Introducing...The Class of 2004

Thomas Carlson  
Partner & Finance Manager, Carlson Brothers of Darwin.  
Darwin, Minnesota

Jeff Carver  
Domestic Wheat Manager, Cargill, Inc.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Debbie Clough  
Account Service Representative, Security Benefit.  
Topeka, Kansas

Michael Fink  
Operations Manager, Lanoha Nursery.  
Omaha, Nebraska

Michael Frame  
Sales Manager - Western Region, Cenex.  
Spokane, Washington

Kirby Hettver  
Extension Educator, University of Minnesota.  
Morris, Minnesota

Travis Holt  
Director of Commodity Marketing, Equity Cooperative  
Livestock Sales Association.  
Baraboo, Wisconsin

Maria Pilar Jativa  
Production Manager, Clorosa.  
Quito, Ecuador

Brent Johnson  
Mill & Elevator Manager, General Mills Operations, Inc.  
Carlisle, Iowa

Marvin Knoeber  
Agricultural Educator, Garden City Public Schools.  
Garden City, Kansas

Alan Lana  
Production Supervisor, American Ingredients Company.  
Kansas City, Kansas

Ryan Lemke  
Precision Farming Manager, Heartland Coop.  
Des Moines, Iowa

Todd Marsh  
Owner, Pharmco Industries.  
Platte, South Dakota

Todd Meyer  
Country Director, US Grains Council.  
Beijing, China

Rex Nelson  
Owner Operator, Curtis Creek Farm.  
Curtis, Nebraska

Chris Nobles  
Farm Business Management Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension.  
Franklin County, New York

Erich Olson  
Account Manager, PIC USA.  
Brookings, South Dakota

Leslie Olson  
Account Manager, Alberta Treasury Branch.  
Westlock, Alberta Canada

Mark Orchard  
Animal Science Instructor, Brigham Young University-Idaho.  
Rexburg, Idaho

Justin Ringler  
Agronomist, Crop Service.  
Sylvan Grove, Kansas

Alison Rosenblum  
eBay Wine Taster, Winetasting.com.  
Glen Allen, California

Keith Schoenfeld  
Financial Services Officer, AgStar Financial Services.  
St. Cloud, Minnesota

Ronald Seeley  
Technical Sales & Service Manager, Microthermics.  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Marilyn Vass  
Former Animal Science Technician, Kansas State University Cooperative Extension.  
Garden City, Kansas

Steven Weber  
National Strategic Manager, John Deere Credit, E-Commerce.  
Des Moines, Iowa

Evan Winchester  
Agriculture Coordinator, Seward County Community College.  
Liberal, Kansas

Dr. Joe Arata Honored by Mortar Board

Dr. Joe Arata, assistant professor of agricultural economics, was honored by Mortar Board Honor Society for outstanding service to students in the College of Agriculture.  Mortar Board honored one faculty member from each college for caring, dedicated, and knowledgeable service in teaching.

MAB Program wins ADEC Award

The MAB program received honorable mention in the American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC) Excellence in Distance Education Award.  This is the second consecutive year the program has been honored by ADEC.
MAB Students Complete Thesis Projects

Class of 2000

Class of 2001
Ray Hammarlund, “A Consumer Survey to Identify Marketing Issues for Organic Milk”
John Larkin, “The Development of a Malt Pellets Merchandising Program: Market Analysis, Price Discovery and Risk Management”
Carlos Piana, “A Study of the Potential for Telesignos to Invest in Fresh-Cut Fruit Processing”
Dave Spencer, “A Comparative Study of Business Structure and Financial Performance of Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota Cooperatives”
Bryan Terry, “Agent Performance and Customer Satisfaction: Results from Florida Cooperative Extension”
Jason Yan, “Quality Variation of Feed Ingredients and Products and Its Economic Impact”

Class of 2002
Leah Suellentrop, “International Marketing Plan for Original Juan Specialty Foods”

Calendar

March 17-22: MAB Campus Session
April 22: Comparative Food and Agricultural Systems begins (optional elective)

Faculty Profile

Dr. Jeffery Williams
Professor of Agricultural Economics

Areas of Interest: Risk Management, Farm Management, and Natural Resource Economics
Home Town/State: Troy, Pennsylvania
Joined Department: 1980
Courses Taught: Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, Agribusiness Risk Management (MAB), and Advanced Farm Economics
Favorite aspect of MAB Students: “MAB students have a high level of motivation to learn economic concepts and methods for decision making while coping with the pressure of holding full time business positions. This is stimulating for the MAB instructor.”

In The News

Robert Deraas, Class of 2003, has been named General Manager of Pacific International Rice Mills, Inc. (PIRMI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Busch Agricultural Resources, Inc. His wife Barbara, and children Ben 14, Stephen 10, and Sarah 7, will be relocating with him to Sacramento, California this spring.

Shannon Grapes-Kelly, Class of 2003, was married on December 1, 2001.

Dominic Melendez, Class of 2002, has accepted a merchandising position with ADM, and is currently in training. He will receive a permanent assignment with the company upon completion of the training program.

Sara Morey, Class of 2001, is currently in the county officer trainee program with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). She will be assigned a county position upon completion of the training program.

Lautaro Perez Rocha, Class of 2002, has accepted a position with the National Beef Institute of Uruguay.

Steve Stephens, Class of 2000, is the Senior Vice President of Farm Credit of Southwest Kansas.

Dave Rock, Class of 2003, has been named the Manager, Worldwide Parts & Service Sales for the John Deere Worldwide Ag Division.

Leah Suellentrop, Class of 2002, has accepted a position as an International Marketing Specialist with the United States Meat Export Federation in Denver, CO. She manages the ASIAN (Southeast Asia), Taiwan, and Hong Kong/China regions.