Welcome to the Class of 2017!

Ben Blue
Operations Manager
Cropwatch, Inc.
White Pigeon, Michigan

Fran Bretz
Agronomic, Farm Operations and
Administrative Assistant
Ag Advisory, LTD
Algonia, Iowa

Sukhin Chawla
Ropar, Punjab, India

Aaron Cling
District Sales Manager
AgriGold Hybrids
Algonia, Iowa

Jamie Cooke
Purchasing Global
Functional Lead -
Fortitech Premixes
DSM Nutritional
Products
Schenectady, New York

Julie Craig
Owner
Second Life Design, Inc.
Sutton, Nebraska

Fabian Farr
Agency Manager
Argentina/Uruguay
Block House Fleischerei
GmbH
Cerro Largo, Uruguay

Andrew Garr
Assistant Plant Manager
Ardent Mills
Saginaw, Texas

Erica Hoover
Business Analyst - Tactical Marketing
John Deere Company
Olathe, Kansas

Ednah Kasanda
Research Officer
Musika Development Initiatives
Lusaka, Zambia

Travis Kellenberger
Price and Market Analyst
John Deere Company
Olathe, Kansas

Kevin Kohls
Product Engineer - Combines
AGCO
Hesston, Kansas

Andrew Lauver
Account Manager
DuPont Pioneer
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota

Sarah Lukach
Commercial Lending Services Officer
1st Farm Credit
Ottawa, Illinois

Dana Marshall
Senior Merchandiser
Perdue Agribusiness
Cofield, North Carolina

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First- and second-year students listen to a guest speaker during the January campus session.
Kansas State University upgrading to mobile-friendly online course management system

Kansas State University has used K-State Online Classic for more than 16 years to deliver online course instruction. While the system has been improved over time, the University selected Canvas as the replacement during summer 2014.

Canvas features mobile access and options for collaboration. It allows for integration with tools like Outlook, Google Docs, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and other applications.

“The student and faculty reception of Canvas has been positive thus far. Collaborate, in particular, makes the online recitation sessions more stable, and is an improvement over Wimba,” said Deborah Kohl, MAB Program Coordinator.

Starting in January 2015, MAB courses are using Canvas to take advantage of the new features. A Master of Agribusiness Community Page is under construction in Canvas that will be similar to the MAB Community Page in K-State Online Classic. Under the Students, Alumni, Theses and Theses Defenses link, you will find contact information for all classes, thesis defenses prior to 2015, and PDFs of theses publications.

Calendar of Events

February 19-22
MAB at Western Farm Show in Kansas City
March 2
MAB webinar - Advancing Your Career in Animal Health
March 6
MAB at Cattlemen’s Day at K-State
March 15-20
MAB Course Session at K-State
March 27
MAB at MANRRS Annual Career Fair in Houston
April 1
Last day for name to appear in Commencement program
April 13
AGEC 710, Comparative Food and Agriculture Systems course begins
April 24
Final electronic copy of thesis due to Graduate School to be Spring ’15 graduate
April 27-29
MAB at PetFood Forum in Kansas City
May 15
K-State spring commencement at Bramlage Coliseum
May 19
Final electronic copy of thesis due to Graduate School to be Summer ’15 graduate without enrolling in spring hours
June 1
Application deadline for Animal Health and Southeast Asia cohorts
August 2-7
MAB Animal Health campus session at K-State Olathe
August 9-14
MAB Southeast Asia cohort in Hong Kong or Singapore
August 14
Final electronic copy of thesis due to Graduate School to be Summer ’14 graduate

Students complete thesis projects

To read current or previous thesis projects, go to http://krex.k-state.edu/dspace/ and search by author, title or keywords (no log-in required). To read a thesis written before 2008 or view thesis defense, log onto K-State Online, www.online.ksu.edu, with your eID and password. Go to the MAB Community Page, go to Files & Content and click on Theses.

Geremy Larson (’14), Self-Propelled Forage Harvester Sales Analysis
Andy Montgomery (’15) Feasibility Study on a Brand Extension within AgriGold
Jordan Shifflett (’14) Partial Budget Analysis of Hubach Farms Spring Calving and Fall Calving Herds

Front to back, left to right: Aaron Cling, Andrew Lauver, Skyler Rinker, Jamie Cooke, Corey Van Otegham, Fabian Fan during the January campus session.
Alumni Spotlight

Ted Monoson
Class of 2002
Communications Director, Congressman Mike Conaway and House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Representing Agriculture

MAB Alumnus Ted Monoson was recently appointed Director of Communications of the House Agriculture Committee. In a short interview, he shares his experiences and thoughts on U.S. agricultural policy.

Q. Tell me a little about your background, education and work experience.
A. I worked as a reporter for the Terre-Haute Tribune-Star before moving to Washington, D.C. I was the newspaper’s southern bureau reporter and lived and was based out of the town of Sullivan, Indiana. I covered general news, but also spent a considerable amount of time covering agriculture. I wrote about everything from the 1996 Farm Bill’s impact on farmers to farmers’ adoption of biotechnology to changes in the hog industry. After moving to Washington, D.C., in 1999, I covered agriculture, energy and natural resources for Congressional Quarterly and then the major newspapers in Montana and Wyoming. While at Congressional Quarterly, I was the main reporter covering the 2002 Farm Bill. In 2004, I went to work as an agricultural policy aide for southwest Ohio Congressman John Boehner. Agriculture is very important in his congressional district. The district has significant livestock, row crop and dairy production. After Congressman Boehner became House Majority Leader, I worked on both local and national issues, and was his main aide on the 2008 Farm Bill. In 2009, I went to work in government affairs for the agriculture and energy sector. In 2013, I joined Congressman Mike Conaway’s personal office staff as his communications director.

Q. Tell me about your current position as Chairman Conaway’s spokesman. What is an average day like?
A. “Chairman Conaway wants to make sure that all Americans, whether they live in our cities, suburbs or rural America, know about farmers and rancher’s hard work and their commitment to preserving the soil and water that we need to grow our crops and feed our livestock.”

Q. What are the goals of your office to strengthen agriculture?
A. Our office works hard to make sure that all Americans recognize the value of our agricultural sector. Our goal is to make sure farmers and ranchers have an environment in which they have an opportunity to make a living growing the food that feeds America and the fiber that clothes America. We use speeches by Chairman Conaway and Committee members, press releases and social media to accomplish this goal.

Q. What current issues are your office working on?
A. One priority is to make sure we have nutrition programs that work for both American taxpayers and recipients. A second priority is to make sure that we have commodity markets that effectively allow agricultural producers to protect themselves from risk.

Q. Tell me about your current position as Communications Director, Congressman Mike Conaway and House Committee on Agriculture?
A. It is an honor to work as the Committee on Agriculture communications director. Chairman Conaway has a great deal of respect for America’s agricultural history and much optimism about our country’s agricultural future. As his communications director, I work closely with the Committee policy staff to make sure that we are effectively conveying the importance of the work that the Committee is doing and serve as an advocate for American agriculture. I draft and implement the Committee’s communications strategy.

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A. Our office works hard to make sure that all Americans recognize the value of our agricultural sector. Our goal is to make sure farmers and ranchers have an environment in which they have an opportunity to make a living growing the food that feeds America and the fiber that clothes America. We have a variety of tools to accomplish this task. We are making sure we have the right policies in place. We are working equally hard to communicate the importance of these policies for all Americans.

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Professional development and alumni reunion event scheduled for September in Manhattan

The MAB program is pleased to announce the dates for our 7th Professional Development and Alumni Reunion Event. The event, “Risky Business: Managing Risk: Water, Data, Seed and Soils,” will be September 17-19, 2015 in Manhattan, Kansas.

The event will include sessions on multiple angles in managing risk and possible tours of the K-State campus, Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI) and O. H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center, as well as the opportunity to network with classmates and industry partners. It will also include a pre-game tailgate before the K-State vs. Louisiana Tech football game on Saturday, September 19.

The event is open to current MAB students, alumni and interested individuals in the food, animal health and agribusiness industry.

Be watching for more information about speakers, sessions and registration on MAB social media channels and the website (mab.ksu.edu).

Registration materials will be available on the website in late July/early August. Room reservations must be made through the Holiday Inn at the Campus by Friday, August 28. For rooms call 785-539-7531 and mention KSU Master of Agribusiness or ‘MAB’.

With direct flights into Manhattan from both Dallas and Chicago, the “Little Apple” is more accessible than ever, so please consider attending this fun and informative event!

If you have suggestions for speakers, please contact Deborah Kohl at dkohl@ksu.edu.

in the news...

Travis Gullickson (’05) started a new job as North American Supply Chain Planning Manager at Syngenta in Minnetonka, Minn.

Andrew Lauver (’17) is now an Account Manager with DuPont Pioneer’s Northern Business Unit managing a team of sales reps in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

Rick Palermo (’09) is now teaching in the ag business departments at Fresno State and Reedley College. He is also a trainer for warehousing and forklift operation at Fresno City College Career and Technology Center.

Kate Duke (’08) and her husband, Adam, finalized the adoption of their son, Wells Robert, on December 23, 2014.

Miguel Marcano (’08) is now the Corporate Brands and Manufacturing Global Sourcing Team Leader at Kroger.

Mark Seitz (’03) and his wife, Robin, welcomed a new son, Garrison Carter Allen on January 2.

Ted Monoson (’02) is the new Communications Director for the House Ag Committee and also serves in the same position for Congressman Mike Conaway.

Kurt Anderson (’14) has accepted a new position within John Deere as a Project Manager in their Intelligent Solutions Group in Des Moines and has relocated from Sioux Center, IA.

Jacob Bailey (’14) accepted the Grain and Feed Department Manager position for CHS Eastern Farmers Coop in Brandon, SD.

Carlos Piana (’01) is now working with Ecuacocoa C.A., a chocolate manufacturing company in Ecuador.

Please “join”, “like” and “follow” the MAB program on social media:
• Twitter: @ksumab
• Facebook: www.facebook.com/KStateMAB
• LinkedIn: K-State Master of Agribusiness