

PROGRESSIONS

CLASS OF 2014 COMPLETES INTERNATIONAL STUDY SEMINAR

by Luke McKelvie, Class of 2014

On March 8, the IALP Class of 2014 departed on its International Study Seminar. The initial itinerary established in July of last year was noteworthy: the seminar would start in Russia – a first for an IALP class— then

continue to Ukraine and ultimately conclude in Poland.

Geopolitical events conspired to alter that plan.

Less than two weeks prior to departure, uprisings in Kiev followed by the Russian incursion into Crimea forced a

revamping of the seminar. After months of planning, it would have been understandable – albeit disappointing – if the trip were canceled or postponed. Instead the IALF staff, with the cooperation of dedicated alumni and class members, succeeded in putting an alternate agenda in place that rivaled the original. final destinations: Wiesbaden and Berlin, Germany, followed by Warsaw and Krakow, Poland.

As we learned, exactly where we went was far less important than that we went.

Professional Insights

From our first farm visit in Germany (the swine farm of Hofgut Seeger) to the last farm visit in Poland (potato farmer Waldemar Adamczyk), one lesson was immediately clear: farmers everywhere – whether in the midwestern United States or on the eastern border of Europe – share common values and beliefs that propel them forward.

These values were evident in the well-spoken, well-informed, shrewd businessmen and women we were privileged to meet.

We found people who:

- ◆ Are dedicated to raising the feed crops, food crops, fuel crops and livestock needed by a hungry world.
- ◆ Are concerned about activists who target their livelihood.
- ◆ Are independent minded – not wanting to rely on government support, but grateful it is there when needed.
- ◆ Are welcoming to guests and accommodating to strangers.
- ◆ Want to leave something to their children.
- ◆ Want to take care of their parents and grandparents who farmed before them.

These are themes that resonate with us from across the Atlantic, no doubt. After leaving each farm, group chatter would immediately center around these commonalities. “They’re just like us. We’re just like them.”

However, for all the bonds that bring us together, one difference was startlingly evident: When your livelihood depends disproportionately on what’s happening in 27 other European countries, as well as North and South America, you have a broader global view of the agricultural landscape.

(continued on page 3)

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts.

Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”

— Mark Twain

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ International Seminar.....1
- ▶ Class Focus.....2
- ▶ Alumni News.....5
- ▶ Events to Note.....6
- ▶ Golf Outing.....7
- ▶ 1st Quarter Donors.....8



After arriving that morning in Frankfurt and checking in to the hotel in Wiesbaden, the IALP Class of 2014 toured the vineyards of the Schloss Johannisberg Castle and Winery in Germany

From the President's Desk— The Consistency of Change by Don Norton



When we arrived at the IALF office on Monday, March 3—just 5 days before the International Study Seminar was set to depart for Russia and Poland—Alison Myers, our Program Director, and I were ready to put the finishing touches on a very exciting learning experience to Russia and Poland. Then, things changed.

A “special notice” from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow cautioned about “the potential for increased public demonstrations and anti-American actions in Russia.” Suddenly, this was not an appealing location to bring 30 American ag professionals who would be traveling the cities and countryside in a bus. A few weeks before we had already made the decision not to visit Ukraine. Now, Russia had to be cut.

So, in 5 days we changed the entire first week of the agenda once again, and as it turned out, we had a very pro-

ductive seminar in Germany and Poland (see Luke McKelvie’s article in this newsletter.)

The real leadership lesson of this seminar might be that the only constant is change, and an organization must be ready to adapt and move forward in light of the unexpected.

There are other lessons as well, such as the importance of our leadership network. For example, Gerry Salzman at CNH (IALP '92) mobilized his associates in Germany and opened doors for farm and dealer visits. He coordinated international conference calls and took our challenge upon himself. Thank you, Gerry, and to Sarah and Alfred who personally took responsibility for our group in Germany. That’s leadership—lived!

Some members of the Class of 2014 thanked me for not cancelling the international seminar because of the conflicts. Frankly, it never entered my mind. We just needed to call the right leaders.

CLASS OF 2014 SEMINAR SCHEDULE:

Energy Outlook

Endowed by Martin L. Andreas
July 9-11, 2014
Chicago, IL

Graduation & Commencement

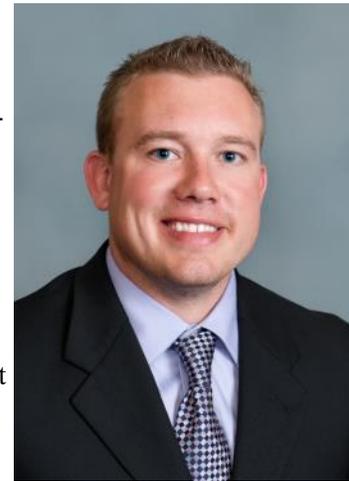
August 7, 2014
Chicago, IL

CLASS OF 2014 FOCUS

Nick Nagele, 30, Wheaton, is the manager and co-owner of Integrated Seeds, LLC, in DeKalb, where he oversees NK and Golden Harvest seed sales in a wide area of northern Illinois. He is actively involved with his family's grain farm in Iroquois County. He also is a co-founder of Whiskey Acres Distilling Co, a Seed to Spirit™ distillery. Nick earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and Environmental Communications and Education at the University of Illinois, specializing in advertising. He's an Eagle Scout, has run the Chicago Marathon and does volunteer work for the American Red Cross.



Jared Brown, 29, Broadwell, is a fourth generation corn and soybean farmer from central Illinois. He also provides consulting for seed and precision agriculture, and has recently joined the Logan County Farm Bureau Board. Previously, he served as President of the Logan County Farm Bureau Young Farmers pro-



gram. Jared served in the Illinois Army National Guard prior to graduating from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agribusiness, Farm and Financial Management, emphasis on Commodity Marketing. Jared is also a Certified Crop Adviser.

INTERNATIONAL STUDY SEMINAR (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The class quickly concluded that we would all be better served to learn from our European counterparts and be more aware of the gyrations shaping global consumption so that we're ready to address them. And we're each determined to do so.

In addition to the farmer-to-farmer opportunities, two unique events were arranged that proved especially valuable. First was a briefing at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin. Individuals from the USDA Foreign Ag Service, U.S. State Department and DuPont-Pioneer in Germany provided statistical and psychographic insight that gave the class great baseline knowledge of German agriculture.

Similarly, in Warsaw, Poland, the American Chamber of Commerce hosted a Poland-Illinois Ag and Food Summit on our behalf. Individual speakers and panels from Poland and the United States, including the U.S. Embassy's Commercial Service, governmental economic sections, agricultural attachés and other experts from public and private industry in both countries, made for an incredible day.

The IALF was well represented at the Summit with President/CEO Don Norton welcoming the crowd, Ron Warfield (alumnus) profiling the U.S. farmer, Nick Nagele (current class member) providing personal background on his value-added farming operation, and Jeff Bunting (current class member) giving insight into cooperatives such as Growmark.

The entire two weeks was filled with a variety of professional sessions and farm visits, by date:

- 3.9: Johannisberg Vineyards, Geisenheim, Germany
- 3.10: Cargill Supply Chain facility, Mianz, Germany
- 3.10: Case-New Holland Industrial Depot, Heidelberg, Germany
- 3.11: DLG Ag Engineering Test Center, Groß-Umstadt, Germany
- 3.11: Seippel Landmaschinen CNH Dealership, Groß-Umstadt, Germany
- 3.11: Hofgut Seeger, hog farmer, Otzberg, Germany



A wagon rolls down the center of a barn, feeding dairy cows on the Tomasz Stolarzcky farm in Walewice, Poland.

- 3.12: Agro Bördegrün (Ronald Westphal, manager), 9400 acres, Niderndodeleben, Germany
- 3.12: Thomas Seeger, 1000 hd cattle, 4900 acres grain/sugar beets
- 3.13: U.S. Embassy briefings, Berlin, Germany
- 3.16: Monsanto Poland briefing / Paweł Szóstak, Warsaw, Poland
- 3.17: Tomasz Stolarzcyk, dairy, beef, thoroughbred horses, Walewice, Poland
- 3.17: Bronisze Retail / Wholesale Food Market, Warsaw, Poland
- 3.18: Poland / Illinois Agricultural Summit, Warsaw, Poland
- 3.19: Kazimierz Gajda, hog farmer, Żarnowica Duża, Poland
- 3.19: Firma Małolepszy John Deere Dealership, Radomsko, Poland
- 3.19: Gregorz Szwaczka, grain farmer, Boczkowice, Poland
- 3.20: Agriculture Advisory Center briefing, Krakow, Poland
- 3.20: Waldemar Adamczyk, potato farmer, Krakow, Poland

(continued on page 4)

INTERNATIONAL STUDY SEMINAR (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)



Patrick Maschhoff from the Class of 2014 peers through an opening in one of the few remaining sections of the Berlin Wall.

One of the recurring themes of the farm visits and policy presentations was the discussion of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union. Farms are certified as abiding by CAP restrictions and governance, and, in turn, are given hundreds of Euros per acre as a subsidy each year. In addition, there are heavily subsidized programs for converting biogas to energy in farming operations. This becomes an

important issue as talks continue on the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), a proposed free trade agreement between the United States and European Union.

Cultural Insights

With histories that span more than five times that of the United States, Europe and the countries that comprise it have an altogether different perspective on the passage of time and historical events. The collision – and overlap – of ancient cultures, boundaries and belief systems made for a fascinating cultural study for our class.

We found ourselves...

- ◆ Walking the ruins of an 11th century castle.
- ◆ Staring at the sarcophagus of a 13th century Polish king.
- ◆ Gathering in a 15th century town square.
- ◆ Touring an ancient wine cellar, wondering how that bottle from 1643 would taste.
- ◆ Walking the border of the Berlin Wall, pondering how it would feel to be mere feet away from freedom.
- ◆ Overlooking the German parliament building and marveling at how far democratization and reunification have come.
- ◆ Standing amid the ruins of Auschwitz, trying to comprehend how 1.5 million human beings could be so brutally murdered in one place.

For cultural and historical eye-opening, it would be difficult to find better areas of study than Germany and Poland – two countries at the center of multiple wars and the fall of Communism.

It was incredibly humbling to stand in places where the path of mankind has so often been determined. To stand where it could have easily changed course for worse or better. Places where a small group of people determined how easy or difficult life would become for millions of others. Where men, women and children were loaded by the hundreds onto cattle cars so they could be exterminated. Where men decided whether or not to keep up a wall that suppressed human dignity...or tear it down.

The U.S. has a proud history of standing up and lending aid to the cause of freedom. But it is so rarely applied within our own borders. To be in the places where those efforts were actually realized and brought to fruition was inspiring. And humbling. And often chilling.

Cultural highlights by date:

- 3.10: Evening in Heidelberg, Germany
- 3.13: Historical tour of Berlin, Germany
- 3.15: Walking tour of Warsaw, Poland
- 3.18: Farmers market tour, Warsaw, Poland
- 3.20: Guided tour of Auschwitz
- 3.21: Walking tour of Wawel Castle, Krakow, Poland

And of course, every evening spent interacting with locals provided learning and outreach opportunities that bolstered our knowledge and understanding.

It was a life-changing and awe-inspiring seminar.

On behalf of the Class of 2014, we want to provide our heartfelt thanks to all those who made it possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Luke McKelvie

“Travel far enough, you meet yourself.”
— David Mitchell, author



APPLICATIONS CLOSED

Thank you to our alumni and corporate partners who recommended applicants for the Class of 2016. Interviews will begin in May. Applications were accepted between November 1, 2013 and March 1, 2014.

Alumni in the News

Working with Penton Farm Progress Publications and dozens of global manufacturers of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), **Stu Ellis ('88)** is leading the first Precision Aerial Ag Show, which is scheduled for July 9 & 10 at Decatur's Progress City outdoor exhibitor center. Open air flights of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are planned through an agreement between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Academy of Model Aeronautics. In addition to demonstrations of the technology, the event will include educational speakers, vendor presentations, and a trade show. Details are at: www.paas2014.com.

Randal S. Fransen (IALP '00), AFM, Vice President & Farm Manager – First National Bank of Dwight, has recently been named as President-Elect of the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers. He will assume the position of President of this organization in January of 2015.

Dan Kelley (IALP '84) retired from the board of Evergreen FS after 37 years, 20 as President of the board. In recognition of his years on the board, the auditorium at the Evergreen FS office building is now the "Daniel T. Kelley Auditorium." See photo at right.



Gerry Salzman (IALP '92), who is currently Senior Director, CaseIH Global Marketing, will be retiring after 42 years of service for International Harvester, CaseIH and the newly formed CNH Industrial Group. Gerry will continue as a consultant for the Company on selected projects.

Happy birthday, Orion

IALF board member emeritus Orion Samuelson celebrated his 80th birthday "on the air" during the morning show on WGN Radio in Chicago and on the television show "This Week in Agribusiness." On the television program with Max Armstrong, birthday greetings were played from Washington D.C. dignitaries and current and former U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture.



Those sending wishes include Secretary Tom Vilsack, Nebraska Senator Mike Johanns, Clayton Yuetter, John Block, Dan Glickman, Congressman Charlie Stenholm, and Kansas Senator Pat Roberts. They saluted Orion's career in making sure that all 300 million + Americans know the story of agriculture.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

The following corporations provide a significant level of financial support to the IALF, making it possible to present a premier leadership development experience. Please find their links on our website and, when you meet company representatives, THANK THEM for making this program possible:



**DATES TO
REMEMBER:**

April
15 IALF Board Meeting
Chicago

May 8
Class of 2016 Interviews
begin

May 30
Lock and Dam Tour
Marseilles, IL

June 23
IALF Golf Outing

July 8
IALF Board Meeting
Chicago

July 9—11
Energy Seminar
Sponsored by Martin L.
Andreas
Chicago

July 30—Aug 2
ILAC Conference
Springfield and Chicago

August 7
Class of 2014 Graduation
All alumni are invited!
Chicago

ILAC CONFERENCE IN JULY

Graduates of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program are immediately eligible for membership in ILAC, the International Leadership Alumni Conference.

The conference is scheduled for Illinois from July 30-August 2, 2014.

It will be based at the Hilton in Lisle/Naperville. Most of the conference sessions will be held there, but there will be a pre-tour to Springfield and some of the Lincoln sites. IALP alumni will be able to register for the conference and book hotel rooms with the links from the ILAC website—

<http://www.ilac-conference.com/index.php?pageID=7746>

This is a special year since ILAC is celebrating its 25th anniversary. **Barbara Baie (IALP '94) and Susan Adams (IALP '96)** are co-chairs for the event.



Alumni Events to Note!

Join the Class of 2014 in Chicago in July and August!

Alumni and spouses are invited to join the Class of 2014 at their final seminar and graduation. The Energy Seminar sponsored by Martin L. Andreas will be open to alums on Friday morning, July 11. And ALL alumni and guests are invited to join the class for Graduation in Chicago on Thursday August 7. There will be the traditional boat cruise of the Chicago river that evening. Registration is required. Please call the office at 309-837-7711 or email debi@agleadership.org.

ALUMNI INVITED TO LOCK AND DAM TOUR

Plan now to join other IALP alums for a tour of the Lock and Dam systems located at Marseilles and North Utica/Ottawa on May 30th. Alums and their spouses/partners are encouraged to attend!

The tour will start at the Marseilles Lock and Dam area (2199 Hawk Road, Marseilles, IL) at 10am. There will be a tour of the facility and attendees will see first hand how the lock and dam system works. There is a strong chance we will get to see the locks actually work with barges going through.

The tour will proceed the Illinois Waterway Visitors Center just south of North Utica (Rt. 1, 950 N 27th Road, Ottawa, IL) for a second viewing of the lock and dam in operation. Following this tour we will go across the river to the Starved Rock Lodge located at the Starved Rock State Park and have lunch at 12:00 noon. This is a gorgeous setting that overlooks the area and river. The tour is limited to 30 people.

Please RSVP to Debi Thurow at the IALF office. debi@agleadership.org.

Fore! Register NOW for the Golf Classic & Reunion



Registration has begun for the 16th Annual IALF Golf Classic, Tour & Reunion to be held Monday, June 23 at the Pontiac Elks Country Club. Golfers can arrive when the driving range open at 9:00AM and tee-off time is 10:30AM!

For non-golfers, a tour of the Cayuga Ridge Iberdrola Renewables Wind Farm is planned to leave the golf course as a group at 12:30PM. Lunch is provided. Enjoy a brief 20 minute ride to the Cayuga Ridge South Wind Power Project for a guided tour of the largest wind turbine project in Illinois. The farm produces 300 megawatts of power from 150 turbines in Livingston County. Learn about how the turbines work, how power goes “on the grid,” and the important economic benefits to the local community. The group will arrive back at the golf course for the social hour.

The social hour starts at 3:00PM with a silent auction. Dinner will be served at 4:30PM followed by the live auction.

There will be a variety of team prizes, hole prizes and raffle prizes to be awarded during the evening. In addition, tickets are on sale for a chance to win a John Deere Gator CX Utility Vehicle. A hole-in-one on the grand prize par 3 hole will win a Case IH Farmall Compact Tractor.

You can register to play golf as an individual, pair or a complete foursome. Registration for the event, the tour, hole sponsorships and raffle ticket sales can be completed online at www.agleadership.org; click on the red link on the front page, OR register by calling the IALF office at 309-837-7711. Final day to register is June 6!

Golf Hole Sponsorships And Other Sponsors Now Being Accepted!

Don't miss the chance to have you or your company recognized at the IALF Golf Outing—become a hole sponsor or sponsor one of the many specialty prizes at the event.

Two prizes will be given out this year. The first is the “Class Spirit Award.” This award goes to the class that donates the most money to a hole sponsorship combined with money from selling raffle tickets (the current class is not eligible). The second prize is the “Class Participation Award” and goes to the class that has the most golfers combined with the most individuals who attend the tour and dinner.

We're looking for a sponsor on every golf hole, and sponsors for additional Hole-In-One par-3 holes, Skills Challenge Sponsors and a sponsor for the Putting Contest. You can sign up for these sponsorships on our website at www.agleadership.org and click on the red link on the front page, or call Debi at 309-837-7711.

The golf outing and tour is a great opportunity to bring your spouse or a business associate to meet and fellowship with graduates of the IALP. It's also our major fundraising activity of the year. We appreciate your support.

THANK YOU TO OUR
CORPORATE SPONSORS



Progressions

Spring 2014

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

Chet Boruff Richard Ryan

John Huston Robert Easter

Ron Warfield Matt Jansen

Dan Kelley Tami Craig Shilling

Board Emeritus

Orion Samuelson Don McGillivray

Joyce Watson

Thank you to our 1st quarter donors (Jan 1—March 31, 2014)

Corporate Giving

Carroll Service Company

Citizens Bank of Macomb *

CoBank *

Cook County Farm Bureau

Farm Credit Illinois *

GRAINCO FS, Inc

GROWMARK, Inc. *

Heritage FS, Inc.

Monsanto Company

Pioneer Heartland

Potash Corporation

Prudential Agricultural Investments

Siemer Milling Company *

South Central FS

West Central FS

Individual & Alumni Giving

Jeff Abbey *

Stephen Ayers *

Andrew Bastert

Tim Bittner

Allyn Buhrow

Dean Campbell

Donald Cochran *

George Dixon

Robert Easter

Jane Feagans

Edward Feeney

Sheila Fowler

James Frank

Chris Gould

Steven Gustafson

Individual & Alumni Giving—cont.

Nathan Hasheider

Robert Johnson

Daniel Kelley *

John Kellogg *

Doug Kirk

William Leigh *

David Logsdon

Thomas Martin *

Kevin Miller

Philip Nelson

Kevin Niemann *

Lane Pickwell

Peter Pistorius

Alan Puzey *

Chris Salrin

Wendell Shauman

Marty Turner

Steven Wentworth

William Wykes

*** = THE IALF
PRESIDENT'S CLUB**

**AT LEAST
FIVE CONSECUTIVE
YEARS AS A
CONTRIBUTOR TO
THE ANNUAL FUND**