AZPs Study Abroad in Brazil

—by Austin George

Eighteen members of Alpha Zeta Partners (AZP) spent six weeks in Brazil, the largest country in South America. This year’s edition of the annual “Brazil Trip” gave the students an opportunity to tour the country, learn a new culture, and gain a global education.

Warm weather welcomed the students to southern Brazil when their plane landed in Sao Paulo on January 3rd. Ricardo Shirota, a professor at the Luiz de Queiroz school of agriculture and alumnus of Ohio State, met the travelers at the airport. He played a key role in the planning of the students’ entire program.

Bus tours of five days and thirteen days were part of this study abroad experience. Tours included farms in the production of Gerber daisies, geraniums, soybeans, oranges, limes, sugar cane, and cattle. Swimming under two water falls, white-water rafting, snorkeling, viewing alligators and capivera—the biggest rodent in the world, and a boat tour of Santos, home of the largest port in Latin American was just a little of the action on the bus tours.

“My favorite thing about Brazil was indulging myself in the culture and meeting new people,” said participant Anton Henry. All the students were given the chance to experience the culture first-hand by spending a weekend with a Brazilian family. The laid-back environment of the Brazilians was appreciated by many of the students.

In between tours, the students spent thirteen days in classes. Topics of discussion included economics, Brazilian history, and issues related to Brazil today. AZP member Dan Burcham said he enjoyed learning from the Brazilian professors how the world is viewed from the perception of a developing country.

The students were greeted back in Columbus by friends and family upon their return on February 10th.

For more information, go to the AZP website at www.alphazetapartners.osu.edu or contact advisor Garee Earnest at 614-292-3114.
AZPs Recognized

Submitted by Chroniclers
Kathy Michael & Elizabeth Homerosky

At the 2006 College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Recognition Program, the Townshend Chapter at Ohio State was recognized for the chapter’s achievements, and member accomplishments in the college. The chapter was named as one of the top 3 outstanding student organizations in the college. Members put together a display of the past year’s activities and accomplishments to be showcased at the program.

Earning honors as Top 10 Seniors in the CFAES graduating class were AZP members Jess Dotterer, Jenny Engle, Abby Pound, and Stephanie Zimmerman. Two other AZP members represented the chapter as Top 20 Seniors including Tricia Adams, and Kevin Flax. These outstanding seniors were chosen because of their academics, involvement in student organizations, leadership, and character.

AZP was also pleased to have Stacy Mortiz recognized as a Top Senior Scholar in the Department of Agriculture. She was also acknowledge for the outstanding research project in Life Sciences. Member Laura Stacklin was awarded the Medard Ruehle Scholarship for exceptional commitment to leadership within the college.

AZP class 7 members were commended for broadening their horizons though the AZP study abroad program in Brazil. Also recognized were AZP members who were members of the CFAES ambassador team. Jesse Dotterer, Jenny Engle, Sarah Herringshaw, Ashley Lepper, Shari Zachrich, Abby Pound, and Abby Yochum were thanked for their commitment to the promotion of the college. The chapter was very excited to promote AZP and Alpha Zeta at this recognition program.

Pictured above are the 18 latest inductees into Alpha Zeta Partners. They were initiated March 5th in a ceremony at the Blackwell Conference Center. Lewis R. Jones, Division Chief, State of Ohio Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Keith Smith, Vice-President Administration and Director of Extension, were welcomed into AZ as Associate Members. Lewis is in front on the left and Keith is on the right of the students. Behind Lewis is the evening’s keynote speaker, Rodney Brown, former Undersecretary at USDA and currently the Dean of the College of Biology and Agriculture at Brigham Young University.
Vision Committee Seeks Input

—by Bob Joseph

At the encouragement of President Howard Warner, a vision committee is considering the future direction for the AZ Alumni Association and our role in supporting the Alpha Zeta Partners chapter. Jennifer Elder, Ray Miller, Bob Joseph, Dr. L.H. Newcomb (executive associate dean), Dr. Garee Earnest (AZP program director) have held insightful discussions on the differences and similarities of AZ alumni and AZP student/alumni groups. Our goal is to collect additional opinions and ideas, then present recommendations to the AZ Alumni Board this fall.

Among the findings to date:

1. The AZP program is effectively training leaders who demonstrate their skills in their junior and senior years. The success was evident recently at the 2006 College recognition program, in which many AZPs were honored and the organization was in the top 3 student organizations.

2. AZP enjoys strong funding support from the College’s current administration. However:
   a. Individual students could benefit from travel scholarships or sponsorships by alumni,
   b. and, recognizing that changes in administration and priorities are inevitable, AZ alumni and AZP students and alumni should prepare to support continuation of the programs.

3. AZP has initiated 8 classes and already has 55 alumni. Although invited, AZP graduated have typically not joined the AZ Alumni Association. The College is encouraging formation of an AZP alumni organization, and the interface and interactions of these two alumni groups will be a focus of future discussions.

The vision committee’s work continues with more interviews and opinions to be collected on the topics:

1. What is the role of the AZ Alumni Associations?
2. In what ways can AZ alumni and AZP students/alumni interact for the benefit of all?

Comments are invited and may be forwarded to the vision committee:

L.H. Newcomb  newcomb.1@osu.edu
Garee Earnest  earnest.1@osu.edu
Ray Miller  miller.64@osu.edu
Jennifer Keller  jkeller@ohiopork.org
Mitch Bambauer  bambauer4@osu.edu
Bob Joseph  bobjoseph1@cs.com

Sixties Picnic and Reunion at Apple Valley

Lots of memories and laughs were shared at several AZ Alumni picnics around Ohio this summer. Here is an example of the good times that were had by all!

The 60’s group had a great reunion at Apple Valley Clubhouse, near Mt. Vernon, on Saturday, July 22nd. Fourteen AZ’s and spouses gathered for lunch, laughter, log rolling and more laughter. Attending were Chuck Bell and guests John and Sandy Gurber, Jim and Jan Leonard, Bob Milroy, Rusty Jones, Jim and Kate Bowser, Don and Judy Long, Doug and Marsha Dyer, Bob Espenschied, Bob and Mary Fleming, Keith Nowels, Dave and Judy Dunson, Ray and Linda Miller and Bob and Linda Joseph. Several brought memorabilia to share, including some rare photos of an initiation. Some of the group ventured onto the Miller/Joseph pontoon launch for a “3 hour tour” (well, about a 20-minute ride) on Apple Valley Lake which had recently collected another 3-4 inch rainfall from the surrounding hills. Ray and Bob updated the group on AZ Partners and the vision committee’s discussions. Jim Leonard shared news form the ATZ chapters’ 10th anniversary celebration. We agreed to meet again at the same place next year on Sunday, July 22nd. To receive an invitation and directions, contact Ray Miller (miller.64@osu.edu)
In Memory...

James Russell Sayre, age 65, passed on April 30th at the Cancer Center in Columbus after a long illness. From Swanders, Ohio, he graduated from OSU in 1963. He retired from the USDA in 1993. In 2005, the Shelby County Historical Society honored Jim with a local citizen award for making outstanding contributions to preserve local history. He was a member of the Shelby County Genealogical Society and the Farm Bureau. He is survived by his wife, Karen and three children.

Newsletter Format Revisited

In the last edition of the AZ Alumni Newsletter, we informed you about a decision to use an email format to reduce expenses. We requested your email address or a $10 donation if you preferred a hard copy via US Mail. We received responses (in the form of an email address or donation) from 25% of our alumni, causing us to conclude that 75% of AZ alumni do not have computers and/or they are not interested in receiving the newsletter.

However, the Board strongly desires to keep this line of communication open, so we are reverting to the US Mail option for everyone. Since Steve Houchin (1969) and Bill Butler (1971) donate layout and printing respectively, the major cost is postage of about $400 per issue, a lot for an organization with no means of fund raising (no suggestions of bake sales, please). Into the financial breach steps Dr. L.H. Newcomb, Executive Associate Dean at OSU, with $1200 from the University to provide postage for three issues per year. Thanks go to L.H. and OSU for their generous support of the newsletter. Your small donations of $5-10 would still be appreciated, which you send to Steve Houchin.

Alpha Zeta Alumni Board of Trustees 2006-2007

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<td>President, Howard Warner</td>
<td>513.777.2801</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jwarner43@aol.com">jwarner43@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President, Matt Rindfuss</td>
<td>419.562.6279</td>
<td><a href="mailto:farmman96er@yahoo.com">farmman96er@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Secretary, Steve Houchin</td>
<td>513.779.2940</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shouchin@i-lead.com">shouchin@i-lead.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:dofra@bright.net">dofra@bright.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Pullins</td>
<td>937.653.7525</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mpullins@ofbf.org">mpullins@ofbf.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Davis</td>
<td>937.780.6198</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kdbaus2478@spcwildblue.com">kdbaus2478@spcwildblue.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Fleming</td>
<td>740.524.2943</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fleming4716@msn.com">fleming4716@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Keller</td>
<td>740.964.1453</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jkeller@ohiopork.org">jkeller@ohiopork.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ Partners Advisor, Bill Butler</td>
<td>614.478.4597</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Butler.wd@sbcglobal.net">Butler.wd@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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The Board would like to thank Bob Joseph ('68) for his many years of servant leadership (leadership in the service of others) on the Alumni’s Board. Now he is as busy as ever as chairman of the Vision Committee. We also welcome Ken Davis ('76) as a newly elected board member.