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# THE MAB SYLLABUS

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer, 1999

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*A newsletter about the Master in Agribusiness distance education program at Kansas State University*

## CLASS OF 2001 GAINS MOMENTUM

With the finals for Managerial Economics completed, the 22 students in the Class of 2001 are enjoying three weeks of summer vacation. Next up is Quantitative Methods, which will end just before Thanksgiving. Summer and winter breaks allow these busy professionals time for family vacations and some well deserved R&R.

Students living in China, Ecuador and Cambodia add a new dimension to this year's class. One U.S. student commented that he could not believe that he spent a Thursday morning chat room talking about global logistics with agribusiness professionals from three other countries. To him, that was truly an adventure in learning!

The technology used for course delivery has been virtually seamless, even for the student who participated in chat rooms from rural China.

With eight credit hours of coursework completed, students' confidence has soared in the past few months. They know each other. They know the faculty instructors. They know the technology. And best of all, they know that in two more years they will walk across the stage and receive their hard-earned Masters of Agribusiness degree!

## NEW BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCED

Mr. Bob Jones, formerly with A.D.M. and now a consultant in the Kansas City area, has graciously agreed to serve on the MAB Advisory Board. Bob visited campus in January and spoke to both classes. Welcome aboard!



On-campus classes for the students in the Class of 2000 were held in the newest high technology classroom in Waters Hall.

## BOARD MEMBER KICK STARTS MAB SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Don Hecht, MAB Advisory Board member and Director of Sales and Marketing for Elanco Animal Health made a significant contribution to the newly-established MAB Scholarship Fund.

Don Hecht explained, "I feel compelled to help provide tomorrow's leaders the educational opportunities that they may not be able to afford otherwise."

"A gift of this magnitude is a tremendous testament to the dedication of our Board members and to the value that the MAB program provides the agribusiness industry," commented Bob Broeckelman, MAB Advisory Board Chair and Director of Employment Services for Farm Credit Bank of Wichita.

The scholarship is given annually to an outstanding student who does not have an employer reimbursement plan. Call Sandy Chapman at (785) 532-4495 for more information.

## CAPPER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

A Farmland employee was the first recipient of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center MAB Scholarship. This scholarship covers one-half of the K-State tuition. A new scholarship is awarded each year to a cooperative employee or director. The purpose of this scholarship is to improve the performance of agricultural cooperatives by encouraging current and potential leaders to take advantage of the innovative Master in Agribusiness distance education degree through Kansas State University that develops leadership abilities.

## CLASS OF 2000 ROLLS ON

The students in the Class of 2000 have completed all but one agribusiness course and most are spending the summer completing business course requirements. They will finish the year with the MAB's capstone course, Advanced Agribusiness Management.

Students have also been busy identifying major professors and research topics. See the summary of projects on page two.

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## Σ(CLASS OF 2001) = DIVERSITY

From Utah to Beijing, from corporate boardrooms to the fields, and from Generation X to Baby Boomers...

... the Class of 2001 represents *diversity*.

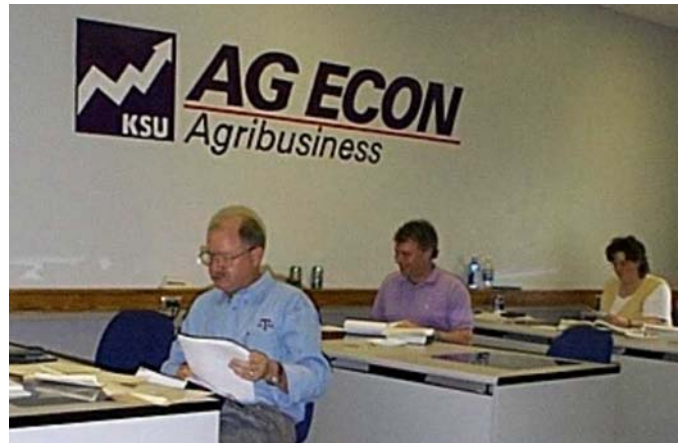
And we expect that diversity to continue. The following job titles of these students should give you an idea of what to expect for the Class of 2002.

- ✓ Manager, Strategic Marketing, Farmland
- ✓ President, MBS, Inc.
- ✓ Manager of Government Relations, Pioneer Hi-Bred
- ✓ Feedmill Manager, Hale Center Feedyard
- ✓ Assistant Manager, Hoxie Feedyard
- ✓ Owner, rice farm in Texas
- ✓ Owner, Angus farm in Kansas
- ✓ Internal Audit Manager, United Agri Products
- ✓ Milling Superintendent, Cereal Food Processors
- ✓ Instructor, Northeastern Junior College
- ✓ Account Executive, Agway Futures Trading
- ✓ Manager of International Operations, U.S. Grains Council
- ✓ Consultant, Cambodia
- ✓ Farm Management, formerly with Murphy Family Farms
- ✓ Production Manager, Pioneer Frozen Foods
- ✓ General Manager, Telesignos
- ✓ Regional Manager, Farmland
- ✓ Executive Director of International Marketing, American Seed Trade Association
- ✓ Plant Engineer, Harrison Poultry, Inc.
- ✓ 4-H Agent, NC Cooperative Extension
- ✓ Technical Program Manager, U.S. Grains Council
- ✓ Grain Merchandiser, Holyoke Cooperative

Equally representative of the diversity of this class are the universities from which students received their previous degrees. Besides numerous land-grant universities, the list includes Harvard, Drake, St. Thomas University, Hartford, Northwestern, and yes, even the University of Kansas. Now we just need to convert them into Wildcat fans!

With this type of diversity, we can understand why students claim they learn almost as much from each other as they do from the coursework!

Let us know if you would like to speak with some of these students to learn about their MAB experiences.



Class of 2001 students spend some quality studying time in the computer lab — along with numerous cans of Coke!

## RESEARCH PROJECTS PLANNED

### *Major Professor – Literature Review – Oral Defense*

These terms are quickly becoming household words for the students in the Class of 2000. In addition to agribusiness courses, they spent the first three months of this year learning the thesis process and selecting major professors and topics. By the sounds of these topics, these students will truly be masters by the time they graduate!

- Ten-Year History of Grain Embargoes
- Economic Impact of Noxious Weed in the Flint Hills
- Economic Analysis of Pricing Meat
- OSHA Standards in the Grain Industry
- Global Trade Policies: GMOs
- Alternative Marketing Systems in Agriculture
- Feedlot Cost Efficiencies
- Seed Development Strategies
- Pricing Assets on the Secondary Market
- Economic Analysis of Dairy Cooperatives
- IT Integration for the Poultry Industry

Students will spend January through May of 2000 working closely with their major professors to conduct literature reviews, perform research, analyze results, and write their theses. The oral defense is the last step prior to graduation.

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*“An important aspect of the MAB program is the service. This is nothing like my undergraduate program where I had to find my way through the maze of registration and enrollment. I have never had to stand in a line or been placed “on hold” to pay tuition, enroll, or buy books. With my busy schedule, it is comforting to know that help is always one phone call away. I never thought education could be one-stop shopping!”*

— MAB Student