



Hello Industry Colleague,

I am delighted that you are interested in learning more about Aggies for Fresh and recruiting bright young talent to our industry. Drew and I, along with the DMA Solutions team, founded Aggies for Fresh with the vision to make Texas A&M one of the top schools in the country for feeding talent into our industry. This organization provides scholarships for students at Texas A&M to attend events like the Viva Fresh Produce Expo in addition to supporting graduate research and campus events within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and beyond. It is our hope that we can expand these efforts to include more events and mentoring programs for the students and industry leaders to take part in.

In the three years since we started this journey, we have been able to meet with hundreds of students to share the fresh produce story. Currently, we have almost 50 students who have declared a strong interest in a career in fresh produce and these 10 are just a few of the brightest stars. I personally meet and schedule mentoring sessions with each Aggie who expresses an interest in learning about our industry and from there I work to create opportunities that enable them to “choose fresh.”

Those of you that know me may or may not understand my deeply-rooted passion for Texas A&M, but we made the decision to focus on this university because it has a long standing, superb relationship with the fresh produce industry, namely in the area of research on campus. We wanted to expand the awareness of the vast opportunities that fresh produce offers to all departments in College of Agriculture and eventually the university at large. Why? Because I know firsthand that the core values that make students successful at A&M are highly valued and rewarded in the fresh produce industry. We know you are looking for the bright minds to help accelerate your business and we wanted to give back in a way that helped support two of our biggest passions – fresh produce and our fellow Aggies.

I hope you have the opportunity to meet the students at this year’s Viva Fresh event to share your perspective on a career in fresh produce. I would love to connect with you if you are interested in future Aggies for Fresh activities.

Thank you and my best,

Dan'l

Viva Fresh Scholarship Student Bios

Anna Dement



Graduation Date: May 2017

Major: Bachelor's of Agribusiness

Employment Interests: Full-Time Employment

Interested In: Marketing and Sales

Preferred Location: Houston

Bio: I am a senior Agribusiness major at Texas A&M University. I am originally from College Station, Texas with a passion for making a difference. I have had the opportunity to improve my writing, speaking, and analytical skills through my major. When I'm not studying or working, I enjoy traveling with friends and exploring new places. My passions include people, food, and fitness.

As graduation quickly approaches, the ability to be a part of this experience would be invaluable. I think that the Viva Fresh Expo would be an amazing opportunity to find what possibilities are out there for me, as well as meet people in the fresh produce industry and cultivate valuable connections and relationships.

Ashely Lewis



Graduation Date: May 2017

Major: Agricultural Leadership and Development,
Agricultural Economics and Agriculture & Food Sales minor

Employment Interests: Full-Time Employment

Interested In: Sales

Preferred Location: Texas – Houston or San Antonio

Bio: I am a senior Agricultural Leadership and Development major at Texas A&M University, with a minor in Agricultural Economics and Agriculture & Food Sales. Originally from Tilden, Texas, I have a passion for people and animals. The sales classes I have taken have been incredibly enlightening, and have shown me that sales is my calling. I am a people-person, with all five of my Gallup Strengths in relationship building (Harmony, Positivity, Adaptability, Individuality, and Developer). I enjoy meeting new people and trying new things.

While I didn't originally envision a career in fresh produce, I have always known that I wanted to be a part of a company that makes a difference. I hope to build relationships at Viva Fresh that will connect me to a career where I can make a difference.

Ashley Seidenberger



Graduation Date: May 2017

Major: Bachelor's of Agricultural Communications and Journalism

Employment Interests: Full-Time Employment

Interested In: Marketing, Writing and Graphic Design

Preferred Location: San Antonio

Bio I am a senior Agricultural Communications and Journalism major at Texas A&M University. I am originally from San Antonio, Texas where I developed a passion for agriculture while growing up. My major has offered me the opportunity to improve my public speaking, writing and graphic design skills.

Throughout my four years at Texas A&M University, I took every opportunity to challenge myself to grow as an individual. By doing this, I have found that my passions include collaborating with colleagues, serving my community and advocating for the agricultural industry. I enjoy making a difference in my community and school.

I have always loved the fresh produce industry within agriculture, and I am a strong believer in buying an abundance of fresh produce regularly. This industry is a very rewarding and fast-paced business that I would be proud to be a part of. I am extremely interested to learn more about opportunities at Viva Fresh.

Forrest Dyer



Graduation Date: May 2017

Major: Agricultural Economics

Employment interests: Full-Time Employment

Interested In: Sales

Preferred Location: Denver, Colorado or Texas

Bio: I am a senior Agricultural Economics major at Texas A&M University. I am originally from Waco, Texas but grew up outside of Denver, Colorado. My passion for fruits and vegetables started when I saw “Fat Sick and Nearly Dead” with Joe Cross. I watched a guy change himself from the inside out and I learned that “food does matter and you are what you eat.” My major has offered me the opportunity to better understand and appreciate the hard work of farmers and growers alike. The healthy food that I love so much has been made available by somebody else’s sacrifice, and I am grateful for that.

I would love to be involved in business where I get to sell fruits and vegetables by B2B. However, I also would love to be involved with people individually helping educate them about the value of fruits and vegetables and witnessing the impact that good, healthy food can have on that person both mentally, and physically. At Viva Fresh, I hope to build relationships within the fresh produce industry.

Gabrielle Cowart



Graduation Date: May 2017, Grad School: May 2019

Major: Bachelor's of Agribusiness

Employment Interests: Summer 2017 Internships

Interested In: Marketing, Sales and Advertising

Preferred Location: California or Texas

Bio: I am a senior Agribusiness major at Texas A&M University. I am originally from Kingwood, Texas with a passion for encouraging others. My major has offered me the opportunity to improve my leadership skills as well as help develop my professional confidence. My passions include people, creating something from nothing, and empowering others.

From the Viva Fresh experience, I hope to learn more about the fresh produce industry, soak up as much information as possible and become more aware of the opportunities available.

Jonathan Prieto



Graduation Date: December 2017

Major: Bachelor's of Plant and Environmental Soil Science

Employment Interests: Summer 2017 Internships and Full-Time Employment

Interested In: Growing, Production and Farming

Preferred Location: Texas, California, Southeast US

Bio: I am a senior Plant and Environmental Soil Science major at Texas A&M University with an emphasis in Crop Production and a minor in Horticulture. I am originally from Bryan, Texas with a passion for self-sufficiency and sustainable agriculture. My major has offered me the resources to delineate between fact and opinion in regards to production agriculture, seek out scientific data to answer questions accurately and without bias and explore various aspects of modern and traditional agriculture. My passions include plant and insect interactions, edible perennials, and integrated pest management. I enjoy gardening and teaching others what I have learned and experienced. I am interested in growing produce, studying landscape design or getting a Doctor of Plant Medicine degree, and teaching.

Viva Fresh will be a great opportunity to share a few laughs with folks in the produce industry, learn more about fresh produce and hopefully make business connections that lead to future employment or opportunities to create jobs in new markets.

McKenna Kolbasinski



Graduation Date: December 2018

Major: Bachelor's of Agricultural Economics

Employment Interests: Summer 2017 Internships

Interested In: Supply Chain and Economics

Preferred Location: Austin

Bio: I am a rising junior Agricultural Economic, Food Marketing Systems major at Texas A&M University. Originally from Austin, I have a passion for living healthily and sustainably. My major has offered me the opportunity to expand my fascination with the economics of food production and supply chain. This summer I will be traveling to Ghana and learning firsthand how a country and its people manage food insecurity. I am a devoted champion of a plant-based lifestyle and hope to change the way the world views food and how the USDA defines nutrition.

I am interested in a career that allows me to be a part to a company that shares my values. I hope to be directly involved in every aspect of the business of fresh produce, both locally and globally.

I am incredibly honored and excited about attending the 2017 Viva Fresh Produce Expo as a scholarship finalist. I view this opportunity as an amazing gift to see firsthand how my skills and unique perspective fit in with the industry. I hope to make lasting connections with people and organizations that can help guide me through my career choices.

Shelby Barrow



Graduation Date: August 2017

Major: Bachelor's of Agricultural Systems Management

Employment Interests: Summer 2017 Internships and Full-Time Employment

Interested In: Sales and Marketing

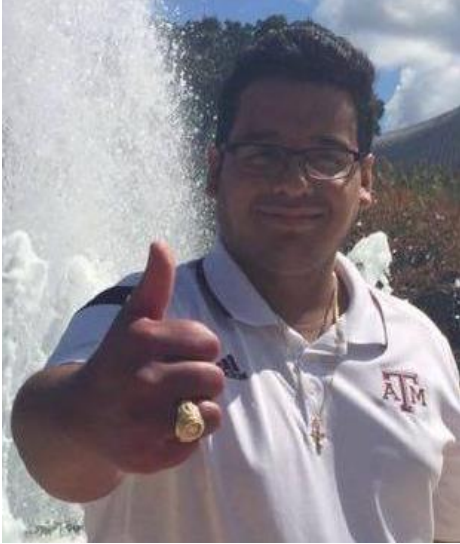
Preferred Location: Austin or Houston

Bio: I am a senior Agricultural Systems Management major at Texas A&M University. I am originally from Beaumont, Texas with a passion for the fresh produce industry. My major has offered me the opportunity to improve my knowledge of business management, sales and communication skills, and leadership abilities. My passions include learning about new foods, finding good and interesting restaurants to try, and speaking with others who share the same passions. I really enjoy cooking, spending time with my family and friends, my faith and the beach.

I am very excited about the opportunity to attend the Viva Fresh Produce Expo in Austin. I'm hoping to meet like-minded people who share a passion for the produce industry and be able to build my professional network. I'm interested in seeing all of the different produce based companies that will attend and learn more about what they do and who they serve.

My experience as a sales intern with a foodservice distributor last summer in Austin has only opened the door to my interests in the sales and marketing side to the fresh produce industry. I know that there is a place for me in this industry and I can't wait to find it.

Victor Flores



Graduation Date: May 2017

Major: Bachelor's of Food Science and Technology

Employment Interests: Full-Time Employment

Interested In: Food Safety/Processing, Product Development,
Quality Assurance and Sales

Preferred Location: Houston

Bio: I am a senior Food Science and Technology major at Texas A&M University. I am originally from Houston, Texas with a passion for food. My major has offered me the opportunity learn and grow as a person, become a critical thinker, and expand my knowledge in application to food and communication skills. I enjoy cooking with my mom, relaxing in my hammock and spending time with my family.

Viva Fresh will help me learn more about the food industry and network. From this experience, I hope to learn about more companies in my field and know what it takes to work for them. One day I would like to work in a company with great values and the opportunity to improve my professional skills.

Victoria De Leon



Graduation Date: May 2017

Major: Bachelor's of Horticulture, Agricultural Economics minor

Employment Interests: Full-Time Employment

Interested In: Import/Export area of fresh produce

Preferred Location: South Texas

Bio: I am a senior Horticulture major, with a minor in Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University. I am from Hidalgo, Texas, although I lived in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico before coming to Hidalgo. I am extremely passionate for my field of studies and have developed a deep interest in the production area of tropical fruit and vegetables. Over the years, I have been able to learn about the different areas of the fruit production industry. These past few years of studies in horticulture, together with the opportunity to work in a research orchard, have improved my problem solving and communication skills, as well as developing my orchard maintenance and fresh produce production experience.

Being able to attend the Viva Fresh Expo will allow me to develop a greater sense of how the fresh produce industry really works. It is my intention to become better acquainted with other professionals within the industry in order to become part of the industry myself after graduation.