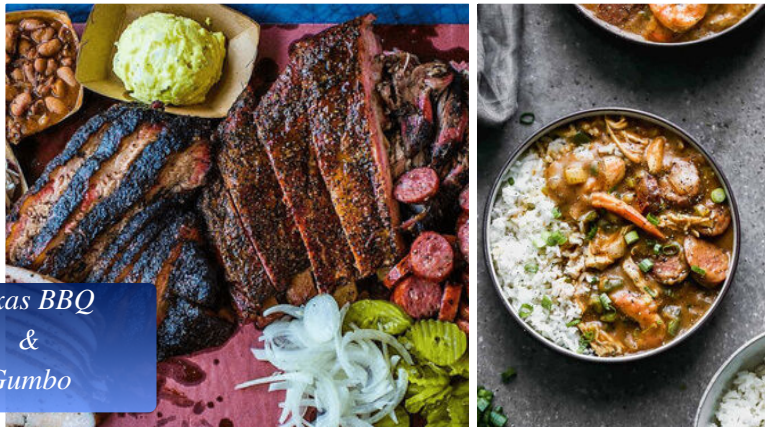


MAEBASHI FOCUS

Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Newsletter

Howdy y'all! My name is Jackson Bannister, and I come from Texas. Specifically, I was raised in a small city called Beaumont about an hour and a half away from Houston—best known as the home of NASA. The city sits nearly right on the Texas-Louisiana border, making it somewhat of a natural melting pot of Cajun/Creole, Mexican, and Texan culture.



Texas BBQ
&
Gumbo

It would not be an exaggeration to say that I am a result of the blending of these cultures, with my father's family having lived in Texas for generations, and my mother's being a blend of both Mexican and Cajun heritages. Growing up, I had the privilege of enjoying some the best food one can find in the United States (perhaps the world). As a family, we would often eat Texas barbecue one day, Cajun gumbo the next, and enchiladas the day after that.

The word *Beaumont* means “Beautiful Mountain” in French—ironically, the city is quite flat and located near a swamp just 5 meters above sea level. That being said, the city boasts rich natural surroundings. It borders the Big Thicket National Preserve, lies along the Neches River, and sits near the Gulf of Mexico, making it a prime destination for nature lovers and seafood enthusiasts.

As for me, I enjoy a wide variety of hobbies, notably, cooking, watching movies, traveling, reading, and weightlifting. Having just moved to Maebashi, I would like to use this platform to discuss my activities while living here.

If you ever spot me walking the streets of Maebashi, feel free to say hello. making friends is another one of my hobbies, after all!

(ME)



My twin brother
and I at a
Masturi