

Wedgworth Leadership Institute Alumni Newsletter

First Quarter 2008

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Come to the WLI Alumni Annual Meeting

Plans are firming up for our annual alumni meeting. It will be held this year at the Hilton in the Walt Disney Resort in Orlando August 8 - 10, 2008. We have a great meeting planned for you and your spouse.

The resort is a beautiful newly renovated property directly across the street from Downtown Disney. It will offer plenty of fun nearby activities for our participants and their families. We hope you will hold the date and plan to join all of your fellow alumni as we catch up and also plan for the future of our association. You may preview the resort on their website at www.hiltonorlando.com. Our special room rate is \$115/night and includes complementary parking and no additional service fees. This rate will be held only until July 18, 2008. To make your reservations you can call (800) 233-1234.

As you know we rely on sponsors each year to put together a good program at our alumni meetings and this year is no different. If you, your company or one of your suppliers would be interested in a sponsorship this year I would greatly appreciate it. All of the sponsors' names will be displayed on the Sponsor Board at all events and acknowledged during the Annual Banquet. In addition, all of our sponsors will be recognized in the Annual Meeting literature, WLI website and the Alumni Association newsletter.

Sponsorships are available at the following levels:

Platinum	\$2,000
Gold	\$1,500
Silver	\$1,000
Bronze	\$500
Contributor	\$250

Attached is a Sponsorship Registration form for you to complete and return if you can assist us this year. I hope that you will strongly

make plans to attend this year and also take the time out to call a few of your close alumni friends and encourage them to join you for a great weekend of fun, education and fellowship. Please contact WLI Annual Alumni Meeting Chair **Chris Lance** if you have any questions at (850) 769-0828 or clance@knology.net.

Friend of WLI Program Farm Credit of Central Florida President, Richard W. Joyner, Announces Retirement

Farm Credit of Central Florida Chairman of the Board, Al Bellotto, announced Richard W. Joyner will retire as President and CEO of the Farmer-Owned Cooperative effective March 31, 2008. Joyner had served as President since April of 1997 and has been with the Farm Credit System for 35 years.

“Richard Joyner has been a vital contributor to the success of this association. He has served the board and members of this cooperative well since we appointed him President. We will miss his character, integrity and leadership,” Bellotto said. Joyner, an ordained minister in the Baptist Purity Church, cited a desire to devote more time to the church as the primary reason he chose to retire. “I felt a calling from a Higher Authority to devote more time to the needs of my church,” Joyner said.

During his tenure as Farm Credit of Central Florida President, the association has seen many changes. The association’s gross loan volume has almost doubled from the \$341 million in 1997 to today’s figure of \$647 million.

Bellotto also announced Joyner’s successor will be **Reginald T. Holt (Class VI)**, currently serving the association as Senior Vice President and Director of the Agribusiness Lending Group. Holt began his Farm Credit career in 1982 as a branch manager at East Carolina Farm Credit in Swan Quarter, North Carolina. In 1985 he transferred to the Farm Credit Bank of Columbia, South Carolina serving in various audit and credit administration positions before joining Farm Credit of Central Florida in 1992 as Area Vice President.

Farm Credit of Central Florida serves 13 central Florida counties including, Polk, Hillsborough, Citrus, Hernando, Pinellas, Sumter, Orange, Seminole, Volusia, Brevard, Osceola, Pasco, and Lake. The association is a member of the nationwide Farm Credit System serving approximately 1,400 Member/Borrowers. Farm Credit of Central Florida makes loans for long, short, and intermediate term agricultural

purposes, residential loans for financing, refinancing, or refurbishing rural residences, and also provides crop and credit life insurance.

Class VII Progress

Class VII completed Seminar II in Miami and Homestead January 28th to February 1st. Highlights of this seminar included: The Miami Herald, The Federal Reserve, Influences of the Cuban Culture, Liberty City/Overtown, Issues on Affordable Housing, The Port of Miami, Agriculture in South Florida, Land Use Issues and a Reception hosted by the Pines Family.

Please follow along with Class VII as they blog their experiences and thoughts on issues. The Class VII blog can be found at: <http://wlianr.blogspot.com>. Blogging even occurred on the bus in Miami!

The next edition of Class VII's "Let's Reflect" will be emailed at the beginning of March which will give full summary of Seminar II.

International Leadership Alumni Conference Set

The International Leadership Alumni Conference is set for Australia in 2008 is still available for late registration. The registration cost covers airfare (from Los Angeles, lodging, food and tours). Please let Hannah Carter know if you have any other questions.

Announcing the long awaited Washington Ag Forestry Graduate Services International Seminar to Ireland May 17 – May 25 2008

The Ag Forestry Graduate Services Committee is offering an outstanding opportunity to experience a study/travel trip to Ireland. It's an 8-day, action-packed, cultural, business, fun agenda. The details and registration information are provided on the Ag Forestry website at www.agforestry.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Mosman at mmosman@portblakely.com or 360-596-9418. You can also contact the Foundation office at 509-926-9113 or leaders@agforestry.org.

Nominations for the Eugene Trotter Leadership Award

The Wedgworth Leadership Institute Alumni Association is proud to sponsor the Eugene Trotter Leadership Award, an award for leaders in Florida's agriculture and natural resources industry. Created as a tribute to Dr. Eugene Trotter, founding director of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources (WLIANR), the Eugene Trotter Leadership Award is intended to:

1. honor leaders in the agriculture industry who have exemplified personal values, performance, and achievement in Florida;
2. recognize high standards of conduct, leadership, innovation, and accomplishment for agriculture;
3. publicize and build more awareness for excellence in agriculture, while establishing role model's for young people entering the industry; and
4. promote more individual leadership, innovation, and desire to excel in the agricultural field.

Any individual who has been involved with the agriculture and natural resources industry for a minimum of 10 years is eligible for this award. Nominees should have made significant contributions to Florida's agricultural and natural resources industry, beyond the local level and beyond the nominee's paid profession. Candidates will be evaluated in three areas: contributions to agriculture, civic contributions to the state, and statewide or national recognition.

The award winner will be recognized with a plaque and monetary gift during a ceremony at the Wedgworth Leadership Institute Alumni Association annual meeting, to be held in Orlando, August 8-10, 2008. A media presentation will be prepared to publicize the award winner's achievements in providing exemplary leadership for Florida agriculture.

A link to the award application will be available at <http://wlialumni.ifas.ufl.edu/>. The deadline for award nominations is Friday, July 11, 2008. For more information, contact Hannah Carter: 352-392-1038.

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Alumni In The News

Congratulations to WLI Alumnus **Reggie Holt (Class VI)** on his appointment as the next President of Farm Credit of Central Florida effective March 31, 2008.

Congratulations to WLI Alumni appointed to AFBF Advisory Committees - **Brant Schirard (Class II)** and **Mason Smoak (Class V)** – citrus ; **Mark Soddors (class I)**, sugar

Congratulations to WLI Alumni appointed to the FFVA Executive Committee: **Toby Basore (Class V)**, **Teena Borek (Class III)**, **Rex Clonts (Class IV)**, **Frank Johns (Class I)**. Congratulations also to FFVA new board member **David Evans (Class III)**.

Congratulations to 2007-2008 Florida Seed Association President **Bob Conrad (Class IV)** and also to FSA Vice President **Bernie Hamel (Class IV)**.

Alumni Potpourri

Congratulations to WLI Alumni **Stephen Basore (Class VI)** & **Krista Springer (Class V)** on their recent marriage. **Future Alumni**

REGIONAL MEETINGS

February 23, 2008 – Region I & II

**For more information, please contact Jeff or Melissa Lee at 386-362-3887.*

May 3, 2008 (tentative) – Region VI

**For more information, please contact Stephen Basore at 561-261-0465.*