

## Alumni Tours

AALP Grad Services is pleased to offer these two exciting travel opportunities.

### *Brazil – March 5 to 19, 2006*

You are invited to participate in a singularly unique experience as AALP combines the best of Brazilian Tourism with prime aspects of the recent Class 10 study tour! This tour is strictly limited to a total of 30 participants and includes an excellent mix of technical visits, meetings and sightseeing to one of the most fascinating countries in the world. Our tour will visit Puerto Alegre, Bento Goncalves, Passo Fundo, São Miguel Das Missoes, Foz Do Iguassu, Cascavel, Guarapuava, Ponta Grossa, Curitiba and Sao Paulo. Extensions to this program are available and can be arranged directly pre- or post- tour.

### *Washington DC – April 17 to 20, 2006*

In conjunction with Class 11 of LEAD New York (30 agricultural leaders from New York State), AALP is, for the first time, offering a unique trip exclusively for 30 participants. This program, featuring shared agenda and independent "AALP only" items, will include meetings with senior officials from USDA and the US Farm Bureau as well as with elected officials, special interest groups and agriculturally-related lobby groups. Independently, our group will meet with senior officials at the Canadian Embassy and with Canadian interest lobbyists. Our three night program will be quite full as we also enjoy some sightseeing in Washington and joint social outings and hospitality.

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Exclusive reservations, details and descriptive brochures for Brazil and Washington tours are available through:

- Goliger's TravelPlus, 234 King Street South, Waterloo, On. N2J 1R3
- Scott Allen or Judy Anger  
800-465-4437 or 519-741-0770

Book early to avoid disappointment. Both these tours are limited to a maximum of 30 participants.

## CanAdvance Supports Grid Participants

One of the highlights of Class 11's first session was the GridWorks Seminar, a workshop designed to show individuals how their behavior affects others in the workplace. Specifically, the seminar looks at practicing critique, advocating convictions, making decisions, and



*AALP participants work as teams during the GridWorks seminar.*

resolving conflict in ways that promote progress and synergy.

Grads and friends of AALP were invited to participate in this workshop, and 19 took advantage of the opportunity. Funding for the additional participants was supported by a grant from CanAdvance through the Agricultural Adaptation Council under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's ACAAF Program.

CanAdvance funding is also being used to support grad's participation in the November "Insights" workshop in Kingston.

## Grad News Update:

- .....
- Ralph Dietrich (Class 7) was recently voted Chair of the Ontario Cooperatives Association. He is currently first Vice-Chair of the Gaylea Foods Board of Directors.
  - Ron MacDonald (Class 6) received the 2005 John Turnbull Award given by the Canadian Society for Bioengineering, to a member making a substantial career contribution to the field.
  - Brian Wiley (Class 9) is the 2005/2006 Chair of ACC Farmers' Financial. Other grads on the board are David Wiley (Class 1) and Allan Jackson (Class 5).

*Don't forget to send us your news. The next Update will be coming out in May 2006.*

# OUR LEADERS...

## The Centre for Rural Leadership Board

Kevin Thompson of the Association of Ontario Chicken Processors, and a graduate of AALP Class 8 is the new president of The Centre for Rural Leadership. Kevin has been involved with The Centre, and AALP ever since his graduation from Class 8 in 2001. He has previously served as Vice-President and Treasurer of the Board.



*Kevin Thompson*

In addition to Kevin, board members elected to Executive positions are Rob Hannam (AdFarm) as Vice-President, John Geurtjens (Farm Credit Canada, AALP Class 2) as Board Treasurer, Mike Toombs (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs) as Board Secretary, and Art Stirling (Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd., AALP Class 6) as Past-President. Newly appointed Board members include Dan Carli (Strub Pickles, AALP Class 9), Dr. Mary Buhr (University of Guelph), Louise Paquette (Industry Canada – FedNor), and Bill Allison (Sunrise Acres Ltd.).

Continuing Board members include: Rob Black (Ontario Soybean Growers), Gwen Paddock (RBC Royal Bank, AALP Class 6), Jan Varner (The Kitchener/Waterloo United Way), Lisa Duffin (Ontario Federation of Agriculture, AALP Class 8), David Thomson (Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians & Technologists), and Dana Richardson (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing).

Retiring from the Board are: Rick Culbert (Bioniche, AALP Class 7), Christine Dukelow (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs) and Dr. Craig Pearson (University of Guelph).

## AALP Management Committee

With responsibilities for curriculum planning and development of AALP and the Graduate Services Program, and providing assistance in recruiting and fundraising, the AALP Management Committee will be chaired by Dan Carli (Strub Pickles, AALP Class 9).



*Dan Carli*

Other Committee members appointed to one-year terms include Cathy Lennon (Agricorp, AALP Class 9) as Vice-Chair, Dr. George Brinkman of the University of Guelph as Curriculum

Advisor, Mark Reusser (representing OFA, AALP Class 4), Dan Wright (Monsanto, AALP Class 10), Mike Nailor (Chicken Farmers of Ontario, AALP Class 9), Leslie Woodcock (OMAFRA), Helma Geerts (Region of Halton, AALP Class 10) and Jan Varner (The Kitchener/Waterloo United Way).

## We've Moved

We've moved to the new Ontario Agri-Centre, a new building across the road from our previous offices. Our space, on the first floor is shared as neighbours with many other farm organizations including the Agricultural Adaptation Council, ACC Farmers' Financial, The Foundation for Rural Living, The Ontario Rural Council, The Ontario Institute of Agrologists, the Ontario Farm Animal Council and AgCare. We anticipate that by 'living together' we'll also be able to share resources, and hopefully operate more efficiently. Come visit us. Our new address is 100 Stone Road West, Suite 108, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 5L3. Our phone and fax remain the same.

## [aalp.on.ca](http://aalp.on.ca)

If you haven't been on the AALP website lately, it's time to check it out again. Visit us at [www.aalp.on.ca](http://www.aalp.on.ca). Newly revised and continually updated, it's a one-stop shop for all your ag leadership inquiries. You can register on-line for upcoming events and even update your grad profile.

## In Memorium

Mrs. Edythe Stewart passed away on Sunday July 24. She was 87 years old. Often referred to by many as the "Queen Mum", she was the loving wife of the late William A. Stewart, former Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food. Mrs. Stewart will be fondly remembered by AALP and The Centre for Rural Leadership. The Stewart Lecture and Reception, held every second year, is funded through the proceeds of an AALP endowment fund named in William A. Stewart's memory.



*Mrs. Edythe Stewart*

## Let us hear from you...

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*Class 11*

# Introducing Class 11

We're excited to be able to introduce the participants in AALP Class 11.

They are:

- Ryan Brown, Guelph,  
Ontario Corn Producers Association
- Carrie Burden, Guelph,  
Woodrill Farms Ltd.
- Ingrid Clark, Fergus, Ontario Ministry  
of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Steve Cooper, Zephyr,  
Goat & field crop producer
- Jennifer Dick, Douglas,  
Barclay Dick & Son Farm Supply,  
Cash crop & field crop producer
- Joe Dietrich, Formosa,  
Trillium Mutual Insurance Company
- Mike Donnelly-VanderLoo, Thamesford,  
Field, cash crop & vegetable producer
- Mark Foster, New Hamburg,  
Monsanto Canada Inc.
- Jackie Fraser, Fergus, AgCare
- Joanne Gerber, Bright,  
Dairy & cash crop producer
- Rob Hall, Waterloo, TD Canada Trust
- Ove Hansen, Mount Forest,  
Gay Lea Food Co-operative Ltd.
- Darlene Harrietha, Morriston,  
Soy 20/20 Project
- Gregory Haskett, Plattsville,  
Swine & cash crop producer
- Richelle Heffernan, Guelph, Agricorp

- Valerie Hobbs, Woodstock,  
Cash crop producer
- Mark Huston, Thamesville,  
Market hogs & field crop producer
- Clare Kinlin, Woodstock,  
Syngenta Seeds Canada Inc.
- Tara Malcolm, Fergus,  
Agricultural Adaptation Council
- Glenn Milne, Campbellford,  
Dairy, beef & field crop producer
- Bruce Parks, Bothwell,  
Fruit & vegetable producer
- Diane Peckitt, Lucknow,  
Cash crop & swine producer
- Roger Pelissero, St. Ann's,  
Poultry/egg & cash crop producer
- Bruce Read, Ilderton,  
Elanco Animal Health
- Kelli Rice, Guelph, University of Guelph
- Bill Ruppert, Stayner,  
Market hogs & cash crop producer
- Tim Schinkel, Chatham,  
Schinkels Legacy, Food Processor
- Donna Speranzini, Beamsville, Ontario  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs
- Wanda Walton, Londesborough,  
Advantage Seed Growers
- Arlene Warner, Guelph, AdFarm

*Continued on page 2...*

**AALP**  
 A Newsletter Published by Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program  
*in this issue:*  
 • Class 11  
 • Grad Trips  
 • New Office  
 Fall 2005

## Continued from page 1.

We asked two Class 11 participants for their initial thoughts on AALP. Here's what Kelli Rice, B.Sc. (Agr.) Program Counsellor in the OAC Dean's office at the University of Guelph and Wanda Walton, Marketing Coordinator, Advantage Seeds, Londesborough had to say:

### 1. Why did you apply for AALP?

*Kelli:* I knew for a long time that I wanted to participate in AALP. I was ready for a new opportunity that would challenge me personally and professionally. I also want to build relationships with fellow participants so that I develop a network of support within this program and beyond.

*Wanda:* I want to increase my knowledge throughout the industry and gain confidence in a leadership role.

### 2. What were you feeling/thinking as you walked into the first seminar?

*Kelli:* To be honest, I was nervous and excited at the same time. As I walked into the first seminar I felt like I was heading back to school.

*Wanda:* I don't belong here! What an overwhelming experience to being sitting amongst such strong, confident individuals.

### 3. How have these feelings changed throughout the first seminar?

*Kelli:* The first seminar has reconfirmed all of the positive comments I've heard about the program. GridWorks was a very effective seminar that has encouraged me to reflect on my leadership and professional skills.

*Wanda:* When you start talking to each other and getting to know others, you realize that we are all there to improve our knowledge of the industry and improve our personal skills. We can learn from each other and that was already very apparent after the first seminar.

### 4. What are you most looking forward to in upcoming sessions/tours?

*Kelli:* I'm looking forward to connecting with my fellow classmates and visiting parts of Ontario, North America and the world.

*Wanda:* I would have to say the networking, getting together with other individuals who are passionate about agriculture, and of course, the tours, to see how other countries adapt to the challenges that they face.

### 5. What do you think will be the biggest benefit gained from your participation in AALP?

*Kelli:* I think the biggest benefit I'll gain from AALP will be the network of people.

*Wanda:* I hope that the knowledge I gain and the self-confidence I acquire will make me a better employee.

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## Ag Leadership Across the Globe – The Australian Rural Leadership Foundation

Over the next several issues of the AALP Update, we'd like to introduce you to some of the other agricultural and rural leadership programs found around the world. At their first seminar, Class 11 had the good fortune to meet with Rob Patrick, Director Programs and Development for the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLP).

Here are some of his thoughts following his visit with AALP.

"It was great to be in a room filled with energy and passion from people who wanted to be there. It was eerie in a sense because it reminded me of the

atmosphere within my groups in Australia. It was evident that a bond already existed and it was interesting to witness different personalities at work in forming what will be a unique group dynamic."

"The ARLP program consists of seven sessions over 18 months totalling 60 days. Most sessions are six days, one is eight days (includes a partner's weekend) and two are two weeks (initial outdoor, experiential session in the remote Kimberley region in NW Australia, and the overseas study tour). Sessions are conducted in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, as well as the international study tour. Our curriculum is framed around self awareness, leadership skills development, knowledge building and networking."

"Our program is not just about agriculture. It covers

## Founding Partners



other major exposures such as the key social challenges facing this country. Some major issues facing agriculture include sustainability, climate change, water resource management/availability/trading, native vegetation management, rural drift, Free Trade Agreements, natural resource management (eg biodiversity), availability of services in the bush and competition for skilled labour.”

“Participants come from all areas and sectors of Australia. In the past, the Foundation has received around 150 applications and interviewed some 70 applicants for the 30 or so positions on each course. We are a totally sponsored program, so every participant is covered by a scholarship provided by a sponsor that the Foundation sources.”

I think there may be opportunities for greater exchange of ideas/experiences between graduates from our two programs and I suggest this is an area that should be explored, particularly in an increasingly globalized world.

For more information on the ARLP program, visit their website at [www.rural-leaders.com.au](http://www.rural-leaders.com.au).

## New Sponsorship Program

With the celebration of twenty years of leadership development, we are pleased to enhance AALP’s sponsorship recognition program and introduce new levels of support from the industry. The Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program has enjoyed a long tradition of support from all sectors of the industry. As the success of our distinguished leadership development program has grown, so has the investment coming from Ontario’s agricultural corporations, associations and commodity groups.

The new sponsorship program was introduced this summer and features five levels of annual financial support and enhanced recognition benefits.

- AALP Patrons: . . . . . \$50,000+
- AALP Guardians: . . \$25,000-\$49,999
- AALP Champions: \$10,000-\$24,999
- AALP Leaders: . . . . . \$5,000-\$9,999
- AALP Builders: . . . . . \$2,500-\$4,999
- AALP Supporters: . . . . \$100-\$2,499

## Pitch’n for AALP 2005



Under the very capable leadership of co-coordinators, Alison Connell and Dan Wright and their team of volunteers, AALP Class 10 continues to raise the bar for future fund-raising endeavours by AALP classes. The total net proceeds from the 2005 Pitch’n for AALP tournament exceeded \$10,000.00 - way to go!!

Sixteen teams came out to play ball, have fun and socialize with others in the industry, on Saturday August 13th, at the 4th Annual Pitch’n for AALP tournament in Marden. Mother nature supplied the good weather, and friends of AALP supplied the teams and good sportsmanship. A first-time tournament team entry from OMAFRA triumphed over returning champions, Agricorp’s Hydroponics, in the final championship game. Rounding out the day’s competition were: two teams representing AALP Class 11, two teams

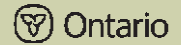
*Continued on page 4...*

## Class 11 Recognizes AALP Sponsors

Sponsorship is critical to the success of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program, and our sponsors understand its tremendous value and invest accordingly. AALP program sponsors were recognized for their leadership as part of the Class 11 introductory banquet on October 3, 2005.

# Sponsors

## Patrons



## Champions



## Leaders



## Builders

Adculture

Commercial Alcohols

Ontario Pork

Thompsons Limited

## Continued from page 3.

from OFA, The Farm, Schroeder Drive Corrona, St. Willibrord, Dekalb, Aaron-ites, GTA, Meat & Potatoes, The Donebies, Outsiders and the AALP Angels & Demons.

Thank you to all of the sponsors, including: Maizex Seeds, Bi-Pro Marketing, Strub Pickles, TD Canada Trust, Total Swine Genetics, BMO Bank of Montreal, Devolder Farms Seeds, Fulcrum Ag Consultants, Genex Ontario, Monsanto, Parkland Farms, Pride Seeds, Shurgain, Southwest Ag Partners, Terratec Environmental, Wallenstein Feed & Supply Ltd., Better Farming Magazine, Barb Zettler, Envisage Agro, Jim Cooke, Kim Lennox, Robert Hunter, Robson Bros., Sharpe Farm Supplies Ltd., Thames Van Farms, Gay Lea Food Co-operative Ltd., Kraft Foods, Maple Leaf Foods, Middlesex Mutual Insurance Co., Ontario Mutual Insurance Association, Schinkels Legacy and Wickethorn Feed & Country Store.



## 2006 Black & White Dream Auction – Saturday February 18, 2006

Mark your calendar now for the sixth Black and White Dream Auction, being held on Saturday February 18, 2006 in the Canada Company Hall at the River Run Centre in Guelph. Note, this is a new and more spacious location than in the past.

Class 10 grads, Dan Wright and Alison Connell are co-chairing this event and encourage everyone to begin planning their donations. The 2004 event made just over \$55,000 for AALP and they want to maintain the tradition of each auction raising more than the previous one.

Need some ideas on what to donate? Be creative. Work with other grads to put together a true “dream” package. Here are some of the more popular items from past Auctions:

- Grandfather Clock
- Trip for two to the Chicago Board of Trade, including flight and lunch

- TV and DVD
- Garden Sculpture
- Limited-edition wines and/or wine tour packages
- Montecristo #2 cigars
- Backyard BBQ for 20 of your closest friends
- Maritime golf package, including airfare, rental car, golf, lobster dinner and accommodation
- Toronto theater tickets
- Side of pork or beef
- Leaf or Raptor tickets
- One day pass for Cedar Highlands Ski & Country Club
- Hot air balloon ride for two people

For more information and tickets, contact the AALP office at (519) 826-4204 or [info@ruralleadership.ca](mailto:info@ruralleadership.ca). Tickets can be purchased online at [www.aalp.on.ca](http://www.aalp.on.ca).

Start planning your donation today! Let’s work together to make this another record event.



*Lloyd Wicks, (Class 1) presents DFO cheque to Dan Legault*

## Dairy Farmers of Ontario Donate \$10,000

We were thrilled to receive a donation of \$10,000 to the Ken McKinnon Memorial Fund in support of AALP from the Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO). The Ken McKinnon Memorial Fund will foster the leadership qualities needed in rural Ontario in the years ahead. DFO will also provide financial support to help dairy participants with their tuition for future AALP classes. Way to go Dairy Farmers!