

**KALP  
CO-DIRECTORS**

**Dr. Steve Isaacs  
Dr. Will Snell**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**Preparing for  
KALP Class XII**

**KALP Needs Your  
Financial Backing**

**Possible Alumni Trip**

**KALP Class XI Visits  
Central Europe**

**Class XI Graduates**

**KALP Hosts 2017  
International  
Leadership Alumni  
Conference**

**2017 IAPAL Annual  
Meeting Held In  
Australia**

**Growing Agricultural  
Literacy**

**Alumni Updates**

**EDITOR and  
KALP PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR**

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**KALP COMMUNICATION  
COORDINATORS**

**Kathy Roe  
Emily Brown**

**Preparing for  
KALP CLASS XII**

We are already getting inquiries about KALP XII, and are currently encouraging alumni, farm organizations, agribusinesses, and other supporters to help us secure adequate funds for our next class. The endowment is providing a nice monthly return, but we still need additional funds to maintain a sufficient reserve.

Thanks to local alumni support when we conduct seminars across the state and our diligence to holding down costs, we have been able to reduce the cash cost of the program from approximately \$15,000 per participant for Class XIII to around \$11,000 to 12,000/participant for the past three classes without, in our opinion, sacrificing the quality of the program. Our advisory board voted to maintain the tuition to \$2,500 per participant for our next class – certainly one of the lowest in the nation. This could not happen without the generous support of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and the nearly 200 additional supporters like many of you.

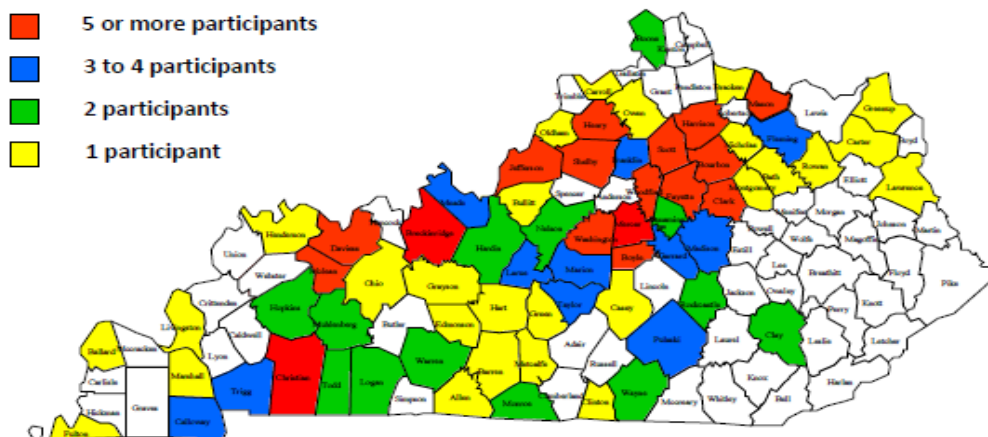
Assuming we are have adequate starting funds, our tentative schedule for Class XII will be

- **Recruitment:** Winter 2017-2018/Spring 2018
- **Nominations:** May 2018
- **Applications:** June/July 2018
- **Interviews:** August 2018
- **First Seminar:** October 2018

Currently we are keeping contact information on individuals who have expressed interest for applying for Class XII. While we will have a formal nomination period in May 2018, feel free to share with us any individual you think might have an interest in being a part of Class XII. We will post updated nomination/application materials on our new website in the spring of 2018, and will remain in contact with our alumni as we finalize our plans for Class XII.

*As you can see by the map, many counties still need representatives in the leadership program.*

**KALP/ Philip Morris Ag Leadership Program  
Participant Location for Programs I-XI**



## KALP NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL BACKING

### *Some thoughts on giving....*

- In September KALP XI became the first PM or KALP class to reach 100% in giving participation. Way to go KALP XI.
- That helped us reach one of our goals...to have over half of the PM/KALP alumni as contributors. We stand at 52.1%, primarily due to the high participation rates of the last four classes at 85, 96, 96, and 100 percent.
- Current KALP endowments stand at \$2.45 million. Earnings from the endowments, class tuition, and in-kind gifts generate approximately \$250,000 over a three-year life cycle of a class, just meeting the direct costs.
- We've often been asked what it would cost to shorten the class frequency to a two-year cycle. We've run some numbers. At recent average rates of return, the endowments would need to grow by at least \$1.1 million, plus we would probably have to hire additional staff support.
- Please consider a year-end gift. A six-figure contribution and we'll name a seminar after you. Smaller gifts accepted, and we appreciate them too.

Also, please consider a recurring gift. Our largest alumni contributor uses a monthly bank draft, and your KALP directors use a monthly payroll withdrawal. Relatively modest amounts, contributed regularly are a great way to invest in a great program.

### ***Please consider a tax-deductible gift to KALP***

To explore ways to give, go to <http://www.uky.edu/philanthropy/ways-give>.

If you give using a check, make your check payable to the University of Kentucky and write "KALP" on the memo line.  
Mail to:

**Marci Hicks**, Director of Philanthropy  
University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment  
Office of Advancement, E.S. Good Barn, 1451 University Drive, Lexington, KY 40546-0097  
(859) 257-7200      [marci.hicks@uky.edu](mailto:marci.hicks@uky.edu)

You can also give online by going to the UK secure online giving site at  
<https://uky.networkforgood.com/causes/4724-college-of-agriculture-food-and-environment>

Scroll down to the bottom of the page and in the blank box to the right of  
"Search Giving Opportunities," key in

**Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program.**

## POSSIBLE ALUMNI TRIP

Due to your expressed interest in an alumni trip, we have been brainstorming and pricing a few options. Some of you may know, we seriously considered a trip to Ireland/Scotland in Spring of 2018, however due to high prices and time limitations, we have decided not to pursue that at this time. However, we are still committed to organizing an adventure. Please contact us with your thoughts, ideas, preferred time to travel, and we will continue planning a trip that will work for as many alumni as possible.

## KALP Class XI Visits Central Europe

Class XI of the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program visited Austria, Slovakia, Poland, and the Czech Republic this past July. These countries are approaching nearly thirty years of transition from a centrally planned economy under communist control to a capitalistic market-based economy.

Despite the current economic challenges facing U.S. agriculture, most of the farms we visited in Central Europe appeared to be doing well. These farms are very diversified in producing and marketing specific commodity traits and value-added foods, beverages, textiles, and energy and make it very clear that they are benefitting/surviving from farm subsidies from the European Union (EU) and premiums they are receiving from organic/non GMO production.

Besides concerns over the future commitment of policymakers to support agriculture, the farmers we visited have many of the same concerns confronting U.S. farmers today including a declining supply of labor, increasing age of farmers, and misinformed consumers. These farms and agribusinesses are attempting to better understand a changing consumer base and adjusting production and management practices to meet growing niche markets. Local foods, food security, and attention to the environment remain important issues. The farms and businesses we met with seemed to indicate they have moved beyond the GMO and climate change debate, with anticipation that animal welfare will become the next major battle. It also appears that EU agriculture is moving to become more aggressive in developing trade agreements and business opportunities outside the EU, especially following recent U.S. trade policy actions.

Structurally, the majority of farms in these nations are small farms that have absentee landowners. Active small farms are producing primarily for a local market, but depending mainly on off-farm income. However, an increasing number of farms with larger operations (1000s of acres) are prevalent, some renting from hundreds of small farms and consisting of board of directors for a company farm or organized as cooperative farms with hundreds of members. Similar to the United States, land transfer issues will become a significant issue in the coming years.

Undoubtedly, the most moving experience occurred when we visited Auschwitz, the Nazi concentration camp in Poland. As one of our participants commented, ***“Not all leadership is positive ... and if one person can apply his leadership skills in a manner to threaten the entire world, certainly I can go back home and make a difference in my community and state.”***

Overall, it was a great learning experience, with lots of valuable leadership lessons from a political, economic and cultural viewpoint.





## KALP CLASS XI GRADUATES

The twenty-two members of Class XI of the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program graduated on September 7, 2017 at Spindletop Hall in Lexington, Kentucky. KALP Co-Directors Dr. Steve Isaacs and Dr. Will Snell welcomed everyone and introduced guests and speakers: Class members' spouses/significant others; Dr. and Mrs. Jimmy Richardson; Dr. Gary Palmer, Associate Dean for the UK Cooperative Extension Service; Marci Hicks and Pamela Gray of the University of Kentucky College of Agricultural, Food and Environment Advancement Office; KALP Advisory Board members Dr. Jimmy Westbrook, Pat Henderson, and Brian Lacefield; Dr. Randall Barnett, the Founding Director of the Philip Morris Agricultural Leadership Development Program (predecessor to KALP); Warren Beeler, the Executive Director of the Kentucky Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP) and a member of the KALP Advisory Board; Steve Patton, University of Kentucky Photographer; Adam Hinton, graduate of KALP Class X and a member of the Class XI selection committee; and the KALP office team, Phyllis Mattox, Kathy Roe and Emily Brown.

After inspiring talks by Randall Barnett and Warren Beeler, Robert Elliott and Hagan Wonn of the graduating class presented a slide show of Class XI in review. Class representatives Joanna Carraway and Joseph Sisk then shared their reflections of the last two years, and how KALP had influenced their lives. All attendees were given a special "Reflections" booklet showing candid photos and comments from each Class XI graduate.

Engraved wood plaques were awarded by Gary Palmer, Steve Isaacs and Will Snell to the following KALP Class XI graduates:

<i>Alana Freeman Baker</i>	<i>Robert B. Elliott</i>	<i>John Robert Pedigo</i>	<i>Casey Story</i>
<i>Kristin Baldwin</i>	<i>Jamie Guffey</i>	<i>Michael O. Peterson</i>	<i>Jenny R. Van Wieren-Page</i>
<i>Brad Bolinger</i>	<i>Spencer Guinn</i>	<i>Brandon Reece</i>	<i>Jessica Lee Wilkerson</i>
<i>Maggie Bowling</i>	<i>Kendall Henson</i>	<i>Stacy Sipes</i>	<i>William M. Wilson</i>
<i>Joanna Payne Carraway</i>	<i>Elizabeth Lunsford</i>	<i>Joseph Platt Sisk</i>	<i>Hagan T. Wonn</i>
	<i>Suzanne Miles</i>	<i>Michael N. Smith</i>	

New graduates Kendall Henson, Michael Peterson and Kristin Baldwin were scheduled to give "A KALP Fundraiser Challenge" to Class XI, but instead, announced that each member of Class XI had already donated to the KALP endowment, therefore becoming the first leadership class to 100% financially support KALP! This monumental accomplishment had been kept secret from Steve and Will, so they were quite overwhelmed when the announcement was made!

Will, Steve, Phyllis, Kathy, and Emily were surprised with photo albums of Class XI's adventures, with each page having notes of appreciation to Will and Steve from each graduate. Class members also received a photo book, and each KALP team member was given an additional gift from the Class.

Kathy, Emily, Phyl, Will and Steve gave closing comments, ending a wonderful celebration of Class XI's graduation.



*Left to Right: KALP Co-Director Will Snell, Class XI Graduate Spencer Guinn, UK Associate Dean for Extension Gary Palmer, and KALP Co-Director Steve Isaacs*



Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program



## KALP HOSTS 2017 INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ALUMNI CONFERENCE IN KY

In October, KALP and UK hosted the 2017 ILAC meetings in Lexington. Approximately 40 ag leadership alums from around the country and visitors from around the world met for four days of Kentucky hospitality and learning. The ILAC theme was *Leadership through Storytelling* and we went to Kentucky's beginnings with an opening address from Daniel Boone...actually a Kentucky Humanities Council actor, Kevin Hardesty who came in character as the first Kentuckian.

We gave the ILAC folks the full Kentucky treatment with a distillery tour at Woodford Reserve and the tobacco farm experience at Hoppy Henton's (Class I). The Keeneland fall meet was in progress so we lured them to the track to separate them from some of their money in exchange for a sunny October afternoon with the horses. Shout out to Carrie Gilbert (Class X) who, along with Jill Stowe and Frank Penn set the stage for Keeneland with an overview of the equine industry in Kentucky.

The highlight of ILAC 2017 was indeed an international experience hosted by Brennan (Class VIII), Serena (Class X), and Eddie (Class II) Gilkison at their farm in Clark County. Jane Craigie brought fellow Scots Duncan McConchie, Robert Ramsay, Rebecca Dawes, and Jackie Green along with Aussies Pete Lewis and John Elliott for what Jane and Rebecca called an *International Ideas Festival*. Quoting from a blog Steve wrote for Jane's webpage <http://www.janecraigie.com/> . . . *while ideas are great, if they're just ideas, they may die in our minds. It's when the ideas take root and grow that they find themselves harvested as stories. That's what the Ideas Festival at ILAC 2017 was...the stories of successful ideas. The idea that people would travel to Scotland to make their own stories of fun or romance in one beautiful part of the world framed by water. Or, that they'd travel to the beautiful desolation of the dryness of Australia... some to make the stories that we call movies... so that others could experience their stories.*

Several PM/KALP alumni attended parts of ILAC 2017. We'd like to have had more. If you're interested, ILAC 2018 will be in New Orleans next November 5-8. We'll send details as they become available.



Above Left: Hoppy Henton explained the tobacco growing, harvesting, and selling process to the group in his tobacco barn in Woodford County. He also hosted dinner in his front yard.  
Above Right: The participants posed for a photo at the Gilkison Farm in Clark County.  
Left: Eddie Gilkison taught the ILAC visitors about Kentucky Bourbon, and treated them to a Bourbon tasting in the Gilkison Farm tobacco and hemp barn.



INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
ALUMNI CONFERENCE



## 2017 IAPAL ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN AUSTRALIA

Will Snell and Emily Brown joined other directors and administrators from around the world for the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leadership (IAPAL) conference in Australia this past September. Both Will and Emily said they benefitted tremendously from having more than two days with leadership colleagues.



*Directors and administrators completed activities used by various leadership programs.*



Programs from various states were represented, along with Scotland and Australia. The conference broadened KALP's network "down under" for future KALP needs, and offered several new, innovative ideas and activities; Will and Emily also learned some ideas KALP has considered didn't perform well in other states.

For future classes, the KALP administrators will be looking at mentorship programs, bonding activities, creative communication methods, and potential structural adjustments. The KALP team is incredibly excited and motivated to continue to raise the bar with each new class.



*Several programs, including our hosts (Nuffield Scholars and the Australian Rural Leadership Program) focus a large section of curriculum on Natural Resources management and impacts.*

*Left: Ord River Dam  
Below: Powerworks brown coal mine*



*Some of the IAPAL participants at the Parliament House in Darwin with Nuffield International CEO and IAPAL host, Jim Geltch.*



## #KALP Connections: Growing Agriculture Literacy

During my participation in KALP Class X, I created a vision for myself and for Kentucky agriculture: find new ways to grow agricultural literacy for our K-12 students. I had the dream and the skill, and KALP gave me the confidence and the network to make it happen.

I have entered my fourth year as Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom's executive director, and each day brings a new victory. I estimate that our organization and network of sponsors and educators can reach 100,000 to 150,000 students each year through several programs:

- Mobile/Direct-to-School Education
- Education Resource and Curriculum Development and Distribution
- Teacher and Educator Training Workshops

None of these programs would be possible, however, without local support and passionate people who share the dream of better educating our future consumers. Many of those #teachkyag warriors are KALP classmates, for whom I am very thankful.

You can regularly find **Suzanne Cecil White, Class X** (Owensboro), who is a former teacher, visiting a classroom, education event, or volunteering with a local youth group. Suzanne has provided her local Boys and Girls Club a plot in their produce operation and regular mentorship from planting through sale of their harvest at the local farmer's market. It is amazing to hear Suzanne Cecil White talk about her experience with these young people. Suzanne was instrumental in helping me develop the education program we offered to clubs statewide, and I will find ways to utilize her expertise in the future.

**Serena, Class X, and Brennan Gilkison, Class VIII** (Winchester), with assistance from **Brandon, Class XI, and Amy Reece** of Reece Farm, has held two annual "Harvest to Hand" charity dinners with proceeds going toward local agriculture education programs.

I have been able to take part for the past several years in Fleming County Agriculture Appreciation Week, an effort led by **Adam Hinton, Class X**. This program grows every year, which most recently included an ag coloring contest, FFA students reading in elementary schools, a teacher workshop, visits from the UK Mobile Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and KDA Mobile Science Activity Centers, a tractor parade, and town hall meeting among other events. There was an educational experience provided at every single school.

These are only a few of the KALP-led agriculture education efforts going on. I would be willing to bet that **most every KALP graduate is involved in teaching agriculture in some way**. I see them regularly participating in classroom visits, school agriculture events, festivals, on-farm events, helping teachers find lesson plans, or furthering ag literacy through their organizations and businesses.

I knew when I set off on my new journey that the task would be much larger than what I could accomplish alone, but working together, we are making an immeasurable impact on Kentucky youth and education. Thank you to each of you for taking your time for this important endeavor.

If you would like to do more for agriculture and environmental education in your community, visit [www.teachkyag.org](http://www.teachkyag.org) to see our list of ready-to-implement resources and programs.

KyAEC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organized in 1992 to grow agricultural and environmental literacy across the Bluegrass. Efforts are supported by Kentucky's agricultural organizations, businesses, and individuals.

*By Jennifer Elwell, TeachKYAg, KALP Class X*





# ALUMNI UPDATES

**BRIAN LACEFIELD of KALP Class IX** has been appointed the Kentucky Farm Service Agency (FSA) Director by President Donald J. Trump. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the appointment on November 3, 2017. FSA State Directors help implement U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policies in planning, organizing, and administering FSA programs in their respective states. They are also responsible for running the day-to-day activities of the state FSA office. "These state directors will help ensure that USDA is offering the best customer service to our farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural producers across the country," Secretary Perdue said. "They are the initial points of contact for millions of our USDA customers. Our goal is to help rural America prosper, and these state leaders will be of great assistance in that task." See the announcement at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAOOC/bulletins/1c23c05#.Wf0HhI9V0IY.facebook>.



On November 6, 2017, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell released the following statement regarding Brian Lacefield's appointment: "I congratulate Brian Lacefield, of Hopkinsville, on his appointment to serve as the executive director of the Kentucky Farm Service Agency. Responsible for more than \$330 million of payments and loans to Kentucky farmers last year, the FSA is a vital resource for the Commonwealth's agricultural community. With his wealth of experience working in agriculture, Brian is ready to serve and support Kentucky's farmers in his new role. I commend President Trump for selecting another qualified Kentuckian to serve in the Administration."



**ADAM HINTON, KALP Class X**, was appointed by Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin on September 28, 2017, to serve on the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB). Adam, of Hinton Mills, will represent businesses and serve for a term expiring Sept. 30, 2020. The Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board serves as an advisory board to the Governor on workforce training and development issues. The KWIB is charged with creating a statewide vision for workforce development and adopting a plan to move Kentucky forward through workforce training and development. See the complete article at <http://www.lanereport.com/81703/2017/09/gov-bevin-makes-appointments-to-kentucky-workforce-innovation-board/>

**DAVID BECK, Philip Morris Class II**, received The Oak Award from The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education in September 2017 at the 2017 Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship conference. The awards ceremony followed remarks by Gov. Matt Bevin. Council President Bob King said, "This year's honorees are truly exceptional, and we are delighted to honor them for their many contributions to enrich the lives of our students and campus communities."

The OAK Award honors outstanding graduates for achieving statewide or national recognition in their careers and for exhibiting a lifelong affection for their alma mater and to Kentucky. The OAK award was first presented in 1987.

Beck, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, holds a Bachelor of Science in agriculture from Murray State University. He is active in both state and national agricultural organizations, including the Future Farmers of America National Convention Host Committee, Kentucky 4-H Foundation, Kentucky Agricultural Council and Kentucky Fair Council. Beck also assists in recruitment and student initiatives for the Hutson School of Agriculture at Murray State University. He was named Outstanding Agriculture Alumnus, as well as Distinguished Alumnus, of the university. Murray State University President Bob Davies nominated Beck. See the article at <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=PostsecondaryEducationCouncil&prId=91>.



*Murray State President Davies with David Beck.*

## ALUMNI:

*Please send your recent accomplishments to [phyllis.mattox@uky.edu](mailto:phyllis.mattox@uky.edu)*

# ALUMNI UPDATES



**BEN, KALP Class X, AND KATIE FURNISH** of Harrison County were chosen as the Kentucky Farm Bureau's 2017 "Outstanding Young Farm Family" during KFB's annual meeting in Louisville on November 30, 2017. The award is presented to a farm family under the age of 35 who exhibits the strongest farm management skills, most consistent finance growth and highest level of involvement in both Farm Bureau and the community.

In 2003, Ben bought his first group of cows and raised his first tobacco crop utilizing the farming background he grew up with on his parents' cattle and burley tobacco operation. He purchased his first farm of 46 adjoining acres in 2005. Over the next decade he continued to grow through purchased and

leased land. Today, he and his family operate on more than 2,200 acres of owned and leased land. Farm production includes stocker steers, burley tobacco, corn, soybeans, wheat, mixed hay and, for the last three years, industrial hemp. The Furnishes also custom harvest hay for a neighboring farm, and custom harvest grains for neighboring farms when needed.

Katie has a degree in nursing and works part-time as an RN at their local hospital. The couple has three children. Ben, who has a degree in agriculture economics, uses the Kentucky Farm Business Management program to help compare his family operation to others of the same size in an effort to improve and be more profitable. The couple plans to expand their stocker operation in the future, while also looking "heavily" at expanding their feeder calf operation.

Ben and Katie are members of Harrison County Farm Bureau and are active in many other organizations. They also enjoy family activities including being active in their church and participating in local recreational baseball.

*Left to right: Katie, Ford, Brodie, Garrett, and Ben Furnish.*



*Maylee, Bethany, Alea, Nicholas & Whitley Mae Hardesty.*

**NICHOLAS, KALP Class IX, and BETHANY HARDESTY** were finalists in the Kentucky Farm Bureau 2017 Outstanding Young Farm Family competition. They own a farming operation in Meade County and have a simple philosophy in life; family and Christian values come first, then everything will work itself out. That way of thinking has worked well for this couple, both of which grew up with agricultural backgrounds. Today they operate a tobacco, corn, soybean, and hay operation, from a crop perspective while also raising cattle on their nearly 600 acres of owned and leased land. The couple views their tobacco operation as being unique in today's agricultural environment and have invested in a tobacco supply business and additional greenhouses (they have a total of nine) to produce plants. Today they supply ag supply centers with most anything a farmer would need to raise a crop of tobacco. They also do some direct sales, as well.

The couple purchased their first farm in January of 2011. While Nicholas is in charge of the day-to-day operations on the farm, Bethany manages the books and payroll, taking care of all H2A paperwork and filing, along with taking care of much of the greenhouse work.

They are members of Meade County Farm Bureau, and look to expand their farming operation in the future. Those expansions include adding more greenhouses, increasing the cattle herd size and increasing the grain storage capability on the farm. Nicholas and Bethany are the parents of three daughters. They are active in local 4-H and FFA activities, and are involved in their church.

Photos and text for both the Hardesty & Furnish families were printed with permission from the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation. See:  
<https://www.kyfb.com/federation/newsroom/2017-outstanding-young-farm-family-finalists-named/>  
 and  
<https://www.kyfb.com/federation/newsroom/ben-and-katie-furnish-named-kentucky-farm-bureau-s-2017-outstanding-young-farm-family/>

# ALUMNI UPDATES



**ROBERT, KALP Class XI, and LINDSAY ELLIOTT** were named the state winners of the Tennessee Farm Bureau's Excellence in Agriculture Award and will go on to compete at the American Farm Bureau Federation's Convention in January 2018. The Elliotts received a John Deere Gator sponsored by Farm Credit Mid America and a trip to the American Farm Bureau Convention in Nashville, courtesy of Tennessee Farm Bureau, where they will compete for national honors with other state winners.

The Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes young farmers and ranchers who do not derive the majority of their income from an agricultural operation, but who actively contribute and grow through their involvement in agriculture, their leadership ability and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations.

The Elliotts farm in Robertson County, Tennessee with Robert's family on a beef cattle, tobacco and row crop operation, with Robert's primary occupation being the agronomist at Jepson Family Farms and Lindsay is a loan officer for Farm Credit Mid America. Both Robert and Lindsay have been very active in the Young Farmers and Ranchers program, as well as the Robertson County Farm Bureau and their local community. Both have served on the Tennessee YF&R State Committee, with Robert serving as state chair in 2016.

Go to <https://www.tnfarmbureau.org/robertson-countys-elliotts-win-state-excellence-in-ag-award> to read the complete article.

**PHILIP McCOUN of Philip Morris Class V**, was elected in early August 2017 as a new At-Large Board Member of the U.S. Grains Council. The U.S. Grains Council develops export markets for U.S. barley, corn, grain sorghum and related products, including ethanol and distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS). The new Board of Directors will serve until July 2018. For more information, go to <https://www.grains.org/news/20170802/keller-elected-us-grains-council-chairman-first-woman-hold-office>.

McCoun is the Chairman of the Kentucky Corn Promotion Council, which collects and administers a checkoff that is remitted on corn sold in Kentucky. This special fund makes much needed market development, promotion, education, and research possible, all of which benefit the Kentucky corn industry, agriculture, and economy.



**JEFF PENDLETON, PHILIP MORRIS LEADERSHIP CLASS IV and MIKE CHALFANT, PHILIP MORRIS LEADERSHIP CLASS VII**, are both on the 2017 Agribusiness Association of Kentucky (ABAK) Board of Directors. Jeff Pendleton is also the Vice President of the organization. ABAK was established to provide a strong voice in support of Kentucky agriculture. Jeff is the General Manager, Secretary and Treasurer of Hallway Feeds, and Mike is an Account Manager with Monsanto.



*Jeff Pendleton*



*Mike Chalfant*



# ALUMNI UPDATES

**CAROL HINTON, KALP CLASS VIII** and a Breckenridge County Extension Agent with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service for the past twenty-four years, was awarded the Kentucky Farm Bureau's Farm Public Relations Award during the general session of KFB's annual meeting at the Galt House in Louisville on November 30, 2017.

Carol was one of the first female agriculture agents in Kentucky. She works with the community in determining prioritizing and addressing county needs relating to agriculture and natural resources. Additionally, she counsels with community members to provide input and feedback regarding extension's work in the area. She also designs and implements programs based on identified needs and provides education opportunities. Carol creates multiple newsletters, flyers, and Facebook posts that produce awareness about current topics in the agriculture industry. These efforts have resulted in positive promotion of agriculture in Breckinridge County.

A graduate of Western Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky, Carol serves with many professional organizations including the soil conservation committee, Chamber of Commerce, and the Kentucky County Agents Association, to name a few. She also raises show pigs on her farm.

Carol has received many awards related to her work, including a newsletter Award from the Kentucky Association of County Agriculture Extension Agents, a Diversity Award from the University of Kentucky, and a Supporting Agent Award from the Air and Waste Management Association.



*Presenting Carol Hinton (center) the KFB's 2017 Farm Public Relations Award are B. Todd Bright, KFB Communication Division Director (left), and David S. Beck, KFB Executive Vice President and an alum of Philip Morris Leadership Class II.*

*For Kentucky Farm Bureau's announcement, see <https://www.kyfb.com/federation/newsroom/carol-hinton-receives-2017-farm-public-relations-award/>*



**PAT HARGADON, Philip Morris Class VI**, was presented the Honorary Commissioner of Agriculture certificate by Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles on June 28, 2017 in Shelbyville at an economic development forum facilitated by the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers (KAM) and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA).

This initiative was aimed at expanding the stream of agricultural products into Kentucky's manufacturing sector according to Quarles. The forum brought together various agricultural and manufacturing representatives to talk about how they can work together to expand agriculture's role as an economic development tool that will generate Kentucky income and jobs.

*Left to right: Pat Hargadon and Ryan Quarles*

**ALUMNI:** *Please send your recent accomplishments to [phyllis.matttox@uky.edu](mailto:phyllis.matttox@uky.edu)*

# ALUMNI UPDATES

**SHANE, KALP Class IX and MARY COURTNEY** were named the Agribusiness of the Year at the 2017 Farm City Celebration Luncheon on November 10, 2017 at the Kentucky Exposition Center South Wing Conference Center in Louisville. The Farm City Celebration Luncheon is produced annually by Louisville, Kentucky's Agribusiness Industry Network (AIN) to celebrate the contributions of the agribusiness industry to the community. It recognizes the interdependence of rural and urban economics, and is held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Expo, the world's largest, purebred livestock exposition. Criteria for the award include: sustained financial growth, overall contribution to the community and excellent employee relations.

Shane and Mary own and operate Courtney Farms in Bagdad, Kentucky. They raise vegetables and have a produce distribution plan that includes local schools, chefs and caterers, hospitals, restaurants, grocery stores, special events, and many other venues. In addition to vegetables, this successful operation includes corn and soybean production and a beef cattle herd. To learn more about Courtney Farms, go to <http://courtneyfarmscsa.com/>.



Three KALP Alumni are included in the July 2016 – June 2017 *Kentucky Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy Annual Report* at [https://agpolicy.ky.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/annual-report\\_FY2017.pdf](https://agpolicy.ky.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/annual-report_FY2017.pdf).

- **JENNIFER ELWELL, KALP Class X**, is featured in the "Investing in Education" section on page 21 of the report.
- **AARON MILLER, an alum of KALP Class IX** and a lender through Farm Credit Mid America, is quoted in the "Financing Dreams" article on page 24.
- **QUINT, KALP Class X, AND LEAH POTTINGER** are highlighted in the "Financing Innovation" section. See the article, page 25.



*Jennifer Elwell*



*Aaron Miller*



*Quint & Leah Pottinger*

The ag leadership program is well represented in the **Kentucky Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP)** and its committees and boards:

- **BILL McCLOSKEY, PM Class VI** – GOAP Deputy Executive Director
- **SENATOR PAUL HORNBACK, PM Class I** – Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee
- **AL PEDIGO, PM Class III** – Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB)
- **FRANK McANINCH, PM Class VI** - Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) Board
- **AARON MILLER, KALP Class IX** - Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) Board

# ALUMNI UPDATES



**AL PEDIGO** of Philip Morris Leadership Program Class III, and **JOHN PEDIGO** of KALP Class XI recently accepted an award on behalf of the Allen County Kentucky Farm Bureau.

John Pedigo, Young Farmer Chair for Allen County Farm Bureau, and Al Pedigo, President, Allen County Farm Bureau, accept the Gold Star Award of Excellence from Mark Haney, Kentucky Farm Bureau President (far left) and David S. Beck, Kentucky Farm Bureau Executive Vice President (far right). The award was presented during a December 1 recognition program at the 98th Kentucky Farm Bureau annual meeting.

The award honors a county's Young Farmer Committee for its active participation in Farm Bureau leadership development program, state competitions, and education or promotional initiatives.

**JOHN PEDIGO** is also a new member of the KFB Board of Directors, joining **DAVID CHAPPELL** of PM Class II, and **PAT HENDERSON**, KALP advisory board member, on the KFB board. See more at

<https://www.kyfb.com/allen/county-corner/allen-county-farm-bureau-receives-2017-young-farmer-gold-star-award-of-excellence/> and <https://www.kyfb.com/federation/newsroom/mark-haney-re-elected-president-of-kentucky-farm-bureau/>

**JOSEPH SISK** of KALP Class XI, was one of two people added to the Planters Bank Board of Directors this month. Planters Bank has twelve offices serving Western Kentucky and Clarksville, Tennessee. Established in 1996, the main office is in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. See more at:

<http://www.wkdzradio.com/pages/23185104.php?contentType=4&contentId=19219033>.



**QUINT POTTINGER** of KALP Class X was one of five new honorees named on December 5, 2017 to The Progressive Farmer America's Best Young Farmers and Ranchers program. The class of 2018 was introduced during a DTN/The Progressive Farmer Ag Summit award ceremony. The entire article is at <https://www.kycorn.org/news/2017/12/5/kentuckys-pottinger-among-americas-best-farmers-and-ranchers>.

## KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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