

The Update

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association

SUMMER 2018

Showcasing Larry Hudkins, LEAD III



Larry Hudkins, LEAD III.

My first involvement with LEAD was when UNL President Martin Masengale asked me to be part of an explorative committee. This committee would study a grant proposal from the Kellogg Foundation to develop Agriculture Leadership Programs to train future agricultural leaders. Nebraska Secretary of Agriculture Mickey Stewart, Paul Eveland, Bob Gingery, Jim Horner and I went to Washington State and California to study and evaluate their new Ag Leadership Programs. We recommended that UNL and Ag Builders accept the grant and start a similar program for Nebraska. I served on the original board of directors for three years and then resigned so that I might apply to be a member of LEAD. I was accepted in LEAD III at the age of 39; the limit was age 40 at that time.

It was a great experience and prepared me to serve in several positions of leadership, including being elected as President of Nebraska Cattlemen, President of the National Association of Local Boards of Health, President of KRVN Radio and the Nebraska AgRelations Council and as a Lancaster County Commissioner for 30 years.

I married my high school sweetheart, Carol Seefeld, and we have two daughters, Janet and Kathy; son-in-laws Steve and Henrik and five grandchildren. We operate 2200 acres of corn, soybeans, and alfalfa and have a crossbred cow/calf herd in Lancaster and Seward Counties. We have both served on the Malcolm School Board of Education and are active in the Malcolm United Methodist Church.

My most memorable LEAD experience was when we were hosted by the King of Morocco for lunch at the palace and having our hands washed by servants. Incidentally, Morocco was the first country to recognize the United States as a nation in 1776!

I would urge anyone interested in the advancement of agriculture to apply for LEAD. You may think you don't have the time or qualifications to be a LEAD fellow but it will be the most rewarding decision you will ever make.



President's Message



Patty and Dennis Nun, LEAD IV.

Feeding the Travel Bug:

Patty and I have definitely contracted a case of the “Travel Bug,” and we owe our infection in no small part to the Nebraska LEAD Program. Our travels while growing up in Fillmore County were limited primarily to destinations within the state of Nebraska. With rare exception, we might go out-of-state to visit “that relative” who had ventured past the state line and actually lived in another state. After we married, 45 years ago this August, we decided to take an adventurous journey into foreign travel with our first vacation to Canada. Wow, do we have stories about that one!

I became a part of LEAD IV Class and Dr. Allen Blezek that took us on our International Study Travel Seminar to India, Hong Kong and Taiwan. I really encountered a serious case of the “Travel Bug” and infected Patty on my return. Since then we’ve been to 30 countries, been to Mexico over 20 times, taken all six of our children to Israel and been up-close and personal with six of the “Seven Wonders of the World.” Israel is

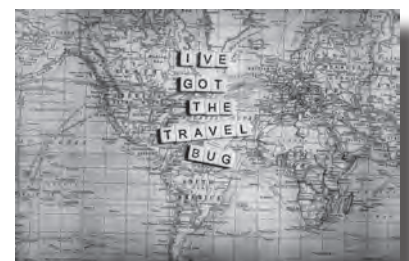
without a doubt our favorite place to travel. We just returned from my seventh and Patty’s fifth trip to the Holy Land.

One of the primary reasons I encourage every LEAD alumnus to become an active member of our organization, is for the well-planned educational travel opportunities that our organization presents. Each summer, thanks in large part to a year-round effort by Nancy Eberle, we host the Ag Adventure Tour. This 2-day trip within the borders of Nebraska is an opportunity to connect with fellow alums as well as those individuals from the Leadership Omaha organization, giving us an opportunity to educate our urban neighbors as well.

The decision was made three years ago to host a study travel educational seminar for LEAD alums alternating between domestic and international destinations every year. We missed the China tour due to our first granddaughter’s birth, but joined the LEAD Alumni trip last year to Alaska. It was an amazing trip, but was made exceptional by the personal, professional, intelligent conversations that always take place when LEAD alumni gather. We missed Peru this past February, due to other travel plans and an unexpected detour on a recent trip to Switzerland where I ended up spending three days in a Zurich hospital. (This is a long story, but if you ever question the wisdom of travel insurance, call me! I’ve got a M.S. Degree in travel insurance now.)

When announced in January we immediately signed up to join the 2019 trip to California, for its agricultural and wine country experiences. This trip also coincides with the World Ag Expo, February 12-14 in Tulare, CA which we plan to attend as well. (<https://www.worldagexpo.com>). Where will the 2019 LEAD Alumni trip take us? I’m campaigning for Israel, but wherever we go, it will be a unique travel experience.

If you’ve never traveled with our LEAD alumni group, sign-up today for the July Ag Adventure Tour and the February 2019 California Study Travel Seminar (if there are still seats available). Don’t wait. It may be the only thing that gives you some relief from your own personal case of the “Travel Bug.”



Nancy's Notes



Nancy Eberle, Executive Secretary

Happy June! If you and yours are like the Eberle Family, it's been a busy time, first trying to get planting done in freezing, snowy weather, then having to turn on the water for the hot dry winds we've been having. I do think spring was in there someplace, but it must have been fleeting - maybe it came during the night and I missed it :) Just kidding, we did have a few days that were nice!

We are gearing up for our summer activities. As you can see from the items in the newsletter, we have an Ag Adventure Tour about ready to take off in mid July. We REALLY need more alums to join us on that tour so we can share our agriculture knowledge with our friends from Leadership Omaha. We always have a great time catching up with those faithful who come every year and getting to know the newbies!! Our co-leader from Leadership Omaha is Liz Kerrigan who is Doug Soderquist's (LEAD III) daughter so she has some strong ties to the program and we are thrilled she is working with us! You can use the enclosed registration form to sign up and

join us - we hope that you do!

The NE State Fair reception is another event planned for this summer. The invite is included in the newsletter. If you are planning to come to the fair this summer, maybe you can choose the date of August 28 and join us. This is a great time to network with our fellow alums. This is a joint venture of the NE LEAD Program and the NE LEAD Alumni. Please join us for fun, food and conversation!

The NE LEAD Alumni Board has worked jointly with the NE Bankers Assn., the NE Hospital Assn., the NE Chamber of Commerce and the NE Farm Bureau to provide a "Leadership Summit" every other year for all of our respective alums to attend. Plans are being made for our next Summit which will be held at the Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln on March 5, 2019. Our goal is to provide additional leadership training for the alums from all of our organizations. Take advantage of this opportunity to network with alumni from other organizations! Mark your calendars now - more info will be sent out with our next newsletter.

We hope you will take advantage of some of the opportunities included in this June issue. It's always great to see you!

Until next time LEAD on

The Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting sometime this summer to formulate the Strategic Plan for our LEAD Alumni Association. It is very important that we hear from our members about concerns that you have and the direction that you want our Association to go. My contact information is Stan Mitchell email smitchell@farmersco-operative.com or cell 402-641-3384 or contact any of the other members of the Strategic Planning Committee, Nancy Eberle, Tim Graff, Eric Dam, Craig Buescher, Cindy Zimmerman-Jayne, Mark Holoubek and Gerald Clausen. Your association is only as strong or as active as you are, so please get involved.

Welcome to the Alumni travel corner!

The final preparations have been made for our 2019 National Travel Study Seminar. California's itinerary is promising to be just as wonderful as we hoped. The agricultural visits are booked and should give us a greater knowledge and insight to the farms and wineries of the Russian River Valley, Napa & Sonoma Valleys. We have some amazing non-agricultural tours set as well. You don't need to be a wine lover to see that this seminar is so much more than wine tasting.

2017 National Travel Study Seminar – February 17-22nd, 2019.

We are pairing with Custom Cruises & Travel out of Omaha for this seminar.

CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY, Russian River Valley, Sonoma & Napa Valley, Muir Woods.

San Francisco add on (with optional Alcatraz): February 22-24th, 2019

Agricultural visits and stops for this seminar include:

Long Meadow Ranch Rutherford Estate, home to their agricultural production with fruits, vegetables, beehives, chickens & vineyards.

Stemple Creek Ranch, fifth generation of family run farming, practicing an intensive schedule of rotational grazing, maintaining and restoring natural watershed areas, and using gravity flow technology.

Toluma Creamery, goat/sheep dairy and creamery. Cheese tasting!

McEvoy Ranch Olive Farm, orchards, vineyards, olive mill, and gardens. Tour and tastings.

Rutherford Hills Winery, Vineyard tour and wine tasting

Francis Ford Coppola Winery, Vineyard tour, wine tasting and dining.

Parmelee Hill Winery, Vineyard tour and wine tasting (This vineyard is owned by a former Nebraskan and was suggested by a LEAD Alum)



Toluma Createry



Stemple Creek Ranch



Russian River Valley

Additional visits include:

Muir Woods and the giant Redwoods

Towns of Sausalito, Petaluma, and the Historic Sonoma Square.



San Francisco 2 day add on:

Explore San Francisco aboard the Hop On/Hop Off bus, Union Square, Fisherman's Warf and the SOMA District. Take a boat to Alcatraz



Note: A significant amount of the travel study seminar expenses can be used as a tax deduction for agricultural studies and furthering education. Visit with your tax professional for details.

Registration for this Travel Study Seminar began in March, with postings to the Alumni website and the Alumni Facebook page. We have had great response so far with 30 persons already registered. We have a maximum limit of 50 persons.

If you have the desire to travel with the greatest group of people since your LEAD experience, get your registration sent soon, as this is a popular destination.

If you are registering as a solo traveler to California, and would like to be paired with another single Alumni traveler, please indicate so on the registration form. Also give me a call or email me so I can let other single Alums know. This will save you the "single supplement" cost, allowing you to register as a "double" if we pair you.

The full itinerary and registration are included in this newsletter. They are also on the website.

<http://www.neleadalumni.com>

If you have any questions, please give me a call at:

Cell – (402) 314-3430

Home – (402) 261-8648

Work – (800) 876-1093

Email – pheyen@friedmanlaw.com



I am very excited to be a part of this Travel Study Seminar, LEADing you to the California Wine Country.

Continue to follow the Alumni Website and Facebook page for future Travel Study Seminar announcements. The summer 2020 International Travel Seminar will be announced in January 2019. Plenty of time to make plans to travel the world with us.

Enjoy your summer.

*Pat Heyen, National and
International Travel Study
Coordinator*



LEAD Alumni California Wine Travels February 17th – February 22nd 2019

Sunday February 17th

Fly from Omaha or Denver in the early AM to San Francisco, California. Upon arrival, meet at baggage claim and board the coach to drive over the Golden Gate Bridge for a Welcome to California group lunch in the beautiful artist community of Sausalito. After lunch we'll visit **Muir Woods** and the Giant Redwoods before late afternoon hotel check in then the evening is at leisure.

Monday February 18th

Today visit the **Napa Valley** and start with a guided tour of the **Long Meadow Ranch** Rutherford Estate - home to their agricultural production with fruits, vegetables, beehives, egg-laying chickens and vineyards including group lunch on the property with items from the gardens and winery. In the afternoon we'll visit **Rutherford Hills Winery** with the largest wine cave in the Napa Valley for a tour and wine tasting. This evening is at leisure.

Tuesday February 19th

Today we'll explore the **Russian River Valley** with our first stop at **Stemple Creek Ranch**. At over 1,000 acres, Stemple Creek Ranch is creating a sustainable future for the fifth generation of family run farming and works to actively preserve sensitive wildlife habitat, maintain and restore natural watershed areas, utilize cutting edge solar and gravity flow technology, and practice an intensive schedule of rotational grazing. Today's lunch stop (on own) enjoy free time to explore the quaint town of Petaluma. Next we'll head to the **Francis Ford Coppola Winery** for a tour and *a tavola*. Meaning "to the table," *a tavola* is a casual dining experience inspired by Francis's favorite way of enjoying a meal. Instead of ordering from menus, the chef prepares a variety of dishes and sends them to our tables.

Wednesday February 20th

Today we visit a local winery in **Sonoma** (*Likely it will be Parmelee Hill*) and then lunch stop (on own) with free time in Historic Sonoma Square before late afternoon return to the hotel with the evening at leisure.

Thursday February 21st

Today's first stop is **Tolma Creamery** - come and find out about the history of how this goat/sheep dairy and creamery came to be. Visit includes a tour and explanation of milking parlor, visit with the animals in the barn and hike up to the pastures to learn about their organic pasture management system then peek into the creamery with an explanation of how they make their cheese and, of course, cheese tasting! Then we'll visit **McEvoy Ranch** olive farm starting with a group picnic lunch. Embark on an exclusive private walking tour of the ranch, stopping along the way to enjoy their world-renowned olive oil and tastes of their award-winning wines. Explore the orchards, vineyards, olive mill, gardens, and some of our most architecturally captivating structures, including their stunning Chinese pavilion

Friday February 22nd

Meet in the lobby for your return transfer to SFO and flight home or San Francisco Extension.

Custom Cruises & Travel
10914 Elm Street, Omaha, Nebraska
402-393-3436 or 877-393-3436

www.cruises.com

Susan Jasnoch susan.jasnoch@gmail.com or Elise Aust eliseaust@gmail.com



Package Includes – Roundtrip airfare from Omaha or Denver (not to exceed \$400 per person) 5 nights at the Doubletree Hotel Rohnert Park including breakfast daily, baggage handling and taxes and resort fees, all transportation as shown plus meals, admissions and attractions as described and the services of an Authentic California Vacations host throughout.

Price Per Person Double Occupancy - \$2775 /Single Occupancy - \$3360
 30 Passengers minimum - 50 Passengers Maximum
 \$250 per person deposit to confirm
 2nd deposit of \$150 due when airfare is locked in – approximately June 1, 2018
 Final payment due November 30, 2018

San Francisco Extension
February 22nd – February 24th, 2019

Explore San Francisco aboard the Hop On/Hop Off bus; Downtown San Francisco is synonymous with the city's cosmopolitan culture with many cultural attractions and a brilliant shopping district. Some of the attractions include the Union Square, Fisherman's Wharf and the SOMA District. You will have 24 hours unlimited use of the London-style open top red buses. Hop-off at a site which interests you and while on board the bus informative and engaging audio-commentary will make sure you don't miss a thing. An optional excursion to Alcatraz can also be added for an additional fee.

Package Includes - 2 nights at the Holiday Inn Express Fisherman’s Wharf including breakfast daily, baggage handling and all taxes, 24 hours Hop On/Hop Off and a Super Shuttle return transfer to SFO.

Price Per Person Double Occupancy - \$400 /Single Occupancy - \$700
 \$50 per person deposit to confirm
 Option add Alcatraz in San Francisco - \$50 per person – paid at final payment
 Final payment due November 30, 2018

Ag Adventure Tour: Ag and More Along the Corridor!

JULY 13-14, 2018

We are excited about the 2018 tour. Our theme this year “Ag and More Along the Corridor” was chosen because we plan to discover new and interesting things to see and do along the Interstate 80 Corridor. Below we have listed some of the tour stops and what we will see and do at each. Our tour stops will showcase places and business development that you would not normally see or hear about! We hope you will join us!!!



Cooperative

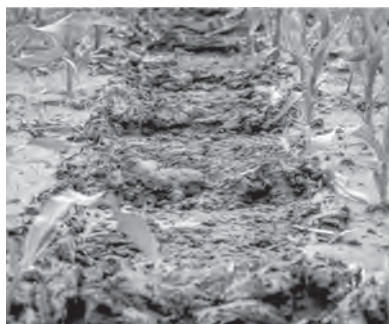
Depart from Country Inn and Suites south parking lot on North 27th Street in Lincoln around 7:30 am July 13 – WE ARE ON OUR WAY!!

First Tour stop will be at the Bottle Rocket Brewing Company, a local brewery in Seward. While there we will learn a bit about the development of this business and the building they have refurbished for their purpose. We will also meet with Stan Mitchell (LEAD 9) from the Dorchester Farmers Cooperative and learn about the role the cooperative has in the Seward area as well as Stan’s outreach to other countries who are trying to develop a cooperative system. Here is a link to their website if you would like more information.

<http://www.farmersco-operative.com/> <https://bottlerocketbrewing.com/>



Bottle Rocket



Pivot tracks left in field.

Our next stop will be at Polytech AKA Raaft LLC in Seward. Polytech manufactures RAAFT pivot tracks to help eliminate

deep ruts left in the fields from pivot usage, labor costs in filling or clearing the ruts, equipment breakdown and time wasted when pivots get stuck. *From planting to harvest and everything in-between, the ruts that center pivots create are expensive.* <http://www.raaft.com/>



From Seward we plan to travel to the Bayer CropSciences Research Nebraska Station near the Goehner Exit off of Interstate 80. The goal at the Station is to turn a 10-year, \$1 billion investment into wheat varieties that are not only more productive, more tolerant of extreme weather and disease-resistant, but are also indistinguishable from wheat used now to make food products such as flour. They are also researching new soybean varieties. While there we will hear from the researchers, see the crops being tested and tour their greenhouse facilities. http://www.omaha.com/money/with-new-nebraska-facility-and-unl-s-input-bayer/article_dd5185ed-267a-5811-b3f2-db279c10e7e6.html



Chex Bubba Cafe

Chez Bubba in Goehner Nebraska will be our stop for lunch. Their tag line “Kinda Classy, but Mostly Bubba” describes the café well. They opened in 2011 in the small town of Goehner, population 155, after refurbishing the former 1930’s automotive shop into the iconic café it is today. Matt and Julie Howe, owners and operators of the café will be on hand to tell us of their journey from Washington D.C. Capitol Hill to Goehner NE. Good food – good conversation – comfortable and inviting atmosphere is what we will experience there. <http://nebraskaruralliving.com/articles/rural-foodies/chez-bubba-cafel>



Greenhouse at Bayer CropSciences.



8 *Recharge Lake - Project Grow*

We will be stopping in York next to visit the Upper Big Blue NRD offices. There we will hear from representatives from the NRD and AmeriCorps about their joint projects. We will drive to the York wellfield to tour the “Project Grow” endeavor taking place, the first one in Nebraska. They are developing a crop production and pollinator program at the wellfield. The long term goal of the project is to improve the soil and water conditions of the wellfield and provide a program which can be replicated throughout other areas of the state and nation. We will also travel to Recharge Lake to learn about the NRD reclamation project taking place there. <https://www.upperbigblue.org>





The Hastings Motorsport Park is our last stop of the day. What started out as a dream on a napkin in a local restaurant with a few friends, became a reality in 2006 when renowned track designer Alan Wilson designed this road course. Construction started in the early spring of 2006 and by fall most of the asphalt were laid. We will hear from the organizers of this park, be hosted for dinner there by Doug Soderquist (LEAD III) and perhaps



even get a ride in one of the race cars. In February 2009, Forbes.com named MPH one of the “Best Places to Speed Legally in the United States.” Motorsport Park Hastings has hosted thousands of visitors through its gates. MPH is a 2.14 mile road course that attracts drivers of all skill levels. <http://www.racemph.com/visit-mph/>

From MPH we will be on our way to Grand Island where we will overnight at the Best Western Motel.

Day 2 – Ag Adventure Tour

We will leave the Grand Island area and drive towards the U.S. Weather Station which is located between Hastings and Grand Island. While there we will learn how the weather forecasters use Doppler Radar and other resources to accurately predict our weather forecast each day. The National Weather Service has played a key role in protecting American lives and properties for over a century. NWS offices in communities across the United States provide the information needed by Americans to plan, prepare, mitigate, and respond to natural and human-caused events. <https://www.weather.gov/gid>



Weather Map



We will travel from the Weather Station to Henderson to visit the Henderson Heritage and Tourism Park exhibit. Henderson Heritage & Tourism was formed in 1994 with the purpose of sharing and documenting Henderson’s Mennonite heritage. In the spring of 1998 the committee purchased an 8 1/2 acre site that was homesteaded by Jacob & Anna Friesen, one of the original settlers, on the north edge of Henderson. Today this is the site of the park. <https://henderson-heritage.wordpress.com/>

Lunch will be at Kerry’s restaurant in McCool Junction. Lisa and Kerry Johnson are the owner/operators of this unique restaurant. As their T-Shirt signage says, “It ain’t Kerry’s until you get some on ya”, this restaurant offers a great menu and wonderful venue in the refurbished barn that is now their home. We know you’ll enjoy your time there. <http://www.kerrysinmccool.com/> Before we leave McCool we will take a mini tour to the McCool Junction Public School site and learn about their FFA programming, Ag Barn and vegetable



garden efforts. The tour will be conducted by Dana Hall (LEAD 25) who is an agriculture educator at the school and the Superintendent, Curtis Cosgrove. Dana recently received the Nebraska Farm Bureau’s FFA Advisor of the Year award. <http://www.mcjmustangs.org/>

Our final stop of the day will be at the Junto Winery near Seward. Their advertising states “Growing grapes in Nebraska puts you at the mercy of Mother Nature, but the risk is worth the reward.” Known for their dry wines (not generally found in Nebraska wineries) and their Ben Franklin memorabilia, Junto winery is a great final destination for our tour. <https://www.juntowine.com/>



Junto Winery and Vines

As you can see from our two day event – there really IS something to see and do as you travel Interstate 80!!!! We hope you will join us.

See you in July!
Nancy Eberle, Ag Tour Coordinator

Ag Adventure Tour: Ag and More Along the Corridor!

JULY 13-14, 2018

This year, we will be visiting a variety of communities along the Interstate 80 corridor.. If you want to build rural to urban bridges, while enjoying great conversation, great connections and great food, join us July 13-14 on this year's Ag Adventure Tour.

When: July 13-14, 2018

- Board the motor coach around 7:30 am Friday morning July 13 at the Country Inn and Suites South Parking Lot at 5353 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68521
- Return to Lincoln by 5 p.m. on Saturday the 14th.

Where: Destinations our first day include, but are not limited to, Seward to visit Polytech and follow with a discussion about cooperatives at Bottle Rocket Brewing Co., Goehner to visit the Bayer CropScience Research Station and Chez Bubba Café, York to learn about reclamation efforts in the local Natural Resources District and the MotorSports Park in Hastings. Overnight on July 13 will be at the Best Western Motel in Grand Island. Our second day includes stops at the National Weather Service near Grand Island, the Mennonite Heritage Park in Henderson, Kerry's restaurant and a local school district's "story" about FFA in McCool and will end up at the Junto Winery near Seward. We hope you will join us!

Fill out the registration form below and return to Nancy Eberle, along with a check for \$125 made out to LEAD – Ag Tour. Contact Nancy at neberle@mainstaycomm.net or (402) 736-4691 or Liz Kerrigan at lkerrigan@omahachamber.org or at (402) 978-7913 for more information.

NAME _____

TITLE _____ COMPANY _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

RETURN CHECK AND REGISTRATION FORM BY JUNE 30 TO: NANCY EBERLE, LEAD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 10 520 ROAD 20, BRADSHAW, NE 68319



Nebraska
LEAD
Program

Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Assn

**Please come!!
August 28, 2018, 5-7 pm**



**Nebraska State Fair
NE LEAD Alumni Reception**

If you are planning to come to the Nebraska State Fair this summer, consider coming on August 28. We are planning a get together in the VIP room - above the Five Points Show arena from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Please join us! Snacks and Cash Bar will be provided.

Hosts: NE LEAD Alumni Board of Directors
Terry Hejny, Director, Nebraska LEAD Program

If you do plan to be at the Fair, please let Nancy know via e-mail at neberle@mainstaycomm.net -- we want to make sure we have enough "snacks"

The Update

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association
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SAVE THE DATE!

**Nebraska
Leadership Summit**

March 5, 2019
The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel
Lincoln, Nebraska

The best way to predict your future is to create it.
~ Abraham Lincoln

Brought to you in cooperation with:



Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association

Check out our website at <http://www.neleadalumni.com>

Please remember to submit important
Nebraska LEAD Alumni news to:

Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association
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520 Road 20
Bradshaw, NE 68319
neberle@mainstaycomm.net

NETWORK!

Keep the spirit of the
Nebraska LEAD
Program ALIVE!

Update

Update is the official newsletter
of the Nebraska LEAD Alumni
Association. The purpose of
the publication is to keep you, a
vital part of the LEAD network,
linked with fellow alumni!