



Where Are They Now? 2014 MACA YLSP Recipients

4/20/15

Updated 3/2/16



Patrick O'Brien is from California's San Joaquin Valley where agriculture is big business. He chose Colorado State University to pursue a degree in Soil and Crop Sciences. He's interning with Servi-Tech in Burlington, Colorado where he will work alongside a crop specialist.

Update - Starting June I will be working as an agronomist for Valley Tech Agricultural Services in Tulare, CA.

Update – 3/2/16

Valley Tech Ag Lab in Tulare, CA as an agronomist.



Illinois native **Nick Steppig** is majoring in Crop Sciences with a special focus on plant biotechnology/molecular biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His 2014 internship is with Dow AgroSciences where he'll work as the Northern Crops Crop Protection intern in Davenport, Iowa. He's also interned with DuPont Crop Protection and DuPont Pioneer.

Update - Things are going well at the University of Illinois. I am wrapping up my final semester and just got back from spring break in Florida! I am keeping busy with my undergraduate research project with Dr. Pat Tranel where I am assaying populations of waterhemp for resistance to VLCFA herbicides. So far I have been able to create an assay, but none of the populations tested have shown resistance. Upon graduation in May, I will be headed to the University of Arkansas to work with Dr. Jason Norsworthy pursuing an M.S. in Weed Science. I am very excited to be finishing up one chapter of my life and ready to tackle the next. I

continue to appreciate the financial assistance MACA provided me this year and hope that others at the U of I will take advantage of the Young Leaders Scholar Program.

Update – 3/2/16

Following the MACA meeting I finished up at the University of Illinois in May of 2015 and immediately started a Master's program at the University of Arkansas under Dr. Jason Norsworthy. I am studying weed science and my personal research is examining the potential for insecticide seed treatments to reduce herbicide damage in soybean and grain sorghum. Aside from my own studies, I work very closely with about ten other graduate students in weed science and have gained some experience with rice and cotton as well. I'm hoping to finish up my M.S. next spring and am planning on pursuing a doctorate degree afterwards. I'm very appreciative of MACA and still have fond memories of my time in Indianapolis for the annual meeting!

Regards,

Nick Steppig



Purdue University's Nolan Sampson is pursuing his degree in Farm Management. His 2014 internship will be at AgriGold working in the northern region of Indiana. His internship will consist of marketing and sales, agronomy research, logistics and administrative.

Update - I am graduating from Purdue University's College of Agriculture with a degree in Farm Management. Currently my fiancée Kelsey Tuholski and I are further developing our beekeeping business (sampsonliquidgold.com) as well as our freezer beef business (sampsonbeef.com). I am also currently a dealer for AgriGold hybrids, which I started in August. Upon graduation, I start my full time position at Tuholski Farms Inc. as a production associate. I will also be helping on my Parents farm, Sampson Farms. I am excited to work with my future father in law as well as my parents doing what I love, farming.

Update – 3/2/16

He is working as a farmer for Tuholski Farms, N+K Sampson Farm and Nolan Sampson mowing & More



Representing Iowa State University is **Jeffrey Barnes** who is pursuing two majors - Agronomy and Seed Science. He's interning with John Deere, based in Olathe, Kansas and will serve as a Marketing Intern learning the new products and developing presentations for the products.

Update - I am currently finishing up my last semester at Iowa State University. I will be graduating with a degree in Agronomy and a degree in Seed Science. I have accepted a position with John Deere as a Marketing Representative with a focus in Agronomy. I'm moving to Ottumwa, IA to serve as the Marketing Representative for John Deere hay and forage. My focus will be on the marketing of round balers, small square balers, windrowers, and mower-conditioners.

Update – 3/2/16

I am currently in the process of moving from Ottumwa, IA to Olathe, KS, still in the Marketing Representative Development Program. My project in Olathe will be focused on John Deere's LEAD event. LEAD stands for Leading Economic and Agronomic Decisions. The LEAD event will include farmers and dealers and we will essentially have a field day where we talk about the whole corn production system and what farmers can do to improve their agronomics, producing more yield, and therefore improving their bottom line.



Kurtis Clawson is from Kansas State University where he is pursuing a degree in Agricultural Economics and Agronomy. He'll be working for Monsanto as a Channel seed sales intern in southeast Kansas and southwest Missouri. He grew up on a family farm and ranch in southwest Kansas where they used center pivot irrigation for their corn, wheat, cotton and sorghum.

Update - Currently, I am finishing up my senior year at Kansas State University and will graduate in May with a major in agronomy and a minor in agricultural economics. After graduation, I am excited to return to the family farm and ranch in southwest Kansas. Some activities that I am working on include The Center for Risk Management hog index research project for the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and preparation for the National Agri-Marketing Association national competition in Kansas City April 15-17.

Update – 3/2/16

Started Working at KLC Farm, May 2015 - Satanta, Kansas



Addison Spolyar is studying at Michigan State University where she is majoring in Crop and Soil Sciences with a minor in Agricultural Business Management. Her internship, the second summer, is with Helena Chemical Company at their retail location in Conklin, MI. While she doesn't have farming in the family background, 4-H and FFA sparked her interest at an early age.

Update - I will be graduating in May with my B.S. in Agronomy and I have accepted a position with CHS working as a Sales Agronomist in West Michigan.

Update – 3/2/16

My senior year of college I studied abroad in Belize learning about their agricultural industry. After graduating with my degree in Crop and Soil Sciences I accepted a position as a Sales Agronomist for CHS Inc. in West Michigan. I am currently enrolled in the online Masters in Agronomy program through Iowa State University.



Kelsey Mussman, a Minnesota native is attending the University of Minnesota and majoring in Agriculture Education Leadership and Communications with a minor in Agronomy and Animal Science. She'll be working as an intern at Genesis Co-op as a second year intern.

Update - I will be graduating in May from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities with a Bachelor's of Science in Agriculture Education Leadership and Communications with a minor in Animal Science. I am currently on the job hunt for a position with the agriculture industry.

Update – 3/2/16

I am working at Davisco foods in Le Sueur Minnesota. I am a HR recruiter and continually meet and do interviews all day! Love it!

Personal life- getting married in 09/24/16 to a hog farmer. We live on a hog farm right now and finish out 6,000 hogs a year! Run about 400 acres with his parents!



University of Missouri's Clarissa Brown is majoring in Agriculture Education. Her internship will be with Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC for the second year in a row where she'll serve as a Developmental Sales Intern. She'll travel Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.

Update - I am currently student teaching at an FFA chapter in Missouri. As I prepare for graduation in May of this year, I am also planning a wedding and beginning a career with Beck's Hybrids. I will continue to work in Missouri with growers to strive for higher yields with a farmer-first mentality.

Update – 3/2/16

I am married now (Clarissa Cauthorn.) I work as a seed saleswoman for Beck's Hybrids. My husband and I reside in Mexico, Missouri where I serve on the local Farm Bureau board, the YF/YFW Officer team, and also teach Sunday school. Andrew and I are also state Young Farmers and Ranchers representatives for the northeast territory.



Brennan Costello is a University of Nebraska student majoring in Agribusiness and will be interning with Monsanto as a Field Sale Intern. He'll work with a local sales team on a variety of locally defined projects. He's also served as a National FFA officer.

Update - I am still enrolled at the University of Nebraska as an agribusiness student. I will graduate next May with a Bachelor's in Agribusiness and Minor in Leadership and Entrepreneurship. This summer I will be in a Merchandising internship with the Scoular Company in Omaha, Nebraska.

Update – 3/2/16

*I will be graduating from UNL in May and am still fielding job offers from AgTech Businesses. I currently work for an ag Tech startup called FarmAfield.
www.farmafield.com*



Jodi Boe is a North Dakota State University student working on a double major in Crop and Weed Science and Ag Economics with a minor in Soil Science. She'll be the Technical Crop Production Intern for Bayer CropScience at the Northern Field Technology Station in Sabin, MN where she will assist scientists evaluate crop protection compounds that have recently been developed.

Update - I am finishing up my first senior year at NDSU in Crop and Weed Sciences and Agricultural Economics and will be interning this summer with BASF at their research farm in Seymour, Illinois. My internship will be more field based than on farm research based, but I look forward to learn about both. This fall I'll start my second senior year and will graduate in the spring of 2016. I will pursue a master's degree thereafter.

Update – 3/2/16

I am set to graduate on May 14th from North Dakota State University with degrees in Crop and Weed Sciences and Agricultural Economics. I will be moving to Indiana in May and will be pursuing a Master's degree in Weed Science at Purdue University.



Jade Kampsen is majoring in Agriculture Education with a minor in Agronomy & Journalism at South Dakota State University. She'll be working at the Central Valley Cooperative at their Blooming Prairie, MN location as a sales and marketing intern.

Update - I am still studying at South Dakota State University. I am planning to graduate in the fall of 2015. For the coming summer, I am signed with WinField as a regional agronomy intern and am looking forward to the experience!

Update – 3/2/16

Working at Central Farm Sales Cooperative in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota as a sales rep. She started in December 2015 and loves her job!



Mikaela Breunig is studying Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She'll be interning at Monsanto in St. Louis as the Seed Physiology intern in the Quality Assurance department.

Update - I am currently finishing up my junior year at UW-Madison where I'm still majoring in Plant Pathology and pursuing a certificate in Life Science Business Management. This summer I will be interning with Monsanto with their Corn Pathology group out of Waterman, Illinois. Thanks for checking in, and for the awesome experience earlier this year at your conference!

Update – 3/2/16

I will be attending Michigan State University, pursuing a master's in Plant Pathology working in the lab of Dr. Martin Chilvers.