

## Welcome New MAB Students

By: Edeoba Edebor, Victor Galindo del Toro, Chandler Johnstone, and Katherynne Padilla

We are so excited to have Krista Holub join the Master of Agribusiness program! Krista is from Waller, Texas which is northwest of Houston. She completed her undergraduate degree at Sam Houston State University with a major in Animal Science. Krista loved her business classes so much that she wanted to learn more about the agribusiness industry, thus joining the MAB program. Krista's favorite thing about Texas A&M is the atmosphere that the campus offers. On her free time she likes doing anything outdoors, especially hunting and fishing.

We are also happy to welcome Tracy Obi, who is from Nigeria. Tracy has a bachelor's degree in Banking and Finance, a professional certification in Human Resource Management, and is finishing up her second bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Entrepreneurship. Her goal is to someday turn small scale farming in Africa into big business. She loves traveling, horseback riding, and running. The weather and the beauty of this campus are Tracy's favorite things about Texas A&M.

By: Tyler Coufal, Iker Huacuja Goya, Enrique Pinon, Jorge Torrebiarte, and Yucheng Xie

We welcome Aishat Olayiwola to the Master of Agribusiness (MAB) program at Texas A&M University. Aishat was born and raised in Nigeria, where her father owned and operated a poultry farm and processing facility. Growing up, Aishat remembers being heavily involved in the poultry production and since then, she knew she wanted to pursue agriculture as a career. Aishat began her experience at Texas A&M University as an Agricultural Systems Management student, but after much deliberation saw the MAB program as a better fit. Aishat is excited for what the MAB

program has in store for her "I'm honored to be a part of such a prestigious university". On her free time, Aishat enjoys traveling and hopes to travel to all seven continents. She has a big heart and is always willing to lend a hand to someone in need.

We also welcome, Yuvaraj Kasa Sudhakar. Yuvaraj was born and raised in India. He grew up in a family with an agricultural background, particularly in crops. He focused his undergraduate studies in agriculture, specializing in irrigation engineering. Upon graduation he worked at an irrigation company for two years. Six months in India and one-and-half years in Dubai and Muscat. His main job was to calculate how much water to irrigate in parks and cropland. Yuvaraj does not have any set idea about what to do after completing the MAB, but in future he wishes to have a whole "farm to customers" business in India. He wants to be an entrepreneur.

Welcome Krista, Tracy, Aishat, and Yuvaraj!

## MABs Attend Networking Event

By: Christina Hilliard

MABs were invited by the Southwest Chapter of the National Agri-Marketing Association to attend a networking dinner in Fort Worth, Texas and followed by



MABs in Fort Worth, Texas

entertainment at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo.

Several MABs attended the event in Fort Worth that resulted in new

friendships and industry contacts, including offers to apply for internships.

## Former Student Spotlight: Lydia Vanderpuye

By: Iker Huacuja Goya

Lydia Vanderpuye is a former MAB student from Ghana. Having graduated in December 2015, Lydia now works as a Relationship Manager at Ecobank Ghana Limited. Together with her husband, they recently started 'Maroon Farms Ghana', a pineapple farm project in which they aim to take advantage of local and international high demand.

Maroon Farms started with one-hectare land size (2.47 acres) producing 50,000 pineapples, which will be ready for harvest in December 2017. Aiming to plant one hectare every quarter this year and double up production as the cash comes in, Lydia comments they can make almost 300% profit per hectare! So far they have received a contract from Blue Skies (the largest juice company in Ghana) to be the off-takers until they build direct contacts in the export market.

Lydia thanks Dr. Salin and Texas A&M for building her confidence enabling her to start this business. When asked how the MAB program impacted her decisions in entrepreneuring she said, "With my goal in mind, a discussion with Dr. Salin resulted in the selection of courses that will help me achieve my objective. As part of the MAB course I attended seminars designed to bring together entrepreneurs and students of the business school where there was sharing of ideas and mentoring which enhanced my development in the course. I worked at JBS in Nebraska as an intern in the Human Resource Department to satisfy the practical aspect of the course and gained invaluable experience in Organizational Development, which I am putting to use today on my farm."



Lydia Vanderpuye at 'Maroon Farms Ghana'

What is Lydia's advice to current MAB students? "First of all, it'll be advantageous to identify your career goal before or early in the program. This will guide you in selecting some of the courses you would want to take. Also, knowing this will direct you in connecting

with lecturers and resource persons as well as choosing an internship in your area of interest. Secondly, attend as many seminars as you can and interact with industry players and recruiters. When the program ends, you will have to face the real world hence you can pick a few points from them before you get there."

Congratulations to Lydia and her husband. We look forward to seeing more about 'Maroon Farms Ghana' in the near future!

## Current Students Attend Women in Agribusiness Summit

By: Anne Marie Wolff

On September 27, 2016, four MAB students, Devon Smolak, Priya Sivakumar, Katherynne Padilla, and Claudette Reyes, along with Dr. Salin flew into Chicago for the Women of Agribusiness (WIA) Summit. WIA is an agribusiness community where women develop valuable professional skills, network with influential executives, and learn about the industry outlooks and



Pictured left to right: Claudette Reyes, Katherynne Padilla, Devon Smolak, and Priya Sivakumar

trends in an interactive and innovative forum. At a panel discussion on the conference amongst fellow students, the Texas A&M women that went noted that the event was very well organized and easily made a number of networking opportunities available to the attendees.

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## Current Students Attend Women in Agribusiness Summit

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One of the highly regarded sessions among our MAB program attendees was the elevator speech session with Cargill. Reyes even went on to say that her leader from the session is her new mentor and she is still able to contact her with any questions. The conference enabled attendees to become more familiar with new companies in the industry. Many of these companies were new links to internship and job opportunities. One attendee said that 3 of her 4 internship interviews came directly from this event.

As networking is so important, whether you are attending a conference or simply running into a company representative on campus, the attendees shared some of their networking strategies. The first being, do your homework before the event and use the attendants list to select people that you want to purposely meet. You can manage your nerves by randomly talking to anyone rather than seeking the best companies, there are connections all over the place. Right after you do meet someone take notes about the conversation that you will be able to look back on.

## Southern Glazer's Visit to Campus

By: Sierra Shields

On February 6, 2017, Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits made their way to Texas A&M University. They first joined us at the Mays Business Career Fair during the day, and then they hosted an informational in the Ag and Life Sciences building that evening. With a great turnout at both of the events, the National College Recruiter, Naneth Jones, had a lot of amazing resumes to sort through. The next day, Southern Glazer's attended the Retail Career Fair in the Wehner building where they were able to see even more awesome candidates to work in their industry. They concluded their visit with a full day of interviews for both full time and internship opportunities. It was a busy time at Texas A&M University for Southern Glazer's, but eager students rushed to get their time with such an elite company. We are looking forward to seeing Southern Glazer's again next year!

## Royalty Pecan Farm Field Trip

By: Christina Hilliard

Several MAB students attended a tour of the Royalty Pecan Farm in Caldwell, Texas on Friday, January 27,



2017. Students gained valuable insight into the operation and production of the local orchard's pecans while touring by tractor-pulled wagon.

After the tour, students also enjoyed a relaxing lunch on the patio followed by a short period to shop in the farm's retail store.



## CME Trading Challenge

By: Christina Hilliard

The 2017 CME Trading Challenge is here! The MAB program currently has two teams registered for the event. Good luck teams!

### Team One Members

Kyle Joseph  
Chad McLaren  
Iker Huacuja Goya  
Cameron Novikoff  
Blake Ramsey

### Team Two Members

Devon Smolak  
Muhammad Abdullah  
Edeoba Edozor  
Mandi Guo  
Julia Zhu

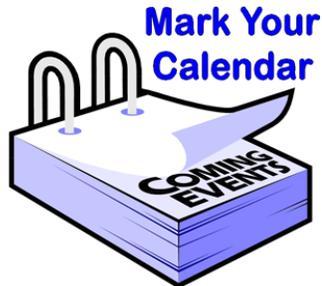
## Students Host Driscoll's Visit

By: Christina Hilliard

On January 26, 2017, Rick Reyes and Cathryn Schofield from Driscoll's spent the day with current MAB students. Highlights included interviewing students for internship positions, lunch with students, and a tour of the Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center, led by Dr. Bhimu Patil. Mr. Reyes and Ms. Schofield ended their day with a presentation on Supply Chain Management to current students.

We look forward to hosting Driscoll's in the future!

## Upcoming Events



### **CME Trading Challenge—Preliminary Round**

February 14

### **Monthly MAB Meeting (Mandatory)**

Friday, February 17

9:00 am—10:00 am

AGLS 129

\*Breakfast treats will be served

### **Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Field Trip**

Friday, March 10

### **Monthly MAB Meeting (Mandatory)**

Friday, March 24

### **Cooperative Symposium (Mandatory)**

March 30-31

### **Spring Break**

March 13-17

## Stay Connected



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**AGRIBUSINESS**  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Dept. of Agricultural Economics  
600 John Kimbrough Blvd., Room 213  
2124 TAMU

[tx.ag/agribusiness](http://tx.ag/agribusiness)

(979) 458-5539

[mab@agecon.tamu.edu](mailto:mab@agecon.tamu.edu)