Visiting Taiwan with the follow the grain delegation provided me with many new experiences. First off the decision to go with fellow college students was great. I may never get a chance to do anything like that again. Taiwan had more people in the city of Taipei than I knew existed in the world, everybody was hustling and bustling around on scooters. Things were different - for instance we don’t need to worry about going bald from acid rain like they do. We don’t have the smog and the smell. Being from Montana with the wide open spaces and close confinement with other humans was an awakening. It made me realize how lucky we are to live where we do.

I find it amazing that the wheat my dad grows travels halfway around the world and is made into products I have never heard of nor seen before. While visiting the Isabelle Bakery I observed that the process has more human workers than automation, this was because workers were cheaper than automation.

For the duration of our trip the citizens of the country were very receptive of us. They were all excited to see Americans, we were hard to miss as we were all taller. Even little school children approached us and spoke English. Everybody involved in the wheat trade spoke very highly of Montana grain and wished they could get more. While in Taipei we got to see the world’s tallest building and the jade market. In Tai Chung we went to the only wheat fields in the small country, it does not pay to grow wheat in Taiwan as the other uses for the land are worth way more than growing wheat. The wheat they grow is made into liquor.

Overall the trip was excellent I got to see a part of the world and a culture which was totally different than any I had previously experienced. I would recommend anybody to go on the trip if it is offered again.