CLASS 47 INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Lessons Learned in Morocco, Gibraltar and Spain

We grow leaders who make a difference.
The year has ended and what a year it was. The roaring stock market moved our endowment funds above $17 million for the first time in our history. Another legacy fund was created by Stewart and Lynda Resnick with their pledge of $2.5 million over the next five years. And The Zenith Insurance Company (Zenith) has pledged $275,000 to CALF to become a Fellowship Sponsor and will participate in the initial creation of the Leadership Round Table. For the first time, we can see a clear and distinctive path towards our goal of achieving a $25 million endowment fund.

We are also gearing up to celebrate our 50th anniversary. Wouldn't it be great to celebrate the 50th anniversary with the $25 million endowment in place? Certainly the future of CALF is looking very promising.

With a bright future in mind, the board recently spent two days in Avila Beach for a strategic planning session. Most of our current board members were not around during our prior strategic planning session seven years ago. So it was necessary and appropriate to realign our shared vision and purpose with one another. It was also important for us to create a blueprint for the future of CALF and discuss, develop and assign specific action items to move us along that blueprint.

We also took this opportunity to reevaluate our mission, vision and core values that were established seven years ago. It’s important for all members of the board to be completely aligned with these guiding principles and that they are in the forefront of all decisions and actions that we take as board members. Some minor but important wordsmithing was applied to our vision statement and further definitions were given to our core principles.

**VISION:** To be a catalyst for a vibrant agricultural community.

**CORE VALUES:** Integrity (overall guiding principle): Transparency, honesty, no ego, consistent approach/message/process, clarity of selection, unbiased, accountability, respect, open communication.

**FORWARD THINKING:** Long term thinking, community orientated, embrace and/or create change, dynamism, alignment of stakeholders, consistency, continually reinforced and communicated, curious, continuous learning.

**EXCELLENCE:** Continuous learning and improvement, give best effort, highest standards in all activities, passion to drive results, measure.

**FELLOWSHIP:** Cooperation, connectivity, collegial, win/win, helping, setting/achieving goals, engage actively, deal with conflict productively, constructive networking.

**RESPECT:** Listening to and respecting each other's views/differences, open to all potential leaders regardless of personal traits, welcoming.

Thank you to the board, staff and all who have supported CALF this year. As Class 47 graduates, I’m sure they are unanimous in their appreciation of the personal journey they have been fortunate to take together because of your generosity and efforts. I hope you all had a happy holiday season and happy New Year!

**CALF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chair / Jeff Elder
Vice Chair / Jim Maxwell
Secretary - Treasurer / Eugene Peterson
Immediate Past Chair / Loren Booth
Karm Bains
Rick Bures
Edwin Caplan
Karen Caplan Bob Cherenson
Helene Dillard
Michael Holstein
Eipar Knudsen
Mike Mendes
Mike Young

**CALF STAFF**

President / Barry Bedwell
Director of Education / Dr. Michael Thomas
Program Advisor / Dr. Charlie Crabb
Financial Manager / Sharon Harney
Program Coordinator / Judy Sparacino
Enterprise Coordinator / Emily Lazzarini

**WRITER/EDITOR**

Liza Teixeira Robertson
CONTRIBUTING WRITER/EDITOR
Meredith Rehrman Ritchie

**DESIGNER**

TMDcreative

For staff email addresses, visit www.agleaders.org/about/foundation_staff
At the end of the first week of this past November, I once again made the drive south to Santa Maria and had the privilege to mingle with the participants and guests at the 28th Annual Dean Brown Leadership Foundation Golf Tournament. This outstanding event, spearheaded by alumni of the Ag Leadership Program, has provided support in helping to “grow leaders who make a difference” for more than a quarter century. In addition to my expression of gratitude to the tournament’s volunteers and sponsors, my thoughts led me to ponder more about the role of Dean Brown in starting the California Ag Leadership Program along with his partner in that effort, James G. Boswell II.

More than 11 years have gone by since Mr. Brown passed at the age of 88 years and almost eight years since Mr. Boswell died at the age of 86. As I walk past the large photo that hangs in our office of these two smiling gentlemen, I wonder if the current generation of Ag Leadership fellows understands the importance of these two forward-thinking men and the very real leadership they demonstrated in founding our program.

As a member of Class 13, I had the honor and joy of meeting both Mr. Boswell and Mr. Brown and knew full well the significance of their work on behalf of California agriculture. They epitomized leadership in action by backing up their words and plans with tangible support and participation. Of course, there were many others who shared their aspirations and assisted in a multitude of ways. But without a doubt, it was these two fine men who were, and still are, the basis of the vision for Ag Leadership.

So, who were Dean Brown and James G. Boswell II? And why is it important that we should continue to remember and honor our founders? Well, as background, I will reprint the following taken from a published tribute:

Dean, a third generation Californian was born on Sept. 28, 1918 in San Francisco. His family had extensive cattle operations in Oregon, California and Texas. His grandfather was known to drive cattle down Market Street in downtown San Francisco. Dean’s family moved to the Santa Maria area in 1932 to start a feed lot business with the Silas Sinton family of Paso Robles and formed the Sinton and Brown Company. He served as executive vice-president of the company with a cattle feed lot operation and a feed processing plant. In 1957 Dean and his family moved to the Santa Ynez Valley purchasing Rancho Corral De Quati. He raised cattle and in the early 70’s planted one of the first premium wine grape vineyards in the Santa Ynez Valley.

Many organizations have benefited from Dean’s volunteerism. He was a founder and past president of the California Cattle Feeders Association. In addition, he was a member of the California Cattleman’s Association and Council of California Growers. The California State Fair Board named him “Agriculturist of the Year” in 1989. Dean was co-founder along with James G. Boswell II of the Agricultural Education Foundation that trains top California agriculturalists to become leaders in their field. He was a past chairman of the Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital and was a member of the Rancheros Visitadores since 1958. He served as El Presidente during the years of 1984-1986. He served on the board of directors for the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara and was a member of the Society of Los Alamos.

As you can clearly see from the piece above, Dean Brown was a man of action and a servant leader who backed up what he believed in at every stage of his life. He understood the complexities of a changing California and world and the challenges that would inevitably confront California agriculture. He put that knowledge into focus for the creation of this world-class leadership development program and we are all better off for his efforts. We are fortunate and justifiably proud that Dean Brown was one of our founders and we should never forget his contributions.

In the next edition of Horizons, I look forward to writing about the other half of this dynamic team, Mr. James G. Boswell II. Be sure to tune in for Part 2. Thank you.
Zenith pledges $275,000 to CALF

The California Agricultural Leadership Foundation announced a pledge in the amount of $275,000 from the Zenith Insurance Company (Zenith). As a leading insurance company headquartered in California, Zenith specializes in California agricultural insurance coverages, including workers’ compensation and property and casualty insurance. Zenith has committed to becoming a Fellowship Sponsor and will participate in the initial creation of the Leadership Roundtable. CALF has created this leadership group to interact with its board of directors, staff and faculty to provide input into assuring that the program continues to “grow leaders who make a difference.”

“On behalf of the foundation and its board of directors, we enthusiastically thank Zenith for its continued support and leadership. They truly are an outstanding company that exhibits an understanding of and commitment to California agriculture that is extraordinary,” said CALF Board Chairman Jeff Elder (35).

Zenith President Kari Van Gundy said, “Zenith recognizes that the future success of food and fiber production in our state will be dependent largely on leaders that can effectively communicate and influence others. We are honored and excited to be a part of this outstanding program. By supporting the development of future leaders, our commitment to California agriculture goes well beyond today and helps build the foundation for its success over the coming years.”

Calf Board of Directors Holds Strategic Retreat

Chairman of CALF’s board of directors, Jeff Elder (35), presided over a strategic planning session held November 8 and 9 in Avila Beach. The day and a half meeting was facilitated by Sharon Dauk (sharondauk.com), thanks to the generous sponsorship from board member Ejnar Knudsen. Knudsen is the founder and CEO of AGR Partners, a private equity firm that provides capital through non-controlling equity and subordinated debt to cultivate long-term growth in leading agribusinesses and food companies.

The planning session was focused and led by Elder to articulate and delineate long-term goals and aspirations for the foundation. The meeting reviewed CALF’s mission, vision and core strategies moving forward. The core values of integrity, vision, excellence, unity and diversity were also explored and affirmed in detail.

Also included during the retreat was a review and discussion related to four key pillars of the foundation: faculty, curriculum, alumni engagement and resources/fundraising. Elder then moved the group into a series of action items that could be specifically addressed. Participants departed with a feeling of attainment of defined directions moving forward for the foundation.

Mike Mendes Joins Board

Ag Leadership Program alumnus Mike Mendes (39) has joined the CALF board of directors. Mendes is currently vice president of eastside farming for Wonderful Orchards. He has worked for Wonderful for seven years. In his current role, Mendes helps to oversee the eastside division’s 23,000 acres of almonds and pistachios.

Mendes was raised in Fresno County and farmed with his family. He graduated from Fresno State with a degree in agricultural business. Before working for Wonderful Orchards, Mendes worked in Fresno County and then for the Newhall Land and Farming Company in Los Angeles. He has served on the boards of various water districts and the Kern County Farm Bureau. Mendes and his wife, Ellen, live in Bakersfield and have three grown sons.
Dr. Louise Ferguson (30), UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences and UC ANR, received the 2017 Outstanding Extension Educator Award from the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS). Ferguson is a UC Cooperative Extension specialist and faculty member, starting in the department of pomology in 1984, then joining the department of plant sciences when pomology merged into the new plant sciences department in 2004.

Her extension work is in fruit trees such as pistachios, olives, figs, citrus and other subtropical fruit crops. Research areas include mechanical pruning and harvesting of pistachios and olives, development of disease-resistant and salinity-tolerant rootstocks for pistachios, production of pistachios in saline soil, breeding of new fig varieties and new mandarin variety evaluation trials.

Ferguson coordinates and leads the California statewide Cooperative Extension (CE) programs for pistachios, table olives and figs. Working with CE farm advisors throughout California, the team coordinates statewide meetings, short courses and field days with strong industry support, including overseas participants. The team produced two versions of the industry-focused UC ANR Olive Production Manual, with Ferguson as coordinating editor. She was also co-editor of ANR’s first Pistachio Production Manual and Citrus Production Manual.

A major industry outreach and online resource is the Fruit and Nut Research and Information Center (FNRIC), centered in the plant sciences department, and established by Ferguson in 1996. She served as the center director for 16 years.

Ferguson is also acclaimed for her international agricultural development work in Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq and Pakistan. She is recognized as an international leader in knowledge extension related to fruit tree crop production in many countries around the world. She also mentors numerous students, postdocs, visiting scientists, and colleagues in California, the U.S., and internationally. She was on the board of directors of ASHS, was chair of several UC systemwide workgroups, and was associate editor of the journal HortScience, along with being active with the International Society for Horticultural Science. She twice served as president of the Plant Growth Regulation Society of America. Ferguson is currently serving as the UC Davis core faculty member of the California Agricultural Leadership Program.

Ferguson’s strong leadership, research and extension programs for the tree fruit and nut industries is exemplary, thus earning her this award. In 2014, Ferguson received the Outstanding Extension Publication Award from the American Society for Horticultural Science.

**Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Class Visits California**

Recently, Class 15 of the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) program visited California for agricultural tours and an educational experience. TALL is a competitive leadership development program that includes seminars with experts, on-site tours, meetings with business and government leaders, international study and personal skills improvement. It is funded by individuals and institutions through private gifts and grants. Participants pay a tuition and the Texas AgriLife Extension provides administrative support. The TALL program is designed for men and women in the early stages of their leadership careers. Each class consists of individuals who are associated with agriculture. Participants come from every sector of agriculture and all parts of Texas.

“This year the group consisted of 23 diversified agriculturists who had the enthusiasm and skill set that made the time spent with our alumni and other volunteers throughout the week very productive,” said Chase Hurley (35). “I believe the experience was well worth the time and effort put in by various speakers, alumni, farmers, producers and policy makers.”

The experience included an agricultural genetics and technology discussion at Bayer Crop Science; meetings with Secretary of Agriculture Karen Ross and California Farm Bureau President Paul Wenger (17); discussions about Sacramento River water diversions, farming practices and environmental diversity with northern California water districts; a tour of the Delta Farming region and a cotton gin tour. The group also learned about tertiary treated water permits, California private property rights related to the Endangered Species Act, almond and walnut production, California’s dairy industry, vegetable production, labor policies and food safety.

*Thank you to all CALF alumni who spoke to the group, coordinated tours and helped make the experience a success.*
Effective leaders learn to deal with conflict. In the Oxford English Dictionary, "conflict" is defined as: "A serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one; a state of mind in which a person experiences a clash of opposing feelings or needs; a serious incompatibility between two or more opinions, principles or interests."

Kenneth Kaye, psychologist and author of “Workplace Wars And How To End Them: Turning Personal Conflicts Into Productive Teamwork” and “The Dynamics of Family Business: Building Trust and Resolving Conflict” stated, “Conflict is neither good nor bad. Dealt with properly, it is absolutely vital.”

Benefit is derived from conflict. The aim of conflict management is achieving beneficial solutions. Conflict management minimizes the negative outcomes of conflict and promotes the positive outcomes of conflict with the goal of improving learning. Properly managed conflict increases our learning by increasing the number of questions asked and encourages people to challenge the status quo.

The first step in effective conflict management is recognizing how you personally react to conflict. The psychologists, Ken Thomas and Ralph Kilmann—inventors of the “Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument” (TKI) used in Ag Leadership training—have identified five styles of how individuals approach conflict. When examined on an assertiveness to cooperativeness mode, they are characterized as follows:

- Competing: assertive and uncooperative, a power oriented mode.
- Collaborating: assertive and cooperative, developing a considered solution for all.
- Compromising: less assertive and more cooperative, developing a less even handed solution.
- Avoiding: unassertive and uncooperative, addressing neither side of an issue by postponing or withdrawing.
- Accommodating: unassertive and cooperative, bowing to power in the form of generosity, charity or obeying.
All of these modes have use in different situations. The TKI is used to recognize your preferred mode and determine if it is effective for you. Effective leaders develop resolutions to conflict—most involve some confrontation. However, most of us dread conflict and confrontation, changing the topic or avoiding the conversation. Avoiding conflict does not serve anyone well. Ultimately, conflicts escalate and lead to a breakdown of communication, damaged relationships and loss of morale.

When evaluating your ability to effectively confront conflict, consider the following questions:

- How comfortable are you with having tough conversations?
- What is your usual medium for handling conflict? E-mail, phone, face-to-face or other?
- How do you initiate open dialogue?
- Is it hard for you to control your emotions in discussions and confrontations?
- How comfortable are you with giving and receiving constructive or negative feedback?

If your answers to the above questions are not affirmative, the following steps may help guide you to better face confrontation and conflict.

Identify opportunity. Adopt a positive outlook on conflict as an opportunity to examine an issue. If you have rarely discussed an issue, you have probably missed opportunities and innovative approaches.

Encourage giving and receiving feedback. Mutual feedback fosters trust and camaraderie, reducing the risk of future conflict.

Be proactive, but resist jumping to conclusions. Assume positive intent, focus on the issue and do not jump to conclusions before reaching a full understanding of the situation.

Do not use e-mail for conflict. If e-mail is your go-to for conflict management, it is time to get comfortable with uncomfortable conversations. Let your level of fear be your guide. The more emotion you are feeling, the more likely the situation needs to be faced in person.

Engage with storytelling. Before any confrontation, consider that the other person may be right and may question your motives. If possible, start with storytelling rather than an abrupt statement of your position. We experience our lives through stories. In telling a story, make your case and then allow the other person to respond while truly listening. An example of effective storytelling in action is the 2012 movie “Lincoln.” Lincoln was often underestimated because he frequently opened discussions with a story, rather than a statement of intent. But, our country today, and the agricultural success of the United States, are a result of his leadership in conflict.

If we take notice, we can learn about conflict resolution in many ways, including story telling. The value of story telling became clear to Class 47 fellows on their international seminar. Daily, as we traveled, we were presented a story which was often quite obtuse, that appeared to have little to do with us or our lives. Why should we be asked to listen to stories about grains of sand that were lies, girls who turned into gazelles, an admonition to tell everybody they looked beautiful, or a prime minister who always replied “it is good” to his king?

As we listened day after day, these became not stories of strange and different peoples, but stories about people like us. So much so that when we departed for Gibraltar on day nine, Doug Thomas (47) offered a new tale of a band of 24 travelers.

“A group of travelers were once sent by a wise council to venture to a far-off land to learn from the peoples of this foreign land. The purpose of this journey was for the travelers to listen to the wisdom of others and begin their journey to become wise themselves.”

-International Seminar Blog by Doug Thomas

By recognizing your preferred mode of interacting and being fully accountable to the demands of leadership, conflict can produce positive outcomes. This is a lesson Class 48 fellows will learn more about during their national seminar in March when we visit the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia and the Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields of Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Dr. Ferguson is a member of the core faculty and CALF Education Team. She has worked as an extension specialist at UC Davis for more than 30 years. Ferguson is also an alumna of Class 30.
Class 47 International Seminar

LESSONS LEARNED in Morocco, Gibraltar and Spain

Class 47’s 15-day international travel seminar was spent in Morocco, Gibraltar and Spain meeting with diverse leaders—ambassadors, teachers, foreign dignitaries, government officials, corporate executives, health care workers and volunteers. Global issues and dynamics were explored first-hand and included politics, economics, trade, commerce, education, religion, culture and the environment.

The fellows traveled for 36 hours before arriving at their first destination—a Moroccan desert camp in the Erg Chebbi sand dunes of the northern Sahara.

“DESPITE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES, PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD ARE LIVING AMONG EACH OTHER WITH TOLERANCE. THEY FACE SIMILAR CHALLENGES AND SHARE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN VALUES AND GOALS.”

-KIRAN TOOR (47)
“Morocco is very much in transition. New housing being built, western cultural influences and larger farming operations. Yet Morocco clearly has retained its traditional culture. Women and men walking about in a range of traditional clothing, jeans and suits. Traditional substance farming continues and Berber shepherds tend their sheep. Nomadic tents are abound and Berbers continue to live in traditional rock and mud houses. People are so friendly and welcoming here in Morocco.”

-International Seminar Blog (Jared Britschgi, Ted Grether, Jill Scofield, Doug Thomas)

The first day of the seminar began with a sunrise trek into the desert and an opportunity to reflect on the value and goals of the seminar. From the camp, the class traveled to Rissani for a lesson in local geology and history and to visit an area where dates and olives are grown. Fellows returned to the camp for a sunset camel ride into the desert and an opportunity to reflect on the similarities of the lives of people who live half a world away, and have the same goals.

From the camp, the class traveled to Rissani for a lesson on local history, visits to a date market, a 14th century library, mud houses, Sijilmasa ruins, a school and sustainable palm plantation project. Fellows returned to the camp for a sunset reflection about personal expectations and goals for the travel seminar.

Day three in Morocco began with a final opportunity for sunrise reflection on the sand dunes of the Sahara. The fellows enjoyed a breakfast of native Moroccan food before traveling to Ifrane on mountainous roads through the Middle Atlas Mountains.

On the way to Ifrane, the class met with Dr. Ouafae Benlhabib, a professor of agronomy, who guided them on a walking tour of her projects—chickens, olives, wheat and quinoa. In many areas of the region, families struggle to consume enough protein. These projects are proving to be nutritionally valuable to the community. She also led the fellows to a primary and preschool where they met with the school’s leaders to learn about how the development of educators and infrastructure are producing results for the community. A final highlight of the day was a tea break with bread made from quinoa produced in Dr. Benlhabib’s project.

“We concluded our day in the mountainous town of Ifrane, where we gathered for dinner and a leadership discussion themed from a native folk tale. The folk tale highlighted cultural differences and reminded us of the importance of broadening our perspectives. What we experienced today at the Moroccan farm and school, along with our evening discussion prompted each of us to recognize our differences and consider our similarities. Culture tends to create wide gaps between large populations and can hinder partnerships. People are quicker to highlight differences rather than exploring similarities.”

-International Seminar Blog (Kevin Antongiovanni, Hans Herkert, John McKeon, Kiran Toor)

Day four of the seminar began in Ifrane—a beautiful city known as the Swiss Alps of Morocco. At roughly 5,400 feet, Ifrane’s cooler climate and lustrous forests provided a completely different experience than the desert. On this day, the fellows of Class 47 focused on contrast. Contrast in geography, contrast in culture and contrast in ways of life. They explored the Jewish history of Morocco—a history that goes back several hundred years, pre-dating the introduction of Islam into the region. They also visited Serfrou, the oldest Jewish settlement in Morocco, where the Jewish influence is very prevalent.

“Our entire class has been impressed by the thriving Jewish culture in this Arab and Islamic country, where both societies have highly influenced each other. Touring the medina in Sefrou, we were amazed by the tranquility and general quietness that we observed in the area, which is quite different than what we would experience later today in Fes.”

-International Seminar Blog (Stuart Hoetger, Nadav Ichaki, Brad Koehn)

On the seminar’s fifth day, fellows visited with Dr. Moha Ennaji at the International Institute for Languages and Cultures. There they learned about current and historical migration issues between Morocco and many European countries.

“Morocco trails only India, Mexico and the Philippines in the amount of money sent home from migrant laborers. The economic and social issues that European and North African countries are facing are very similar to the issues we face in the United States.

-Brad Koehn (47)
The day also included learning about local hand craftsmanship. The fellows saw how camel, cow and goat hides are transformed into leather products at an 8th century Fes tannery. They also learned about handcrafted brass and silver products which are engraved by local artists who draw their inspiration from their Berber heritage, Jewish influences and Islamic Mosques. The final stop of the day was to a local medicinal shop where a fifth generation medicine man shared his knowledge of essential oils, creams, herbs and spices.

“Those and other artisan crafts of Morocco are some of the major economic drivers that provide income to thousands of Moroccan men and women. They also contribute to a rich cultural heritage that dates back thousands of years. These are true craftsmen who take pride in their work and have devoted years to perfecting their various arts.”

-International Seminar Blog (Casey Creamer, Tucker Knutz, Jason Miller)

As they crossed the Strait of Gibraltar, fellows noted the slow but clear transition into a different world.

“Even the coastlines were distinctly different. We got our first glimpse of the Rock of Gibraltar, and exited the ferry into a shiny, efficient and familiar-feeling Spanish port. It was fascinating to visit the tiny yet influential sovereign state of Gibraltar. For centuries the “rock” has been a strategic landing point for various nations, and although it borders Spain on all sides, the current population fiercely maintains its Britishness. A history of contention continues between Britain and Spain over the coveted few square miles, but such contentions were imperceptible as crowds painlessly crossed the border in both directions. For many of us, it was a mid-trip cultural oasis.”

-International Seminar Blog (Tom Barrios, Randi Gwilliam, Stuart Hoegetter)

The journey continued at several historically significant locations. In Cordoba, fellows toured a cathedral which is located in the Jewish quarter of the city. It was originally the Basilica of San Vicente, later became the Mosque of Abd al-Rahman I and is now a Catholic cathedral. In Granada, the fellows toured historic neighborhoods and markets with stunning views of the city and landscape. Fellows also visited the Alhambra which was originally constructed as a small fortress complex in 889 AD. It was later converted into a royal palace and was where Christopher Columbus received royal endorsement for his western expeditions.

In contrast to the historical relevance of earlier tours, Class 47 spent time visiting G’s Espana. The diversified, vertically integrated...
farming operation and value-added processor was founded in the United Kingdom as a family-run operation. It then expanded into Spain, Czechoslovakia, Senegal and Poland to service major European retailers, wholesalers and processors with a consistent year-round supply of produce.

“‘It became clear through the points articulated by the management team that, although separated by over 6,000 miles, the challenges we face in California agriculture are the same G’s España faces each day. Class 47 was fortunate to come away from the tour with the realization that a truly great leader will persevere though any situation they may face.’”

-International Seminar Blog (Kevin Antongiovanni, Chris Drew, John McKeon, Jenny Lester Moffitt)

The seminar came to a close with a final embassy briefing, a tour of the Royal Palace of Madrid, a walking tour and cathedral visit in Toledo and time to reflect on the unfamiliar places, cultures, lessons and people who made Class 47’s international seminar memorable.

“‘Each of us came with our own expectations and assumptions about what the journey would bring. Each of us leaves with a deeper connection with the world and perhaps even a deeper appreciation for home. This journey has undoubtedly left its mark on each member of Class 47, as has the entire past year. As we prepare to part ways and return home, we also begin the process of asking what is next on the never-ending journey of servant leadership and self discovery.’”

-International Seminar Blog (Tom Barrios, Casey Creamer, Matt Patton, Jill Scofield)

Read Class 47’s entire international seminar blog at: www.calfclass47intlseminar.tumblr.com.

“THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO MADE THIS TRIP POSSIBLE. IT HAS BEEN SUBTLE BUT POWERFUL REINFORCEMENT THAT THE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES WE HAVE BEEN LEARNING ABOUT AND STRIVING FOR ARE A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT FOR ANYONE WHO HAS A DESIRE TO HELP. IN A NUTSHELL: IT’S WORTH IT.”

-RANDI GWILLIAM (47)
Twenty D.C. Exchange fellows spent their eight-day educational fellowship program together in Regions 6, 7 and 8. During the program, fellows were led by various California Ag Leadership Program alumni through Fresno, Tulare, Madera, Kings, Kern and San Luis Obispo counties.

The program brought together government representatives—from congressional staff to federal agency employees—for an in-depth and significant learning opportunity. The goal is to educate D.C.-based decision makers about current issues and complex challenges facing California’s farmers and ranchers, as well as foster open communication between those producing our food and fiber with federal entities. More than 400 individuals have participated since the D.C. Exchange began in 1982.

“Having great connections to growers and experts on the ground is paramount to our office’s success,” said D.C. Exchange fellow Elizabeth Hill. “I’ve already been able to reach out to several of my new California connections to gain a better understanding of their needs for certain pest management tools, and I have no doubt that I will continue to do so for years to come. Several of the growers participating in the program discussed how valuable it is having DC connections, but for me the value is having California connections.”
The first night of the program was spent camping at Booth Ranch in Minkler where fellows enjoyed dinner with local Ag Leadership alumni and drinks hosted by Class 45. The welcoming night gave everyone a chance to get to know each other before beginning their week-long adventure.

The program began with an overview of California water issues, a stop at Cobble Weir and a water supply and distribution tour at Pine Flat Dam with Pine Flat Lake’s park manager. The program continued with a focus on fruit production. Stops included a citrus tour at Booth Ranches in Orange Cove and lunch and discussion—led by Heather (44) and Tom (18) Mulholland—about Asian citrus psyllid and citrus greening at Mulholland Citrus. Fellows also learned about stone fruit harvest and packing from Vernon Peterson (41) at Abundant Harvest Organics in Kingsburg.

“Thanks to the D.C. Exchange, I can use the lessons I’ve learned from talking with the farmers, ranchers and their families in my public affairs work every day,” said D.C. Exchange fellow Lauren Meredith. “When I need to craft a message or write an announcement, I remember the many discussions around the dinner tables or out in the fields to make sure I communicate information in a useful and relevant way.”

The program included tours of many agricultural operations. Some of the alumni-led tours included: Dairyland Farms with William “B” VanBeek (43), J.G. Boswell’s row crop and tomato processing operations with Gabe Cooper (44), Treehouse Almonds with Rob Geis (35), D.M. Camp & Sons with Edwin Camp (15), Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange with Dan Sutton (40), Pacific Vineyard Company with Erin Amaral (46), Mission Labor, Inc. with Carlos Castañeda (36) and a westside farming operation with Mark McKean (20). Other tours included Pandol Bros., Grimmway Farms, The Wonderful Company Lost Hills Restoration Project, Open Sky Ranch, Tolosa Winery and Cerro Alto Ranch.

In addition to tours, the fellows participated in a leadership module and discussion with CALF’s Director of Education Dr. Michael Thomas. The leadership module focused on “Leadership and Self-Deception” by the Arbinger Institute. The book, which was required reading for the fellows, teaches what self-deception is, how people get trapped in it and how it undermines personal achievement and organizational performance. The book’s goals include to teach techniques for team building, conflict resolution and personal growth and development.

The program also included discussions about water and air quality and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act with local farmers and industry representatives. In Kern County, fellows met with Greg Wegis (39) to hear a farmer’s perspective on air quality issues.

“The breadth of the topics covered and having them addressed intensively in a one week time frame was beautifully done,” said Hill. “Seeing
the interrelationships between different issues can help us to make better informed decisions and ultimately help the federal government to better support agriculture, both in California and the U.S.”

In San Luis Obispo, fellows participated in a harvest activity for GleanSLO. The organization collects leftover crops—both large and small—from farmers’ fields after they have been commercially harvested or from fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest. Working closely with growers, GleanSLO organizes harvests to gather fresh produce. The produce collected is distributed by the Food Bank Coalition to individuals in need.

The program concluded with a reception with local alumni and the D.C. Exchange committee at Greengate Ranch and Vineyard in San Luis Obispo. The finale dinner is an opportunity for fellows and alumni to reflect on their week-long experience and newfound knowledge of California’s agriculture industry.

“This experience was invaluable,” said Meredith. “I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the California Ag Leadership Foundation’s D.C. Exchange Program because it enriched my understanding of the many complex issues farmers, ranchers and the agricultural industry in the American West face today. I am grateful and humbled for the opportunity to see so many important topics through another set of eyes.”

2017 D.C. Exchange Fellows
Eileen Bosso, Public Health Analyst, Center for Disease Control
Patrick Cournoyer, Consumer Safety Officer, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Sam Crowell, Agricultural Advisor, U.S. Department of State
Vlad Djorets, Policy Analyst, Office of Management and Budget
Anne Effland, Senior Economist, Domestic Policy, USDA Office of the Chief Economist
Brad Gehrke, Agricultural Economist, U.S. International Trade Commission
Rachel Goeriz, Consumer Safety Officer, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Osvaldo Gomez, Western Hemisphere Desk Officer, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
Elizabeth Hill, Agricultural Economist, USDA Agricultural Research Service
J.J. Hurley, SPS Policy Director, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Benjamin Kaczmarski, Assistant Director Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Lauren Meredith, Partnerships Coordinator, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Wynne Miller, Acting Director of the Biological and Economic Analysis Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ingrid Mohn, Assistant to the Deputy Administrator, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
Chris Needham, Congressional Relations Specialist, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Brian Pasternak, Director of Immigration Programs, U.S. Department of Labor
Judith Rudman, Director, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
Nicole Russo, Director of Imports Regulations and Manuals, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Jennifer Saunders, Senior Entomologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Garland Waleko, Chemical Review Manager/Acting Risk Assessment Process Leader, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year’s D.C. Exchange a success!
Erin Amaral (6)
Kevin Andrew (18)
David Ansolabehere
Steve (20) and Debbie Arnold
Eric Averett
Carlo Bocardo (36)
Jeff Boldt (40)
Loren Booth (27)
Amanda Britton
Carson (43) and Natalie Britz
Domenick Buck (46)
Jeff Buckingham
Jeremy Caldwell
Edwin Camp (15)
Scott Carlisle
Carlos Castañeda (36)
Bill (6) and Carol Chandler
John Chandler (44)
Ernest Conant (15)
Gabe (44) and Shannon Cooper
Rick (21) and Lynne Cosyns
Jackie (36) and Charlie Crabb
Russel (10) and Kathy Efird
Matt Efird (45)
Dustin (44) and Lindsay Fuller
Joe Gardiner
Kelly Geis
Rob (45) and Joyel Goff
John Gray
Steve Haugen
Kevin (21) and Diane Herman
Nick (39) and Reana Hill
Gayle Holman (46)
Randi Hopkins (46)
Scott Horsfall
Jeff Huckaby
Dana Hurley
Tom Ikeda (26)
Julia (34) and Jorge (46) Inestroza
Heather Jackson (46)
Jeff Koligian (18)
Bob Lilley (22)
Mark (20), Megan, Wyatt and Connor McKeen
Jonathan Meyer
Jeff Millinovich (45)
Mitch Millwee (31)
Justin Morehead (45)
Tom Mulholland (18)
Steve (27) and Vickie Murray
Brian (45) and Kellie Neufeld
Claudia Nolguen
Beth (25) and Andrew Pandol
Andrew J. Pandol
Sal Parra (46)
Carol Peterson
Eric Plooy
Shaun Ramirez (46)
Jeff Rasmussen (37)
Sohan Samran (35)
Scott Shehadey (35)
Eric Tevelde
Dr. Michael Thomas
Brian Tormey
William “B” VanBeek (43)
Dave Warner
Greg Wegis (39)

D.C. Exchange Committee
Jose Arriaga (44)
Anthony Bozzano (43)
Jason Cole (42)
Melissa Dufock (40), Chair
Lucas Esperucueta (45)
Rob Geis (35)
Gail Gray (22)
Chase Hurley (35), Chair
Heather Mulholland (44)
Vernon Peterson (41)
Dan Sutton (40)
Bill Van Skike (32)

D.C. Exchange Staff
Darlene Din (35)
Judy Sparacino
“TO WORK ON ISSUES RELATED TO CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE, FARMERS AND RANCHERS FROM MY JOB IN WASHINGTON IS ONE THING, BUT HEARING ABOUT THESE ISSUES FIRST-HAND GAVE ME A MUCH DEEPER UNDERSTANDING. THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM PROVIDED ME WITH A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE COMPLEX ISSUES FACING CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE TODAY.”

- LAUREN MEREDITH
As we begin 2018 and the new year, take a moment and reflect on your Ag Leadership family, especially your classmates. Over the years, the program has produced many graduates—more than 1,300 to be exact. But as powerful as an individual graduate can be, their strength is magnified by the close ties forged during their journey through the program.

As seen at many California Agricultural Leadership Foundation events, class rivalries abound and the all too familiar saying, “We were the best class in the history of the program,” is repeated time and time again. It has never diminished over the years and the spark is reignited at any event alumni attend.

It is during this time of year I ask each one of you to reach out and touch bases with all of your classmates and see how they are and where their journey has taken them since graduating from the program. For many fellow classmates, this is a simple task as the bonds of each class have stayed active. But for some, for whatever reason, a classmate has disappeared and/or has not been heard from for a long, long time. If you can’t find one of your classmates, let us know and we will help you find them.

I sense an amazing story is brewing in the history and legacy that is the California Agricultural Leadership Program. Help us find and connect with everyone. The 50th anniversary of the program is just over the horizon. Help us make that milestone a truly amazing experience as we connect all alumni of the program and listen to all the stories we share of our experiences since graduation. With a renewed vigor, we will share our stories with one another and learn from each other. This knowledge will help us further develop the program to focus not only on each new class, but on the growing group of 1,300 graduates and how we can continue to develop and nurture each other by learning and supporting other fellows.

As our website states, “Our alumni are influential and visionary leaders, active volunteers and key decision-makers in the agricultural industry, government, communities, business and education.” The foundation’s mission statement is, “We grow leaders who make a difference.”

What is your story? Please share. Are there things that you are doing or would like to do, but would like to be better equipped? What are they and how can we, as the premier Ag Leadership Program, help you achieve all that you wish to be? Help us connect with all alumni of the program. Help us uncover the many stories lived since graduation. Help us put together a fantastic 50th program that not only reunites us all under a common bond, but also brings with it the resources and educational tools that will help us continue to live our vision, “To be a catalyst for a vibrant agricultural community.”

Please feel free to contact CALF President Barry Bedwell at bbedwell@agleaders.org or (831) 585-1030.
RECENT EVENTS

THANK YOU

D.C. Exchange • September 10-17
Jose Arriaga (44)
Anthony Bozzano (43)
Jason Cole (42)
Darlene Din (35)
Melissa Duflock (40)
Lucas Espericueta (45)
Rob Geis (35)
Gail Gray (22)
Chase Hurley (35)
Heather Mulholland (44)
Vernon Peterson (41)
Judy Sparacino
Dan Sutton (40)
Bill Van Skike (32)

Region 4 Golf Tournament • September 11
Yissel Barajas (40)
Art Bliss (8)
Jason Cole (42)
Bailey DiIoia (43)
Denise Junqueiro (42)
Susan Josue (43)
Scott Klittich (43)
Leslie Leavens (34)
Helen McGrath (43)
Mike Nunez (29)
Tom Pecht (18)
Richard Pidduck (21)
Josh Pinkerton (32)

Region 4 Winter Social • November 1
Rachelle Antinetti (42)
Yvonne Sams (45)
Deanna van Klaveren (32)

Dean Brown Golf Tournament • November 3
Anthony Bozzano (43)
Carson Britz (43)
Tiffany Carrari
Carlos Castañeda (36)
Cara Crye (39)
Chris Darway (25)
Lon Fletcher
Dale Hampton (11)
Tom Ikeda (26)
Karen King
Jeff Koligian (18)
Jim McGarry (43)
Michele McGarry
Nicholas Miller (36)
James Ontiveros (31)
Brenda Ouwerkerk (28)
Jim Strollberg (35)
Rosemary Talley (19)
Michael Testa (42)
Cara Crye (39) was a member of the 2017 Women Who Mean Business conference panel presented by the Women in Business Committee of the Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce. The panel was held on Dec. 1 in Paso Robles.

James Rickert (39) was featured in an Oct. 10 Record Searchlight article titled “Cottonwood’s Burnsini Vineyards under new ownership” about the vineyard Rickert and his partners purchased.

In Memoriam

Jeffry Thomson (3)
November 10, 1947 - October 10, 2017
Clinton Jeffry Thomson was born in Bakersfield as the eldest son to Jack and Mary Lou Thomson. Jeff attended Arvin High and was a graduate of the University of California at Davis where he was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity. Jeff met his wife Elaine at U.C. Davis. After receiving his BS degree, Jeff ventured to Alaska where he worked on a crab-fishing boat before traveling to Indiana to attend Purdue University where he earned a Master of Science degree. Upon completion of his research work, Jeff returned to Kern County and began his career in agribusiness. Jeff and Elaine were married shortly afterwards and then started their family. Jeff devoted hours to preserving waterfowl habitat in California. He found purpose and passion with several organizations—the Kern County Farm Bureau, Outstanding Farmers of America and the Tulare Basin Wetlands Association. He was recently inducted into the California Waterfowl Hall of Fame. Jeff was passionate about sharing and spending time with friends and family. Jeffry and his wife enjoyed traveling, collecting art and playing cards. Family life was rich with fishing trips, family vacations and sharing stories at the dinner table. Jeff enjoyed growing wine grapes that he pruned and harvested himself before delivering them to his wine making friend. He developed a cellar where barrel tasting was often the kickoff to a dinner gathering. Jeff shared 46 happy years of marriage with his loving wife. He was a devoted father to their children: Karen Thomson, Jack (Hallie) Thomson, Annie Thomson, Nancy (Paul) Anspach. Beloved “granddad” to five grandchildren: Jack Clinton, Thomson, Nancy (Paul) Anspach, Clinton and Brynn Anspach. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to the C. Jeff & L. Elaine Thomson Commemorative Fund Payable to: Kern Community Foundation, 3300 Truxtun Ave. Suite 220 Bakersfield, CA, 93301.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR LIFE?

PLEASE SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS OR NEWS TO:
liza.teixeira@agleaders.org
DONOR SUPPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2017 - DECEMBER 31, 2017

$500,000
Renick Foundation

$55,000
Almond Board of California
The Zenith

$50,000
Region 9 Golf Tournament

$37,000
Dean Brown Golf Tournament

$10,000
Doug and Jan Circle
Farm Credit: American
AgCredit, CoBank and Farm Credit West
Granite Peak Partners, Inc. (Pierre Tada)
John and Betsy Grether
Ladera Foundation (George and Kathleen Myers)

$1,667.67
Stanley Cooper

$1,500
Bottano & Company (Anthony Bottano)
Double E Farms, Inc. (Russel Effird)
Effird Ag Enterprises, Inc. (Matt Effird)
Brian Talley

$1,000
Bill and Chris Adams
Kevin Andrew
Joseph and Laurie Baglietto
Jeff Bitter

Bream Property Management
Blake and Lisa Carlson
Ben and Denise Carter
Bill and Carol Chandler
John Chandler
Chino Valley Ranchers
William Coit
Rick and Lynne Cosyns
Doug DeGroff
Carol and Jerry DiBuduo
Cindy and Howard Elmore
Roberta Fioredo
Five Crowns Marketing
Fresno Equipment Company
John Garner
John and Jane Gibson
Gorrill Ranch
Bob and Pat Gray
Pat Gray
Kevin and Diane Herman
Mark and Isabella Jacobs
Keithly-Williams Seeds
Kimberly Clauss Jorritsma
Hilda Klein
Charles Kosmont
Ronald Kruse
Stan and Sheri Lester
Jill Levake-Scott
M&T Ranch
Mann Packing Co.
Mark and Megan McKeen
Justin and Candice Micheli
John Muller
Ben and Kappy Olson
Andrew and Beth Pandol
Ty and Sheri Parkinson
Vernon and Carol Peterson
Jean Phillmore
Richard Pidduck
Puchmeier Bros
Gary and Karen Robinson
Robinson Fresh
Leland Ruiz
Mike and Jakki Sencer
Jan Smith
Steward Ag Services
Rosemary Talley
The Richard and Kathleen Zacky Family Foundation

Triple C Farms, LLC (Darrell and Norma Cordova)
Raymond and Katherine Van Beck
Garrett Vann
Val Mar Farming, LLC (Catarino Martinez)
Ivor and Brooks Van Wingerden
Ray Gene Veldhuis
Daniel Wilson
Wooll Farming & Processing
Joe Zanger

$500
Dennis and Beth Albiani
Teresa and Kevin Antongiovanni
Greg Avilla
Lewis Bair
Yisel Barajas
Art Barrientos
Hugo and Debbie Bello
Caroline and Fred Berry
Boskovich Farms, Inc.
Richard Clauss
Guis and Barbara Collin
Jackie and Charlie Crabb
Vernon Crowder
Stephen Danna
Dole Fresh Vegetables, Inc.
Fanciful Company
Rick and Bonnie (Fernandez)
Fenaroli
Filice Farms, LP
Joseph Ferrara
Mike and Jeanette Fitch
FJR Farms (Frank Rehermann)
Robert Goodwin Jr.
Glen and Janet Goto
Jonathan and Susan Graves
Edward Grether
Huntington Farms
Dale and Mary Jane Huss
Mark Krebsbach
Larry and Katie Lemke
Bob Lilley
Linder Equipment Co.
Steve and Kim McIntyre
Kent and Kaythn McKenzie
Joey and Shari Mendonca
Midland Tractor (Don Nelson)
Mixtec Group Associates, Inc.
Sinkes Mulholland
Stephen and Wendy Murrill
Donald Norene
Garrett Patricio
Region 9 Golf Tournament
Gift to Class 47’s project
Karen Ross
Robert Roumiguiere
Donald and Nancy Nelson
Joanne Nissen

$300
Joe Arriaga
Bob and Anne Atkins
John DeRuiter
Douglas Dickson
Janis Jones
Michael and Jessica Kelley
Maxwell and Diane Norton
Steven and Mary Pastor
Ann Thrupp

$250
Julie Allen
David Arakelian
Emily and Tony Ayala
David and Dee Bradshaw
William Carriere
Thomas Chandler
Edwin and Valerie Coc
Steven Dennis
Merlin Fagan
Peter Fallini
Fred and Susan Ferro
Bryan Foley
Jackson Gualco
Stephen and Donna Heringer
Tracy Kahn
A.G. and Dianne Kawamura
Paul and Jill Martin
Mid Valley Packaging & Supply Company
Mark and Dina Moore
Steve Olson
Oro Del Norte, LLC
Gary and Brenda Owerkerk
Lane and Joyce Parker
Patricia and Alan Reynolds
Don Roberts
Hal Robertson
Doug and Laura Rudd
Gerald Schwartz
Jim and Carol Storm
Ventura County Agricultural Association
Norm Yenni
Woolly and Kathy Yerxa

$200
Nina and David Ames
Nodle Cremers
Nat DiBuduo
Lori Frommer
Cathie Joughin
Lori and Elise Layne
Leo McGuire
James Neely
Daniel and Nancy Nelson

$157
JoeProduce.com (Rex Lawrence)

$150
Susan Cohen Grossman
Ralph and Denene Lucchetti
Matt and Luanna McNerney
John McKeon
Robert and Patricia Rathbone

$100
Tess Cox
Dexter and Lynda McDonald
Julie and Joe Morris
Ken Oneto
Pearl Crop, Inc.
Richard Peterson
Jason and Jacqueline Pucheu
Liza and Kevin Robertson
Bill Scott
David Silva
Julie Sperry
Tim Vaux
Paul Violit
David Viviani

$75
Donald Hinman

$55.57
Amazon Smile

$50
Ed McFadden

$30
Jeff Stephens

$25
Cathy Haas
In Memory of Jeff Thomson (3)
Boutonnet Farms, Inc.: $1,000
In Memory of Richard R. Smith (7)
Steven and Cathryn Nathan: $500
In Memory of Christine Van Steyn
Ed Grossi: $250
In Memory of Roy Miller
Howard Miller: $200
In-Kind
Pat Lattore: $30,000
TMD Creative: $3,400
Manpreet Bains: $3,400
In-Kind
Par Lattore: $20,000
TMD Creative: $3,400
Manpreet Bains: $1,700
Bartoum Farm: $496.88

THANK YOU
AGR Partners provides capital through non-controlling equity and subordinated debt to cultivate long-term growth in leading agribusinesses and food companies. AGR seeks to add value by using its knowledge base, relationships and industry experience to support organic growth, strategic acquisitions and ownership transitions. Over the past four years, AGR has invested over $280MM into seven outstanding companies.

TEAM
offices in Davis, CA and Chicago, IL

www.AGRpartners.com | +1.530.564.0626 | info@AGRpartners.com