

#WhyAgribusiness

The MAB Program would like to welcome our newest members to the MAB family. Alli Hamel, Will Czarnecki and Marcelo Coelho joined the program in January. We'd also like to welcome our newest staff member, Brandi Blankenship, the new Program Coordinator for the Department of Agriculture Economics Graduate Programs.



Left to Right: Will Czarnecki, Agricultural Economics Department Head Dr. Rosson, Dr. Vicky Salin, Alli Hamel and Marcelo Coelho

Startup Aggieland Rancho Entrepreneurship

By: Thiago De Carvalho Pullen Parente and Ramses Gonzales

Ranchosoft is a beef industry information company founded by two Master of Agribusiness students at Texas A&M University. Students Ramses Gonzalez and Thiago Parente have put much thought and efforts into creating this company before submitting their ideas to Startup Aggieland.

Parente first recognized the need for a herd management technology tool while tending to his ranch in his native Brazil. As a team Gonzalez and Parente successfully applied to Startup Aggieland and are now in the process of finalizing their business plan and expect to launch their product in late 2015.

Farm Foundation Round Table

By: Chelsea Miller and MAB students Julie Anna Clark and Kade Beck

MAB students Julie Anna Clark and Kade Beck both participated in the 2015 Farm Foundation Round Table in Orlando, Florida. Together the two shared the experience of meeting influential leaders in agriculture such as college deans, farmers and ranchers who were concerned about the future of agriculture. Topics covered during the conference were water conservation, labor and marketing.

Both students explored the nursery that supplies Disney World with plants, an orange grove, a demonstration on hops grown in Florida, and a blueberry farm. While in Florida the students covered the major topic of greening disease.

"2014 was the first year Florida has imported oranges, making this issue a stressing one for consumers and producers of Florida oranges," Clark said. Clark continued to explain how specialty crops do not receive as much attention from research and the government compared to staple row crops like corn, wheat and soybeans.

Clark and Beck both discussed the openness of the Round Table and how the experience was so enlightening seeing the communication between the industry and farmers. While discussing communication style Clark explained the unique openness of heated discussions. "The Foundation operates under an "off-the-record" code allowing members to speak full-heartedly about the topics facing their livelihoods," said Clark.

"All in all, the Farm Foundation Round Table opened my eyes to how people from all over the country and with all different backgrounds could come together to promote ideas in agriculture and to share progressive experiences," Beck said.

Pura Vida INCAE, Study Abroad

Article and Pictures by: MAB Student Shiheng (Tobby) Pan

January 4, 2015, the four Aggies from the Master of Agribusiness program landed in San Jose, Costa Rica. Selected to take the AGEC 689 Sustainability Seminar study abroad at INCAE Business School, we would soon set out to learn global environmental problems and policies and about how companies are dealing with those challenges.

The study abroad course is designed to familiarize students with global environmental challenges that businesses face, especially in the Latin American context, and to provide students with tools as to how to deal with those challenges while exploring new cultures.

This course was taught at INCAE Business School in Alajuela, Costa Rica, located about 15 minutes from the San Jose airport.

During our two weeks of intensive studying, we discussed many case studies and learned many examples of the real world through our study sessions over water, food, energy and enterprise ethics.

Many of the concepts we learned from this course are thought-provoking. There were a lot of things I personally would have never thought of before having studied abroad.



The Aggie Ring of Kendall Lemm '13 with a blue morpho butterfly.

In my opinion the bottom line of learning sustainability is not to blame others. It is everyone's responsibility to take sustainability into consideration and be responsible for our future generations.

Besides on campus studying, we also explored Costa Rica's nature. We took a field trip to Monteverde

which is in the northern part of the country with its famous mountains and cloud forest. We stayed at the Monteverde Country Lodge where we were taught the practices of sustainability that the facility uses. The buildings were built to catch rain water from the slanted roofs to be recycled. The water that is considered dirty was used to wash company trucks. All bath water is recycled and put through a cleaning filter to be reused again.

During our field trip, we visited Monteverde Cheese Factory and Life Monteverde coffee plantation. While visiting the coffee farm the owner shared words about how he cared for the cloud forest. His story and others stories have really inspired the group to learn more about sustainability.

It was amazing to find out how deeply sustainability was involved in daily life during our field trip. In Costa Rica, there is a Spanish saying called "Pura Vida", meaning "pure life". You can hear it, see it and feel it at all times and places.



Left to Right: Arjun Shanker, Kendall Lemm, Paul Guimaraes and Tobby Pan.



Sky Bridge in Costa Rica's cloud forest.



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CME Group Trading Challenge 2015

CME Group's Trading Challenge is a complimentary four-week electronic trading competition where teams of undergraduate and graduate students can trade a variety of CME Group products from multiple asset classes in a simulated trading environment on a real-time professional trading platform provided by CQG.

Congratulations to the Aggie Traders team consisting of Alex Bardeguez, Vince Bruzzone and Andrew Buch and advisor Dr. Vicky Salin. The team ended with a balance of \$127,324.38 (simulated money). It took \$140,629 to reach the championship round this year. Well done team!



Left to right: Andrew Buch, Alex Bardeguez, Vince Bruzzone and Dr. Vicky Salin.

MAB Soccer Legends

By: MAB student. Lindsey Dodgen

It is with great honor and pride that I report to you the valiant effort and adventures of the brave MAB Football Club soccer team in the intramural soccer finals. The first fierce match was against the only other team that even stood a chance of beating the MAB team. But of course, our boys pulled through with the victory thus advancing to the next round of finals.

Round two brought the MAB FC warriors a good head to head battle. The MAB warriors were so confident in their skills that they faced the other team blindfolded and with no goalie! Their sheer power and confidence was enough to secure another win and their spot in the semi-finals. During the semi-final game the MAB FC faced off with another enraged opponent.

The toughest match of all was played bravely in the student REC center one dark and rainy night. Though the MAB warriors let the other team get ahead in the beginning just to build their confidence, the team effortlessly came back to win. On the day of the final championship, there was an

excited tension in the air between all of the MAB warriors as they knew what was to come that night. The evening fell clear and calm and the warriors made their way to the student REC center to face their opponents. Again, the warriors had nothing but confidence in their abilities though there was something different about tonight; the warriors had made an agreement between themselves that no one else knew about.

The game started normally enough with MAB FC quickly pulling ahead. After making several goals, the warriors looked at each other with a special gleam in their eyes. Slowly, and anything but obviously, they began to lose!

The MAB warriors had all agreed that their skill and power was an unfair advantage over mere normal soccer players.

They had decided to give up their goal of obtaining the championship title in order to give their opponents the title and glory. Settling for semi-champions the heartfelt MAB team had peace of mind knowing they had given another team the impossible opportunity of being the champions.

MAB FC is currently entertaining at children's parties and enjoying their free time until the field calls to them again and to begin their practice for the spring season.

Although, of course, practice is only a technicality because the MAB FC warriors are perfect and do not need to practice.



Our warrior champions-at-heart, pictured above from left to right: Top row: Kade Beck, Toby Pan, Keita Sukeno, Ramses Gonzales, Paul Guimaraes (Team Captain), Pablo Regalado, Vince Bruzzone Bottom row: Rodrigo Aceves Paredes and Alonso Villaran Raffo. Not included in the photo: Joseph Ciesynski.



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Swaziland and South Africa



Join Dr. Vicky Salin and Dr. Julie Pennington on the Swaziland and South Africa study abroad trip May 15 – 30, 2015.

Program Highlights include:

- Seeing white and black rhinos, zebras, elephants, giraffes, and other animals in the wild
- Tour several Swazi agribusinesses
- A zipline treetop canopy tour and visit to Kruger National Park, South Africa and learn about the history of the region
- Tour Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, South Africa
- Cost is estimated at 1,800 + airfare

Questions? Contact

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Share your story of why you chose Agribusiness as your field of study and tag us at @aggieMAB and use the #whyagribusiness hashtag. We want to hear your story!

Coming Up

February 27: Visitors from Zhejiang University
China

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. ; AGLS 301

March 13: Professional Development Workshop —
TAMU Career Center special guest

Jennifer Ann Smith ; AGLS 301

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

March 27: Professional Development Workshop —
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ; AGLS 301

March 28: TAMU Big Event

April 10: MAB Symposium — Cooperatives
Association of Former Students

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

April 16: Chicago Council on Global Affairs —
Live Stream

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

April 17 - 19: TAMU Parents Weekend

May 15 - 30: Swaziland Study Abroad

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