Thirty hours of travel time put Class X into a country with more challenging leadership issues than any country KALP/PM classes have ever visited.

We were in South Africa less than a month after the death of Nelson Mandela, one of the most prominent leaders of our generation. He was widely acknowledged as holding together a country that could have been torn apart by racial, economic, and social tensions. Many challenges persist, but twenty years into the post-apartheid era we were able to see (and hear) views and prognostications on what the next twenty years will hold.

This newsletter is far too short to hold our observations and lessons. We would like to share Jennifer Elwell’s (Class X) reflections on the trip.

Finding Common Ground - and Corn - Half a World Away

I had one of the most amazing experiences of my life last month, thanks to Kentucky’s farm community. I traveled with the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program (KALP) to South Africa, and spent two weeks visiting farms and agribusinesses and learning about their culture and politics.

If for no other reason than having a conversation with our South African tour guide about antibiotic use in American livestock, I believe I am a much stronger leader now than before I became an international traveler.

I had not thought much about the country prior to learning I would be traveling there. I worked to keep an open mind and put away any preconceived notions. With that being said, there were several things that surprised me about South African agriculture:

- South Africa has incredibly diverse farmland due to climatological and topographic variations. They produce much of their food within the country, which is about twice the size of Texas. About 14 percent of the land is used for crop production, but only 3 percent is high potential arable land.
**Seminar Updates**

**Seminar 8: State Government**  
**February 10-12, 2014**

This seminar opened with Dr. Rochelle Sapp (Director of Leadership Programs, Ag Leadership, Education, and Communication at the University of Georgia) leading a computer simulation exercise (Congressional Insights) where our class members participated as members of the political process.

Our Frankfort sessions included updates from Kentucky General Assembly leadership, “ag” legislators, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the Governor’s Office of Ag Policy. Our class received briefings from some of the state’s top lobbyists on various ag and rural issues and learned about the role of the Legislative Research Commission in the legislative process. A highlight was attending the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee where two of our class members testified before the committee on KALP.

Dean Emeritus, Scott Smith and UK’s Ag Director of Advancement, Drew Graham joined us to discuss state government’s political process from a university’s perspective, and alumni were invited to an evening session where class members reflected on the lessons learned from our South African journey. Thanks to Ronny Pryor and Patrick Jennings, two graduates of our leadership program, for setting up the Frankfort portion of this seminar and for hosting us for a social hour/legislative briefing by the KY Distillers Association.

**Seminar 9: Washington DC, Federal Policy/Agencies**  
**March 17-20, 2014**

KALP X travelled to our nation’s capital to observe the federal political process. The agenda was jammed packed with visits to the American Farm Bureau, Environmental Working Group, Humane Society of the U.S, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, National Corn Growers, House Ag Committee, Congressional Research Service, congressional offices, and the USDA. There was a lot of discussion about the recently passed Farm Bill, along with debates over immigration reform, trade, animal welfare, food safety, ethanol, tobacco, hemp and the overall U.S. farm economy.

Highlights included a visit by the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Krysta Harden and meeting for dinner with the ag leadership classes from Montana and Colorado. The group also toured most of the monuments and memorials in DC. Our Washington DC trip was sponsored by the Kentucky Corn Growers Association.

For a great summary trip go to the following link, provided by KALP X’s own Jennifer Elwell, Director of Communications for the KCA) [http://www.kycorn.org/media/14-mar-kalpdc.htm](http://www.kycorn.org/media/14-mar-kalpdc.htm).

**Domestic Journey**  
**July 7-10, 2014**

After years of trying to get Dr. David Kohl to come to a KALP seminar, we’ve given up and we’re going to him. We will venture into Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York to continue to learn leadership lessons.

**KALP Congrats**

- **Will Bowling**  
  Class X  
  Married Maggie Ashmore in May 2014

- **Joe Cain**  
  Class VIII  
  KY Farm Bureau Director of the Commodity Division

- **Carrie Gilbert**  
  Class X  
  Welcomed Julia Ryan Gilbert on August 30, 2013

- **James Lyons**  
  Class X  
  Welcomed James Hardin Lyons on April 28, 2014

- **Allison Roe**  
  (KALP Student Worker)  
  Graduated from UK in May

- **Julia Hinkle Rollins**  
  Class IX  
  KY Farm Bureau Area Program Director

- **Alec Russell**  
  Class II  
  Retired from Greenline Implement

- **Jean Marie Lawson Spann**  
  Class IX  
  Announced her campaign for KY Ag Commissioner and married Bobby Spann

- **Suzanne Cecil White**  
  Class X  
  Welcomed Silas Mack White on April 24, 2014

Please email Phyllis at Phyllis.mattox@uky.edu if your email address or any contact information has changed.
We began the international adoption process in November 2012. While we were waiting for a referral from Ethiopia, our agency asked us to consider two siblings that had been living in an orphanage in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and were ready to be adopted. Erin took one look at Lizette and Gage and knew they were ours. Our adoption was complete in May 2013, but due to endless red tape and politics between our two countries we have been unable to get them home. Erin and I moved our family from Fulton, Kentucky to Kinshasa, Congo on May 10, 2014 so that our whole family could be together. We will not leave without our children. We encourage all to call their Representative and tell them to pass HR 588, the latest measure to persuade the Congolese government to allow the adoptions. Please keep all the families fighting to bring their children home in your prayers.

- Sam Hancock (Class VIII)
Total contributions for KALP have increased modestly since May 2013. We’ve received just over $64,000 in the past year to push total gifts to $2,329,924 from 152 contributors. Endowment health has been good with earnings growth of $243,198 pushing the endowment total to just over the two million dollar mark. The endowments are now earning four to five thousand dollars per month.

The high end of this income range, along with participant tuition and careful monitoring of costs, will just maintain the two year class every three years model of the past. Lower income or increased costs would erode cash reserves and could delay the start of future classes. We maintain the philosophy that we will not start a class unless we have enough cash on hand to complete the two-year experience.

Donors have occasionally asked us what we’d do if we had another million dollars. We continue to see strong demand and high quality applicant pools, so we’d love to offer a two-year class every two years. That would increase our capacity by fifty percent. We could consider larger classes, but have been very pleased with the learning and networking dynamic of the 20-24 class size. Another dream is to hire a full-time employee so we can make the next steps to grow the program for the next generation of leaders.

Alumni Giving

Ninety-nine of the 152 KALP donors are alumni. Total alumni gifts from Classes I-IX are $108,970. While alumni represent 65% of donors, their gifts represent only 4.7% of total gifts. Classes VIII and IX are way ahead of all others in percentage of giving participation and also lead in total gifts per class. See graphs for more details.

This list of contributors on the following page represents $2,329,924 of gifts, pledges, and in-kind support for the program.
Thank You to the KALP Endowment Donors!

Level VI: $1,000,000 or more
- Ky Agricultural Development Board

Level V: $100,000 - $999,999
- Barnett, Randall
- Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative
- Farm Credit Mid-America
- Ky Corn Growers Association
- Mulhollem-Cravens Foundation
- UK College of Agriculture

Level IV: $10,000 - $99,999
- Altria Group
- Burley Stabilization Corporation
- Central Ky Ag Credit Association
- Farm Credit Services of MidAmerica
- Farm Credit System Foundation
- Farmers Feed Mill, Lee Hall
- Fayette County Farm Bureau
- Gilkison, Eddie
- Isaacs, Steve
- Jones, Larry
- KY Association of Electric Cooperatives
- KY Farm Bureau Federation
- Ky Small Grain Growers Association
- Philip Morris International
- Snell, Will

Level III: $1,000 - $9,999
- Agribusiness Association of KY
- Agribusiness Industry Network
- Agri-Pulse
- Andrews, Adam
- Barnett, Chris
- Barton, James
- Barton, Robert
- Blair, Bud
- Blair, Colby
- Bryant, Allan
- Central Equipment, Paul Huber
- Chappell, David
- Christian County Agribusiness Assn.
- Co-Bank
- Costigan, Jim
- Courtney, Shane & Mary
- Eads, Robert
- Eldridge, RW
- Furnish, Lewis
- Gilkison, Brennen & Serena
- Green, Daniel
- Halcomb, Don
- Hancock, Sam
- Hardaway, Dan
- Head, Jay
- Helm, John
- Henton, Hoppy
- Hornback, Paul
- Independence Bank
- Jepson, Willis
- Kuegel, Rod
- KY Cattlemen’s Foundation
- KY Pork Producers Association
- KY Thoroughbred Owners
- KY Women in Ag
- Lacefield, Brian
- Langley, Doug
- Long Vue Farm
- Mahan, John (Sodworks)
- Mahan, Jill
- Martin, Lynn
- Medley, Richard
- Merrill Lynch
- Murray State University
- Paul, Brenda
- Roberts, Mark
- Siemer Milling
- Soil Conservation Districts of Kentucky
- Spaulding, Joe
- Tennessee Farmer’s Cooperative
- Young, Al
- Young, Harry

Level II: $500 - $999
- Baird, Kelly
- Brammer, Ben
- Branstetter, Andi
- Clark, Todd
- Hazeuwod, Walter
- Keeton, Kara
- Kirkland, Josh
- Koch, Anthony
- Lovell, Nathan
- L&H Farms
- McCoun, Philip
- McKinney, Danny
- Medley, John
- Monsanto (Mike Chalfant)
- Parr, John
- Pierce, Mark
- Rhodes, Terry
- Rice, Jeff
- Rose, Melody
- Rowlett, David
- Smith, Daniel & Alison
- Thomas, Raymond
- Todd, Barry
- Tucker, Paul
- Turner, Mark
- Young, Greg

Level I: Up to $500
- Bedford, Robert
- Blank, Angela
- Brown, Wayne
- Cain, Joe
- Cannon, Victoria
- Cecilia Farm Supply, Dennis Parrett
- Central Insurance Agency
- Chastain, Jennifer
- Commonwealth Alliance
- Commodity Marketing Service, Jeff Hunt
- Conner, Kenley
- Council for Burley Tobacco
- Denney, Sharon
- Easley, Michael
- Farmer’s Pride
- Fetter, Corinne
- Foster, Joe
- Harp, Todd
- Hillenmeyer, Ellen
- Hopkinsville-Christian Co.
- Chamber of Commerce
- Hornback, Pat
- Hyde, Michael
- Jackson, Matt
- Knoth, Laura
- KY Dairy Development Council
- KY Poultry Federation
- Lawrence, Bob
- Lawson, Jean-Marie
- Litz, John
- Louisville Agriculture Club
- Lyons, Alvin
- Mattox, Phyllis & Stan
- McCain, George
- McCants, Jay
- McCloskey, Bill
- Medley, John
- Milsaps, Gordon
- Mitchell, Donald
- Moore, Kent
- O’Bryan, JW
- O’Reilly, Arnold
- Planters Bank
- Quarles, Clint
- Rollins, Julia
- Russell, Alec
- Settles, Jeff
- Sparks, John
- Sparrow, Kaycie Len
- Tennessee Farm Bureau
- Tingle, Alvin
- Tyler, Quentin
• Their commercial agriculture system is much like our own. There are many large farms specializing in a few crops or livestock depending on their resources, and they are under similar regulations with regard to food safety and environmental factors.

• Land seemed to be utilized more effectively to feed more people. It was not uncommon to see makeshift subsistence gardens along the highways or to see livestock roaming the streets of rural areas. There was a substantial difference in the breeds of cattle used depending on vegetation available.

• Corn (maize) and other cereal grains are their most important crops. They grow quite a bit of white corn for food. Pap (think of super thick corn grits or polenta) is a staple and available at most every meal. White corn is exported to other African countries, and yellow corn is imported for livestock feed.

• They make wonderful wine and horrible ketchup (tomato sauce in a bottle).

• South Africans are very familiar with Kentucky, as there was a KFC in most every town we visited.

• Many of the farm laborers came from bordering countries. Farm owners said they were willing to work longer and harder for less income.

Learning about their young democracy was also extremely interesting. While this is probably not the place to discuss South African politics and social issues, many of the people we talked to were generally pleased with the government’s progress over the past 20 years.

The instant I set foot in South Africa, my world grew much smaller. I was also able to experience a world much different than my own. I took my experiences and knowledge and left them with those I met, and I was able to bring back new knowledge that I may be able to put to use here. I even made my Bullitt County 4-H Club endure my photo slides and storytelling, because I thought I might inspire young minds to travel beyond the comfort of their familiar worlds and consider other possibilities.

I am deeply grateful to all the individuals, companies and organizations that make KALP and this international learning opportunity available to me and my leadership classmates. I cannot speak for the others, but the journey provided me a much closer look at what it takes to feed the world and cemented my notion that I am involved in THE most important industry in the world.