

DOW CHEMICAL MODELER on CAMPUS

By Ibukun Anani and Jordan Putty

The MAB students had the privilege of having a business breakfast with an industry executive, Yasser Bouhlal from Dow Chemical Company, on September 2. Dr. Bouhlal is from Morocco and is a 2012 graduate from Texas A&M University with his PhD in Agricultural Economics. Presently, Dr. Bouhlal is a modeler in the Advanced Analytics team, where he and his teammates are supporting Dow business functions every day in the decision-making process, providing strong data-driven second opinions where risk, complexity, or uncertainty are high. He engaged students in a discussion of a variety of topics including data software and packages used at Dow as well as tips on best practices for resumes, interviews, and networking. One of the questions asked was how he gained respect working in Dow Chemical. His interesting answer was “Save Money Make Money”. You gain respect not in terms of analyzing data, but in terms of good decision making. Conclusively he gave advice that at the end of any job interview, students should ask personal questions like what can I do to make it easier when I get the job, or what can I do right now to start preparing for this job?



Dr. Bouhlal with MAB Students

INTERNSHIP ROUNDTABLE

By Arjun Shanker

*“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”
- Arthur Ashe*



Inaugural MAB Internship Roundtable

The quote is appropriate for the inaugural Master of Agribusiness (MAB) Internship Roundtable held on September 12. This interactive session between the fresh MAB fall 2013 cohort and the seasoned veterans from the 2012 cohort commenced on a soaring note. The objective, as stated by Dr. Victoria Salin (Chair, Intercollegiate Faculty of Agribusiness and Director of the MAB program), was to draw attention to the importance of summer internships and the role work experience plays in successful careers.

The cohorts were split into 4 groups, with each panel having a mixture of first and second year students. The interview session between the panel members brought forth the essence of work-culture and environment in the various sectors, the benefits an intern enjoys in terms of autonomy, gender equality and team building and the FUN side of being an intern as well.

In addition a large emphasis was put on job prospects after an internship, the importance of networking, the employer–employee relationship and ways the employer could profit from the intern’s contribution.

Overall, the session proved motivating and provided a lot of food for thought, as mentioned by one MAB Fall 2012 cohort member. To start early and capitalize on the opportunities is the key to success.

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Jennifer Newsom '95
MAB Program Manager

j-newsom@tamu.edu
979.458.5539

Ms. Jennifer Newsom is the new Program Manager for the Master of Agribusiness Program. She joined the Agribusiness team at Texas A&M in July as the Program Manager. Prior to this she served for 15 years as the development relations coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts. She has strengths in donor relations, stewardship, event management, professional development workshops, and management of philanthropic and professional associations.

Jennifer has her B.S degree in Animal Science from Texas A&M University and is certified as a Collegiate Conference and Events Professional through the Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors-International.

Jennifer's primary objectives as Program Manager are:

- Professional development of MAB students
- Increase involvement of former MAB students in the program
- Management and growth of the MAB Industry Partners Program
- Mentoring and management of MAB program activities

Jennifer looks forward to working with former, current and future MAB students and to continuously improve the already nationally recognized program.

COTTON EXPERT VISITS COLLEGE STATION

By Matthew Cleaver

Dr. Jeanne Reeves, Director of Research with Cotton Inc., She discussed how commodity check off programs like the one for cotton operate. Cotton Inc., which is administered by the Cotton Board, dispersed check off funds collected through mandatory producer fees for research and marketing initiatives designed to increase the demands for and

profitability of cotton. Some of its projects include major successes such as the "Fabric of our lives" advertising campaign. It also has a long history of supporting research here in Texas A&M such as funding as AgriLife Extension survey marketing practices used by Texas producers in 2011-2012.

MAB STUDENTS FORM A NEW STUDENT GROUP

By Matthew Cleaver

Masters and Doctorate Agribusiness students have started a new student group this fall semester, known as the Master of Agribusiness Leadership Organization (MABLO), the group seeks to promote the professional development of all agribusiness graduate students. Planned activities for the coming year include guest speakers, field trips to local agribusiness firms, and an IFA brown bag series, MABLO is currently progressing through Texas A&M's Students Activities' New Student Organization process and hopes to be an officially recognized group by December.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Agribusiness program is pleased to announce the upcoming Industry Leaders Forum, with keynote speaker Mr. Bill Rupp, President of JBS USA's beef division. The Forum is on Wednesday October 2, 2013, 9:30 am to 11:00 am.

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| October 1-3 | College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Agriculture Career Expo Days (COALS ACE Days), AgriLife Center |
| October 19 | College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Tailgate (TAMU vs. Auburn football game) |
| October 26 | Department of Agricultural Economics Tailgate (TAMU vs. Vanderbilt football game) |
| November 9 | Department of Agricultural Economics Tailgate (TAMU vs. Mississippi State football game) |

MAB Students at the Sept. 14 AgEcon tailgate prior to the A&M vs. Bama game



MAB INDUSTRY PARTNERS PROGRAM

The primary focus of the MAB Industry Partnership Program is the support of the Master of Agribusiness (MAB) degree program at Texas A&M University. Our Partners provide feedback on the brand image of the MAB degree program and, where possible and appropriate, provide assistance in increasing the awareness of this brand across the food and agribusiness industry. Support of the MAB students is also provided through scholarships and fellowships and participation in Food & Agribusiness Industry Symposia and Professional Workshops with our students.



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AGRIBUSINESS
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Dept. of Agricultural Economics
600 John Kimbrough Blvd., Office 213
2124 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2124

Tel. (979) 862-6784
Fax (979) 862-1563

mab@agecon.tamu.edu
tx.ag/agribusiness