

EXCHANGE STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Josefina Lacasa

YEAR AT K-STATE: **SENIOR**

MAJOR: **AGRONOMY**

HOME UNIVERSITY: **UNIVERSIDAD DE BUENOS AIRES**

COUNTRY: **ARGENTINA**



WHEN DECIDING TO STUDY ABROAD, HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO COME TO K-STATE RATHER THAN ANOTHER UNIVERSITY?

I am majoring in Agronomy and K-State has a strong program. I also got an internship to work with a professor during the summer, which was the reason to stay for 2 semesters. I have to say that staying for a year gives you a complete different experience than staying for just one semester. If you can do that, go for it!

WHAT SORT OF SERVICE LEARNING OR PROJECT ARE YOU DOING OUTSIDE OF YOUR CLASSES? DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DO WITH THIS. HOW DID YOU GO ABOUT FINDING IT?

I am working as a student intern at Dr. Ciampitti's lab in the Agronomy Department. I am doing my undergrad thesis with him as an advisor. I am learning a lot about my field of study, and I am also getting involved with a lot of 'ag-people' from all around the world, which is really cool. As for my free time, I joined the club soccer and club volleyball teams my first semester. You get to travel a bit around the US for tournaments. For my second semester I decided to change a bit and play soccer and volleyball in intramurals together with some friends I made here. I joined the Wheat State Agronomy Club which gathers undergrad students with interests in agronomy and this also gave me chances to meet new people and visit places across the US. Last, I went a couple of times to an equinotherapy center, to help children with special abilities, as a volunteer. Like I said before, all these different activities gave me the chance to meet lots of cool and different people.

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE US UPON ARRIVAL? WAS IT WHAT YOU EXPECTED OR WERE THERE ANY BIG SURPRISES?

Manhattan is not the typical big, busy US city you see in the movies. I mean this in a good way, because everything is close and that allows you to spend less time travelling from place to place. I personally like the fact of having all my friends relatively close (or at a bikeable distance). I was also surprised of how nice people are here: every single day that somebody wishes you to have a good day or holds the door open for you.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING A K-STATE STUDENT?

K-State, and I think US universities in general, have a lot of accessible sports facilities and I think that gives you a lot of opportunities to meet new people and make friends. Also, professors usually have a good predisposition to help you understand and score good grades in exams.

WOULD YOU MIND SHARING A PHRASE OR WORD FROM YOUR HOME COUNTRY AND WHAT IT MEANS?

I believe the word 'che' (pronounced 'tsche') is very characteristic from my country. It is used informally like English "hey". Even though Spanish is a common language, whenever I hear that word, I know it's someone from my country

