

# ASAE Update

## Highlights



**Fresno State Wins Dairy Challenge National Title** - Four ASAE students were named the number one platinum team at the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge April 2nd in Hickory, N.C. Facing 30 colleges across the United States and Canada, Fresno State's team joined Cornell University, Penn State and University of Wisconsin, River Falls, in earning the top national award with members each earning a \$200 scholarship. The team consisted of senior animal science majors Alex DeJager, of Chowchilla; Justin Nickerson of Modesto; John Roeloffs of Tipton; and junior agriculture business major Eddie DeJager of Chowchilla. The national competition puts textbook knowledge to a real-world test – the analysis of an actual dairy and recommendations for its operation. The two-day contest began with a walk-through of an operating dairy in Hickory, analysis of farm data and a question-answer session with owners. Each team then developed recommendations for nutrition, reproduction, milking procedures, animal health and housing and financial management followed by a presentation with recommendations to herd owners. Coached by animal science professors Jon Robison and Neal Spiro in Fresno State's Jordan College of Agriculture Sciences and Technology, the team has been active for five years. (*By Ag Communications sophomore, Nicole Maul*)

## Service Learning

**ASCI 67 Students: Learning By Doing and Serving** - Many students go to school for years without ever participating or engaging in volunteer work in their community. However, for those students participating in ASCI 67- Animals and Society, this is not the case. ASCI 67 started in 1999 when Dr. Michael Thomas, faculty at California State University, Fresno, submitted a proposal to the General Education Committee. Since being accepted into the General Education Area E, the ASAE department has taught one to three sections of this class every semester. "The class roster was primarily made up of Animal Science or Agriculture students in the beginning, but recent classes have been over 50% from across the campus, not agriculture majors," Thomas said. Students are required to participate in ten hours of an out-of-class service-learning project pertaining to animal therapy. These projects are selected by students and proposed to the professor. Students select from a wide variety of choices ranging from hippotherapy, pet therapy at assisted living homes, work at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or design their own program. "Many students get very creative when creating their service projects," said Professor Michelle Ganci, one of the current professors for this course. She explained how one group of students trained a pig from the swine unit to walk on a leash and then transported the pig to many classes around the valley, exposing kids to farm animals who would most likely never received the opportunity. Hippotherapy is the most common selection for students in this course. Hippotherapy is a form of physical therapy designed to remediate physical and mental deficits in individuals with physical and mental disabilities by use of horses. Individuals are able to strengthen a variety of skills such as communication, confidence and balance. Certified instructors and volunteers are present to help individuals safely work with concepts from petting and grooming the horse, and basic to advance riding techniques. Individuals with disabilities are not the only ones that benefit from these experiences. The students involved in the ASCI 67 course profit from it greatly. "When my professor notified my class of the project, I was thinking it was going to be a waste of time," said Kaitlyn Coyes, senior Animal Science-Pre Veterinary Science major. "By the end of my session that I volunteered at hippotherapy, I wanted to do more. It was such a wonderful experience to see the individuals grow from just spending a few hours a week with a horse." (*By Ag Communications senior, Elizabeth Thomasian*)

## ASAE Student Success



**Amy Gaffney, ASAE Dean's Medalist Nominee** - Amy is originally from Fresno, where she graduated as Valedictorian from Bullard High School. She also attended Duncan Polytechnic, where she studied animal science and farm management. When she arrived at Fresno State she immediately became involved in the Animal Science program. She started at the Quarter Horse Unit and continued to get more involved with the Poultry and Pre-Vet clubs. Amy is a founding member of the Poultry Science Society at California State University, Fresno and held the office of Treasurer. She is also a member of Alpha Zeta, the Agricultural Honor Society and organizes many philanthropic activities. She is Past Vice-President of the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club on campus and has been instrumental in organizing clinics and fundraisers for the benefit of the club and its philanthropic activities. She has also been involved with other leadership activities in the capacity of Co-Chair for the FFA State Poultry Judging Contest and organizing speakers such as Dr. Temple Grandin, world-renowned animal behaviorist. Amy has also found time to complete two internships with Dr. Steve Fenster at the Clovis Pet Hospital, as well as an internship with a large and small animal veterinarian, Dr. Charlene Hagus, in Fresno. Amy will graduate with a 3.6 gpa in Animal Science/Pre Veterinary Medicine and is currently awaiting word on admission to veterinary school.



**Paulina Pinheiro, ASAE Student Achiever** - Paulina is receiving her Bachelor's of Science degree in Agricultural Education with an option in Teacher Preparation. She is from San Martin, Calif. and a graduate of Live Oak High School in Morgan Hill. She is an excellent student and has been a regular member of the Dean's and President's list. Paulina has been heavily involved in university service events since her freshman year when she joined the FFA Conference Committee. She served in chair positions for two years before being elected to the post of Vice President and this year she was elected President. Paulina has been a member of the Red Wave Classic Jackpot Show Committee for four years and also a member of Alpha Zeta Honorary Agricultural Fraternity, where she provided leadership as Vice-President and currently as President. Paulina continued her interest in service through the ASAE Department's Farm Tour program, where she coordinates tours for approximately 10,000 elementary school children who visit our farm each year. This past year, Paulina had the honor of serving as the Ag Education student intern for the San Joaquin Region office of the California Department of Education under the supervision of Mr. Ken Harris, Regional Supervisor. This experience will be very valuable as she continues her education this fall at Fresno State to earn her agriculture teaching credentials so that she can achieve her goal of becoming a high school agriculture teacher.

## ASAE Alumni Success



**Ag Communications Graduate Making Impact Through Ag Publications** - Fresno State Ag Communications graduate Leah Bigham is now the Associate Editor for Agribusiness Publications in Fresno. Agribusiness Publications produces California Fresh Fruit magazine, which is circulated to 10,000 growers in the San Joaquin valley, and Agribusiness Dairymen a relatively new publication that's circulated to 16 western states. Representing the editorial department of Agribusiness Publications, Bigham works to find content by approaching farmers and professionals. She also writes pieces to be included in each publication. "My major has prepared me for the job I'm doing today," Bigham said. "The hands-on experience helps me understand terminology and be able to speak on their level. I feel so well equipped from my education and my internship." During the summer of 2009 Bigham secured an internship with the American Agricultural Editors Assoc. in Iowa taking pictures, writing press releases and articles, attending news conferences and other events. Bigham graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education/Communications with an emphasis in photography in Spring 2010. (*By Ag Communications senior, Keelyn Hanlon*)



**Souza Named "Rising Star" in Meat Industry** - Meat Science alum, Chad Souza, is proving that it doesn't take long to make an impact and find career success. After graduating from Fresno State in 2007 with his Bachelor's in Meat Science, Chad completed a Master's degree at the University of Illinois. After which, he returned to California to begin working at Bussetto Foods in Fresno. Chad serves as production manager overseeing the production of various Italian specialty meat products. His dedication and innovative thinking is already being recognized by his peers. In fact, you can read about Chad in the April edition of Meat & Poultry, a business journal for the meat and poultry processing industry. Meat & Poultry named Chad one of the "Rising Stars" in the industry. "I have consulted with numerous meat processing companies across the nation and Chad is easily the most talented young professional I have worked with," Dr. John Henson, Fresno State Meat Science Professor.