

Alumni Success Stories

Jonathan Bateman

B.S. in Agribusiness and Applied Economics, 2006

Hometown/Background

I grew up on a western Ohio farm located just off of the Indiana border in New Weston.

Why did you select this major?

Without a doubt, my four years at Ohio State were some of the most exciting times of my life and I wouldn't trade it for anything. Selecting an agricultural major seemed only natural to me, so I selected Agribusiness and Applied Economics – as I enjoyed being involved in the art of business and finding ways to make money with the farm. I was fortunate to receive a few of the great scholarships offered within the department as well, and that is something I will be forever grateful.

What was your minor?

I loved traveling and exploring new places as a student at OSU. After following the Buckeye football team to Arizona and Florida in bowl games, and attending club trips to various corners of the United States, I decided it was time to explore the world. I took advantage of the study abroad opportunities offered by the college and traveled to Australia during my third year of school. This three month stay down under not only opened my eyes to the world, but it helped propel me to the completion of my International Studies minor.

Employment Experience Post-Graduation

My hard work in college paid off, as I received an offer to work for NASCAR driver Tony Stewart in a marketing and sales position within his business. I began work for Stewart in June of 2006, following my graduation in the Horseshoe. While the position doesn't center around the agricultural industry, there isn't a thing I do where my experiences and knowledge gained in the college don't come into play.

Awards/Honors

Past-President, Agribusiness Club

Department scholarship recipient

College student council member

Chris Bursiek

B. S. in Agribusiness and Applied Economics, 2003

Hometown-background

I grew up in Gibsonburg, Ohio on a small part time family farm. I was very active in FFA and 4-H.

Why did you select this major?

I selected Agribusiness and Applied Economics because I felt it would be a good degree that was wide based. With my degree I could work in any industry, but would have the specialized knowledge to excel in the agricultural industry.

Minor

My minor was crop science.

Employment experience post-graduation

After graduation I became employed by Deere & Co. their marketing representative program. After two years in this program, I was promoted to Territory Customer Support Manager. Currently, I work with 14 locations troubleshooting agricultural machines, helping the service departments administer warranties and being profitable.

Awards/Honors

Graduate Summa Cum Laude

Chad DiDonato

B.S. in Agribusiness and Applied Economics, 2000

Hometown-background

I am from Wooster, Ohio. My parents were teachers/administrators and I worked on a relative's dairy farm during the summer break.

Why did you select this major?

I had originally planned to return to the dairy farm.

Minor

Animal Science

Employment experience post-graduation

After graduating from Ohio State, I went to work for Cargill in the Management Training Program. In this position, I have been a business manager in Fort Worth, Texas; Syracuse, NY; & Kansas City, KS.

Awards/Honors

Top 10 Senior in the College of FAES

Past President of the Agribusiness Club

Past-President of Alpha Gamma Sigma fraternity

Member of the Edward S. 'Beanie' Drake Endowment Fund

Stacey Dvorak

B.S. in Agribusiness and Applied Economics, 1999

Hometown-background

I'm from Wilmington, Ohio which is a rural, agricultural community. It is a college town (Wilmington College) but I had to be a Buckeye the minute I came to campus.

Why did you select this major?

I chose this major because I wanted to work in a business that was big enough to support me but small enough to care. No other college would be as "family" oriented as Ag Campus...and no other department would go above and beyond the call of duty to help you like Ag Econ would.

Minor

I chose consumer affairs as my minor because it would diversify my resume and experiences. This minor was offered on main campus and it was a good compliment to a business major. I studied consumer relations, consumer spending, personal finance and marketing. I do feel I use this minor in conjunction with my major every day.

Employment experience post-graduation

I worked for seven years at Farm Credit Service (a cooperative lender who keeps all loans in house). Then in November, 2005 I moved to Union National Mortgage Company for more experience in mortgage banking and the secondary loan market.

Awards/Honors

Department scholarship recipient

NAMA marketing team member

Student employee in the College Office

Sigma Alpha sorority member

Chad Endsley

Graduation year

B.S. in Agribusiness and Applied Economics, 2003

Why did you select this major?

This major provided me with a broad perspective of the economics of American and global agriculture, and it gave me the tools I need to work with small agribusinesses and farming operations. It also prompted me to attend law school and practice in the area of agricultural law.

Employment experience post-graduation

After receiving my B.S. degree, I attended the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University. I received my Juris Doctor degree in 2006 and began working for the Columbus law firm of Chester, Wilcox & Saxbe, LLP.

Chad Forster

Graduation year

B.S. in Agribusiness and Applied Economics, 1993

Why did you select this major?

This major gave me a solid business foundation with an area of specialization. My undergraduate degree from Ohio State allowed me to get a great start in my career by landing a solid first job upon graduation.

Advance degrees (major and institution)

M.B.A- Finance; Ohio State University, 1997

Employment experience post-graduation

After graduating from Ohio State, I worked for Continental Grain Company as a Grain Merchandiser in Ohio and Illinois. I returned to Ohio State in 1995 to work full time on my MBA. After receiving my MBA from Ohio State, I went to work for Ford Motor Company in Dearborn. At Ford, I have spent my career in Purchasing. I have held various positions at Ford, each with increasing responsibility. I currently live in Nanjing, China. I am responsible for all Ford purchasing exports to N.A. from China. Beyond exporting, we are establishing a Global Purchasing Center in Nanjing to handle commodity Purchasing globally for certain commodities.

Awards/Honors

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, Young Professional Award, 2004

Brian Gehres

Graduation year

B.S. in Agribusiness and Applied Economics, 2004

Hometown-background

I grew up in Van Wert, Ohio

Minor

Political Science

Employment experience post-graduation

I am currently employed by The Richwood Banking Company as a loan officer

Jenifer Weaver

Graduation year

B.S. Agribusiness and Applied Economics, 1997

Hometown-background

I grew up on a small beef farm in North Jackson, OH.

Major

This major allowed me to combine my interests in business and agriculture. I attended numerous Ohio Farm Bureau conferences on the state level and national level and learned about the job opportunities available.

Minor

My minor was ag education

Employment experience post-graduation:

Upon graduation, I worked for Unverferth Mfg, in the area of product marketing and advertising. In 2000, I went to work for Deerfield Farms Service, Inc. I started as a grain originator and truck dispatcher. I was promoted in 2003 to Grain Department Manager. I currently manage five grain elevators in Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. We merchandise approximately 4 million bushels of corn, beans and wheat per year.

Awards/Honors

Certified Grain Merchant

Ohio Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture State Finalist - 2003

Appointed to Ohio Farm Bureau State Young Farmer Committee - 2 year term.

Selected to do some training and speaking to grain elevator operators in the midwest with the White Commercial Corporation.