

MABs Visit the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

By: Edeoba Edobor, Victor Galindo del Toro, Kathrynne Padilla, and Chandler Johnstone

In line with its commitment to professional development and an enriched educational experience, the MAB program paid a visit to the Houston Livestock and Rodeo Show (HLRS) on Friday, March 10.

On arrival, MABs were welcomed by a team of HLRS staff comprising President Joel Crowley, Vice President/COO Dan Cheney, and the Executive Director for Agricultural Competitions & Exhibits Allison Tjoelker. In their brief remarks, the staff gave an overview of the show including its history, corporate structure, community engagements, volunteers, and economic impact. They also emphasized the show's mission which is to promote agriculture. In his remark, Mr. Crowley chronicled how the show which started in 1932 as an effort to promote the local cattle industry of Houston, evolved into one of the world's largest shows of its kind today. MABs also met with Jennifer Hazelton, Chief Financial Officer of the Show who



MABs with Executive Leadership of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

gave a sketch of the planning and coordination that goes into the running of the Show. She also talked about the challenges and prospects facing the show and elaborated on the show's

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Cooperative Symposium

By: Chance Chapman and Christina Hilliard

The Master of Agribusiness program finished up the month of March with a bang as we hosted a symposium on cooperatives titled, "How Do Cooperative Businesses Develop Future Leaders?" Industry experts traveled from near and far to participate in the symposium.

The festivities began Thursday, March 30th, with a Welcome Reception and the second case study competition of the year for the MAB students.



Case Study Competition Begins

Day two of the symposium was kicked off bright and early with keynote speaker Kevin Brinkley, President and Chief Executive Officer of Plains Cotton Cooperative Association. The talk was titled, "Leading A New Generation of Entrepreneurs." The discussion addressed the issues surrounding developing young leadership within the cooperatives and offered advice for both experienced members and younger professionals looking to join the industry. The remainder of the day had several overlapping themes as we heard on the importance of cooperative education, pressures on leadership, and board-management relationship in cooperatives.

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corporate social responsibility efforts. Afterward, MABs had the opportunity to tour the HRLS facility, commercial exhibits, animal housing and some of the livestock shows. They



MABs pose for a picture in front of the giant Reliant Boot with Amber Burda from Rodeo Houston

also visited sponsor booths where they were educated on the Show's sponsorship activation activities by Amber Burda, Executive Director, Sponsorships, Business and Corporate Development. Other highlights of the visit were the virtual cattle auctions, networking opportunities, fun times at the carnival and a

brief meeting with the safety committee members which includes our MAB program manager, Christina Hilliard. The field trip was a very educating and refreshing one as attested to by MABs. Aishat Olayiwola and Tracy Obi, first year MABs remarked that the field trip gave them rare insight on how an organization could grow and remain relevant in the face of a rapidly changing environment while staying true to its founding core values.

Internship Preview: Driscoll's

By: Iker Huacuja Goya

The Master of Agribusiness is very proud of having students develop skills and abilities inside and outside the classroom, the summer internship is one of the many opportunities in the program, although mostly thought to be the one with the most impact. Gaining experience is what drives MAB's into their summer internships, a great opportunity to taste the professional life for some months before coming back for their last semester. This is one of many reasons students are looking out for great domestic and international companies to work on this summer of 2017. For me this will be an opportunity to learn from one of the biggest suppliers of berries in the world, explore a different department within the food industry and experience California and its people for three months. Working at Driscoll's this summer will

allow me to put at use some of the skills and tools I have gained in previous work experiences and during the time I have part of the Supply Chain and Logistics team, reporting to Rick Reyes (Aggie class of '86). This will take place in Watsonville, CA at the Driscoll's Headquarters.

"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man."

-Heraclitus

SAAER Symposium:

By: Devon Smolak

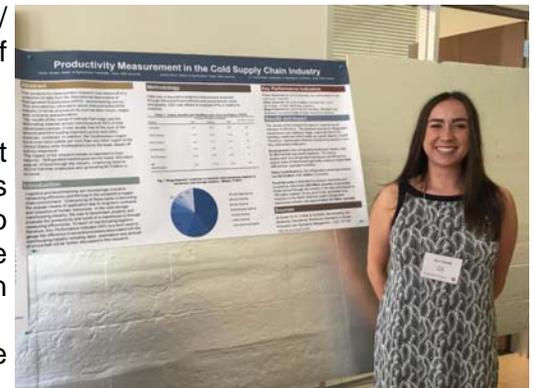
I am so glad I was coerced into submitting an abstract of the research I had been working on for my research assistantship on productivity in the cold supply chain. Since September I had been working with data sets and unfamiliar coding programs such as SAS. I had been finding the dictionary definition for industry words such as pallet turns and benchmarking. The SAAER symposium allowed me to present my findings to those unfamiliar and familiar with refrigerated warehouses and begin dialogues about the cold supply chain as a whole.

The SAAER symposium was interesting and diverse in and of itself as well. Industry leaders such as David Sanchez, the Senior Director in Global Procurement for PepsiCo/Frito-Lay of North America

spoke about what he does at PepsiCo and how he got there. In addition, including the Economics department diversified the topics from

the usual agricultural theme with discussions such as gender discriminations in courtrooms and social learning through economic games. It was also interesting to hear what the Ph.D. students have been working on throughout the year followed by a Q&A session.

The ability to demonstrate my research and discuss it further coupled with the plethora economics-related topics was worth my Friday. The Symposium for Agricultural and Applied Economics Research comes once a year and I recommend that all should participate next spring.



Devon Smolak with her poster at the SAAER Symposium

SPOTLIGHT: Study Abroad Trip Approaches

As the MAB study abroad trip to Swaziland rapidly approaches, students share their thoughts on the upcoming trip.

By: Victor Galindo del Toro

My name is Victor Galindo, I'm a second-year student in the MAB program and I'm really excited about our upcoming trip to South Africa and Swaziland. During this trip, I expect to learn more about the culture in those countries and most importantly, about the role that cooperatives and community businesses have played to reduce poverty and



Victor Galindo del Toro preparing for studying abroad

and margination in those latitudes. I first learned about the program through Dr. Salin when we first met back in Spring 2015; since then I knew I wanted to take part on this trip, but to hear the experiences of my good friends Iker Huacuja and Juan Pablo Dalmau was definitely what impulsively moved me to purchase my plane ticket last semester. To go on a study abroad trip is not a vacation, is a real opportunity to make life lasting business connections and open to new knowledge that may be very valuable in the future, because one never knows where life might take you and that's what I'm most looking forward too. I have no deep concern about this trip, probably food, but my friends told me it is actually nice.

By: Chadwick McLaren

My interest in the Swaziland Study Abroad Program started on my first visit to Texas A&M University as a prospective MAB. Doctor Salin painted a great picture of the countries we'd be visiting and the trip as a whole. Since then, friends who joined in previous years have made me even more excited about the trip. I'm particularly looking forward to experiencing a culture and region of the world that are completely new to me. Additionally, I can't wait for the unique opportunity to meet with individuals operating in the Ag sector throughout Swaziland, South Africa, and the entire continent.

It will be extremely interesting to hear their insights on their respective industries and businesses as well as to compare that to our experiences here in the United States.

I look forward to learning from the experiences of individuals working in that region of the world and to see how I can tie their knowledge into my career working in agriculture. Most importantly, I look forward to our group heading out on an adventure to a continent and cultures that are unfamiliar to us, but know worldwide as some of the best places anyone can travel.

By: Lainey Bourgeois

My name is Lainey Bourgeois, I am a senior Animal Science Major from Fredericksburg, Texas. I first learned about the South Africa - Swaziland study abroad program when I expressed my interest in the MAB program to Dr. Salin. She shared some of her past experiences with me and showed me the pictures on her office wall from her previous trips to South Africa. I am so grateful for the opportunity to travel and study abroad with Texas A&M!

During this trip I hope to gain a better understanding of the culture in South Africa and Swaziland. It is fascinating to me how many different ways people go about life here on earth. I think this study abroad trip will be an asset to my education in several ways. It will allow me to gain experiences and knowledge from a place with so much to learn about. I have an interest in the wild game meat industry here and a personal goal to expand the industry. I was excited when Dr. Salin said we would study the wild game industry on our trip and look at the challenges that the African businesses face in marketing goods and services. I think seeing the same type of industry at work in another country could possibly give me ideas and definitely help me understand more about what I could be working with in the industry here. I am most excited for the four days with no electricity. I think that will be an awesome experience and make me appreciate the way we live in the United States even more. I am a little nervous for the long plane ride, but other than that I can't wait to be in South Africa!



Lainey Bourgeois joins the MAB program just in time for the study abroad.

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SPOTLIGHT: Study Abroad Trip *Continued*

By: Enrique Pinon

I'm very excited for my coming study abroad experience in South Africa and Swaziland! I first learned about this opportunity before entering into the Master of Agribusiness Program at Texas A&M University.

Understanding that this graduate program provided opportunities for students to learn about economic issues in foreign countries really influenced my decision to pursue an education here. I'm most excited to learn about the socio-culture environment in South Africa during our trip.

This opportunity is important to me because I always feel a sense of inclusion after I visit a foreign country. Especially since I've been in the same facilities where some big terrorist attacks have occurred in the past and it just reminds me of how small the world really is. I think often, we as Americans are so distanced from the social, political, ethical, and economic issues going on around the world because we only hear about it on television.

This study abroad trip is a great opportunity for our Master of Agribusiness students to learn about the dynamic environment we live in. We have a great group of bright students attending and I couldn't be more excited to be a part of that!

Cooperative Symposium

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Congratulations to the winners of the case study competition,

Katherynne Padilla and Kyle Joseph! The team took their presentation through multiple rounds before a panel of judges declared their victory.

In addition to faculty speakers from across the country and industry speakers, current MAB student Enrique Pinon presented "Reflections



Katherynne Padilla and
Kyle Joseph

on CoBank's Leadership Development Program" to the attendees.



Current student, Enrique Pinon during his presentation

The MAB students would like to extend our gratitude to all of the speakers for taking time out of their schedule, and the symposium co-chairs, Dr. John Park and Dr. Victoria Salin, for making this unique opportunity

possible. We also would like to thank Christina Hilliard and Brandi Blankenship for their efforts to ensure the success of the program.



Symposium speakers gather at the Aggie Ring for a quick picture before the day begins



IFAMA Case Study Competition: Miami 2017
By: Tracy Obi

Case study competitions are a great form of experiential learning for students. Participating students are exposed to real-world work scenarios, in the form of cases (or case studies) which they are expected to analyze. The structure for these competitions usually involves identifying issues presented in the case, proffering germane solutions to identified issues and defending recommended solutions within a given timeframe.

The International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA) student case study competition follows the general structure of case study competitions but focuses on the Agribusiness sector. The competition which is in its 12th year runs concurrently with the IFAMA World Conference which brings together over "400 faculties, industry leaders, and top students from around the world to discuss and share ideas that will benefit the agribusiness sector."

-<https://www.ifama.org/2017-Miami>

The Master of Agribusiness program is excited to send its student delegation to the 2017 IFAMA world conference and student case study competition in Miami. Besides from the learning opportunities, students get to network with top Industry officials and explore the city of Miami.

A few slots are still open to interested students. If you're interested in participating, send an email to tobi@tamu.edu or contact the program manager Christina Hilliard at chilliard@tamu.edu today for more information.

See you in Miami!

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Upcoming Events

MAB Monthly Meeting

April 17 * 6:00-7:30 pm
AGLS 301

Muster

April 21

End-of-Year Celebration

May 1 * 5:30 pm—8:30 pm
Abuelo's Mexican Restaurant

Commencement

May 12th at 9 a.m.
Reed Arena

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