What’s inside:

Welcome to the MAB Class of 2024
Meet our new students from August 2021 and January 2022.

New MAB instructor & staff
Welcome new members of the MAB team.

Alumni Spotlight
Jennifer McDonald, MAB Class of 2016.

MAB Theses
Recent completed thesis projects.

Add your MAB
to LinkedIn profile.

Student & Alumni News
Read all the latest updates.

Webinars and Events
#MABforLife and Calendar of Events.
**Animal Health - August 2021**

**Brandon Craighead**  
FieldTech Intern  
Aqua Spy  
Central Valley, California

**Beverly Hampton**  
Stakeholder Relations Manager  
National Milk Producers Federation  
Arlington, Virginia

**Sage Hofer**  
Inside & Digital Sales Representative  
Zoetis  
Bridgewater, South Dakota

**Jay Ostmeyer**  
Account Manager  
AgroLiquid  
Manhattan, Kansas

**Alina Porta**  
Production Manager  
The HANOR Company  
Mooreland, Oklahoma

**Amanda Smith**  
Product Development and Integrity Manager  
Outward Hound  
Centennial, Colorado

**Riley Smith**  
Credit Analyst  
GreenStone FCS  
Alma, Michigan

**Mikhayla Zimmerman**  
Overland Park, Kansas

**Manhattan Cohort - January 2022**

**Daniel Benjamin**  
Real Property Appraiser  
County of Sonoma  
Santa Rosa, California

**Parry Briggs**  
Regional Vice President – Business Development  
Frontier Farm Credit  
Northeast Kansas

**Virginia Daly**  
Product Manager  
Gowan USA  
Kansas City, Missouri

**Malinda Foster**  
Senior Production Planner  
Cargill Animal Nutrition  
Chillicothe, Missouri

**Charles Hopkins**  
Relationship Manager  
Rabo Agrifinance  
Idaho Falls, Idaho

**Lauren Hutchinson**  
Agriculturist  
Spreckels Sugar  
Brawley, California

**Sean Johnstone**  
Ag Field Collateral Inspector  
Rabo Agrifinance  
Big Cabin, Oklahoma

**Kerri Kistler**  
Alternative Protein Food Scientist  
Cargill Protein  
Wichita, Kansas

**Steven Locke**  
Senior Associate  
Frank AGI  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

**Anastasia Meyer**  
Marshall County Extension Agent  
K-State Research & Extension  
Marysville, Kansas

**Taylor Mock**  
Science Educator and Coach  
Miller County High School  
Colquitt, Georgia

**Sean Moore**  
Key Account Manager  
Marel  
Des Moines, Iowa

**Ryan Pankoke**  
Food Inspector  
USDA Nebraska  
Grand Island, Nebraska

**Samantha Schon**  
Operations Manager  
Dairy Management LLC  
Dryden, New York

**Gunnar Strickland**  
Inside Sales Rep  
Daikin TMI LLC  
Kansas City, Kansas

**Geoffrey Winning**  
Case Manager  
Alexander Shunnarah Personal Injury Lawyers  
Birmingham, Alabama

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*MAB Class of 2024 students visit with MAB Class of 2000 Kurt David, President and CEO of Eagle Communications, during the March 2022 campus session banquet.*
Dr. Keith Harris ('06) became the National Program Leader and Acting Division Director in the Division of Family and Consumer Sciences at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) over the summer of 2021. When he left K-State, it created an opportunity for another MAB alum to continue the practice of an industry professional teaching in the MAB program. Leah Suellentrop ('02) is sharing her more than 20+ years’ experience of international trading and supply chain with current MAB students through teaching the AGEC 730 Applied Agribusiness Logistics course.

“Leah’s professional track record speaks for itself with respect to supply chain management, and more importantly, building the relationships that support her career. She has consistently sought challenge in her roles, and selected opportunities where she knew she could provide value to a company, but also grow as a practitioner. The experience she brings to the AGEC 730 course is unique and I am thankful she has been willing to provide just-in-time assistance to the program at a critical stage for us,” Deborah Kohl, MAB Managing Director said.

Suellentrop is a marketer and international business development professional with 20 years’ experience marketing, trading and exporting dairy commodities/ingredients to 80 different global companies. She has held a variety of positions, including managerial, directorial, and VP. Suellentrop earned a bachelor in Agricultural Economics, and a Master of Agribusiness at Kansas State University.

She spent the first portion of her career trading dairy commodities that involved developing and implementing an international business model for a branch office in Singapore including setting up a new business unit, hiring staff, and relocating to Singapore for three years before returning to Chicago. In 2019, Suellentrop joined Land O’Lakes to develop their business in Asia Pacific and is currently leading a cross-functional team to develop and maintain a supply chain network in Asia Pacific, which is utilized to produce specialty powders.

Sarah Tortella joined the MAB team at K-State as a Program Manager/Admissions Representative in August 2021. Sarah earned her Bachelor of Arts in Telecommunications at Ball State University, as well as her commission as an Army Signal Officer through Ball State’s ROTC program. Sarah served in the military for 11 years. The Army brought Sarah and her family to Fort Riley, Kansas, several times during her tenure as an Army officer and military spouse.

Most recently, Sarah worked for Caterpillar supporting four Building Construction Products (BCP) facilities in Kansas, Texas, and Arkansas in talent acquisition and administrative support roles gaining knowledge and experience in the current operating environment of the construction industry.

Sarah is married to Frank; they have four children Callie, Eva, Frankie, and Jimmy, and two chocolate Labrador retrievers, Dutchess and KC. In their free time, they raise chickens, participate in activities with their church and 4-H, and spend time at their ranch just north of Manhattan.

Sarah can be reached at stortella@ksu.edu or 785-532-3918.
Jennifer McDonald, a 2016 graduate of the Master of Agribusiness (MAB) program was selected as the 2022 K-State Global Campus Alumni Fellow. She was on campus April 19-22 to accept her award and talk with students and faculty.

“Anyone can have a dream to start a business and inspire others to the same. Having my name on a banner outside of Waters Hall [as the Alumni Fellow] means that if I can do it, others can do it,” McDonald said.

McDonald is founder, CEO and head winemaker at Jenny Dawn Cellars. She founded the company in 2016, launched her first wine in 2017 and opened the Wichita urban winery in Union Station in November 2019.

Prior to starting the winery, McDonald worked as a human resource and recruiting professional for over 10 years for Wichita businesses, including Wolters Kluwer, Redguard, Cargill, Zerochoas and Koch.

“I enjoyed working with agriculture students helping them find careers in the companies I worked for. Then I started thinking about a career in agriculture for myself,” McDonald said. “When I started the MAB program, I knew I wanted to one day open a winery. The MAB program allowed me to look at the business as a whole, helped me determine the financial structure I would need, and how I would develop and sell my products. It was a good fit for me with the classes online as well as in person.”

McDonald started her career in winemaking at home and won a gold, three silvers and two bronze medals from the Kansas Winemakers and Grape Growers Association. As part of the MAB program, she developed research data on consumer wine preferences and developed a business plan for an urban winery for her thesis.

“My MAB thesis laid the foundation for my business plan. The research allowed me to create a business model working with growers in Kansas and building a supply chain in California to produce wines,” she said.

Her Kansas Chardonnay received a silver medal in the 2021 San Francisco Chronicle wine competition. McDonald won the 2017 and 2019 Chardonnay Best of Class in the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition and a bronze for her pinot noir in 2019. Her 2016 chardonnay and pinot noir won a silver and bronze medal in the New World International Wine Competition.

She is active in Urban Professionals, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Leadership Kansas and Pipeline Entrepreneurs.

McDonald has received the Wichita Innovations in Business Award presented by Young Professionals of Wichita. She was recognized by the Wichita Business Journal in 2017 as one of Wichita's top 40 people in business under age 40 and received the publication’s 2018 Innovation and Enterprise award, and the 2020 Women in Business award. In 2019, she received the Distinguished 400 Award by the African American History Commission and in 2021 received the Black Women Owned Business of Distinction from the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce.

She has an undergraduate degree in public administration from Doane College. McDonald also completed Wichita State University e2e's collaborative start-up accelerator program, LaunchPrep, and has taken winemaking classes from UC Davis.

She and her husband, Matthew, have two children, Desmond and Emma.

Hear more of Jennifer's story at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGLf31tG5Os.
**Why Purple?**

Why did Jennifer choose purple as the brand color for Jenny Dawn Cellars?

“Purple is the color of grapes. Purple is the color of royalty, and we are a premium wine brand. And I’m a K-State Alum!”
THESIS DEFENSES

Shane Byers
Class of 2022
Efficiency of Vehicle Usage: A Look into the Adoption of Telematics on Fleet Vehicles for Maximum Optimization

Tim Engel
Class of 2021
The Feasibility of a DRP Margin Private Product

Cynthia Garlick
Class of 2022
An Analysis of the Economic Effects of Improper Electronic Data Interchange Methods at a Small Pennsylvania Foundry

Haley Hunt
Class of 2022
Significance of Select Key Indicators on Farm Credit System Merger Activity: 2002-2020

Kevin Kohls
Class of 2017
Case Study on Customer Demanded Technology Feature

Jarod DeTurk
Class of 2022
Marketing Analysis and Value Perception of Agronomic Services

Cory Friedli
Class of 2022
Five-Year Profitability Study and Future Farm Growth Analysis for Friedli Farms

Emily Garwood
Class of 2020
Demand and Willingness to Pay for Risk Management Executive Education in the Food and Agriculture Industry

Chris Jorgensen
Class of 2021
Cost Management on a Large, Northern Plains Cow-Calf Operation

Allison Jenkins
Class of 2022
A Business Strategy for Cultivated Advising
THESIS DEFENSES

Jon LaPorte
Class of 2022
Evaluation of Farm Client Participation in Michigan State University TelFarm Program

Christa Milton
Class of 2022
Impact of Changes in the Federal Estate Tax and Stepped-Up Tax laws on a Representative Farm in Central Kansas

Sarah Niederee
Class of 2022
Company A Retail Optimization

Mary Scheffler
Class of 2019
Willingness to Pay for Biodiversity Fish Preservation in the Smoky Hill River Basin

Ryan Schiess
Class of 2022
An Assessment of Factors Influencing Technician Turnover Rates in John Deere Dealerships

Leighton Wasinger
Class of 2022
The Economic Benefits of On-Farm Grain Storage in Western Kansas

Steven Whittington
Class of 2022
Economic and Financial Feasibility of a Diversified Market Farm in West Michigan

James Williamson
Class of 2019
An Evaluation of Terminal Value Calculations and their Impact to the Return of a Sacramento Valley Almond Investment

Leigh Wilmes
Class of 2022
Antigen Batch Cycle Time Analysis in an Animal Vaccine Manufacturing Facility

Thesis projects can be found at http://krex.k-state.edu or by logging into the MAB Community Page on Canvas.
Did you know you can add your Master of Agribusiness degree to your LinkedIn profile?
All you have to do is add MAB by editing your last name.

Add MAB to your profile

Let’s flood LinkedIn with MABs!
It’s a great way to display your educational credentials, as well as grow your connections and network with current students and alumni.
Add to your profile and send us a screenshot!
Sosthenes Mwansa (’13) recently started a new position as an Agriculture and Development Consultant in Zambia.

Kurt Anderson (’14) accepted a new position as Product Manager, Proactive Customer Service at AGCO Corporation.

Kyle Patten (’14) is now Vice President of Aftermarket- Ag Operations for C & B Operations, LLC.

Cretin Curtis (’15) has accepted a Writer Position for John Deere and moved to the Kansas City Metro area.

Jake Mauer (’15) is now the Product Marketing Manager for the Monitor and Analyze Products with CNH Industrial.

Andy Montgomery (’15) is now a Commercial Unit Head, NK Seeds at Syngenta.

Winnie Pele (’15) recently became a Research Associate for the International Water Management Institute in South Zambia.

Colin Peterson (’15) accepted a position as the West Region Manager with PFG America/Deutz-Fahr USA.

Darren Blew (’16) recently became the Senior Corporate Continuous Improvement Manager at Smithfield Foods.

Tiffany Ligtenberg (’16) was recently promoted to COO for Mitchell Investments in New Mexico. The company processes and sells green chiles and chile-based products.

Eric Putnam (’16) recently started a new position as Quality Assurance and Food Safety Manager at Andes Candies.

Ben Blue (’17) is now the Portfolio Leader at Darigold.

John Sachse (’17) and his wife, Kinsley, had their second son, Elliott, on June 3, 2021. He also was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Kansas Army National Guard in August.

Erin Clem (’18) and her husband, Derrick, welcomed their daughter, Kenlee Anne on April 27 who joins big brother, Carter.

Grant Gondell (’18) is now the Head of Global Commodities at United Dairymen of Arizona.

Kayla Lichty (’18) and her husband welcomed Henley Lynn, on October 25, 2021. She joins big sister and brother, Harper and Hayden.

Sydney (Van Ravenswaay) Schuck (’18) married Adam Schuck on July 17, 2021.

Brittni (Lamoreaux) Brown (’19) is now an Academic Program Specialist, Clerkship Coordinator at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. She also welcomed her second child, Parker Emery on June 9, 2021.

Sara Trattles (’19) was promoted to VP of Commercial Lending at GreenStone Farm Credit Services.

Logan Hooyer (’20) recently started a new position as a Fats and Oils Trader at Saint Paul Commodities.

Pierce Randall (’20) started a new position as Sales and Inventory Manager at Salem Farm Supply.

Dylan Romney (’20) has taken the role of CFO for Agricola de la Sierra Madre, the parent company of his family’s farming and processing operation. He also moved to Texas.

Erin Stickel (’20) is now the Eastern Corn Belt Account Manager - Swine for DSM Nutritional Products LLC.

Cassie (Kniebel) Aherin (’21) and her husband, Dustin, announced the birth of their first child, Dane Gabriel, on January 16. She also accepted a Global Project Director position with Vytelle.


MAB students and alumni:
Have you moved or changed jobs? Scan the QR code below to update your information with us or email Mary at mjbowen@ksu.edu

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**Upcoming #TuesdayTalks Webinars:**

- **June 28** - #MABforLife - Impacts of Changing Interest Rate with Dr. Brian Briggeman
- **July 12** - MAB Info Webinar
- **July 26** - #MABforLife - Carbon Credits with Dr. Nathan Hendricks
- **August 9** - MAB Info Webinar
- **August 23** - #MABforLife - Digital Ag with Dr. Terry Griffin and Alumni Panel
- **September 13** - MAB Info Webinar
- **September 27** - #MABforLife - TBA
- **October 11** - MAB Info Webinar
- **October 25** - #MABforLife - TBA
- **November 8** - MAB Info Webinar
- **November 22** - #MABforLife - TBA

MAB Alumni - you should’ve received a survey to get your input on hot topics/current issues/MAB skills refreshers to cover in our #MABforLife webinars. If you did not receive, send any ideas/suggestions to Sarah at stortella@ksu.edu.

For more info or register online: mab.k-state.edu/webinars.html

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