

# Alumni Spotlight: Nanci Daesch 2013

Risk Assessments with Bayer. With the Consulting and Risk Assessments there is Business Continuity Management, Audit Comment Remediation, and Large Acquisitions, and Divestitures and Capital Projects.

**Mary:** Provide an update on the Monsanto acquisition by Bayer and the transition process.

**Nanci:** The acquisition of Monsanto by Bayer is virtually complete. There are still



enhancements and migrations of systems occurring. The portfolio offering by Bayer Crop Science has a better balance of both Crop Protection & Seed/Trait products. There were many changes occurring over the first several years and COVID accelerated the need to adjust and become more agile.

**Mary:** What are the current issues your company is facing in the industry right now?

**Nanci:** COVID impacted many in the value chain from farmers to agriculture suppliers; however, Bayer was able to adjust well to a new way of working. Many employees have not been to their office location in over a year. We learned to work from home and leverage digital technologies to progress on work.

We are adjusting our outlook and portfolio to a new normal relative to customer needs, macro-economics, and sustainability goals. Issues faced by our customer's impact many in the value chain including Bayer. Some of the issues included supply and



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demand - commodity prices, exchange rate volatility, customer liquidity and profitability, and regulatory and other trends. Sustainability is an opportunity for us to work with others to develop climate-smart solutions that enable farmers to adopt and create innovative business models to help tackle climate change. Then also to help growers protect their crops and lessen their environmental impact, so they can produce more with less with an enhanced set of tools and choices. Also to help smallholder farmers in developing regions also get access to tools, technologies and innovative

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business models. Finally, to continue to focus on biodiversity and conservation.

**Mary:** Why did you decide to pursue the MAB program?

**Nanci:** The MAB program provided an excellent view into other parts of the value chain.

There were individuals with a vast set of experiences relative to agriculture: farmers, ranchers, input providers, equipment manufacturers, insurance specialists, lobbyist, food suppliers. It was interesting to better understand similarities of opportunities and challenges.

**Mary:** How have you benefited from the MAB program?

**Nanci:** I developed a network of individuals in the industry, and learned new techniques and approaches to issues.

**Mary:** Tell me a little about your thesis. Why did you choose your topic? And what did you learn?

**Nanci:** My thesis covered the skill sets needed for finance departments for a large multi-national company. We utilized it to assess our Finance employee base. From this we decided to increase expertise in key specialty areas like: Accounting, Tax, etc. This highlighted the need to ensure Finance individuals continued to gain a broader understanding of our customers and agriculture.

**Mary:** What advice do you have for students regarding the thesis?

**Nanci:** My advice would be to choose a topic that is meaningful and interesting to you. Also, just get started and get something on paper, and adjust as your project takes shape. Finally, to strive for excellence not perfection.

**Mary:** Do you recommend the MAB program to others?

**Nanci:** I would recommend this program to others because it provides an opportunity to increase knowledge, networks and collaborations.

# WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2023

## Animal Health Cohort

### Guy Allen

Senior Agricultural Economist  
International Grains Program  
Manhattan, Kansas

### Sam Bormann

Companion Animal Global Marketing  
Manager  
Merck Animal Health  
Madison, New Jersey

### Tammi Epp

Director of Monogastric Health  
Research & Technical Support  
Diamond V/Cargill  
Ottumwa, Iowa

### Kyler Jost

Business Analyst  
Merck Animal Health  
DeSoto, Kansas

### Brian Ostby

Assistant Enterprise Manager  
University of Wisconsin-Platteville  
Platteville, Wisconsin

## Morgan Steele

Quality Assurance  
Anchor Ingredients  
Fargo, North Dakota

## Manhattan Cohort

### Cody Barilla

Licensed Real Estate and Chattel  
Appraiser  
American Ag Credit  
Pratt, Kansas

### Derek Brown

Chattel Evaluator  
American AgCredit  
Turlock, California

### Ashleigh DiMattina

Manufacturing Specialist  
Elanco Animal Health  
Lenexa, Kansas

### Lindsay Fager

Risk Management Associate  
StoneX (INTL FCStone)  
Bowling Green, Ohio

2023 continued on page 4

