4 MABs Attend Women in Agribusiness Summit
By: Maria Alejandra Ramirez Lopez

Attending the Women in Agribusiness Summit started in June, when Dr. Salin sent all the students an email about the opportunity to apply for a scholarship and participate in the conference. When I saw the email I did not think twice about applying for it. A conference only focused on women who are passionate about agriculture? How amazing is that?

I am very thankful to the Master of Agribusiness Program that informed us about this opportunity and supported us during the process until the end, and of course to my sponsor Nationwide Insurance that gave me this valuable opportunity to be part of this conference. My participation in the Women in Agribusiness Summit could not have been possible if it was not because of the generosity of Nationwide Insurance. There were around 600 women attending the conference, of which only 15 were students. I feel very honored and grateful for having being chosen as one of them.

Both Texas A&M University and the University of Tennessee had the most students attending. Students from different majors relating to agriculture could have attended, but the most curious was that the students from Texas A&M were all from the same program: Master of Agribusiness. Walking around the conference and having people approaching to you

mainly because you are from Texas A&M made me feel proud of being an Aggie.

There are many reasons for why attending this conference was an amazing opportunity. The first reason is because it was not an academic network or a career fair where the main focus are students.

The main goal of this conference was to NETWORK. So, in order to achieve it, we had to leave our comfort zone. This included not hanging out together all the time, meeting new women and learning from their experiences and advice. Therefore, we had the opportunity to talk to women from different backgrounds, experiences, and companies about their career path.

The second reason is because all the sessions and break sessions had really interesting topics such as “Can Agriculture Save The Planet Before It Destroys It?”, “Transportation and Logistics in 2017”, and “Agriculture Trade Between Mexico and Minnesota”. I was fascinated how good the speakers were. They knew how to engage 600 people in their topic, how to make their presentations interesting and they used good humor.

The last reason is because I could learn more about myself. It was a great opportunity to develop my leadership skills and learn more about agriculture trends. I realized that I need to improve some aspects and now I feel more encouraged about pursuing my goals and to never give up.

I also made valuable connections. Most of the women attending the conference were not from the HR department. However, imagine being recommended by one of the workers of the company. It definitely

Continued on page 2
differentiates you from your competitors and gives you more credibility and chances to get the internship or full-time dream position that you have been badly looking for.

Getting to know people who are actually working in a specific position, such as grain merchandising, was very interesting because they could answer any questions relating to their field. It was also great to see how business women were interacting between themselves and making new contacts. It helps you to see yourself in the next few years.

I want to congratulate HighQuest who makes the effort to make this event happen every year and who were aware of the students all the time.

I return to College Station looking forward to participating next year and hoping that more classmates can have the same opportunity that I had. I cannot express enough that it has been a memorable experience and they will make valuable contacts.

By: Priya Sivakumar

I’m honored and grateful to the HighQuest Partners for sponsoring me to attend the Women in Agribusiness Summit 2017. It was a wonderful opportunity to interact with powerful women executives in the industry and to listen to the great speeches by eminent personalities on the current trends in the industry.

I particularly enjoyed Beth Ford’s speech on ‘Navigating Ag’s Disrupted Environment- Why Ag is Still Right for Women’. Her speech was so inspiring in many ways, so much that I could feel positive energy burst inside me while I listened to her.

The summit also improved my networking skills. The elevator pitch practice sessions offered by the department helped a great deal. I could create a positive impact within the conference and make several contacts that has been helping me in my job hunt for full-time positions.

I would encourage the women in the MAB program to attend the summit next year. It is a great conference where one could learn a lot, make good contacts and also have fun!

By: Tracy Obi

The 2017 Women in Agribusiness Summit held at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Summit provided excellent networking opportunities, information on trends and developments within the Ag Industry, as well as professional development opportunities.

The opening ceremony kicked off with a welcome speech by Joy O’Shaughnessy the event director. In her speech, she recognized the student scholarship recipients and encouraged attendees already working in the Agriculture Industry to network with students. After the opening speech, there were two keynote addresses, then a networking event which lasted the rest of the night.

The two last two days of the summit featured more keynote addresses, panel discussions and breakout sessions on sustainability in food production, Ag innovation, Marketing, Mergers & Acquisition within the Agriculture Industry and Handling difficult conversations. I learned so much during the conference. Two famous lines from the summit that stuck with me were those from Beth Ford of Land O’ Lakes: “Don't play small ball”; and a second from Carol S. Kitchen: “Never underestimate the impact talent can have on a business.” The networking experience was also phenomenal. Everyone was warm and willing to talk, connect and share useful information or advice.

Overall it was an excellent experience; I remain grateful to Cadena Bio and its CEO Michelle Fite for sponsoring me to this great event. I would advise every woman aspiring to get into the agriculture industry or already working in the industry to participate in this Summit. Lastly, I want to thank Christina Hilliard and Dr. Salin for helping me access this opportunity.
Internship Roundtable: Students Perspective

By: Peer Group 6—Chad McLaren, Sierra Shields, Priya Sivakumar, Andrew Smith, Julia Zhu, Garrett Carr, Gabrielle Cowart, and Morgan VanDame

On September 5, 2017 all of the first and second year MAB students gathered for the Internship Roundtable. The second year students were able to brag on the companies they worked for and the hard work they put in during the summer. They discussed what they learned and how the Masters of Agribusiness program impacted everything they did. The first years were able to listen and soak in all of the possibilities they could have for internships for the summer of 2018. Gabrielle Cowart says, "Trying to find internships is always extremely overwhelming but having a group of peers to ask advice from has really been beneficial."

The internship roundtable was also a great way to mingle with students some may not have known before, and it also helped with understanding what everyone was truly interested in outside of school and in the workplace. "I was able to see so many different perspectives from the positions at various companies and all of the students were very eager to share their experiences and offer tips," Garrett Carr said.

Internships are a great way to gain experience and set yourself up for success when looking for a full-time position. The Internship Roundtable gave true insight into this and was a lot of fun for all students involved!

AgEc Tailgate Fun

By: Peer Group 3 - Mandi Guo, Raj Maddala, Cameron Novikoff, Claudette Ryes, Tracy Obi, Corey Parish, and Emily Thomason

The AGEC tailgate on September 30th was filled with many festivities including speakers such as Dr. Joe Outlaw, a co-director of the Agricultural Food Policy Center, great food, and even greater company consisting of over 600 AGEC/AGBU students, faculty, and former students. Two students in particular our group had the pleasure of meeting were Haley Crocombe and Anne Marie Wolff.

Haley is a senior Agribusiness major from Spring, Texas and currently serves as a study abroad ambassador and mentor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Haley spent this past summer interning abroad with Leggiero Real Estate, in Florence, Italy as she focused on commercial real estate market research. She hopes to pursue her passion of international travel in the form of a career, specifically international trade.

Anne Marie is a senior Agricultural Economics major from Natchitoches, Louisiana. Anne Marie spent this past summer interning in Kenosha, Wisconsin for Ardent Mills. She was tasked with running food safety and quality tests that would help her gather data to run a cost-benefit analysis. Anne Marie has recently accepted a full-time position with Ardent Mills at their Alabama plant and hopes to fulfill her personal goal of "life-long learning."

Once again, the AGEC tailgate facilitated a meaningful networking opportunity for all who are connected by the common thread that is the Department of Agricultural Economics. Furthermore, the relaxed setting of the tailgate added to the willingness of students to take advantage of the Aggie Network. It is through this commonality that we are able to stand as Aggies and strive toward success.

Continued on page 4

By: Peer Group 4—Kayli Abernathy, Devon Smolak, Tianshi Feng, Krista Holub, Chance Nohavitza, Aishat Olayiwola, Trevor Rowlett, and Joseph Villani

The internship roundtable was a great event that allowed new MABs to learn about the internships and experiences from the 2nd year MABs. The 1st years in our group learned a lot and were able to use the roundtable as a learning experience and a guide for their internship search.

Farrell Feng explained that “the internship roundtable provided a good platform to access information from different industries in the field of agriculture. 2nd year MABs worked in industries like retail operations, production, financial services and logistics. By talking with the 2nd year MABs, I learned what the job responsibilities are in different roles and what it is like to work in different positions and companies. Their
experiences can help me plan my own career path based on my preferences.”

Chance Nohavitza also had a good experience with the internship roundtable, “I truly found the internship roundtable to be very beneficial especially for us 1st year students. By attending this event we were allowed to interact and gain insightful knowledge from fellow second years on their experiences and advice with their internships. As a 1st year student I did not know what types of internships were available or pertained to our program. What I found was that the opportunities are endless and do not have to pertain directly to Agriculture alone. After the event concluded, many of the 2nd years were willing to meet with us and discuss certain topics on internships and provide greater details if we possessed any interest in one of the positions. This event was very well structured and by attending it, it let me leave with a greater mindset on how to approach internships and develop a strategy to achieve my goals.”

Joe Villani added that he had “a very positive experience with the internship roundtable.” “Learning about the strategies and goals of other MABs helped me to formulate my strategy for attacking the internship search process. Learning about the great opportunities that come along with the MAB program was very exciting. The 2nd year students were very informative and provided excellent advice from the many experiences they’ve had. There is no doubt in my mind that the internship roundtable was a very helpful experience. Continuing to leverage the experience of the 2nd year students will help all of the 1st year students successfully find the internships that they are looking for.”

Overall, the internship roundtable had a very positive effect on all of the 1st year students in our group. All of the 1st years would recommend keeping this event to continue to help income MAB students to learn about the potential opportunities of this program.

The agribusiness industry is a dynamic environment dealing with a vast amount of opportunities. Initially, people think of agribusiness as farming, when in fact, it is a world filled with finance, accounting, supply chain management, sales, marketing and much more. The agricultural industry is big business, which allows for many avenues for a person to pursue and specialize in. Many job seekers from an agricultural background want to stay in the industry but don't have the capital, infrastructure or want to start their own farm or ranch. The agribusiness industry allows these individuals to be in an industry they are passionate about and a field they are knowledgeable in.

The positions available in agribusiness add up to be a quite complex list. Students, or employed professionals in agribusiness, are able to specialize within a range of activities that follow the agricultural industry and add value to its output. However, agribusiness is unique in that it also has generalized fields within the industry and diverse skills that allow for job flexibility. Some of the industry sectors and fields of specialization include:

- Supply chain management
- Customer service and communication
- Sales and merchandising
- Agriculture finance and accounting
- Production (Crops & Livestock) Finance
- Manufacturing and packaging
- Management and operations
- Forestry and natural resources
- Market analyzing and reporting
- Grain merchandising
- Agricultural policy and law
- Farm appraisal and real estate

The list can grow depending upon how the individual applies their skill set. However, one thing in common remains, all fields of agribusiness are an important part of feeding our world.
The field of agribusiness expands from multi-billion dollar corporations to small family farms. Companies such as DOW, Monsanto, Cargill and JBS are all leaders in their sector of the agricultural industry. These companies allow you to expand on your area of expertise and often offer more specialized jobs. For instance, positions in branding, pricing, forecasting, and distribution exist along with the typical sales, accounting and administrative roles. In smaller operations, the owner is typically the operator and may have only one or two other employees. These small crews typically do everything from accounting to feeding the animals. Within each of these examples there is also an extreme-to-extreme salary range, but to give you an idea, the average MAB graduate has a $65,000 annual job offer after graduation. These are the two extremes of the business, but it gives a non-exhaustive look at the many opportunities that lie within them.

The world of agribusiness is global. As stated above, there are large corporations with offices in numerous countries and there are small operations in vary rural areas. By choosing agribusiness, you open yourself up to many possibilities in travel and placement all over the world. Of course each region has its specialties (think panhandle of Texas for cotton and Midwest for corn and soybeans), however, the ability to move where you want is available. The flexibility and stability of a career in agribusiness can take you as far away, or as close to home as you wish.

The agribusiness industry is an ever-changing and fast growing industry, which provides opportunity and flexibility of job placement and the ability to specialize in your area of expertise. People within the agribusiness industry are an integral part of feeding the world and each position depends on the next to supply a safe and wholesome food source. It is imperative that the agribusiness industry continuously grows and prospers with good people. So the next question is, how will you make an impact?

2nd Year MABs Share Wisdom
By: Peer Group 5—Muhammad Abdullah, Chance Chapman, Lauren Friend, Kyle Joseph, Yuvaraj Kasa Sudhakar, and Chelsey Rudasill

As graduation draws near for the second year MABs, the new cohort looks to these soon-to-be graduates for wisdom learned throughout the program.

We asked Kyle Joseph to share his insights on the best advice for new MAB students, his favorite moments of the program, and his career goals. Kyle stated, “Learn from your peers, the MAB program is very diverse and we all come from different backgrounds.” He stated that he has learned a great deal from everyone in his cohort since each person is so unique. Kyle’s favorite part of the MAB program has been learning from different industry professionals. “We are lucky because we have various companies that come and speak with us each semester.” Kyle is currently still looking for a job after graduation, but he plans to work in the food distribution industry. “My top choice would be working for Sysco.” He is waiting to hear back from this company and we wish him the best of luck.

Chance Chapman, also a second year MAB student, was asked the same questions. His best advice is to make friends with your cohort. “This program attracts such a diverse group from a lot of different backgrounds and strengths. Getting to know one another will help you during your time in the program.” Chance believes that you get more out of the program if you lean on your classmate’s strengths and help them with their weaknesses. He has enjoyed learning and building on the relationships built within his cohort. A piece of advice that Chance has when it comes to your career goals is to sit down and meet with Dr. Slain to discuss his career goals. “She has been a tremendous resource in pointing me in the right direction for which electives to take.” She also helped Chance look into potential jobs.

Share Your Wisdom!

Are you a former student or a second year MAB about to graduate?

We would love to hear your advice to new students. Post your advice to our Facebook group!
Upcoming Events

Python Workshop
October 31, 2017

MetLife Informational
November 2, 2017

AgEc Tailgate—BTHO Auburn
November 4, 2017

MAB Monthly Meeting
November 14, 2017

Bonfire 1999 Remembrance Day
November 18, 2017

Faculty & Staff Holiday
November 23-24, 2017

MAB End-of-Semester Party
December 1, 2017

Commencement and Commissioning
December 15, 2017

Faculty & Staff Holiday
December 25—January 1, 2018

First Day of Spring 2018 Classes
January 16, 2018

Please support the MAB program with your donation:

Make your gift to the MAB Program Support Fund online, via the Texas A&M Foundation

Go to:
http://tx.ag/mabgift

Gift Selections:
Give to: College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
Dept: Agricultural Economics
Account: MAB Program Support

Stay Connected

Like our Facebook Page:
Texas A&M University Master of Agribusiness

Join our Facebook group:
Master of Agribusiness (MAB)

LinkedIn: AggieMABs

Twitter: @AggieMAB #TAMUMAB #WhyAgribusiness

YouTube: TAMU MAB

Looking to fill a vacancy at your Company? We know some potential industry leaders.

Let us help you! Email us at mab@agecon.tamu.edu.