

Dairy Dawgs Rise to the Top Nationally!
Jillian Bohlen

During a hot, early July weekend the University of Georgia Dairy Science students attended the American Dairy Science Association meeting held in Orlando, FL. This meeting was a part of the Joint Annual Meetings with the American Society of Animal Science. The group was comprised of six undergraduate students: Madison Rose, Kayla Alward, Stephanie Williammee, Halie Tuten, Sarah Jane Thomsen and Lily Masa; one dairy science graduate student, Lark Widener, and their advisor Dr. Jillian Bohlen.

As their journey south began, the group made three stops to tour some Georgia dairy farms! Any time this group has the opportunity to see the dairy industry in action is an exciting blessing! Thank you to our host farms on this trip-UGA Tifton Dairy, American Dairy Co. dairy in Baconton and Brooks Co. dairy.

While in Orlando, the group from UGA participated in business meetings and competitions associated with the American Dairy Science Association Student Affiliate Division (ADSA-SAD) and Graduate Student Division (ADSA GSD). When not participating in scheduled events and meetings, the group was busy visiting with industry sponsors at the trade show, attending professional research presentations or networking with peers and industry representatives.

The group dove right into the meeting by participating in the Quiz Bowl Competition with members Madison Rose, Kayla Alward, Halie Tuten and Lily Masa. This year boasted one of the largest Quiz Bowl Competitions in recent memory and the team made it halfway through a competitive bracket! The next day presentations and competitions got off to an early start with Lark Widener debuting her first research trial, "Using the Draminski Estrous Detector in the dry cow to measure electrical resistance of vaginal mucus as it relates to factors pre- and post calving".

Kayla Alward presented in the National SAD Undergraduate Presentation Competition in the Production category with a talk entitled, "Hyperkeratosis: A costly consequence of milking equipment" while Sarah Jane Thomsen presented in the Original Undergraduate Research category with her talk titled, "Assessing the impact of bovine fecal contamination in water on health and management practices." These 15-minute presentations were the product of almost six months of work and were attended by individuals from across the country and world!

Finally, it was time for the awards banquet, which was attended by SAD members, advisors, and even some member of the ADSA National Board! Kayla was awarded first place in the nation for her presentation and was recognized at the conference's overall awards banquet and ceremony. Sarah Jane was recognized by ADSA with an Undergraduate Scholarship Award and placed fourth in her presentation category. The club received second place in the national website competition, based on creativity and content (www.ugadsc.uga.edu). Rising Senior Madison Rose was elected as the Secretary/Treasurer of the ADSA-SAD national board by her

peers and Dr. Jillian Bohlen was elected to serve as a national advisor to the ADSA-SAD membership!

Incredibly, 146 undergraduate students from 24 schools across the country attended this year's ADSA-SAD event in Orlando! Overall, the trip provided the UGA Dairy Dawgs with a wealth of networking, competitive and social experiences. Congratulations to all of our winners and participants!

