

An Avid Hunter Gives Back to His Alma Mater



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Steve Meng was the first in his family to attend college and graduated from Fort Hays State University in 1988 with an Agricultural Business degree. Following graduation, Steve worked in the corporate world and grain business for several years before deciding that he would like to establish his own company. It all began when Steve moved to Fishers, Indiana in 1992. Upon moving, he found it extremely difficult to find high-quality land to fulfill his passion of hunting. By 1999, he had established connections with local farmers and decided to utilize those connections to form his own company called Base Camp Leasing. Essentially, Steve leases the land of farmers to other avid hunters like himself who are unable to access decent ground for hunting. Steve truly enjoys being his own boss and is happy to say that he's had a place to hunt ever since Base Camp Leasing became a reality. After only two years in business, he had expanded his company to Ohio and Illinois. Today, Base Camp Leasing extends into 23 states. You could almost say that Steve was an entrepreneur before the term "entrepreneur" became a common term.

Recently, Steve decided that he would like to give back to his alma mater and has established the Base Camp Leasing Scholarship at Fort Hays State University. The scholarship will support students who are not only majoring in Agribusiness or biology, but also students who are interested in Wildlife Management and show financial need. "With this award, I hope to increase awareness of the impact wildlife has on agriculture and our economy," said Steve.

Lindsey Wilson, a senior at Fort Hays State University, has received the Base Camp Leasing Scholarship for the 2013-2014 academic year. Lindsey is from Colby, Kansas where she grew up raising livestock, competing in rodeos and playing tennis. Ironically, Lindsey also enjoys the great outdoors and says that hunting season has always been a great time of year for her because family and friends gather for the opening weekend of pheasant season. In May of 2014 Lindsey will graduate from FHSU with dual majors in Agribusiness and Finance. She plans to have a career in the agricultural banking industry, and is currently gaining great experience as an intern at the FDIC. "Scholarships have significantly contributed to my success as an undergraduate student, and thanks to Steve Meng, and Base Camp Leasing, I am one step closer to my career goals," said Lindsey.



Recipients of the Base Camp Leasing Scholarship must be full-time students with a minimum 3.0 grade-point average and must be employed part-time during the academic year. For more information about this scholarship, please contact your FHSU Foundation at 785-628-5620 or foundation@fhsu.edu.