

Guest Speaker Christopher Narayanan

October 17, 2013

By: Kassie Kampen

The MAB students had the pleasure of listening to Christopher Narayanan who is the Director and Head of Agricultural Commodities Research at Societe Generale Corporate and Investment Bank. Mr. Narayanan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Master of Science degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Texas A&M University. He also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from The University of Texas at Austin. Before his work in commodities, he served in the U.S Marine Corps. While here, he spoke about what he does on a day-to-day basis and explained the fundamentals and mechanics of agriculture market analysis. Mr. Narayanan was very informative about the basics of cash merchandising and the general guidelines of cash vs. futures price movements. He also took the time to answer questions that included how he got to where he is today, how students could better prepare for their career, and what it's like to work for an international company. It was great to see the success of an Aggie and have a chance to learn from his experiences!



2013 Heifer International Africa Area Council Meeting

By: Ibukunoluwa Anani



Heifer International partnered with Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to organize management training in Little Rock, Arkansas on October 7-11, 2013.

The training was facilitated by Dr. Victoria Salin, Chair and Director of the Master of Agribusiness Program of Texas A&M and supported by Dr. Scott Fleetwood, an independent consultant with executive-level experience in agribusiness. I was able to attend a portion of this meeting. The Heifer Africa Council Meeting participants included Elizabeth Bintliff; the Vice President of the Africa Area Program as well as boards of directors from different part of Africa.

Heifer international is a global nonprofit, non-governmental organization working with communities to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth.

The main objectives of the training were to:

- Formulate strategies to develop technologies for value chain enterprises in African countries
- Discuss diversification as a tool of economic sustainability and what it means to bankers, business managers and households
- Show relevance of information technology in livestock supply chains

The target areas of the training were Strategy, Management, and Leadership. At the workshop Dr. Salin and Dr. Fleetwood discussed sustainability economics-measurement issues for the firm-level and macro level, and what diversification means to bankers, business managers and households. Dr. Salin also presented a bank case and the objectives of a financial services firm in loan portfolio management.

As a second-year MAB student, I was able to learn about the career path of leadership in the non-profit sector of Africa and that nonprofit does not mean "no money". I can gain experience outside my job description, I can get access to higher-ups, that my degree is transferable to the nonprofit sector and that my work matters. I was also able to develop relationships with leaders in Africa where I hope to start my career.



Madisonville High School FFA October 21, 2013 By: Kassie Kampen

In October, Dr. John Park arranged for us to meet the Madisonville High School FFA Marketing team and hear their marketing plan for Tactical Hog Control. The team is preparing to compete at a national level with their presentation and it is apparent why they have made it this far. Three students gave a twenty minute presentation on how Tactical Hog Control could increase their profits and expand their business over the next two years. The students presented an analysis of the market, identified competitors, and performed customer satisfaction surveys; then using SWOT analysis they identified three main goals for Tactical Hog Control. After identifying strategies to reach these goals, they supplied marketing suggestions and a projected budget. The team wrapped up the afternoon by answering tough questions about their strategies and they didn't even break a sweat. The Aggies wish them well in their future endeavors and are sure they will BTHO the competition at Nationals!

Update: As we were going to press with the newsletter, we received an update from Lynita Foster, the advisor to this FFA Team. And, we are happy to report that this team took home the national title! WHOOP!



Oilseed and Grain Trade Summit By: Jordan Putty

Mark Goering, Rafael Mack, and Jordan Putty had the privilege of representing the program at the Oilseed and Grain Trade Summit in Minneapolis in October. Students were able to sit in on powerful presentations made by top executives from companies such as CHS, ADM, Conagra, Monsanto, and Dow. In addition, chief economists from both the CME Group and Wells Fargo were present to discuss matters related to the unsustainable actions of the Federal Reserve and government policies connected to the Renewable Fuels Standard. Whether it was getting to listen to senior executives debate agriculture, networking with industry professionals, or getting to tour the Twin Cities, the students were very excited to attend and hope to someday be one of the experts serving on a discussion panel!

Mark Goering stated "The trip made me realize just how many more opportunities are available for MAB students. Anyone interested in oilseeds and grains should attend."

Women in Agribusiness Summit By: Laura Peña

I feel very fortunate to have been able to experience this event since attending the Women in Agribusiness Summit was a great experience to network and learn from companies and women, that just like me, are interested in the promoting and enhancing the agricultural sector. It's a great opportunity to learn about the industry and the issues that are currently trending. It also allows attendees to gain exposure to the job market and the needs of the industry. Students can obtain insights on how to prepare ourselves to better serve this sector and balance our careers and personal lives from people that are directly involved in it. It is very rewarding to know that companies are investing their resources towards the promotion of women in this sector- it serves to encourage connections between women that share the same passion and interests.



MAB Students at the 2013 Women in Agribusiness Summit

L-R: Sharbanoo Gargari, Laura Pena, Natalia Correa, Emmanuelle Revole

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