Our trip to China was adventurous, educational, and enlightening. We were able to experience the culture with a local guide in Beijing, visiting attractions we would not have been able to see otherwise. Having grown up in a hutong neighborhood it was fascinating to hear about the history and evolution of those neighborhoods. We also managed to visit Tienanmen Square, the Great Wall, and Forbidden City while there. An overnight train ride took us to Shanghai for the conference. The conference was informative and our hosts were more than accommodating. They really took care of everyone who attended, feeding us at every opportunity and making sure we stayed entertained. A trip to the World Expo was the finale of the conference, with VIP access to the USA, Austria, Italy, and China pavilions. This was a tremendous opportunity to be able to avoid lines that were several hours wait to get in at each pavilion. All in all, the trip gave us a new perspective on their culture – past and present. It is evident it is an evolving culture, with bits from the past merging with influences from the present and future. There have been a lot of changes since China opened itself to the rest of the world, it is a fascinating topic worth exploration.

Dr. Dale Whitaker, moving

College of Agriculture Faculty, Staff, and Students gathered to honor Dr. Dale Whitaker on September 27, 2010. He became the university’s Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs on July 1, 2010. Dr. Whitaker had served our College as Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs since July 2002. This send-off was given after the semester brought everyone back to campus. He will be greatly missed in the College of Agriculture, but we wish him all the best in his new endeavor.
What is HASA??

The Office of Multicultural Programs in collaboration with the Lt. Governor Becky Skillman’s Office sponsored the Hoosier Agribusiness Science Academy Summer Institute for Middle School students from June 7-11, 2010 and High School students from July 5-16th, 2010. This was the first year that both the Ag Discovery Camp and the Hoosier Agribusiness Science Academy is under one umbrella, the Hoosier Agribusiness Science Academy Summer Institute.

This past summer all students were housed in McCutcheon Hall during their residential stay on campus, and though most of the students were from urban areas in Indiana, we attracted a few students from five other states; Arizona, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, and Colorado.

The most notable changes occurred in the response to the following statement given when the students first arrived to the campus for orientation: Does agriculture involves chemistry, technology, economics, biology, engineering, education, and medicine? The Pre-Institute results show that 45 percent “Strongly Agree” with the statement and the Post-Institute results show this figure increased to 65 percent “Strongly Agree”.

The Indiana Lt. Governor, Becky Skillman, is excited to have had the HASA students participate in this year’s Summer Institute. Mr. Virgil Madden, representative of the Lt. Governor, said that he ‘was impressed with this year’s cohort of students and expects that next year will be just as impressive.’

HASA students visiting Dow Agro Science
MANRRSS at Purdue....

This academic school year we celebrate 15 years of service to the College of Agriculture, Purdue University, and the Greater Lafayette community, and Linking Student-Scholars of color and Professionals in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences.

It was only 25 years ago, when students of color from MSU and PSU got together a created a networking activity for the First Leadership Conference of Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources Association (MANRA) at Michigan State in 1986. In 1987 the second annual conference of Minorities in Agriculture (MIA) was held at The Pennsylvania State University. The third Annual Conference was hosted by the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. At this conference the name Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) was chosen, and the first set of national officers elected.

Now, more than 50 universities have chapters of MANRRS, and conferences are held annually at sites all around the United States. Approximately 900 students and professionals now attend this yearly event.

Purdue University College of Agriculture's journey in MANRRS began in 1996, when its chapter was chartered. Since then we have grown from 8 members to over twenty-five. We are proud to be a part of this great society.

Congratulations to the 2010-2011 Officers. It’s going to be a great year!

Liz Hansen, President  
Kelsey Heron, Vice President  
Hector Ochoa, Treasurer
We congratulate Jasmine Coe and Willis Chiang; two of the five USDA multicultural scholars who graduated this pass May 2010 and have moved on to veterinarian school and an industry career respectfully. We also celebrate seniors’ Malcolm Barber and Elizabeth Hansen as they are both candidates to graduate this coming academic year May 2011. Additionally, we want to acknowledge Jackie Hansen for a successful year as our youngest multicultural scholar this past academic year!

Willis Chiang, Jackie Henson, Elizabeth Henson, Jasmine Coe, & Malcolm Barber.

“"Our thoughts and words are like the rudder of a ship—they may seem small, but they affect the direction of our lives.”
Author unknown

Vicki Shell joined the staff in the Office of Multicultural Programs in January 2010. She was previously employed at Tippecanoe School Corporation in the Business Office. Ms. Shell received her B.A. in Elementary Education from Purdue University in 1991. She is the mother of six children and has nine grandchildren. “Being part of the OMP team, has been wonderful” said Ms. Shell, “and everyone in the College of Ag has been so friendly and welcoming!” Please stop by AGAD 106 and get acquainted with Vicki if you haven’t already done so.
These five outstanding students came from great universities and proved they are ready for the graduate degree seeking experience in Horticulture, Animal Science, and Agronomy here at Purdue University.

Dr. Pamala V. Morris,
Dr. John Graveel,
Ruth Osborn, (Chicago State, Mentor: Dr. Burkhard Schulz)
Dr. Jody Banks,
Medina Huggins, (North Carolina A&T State University, Mentor: Dr. Kolapo Ajuwon)
Myron McClure
Uchenna Mbawuike, (Syracuse University, Mentor: Dr. Jody Banks)
James Golden, (Tuskegee University, Mentor: Dr. Zoltan Machaty)
Corinna Crayton, (Purdue University, Mentor: Dr. Jody Banks) not pictured.
Animal and Food Science Students in Rural Romania...2010

www.ag.purdue.edu/multicultural/Lists/OMPCalendar/calendar.aspx

- PLEASE visit out web site for current events posted on the
  OMP Calendar!
- PLEASE submit any diversity events to be posted to:
  vshell@purdue.edu

Thank you!

http://twitter.com/eXtensionDAHE
Come and visit us!

- Title of Session: Using Technology to Catch Their Eye - Keep Them Engaged

New CoP name: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
-Has been successfully launched
-CoP public website updated with new CoP name

Award

National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) Annual Award

NAME’s 20th Anniversary International Conference November 3-6, 2010 at the Rio Hotel & Conference Center in Las Vegas, Nevada

- Multicultural Media Award

For more information:

http://www.extension.org/diversity

Kesha Henry
henry4@purdue.edu
Drs. Ebner and Russell, in partnership with Banat University of Veterinary Medicine and Agricultural Sciences (Timisoara, Romania), Hunedoara County Livestock Production Association (Hunedoara, Romania), Heifer International Romania (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) and Reach 2 Romania (Indianapolis, Indiana; Paclisa, Romania), led a group of 24 Purdue University College of Agriculture and Banat University undergraduates on a four-week service-learning course in Romania. In the first part of the course, students worked with six individual families in a community of 13 villages (Vata de Jos, Romania) in homestays to learn Romanian livestock production practices and jointly implement programs improving animal health and environmental stewardship. In the second part of the course took place at long-term care hospital serving adults with various disabilities. The hospital has a large and diverse farm (produce, grain, livestock) that provides both therapy and food for its 200 patients. The students worked in teams alongside farm managers, patients and administrators to improve their livestock facility through the design and construction of a manure handling system, a fenced pasture and calf and poultry housing. Student reflections taken periodically throughout the course indicated that participants enhanced their education and training through practical application and engagement while at the same time, improved the economic stability and sustainability of the various livestock programs.

FEELS, the Food, Environment, Engineering and Life Sciences Program has three cohorts this year, 9 freshman, 10 sophomores and 6 juniors. The freshmen are adjusting smoothly to the challenges of college, sophomores are all engaged in undergraduate research projects and juniors are getting prepared for the industrial internship they will complete in summer 2011. Sophomores and juniors are also completing the Leadership Development Certificate Program. In addition students have been active in different clubs. This fall, FEELS has already had two dinners, a student posters presentation and a 10 student team participating in the Hunger Hike.

During the 2009 -10 academic year, the average GPA of the retained students in the first and second cohorts was 3.18 compared to a 2.78 GPA of students in the College of Agriculture who were not FEELS fellows, but who had the same financial need and a similar average high school GPA. Four of last year’s 10 freshman fellows were selected as the Outstanding Freshman Student in their department and one of the four was awarded the Outstanding Freshman Student award for the college.

FEELS is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to the College of Agriculture at Purdue. It is lead by Dr. Rabi Mohtar and managed in the Office of Academic Programs. In addition to the project manager and the assessment team from the Discovery Learning Research Center, . FEELS enjoys support of 25 Agriculture faculty members who are actively engaged as academic and/or research mentors and 3 industrial mentors.

For more information about FEELS program visit: www.purdue.edu/feels