

Welcome Back!

Welcome to all our new MAB students. Congrats on joining the Aggie Family!
 Included in the newsletter you can find stories of what's new and what happened this summer.

Summer 2014 Internships

By: Chelsea Miller

Congratulations to those six students who participated in internships this summer. Among the six students, **Arjun Shanker** and **Pablo Regalado** took international internships while **Ramses Gonzalez**, **Kassidy Kampen** and **Margaret Baird** held out of state internships and **Catherine Siemsglusz** stayed in state.

Shanker interned with ITC India Ltd. in Secunderabad, India. This company enhances the wealth generating capability of the enterprise in a globalizing environment, delivering superior and sustainable stakeholder value. During Shanker's time as an intern he worked with online and field research, traveling to other parts of the country to gather information from concerned agencies and company officials.

Regalado held the Project Assistant Manager role at Procesadora Nacional de Alimentos Pronaca located in Quito, Ecuador. Pronaca is a private limited company that engages in the manufacture of food products. While interning as the project assistant manager role Regalado worked with data given by consulting firms and developed a new model for ranking distributors of the company.

Gonzalez interned with Monsanto out of Remington, Indiana. While interning with the Seed Production department he gained a better understanding of the various aspects involved in the production of seeds—from grower to bag. He was assigned data entry, field contractor coordinating jobs and updating site management on field progress along with seed sampling and warehouse logistics.

Kampen interned with JBS USA, the worlds largest production facility in animal protein processing, based in Greeley, Colorado. As the Product Marketing Intern, Kampen assisted with product cuttings and business analysis, working with product labels correcting any errors that could have been made during production. She also analyzed products of other competitors and compared them to JBS products.

Baird also interned with JBS in international sales of beef and pork. While interning with JBS Baird created Spec Codes for the international team to avoid disconnect between sales staff in different countries and the sales managers located out of the corporate office. Baird also worked with a partner creating a new line of JBS pork pet treats.

Siemsglusz interned with Capital Farm Credit, in Katy, Texas, a company that provides financing to rural landowners, country homeowners, agricultural operators, and agribusiness firms throughout Texas. Siemsglusz worked as the Loan Administrator Trainee where she had the opportunity to do credit analysis.



The Master of Agribusiness (MAB) program celebrated 15 years of excellence on August 7 in Houston at Brio Tuscan Grille. It was great to see many of our former and current students. Thank you for your part in making this program a success!

International Food & Agribusiness Management Association

(IFAMA) By: Chelsea Miller

Now in its ninth year, the Global Student Case Competition is a highlight of the IFAMA Annual Conference. The 2014 team members were four Masters of Agribusiness students **Chelsea Takahashi, Luis Secaira, Marcela Valdes** and **Blake Murrah**.

Held in Cape Town, South Africa the conference brought in over 20 student teams from around the world to bring a global perspective to the competitive environment. At this years contest students stood before a panel of industry executives, evaluating global industries while demonstrating problem solving skills.

China Study Abroad 2014

By: Chelsea Miller

In summer 2014, MAB students participated in a study abroad in China. The China Agricultural Production and Marketing summer 2014 trip was led by Dr. Yu Yvette Zhang, assistant professor in the department of agricultural economics.

The class traveled to cities such as Beijing, Nanjing and Fuzhou. During their travels they had field trips to visit agricultural production sites, agribusiness operations and research institutes that provide unique learning experiences. Among some of the businesses were: Xiaotangshan Veggie/Fruit production, Dow Chemical Investment Co. Ltd. and Jurong Tea Exposition Park. The students met with **Chih Wei Feng, MAB 2008**, who is now consulting for Ernst & Young Beijing office on mergers and acquisitions in China's food industry.

These course field trips allowed the class to understand the globalization of agriculture and better understand China's role in the world of agricultural markets and their economic relationship with the United States.

While exploring China the students visited tourist attractions, among these trips were the Great Wall of China, Olympic Park, Fuzhou Panda World and the Forbidden City.



Above: Takahashi, Secaira, Valdes, and Murrah



Above: Students visiting the Great Wall of China

Below: Green house at the Jiangsu Academy of Ag. Science



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Graduate Student Campus Climate Study

By Victoria Salin, Director, Master of Agribusiness

Taking on the challenge of graduate school is difficult enough from an academic and financial point of view. Imagine how tough it would be to succeed if students also face stress from an unwelcoming environment, including harassment or discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. Texas A&M University has investigated the campus climate, and now it's time to implement the recommendations. The full report on campus climate for graduate students is available online: <http://tx.ag/CampusClimateSurvey>.

Some of the results that I found striking and disturbing are that about one-quarter of graduate students reported experiencing inappropriate behaviors and/or comments from others indicative of bias. Even worse, these negative experiences occur on a regular basis. Nine percent of graduate students reported safety concerns on a regular basis in the Northgate business and residential district. Overall, most graduate students are satisfied with the climate on campus and in the Bryan-College Station community. However, lower satisfaction levels were reported by respondents who are doctoral students, Black, and Hispanic/Latino/and Latinas. Surely, there is room for change so *all* students find Texas A&M a great place to be.

Within the Agribusiness graduate program, I commit to initiating conversations about diversity, inclusion of people from different backgrounds, and how to succeed in multi-cultural business settings. Some of these activities come up formally in the curriculum. For example, in class last week, we discussed how religious differences in India relate to the product mix of restaurant company and the size of the market. Outside the classroom, the MAB program staff are trained in diversity / inclusion and you can count on them to provide advice, support, and referrals should any problems, threats, or harassment occur. And, when students leave the program early, we will monitor the reasons behind the decision to find out whether the campus climate played a role.

And, please take care of your physical and emotional health so that you are more resilient to possible difficult situations. How? #SLOWDOWN and #STAYCONNECTED, so your professors, advisors, friends, and colleagues can have your back.

Please share your ideas about interventions that will foster an improved climate for all graduate students, (contact information below) and watch for sponsored forums where you are welcome to participate.

Website: diversity.tamu.edu

For more information please contact:

Dr. Karen Butler-Purry, Office of Graduate & Professional Studies

Suite 112, Jack K. Williams Building

Website: ogaps.tamu.edu

E-mail: ogaps@tamu.edu

Dr. Christine Stanley, Office of the Vice President & Associate Provost for Diversity

Website: diversity.tamu.edu

MAB Student Wins Dean's Award — Outstanding!

Congratulations to one of our Students!

Article by: College of Agriculture and Life Science's
Dean's Office.

The Dean's Outstanding Achievement Award for Diversity goes to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Recruiting Team.

Dr. Danielle Harris, Mr. Ray Person, Ms. Katie Swift, and **Mr. David Salinas**, from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean's Office, worked side-by-side as strong and consistent advocates of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to potential students.

This team is committed to enhancing the diversity of our College and on average, communicate with more than 6,000 prospective students a month. In 2013, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences enrolled a record-breaking 888 new students, and 31.5% of those students were from underrepresented backgrounds.

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As a team, they provide over 33 programs for high schools and community colleges and visit a multitude of community groups such as FFA, 4-H, and others. It's clear that the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Recruiting team is more than deserving of the Dean's Outstanding Achievement Award for Diversity.

David Salinas joined the MAB program in fall of 2014. Congratulations, David!



Kick Off to Aggie Football

By: Chelsea Miller

Agricultural Economics students, faculty and friends rung in the new football season by hosting a tailgate on September 13.

The Aggies celebrated while defeating the Rice Owls by chowing down on BBQ.

Celebrate with us again during the TAMU vs. Mizzou tailgate November 15, 2014, held at the Clayton Williams Association of Former Students building.



Above: Current Master of Agribusiness students, Parr Rosson, Department Head and Dr. Salin, Professor & Director, MAB Program

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 6-8: Women in Agribusiness Summit

October 7-9: Oilseed & Grain Trade Summit

October 11: COALS tailgate A&M vs. Ole Miss

October 15: Industry Leaders Forum on Sustainability, with Markus Frank from BASF and Keith Goldsmith from Americold Logistics.

November 15: AGECE tailgate TAMU vs. Mizzou

October 17-19: Latinos in Agriculture Leaders Conference

December 19-20: TAMU graduation

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