RESEARCH TRIP 5:30 PM 10/27/17 S. KOCH

UW-River Falls Students from the crop and soils department just got back from a trip to a national convention for the Students of Agronomy, Soil and Environmental Sciences, or SASES (sah-sez). The event took place in Tampa, Florida, and provided a chance for students doing undergraduate research to show off their work. Sophia Koch (cook) has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 93 O/C: STD

SOPHIA KOCH: STELLA PEY (PAY) IS A SENIOR MAJORING IN CROP AND SOILS AT UW-RIVER FALLS WHO WILL BE GRADUATING IN MAY. SHE AND SEVENTEEN OTHER STUDENTS WENT ON A TRIP TO A NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE STUDENTS OF AGRONOMY, SOIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, AND SHE CAME BACK WITH A FIRST AND SECOND PLACE AWARD. VERONICA JUSTEN (JUH-STEN) IS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CROP SCIENCE AT UWRF AND ONE OF THE FACULTY MEMBERS THAT WENT ALONG ON THE TRIP. SHE SAYS THAT THE CONVENTION IS A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO ADVANCE THEIR CAREERS.

VERONICA JUSTEN: THESE COMPETITIONS ARE ESPECIALLY WELL SUITED FOR STUDENTS THAT ARE CONSIDERING GOING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL BECAUSE THIS IS A GREAT NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO INTERACT WITH PROFESSORS THAT COULD BE THEIR GRADUATE SCHOOL ADVISORS. SO, IT’S GREAT FOR THAT.

SOPHIA KOCH: PEY’S AWARDS WERE ONLY POSSIBLE AFTER SHE DID THE RESEARCH ITSELF. SHE APPLIED FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE STIPENDS AND EXPENSES GRANT FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY PROGRAM, ALSO CALLED URSCA (URH-SKAH). SHE THEN SPENT THE SUMMER TESTING LAND THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF CULTIVATION TO SEE IF THE SOIL HAD RECOVERED.

STELLA PEY: BUT THEN I ALSO THINK I LEARNED THINGS JUST ABOUT LIKE, YOU KNOW, ORGANIZING A PROJECT, WHAT IT MEANS TO CONDUCT RESEARCH, WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FACED WITH ALL THESE CHALLENGES AND THEN OVERCOME THEM, OR THEN MAYBE FIND SOME CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO GETTING THROUGH THESE PROBLEMS.

SOPHIA KOCH: THE URSCA PROGRAM CANNOT OFFER AS MUCH MONEY IN GRANTS PER PERSON AS IT DID BEFORE THE 2016 BUDGET CUTS, BUT THE PROGRAM’S LIST OF PAST RECIPIENTS SHOWS THAT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING GRANTS HAS BEEN ON THE RISE SINCE AT LEAST 2012. FOR STUDENTS, THIS MEANS MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH AND ADVANCE THEIR CAREERS IN A VERY HANDS-ON WAY. FOR FALCON NEWS, I’M SOPHIA KOCH (COOK).

Pey (pay) will be presenting her research at the URSCA Fall Gala. Though she won’t be continuing on her own research, her awards from the convention will give her an edge as she moves forward with her career and begins applying to graduate schools.

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