

BAYER INVESTS IN STUDENT'S *Futures*



Bayer Crop Science is a great employer of students graduating from Texas Tech University's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. It is only natural they get involved with the students prior to graduation. In the summer of 2014 they did that in a big way for seven CASNR students.

Bayer Crop Science stresses the importance of international business, because willingness to travel is becoming vital in college graduates. Bayer donated \$45 thousand dollars, to help make that happen, to seven students and two professors to travel to Ethiopia and write a report about cotton.

Eduardo Segarra was one of the two agriculture and applied economics professors on the trip he has traveled to 45 countries throughout his career and understands that graduates who are excited about international have an advantage.

"It is so exciting to be traveling with eager students," Segarra said. "Their young minds absorb so much, and my hope is that they will take what they learn into their future."

Segarra's travels have shown him the importance of international preparedness in a career. He strongly believes his students should study abroad before leaving college. He speaks highly of his previous students that do research and work abroad.

"I think my students that go to South America and Asia benefit so much," Segarra said. "You learn things and get experiences that put you ahead in your career."

Robert Duncan, vice president for research at Texas Tech, also believes in the importance of international travel.

"Nothing is more valuable to our students than a diverse mind," Duncan said.

Duncan said both Bayer and Texas Tech always want to broaden students mind and this project did just that.

Darren Hudson, Combest Endowed Chair of Agricultural Competitiveness, worked closely with Bayer to organize the trip. Hudson connected an additional unexpected group to participate, as well.

"My son goes to West Point and I met an economics professor over there who was very excited about potentially taking students to third world countries." Hudson said, "We talked to the right people, and West Point got another private donor to pay for three cadets and Major Post to go with us."

Unlike other international experiences, Texas Tech students live at another type of four-year institution.

"This was no ordinary trip," Hudson said. "This was a unique trip for Tech and the college because it was completely paid for by private donation, and we interacted with one of the top public institutions in the country."

With the trip organized and planned for Summer of 2014, Hudson started his recruiting process.

At the start of the Spring 2014 semester Hudson finished lecture on the first day of a small, senior level, developing economics course with, "Anyone interested in Ethiopia, stay after class."

Major Riley Post, Special Forces Officer, also started an application process for interested students at West Point, and carefully picked out his three cadets.



Darren Hudson, Ph.D., and his student Carter Humphries listening closely to their translator, Kelly Yadessa, tell them about the village's daily life.



Dianne Devos trying out native tounge, amaharic, to talk to young children.



The two educators then lead ten young minds into a swarm of curious, hungry and smiling children halfway across the world.

The group was in Ethiopia for 15 days. They had meetings with University presidents, seed salesman, entire villages and the United States Embassy.

No stranger to international travel, Major Post was happy with the outcomes of the trip.

"Looking at the rising institutions and economics of Ethiopia and analyzing them with Texas Tech and West Point students allowed us to see very different views on the same things," Post said.

Sam Thompson, senior cadet at West Point, is studying economics and is greatly interested in third world countries. He was not raised around agriculture and found the CASNR students' viewpoints very interesting.

"Nothing is more valuable to our students than a diverse mind"

"Working alongside agricultural economists from Texas Tech University, my understanding of developmental economics was greatly enriched by the myriad perspectives provided by my peers," Thompson said. "The group's varied knowledge base broadened my own academic perspective, and I learned a great deal about a cornerstone of development - agriculture"

Carter Humphreys from Brady, Texas, was a part of the Ethiopian study abroad trip, and a graduate student in the agricultural economics program. This was her first trip abroad.

"As scary as 16 days in Africa sounded," Humphreys said, "I couldn't resist."

"Surviving a trip to a third world country gave me a sense of accomplishment that I can't put into words." 🇪🇹

Adri Jolly
KRESS, TEXAS

