AGEP NEWS

AGEP & LSAMP Spring Banquet

The 2016 AGEP and LSAMP Spring Banquet took place on Monday, April 4. Our guest speaker was Dr. Levon Esters, Associate Professor of Youth Development & Agricultural Education and Director of Mentoring@Purdue. Dr. Esters spoke about the different types of mentoring relationships such as peer mentoring and faculty mentoring. He also discussed how each relationship positively affects retention of underrepresented minority (URM) students in predominately white institutes (PWI). He praised programs such as LSAMP, Mentoring@Purdue and AGEP for not only their work with recruiting, but also helping to create communities of support for minority students. Dr. Esters’ research interests focus on issues related to the educational access and equity of racial and ethnic minorities.

Dr. Ignacio Camarillo, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences and Director of LSAMP, announced graduating seniors of LSAMP and distributed awards for excellence to deserving faculty and scholars. LSAMP graduating seniors are: Crystal Perez, Cortney Ann Williford, William Foster, Kiela Willis, McKeith Pearson, Jonathan Comparan, Jacoba White, and Denisse Resendiz.

Dr. Kathy Dixon, Director of AGEP and Co-Director of the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SRP), also recognized graduating AGEP scholars and presented awards. AGEP scholars graduating in 2016 are: Jennifer Allen, Brittini Brown, Shana Hardy, Fuschia-Ann Hoover, and Canek Phillips. Two AGEP graduate assistants were also recognized for their work with AGEP: Mary Maxine Browne and Emily Reichert.

This year AGEP presented three special awards to scholars who excelled in mentoring, academic achievement, meeting AGEP goals, and commitment to diversity and social justice. The AGEP Mentor of the Year award was presented to Brittini Brown, the AGEP Scholar of the Year award was presented to Fernando Tormos-Aponte, and the AGEP Distinguished Scholar Award was presented to Sean Natoli.

Dr. Levon Esters speaking at the AGEP & LSAMP Spring banquet

Calendar Events

May 25-26
CIC Graduate Deans Meeting
May 30
Memorial Day/Holiday
June 5
SRP Students Arrive
June 6
SRP Dean’s Reception
July 1
Applications due AGEP-Fall
July 4
University Holiday
July 27-28
SRP Oral Presentations
July 29
SRP Poster Presentations
September 23-24
McNair-Baltimore, MD
MANRRS 2016
by Jennifer Allen

This year the National MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences) 31st Annual Career Fair & Training Conference was held in Jacksonville, FL with the theme, “MANRRS: Growing the Next Generation of Agricultural Leaders”. The conference hosted over 1200 attendees, including both students and professionals. As a MANRRS/Farm Credit Scholarship awardee, Jennifer Allen (pictured on the right) received a travel grant for the conference, an educational scholarship and attended a pre-conference training which included seminars and professional development workshops. These activities included a seminar by prominent and successful African-American farmer, PJ Haynie, on how to be successful in agriculture, and individual Predictive Index surveys with Farm Credit executives. The National MANRRS annual conference is a great opportunity to network with other under-represented minority students, professionals, and scholars to discuss current issues in agriculture and increasing diversity in the field. The MANRRS conference also offers the opportunity for students to present their research through oral and poster competitions. Jennifer successfully presented her research on how “protein interactions modulate the bioaccessibility of flavan-3-ols from green tea extracts”, winning first place in the graduate research poster division. Overall the 2016 conference offered members the ability to grow professionally through networking opportunities, presentations, and development workshops, culminating as a wonderful experience!

Fulbright Scholar

AGEP Graduate Assistant, Jonathan Freeman, is the recipient of a Fulbright Foreign Research Award and a Smithsonian Summer Internship.

Jonathan, a second year PhD candidate in American Studies recently passed his prelims and oral defense. He will begin his Smithsonian Summer Internship in June at the National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, DC, where he will work with Dr. Damian Thomas, a sports curator at the Smithsonian.

As a Fulbright Scholar, Jonathan will travel to the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa to spend nine months working with Dr. Noor Nieftagodien, Head of the History Workshop in the School of Social Sciences. He will be conducting archival research for his dissertation while at the university and visiting museums and national archives throughout the country. He also plans to visit Sun City and Cape Town.

Jonathan’s dissertation project focuses on African Americans and the anti-Apartheid movement.
United Nations Climate Change Conference
by Fernando Tormos-Aponte

AGEP Scholar, Fernando Tormos Aponte, attended the United Nations recent climate change conference (UNFCCC COP21) in Paris to conduct a collaborative ethnography that investigates the participation and influence of Indigenous peoples in the negotiations. Fernando received the Graduate School's Fredrick Andrews Environmental Travel Award which he used to fund travel such as this. He also presented two papers at the Southern Political Science Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico on how transnational social movements maintain solidarity in a context of domination and social group difference.
He visited the universities and recruited for AGEP while in Puerto Rico. Fernando, a doctoral candidate in Political Science, is a recipient of the following recent awards:

- Ford Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Award Honorable Mention
- AGEP Scholar of the Year
- Berenice A. Carroll Feminism, Peace, and Social Justice Award Honorable Mention
- Purdue Fredrick Andrews Environmental Travel Award
- Purdue Political Science Summer Dissertation Fellowship
- Ludwig Kruhe Doctoral Fellowship, Purdue Graduate School
- Southern Political Science Association Prestage-Cook Travel Award

Purdue Fashion Show
By Kadari Taylor-Watson

AGEP Scholar and American Studies PhD student, Kadari Taylor-Watson participated in the Annual Purdue Fashion Show April 2, 2016. Kadari became a student in Purdue’s Apparel Design & Technology Department in the fall of 2015. Since her enrollment in the program she has designed multiple garments and is currently developing textiles that use laser cutting of Ghanaian Adinkra symbols. In line with her doctoral research, Kadari is interested in maintaining the cultural integrity of Adinkra symbols using various technologies while simultaneously establishing a design aesthetic that is culturally relevant and sensitive to its wearers. Next year, Kadari will be presenting a nine piece collection for her independent design.
AGEP On The Road

Presenting AGEP Research

AGEP Graduate Research Assistant, Christina Soto traveled to Grand Rapids, Michigan in March to attend the National Postdoc Association Annual Meeting and present a poster titled “Moving Forward: Assessing Preparedness of URM s for the Transition to the Professoriate”.

In April, AGEP Staff presented a paper on AGEP research at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in Washington, DC.

Recruiting

AGEP recruited at the 2016 Texas National McNair Conference held at the University of North Texas this past February.

In April, AGEP traveled to San Jose, California for the California Diversity Forum at San Jose State University. The Forum brings together approximately 1,000-1,500 preselected high achieving URM undergraduate and master’s students from colleges and universities throughout California.

The Latest Publications

AGEP Graduate Assistant, Quintana Clark’s paper titled, “A Call for Cultural Congruity on PWI Campuses” was published in April, 2016 by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, a popular online magazine for news and information about diversity in higher education. The paper was co-authored by Dr. Levon Esters, Associate Professor of Youth Development and Agricultural Education.

AGEP Scholar, Brittni Brown, submitted an excellent paper to Diverse: Issues in Higher Education titled “Enhancing Identity Development for Black Students at PWIs” which was published in April, 2016.

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