



Wedgworth Leadership Institute

Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 2, August 2011

2011 Annual Alumni Meeting



Be sure to register for our **2011** Wedgworth Alumni Association Annual Conference to be held at the beautiful Ritz-Carlton Grande lakes in Orlando, Florida.

This year our chairpersons and board have put together an exciting event that features Southern & Classic Rock dancing on Friday night and two great speakers on Saturday morning.

Dr Rodney Clouser, UF Professor and Extension Policy Specialist will lead the first session discussing ***Tough Policy Decisions in Florida During Tumultuous Times***. Dr Clouser is familiar to WLI Alumni who have met him during their very first seminar. Although featured at WLI seminars, Dr Clouser will be addressing the Alumni for the very first time. He will share his insight on policy decisions impacting Floridians right now and in the near future.

Lt Colonel Robert Darling United States Marine Corps (Ret) will share his riveting eyewitness account of the minute by minute drama that unfolded beneath the White House during the 9/11 attacks –“We have a hijacked plane 16 miles south

of Pittsburgh inbound for Washington DC”. Darlings account reads like an Episode of 24 except that the plot details were real! Join us for his remarks entitled “***A Crisis Leadership Presentation***”.

Registration information can be found at:
<http://www.wlianr.com/2011AnnualMeeting>



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 be 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:

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

Please contact David McDonald if you would like to become a sponsor of the 2011 meeting. David can be contacted at DMcDonald@farmcreditfl.com.



Bid Early, Bid Often WLI Silent Auction

We will be having 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. For more information please contact Lyn Cacella at LCacella@farmcreditfl.com.

International Agricultural Leadership Alumni Conference Dates Set

Join other agricultural leadership program alums from all over the world at the 2011 International Leadership Alumni Conference. The conference will be held August 24-27, 2011 in Tucson, AZ. The conference theme is “Build Bridges and Break Barriers”. Conference topics include: immigration, water, sustainability, generational attrition, conflict resolution and breaking barriers. There will also be tours available. To date, **NO** WLI alums have attended this conference! It’s open to all alumni from agricultural leadership programs. Details can be found at <http://www.ilac-conference.com/index.php?pageID=7747>.



Chuck Allison (Class IV) to be recognized at 15th Annual IFAS/CALS TailGATOR



Gainesville, Fla. – Charles E. Allison will be recognized with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni and Friends Award of Distinction at the 15th annual TailGATOR on Sept. 17 in Gainesville, Fla.

Each year at TailGATOR, the CALS Alumni and Friends organization recognizes individuals through its Horizon Award and Award of Distinction. These accolades recognize alumni or friends for their service to the University of Florida, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, CALS, and the agriculture, natural resource, life science and related industries and professions.

“Allison is an example of what we would like all our alumni to be, active and involved in their industries, communities and UF/IFAS and who place service to these entities at the forefront of their leadership efforts,” said Hannah Carter, Ph.D., director of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Allison earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in food and resource economics in 1978 and 1981, respectively. He has worked for Prudential Financial since 1990, currently serving as managing director for agricultural investments.

A graduate of the IFAS Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural

Resources, Allison has been a member of the Food and Resource Economics Advisory Board since its inception.

“The perspective and experience he brings to the FRE Department allows it to shape its education and research priorities to meet the needs of the agricultural industry,” said Carter.

Allison owns and operates farms in Umatilla, Fla.; Lake City, Fla.; and Valley Center, Calif., producing blueberries, avocados and other agricultural commodities.

In addition to Allison, CALS Alumni and Friends will recognize Don Quincey with the Award of Distinction. Cindy Sanders, BSA '91, MS '05, and Jim Spratt, BSA '01, will receive the Horizon Award, a distinction specifically for young alumni.

“We hope to see many alumni and friends of IFAS/CALS come out to support our outstanding award recipients,” said Erin Freel, CALS Alumni and Friends President.

TailGATOR will begin at 12:30 p.m., three hours prior to kickoff of the UF vs. Tennessee game, in the Stephen C. O’Connell Center. TailGATOR tickets are \$12 and the registration form can be downloaded at www.cals.ufl.edu/tailgator.

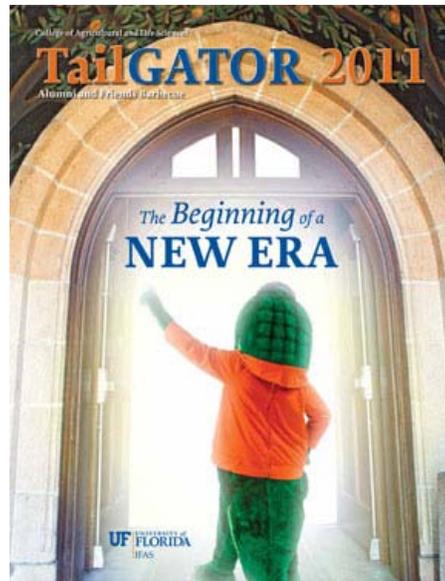
Attendees will be able to watching the awards presentation, welcome new CALS Dean Teri Balser; talk with faculty, staff and students; enjoy lunch from Hill’s Bar-B-Que; and bid on silent auction items.

CALS Alumni and Friends will also recognize its scholarship recipients at TailGATOR. Attendees will have the opportunity to contribute to the CALS Alumni and Friends scholarship endowment by bidding on silent auction items, including a limited edition Guy Harvey print and a branded UF cutting board.

“In 2010, we were able to raise almost \$1,500 through our TailGATOR silent auction to support scholarships,” said Freel. “This helps us to provide financial support for future leaders in agriculture, natural resource, life science and related industries.”

CALS Alumni and Friends is dedicated to building a network to enhance awareness and promote the quality programs of UF/IFAS through fraternity among graduates, former students and

friends. For more information on CALS Alumni and Friends or TailGATOR, visit www.cals.ufl.edu or call (352) 392-1963.



TailGATOR SLATED FOR SEPT. 17

Alumni and friends of IFAS and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are invited to attend the 15th annual TailGATOR, “The Beginning of a New Era,” on Sept. 17. The celebration begins in the O’Connell Center at 12:30 p.m., three hours prior to kickoff of the UF vs. Tennessee game. TailGATOR tickets are \$12 and a registration form can be downloaded at www.cals.ufl.edu/tailgator.

**Wedgworth Leadership Institute
has moved!**

Please note our new address:

PO Box 112060

Bryant Hall, Suite 121

Gainesville, FL 32611

Phone: 352-392-1038

Fax: 352-392-0589

Future WLI Participants



Clay and Erin Archey (Class VII) welcomed Katherine-Elaine Duda Archey on June 30th. She weighed 8lbs 15 oz.



Gina Mazzie and Tom Kownacky (Class VI) welcomed Gianna Marie on June 17th. She weighed in at 4 pounds 12.5 ounces and was 17".

Rooted in Agriculture Article on Joe Collins (Class VII)



By PAMELA GLINSKI
For Highlands Today
Published: July 4, 2011

SEBRING - Lykes Bros., incorporated in 1910, is a family owned and operated agricultural business with cattle, timber, sugar cane, landscaping, citrus, real estate, and now biofuel interests in Glades and Highlands counties; Joe Collins is vice president of Lykes Bros. Ranch Division.

Collins manages the 337,000-acre spread here and a smaller ranch in Alpine, Texas. His job includes not only the ranch operations but the oversight of production of the new alternative biofuel grasses, timber, eucalyptus, and sugar cane. He is also chairman of the board of directors for the South Florida Water Management District.

This avid Gator fan graduated in 1991 from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering with a specialty in water resources engineering.

For the complete article--

Source:

<http://www2.highlandstoday.com/content/2011/jul/04/LANEWSO1-rooted-in-agriculture/news/>

Conservationist Wins State Award Article on Karen Pate (Class VII)



BY RACHEL PLEASANT
The Pasco Tribune
Published: July 9, 2011

ZEPHYRHILLS - Karen Pate is reveling in her recent honor from the Florida Wildlife Federation.

Pate, executive director of Crystal Springs Preserve, was named the federation's Conservation Educator of the Year, a distinction she received for her work teaching students about conservation and protection of water resources.

"I'm honored and humbled," said Pate, who also is vice president of the Crystal Springs Foundation, the preserve's educational nonprofit arm. "I work with an amazing staff and an amazing set of peers trying to advance environmental education for all Floridians. I just feel it is a great honor.

"This is something you hear about throughout your life. I think those people are impressive, but I never would have imagined that I was eligible for something of that magnitude."

Through Pate's work at the preserve, a 525-acre sanctuary near Zephyrhills, 40,000 students receive conservation and water education each year, according to the wildlife federation.

"She's got a passion for educating children in the importance of environmental responsibility," federation President Manley Fuller said.

Award nominations are submitted to the federation's board of directors; winners are selected based on their work for fish, wildlife and native habitats.

Pate received her award last month at the federation's 74th annual Conservation Awards Banquet in Sebring. It was a highlight in a long career dedicated to the environment.

Pate lived in a number of places growing up; her father was an Air Force officer. No matter her place of residence, she always felt at home in the outdoors.

"I always felt welcomed in the wilderness and felt at ease being outside in nature," she said.

A Florida resident since the 1970s, she studied animal science and zoology at the University of Florida, graduating in 1976.

Source:

<http://m2.tbo.com/content/2011/jul/09/PANEWSO1-conservationist-wins-state-award/>

University of Tennessee Names Larry Arrington to be Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture



KNOXVILLE -- Larry Arrington, professor of agricultural education and communication at the University of Florida, will be the next chancellor of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture.

“The University of Tennessee owes much of its statewide presence to the Institute of Agriculture. It is a critical part of UT’s overall mission as our state’s land-grant institution, and many citizens across our state rely on the Institute for guidance through its programs in agriculture and agricultural research, youth development, education, veterinary medicine, family and consumer sciences and community development,” DiPietro said.

“Larry is a gifted and nationally recognized administrator and an outstanding leader, and his prior experience will serve UTIA very well in his role as chancellor. I worked closely with him at the University of Florida, and I know his abilities first hand and know with certainty he will be a great fit. I am pleased for our University and for our state to have Larry joining us in Tennessee to help carry out this important mission.”

Arrington served as interim senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources at the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences from 2009 to 2010. Prior to that, Arrington worked in the Florida Extension Service, serving as dean from 2004 to 2009. He has worked at the University of Florida since 1981.

“We believe Dr. Arrington’s experience will serve us well at the Institute of Agriculture and throughout the state of Tennessee,” said Buddy Mitchell, interim UTIA chancellor and associate chancellor for development. “He is extremely knowledgeable in providing the best possible environment for our agricultural students, faculty and staff and in the best outreach programs to serve the people of Tennessee.”

A native of Plant City, Fla., Arrington earned his bachelor’s degree in agricultural and extension education at the University of Florida, his master’s in vocational education at the University of Georgia and his doctorate in agricultural and extension education at the Ohio State University.

Arrington has been rewarded for his expertise and leadership in agriculture. He was presented the Gene Trotter Agricultural Leadership Award in 2010 by the Wedgworth Leadership Institute, a state program to develop leaders in agriculture and natural resources. He also received the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Award for Service to the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy last year. Arrington was named a distinguished alumnus by Ohio State’s College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Source:

http://www.tennessee.edu/media/releases/061511_arrington.html

Michael Babb (Class VIII) Appointed to the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board



Michael A. Babb of Tampa is president of Two Rivers Ranch, Inc. in Thonotosassa.

Babb was appointed to the Governing Board in June 2011. His term expires March 1, 2014.

A native of Richmond, VA, Babb graduated from Godwin High School in Richmond. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Richmond

and a master's degree in business administration from the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Babb has served as the president of Two Rivers Ranch since 2009. The 14,000-acre cattle and timber ranch stretches across Hillsborough, Pasco and Hernando counties and is the largest piece of privately owned, undeveloped property in Hillsborough County. Previously, Babb was the co-founder and president of Academic Financial Solutions in Tampa, which provides student loans.

Babb serves on the boards of the Crystal Springs Foundation, Inc., Florida Biomass Energy, LLC, Florida Energy Capital, LLC, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Lydian Bank and Trust. He is also an associate member of the Florida Land Council.

Babb feels his experience working with the District as a water use permit holder will allow him to identify areas of improvement and help facilitate initiatives that will allow the District to continue to be a positive institution in the community.

Source:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/about/governingboard/profiles/michael_babb.html

Robert Adair (Class II) Appointed to the Fertilizer Technical Council



Robert C. Adair, Jr. was recently appointed to serve on the Fertilizer Technical Council by state Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam.

As the citrus industry representative for the 13-member council, he will advise the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services regarding the administration and enforcement of laws and rules pertaining to licensing, inspection and regulation of the fertilizer industry.

Adair is the executive director of the Florida Research Center for Agricultural Sustainability, 7055 33rd St., Vero Beach, a research organization dedicated to developing new technologies for agricultural production systems that are economically profitable to farmers and avoid resource depletion and damage to ecosystems.

Source:

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2011/aug/02/adair-named-to-fertilizer-technical-council/>



Mason G. Smoak Foundation 3rd Annual 5K Run and Family Fun Day

Join WLI Alumni and Class VIII on Saturday, October 8, 2011 for the Mason G. Smoak Foundation 5K Run and Family Fun Day! Events will take place at DeVane Park, Interlake Boulevard, Lake Placid. Staci Braswell (Class VIII) is coordinating Team WLI! If you would like to participate in the 5K, please email her as she'll be putting together a Team WLI t-shirt. Staci's email is: staci.braswell@ffbf.org. The 5K registration form can be found at:

<http://www.masonsmoakfoundation.org/events.html>

**Scenes from FNGLA's
Annual Meeting
June 23-25, 2011**



Jamie Ross (Class VIII) Receiving the Chapter Secretary of the Year Award from FNGLA President Carolan Mahr



Sylvia Gordon (Class V) Receiving the Wendell E. Butler Award from Jerry Frye. This award is recognized as FNGLA's most prestigious award. This award recognizes an individual who serves FNGLA and the industry by providing leadership, service, contributions and has shown a sincere interest in the advancement of the association and the industry. The person's involvement in FNGLA has made a positive impact on the success of the association, its members and the industry and serves as an example to others.



Halsey Beshears (Class V) accepting the "Big Shoes" of the FNGLA Presidency from Past-President Carolan Mahr.



WEDGWORTH
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Developing Leaders for Florida Agriculture & Natural Resources

If you have items of interest or events to share with the WLI Alumni Association, please contact Mary Frederick at marycfrederick@aol.com for inclusion on the WLI Alumni website. Let's make this the "go to" site for alumni members to stay informed and connected!