

A *Closer* Look

1. PAS National Conference
2. Medical Assisting Program to be Offered
3. Bridal Show Invites many

Agriculture Unites Education and Industry

Brigham Young University-Idaho holds agriculture's future in the highest respect. Last month, over 20 agriculture, agribusiness, agronomy, animal science and horticulture students participated in last month's PAS National Conference in Albany, New York where students gathered together to unite education and industry in agriculture. The Post Secondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) is an agriculture club that college students can join to give them further experience beyond the classroom in an agricultural career.

"The national organization is based on bridging a gap between education and employment," said Dwight Little, BYU-Idaho's PAS chapter president who was recently named the PAS National Vice President in last month's conference.

A conference is held every year in which students can participate in various contests that are sponsored by companies within the industry to give students employment experience in the industry and in leadership skills. Such skills are gained through employment experience programs and organization activities that are held at the annual PAS conferences.

"Throughout the year, [the presidency of the PAS chapter] tries to focus [their] activities on preparing for the national conference in hopes that we emphasize how important it is that the members take the opportunity to go," Little said.

Each member of the PAS chapter is required to provide the funds for the national conference, however, local sponsors in the industry help out a great deal. Over 20 members from BYU-Idaho's chapter of PAS were able to attend the conference this year and came home enriched with skills and knowledge that are necessary to obtain in the agricultural industry.

Unlike other years, however, students who went to the PAS national conference were able to participate in another special trip. While in Albany, students made a special trip to visit church history sites such as Kirtland, Ohio and Palmyra, New York to name a few.

"It was so neat to be able to incorporate the gospel end of the spectrum into a school and career-related function," said Little.

While at the PAS conference, many students have the opportunity to leave resumes with future employers, creating a business worthy relationship; and there were many other students who came home with good prospects in their future.

"Being part of PAS is a great opportunity to network and build relationships with potential employees," Little said.

Congratulations to the 2005 PAS award winners: Talo Barnes, Shaun Blasey, Jackie Bogdanowicz, Kevin Hicks, Scott Jacobs, Dwight Little, Kelly McCreedy, Merrill McKeaney, David Mundt, Morgan Pierce, Jamie Thompson and Alicia Ward.

What's *New*?

Read Harvesting Dreams online
@ www.byu.edu/AgandLifeSci

Looking for something to do
this summer? Check out the
summer internships posted on
the web.

Graduating this spring? Add
your address to the list on the
College of Ag/Life Science
homepage so we can keep you
current with campus events!



2005-2006 National PAS Officers

Row #1 (l. to r.): Josh Clegherty, President-Elect; Layna Pado, President; Eileen Jensen, Secretary
Row #2 (l. to r.): Vice Presidents: Laramie French, Dwight Little, Jason Tovey, and Dita Bala

Bridal Show Brings in Hundreds

Before the big day, brides everywhere are overjoyed, twitterpated, and anxious. In between the dates with your fiancé, mailing out invitations, and dress fittings, how can any bride possibly have the time to sit down and decide what theme, colors, or decorations she wants? Through all the running around, cake testing, and phone calling, brides tend to forget one of the most important parts: the decorating.

Once a year, various departments within the college of Agriculture and Life Science puts together a bridal show for soon-to-be, or already-have-been, brides. The show brings the excitement into planning and takes the stress out. This annual bridal show is held during BYU-Idaho's Mothers Weekend and brings in hundreds of mothers and their sons or daughters and takes them through the colors, the decorations, the flowers, and the cakes of a wedding hopefully inspiring some bright ideas.

The bridal show started over 15 years ago when horticulture department chair, Ben Romney, was hired to start a floral program from scratch. He attended bridal shows on the east coast to get ideas when the idea of having a bridal show at BYU-Idaho developed. After a lot of planning, the bridal show was under way. Many people helped with decorations, taking tickets and serving refreshments. Many students from various majors were also heavily involved at the time. Fashion merchandizing majors made the wedding gowns for the show, photography majors displayed wedding pictures they had taken, culinary arts majors made the cakes, and horticulture majors made the bouquets and floral arrangements and decorated the rooms.

"So many people showed up to the [first] bridal show, we were all amazed. We didn't have enough room to put everyone," Romney said.

After more than 2,000 people came to the first show, the future location of it had to be reconsidered. After time, the bridal show moved to the Benson building and is now organized by horticulture students. At the beginning of the semester, committees are organized and the students plan the bridal show months before.

"It's a great opportunity for future brides and grooms to come and get ideas, take pictures, and to enjoy the planning of their wedding," Romney said.



Students Enhance Education and Skills in Bolivia

BYU-Idaho's transcultural program provides clinical experience that brings students to all parts of the world. This year, nine students went with nursing professor, Shirley Stavast, to help the many sick and afflicted people of Montero, Bolivia.

As part of the students' community nursing course (Nurs. 449), students traveled to Bolivia to work in clinics, to give assessments, immunizations and tests at schools for different sicknesses and diseases and to participate in home visits to families in Montero. In an effort to not only help those in need in Montero, students were able to gain the experience of a lifetime and use their clinical and nursing skills taught in classes.

"It's such a great experience for the students to fulfill course objectives by participating in a type of humanitarian aid project [in a country that is in desperate need of so many things]," Stavast said.

In Bolivia, Stavast said they see it all; from parasites, to malnutrition, to poverty. But seeing these things made students even more willing to help in any way possible.

"This year, the students and I helped build a two room house for an Indian family who was in desperate need of it," Stavast said. Many of the families, who live in Montero, live in small houses made out of mud. "The families feel so blessed to receive something like that."

Each year, more volunteer groups participate in humanitarian efforts such as these in Bolivia and in other countries such as MesoAmerica. Students who participate in this experience are able to use their skills and knowledge they have learned and apply it to life changing experiences such as these.

(Picture: Nursing students pose with children from Montero)



Internships Available Online this Summer

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will be offering internship information online this summer at www.byui.edu/AgandLifeSci. Information will include the company, the major and location. The internships include employment in the agronomy/agbusiness, animal science, biology, health science, horticulture and nursing industries. Internship lists are currently available on the college bulletin board in the Benson building on campus.

For further internship information, contact Doug McBride at the Advising Office for the College of Ag/Life Sciences at 496-2438. Internships are available year-round and are available in various parts of the country.

Depending on your major, the internship must get approved before working and registration for credits may be required before working.

Internship forms are available online through the department websites. Check with your adviser regarding online registration using the forms the departments have provided.

Seminars Prepare Students for Graduate School

Ever since BYU-Idaho has become a four-year university and has started 'rethinking education,' many departments are changing the way they think education as well. Two years ago, Alan Holyoak, a biology professor at BYU-Idaho, was assigned to organize a seminar program that would focus on the undergraduate students to get them better prepared for graduate school and the real world.

The biology department now holds 12 seminars per semester that give students the opportunity to present research and/or experience they had while on their internships.

"When the majority of these biology students get jobs after graduating, many of them will be presenting research and other findings in a formal atmosphere and the seminars give students the chance to enhance that skill," Holyoak said.

Students that present at these seminars are invited by the department to give a presentation. No requirements have been made regarding presentation format and material, however, as the seminar program develops, requirements will be made.

"Our first goal was to develop a tradition of the seminars since we've only been doing them for a short period of time. But now that they're established, we'll look into improving the quality of the presentations," said Holyoak.

According to statistics, on average, over 100 students attend each seminar throughout the semester, and over 300 attend at least one per semester giving the presenters great experience of presenting to an audience.

BYU-Idaho Announces Medical Assisting Program in 2006

In the winter semester of 2006, the health science department will be introducing the Medical Assistant Program as an Associate Degree to BYU-Idaho in which graduates will become Certified Medical Assistants.

The health science department proposed the development of this program to the university board earlier this year due to the growing amount of students who have transferred schools in pursuit of a Medical Assisting degree.

"I think it will be a great opportunity for this university; it will bring in many more graduate students and undergraduate students will be able to finish their education at BYU-Idaho without having to transfer," Lynn Perkes, the health science department chairman, said.

The program will be organized this summer and classes will be available for the winter semester of 2006.

The Medical Assisting program will be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. On the recommendation of the Curriculum Review Board of the American Association of Medical Assistants' Endowment, all graduating students of the Associate Degree Program are eligible to sit for the AAMA certification examination, and, upon passing the examination, the individual will earn the Certified Medical Assistant credential.

The course objectives within the program will be dedicated to teaching students how to assist physicians administratively and/or clinically in outpatient settings such as the physician's office, walk-in clinics, and hospitals.