented at the Association of Career and Technology Education (ACTE), the American Association for Agricultural Education (AAAE) and the National Agricultural Education Research Conference (NAERC) annual meetings held in San Diego, CA.

All three meetings were concurrently held on December 6 – 10. Once again dynamic speakers informed, challenged and inspired convention attendees. Les Brown jump-started

the convention with his high-energy presentation – “Live Your Dreams.” Les Brown was selected by Toastmasters International as one of the world's top five speakers. Jeremy Rifkin, President of the Foundation on Economic Trends in Washington, D.C. left a special message for the audience to “Rethink the Mission of American Education.” He is a frequent guest on *CNN Crossfire*, *Face the Nation*, *The Today Show* and *20/20*. Gregory Riker, computer industry veteran and current director of advanced consumer technology at Microsoft, demonstrated how technology could augment the quality of life for a 21st Century citizen. Beck Weathers concluded the convention by inspiring attendees with his account of the triumph of the human spirit. Weathers was one of the survivors of the 1996 Mt. Everest incident.

The Career Tech EXPO featured more than 350 exhibiting companies showcasing the latest products and services available in the career and technical education field!

While all of these events were going on at the ACTE meeting, Drs. Dennis Scanlon, Thomas Bruening, and Carol Hodes worked with staff from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational & Adult Education and presented a pre-

(Continued on Page 5)

(A Week...con't from p. 4)
 conference workshop titled
 "Career and Technical Educa-
 tion at the Crossroads."

The following individuals
 represented Pennsylvania
 during the AAAE and NAERC
 meetings.

Papers Presented:

Rama Radhakrishna, Associate
 Professor – "Professional
 Development Needs of State
 Extension Specialists."

Nancy Crago, Senior Extension
 Agent – "Impact of Overseas
 Assignments on Individual,
 Organizational and Community
 Attitudes, Behaviors and
 Support for International
 Extension Improvement."

Josue Lopez (Graduate),
 Kristen Fisher (Undergraduate),
 Elizabeth Schley (Undergradu-
 ate) all from Penn State and
 Susie Whittington from Ohio
 State – "Using Think-Aloud
 Protocols to Compare Cogni-
 tive Levels of Students and
 Professors in College Class-
 rooms."

Thomas Bruening, Dennis
 Scanlon, Carol Hodes presented
 a paper titled "The Status of
 Preservice Education in Career
 and Technical Education." This
 was based on their recent
 studies of the practices and
 models currently used in career
 and technical teacher certifica-
 tion programs across the United
 States. The studies of teacher

preparation programs were
 conducted as part of the
 National Research Center for
 Career and Technical Educa-
 tion consortium, which is
 administered from the Univer-
 sity of Minnesota.

Poster Presentation:

Joy Young (Undergraduate)
 from Penn State and Susie
 Whittington from Ohio State -
 "An Evaluation of the Fall
 Conference for Leadership
 and Professional Develop-
 ment: A Triangular Ap-
 proach."

Others in attendance from the
 Department of Agricultural
 and Extension Education were
 Blannie Bowen, Professor and
 Department Head, who was
 elected to serve as the 2001 –
 2003 Editor for the *Journal of
 Agricultural Education* and
 Connie Baggett, Associate
 Professor, served on the
 Election Committee.

Clark Elected to National FFA Alumni



Michael Clark,
 currently a student
 teacher at
 Lancaster



Mennonite High
 School, was elected to
 serve as the Eastern
 Region Representa-
 tive on the National
 FFA Alumni Council.

Michael will be
 attending national meetings to
 contribute to the FFA alumni
 organization, present motiva-
 tional speeches across the
 United States, and develop
 workshops on establishing and
 maintaining FFA alumni affili-

ates for states, counties and
 local chapters. Michael will
 serve as the Pennsyl-
 vania FFA Alumni
 Representative on the
 state board of direc-
 tors. He will be
 working with the FFA
 regional coordinators
 to set-up workshops
 to help local chapters
 to start alumni affiliates.

If you are interested in estab-
 lishing an alumni chapter or
 would like more information
 about alumni membership,
 contact Michael Clark at 717-
 789-3923.

(Hoover...cont'd from p. 3)

his fiancé for a November
 wedding. But the one philoso-
 phy Brendan lives by is "Keep
 on Trucking!"

The Center for Professional
 Personnel Development wel-
 comes Brendan Hoover to the
 agricultural education family.



Happy
 New Year

CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....

- February 6-8 PA Young Farmer Convention, Greensburg
- February 8-10 State Project Book Evaluation, PSU AG Administration Building
- February 13-19 ... Vocational Education Week
- February 17-18 ... ACES Leadership Conference, Marriott, Harrisburg
- February 19-26 ... National FFA Week
- February 23..... FFA Association Board of Directors Mtg., 301 AG Admin. Bldg., PSU, 6:30 p.m.
- March 11-13..... SLLC, Holiday Inn, Grantville
- March 27..... PAAE Western Spring Regional Mtg., Hoss's in Greensburg, 6:30 p.m.
- March 29..... PAAE Eastern Spring Regional Mtg., Conrad Weiser HS, Robeson, 5:00 p.m.
- April 3..... PAAE South Central Spring Regional Mtg., Hoss's in Carlisle, 5:00 p.m.
- April 6..... FFA Association Board of Directors Mtg., 301 AG Admin. Bldg., PSU, 6:30 p.m.
- April 7..... State Proficiency Evaluations, AG Admin. Bldg., PSU

TEACHER DEADLINES.....

- February 2..... Project Books due to Regional Coordinators
- February 15..... National FFA Scholarship Applications, National FFA Center
- February 26..... Membership Roster and Dues Payment Due to Mary Johnston, Adult Treasurer
- March 12..... American FFA Degree Applications Due, VSO Office
- April 2..... Proficiency & Entrepreneurship Applications due to regional coordinators
- April 15..... Dairy Showmanship Applications due to Dough Brown, Central Columbia

(New/Beginning...

Cont'd from p. 1)

resource persons to assist. And certainly, not as the last resort, contact a neighboring agriculture teacher and query them what works best or what should I avoid. Initiate the mentoring process!

PAAE is attempting to assist in this process. It is not an easy task. At the end of the day one would rather call it a day and go home, however for you mentors and other interested individuals, remember when you were young and so much

appreciated an encouraging contact. Mentees, also are tired and would rather seek diversion, but facing tomorrow is much easier if your plan is in tack. Do not hesitate to call upon that sympathetic ear. They can be terrific enablers.

The PSU Center for Professional Personnel Development is also assisting in this endeavor. Any of the Agricultural Education Professors are willing to offer their expertise.

I am employed part-time as a field-based resource person and

I have many times humbled myself and asked for HELP, so please do not hesitate to contact me. I have already contacted many of you and am making on-site visits. However, if this has not happened, please contact me.

Touchdowns usually are not made by a single individual; it takes a team effort. Successful teachers are not all self-made; it takes the support and encouragement of many. Together We Can!! Let's all do our part.

Briefs to Ag Educators is a publication of the Center for Professional Personnel Development, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, The Pennsylvania State University, 323 Agricultural Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802. Editors: Tiffany Roberson, Carol Hodes and Thomas Bruening. Phone: 814-863-7876; Fax: 814-863-4753; email Tiffany at tmr175@psu.edu

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