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**KALP Program
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A Look Back on KALP Class IX

The 22 members of Class IX were selected from 100 nominations, 56 applications, and 36 interviewees. They were full-time farmers (10), part-time farmers (6), ag lenders (3), ag sales/marketing (3), ag educators (3), and ag agency employees (2). They came from one end of the state to the other, and two crossed the border from Tennessee. There were 16 male, 6 female, and ranged in age from 23 to 44.

They began their KALP journey in January 2010 and graduated in April 2011 to join 222 other alumni of KALP and its predecessor, the Philip Morris Agricultural Leadership Development Program. Nine seminars were held across the state, one in Washington, DC, and study tours were taken to New Zealand and the US Midwest. This is a summary of the KALP Class IX experience.

Seminar 1: What it means to be a



Class IX on their domestic tour to the Midwest.

leader. The first seminar was keyed by Kim Anderson, a nationally known leadership development specialist with the Fanning Institute at the University of Georgia. Class IX used this seminar to get acquainted with KALP and with each other. It concluded with a tour to Alltech. January 6-8, 2010 – Lexington

Seminar 2: Understanding Self and Serving Communities. Long-time KALP speaker Jimmy Richardson from Mississippi State led participants (and spouses) through Meyers-Briggs personality assessments. Service opportunities to communities,

non-profit organizations, and agriculture were highlighted. UK coach John Calipari discussed leadership in the context of the pressure cooker of UK basketball. February 17-20, 2010, Lexington

Seminar 3: Agricultural Policy: Process and Issues. The third seminar focused on Ag Policy and Ag Finance with speakers from Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Services, Co-Bank, Merrill Lynch, the political consulting world, and nationally recognized ag policy expert, Barry Flinchbaugh from Kansas State University. March 17-19, 2010, Louisville

Alumni Spotlight: Alec Russell

Alec Russell, class II graduate, has always believed that it is important to be actively involved in his community.

“Don’t expect anything out of your community if you don’t put anything into it,” said Russell. “That was my father’s philosophy and it has become mine as well over the years.”



Alec Russell (Class II) is the owner of Greenline Implement and an new member of the KALP Advisory Board.

Like many in Kentucky agriculture, Russell doesn’t just define his community as the area in which he lives. Since his graduation from UK’s Agriculture Economics program, Russell has been actively involved in Kentucky’s agriculture community. Russell first worked for the Mammoth Cave PCA after college, but soon returned back to his native Danville to service as Vice President of Farmer’s Bank. In 1992, he realized it was time for a change in his career and left the banking industry and started the John Deere dealership, Greenline Implement.

“I saw starting my own business as an opportunity to do something more for myself and my family,” said Russell. “I took the risk and today we have the store in Danville and the store in Springfield.”

As Russell has built his business over the last twenty years he has stayed committed to his belief of being actively involved in the community. He has worked with the schools and agriculture organizations in Boyle County and beyond to provide John Deere equipment for events and programs. Yet, he still believes there is more that he can do for his agriculture community, and that is why recently he

agreed to become a member of the KALP Advisory Board.

“When you are young you are involved with family and business and it is hard to be that advocate for agriculture,” said Russell. “I told the guys I had my head in the business for 20 years and it was time for me to do more and become involved.”

Russell hopes that as an KALP Advisory Board member he will be able to not only give of his time to play and active role on the Board, but he also hopes to help reach out to the alumni and agriculture leaders to help raise awareness of the program and the need for continued support.

“As a business owner I know what it is like to get inundated with requests for donations, and in this economic climate it is hard for people to support everyone that asks,” said Russell. “I believe though we in Kentucky agriculture need to step up and support the KALP program, to help build Kentucky’s next generation of agriculture leaders.”

Planning for Class X

At the current pace of fundraising and endowment growth we anticipate that Class X might start ahead of schedule.

Normally we’d recruit and interview in late 2012 and start Class X in January 2013.

If the income stream will allow, we’d like to recruit and interview in the first half of 2012 and start the class in October 2012.



SAVE THE DATE November 17

The KALP Alumni will have a meeting during the 2011 Ky Agriculture Summit taking place in at the Commonwealth Convention Center in Louisville. Be sure to watch your emails for information updates on the meeting.

Alumni President: Adam Andrews

Looking back over the last ten years, you can't help but notice the profound changes that have occurred in Kentucky's and surrounding states' agriculture landscape. The relationships, markets and technology have arguably transformed more over this period of time than any decade in our industry's history. For a group that is often accused of resisting change, agriculture leaders in this area sure have welcomed, fostered and even fought for a new era in the business of farming.

Individuals who happen to be KALP alumni have had played important roles in navigating our agriculture industry through this minefield. Many other states could never imagine the challenges the Kentucky-area farmers have overcome. Farmers have capitalized on opportunities at a time when the future was uncertain to say the least. And, it cannot be denied that a critical component of these successes has been the skills and networks developed of leaders by way of this program over nearly the past 30 years.

I am excited to write my first column as president in the KALP Alumni Association newsletter. I hope you will welcome me and Andi Branstetter (Class IX) as vice president. We are both grateful for an opportunity to give back to a program that has been so successful in helping farms prosper. Andi and I look forward to our responsibilities of engaging you as alum. Feel free to contact us with any feedback or suggestions. You can reach me at adam@kycorn.org; Andi at abranstetter@neogen.com.

Over the next few months, alumni directors will be working to reconnect class members and introduce members throughout different classes to each other. Our first step is to find out what kinds of activities and opportunities would get alumni more active; so I hope you have been contacted by your director – and I hope you offered some suggestions. We batted several ideas around in our last directors' meeting: an international trip, barbecues and candidate forums are a few examples.



Adam Andrews (Class VII) is the KY Corn Growers Program Director and the new KALP Alumni President.

It is important for all alumni to take ownership in what KALP sets out to do. I think it is safe to say that the next ten years seen by Kentucky-area farmers can be as tumultuous as the previous ten. KALP will make a positive impact on the future of the agriculture industry; the size of that impact, though, depends on you. I hope you'll join in our efforts. Let us know what you want the function of the alumni association to be; and be involved.

KY Ag Development Board Planning Meeting

Oct. 18-19 at General Butler State Park, Carrollton

Kentucky Women in Agriculture 12th Annual Conference

Oct. 26-28 at Crowne Plaza Campbell House, Lexington. Visit www.kywomeninag.com for updates on details and agenda.

Upcoming Events

KSU Small, Limited Resource, Minority Farmers Conference

Nov. 15 – 17 at Capital Plaza Hotel, KSU Research Farm & KSU, Frankfort. For more information, contact Louie Rivers at (502) 597-5905 or louie.rivers@kysu.edu.

KAC Bioenergy Symposium

Nov. 17 at Commonwealth Convention Center, Louisville (9 a.m. – 4 p.m. EST).

2011 Kentucky Agricultural Summit: Agricultural Economy & Rural Communities

Nov. 18 at Commonwealth Convention Center, Louisville (8 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST). More information at www.kyagcouncil.org.

KALP Fundraising Update

Support for the KALP endowment and funding for Class X continues at a healthy pace!

In August we passed the two million dollar point in total gifts. This includes direct gifts, in-kind contributions, and pledged amounts and counts contributions to both the KALP endowments and to spending accounts for payment of operating expenses.

As of June 30, the endowment balances were about \$1.5 million and were generating about \$4000 – 5000 a month of income for future classes. To be completely sustainable and to be cushioned against volatility in investment markets, we estimate that the endowment balances should be about \$2.5 million. WE WILL CONTINUE fund raising efforts.

Recent significant gifts include an additional \$50,000 from Kentucky Corn Growers Association (this places them solidly as our second largest contributor), the Christian County Agri-Business Association (\$5,000), and the Fayette

County Farm Bureau (\$30,000).

We would like to assure all contributors that we continue every effort to be good stewards of your investments.

We selected another top quality group of participants for Class IX, offered them a curriculum of nationally recognized speakers, took them to premium site visits and educational travels, and did it with lower costs per person than any recent class. Specifically, cash costs per person were reduced from \$15,082 (Class VIII) to \$11,076 (Class IX). We were able to save money with the help of in-kind support for meeting facilities, meals, and speakers. Our media training was offered at Murray State University and at less cost than previous classes, and the domestic trip was a bus ride closer to home, but just as educational.

We offer sincere thanks to all who support KALP in so many ways.

Steve and Will



Giving is easy and is tax deductible!

We have a link to on-line giving on our webpage. Go to the Sponsorship tab and select "University of Kentucky Online Giving." Select Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program from the drop-down gift designation.

Be sure to indicate KALP in the memo line.

If you want to mail a gift or pledge, send it to:

**UK College of Agriculture
ES Good Barn
1451 University Drive
Lexington, KY
40546-0276**

KALP Updates

Will and Steve would like to thank Brian Lacefield, Todd Perry, Al Young, and Willis Jepson for joining them this summer to give updates on the KY Ag Leadership Program to the Kentucky Ag Development Board and the KY Corn Growers Association. Will and Steve have also presented updates on the program to the Ky Small Grains Association and the Burley Tobacco Growers Co-op. They would like to thank all the alumni who have attended these meetings to show support for the KALP Fundraising efforts!



July Ag Development Meeting

Steve Isaacs

Brian Lacefield

2011 KADF Stakeholder Survey

To complete the survey on-line go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/TS52QV3.

For additional information on the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund visit <http://agpolicy.ky.gov>.

A Look Back *cont...*



*KALP Class IV
on the farm
"down under"
on their
international
tour to New
Zealand!*

Seminar 4: Community Development in Eastern KY - Energy, Education, and Entrepreneurship. This was KALP's first trip into the eastern part of the state. A tour of a large coal mining operation was bracketed by presentations from leaders of both sides of the political spectrum. Mike Duncan, former national chair of the Republican National Committee, and former Democratic governor Paul Patton were featured speakers. The group also experienced the arts and education in Pike County and at Berea College and came away from Perry County as Dukes and Duchesses of Hazard. July 25-27, 2010, Eastern KY

Seminar 5: Energy/Communications/Western Kentucky Agriculture. From Eastern Kentucky KALP went to the other end of the state. In addition to visits to large-scale grain farms and dark tobacco operations, the class visited with several key agricultural leaders and local state legislators. A tour of Siemer Milling and Continental Mills was followed by a discussion of the role ethanol and the entire agribusiness complex plays in the local economy. A media training session led by key farm media professionals and Murray State

faculty provided participants with effective communication strategies in representing agriculture to a growing non-farm population. October 13-15, 2010, Hopkinsville and Murray

Seminar 6: Washington DC, Federal Policy/Agencies. The trip to Washington followed the volatile mid-term elections. Visits included the American Farm Bureau, Environmental Working Group, National Cattlemen's Beef Assn, National Corn Growers and the National Pork Producers, House Ag Committee, congressional offices, USDA, domestic and international tobacco industry analysts, and an experienced DC lobbyist. The group toured Mt. Vernon, most of the monuments and memorials in DC, the White House, the Capitol, and the Senate chamber, where a farm safety bill was being presented. November 15-18, 2010, Washington, DC

Seminar 7: Trade Policy/Global Issues. To build on the Washington experience, class members participated in a mock congressional hearing on several hot-button ag issues (immigration, food safety, farm policy, and farmland preservation.) Our congressional com-

mittee consisted of Dr. Oran Little, former UK College of Ag Dean; Guido van der Hoeven, Extension Specialist, NCSU; and Scotty Baesler (farmer, former Lexington mayor, and former 6th District US Congressman). Dr. Daryll Ray, Director of UT's Ag Policy Analysis Center, discussed "Policy Options/Issues in the Global Economy", to prepare for the international trip to New Zealand. December 14-16, 2010, Lexington

International Trip: A look at Global Agriculture in New Zealand. Agriculture is a key industry in the New Zealand economy. Given a population similar to Kentucky and a land area the size of Colorado, New Zealand agriculture is extremely dependent on a world market to move its large array of agricultural products (dairy, beef, lamb, deer, wine, fruits, vegetables, and many others.) Consequently businesses, farm organization leaders, and farmers are well educated on global economics, issues, and opportunities. Class IX visited farms, agribusinesses, farm organizations, and government agencies on both the North and South Islands for discussions with some very educated and talented owners, managers, and leaders. The class came away with a much greater understanding of global markets in today's ag economy. January 2-16, 2011

Seminar 8: State Government. The Frankfort experience began with a meeting with Governor Beshear, who expressed the vital need for leadership in agriculture. Class members met with Senate President David Williams

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Congrats to Phyllis!



KALP's super staff assistant Phyllis Mattox was selected as the 2011 UK College of Agriculture recipient of the Outstanding Clerical Staff Award. Way to go Phyllis!

KALP News Updates

KALP Alumni class directors met on August 4th to plan for future alumni activities. Adam Andrews (Class VII) was selected as President with Andi Branstetter (Class IX) agreeing to serve as Vice-President. Alec Russell (Class II) agreed to be an alumni member of the KALP advisory board, replacing Eddie Gilkison. Thanks to all three for stepping up to lead the KALP Alumni Association for the upcoming year. A big thanks to Eddie for your valuable contribution to our advisory board for the past three years!

The KALP advisory board met on June 2nd in Bowling Green to review the past class activities, receive updates on our fund raising targets/goals, and to begin planning for Class IX.

KALP Directors Steve and Will and Phyllis plan to attend the International Association of International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leadership (IAPAL) meeting October 18-21 in Chicago to network with similar programs from the U.S. and around the globe.

Alumni Directors

Class I
Hoppy Henton

Class II
Alec Russell

Class III
Alvin Lyons

Class IV
Mark Roberts

Class V
Dale Cinnamon

Class VI
Bud Blair

Class VII
Adam Andrews

Class VIII
Brennan Gilkison

Class IX
Andi Branstetter

Alumni Updates

Todd Harp (Class IX) welcomed students into his class at the new Locust Trace School in Fayette County.

Marshall "Frank" McAninch (Class VI) has been appointed by Governor Beshear to the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation Board.

Quentin Tyler (Class IX) completed his Doctorate degree in sociology and now has an office in Lexington.



KALP Alumni in the field!

2011
BioEnergy Tour



Bill McCloskey (Class VI), Jay McCants (Class VIII), Jeff Rice (Class III), David Rowlett (Class II), Angela Blank (Class IX), and Don Halcomb (Class II).



Frank McAninch (far right) with new KADB members.



Allison Smith giving beef cooking tips.

A Look Back *cont...*

and got a budget update from the Chair of the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee, Rep. Rick Rand. KALP also attended the House and Senate Ag Committee meetings, met with key “ag” legislators, received briefings from some of the major ag organizations/government agencies, picked up some insights from the state’s top lobbyists, learned about the work of the Legislative Research Commission, and discussed the role of the media in the legislative process. KALP hosted and AI Cross moderated a Ky Ag Commissioner Candidate Forum with five of the seven candidates participating. Several of our KALP alumni attended. February 15-17, 2011, Frankfort

Seminar 9: Management, Leadership, Human Resources, and Change. Bernie Erven and Bob Milligan, two nationally known speakers on human resource management in ag, showed how leadership and management coexist and create synergy in businesses and communities. The class also toured some grain, poultry, and swine farms, visited the Owensboro Riverport, and hosted an evening meal with several program alumni from Western Ky. Several of our participants said it was one of the best sessions. March 14-16, 2011, Owensboro

Seminar 10: Equine & Livestock Issues/ Program Reflections/ Graduation. Jimmy Richardson (Seminar 2) returned to challenge Class IX to use this experience to make a difference in their industry, workplace, state, community, and homes. Graduation activities were held at Spindletop Hall with a review and reflection of



Tom Miller and Richard Medley at Frey Family Farm in Indiana on the Class IX summer tour.

the previous 16 months. To round out an overview of Kentucky agriculture, the class toured beef and equine farms and enjoyed an afternoon of dining and entertainment at the Keeneland Spring Meet. April 11-13, 2011, Lexington

Domestic Trip: Midwest Agriculture Study Tour. The post-graduation study tour was a trip through Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri with Class IX grads and some program alumni. It included stops at Frey Family Farms, a large melon and produce farm in IN; Monsanto and Anheuser-Busch in St. Louis; Caterpillar, Top Line Angus, and River Valley Dairy in Peoria; and John Deere in Moline. An evening in Chicago was followed with a visit to the Chicago Board of Trade and the Mercantile Exchange, and Fair Oaks Dairy. July 26-29, 2011, Midwest USA

Detailed program agendas for Class IX and other information about KALP can be accessed online at www.uky.edu/Ag/KALP/



Andi Branstetter and Tom Miller sampling New Zealand products.

In Memory Richie McClerkin



Richie McClerkin, KALP Class IX, died unexpectedly in February 2010 just prior to Seminar 2.

Richie was a Murray State University graduate with a BS and MS in Agriculture. He was employed as a Financial Services Officer by Farm Credit Services of Mid-America in Campbellsville, KY.

Richie was an active member of every community of which he'd been a part. He was a cheerleader at MSU, was active in several community organizations in Campbellsville, and was immediately embraced as a leader among leaders in KALP Class IX.

Richie made a big impact in a short time and his is an honorary graduate of Class IX. The remainder of Richie's term in KALP was filled by Brian Lacefield of Hopkinsville.