

UNDERGRAD NEWS

Agricultural Economics

Kansas State

STUDENTS TOUR THE EMERALD ISLE

On May 20, 2008, eight students set off for an amazing 10-day tour of Ireland with Professor Sean Fox. Aided by his native connection, Dr. Fox put together a fascinating itinerary featuring famous tourist destinations as well as access to some of Ireland's influential decision makers in agriculture and policy.

Janet Schlosser, an ag econ grad student, always wanted to travel in the United Kingdom.

"The opportunity this trip provided was fantastic. We got to see many of the typical tourist sites, and many that Americans don't get to see, but at each destination we got a fuller understanding of our circumstances."

One of Schlosser's favorite highlights was touring Kildangan Stud Farm.

Kildangan Stud Farm is located in County Kildare to the southwest of Ireland's capital city of Dublin, it was developed on the site of the 17th-century Kildangan Castle, and thus the name. Through much of the 20th century Kildangan Stud flourished as a breeding farm, producing 11 European classic winners for the O'Ferrall family, which had owned the land since 1849.

"The farm is now owned by the ruler of Dubai and each stud horse is worth millions of dollars. The facilities were immaculate and exclusive. However my preconceptions were off in that they were willing to answer any questions we posed and were very open," Schlosser said.

In addition to seeing many of Ireland's famous landmarks like the Galway Cathedral and the white Cliffs of Moher, students toured three working farms including Dr. Fox's family farm.

"I think one piece of information I took away from the trip is that the farms in Ireland are so much smaller and that they all have a strong mix of enterprises. In Kansas one farmer might have only wheat or another may focus on corn and soybeans, but in Ireland each farm is more uniform having cattle, sheep, hay and silage. They are very self-sufficient, even though they are small," she said.

The wider understanding of Ireland was echoed by many of the students and will be useful as Schlosser continues her graduate studies.

"Being able to go abroad and experience a different culture is valuable, especially when I begin to look for a job after graduation. This is experience will make me stand out to potential employers," Schlosser added.

Another group of ag econ students spent time this summer in Central America. See www.ageconomics.ksu.edu for more information and photos on their trip.



Trip Highlights:

Tour the U.S. Embassy and meet with US Ag Attache, Tom Bellamy

Tour Parliament and private lunch hosted by John Perry, Representative of County Sligo

Visit the National Museum and University College Dublin, meet with Dr. Dermot Ruane and Mr. Larry Harte to discuss current agriculture/agribusiness in Ireland

Tour Guinness Brewery

Visit Kildangan Stud Farm

Attend Curragh Race Meet (horse race)

Attend Mass at Galway Cathedral and visit Cliffs of Moher

Participate in the Dungaure Castle Banquet

Tour and Work at three farms, including Dr. Fox's family farm

Tour Beef Research Center

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NEW FACES IN AG ECON CLASSES

There are plenty of unknown faces in your classes as you start a new semester. Hopefully, as the weeks pass you'll find the strangers become friends. K-State Ag Econ has some relatively new faces in its faculty as well. Here's your chance to find out a bit more about them.

TIM DALTON:



Schooling? *"I got my B.S. at Columbia University, M.S. at University of Illinois, and Ph.D. at Purdue"*

Hobbies? *"I like outdoor activities like sailing and boating."*

Interesting place you've lived? *"West Africa. I lived in the Ivory Coast for three years. My first job after my Ph.D. took me there doing research."*

What classes are you teaching? *"AGEC 415 - Global Ag/Economics of Hunger and Poverty and AGECE 815 - International Agriculture Development"*

Currently reading? *"Jeffery Sachs - Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet. The title is more interesting than the book."*

Facebook, Twitter, My Space, Other, None? *"What are those?"*

From where did you move? *"Maine, the city of Portland"*

Most liked aspect of living in Kansas? *"The lack of biting black flies."*

Most disliked aspect of living in Kansas? *"Smoking is still allowed in public places here."*

What has surprised you most about Kansas? *"How very little the humidity and heat has bothered me."*

2008 K-State football record prediction? *"6 and 5"*

JASON BERGTOLD:



Schooling? *"I got my B.S. at Colorado State, and my M.S. and Ph.D. at Virginia Tech."*

Hobbies? *"At this point I spend alot of time raising kids. But I enjoy raquet ball and reading science fiction books."*

Interesting place you've lived? *"My undergraduate apartment in Fort Collins was the pit stop for all my friends. I'd come home at night and someone (who didn't live with us) would be sleeping on the couch. It was alot of fun."*

What classes are you teaching? *"AGEC 712 - Optimization Techniques for Agricultural Economics"*

Currently reading? *"a Star Wars novel...like I said, I love science fiction."*

Facebook, Twitter, My Space, Other, None? *"None"*

From where did you move? *"Auburn, Alabama....and yes I saw Kansas State loseunfortunately :)"*

Most liked aspect of living in Kansas? *"Less humidity. Kansas has nothing on the heat and humidity of Alabama."*

Most disliked aspect of living in Kansas? *"The drive on I-70 across Kansas."*

What has surprised you most about Kansas? *"The culture. People are friendly. They say hi when you walk by or talk in the grocery store line. I'm from Colorado orignally so it reminds me of a western mentality...open and inviting."*

2008 K-State football record prediction? *"4 and 7"*

Fall 2008

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Dr. Ted Shroeder discusses a student's resume during an advising appointment

Fall Calendar

August

25

1st day of classes

28

Wildcat Welcome 3 to 9pm, K-State Alumni Center
Union Expo & Activities Carnival, K-State Union

September

1

University Holiday

2

College of Ag Watermelon Feed, Weber Hall, 6:15 pm

14

Last Day for 100% Refund on Classes

15

Graduation Clearance Forms (Dec. 08 Grads) Due to
WA 135

21

Last Day for 50% Refund

23-24

Career Fair

27

Family Day

29

Last Day to Drop without a "W"

October

6

Student Holiday "Fall Break" no classes

15

Academic Majors Fair, K-State Union Ballroom

27

Enrollment for Spring Semester Begins

31

Last Day to Drop a Class

MAKE THE MOST OF ADVISING

Your college experience is a time of exploration and responsibility. You have a faculty advisor to help you take ownership in your education and to reach your goals. To be successful here at K-State, meet with your advisor regularly and establish a strong working relationship. Remember this is the person who will write letters of recommendation for you, share input during the scholarship awarding process, and be your link to the resources of K-State.

You need to schedule an appointment with your advisor in October or November so you're ready to enroll when the time comes. Here are some tips on what to think about and do as you prepare to meet with your advisor.

- Be flexible. Your preferences and needs are always considered when you schedule an appointment. Please remember, faculty advisors have numerous responsibilities.
- Think about your major or potential options. If you don't have any ideas visit the Academic Career Information center in Holton Hall Rm 114.
- Most appointments are scheduled for 30 minutes, schedule a longer appointment time if you have several things to talk about. Classes for next semester, part-time jobs, academic standing, or career opportunities.
- Bring the following to your appointment: a current DARS report, a list of things you want to discuss, a possible schedule, and a list of alternative classes.
- Get the most out of your appointment by arriving on time, being honest with your advisor and yourself, prepared to discuss the information you gathered, be ready to discuss your situation, plans and goals with an open mind, ask questions, make sure you leave copies of notes taken and materials given to you during your appointment, and have a notebook or folder where you can keep your advising appointment materials.
- After your appointment, review all the materials and follow up with your advisor if you have questions or concerns, follow your advisor's instructions and complete any assigned tasks. Finally enroll at your assigned time.

STUDENTS SURPRISED BY STORM DAMAGE



Will Klusener

As recovery continued from hail storm, a fresh spate of weather came through the city Wednesday, June 11, as a tornado caused destruction around the city.

Near the largely student-populated west side of the Kansas State University campus, where the funnel took the roof off the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house, ripped trees from the ground by their roots and scattered residential debris throughout the area just after midnight, residents were dazed by the destruction.

Trapper Callender, an anthropology student at K-State, said the thought of a tornado hitting Manhattan had never crossed his mind.

"Then we heard the reports and I thought 'This one's actually going to hit,'" he said, stepping over a ventilation turbine laying in the middle of College Heights Road. "I mean, this is real."

Cheyenne Stelter, an elementary education student at K-State who was out with Callender, said she felt like she was walking in a dream.

"We heard it was safe, so we left to see what it was like afterward," she said. "You just don't think it's going to happen."

Alfredo Figueredo, an economics student from Paraguay, said his only experience with tornadoes was on the news. He said he hardly realized that the tornado had passed just feet from his house.

"It happened so fast, I didn't even know it," he said, looking at the remnants of an apartment balcony. "I felt the air pressure change, and my friend looked up and said 'You feel that?' Then there was this loud noise for a while. I can't believe it. My dad just called from Paraguay to see if it's OK. It's already on TV there."

Chris Babcock watched the storm roll into Manhattan on TV. Babcock, also an economics student who lives on College Heights, was house-sitting for his boss on Pierre Street and came to survey the damage.

"You just never think it's going to happen to you," he said.