

# The North American

## Study Tour



# AALP



*AALP Class Nine participants (l-r) Jason Van Maanen, Shelley Partridge, Bill Thomas, Christine MacLean and Geoff Innes at the Martin Luther King Memorial*

In July, AALP Class Nine headed to Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi for their 10-day North American Study Tour. Highlights from their travels include:

- Tuskegee University, Alabama's first black university.
- Senator Hank Sanders and Rose Sanders about their work to achieve justice for black people.
- Jeffery Strong, a small-farm vegetable and melon grower who serves his produce at his "soul" food restaurant.
- The Port of New Orleans.
- Cargill's Mississippi River Terminal.

- Farm policy and economic development discussion with Dr. Lester Spell Jr., Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture.
- Charles Melanco, President & General Manager, American Sugar Cane League.

We asked three participants to put down their thoughts about the tour. Here's what Cathy Lennon (general manager, Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency), Curtiss Littlejohn (pork producer, Ayr) and Ingrid Kapteyn (dairy farmer, Colborne) had to say.

*What was the highlight of the tour for you?*

**Curtiss** – Meeting and going to church with John Howard. He, as a black man, gave us our greatest insight into the racial issues which were then reinforced by other speakers along the route.

**Cathy** – The Port Authority in New Orleans. The enormous volume of goods coming in through the ports on a daily basis and the struggle to balance a level of security with the practicality of global trade was quite overwhelming. It was fascinating to see how the focus has shifted from protecting against foreign animal disease to protecting against terrorist threat.

**Ingrid** – The fields of cotton, sugar cane and rice and their dependence on irrigation. The passion Senator Sanders and his family have for their community is inspirational. We met many people in much worse situations than us but they were all so proud of what they do have.

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*October 2002*

# Building a Foundation for the

## Our fund raising successes

### 2002 Dream Auction



We were thrilled to learn that the 2002 Black and White Dream Auction made just over \$57,000! This money will help Class Nine continue their exploration of the issues, trends and changes in the agri-food

industry and rural communities. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Auction – donors, buyers, organizers and volunteers.

## Wm. Stewart Lecture

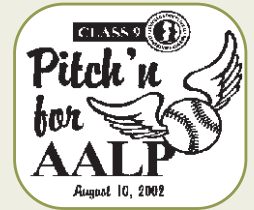
The 2003 Wm. Stewart Lecture will be held the evening of Thursday April 3 at the London Convention Centre. Mark this always thought-provoking event on your calendars now. Tickets will be available through the AALP office early in 2003.

### Pitch'n for AALP

Members of AALP Class Nine raised more than \$6,000 for the program with their first annual Pitch'n for AALP recreational ball tournament. This money will go towards Class 10.

Congratulations to the planning committee - Dan Carli, Gary Lannin, Kelly Daynard, Nadine Buitenhuis and Bev McCulloch. The event, held near Guelph, attracted 12 teams including commodity organizations, OMAF, AALP graduates from classes four, six and seven (as well as a few supporters from Class eight), AGRICORP, Farm Credit Canada and a 4-H alumni team.

Winning the competition was "Poultry in Motion", submitted by Chicken Farmers of Ontario. Placing second was the "Alumni Aces", a team of 4-H supporters. Third prize went to the "Hydroponics" which consisted of AGRICORP employees and friends. Both the first and third place teams graciously donated their cash prizes back to AALP. The second place team donated theirs to 4-H Ontario.



Sponsors included Strub Pickles, Thomas Canning, Ontario Pork, Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd., A DuPont Co., Littlejohn Farms, the University of Guelph, Campbell's Soup, Family Tradition Foods and Rezwear Custom Clothing.

Class Nine plans to host a second tournament in August of 2003 before turning the reins over to Class 10. The date has yet to be confirmed.



Ontario Cattlemen's Association baseball team at Pitch'n for AALP tournament.

# Future...

*continued from cover story...*

## OUR PARTNERS

THE FOUNDATION FOR  
RURAL LIVING

THE ONTARIO FEDERATION  
OF AGRICULTURE

THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF  
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF GUELPH

## OUR LEAD SPONSORS

AGRICORP

BASF

CHICKEN FARMERS OF  
ONTARIO

MONSANTO CANADA INC.

ONTARIO EGG PRODUCERS

PIONEER HI-BRED LTD.,  
A DUPONT CO.

RBC ROYAL BANK

SYNGENTA  
CROP PROTECTION  
CANADA INC.

SYNGENTA  
SEEDS CANADA INC.

*What message has had the most impact/staying power with you?*

**Curtiss** – A comment made by Willard Jack, who farms 3000 acres of cotton, soybeans, rice and corn, during a discussion of the US Farm Bill "... now you're talking like a Canadian..." It changed my ideas of how we should interact with government and different groups.

**Cathy** – Meeting leaders who helped drive the social and political changes in the south brought the racial issue to life like no history book or television program can do. I learned that while an issue can appear to be "resolved" on paper, the hurt is not erased and must continue to be acknowledged and addressed.

**Ingrid** – The opportunity to learn how another country thinks about agriculture, in their country and trading with the rest of the world. We may not agree with their ways of doing things, but realize that we will not change their ways and must plan our strategies accordingly.

*How did you handle being away from your family and your job for the ten days?*

**Curtiss** – It was a struggle. Being independent business people means we lack the depth to have one person gone for very long. My participation in the Program though, was a family-decision and I'm grateful for their willingness to take on extra work for short periods of time. Their continued support means a great deal to me.

**Cathy** – Because the study tour takes place well into the program, I was able to plan in advance any coverage that



*(l-r) Rob Wallbridge (Class Nine), Andrew Williams, State outreach coordinator for Tuskegee University and Jason Van Maanen in Alabama.*

was needed at the office while I was away.

**Ingrid** – The boys got the dishes done just before I got home! This trip helps you to realize what your priorities are, what you have to let go and what things need to be delegated."

*How did the dynamics of the class change as a*

*result of being together for ten days straight?*

**Curtiss** – Very few groups that I have ever worked with have achieved the level of co-operation, trust and understanding after being together for as short a time as we have. It is amazing how we want to learn more about each other and to understand how our industries interconnect.

**Cathy** – The level of comfort and trust in each other was heightened over the course of the ten days as people were challenged to discuss controversial topics. This is critical as we look to each other and our working groups to challenge and to mentor us.

**Ingrid** – Class dynamics always improve as a group gets to know each other better. So far, the biggest benefit gained from my participation in AALP is the people in our course. Their many fields of expertise help me learn as a person and as a leader.

*For more information on Class Nine's trip, visit the Rural Online Communications web page at <http://www.ruralonline.on.ca>.*

*Participants are available and prepared to make presentations on their trip. Please call the AALP office if you'd like one of them to speak at an upcoming meeting.*

# Grad News • Class News

## Grad Forums

The third Grad Forum was held on October 8 in Ottawa. Items on the agenda included, NAFTA and WTO Trade Panel, Subsidies and U.S. Farm Bill, International Perspective on Agricultural Trade, and Gary Groves, Minister of Council for the U.S. Embassy. The seminar was also attended by the LEAD New York class.

Another Grad Forum is being planned for Monday, January 6, 2003 in Hamilton with the theme of "Shaping the Future". This will also be an opportunity for grads to see Class Nine's Issue Analysis Presentations.

And don't forget about the "Best of AALP" trip to China planned for the fall of 2003. More details will be forwarded on as they become available.

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## Grad Directory

A copy of the newly revised AALP Grad Directory was distributed to all Grad Services members in an electronic format, earlier this summer. Did you get yours? This is a very valuable networking tool as we've set it up to be easily sorted by name, address, class, position, organization, leadership activities, industry and farm type. The directory is up-to-date, comprehensive and easy to use. Hard copies can be obtained by contacting the AALP office.

Non-Grad Services members and the general public can access AALP graduates by going to the Human Resources section of the Rural Online Communications website at [www.ruralonline.on.ca](http://www.ruralonline.on.ca).

We will be revising this directory as we are advised of changes, however it will only be updated, reviewed and distributed once annually. The next version will be sent out after the graduation of Class Nine.

## Who's Doing What

- **Phil Anwender** (Class 8) was recognized by Maple Leaf Foods for having shipped pigs with the highest lean meat percentage.
- **Nadine Buitenhuis** (Class Nine) assisted with the 2002 Rotary Career Edge Program.
- **Rick Culbert** (Class 7) is president of Bioniche Animal Health Canada Inc.
- **Stu Devries** (Class Nine) is now working for Total Swine Genetics in Ingersoll.
- **Lisa Duffin** (Class 8) is an Account Development Representative with Sprint Canada in London.
- **Ken Forth** (Class 3) is the president of the Canadian Horticultural Council
- **David Guy** (Class 7) is the president of the Winchester area provincial Progressive Conservative Association.
- **Greg Hannam** (Class 7) is the second vice-chair of AgCare.
- **Gary Lannin** (Class Nine) is working with Monsanto Canada in London.
- **Corry Martens** (Class 5) is the president of the Dundas Federation of Agriculture.
- **Kevin MacLean** (Class 8) was one of the speakers presenting to the Provincial Minister of Agriculture at a Forum in Belleville. Kevin spoke about the need for profitable and equitable methods of farm transfer.
- **Mark Murphy** (Class 2) is the chair of the Outstanding Young Farmers' Program for Ontario.
- **Mary O'Connor** (Class 1) is the Federal Returning Officer for the riding of Cambridge.
- **Gwen Paddock** (Class 6) is a Sales & Market Manager for RBC in Niagara/Brantford.
- **Jennifer Schroter**, (Class 7) is an Agricultural Financial Verifier for Ontario Farm Income Disaster Program in Stratford.
- **Liz Taylor-Samis** (Class 6) is the chair of the Canadian Quality Assurance Program.
- **Bill Thomas** (Class Nine) has invested in a new continuous processing unit for tomatoes – the first of its kind in North America. **Thomas Canning** has also implemented a quality assurance program and has introduced an organic tomato product line. Bill was a keynote speaker at the Ontario Processing Vegetables Conference.
- **Kevin Thompson** (Class 8) has accepted a position as the executive director for the Association of Ontario Chicken Processors in Guelph and is the newly elected Treasurer for The Centre for Rural Leadership.



# The Centre for Rural Leadership Launched

## *A world of dynamic leaders*

That is the vision for The Centre for Rural Leadership – a new and exciting initiative arising from the evolution and incorporation of the Agricultural Leadership Trust, the board responsible for AALP.

## *AALP is the cornerstone*

The concept of The Centre for Rural Leadership arose from the Agricultural Leadership Trust's desire to build a long-term, stable foundation for AALP. It, along with the Graduate Services Program will be The Centre's two inaugural programs. Additional leadership opportunities will be developed and offered, following the development of a business plan and further identification of needs. For AALP this means business as usual, yet with a new foundation that will ensure its solid future.

Christine Dukelow, president of The Centre for Rural Leadership and rural secretariat director with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, sees The Centre "as becoming a world-renowned resource for leadership information and opportunities. This will involve a combination of providing educational programs and partnering with others in the leadership sector in order to offer something for everyone, be they youth, adults, businesses or organizations."

## *Partnerships are important*

"The Centre for Rural Leadership is already actively participating in the Rural Leadership Task Force, a group consisting of 4-H Ontario, The Ontario Rural Council, OATI Learning Group, and the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario," notes Art Stirling, vice-president of The Centre and government and industry affairs manager with Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd., A DuPont Co.. "This is a critical step in strengthening the profile of leadership in Ontario and building a stronger foundation for future programming and partnerships."

The Centre has already been recognized in the recently released Odyssey Report. The report puts forward four recommendations for future agricultural leadership

programming. The recommendations deal with the need for support from all agriculture, food and rural organizations; long-term stable funding; increased awareness of the value of leadership development; and assistance with the creation of new leadership development opportunities.

## *Charitable Status –*

*Registration No.- 86275 2052 RR0001*

As a registered charity, The Centre for Rural Leadership can issue tax receipts for the gifts it receives from donors. Now donors can choose to make direct donations to AALP or The Centre for Rural Leadership, through gifts of cash, other property, real estate, bequests and in memoriam donations. These are just some of the ways to make a contribution to support rural leadership development. For more information on our investment opportunities, please call Molly Ross, Fund Development Manager at 519-826-4204.



*Upon his retirement from Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd., Kathy Biondi, The Centre for Rural Leadership, recognized Bill Parks for his committment to AALP.*

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## AALP Class 10 Recruitment

It's recruitment time again. Applications for Class 10 are due on March 7, 2003 (note change from May) so we're actively trying to get the word out to qualified candidates across the province.



*At their Sudbury seminar, Class Nine participated in a mock tribunal exercise, using video conferencing technology to link with panellists in Guelph.*

*We are seeking individuals who have:*

- A commitment to the future of the agri-food industry and have the potential to give back to their organization or community after the program
- Demonstrated leadership potential in past activities
- Open-mindedness and vision
- Broad interest in agricultural and societal issues
- Involvement in farm, rural community or industry organizations

We know that you have people in your organizations and your communities with the above qualities and who would benefit from further leadership training. In turn your organization would benefit from their further development as well. We ask you to encourage them to get more information and consider applying to AALP.

## Information Nights

Probably the most important part of the recruitment campaign are our Information Meetings. These evenings are the best opportunities for potential applicants to not only get more information about

AALP, but also to talk to grads about how the program has affected their businesses, careers and family lives. Only people who have been through the program can accurately detail its impact.

Grads are encouraged to attend and to bring a potential candidate. This is an opportunity to share AALP experiences, but to also learn about how the program continues to evolve and grow.

- *Chatham*

Monday November 25, 7:30 p.m.,  
*Pioneer Hi-Bred Conference Room*

- *Niagara*

Tuesday November 26, 7:30 p.m.,  
*Niagara College, Glendale Campus, St. Catharines*

- *Guelph*

Thursday November 28, 7:30 p.m.,  
*Ontario Cattlemen's Association*

- *Huron, Perth, Waterloo*

Monday November 25, 7:30 p.m.,  
*Crediton Hall*

- *Barrie*

Monday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.,  
*Church's Farm Equipment, Thornton*

- *Belleville*

Tuesday December 3, 7:30 p.m.,  
*Bioniche Boardroom*

- *Winchester*

Wednesday December 4, 7:00 p.m.,  
*Country Kitchen Restaurant*

- *Grey/Bruce*

To be Announced

We hope you'll join us at the Information Meeting in your area. Bring a 'recruit' with you!

*Application kits are now available from  
the AALP office at (519) 826-4204  
or on-line at [aalp.on.ca](http://aalp.on.ca).*