

# Wedgworth Leadership Institute Alumni Newsletter

Second Quarter 2008

## **WLI Alumni 2008 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 family.

The Hilton Walt Disney World Resort provides the perfect setting for our **14th** annual alumni meeting in Orlando this summer. This official hotel of Walt Disney World is just across the street from Downtown Disney. It offers the perfect blend of luxury accommodations, beautifully appointed space and impeccable service in the most idyllic of locations. This world-class resort is rich with amenities, sun-soaked tropical landscaping and a location, just footsteps away from one of the world's finest attractions.

### **Amenity highlights**

Two outdoor heated pools, tropical outdoor spa, children's spray pool and state of the art fitness center. There is also course access with preferred tee times and transportation to Disney's five championship golf courses. Seven unique restaurants and lounges are on site along with a 24 hour Gourmet Market. Complimentary transportation can be arranged to visit The Spa at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort.

1751 Hotel Plaza Boulevard  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830  
800-782-4414

[www.hiltonorlandoresort.com](http://www.hiltonorlandoresort.com)

**Special Room Rate \$115 Rooms must be booked by July 18, 2008 to receive this special rate**

## Calling All Sponsors

We rely on sponsors each year to put together outstanding programs at our alumni meetings. If you, your company or one of your suppliers would be interested in a sponsorship this year it would greatly appreciated. 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:

<b>Platinum</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Gold</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>Silver</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Bronze</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>\$250</b>

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](mailto:clance@knology.net).

## Annual WLI Alumni Meeting Schedule

### Friday, August 8, 2008

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM** Hotel Check-In and Registration

**6:00 PM - 9:00 PM** Mixer Game, Cocktails and BBQ Dinner

**9:00 PM - 11:00 PM** Hospitality Suite Open

**Saturday, August 9, 2008**

**7:30 AM - 8:30 AM Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Alumni Annual Meeting –  
Speaker on New Communication  
Technologies**

**12:30 PM - 6:00 PM Lunch and Recreation on your own: Golf,  
Shopping, Swimming, etc.  
Hospitality Suite will be open**

**6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Social Reception**

**7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Annual Banquet Includes Buffet Dinner  
and Awards Presentation**

**10:00 PM - Midnight Hospitality Suite Open**

**Sunday, August 10, 2008**

**11:00 AM- Checkout time**

**Deadline to register is July 18, 2008**

**Costs**

**Full Registration:**

\$ 175 Per person and includes all activities

**Ala Carte Pricing:**

Friday evening only - adult \$ 60 / child \$ 30

Saturday morning only - adult \$ 35

Saturday evening only - adult \$ 80

**Please mail by July 18, 2008 to**

Chris Lance, Annual Meeting Chair  
3762 Bay Tree Road  
Lynn Haven, FL 32444

Questions? Please contact Chris at 850-769-0828 (home) or 850-258-2544 (cell) or [clance@knology.net](mailto:clance@knology.net)

## **WLI Alumni Association Silent Auction**

We will have a silent auction in the hospitality suite again this year during the weekend. We are asking everyone to donate at least one item. It can be something they make, a commodity they grow or something special they pick out. It really livens up the weekend and it helps us to raise funds to support our association.

Please contact Nancy or David McDonald at: [ngmpro@aol.com](mailto:ngmpro@aol.com) or [david@agrstarts.com](mailto:david@agrstarts.com)

## **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, scheduled in Lake Buena Vista, 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://wlianr.ifas.ufl.edu>

The **deadline for award nominations is Friday, July 18, 2008**. For more information, contact the Wedgworth Leadership Institute program office: 352-392-1038.

## **Alumni In The News**

### **FFVA Names Eric Hopkins to Board of Directors**

Eric Hopkins (Class V) has joined Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association's Board of Directors. Eric is the Vice President of Hundley Farms, Inc. Loxahatchee. Eric is Vice Chairman of the Florida Vegetable Exchange.

### **James Snively Earns 2008 Citrus Industry Achievement Award**

Florida Grower Magazine is honoring James Snively (Class VI) as the 2008 Citrus Industry Achievement Award recipient. According to the article Snively demonstrated his leadership in uniting the Florida citrus grower community in its fight against Citrus Greening. The award will be presented during the Florida Citrus Industry Annual Conference to be held June 11-13 in Bonita Springs. Snively's photo is the cover of the June 2008 Issue of Florida Grower.

### **Florida Farm Bureau names Danny Raulerson Director of Field Services**

Daniel E. "Danny" Raulerson (Class VI) has been appointed director of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation's Field Services Division and will assume his new responsibilities June 16, 2008. Since 2003 he has served as director of Membership, Marketing and International Trade for the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, based in Maitland. Prior to joining FFVA he was a field sales specialist with Asgrow

Vegetable Seeds, Inc. From 1997 to 1999 he was an assistant director of Agricultural Policy for Florida Farm Bureau.

A 1996 graduate of the University of Florida with Bachelor of Science degrees in Animal Science and Agricultural Operations Management, Raulerson serves on the board of directors of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity Alumni, the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame and the Florida Council of Cooperatives. He chairs the University of Florida Department of Agricultural Education and Communications Advisory Committee and is a member of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute Advisory Committee.

### **Reggie Brown Awarded United Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Association's Technical Award**

Reggie Brown (Class I), executive vice president of [Florida Tomato Exchange](#) located in Maitland, FL, was awarded the 2008 United Fresh Technical Award May 6 during the United Fresh Annual Award Banquet in Las Vegas.

The annual United Fresh Technical Award honors an individual who has made significant technical contributions to the fresh produce industry in the areas of food safety, food quality, innovative technologies and overall industry image.

In his introductory remarks, United Fresh President Tom Stenzel said, "Over the past several years, Reggie has worked tirelessly toward unified food safety standards and compliance with good agricultural practices. Reggie worked with growers up the coast from Florida to get their input, and then helped forge a consensus approach to national and international guidelines with grower groups from California to Canada to Mexico."

Reggie is a member of the United Fresh Government Relations Council, an editor of the Commodity Specific Food Safety Guidelines for the Fresh Tomato Supply Chain, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition and a founder of the North American Tomato Trade Working Group (NATTWG). He also participates in numerous allied professional associations.

### **Matthew Johnston Named President & Chief Operating Officer of restructured Business Unit.**

Limagrain, the fourth largest seed group in the world, has hired Matthew Johnston (Class II) as the President & COO of Harris Moran, Modesto, California. As part of his duties Johnston will also serve As Deputy CEO of a restructured Business Unit for Vegetable Seed Operations. The new structure calls for HARRIS MORAN to develop close operational links with its sister companies CLAUSE and MARCO POLO, facilitating alignment of their global operations around an enlarged and fully consolidated R&D effort.

Harris Moran, with headquarters in Modesto, CA, becomes the operational hub of the Business Unit for the America-Pacific region, encompassing North and South America as well as Australia and New Zealand. The BU subsidiaries in Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand will be part of this scope.

With more than \$200 Million in seed sales, the newly created Business Unit will rank in the top five of the global vegetable seed industry, breeding 23 different species on five continents.

### **Douglass Fertilizer Sold; Joe Hodges To Remain at Helm**

The Andersons, Inc. (NasdaqGS: ANDE) of Maumee, OH has acquired Douglass Fertilizer & Chemical, Inc. and its divisions of Liquid Ag Systems, Applied Solutions & Technologies, and Liquid Fertilizer. This acquisition will result in these companies becoming the Southern Region for The Andersons. Joe Hodges (Class IV) has been named Vice President and Regional Manger – South, and will remain responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Region.

### **FNGLA Awards Outstanding Members; Three WLI Members Named**

The Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association (FNGLA) honored three WLI Alums as part of a distinct group of individuals who contribute time and energy into enhancing, protecting and serving Florida's nursery and landscape industry through the FNGLA Industry Awards Program. Ila Levin (Class VI) was named Farm Credit/FNGLA Young Nursery Professional of the Year, Gina Mazzie (Class VI) was named Outstanding Foliage Division Member and Current WLI Class Member Sandy Stein was honored as Outstanding Chapter president.

### **CNN Interviews Mason Smoak**

In preparation for the Florida presidential primary that was held in late January, CNN ventured to Florida for a 30-minute interview with Mason Smoak (Class V), Lake Placid grower and member of Florida Citrus Mutual, Lakeland.

Smoak told CNN news correspondent John Zarella that it will be important for the next president to acknowledge U.S. agriculture and fix the country's immigration system.

"We need a president who understands the importance of supporting American agriculture and maintaining a domestic food supply," Smoak said. "Part of this is implementing a system where farmers have a reliable, legal workforce. Without a reliable workforce, the industry will be crippled."

## **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Lead, follow, or get out of the way

Sound words of wisdom to live by. It has been my pleasure to serve on the Board these last five years and to take the helm of this great organization over the last two of those five years. I have made, and continue to make, life-long friends. It has been an enriching and rewarding experience and I look forward to many more years of the same.

It is time now, however, to turn the reins over to a new leadership team, David and Nancy McDonald, who will lead the Association as it grows and prospers with each new Class who joins us. As all of you who know them, know, David and Nancy are go-getters who bring a lot of excitement, energy and drive to everything they do.

It is my turn to follow and that's where I'm going with this column. We are all leaders, but sometimes the best leadership is helping out where you can when someone else makes the decisions.

This Association needs each and every one of you. It doesn't matter how you earn your money, where you live, how busy you are, what skills you may have. You participated in this Program because you had, and hopefully have, a true love and appreciation for Florida's agriculture and natural resources.

My charge to you is to participate in whatever way you can. Perhaps the most important contribution is to remain active as a leader in your local communities, the State and at the National level. But it also important to share those accomplishments; to pass on lessons learned. To talk, to share the good tidings and commiserate the bad. In a word, networking.

We are all busy with the demands of our busy lives and it is may be difficult to take the time out for a weekend in August. But, please, think of it is a worthy investment. A cultivation of the spirit and ideals that make this Program special and a recognition that leadership requires commitment. A commitment to lead, follow, or get out of the way.

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WILSON WOODRUM  
1875-1950