

PROGRESSIONS

CLASS OF 2016 EXPLORES TRADE AND LOGISTICS IN JAPAN AND PANAMA

The Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program (IALP) Class of 2016 participants completed two weeks of study in Japan and Panama during the International Study Seminar in late February and early March. The 13-day seminar included 19 sessions that focused on supply chain, logistics and trade partnership issues with these two diverse nations. More than 30 speakers gave presentations to the group during the two weeks.



Clad in bio-security protective clothing, members of the IALP Class of 2016 visit a Wagyu beef farm near Tokyo.

The class began the seminar in Tokyo with a briefing by United States Embassy officials, including Minister-Counselor of Agriculture David Miller and Agricultural Attache Evan Mangino. Presentations also were given by the major commodity organizations representing U.S. farm sectors: the U.S. Grains Council, the U.S. Soybean Export Council and the U.S. Meat Export Federation. Class members toured a supermarket in Tokyo where U.S. beef and pork products were being featured and sampled by customers. Japan is the largest importer of U.S. corn and third largest importer of U.S. soybeans.



Members of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program Class of 2016 toured a grocery store in Tokyo that featured American beef and pork.

The Class of 2016 toured a Wagyu beef farm where cattle are raised with a higher fat content to produce the much-desired Japanese beef. The veterinarian who operates the beef farm also owns a small dairy operation, which also was visited by the class. The totally automated milking machines and computer-driven data collection system monitor feeding and productivity for each animal.

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Travel Far - by Don Norton



English novelist David Mitchell is credited with coining one of my favorite quotes - "Travel far enough and you meet yourself."

Of course he is speaking about how you find out more about your own values and character the farther you get away from your comfort zone. That is one of the objectives of our leadership program and why, among other reasons, we explore international issues by traveling abroad.

I hope you enjoy reading about the thrilling study seminar our Class of 2016 encountered in Japan and Panama—two vastly different cultures with the common link being their role in logistics and trade with U.S. agriculture. The briefings by government officials of both countries, tours of ports, farm visits, and connections with consumers in local stores provide a global perspective that is vital for future leaders in our industry.

Even more important than the knowledge of how agriculture works in

different parts of the world is the experience of world travel. While some in our leadership class have been on foreign tours with agricultural commodity groups or in their jobs, 13 days of extensive international study was a new experience for many.

Make no mistake about it—this is not a vacation! Any one of the class members will tell you that there was little down time, early mornings and late nights, and there's nothing glamorous about 12-hour plane rides and bus tours down narrow country roads.

But all of this is worth the experience of talking with farmers on other soils, and experiencing first-hand the global impact of the food we grow.

My wish for each of our class members is to travel far—embrace the opportunity to represent U.S. agriculture around the world. Many of our alumni have done this and have found their global roles to be richly rewarding on a personal level.

CLASS OF 2016 SEMINAR SCHEDULE:

Martin L. Andreas Energy Outlook Seminar, Chicago, July 13-16

Graduation & Commencement Seminar – Chicago, August 4

CLASS OF 2016 FOCUS

Kimberly Meier, Ridott, works on her family's



cash grain farm where they also feed steers. She's actively involved in the Stephenson County Farm Bureau as the County Fair board representative, and is an outreach team member for the Illinois Farm Families program. Kim is a member of the National and Illinois Corn Growers Associations, National Holstein Association and volunteers with the Freeport High School FFA. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and is involved with the Midwest Summer Nationals Tractor, Truck and Miniroad Pull at the Stephenson County Fair each year, and serves as the sound technician with the Freeport High School Fine Arts Department.

David Jansen, Effingham, is the Plant



Manager at Siemer Milling Company. He is an active member of the International Association of Operative Millers, serving on the Board of Directors, is Director of the Ohio Valley District, and an International Milling Education Foundation trustee. He is a volunteer fire fighter in Teutopolis. David is a graduate of Lake Land College and has an advanced Operative Millers certificate from Kansas State University.

Class Explores Trade and Logistics - (from page 1)

The Port of Kashima is being prepared to handle the super-Panamax ships that will traverse the new lane of the Panama Canal. While at the port, class members toured the Nisshin OilliO company, where grain arrives, is processed and packaged into a variety of food products sold throughout Japan. The group also toured a tofu processing plant that utilizes U.S. soybeans in its products.

Hiroaki Kojima, Director, Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, discussed Japan's interest in the Trans Pacific Partnership and some of the challenges facing Japan's agricultural sector. He noted that Japan has a shrinking population, estimated to fall from 127 million people to about 85 million by 2060. The average age of a farmer is 65, and the nation is having difficulties getting younger people into the farming business because of the low wages and hard physical work. More than one-million acres of Japanese farm land is fallow. Sixty-one percent of the nation's food is imported.



The new lane of the Panama Canal (at left) fills with water as members of the IALP Class of 2016 look on. This is the Gatun Lock at the north end of the canal.



Inside a growing room on an aquaponic lettuce farm, class members view lettuce grown in a nutrient-rich solution under special lighting.

Many of the crops grown in Japan are specialty crops. The Class of 2016 traveled to a strawberry farm and tasted the Sky Berry, a new, sweet strawberry grown exclusively on the farm. In addition, the group visited a tomato farm, an egg processing facility and a rural farmer's market.

In Panama, the Class of 2016 viewed the new lane of the Panama Canal being filled with water (see photo). The lane is scheduled to be in use by June 2016, and is longer and wider than the original two lanes to accommodate super-Panamax ships. These ships have the potential to reduce the cost of sending U.S. agricultural products to Asia. However, it was noted in a briefing by the Panama Canal Authority that few ports in the United States have the 50-foot draft required for the

larger ships. Briefings were also conducted at the U.S. Embassy in Panama.

The Class of 2016 was greeted by Manuel Grimaldo, Vice Minister of Commerce in Panama, and several representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture. It was noted that the most important mission of the Ministry is to educate the Panamanian people about agriculture. The class toured a grain processing plant where dried distiller grains (DDGs) from the U.S. are used in feed for chickens. Panama consumers eat more chicken per capita than any other Latin American country.

Also while in Panama, the class toured a vertical hydroponic farm that grows lettuce at half the price of traditional lettuce sold in Panama City, and a horse breeding farm. The visit ended with a briefing at the City of Knowledge, a sprawling campus in the canal zone formerly occupied by the U.S. military that has been converted to a business accelerator.

WE APPRECIATE OUR CORPORATE INVESTORS

The IALF receives no state or federal funds to operate the leadership program. It is funded by corporations, associations, alumni and friends who share our passion and understand the importance of having knowledgeable and effective leaders for agriculture.



ALUMNI NEWS

Ken Maschhoff (IALP '88) has been named president-elect of the National Pork Producers Council. He served on the Illinois Pork Producers Board for two terms Ken currently serves as a representative to the NPPC Board. The fifth-generation pork producer serves as chairman of Maschhoff Family Foods, and co-owner and chairman of The Maschhoff's Inc. The Maschhoff's produces 3.5 million market hogs and 500,000 feeder pigs per year, making them the third-largest pork producer in the country.

Steve Bridge (IALP '16) continues to see more television time as he filled in for IALF Board Member Emeritus Orion Samuelson. Steve, pictured at right on the studio set with Max Armstrong, was subbing for Orion who took time off to celebrate his birthday! And Happy Birthday, Orion!



Steve Bridge, at right, with Max Armstrong on This Week in Agribusiness."

Best wishes to **Alison Myers (IALP Program Director)** who became engaged to Steve Jefferson over the Easter holiday. Steve works at the DuPont Pioneer research facility in McDonough County.

Wendell Shauman (IALP '84), Ron Moore (IALP '98) and Andrew Bowman (IALP '14) were featured panelists on a live radio discussion on agricultural issues. The "2016 Annual Spring Ag Roundtable" was broadcast March 31st on WBYS, WAIK and WRAM in



Andrew Bowman, Wendell Shauman, and Ron Moore

Canton, Galesburg and Monmouth. Wendell is Past President of U.S. Grains Council, Ron is Vice President of the American Soybean Association, and Andrew is Chairman of the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education. The two-hour program touched on a wide range of agricultural issues, including funding for ag education, regulations affecting the ag industry, and the importance of international agricultural trade to the Illinois economy.

ALUMNI NEWS (CONTINUED)

Penny



Penny Lauritzen

Lauritzen (IALP '86) has been named to the Top 10 of the "100 Farm Credit Fresh Perspectives" by 1st Farm Credit Services and the nationwide Farm Credit System. Penny was recognized for her mentoring and volunteerism role in helping women work in the field of agriculture. The award notes that "eight years ago she put her vision into action and created the first-ever Women Changing the Face of Agriculture event. Now in its seventh year, the event brings high school and college students with an interest in agriculture together to explore careers with women who are already working in the agriculture field."

AND... **Dr. Robert Easter**, IALF Board Member and President Emeritus of the University of Illinois, also was listed in the "100 Farm Credit Fresh Perspectives" for his work as chair of the Food and Agricultural RoadMap for Illinois (FARM Illinois). AND... The **Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Planning Committee**, featuring many IALP alumna, was also recognized in the awards.

Jarrood and **Brittany Dean Carter (IALP '14)** joyfully welcomed Baby Caroline Isabelle Carter on March 12, 2016. Caroline is the granddaughter of Barb and **Rick Dean (IALP '02)**. **Congratulations!**



Caroline Isabelle Carter

Jim McKinstry (IALP '88) has announced his retirement from The Andersons, Inc. effective May 31, 2016. Jim has been Vice-President, Eastern Region, Transportation & Food at The Andersons.

Gary Baise, long time member of the IALF Board of Directors, was the featured speaker at the Morgan County Agri-Business Banquet on March 10th, sponsored by the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce.



Gary Baise addresses the audience at the Morgan County Agribusiness Banquet, with his wife, Ann, seated with him at the head table.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE INVESTORS

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:

www.agleadership.org

and, when you meet company representatives, **THANK THEM** for making this program possible:



JOHN DEERE



More Alumni News (continued from page 5)

In Memoriam—Chan Sieben (IALP '84)

Channing Arthur Sieben, a profound leader in the seed industry and one of the original incorporators of the Independent Professional Seedsmen Association (IPSA), passed away on March 18, 2016 at his home in Ixtlahuacan de los Membrillos, Jalisco, Mexico where he's been living since 2005. He was 72. "Chan" was a member of the inaugural class of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program.

The Independent Professional Seed Association indicates that Chan was from Geneseo and worked at Deere & Co. early in his career. He then served in the U.S. Navy from 1966-1969 as a Line Officer aboard the USS Jenkins DD-447 based in Pearl Harbor. Chan worked for Blackhawk Foundations before joining Sieben Hybrids in 1971. He was co-owner and president of the family seed business until it was sold in 2002. He worked for several years as an agricultural consultant for the U.S. Fertilizer & Chemical Association leading USAID projects in Albania and Kyrgyzstan.

He served on the Board of Directors of Illinois Foundation Seeds from 1977-82, and from 1986-1991 serving as vice president in 1981 & president in 1982. In 1989 Chan joined with six other seed companies, as one of the original incorporators, to create the Independent Professional Seedsmen Association (IPSA). He served as IPSA President from the formation in 1989 through 1992, and then continued to act as Executive Director. The Association continues and today has 220 members.

Chet Boruff, one of Chan's classmates from the Class of 1984, recalls, "I have very fond memories of Chan. He was one of those individuals who could make very insightful contributions to our class sessions during the day, then keep us all entertained with his keen wit and fun-loving personality after hours. Looking back now on his accomplishments, it is evident how he used his talents and leadership skills to leave a positive impact on the seed industry here in the U.S. and the agricultural community in countries around the world."

Chan is survived by two younger brothers, Todd of Geneseo, IL and Drew of Ft. Dodge, IA; his son Whitney (Debra) & four grandchildren of Lantana, TX; and his step daughter Angie (Chris) Naylor & three step grandchildren of Deerfield, IL.

Register online NOW for IALF Golf Tournament



The 17th Annual IALF Golf Outing sponsored by Mosaic will be held June 27th at the Edgewood Golf Club in Auburn, Illinois. It's going to be a great event, and for non-golfers, the trap shoot will once again be held nearby. You can register your foursome or for the trap shoot online now at www.agleadership.org. We are also seeking hole sponsors and prize donations for our live auction, which is held during the dinner after golf. We hope to see you there!

Class Members Share Experiences

Micah Pope, Brandy Marron, Stephen Huls, A.J. Woodyard and Brad Uken (all from IALP '16 and left to right in photo), were featured speakers at the Illinois Farm Bureau District 12 meeting on March 21st. The topic was the recent International Study Seminar in Japan and Panama.



Leadership Seminar at Farmland Forum

IALF President & CEO Don Norton was one of the breakout session speakers at the 2016 Farmland Forum, sponsored by The Chicago Farmers. The topic, of course, was "Leadership in Agriculture: How Leaders Learn."

Don talked about how the two-year leadership program sponsored by the IALF develops the skills, knowledge and character of leaders, and gave some practical steps on how organizations of all kinds can promote an environment of leadership development. According to the Deloitte consulting firm, 9 out of 10 global HR and business leaders cited leadership as a top issue, but only 6% believe their leadership pipeline is "very ready!"



IALF President & CEO Don Norton talks about leadership at the Farmland Forum.

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Last Chance to Order Your Official IALF Polo Shirt

By popular demand, the IALF is offering the official IALF Performance Polo Shirts. These are excellent quality, 4.1 oz. weight, 100% Polyester pique with moisture wicking anti-microbial and UV Protection Performance, and are available in ladies' or men's sizes. They feature the unique IALF logo with the words "Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation" embroidered with the logo.

The cost is \$29 for men's or women's sizes S-XL. \$36 for LT or XLT in the S-XL sizes. Add \$3 for 2XL, \$4 for 3XL etc. up to 5XL. Shipping to your home or business in Illinois is included! To order, email debi@agleadership.org.



Thank you for your nominations

The IALF office has received many applications for our Class of 2018. We appreciate our corporate and association partners, alumni and friends who recognize quality leaders who would benefit from the experience of our flagship two-year program. Thank you for your nominations!

Progressions

Spring 2016

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.

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