Welcome New MABs!
By: Peer Group 1, senior MABs, Edeoba Edobor, Victor Galindo del Toro, Chandler Johnstone, and Katherynne Padilla

Welcome Mason Grahame from Calvert County, Maryland. Mason is a graduate of the University of Maryland (UMD) where he studied agricultural and resource economics with a focus on environmental policy and agricultural science. Before attending college, he worked as a plumber, first-mate on a commercial fishing boat, and as a surveyor. During his undergraduate studies, he worked in the front office of the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department. He also interned as an account manager for AFLAC. After graduation, he worked at his alma-mater with Paul Goeringer, the Agriculture Legal specialist. In this capacity, he helped research, edit and publish articles relating to crop insurance, farm bankruptcy, and mediation. Mason’s choice of Texas A&M and the MAB program was based on a desire for experience outside of UMD, and a need to develop the business skills needed to operate his own agribusiness. Mason hopes to gain a better understanding of accounting and managerial concepts that he can translate into making his family farm more profitable. He also hopes to gain connections with business leaders that can help him develop a professional understanding of the agribusiness world. His favorite thing about College Station is the welcoming people and culture. He is also enthralled by the ease of finding ways to be involved at Texas A&M. On the fun side, Mason will love to go sky-diving, and hopes to purchase a boat and retire as a commercial fisherman.

Welcome Mason, gig’em!

We are glad to welcome Kelsey Lewis to the MAB program. Kelsey is from Alpena, Michigan and she obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Agribusiness from Dordt College in Sioux Center, IA. She has had experiences as a marketing intern for a grain transportation logistics company, and as a management intern in a 4 million layer facility. She has also had cross-cultural agriculture experiences having interned in Kenya. As someone with a beef-cattle background, her choice of Texas A&M was based on the advice of her undergraduate professor who told her of Texas A&M’s reputation in raising industry leaders in agriculture and especially beef-cattle production. In the course of her study, she hopes to improve her knowledge, skills, connections, and professionalism. Kelsey loves the friendly people and the incredible learning opportunities available in Texas A&M. One “fun” fact about Kelsey is that she has had 16 teeth pulled in her life. WOW!!!

Welcome Kelsey and gig’em!

We are delighted to have Eve Ho in the MAB program. Eve is from Taiwan, in South-East Asia. She did her undergraduate studies in her hometown university where she studied Plant Medicine which she describes as basically finding out why and how plants get sick, and ways to make them healthy. She worked as an intern in the government’s agricultural research and extension station. In this role, she collected plant samples affected by pathogens and pests from the field.

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for further diagnosis. She also worked with local farmers to manage the crop problems. Eve chose Texas A&M’s MAB program because she wanted to develop business aptitude that will help complement her science background. She was also inspired by the prospect of taking on new challenges in a different land and a different field, especially since she could not find any Taiwanese University offering the Master of Agribusiness degree. Eve hopes to learn more about the American corporate environment by taking advantage of learning opportunities such as internships. She likes the warmth of people at Texas A&M, and the beautiful weather here. Eve spends her leisure time doing sports and fitness exercises.

Welcome Eve and gig’em.

By: Peer Group 2, senior MABs, Tyler Coufal, Iker Huacuja Goya, Enrique Pinon, and Yucheng Xie

Maria Alejandra Ramirez Lopez was born in Colombia, grew up in Brazil and then moved to Paraguay. She did two year of Agronomy Engineering at Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil); however, she transferred to Kansas State University and earned her agribusiness bachelor’s degree. While Alejandra was doing her undergrad, she had the opportunity to intern with RiceTec Inc. and Garrett Farms, both located in Texas. At RiceTec, she worked in the seed department researching the impact of drying rates on the germination of rice hybrid seeds. At Garrett farms, she was also involved with research testing two products and evaluating its impact of controlling sheath blight and smut on rice, two common diseases found in rice crop.

Alejandra decided to pursue a Master in Agribusiness because she wants to improve her weaknesses, gain more knowledge and focus her studies on marketing which is the area that she is most interested in. She also believes that it is a great opportunity to meet more people in the agriculture industry and expand her professional network. Alejandra is actively looking for an internship and she aspires to work on global marketing and international development. In the future, she wants to go back to Paraguay and work for her family company which offers post-harvesting services, technical consultancy and research and produce commercial rice.

She also hopes to contribute to the development of efficient marketing strategies to the grain sector of Paraguay and help small farmers to be more profitable.

Currently, Alejandra is a new student of the Master of Agribusiness at Texas A&M and she is in charge of expanding engagement and social reach through social media channels of her family company.

Devin Robinson grew up in Eastern Oregon as the fifth generation on his family's cattle ranch. After high school he attended Oregon State University to get a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Science and obtained a minor in Agriculture Business Management. Upon graduating, Devin went to work for Butter Creek Cattle Company which is a large commercial cow calf operation. Devin also worked for his family's ranch gaining experience in a registered cow calf operation that raises yearling bulls.

In 2016 Devin changed his line of work and began at Horse Guard Equine Nutrition because he always had an interest in animal nutrition. In this position he represented Horse Guard Equine Nutrition products in five northwest states as a Sales Representative, while also assisting in the production and manufacturing of 15 types of supplements for horses. This job was enjoyable for Devin, however he wanted to further pursue corporate agribusiness and realized the importance obtaining a Master’s Degree. He felt honored to be accepted into the Master of Agribusiness Program at Texas A&M University.

Devin’s goal is to pursue a career in a beef nutrition company. A managerial position would allow him to work within corporate agriculture while offering producers different options to optimize their herd health and production. Overall, Devin’s background in

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production agriculture has developed his passion for agriculture and he hopes to contribute to the vital industry that feeds our world every day.

Napat Prasertsuvan is from Bangkok, Thailand. She got her Bachelor Degree in B.B.A. (Majoring in Marketing) from Chulalongkorn University. After she graduated, she worked in a domestic FMCG company for almost a year. Afterwards, she decided to turn her career towards the public sector. She got a full scholarship from the Royal Thai Government to pursue her Master degree in Agribusiness and will go back to work for the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kingdom of Thailand in Rice Department after she graduates from the MAB program. Thailand is predominantly an agriculture-based country and a major exporter in the world rice market. Therefore, she intends to develop specialties in the areas of agribusiness while using the knowledge from her undergraduate study and experience in business and economics as foundation. She believes that the MAB program will expand her knowledge and experience to create positive impacts for Thailand Agriculture sector.

By: Peer Group 3, senior MABs, Mandi Guo, Raj Maddala, Cameron Novikoff, Claudette Reyes and Tracy Obi

As we kick off the new school year, we welcome some new faces in the Masters of Agribusiness program. The first year students are full of excitement and can’t wait to begin their academic journey. We had the pleasure of really getting to know some of the first year students in our peer mentor group this past week. Here is some of the interesting facts we learned about Corey Parish and Emily Thomason.

Corey Parish a first year student from Conroe, Texas. He received his bachelor’s in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University. He hopes to build relationships and network with members of both cohorts. Additionally, he hopes to reach a degree of professionalism that will allow future employers’ to consider him as a competitive job candidate.

He plans to secure an internship with Capital Farm Credit during the summer of 2017 in order to get a taste of the agricultural lending sector. After graduation, he hopes to expand upon this internship by seeking a full-time position for an agricultural lending firm.

Although he does not have a background in agribusiness, he was able to study abroad during the summer of 2016 in Angers, France with Dr. Vedenov. This high-impact experience furthered his interest in agribusiness and solidified his decision to apply for the MAB program.

Fun fact about Corey, his favorite restaurant is Olive Garden!

Emily Thomason is a first year student from Wills Point, Texas. She received her bachelor’s from Texas A&M University. Emily hopes to gain real world knowledge pertaining to at businesses and apply it as she builds her business. Her career goals include going back home and starting her vineyard and grow the business to hopefully sell abroad.

Although Emily does not have an agriculture background, she grew up on a ranch where her family had a cow calf operation. She has also studied abroad in France where she visited many different growing operations and vineyards, which is where her interest in vineyards really came to light.

Fun fact about Emily, her favorite restaurant is The Zodiac!

It was a great time getting know Corey and Emily and sharing our past experiences and knowledge as second years.
The Texas A&M University Master of Agribusiness program is kicking off another exciting academic year, incorporating a completely new cohort that has experience ranging from rice to energy. The MAB Class of 2018 contains a diverse group of students coming from various parts of the United States and eleven different countries. These stats alone conjured a plethora of questions from students of the previous year.

First off, we asked someone possessing a little more seniority. Krista Holub, a Texas native going into her second semester of the program, was asked the greatest opportunity this program has provided her thus far. She explained, “The most beneficial opportunity that this program has offered is the Aggie network. I have learned that these connections can provide me with opportunities for my future.” One of the perks of the Aggie Network is that it follows you on your career path when those three semesters fly by.

Furthermore, we asked MAB ‘18 Chance Nohavitza why he chose this program and what he hoped to do after it. He remarked, “I chose MAB because I wanted to better my knowledge and understanding of our agriculture industry from a business standpoint. Following graduation I would like to find a position in the loan and credit industry.” Ironically, Chance’s credit and loan industry network was about to expand as soon as the Fall semester began.

The 2018 cohort also included some professionals, and we were curious to know what they were doing before they joined the program and what they hoped to gain from it. “Before the program, I was working in New Jersey managing a portfolio of agricultural credits. I hope to gain new knowledge and a larger network of agricultural professionals from this program,” explained Joe Villani, MAB ’18.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Mays Business School host various industry leaders throughout the year and prepare students for events, guest lectures, and career fairs the university offers. We asked Trevor Rowlett MAB ’18, what company he was looking forward to meeting this semester, “I’m looking forward to meeting Marcus Frank from BASF. As a chemical leader in the industry, it would be intriguing to obtain an in depth look at what they plan for the future regarding crop protection.” Marcus Frank will be presenting a team-lead sustainability assessment crop protection simulation on September 22nd.

Chesley Rudasill grew up in Chapel Hill, Texas which is near Brenham and Bellville. Her mother is a dental hygienist and her dads are machinists. When Chesley was a young girl she became interested in the cattle industry and began showing in small shows near her hometown. As she got older and her skills in showing expanded, she began showing in major jackpot shows across Texas. This experience is what led her to Texas A&M University where she majored in Agriculture Leadership with a minor in Agricultural communications. Chesley always knew that she wanted to go to graduate school with the hopes of someday working in extension or for the beef industry. Early on into her undergraduate degree she assumed she would pursue more of a marketing track but as luck would have it, she became more involved with the American National Cattle Women’s, serving as a regional director. When Chesley isn't working as bank teller, doing school or running the beef industry she loves to hang out with friends and watch Netflix.
We are so excited to welcome Garrett Carr into the Master of Agribusiness program! Garrett is from Arizona. He did his undergraduate degree in Technological Entrepreneurship and Management. Motivated by his interest in the field of agribusiness, he researched and chose A&M as he deemed it one of the best universities in the field. In his free time, he enjoys working on his truck, hiking and camping.

We are also happy to welcome Morgan Van Dame who is from Indiana. She has completed an undergraduate degree in Animal Sciences at Purdue University. She aspires to have a business in livestock production. She was drawn towards the MAB program when she spoke to Katie McDermitt (2016 graduate). She loves shooting sports, watching football and dealing with livestock.

We welcome Gabrielle Cowart to the Master of Agribusiness program! Gabby is from Kingwood, Texas. She did her undergraduate degree here in the Agricultural Economics department. Encouraged by Dr. Litzenberg, she decided to join the MAB program. She would like to become a marketing executive. In her free time, Gabby likes to swim, dabble on her guitar & piano and help her grandpa with cattle.

Lainey Bourgeois is from Fredericksburg, Texas. She studied Animal Science at Texas A&M and is excited to be a part of the MAB program. Lainey said she is excited because, “I have a true passion for the agriculture industry and I am excited to learn more about the opportunities and avenues of career possibilities in the industry.”

Jacqui Alvarez is from Oxnard, California where she completed her undergrad at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. After receiving her degree in Agribusiness, Jacqui chose the MAB program at Texas A&M for a couple of reasons. Her reasons included, “One, because of its high quality and reputation. And two, I wanted to be exposed to diverse outlooks and ideas because I’ve only lived in California.”

Heinrich Wittleder is from Germany and completed his undergrad in the Netherlands at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. His undergrad was called International Economics and Business Economics. Heinrich says, “My interest in Agriculture and the degree plan of the Master drew me to apply for the Master of Agribusiness. Being in a new environment like Texas and the good reputation of the Agriculture department of Texas A&M intrigued me and consolidated my decision to apply to this fine institution.”
Internship Roundtable: Success!
By: Christina Hilliard

The annual Master of Agribusiness Internship Roundtable was held September 5, 2017. The roundtable is a chance for the returning MABs who had a summer internship to share their experiences with the first year students.

Interns discussed the companies that they worked for, their specific positions, what they learned from the internships and shared advice to first year students. Some of the advice included getting involved in the MAB program, clubs on campus, and departmental activities. One of the top recurring advice that interns shared was to attend the career fairs and events on campus hosted by visiting industry representatives.

Study Abroad: Swaziland Recap
By: Christina Hilliard

Interested in Studying Abroad? The deadline for apply for this unique experience in December 1, 2017.

Are you interested, but not sure what to expect? Students who attended the Swaziland Study Abroad trip will be presenting a recap of their experiences on October 11, 2017 from 5:45 pm—6:45 pm in AGLS 129.
Upcoming Events

PepsiCo Informational Session
September 27

Southern Glazer Informational Session
September 28

AgEc Tailgate—BTHO South Carolina
September 30

The Wonderful Company Informational Session and Interviews
October 9-10, 2017

Swaziland Study Abroad Recap
October 11, 2017

MAB Monthly Meeting
October 24, 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 & 16, 2017

Faculty & Staff Holiday
December 25—January 1, 2018

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.

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