

PROGRESSIONS

ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM GRADUATES THE CLASS OF 2012

Twenty-nine agricultural leaders from across the state of Illinois graduated from the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program (IALP) at a ceremony held in Chicago August 9th.

Class members began the program in the fall of 2010 and experienced 14 seminars over 23 months. Those seminars included topics such as leadership and communication skills, economics, business decision making, national and international agriculture policy, global challenges and opportunities, innovation and change, energy, and state government. The seminars featured speakers from the education, government and corporate communities.

“The extensive and intensive experiences gained by these graduates will prepare them for advancing their leadership service to the U.S. agriculture industry,” said Don Norton, President and CEO of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation.

“With the graduation of this, our 15th class, we have added to a network of informed, capable, motivated and highly regarded leaders who are dedicated to helping each other, their communities, their nation, and their industry.”

The IALP Class of 2012 also spent one week in China and one week in India as part of an International Travel Seminar. In addition, during a week-long seminar in Washington, D.C., the class heard presentations by 53 speakers at nine federal agencies and by ten agricultural associations and industry representatives.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ From the President..... 2
- ▶ 2014 Class Focus.....2,8
- ▶ The Class of 2014..... 3
- ▶ Leadership Delivered 4
- ▶ Alumni News.....5-6
- ▶ Thank You..... 7



Top row (left to right): Beau Peterson, Mount Vernon; Andrew Sprague, Barry; Tim Stuenkle, Aurora; John Fowler, Chicago; Tyler Beard, Bloomington; Graham Utter, Jacksonville;
Second from top row (left to right): Mike Baker, Philo; Deb Schultz, Sublette; Jodie Brooks, Mechanicsburg; Dan Biernacki, Tinley Park; Nate Janssen, Barrington;
Third from top row (left to right): Brad Stewart, Sheridan; Dean Wearies, Chapin; John Fietsam, St. Charles, MO; Ben Shelby, Farmington; Mark Hobrock, Beardstown; Matt Schoenbeck, Beecher;
Fourth from top row (left to right): Scott Deakin, Pekin; Brent Carmichael, Rochelle; Jeff Lynch, Bloomington; Justin Green, Arthur; President/CEO Emeritus Joyce Watson;
Bottom row (left to right): Doug Kirk, Westville; Brad Baker, Auburn; Steve Niemann, Villa Grove; Doug Yoder, Champaign; Sara Fernandez, Quincy; Melinda Miller, Champaign; Bona Heinsohn, Harvard; Drew Earles, Mechanicsburg.

From the President's Desk— The Value of the Network

by Don Norton



The first seven definitions of “network” in Webster’s on-line dictionary refer to the word as a noun. A network is a “system of interrelated items over a large area or throughout a country.”

But nowadays, the eighth definition as a verb is the vogue term in business: we network - “cultivate people who can be helpful to one professionally.” In business, you network (cultivate people) and develop a network (system of interrelated items) that can help you accomplish more and achieve greater goals.

In the story on page 1 about the Class of 2012, we refer to IALP graduates as a network. We added to our network of informed, capable, motivated and highly regarded leaders in agriculture. We know how to network, and we have a network. The big question is: what will we DO with the network?

In my role as President & CEO of the IALF, I’m proud to tell friends and acquaintances about our network—which ultimately leads to listing the achievements of IALP graduates. This makes for a very compelling story of our value to the industry. I’m particularly excited to tell people outside of agriculture about how we’re fulfilling a need in the industry.

Our network of leaders has the responsibility to share the important messages about our industry to those who are not in our network. We need to engage the public outside of agriculture and tell them of our work to provide a safe and abundant food supply to a growing world population.

I encourage you to think about networking outside of your network. It’s one of our largest responsibilities and greatest privileges: to promote the well being of the world’s most essential industry. Have a safe and happy fall season!

CLASS OF 2014 FOCUS



Lynda Gould, 29, Rochelle, is a Veterinarian and owner of the Ashton Animal Clinic. She grew up on a hog farm and concentrated on large animal health in her veterinary school work at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois. She is on the board of the Northern Illinois Veterinary Medical Association and serves on the Village Board in

Creston. She maintains professional affiliations with the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association and the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.



Luke McKelvie, 42, Lebanon, is the Director of Advocacy Content at Osborn & Barr, a strategic communications firm focused on agriculture and rural America. In his role as an agricultural communicator, Luke has worked for Merck Animal Health, John Deere, Monsanto and

other clients. He also creates non-client specific content that advocates for American agriculture. Luke has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Communications from the University of Illinois. **(More on Page 8)**

THE CLASS OF 2014

Members of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program Class of 2014 have attended their first seminar in the two-year program of leadership training. These individuals represent a tremendous diversity in agribusiness and bring vast personal experiences to the program.

Members of the new class are Brian Anderson of Ellsworth; Bryan Blau of Des Plaines; Andrew Bowman of Oneida; Andrew Brantner of Champaign; Jared Brown of Broadwell; Chad Brusveen of Geneso; Jeff Bunting of Mahomet; Michael Burns of Macomb; Daniel Carmichael of Rochelle; Robb Creasey of Macomb; Tadgh Davis of Petersburg; Brittany Dean of Chicago; Pinakin Desai of Naperville; Jesse Edlefson of Coal Valley; Julie Gerdes of Chatsworth; Lynda Gould of Rochelle; Shaen Inglis of Yorkville; Spencer Janssen of Litchfield; Patrick Maschhoff of Nashville; Luke McKelvie of Lebanon; Ryan Murphy of Granite City; Nick Nagele of Wheaton; Jared Nobbe of Waterloo; Rodney Phelps of Cameron; Todd Price of Glenview; Cyndi Punke of Paxton; Lindsey Rinkenberger of Anchor; Michael Shane of DeKalb; Eric Smalley of Tremont; and Ruth Zeldenrust of Chicago Heights.

The class was welcomed by Dr. William Bailey, Chairman of the School of Agriculture at Western Illinois University, who indicated that enrollment has increased in agricultural programs in his department.



Members of the IALP Class of 2014 and their guests gather for the orientation seminar at Western Illinois University. The event featured presentations about the IALF organization, business attire, dining etiquette, and a discussion of the program by alumni.



The cake was cut and the hard work has started for the IALP Class of 2014.

Pictured are, from left, Andy Brantner with his wife Amanda, Amanda Nagele and her husband Nick. Nick and Andy are members of the Class of 2014.



THE IALF SALUTES OUR
CORPORATE SPONSORS:



**CLASS OF 2014
SEMINAR SCHEDULE:**

**Professionalism &
Leadership Opportunities**
November 8-9, 2012
Illinois State University and
GROWMARK
Bloomington, IL

**Pioneer Seminar on
Communication Skills**
December 5-7, 2012
Johnston, IA



LEADERSHIP DELIVERED FOR ILLINOIS' COMMODITY GROUPS

The long tradition of IALP graduates serving in leadership positions with Illinois commodity organization boards continues with the recent selection of two graduates to key roles in the corn and soybean associations.

Bill Wykes, IALP

Class of '98, is the new Chairman of the Illinois Soybean Association and **Kent Kleinschmidt, IALP Class of '86**, was elected as Chairman of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board.

Bill served as ISA vice chairman last year, and has held various other leadership positions with the ISA Board for Directors for eight years. He has represented ISA on the National Biodiesel Board, Soy Transportation



Bill Wykes, Chairman of the Illinois Soybean Association

Coalition and World Initiative for Soy in Human Health. In addition to his involvement with ISA, Bill is a member of numerous agricultural associations including the Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois Corn Growers. He farms corn and soybeans with his family in Kendall County, and is a graduate of Illinois State University.



Kent Kleinschmidt, Chairman of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board

Kent is a long-time District VIII representative to the Illinois Corn Marketing Board after also serving terms on the Illinois Corn Growers Association Board and as President of ICGA in 1993. He grows corn and soybeans in rotation in Tazewell County. He also is Vice Chairman of the Tazewell County Farm Bureau, President of the Tazewell County Corn Growers, and a member of his county Soil and Water District. He farms corn and soybeans in Logan, Tazewell, and McLean Counties, and has a small cow/calf herd.

ALUMNI, BOARD AND PARTICIPANT NEWS



Gerry Salzman from CNH

Gerry Salzman (Class of '92) was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the U.S. Grains Council. The award was given during the Council's 52nd Annual Board of Delegates Meeting to recognize his commitment to go above and beyond for the good of the organization. To date there have been only six recipients and the Board of Directors noted it was proud to have presented Salzman with this prestigious award.

Salzman currently serves as the senior director of global product marketing at CNH, overseeing all worldwide products and marketing activities for Case IH harvesting equipment. In his 26 years at Case IH, he has held a variety of positions in product development of combines, grain platforms and cotton pickers, marketing and product management of crop harvesting, hay and forage, and construction equipment. Prior to Case IH, he worked for 14 years at International Harvester and was involved in the launch of the first Axial-Flow combines, as well as subsequent combine lines.

Graham Utter (Class of '12) was recognized as one of the "20 under 40" leaders by the Jacksonville *Journal Courier*. Graham is a Risk Management Analyst at GROWMARK.

Gary Shupe (Class of '02) is serving a three-year term as the co-chair for the IAI (Illinois Articulation Initiative) Agriculture Panel for the ICCB (Illinois Community College Board). On the personal side, his first and only granddaughter, Devyn Rose Shupe, was born a year ago this November to Bobby and Rachel Shupe. They're expecting their second grandchild in March 2013 from their daughter and her husband, Lindsay and Kyle McClelland. Their youngest son, Tyler, and his wife Ashley were married September 1st. Both are physical therapists and living in Mesa, AZ.

Jodie Brooks (Class of '12) and Penny Lauritzen (Class of '86) are on the planning team for the Career Discovery Conference—a project of Women Changing the Face of Agriculture. The event is to provide role models for young women who are considering a career in agriculture or might be encouraged to seek a non-traditional career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) related to agriculture. The conference is March 8, 2013 at SIU-Carbondale.

Dan Hennenfent (Class of '90) transitioned out of the agricultural industry in 1999 and since that time has been involved in Christian media, including radio and television. For the past several years he has served as the Executive Director of Cup of Cold Water Ministries (www.ccwm.org). This organization is a non-denominational non-profit group that sends Christian missionaries to various countries including Bolivia, Mongolia, Mexico, Thailand and India. Dan continues to live in Ottawa IL, where he has resided with his wife, Marcy, since 1990.

Norbert Soltwedel (Class of '84) has reduced his active involvement in the family farm as his youngest son Kraig takes on more responsibility. He and Linda built a new home on their farmstead. Norbert spends more time doing fee farm appraisals as well as being involved in local government Boards, County 911 Board and South Central Regional Planning and Development Commission. He also serves as VP of the Illinois Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

Deb Schultz (Class of '12) is serving as an Advisory Board member for the Illinois Small Business Development Center in the Illinois Valley area. The group works with entrepreneurship, innovation and technology.

Rodney Phelps (Class of 2014) recently took the position of Farm Management Account Manager for Illinois and East. He has the responsibility of representing all Monsanto brands to the Farm Management companies. Rodney and his wife, Nicki, moved back to his childhood home in western Illinois. Their two daughters and two miniature dachshunds love being in the country and playing in the great outdoors. **(More Alumni News on Next Page!)**

ALUMNI, BOARD AND PARTICIPANT NEWS—CONT.

Bruce Stickers (Class of '90) received the 2012 Outstanding District Employee at the annual meeting of The Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Association President James Todd said “a panel of judges chose Stickers for this prestigious award because of his significant contributions to the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District’s (SWCD’s) conservation programs and for his long record of service to the community.”

2012-2014 Directories Available

The latest edition of the IALF Directory is now available. If you would like one, please send an email to Debi Thurow—

debi@agleadership.org. You may also request a directory by calling the office at (309) 837-7711.

Tricia Braid (Class of '04), Illinois Corn Growers Association and Illinois Corn Marketing Board Communications Director, was married in Puerto Morelos, Mexico, on June 20th to Jeff Havens, an Analyst in the Finance Division at State Farm Insurance. The couple were engaged in Panama City, Panama, during the US Grains Council meeting earlier this year. They currently reside in Armington, IL, with Tricia’s two boys, Duncan (14) and Ian (13). Tricia’s current work with Illinois Corn includes the Illinois Farm Families Coalition and the American Ethanol and Family Farmers sponsorships with

NASCAR and driver Kenny Wallace.

Lynn Hiser (Class of '86) retired from Tate & Lyle on a Friday and started a new career the following Monday. He said, “The grain/food ingredient business is fun, but the ‘frac’ sand market for oil & gas exploration is exciting.” He and his wife, Mary Diana, moved to rural Marseilles, IL in LaSalle County.

Bob Stewart (Class of '06) and Jeff Ray (Class of '10) have been busy with the construction of the new Nabor House at the University of Illinois. Bob and Jeff are key members of the Property Development Committee and have been active in overseeing the planning, funding and construction of the \$2 million project. The old house at 1002 S. Lincoln was purchased in 1965, serving as a college home to more than 400 Nabor House men. In that time, the house has undergone various minor renovations. But, the need for several major renovations, including a sprinkler system, led to the decision to build the new house.

“Bob has provided not only critical leadership but also critical continuity as our board President during this period,” said Jeff. “The house will remain true to its cooperative roots in that the students will continue to do their own cooking and cleaning together.”

Jeff added that the house will remain one of the lowest costs of any housing option on campus, and is hopeful the affordability will allow some students to attend the U of I and the College of ACES who might otherwise not have adequate housing. The active chapter moves into the house on October 3. Learn more at www.buildnaborhouse.com.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

McLean County Alumni Reception
November 8, 2012
—Bloomington

Illinois Commodities Conference
“Working Together Everyone Achieves More”
November 22, 2012
- Bloomington

Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
December 1-4, 2012
- Chicago

Women Changing the Face of Agriculture - Career Discovery Conference
March 8, 2013—SIU

IALF Golf Tournament and Alumni Reunion
June 24, 2013
- Pontiac



Bob Stewart, left, and Jeff Ray stand in front of the new Nabor House Agricultural Fraternity building at the University of Illinois.

Thank You for Your Contributions to the Joyce Watson Leadership Orientation Seminar

Current and Past Board Member Contributors

Susan Adams	Jim Irwin	Rich Ryan
Hilmer Albrecht	Matt Jansen	Orion Samuelson
Martin Andreas	Dan Kelley	Marc Schulman
Gary Baise	Kraig Krause	Doug Sims
John Block	Porter Martin	Harold Steele
Charles Carey	Don McGillivray	David Stroud
Richard Connell	Kim Morton	Ron Warfield
Robert Easter	Bill Mullins	Glenn Webb
Tim Harris	Don Norton	
John Huston	Ned Rolston	



IALF founding President/CEO, Joyce Watson, accepts the certificate from IALF Board Chairman Dan Kelley naming the first seminar of each class the “Joyce Watson Leadership Orientation Seminar.” Joyce retired in August after serving the IALF for 30 years. The hundreds of people listed on this page made contributions to fully endow the seminar.

Alumni and Individual Contributors

Jeff Abbey	Jim Eichhorst	Linnea Kooistra	Steve Schneider
Jeff Adkisson	Ken Elmore	Jackie Kraft	Matthew Schoenbeck
Mary Auth	Dennis Epplin	Karl Lawfer	Rick Schramm
Barbara Baie	Sara Fernandez	David Larson	Doug Schroeder
Mike Baker	Larry Fischer	Penny Lauritzen	James Schroeder
Irvin Bane	Alan Forristall	Scott Lay	Deborah Schultz
Andy Bastert	John Fowler	Arthur Lehmann	Tim Seifert
Richard Baum	Sheila Fowler	Katie Leigh	David Serven
Bob Biehl	James Frank	Greg Lepper	T.J. Shambaugh
Tim Bittner	Brian Frieden	Brian Loeffler	Brad Smith
Michael Blentlinger	Ryan Frieders	Gary Luth	Jerry Snodgrass
Stan Blunier	Matt Ginder	David Martin	Norbert Soltwedel
Tara Bohnert Yoder	Chris Gould	Jeff Moore	Andrew Sprague
Chet Boruff	Justin Green	Ben Moye	Joe Springer
Amy Bouvet	Randy Grove	Robert Mullins	Grant Strom
Gary Bruch	David Hamman	Dan Nafziger	Duane Strunk
Peter Brummel	Heather Hampton-	Philip Nelson	Charles Studer
Ray Bunch	Knodle	Kevin Niemann	Timothy Stuenkel
Dean Campbell	Debbie Hamrick	Steve Niemann	Michelle Terry
Charles Cawley	Kae Hanks	Ken Nimrick	Larry Tombaugh
Thomas Chamberlain	Nathan Hasheider	Robert Phelps	Ron Tombaugh
Edward Cooper	Lynn Hiser	Lane Pickwell	Roger Twenhafel
John Cottingham	John Hohenberger	Nathan Provost	Graham Utter
Bret Cude	Ann Hughes	Alan Puzey	Carrie Vogel
Ken Dalenberg	Gary Huisinga	Jeff Ray	Brad Wade
Rick Dean	Brent Johnson	Robert Rhea	Jamie Walter
Mary Denton	Robert Johnson	Renee Roberts	Steve Weber
Randy DeSutter	Tracy Jones	Robin Roberts	Matt Wiebers
Keith Detwiler	John Kellogg	Ned Rolston	Jamie Willrett
Chris Eckert	Rick Kennay	Gerry Salzman	David Winters
Lary Eckert	William Knight	Jack Schlichting	Jim Wright

Progressions

Fall 2012

This is a quarterly newsletter of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation. The Foundation is a not-for-profit organization established in 1981 to provide a leadership development program for agricultural leaders in Illinois.

P.O. Box 160 • Macomb, IL 61455

T: 309-837-7711

F: 309-836-2259

Email: leaders@agleadership.org

www.agleadership.org

Chairman of the Board

Dan Kelley

President /CEO

Don Norton

Program Director

Alison Myers

Development Director

Debi Caspall Thurow

Board of Directors

Siamak Mirhakimi	Kim Morton
Porter Martin	Enid Schlipf
Gary Baise	Martin Andreas
Tim Harris	Marc Schulman
John Huston	Richard Ryan
Ron Warfield	Robert Easter
Matt Jansen	Tami Craig Shilling

Board Emeritus

Orion Samuelson	Don McGillivray
	Joyce Watson

A Special Thank You To All Annual Fund Contributors July-September 2012

Corporate Giving

Buck Bros.
Busey Bank
Capital Ag Property Services
Case IH
Consolidated Grain and Barge
DeKalb County Farm Bureau
Dow Agro Sciences
DuPage County Farm Bureau
Farm Credit Services
Grain and Feed Assn. of Illinois
Heath's Inc. John Deere
Holland & Sons, Inc.
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Chemical & Fertilizer Assn.
Kelley Sauder Rupiper Equip. LLC
Macon County Farm Bureau
Martin Brother Implement Co.
Martin Kroencke Sullivan Inc.
McDonough County Farm Bureau
McLean Implement Inc.
Neff Co – Avon
Potash Corporation
Prudential Foundation
Rabobank Agri Business
Sloan Implement Co Inc.
Tate & Lyle
Washington County Farm Bureau
Wm. Nobbe and Co Inc.

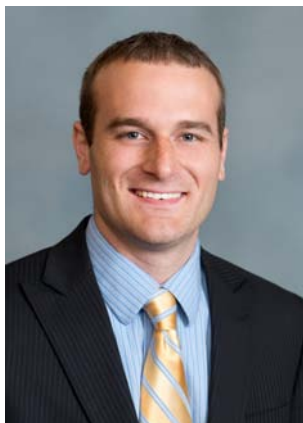
Individual and Alumni

Marty Andreas
Steve Arnold
Matt Bennett
Tim Bittner

Individual and Alumni Cont.

Nick Block
Stan Blunier
Peter Brummel
Chet Boruff
John Cottingham
Mike and Melanie DeSutter
Matt Ginder
Randy Grove
Jeff Guilander
John Huston
Tom Johnson
Rick Krone
Penny Lauritzen
Greg Lepper
John Longley
Chris Ludwig
Porter Martin
Don McGillivray
Kim Morton
Alison Myers
Don Norton
Roger Newell
Scott Newport
Mike Pellett
Robert Phelps
Richard Ryan
Enid and Lila Schlipf
Brad Smith
Andrew Sprague
Greg Steele
Debi Caspall Thurow
Carrie Vogel
Joyce Watson
Monte Weller
Jamie Willrett

CLASS OF 2014 FOCUS



Spencer Janssen, 28, Litchfield, is the Manager of the Litchfield Farmers Grain Elevator where he merchandises grain and maintains customer and buyer relations. He also works on his family's cattle and grain farm near Fillmore and is a landowner. Spencer earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Systems Technology from Southern Illinois University. He has been a member of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau for 10 years and the Knights of Columbus for two years.