

Renk Scholar Biographies

<http://renk.aae.wisc.edu/>



Lauren Baker

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Major and Expected Graduation: Agronomy and Life Sciences Communication, Spring 2017

Internship Interests: Marketing and Communications

Professional Goals: Marketing

Short Bio: I grew up in Greenville, Wisconsin which is about 10 minutes away from Appleton. I came to UW in 2013 and majored in Agronomy and Life Sciences Communication. Currently, I am a UW-Extension Intern working mainly with the social media accounts and weekly podcasts. I also manage the "Extension in the News" page. I am also the Communications Coordinator for the Association of Women in Agriculture and the Secretary for the Badger Crops Club. I realized that as people get more and more removed from the farm the need for effective communication becomes more prevalent. As biotechnology becomes more advanced you need people who can put the science in terms that the average person can understand.



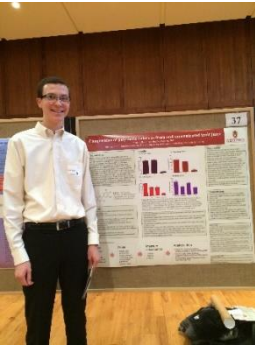
Ciera Ballmer

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Major and Expected Graduation: Dairy Science, CALs Business Management Certificate, 2018

Internship Interests: Agriculture business management

Short Bio: I am currently a sophomore majoring in Dairy Science with a Certificate in Agricultural Business Management. I grow up outside of Janesville, WI where I grew my love for agriculture through 4-H and FFA. Now in college, I continue to be involved in agriculture as I am involved in many agricultural student organizations here on campus and I am currently serving as a 2016-17 Wisconsin FFA State Officer.



Mark Bollom

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Major and Expected Graduation: Food Science, Certificate in Agricultural Business Management, Spring 2018

Internship Interests: R&D, research on "health" foods

Professional Goals: Research food for its health promoting properties

Short bio: I am from Green Bay, WI and came to the University of Wisconsin to study Food Science. While at UW I have had the opportunity to get involved in the Food Science Club where I am on the executive board serving as the Food and Health Initiative Chair. For this initiative I plan events for club members relating to how food affects health. Furthermore, while a member of the Food Science Club I also served on the Outreach Committee where I got the opportunity to teach others about Food Science around the Madison community. This past summer I had the fantastic opportunity to intern for DairiConcepts in Pollock, SD. Through this internship I was able to get hands on experience in a manufacturing plant, and specifically with Hard Italian Cheese production.



Caroline Brown

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Major and Expected Graduation: ABM and Animal Science, May 2017

Internship Interests: animal health care and pharmaceuticals

Professional Goals: Veterinarian, preferably equine or large animal

Short Bio: I grew up in a large Chicago suburb and knew very little about the agriculture industry before coming to UW. For as long as I can remember, I have known that I want to be a veterinarian: I began with the intention of going into private practice, which meant that I would need to attain both clinical and business skills to be successful. My initial focus was also equine medicine, as I have been a competitive horseback rider my entire life and continue to do so today as the captain of the UW-Madison Equestrian Team. I have since gained an appreciation for and particular interest in food animal medicine, specifically how I can play a role in bridging the gap between animal care and consumer safety, satisfaction, and understanding of the industry as a whole. Studying both animal science and agricultural business management has allowed me to explore veterinary careers beyond clinical practice, and it led me to a fantastic internship last summer working for a global pharmaceutical company in their pet marketing department.



Amiel Chen

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Major and Expected Graduation: Agriculture and Applied Economics, Food Science, May 2017

Internship Interests: Development Economics, development economics policy, environmental economics

Professional Goals: Development analysis, development economics policy

Short Bio: I was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan until my families and I moved to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where I attended an international school when I was 13. My international background motivated me to become the president of Assembly of International Student (AIS), and founder of the Third Culture Kids-UW club on campus. I double major in Food Science and AAE for my passion in food production. During the summer of 2015, I was a Risk Management and Sourcing intern at Cargill where I imported foreign ingredients for feed production. In the summer of 2016, I worked as a R&D intern at Ardent Mills.



Natalie Endres

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Major and Expected Graduation: Agricultural Business Management, Spring 2017

Internship Interests: Agricultural Marketing, Communications & Finance

Short Bio: I grew up in Waunakee, WI on my family's registered Holstein farm. From a young age, I was involved with exhibiting our dairy cattle at the local, county and state fairs. This sparked my interest in working for the agricultural industry in the future and guided me to attend UW-Madison to study Agricultural Business Management. Throughout college, I have held various leadership roles in the Association of Women in Agriculture, the National Agri-Marketing Association, as well as had involvement as a Renk Scholar and as a College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Ambassador. I have held various marketing and accounting internships over my college career, including those with Yahara Pride Farms, Kuhn North America, Badgerland Financial, and John Deere Financial. After graduation in the spring, I will return to John Deere Financial full time as a Market Analyst.



Sydney Endres

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Major and Expected Graduation: Dairy Science and Life Sciences Communication, Spring 2017

Internship Interests: Dairy, agriculture, agritourism, communication

Professional Goals: Agritourism on my home dairy farm

Short Bio: I grew up on my family's 700-cow Jersey farm in Lodi, WI. I am now a senior at UW-Madison studying Dairy Science and Life Sciences Communication with a certificate in Agriculture Business. On campus, I am involved in the Association of Women in Agriculture, Collegiate Farm Bureau, Badger Dairy Club, National Agri-Marketing Association, and the Nordic Ski Club. I am extremely passionate for my cows and talking to people about agriculture. That love helped me land a position managing the Discovery Barnyard at the Wisconsin State Fair. I have also interned for Land O' Lakes in their member relations department in Tulare, CA. This summer, I will be interning for Fair Oaks Farms in Indiana. Eventually, I would like to return to my home farm and start my own agritourism business that focuses on education and bringing people in to have a fun experience understanding more about their food.



Nick Engen

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Major and Expected Graduation: AAE, Spring 2016

Internship Interests: Data analysis, supply chain management

Professional Goals: Business management, impact investing

Short Bio: I grew up in Northern Minnesota and came to the UW to gain a better understanding of economic development from an agricultural perspective. As a student, I have assisted in analyzing quantitative data for a food security project in Ethiopia, helped start a cosmetic oil sourcing company in Botswana, and interned under the Economic Secretary for the Embassy of Botswana in Washington DC. This breadth of experience has provided me with a greater appreciation for the nuance of economic development. I am looking forward to beginning a career where I can leverage the private and public sectors to improve the lives of others. I will be starting a job before I graduate, but am still new to my career. I would appreciate the opportunity to speak with current professionals about their careers in agriculture, infrastructure development, business management and related fields.



Sharon Francine

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Major and Expected Graduation: Food Science, Certificate in Business Management for Agriculture and Life Sciences, Spring 2018

Internship Interests: R&D, Market Research

Professional Goals: R&D, Quality Assurance, Market Research

Short Bio: I came to UW from a small city in Indonesia to study Food Science. I became interested in Ag Business after I took a class about microeconomics. I am currently the co-chair of Food Science Club Outreach Committee. I have had several internships as R&D, QA, Human Resource and Research Assistant throughout my college career. I learned a lot about agriculture industry from being in different departments of food companies and laboratories. This Fall 2016, I have a remote internship as a Brand Manager for a Japanese company, DeNA. It is not an agriculture company but I learn a lot about how to develop marketing strategies from this internship.

Christina Grunow

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Major and Expected Graduation: Animal Science, Certificate in Agricultural Business Management, Spring 2018

Internship Interests: Agricultural Marketing, Sales, and Communications

Professional Goals: Agricultural Marketing, Sales, and Communications

Short Bio: I came to the University of Wisconsin-Madison after receiving an Associate's degree in Arts and Science from the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County. I grew up in Wausau, WI and decided to further my education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to further my understanding in Animal Science and Agricultural Business. My interest in the Agriculture industry stems from my involvement in 4-H growing up and my extended families involvement with animal projects at the fair. On campus I am involved in the Association of Women in Agriculture and Saddle and Sirloin. I seek to gain experience in Agricultural Marketing, Communications and Sales to further enhance my education career and future career.



Logan Gutenberger

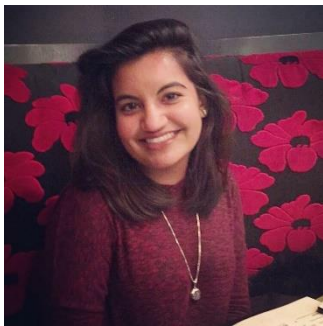
lgutenberger@wisc.edu

Major and Expected Graduation: Agricultural Business Management, May 2018

Internship Interests: Business-related field: credit and finance internships

Professional Goals: Ag Lender

Short Bio: I grew up in a rural community of Westby which is in southwestern Wisconsin and started my collegiate career at UW-Madison in the fall of 2014. I have been exposed to the agriculture industry my whole life with both my parents working in the industry and my involvement with showing dairy cattle. This led to my passion to pursue a degree of Agricultural Business Management and to my involvement in organizations at UW-Madison. My organizations include: Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Agricultural Business Management Club, UW-Madison Collegiate Farm Bureau, and Badger Dairy Club. I enjoy the process of analyzing financial data and using my agricultural background to make sound credit decisions, which led to my previous internship as an agricultural analyst for Westby Credit Union. With my previous experience, I learned how to analyze financial statements and what it takes to make a good credit decision. I was involved in the entire process from underwriting all the way through an approval with credit. I am passionate about agricultural finance because I believe all successful farmers have a strong bank supporting them.



Muneera Khambaty

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Major and Expected Graduation: ABM and Developmental Economics, Spring 2018

Internship Interests: Commodity Trading, Investment banking

Professional Goals: Algorithmic based trading

Short Bio: Originally from Minnesota, I came to UW to study Economics and ABM. I am involved in various clubs around campus. This includes being the treasurer for the Agricultural Business Management Club, member of the Indian Students Association, and part of the Commodity Trading Group which participates in trading and algorithmic trading competitions through the CME. This past summer, I worked with Northwestern Mutual and gained extensive knowledge about banking, securities, and life insurance. After graduation, I plan to acquire a job involving trading and securities, my main passions.



Megan Lauber

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Major and Expected Graduation: Dairy Science with Certificate in Agricultural Business Management

Internship Interests: Sales and Marketing

Professional Goals: Dairy Nutrition Consultant

Short Bio: My passion for agriculture began working on my family's 60-cow registered Holstein herd in Union Grove, WI. The time spent working on my family's farm, showing dairy cattle, and participating in 4-H led me to pursue a degree in dairy science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At the university I am an active member in the National Agri-Marketing Association, Association of Women in Agriculture, and Badger Dairy Club. Currently, I am the CALSAA representative for Badger Dairy Club where I communicate with the college on how our club is doing. In addition, I am also a cattle care chair for the 18th Badger Invitational Sale, a cattle sale that Badger Dairy Club runs which promotes our club to future students, and allows members to gain sales experience. This past summer I was an intern for Golden Oaks Farm where I was able to observe the dynamics of a larger dairy that also focuses on elite genetics.



Mariah Martin

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Major and Expected Graduation: Life Sciences Communication, Certificates: Agricultural Business Management and Leadership, 2018

Internship Interests: Marketing, communications and sales

Professional Goals: Corporate marketing and communications, agency marketing

Short Bio: "Learning by doing", a motto instilled upon Mariah through her 11-year involvement in 4-H, which also allowed her to find her passion in agriculture. Specifically, she is interested in bridging the gap between farmers, producers and consumers through agricultural marketing. Mariah has continued this "learning by doing" motto through her involvement in many student organizations, including the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) and has taken a wide variety of classes in marketing and strategic communications on the UW-Madison campus. Mariah has held numerous internships in marketing and communications with organizations such as World Dairy Expo and Marathon County Partnership for Progressive Agriculture where she gained experience in community outreach, news releases and social media.



McKenzie Rowley

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Major and Expected Graduation: Life Sciences Communication & Global Health, Spring 2017

Internship Interests: Market Analysis, research

Professional Goals: Small Business Owner

Short Bio: I grew up on my family's small dairy farm in Central Wisconsin. I came to UW-Madison to push myself outside of my comfort zone and gain a highly respected education. I've always been interested in Ag Marketing, but after my dad was severely injured in a farming accident, I realized my true passion lies in helping farmers and agricultural workers with disabilities. I hope to one day open my own business in a rural area to provide therapeutic services to farmers and agricultural workers who have been injured and/or impaired. I am actively involved in an array of agricultural, volunteer, and health & wellness clubs across campus. I hope to bridge the gap between agriculture and health care to ensure farmers and agricultural workers can be healthy to continue to do what they love every day.



Tom Walker

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Major and Expected Graduation: ABM/Economics, Certificate: Development Economics, Spring 2018

Internship Interests: Ag policy, data management, investing

Professional Goals: Agriculture and Economic Policy, investment banking

Short Bio: I grew up in a town in New Jersey and came to Wisconsin to major in agricultural business and economics with a certificate in development economics. I developed an interest in agriculture in high school while working on a bison ranch and vineyard in Central Jersey and have been captivated ever since. I also came to Wisconsin to continue my athletic career where I am a third year student-athlete on the Wisconsin Men's Rowing team. I work as a financial assistant in the Babcock Hall Dairy Plant where I deposit money, reconcile sales and compile monthly statements for wholesale customers.

Alison Wedig

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Major and Expected Graduation: Life Science Communication Major, ABM Certificate, 2018

Internship Interests: Public Relations

Professional Goals: Communications Specialist, Education Development

Short Bio: I grew up in Darlington Wisconsin. My dad left the farm before I was born, but he got me invested in agriculture through our small family landscaping business, Wedig Landscaping. I graduated High School in 2013. After graduation I was elected to serve as a State FFA Officer, Vice President 2013-14 and State President 2014-15. Currently, I am a junior majoring in Life Sciences Communications, however I am also taking numerous courses in Education Psychology to understand how people learn. On campus I am involved in the Association of Women in Agriculture, and an officer in both the Collegiate Farm Bureau and National Agri-Marketing Association. I also work the Department of Dairy Science as a Marketing Communication Intern.



Caleb Wendhausen

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Major and Expected Graduation: ABM, Spring 2018

Internship Interest: Agronomy Sales

Professional Goals: Continuing Family Farm

Short Bio: I grew up on a crop farm in southwestern Wisconsin. With the crop farm, we also have a custom forage harvesting business that keeps us busy in the summers. I came here to the UW to study agricultural business management with the intentions of going back to the family farm. I'm involved with a multiple student organizations on campus. I'm the finance chair in the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and active in Collegiate Farm Bureau, Badger Dairy Club, and Agricultural Business Management club. I grew a passion in the business side of the agronomy field from growing up on a crop farm. I haven't had any internship experience but looking forward to this upcoming summer.



Jessica Wendt

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Major and Expected Graduation: Agriculture Business Management with a certificate in Entrepreneurship, May 2019

Internship Interests: Sustainability, Member Relations, Sales, Marketing

Professional Goals: Member Relations, Sales, Marketing with the intent to get my Master's Degree

Short Bio: Growing up on a small hobby farm in Stoughton, Wisconsin with a small herd of Nubian Dairy Goats and pumpkin and gourd business, I've always had a passion for agriculture. Through 4-H and FFA, I knew I wanted to continue learning and growing in agriculture here at the University of Wisconsin- Madison. On campus I love being involved as the activities coordinator in the Association of Women in Agriculture, the alumni coordinator for the Agriculture Business Management Club, a CALS Ambassador and on the marketing team for the National Agri-Marketing Association. In the summer of 2016, I was the sales and marketing explorer intern at Kuhn North America and in the summer of 2017, I'll be working for Land O' Lakes as a Global Emerging Leader in their Global Food Challenge Fellowship.

Kelly Wilfert

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Major and Expected Graduation: AAE and LSC Spring 2017

Internship Interests: Ag policy

Professional Goals: Agricultural Attorney

Short Bio: Growing up on a 700 acre farm that produced fresh market fruits and vegetables, cash grain, and processing carrots, agriculture has always been a big part of my life. While my immediate interest is not to return to the family farm, I am eager to apply my farm background to helping the agricultural industry continue to succeed. I served as a 2014-2015 State FFA Officer, worked as the American Farm Bureau Federation Public Policy-Legislative Intern, and currently am the Collegiate Farm Bureau Secretary. I am in the process of applying to law school and look forward to growing both my analytical and communication skills to better assist the agricultural industry in understanding and working with the laws and regulations which govern us.



Taylre Wilke

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Major and Expected Graduation: Agricultural Business Management, May 2018

Internship Interests: Sales, Credit, Lending

Professional Goals: While I am still figuring out my ideal job, I have solidified that I love working one on one with people, helping them achieve their goals and solve their problems. Currently, I am very interested in agricultural lending.

Short Bio: I am from Loyal, Wisconsin where I had the opportunity to spend a lot of time on my grandparents 60 cow dairy farm just a few miles away from home. Because of this, I began to develop a passion for the industry at a young age, and as I grew older became involved with my local 4-H and FFA chapter where I had the chance to show dairy cattle for 11 years. Through my experiences in these clubs and on the farm I had decided to pursue an Agricultural Business Management degree at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Currently I am the President of the Agricultural Business Management Club and Treasurer of the National Agri-Marketing Association, while also being an active member of the Association of Women in Agriculture. Through my time in and out of school I have found a love for working closely, one on one with people. This past summer I had the opportunity to work as a Sales and Marketing Intern with DuPont Pioneer where I was able to enhance my interpersonal skills, and solidify my passion for the industry. I am currently interested in agricultural lending because of the ability to help serve customers one on one, but I also have developed an interest for financials. My goal is to serve those who are feeding us, because they have given me so many opportunities within this industry, I would like to give them the same.