



HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Giving Back to Education

HHS Alumni Recognition Feature!

Dear HHS Alumni and HPS Foundation Supporters,

Holdrege High School is fortunate to have many very successful graduates. We are excited to continue sharing the stories of some of those HHS Alums thanks to the journalistic talents of Kristine (Long) Jacobson, Class of 1990.

Several classes will be having reunions during Swedish Days. We hope that you will be able to join us at the HPS Foundation 6th Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, June 20th at 11:00am. The entry brochure is accessible at holdregedusters.org.

We also welcome your suggestions and comments and encourage you to join the Duster Alumni Association (*see form below*).

Sincerely,

*Matt Allmand, Chairman
HPS Foundation Committee*

Chandler Mazour - Class of 1989

Agricultural career leads Mazour to job in Ukraine and Russia

by Kristine Jacobson

If God opens a door, Chandler Mazour is at least going to explore it. The door that was opened to him in high school led him to Holdrege where he met his future wife and, through the help of a neighbor, discovered his career. Now, the 1989 Holdrege graduate has walked through another open door that led him to become Monsanto's Technology Development Lead for the Ukraine and Russia. His family is moving to Budapest, Hungary, in June to join him. He began his job there in January.

"If God opens a door, you owe it to Him to at least peek in," Chan said.

Chan had been working for the past six years as the Manager for Gothenburg's new Water Utilization Learning Center. He was the first manager of the facility, which serves as a learning center for farmers and academics to learn about water's



role in agriculture. It also serves as a research facility with a focus on helping farmers manage drought. The facility attracted visitors from 55 countries.

He lived in Gothenburg with his wife, Deanna (Fritsche) Mazour, also a 1989 HHS graduate, and four children: Abby, 18; Natalie, 16; Brett, 14; and Trevor, 10. Last year, he heard about the job opening in the Ukraine and was encouraged to consider it.

Chan was challenged by the idea of helping farmers in Russia and the Ukraine and intrigued by the idea of what his children could learn from the experience. "There's something you can teach your kids by living overseas," Chan said.

During his first few months on the job, a major outbreak of violence broke out in Kiev, Ukraine, where he was working. He witnessed the riots and increasing violence there before he was ushered to a safer area in the middle of the night. His family's original plan was to live in the Ukraine, but with the recent violence, they have decided on Budapest as their home base with Chan commuting to the Ukraine as needed.

His goal will be to lead Monsanto's team there to improve farming and put new technologies to use. "I am looking forward to working with people and helping give them the confidence to make a difference with farmers," he said. Although he works in technology development, he is most excited about seeing that new technology put to use. "It's easy to be focused on data," he said. "You have to take that knowledge and turn it into action."

He said there are both small and large farming operations in Russia and the Ukraine. "I really enjoy getting out into the fields in Ukraine and Russia," Chan said. "It's quite a bit similar to how it is here (in Nebraska)."



Africa, and Argentina, to name a few. He started work for Monsanto in 2006 in the St. Louis office before moving back to Nebraska in 2006. Prior to that, he



Chan and Deanna (Fritsche) Mazour

He said the people and farmers in Russia and the Ukraine are going through tough times right now with the recent violence and the devaluation of the country's currency.

His job with Monsanto has taken him all over the world including places such as Spain, Austria,

worked for American Cyanamid in Grand Island and Newark, N.J., and then for BASF in North Carolina.

His career in agriculture may not have happened if his family hadn't moved to Holdrege when he was in high school. Chan spent most of his childhood in Lawrence on a farm, where he vowed to never be a farmer because of the constant day-to-day work involved and the poor economic conditions of growing up on a farm in the 1980s. His dad, David, farmed and also worked full time. His dad accepted a job at CNPPID when Chan was a junior in high school and they moved to Holdrege.

His parents' choice of neighborhoods had a big impact on his future. Just a few doors down lived Deanna Fritsche, a fellow classmate. They started dating in high school and eventually married.

Agronomist Doyle Oerter also lived on his street. Chan had vowed to never go into agriculture and had started a degree in engineering with classes at the University of Nebraska at Kearney after graduation. However, Doyle offered him a summer job and a whole new world was opened up. "I saw that people could actually make a living in agriculture," Chan said.

He enjoyed his time working with Doyle and decided to change his major to agriculture. He transferred to UNL and earned a degree in agriculture. He then earned a master's degree in seed genetics and his MBA while starting his career in agriculture and starting his family.

His family is somewhat apprehensive about moving across the ocean. Chan said a year ago, he never would have thought of this as a possibility. But, they have found a home in Budapest and are excited to try life in this foreign city that is a bustling tourist destination.

He said his job there may last about 3 years, and then he will see where the next door opens.

About Us

The mission of the HPS Foundation is to support and enhance the educational efforts of students and teachers of Holdrege Public Schools by providing funding for innovative and challenging programs, learning experiences, and activities.

Holdrege Public Schools Foundation

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Holdrege Public Schools Foundation

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