



CENTRL Connections

Since 1991 Alumni Newsletter

Fall 06

Upcoming Events

CENTRL Regional Connection
November 1, 2006
Yuma
(see details inside)

CENTRL Regional Connection
January 26, 2007
Lake Havasu

CENTRL Regional Connection
May 18, 2007
Prescott

CENTRL Regional Connection
August 17, 2007
Springerville

CENTRL Regional Connection
November 2, 2007
Sonoita

Alumni Mexico Study Tour
March 6 - 10, 2007

Joint Conference
March 9, 2007
Phoenix

Project CENTRL Class XVIII Second Year Seminar Schedule

Seminar 8
Natural Resources
October 26-28, 2006
Springerville

Seminar 9
Social & Educational Issues
November 16-18, 2006
Wickenburg

Seminar 10
Global Dynamics
January 18-20, 2007
Yuma

Seminar 11
Arizona Legislature &
Polishing Speaking Skills
February 21-23, 2007
Phoenix

Seminar 12
Polishing Leadership Skills
March 22-24, 2007
Prescott

Mexico

Agri-Business Study Tour March 6 - 10, 2007

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead



Pictures are from recent Class XVIII Study Tour

For more information about the Alumni Mexico Study Tour contact:

Dennis Corderman (Class XVII)
602-268-3417
dennisc@stellarcorp.net

Ben Cloud (Class VI)
480-227-2890
broadacre1@aol.com

Mexico Agri-Business Study Tour

Come and join 25 of your fellow Project CENTRL Alumni coordinated by Dr. Seprich of Arizona State University and hosted by Dr. Armando Viareal of the ITSON University Instituto de Techniogico de Sonora, on a four day tour of Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, Mexico



Total cost: \$1,500

\$500 dollar deposit due by November 1, 2006

Study tour dates: March 6 through 10, 2007

Deposit can be mailed to:

Project CENTRL
820 E. Cottonwood Lane Bldg C
Casa Grande, AZ 85222



-----cut and mail with payment-----

YES! I want to go on the Tour

Registration Deadline: November 1, 2006

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Office/Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please mail this form with deposit of \$500 to:

Project CENTRL
Karen Vanderheyden, Program Coordinator
820 E. Cottonwood Lane, Bldg C
Casa Grande, Arizona 85222



Meet Your New Officers and Council Members.....

by Brett Cameron

Your CENTRL Alumni Council met in Casa Grande on August 31st. Elections for officers and nominations for additional Council Members were accepted and voted on. The following individuals will take office on October 17th when the Council conducts the Annual Meeting.

- President Ben Cloud Class VI
- Vice President Erik Swanson Class XVI
- Secretary Paul Brierley Class XVI
- Treasurer Brett Cameron Class XVI
- Past President Diann Prechel-Shearer Class XIV

A Reporter position has been added. This position will serve as editor of the CENTRL Alumni Association (CAA) Newsletter to be published each calendar quarter. The Reporter will solicit the CAA for news, articles, information, special recognition, opinions and general newsletter information and content. Pennee Murphree has stepped up to the plate and has been named the first Reporter.

- Reporter Pennee Murphree Class V

New Council Members nominated are:

- Jana Ponce-Wolfe Class XV
- Mark Clark Class XIII

A sincere thank you is given to Carrie Hamstra and Don Merrell as they have decided to leave the Council after many outstanding years of service.

Fund Raising Campaign

Still time this year to get that tax deduction you need!

Project CENTRL greatly appreciates the contributions made by 125 Alumni to the 2006-07 Fund Raising Campaign to date. Your support is the foundation of our continued efforts to provide a quality leadership experience for current participants. We invite all alumni to support Project CENTRL and the growing leadership of rural Arizona.

With a minimum donation of \$40 you will receive a great networking tool - the directory of all Project CENTRL Alumni. Donations above \$100 will also receive a directory as well as an appropriate gift for the level of support chosen.

Checks can be mailed to: Project CENTRL
820 E. Cottonwood Lane Bldg C
Casa Grande, Arizona 85222





DIRECTOR'S UPDATE ON CLASS XVIII SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS

CENTRL Class XVIII started their second year on the foothills of Mount Graham at Discovery Park in Safford on Thursday, September 21, 2006. Sheldon Miller (VI), Graham County Chamber of Commerce Director, provided major support in planning and conducting the Community And Economic Development Seminar.

The first session on Friday featured class members sharing highlights of their hometown in an assigned "My Arizona Community" Report. Their presentations were judged by alumni members Eddie Browning (IV), Don Merrell (VI), and Brian Lang (XV). On behalf of the Arizona Office of Tourism, Brian Lang provided special awards to eight class members selected by the judges for their outstanding presentations. After a brief legislative update from Arizona Representative Bill Konopnicki, Eddie Browning, AZ Director of USDA Rural Development, shared valuable resources and programs administered through his agency and available to communities in rural Arizona.



A "seminar on wheels" bus tour started with lunch hosted by the U of A Safford Agricultural Center. After enjoying some "home cookin", Randy Norton, Resident Director and his staff provided a guided tour of the research projects at the U of A Agricultural Center. Kimball Hansen, Communications Manager of Phelps Dodge Mining Company, provided a tour of a research center, lab, and the site of Arizona's newest copper mine near Safford. During the travels from Graham County to Cochise County, Brian Lang, Visitor Services Manager from the Arizona Office of Tourism, shared information and

resources available from his agency. John Holcomb (III) hosted the class at Apple Annies and shared the unique story of how a family investment in a few acres of apples has grown into a large agri-tourism and direct marketing family venture. The final session of the tour included a brief stop in downtown Willcox and visit with Dave Bonner, Director of Development Services for the City of Willcox. Rob Call, UA Extension Ag Agent for Cochise County, provided a slide presentation on the development of the area's direct marketing ag industry during the dinner program in Willcox.



Safford FFA Chapter provided a workshop on the basic principles of using parliamentary procedure during the opening session on Saturday. Lance Fite, FFA Advisor, and several of his FFA officers also conducted a "mock meeting" with CENTRL Class XVIII to demonstrate the proper use of parliamentary procedure. A slide presentation and brief overview of the Phelps Dodge Southeast Arizona mining projects was presented by Kimball Hansen. The final session

of the seminar featured Safford's City Manager, Huey Long, and Vice-Mayor, J. T. Cotter, to discuss the economic impact and growth issues facing their city as a result of the expanding copper industry in the Gila Valley.





ILAC Conference in Kansas This Summer Was Jam Packed

by Julie Murphree

Having returned from a week of “A Taste of the Heartland” hosted by The Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership Alumni Association and Kansas State University (KSU) this past summer, the four-day International Leadership Alumni Conference (ILAC) sent us home awash in stories.

Arizona delegates were **Julie Murphree** (Class VII) and **Pennee Murphree** (Class V).

Finding the Heart in the Heartland

In the midst of attending ILAC, we truly did find the “heart” in the heartland. In fact we can tell you that the heart in the heartland is beating quite well and based on our thorough examination as long as the heartland keeps doing what it’s doing should live a long, healthy life.

The heartland’s health showed the obvious signs of vigor. Everyone at ILAC was friendly, open and gracious. The Kansas leadership team that developed, managed and hosted this year’s ILAC was attentive to everyone’s needs and regularly asked, “Are you enjoying yourself?” Plus, “Can we get you anything?” What I marveled at most was the unexpected - an unexpected extension of graciousness.

One example of the unexpected happened while on the campus of Kansas State University. My cousin, Lisa Allen, Mom and I were taking pictures of each other while sitting in front of one of the big brick walls that features the words “Kansas State University.” We’d each take turns with the camera, snapping pictures.

After the photo session to capture the memories, we got up to walk back to the parking lot to our vehicle. Behind us we heard a breathless, “Excuse me.”

Turning around we saw a young woman running up to us and in her distinct Kansas accent she asked, “Would you three like your picture taken together? I saw you taking pictures in front of the KSU so I pulled my truck over so you can all three be in a picture together.”

Amazed at her effort to try and help us record our memory together we obediently followed her back to the location. In chatting with her we discovered that she’s a third-year KSU vet student. We asked her why she went to such trouble to help us take a photo.

“Oh, I can just remember on Bid Day when our group wanted our pictures taken and no one was around to take a group shot of us all together.” (Maybe we all looked like college students, ha!)

We thanked her, gave her a big hug and parted company. Thanks to her we have a lifelong memory and an assurance that the heart is beating vigorously in the heartland.

A Jam Packed Conference

Our first ILAC conference stop was the Konza Prairie Biological Station. We were glad we had on our jeans and tennis shoes as we walked out into the prairie with a docent that explained to us just what the web site says: “Ecological research is the central activity of the Konza Prairie. The site was established to provide a natural laboratory for the study of ecological patterns and processes in native tall grass prairie ecosystems, and a protected field site for basic biological research. Kansas State University researchers and visiting scientists conduct field research on a wide spectrum of taxa and at levels of organization from the individual organism to landscape and global-scale processes.

It had been a long time since we had gone on a hay ride but, yes that’s just what we did at The Lyons Ranch. It’s a family owned cattle and grass operation, nestled in the Flint Hills of Kansas situated in an ideal environment for cattle which were slowly herded over the prairie where we sat. Then they fed us some of their prime beef. Pretty nice!

I can also recommend our visit to KanEquip (Antique Tractors), The Wamego Oz Museum (lots of Wizard of Oz stuff), and The Columbian Theater in Wamego, The Alma Cheese Plant and finally the Wyldewood Cellars Winery (they make elderberry wine). We didn’t buy any wine but we got the elderberry miracle concentrate cure which we needed by the end of the day.

The following day spent on KSU’s campus was truly an educational experience. Highlights were the College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State Gardens and Agronomy Laboratories, the American Institute of Baking, The National Biosecurity Research Institute and the new facility for the International Grains Program.

At ILAC’s closing evening event after dinner, a special guest speaker, Marci Penner, shared some wonderful stories about little, rural towns all across Kansas. She came out with a 400-plus Guide book on exploring rural Kansas. The entertainment was a mock game show that nearly everyone had to participate in.

If you do get to Kansas take The Kansas Guidebook for Explorers by Marci Penner. According to the book, The Kansas Explorers Club was created to inspire, educate, and encourage the exploration and appreciation of Kansas ... and to have fun doing it.

For more details about the Kansas ILAC trip, go to Julie’s Fresh Air at www.juliemurphree.org and plug in “Kansas” in the search window.



CENTRL REGIONAL CONNECTION IN WILLCOX IS A SUCCESS

The railroad diner in downtown Willcox provided a great setting for the Project CENTRL Regional Connection "CRC" Alumni luncheon meeting on August 4, 2006. After a warm welcome by alumni host Don Merrell (IV), self introductions were held. Those attending the CRC were Betsey Ajeman (VIII), Gerry Bohmfalk (VIII), Eddie Browning (IV), Ellen Clark (II), Gail Griffin (XIII), Jeff Hooper XVIII), Donald Merrell (VI), Anne Marie Moore (IV), Doug Norton (XVIII), Sandra Ousley (VIII), Everett Rhodes (III), Andy Terry (XVIII), and past Board Member, Claire Owen.



After lunch, Don Merrell called upon CENTRL Alumni and former resident and community leader in Willcox, Eddie Browning, as the featured speaker. Browning is the Arizona Director of USDA Rural Development and shared a brief overview of the Arizona Rural Development Council and their selection by the W K Kellogg Foundation as one of 24 organizations in America to initiate a national rural policy network. Browning also shared an Arizona Home Town Competitiveness (AZHTC) model that is focused on four key sectors: leaders, entrepreneurs, wealth transfer, and young people. Duncan, Willcox, Patagonia, and Douglas are actively involved with AZHTC programs, which strengthen community and economic development in their areas.

After a brief Project CENTRL update by Everett Rhodes, members of Class XVIII, Doug Norton, Jeff Hooper, and Andy Terry concluded the program with a brief report on the current class.

Upcoming CENTRL Regional Connection Luncheon in Yuma



Location: the Hunter Steakhouse
2355 S. 4th Ave
Yuma

Date: November 1, 2006

Time: 11:30 am till 2 pm

Contact: Larry Killman 480.491.2230 (Office)
480.491.0260 (Fax)
928.580.6072 (Cell Phone)
lkillman@tierra-ec.com

Eat LunchGet Updated....Be Connected

A CENTRL Regional Connection (CRC) is a networking luncheon hosted by the Alumni Association at no charge to you. This opportunity is provided so that you can hear about current activities of the Alumni Association and receive an update on current Project CENTRL activities

If you are interested in hosting a CENTRL Regional Connection in your area please email Ben Cloud at broadacre1@aol.com



RENEWABLE FUELS OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL ARIZONA?

By Dennis Corderman, Class XVII

Arizona faces many challenges as urbanization encroaches on our rural, agricultural lifestyles. One area where the agriculturists seem to be taking the lead - realizing that we may face fuel issues in the future - is the planned ethanol plant development currently taking place in Arizona's rural fringes.

The renewable fuels industry is growing in Arizona. One project is under construction and another one is planned. Still others are being talked about.

Pinal Energy, LLC is currently under construction in Maricopa, Arizona and will begin production of 60 million gallons of Ethanol in early 2007. John Skelley, General Manager of Pinal Energy, LLC, has been working diligently to get the project off the ground. It is being built on a site adjacent to the existing Arizona Grain facility. The facility is designed to expand to 100 million gallons if market conditions remain favorable. A substantial volume of distillers grain will be produced that will be used as cattle feed in the neighboring feedlots. In addition to ethanol and distillers grain the facility will capture the CO₂ to make dry ice.

XL Dairy Group, Inc. of Phoenix is in the final stages of obtaining a special use permit in La Paz County to construct the Vicksburg BioRefinery. This will be the first project of its type in the United States which integrates dairy operations, waste to energy conversion and biofuels under a single operating enterprise. Outputs will be 50 million gallons of ethanol and 5 million gallons of biodiesel per year. In addition, 500-600,000 lbs of raw milk will be produced per day from 7,500 cows. Additional co-products will include animal feeds and compost fertilizer. Also, the CO₂ will be marketed for commercial uses.

The development of biofuels in Arizona will result in a broader use of Arizona agricultural feedstock, improvement and balancing of the economic vitality of rural Arizona by increases in assessed valuation and better paying jobs for rural communities. The Pinal Energy, LLC and XL Dairy Group, Inc projects should result in approximately 200 new jobs for Arizona, with significant economic spin off opportunities for existing Arizona businesses.

In addition, Arizona can take a prominent role in efforts to produce and utilize renewable energy that will substantially reduce the greenhouse gas emissions⁰ from cars and trucks. Together with production from other States, we will see greater reduction in our dependence on foreign produced fossil fuels. Renewable fuels are a growth industry and rural Arizona is going to be a big part of it.



Save the date!!



Activism in Arizona Joint Conference March 9, 2007

Speaker: Bruce Vincent

Second bi-annual joint conference with UDA, Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers and Project CENTRL Alumni will be held on Friday, March 9. The committee is working on an exciting venue to inspire, encourage and supply you with new skills. Watch for more details coming soon.



Tierra Environmental Consultants

Larry Killman (Class XII), has founded Tierra Environmental Consultants, LLC (Tierra), a multi-disciplinary consulting firm that conducts business from both Wellton and Tempe, Arizona. Tierra specializes in feasibility studies, baseline studies, environmental impact assessments, planning, and permitting for a variety of projects. A sample of our project experience includes: electricity generation and transmission planning, siting, impact analysis, and permitting; land transfers; National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance; flood control; and water rights and use analyses. We have broad experience and capabilities and are knowledgeable of the regulatory, environmental, legal, and political constraints that could affect proposed projects. Tierra's environmental consulting philosophy focuses on serving our clients' interests and essentially functioning as an extension of their staff. We are driven by our clients' goals and objectives and are committed to provide quality services and products while being easy and enjoyable to work with.

Contact information for Tierra is as follows:

Tierra Environmental Consultants
5420 South Lakeshore Drives, Suite 104
Tempe, AZ 85283

480.491.2230 (Office)
480.491.0260 (Fax)
928.580.6072 (Larry Killman's Cell Phone)
lkillman@tierra-ec.com

Art on the Farm: Be the Next Moo-nay!

The Valley Art scene is about to have a whole new dab of paint with a juried art show at – a dairy?

"You've heard the adage "How are you going to keep them down on the farm after they've seen Paris," quips Casey Stechnij, owner of Superstition Farm.com. "Well, we think people want to go back to the farm now that they've been in the city!"

The First Annual "Art on the Farm Show" is open to all artists, beginners to venerable, and any media is eligible, as long as the piece features a cow or farm theme. The show will run from Nov. 9, 2006 through Nov. 27, 2006. Artists' reception and Awards Gala on Nov. 17, 2006 at the new "gallery" at Superstition Farm.com, 3442 S. Hawes Road, Mesa, AZ.



"Art on the Farm Show" will be a featured addition to the "Friday on the Farm" free community event on Nov. 10th, 2006, with an anticipated attendance of 5000 people. The day includes hay rides, dairy tours, hay bale maze, petting zoo, a free lunch, demonstrations, and many other surprises! Hosted by Superstition Farm.com, and cosponsored by Arizona Milk Producers, Beef Council of Arizona, FFA and UDA's Young Cooperators, Friday on the Farm, Part Moo promises to be an even more delightful affair than last year's inaugural effort.

In addition to professional judges, who will award prizes for Critics Choice \$200, Most Original \$100, and Best use of Media \$75, the visitors at Superstition Farms "Friday on the Farm Event," will have the opportunity to vote for their favorites: Peoples Choice \$75, and Kids' Pick \$75.

Application particulars: There is a nonrefundable entry fee of \$25, limit 3 pieces, and 30 percent commission on all sales. All art must be ready to hang with wire, if applicable. A locking glass case will be available for small items. All Art must be turned in by Oct. 29th 2006 and picked up after the Nov. 27 closing. (Art left beyond that will be fed to the cows!) Superstition Farm.com must approve entries: please remember this is a pro-agriculture and family event.

Contact Melrose at Superstition Farm.com for an entry form.

Alumni in Action....

We need to give a pat on the back to four Project CENTRL Alumni who are participating in the current political process and are running for Arizona legislative seats. Win or lose all of these candidates are to be commended for being willing to participate in the election process.

District 23 House of Representatives

Frank Pratt, Class XVI

District 25 House of Representatives

Gail Griffin, Class XIII

District 30 House of Representatives

David Gowan, Class XVII

District 25 Senate

Mary Ann Black, Class X

WHAT ARE YOUR COLORS?

Cheryl Goar (Class IX) and **Neil Schneider** (Class XV) recently received their certification as trainers for the True Colors Program. Most Project CENTRL alumni will remember this session as one of the first classes in the program. Some of the earlier alumni did not have True Colors as part of their CENTRL experience. Neil and Cheryl are conducting trainings for businesses and individuals in groups of 15 or more. Please contact either of them to set up a training for your business or association.

Neil Schneider 480-221-2669

Cheryl Goar 480-940-4558

The Graham County Chamber of Commerce launched a leadership development program for residents of Graham and Greenlee Counties this past year. This new leadership program was developed through the efforts of three Centrl graduates, **Sheldon Miller** (Class IV), **Chris Mack** (Class XIV) and **Paul Brierley** (Class XVI). The inaugural class finished the ten month program this June, and Everett Rhodes was the guest speaker at the first graduation. The program, called Gila Valley Leadership, provides an opportunity for current and aspiring leaders to learn more about the issues facing the area, further develop their leadership skills and expand their professional networks.

"We are fortunate in this area to have capable local leadership in both the public and private sectors," stated Chris Mack, Chamber President. "But it's important to develop new leaders and give people an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills in addition to learning more about our local issues, how the community works and how things get done. That's where we think Gila Valley Leadership can make a significant contribution to our local area."

The Gila Valley leadership program is organized around monthly "issue days" during which the leadership class members hear presentations and tour local facilities relating to each issue. Monthly topics included such areas as education, healthcare, agriculture, mining, state and local government, natural resources and the environment as well as a day on local history, art and culture. The class took one trip out of the area to the State Capitol to study the Arizona Legislature.

There were sixteen members of Class I and the second Class, just beginning has twenty three members. Members of Class 1 recently formed an alumni group and are taking the leadership role for the Gila Valley Leadership.

How about that Class V!

By Pennee Murphree

Just recently it has been brought to my attention that two of my fellow Project Centrl Class V members Bill McDonald and Edie Fitch have been very busy indeed. I always knew that Class V was special.

I was reading my February 2006 issue of *Arizona Highways* and I ran across a great article called "Struggle to Preserve Both the Land and a way of Life" about, as the article states, how cowboys and environmentalists have called off the range war to find common ground. It features Bill McDonald and the Malpai Borderlands Group and how ranchers, conservationists, environmentalists, bureaucrats

and scientists are working together to preserve this unique area in southern Arizona. Dig out your February 2006 issue of *Arizona Highways* or get yourself one because it is an inspiring, positive article.

I would also like to alert you to and recommend a great book by Class V alumni Edie DeRosa-Fitch called *The Heart and Hub of Eagle Creek*. Edie has compiled reminiscences and photos from people who have lived on Eagle Creek. It includes a wonderful summary of the history of the Eagle Creek area. Edie moved there in 1995 and has gone from accomplished teacher to accomplished writer. The book is available in hardbound for \$50 and softbound for \$30 (plus shipping and handling \$6.95). To order a book just send your name and address with payment to Edie Fitch, P.O. Box 758, Clifton, AZ 85533. You will not be disappointed.

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**Welcome
New Council
Members**

Newsletter Articles

Keep sending your articles, pictures, interesting facts, and stories impacting alumni to Pennee Murphree, Newsletter Reporter
pennee@cox.net



*"You do not lead by hitting people over the head,
that's assault, not leadership."
-Dwight D. Eisenhower*



Project CENTRL
820 E. Cottonwood Lane Building C
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

**Join us for lunch
in Yuma
on November 1**