



Marie Hvidsten, Ed.D.
RLND Director

Director's Message

Welcome to the RLND Happenings Newsletter. The third RLND Class (2007-2009) has completed year one of the two-year program. They experienced five seminars in year one. To learn about their seminar experiences, visit the RLND website at www.ag.ndsu.edu/rlnd and click seminars. Each seminar has a write-up and pictures of the highlights of that particular seminar.

Applications for our 2009-2011 RLND Class will begin the summer of 2008 and end July 1, 2009. I encourage you to consider applying to the RLND Program and/or nominating an individual in your community and organization. This is a GREAT opportunity for every community and organization to nominate or select an appropriate individual to apply.

Research shows that effective leadership is one of the ten attributes of a successful community and organization. Because leaders are so critical to the success of a community or organization, it is vital that communities and organizations

across North Dakota nominate or select an individual to apply to the 2009-2011 RLND Class. Your community or organization will create additional leadership capacity in individuals when you strategically encourage and nominate individuals to apply to the RLND Program. Over time, those individuals become a network of dedicated individuals that work to better their communities and organizations. I look forward to interviewing a candidate from your community and organization in July and August 2009!

Please contact us via phone, mail or email if you would like additional information or have a question.

Rural Leadership North Dakota
309 Morrill Hall, NDSU
P.O. Box 5437
Fargo, ND 58105

RURAL LEADERSHIP
NORTH DAKOTA
(RLND)

Rural
Leadership
NORTH DAKOTA

Supporting Agriculture and Community Development

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

HAPPENINGS

SPRING, 2008

RLND Council:

Carol Goodman: Chair
Julie Burgum
D.C. Coston, Ph.D.
Jerry Doan
Paul Govig
Duane Hauck
Dennis Hill
Mark Johnson
Deb Kantrud
Craig Larson
Michelle McCormack
Vicki Monsen
Allen Orwick
Connie Spryncznatyk
Ryan Taylor
Keith Trego

RLND Alumni Association Executive Board:

Becky J. Meidinger,
President
Jesse Handegard,
Vice President
Patricia Bowen, Secretary
Lori Wagner, Treasurer
Nancy Olson,
Communications Director

Program Director:

Marie Hvidsten, Ed.D.
NDSU Extension
309 Morrill Hall
P.O. Box 5437
Fargo, ND 58105
701-231-5803

NDSU is an equal opportunity institution. This publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities upon request, (701) 231-5803.

NDSU
Extension Service
North Dakota State University

RLND Class of 2007 graduates

The 2005-2007 Rural Leadership North Dakota (RLND) Class recently participated in a graduation gala in honor of their successful completion of the RLND Program. The gala was held at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck on October 13, 2007.

The event included remarks by NDSU President, Dr. Joseph Chapman. Dr. Chapman shared his views on one of the five themes his tenure is guided on, "It's About People." The RLND Program and NDSU both focus on people as they continue to work with North Dakotans to help grow and improve the state. Initiatives and ideas are brought forward by people and people get things done.

Dr. Ellen-Earle Chaffee, President of Valley City State University, delivered a message about leadership in North Dakota. Dr. Chaffee's message framed the perspective people across the US have of North Dakota and the people that live here. The perspective was uplifting regarding the natural beauty, the hospitality and the quality of life in North Dakota. Dr. Chaffee's message also challenged the RLND graduates to continue improving the life of North Dakotans in the area of economic betterment, greater diversity in the political representatives and openness toward the "New Americans" across the state.

The seventeen members of the 2005-2007 RLND Class received a RLND plaque with the class mission, *we are catalysts in the rebirth and growth of North Dakota*, engraved under the class picture. An inspiring mission for moving forward on the challenges Dr. Chaffee shared with the participants and their guests. The graduation gala was a time to celebrate and recognize numerous contributors to the RLND Program. Contributors to a new fundraising initiative, The Leader Corps, were recognized along with the newly formed Founders Corps members. The Founders Corps recognizes the cumulative contributions of individuals and organizations to the RLND Program.

Two of the class members, Peg Hellendsaas and Laurie Dietz, made a quilt that was raffled off as a fundraiser for the RLND Alumni Association. The winner of the quilt was announced at the gala. A number of silent auction items

were auctioned off at the gala with the proceeds going to the RLND Alumni Association. The evening featured the announcement of the Joseph A. Chapman Leadership Award. This award will be presented at the RLND Graduation Gala every two years to an individual(s) who has demonstrated leadership attributes that President Chapman demonstrated when the RLND Program was created. President Chapman, the first recipient of the Chapman Leadership Award, possesses the five attributes that are the foundation of the RLND's leadership theory, one of transformational leadership. The five attributes or practices include modeling the way, inspiring a shared vision, challenging the process, encouraging the heart and enabling others to act.

Front row, l to r ;
Peggy Hellendsaas, Gina Bushaw,
Jerod Tuft, Bruce Lindgren, Tina Gustafson; Back row, l to r: Christina Wiederrich, Jesse Handegard, Kim Moen, Janel Lee, Nancy Olson, Korrine Lang, Patricia Bowen, Kim Nunberg, Sharla Price and Scott Kroeger



HVIDSTEN NAMED COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR by Ellen Crawford



Marie Hvidsten, RLND director

Marie Hvidsten, director of the North Dakota State University Extension Service's Rural Leadership North Dakota program, is the North Dakota Association for Communication Excellence 2007 communicator of the year.

The award recognizes an individual who has displayed exceptional expertise and professionalism in delivering educational programs and information to the public through several types of media. Hvidsten, also an NDSU Extension Service rural leadership specialist, has been RLND director since October 2002. Prior to coming to NDSU, she was the corporate learning and development manager at Digi-Key in Thief River Falls, MN for eight years.

Prior to that, she spent 11 years as a music teacher and eight years working with numerous grant programs and the Center for School Change initiative with the University of Minnesota, and was curriculum director for the Thief River Falls School District.

In addition, she was part of a community team that created and implemented a nine-month leadership program for the Thief River Falls community.

Hvidsten earned a bachelor's degree in music from Bemidji (Minn.) State University, a master's in educational administration from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks and a Ph.D. in organization development from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis.

A luncheon was held in Hvidsten's honor at noon Wednesday, Dec. 12, in the NDSU Memorial Union's Hidsa Room. Mel Nelson, president of Executive Management Systems, Fargo, was the featured speaker.

Next RLND Class bring variety of experience by Ellen Crawford



Front row, l to r: Marie Hvidsten, Jon Scaper, Lowell Disrud; Standing, second row, Richard Blahut, April Jepson, Jan Dodge, Catherine Dalzell, Sandy Arends, Mary Schmitt, Jill Haugen, Lynae Sims; back row, Jim Hennessy, Don Morgan, Candice Hall, Kevin Hall, Angie Harrison and Nikki Wolla

tend 10 workshops throughout the state and take a six-day study tour to Washington, D.C. They'll learn to think critically and creatively, work with people, communicate effectively, use technology, understand agricultural and rural policy, and find innovative ways to fund local and regional development. They'll also create a network of contacts and resources they can tap into for ideas, answers and support. To practice what they learn, participants will develop and implement a project that benefits their organization, community or region. Those proposed projects include repairing and painting the

homes of elderly and low-income residents, creating a program to attract new agricultural producers, developing a day-care facility, restoring a city park, creating a dog park, opening a convenience store, beautifying Main Street and developing a high school career exploration program.

The 2007-09 class members are Sandra Arends, Fargo; Richard Blahut, Berthold; Catherine Dalzell, Bismarck; Lowell Disrud, Fargo; Jan Dodge, Watford City; Kevin Hall, Hoople; Candice Hall, Parshall; Angela Harrison, Selfridge; Jill Haugen, Hannaford; Jim Hennessy, Stanley; April Jepson, Killdeer; Don Morgan, Linton; Mary Schmitt, Ray; Jon Scaper, Fargo; Lynae Sims, Casselton; and Nikki Wolla, Dickinson.

Rural Leadership North Dakota's next class includes a farmer, program administrator, business owner, retired professor, bookkeeper, bank president, assistant director, city coordinator, legal assistant and economic development directors. They are among 20 North Dakotans chosen for the

North Dakota State University Extension Service program that kicked off in October 2007. They will spend the next two years learning to be willing, effective leaders with the skills to overcome challenges and guide North Dakota into the future. Class members will at-

IAPAL meets in Miami for 2007

By Cindy Selsted

The annual conference of the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leadership was held October 17-19, 2007 in Miami, Florida. Hosted by Hannah Carter, and her staff, of the Wedgeworth Leadership Institute, the conference brought together programs from across the country to share experiences, ideas for future plans and innovative teaching techniques.

The group visited Jungle Island, one of Miami's oldest tourist attractions, and got a behind-the-scenes look at the various flora and fauna that inhabit the island. The various pest control methods, which are becoming much more environmentally friendly, were discussed. Speakers at the evening meal included former graduates of the Wedgeworth Leadership Institute including Linda Adams, Associate Vice President of the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association. We also heard from Katie Edwards, Executive Director of the Dade County Farm Bureau.

Our tour included a stop at the Kampong of the National Tropical Botanical Garden. The Kampong was originally the site of a jelly and guava wine factory in a building known as the "Jelly Factory." Dr. and Mrs. David Fairchild began the collection of plants which produce edible parts along with many ethno botanical, ornamental and other trees. The Kampong is a living library and university and a must see for visitors to the Miami area.

Dr. Elsie Miranda delivered a speech entitled "Issues of Hispanic/Latin Cultures, Language, Immigration & Economic Implications" to our IAPAL group on Friday evening. The issues of immigration and its economic implications will touch most of agriculture.

The IAPAL conference goes international in 2008 with the annual conference being held in Guelph, Ontario.



IAPAL visits the Kampong

RLND Alumni are Party Leaders

On March 9th, **Jerod Tufte** (RLND Class of 2007) was confirmed as chairman for the District 14 Republican Party. The district had been led by co-chairmen Jan DeKrey and Lori Weisz, both of whom resigned at the district meeting. Of special interest to those involved with Rural Leadership North Dakota, both major parties are now led by graduates of RLND. **Pattie Patrie** (RLND Class of 2005) is the district leader for the Democratic Party.

RLND Alumni News

The following press release ran October 11, 2007. It features two RLND Alumni. **Becky Meidinger** is RLND Class of 2005 and **Scott Kroeger** is RLND Class of 2007.

Economic innovators to receive awards

Forum staff reports

North Dakota economic development leaders and projects will be recognized Tuesday at the sixth annual Governor's Choice Awards for Economic Development Banquet.

The North Dakota Department of Commerce is hosting the banquet to recognize individuals who are changing the face of business

within the state, a news release stated. There are 24 economic development leaders and projects to be recognized. Winners will be named in four categories: innovator of the year, professional developer of the year, volunteer developer of the year and project of the year. The nominees for innovator of the year are Gerry Beck (posthumous), Wahpeton; Terry Kovacevich, Dickinson; Dave Lynnes, West Fargo; Dennis Lura, West Fargo; Mike Marcil, Fargo. The nominees for professional developer of the year are Cal Klewin, Bowman; and **Becky Meidinger, Coopers-town.**

The nominees for volunteer developer of the year are Sen. John Andrist, Crosby; Robert Belquist, New Rockford; Jim Boyd, Jamestown; Lloyd

Case, Fargo; Divide County Economic Development Council, Crosby; **Scott Kroeger, Arthur;** Becky Leonard, St. John; Ron Lisko, Dickinson; Judi Paukert, Grand Forks; Scott Wagner, Fargo; Tom Weiser, Hazelton; Curt Zimbelman, Minot. The nominees for project of the year are Datacom International Inc., Grand Forks and Cooperstown; DuraTech Industries International Inc., Jamestown; Minot Value-Added Agricultural Complex and The Port of North Dakota; Red Trail Energy LLC, Richardton; Wiggles and Giggles, Watford City. Winners will receive a \$1,000 award for an economic development association of their choice.